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# Jewish Report

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Friday, 17 February 2012 / 24 Shevat, 5772

Volume 16 Number 5

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## Chabad Umhlanga's new Torah arrives with great joy



Last Sunday was a joyous one at Chabad in Umhlanga, when a new sefer Torah arrived by helicopter, for use in the community. But the day was also tinged with some sadness, because the sefer Torah was a tribute to Steven Lutz, who had passed away tragically, and to perpetuate his memory. The Lutz, Shankman and Novick families undertook to purchase a sefer Torah in his name. Lance Novick and Howard Shankman are brothers-in-law of Steven. Pictured escorting the new Torah on its inaugural journey under the chuppah are David Jankelow; Alex Fisher; Lance Novick; Howard Shankman; Alex Pitch; and Michael Hirshovitz. (PHOTOGRAPH: LAUREN SHAPIRO) **PAGE 2**



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<b>February 18 / 25 Shevat</b>		
<b>Parshat Mishpatim Shekalim</b>		
<b>18:15</b>	<b>19:21</b>	<b>Johannesburg</b>
<b>18:15</b>	<b>20:11</b>	<b>Cape Town</b>
<b>18:15</b>	<b>19:14</b>	<b>Durban</b>
<b>18:20</b>	<b>19:33</b>	<b>Bloemfontein</b>
<b>17:46</b>	<b>19:42</b>	<b>Port Elizabeth</b>
<b>18:15</b>	<b>19:32</b>	<b>East London</b>



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**EDITOR** - Geoff Sifrin  
geoff@sajewishreport.co.za

**COMMERCIAL MANAGER**  
Sue Morris - sue@sajewishreport.co.za

**Sub-Editor** - Paul Maree

**Ed Co-ordinator** - Sharon Akum  
carro@global.co.za

**Sports Editor** - Jack Milner  
jackmilner@telkomsa.net

**Books Editor** - Gwen Podbrey

**Arts Editor** - Robyn Sassen  
robyn@sajewishreport.co.za

**Cape Town correspondent**  
Molira Schneider: 021-794-4206

**Pretoria correspondent**  
Diane Wolfson: 082-707-9471

**Advertising - (011) 023-8160**  
advertising@sajewishreport.co.za

Adi Lew: 083-407-8034  
adi@sajewishreport.co.za

Britt Landsman: 082-292-9520  
britt@sajewishreport.co.za

Manuela Bernstein: 082-951-3838  
manuela@sajewishreport.co.za

**Freelance Advertising Executives**  
Marlene Bilewitz: 083-475-0288  
marlene@sajewishreport.co.za

**Classified Sales**  
Charissa Newman - jrclassified@global.co.za

**Manager: Distribution**  
Britt Landsman

**Design and layout**  
Frankie Matthysen | Nicole Cook

**Website**  
www.sajewishreport.co.za  
llan Ossendryver - ilan@ic-creations.com

**Subscription enquiries**  
Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860-13-2652

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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Doing is believing



**MISHPATIM SHEKALIM**  
**Rabbi Gidon Fox**  
*Pretoria Hebrew Congregation*

NO McDonald's, no golf on a Saturday, no prawns and no fine sherry, not exactly the most saleable concept. These are but a few of the daily impacts that a Torah observant lifestyle makes on the individual.

When taken together with the full gamut of restrictions and obligations demanded of a Torah authentic lifestyle, one can appreciate that no matter how amazing the rabbi's sermon was, it is highly improbable that any great oratory would entice an individual to change his entire lifestyle and turn it on its head.

Remarkably, here in South Africa we are privileged to see one of the most outstanding surges in Torah observance that the world has ever seen. What does it take to change one's lifestyle so dramatically? While each case may have its own story, this week's parsha gives us a few tips on how to achieve religious change in our lives.

Blind faith is often derided for that very reason: it is blind. It has no reason, no logic and, living in the information age of today, blind faith is the antithesis of the knowledge generation which we, generation Google, are characterised by.

Even the Talmud indicates that the blind faith of the Jews was mocked by other more "enlightened" individuals.

When, in this week's parsha, the Jews made that immortal declaration prior to receiving the Torah, Na'aseh Venishma, we will do and we will hear, they were effectively making a declaration of blind faith.

G-d offered us the Torah, an enigmatic uncharted text and the Jews, oblivious to its content and its concomitant expectations and demands on the individual, blindly accepted it in totality, stating that we will do whatever is required of us and at a later stage, will study what that actually entails.

The Talmud reflects that the Jews were derided for being a hasty nation, committing to something without knowing what it really was that we were committing to. While the nations of the world first asked about the content of the Torah before ultimately rejecting it for its restrictions, we made no such enquiry and simply accepted it blindly.

It is herein, says the Ba'al Shem Tov, that the answer to the question of commitment to Yiddishkeit can be found. The beauty of Shabbat observance cannot be conveyed by a brilliant sermon or masterful shiur.

The trepidation of the laws of family purity cannot be assuaged by a beautiful story. The only way Yiddishkeit and Torah observance can be truly understood and assessed, is simply by Na'aseh, by trying it, by keeping one Shabbat; the experience will speak volumes.

By keeping kosher, its value will be appreciated and by observing the laws of family purity, the profundity and sagacity of these laws will truly be appreciated. It is only once we have experienced the beauty of the Na'aseh, of the action, that we can reach the Nishma, the understating and appreciation of its value.

This is the blind faith that the Jews displayed at the time of the Giving of the Torah and it is ultimately this blind faith that has ensured the integrity of our people and our Torah throughout the ages. For, when we commit to living a Torah observant lifestyle, its value ultimately becomes apparent.

Let us take the plunge and, rather than wait to understand the value of Torah observance, let us commit to inculcate Torah values into our lives and then, guaranteed, we will appreciate and understand its infinite worth.



Rabbi Chaim Klein completes the final letters, making the Torah kosher.

New Sefer Torah for Chabad in Umhlanga

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
LAUREN SHAPIRO

WHEN STEVEN Lutz passed away tragically in December 2010, his family was left in shock. The 48-year-old pharmacist was a devoted husband to Lianne and father to Tammi and Kerri, and adored by his extended family.

"He spent his life helping others and looking after people," remembers his brother-in-law Howard Shankman. "He was unbelievably kind. I think he dispensed more medicine than he charged for!"

Steven's wife Lianne recalls him as, "just the most incredible person. He was an amazing husband and father."

But from the grief of such a tragic loss has emerged a great joy. As a tribute to Steven and a way to perpetuate his memory, the Lutz, Shankman and Novick families undertook to purchase a sefer Torah in his name (Shalom ben R' Yehudah Hillel). Since the Torah is a symbol of life, this is a particularly fitting mitzvah.

Rabbi Shlomo Wainer of Chabad in Umhlanga, whose congregation received the new scroll, is overwhelmed by the family's generosity. For while the Torah contains our Jewish history, it also embodies our communal future.

"The Torah is the Torah of life. As Jewish people, we celebrate life. What better way to do this than to welcome a new sefer Torah into our community and to have the community celebrate with us in such unbounded joy?" says Rabbi Wainer.

After more than a year of hard work and logistical challenges, the nearly complete holy scroll arrived by helicopter in Umhlanga on February 12. It was welcomed by a crowd of well-wishers

and danced up the road to Chabad House, where a ceremony took place to celebrate its completion and inauguration.

Overseen by Sofer Rabbi Chaim Klein, family, friends and congregants were given the opportunity to have individual letters written in their merit. Lianne Lutz was given the final letter (or, as she quipped, "the final say"! ) when she blessed the letter Lamed, completing the last word in the Torah, "Yisrael".

The Torah's concluding word reminds us that, in the end, we are all part of Am Yisrael, and it was particularly apt that this massive mitzvah of purchasing a Torah has brought a whole family – and, indeed, a whole community – together again.

Although the family live in Sandton, they wanted the Torah to go to a community where it would be used regularly. "Small Jewish communities are something that are close to my heart," says Lianne, who grew up in Pretoria (and went to school with Shlomo) and has spent many happy holidays in Umhlanga. "This just feels so good. I think it's what Steven would have wanted."

This sefer Torah will remain tightly linked to the Lutz family. Be'ezrat Hashem, Lianne's nephew Zach (now just a toddler) will read his barmitzvah portion from this very scroll.

With the completion of the final letters, which made the new Torah kosher, came a conclusion of a spiritual passage. Says Lianne: "It's been a very difficult journey for us, but now we feel it is complete. Our house is now filled with complete peace."

For more information and photographs of the Hachnasat sefer Torah, see www.chabadnc.com

**KASHRUT ALERT**

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None of the Parmalat yoghurts are currently kosher certified, according to the kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues.

One batch of Parmalat Fabulite Yoghurt, Vanilla, Fat Free and Sugar free, erroneously bears a Beth Din logo.

The affected batch is Batch 89, with Best Before date 4/3/2012.

The error has already been corrected, and Parmalat apologises for the error.



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# Vandalism of Jewish graves a growing problem

DAVID SAKS

WITH THE local Jewish communities having long since moved on, and with little or nothing to expect in the way of upkeep by the relevant municipalities, the maintenance of Jewish cemeteries in the rural areas has become one of the primary functions of the SAJBD's country communities department.

What has made the latter's task even more difficult of late has been the increasing rate at which these cemeteries are being vandalised. Theunissen, De Aar, Vryheid, Aliwal North, Williston, Cradock and Nigel, are just a few of the towns where serious damage to Jewish graves have been reported during the past six months.

In 1995 Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader to the country communities, undertook the photographing of every existing grave under his department's aegis in order to capture the relevant information before it was irretrievably lost.

In many cases, such photographs today provide the only means of identifying certain graves since tombstones are not infrequently removed altogether for use in building informal housing and for paving.

Since restoring cemeteries to their former state would only be an expensive exercise in futility, the country communities department has embarked on a long-term project of laying all country cemetery tombstones flat in a bed of concrete to prevent future vandalism and looting, as well as natural

deterioration from the elements.

Not only small-town cemeteries, but even those of the larger satellite towns of Johannesburg may in time have to be restored in this way. This is already happening in Springs on the East Rand, which no longer has a functioning Jewish community and whose large cemetery has similarly been twice targeted by vandals.

Rabbi Silberhaft is currently working with the trustees of the former Springs Hebrew Congregation in arranging for all 507 graves in the cemetery to have their stones laid flat. Thus far, some 170 family members of those buried there have come forward to assist, but he hoped that there would be others.

"Those involved in a project that aims to

safeguard in perpetuity the final resting places of their loved ones, as well as preserve the historical information on each stone for posterity, are participating in a very great mitzvah. We hope very much that all those with a connection to the cemetery, and to Springs Jewry as a whole, will in due course make themselves a part of this process" Rabbi Silberhaft said.

Once the restoration of the Springs cemetery has been completed, there will be a special rededication ceremony there, during which those who assisted in the project will be appropriately honoured.

• Those wishing to assist with the restoration project are invited to contact Rabbi Silberhaft on (011) 645-2500 or email him [moshe@beyachad.co.za](mailto:moshe@beyachad.co.za)

# Magic, when 50 bright young Jews meet

ALISON GOLDBERG  
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

FIFTY OF SA's brightest, young, Jewish innovators were gathered together last weekend by the global philanthropic Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, to enable them to network with one another and leverage their projects, individually, severally or as a group.

The foundation's ultimate aim, through its offshoots such as the ROI (Return on Investment) Community of Young Jewish innovators, is the creation of a global network of Jewish innovators. Started seven years ago, it has 700 members in 40 countries.

ROI applicants for micro-grants are selected in the spring, and an ROI Community Summit takes place annually in Israel.

Among the SA Jewish innovators was Dr Taddy Blecher, pioneer of free, higher education. The government has appointed him chairman of the National Government Task Team on Entrepreneurship, Education and Job Creation for the Human Resource Development Council.

At another master class, Innovative Shack founder and CEO, Charles Maisel, demonstrated the technique of reading newspapers to generate ideas for new businesses, even if only looking at pictures.

Maisel founded Men at the Side of the Road, which generates 200 000 jobs a year in South Africa.

His "reading the leaves" technique, is so called because of his idea of locally manufacturing Greek dolmades to provide jobs for out-of-season grape pickers in the Cape.

Also "blown away" by the energy and creativity of the innovators were the organisers of the event: the Tulsa, Oklahoma headquartered, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Philanthropic Network (CLSPN), in partnership with SA's niche, entrepreneurial and



**Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation director of Network Initiatives, Seth Cohen; founder and chairman of the family's Foundation Lynn Schusterman; and South African Young Jewish Innovators Gathering director, Guy Lieberman.**

trade finance-specialist bank, Sasfin. Conference chairman, Guy Lieberman's 24-hour intensive approach is to be used as a model for future gatherings abroad.

The CLSPN, another offshoot of the foundation, with offices in Tulsa, Atlanta, Washington DC and Jerusalem, is a global consortium of philanthropic initiatives aimed at "changing the Jewish world and changing the world Jewishly".

Seth Cohen, director of Network Initiatives for the foundation, says the CLSPN has three pillars: global grant-making, supporting professional development; and sponsoring networking alliances.

The foundation was founded in 1987, by a fifth-generation, German Reform Jew, Lynn, and her husband, Charles Schusterman, a first-generation, German Orthodox Jew.

Inspiration for their philanthropy came from their first visit to Israel in 1977 and Lynn's discovery of being a member of the global Jewish community. Since then she has dedicated herself to supporting it as inclusively as possible by spreading the joy of Jewish living, giving and learning.



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# By popular request, educationist Gavin Keller is back

WOMEN OF THE WORLD (WoW) has heeded the voice of the community by bringing back Gavin Keller, renowned “brain-based” educator to Johannesburg at the end of this month. This time, not only will he be sharing his extensive insight and humour with parents, but he will also be visiting 12 schools to observe and train educators themselves.

WoW said in a media release that Keller’s previous visits to Johannesburg had resulted in record attendance at his innovative and ground-breaking talks.

“This time we’re taking Gavin into the schools, so that he can relay his extensive knowledge to educators themselves, thereby giving our community’s children added value to their current learning environment,” says Rochel Goldman, WoW’s chairman.

She added: “We know that as parents, we only want the best for our kids, and by sending Gavin directly to the source of their daily education, WoW too is now able to contribute to them being on the receiving end of some of the best resources on offer.”

Keller’s passion for education and his belief that the first few years of school are the most vital in the development of a child’s attitudes and values, injects all that he does with an enviable, infectious dynamism.

He has been principal of Sun Valley Primary School since 1993, and is also currently CEO of Silvermine Academy, an association incorporated under Section 21 which serves as “The Business Behind Public Education”.

He maintains that “school is about making memories”.

His extensive research has led to his exceptional understanding of the teenage brain. Thus he is able to give his audiences the gift of gaining a more in-depth understanding of their teenage offspring.

Members of Keller’s previous audiences called his presentation “absolutely brilliant! Really practical tools”, “inspirational”, “excellent” and “absolutely fascinating and entertaining”.

On Monday, February 27, at 20:00, he will talk on “The Talent Code”, the next day - Tuesday - at 19:30, he will talk on “Secrets of the Teenage Brain” and on Wednesday, February 29 – at 20:00 – he will talk on “Motivational DNA”.

All talks take place at the Sydenham Highlands North Community Centre. For more information contact Mandy on 083-380-5268.

# The doctor is in!

SHIRLEY STEIN



RABBI DR AKIVA Tatz (pictured) is both a medical doctor and rabbi. And he is coming to SA next week.

It’s not every day that you hear about someone who gives up a promising career in medicine to study and teach Torah. But that is exactly what Rabbi Tatz, one of Johannesburg’s favourite sons, did when he was a young doctor. Tatz will be back in SA next week to launch the new, expanded “Learning Programme” of Johannesburg’s Sydenham Shul.

Since becoming a rabbi, he has authored a number of popular books and has lectured extensively throughout the English-speaking world. In SA, Tatz has a dedicated fan club and people are always raving about his talks.

What makes him so endearingly popular? According to Rabbi Yossy Goldman, rabbi of Sydenham Shul, “though humble and soft-spoken, his knowledge, experience and - perhaps above all - his sincerity always shine through his presentations”.

On February 20, the opening lecture at Sydenham Shul will be “Choose Life!” This will probe the paradox of the choices we make in life. Do we, in fact, have free will?

As a rabbi and a doctor, the interface between Jewish Law and modern medicine is one of Rabbi Tatz’s choice subjects. He will be addressing the agonising question of “Who Will Live & Who Will Die?”

On February 23, he will touch on some moral dilemmas not only in medicine but in other areas of life too. Of particular interest to the medical fraternity is the fact that Ethics CPD points have been applied for not only for this particular lecture but for all of his major talks.

Then on February 26, Tatz will be joined by one of the most exciting educators in South Africa, Gavin Keller from Cape Town. Their subject will be “Raising Sane Children in an Insane Society”.

There is also a Shabbaton at Sydenham (ShabbaTatz!) and special talks for ladies and businessmen too. The tour will launch Sydenham’s expanded programme of learning which will include a stimulating list of shiurim to choose from on Shabbos morning after the brocha as well as the new “Legacy of Learning” - Torah for the Family programme which will involve parents and children studying Torah together on a regular basis.

Rabbi Tatz will be the guest speaker at a double siyum of the Talmud classes taught weekly by Rabbi Yossy Goldman and Rabbi Yehuda Stern, Sydenham’s spiritual leaders.

On February 22, Rabbi Tatz will be delivering the ENGAJE lecture at Gardens Shul, Cape Town.

• For more information call (011) 640-5021.

# Temple Scroll sheds light on the Qumran sect

ALISON GOLDBERG

THE DISCOVERY of the Dead Sea Scrolls between 1948 and 1956 in the area of Qumran held some startling revelations. This is particularly true of the longest of these scrolls, the “Temple Scroll”.

It was found only later in 1967, as it had been hidden by an antiquities dealer in Bethlehem.

Although written in Herodian script, the original text of this scroll is thought by some scholars to have been written perhaps as early as 150 BCE. It sheds light on the then Second Temple practices of the day, and their divergence from those envisaged by the Qumran sect in their future Temple.

Retired Professor of Semitic Languages at Unisa, John Lubbe, last year presented the third in a series of talks to the Union of Jewish Women on the Qumran Scrolls.

• On Sunday February 26, Prof Lubbe will be presenting a talk for Qumran Innings on "The Dead Sea Scrolls; Qumran, its writings, caves, ruins and graves". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.



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# Those who are left behind

ROBYN SASSEN

“I’m A paper great granny,” Ruth Shapiro\*, who lives alone in a Glenhazel apartment explains wryly. With all her children overseas and her health no longer stable enough for overseas travel, this widow in her 80s will likely only ever get to see her dividends in e-mailed photographs.

Her neighbour, Molly Pick\*, who is in her 60s, agrees. Each of her children live in different continents; as time passes, she realises how alone she and her husband are. “We don’t even have siblings in South Africa any more.” The scourge of emigration from South Africa is leaving abandoned elderly people in its wake.

This is no secret or surprise. Under the aegis of the Chevrah Kadisha, several organisations are offering elderly Jews help to ease their loneliness. But it’s not only about people settling overseas. Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader of the SAJBD’s country communities department, comments on the plight of individuals in far flung - and now Jewishly defunct - areas whose children have moved to bigger cities.

“It’s about being in touch with one’s own mortality,” says Our Parents Home social worker, Beverley Pokroy, explaining why many people shy from the elderly.

Her colleague, Marlene Friedlander, adds: “These people are of a unique generation. Some survived the Holocaust. Many were the first of their families to leave Europe.”

She doesn’t shrink from mentioning the stark contrast between Jews fleeing Europe without hope of ever reuniting with family, and Jews leaving South Africa for what they believe are greener pastures.

“The SA-resident children are the ones who handle their day-to-day needs. The overseas children generally get idealised. Visits are seldom happy.

“They don’t notice daily age-related deterioration as conspicuously as those who have been away for years. Mostly our residents do not - cannot - travel overseas, because of the prohibitive discomforts and costs.”

Grecia Gabriel, who runs Second Innings, an initiative for the elderly, in the Sandringham Gardens complex, concurs. Though many older people contact their family electronically, through e-mail and skype, “indigence in the community is rife”.

“We liaise between children who live overseas, and their local siblings,” Friedlander says, “And in cases where people feel abandoned by their children in the same town.”

“We are very careful to judge why a parent isn’t visited,” says Pokroy.

“Often,” explains Glynne Zackon, manager of the



Jewish Community Services - formerly the Chevrah Kadisha Community Services - “this so-called neglect is about lifestyle. These days, few under retirement age can afford not to work,” she adds.

“Communal networks can be a lifeline; but it depends on the individual. Some years ago, the Chev conducted a drive to move elderly Jews still living in areas like Yeoville and Berea; there was resistance. Many don’t want to - or can’t - move.”

“Each situation is unique,” Rabbi Silberhaft speaks of how superior specialised elderly care in Zimbabwe is to its Johannesburg counterparts.

“Our leadership is removed from what happens on the ground in facilities for the elderly. Many older people choose to stay in the communities they have lived all their lives, in spite of being alone, because of the respect they get from the non-Jewish neighbourhood.”

The UJW has several projects addressing this situation, including Kosher Mobile Meals, which takes cooked food to people not otherwise able to cook for themselves. It’s run mostly by older volunteers, which empowers them.

The Bobba/Zaida of the Year competition, sends one person each year - occasionally a couple - to visit family abroad. The problem is choices, explains the UJW’s social worker Ingrid Woolf.

Not winning is devastating. And winning and choosing to be with one of your children whose siblings are continents away, can be as devastating.

UJW recently launched a Panic Button project for older people living on their own.

Gabriel explains Second Innings further: “We currently have over 400 members. Some live in residential facilities supported by the Chev, others not; the criteria for membership is age. It’s designed for the mature, still active, adult.”

“In order to keep the elderly youthful, we have developed intergenerational projects, like Second Innings School Project,” adds Zackon.

Now in its 15th year the initiative brings the elderly to children from previously disadvantaged communities. Recently, “The relationship between kids and ‘gogos’ is key.”

It’s a fine ideal but “there are gaps”, Zackon adds that one must not underplay the often terrible circumstances of many of the elderly in this community.

*\* Names have been changed.*

## Volunteers add a 12th school

During the 2011 school year, 92 volunteers from the Second Innings School Project reached over 1 000 pupils at 11 schools in Johannesburg.

Grecia Gabriel, Second Innings’ programme co-ordinator and Chevrah Kadisha Community Social Services’ senior social worker, Darrin Wolberg, were approached during 2011 by the principal of Cyrildene Primary School.

The aim of the project is to recruit volunteers who can teach English literacy skills to primary school children. In addition to language development, the volunteers form



valuable relationships with the children. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

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# Lots of Tu B'Shvat fun at the Field and Study Centre

The JNF and Israel Centre hosted the “JNF Jungle” at the Sandton Field and Study Centre last Sunday, to celebrate Tu B'Shvat. It was a fun day with Israeli drumming, a live cheetah presentation, cuddly jungle plants and creatures. People arrived with their picnic baskets and enjoyed the day in the open. Especially the young – and also those who are young at heart – had a real ball. The celebration had all the more significance in light of concern over global warming and what could be done to counter it.



Getting to touch the cheetah. (PHOTOGRAPHS: ILAN OSSENDRYVER)



Devorah Hodes, Rivke King and Avigail Bellon with their tree.



Jordan Mosselson and Jordan Kuper from King David Linksfield with their trees.



Enjoying the drumming are Lisa Thobile; Tanti Perel; Noa Nerwich; and Netanya Lurie.

# Lazarus has PE audience clamouring for more

ON THURSDAY, February 9, the Jewish community of Port Elizabeth, together with a strong contingent of members of Bridges for Peace and Christian Friends of Israel, were part of some 130 people who attended the presentation by Neil Lazarus, an expert on Israel advocacy and Middle East analysis.

In a media release the congregation said Lazarus delivered an engrossing 90 minute talk, discussing different aspects of Israel and how to present Israel in the best possible light.

Despite the seriousness of the topic, spasms of laughter were to be heard during his moments of comedy in an altogether thoroughly absorbing lecture which prompted a lively question and answer session afterwards.

Everybody who attended walked away with a more insightful knowledge of Israel and the problems she faces and taking heed



Rabbi Shmuel Bloch, Neil Lazarus and Michael Simmons.

of a masterful lesson in advocacy for Israel.

“On behalf of the Jewish community of Port Elizabeth we thank and applaud the efforts of both the Israeli Embassy and the SA Zionist Federation in making his visit to Port Elizabeth possible.”

# The Simpsons celebrating a long and fruitful life



A fortnight ago, Elphin Lodge residents, Abe and Pauline Simpson celebrated marvelous milestones: he turned 100; she turned 90. Pictured seated in front, are the Simpsons with their Kosher Mobile Meals friends and family: from left Ingrid Woolf, social worker; Glenda Goldberg convener; Sylvia Kalish; and Hymie Kalish. Their only surviving son Errol flew out from the UK to celebrate this special occasion with them. (PHOTOGRAPH BY M M NKOSI)



Mina Lopato tots, Joshua Lipchin; Isabella Norton; Zara Weiner; and Ilan Lipchin show their seedlings with pride.

# Green was the dominant colour at Mina Lopato

ROBYN SASSEN  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
ILAN OSSENDRYVER.

TU B'SHVAT fell this year on a Wednesday, and what better way to celebrate it, in the opinion of Greenside Shul's secretary, Nadine Lazarus, than with a high tea, hosted jointly between the Mina Lopato Nursery School and the Greenside Shul complex. Co-ordinated by Lazarus, the event was a fabulous success, attended by close to 100 grown-ups and some 50 children.

“Everyone was asked to wear green and, after a lovely drosha by Rabbi Mendel Rabinowitz, we planted two big trees – a willow and a carob – donated by one of our congregants, Selwyn Miller.

“The children each brought seedlings which they planted in the play area connecting the shul premises to the nursery school.”

The shul organised a puppeteer and magician to entertain the little ones; the bigger kids listened to music, under the guidance of Youth Director Dovi Rabinowitz, and the adults enjoyed their high tea.

“So few big shuls make a great fuss of the smaller Jewish holidays, these days,” Lazarus added. “This was such fun and so appropriate for all the green-awareness that's going on in our world right now.”



Young men planting: Sasha Frank; Brett Maunde; and Cole Maunde.



A mass of yellow curls and flowers, Gabriel Spira, preparatory to planting his flowers.

# Disconnect between the people and the books...

ROBYN SASSEN

“WE’RE THE people of the book,” declares Marcia Parness (pictured), honorary life vice-president of the SA Zionist Federation and chairman of the Johannesburg Jewish Resource Centre - formerly known as Beyachad Library - “or are we?” she ponders. Since August 2010, the library, in existence since 1946, having grown from a nucleus collection donated by the Transvaal Youth Council, to a monumental collection of tens of thousands of books, journals, audio-visual and archival material, was forced to be reduced to fit into half of its current space, because of financial problems. “Many wonderful letters were published in the press,” Parness said, “But so few people came forward to offer their support and become members” - membership is R180 per annum - “that our plans to



Marcia Parness. (FILE PHOTO)

cut the library in half had to be carried out. “Our only income is from membership. We have been compelled to halve the hours of our librarian, Norma Shulman, in order to keep the library going. It is horrific. “In December, I was in Cape Town. The Zionist library there, supported by the Zionist Federation and the community at large, has three fulltime staff members, two part-timers and four volunteers. It’s even open on Sundays. “Johannesburg Jewry comprises 80 per cent of SA Jewry. If just 70 people committed to R180 per month to the centre, we could have a fulltime librarian and some money to develop the collection in terms of repairing bindings and converting videos to DVD. “It seems I am fighting this battle alone,” she remarks. “But as long as I can walk and talk, I will not let this go. The move was structural and the

space is considerably tighter. We have, however, managed to get most of the books in, but we were obliged to get rid of our entire Hebrew fiction collection. We simply could not house them. “This is our heritage. Every Jewish organisation in the province uses the library, from WIZO to the JNF. It includes several components: the Isie Aaron Maisels section for books, the Joe Green Audio-Visual, the Yiddish Academy and the SA Zionist Archives. “The next generation, it seems, does not believe in the value of history. A lot of our material is not on the internet. You can’t locate it via Google or Wikipedia.” Parness appeals to the community for help from any quarter, including volunteer librarians. “Play your part in securing South Africa’s Jewish heritage ... to ensure the JJRC never faces closure,” the appeal form states. JJRC’s banking details: Nedbank Rosebank (branch no. 19770500); account no. 1004681631.

## JJRC kicks off with book launch

AFTER MONTHS of “living out of boxes”, since their dramatic move to downsize the library, the Johannesburg Jewish Resource Centre hosts its first event on February 26. “Israel Reclaiming the Narrative: Exposing the Big Lie and its Perpetrators” by Israeli author Barry Shaw, will be launched at 17:30, in Beyachad’s Abe Abrahamson Auditorium. The thinking in this proactive book is premised on the idea of “why should my country apologise for fighting for its right to exist?” Signed copies will be available for purchase at R150; the organisers request a R30 donation. Bookings: Norma (011) 645-2567 or library@beyachad.co.za



## Technetium scoops Science, Technology award

AN AWARDS ceremony was recently held to announce and honour SA’s Top Technology 100 companies. The event was hosted by the South African Department of Science and Technology together with The Industrial Development Corporation and DaVinci Holdings. Technetium took top honours and was awarded the country’s highest accolade for an emerging enterprise. The Department of Science and Technology Director General’s Award for Emerging Enterprises for Overall Excellence, is the “ultimate accolade. This organisation does not only deliver superior financial results, but displays all-round excellence,” the Department of Science and Technology said in a statement when announcing the award winner. “From the development of their strategy, to the way they interact with their internal and external environment, the organisation displays an important attribute in the form of a ‘fractal quality’. As such,

irrespective of where you engage with the organisation, the same professionalism and commitment to their stakeholders, will pervade. “In addition to sound innovation management processes and a constant re-evaluation of their market offerings, the overall winner addresses all the other elements of enterprise development, corporate social investment, empowerment and a growing local and international market base. “Their growth is derived organically and through sound acquisitions. Organisations in this category are recognised as hypercompetitors,” the Department said in conclusion. Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor, presented the awards. “We, at Technetium, wish to share this award with our clients, partners and suppliers, who inspire us to continuously strive to improve, innovate and pursue excellence in all areas of our technology and business,” Wayne Aronson, Technetium CEO, said.

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### ‘DON’T STRIKE IRAN BEFORE MADONNA CONCERT’

JERUSALEM - A new Facebook page is calling on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to refrain from striking Iran’s nuclear sites until after Madonna performs in Israel. A day after Madonna announced last week that she is launching her new world tour in Israel in support of her latest album, the Facebook page “Bibi don’t start a

war with Iran until after Madonna’s show on May 29” was established by Israeli artist Kobi Zvili. It has received 790 likes. There is mounting speculation Israel will launch a pre-emptive strike on Iranian nuclear facilities within a year. Iran says its nuclear programme is peaceful, but the Western world fears that it is close to having nuclear weapons. (JTA)



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Jewish Report

Killing in the age of the Internet

WHAT DOES the slaughter in Syria by President Bashar Assad’s military have to do with us? A dictator in the far-away Middle East turns his tanks and artillery against his own people fighting for democracy and freedom. Some 7 000 thus far murdered.

Witnesses tell of the shooting of people attending funerals of others massacred the previous day. Stories abound of callous murder and torture of children, prisoners, and people in hospitals.

In today’s super-connected reality of the Internet, Facebook and Twitter, the assumption is that tyrants can no longer get away with such barbarity, since the whole world will immediately know of it and the perpetrators will be stopped. We should feel more secure, the theory goes.

Clearly, however, this is not necessarily the case. A poster held aloft at a demonstration by Syrian opposition groups said: “The Syrian people are slaughtered. Where is the world?”

In previous eras, “the world” was sometimes absent because it genuinely did not know about atrocities in particular places. There were also occasions when the information was obscured for bizarre reasons.

During the Second World War, for example, despite clear evidence of what was happening to European Jews under the Nazis, America’s most prestigious paper, the New York Times - the flagship of the world media - was strangely silent or evasive about it. In her book “Buried by the Times”, journalism professor Laurel Leff describes how the Times downplayed news of the Holocaust for a range of personal relationships at the newspaper, the desire of the paper’s Jewish owner to assimilate, and the ethos of mid-century America.

Because of the Times’ huge influence on other media, the news of the Nazis’ “Final Solution” was obscured from Times readers and from the larger American public. Ultimately, of course, the news did come out.

Such ignorance cannot happen with today’s digital connectivity, where no single medium dominates, and the proliferation of news is instant. Irwin Cotler, Canadian human rights advocate and former minister of justice, says about Syria: “Tragically, we have not yet done what needs to be done, despite our having known the cruel and desperate reality of the situation on the ground in Syria for close to a year now.

“The Economist ran a cover story headlined ‘Savagery in Syria’ last April. No one can say we did not know.”

So how can it happen that Assad can kill his people for over a year and not be stopped? A legal framework does exist for international action in such cases. In 2005 some 150 heads of state and government at the UN adopted a declaration on the Responsibility to Protect, authorising the international community to collectively act “to protect (a state’s) population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity” if that state is unable or unwilling to protect its citizens, or if that state is itself perpetrating such criminality.

But, says Cotler, “in a cruel mockery of the Syrian people, Russia and China vetoed United Nations Security Council efforts to stop the bloodshed”.

With their history of pogroms and such-like attacks by governments and others in so many countries through so many centuries, Jews have a special interest in the strengthening of the principle of the Responsibility to Protect. And in urging the international community to stop the Syrian slaughter, both for the sake of its people, and for the principle itself.

Syria is also Israel’s neighbour to the north. The world’s inaction should give pause to Israelis and Jews. When the chips are really down and urgent global action is needed to stop genocide, will the world community spring into action, or will it be paralysed or tardy?

Internet connectivity is all very well, but sometimes old-fashioned soldiers with weapons are still necessary to protect innocent people.



After the New Delhi attack, fears emerged that Iran-Israel attacks could escalate. Two people were injured when a bomb went off outside the Israeli Embassy in New Delhi on Monday.

After New Delhi attack, fears that Iran-Israel attacks could escalate

RON KAMPEAS  
WASHINGTON

IRAN AND Israel appear to be locked in an assassination contest.

Israeli leaders blamed Iran for two assassination attempts late on Sunday and early Monday - in Tbilisi, Georgia, and in New Delhi. The bomb in Tbilisi was disabled before it could be activated and the attack in India wounded the wife of an Israeli diplomat and her driver.

The attacks follow a number of reported attempts on Israeli and Jewish targets, most recently in Azerbaijan and Thailand. They also follow a series of assassinations of Iranian nuclear scientists and military figures associated with Iran - most recently on January 11.

Iran has blamed Israel for being behind those attacks. In keeping with Israeli policy on such issues, its officials have declined to comment.

Experts warn that the attacks could get worse.

“It’s clear we’re already in a situation of escalation, but what’s still not clear is how far that’s going to go,” said Michael Adler, an expert on Iran at the Woodrow Wilson Centre.

If Iran manages to kill Israelis, it could invite an escalated response from Israel.

“We don’t need a war of words to descend into a war of assassinations to descend into something much bigger,” said Joel Rubin, director of government affairs at the Ploughshares Fund, which supports projects aimed at advancing peace.

After the bombing in India and the foiled attack in Georgia, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fingered Iran.

“Iran is behind these attacks; it is the largest exporter of terrorism in the world,” he said. “The government of Israel and the security services will

continue to act together with local security forces against such acts of terrorism. We will continue to take strong and systematic, yet patient, action against the international terrorism that originates in Iran.”

Iran’s ambassador to New Delhi, Mehdi Nabizadeh, rejected Netanyahu’s accusations, calling them “untrue and sheer lies, like previous times”. Reuters reported. Nabizadeh also condemned the attack.

But on February 3, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said his country was prepared to assist those who would “confront” Israel and the United States.

“From now on, in any place, if any nation or any group confronts the Zionist regime, we will endorse and we will help,” he said in a rare Friday sermon. “We have no fear expressing this.”

The attacks in Georgia and New Delhi took place the day after the fourth anniversary of the car bombing in Syria that killed Imad Mughniyeh, the operations chief for Hezbollah, Iran’s Lebanon proxy.

At the time, Hezbollah leaders said they would avenge the killing at a time and place of their choosing. That was widely seen at the time as a signal that Hezbollah was ending its unofficial moratorium on attacking Israelis and Jews outside the Middle East that had been in place since the mid-1990s.

In 1994, an Iranian-sponsored bombing thought to have been carried out by Hezbollah operatives levelled the AMIA Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires, killing 85 people and injuring more than 300. A bombing attack on that city’s Israeli Embassy two years earlier had left 29 dead.

For its part, Israel has not acknowledged responsibility for the attacks on Iranian nuclear scientists. But a number of unnamed American officials have told media outlets that they believed Israel

was behind the killings.

Patrick Clawson, an Iran analyst at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said Israel’s posture in the region stemmed from the existential threat that Israeli leaders believed was posed by Iran’s suspected nuclear weapons programme.

Recent reports suggest that Israeli leaders think that time is running out to halt the programme before Iran has passed a point of no return on the way to a nuclear weapon.

“Israel’s attitude would be that diplomats are expendable because of national survival,” Clawson said.

In the New Delhi attack, Tal Yehoshua Koren, the wife of a diplomat stationed with the Israeli Defence Ministry mission in India, was the injured woman, Ynet reported. Koren was said to be in fair condition.

After the attack, Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff Benny Gantz called a meeting to assess the situation of Israel’s foreign missions. India’s foreign minister reportedly called his Israeli counterpart, Avigdor Lieberman, and said his country would work to capture the attackers. He also said his country would provide additional security for the embassy.

In a call with Indian reporters following Monday’s attack, Paul Hirschson, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman, commended the Indian and Georgian governments for working with Israel to follow up on such attempts and prevent them in the future. He also suggested that Israel’s responses to such attacks would not be confined to prevention.

“I don’t think we’re going to say we’re going to twiddle our thumbs happily at attempts on Israelis anywhere,” he said on Monday in a conference call organised by The Israel Project. (JTA)

(JTA Israel correspondent Marcy Oster contributed to this report.)



Seeking kin: Wurzburg brings back its long-lost Jews...

A child in the German city of Wurzburg crouches to read a stolperstein (stumbling block) set in the city’s cobblestones, in memory of the Jews deported from the city. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.STOLPERSTEINE-WUERZBURG.DE)

SEE STORY ON FACING PAGE

OPINION AND ANALYSIS – FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# Seeking kin: Wurzburg brings back its long-lost Jews

**HILLEL KUTTLE**  
**BALTIMORE**

BALTIMORE - John Schwabacher was 12 years old when the Second World War broke out.

He and his brothers, Michael and Thomas, emerged from hiding in their hometown of Wurzburg, Germany, and joined their father in San Francisco. Their grandmother and countless other relatives were murdered in the Holocaust, and their mother and grandfather died just prior to being deported.

When Schwabacher would travel overseas on business for the semiconductor equipment company he founded, he often would detour to visit his hometown. His most recent visit was a decade ago, for the birthday party of a woman who helped save him and his brothers.

This April, Schwabacher, now 79 and retired, will bring his family back to the northern Bavarian city, including his brother Michael (Thomas is deceased). Wurzburg's mayor is inviting Jewish natives to return with their spouses as honoured guests for a weeklong visit, airfare and lodging included. Approximately 25 couples from Israel, the United States, Argentina and England have registered, and the city is seeking others.

Wurzburg's outstretched hand is meaningful to Schwabacher, "an acknowledgement that the Jews accomplished a lot in Germany, and that (Germany is) overcoming the reluctance to admit that the Jews contributed a lot," he told JTA. "I'm going because it's an official recognition of



**John Schwabacher memorialised his grandmother with this stolperstein, he sponsored in the German town of Wurzburg. Schwabacher will show it to his family when they visit the city in April. (PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN SCHWABACHER)**

the Jews."

Rotraud Ries, director of the city's Johana Stahl Centre for Jewish History and Culture in Lower Franconia, called Wurzburg's sponsorship long overdue, especially with travelling difficult now for aged Holocaust survivors.

"It's important for them to see how the city tries to deal with this dark period of its history, and it's important that the city says: 'We know what happened in the Nazi period, that people left and were murdered,'" she

said. "And it's an important gesture to have them here as guests of the city."

Other German cities have hosted such visits over the years, but this is a first for Wurzburg.

The April 16 - 23 programme will include an opening reception at the town hall; meetings with present-day residents at the Jewish community building; a Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony in the synagogue, which in 2006 was incorporated into the community building; ceremonies dedicating plaques, known in German as "stolpersteine" (stumbling stones), in the sidewalks near buildings where Jews resided before they were deported; and trips to cemeteries where visitors' relatives are buried.

New York's Fred Zeilberger, 82, will be attending to dedicate a stolperstein in memory of his grandmother, Lina Mimetz, who last lived in a nursing home on the site of the contemporary Jewish community building.

After surviving the Jungferhof, Kaiserwald and Stutthof concentration camps, Zeilberger returned to Wurzburg and for two years lived in the nursing home with other survivors before leaving for America.

Fewer than 1 100 Jews now live in Wurzburg, nearly all recent arrivals from the former Soviet Union. Before the First World War, approximately 8 000 Jews lived in Germany's lower Franconia region, about 2 000 of them in Wurzburg, Ries said.

Josef Schuster, who practises internal medicine in the city and whose parents were from Germany, explained that Mayor Georg Rosenthal revived earlier, aborted initiatives to host former Jewish residents. Rosenthal,

who is not Jewish, appreciated Jewish history and was committed to its preservation, said Schuster, who serves as vice president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

"It's a special feeling the mayor has. It's in his heart to do this," he said. "There's a very good connection between him and the Jewish community."

A notable moment, he explained, occurred with January's publication of a book documenting each of the 1 455 Jewish tombstones used to construct a centuries-old building that was razed in 1987.

The book represented the climax of a lengthy research project by three local and two Israeli historians. The tombstones, some dating to the 1300s, now are kept in the Jewish community building.

Schwabacher is looking forward to showing his grandson the home of the former's grandfather, Wilhelm Schwabacher, who owned several flour mills and saved people after the First World War.

"I want that (information) not to die with me," he said.

Schwabacher also mentioned a 2011 event that he said illustrated the city's seriousness about dealing with the Nazi horrors: a memorial for the deportees in which thousands of residents walked from the Jews' former homes to the railroad station.

"It was one of the most impressive things they did. That's one of the reasons I'm going," he said. "It was a lot more significant than paying for airline tickets. I don't excuse what happened. I was filled with fury, as you might expect. But I've lived a marvellous life in the United States." (JTA)

*Please send an email message to seekingkin@jta.org if you are a Holocaust-era Wurzburg native who wishes to participate in this programme or if you would like our help in searching for long-lost friends or family. Include the principal facts in a brief e-mail - up to one paragraph - and your contact information.*

## LETTERS

### WHEN THE SILENCE REMAINS DEAFENING...

THE ARAB Spring of 2011 has turned into a chilling winter in most of the Arab world. Egypt has descended into one disappointment after another as the slaughter of Christians continues. Libya's "revolution" is not at all hopeful, with armed militia gangs still roaming the streets and no democratic leadership emerging.

Syria has surpassed them all with its brutality and it has taken the UN all of three weeks to come up with a watered down resolution which was vetoed by Russia and China, no doubt with the acquiescence of their Brics partners. It seems Bashar Assad is set to hold on to power for some time to come, quenching his thirst for blood.

Then we see Iran on the brink of producing the A bomb and what is the world doing to prevent this? Very little other than some ineffectual sanctions.

Clearly world peace is in a most precarious space and where are our South Africa men of peace? Has anyone heard from that peace laureate, Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu? Or what about that arms deal activist Terry Crawford-Brown, or all those other vociferous activists so loud and up front when Israel declares its intention to build

some housing units?

Well, we know where Tutu, Crawford-Brown, (Ronnie) Kasrils and a host of others were in November last year - all giving evidence at the Russell Tribunal on Palestine, indulging in a hate fest that purported to promote peace and justice in the Middle East and whose mission statement says: "May this Tribunal prevent the crime of silence."

Well, we have heard their crime of silence, as almost 6 000 Syrians have been butchered; we have heard their silence while countless Christians are slaughtered in Egypt; and we heard their silence when Muammar Gaddafi was killing his subjects.

What about arms deal activist Crawford-Brown's silence? So quick to criticise Israel's security barrier, he seems totally unconcerned with the imminent development of the most obscene weapon in history and a country who threatens to use it to wipe out another country.

Kasrils, more concerned about the Middle East situation than his own country, forgets that Syria is also part of that Middle East where he is supposed to be promoting peace.

Crawford-Brown has stated that the Russell Tribunal can't take on every issue in

the world - but what other issue has the tribunal tackled these past few years? Other than the Jews of course!

Tutu who retired from public life a few years back, seems to come out of retirement whenever the opportunity presents itself to vilify one country. But this man of peace has yet to mention the peace in Syria or the peaceful nuclear programme of Iran that even his Arab friends have expressed grave concern over.

Ignoring the brutality and outrage of those Arab countries, we now have that (TAC) activist Zackie Achmat agitating for our government to support the BDS campaign and openly support sanctions against Israel. And you continue to support the carnage in the Arab world. Messrs (Nathan) Geffen and (Doron) Isaacs seem at a complete loss for words, where they are normally so full of venom when they discuss Israel. But their darling Arabs have obviously disappointed them to the point of silence.

The crime of silence screams out too loudly from our promoters of peace and justice in the Middle East!

**Allan Wolman**  
**Norwood, Johannesburg**

defend ourselves. Why should Israel ask to exist in peace when they are entitled to and in any event can enforce it with an iron fist?

**Nathan Cheiman**  
**Northcliff, Johannesburg**

*See more letters on page 11*

## LOOKING FOR...

### IS ELI KARPEN STILL AROUND?

DENNIS JANE, DA councillor for Ward 56 in Johannesburg, is trying to contact Eli Karpen. Jane writes: "I some while back found two ID books for a Eli Karpen # 610328 5855 08 2 (one old the

other new: issued 2004-07-27). I called at the address on the slip inside the cover, but he was 'unknown' at the address. His previous address was 32 Noordsberg Road, The Hill,

Johannesburg."

Jane says Karpen can arrange with him to collect the ID books. Jane's address details are: tel: (011) 435-2627, cell: 083-701-8856 or e-mail: dkjane@global.co.za

Gut's e-mail address is Hakollel@borox.ch and his telephone number, +41-44-4638843.

### LOOKING FOR WHEREABOUTS OF LIONEL SHAPIRO

NAPHTALI GUT from Zurich in Switzerland is looking for Lionel Shapiro who went to Yeoville Boys' School (and/or

perhaps Athlone High School), Johannesburg, in the 1950s. Can any of our readers help?

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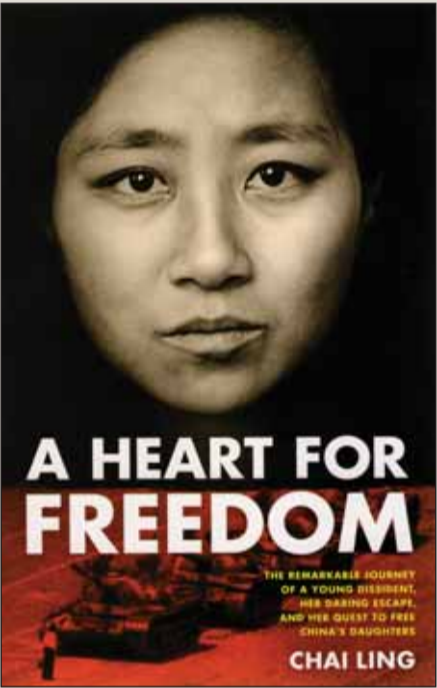
Raw courage  
redeems many of  
the book’s flaws

*A Heart for Freedom*  
by Chai Ling  
(Tyndale, R144)

REVIEWED BY  
GWEN PODBREY

IT IS axiomatic that those who find the bravery to fight one great injustice often find the courage to fight another.

Thus it is that Chai Ling, who headed the student uprising in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square in 1989, has now switched her focus from her country’s political tyranny to its social abuses - specifically, its one-child policy and its blatantly misogynistic culture, in which many female children



are denied education, freedom of movement or economic participation.

The daughter of two well-respected military doctors, she was raised in the rural province of Shandong in comparative luxury. However, with an emotionally illiterate father, who drummed Communist dogma into his wife and children, a prevailing dread of authority infused the family.

(Ling’s mother, for example, suffered a nervous breakdown when two microscopes were stolen from her laboratory. Irrationally believing she would be accused of the theft, she imploded in terror, rather than talk to the police.)

An outstanding scholar, a 17-year-old Ling was awarded a place at Beijing University, where she enrolled to study geology. However, given her sexual naivety, an early relationship soon resulted in a pregnancy and an abortion. This was followed by a marriage to an older, more sophisticated fellow student, Feng Congde. The couple elected to move into an apartment and complete their studies.

When discontent broke out at the university, Congde became marginally involved. But it was Ling who made a much greater commitment and took far graver risks, providing food, support and - finally - leadership to the thousands of protesters at Tiananmen Square.

As the unrest (and her personal peril) intensified, she became aware that her husband - far from respecting her input - was patronising and contemptuous. Thus, to

her disillusionment with China’s ideology and her dismay at its intransigence were added bitter revelations about her spouse.

“I had (displayed) a faithful wife’s devotion to her husband, (doing) everything he and his colleagues could not do themselves... (But Feng) constantly undermined my suggestions, which he called ‘the little lady’s views’... On the same day that democratic elections (on the campus) gave birth to a new, independent student organisation in China, a new, independent woman was born as well.”

After the bloodbath at Tiananmen Square, in which thousands were killed, Ling - with the wrath of the government targeted squarely at her - fled to the US, where she graduated from Princeton University and became a successful businesswoman.

Now remarried with three children, she has twice been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize and campaigns tirelessly to liberate Chinese women through her global organisation, All Girls Allowed (see the website: [www.allgirlsallowed.org](http://www.allgirlsallowed.org)).

Ling’s book is neither well written nor insightful, and oozes with the born-again Christian rhetoric in which she has since immersed herself. The text is simplistic and maddeningly reticent on issues one would have liked to know more about, particularly her psychological transition from a subservient, timid young woman into an implacable activist.

However, her sheer, raw courage - both as a Chinese patriot and a woman - blazes from the pages, making this a compelling autobiography.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

This ‘Daddy’ an ageless  
‘granddaddy’ by now

ROBYN SASSEN

“I’M TOTALLY famous in Paris,” Robyn Orlin (56), the choreographer who single-handedly occasioned a shift in contemporary dance in South Africa, said in a telephone interview from Berlin, where she lives with filmmaker husband Oliver Schmitz and daughter, Ruby.

Preparatory to travel to Johannesburg for this year’s Dance Umbrella, Orlin explained her sense of dispersion: “I can’t do wrong in Paris. In Berlin, I cannot find work; I don’t know what to make work about, as a Jew and an African in Germany.”

Johannesburg is still “home” for her; here she will make a new international work on South African dancers after Dance Umbrella.

“I’m coming to put ‘Daddy’ to sleep,” this co-founder of the Dance Umbrella, 24 years ago, alongside dance writers Marilyn Jenkins and Adrienne Sichel, laughs. “Daddy, I’ve Seen This Piece Six Times Before and I Still Don’t Know Why They’re Hurting Each Other” is iconic in her repertoire.

Having debuted on Dance Umbrella in 1999, thanks to a small commission, it won major international prizes, including the coveted Lawrence Olivier Award for Most



Members of the “Daddy” cast: Nelisiwe Xaba, Toni Morkel and Mark Hawkins.  
(PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN HOGG)

Outstanding Achievement in Dance, in London, 2003. “It’s travelled almost everywhere. It’s enough. The cast have aged. You will see a very interesting version,” she promises. “But this is its last.”

You may have seen “Daddy” before; in tune with Orlin’s approach, don’t expect anything expectable. Will she be challenging audience comfort levels? “Of course,” she laughs.

“I made the piece at the height of things changing in South Africa. I was struggling, to make a living. The dancers were freelancing; it was hard to get them together at the same time.

Mousetrap at 60, still  
as captivating as ever

**Show:** *The Mousetrap*  
**Where:** *Pieter Toerien Theatre, Montecasino, Fourways, (011) 511-1988*  
**When:** *Until February 24*

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

IT’S NOT for no reason that Agatha Christie’s whodunit celebrates 60 continuous years onstage this year. This Alan Swerdlow-directed caper with the macabre is a must-see.

You will have your suspicions from the get-go as to who killed one Maureen Lyon, a farmer’s wife. You get alerted to the crime as brand new guesthouse owner Mollie Ralston (Sarah Richard) switches on her wireless in time for the BBC news, while she readies her estab-

lishment for its first batch of guests.

She’s been married a year to Giles (Clyde Berning); the two are as gung-ho as an ordinary dowdy young couple in 1950s suburban Britain can be about such a project. Monkswell Manor, the guesthouse in question, is situated 48 km from London.

And thus the scene is set, for a terrific murder, bringing the case of the late Ms Lyon to Monkswell’s inter sanctum.

The guests arrive: four expectedly and another, not; each with their own brand of quiriness and dark secrets, making each of them viable candidates for the murderous role. Then, heavy snow leaves the whole establishment neatly isolated for the duration of the dire deed.

Replete with a shoal of red her-



The suspects: (back) Christopher Wren (Matthew Lotter); Major Metcalf (Robert Fridjhon); Detective Trotter (Ashley Dowds); Paravicini (Mark Rayment); Giles Ralston (Clyde Berning); and (front) Miss Casewell (Bronwyn Leigh); Mrs Boyle (Clare Marshall); and Mollie Ralston (Sarah Richard). (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MONTECASINO THEATRE)

DEAR READER: Please note that owing to space constraints, Peter Feldman’s film column and Arts Matters are omitted from these pages until futher notice.

“It was the first time I played with humour. Its format is constantly questioned. It’s about power and cultural constraints. It has no script. It deviates in each performance which is why it’s had such longevity. This is how I’ve stopped ‘Daddy’ from dating.”

Orlin outraged dance establishment and even the government from the 1980s. She pushed the contemporary dance envelope out of shape - and was labelled a “national irritation”, for her efforts.

She’s stretched her repertoire with award-winning status from dance to opera and theatre, and was knighted in 2009 in the French Order of Merit. Born in Johannesburg, she trained in dance and fine art, in London and Chicago, the latter with the assistance of a Fulbright scholarship.

“My new work, on Moving Into Dance is for the Lyons Biennale in September. It will tour Europe before possibly returning to Johannesburg. It’s about beauty. I’m sick and tired of seeing Africa portrayed as ugly and dirty. We are creative and resilient; the work will be beautiful.”

• This year’s Dance Umbrella, from February 17 - March 4, is unprecedented in its high quality programme of work, featuring the ilk of Dada Masilo, Vincent Mantsoe, Athena Mazarakis, Mark Hawkins, to name but a few, in venues in Newtown, Braamfontein and central Johannesburg. Orlin’s “Daddy” (February 22 - 24) is at the Market Theatre. See [www.artslink.co.za/arts](http://www.artslink.co.za/arts) or call 082-570-3083.

rings, and underpinned by increasingly chilling piano interpretations of the children’s English nursery rhyme, Three Blind Mice, the story has hairpin bends which force you to reconsider your suspicions, once, twice, thrice... Indeed, you may well audibly gasp at the revelation of the ghastly truth.

True to the genre, which launched the iconic careers of Margaret Rutherford and Peter Ustinov as the wonderfully idiosyncratic detectives fuelling the drama and keeping it contained, Swerdlow’s Mousetrap is crisp and fabulous to a fault.

Accurately cast with predominantly young performers - Berning we last saw in The History Boys; Lotter, in Somewhere on the Border - each equipped with gracious sympathy for the idiosyncrasies of the era, the play sings.

The young women, Mollie and Miss Casewell (Bronwyn Leigh) are harsh in their delivery, but appropriately so: the play is set just after two devastating world wars, in a world proactively reconstituting itself and its ideological values; even though little Mrs Ralston is drably unsophisticated, she is assertive.

Two of its larger-than-life customers stand out: Christopher Wren (Lotter) and Mrs Boyle (Clare Marshall): the one, a classic fop; the other, a persnickety old matron.

Like characters portrayed by people of the ilk of Bette Davis, Maggie Smith, David Niven and Lauren Bacall, in films inspired by Agatha Christie’s work, they quickly instigate a love-hate relationship with the audience, rooted as they are in a life of being spoiled in an unashamedly colonialist context.

This kind of play, synonymous as it is with well-rounded entertainment, doesn’t grace our local stages all that often. It wraps good solid writing and sound performance in a crackerjack of a mystery. You will be enthralled.

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Mary Kluk,  
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Verifying the facts before reacting

AT THE time of going to print, we have just come out of a meeting with Minister of Arts and Culture Paul Mashatile and other senior members of his department to discuss certain remarks he is reported to have made concerning government’s approach on sanctions against Israel.

There are nevertheless several points I would like to make, which relate to the above matter and which very much go to the heart of how the Board operates.

There is a tendency among certain members of our community to jump to conclusions and even to overreact to what they read in the media. Certainly, things are reported that need to be followed up on, and what Mr Mashatile reportedly said certainly fell into that category.

However, and as our meeting made clear, it would have been a serious mistake to have taken these comments at face value before first having heard from the minister himself the context in which they were made and what his broader views are.

While it is certainly not the policy of the Board to sweep things under the carpet, we are always careful to establish exactly what the facts are before responding, and based on this to make a considered, responsible decision as to what will achieve the best outcome.

The substance of this important meeting will be addressed in my next column, as a statement from Mr Mashatile’s department must still be awaited.

Our community feels very strongly about certain issues, and our connection to Israel is one of them. That being said, I would like to caution people not to be premature in their responses, which quite often can be counter-productive, but to allow for a reasonable wait-and-see period to elapse before coming to any fixed conclusions.

Shusterman weekend – growing Jewish leadership

Our National Director Wendy Kahn, took part in a most stimulating weekend devoted to Jewish leadership training. This was run by the Schusterman Foundation, which runs innovative, forward-thinking training programme for Jewish communities the world over.

As Wendy describes it, the two-day seminar exposed participants to a range of very remarkable individuals who are making a positive difference in our society, as well as the kind of impressive projects they are involved in.

The Schusterman concept, she says, serves to highlight these projects, thereby becoming “a powerful vehicle for a cross pollination of ideas and a strengthening of initiatives through constructive connections”.

It was very encouraging to see the kind of high calibre people our community is producing, together with the enthusiastic young leaders who are coming through.

Through nurturing these kind of contacts and facilitating innovative debates and exchanges of ideas, we will go a long way towards ensuring the future strength and viability both of our own communal institutions and of our ability, as South African citizens, to playing a meaningful role in building the greater society.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

LETTERS

The Editor, Suite 175, Postnet X10039, Randburg, 2125 email: carro@global.co.za

**Disclaimer:** The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report

SAIPAC URGES ISRAELI ‘EVEN-HANDEDNESS’

THE SOUTH African Israel Public Affairs Committee has written an open letter to Minister of Arts and Culture Paul Mashatile.

Dear Mr Mashatile

You were quoted in The New Age newspaper on February 2 stating that the South African government/ANC “have no problem with supporting the Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel”.

The article started by stating that “The South African government might consider supporting sanctions against Israel as it explores a variety of peaceful methods to step up support for the Palestinians’ fight for freedom and independence”. This was stated... during the signing of a cultural agreement between South Africa and Palestine.

There are many things I think you should seriously consider. First of all, sanctions and boycotts are a two-way street. There are a lot of computer, scientific, agricultural, medical, genetics, microbiology, solar energy, energy utilisation, water desalination, water use and purification, space research and many other things South Africa and its

citizens are just going to have to do without. ...Seriously consider the cost to South Africa should your government decide to apply boycotts, disinvestment and sanctions.

We are also willing to meet with you to assist you to develop a balanced approach to the complexities of the Middle East conflicts and seriously consider whether South Africa is an honest broker and has any contribution to make to the conflict there.

You also have to consider if there is such a thing as a list of benefits and products of a similar and important nature that your Palestinian friends can offer you and which this country currently uses. If your Palestinian friends truly were seeking guidance, as stated, from South Africa, then they could take a lesson from how South Africans negotiated its peace. Words, propaganda and sentimental claptrap are cheap.

In quoting Nelson Mandela, you indicate you are looking to be moral and human. Therefore it is incumbent that you should familiarise yourself with the true history of the area and the murders, horrors and terror perpetrated by your Arab friends long before there were settlements in the West Bank, long before there was a State of Israel

EASTERN EUROPEAN OBSERVERS SHOULD GO TO SYRIA

I WOULD like to comment on what is going on in Syria, by suggesting that, first of all, Russia should urge other Eastern European countries to send observers to Syria, and thus, hopefully and please G-d, bring a halt to the massacre of civilians, which is done (as far as I understand) by both sides in this conflict.

‘DAVIS WRONG ON JERUSALEM’

IT WAS to be expected that Mr Justice Dennis Davis (“I am fundamentally opposed to the occupation”), would try to use a respected author’s work to attempt to cast doubt on Israel’s inalienable right to occupy the whole of Jerusalem.

WHY NOTHING ABOUT DURBAN’S NEW JEWISH SCHOOL?

ONE CAN understand comments made in the first few issues of Jewish Report this year that in the current economic climate, one’s coat should be cut according to one’s cloth and that the paper will be a “meaner and leaner” national publication. Emphasis was put on reflecting matters of national communal interest.

If that is so, then it is puzzling that now that we have reached the mid-February stage that no article has as yet been written on the first tentative steps taken in Durban with its new Jewish school. If ever there was an opportunity of highlighting the new ground-breaking event, it was this. After all this was “breaking news”.

And pray, why can the rest of the country, through the Jewish Report not be informed of the new developments so we can share this simcha with the brave Durban community? National means reflecting news from around the country... not just the localised Gauteng scene.

Our responsibilities as Jews mean that we should take that responsibility - one for the other. That translates to being together, even if it is via a vehicle such as Jewish Report, in times of simcha or otherwise.

Being communally derelict in this regard as appears in this case, is shocking to say the least. Jewish Report has let the national community down. Focusing on Johannesburg-based issues in the main, does not foster a good South African Jewish communal spirit.

It is hoped that this message will receive the correct response and that the national “Yisha’koach” call to Durban for their efforts will be noted via the Jewish Report.

Albert Glass  
Cape Town

Our letter writer is not correct in implying we have “ignored” the new Jewish school in Durban. A story on this joyous occasion was prepared some time ago but due to space constraints, has not yet appeared. Durban has a small, yet vibrant Jewish community and we publish as much information on the happenings there as we can get. With the bulk of the country’s Jewish population living in Gauteng, it is understandable that most of the articles will emanate from this area. We are keenly aware that as a national newspaper we have a duty to provide even-handed coverage of Jewish events all over the country. We’ll endeavour to do even better. - Editor

and since and long before they started calling themselves Palestinians after the Six Day War in 1967.

Consider the following:

- It is well known that the ANC and the PLO shared offices over many years as clients of the former USSR. While the ANC was a genuine liberation movement, this cannot be said of the PLO, in spite of its name.
- After 17 years it is also time that the South African Government took a mature approach to world affairs and reconsidered where its best interests lie.
- South Africa’s approach on this matter must also be based on what is best for both parties and certainly not on past friendships and loyalties.
- May I suggest that when you visit the Palestinian area, you also seriously consider a visit to Israel to properly familiarise yourself with the issues and the geo-political situation.

David Hersch  
SAIPAC, Cape Town

This letter has been shortened. - Editor

observers should be sent to Syria too, since Syria is not too far from Eastern Europe; an opinion of observers from countries which are not absolute monarchies, is needed too.

Avner Eliyahu Romm  
Sea Point, Cape Town

thereby justifying Israel’s continuing legal occupation of the West Bank in order to guarantee its own security.

Joel Wolpert  
Benmore, Sandton

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YOUTH TALK

Sharon Akum sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

# King David Pre-Primary tots enjoy Tu B'Shvat

VAL ARONSON, PRINCIPAL  
GRADE R  
PHOTOGRAPH: MELANIE DICK

AT THE START of the school day last week Wednesday, the pre-schoolers were welcomed by a beautiful display of trees, fruit and their own artwork, to celebrate Tu B'Shvat. Some information was handed out to the parents about recycling and the importance of going green. The grade R's planted two orange trees and the pre-primary children planted a fig tree. Everyone enjoyed the delicious fruit and a fun morning was shared by all.



KDLPPS goes green for Tu B'Shvat.

## TA tots in a Tu B'Shvat vegetable patch

RACHEL PELS  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUZANNE BELLING

THE CHILDREN at the Torah Academy Nursery School celebrated the special day of Tu B'Shvat on Wednesday February 8, when they all gathered at 12:00, joined by many parents and grandparents to take part in planting vegetable gardens around the school with the children. The festive sound of music filled the air, accompa-

nied by the clicking and scraping of spades, rakes and shovels. The tots were thrilled to handle their own little seedling and find it a home in the soil. Some literally climbed in "boots and all". One donor donated more than 200 seedlings while another brought some 40 spades to the school. Thank you to everyone who came to share this exciting planting experience with the Nursery School. The children are looking forward to being able to enjoy the vegetables from their own patches.



Mushka Feinblum and Shayna Badler planting seedlings in the grounds of Torah Academy Nursery School.



Sara Bronstein, director of Torah Academy Nursery School (standing, left), welcomes the children, parents and grandparents to the Tu B'Shvat celebrations and planting ceremony at the school.

## Joyous Tu B'Shvat celebrations at Yeshiva Primary

OWN CORRESPONDENT  
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THE FESTIVAL of Tu B'Shvat was celebrated at Yeshiva College on Wednesday February 8 with much joy. A great day was had by all. Besides learning about the chag, children were all involved in different activities within their classes to recognise this "nature festival". Later in the day every child planted a Gezalia in a pot and wrapped it in hessian tied with raffia, finishing it off with a decorative butterfly. This gift was later taken home and will hopefully at some stage be planted in the children's gardens at home.



Morah Shoshana Wolfson; Morah Jenny Braun; and Yohni Spruch, assisting learners to plant their beautiful flowers.

## Shabbatons: A time for bonding and reflection

THE GRADE 9s and 10s at King David Linksfield, recently had two soul-fulfilling Shabbatons. David Malkin and Talya Michaels writes about the grade 10 Shabbaton while Jenna Kaftel and Gabriella Ostrin, take the grade 9 Shabbaton under review. Malkin and Michaels write: "As we all stepped onto the buses at Buffelspoort holiday resort, you could feel the excitement in the air. We all knew we were in for an amazing weekend, one that we will never forget. "The weather was great for a weekend of fun. We could not wait to dive into the blue pools that awaited us and the supertubes,

putt putt, trampolines, heated pools were awesome. We were moved into our cabins where we all started to get ready for an educational Shabbat. We started our shul service outside as the sun was setting, and there was tons of singing and dancing. "Saturday we learnt about Judaism, discussing interesting topics which we could choose from. We got to know our advisers. The end of Shabbat had arrived and it was havdallah time where we all got into a circle under the stars and shared the few special moments as Shabbat departed. "The next morning, we had to make our own breakfast on the braai. We prayed and

feasted! After one last swim, we packed our bags and headed for the buses home - a weekend full of fun and education." Kaftel and Ostrin writes: "After an exciting and fun-filled bus ride, the grade 9s arrived at Pendleberry Grove in Bela-Bela. We were given a quick talk by Saul Adler, Division of Informal Jewish Education director, who organised the Shabbaton and introduced our advisers to us and explained the rules. "We settled into our rooms and quickly changed into our swimming costumes. At the warm baths we had an amazing time on the waterslides and in the pools. "That night we dressed up for our Shabbat photo and a supper in a marquee. We ended our day with our opening tochnit that intro-

duced us to our Shabbaton theme of relationships. "We played 'the love game', where we told each person something we admired about them. The next morning we split up into our davening groups. We spent the day learning about the different relationships in our lives. "Sunday morning we were split up for another davening group and then had a breakfast of pancakes, fruits and cereals. We then had a chance to pack up our things and cool down in the pool. "We made our way to an inspirational tochnit about the importance of relationships with our parents, before returning to Pendleberry for lunch. We boarded the buses back to school to end what had been an amazing Shabbaton weekend."

## KDHVP gives Dux Award to Pincus and Bortz

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
Yael Gordon

JONTY PINCUS and Jordan Bortz were joint winners of the Dux Award at King David High School Victory Park. Each achieved nine distinctions and both were named as IEB Outstanding Achievers. Jonty finished in the top one per cent of all IEB candidates in accounting, Afrikaans, English, Hebrew and maths paper3, and Jordan in accounting, Afrikaans, maths and physical science. They addressed the school when they received the award at the school's annual prize-giving for last year's grade 8 - 11 learners.



Jonty Pincus and Jordan Bortz, joint winners of the Dux Award at KDHVP.

## Celebrating Tu B'Shvat with a picnic and song

SUE BENJAMIN  
PHOTOGRAPHS: JACQUI MILLER

THE PUPILS at Sydenham Pre-Primary School celebrated Tu B'Shvat - the New Year of the Trees - by planting shrubs in the garden. They sang songs outdoors and enjoyed eating pomegranates, dates and figs while having a picnic in the garden.



Above: Dovi Porter; Kayleigh Renfield; Raphi Hurwitz; Scarlett Smith; Gabriel Lobel; Zachary Taitz; Ethan Riback; and Jessica Davis. Back: Chazzan Yudi Cohen and Rabbi Yossy Goldman. Right: Jessica Davis; Ryan Zaslansky; Ella Rosmarin; Shayna Davis; and Hannah Kaveberg.



WHAT’S ON

- Today, Friday (February 17)
- UZLC hosts Ivor Davis who will talk on “Where is the Arab Spring heading?” Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Information: Gloria at (072) 127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.
- Saturday evening (February 18)
- WIZO Tzabar branch invites you to a Valentine’s love songs and love scenes from romantic films, hosted by Sivan Raphaely. Venue: EOH Hall in Bedfordview. Time: 20:00. Cost pp R90. To book or directions phone Shelly (071) 438-0263 or Ayela (011) 882-9875 or 082-4122269-.
- Sunday (February 19)
- RCHCC in association with Hope for Heroism, is hosting “Pride of the Nation” - recently injured Israeli combat soldiers talk about their experiences. Time: 19:30. Cost: R50 (Incl refreshments). Contact Hazel (011) 728-8088 or René (011) 728-8378.
  - The Parktown and Westcliff Heritage Trust is conducting a Johannesburg bus tour with Mr Justice Ralph Zulman, to parts of Johannesburg important to the history of Jewish communities, but off the beaten track. Starting from Sunnyside Park Hotel in Parktown at 14:00, the tour goes south to the Rosettenville Shul, passing Turffontein Race Course and then to the city centre. Cost: R145 for members and R175 for non-members. Booking is essential, either through Computicket or Eira Bond on (011) 482-3349.’
- Monday (February 20)
- UJW hosts Hilary Joffe, PRO of Eskom, who will talk on “The Challenge of Climate Change.” Time: 09:30 Donation: R25. Venue: 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044.
  - The SA Jewish Board of Deputies (Gauteng Council); The Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre; and various embassies including that of Israel, are hosting “An Evening to Honour the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Raoul Wallenberg, Righteous Among the Nations”. Irwin Cotler, Member of Parliament and former Minister of Justice of Canada, will deliver an address, “Raoul Wallenberg - His Legacy”. Venue: Beyachad, Raedene. Time: 19:30 - 21:00. RSVP essential, as places are limited. For more information contact Shirley Beagle at beagle@beyachad.co.za or phone (011) 645-2583.
- Tuesday (February 21)
- UJW CT hosts a “Card Afternoon” at The Forum, V & A Waterfront, at 13:00 for 13:30. Entrance: R75. Wonderful prizes. Enquiries: F Davis: 082-426-7749 or N Baruch: 083-298-6849.
- Wednesday (February 22)
- Emunah Ladies Beit Midrash hosts Rabbi Alon Joseph who will talk on “I am what I think I am”. Time: 10:00 – 11:00. Address: 60 Mejon St, Glenhazel. Tel: (011) 887-2910. Donation R50.
  - UJW Hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson former lecturer Dept English at Wits, who will be delivering part 2 of five lectures on Exploring George Elliot’s “Middlemarch - a Study of Provincial Life”. Time: 09:30
  - Second Innings hosts Gerald Zwiirn (known as “Mr Opera”), who will talk on “Be My Love - A Tribute to Mario Lanza”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.
  - UJW CT adult education division hosts Esta Levitas who will talk on “Save a Child’s Heart.” Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434 9555 (mornings only).
- Thursday (February 23)
- RCHCC shows the Academy Award winner - Best Documentary Feature, 2010, “Inside Job”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60. (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728 808-8/8378), after hours: (01) 728-8378, or e-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@great-park.co.za
- Sunday (February 26)
- WIZO invites you to an evening of enchantment and magic with an SA twist, with Ilan Smith, master of illusion and intrigue. Tickets: R160 pp. Contract: Andrea: 083-677-8999.
  - Beyachad Library book launch: “Israel - Reclaiming the Narrative” by Barry Shaw. The author will be here from Israel. Books available from the library at R150. Time: 17:30. Venue: The Hon Abe Abrahamson Auditorium at Beyachad. Donation R30. Contact Norma (011) 645-2567 or e-mail library@beyachad.co.za
  - Second Innings presents Prof John Lubbe (retired professor of Semitics) who will talk on “The Dead Sea Scrolls; Qumran, its Writings, Caves, Ruins and Graves”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.
- Monday (February 27)
- UJW hosts David Shapiro, consultant to the Sasfin Group who will talk on “Outlook for the Coming Year”. Time: 09:30 Donation: R25. Venue: 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044.

CROSSWORD NO 3 BY LEAH SIMON


**ACROSS:**  
1. Sheet of glass in agony, we hear (4)  
3. Augured by ed’s grape, somehow (8)  
8. Tsar upset by rodents (4)  
9. Musical instrument soon broken by spears (8)  
11. Put ploy in HR path for love of humanity (12)  
13. Tell about a strong wind (6)  
14. Is left somehow to repress (6)  
17. The tasty result of canes! (12)  
20. I go left to glow with toy (8)  
21. Stanley to emerge shortly (4)  
22. Bond is per sector, but contribute within (8)  
23. Raised a loaf, we hear (4)

4. Sorts a new way for cooked meats (6)  
5. Rats’ purses torn by global icons (10)  
6. Make 1 000 pour around set (5)  
7. Run with great flair (4)  
10. I live at pal to relieve pain (10)  
12. Experienced with herbs! (8)  
15. Waste the fried snack (7)  
16. Nothing brash, but hates it (6)  
18. Stale reworking of stories (6)  
19. Silver for editor who’s matured (4)

**SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 2**  
**ACROSS:** 1. Host; 3. Profiles; 8. Rues; 9. Scarface; 11. Cosi fan tutte; 13. Senile; 14. Parish; 17. Crack the whip; 20. Ordained; 21. Free; 22. Baroness; 23. Stud.  
**DOWN:** 1. Hard cash; 2. Stepson; 4. Recent; 5. Formulated; 6. Least; 7. Seem; 10. Affliction; 12. Shepherd; 15. Inherit; 16. Athens; 18. Rider; 19. Tomb.

**DOWN:**  
1. Sweat for each tower top (8)  
2. Realising that hothead has zero (7)

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
8					9							
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11												
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13							14			15		
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	17	18										
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# Survivor’s grandson is on the ice for Germany

JACK MILNER AND JTA

MORE THAN 65 years ago Kurt Kaufmann was liberated from the Auschwitz concentration camp. This weekend his US-born grandson, Evan Kaufmann, is taking to the ice for the German national ice hockey team.

After finishing a successful college hockey career at the University of Minnesota, Kaufmann tried out for several professional hockey clubs in the United States before being advised by his agent that his best option was to play for a German team in the Deutsche Eishockey Liga.

Thanks to his late grandfather’s German roots, Kaufmann received German citizenship quickly and, together with his wife Danielle, relocated to Dusseldorf in 2008.

This weekend, the 28-year-old forward will represent the German national team in the Minsk Cup, a four-nation tournament. He’ll also compete with the national team in May’s world championships, and hopes to have a chance to make the German Olympic squad that will compete in the 2014 games in Sochi, Russia.

During his first years playing for the DEG Metro Stars, Kaufmann kept his Judaism to himself and didn’t tell his teammates that he was the grandson of an Auschwitz survivor or that his great-grandparents perished in the Holocaust.

“At first I was pretty uncomfortable expressing that I was Jewish and speaking about my family’s background, but that was true even in America. It’s not something in the hockey world that is really talked about,” Kaufmann told JTA.

“It’s not something I was comfortable sharing with most people. But I’ve found that the younger generation here in Germany is open to differences and from my experience they’ve all been interested in knowing more about being Jewish, including the holidays and traditions.”

The couple is expecting their first child this June and will be relocating from Dusseldorf to Nuremberg, where Kaufmann recently signed a three-year contract with the local team, one of 14 in the German hockey league.

How did his parents react when he decided to play professional hockey in Germany?

“They were a little unsure initially just because of everything that happened [in Germany], but they knew it was my lifelong goal to be a professional hockey player and I committed so much time to it,” Kaufman said.

“It’s an issue not just for them but for a lot of American Jews in general. Germany



US-born Evan Kaufman has been selected to play ice hockey for the German national team.

is so different today than it was back then. I wish more people could come over here today so they wouldn’t have to carry that stereotype forever.”

Being chosen to play for the national team, carried with it mixed emotions for Kaufmann as well. “A lot of the time I was thinking whether my grandpa would be happy about this or sad or mad. The more I thought about it, I know he had plans to come back to Germany before he died.

“He wasn’t able to, but that helped me get over those initial fears. I feel more pride with the association of feeling German than I ever thought I’d have.”

Since becoming more open about his Judaism and his family’s ties to the Holocaust, Kaufmann’s teammates have become more curious. “They want to know what everything means for me compared to them. But ultimately, they know who I am as a person.

“Our friendships were established without religion, so it doesn’t change anything. I was always hesitant to talk about it, but now that I’m being more public about it, I’ve become more comfortable with the history. I think it’s a good story to express.”

While his teammates tell him that anti-Semitism still exists in certain regions in Germany, Kaufmann hasn’t experienced any first hand.

“I don’t think it’s any different than in America or any other country. There’s always going to be people who have their own beliefs. Personally, I’ve only had good experiences in Germany.”

# Paul Gluckman a worthy SA under-10 chess champion

*Paul Gluckman of Herzlia School in Constantia, shone brightly in the South African Under-10 chess championships that took place in Cape Town in December and came out a clear winner.*

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY SUSAN AND DAVID GLUCKMAN

THIS TOURNAMENT comprised 86 of the very best under-10 players from around the country. Paul was seeded third going into the tournament, based on past results. He finished on eight points out of a possible nine (seven wins and two draws) to emerge the clear winner, and now holds the title of South African Under-10 Open Champion.

This win means that Paul qualifies to represent South Africa in the African Youth Under-10 Championships that will take place towards the end of the year, where he will compete against the winners from all the competing African countries in his age group.

**Paul Gluckman with the tournament floating chess trophy he won and the associated permanent miniature trophy.**



# sport

## SA no 10 squash player to coach Maccabi teams

*Sunday night squash training takes place at Killarney Country Club every week from 18:00 to 19:30 for all ages from 10 to 18, boys and girls.*

JACK MILNER

THE FIRST training session of the year took place on February 12, with current no 10 in South Africa - Thoboki Mohohlo.

Thoboki coached and played with our senior group and will be coaching our seniors for the next few months. He will also be doing special coaching sessions with the team selected for the Maccabi squad.

We have an exciting year planned with Maccabi Gauteng trials on Sunday March 4, starting from 10:30, and then the Maccabi nationals from April 27 to May 1.

Players wanting to participate in the trials, must attend at least one training ses-


sion on Sunday evenings before the trials.

Maccabi Gauteng trials will include under -19, under- 17 under- 15 and under -13 sections. There will be A and B sections as well.

An under 19 team will be selected to go to the Maccabiah after the nationals in May. For more information contact Glenn Lazarus 083-273-6926 or e-mail glenn@ats.co.za

In senior squash, Maccabi Gauteng will be entering teams into business leagues this year so that the open and masters teams get to play as a unit. A number of teams will be participating in the 2013 Maccabiah.

• For more details contact Selwyn Kahanovitz on cell 082 568 7732 or e-mail Selwyn@lithahealthcare.co.za



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