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Friday, 17 October 2011 / 19 Tishrei, 5772

Volume 15 Number 38

Gilad Shalit may be coming home - at last

After five years in captivity -
being held incommunicado
all this time - a deal was
brokered last week between
the Israeli government and
Hamas for the young
soldier's release.

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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

The apple of redemption

PARSHAT BEREISHIT

Rabbi S Suchard
Beit Hamedrash Hagadol Sandton

THERE IS an interesting observation concerning apples, which has been currently quoted. There are three occasions in which apples caused an epoch world shattering change. The first is in the portion of the Bible dealing with Adam and Eve.

According to some opinions the forbidden fruit was an apple, Eve ate from it, gave some to her husband Adam and they were exiled from the Garden of Eden.

Isaac Newton realised the force of gravity when an apple fell on his head. The third is current world news with the death of Steve Jobs who established the Apple technology which has worldwide implications for society.

There is a fourth apple which has great significance to the Jewish people. In the book of Song of Songs, written by the wisest of all men, King Solomon, we find the love relationship between G-d and his people Israel, metaphor of a young bride-to-be and her beloved.

In chapter eight the verse reads: “Under the apple tree I aroused you.”

The Medrash explains that when the men of Israel returned home from the back-breaking work in Egypt under the Egyptian taskmasters, the women motivated them to have children. They took mirrors and made the men see themselves and their beautiful wives, who encouraged their husbands to have children with them.

Eve’s apple brought sin to the world, and therefore we need a Yom Kippur. Newton’s apple teaches us that man is earthly, he is grounded and pulled to earth. Steve Jobs’ apple represents the wisdom of the universe, G-d’s wisdom which men discover. Man cannot create, only reveal what G-d put into the world.

The apple of the womenfolk of Israel, teaches us to trust and have faith in G-d. They believed that there would be a salvation and one day as a people they would return to the Land of Israel as promised by Hashem.

As we start Parshat Bereishit, Rosh Hashanah 2012, we pray to Hashem that Moshiach will come soon, without pain, and that we will return to the Holy Land: “Under the apple tree I have awakened you.”

Just before Rosh Hashanah I received a phone call from the USA from Rabbi Zalman Gifter, son of the famous Mordechai Gifter obm, who was Rosh Hayeshivah in Telshe Yeshivah Cleveland for about 40 years (I had the privilege to learn in Telshe for 11 years).

Rav Zalman said that he had a wonderful insight on the Mishnah in Pirkei Avoth, which his father had said as a student in the Telshe Yeshivah in Lithuania.

“Akavia ben Me halel said, consider three things and you will not come into the hands of sin. Know from where you came, to where you are going and before whom you will have to give a reckoning.

“From where do you come, from a putrid drop, where you are going, to a place of dust and worms. And in front of whom you are going to give a reckoning, before the King who rules over kings, the Holy One Blessed be He” (PA3:1).

Rav Gifter pointed out that although man is so lowly in his physical being, his soul will and can speak to G-d. Imagine that a puny man will have an audience with G-d A-mighty. This teaches us the capabilities of mankind to rise to such a noble holy height.

We find a similar thought in the Machzor of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in the famous prayer “Unetaneh token”.

“Man’s substance is from dust and his end will be dust.” However, repentance, prayer and charity will remove the evil decree.

Man can elevate his soul to actually speak to G-d. This is a great motivation to strive through Torah and mitzvot to realise our potential to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

A time for reflection, introspection and then celebration

RITA LEWIS

JEWS THE world over are in what could well be called the “Holiday Season”.

During the Hebrew month of Tishrei, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year is celebrated (for two days in the Diaspora and one day in Israel) with happiness, and the eating of only sweet things such as - apples dipped in honey, sweet bread filled with raisins and first fruits.

The feasting on Rosh Hashanah is followed 10 days later by Yom Kippur, during which Jews fast for the entire day and abstain from activities which could be described as work related, recreational and/or “pleasant”.

Five days later comes Succot - the festival where everyone “lives” (or at least eats all their meals) in a temporary booth or shelter - from the inside of which the stars can be seen, the rain can be felt and the presence of visiting friends can make life for the following eight days (which includes the last day called Hashana Rabba) a very pleasant experience.

A Midrash says that at one time when Succot was just coming to an end, G-d said to the Jewish people: “Your departure is difficult for Me to accept. Stay with Me one more day.”

Of course they did just that. This day is Shemini Atzeret.

Although its name implies that it is part of Succot (“Shemini” means eight, or eighth day of Succot,) because it falls on that day, this is not so. It is considered a separate holiday.

With Israel in Biblical times being an agricultural society, this became a very important day as prayers for rain were recited.

Throughout the year, a set portion of the Torah is read each week. On Simchat Torah that cycle is finished when the last verses of Deuteronomy are read. The first few verses of Genesis are read immediately afterward, thereby starting the cycle again. For this reason, Simchat Torah is a joyous holiday celebrating having completed the study of G-d’s word and looking forward to hearing those words again during the coming year.



SHABBAT AND YOMTOV TIMES			
October 19/21 Tishrei (erev Shemini Atzeret Hoshana Rabbah)			
17.59	Johannesburg		
18.10	Cape Town		
17.51	Durban		
18.09	Bloemfontein		
18.16	Port Elizabeth		
18.06	East London		
October 20/22 Tishrei Shemini Atzeret Candle-lighting from a pre-existing flame			
18.49	Johannesburg		
19.38	Cape Town		
18.42	Durban		
19.00	Bloemfontein		
19.10	Port Elizabeth		
18.59	East London		
October 21/23 Tishrei October 22/24 Tishrei Simchat Torah Shabbat Bereishit			
Starts	Ends		
18.00	18.50	Johannesburg	
18.10	19.40	Cape Town	
17.52	18.44	Durban	
18.10	19.02	Bloemfontein	
18.18	19.11	Port Elizabeth	
18.08	19.01	East London	

KASHRUT ALERT

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We appreciate the confusion which this creates for the kosher consumer and are working with Pick n Pay to create separate labels for their kosher bakeries. This process has been ongoing for some time, and we hope to have a resolution soon.

In the meantime the UOS can assure its kosher consumers that there is absolutely no milk in these products.

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Noam Shalit, father of captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, reacts at the protest encampment opposite the prime minister’s residence in Jerusalem on October 11, on the news that a deal has been reached for the release of his son. (PHOTOGRAPH: MIRIAM ALSTER/FLASH90)

Netanyahu: Shalit deal was best Israel was going to get

URIEL HEILMAN
JERUSALEM

IF CAPTIVE Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit is freed in the prisoner-exchange deal with Hamas that prompted an emergency Israeli Cabinet session, it will raise two immediate questions: Which side finally acceded to the other’s demands after years of fruitless negotiations since Shalit was captured in a June 2006 raid along the Israel-Gaza border, and what took so long to get here?

At our going to press on Wednesday, the world was still waiting with bated breath for the deal to be implemented.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered some hints about the first issue in a hastily called news conference shortly before going into the Cabinet meeting late Tuesday night.

This deal, he suggested, was the best Israel was going to get, so if Israel was ever going to recover Shalit, it had to happen now.

“With everything that is happening in Egypt and the region, I don’t know if the future would have allowed us to get a better deal - or any deal at all for that matter,” Netanyahu said on Israeli television.

“The window appeared following fears that collapsing Mideast regimes and the rise of extremist forces would make Gilad Shalit’s return impossible.”

The prime minister added: “If all goes according to plan, Gilad will be returning to Israel in the coming days.”

The deal reportedly was signed by the two sides on October 6 in Cairo following years of negotiations and mediation via the Egyptians. News of the deal was first reported by the satellite TV station Al Arabiya. Its exact contours remain unknown.

Shalit’s release would mark a remarkable end to a five-year saga that has transfixed the Israeli public, frustrated two successive Israeli governments and spanned two wars.

Then a corporal in the Israeli army, Shalit was taken captive at age 19 on June 25, 2006, and almost immediately his family launched an incessant public campaign to free him. The crusade included vigils, marches, meetings, statements by world leaders, celebrity endorsements, bumper stickers, congressional resolutions, songs and a protest encampment opposite the prime minister’s official residence in Jerusalem.

Shalit’s plight struck a chord in the Jewish State and the Jewish world, and Israelis and Jews from all walks of life and

political camps took part in activities calling for his release.

It’s not clear whether this public campaign helped usher in the deal announced on Tuesday, or whether it hindered an agreement from being reached.

Shalit’s family believed that it had to keep up the public pressure on the Israeli government to seal the deal. At the official state Independence Day ceremony last Yom Ha’atzmaut, in May, Shalit’s brother Yoel darted onstage with his girlfriend and a banner reading “Shalit is still alive”. Instead of getting arrested for the stunt on national television broadcast, he got an audience with Israeli opposition leader Tzipi Livni.

But some analysts warned that all the public clamour to free Shalit, only made a deal more difficult by increasing the price Hamas demanded for his release. Indeed, for years Israel insisted that the price was too high.

On Tuesday, Time magazine reported that the exchange would include as many as 1 000 Palestinian prisoners - first the 450 named by Hamas, and then 550 named by Israel. The prisoners “will include as many as 315 men convicted of killing hundreds of Israelis in terror attacks”, Time Foreign Editor Tony Karon wrote.

Critics of prisoner-exchange swaps warn that such deal merely encourages Israel’s enemies to capture more Israelis.

Such criticism followed then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert’s decision in July 2008 to trade five Lebanese prisoners - including notorious murderer Samir Kuntar - and the bodies of 199 others, in exchange for the bodies of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, two Israeli soldiers captured in the border attack by Hezbollah that sparked the 2006 Lebanon War.

Goldwasser and Regev were thought to have been killed in the attack or shortly thereafter, but until the coffins with their bodies arrived on Israeli soil, Israeli officials said they could not know with certainty that they were dead.

Shalit’s case has been a little different. In a video released by his captors in October 2009, a frail but otherwise healthy-looking Shalit held a current newspaper and read a message asking Israeli authorities to conclude an agreement for his release. In all his years in captivity, Shalit was allowed no international or Red Cross visitors.

As Israel’s Cabinet debated the deal late Tuesday night, the heads of the Israel Defence Forces, the Mossad and the Shin Bet internal security service, all reportedly expressed support for the deal. (JTA)

Jewish Report

Two irreconcilable sides of Shalit debate

THE TWO opposing sides of the argument about whether Israel should have agreed to the deal which will see Gilad Shalit being released in exchange for over 1 000 Palestinian prisoners, many brutal killers, cannot be reconciled. Both sides have major merit - it essentially boils down to whether such a decision should be made on an emotional basis, or strictly on a “rational” basis about Israel’s “objective” security needs.

One side says under no circumstances should Palestinian prisoners be released for a single Israeli soldier, because that is a sign of weakness, is giving in to terrorism and almost guarantees in the future there will be other attempts by Israel’s enemies to repeat the exercise - by kidnapping another Israeli soldier or some other approach.

Also, many Israelis make the argument that terrorists being released will in future kill more Israelis, and who knows whether the “price” will be seen as worthwhile when that happens.

YNET reported that the former IDF Chief Rabbi Brigadier General (Res) Avichai Ronsky on Tuesday said Israel should not have strived towards a prisoner swap that included freeing terrorists for Shalit. He believes the captive soldier should have been declared a dead soldier that cannot be reclaimed.

He claimed the only right way to release Shalit was through military action: “You can’t bring an entire country to its knees, that’s just crazy. It’s complete surrender.”

Ronsky claimed Palestinian terrorists released since the ’90s have, over the years murdered over 1 000 Israelis in a long line of terror attacks and the defence establishment is aware of the possibility that within just a few months the Shalit deal might blow up in our face in terror attacks; there was no “maybe” about it. He added this was the opinion of professionals in the field - including some with a left-wing outlook that was

“very far from my own”.

Addressing the question whether there would be a blow to morale among troops on the Israeli side when soldiers knew the IDF won’t necessarily do everything to rescue them from captivity, he said: “Just the opposite. They don’t want to be exchanged for terrorists; they want to be rescued through a military operation.”

The argument on the other side - making the decision to do the deal on the emotional basis, says: “Gilad Shalit is the child of us all.”

YNET carried an op-ed on Wednesday by Haim Misgav saying: “We encountered his young, handsome face at every turn. I don’t think there was even one person who remained indifferent; not even one person who did not wish to see this sweet child returning home. The debate was, and remains at this time, over the price.

“It is indeed difficult to speak of price when talking about a soldier, yet nonetheless we did. Concerned parties spoke about growing terror upon the return of some of the murderers to our streets, while others endorsed a deal ‘at any price’.

“Benjamin Netanyahu decided, and I hope he decided well... As a member of the camp of Eretz Israel lovers and as one who firmly objects to the diplomatic solution taking shape here, I say that we - the government and the people of Israel - had no choice. The mitzvah of redeeming prisoners cannot be foregone. It is a mitzvah that must be undertaken even if the bloody price it shall exact is terrible - and I know this will be the case.

“People will be murdered in terror attacks - but what other choice do we have? Allowing Gilad Shalit to die in prison?”

Whatever side one takes, the Jewish Report waits with Jews all over the world and with Shalit’s family, for his safe return.

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AROUND THE WORLD
NEWS IN BRIEF

PAUL MCCARTNEY ATTENDS YOM KIPPUR SERVICES, MARRIES NEXT DAY

LONDON - Former Beatle Paul McCartney reportedly spent the night before his wedding at Yom Kippur services.

McCartney married Jewish-American heiress Nancy Shevell, 51, in London last week Sunday. They reportedly attended Yom Kippur services and a breakfast at a local London synagogue.

The couple married in a civil ceremony at London's Marylebone Register Office, followed by a small reception at McCartney's north London home.

McCartney's first wife, Linda Eastman, also was Jewish. She died in 1998 after a battle with breast cancer. (JTA)

REPORTS SHOW ARGENTINA HAS AN ANTI-SEMITISM PROBLEM

BUENOS AIRES - Two reports that reveal the extent of anti-Semitism in Argentina, were released by DAIA, the Jewish umbrella organisation. The reports were presented on October 5.

An opinion poll conducted by the Gino Germani Institute of the University of Buenos Aires found that 45 per cent of those polled "would never marry a Jew" and that 30 per cent "would not live in a neighbourhood with a large presence of Jews".

The poll also showed that four out of 10 respondents have a negative opinion of "Jews being involved in politics" and five out of 10 think that Jews talk too much about the Holocaust.

Some 54 per cent of those polled agreed that Jews "are the first ones to turn their backs on the needy".

DAIA called the results of the poll "disturbing and alarming".

The survey was commissioned by DAIA and the Anti-Defamation League, which interviewed more than 1 500 people from across the country.

According to Nestor Cohen, lead investigator from the University of Buenos Aires, "Jews are perceived as powerful, not supportive, and not loyal to Argentina".

He added that in this case, "discrimination has more to do with an anti-Jewish and not an anti-Israeli feeling; it is not related to Israel's political decisions".

Meanwhile, the Annual Report on Anti-Semitism in Argentina showed that in 2010, anti-Jewish expressions appeared in public spaces, including graffiti with Nazi symbols, and there was a large increase over previous years in digital and virtual anti-Semitism.

Approximately 300 anti-Semitic incidents are reported in the country every year.

David Smith, director of the United Nations Information Centre for Argentina and Uruguay, told JTA that "it is a very important day because silenced cases come to light, but that makes it also a very sad day".

The report has been edited annually by the Centre for Social Studies of DAIA since 1998.

"There is a prejudiced pattern that does not necessarily become a violent or unreported action," Marisa Brylan, director of the Centre for Social Studies of DAIA, told JTA. Argentina has an anti-discrimination law on the books.

Federal Judge Daniel Rafecas, who presented the reports, said: "Argentinian institutions have worked very hard in recent years to fight against every type of discrimination. What is important now is to start working hard with the Internet, where many anti-Semitic incidents take place nowadays." (JTA)

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NEW JERSEY AGAIN DENIES HEBREW-LANGUAGE CHARTER SCHOOL

NEW YORK - The state of New Jersey for the third time has denied a proposal for a Hebrew-language charter high school in Highland Park.

Citing unspecified "deficiencies", the application for the Tikun Olam Hebrew Language High School became one of 56 charter school applications rejected by the education department on September 30, the New Jersey Jewish News reported. Only four new charter schools were approved by the state.

Tikun Olam would have been the state's first Hebrew-language charter high school.

Sharon Akman, who is leading the push to open the school, said Tikun Olam would not teach religion but instead would treat Hebrew as a culture.

She told the New Jersey Jewish News that Tikun Olam hoped to serve up to 100 learners from the Edison, Highland Park and New Brunswick areas.

"There's always the possibility," Akman said when asked if she would apply again. (JTA)

The Jewish Zen of Steve Jobs

JASON MILLER
WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN

SOCIAL NETWORKING sites began buzzing immediately after word spread of the death of Apple Inc visionary Steve Jobs last week. Rabbis took time out of their busy preparations for Yom Kippur to halt their sermon writing and post personal reflections on what the contributions of Steve Jobs' creative spark had on them.

Rabbi Andrew Pepperstone of Dewitt, New York, posted to his Facebook page: "Is Steve Jobs a hero? If someone who has vision, discipline, passion, and love for what he does is a hero, then yes. It was not about the money or the fame for him.

"It was about changing the world in a million little ways that improved peoples' lives. And his devices and other inventions have been a major breakthrough in helping people with disabilities communicate and employ the best that technology has to offer."

Earlier on Facebook, Pepperstone recounted the plethora of Apple computers and gadgets he had used since his first Apple IIe in 1984.

Answering the question: "Why Is Steve Jobs Important to Me?" Rabbi Eric Linder of Omaha, Nebraska, explained how Jobs impacted his professional life. On his blog Linder wrote: "In my rabbinate, I have tried to use technology to make Judaism relevant.

"For Rosh Hashanah we leveraged the power of social media to crowd source answers to the question, 'What

does the shofar call YOU to do?' All of the technical stuff was done on Apple technology. And the project brought the congregation closer together. It brought people together."

Over the past three decades, the technological innovation that was inspired by Steve Jobs' vision had a significant effect on the Jewish community. His genius was in intuiting what would happen when you "strip away the excess layers of business, design, and innovation until only the simple elegant reality remained".

The ways in which Jewish education and Jewish life have been positively affected by the products that Jobs dreamed of and made into a reality are countless. His iPods made Jewish music and Jewish learning more accessible. His computers brought graphic design to new levels for Jewish institutions like synagogues and day schools.

His Facetime application on the iPhone allowed Jewish communities separated by continents to come together and communicate. The geographical distances and borders have become irrelevant thanks to the innovative contributions of this genius. Thousands of Jewish-themed applications from utilities to resources to games were created specifically for the iPhone and iPad.

Steve Jobs' understanding of efficiency and connectivity led to the intuitive



devices that have changed the way we work and connect with each other. The Jewish high school that has its learners studying Talmud and chemistry on the iPad, owes a great deal to the work of Steve Jobs.

The father who created a slideshow of memories set to music using iMovie for his daughter's wedding, is indebted to the vision of Steve Jobs. The young boy living in a remote area of the country who is preparing for his barmitzvah by listening to a New York cantor's podcast on his iTouch, is grateful to Steve Jobs.

Did the devotee of Zen Buddhism have a Jewish spark in him? Perhaps he did. There is no doubt that Steve Jobs had a profound effect on the Jewish world. His dynamic legacy will continue to make the world better as we continue to plug in and connect with each other in just the way he envisioned and using the devices he helped design.

If the value of tikkun olam really means leaving your imprint on the world in a quest to make it a better place for all of us, then Steve Jobs possessed that value a thousand-fold. (JTA)

Jason Miller is an entrepreneurial rabbi and technologist. He is president of Access Computer Techonlogy, an IT and social media marketing company in Michigan. He blogs at <http://blog.rabbijason.com> and is a popular speaker about the intersection of Judaism and technology.

ORT JET/Project Natan business plan competition in home stretch

NICCI RAZ

THE ORT JET business plan competition entries have closed, with 34 business plans having been submitted, with the successful entrants in the running to win a fantastic business start-up package to make their dream a reality.

The business plans will be reviewed by a panel of successful businessmen, namely Paul Bacher (current CEO, ORT JET); Joel Kesler (executive director, Anooraq Resources); Eldon Beinart (director, Main Street Holdings); Daphna Horowitz (executive life coach, Peac Solutions).

The judges have all had extensive business experience and will be analysing each business plan to see which idea has the ability to grow into a sustainable and viable business offering. Once the finalists are chosen, they will be required to meet the judges where they will be given the opportunity to present their business case.

The winners will be encouraged to launch their business by being provided with an interest free loan of up to R100 000 from Project Natan as well as other fantastic prizes which include executive coaching, mentoring, computers, legal advice and an accounting package .

This year a new category has been added and those businesses called "seedling businesses" (operational for less than 18 months) will have the opportunity to enter their business into the



Last year's winners: Ronnie Levitan (Training Interactive); Caryn Paikan (The Vintage Kitchen); and Neil Jacobson (The Attorneys' Friend).

competition.

The winners will be announced at a cocktail prize-giving and networking event on November 1, hosted at the JSE and sponsored by Nandos. The event is open to the public. To book, please contact Tracey at ORT JET, (011) 728-7154 or e-mail info@ortjet.org.za

"I am extremely excited to start looking at the plans this year," says Paul Bacher, "I love the fact that a competition like this

forces great ideas into action, creating new businesses opportunities within our community "

"The event itself has become a popular networking opportunity for small Jewish businesses. It is a fantastic evening full of excitement and potential and of course it is a wonderful platform for the winners to showcase their business ideas with the attendees" says Daniel Roy (Project Natan).

Join Soul Workout in their succah

OWN CORRESPONDENT



Pam Green and Bernice Shneier shaking the lulav and etrog.

SOUL WORKOUT Jewish outreach organisation is providing the community with an outdoor succah at the Pick n Pay Norwood Mall during this year's Succot festival.

Says Rav Ilan Herrmann, director of Soul Workout: "Last year we engaged the community with an in-house Jewish workshop, this year we are going one better with a succah for the mall visitors to utilise."

A lulav and etrog will be available in the Soul Workout succah to make the customary blessing on the four species. Refreshments will be served to enable the succah blessing to be made and the Soul Workout outreach personnel will be on hand to help with anything a succah visitor may need.

The succah at Norwood Mall is called "The Clive & Shelley Massel Community Succah", having been donated by the Massel family.

Breaking cycle of poverty through computer skills

**LAUREN SHAPIRO
DURBAN**

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE to get a decent job these days without computer skills. Everyone, from bankers to businessmen, receptionists to retailers, managers, waiters and cashiers, needs to know how to operate a computer.

But many schools in KwaZulu-Natal lack sufficient computers to teach their learners these vital skills.

Nearly a decade ago, Durban businessman John Moshal, saw a solution in an association with Computer Aids, a London-based company that takes over old computers from large corporations when they upgrade their systems.

Through the generosity of the JAKAMaR Trust, he set up the "Computer Project" under the auspices of the Council of KwaZulu-Natal Jewry to import reconditioned machines at a fraction of the cost of new ones and distribute them to needy schools, NGOs and charities.

The impact on these communities has been palpable. "Our long praying and waiting for such a donation has now become a reality indeed," says Angel Makhoba, principal of Khayalemfundo Primary School in Mandeni. The 15 computers donated by the project are the main source of technology at the school.

B P Masango of Hlahlindlela High School in Hillcrest explains: "We are a school in a rural area and are in no position to be able to buy computers ourselves. This means that our learners were perpetually behind

other learners in information technology."

The 20 donated computers "will go a long way towards bridging the digital divide between the haves and have-nots, rural and urban", Masango said.

But it's not only learners who benefit from the computers. Many schools have instituted adult computer literacy programmes in the evenings and parents have become involved in building desks, installing and maintaining the computers and decorating the computer room.

"It's wonderful to see how it becomes a project for the whole community," says Lew Heilbron, who administers the project on behalf of the JAKAMaR Trust. "It instils a sense of ownership and empowerment."

The Computer Project's support of charities and NGOs further broadens the capacity to improve the lives of the underprivileged in the province and beyond.

"The generosity (of the project) will enable us to grow as an organisation, reaching out to more children and families affected by HIV/Aids, poverty, and violence throughout southern Africa," says Jamie Lachman, executive director of Clowns Without Borders, who received two computers for their offices.

"We all know that education is one of the most empowering tools that you could possibly give to someone," adds Catherine Lea of Focus on iThemba, an NGO that provides hope, support and education for Aids orphans and vulnerable children in KwaZulu-Natal.

She believes that access to these comput-

ers will "break the cycle of poverty that these families have had to endure for decades, and help to shape South Africa's future through educating these children".

All computers are installed in a dedicated computer room with a steel door and barred windows to ensure security of the machines, and each school is visited and monitored by representatives of the Computer Project.

In a further gesture of relationship-building between communities, each computer is tagged with a Star of David and the room contains a plaque stating that the computers have been donated by the Jewish community of KwaZulu-Natal.

"Every youngster who uses these computers, even if they have not met a Jewish person before, will remember the help given to the pupils and the school by our small community. This is tikkun olam in reality," explains Heilbron. "We believe that it is our duty and our responsibility to help those less fortunate than ourselves. This has always been part of the Jewish ethic."

The Computer Project has supplied thousands of

reconditioned computers to over 165 schools across the province, as well as to dozens of charities and NGOs, to help them continue their good work.

• For more information, contact Roseanne Rosen on (031) 335-4452.



Children express joy and excitement at the donation of a brand new computer room at iThemba earlier this year.

Centenary of Ohel Jacob Synagogue in Malmesbury

**LYN MARAIS
CURATOR, MALMESBURY MUSEUM**

THE MALMESBURY Museum is housed in the building which was originally the Ohel Jacob Synagogue. On November 11 the building will be 100 years old. Because November 11 falls on a Friday, the board of trustees of the Museum has decided to celebrate the centenary the day before, on Thursday November 10.

Jewish Report readers are invited to visit the old synagogue at some time, "or better still, will want to join our celebrations - the centenary of Ohel Jacob Synagogue, and the 20th year of the establishment of the museum.

"Our celebrations will consist of a cocktail party for about 50 guests at R50 per person.

"If any of SAJR readers are interested in attending, they can contact me at the museum on (022) 482-2332 before 13:00 Monday to Friday, or cell 072-753-0740."



The history of the Jewish presence in Malmesbury is an interesting one. After the Russo-Turkish war of 1877, many Jewish families from that region made their way to South Africa.

In 1901, Tobias Kretzmar, a Lithuanian Jew, walked from Cape Town to Malmesbury, where he decided to settle. He began his career as a hawker (smous) but later he became a general dealer and opened a shop in the main street. His wife and children, who had remained in Lithuania, then joined him.

By 1904 there were approximately 114 Jews living in Malmesbury and they had to have a place of worship. The founding meeting of the Ohel Jacob Congregation was held on September 26, 1904. Kretzmar was one of the founders of this congregation and he served as honorary treasurer on the first committee

Woolf Beinart was elected chairman and leader. In 1906, with 40 active Jewish families in the town, it was decided to build a synagogue and also as a place where young children could be taught the tenets of the religion as well as Hebrew.

Max Goldman designed the synagogue and it was built in Prospect Street. The foundation stone was laid on November 11, 1911 by Messrs A Katz and B. Olswang, two leaders in the Jewish community.

By 1920 the Jews were comfortably settled in Malmesbury. Their children excelled at school and although they were bilingual, their parents still spoke Yiddish. The Jewish community contributed to the social life of the town and civic organisations benefited from their generosity.

Unfortunately urbanisation resulted in the exodus of the Jews to the cities and this led to a depleted congregation. In 1934 the congregation had a membership of only 274; by 1951 it had dropped to 129, and by 1974 the shul had to shut its doors – total membership 0.


The building was bought by Dr Leon Goldman, son of the architect, who presented it to the Municipality of Malmesbury, on condition that the building was to be used for cultural purposes and it was not to be used for reli-

gious ceremonies.

The Malmesbury Museum was opened on October 10, 1991. The section of the museum dedicated to the Jewish pioneers

of Malmesbury was officially opened by Dr Julius Kretzmar on August 12, 1992.

The synagogue building was declared a National Monument in 1994.



Marketing Manager position available at the King David Schools' Foundation

This is a full-time position and the candidate needs to hold a qualification in Marketing / PR / Branding / Communication and have a minimum of two years' experience. Being a King David alumnus/alumna and or having a thorough knowledge of the Jewish community is a prerequisite. Knowledge of or experience in the non-profit environment would be advantageous.


The responsibilities of the new incumbent include:

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 - o Conceptualising and promoting general and campaign-specific messages of the KDSF, in line with the strategic plan across various media to the different target audiences.
2. Brand management
 - o Management of corporate identity, and positioning of brand in mind of target audience in line with strategic objectives
3. Website management
 - o Managing content, general "look and feel" of site and newsletters or other communication in line with branding and strategic objectives
4. Event management
 - o Overseeing the activities of the event co-ordinator, and promotion of events

The candidate must also:

- o Possess excellent written skills
- o Be a strategic thinker
- o Be a team player
- o Show initiative
- o Be fully computer and social media literate
- o Manage ad hoc teams of volunteers
- o Multitask and manage several projects
- o Manage budgets

Salary is negotiable and commensurate with experience. Please submit your CV to Raelene Tradonsky at tradonskyr@kdsf.org or Ronel Zeff at zeffr@kdsf.org or contact Ronel on 011 480-4710 for more information. Only suitable candidates will be contacted.



King Davids' Schools' Foundation Trust No. IT 6890/94 NPO 005-644

SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis jont@global.co.za



Preparing to kick-off: Gil Ben David; Rabbi Asher Deren; Joel Stransky; Gavin Shaskolsky; and Chabad treasurer Gavin Kelman.

‘Night at Newlands’ was a humdinger of a fundraiser

RITA LEWIS
PHOTOGRAPHS: SHAP’S
CAMERA LAND

A HIGHLY successful “Night at Newlands”, including “Sport and Support”, benefiting the West Coast Jewish community, was held recently in Cape Town. Cocktails and a selection of sushi were served and a raffle to end all raffles (in conjunction with Women of the World) offered amazing prizes, including a ticket to Israel. Special guest, Springbok fly-half Joel Stransky who kicked a winning drop goal in 1995 to give the Springboks the world crown, was there in full form. After a quick warm-up he was lobbing balls over the posts as numerous guests joined him to also strut their stuff - while hundreds of guests cheered from the sidelines. In the upstairs reception room, Rabbi Asher Deren, director of Chabad of the West Coast, made a presentation of thanks to

Stransky. Zeesy Deren, director of Sinai Academy, paid tribute to all the people who “make the miracle of the Sinai Academy and the shul a reality”. A video presentation, “Sho-shaloza - Moving Forward” was shown, capturing the soul and spirit of the community. Presentations were made by the co-chairmen of the dinner, Brian and Lee-Anne Singer, who thanked everyone for coming and those who had helped in organising the event. Director of Chabad Cape Town, Rabbi Mendel Popack, spoke on the week’s Torah portion and Deputy Mayor Ian Neilson brought greetings from the City of Cape Town. Neilson said he shared everyone’s joy in seeing the growth of the community. Guests were then serenaded by Choni G, while South Africa’s charity auctioneer, Ariella Kuper, sold off a bottle of King George whisky, an autographed

rugby ball and Springbok jersey, signed by the whole 2011 team (courtesy of forwards coach Gary Gold). This added to the funds raised for Sinai and the shul. Well-known South African sports presenter, Louis Karpas, introduced international referee Jonathan Kaplan, who gave insights into what lies ahead in the World Cup (at that stage still to take place) and stories from his years at the centre of the action. Springbok stars Rob Louw and Werner Greeff both spoke on highlights of their careers. Later there was a surprise request to “auction a bursary”. With no prodding, hands shot up around the room as people “joined the bid” to provide bursaries for students at the Sinai Academy. Pictures of the evening were available for guests on their way out from the “Night at Newlands”, where everyone, but most importantly the future of Judaism on the West Coast, were definitely the winners.



The crowds snake out of the players tunnel into a brightly lit Newlands.



Rabbi Levi Popack kicks off with rugby great, Joel Stransky (left).



Eddy Oblowitz with Rabbi Asher and Zeesy Deren.



Co-chairmen Brian and Lee-Anne Singer, make a special presentation.



King George whisky, a framed, autographed photograph of Joel Stransky's winning drop goal in 1995, and a Springbok jersey signed by the 2011 team. But no, Choni G himself was not on auction!



Springbok heroes Werner Greeff and Rob Louw, autograph rugby balls for the auction.



Mandy Lipman; Anton Marcow; David Meltz; Larissa Epstein; Mandy Meltz; and Zeesy Deren, enjoying the dinner.

COMMUNITY BUZZ

LIONEL SLIER
082-444-9832, fax: 011-440-0448,
lionel.slier@absamail.co.za

CARTE BLANCHE CONVER-
SION INSET

On September 18, Carte Blanche, the popular actuality programme on MNet, carried an item about some Afrikaner farmers who had converted to Judaism and had made aliyah. This programme was very well received and many comments were posted on the Carte Blanche website. Marc Kopman wrote to SA Jewish Report from Krugersdorp: “Mashlomcha! Yes, this is one of the Afrikaner families on Carte Blanche programme on TV Sunday evening. They are Johann and Ronel Brink from Kenmare, Krugersdorp, who started converting in our shul last year with their family. Apparently they were going to the Pretoria Shul the year before as they didn’t know there was a shul in Krugersdorp until the Kirschners (formerly from Krugersdorp) in Pretoria advised them differently!

“The other vocally aggressive settler, Taljaard, converted with his entire family through the Randfontein Shul and his sons today run the Kosher Burger King in Jerusalem. Apparently some Krugersdorp guy was there recently and ordered a burger and chips and one of the sons at the counter shouted through to the kitchen: ‘Een burger, chips en ‘n coke, maak blerrie gou asseblief!’”

• Johann Brink said he was a great rugby supporter but could no longer watch the matches on TV because they were all played on Shabbat.

• One comment on the Carte Blanche website was as follows: “Carte Blanche is another puppet of the Zionist regime. I will never watch Carte Blanche again.” (<http://beta.mnet.co.za/carteblanche/Article.aspx?Id=4430&ShowId=1>)

BRANDFORT

From Naomi Bloch. Melbourne, Australia :

“I read with interest your little snippet on Brandfort, and was wondering where you found that information. My father had an aunt and uncle who lived there - probably up to the 1950s.

“He was the Reverend Batlan, his wife Hinda Batlan and their daughter Sophie, who married Meyer Kotzen, from Potchefstroom.

“I was wondering if you had any information regarding the Batlan family; how long they lived there, where they were buried, etc?”

• The information was gleaned from minutes of the Brandfort Committee meetings, now at the Rochlin Archives at the SA Jewish Board’s Library at Beyachad, Joburg. The Archives have an invaluable collection of historical SA Jewish small town communities’ memorabilia.

MUSICAL MEMORIES

From Barney Segal:

“Going back in time, we reminisce about the great musical moments of a bygone era. We had the privilege of listening to, and dancing to top bands like Roy Martin, Benny Michel and the Dockey Masterkeys.

“Very entertaining, too, was the Dan Hill band with singer, Artemis, well-known to the crowds who flocked to the Orange Grove Hotel.

“Another highlight was the OK Tea Lounge in town on Saturday mornings where the all-ladies band of Fay Kleams did us proud with the hit tunes of the day.

“We also remember the musical and variety shows held at Joubert Park on weekends, ably compered by the well-known Morrie (?) Blake.

“The Plaza Cinema was also the venue for talent shows.

“Such was the vibe from the great

past of song, music and laughter, that as we get older, we realise that the song is ended, but the melodies will forever linger on.”

JOHANNESBURG

From Morris (Mossy) Tucker, (the oldest practising pharmacist in South Africa):

“On my return to South Africa after working as a pharmacist for six months in England, I started working in a pharmacy that belonged to Xenophon Balaskas, the South African international cricketer.

“In time, I managed to purchase the pharmacy and for 25 years did business in the shop in Rissik Street. The pharmacy and I became an institution and I was eventually called ‘The Old Man of Rissik Street’.

“Years later I closed down the shop because a bank required the premises to expand. The result of this was that I went back to locum work. The result of returning to locum work is that I have spent good working time in no less than 52 pharmacies.

“I am currently employed by a wholesale veterinary business and am in charge of their dispensary. I have promised this firm a further 12 years of service and sincerely set my sights on achieving this. By the grace of G-d, I hope that this is the case.”

• At Lords Cricket Ground, June 29 to July 2, 1935 the South African touring team under Herby Wade beat England in England, for the first time ever. SA scored 228 and 278 for 3 (Bruce Mitchell 164 not out) and England scored 198 and 151. SA won by 157 runs. XC Balaskas was the star of the match, taking 5 for 49 in the first innings and 4 for 54 in the second.

Four of the five tests were drawn and it was the first time that a SA team had won a series abroad.

Test matches were played over only three days.

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Looking back, looking forward

THE CLICHÉ that looking back where you’ve come from can give a sense of where you’re going, is not straightforward when the world is so confusing. But it is good to pause at Rosh Hashanah and take stock in whatever way we can - personally and as Jews and citizens of South Africa and the world.

As South Africans, we celebrated the 93rd birthday of our great visionary Nelson Mandela in July, who has retired to his birthplace of Qunu in the Eastern Cape.

Sadly, leaders who have replaced him are nowhere near his stature, crime and corruption are rife, and the likes of ANC Youth League President Julius Malema continue dominating headlines and sending ripples of anxiety through minority communities, including Jews.

For this Zionistic South African Jewish community, there have been some events this past year which signal disquieting trends: the University of Johannesburg, in an anti-Israel move, severed formal research ties with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev; Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, a revered icon of the Struggle, continued expressing public antagonism to Israel - last October he appealed to the Cape Town Opera to cancel its Israel trip, and he is one of the high-profile supporters, with Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Ronnie Kasrils, of the “Russell Tribunal” in November in Cape Town, a kangaroo court aimed at fostering condemnation of Israel; Mr Justice Richard Goldstone admitted that his report condemning Israel for “war crimes” in Gaza in 2009 was flawed, but could not undo the damage the report had caused Israel; and the South African government signalled supported for the unilateral Palestinian attempt to get UN approval of a Palestinian state.

We must not become inured to these negatives as if it they are a given, a fact of life. There is good news in abundance, epitomised, for example, by the grand Absa Jewish Achievers event in August, where a new generation of young South African Jewish entrepreneurs in business, humanitarian and artistic life were lauded - people who see not only negatives, but also reach for the amazing opportunities in South Africa.

As one young Jewish businessman put it to the audience: “For those of us who stayed (in South Africa), there is huge opportunity.”

With their entrepreneurial spirit, these people are the hope of this country. Earlier this year the Jewish Report started running a series of columns entitled “Building South Africa - People Doing Remarkable Things”. The activists celebrated are often the unsung heroes creating new possibilities – doing their “thing” with no fanfare.

The continued vibrancy of South African Jewry is apparent from major Jewish functions held during the year, attracting high-level participants from abroad: in February, Chabad held its iconic Miracle Drive event; in April, the SAZF conference heard international legal expert Alan Dershowitz make the case for Israel; in July, people filled halls to capacity at the Sinai Indaba to hear inspirational speakers like Rabbi Yossy Jacobson and others from New York and elsewhere; in August, the SAJBD conference saw old anti-apartheid comrades Michael Schneider and South African Vice-President Kgalema Motlanthe, addressing a rapt audience from the same podium; also in August, participants in Limmud at the Vaal and Stellenbosch mingled with Rabbi Nathan Cardozo, Gerald Steinberg and other international figures.

With the emigration phenomenon so present in our minds, we tend to focus on those leaving and not enough on those staying and building this country. At the SAJBD conference, Motlanthe paid tribute to South African Jewry and appealed to Jews to use their expertise to help develop South Africa – in particular, he appealed for help fighting the “ticking bomb” of unemployment.

The Jewish Report attained “manhood” this year, turning 13 last May. We continue to be a voice for all South African Jews and a forum for diverse opinion. The paper is also widely read outside the community. It is imperative that a vibrant Jewish community has a vibrant newspaper.

Looking forward to the year ahead, we are confident SA Jewry will continue building both a strong, healthy Jewish community, as well as broader South African society.

We look forward to a positive and prosperous new year.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS



Participants embracing prior to Occupy Wall Street’s Kol Nidre service across from Zuccotti Park in downtown New York, on October 7. (PHOTOGRAPH: DANIELLE FLEISCHMAN)

Occupy Wall Street protests taking on a Jewish flavour

DAN KLEIN AND DANIELLE FLEISCHMAN
NEW YORK

RACHEL FELDMAN originally had meant to attend a traditional synagogue Kol Nidre service. Aimee Weiss hadn’t found a place to daven but was looking for something more interesting than a “big box synagogue”.

Come Yom Kippur eve, they and several hundred other Jews found themselves drawn to lower Manhattan, where under the gaze of curious onlookers, they held an open-air Kol Nidre service organised to support the Occupy Wall Street protesters near Zuccotti Park.

“Kol Nidre reminds us that though we make commitments under duress, ultimately we are accountable only to the higher values of justice and righteousness,” the organiser of the service, Dan Sieradski, said at the event, reading from a labour leader’s Midrash.

The service was the most salient but hardly the only sign of a growing attempt to infuse the economic protests with a Jewish flavour - at least, for the Jews involved.

From progressive activists who seek to conflate the protesters’ aspirations with Jewish values to Chabadniks looking for opportunities to have Jews perform mitzvot such as sitting in a succah, the Occupy Wall Street protests are becoming a fulcrum of Jewish ferment.

In Boston and Philadelphia, too, Jewish activists held Yom Kippur services at the site of the demonstrations.

“For many of us, social justice is where we find our Judaism,” said Regina Weiss, the communications director for Jewish Funds for Justice.

“For many there is no more important way to stand up and express Judaism on the holiest night of the year than to stand with people who are hurting and to stand up for greater equality in the country.”

The person credited with the idea of holding the Kol Nidre services at the protests, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, director of the Shalom Centre, told JTA that protesting was a key part of Judaism.

“The reason there is a Jewish place in these protests is that there is a protest place in Judaism,” he said. “From the Exodus, from Isaiah, from Jeremiah and all the way down to rabbinic Judaism, there is a sense that Judaism is constantly struggling against top-down power of the Pharaoh.

“Judaism calls for freedom, democracy and feeding the hungry,” he added.

Some Jews involved with the protesters said they were also trying to combat a minority strain of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism running through the movement.

“There was a guy with a sign ‘Zionists control the financial world’,” said Kobi Skolnick, a former Chabadnik who once attended a yeshiva in the West Bank. “They have freedom of speech, but so do I. What we did is we wrote on a big, 10 times bigger, sign: ‘This sign sucks, and it is not representative here’.”

Sieradski, too, said there were some anti-Zionist ideologues involved in the Occupy Wall Street protests who believed that Israel was central to US economic issues.

They “think that the issue of the Israeli occupation is inseparable from the economic situation. They think that Israel is an outpost of American imperialism, including economic imperialism,” he said.

“There is a tendency on the left to make Jews who identify with Israel uncomfortable. I hope we can overcome that. There are plenty people against the Israel occupation, but that’s not what this is about.”

For Yoni Reskin, a Chabadnik who owns the PopUp Succah company, the

protests were about an opportunity to have Jews fulfil the mitzvot of Succot. In the lead-up to the holiday, he made plans to build a succah at the site of the New York protests.

“It’s not a political angle,” he told JTA. “I truly believe that on Succot everyone should be able to celebrate the holiday. When I found that this opportunity was available, I wanted to be able to help perform the mitzvah.”

The Conservative movement’s Rabbinical Assembly donated 120 High Holy Days prayer books for the Yom Kippur service.

“Wherever there is an opportunity to bring Torah and learning to Jews, wherever they are, we want to be there,” said Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, the organisation’s executive vice president.

Last week Friday night, the drum-beat at the plaza protesters have occupied since September 17, was drowned out by the sounds of Kol Nidre.

Congregants arranged themselves in concentric circles around the bimah and a Torah scroll on loan from an Orthodox synagogue, chanting and singing so that the words of the service could carry back to the edges of the crowd.

It was hard to tell whether the Kol Nidre call and response was borrowed from an old labour tactic or Jewish summer camp. Halaal food carts ringed the congregation.

Feldman, 26, an activist who had demonstrated in Zuccotti Park earlier that week, noted that the service had drawn many of her friends who would never go to services.

“This is what shul should feel like,” said Feldman, surrounded by a congregation wearing a mix of sneakers, ties, tallitot, yarmulkes, jeans and T-shirts. “Overwhelmed by community.” (JTA)

OPINION AND ANALYSIS – FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

What is it about Israel that wins Nobels?

LINDA GRADSTEIN
JERUSALEM

DAN SHECHTMAN remembers the day he was kicked out of a research group because of the theory that two weeks ago won him the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

“Read this book. What you say is impossible,” the group leader at the National Bureau of Standards in Maryland, where Shechtman was doing his sabbatical in 1982, told him.

“I told him, ‘I know this book, and I know I have something new’,” Shechtman replied.

The response, recalls Shechtman: “You are a disgrace and I want you to leave my group.”

Shechtman joined another group, but the paper he wrote was rejected and he was ridiculed by many colleagues.

“My friends were nice to me, but kind of in the way that you’re nice to the retarded kid,” Shechtman recalled with a wry smile at a news conference this week.

Nearly 30 years later, Shechtman received the Nobel Prize for his work in quasicrystals, also called Shechtmanite.

Shechtman is the 10th Israeli to win a Nobel Prize, part of a chain that stretches back to S Y Agnon, who won the prize for literature in 1966. Of the 840 Nobel Prizes ever awarded, some 20 per cent have gone to Jews. Israel, with its population of 7.5 million, has won the same number of Nobels as India, which was founded a year before Israel and has a population of 1.15 billion.

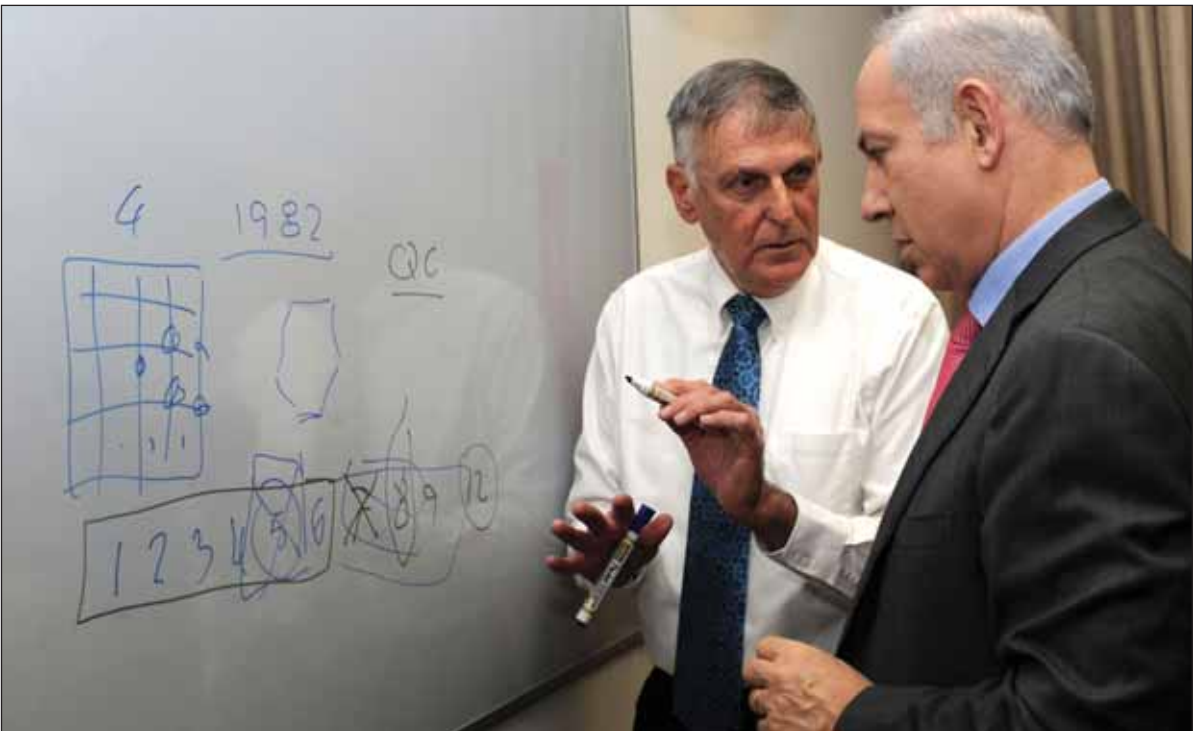
What is it about Israel - and Jews - that wins Nobels?

“Israeli universities, like my university, the Technion, are excellent,” Shechtman said of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. “But there’s also an Israeli spirit of free thinking. Sometimes it leads to chaos because everyone has his own idea about everything, but free thinking encourages successful scientists.”

Since 2002, Israeli scientists have received six Nobels - two in economics and four in chemistry.

Some say Jews are uniquely suited to the study of science.

“For thousands of years, Jews have been brought up to question and to try to bridge the gap between



Israeli scientist Dan Shechtman, explaining his Nobel Prize-winning theory to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on October 6. (PHOTOGRAPH: AMOS BEN GERSHOM/GPO/FLASH 90)

existing knowledge and the prevailing reality,” Gidi Greenstein, director of the Reut Institute think tank, told JTA.

“You have the Torah and the Talmud, and then you have the reality, which keeps changing. The tension between what we know and what we experience, is the secret of creativity.”

Others say there is something unique about the Israeli character.

“One of the things you need to do well in science and hi-tech is to think outside the box, and we as Israelis are not familiar with any boxes,” said Prof Dan Ben David, director of the Taub Centre for Social Policy Studies in Israel. “We don’t understand lines, we don’t believe in lines and we always ask why when someone asks us to do something. That can be very aggravating, but it’s a great quality when it comes to doing research.”

Israelis also tend to be tenacious and obstinate. The saying, “Right or wrong, but never in doubt”, could be a national slogan. Schechtman provides the perfect example: He was ridiculed for years but never gave up.

“Open societies that are self-

critical can foster courage and an appreciation for the pursuit of truth,” said Daniel Gordis, president of the Shalem Foundation. “Israel, for all its faults, and there are many, has both intellectual openness and academic excellence.”

Others say that Israel’s overwhelming defence needs have boosted the state’s interest in science.

“An enormous amount of money has been invested here in security,” said Prof Yaron Oz, dean of Tel Aviv University’s Exact Sciences Department.

“A large number of people studied science or engineering relative to the population, and many of them studied in military-related programmes. It was seen as essential to Israel to develop its own weapons.”

Oz says that in many other Western countries, more students are going into fields like law or business, which are more lucrative than science. But in Israel, scientists are highly respected and salaries are competitive.

Many Israeli scientists worry that the level of Israeli students is slipping and call for more government spending on science educa-

tion. In a study conducted by the Taub Centre, Ben David compared the levels of science, math and reading in 25 developed countries, including Israel. Israel came in last place.

“We need excellent teachers who cannot only teach, but can be role models,” Shechtmann said. “In some countries, a teacher has prestige and a good salary. Here a teacher can’t support his family.”

At the same time, there is a trend of Israeli scientists from abroad returning to Israel to continue their research here. Oz came to Israel from Geneva 10 years ago. The latest Nobel Prize will only encourage that trend, some predicted.

“Every Israeli university has graduate students who can compete with the best in the world,” Oz said. “You need talent and infrastructure, and I think we have both. I expect we will win many more Nobel Prizes.” (JTA)

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

EINSTEIN LETTER ON AUCTION BLOCK

LOS ANGELES - A letter written by Albert Einstein to a Jewish New York businessman is on the auction block.

The typed letter, signed A Einstein and on his personal embossed stationery, has been put up for sale by a West Los Angeles auction house. The deadline for bidding was 17:00 (Pacific time) on Tuesday.

“We (Jews) have no other means of self-defence than our solidarity and our knowledge that the cause for which we are suffering is a momentous and sacred cause,” Einstein wrote to Hyman Zinn on June 10, 1939, praising Zinn for his efforts to aid Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria.

Nate Sanders, the owner of the Los Angeles auction house that bears his name, told JTA that the letter had been consigned by a Norman Zinn, presumably a descendant of the original recipient.

One day before the auction deadline, the highest bid stood at \$3 058, but Sanders, whose company specialises in autographs by famous personalities, expects to sell the letter for \$5 000 to \$7 000.

Writing three months before the outbreak of the Second World War, Einstein went on to tell Zinn, of the Manhattan Button Co: “The power of resistance which has enabled the Jewish people to survive for thousands of years, has been based to a large extent on traditions of mutual helpfulness. In these years of affliction our readiness to help one another is being put to an especially severe test. May we stand this test as well as did our fathers before us.”

In conclusion, Einstein told Zinn: “It must be a source of deep gratification to you to be making so important a contribution toward rescuing our persecuted fellow-Jews from their calamitous peril and leading them toward a better future.” (JTA)



2ND DEMENTIA SA CONFERENCE THE PAVILION, CAPE TOWN: OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2011

This conference will explore some of the global methods and best practices in caring for people with dementia of which Alzheimer’s disease is the most common. The all-important factor is to maintain respect and dignity for the person with the disease.

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The best-selling author on dementia care and director of the Association for Dementia Studies, Institute of Health and Society at University of Worcester, UK, **Prof Dawn Brooker** will discuss the importance of person centred care for people living with dementia, using activity and occupation as a way to unlocking potential.

Another expert and best-selling author, **Danuta Lipinska**, will tackle issues around counselling, grief and strategies for coping as carers. She will focus on helping carers respond appropriately to relatives going through the grieving process, self-care for the carer, and then a rarer form of dementia, Dementia with Lewy Bodies.

Caroline Baker is the Dementia Services director at Four Seasons Health Care in the UK. She brings extensive practical experience in dementia care, putting the VIPS model of care into practice.

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10 GENERAL LEVEL 1 & 2 ETHICS LEVEL 2
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www.dementiasa.org – click on conference link.

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Enquiries / Bookings visit www.slimmingclinic.com

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DR WIAN STANDER has a very keen interest in functional and integrative medicine. His life assignment is the integration of the art, science and philosophy of medicine. He qualified as a doctor from the University of Pretoria in 2000 and also obtained a postgraduate qualification in tropical diseases and travel medicine at Wits in 2004. He is currently a training specialist physician in anti-ageing and functional medicine through the University of South Florida. The corporate office of Slimming Clinic SA™ is based in the trendy Hyde Park Corner, where they offer an exceptional quality of service; both at entry as well as after-sales level.

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Absa Gallery,
Johannesburg: “If I told you
the truth, I’d be lying”,
Stephen Rosin’s first solo
exhibition, until November 4,
(011) 350-5793.

**Everard Read and Circa
Gallery, Rosebank:** “The
Horse”, curated by Ricky
Burnett, until October 30,
(011) 788-4805.

**Foxwood House Theatre,
Houghton:** “Rapid Fire
Fairytale” with Gavin
Bonner, October 28, (011) 486-
0935.

Fried Gallery, Pretoria:
“Connections”, by Regi Bar
David, Pascual Tarazona,
Lynette ten Krooden and
David Udbjorg, until
November 12, (012) 346-0158.

Gallery AOP, Milpark:
“Reading Room” by Jonah
Sack, until October 29, (011)
726-2234.

**Joburg Theatre,
Braamfontein:** In the Nelson
Mandela, Manuel Puig’s “Kiss
of the Spider Woman”, direct-
ed by Lynne Maree; October
26 - November 6. In the
Fringe, “The Chilli Boy”, until
November 6, (011) 877-6800.

**Linder Auditorium,
Parktown:** October 19, 20,
JPO performs Britten’s “A
Time There Was...” Suite,
Elgar’s “Cello Concerto and
Shostakovich’s Ninth
Symphony. Conductor:
Bernhard Gueller; soloist:
Maria Kliegel (‘cello). On
October 26 and 27,
“Rendering” by Berio and
Mozart’s Mass in C Minor.
Conductor: Bernhard Gueller,
with soloists and choir of
Opera Africa, (011) 789-2733.

Market Theatre, Newtown:
In the Laager, Craig
Higginson’s “The Girl in the
Yellow Dress” until December
18, (011) 832-1641.

Montecasino, Fourways: In
the Main Theatre, Alan
Committie’s “Happily Ever
Laughter”, until October 23.
In the Studio, Sonia
Esgueira’s “Porracious!”,
until November 13, (011) 511-
1988.

**National Children’s
Theatre, Parktown:** Joyce
Levinsohn and Francois
Theron’s “Pied Piper”, until
October 22, (011) 484-1584.

**Old Mutual Theatre on the
Square, Sandton:** “Sailing
Somewhere” with Fiona
Ramsay, until October 29.
Friday lunchtime concerts:
Sunset Serenade, October 21;
Goldberg Chamber Players,
October 28, (011) 883-8606.

State Theatre, Pretoria: In
the Opera, Deon Opperman’s
border war musical, “Tree
Aan”, with Adam Pelkowitz,
until November 6, (021) 392-
4000.

**UJ Arts Centre, Auckland
Park:** The world debut of
“CrashDance” choreographed
by Sbonakalisa Ndaba and
Redha, performed by
Tshwane Dance Theatre,
opens October 21 for 10 days,
(011) 559-3058.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

A show
worthy of its
unassuming
truths

Play: “Sailing Somewhere”, Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton (011) 883-8606)
Cast: Fiona Ramsay, with Tony Bentel, on piano
Writer: Matthew Hurt,
Playwright: Conor Mitchell, songs
Director: Vanessa Cooke
Design: Andrew Botha (set); Delene Holt (costume construction); Nik Sakellarides (sound)
Until: October 29

REVIEWED BY PAUL BOEKKOOI

“SAILING SOMEWHERE” is a kind of generic one-woman solo performance, with original solo songs added, with not a standard or cover version in sight. There is live music coming from master pianist Tony Bentel as Chuck, who is fully in command of stylistic truth in handling Conor Mitchell’s often heart wrenching products of his pen.
At the end, this is not a musical - “Sailing Somewhere” is far too brave and determined for that! - but rather a play with music and lyrics, reflecting on the main protagonist’s emotionally scarred history. Over time she has removed herself from those uncomfortable zones life has placed on her path.
She - her name is never mentioned by the play-

You want to own these beautiful things

Exhibition: “From the Table to the Wall and Back” (Kim Sacks Gallery, Rosebank, (011) 447-5804
Artist: Clementina van der Walt
Until: October 31

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN
PHOTOGRAPH: CLEMENTINA VAN DER WALT

VISITING KIM Sacks Gallery for a lover of beautiful objects is like visiting an SPCA for a lover of woebegone animals. It’s not because the things you will see there are sad; it’s because in seeing them, you will realise a need to have them in your life.
The current exhibition by ceramicist Clementina van der Walt comprises close to 200 objects made for utility and display; it stretches the beauty and wonder of the medium of mud in every way you can think of.
Here, is a bouquet of mugs, cups and jugs, in colour so saturated, they feel illegal. There, is a wall of decorative plates, each bearing a cheeky face cocking a snook at properness. On another wall, three plates bear fine art-redolent faces - you might recognise them: Picasso’s portrait of proto-feminist Gertrude Stein is one, an Irma Stern portrait is another, and the unmistakable face of Mexican surrealist Frida Kahlo, the third.



FELDMAN
ON FILM
Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

Warrior

Cast: Tom Hardy; Joel Edgerton; Nick Nolte; Jennifer Morison
Director: Gavin O’Connor

“Warrior” is no ordinary fight film. It penetrates far deeper in terms of emotion and drive and offers some of the most savagely compelling action sequences I’ve seen in a long time.
And while its storyline may be predictable and a tad contrived, director Gavin O’Connor has managed to elevate his production to towering heights.
Its success can mainly be attributed to the outstanding contributions made by its lead



Fiona Ramsay, with Tony Bentel on piano. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OLD MUTUAL THEATRE ON THE SQUARE)

wright Matthew Hurt - is portrayed by Fiona Ramsay with the finesse which feeds her wide-ranging approach to an individual, challenging portrayal with a multitude of facets, making her a fully rounded character...warts and all.
If this all sounds a bit too desperate to be entertaining, be assured that Ramsay’s lounge singer is also a frisky lady, a great story teller with a sense of humour, and especially a richly expressive ironic core that is all her own.
There’s always a strong narrative throughout the 75 minute play which connects us with most facets of her life. She is, within the enclosed world of a cruise liner, very observant of every behaviouristic manner of every passenger or fellow crew member - especially that of Stan, the Russian, who chases every man, including the young Argentinean bridegroom who is on honeymoon.
She hates the midnight sun in the Northern spheres or the tourists buying “plastic Viking helmets” at the fjords. But most of the time she becomes poignantly sad when relating to her own life - beginning with her parents, her first marriage to Mickey, their daughter Zoe, how and why she left Mickey, and her hope that by marrying Andrew they could become “a complete family”.

The plates are so exquisite you might shudder at the thought of using them in the conventional sense.
Don’t, though. The show’s central display is a table set for eight. Each setting comprises a nest of vessels, in descending size, with a side plate like those on the wall, quoting Stern portraits. The table is further adorned with two huge vases overflowing with fresh flowers, echoing the audacious red of the bourgainvillea embracing the gallery’s frontage.
Indeed, this piece was shown at the Irma Stern Museum in Cape Town last year. True to the visual ethos for which this gallery is known, there’s a seductive concatenation of colour and vibrancy from all over Africa; while your eye might digress in a fit of curiosity to alight on some unspeakably fine beaded panels from ancient Chad, you might get the urge to sing or weep at the sight of the red and orange Kente cloth displayed behind van der Walt’s “Stern” table.
And visual feast though this exhibition might be, the work’s not only focused around the eating ritual. There are displays of ceramic pieces grouped demurely by colour - black, white and olive works cluster comfortably together on one shelf; ochres and oranges on another.
In another series, two-dimensional oblong works of varying sizes, some rolled against can-



A duo of jugs by Clementina van der Walt.

vas to create a texture you will want to eat, others smooth and pristine, are mounted on clear Perspex.
“We are all born mad; some remain so,” is the legend on one. “Ignore the bell”, a bright yellow tile imperiously instructs. Wonderfully irreverent, the works are wacky in their wisdoms.
This exhibition is the tip of the iceberg: Using the gallery’s vestibule for transient shows, the rest of the collection, cherry picking the finest of African craft, spill delectably all over shelves and display cabinets, collectively making you remember the value of beautiful things in this world.

es his father and he emphasises this in no uncertain terms.
His older brother, Brendan (Joel Edgerton), is a former MMA fighter. He spends his time doing a soul-destroying job teaching science at a public school and needs the extra money otherwise he will lose his house. He enters the brutal competition to win and also to rekindle his old fighting spirit.
Brendan has long lost touch with his father and Tommy and, though many years have since passed between these three complex characters, recriminations and past betrayals still remain.
Brendan’s unlikely rise as an underdog soon sets him on a collision course in the cage with Tommy, where the two brothers must finally confront the forces that tore them apart.
Both Hardy and Edgerton make commanding leads, but its craggy Nick Nolte’s relentless assault on the senses that will be remembered.
This is a high-powered sports melodrama where no punch is wasted nor one kick go astray - and all fuelled by the incessant onslaught of tough men with a mission.

TAPESTRY

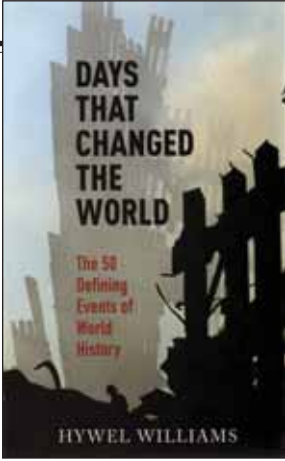
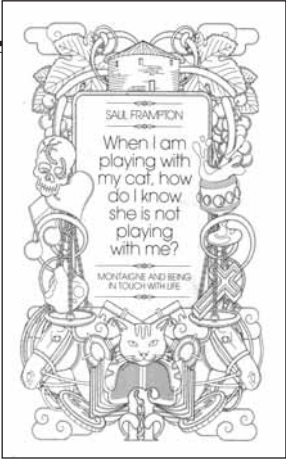
ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Some good reads

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

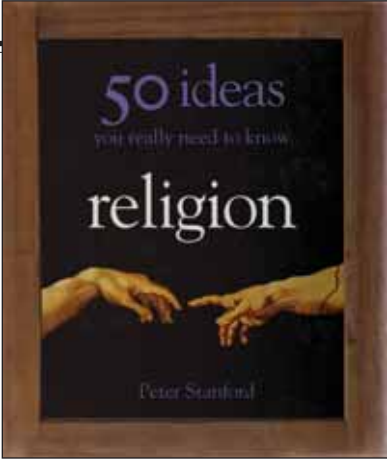
When I am Playing With my Cat, How do I Know She is Not Playing With Me? by Saul Frampton (Faber & Faber, R245)

In 1570, Michel de Montaigne (aged just 37) gave up his job as a magistrate and retired to his chateau to mourn the deaths of his best friend, his brother, his father and - worst of all - his child. The stricken Frenchman inscribed a phrase from Lucretius on his library ceiling: “There is no new pleasure to be gained by living longer.” However, grief notwithstanding, in the following years he produced a series of remarkable philosophical essays, exploring existence, temporality and the effect of sensory experience on the soul (including the playfulness of his cat). In this marvellous analysis of the essays, Frampton leads us into the heart and mind of De Montaigne and his impact on the Renaissance, Shakespeare and all of Western literature. Very highly recommended.



Days That Changed the World by Hywel Williams (Quercus, R134)

Subtitled “The 50 Defining Events of World History”, this succinct - but soundly researched - list scans occurrences which have shaped the course of human progress, beginning with the Battle of Salamis in 480 BC. Through the assassination of Julius Caesar, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the deaths of Muhammad and Genghis Khan, the fall of Constantinople, the defeat of the Spanish Armada, the graduation of Isaac Newton, the US Declaration of Independence, the fall of the Bastille and the Battle of Waterloo right through to Alexander Graham Bell’s invention of the telephone, the writing of Einstein’s theory of relativity, the Battle of the Somme, the falling of the Russian Winter Palace, the bombing of Hiroshima, the first moon landing, the release of Nelson Mandela from prison and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Williams identifies crucial moments which changed the way we live and think.



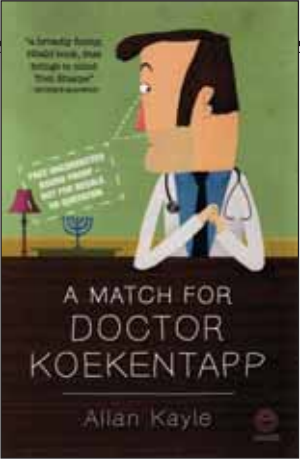
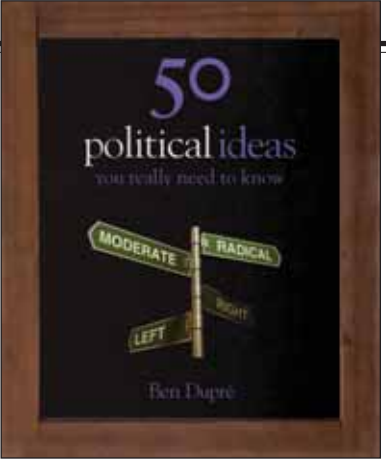
Not everyone will agree with his selection, but the book offers much to ponder.

50 Ideas You Really Need to Know: Religion by Peter Stanford (Quercus, R153)

A very compact, but erudite compendium of the world’s most important faiths, the philosophies underpinning them and the way they have influenced history. The concepts explored include those of good versus evil, Mammon, the papacy, Lutheranism, Baptism, sects and cults, faith versus science, Islam (both orthodox and fundamentalist), Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism and - of course - Judaism, seen not only in its religious teachings, but also as a creed attracting anti-Semitism. While the book cannot explore these ideas in depth, it provides an excellent platform for younger readers. A valuable addition to home and school libraries.

50 Political Ideas You Really Need to Know by Ben Dupre (Quercus, R154)

Another in the “50 Ideas” series, this volume explores the seminal ideologies which defined modes of government



through the ages. Dupre offers a basic explanation of the origins of each one, the leaders spearheading it and its impact on international events. The themes covered include liberty, justice, tyranny, monarchy, Utopianism, imperialism, republicanism, social democracy, communism, isolationism, fascism, fundamentalism, constitutions, realism, globalisation, as well as more modern concepts such as feminism, the green movement and political correctness. A useful reference, particularly for younger readers. *A Match for Doctor Koekentapp* by Allan Kayle (Umuzi, R155)

Young Dr Koekentapp is everything an unmarried girl (and her ambitious mother) could ask for: he’s bright, he’s good-looking, he’s decent, he’s successful and he’s respected. The only trouble is, he’s not Jewish. Unfazed, Mrs Levy goes to work to snare the catch for her daughter, enjoining her friends and family to join her conspiracy. Not that the young couple needed manipulating: they’ve fallen in love without anyone’s help. A light-hearted romp with some all-too-recognisable characters.

Simple, rambunctious tale, told with compassion

Show: *PorraLicious!* (Studio, Montecasino, Fourways (011) 511-1988)
Cast: Sonia Esgueira
Director: Helen Iskander and James Cuninghame
Playwright: Sonia Esgueira
Until: November 13

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

YOU MIGHT believe that serialising a production can make it tired; Sonia Esgueira’s gently vulgar essay on South African Portuguese culture, now in its fifth season, simply gets better. Meet the Ferreiras, an ordinary South African Portuguese family, living in the southern suburbs of Johannesburg. They’re five lovingly-built stereotypes: two parents, two children and a granny. You don’t have to be Portuguese to laugh and cry at the oft poignant glints that immigrant culture in Esgueira’s capable hands reflects. The storyline is paper thin; but the characters are honed with such evolved and thoughtful compassionate laughter, you cannot but be swept into the dodgily conservative family values fraught as they are around an unanticipated anticipated baby. It’s about a wedding and a funeral; it’s also about the torsion in immigrant culture: “to belong, not really here, not really there,” the father José sums it up, with a depth of focus steering gently between ribaldry and toilet humour. Esgueira’s first version of the show opened in 2004. This one-hander has grown under the hand of several directors, culminating in Iskander and Cuninghame, who lend the work fresh energy that makes it sing. Esgueira’s characters are so thoughtfully constructed there’s not a moment of ambiguity as she flips between them, evoking everything from a conversation in grunts and nuances to a marriage proposal mixing bravado with tears. You quickly forget there’s but one performer on stage, supported by just four boxes, a geriatric walker and an enamel potty. South African Portuguese culture consti-



Sonia Esgueira. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MONTECASINO THEATRE)

tutes Paula’s makeup (Veet is her hair removal cosmetic of choice). Like her mother, she was raised with a complicated understanding of the value of Portugal close to her heart. Like her older (and slightly hairier) brother Ruiz, she hasn’t yet severed family ties, and to make matters more shameful, is (still) unmarried. Now in her mid-30s, with Ruiz, she’s helping man the family café, while their parents are holidaying in Madeira. At home is the walker-dependent granny who longs, with all her heart, to be back in Portugal. South African crime punctures things, bringing the second generation of Fereiras back, to ensure the children, parent and business are fine. And they find more cooking than they expect, by way buns in ovens. The central parts highlighted in this simply rambunctious tale which plaits the ridiculously funny and the outrageously pathetic, with an overriding intelligence that never allows it to become pejorative or silly, are a relentless respect for the previous generation and a die-hard sense of homeliness and trustworthiness. Esgueira, an award winning Shakespearean performer, with the wherewithal to be a fine comic in her own right, has elected to instead take beautiful and inimitable possession of her own people’s story and capitalise on it. And the result is a socio-cultural slice of South Africa like no other. It’s delicious.

JEWISH FESTIVALS IN SONG



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Ticket prices R180 and R150

LETTERS

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

Guidelines for letters: Letters up to 400 words will get preference. Please provide your full first name and surname, place of residence, and a daytime contact telephone or cell number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.

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

BRIXTON JEWISH CEMETERY: SAD DEATH OF A JEWISH LANDMARK

IT WAS indeed an earth-shattering experience when visiting the Brixton Jewish Cemetery on Sunday September 25. South African Jewish history and tradition had been totally eliminated following the complete destruction of the previous ohel at this cemetery.

A vacant plot of ground had become testimony to the untimely and unnecessary death of a Johannesburg landmark and edifice of significant importance to the surviving members of those Jewish relatives who are buried in this holy ground of remembrance.

It is incredible that, despite the despicable and malicious vandalising of the ohel in that cemetery, a restoration programme could not be carried out to re-establish a noteworthy reminder of Johannesburg Jewry of yes-

teryear.

It is believed that a significant number of adherents of the Jewish community would have readily contributed to a programme of Yiddishkeit to restore the former glory of the Brixton Jewish Cemetery, especially considering that many of the souls interred in this graveyard had created the wealth currently enjoyed by the surviving members of these families.

What better way to say “thank you” than by re-establishing the ethos and solemnity of the final resting place of those treasured creations of “Baruch Hashem”.

An efficient and proficient security company must be employed to remove the “ungodly” from transgressing and defiling what is G-d’s hallowed ground.

Furthermore, this cemetery must be maintained in a befitting manner to honour and remember the deceased, many who contributed significantly to the development of this city and this country.

The loss of the ohel at the Brixton Jewish Cemetery is unforgivable as it cannot be replaced by a new monument, if this is indeed the intention of the Chevrah Kadisha.

A new house of worship can never replace or restore the history, the traditions, and the human characteristics that were encapsulated in that wonderfully unique building that was the warden of that final resting place of so many devoted members of “Am Yisroel”.

Dr A M Levin
Bryanston, Sandton

WHO IS GOING TO ENFORCE THIS UTOPIAN STATE?

DANIEL MACKINTOSH’S advice on how to end the Israel/Palestinian conflict: “Only a democratic one-state solution will guarantee the human rights of all the people in the region”. (SAJR October 7), refers. Seriously? Democracy? Human rights? Who is going to enforce such a Utopian state - the tolerant, democracy-loving Hamas/Fatah/Hezbollah, aided and abetted by the equally tolerant, democracy-loving Iran/Syria axis? Will they all simultaneously undergo a life-changing Damascus experience?

No answers are required. Their violently-destructive, anti-Semitic charters say it all.

David Abel
National Vice Chairman Likud SA.
George

DANIEL MACKINTOSH ACCUSED OF ‘SELF-RIGHTEOUS BIGOTRY’

WHOEVER COINED the phrase: “There are none so blind as those who will not see”, must have had Daniel Mackintosh, and others of his ilk in mind.

In my eyes, he is a bigoted, self-righteous intellectual. Trying to curry favour with the South African government and local Muslims, the arguments he puts forward are very selective; he cherry picks those that suit him, much like Steven Friedman, and chooses to ignore the facts that are practically staring him in the eye.

The fact that Hamas, Hezbollah and Fatah keep on declaring unequivocally that they intend to kill all Jews and wipe Israel off the face of the earth, seems to escape him, or haven’t they hammered the point home to him often enough, although he charges Israel with being racist, despite Israel being the only democracy in the Middle East and one of the best democracies in the world. Me thinks he has been living in cloud cuckoo land.

Mackintosh claims racism in Israel; if the Arabs aren’t racist, then I don’t know.

Implicit in his arguments are that Israel can do no right and the Arabs can do no wrong. Israel has been granting concessions all along. It twice agreed to almost 95 per cent of Arab demands. The Arabs demand a state with the selfsame right they refuse the Jews - even though in 1945 the United Nations granted them that state, something they rejected totally in order to attack the Jews. Democratic one-state solution. Huh!?

May I assume that Mackintosh is Jewish and that he truly believes in the democratic nature of Arab states (and particularly the one-state solution he supports) in which case may I suggest he goes to live in Syria, Saudi Arabia, Gaza or wherever, for a few weeks, not in tourist hotels, but in middle-class or poor areas.

Jack Miller
Gresswold, Johannesburg

TAKE YOUR SCHACH TO GARDEN SITES

THAT TIME of year has arrived when good wishes are in order. Shana Tova to our community. Municipal bylaws are part of the laws of the land and according to the Laws of Hefker and Hasagas Gvul, paragraphs 2 and 3, the laws of a country are to be considered as law.

This includes, for example, the legality of many Jewish community advertising posters and the problems of illegal dumping.

Please remember that after Succot, your schach must be taken to the Pikitup garden sites and not put out for collection on the pavement - this is deemed illegal dumping. Whatever does not fit into your wheelie-bin, must be taken to the dump.

Marcelle Ravid
Councillor, Ward 73
City of Johannesburg

FOR THE RECORD


IT’S MASEROW AND NOT MAZEROW

IN THE article on the Israel Quiz in last week’s paper, the winner Saul Maserow’s name was spelt Mazerow instead of Maserow. We apologise for the error.

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Jewish Report



COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Mary Kluk,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

THE MITZVAH to dwell in a succah - a temporary dwelling - during the seven days of the Succot festival, contains within it many profound lessons regarding how our lives should be lived.

It is a tangible reminder of how temporary our lives in this world are, and therefore how important it is to focus on those values that really endure - Jewish unity, family ties, trust in the Creator, concern for our fellow Jews and others that bind us together as a people.

Succot - remembering

One broader lesson that I feel we also need to take to heart during this time, is that while, for us, living in a fragile, temporary dwelling is brief and symbolic, for so many of our fellow South Africans it is the enduring reality of their daily lives.

We do not need to travel far from our own affluent suburbs to see people compelled to exist in crude, cramped, ad hoc structures put together from whatever discarded materials they have been able to gather together.

In celebrating this joyous Yomtov, let us therefore also remember those for whom even the most basic human needs must

constantly be struggled for and commit ourselves to finding ways to alleviate their situation in whatever way we, as a community and as individuals, are able to.

Census 2011

As I write, the latest national population census is well underway. This vital national project goes well beyond a mere head count. It seeks to capture as comprehensively as possible a range of demographic data relating to the broader population, including age profiles, education and income levels, economic activity, religious affiliation and place of residence.

Many of our community will already have been contacted by census officials to provide them with all the detailed information needed to fill out the census form. I would like to encourage all community members to be of as much assistance as they can.

Just from the point of view of the SAJBD, the national census has proven to be an invaluable information resource. On a constant basis, we are approached for information on Jewish South Africa, from market researchers, academics, journalists and communal leaders (particularly those working in the fields of welfare, education or religious affairs) to

ordinary members of the public. Through the focused information on the Jewish community that we are able to access through the census database, including where Jews are living, their overall socio-economic condition and age spreads, we have been in a position to provide accurate, reliable answers to such enquiries.

While the question on religious affiliation is an optional one, we nevertheless hope very much that through our community's participation, we will in due course be provided with a suitably detailed and trustworthy body of information that we can refer to with confidence in the forthcoming decade.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

LETTERS

'I NEVER SAID THAT ISRAEL IS WEAK'

CHAIM MYERSON (SAJR October 7, "Lack of communal leadership is frustrating") is wrong in saying that I said on national radio that Israel was "weak".

I spoke about the need for a negotiated settlement, as opposed to a unilateral declaration of Palestinian independence and did mention that Israel was not immune to the "Arab Revolutions".

Even strong and large countries like the US, are experiencing social activist movements, not

unrelated to what is happening in other countries.

Israel has been able to use its mass protests as a showcase for its democracy, by allowing its citizens to vent their feelings in a safe and peaceful environment. Israel is a wonderful example to the world and particularly to the Arab countries, of everything that the so-called "Arab Spring" is striving to achieve - equal rights for all ethnic and religious groups, no sexual discrimination and equal judi-

cial protection for all.

Thank Hashem that Israel is strong, but Israel is increasingly isolated, which can make it vulnerable. While we, the leaders of the community, have a responsibility to present Israel and its government in the best light, we have to be sensitive not to say or do things that could alienate a segment of our community.

Ben Levitas
SAZF (Cape Council)
Chairman

Our Parents Home residents enjoy tea at Pick n Pay Norwood

CELESTE EVERITT
PHOTOGRAPH: GLEN MILLER

TWENTY RESIDENTS of Our Parents Home were delighted to attend the monthly tea party held recently at Pick n Pay in Norwood.

The event is arranged by the management of Norwood Mall and is intended as a treat for pensioners. While Pick n Pay sponsored the tea, the prizes were sponsored by Vital, whose representatives talked to the guests about their products.

Right: Our Parents Home resident Leah Edelsohn, with a prize that she won.

Far right: Our Parents Home resident Lotti Rothschild with a prize that she won.



UOS pocket diaries now available

THE MUCH sought after UOS pocket diaries for 5772 - 2011/2012, are now available.

The UOS says the features include: 16 month diary from September 2011 to December 2012; Beth Din-recognised mikvaot; Jewish national bodies; welfare and community services; libraries and museums; festivals and fast days (prayers and omissions); dates weddings cannot be solemnised; school terms; public holidays; Jewish holidays; rules of candle-lighting; times (Shabbat, fasts, sunrise, sunset, etc) for Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Bloemfontein, Plettenberg Bay, Port Elizabeth and East London; affiliated synagogues - minyan and contact information; Tefillat Haderech (travellers prayer) with transliteration; Shabbat and Yomtov parsha and

haftarah; A-Z phone number index; birthday list; yahrtzeit list; note pages; and it's perfect Yomtov gift!

The diaries are available in Johannesburg from the UOS (010) 214-2600, or from Kollel Bookshop and House of Judaica, at R60 per diary in Johannesburg. In Durban they are available from the DUHC (031) 201-5177 and in Cape Town from the UOS: (021) 461-6310.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

AUTHOR CHARGED IN JEWISH ONLINE DATING SCAM

ATLANTA (Georgia) - American author Mitchell Gross has been indicted for allegedly scamming women he met on an online Jewish dating service.

Gross, 61, of Marietta, Georgia, pleaded not guilty to fraud and money laundering charges when he was arraigned late last week in federal court in Atlanta, according to reports.

He has written novels under the pen


name Mitchell Graham that include a trilogy of fantasy fiction books, "The Fifth Ring", "The Emerald Cavern" and "The Ancient Legacy".

In 2006, according to the indictment, Gross met two women on an unnamed online Jewish dating service and bilked them out of \$4.4 million, convincing them to invest in a fake company he set up. (JTA)

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Machaneh Shirat Ha Yam - about themed camp education

LAUREN KESSLER
HEAD OF EDUCATION, NETZER SA

THE WORD on every Netzer’s lips is “Machaneh” and as the channichim converse with one another about Netzer’s annually epic summer camp coming up, there is a further deal of information about the prestigious camp name: what it means and why we chose it.

“What is in a name?” As Shakespeare once wrote: “A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” It seems that titles, to the Bard, are but insignificant beautifiers for the purposes of labelling something.

The concern here is that our camp name - Shirat Ha Yam (Song of the Sea), might be just as cosmetic. It has a nice ring to it, rolls off the tongue and would work well with lyrics in the infamous camp song.

But this is not why we chose it. A camp name, above all, represents its education theme; it essentially embodies the direction of the camp’s educational component, defining its aims, focus and content. This means that a camp name needs to be heavily symbolic, substantial in meaning and relevant in focus.

Shirat Ha Yam seems to encompass just this. It immediately relates to its Biblical origin of the Exodus from Egypt, the singing of Miriam’s song as the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and the journey undertaken to reach the Promised Land.

Stemming from this historical backing, is a set of pertinent themes that this machaneh will be drawing from, to formulate its overarching education process. Thus, there will be a strong transition from engaging with our Biblical Jewish heritage and



“journeying” through to the present day.

Along this journey, we will inspire and educate ourselves about the evolutionary role of women in Judaism, stemming from Miriam and contrasting it with how women are viewed in both Jewish and secular society today.

Another fundamental element of this overarching journey is to examine what it is that inspires us to stand up for what we believe in and progress, especially in the context of music and the power of song.

Yet another theme embedded in the title Shirat Ha Yam, is the concept of the ocean or more broadly the environment and the crucial role it plays in traditional Jewish thought and in secular society. This ties in very well with our role as Jews, to “repair the world”, finding strategic methods to create a sustainable and healthy relationship with nature.

Let this article serve as a mere taste of the wonderful world of themed camp education still to come.

Lulavs, etrogs, made with lots of love

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH:SUZANNE BELLING

THREE-YEAR-OLDS from Chana Rivka Lewin’s class at Torah Academy Nursery School, show off their handmade lulavs and etrogs, which they made for the festival of Succot.



Upwards and onwards the lithe Krinskys move

SHIRA DRUION
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

AN ASTONISHING display of acrobatic talent held the King David audience captive as the young Krinsky brothers - Gryphon, Jungly and Kelman - moved their elastic band bodies to wow the crowd at the King David Linksfield fun day recently.

The crowd watched riveted as the Krinskys performed their sensational acrobatic routine with precision and skill.

The trio is fast becoming the most impressive group to top the charts of many a competitive sport, with countless awards and prizes in acrobatics, ballet and judo. They spend a large part of most of their days practising and their efforts

show in the final result.

They say that hard work and commitment is the name of their nimble game. “We wake up every morning and invest a good three hours in perfecting our routines,” says 13-year-old Kelman.

The brothers exude a palpable energy as they twist and turn their agile limbs in synchronised rhythm to the music. Their vegetarian diet, they believe, ensures that their bodies permit them to perform with the flexibility and smoothness of an oiled machine.

Says 14-year-old Jungly: “It takes discipline and practice to build the muscle strength that enables my body to be strong enough to support the other two. You have to be strong to be at the bottom; my strength holds up the others.



Jungly, Gryphon and Kelman are excelling with their acrobatic feats.

YC Primary Elul chesed programme, brings home message of giving

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THIS YEAR Yeshiva College Primary School embarked on a wonderful chesed programme to mark the month of Elul. Each grade in the school participated in this project with their own programmes.

The grade 1s had a wonderful demonstration from Hatzolah, where they were shown all the different parts of the ambulance. They were given tzedakah boxes to fill and return to school.

The grade 2s visited the Chevrah Kadisha and Yad Aharon to assist in the packing of their food boxes for Rosh Hashanah. The enthusi-

asm of the learners was a joy to witness.

The South African Guide Dog Association sent a representative to speak to the grade 3s. The learners then collected dog food and treats to assist the Association.

The grade 4s have been promoting diabetes awareness. As they were given a talk by “Youth with Diabetes”, they are hosting a genes (jeans) day which allowed learners to wear jeans on October 5.

The monies raised will go to “Youth with Diabetes”.

The grade 5s were privileged to attend a performance by the St Vincent School for the Deaf choir. The learners were enthralled by the

concert. The grade 5s are now planning a market day to raise money for the feeding scheme at St Vincent School.

Following on from last year’s chesed programme where the grade 5s in 2010 (now our grade 6 learners) hosted the Glenhazel Primary School grade 5 learners, Glenhazel will now host our grade 6 learners.

The learners are putting together gift bags for each of the grade 6 learners at Glenhazel Primary for their visit. All of the learners from grade 1 to 6 are walking away from this chesed programme with a wonderful feeling of giving in their hearts.



Yeshiva College learners together with learners from the St Vincent School for the Deaf.

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Please note: the submission of a cv will not automatically result in an interview. Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School reserves the right not to appoint anyone to this position.

Jewish Travel

Visiting places of Jewish interest

Welcome to the exotic polyglot called Hawaii

ROBYN SASSEN

FOR MANY, any thought of Hawaii immediately conjures up bikinis, palm fronds and cocktails with small paper umbrellas in them, imbibed at leisure on breathtakingly beautiful beaches.

This archipelago in the Central Pacific Ocean, America's youngest state, in fact also houses a diverse population of over one million, and a vibrant and active young Jewish community, fed by six enthusiastically supported synagogues.

Polynesians first set foot on the islands now known as Hawaii, 1 500 years ago. They gradually became inhabited by settlers from nearby Tahiti, who brought their pagan value system to bear on the area's culture. It was from these early days that Hawaiians began to develop surfing, a sport they excel in.

Colonisation by Westerners began in the late 18th century, bringing disease and Christianity to the locals, in that order, thus rendering her a port for seamen, traders and whalers.

The 19th century also saw evolution in an understanding of prospects of wealth, and people began to migrate from Europe to "The New World" in general and California in particular, following the outbreak of "gold fever" in that area, which happened also to be the nearest bit of continental America to Hawaii.

At this time Jewish pioneers began to appear in ships' passenger lists en route to Hawaii for both recreational and business reasons. A branch of a Californian bank opened in Honolulu around this time; Jews began to settle sporadically from the mid-1850s, quickly rising to the cream of society, in banking, business and law, initially.

By the late 1880s, German descendant Paul

Neumann had distinguished himself politically in Hawaii, as the government's attorney-general. He became one of the royal advisers of the Kingdom of Kalakaua, and was anecdotally understood to have outbid the king in poker, rendering him bankrupt.

Just before the turn of the 20th century,

American colonists overthrew the pre-existing Hawaiian kingdom. History tells that before the islands' annexation, many Jews had built a life for themselves there, but it was not until late in the 20th century that the community began to unite and resonate with Jewish practices.

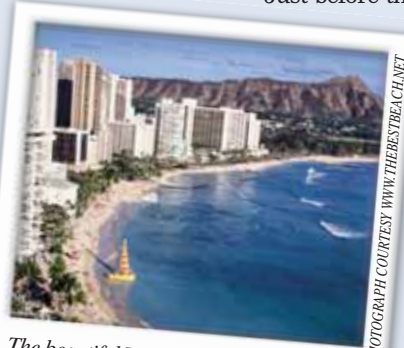
Hawaii in the 20th century remained under Western rule and governed by a Western economy; its main produce, sugar and pineapples, brought an influx of Chinese, Japanese, Filipino and Portuguese immigrants to work the farms. This mix of immigrant ethnicities is what makes Hawaii's population so diverse today.

She exploded onto the political spotlight on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbour in Oahu, which eventually led to the culmination of the Second World War. The US battleship, Missouri, still rests in Pearl Harbour.

Gradually, the pocket-sized community of Jews in Hawaii began to flourish in terms of ritual function and communal gatherings. The first recorded barmitzvah

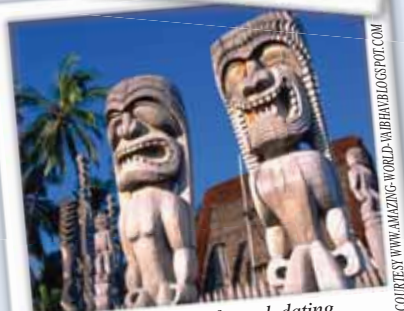
was in 1973.

One contact led to another. In 1975, the first High Holy Days services were hosted, attended by 85 locals. This was the first service of the unaffiliated Aloha Beth Shalom Synagogue, forerunner of today's Kona Beth Shalom community.



The beautiful Waikiki coastline.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.THERESTBEACH.NET



Guardian Kii made of wood, dating back close to 1 500 years ago, at the Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.AMAZING-WORLD-VIA-BLOGSPOT.COM



Hawaii's first mikvah, built by Chabad Hawaii, 2010.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY CHABAD OF HAWAII VIA BLOGSPOT.COM



The Pearl Harbour memorial, Hawaii.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDERS BROWNWORTH WWW.ANDERS.COM

koa wood. This congregation has drifted over the years. It has conducted Shabbat services at various venues.

Shul services were sporadic, often held once a month. The leader of the services is generally a member of the community, with the occasional visit of a guest rabbi. The community remains "staunchly non-affiliated" and comments on its website that it feels fortunate to have received "teaching, guidance and wisdom from learned rabbis originating from all of Judaism's principle strands".

Strictly hotel-based, until last year, has been Chabad of Hawaii, situated in Waikiki for over 20 years. Largely catering to holidaymakers, but representing the only Jewish Orthodox port of call in Hawaii, the Chabadniks on the islands are well-equipped, offering three shul services a day, glatt kosher meals and a complex and satisfying array of cultural and educational activities, enhanced by the uniquely accomplished and committed nature of locals.

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Tips for when you visit Hawaii

- In order to visit Hawaii, you need an American visa, which costs \$100. The US Embassy in South Africa is in Pretoria (012) 431-4000; there are US consulates in Sandton, (011) 290-3000; Cape Town, (021) 702-7300 and Durban, (031) 305-7600.
- In visiting Hawaii, you do not need to worry about diseases, climate or crime, but you do need to come with a healthy respect for the ocean.
- The weather in Hawaii is tropical and while rain can be anticipated between November and March, the weather all year round is mild to very warm.
- In Hawaii, the primary spoken languages are English and Hawaiian, and a blend of the two in a form of "pidgin".
- Hawaii is a state of America and operates with the American dollar. At the time of going to press, one US dollar will cost you R8,32.
- As Hawaii is vulnerable to natural disasters like volcanoes and tsunamis; civil defence warnings (a steady siren tone for three minutes, repeated as necessary) is the means the state uses to alert its residents of impending danger.
- Traffic in Hawaii is on the right hand side.
- Electricity in Hawaii, like in the continental United States, is 120 volts and 60 hertz. Plugs are the same as those suitable for use in America: the standard grounded socket, with two flat pins.
- Hawaii prides itself on the taste and quality of its tap water, which is filtered through volcanic rock, and lacks the chlorine taste of most processed waters in the Western world.
- Johannesburg is 12 hours ahead of Hawaii, which does not observe Daylight Saving Time.

WHAT’S ON

Sharon Akum sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

DEADLINE

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for all entries is 12:00 on the Friday prior to publication, without exception.

ORGANISATIONS, VENUES, CONTACT DETAILS, COST	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Beit Emanuel Progressive Synagogue, 38 Oxford Road, Parktown.JJRC - Johannesburg Jewish Resource Centre (Formerly Beyachad Resource Centre/Library), 2 Elray St, Raedene. Norma Shulman, phone: (011) 645-2567, e-mail: library@beyachad.co.zaBikkur Cholim - Jewish Society for Visiting the Sick, (new details) Athol House, 128 Athol Street, Highlands North, 2192. Joy Gafin (011) 440-3606.CAJE - College of Adult Jewish Education, Sydenham Highlands North Shul, (011) 640-5021.CARE (Chabad Addiction Rehabilitation Centre) Cell: 079-882-6776.Fax: 086 551 4485 or e-mail: justine@chabad.org.za, hotline: 0861 111 770.CSO - Emergency phone number 086 18 000 18.ELBM - Emunah Ladies Beit Midrash, 60 Mejon St Glenhazel, (011) 887-2910. "Lessons of our Lives" course on Wednesdays at 10:00. R350 for the course or R50 per shiur.FFHS - Friendship Forum for Holocaust Survivors, Second Generation and Members of the Community Affected by the Holocaust. Presentations held at the Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, 85 George Ave, Sandringham.HOD - Hebrew Order of David International, HOD Centre Oaklands Road, Orchards. Office, (011) 640 3017 or info@hodavid.orgJAFFA - Jewish Accommodation for Fellow Aged, tel (012) 346-2007/8, 42 Mackie St, Bailey's Muckleneuck.Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC), tel (011) 640-3100, e-mail: info@jhbholocaust.co.zaKDSF - King David Schools' Foundation. King David Alumni info@kdsf.org, (011) 480-4723.Nechama Bereavement Counselling Centre - Room A304, 3rd Floor, Hospital Wing, Sandringham Gardens, 85 George Ave, Sandringham. Contact (011) 640-1322.New Friendship Ladies' Group - a group for single women.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">beithalochem@beyachad.co.zaSouth African Jewish Board of Deputies (Johannesburg) - Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact (011) 645-2500 or (011) 645-2523.SA Zionist Federation (SAZF), Johannesburg - Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact Froma, (011) 645-2505.Israel Centre. Contact Debbie (011) 645-2560.Jewish National Fund (JNF), Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact Crystal Kaplan, 083-376-5999.Jewish Outlook. Contact Ryan Cane. Support line: 27 76 215 8600, website www.jewishoutlook.org.za or e-mail info@jewishoutlook.org.za.Jewish Women's Benevolent Society (JWBS) - Sandringham Gardens, 85 George Ave Sandringham. Contact Carolyn Sabbagh, (011) 485-5232.Simcha Friendship and Cultural Circle (SFCC), Johannesburg - Sandton Shul. Contact Sylvia Shull, (011) 783-5600. Meetings on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Wednesday each month at Sandton Shul at 10:00 unless stated otherwise.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">United Sisterhood, 38 Oxford Rd Parktown. Contact Marian (011) 646-2409. www.unitedsisterhood.co.za.Tiyulim (Jewish Outdoor Club). Contact Martin 082-965-7419 or Greg 082-959-9026.Union of Jewish Women (UJW), Jhb, 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Cost R15 for the Friendship Luncheon Club and a R20 donation for lectures unless otherwise stated.Union of Jewish Women (UJW), CT, (021) 434-9555 or e-mail info@ujwcape.co.za.UJW CT AED Programme at Stonehaven, Albany Road, Sea Point, 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments).United Zionist Luncheon Club (UZLC), Jhb - Our Parents Home. Contact Gloria, (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.UOS - Union of Orthodox Synagogues, (011) 485-4865, e-mail: info@uos.co.za, fax 086-610-3442.WIZO Jhb - Beyachad, 2 Elray St Raedene, Contact Joyce Chodos (011) 645-2548 or Sandy Kramer (011) 645-2515 or e-mail: wizopublicrelations@beyachad.co.za.	

Today, Monday (October 17)

- UJW adult education programme** hosts Prof John Lubbe, former professor of Semitics at Unisa, on “The Dead Sea Scrolls. Part 4. The Community Rule Who is a Jew?” Time: 09:30.
- WIZO Ilanit branch** hosts a “Teenage Pamper Day”. Cost per person R150. Starting at 09:30. Bookings: Andrea, 083-677-8999.

- Chabad Succot party for seniors.** A movie, followed by entertainers Tony Bentel, Helen Heldenmuth and Magical Marc, plus good food. Entrance free. Time 10:00 when movie starts, onwards. Booking essential. Phone (011) 440-6600 or rak@chabad.org.za

Tuesday (October 18)

- Emunah Ladies raffle**, R100, 14:30 at the home of Judy Moritz. Contact (011) 483-1005 Ethne.

- WIZO’s annual Rebecca Sieff awards and World WIZO Bible Day.** Speaker: Rebbetzen Aidel Kazilsky. Starting time: 09:30 for 10:00. Bookings: Sandy (011) 645-2548.

Wednesday (October 19)

- UJW Cape Town adult education division** hosts Ilana Skolnik, formerly known as Ellen Peters, Miss Africa South, who will talk on “Connection of a Jewish Soul”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries:(021) 434-9555

(mornings only).

Wednesday (October 19)

- UJW adult education department** hosts Arlene Bernstein, former head of LifeLine, who will talk on “How the Mature Woman Can Survive and Cope with Life in Johannesburg”. Time 09:30.

Sunday (October 23)

- Second Innings** hosts Tony Bentel on piano, Gerrit Koorsen on cello, and Marli Labuschagne on flute in a programme, “Music of Passion”. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres.

- WIZO Etgar branch** “Annual Garden Day”. Three spectacular gardens on show. Cost per person R180. Speaker: “Ludwig - the Rose King”. Bookings: Marion 083-326-3791. Starting time (at the first garden) at 09:45.

Wednesday (October 26)

- The Eighth Franz Auerbach Interfaith Memorial Lecture** takes place at Beit Emanuel Progressive Synagogue, 38 Oxford Road, Parktown, junction of Oxford Road and Third Avenue, entrance in Third Avenue, at 19:30. Reverend Faith Whitby of the Methodist Church, Kensington, Johannesburg, will speak on “Living from the Inside Out. Light refreshments after the lecture. RSVP to facilitate catering on (011) 646-6170 or email Ilana@beitemanuel.co.za
- Chevrah Kadisha Social Services** is offering a 6 week

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE by Jeff Sapire

MOST BRIDGE players know what a “Goulash” is. The most common variation is when the cards are not shuffled from the previous deal, and the dealer gives each player first five consecutive cards, followed by three each, and then another five. While it is not in accordance with the Laws of Bridge, it very often generates highly distributional hands that lead to unusual bidding and play.

Goulashes can provide a lot of fun, provided everyone has a good sense of humour, but on a more serious note they can be pretty instructive in gaining some insight into the real “freak” hands. Today’s hand is an example of this, where the cards were dealt normally.

South dealer, neither vul

NORTH			
♠	7	♠	
♥	KJ105432	♥	Q986
♦	KQJ	♦	AQ
♣	AJ	♣	Q532
WEST		EAST	
♠	AKJ105432	♠	
♥	9876	♥	AQ
♦	2	♦	876
♣	-	♣	Q532
SOUTH			
♠	-	♠	
♥	-	♥	
♦	A109543	♦	
♣	K1098764	♣	

Before we try to figure out who should bid what, note that East/West make a small slam in spades, and North/South a small slam in diamonds! In fact, 7D played by South is makeable, or by North if East fails to lead a club. Though no-one is ever going to be able to foresee these possibilities during the bidding, let’s try to see how the auction may go.

- The first question is - should South open the bidding? I’d say no, because this hand will be far easier to describe later, if the opponents open, by bidding the unusual 2NT (or higher, perhaps 4NT) to show both minors.
- West’s decision is clear cut, and most red blooded players would open 4S.
- North simply has too much not to

enter, so 5H looks reasonable.

- East also has an easy bid – when your partner shows an 8 card suit and you have support, even two or three trumps will do, so you dare not defend.
- This is one of the key bids in the auction. South should bid 5NT, showing both minors and clearly an extremely distributional hand. Given that he passed originally, and partner showed just a heart suit, the shape here has to be 6-6 or 7-6.
- A disciplined West will pass – remember a pre-emptor is not supposed to bid again.
- 6D – partner asked for preference to the better minor.
- This is where the guessing games begin. Firstly, just who is sacrificing, is it us or them? On freaks like this, where there is doubt, the insurance action is to bid “one more”. When no-one at the table is clear on what is happening, bidding 6S is the right two-way shot. 6S may make or may turn out to be a cheap save against 6D.
- The roulette wheel keeps spinning. South has the same thoughts as East. Can they make 6S? How expensive will 7D be? It’s impossible to know, but once again, the concept of “when in doubt, bid one more” is probably the way to go. So 7D it is!
- West and North will pass, so it is East who will face the final, big decision, and I’d hate to be in his shoes. The winning action is to double and lead a club, but this is not easy. At this vulnerability, he may well decide to take out some ‘further insurance’ and bid 7S.

If so, it’s hard to say if this will be doubled (North/South really have no idea whether or not they have any defensive tricks), but it’s going to go one down, no matter what the lead. Who said bridge was a boring game?

Every Tuesday (Intermediate) and Wednesday (Advanced) I run bridge workshops from 10:00-12:0a and 4th Avenue, Houghton. For more information, e-mail me at jeffshirl@telkomsa.net

CROSSWORD NO 229

BY LEAH SIMON

ACROSS:

- Jumps for beer ingredient (4)
- I am separated, having communicated it (8)
- Pull out plug and swallow hard (4)
- Get rope in east for female mentee (8)
- Bans on performances could even bring the house down! (4, 8)
- Half redundant, concealing the boy (6)
- Somehow I saved it, and offer suggestions (6)
- Assisting the card-player? (7, 1, 4)
- Make gourd end badly, being securely anchored (8)
- God of thunder heads north - almost (4)
- Lays Sean down and examines each section (8)
- Guide gets a bad deal (4)

DOWN:

- Soprano notes, we hear, in the main (4, 4)
- Succeed in removing garment (4, 3)
- Ruin, having obtained the girl (6)
- Somehow painted on article – not the end of the world, but the other side of it! (10)
- Anti-German, but hides animal (5)
- A buck? Sounds expensive! (4)
- Any dances around 100, having the advantage (10)
- Made a gentle bid (8)
- Novel by Sir Walter Scott (7)

- Aberhann exempted, concealing additional suite of rooms (6)
- Able for nothing, due to illness (5)
- Global analogue and digital imaging company gets a fag (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 229

ACROSS:

- Inch; 3. Penchant; 8. Sure; 9. Admonish; 11. Click and drag; 13. Recipe; 14. Punter; 17. Rise and shine; 20. Realised; 21. Skin; 22. Thoughts
- Bets.

DOWN:

- Insecure; 2. Cardiac
- Ending; 5. Cloudburst; 6. Anita; 7. TOHA; 10. Skipping; 12. Ardennes; 15. Trickle; 16. Infest; 18. Idaho; 19. Brat.

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
8					9							
				10								
11												
												12
13							14			15		
						16						
	17	18										
19												
20								21				
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AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

BROOKLYN SIGNS ASK JEWISH WOMEN TO STEP ASIDE FOR MEN

NEW YORK - Yiddish signs briefly sprouted on Brooklyn trees asking Jewish women to step aside when a man walks down the sidewalk. The plastic signs bolted to trees in the Brooklyn neighbourhood of South Williamsburg read, in Yiddish: "Precious Jewish Daughters: Please move over to the side when you see a man cross," the Brooklyn Paper reported last week. Parks maintenance workers removed 16 of the signs last week because they were nailed to public-owned trees, a violation subject to a \$150 fine. Sources told the Brooklyn Paper that the signs were part of a campaign by a rabbinical group, the Central Rabbinical Congress, that has published other decrees, including one in June forbidding women to wear tank tops. (JTA)

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Cardinal errors cost the Boks World Cup match

JACK MILNER

SO, WE are out of the 2011 Rugby World Cup at the quarter-finals stage, going down 9-11 to Australia. Like most South Africans, I was disappointed but not surprised. From the moment we chose our squad we were an exit waiting to happen.

Unlike well-versed aficionados like Dan Retief and Naas Botha whose rugby knowledge is astounding, I do not consider myself and my opinions to be the last word on rugby. However, I have been involved in sports journalism in general for long enough to make certain observations.

The first rule of any World Cup - be it cricket, soccer or rugby - is: leave your injured players at home. Having observed a number of World Cups in different sports I have yet to find one seriously injured player from any country anywhere in the world to run into form in a World Cup.

It does not happen and as such Bakkies Botha should not have been allowed to go. We made the same mistake with Henry Honiball a number of years ago and his entire contribution to the serious part of World Cup 1999 was to come on as a substitute, some 20 minutes from the end of their semifinal encounter which they lost 21-27 to (you guessed it) Australia.

He started in the most pointless match in any World Cup - the playoff for third or fourth place - but at that stage, who cares. Straight after that playoff against the All Blacks, Honiball retired from international rugby.

And therein lies our second faux pas.

It appears that South African players dictate to the selectors when they intend to call it a day. Generally World Cups seem the perfect milestone and how many times have we heard rugby/soccer players and cricketers, announce they will retire after the World Cup.

Too many of our sportsmen have gone a World Cup too far and they have been allowed to do so by the powers that be. We've had some great players and captains, but unfortunately by the time the World Cup comes around, they have passed their "sell-by" dates.

I am strongly in the camp that suggests that John Smit should not have been at this World Cup at all. He has been a great player and an even better captain, but he was never going to lead up to another World Cup victory.

For all those who said I was wrong before, I can offer them in response the comment made by the eminent Dr Elena Thomas, stalwart Latin teacher at King David Linksfield for so many years. "Results speak for themselves," she used to tell us, and she was spot on.

It would be so much better for his reputation to have retired a match too early than a match too late. At the recent Syd Nomis Benefit dinner, former Bok captain Dawie de Villiers hinted at this and he implied that if Smit really wanted to lead from the front, he would recognise the moment when he needed to step off the stage and hand over the mantle. But, as the expression goes, pride cometh before a fall, and the Boks fell.



Springbok captain John Smit waves goodbye after his team lost their Rugby World Cup quarter-final match against Australia at Wellington on Sunday.
(PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)

As rugby guru Dan Retief put it so eloquently on his website, danreturf.com, in his preview of the match: "It is a team in which seemingly no cognisance has been taken of the particular threat that may be offered by Australia. It is a team that says: 'We will play our way and to hell with any other considerations.'

"It is a team high on experience but distinctly short on the pace that might be required to curb the frisky Australians. (Peter) De Villiers and his fellow coaches seem to have become obsessed with counting the caps in their combinations - almost as if stacking up caps represents some kind of unassailable formula that petrifies other teams."

I am not suggesting that the guys did not give their hearts and souls in their quest for victory. The question is whether somebody else could have carried out the job a little better.

Finally, I have to talk about South Africa's favourite pastime. For those of you who think it is rugby, soccer, cricket or even gambling I've got news for you. It isn't. This nation's favourite pastime is "Blame the Ref".

We have never lost a match in our lives - in any sport. The referee/umpire has cost us. All I heard during the couple of days preceding the match was how exciting it was that Bryce Lawrence was going to referee the encounter. When the match was over all I heard was - as I knew it was going to be: "The ref cost us the match."

Well, I have news for you. Lawrence did not miss Pat Lambie's attempted drop kick, nor did he injure the already injured Heinrich Brussow, nor did he cause any of our knock-ons, and most importantly, he was not responsible for the penalty conceded by Danie Rossouw that James O'Connor converted to give Australia back the lead and, in the end, the match.

As Smit himself said: "We went into the second half saying we would hold onto the ball. In phases, we did that and we had a couple of missed opportunities."

Questionable tactics also played their part and the roles of coach Peter de Villiers and the other formulators of the game plan have some issues to answer.

In the end, though, missed opportunities and some basic errors cost South Africa a place in the semifinals. There is no remarks column in the history books. All it will show is that the Wallabies were just two points better than us on the day.

Back injury ends Peer's 2011 prematurely

A DISAPPOINTING 2011 season has come to a premature end for Shahar Peer, Israel's brightest female tennis star, after she was diagnosed with a stress fracture in her back, ruling her out of action for four weeks.

The 24-year-old, who failed to make it past the second round in 10 of her past 12 tournaments, had suffered from pain in her back over the last two weeks while playing and training in Tokyo and Beijing.

However, the stress fracture in a vertebra in her lower back was only diagnosed last week after she flew to Israel to be checked out at the Sheba Medical Centre at Tel Hashomer.

"I'm very disappointed to be ending the season like this," said Peer, who was scheduled to complete this year with tournaments in Linz and Luxembourg. "I




The year 2011 ended on a disappointing note for Israeli tennis star Shahar Peer.

had really hoped to end the season with two successful tournaments in Europe. Fortunately, the stress fracture was diagnosed at an early stage so the injury isn't supposed to be too serious."


Peer, who was knocked out in the first round of the China Open two weeks ago, the seventh time this year she was sent packing in an opening round of a tournament, will rest the next four weeks before resuming training in Israel ahead of a pre-season camp in the US at the end of the year.

"After a long season I'm happy to be back in Israel for almost two months," said Peer, who is set to drop out of the world's top-30 next week for the first time since 2009. "But of course I'm really looking forward to getting back to the court, working hard and beginning next season a healthier and better player." - Jerusalem Post.



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