

Owing to Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, on September 25, 26 and 27, our next issue will be on October 4.

South african Jewish Report

www.sajewishreport.co.za

Photo: Ilan Ossendryver

Looking for perfection

You can never be completely sure... Young Israel Joffe uses a magnifying glass to carefully scrutinise the tips of a lulav (palm branch) to ensure it's the best possible specimen he can use for Succot this year. Each of the Arbah Minim (four species) are subject to such scrutiny by observant members of the community who seek the straightest lulav, the most perfect etrog, and the freshest hadass and aravah in the name of hiddur mitzvah (beautifying the mitzvah). Joffe was photographed at the Succot Mart hosted by the Union of Orthodox Synagogues.

Chag Sameach Succot!

The editor and staff of the Jewish Report wish all our readers, stakeholders and advertisers a joyous Succot.

SA JEWISH REPORT - 15 YEARS YOUNG AND STILL GOING STRONG



9

Rhodes 'Israel apartheid' debate issue leaves unanswered questions

Steve Apfel: SA Jewry's participating in this particular debate "would be tantamount to presenting the BDS crowd with a "get out of jail free card".

3

WAS THE OSLO ACCORD A MISTAKE?

The 20-year anniversary of the Israel-Palestinian Oslo Accords is not a celebration of the agreement's outcome, but a debate on its merits. Danny Danon: "... 'land for peace' has failed."

6

Steven Cohen – cockily unrepentant after Trocadéro performance

"Whatever I did, I did in the name and spirit of art in a country which is known throughout the world for art. I am afraid of nothing except being made to be afraid to the point where I can't make art. I fear only fear."



11



Chag Sameach!!

Wishing all our clients and friends a joyous Sukkot.

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Shabbat & Yom Tov Times

September 18/ 14 Tishrei

Candle-lighting

Erev Succot

17:44	Johannesburg
18:15	Cape Town
17:32	Durban
17:51	Bloemfontein
17:53	Port Elizabeth
17:44	East London

September 19/ 15 Tishrei

1st Day Succot

Candle-lighting from a pre-existing flame

18:33	Johannesburg
19:14	Cape Town
18:22	Durban
18:41	Bloemfontein
18:45	Port Elizabeth
18:35	East London

September 20/ 16 Tishrei

2nd day Succot

Shabbat

Candle-lighting from a pre-existing flame

17:45	18:34	Johannesburg
18:15	19:15	Cape Town
17:33	18:24	Durban
17:52	18:42	Bloemfontein
17:54	18:46	Port Elizabeth
17:45	18:37	East London

September 25/ 21 Tishrei

Hoshana Rabba

Candle-lighting

17:47	Johannesburg
18:15	Cape Town
17:36	Durban
17:55	Bloemfontein
17:58	Port Elizabeth
17:48	East London

September 26/ 22 Tishrei

Candle-lighting from a pre-existing flame

Shemini Atzeret

18:36	Johannesburg
19:19	Cape Town
18:26	Durban
18:45	Bloemfontein
18:50	Port Elizabeth
18:40	East London

September 27/ 23 Tishrei

September 28/ 24 Tishrei

Simchat Torah

Parshat Bereshit

Candle-lighting from a pre-existing flame

17:48	18:37	Johannesburg
18:15	19:20	Cape Town
17:37	18:27	Durban
17:56	18:46	Bloemfontein
17:59	18:51	Port Elizabeth
17:50	18:41	East London

May we merit a year of peace

I trust that your High Holy Day experience was a deeply moving, meaningful and memorable one. It occurred to me at the conclusion of the Mussaf Amida on Rosh Hashanah, just how many times we petition G-d for peace during our prayers.

We end with the word peace, shalom, at the conclusion of the Birkat Cohanim, the Priestly Blessing and then immediately segue into Sim Shalom where we mention it, no less than three times in the space of one short paragraph. This is followed by an additional four appeals for peace before ending the service.

What is peace? My late father’s favourite prayer that he taught me as a young child, was the prayer of Hashkiveinu. This prayer is said each evening both in shul and again as part of our nightly ritual before laying down our heads to sleep.

In it we ask G-d to spread over us the tabernacle (succah) of peace. This defines for us what real peace should be. To be able to feel entirely safe and supremely secure, even if the only protection we have is to be wrapped in a temporary, even



Parshat Kohelet

Rabbi David Shaw
Beth Midrash Hagadol
Sandton

fimsy structure, comprised of mere branches and some leaves for a roof. For as long as we are in it together with Hashem, we are perfectly safe.

While a state of happiness is required for all our festivals, it is especially mandated for the festival of Succot. How strange! How are we meant to go out of our luxurious homes into a temporary, feeble little hut and to still rejoice? Where is the happiness in that?

Our sages explain that true happiness can only be achieved when we recognise that in fact this whole world itself is also just a temporary dwelling. Fleeting and fragile.

If a person believes that his or her primary focus is on this world and one lives as if this is as good as it gets, one will never achieve true happiness.

Is it a lemon? Is it a lime? It’s an etrog!

As the seasons change from winter to summer, the Jewish community of South Africa will celebrate the annual Succot holiday by heading outdoors.

During the eight-day holiday, each Jewish family takes its meals in a succah. Another unique holiday practice is the gathering of an etrog, a palm branch, and twigs from the willow tree and myrtle bush.

Succot, referred to as the holiday of rejoicing, comes just five days after the more solemn Yom Kippur. The temporary succah booths emphasise how the world and the Jewish people rely on G-d’s protection. The group of four plants are replete with symbolic meaning, including the autumn harvest and gathering season and the unity of the Jewish people.

On the day immediately after Succot - Simchat Torah - Jews have a day-long celebration to celebrate the end - and beginning - of the yearly Torah reading cycle.

Succah-building is one of many Chabad holiday programmes, which give Jews the opportunity to learn the significance of Jewish holiday rituals and perform them with their families.

“Drawing from the gravity of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Succot gives Jews all over the world the chance to celebrate the sweetness of nature and to thank G-d for His protection,” said Rabbi Ari Kievman of Chabad, who will assist with succah-

building.

“Succot touches all five senses: the sweet smell of the etrog, the feel of the palm branch and twigs in your hand, the sights and sounds of the succah around us, and the taste of the festival’s feasts.”

• For more information, contact Rabbi Kievman at rak@chabad.org.za or 079-434-1293.



Chabad’s special Succot celebration for seniors

While the youngsters are off to their Succot events there is an extravagant party being planned exclusively for senior citizens.

Chabad House in Johannesburg says in a media release the annual party features great entertainment, a scrumptious feast to enjoy, and prizes to be won.

“There’s plenty of space at Chabad House’s titanic suucah in Savoy.”

Chai Seniors’ annual “Succot Party” takes place on Monday, September 23, at the Chabad House succah, 27 Aintree Avenue in Savoy, from 11:00, with food, entertainment and inspiration.

The party is free of charge. Booking is essential for catering purposes. RSVP (011) 440-6600/rak@chabad.org.za

ness. Happiness is more significant than fun. It is something spiritual.

My most vivid childhood memories are of Succot and Simchat Torah. The singing, the dancing and of course, the chocolates and flags.

Succot is a divine opportunity to allow our children and family to immerse themselves wholly in mitzvoth. The mitzvah of being in a succah, is one of only a very few commandments that one does with one’s entire body. Being in Israel is another.

I encourage you to attend a nearby shul with your loved ones. Enter a succah all the days of the Chag. Shake a lulav and etrog, and get nachas from all the kids who are called up for kol hanearim, an aliyah especially to encourage each and every child to be called up to the Torah on Simchat Torah. To bless and to be blessed,as we celebrate concluding and restarting the cycle of Torah.

May we all merit a year filled with blessing and peace.

Communal succot to choose from

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Throughout the week of Succot, including Shmini Atzeret, which this year falls on September 27, the succah is halachically considered home for meals, study, entertaining guests and even for sleep. In our crime-peppered climate and given that during this festival we traditionally pray for rain, one may be exempt from sleeping in the succah.

There are several communal and restaurant-based succot all over South Africa. According to the Beth Din, the following establishment have advised that they intend putting up succot this year. After Yomtov, the Beth Din traditionally inspects each succah to ensure that it is kosher.

- The Pie Works, Sandringham: (011) 485-2447.
- Frangelicas, Glenhazel: (011) 887-7675.
- The Deli Store, Gallo Manor: (011) 656-3142.
- Corner Café, Glenhazel: (011) 440-3160.
- The Sandton Bagel and Bistro, Sandton: (011) 783-0411.
- Michelo’s, Glenhazel: (011) 885-1500.

In addition, the following establishments have confirmed with the Jewish Report that they too will have succot over the festival:

- Mi Vami, Glenhazel: (011) 440-6330.
- Mooz Brothers, Sandringham: (011) 485-5589.
- Café Riteve, Gardens, Cape Town: (021) 465-1405.
- Circle Café, Holocaust Centre, Durban: (031) 368-1766.
- In Pretoria on Tuesday September 24, the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation hosts a businessman’s shiur breakfast in the shul’s succah, for both men and women. They also host a communal dinner on that evening, and ask that bookings (at R60 per person) be made by midday on Wednesday September 18. Call (012) 460-7991.

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Do you know what retirement options are available to you?

The National Treasury recently released its last discussion paper in a series of five documents on reforming the retirement industry and promoting household savings.

The latest paper is titled “Charges in South African Retirement Funds”. It discusses charges and costs in the country’s retirement industry and it aims to benchmark charges and costs in South Africa’s retirement system against other countries.

Alarminglly, only six million people in South Africa belong to a retirement fund, according to National Treasury.

This picture isn't a pretty one. Geraldine Macpherson, Senior Legal Marketing Specialist at Liberty offers the following insights into the different retirement funds to help us understand what options are available for one's golden years.

What are my different options for investing in my retirement?
All retirement funds are invested in an investment portfolio of your choice (subject to legislative limits) which should be in line with your risk profile, taking into account factors such as the number of years you still have to save until retirement and your risk appetite. The funds aim to grow at a rate that outperforms inflation, giving you a real return and accumulating capital.

You may have a pension fund or a provident fund, a preservation fund or a retirement annuity, or even a combination of funds. What are the differences between the various funds and how should you be saving for your retirement?

What can a pension fund do for me?
A pension fund is a benefit offered by your employer. You, as the member, and possibly your employer, will make a contribution to the fund every month as part of your salary package. However, your membership of the fund is linked to your employment and if you leave your employer, you will normally leave the fund. On retirement you may take up to one third as a lump sum. The balance will buy you an annuity which will provide an income for your retirement years.

What about a provident fund?
A provident fund is also a benefit offered by your employer. When you retire, however, you may take the full amount as a lump sum. Any balance not taken as a lump sum will buy you an annuity which will provide an income for your retirement years.

And a retirement annuity?
Retirement annuities are policies taken out individually. They are not linked to your employer but are your own private retirement savings plan. You can contribute to your retirement annuity

regularly and add funds when you choose to, making it a flexible choice for retirement saving. Contributions to a retirement annuity are tax deductible up to certain limits. On retirement you may take up to one third as a lump sum. The balance will buy you an annuity which will provide an income for your retirement years.

And a preservation fund?
A preservation fund is a fund that is run in the same way as your pension or provident fund, but it is not linked to your employer. On changing employment you can transfer your pension or provident fund to a preservation fund which will play an integral role in preserving your accumulated retirement benefits.

The value of the compound interest you have earned in the fund, especially if you were with your previous employer for some time, should not be underestimated. Withdrawing the funds to satisfy a short-term goal now, could result in a significant shortfall at retirement.

You may access the funds once prior to reaching retirement. On retirement your options will be determined by the source of the funds, therefore a pension preservation fund will be treated in the same way as a pension fund and a provident preservation fund in the same way as a provident fund.

Macpherson adds that all retirement funds are extremely tax efficient vehicles when it comes to saving towards retirement. “The reason for this is not limited to the fact that the contributions may be tax deductible. The growth achieved while invested in a retirement vehicle is entirely tax free - in other words, no income tax, no capital gains tax and no dividends withholding tax on your growth,” she says.

“At retirement, any lump sums taken will be taxed in terms of the retirement tax table, which again may result in a preferential tax rate being applied, and upon your death, any amounts in your retirement funds will be estate duty free.

“This is why it is important to have a financial adviser to guide you through all your life stages, and to help guide you towards financial freedom,” concludes Macpherson.



Geraldine Macpherson,
Senior Legal Marketing Specialist

**LIBERTY**

For more information on retirement policies contact the Liberty contact centre on 086 032 7327

Community Voices

Over-imbibing on Simchat Torah does injustice to the chag

There’s a loose injunction that one should get so drunk on Simchat Torah that one cannot distinguish between the black letters and white scroll of the Torah. It doesn’t appear in the Shulchan Aruch, nor is it considered halachah, and yet the alcohol flows in our shuls on that day with abandon. Rabbi Moses Isserlis, the 16th century authority commented that “each community follows its own custom”. We asked members of the community their opinion on hard liquor in our shuls on Simchat Torah.



Lior Feigin, student: “In many shuls it is customary on Simchat Torah to drink alcohol to enhance the community’s joyousness, and experience the happiness of the chag in an extra way. I believe if alcohol consumption is controlled, and is indeed enriching a simcha, then this is acceptable. “Unfortunately, many shuls abuse the privilege of distribution and consumption of hard liquor on this chag, so much so that the holiness of the day becomes tarnished. Shuls should establish a forum for simcha and genuine love of Torah, not encouragement of underage drinking and community drunkenness on such an important day in our year.”



Roz Basserabie, motivational speaker: “Simchat Torah is the joyous climax of the introspective, High Holy Days, in which we are commanded to be happy. It’s difficult to be happy if circumstances prevent it. In order to ‘effect happiness’, on the day we rejoice in our Torah, licence is given to those who cannot access it naturally, by the stimulant of hard liquor. But excess is counterproductive. “I am not opposed to encouraging liquor on Simchat Torah, but am vehemently intolerant of its abuse. Especially when ‘happiness’ becomes recklessness, causing familial distress and other negatives that drown the glorious tenets of the Torah being celebrated.”



Dr Theo Kopenhagen, obstetrician and gynaecologist: “From 1978 to 1982 my wife, our two daughters and I lived in Ra’anana. It was easy in Israel to be non-observant and to live within the influence of Jewish tradition. On Simchat Torah 1981 the Kopenhagers went to Kfar Chabad to experience the chag Chasidic style. On arrival a glass was put in my hand, filled to the brim with whisky; as soon as I had made any progress imbibing, it was rapidly refilled. “My children found the alcoholic hilarity and prone bodies frightening; we soon left. Drinking alcohol has become common especially in haredi and chasidic shuls; in fact a traditional source recommends the priestly blessing be done earlier in the service so that the kohanim are not too drunk to undertake it. “Hard liquor did not exist until the Middle Ages. So wine was the beverage that the Talmud associated with simcha and rejoicing. Excessive drinking has a consequence, not least of which is the example it sets our children. Drinking has become commonplace, if not epidemic among Jewish youth; one wonders why this shift has occurred, if not from the example of the adults. Jews once ate excessively; now we drink excessively.”



Dave Wailer, engineer: “On Simchat Torah, we dance - expressing the emotional joy of the body. We are showing that even our bodies have gained tremendously by keeping and touching the Torah. Being sober on such a joyous serious occasion, can only extol the gifts of Torah. “All people and especially children and teenagers should be warned of the dangers of acute alcohol ingestion and encouraged not to become drunk, as this endangers life. Abuse of alcohol is absolutely against halacha and common sense. Our rabbis, teachers and parents should be encouraged to discuss this issue with all children and adults throughout the year.”

Breytenbach-NPA spat: Tycoon Natie Kirsh dragged into row

ANT KATZ

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) says it is pursuing criminal charges against senior prosecutor Glynnis Breytenbach whom, they claim, is a spy for Israeli intelligence agency Mossad. And supporters of suspended police spy boss Richard Mdluli claim Natie Kirsh is involved.

Correspondence purportedly between expat South African billionaire Natie Kirsh and Breytenbach is the NPA's smoking gun according to a City Press report on Sunday. The newspaper said it had seen a copy of Kirsh’s letter which, they reported, reads: “I know you (Breytenbach) are concerned for my safety, but can assure you that (former Mossad head) Jacob (Perry) has it in hand. . . I know you two had long discussions in the Bahamas in this regard, and I hope that he was able to allay some of your concerns.”

This is the latest development in the bitter battle that has been raging within the NPA for two years. Breytenbach was suspended in April 2012 and faced 15 NPA disciplinary charges of which she was subsequently cleared this year.

Breytenbach has always maintained that she was sidelined because she refused to drop fraud and corruption charges against spy-boss Richard Mdluli related to the plunder of the police's crime-intelligence slush fund. The NPA is defending a civil society action currently before the courts to ensure that case is not dropped. The NPA has been through three teams of top-flight lawyers before securing the services of Advocate Laurance Hodes last month.

Breytenbach’s attorney, Gerhard Wagenaar, said neither he nor his client had ever seen the “Kirsh letter” - which he insists is forged.

Other references from the Kirsh letter include: A proposed meeting with the brother of alleged Ponzi-scheme mastermind Barry Tannenbaum at his home in France; an offer for Breytenbach to use the “PJ” - understood to be a reference to Kirsh’s private jet; and an amount of almost R10 million which had been placed in the “Nathaniel Trust”.

Kirsh is purported to have written: “I know you are not comfortable with the whole thing, but let’s agree not to discuss it any further. I can afford to lose the money and will not let you do so.”

Jewish Report’s attempts to contact Kirsh’s office for comment were unsuccessful.

Blue Label brings card payment to small traders

STAFF REPORTER

For the first time in South African history, some 22 000 small businesses, traders and spaza shops in rural areas, will be offering card payment facilities to customers.

MasterCard and Blue Label Telecoms, in a joint partnership, have now extended the electronic payments system to these smaller businesses to boost financial inclusion in under-served communities in South Africa

These businesses will now be equipped with point of sale (POS) devices, enabling them to accept card payments for the first time.

“This method of payment will assist merchants to reduce the amount of cash they currently handle, which can be unsafe and costly to process, increase sales, and improve cash flow. Merchants will also be able to offer cash-back and cash withdrawals to their customers, and provide them with the flexibility to pay the way they want to,” said Mark Levy (pictured, inset), joint chief executive officer of Blue Label.

Cashless shopping, he said, provided many benefits to consumers who would no longer have their shopping habits determined by whether or not they had cash in their wallets. They would also not be burdened by concerns related to safely carrying cash.

These new solutions would enable merchants to respond directly to customers’ increasing and frequent requests to use payment cards at POS terminals to pay for their goods, said Levy.

Blue Label currently provides thousands of POS terminals in South Africa, which are used predominantly to sell prepaid vouchers such as airtime and electricity. While Blue Label services millions of customers in rural areas and under-served settlements, these approved traders have historically operated on a cash-only basis.

“Over and above the estimated 100 000 spaza shops spread across South Africa, there are tens of thousands of small- and medium-sized retailers and service providers. Through our partnership with MasterCard, we will introduce many of these businesses to the safety, security, and convenience of electronic payments, enabling financial inclusion in communities where consumers have largely been unable to use formal payment products,” said Levy.

Blue Label will also introduce other innovative solutions to increase the number of MasterCard acceptance locations in townships and informal settlements, with the view of rolling out over 15 000 new terminals. These will allow traders to accept chip and PIN and contactless payment cards for goods and services and to sell prepaid vouchers using a single device.

Blue Label also plans to upgrade some 7 000 of its existing terminals used in smaller spaza stores using MasterCard Mobile software.

This will enable MasterCard cardholders to

use their PIN-based debit, cheque or credit card issued by Standard Bank, Absa, Nedbank and the SA Social Security Agency (SASSA) and their mobile phone to pay for their purchases in-store at select, approved merchants.

This will be the first time MasterCard Mobile is made available to consumers in the physical retail environment. This innovation is a cost-effective payment mechanism that does not require customers to open another bank account.

Blue Label Telecoms’ core business is the virtual distribution of secure electronic tokens of value, predominantly prepaid airtime and electricity, and transactional services across its global footprint of touch points.



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The Syrian road

What has Syria got to do with us? As Jews go through their Holy Days, including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Simchat Torah and others, the dreadful images from that country permeate the news. War is always heartless. But with Facebook and Twitter, its brutality comes immediately into our homes via computer screens and cellphones.

It doesn't stop with the 100 000 killed, millions of refugees, or nerve-gas attacks in which some 1 400 civilians, including children, reportedly died. News channels have now published a photojournalist's pictures of four barbaric executions by rebels in a Syrian town which shocked even the most war-hardened. Websites warned viewers about their "graphic, disturbing" material.

Amidst a cheering crowd, men had their throats cut and their severed heads held aloft. In one scene a line of young boys sits on a wall a few feet away, watching a dead man's head being dumped on his body. Then a child is led by the hand past the corpse. An eyewitness told Time that the killers belonged to ISIS - an Al-Qaida faction fighting Bashar al-Assad's regime.

The photographer, whose identity has been concealed to protect him, said: "That scene in Syria, that moment, was like a scene from the Middle Ages, the kind of thing you read about in history books.

"The war in Syria has reached the point where a person can be mercilessly killed in front of hundreds of people who enjoy the spectacle. As a human being I would never have wished to see what I saw. But as a journalist, I have a camera and a responsibility.

"I have a responsibility to share what I saw that day. That's why I am making this statement and that's why I took the photographs. I will close this chapter soon and try never to remember it."

Instinctively, our sympathies are for the men executed. But then we are told they belong to the cruel Shabiha gangs - Assad loyalists who stalk rebel areas, slaughtering women and children. Who to feel sorry for?

Wars are embedded in most peoples' history and psyche. For Jews, Yom Kippur evokes a particular trauma, recalling the frantic period in 1973 when Israeli soldiers were desperately rushing to their units after being summoned from synagogues on the Holy Day, as Egypt and Syria launched massive surprise attacks in the Sinai and Golan.

Jewish South Africans and other Diaspora Jews went to Israel as volunteers, as they did in 1967 for the Six Day War.

Those battles between Israel and the Arab countries were fought between formal armies with tanks, artillery, aircraft and chains of command operating according to international rules of combat. Not that it makes them less frightening, but at least some kind of structure regulated how soldiers behaved. Civil wars like the Syrian one are more chaotic, allowing a free-for-all to the most barbaric human depravities, like the ones described above.

What can we do about Syria from here at the bottom of Africa? Nothing, really. Just trying to understand who the villains and victims are, is almost impossible.

South Africans are not incapable of such things. Remember the necklacing in the 1980s and 1990s, when mobs watched as petrol-filled tyres were placed around the necks of suspected "collaborators" and set alight?

We had another taste during the xenophobic attacks on Somalis, Mozambicans and others in 2008. But fortunately, the broad mass of South Africans was horrified, and put an end to it.

Other countries - like Rwanda - which have gone through massacres of their own citizens, have tried to expiate the horrors through tribunals and truth commissions. Justice is not achievable, but it can provide a catharsis and a possible road forward.

One wonders, though, whether Syria is capable of taking this route. Whichever the case, Syrian children like those who witnessed the slaughter and beheadings, will be traumatised and brutalised forever. This will be the legacy of the present atrocities.

Oslo Accords debated on its 20th anniversary



Paramedics and police at the scene of a Palestinian suicide bombing, killing 19 and injuring 74, on a bus in Jerusalem on June 18, 2002. Twenty years after the September 13, 1993 signing of the Oslo Accords, and amid new Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiations, the two-decade-old accords are debated rather than celebrated. INSET: Yitzhak Rabin, Bill Clinton, and Yasser Arafat at the signing of the Oslo Accords on September 13, 1993. (Photo: Vince Musi/The White House)

ALEX TRAIMAN
JERUSALEM

Twenty years after the signing of the fateful Oslo Accords between Palestinian Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Knesset Members are heavily debating the merits of the peace process and the two-state solution paradigm.

Parliamentarians from both Israel's left and the right, agree that the process has not yielded the results anyone would have hoped for, including the deaths of more than 1 000 Israelis and 3 000 Palestinians, and agree that the Israelis and Palestinians are more sceptical than ever about the prospects for a negotiated settlement.

Where Knesset members disagree is on whether the process was flawed from the outset, and on whether the principles that led to the signing of the interim peace agreement should still be applied.

Consequently, the 20-year anniversary of the Oslo Accords - signed on September 13, 1993 - is not a celebration of the agreement's outcome, but rather a debate on its merits.

"The main lesson is that the paradigm of the left, that land for peace will bring security to the region, has failed, and this is the time to think clearly that we should not endorse a Palestinian state," Deputy Defence Minister Danny Danon (Likud) told JNS.org.

Member of Knesset Hilik (Yehiel) Bar, secretary general of the Labour Party and Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, said to think about the alternatives to the Oslo Accords and to Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiations "is foolish, unfair, and it will not happen".

Added Bar: "There is no other option than to have a Jewish state and a Palestinian state that is based on the '67 borders."

Currently, details of the new round of Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiations, which were announced in July, are largely being kept from the public. The negotiations are being advanced by US Secretary of State John Kerry and Martin Indyk, former US Ambassador to Israel. Indyk has come under scrutiny for serving on the board of the New Israel Fund, a left-leaning NGO that heavily funds anti-settlement and anti-religious activity.

While Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas appear to be entertaining the possibility that a peace settlement can be reached through the current round of negotiations, most Israelis and Palestinians alike are not paying much attention.

In an unusual turn of events, members of Israel's governing coalition and the prime minister's party are coming out against negotiations, while members of the opposition are supporting the government's initiative.

"The prime minister said clearly that he supports negotiations without preconditions. Yet he hasn't said where he stands on the outcome of negotiations," said Likud's Danon.

"I think the Israelis are waking up and they have understood that the idea is not valid anymore, and we see more and more Israelis shifting. We should not endorse any idea that we will give land to the Palestinians," he said.

Bar, however, believes it is the very distrust between Israelis and

Palestinians that makes segregating Israel into two separate states a necessity. Bar insists that if peace efforts had played out only slightly differently, the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank provinces of Judea and Samaria could have resulted.

"We had three major attempts to make peace," said Bar. "One was Rabin, Arafat. The treaty was signed. But as we know, Rabin was shot by a Jewish terrorist. There is no way to know what would have happened if Rabin were still alive."

The second attempt was between Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Arafat, according to Bar. During those negotiations, Barak offered Arafat more than 95 per cent of the West Bank for a Palestinian state. Arafat famously rejected the offer, and embarrassed mediating US President Bill Clinton in the process.

"Arafat chose to die as a shahid (martyr), not as a peacemaker. That was his choice," Bar said.

In the third round, between Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Abbas, "both sides say that it was Olmert's legal complications within Israel that prevented the negotiations from going all the way", Bar said.

While the three rounds of negotiations ultimately resulted in increasing distrust, intifadas, Israeli military operations, and a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, Bar suggested that Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiations might still deliver results.

"This current Knesset has a very clear majority for the two-state solution. I think that more than 70 Knesset Members would vote for a two-state solution if brought for a vote," Bar told JNS.org.

"The status quo is unsustainable," he said.

Other Knesset members are not as optimistic that negotiations will cure decades of unrest.

"Everytime you try a certain medicine and it doesn't work, you need to either realise the medicine doesn't work or reanalyse the disease," said Deputy Transportation Minister Tzipi Hotevely (Likud).

"Oslo was based on three incorrect assumptions," Hotevely said. "The first is that the conflict is about territory. The second is that Arabs and Jews should not live together, and that segregation and separate states can create peaceful existence. The third assumption was that the conflict was about 1967."

"[Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon proposed segregation, with the unilateral disengagement from Gaza," she said. "The result was radicalism. Hamas took over. Gaza didn't become Singapore like many hoped it would. Instead, rockets started falling on Sderot."

As to whether the current peace talks will yield results, Hotevely is certain they won't.

"I'm sure Bibi Netanyahu has goodwill, but the talks will fail. The reason is because the conflict is not about [Israeli territorial expansion in] 1967, it is about Israel's independence in 1948," Hotevely said.

"The conflict is not about territory. The conflict is religious. It may be difficult for liberals to realise that the conflict may not have a logical solution.

"We've been there, we've done that. We've tried it. It failed. We need to try something else," she said.

Meanwhile, the debate on Oslo continues... (JNS.org)

Consequences of ‘sowing the dragon’s teeth’



BARBARIC YAWP
David Saks

BDS lobbyists countrywide were compelled to do some much-needed damage control in the wake of the “Shoot the Jew” incident at Wits last month. This was in part necessitated by National Co-ordinator Muhammed Desai’s disastrously ill-conceived attempt to invoke what might be termed the “Malema Defence” (namely that this is not to be taken literally, that it referred only to the actual perpetrators of injustice, that it was no more than part of South Africa’s “Struggle” heritage etc).

Other BDS activists knew very well this wouldn’t wash, neither in a legal sense (the Equality Court has long since declared “Shoot the Boer” to be prohibited hate speech) nor in the equally important court of public opinion.

Some sharp things have been said about Desai by his dismayed colleagues, as well as about those cadres whose enthusiasm for the cause had evidently eclipsed their basic common sense.

Within the various expressions of pious horror from (some elements of) the BDS lobby, one soon detects a pronounced sub-theme, namely that the Zionist lobby was sure to reap the propaganda benefits from the Wits fiasco. An astounding piece of hyperbole was provided by Doron Isaacs and Nathan Geffen, who lamented that the “own goal” had undermined what was already “an extremely difficult struggle waged against one of the most effective and dishonest propaganda campaigns in history”. (Yes, “in history!” Does one detect just a hint of frustration here?).

BDS SA board member Faried Esack, while providing the required strong words of denunciation, could not resist adding: “It is unfortunate but not unexpected that supporters of Israel will focus on the singing of this song.”

While damage control motives obviously exist, this need not imply that these and other statements distancing BDS from the offending slogan are necessarily insincere. In all likelihood, many BDS activists probably did find them grossly offensive. However, in presuming to disclaim all responsibility, they are unquestionably being disingenuous.

The singing of “Dubula iJuda” did not simply occur out of the blue, without any kind of context or preceding series of events. In reality, it was the logical - perhaps even inevitable - outcome of the direction anti-Israel campaigning has been taking, particularly over the course of this year.

It is quite obvious that BDS SA has decided to go all-out in exploiting the apartheid-era legacy and all the bitter racial tensions it continues to

give rise to as a way of smearing not just Israel but also its Jewish supporters.

Just as Israel is the “new apartheid”, so are Zionist Jews the new Afrikaner Nationalists. Just as the hegemony of the latter was fought against and ultimately overthrown, so must the Zionists, as Ahmed Kathrada recently put it: “Our university students, supported by our trade unions and civil society organisations are making it abundantly clearer by the day that [Israeli] apologists are not welcome in our country.”

Kathrada is certainly correct that various trade union, student and civil society organisations have adopted an uncompromisingly rejectionist stance against the Jewish State. Moreover, this is now increasingly taking the form of intimidating others into acquiescing in that agenda along with vilifying the mainstream Jewish community for opposing it.

In March, Wits SRC members, cheered on by Desai and other BDS SA activists, violently disrupted a concert by Israeli-born pianist Yossi Reshef. The same Wits SRC had the previous year adopted a resolution endorsing an academic and cultural boycott against Israel, and its members were determined to enforce it, even if it meant flouting the rules of the university itself.

In its public statements, it had called for the liberation of Wits from “the tentacles of Zionist money”, and the subsequent disciplinary proceedings instituted against the perpetrators of the disruption have been attributed to the sinister forces of Jewish financial pressure.

Next came Yom Ha’atzmaut at Gold Reef City. Protesters again invaded the premises and sought to disrupt, on this occasion unsuccessfully. Afterwards, BDS SA issued a slew of press statements levelling inflammatory and palpably false accusations of activists having been violently assaulted, at the direct instigation of the Jewish leadership.

In May, BDS SA even tried to pressurise the organisers of this year’s Gandhi Walk to exclude the SA Jewish Board of Deputies from participating, this despite the event having nothing whatever to do with Israel.

The above are just some of the more overt manifestations of what has become a persistent and systematic demonisation of South African Jewry for its support for the Jewish State. This is why the chanting of “Shoot the Jew” by BDS SA supporters and the manner in which their national co-ordinator attempted to defend it, was not an unfortunate departure from it but the logical culmination of the BDS SA campaign.

They have assiduously sown the dragon’s teeth, and we are starting to witness the inevitable consequences. If anything good is to come out of this latest assault on the integrity and right to dignity of South African Jewry, it is that South Africans as a whole will have had their eyes opened to the extremism of the boycott lobby and to the dangers that this poses to the well-being of society as a whole.



BDS protestors at Wits

Photo: Ilan Ossendryver

4th Dementia SA Conference 2013: 29 & 30 October with 31 October optional

Dementia SA is delighted to announce that they will once again be hosting their 4th Dementia SA Conference on 29th & 30th October 2013. The 31st October will be an optional extra day with two half day special Master Class Workshops where subjects will be explored in more detail and depth. A significant discount is available for those delegates who register and pay for attending the 29th and 30th October 2013. The Conference will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel - Upper Eastside, 31 Brickfield Road, Woodstock.

The theme for this year's conference is "Risk Management, Vulnerability and Abuse of Older Persons with Dementia". **Danuta Lapinski, Caroline Baker and Kerry Barrowman** are the THREE international speakers from the UK – all leaders in their field – as well as a range of local specialists in their field.

Presentations will be practical with application and implementation of the management and care of people with dementia. The Older Persons Act (13) 2006 will be discussed as well as other legal requirements regarding curatorship and protection. CPD points, including sought-after Ethics points, will be awarded, application is currently in progress.

We all know that globally people are living longer. There are many reasons contributing to longevity. However, there appears to be a void in planning for a world where older persons have the right to live out their lives in a dignified, safe, content, purposeful and meaningful way. The vulnerability of our South African elderly is a growing concern - exploitation, humiliation, neglect, physical, emotional, economic and sexual abuse, particularly in those who are mentally and cognitively impaired, needs urgent attention.

Policies and practices need to change in order to consider the challenges faced by people with dementia and their families as well as people who care for them in all care settings.

The Conference is aimed at multi-disciplinary teams involved in the care of the elderly. This includes medical professionals (including GP's), social workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, nursing staff, carers, management of residential and day care facilities - in fact anyone involved in caring for the aged will benefit from attending.

"Those who have attended our Conferences in the past, have always commented on how much they gained from attending. The knowledge which can be practically implemented as well as the opportunities to network and exchange ideas, is invaluable. People with dementia need access to the best possible person-centered care. People working with people with dementia need to ensure that they are well equipped to cater for their changing needs including adding value, meaning and purpose to their lives," says Karen Borochowitz, Executive Director of Dementia SA.

The Programme for the Conference will be available by the end of August 2013 but in the meantime, email your details to **conference@dementiasa.org** or contact Marilyn or Bronwyn at Dementia SA (021) 421 0077/8 or 0860 636 679 if you would like to be kept abreast of the Conference arrangements, or visit www.dementiasa.org

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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.

Guidelines for letters
Letters up to 400 words get preference. Provide your full name, place of residence, and daytime contact phone number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened. *The Editor, PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034 email: sharon@sajewishreport.co.za*

LEVITAS’ ‘FANTASTIC CLAIMS’ REGARDING ISRAEL CIRCA 1967, DON’T TALLY WITH FACTS

Ben Levitas makes some truly fantastic claims in his letter (“Jordanian jets preparing to launch bombing runs”), but fails completely to address any of the points made in earlier correspondence in Jewish Report. These points consist of the following:

1. There was no invasion or even credible threat of invasion of Israeli territory in 1967, and no military action by Palestinians.
2. After the war, Jordan and local Palestinian leaders made repeated attempts to reach an agreement with Israel - peace in exchange for withdrawal - but were consistently rebuffed by an Israeli leadership committed to holding on to the occupied territories.
3. Since 1967, Palestinians in the territories have lived under conditions of military occupation, with no access to basic human and civil rights, and no say in the way they have been governed by the Israeli authorities.
4. Since 1967, Israel has exiled and imprisoned tens of thousands of Palestinians, confiscated large parts of their land, water and natural resources, and used its military power to benefit Jewish settlers and Israeli companies at the

- expense of local residents.
5. The settlement of hundreds of thousands of Israelis in the occupied territories has been conducted against the wishes of the local population and in violation of international law. It has created a system in which Israelis live in Jewish only settlements, under different legal system from local residents, use different roads, have sole access to state services, and enjoy political rights and freedoms denied to their Palestinian neighbours.
 6. The Israeli government remains unwilling to halt - never mind reverse - the pursuit of such inhumane policies, which have nothing to do with security and everything to do with exploiting the land for the benefit of some at the expense of others.
 7. Progressive Israelis - Jews and Arabs alike - have campaigned against this oppressive system for the last 46 years. South Africans of good will should identify with this campaign, which resembles their own struggles against apartheid.

Ran Greenstein
University of the Witwatersrand

‘LEADERSHIP CHANGE’ AT WITS MAY HAVE LED TO RESHEF CONFUSION

I would like to respond to Yossi Reshef’s letter in last week’s paper and clarify the issues it raises. There has evidently been something of a misunderstanding in the way that this has played out.

According to your information, Yossi stated that the comment (that was attributed to him) that his diary was otherwise full, is nonsense, and that Wits did not reply to his request to do a replacement concert.

I have no idea where the erroneous information came from that his diary was otherwise full - this is indeed incorrect. At the time of Yossi writing his letter to outgoing Vice Chancellor Prof Nongxa, the headship of Wits was in a state of transition, with Nongxa leaving and Prof Habib coming in. I believe this may have resulted in a lack of communication from above.

There were various discussions taking place during this period, the outcome of which was that a “replacement” concert was offered by Wits University, with much better security being in place in order to retain the campus as a free space for all.

This proposed concert was to be in the Wits Great Hall (not the Atrium as held previously), which seats over 1 000 people. The Music Department was asked for their advice as to the kind of concert and artists that would attract an audience large enough to fill the venue.

In the experience of the Wits Music Division, previous concerts at Wits by world-class local and overseas solo classical artists have generally attracted between 50 and 120 people. It was therefore decided to rather present an amplified jazz quartet from Israel, which would be a popular choice of entertainment for the wider Wits and general community.

It was also a factor that a concert of this nature would be far less affected if there were to be external (or even internal) noise from those seeking to cause a disruption. In the end, as we know, the concert was a resounding success, and the University deserves the highest praise for all its excellent work in making that outcome possible.

The decision, in other words, was not about closing the door on Mr Reshef; rather, it was about presenting a different kind of concert that would make the kind of strong statement we were looking to make. Yossi Reshef is a classical pianist of the highest calibre indeed and I sincerely hope that a visit by him can be organised in the not too distant future.

Prof Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph
Johannesburg

ANTI-JEWISH ACTIONS AT TWO SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES, ARE WORRYING

The harsh and confrontational history of race in South Africa needs no elaboration. Since 1994 South Africans have worked hard to dissolve the institutions of race and heal wounds between communities. We have made huge strides but there is still much work to do.

Schools and universities are key to fostering recuperation. Here young people integrate and learn to respect one another. Therefore when a well-respected university collaborates in an act of racial provocation, we have reason for concern.

Two recent events, one at Wits and one at Rhodes, bear comparison.

Wits witnessed what was arguably the most grievous expression of Jew-hatred this country has seen for 50 years. Outside the Great Hall where a talented Israeli jazz orchestra was giving a concert, protesters from the so-called BDS SA, raised the cry of “Shoot the Jew”. This war cry, a forerunner to countless pogroms and massacres of Jews in the past, can only have been intended to incite hatred and possibly violence.

Instead of apologising, Muhammed Desai the co-ordinator of BDS SA, accuses Jews of overreacting. This incident lays bare the character of BDS. It has little interest in justice; rather it seeks to denigrate Jews and the Jewish State and it employs the crude and vulgar tools of lies, slogans, slurs and incitement.

Thankfully, Wits Vice-Chancellor Adam Habib condemned the statements and even attended the concert as part of promoting diversity on campus.

Now to an event about to take place at Rhodes University:

Like Wits, Rhodes is an academic institution with a proud 100-year history and notably one which bears the same name as the internationally-renowned Rhodes scholarship.

The university has scheduled a debate for September 17, and invited the SAJBD to take part. The formulation of the motion - “Israel is an Apartheid State” - makes clear that this is no debate but a conclusion masquerading as a debate, and it point-blank insults Israel and Jews.

An analogy would be to invite the black community to join a debate entitled “Apartheid is a Figment of the Black imagination”. Such formulations which combine insult with a wish to humiliate, belong to the Nazi beer hall rather than an academic institution.

Rhodes’ setting up of this debate stands in exquisite irony to Allan Gray’s recent decision to give the University R12 million to set up the Allan Gray Institute for Ethical Leadership. Like charity, ethical leadership begins at home.

Recent research reveals that Jewish students on the Rhodes campus feel uncomfortable expressing their Jewishness; Jewish student numbers are 15 per cent of what they once were.

Rhodes, like all universities, lives and dies by its reputation and funding. Its custodians should think twice about staging an event which not only offends 99 per cent of South African Jews, but runs counter to its own academic principles of fairness and justice.

Chuck Volpe
Port Elizabeth



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Jewish Report - 15 years young, going strong

GEOFF SIFRIN (EDITOR)

The Jewish Report is 15 years young. We have produced 720 editions since its launch in May 1998 as South Africa's sole national Jewish weekly.

The country was riveted at the time with apartheid's demise and the birth of the hoped-for "rainbow nation". There was fear and anticipation in the air. This is what we were experiencing: democracy was four years old; Nelson Mandela was president; Cyril Ramaphosa's team at Codesa was drawing up the South African Constitution; Archbishop Desmond Tutu was chairing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; Cyril Harris was chief rabbi, representing SA Jewry at the TRC; increasing emigration was draining the Jewish community's morale; violent crime was spiralling; the Oslo process in Israel, started in 1993, was losing the promise it had held for an Israeli-Palestinian settlement.

Visionary Jewish leaders resolved that South African Jewry had to have its own newspaper - all previous papers had folded - and got together to define the Jewish Report's mission: to be an editorially independent, quality paper, which would act as a glue connecting the diverse parts of South African Jewry, and encourage Jewish engagement with the new South Africa. It would also cover world Jewry and Israel.

A message from President Mandela on the launch issue's front page said: "I welcome the addition of the Jewish Report to the beautiful tapestry of South African media... which is

playing a critical role in shaping a new South African policy and culture."

There is a large network of Jewish papers worldwide, ranging from prestigious ones like the London Jewish Chronicle and the Forward in New York, to Israeli papers like Haaretz and the Jerusalem Post, and many smaller, local Jewish papers. The Jewish Report is a South African branch of this family.

It runs on a purely commercial basis, not funded by any person or institution. It relies on advertising revenue to pay for quality journalism, production, distribution and salaries. Advertisers, ranging from major corporations to small businesses, individuals, and community organisations, use it to reach the niche Jewish market. Initially copies of the paper were sold. In 2002 it went free at countryside outlets such as supermarkets, restaurants, bookstores and synagogues.

The print run is 11 500 copies, with a readership of some 50 000 - well over half of South African Jewry. It has a substantial number of non-Jewish readers in government and different ethnic and faith communities, and is a point of reference in libraries.

Getting the content right is a balancing act. Our yardstick is good journalism, serving the well-being of the diverse South African Jewry, with its various perspectives on religion, politics, Israel and lifestyle.

Our readers include people affiliated to Jewish institutions and synagogues, as well as "unaffiliated" Jews in general society in business, politics, the arts and professions. We provide

an open forum for diverse debate. We can never please everyone, nor should we obviously aim to.

Building a Jewish paper over the past decade and a half has been hard, but exhilarating - filled with laughter, conflicts, late nights and unforgiving deadlines every Wednesday evening. We have always had a dedicated, loyal staff. Some of our current staff-members have been with the paper from its beginning.

The life of the Jewish Report is a mirror of the challenges and triumphs of South African Jewry, and a prism through which our country can be viewed.

A paper is a living, breathing organism. Each edition is different and no edition perfect. Rather, each is the best snapshot we can produce at that moment. As the New York Times put it in an editorial a few years ago: "Journalism is an imperfect business, the work of reporting, understanding and writing about the complexity of human affairs. Like all human enterprises, journalism is not perfectible. But it should always be heading in that direction."

Jewish communities are notorious for argumentation. The passions producing the arguments are also the creative engines. An adviser on religious pluralism and the media to several Israeli prime ministers once commented: "For Jewish papers, there will

always be the frummies who say you are destroying Judaism, and there will always be the secularists who say you are trying to make me religious."

In 1998 the Internet was an infant. Now it dominates the media. Like all good contemporary papers, we are in the process of developing the full range of digital formats, which will include the printed Jewish Report, a sophisticated website, Facebook and Twitter versions, apps for iPhones, etc. We will be up there with the best, as a quality paper warrants.

In forthcoming editions, we will be running a regular column of anecdotes and stories from previous issues of the paper, ranging from the hilarious to the tragic and ironic. The life of the Jewish Report over these 15 years is a mirror of the history, challenges and triumphs of South African Jewry, and a prism through which our evolving country can be viewed.

A tiny taste of contentious and laughable issues which have cropped up over the years, includes: a movie about gay Orthodox Jews and a gay Orthodox rabbi provokes bans from the Johannesburg Beth Din; an advert from Jews for Jesus accidentally slipped into the paper and the rabbis went berserk; Ronnie Kasrils' "Not in my Name" petition against Israel was published in our Chanukah issue; an enraged reader lambasted an advertiser for using Yiddish in his ad, saying it was disrespectful to the six million who died in the Holocaust; a charge was laid against the paper at the Beth Din for being an "enemy of the Jewish people" for publishing

articles accepting Arab rights in Israel; at Yom Hashoah the chief rabbi walked off the podium saying "kol isha!" when a young girl sang a poem; a classified ad for escort agencies and belly dancing evoked both threats and delight from readers; an advertiser for a restaurant in the Chanukah issue showed a full plate of prawns in his ad; a distraught reader called to say her flat was overflowing with old copies of the Jewish Report because she didn't want to throw away any paper that had the name of Hashem in it and what should she do; and on and on...

A current problem for the printed paper is that, with only 16 pages on average (at least half taken up with advertising) there is not nearly enough space to cover everything. In the past we have been at 24 pages and sometimes 32 or more. Expanding the paper depends on revenue from advertising.

Do you value the Jewish Report? It has become such an accepted institution among SA Jewry that many people take it for granted. If you would like to help it continue providing excellent journalism for South African Jewry, please consider making a financial contribution. We are living in tough times financially. All newspapers face major challenges in this era. We need whatever help you can give us.

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Two elderly dolls on high heels can still teach the young a trick or two

ROBYN SASSEN

“I don’t think in years, baby, I think show by show,” veteran songster Judy Page said in response to questions about her age. “Life’s like that song by Jacques Brel, Carousel. “It starts slowly: it’s an eternity from one birthday to the next when you’re young. Then you become the best at everything, in your estimation. Once you reach the age that you can really enjoy things without worrying about what other people think of you, life itself has become like a hurdy gurdy and rushes by.” She stars alongside another well-loved stage veteran Abigail Kubeka, 72, in a revue at Sandton, from this week. “Abby and I met on Des and Dawn Lindberg’s production of The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, in 1978. They paired us up quite often after that, until we went our sepa-

rate routes.” A heavyweight in musical theatre from age 16, Kubeka grew from under the wing of Miriam Makeba. By the time she met Page, she had a celebrated reputation, gigging often with jazz greats of the calibre of Abdullah Ibrahim (then Dollar Brand), Kippie Moeketsi and with Philip Tabane’s award-winning Jazzmakers, Tshooks Tschukudu’s Elite Swingers and Mackay Davashe’s Jazz Dazzlers. “When the possibility of us pairing up again came up again, we said: ‘Why ever not? Let us see if these two alte kackers can still stagger around in high heels on a stage!’” They will share with the audience, some of their best moments in the entertainment industry - from the Jazzy Duke Ellington and Fats Waller, to the romance of Rodgers & Hart, Hammerstein and Harold Arlen; and from the pop song books of

John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Van Morrison and Barry Manilow. Accompanied by Clifford Cooper on piano and Graeme Currie on bass, the show promises sophistication and glamour. “I grew up in a time that young ladies didn’t go into the theatre,” adds Page, who in many ways invented herself as she lived her life between gigs and stages. “They learned shorthand and typing as ‘something to fall back on!’” she laughs raucously as she recalls that in her last couple of stage performances she was either a fairy in a pantomime or a vulture in Jock of the Bushveld. “I love flapping around on stage!” But she acknowledges that the musical theatre industry isn’t what it used to be. “The young don’t have staying power. The old don’t have energy. But you do what you have to.” These days, Page coaches young



The Legendary Ladies themselves, feather boas and all: Judy Page and Abigail Kubeka. Photo courtesy Auto and General Theatre on the Square

performers in her spare time. “There are huge gaps in the education of university-taught performers. So many of them don’t know Noel Coward, Cole Porter... Brel, even! “I know that each age makes its own steps. It builds its own scaffolding to the stars.”

Page praises choreographer Jody Davimes who is “working on getting two old girls to get their hips to go ‘ba-dam’ at all the right times.”

• “*Legendary Ladies of Song*” is at Auto and General Theatre on the Square until September 28.

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Lewandowski Chorale, Imilonji KaNtu, for Soweto Theatre

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Two Choirs in Concert is a collaboration between The Lewandowski Chorale and Imilonji KaNtu Choral Society at the Soweto Theatre on October 6. The concert, a media release issued by the Chorale explains, is being held to raise funds for the Boikanyo Project which runs food gardens in support of the Protea Primary School and the wider community. While travelling in Europe in December 2011, French horn player and conductor Adam Golding attended the Louis Lewandowski Festival in Berlin and realised that he wanted to form a choir in Johannesburg dedicated to performing the music of this composer in its original form. Although many of the melodies are well-known, the media release continues, they are now most frequently performed by male-only choirs in shuls; when the music is performed by a mixed choir accompanied by an organ, the effect is staggering. The Lewandowski Chorale was formed in early 2012; by the end of the year it was on the Berlin stage under the baton of Golding with amateur and professional choirs. “I found myself closing my eyes, imagining that I was listening to the music as it was originally sung some 150 years ago. It was

amazing taking into account that Golding managed to mould them into a tight unit, capable of beautifully singing a large repertoire in just eight months. “This resulted in a balanced, harmonious sound with exciting dynamics. They absolutely wowed the audience, receiving a resounding, prolonged appreciative applause,” said Richard Shavei Tzion, musical director of the Ramatayim Jerusalem choir, on the Lewandowski Chorale’s performance. Imilonji KaNtu under the baton of George Gobinca Mxadana, who received the Order of Ikhamanga in silver for his excellent achievements in the field of music and contributing to the development of choral music in South Africa, has been in existence for more than 30 years. Louis Lewandowski’s music has been absorbed into the current repertoire of Imilonji KaNtu and they have been accepted to perform at the Berlin Festival once they have sufficient funds to cover the air fares. The concert’s soloist is Tshegofatso Moeng.

• Two Choirs in Concert is at the Soweto Theatre on October 6 and features music reaching all the way back to the time of Monteverdi. Tickets are available by email only from tickets@golding.za.net; prices range between R40 and R120.

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Cohen remains cockily unrepentant after Trocadéro

ROBYN SASSEN

South African-born performance artist Steven Cohen, 51, who’s taken international media by storm, spoke to the Jewish Report from his home in Lille, France on Sunday evening. Manhandled by the police last Tuesday during an intervention at the Place de Trocadéro - known as the Human Rights Square - near the Eiffel Tower, Cohen is unrepentant.

“I was thrown in jail for 10 hours, interrogated, measured, psychiatrically evaluated, forced to give DNA and charged with sexual exhibitionism,” he said. “I’ve been told to apologise to the police. It’s as absurd as apologising to the thugs who brutalised me last week. I won’t.”

The work for which he was arrested was part of a contribution to a group exhibition, My Joburg at La Maison Rouge, Fondation Antoine de Galbert, a museum in Paris. It’s also part of the prestigious Festival d’Automne, under the artistic direction of Marie Collin. And it’s an uninvited contribution to the Season South Africa in France.

Three days after making headlines, Cohen was addressing audiences in the Paris museum. “It went exceptionally well,” he said. The piece shows excerpts of videos of his work since 1998, explaining how it incapacitates different body parts. It ends with the video created a few days ago.”

In the work which caused all the trouble, he’s dressed in a rooster headdress, a corset, 7” heels, long red gloves and a myriad feathers. His penis, the tip exposed, is tied to a rooster (the national symbol of France) with a white ribbon. He’s named the bird Frank Gallus Gallus. “The work is about being foreign and being pulled in different directions.”

“My lawyer, Agnès Tricoire advised me not to show the video. But what would be the point then?” There were no police at the museum this weekend. “Next weekend, the work performs again,” and the furore will have reached deeper into French society.

Cohen rose to prominence in South Africa from 1989, taking art from galleries into the public domain. Dealing with his identity as a Jewish, white, homosexual, ageing South African, his work is meant to be inflammatory. Last week, he was beaten by gay



Photo by Quentin Eward

bashers at his house in Lille; Sunday was the first time he’d been in his house since the attack. “My heart is trembling. Being policed is part of the work. Being beaten is not.” The attack strengthened his resolve to carry out the work as planned.

Cohen’s collaborator Erik Houllier describes the work’s orchestration on September 10. “This square is one of the most famous in Paris. The day before September 11, we knew security would be really defensive. So we asked friends to be there at 08:30 to be briefed: they had to look like casual tourists. Steven arrived at 09:30...”

Cohen has received support from Fondation Antoine de Galbert, and Festival d’Automne. Ismail Mohamed, artistic director of the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown called Cohen in solidarity, as has Stevenson Gallery in Cape Town, which represents Cohen. The hearing is on December 16. “The Day of Reconciliation is my day of judgement. The fine could be R1 million. I’d rather

be jailed than pay a fine; there’s no option.

“I’ve had tons of publicity! But it’s weird. So many worse things are happening all over the world. And I’ve done so many more outrageous things elsewhere. The charge is serious. It’s a combination of perversity and national insult and has to do as much with my costume as with the context in which it was performed.”

Having lived in Lille for more than 10 years, Cohen, was headhunted from Johannesburg obscurity by French choreographer Regine Chopinot. In 15 years, he’s no stranger to having to run away from his audience, for fear of being beaten up: in 2004, he performed “Dancing Inside Out” outside Lyon’s Museum of Deportation and Resistance. He was arrested and bodily searched. Charges were dropped; the city’s mayor intervened.

Animal activists have been muttering about the rooster. It’s absurd, given Cohen’s consistent focus through the years on cruelty awareness. His

1998 work, Jew, comprises a costume made of different aspects of human-inflicted cruelty to animals.

Two lawyers want to represent Cohen: Tricoire a lawyer on the Paris Bar, and Maestro Roland Rappaport, part of the prosecution of Nazi criminal Klaus Barbie in 1987.

After 10 hours Cohen was released on bail. “Madame Tricoire consulted the Ministry of Culture in Paris, and through that, the process has been delayed. The world feels so Dark Ages.

“I expect some sense of perspective will develop,” he adds, mentioning

that he will continue to make work uninvited and even unwelcome in the public forum.

“Whatever I did, I did in the name and spirit of art in a country which is known throughout the world for art. I am afraid of nothing except being made to be afraid to the point where I can’t make art. I fear only fear.”

His next work is a commissioned performance inside the oldest Jewish monument in France, La Maison Sublime, beneath the Palais de Justice in Rouen. It’s a part of the Festival Automne à Normandie.



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Fighting gender-based violence: The buck stops with all of us

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

While religion could be a real instigator of gender-based violence, one could equally be inspired by religious faith to fight against the scourge, said gender activist Melanie Judge who moderated a panel discussion titled: “Stopping gender-based violence: whose job is it anyway?”

The event was in a series of Transformation Conversations, part of the Cape Jewish Board of Deputies’ Looking Outwards programme, adopted over the past year, giving the Jewish community a chance to engage issues affecting civil society.

Judge maintained that individuals’ behaviour, such as telling homophobic jokes at the Shabbos table and at the office, fostered the conditions that made violence possible.

Panellist Kathleen Dey, director of Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust, said it was “everybody’s job to examine violence within themselves and how we enact this in our relationships”. She advocated a multi-stakeholder collaboration among prosecutorial, health and counselling services.

Desmond Lesejane, deputy director of Sonke Gender Justice that focuses on men in order to eradicate violence, praised the Board, saying it was important for “religious bodies” to convene this dialogue.

“It’s also a man’s job to end gender-based violence,” he referred to his attempts over the past two decades to involve men and counter the notion that “when a woman is raped, it’s her own fault and it’s a woman who must come and get involved in caring for her. We say it’s a societal problem.

“We don’t only look at men as perpetrators; men can be active agents in bringing change we desire.

“Men continue to come from a place of privilege

and power - often men are captains and gatekeepers of institutions that can make a difference,” he added, including “messages given in synagogues and temples”.

Reverend Alan Storey of the Central Methodist Mission, spoke of the link between violence and power. “Religion, including mine, has contributed greatly to the accruing of power for men.” Women were also expected to be silent at religious gatherings.

Dr Zethu Matebeni of the UCT Institute for Humanities in Africa, said that “for many of us, violence is a constant, living reality. Among South African black lesbian women specifically, one is considered lucky to escape rape or even murder before their 30th birthday.”

Commenting from the floor, chairman of the Union of Jewish Women, Leaza Cowan said it was essential for young men to be educated to play “a strategic role” in combating the epidemic. “The community at large has an enormous role to play.

Political commentator Rhoda Kadalie (pictured), noted that despite the country’s “fantastic” Constitution and women’s ministry, no-one was getting it right. “We do need structural interventions.

“Patriarchy is the only true non-racial institution in South Africa. The Constitution has removed the notion of women as property and minors, but we still behave as if it is so.”



Photo: Luke Jansen / Without A Blink Productions

SA contingent to tackle Jerusalem Marathon 2014

SHIRA DRUION

ORT SA, Mizrahi South Africa and the SAZF, have collaborated in an exciting endeavour, namely the Unity Challenge to run the Jerusalem Marathon in March 2014.

Committed and potential runners enjoyed the presentation at the launch by a dynamic group of speakers, namely Nicky Raz, head of marketing for ORT SA, Ben Swartz, vice chairman of the SAZF, Rabbi Ramon Widmonte of Mizrahi SA and the legendary running superstar Bruce Fordyce, all of whom motivated the crowd to participate in what is going to be a once in a lifetime opportunity to run together through the hills of Jerusalem.

Swartz said: “I was introduced to running by ORT’s Nicky Raz and the privilege of participating in a marathon that will take place on the cobblestone streets of Jerusalem, makes the experience so special.

“This marathon has really put Israel on the map as a marathon destination of choice. I am very excited to be participating in this collaboration, because it is the realisation of a joint vision to unite as Jews and to take part in this very memorable event in the Holy Land.”

“I am incredibly jealous,” said Israel’s Deputy Ambassador Michael Friedman. “On behalf of the embassy I would like to wish all the runners the best of luck. It is the hardest course you will ever run, but also the most beautiful one as you run through the Old City and imbibe its ancient history.”

Rabbi Widmonte laid out the exciting five

day programme that participants will enjoy.

“Jerusalem carries the spiritual heritage for the three major (monotheistic) faiths and her streets are steeped in our history.

“Running the marathon therefore creates the space for an authentic, interactive Jewish experience as we run through famous heritage sites such as Jaffa Gate, Ammunition Hill and many more. The programme will include a preview of the marathon route, volunteering in S’derot, Shabbat in the Old City alongside many other exciting activities.”

“This campaign is gaining momentum daily and promises to be so much more than just a marathon,” says Raz. “Our fundraising initiative is different to our usual set-up, as this time around, participants will donate 50 per cent to ORT and Mizrahi and the other 50 per cent will be given to any charity of their choice.”

“There are just over 200 sleeps till the big day. That’s how we marathon runners do it!” said Fordyce who shared his expert advice on how best to confront the challenge.

“The time to train hard is eight to 10 weeks before the marathon. You cannot break the rules of marathon running. If we run regularly and consistently till January and then come January we start to train hard, we will be equipped to manage the route.

“If you push too early on, you will crash. Anyone who is reasonably healthy can finish a marathon.”

“Yes, we train with our legs and our hearts, but it is our brain that carries us through to the end.”

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KDHL’s student leaders for 2013/4

King David High School Linksfield elected their new student leaders for 2013/4.

Back row : Jaden Riesenburg; Nadav Ossendryver; Jesse Soicher; Levi Cohen; Talia Smith; Alexa Toooh; Melissa Gobetz; and Ashlee Firer. Middle: David Esra; David Malkin; Eden Plein; Joseph Miller; Talya Michaels; Alexa Sandler; Devon Sostak; Aharon Shapiro; and Adam Jankelow. Front : Jayme Cesman; Yossi Bachrach; Adam Krok; Saul Hurwitz; and Lori Jacobson. Bottom: Dan Egdes (deputy head student leader); Cassie Forman (deputy head student leader); Nicole Pantanowitz (head student leader); and Tyler Epstein (head student leader). Absent: Jemma Waksman;



Minnie Bersohn kids collect tzedakah for DL Link

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHELLE VINOKUR

The senior group children at Minnie Bersohn Nursery School in Johannesburg, collected tzedakah in the tzedakah boxes they had made themselves, to donate to DL link. Michelle Goodman came to the school just before Yom Kippur to receive the donation.



Pictured are Dylan Bloch; Ella Flax; Michelle Goodman (DL link representative); Raphael Adaggi; Shira Tchelet; Joan Lurie (teacher); and Max Shewitz.

Habonim Dror - watch out for the ‘new generation’

ILAN PRICE
ROSH CHINNUCH FOR
MACHANEH DOR CHADASH

Being a member of Habonim Dror Southern Africa, is about standing for what is just and being inspired to change the status quo in pursuit of a dream.

We are a group of tolerant, intelligent, passionate youth who believe in equality and freedom. We recognise our responsibilities to each other and to the world around us. We demand more of ourselves and we demand more of society. Our machaneh name for 2013 is “Dor Chadash” - a new generation.

The machaneh name speaks to the relevant discussions and issues facing the movement and unites the educational focus of machaneh under a broad vision.

Habonim chaverim look at the world with an eye for what we think should be different and we must continue to do so. Yet often we fail to think about what that means for ourselves and our lives: how we need to be different, and the role we have to play in promoting change.

With every shichvah of channichim having been born post-’94, we are part of a new generation of South Africans. While we no longer

face apartheid, its legacies of inequality and disenfranchisement run deep and we must be sure to be a movement which does not shy away from this struggle.

We are also part of a new generation of Zionists. Our movement has striven to build and better the State of Israel even since before independence, and generations of chaverim have responded to Israel’s need of the hour.

Today, a new generation of Israelis lead the world in innovation and technology. Our generation must work to ensure Israel leads by example in its values too. Our generation’s duty is to fight for the integrity of Israel’s democracy.

Yet, the most fundamental change starts with the kind of person we are in our everyday interactions. Machaneh is about creating a space based on values of respect and equality, where friendships are meaningful and people are more valuable than material possessions.

We cannot be a new generation if we remain tied to ways of the past. This machaneh, best friends will unite once again in the most beautiful place on earth, and together we will think about what we want to define us: a new generation building a new reality.

We look forward to seeing your children at Machaneh Dor Chadash!

KDL High scoops first prize in choir competition



The Linder Auditorium in Johannesburg last month swelled to the sound of hundreds of young voices as 11 schools competed in the inaugural Battle of the Choirs Fighting the Battle against Cancer Schools Event.

The winning choirs, from King David Linksfield High and Crawford Fourways Primary, walked away with more than R70 000 worth of prizes and a professional studio recording session, 1kt was announced in a media release.

The event was held to raise both cancer awareness and the profile of school choirs. It will take place annually and organisers promise a much expanded version next year.

The King David Linksfield High choir won a Yamaha drum set and guitar and the Junior category winner, the Crawford Fourways Primary choir, received a Yamaha keyboard piano and a Music Mate voucher. Both choirs will also have their songs recorded during a recording session.


Other competitors this year were King David

Victory Park High; Crawford Sandton High; King David Linksfield Primary; King David Victory Park Primar,, King David Sandton Primary; Crawford Fourways Primary; and Fairways Primary. Additional entertainment was provided by the Minnie Berhson and Rosabelle Klein Pre-primary schools, BASA, a school from Alex; and hip hop dancers from the Vicki Mervis School of Dance.

The dual-purpose event was held both to raise funds for cancer relief and to help revive choral music by motivating children to join their school choirs.

“The choir movement is huge in the US, prompted by shows like Glee, and we need to see that happening in South Africa,” says event director’s, Lana Roy and Vicki Mervis. “We really hope this competition will help to instil a choral tradition here.”

All proceeds went to the D L Link, an organisation which relies solely on public funding.



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The school reserves the right not to make an appointment. Only shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

At the end of this month, we will bid a sad farewell to our Senior Researcher and Political Liaison officer Steven Gruzd, who will be taking up a position at the SA Institute of International Affairs at Wits University. Steve has been with us for just over two years, although his many impressive accomplishments during that time belie this relatively short period of service.

Among many other contributions, he researched and wrote our Jubuntu book on Jewish involvement in social outreach, hosting a well-received “Board Talk” programme on ChaiFM, revitalising and managing our website and representing our

community at the Parliamentary hearings into the Protection of State Information Bill.

The Jubuntu project did much to highlight the diverse and innovative ways in which Jewish individuals and organisations are going about assisting disadvantaged members of the wider society.

This is a powerful theme for us to dwell on as we prepare to celebrate Succot, a joyous festival indeed, but one that also brings home to us our essential vulnerability. The succah that we are required to live in for all seven days of the festival, is quintessentially a temporary, make-shift dwelling.

Among many other things, it symbolises the transient nature of our time on this Earth, during which we are ultimately reliant on the Divine protection of our Creator. However, for so many of our fellow South Africans, the succah experience is their daily reality, without the assurance of

having a solid, comfortable home to move back into.

In their daily struggle just to acquire the basics of survival, they must build their homes out of whatever materials that come to hand. My call to our community during the coming days is that while observing and drawing strength from this age-old ritual, we also remember those who need our assistance and pledge to do whatever we can to provide it in the New Year that lies ahead.

Just before Yom Kippur, we were gratified to learn that the Broadcasting Complaints Commission of South Africa had upheld a complaint of anti-Israel bias on the part of Lotus FM. The Board was instrumental in the drafting of this complaint, and we commend Felicia Levy for presenting it to the BCCSA in her individual capacity.

The encouraging lesson we can take from this experience is that we have in South Africa effective institutions through

which our grievances can be aired and appropriately addressed.

Even though not every complaint we bring will be successful, we at least have the assurance that through these bodies, we have a platform through which to make our voices heard and explain our position.

Taken as a whole, the various quasi-government structures that have been set up to give force to the provisions of the Constitution, which include the BCCSA and the SA Human Rights Commission, are showing that they can be relied upon to address the myriad issues brought to them in a conscientious, thorough and scrupulously objective manner.

• *Listen to Steven Gruzd on Jewish Board Talk on 101.9 ChaiFM every Friday 12:00 - 13:00.*

This column is paid for by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Invitation to participate in ORT’s Golf Day

ORT SA will be holding its 40th Annual Golf Day on October 27, at the Killarney Country Club and the community is invited to participate “and help us make this 40th year a huge success”.

In a media release ORT SA points out that there are “fabulous prizes to be won”, including a two-night stay for two people at Cathedral Peak.

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Companies quietly go about uplifting the very poor



Photo by Joe Yudelowitz

Jack Halfon CEO of Atlas Finance with Rabbi David Masinter of Chabad House at the auction of Halfon's photography.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

A sum of R85 000 raised by auction to establish a library for Malatjlie, an impoverished community near Lanseria Airport, came about through the co-operation between Jack Halfon, CEO of Atlas Finance.

The initiative is the brainchild of Halfon, a keen photographer, who in 2011 published a book of his photographs, entitled “Faces and Places”, with the profits of the sales going to the “Stop Hunger Now” charity.

Another one of the charities Halfon’s company supports, is Chabad House’s Miracle Drive.

“We like a portion of our funds to go to non-Jewish and preferably black causes through Miracle Drive’s programme, Grow Your Life. Rabbi David Masinter (of Chabad House) identified an informal, impoverished settlement near Lanseria Airport.”

The South Africa-Israel Chamber of Commerce approached Halfon to put on a charity auction of his best prints from “Faces and Places”.

Stephan Welz and Co donated the space and auctioneer for the evening. Atlas Finance sponsored the printing and framing of the works and with co-sponsors Sasfin Bank and Zendium, R85 000 was raised.

This money will be used to buy a container and set up a library at Malatjlie.

Great Park’s new mikvah draws in the women

SHIRA DRUION

Great Park Shul was a hive of activity as post-Yom Kippur Sunday morning saw over 100 women flock to the Great Spa Day. The morning kicked off with manicure and pedicure pampering sessions and an exhibit of the state-of-the-art new mikvah that has been built to service the growing needs of the community.

Dr Dorianne Weil had her audience clamouring for more as she spoke on the necessary tools required for building healthy relationships with our spouses.

Mashi Lipskar spoke of the woman and her role in the home as the feminine energy that is so vital for a good marriage. Stan and Pete provided a breakfast and Nicci boutiques provided gift bags filled with treats from other donors.

The morning was organised by Lisa Zimmerman, Carmela Lishansky, Rebbetzen Fayge Hazdan and Rebbetzen Goldie Simpson of Great Park Shul.

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What's on

SA JEWISH REPORT 15

Today, Tuesday (September 17)

• JWBS' "55 Club" meets every Tuesday and Thursday. A three-course meal and entertainment are provided as well as transport. To meet people and socialise. Contact: Anita Feinstein, (011) 640-7620.

Sunday (September 22)

• Johannesburg Light Music Society meets at Roosevelt Park Recreation Centre, cnr Anton van Wouw and Preller Drive. Des Sonnenfeld will give a tribute to Noel Coward, followed by Jenny Considine with a programme on Oscar-nominated songs. Time: 14:00 sharp. Enquiries: Ron (011) 793-2383 or Marilyn 072-243-7436.

• Second Innings hosts Sandy Golombick and Kim Lewitte, from the Stroke Aid Society, on "Strike Back Against Stroke". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 for members, R40 for visitors. Contact: Grecia Gabriel, (011) 532-9718.

Wednesday (September 25)

• UJW CT's adult education programme hosts Phillipa Cheifitz, talking on "A life of Meals". Venue: Stonehaven, Sea Point.

Friday (October 4)

• UZLC hosts Kim Feinberg of Tomorrow Trust on "Building Meaning in Your Life". Venue: evening service every week in shul, starting at 18:45. Contact (021) 886-5257.

• The Yiddish Academy offers weekly basic, intermediate and advanced classes on Monday evenings at 19:30, Tuesday mornings at 10:30 and Thursday evenings at 19:30 at the RCHCC, Glenhove Road, Houghton. Conversational groups. Contact: e-mail yiddishacademy@gmail.com or call Hazel Cohen on (011) 728-8088.

• Supervised bridge with Jeff Sapire Tuesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (intermediary) and Wednesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (advanced), at the Clive M Beck Auditorium. Booking: Hazel or René, (011) 728-8088/8378.

• WIZO's Wize Buys in Raedene, requires nearly-new clothes, shoes, kitchenware (pots and pans, cutlery, crockery) bric-a-brac, etc. Phone Sandy (011) 645-2515 for goods to be collected, or deliver to WIZO office at Beyachad, Raedene.

• Beis Midrash Chofetz Chaim is offering a second ma'ariv minyan every weekday evening (Monday - Friday) at 21:00, cnr Elray and Michel Streets, Raedene. Open to broader community. Don't fret if you need a later minyan. Secure parking provided.

Sunday (September 29)

• RCHCC screens the documentary, "Mel Brooks Make a Noise". Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net or www.greatpark.co.za

• Jewish Genealogical Society hosts Meira Puterman who will give a workshop covering all stages of genealogy research, "Using the Internet to trace and build your Jewish family tree". Venue: HOD Centre. Time: 19:30. Donation: R20. Enquiries: Mo (011) 887-7764.

• Second Innings hosts Kate Turkington, travel writer on "Magical Journeys". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 for members, R40 for visitors. Contact: Grecia Gabriel, (011) 532-9718.

Wednesday (October 9)

• United Sisterhood has its monthly book sale at the Benmore Gardens Shopping Centre. Unwanted books and magazine donations are gladly accepted. Contact: (011) 646-2409, fax (011) 646-4654.

Thursday (October 10)

• Join WIZO every Thursday for a "Lunch & Learn" shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 13:00. Information, (011) 645-2515.

Sunday (October 13)

• WIZO Etgar Branch invites you to view two of Johannesburg's prettiest gardens. R190 per person including tea and guided tours in garden two. For tickets contact Helen Maisels Trisk, 083-267-2607.

Friday (October 17)

• UJW Leora Project, lending of rehabilitative appliances: Need a walker, wheelchair, crutches? Borrow equipment on a short-term basis for a refundable deposit. Information: (011) 648-1053.

• The Benevolent Gift Shop (formerly Benarc Gift Shop) has gift presentations for all occasions, made to order. Call (011) 485-5232, JWBS. All kosher under the Beth Din. Proceeds to support the less fortunate in our community.

• Elise WIZO Gift Shop has an exciting range of gifts available. Contact (011) 640-2760 or call in at Genesis, bottom level of the Genesis Shopping Centre, 3 Bradfield Drive, Fairmount.

• Chabad House hosts a series of events throughout the year. Chai Seniors - Holistic & Kabbalistic Nourishment". Daily programmes: Men's Kolel Mon-Fri at Chabad House Library, 09:00 - 11:00, followed by lunch. Ladies Kolel Tuesdays & Thursdays. Special programmes: Mondays: Brain Worx with occupational therapist, Cynthia Liptz for brain exercises, 09:00 – 13:00. Both men and women welcome. Tuesdays: Guest lectures. For more info: Rabbi Ari Kievman (011) 440-6600 or e-mail rak@chabad.org.za

• Broth Zion Association WIZO is collecting anything of value for its store. Contact (021) 464-6729 or Linda Saban 072-245-3225 or Cherna Kredo 084-589-8588.

• Intimate Antiques Fair held on last Sunday of every month at Cedar Square corner Witkoppen/Cedar Avenue in Fourways, from 09:00 - 16:00. Contact Robyn 083-311-4768.

• The Selwyn Segal Gift Centre has well-priced gifts for all occasions. Visit them Monday to Thursday, 08:30 to 16:00 and Friday till 14:00. Contact: (011) 640-6413 or (011) 640-5171 or web site www.selwynsegalgifts.co.za

• Join WIZO every Thursday for a "Lunch & Learn" shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz, 13:00 - 14:00 at Beyachad. Info: WIZO office (011) 645-2515.

• Stellenbosch Hebrew Congregation has a Friday

Saturday (October 18)

• Celebrating a bar-/batmitzvah? Why not give a donation to WIZO's bar-/batmitzvah project in Israel? You get a beautiful certificate to give to the bar-/batmitzvah child here. Certificates are available from WIZO tel (011) 645-2548.

• UJW Granny Child-Headed Households support 62 families with clothing and food parcels. If you have clothing and shoes that you are not using, please let us know by phoning (011) 648-1053.

Dissecting all-rounders ‘in that funny old game’



ROCKING THE BOAT
Jack Milner

It might be a hackneyed expression but it remains true: cricket is a funny old game. I have often argued that it is more a culture than a sport. You have to have been brought up with the concept that a Test match can go on for five days and not have a winner. That is why the Americans will never come to terms with Test cricket!

Even records in cricket are different to other sports. You can have, for example, a record sixth wicket partnership by two Gauteng players against the Dolphins at the Wanderers in a Test, which is different to another sixth wicket stand between two players from the same team against the same team in a limited overs match. You could again have another record by the same two players against the same team, but this time at Kingsmead in Durban.

The reason for all this is that former South



Authors Ali Bacher (right) and David Williams, flank Shira Bacher who holds a copy of their book “Jacques Kallis and 12 other Great South African All-rounders” at the launch held at St John’s College in Johannesburg last Tuesday.

African cricket captain and managing director of the United Cricket Board, Dr Ali Bacher, got together with journalist David Williams to write a book on South African cricket called “Jacques Kallis and 12 other Great South African All-rounders”.

Very much like all the cricket records, every

cricket enthusiast will have an opinion on who they think are the 13 best all-rounders in South Africa but Bacher and Williams have clearly laid out their criteria for the “baker’s dozen” they have selected.

They started by looking at batting and bowling averages and decided to include any all-rounder who had a Test batting average of at least 40 and a Test bowling average of less than 30. They then discovered it would have been a list of one. The only person in the history of the game to meet those criteria was South African Aubrey Faulkner who played between 1906 and 1924.

Finally, the authors decided to consider Test cricketers with a batting average higher than 25, a bowling average lower than 35, they must have played at least 20 Tests, scored a minimum of 1 000 runs and taken at least 50 wickets or a minimum of one wicket per Test.

In order to create a table of the best all-rounders, they also decided to deduct the batting average from the bowling average, the logic being that the larger the difference, the better the player.

Despite lowering the original standard, just 42 players in the history of the sport meet those requirements. Remarkably two players

stand out well above the rest. At No 1 is West Indian legend Sir Garfield Sobers and at No 2, only marginally behind him, is Kallis.

Sobers had an average of 57,78 for batting and 34,03 for bowling, a difference of 23,75. Kallis, who could still go up or down, is 56,10 and 32,43, a difference of 23,67.

In third place is Englishman Stanley Jackson (15,50) who played for England from 1893 to 1905. Joining Kallis on that list are five other South Africans with Faulkner at No 7, Eddie Barlow at No 10, Shaun Pollock (12th), Trevor Goddard (13th) and Brian McMillan (16th). Tony Greig, who left South Africa to play in England, is at No 14.

Bacher and Williams have included Greig in their calculations as well as a number of other South Africans who did not get an opportunity to showcase their talents. Basil D’Oliveira had to leave South Africa before he could play and he was already getting on a bit by the time he was picked to play for England.

Two players who could have been right up with the best, if it had not been for South Africa’s expulsion from world cricket, are Mike Proctor and Clive Rice. Proctor played just seven Tests and Rice none, but their first class averages were good enough to have them included in South Africa’s top 13.

Talking to Rice at the book launch at St John’s College in Johannesburg, the cricket great admitted to being a little bitter. “In a different way, I was also a victim of apartheid. That 1970s team was so strong we had to work our butts off to get in. Players like myself, Vince van der Bijl, Jimmy Cook and Henry Fotheringham, all lost out on what could have been brilliant international careers.”

The three remaining players included among the 13 best, were done so for their explosive ability and personalities - Lance Klusener, Tiger Lance and Jimmy Sinclair.

The book then devotes a chapter to each of the 13, with anecdotes about each one. There are some wonderful quotes from the late Tiger Lance who had a biting sense of humour and at times an awkward sense of right and wrong.

Refusal to play on Yom Kippur costs Israeli Davis Cup team

JERUSALEM - The Israel Tennis Association will have to pay more than \$13 000 for refusing to play a Davis Cup match on Yom Kippur.

The Israeli national tennis team had been scheduled to face Belgium in Antwerp on September 14 - which is Yom Kippur - in the international tournament.

The Belgian Tennis Association turned down Israel’s request to postpone the match, but the International Tennis Federation, which sponsors the Davis Cup, intervened and changed the date to September 15.

However, the International Tennis Federation ordered the Israeli national team to pay the Belgian team for the costs incurred by adding a day to the tournament, the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot reported.

Yom Kippur is considered the holiest day on the Jewish calendar.

“The Israel Tennis Association is a non-profit organisation, which designates all of its funds to

promote tennis in Israel and develop Israeli tennis players,” Israel Tennis Association Chairman Asi Touchmair said in a statement on the association’s website.

“As a result, the high fine is a detrimental blow for the budget of the professional programme for the Israeli tennis teams and to Israeli tennis in general.”

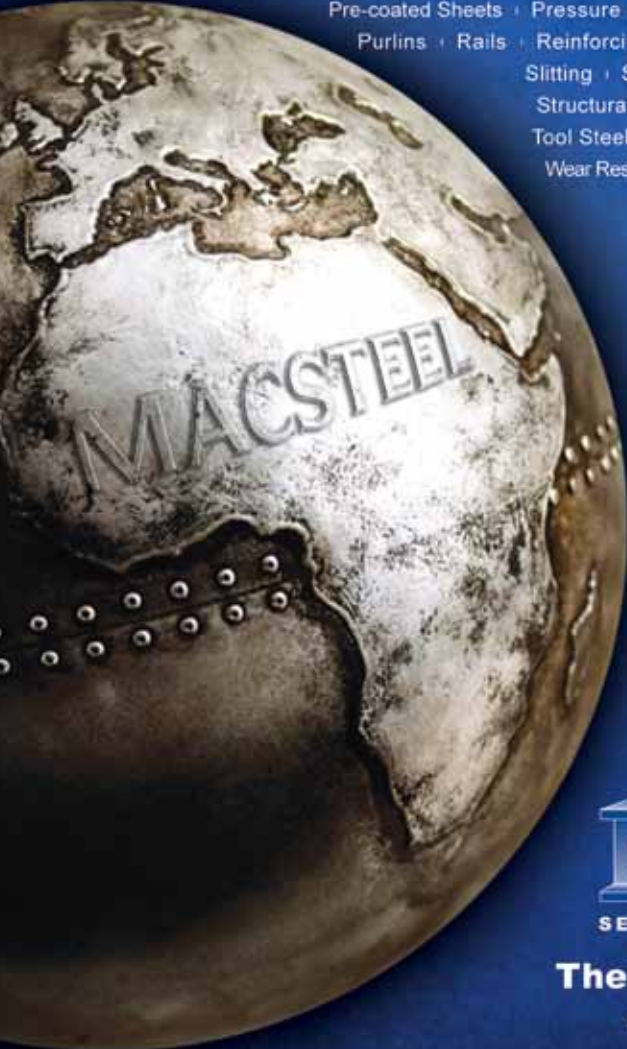
Though Touchmair called it a fine, the International Tennis Federation said in a statement sent to JTA that it was compensation. The statement said the Israel Tennis Association “has agreed to compensate the Belgian Tennis Federation for any costs that may be incurred as a result of changing the schedule and days of play for their forthcoming Davis Cup play-off tie”.


In the Israel Tennis Association statement, Touchmair also said: “As an institution that represents the State of Israel and its values, we in the Israeli Tennis Association stand proud, before all those who refuse to recognise the importance of the Jewish tradition, on behalf of Israel and Jews world over.” (JTA)

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