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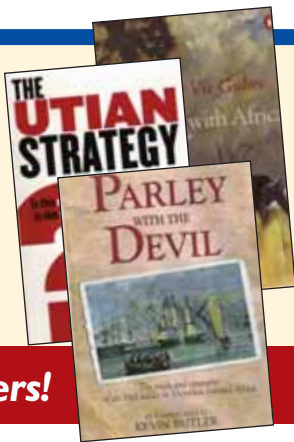


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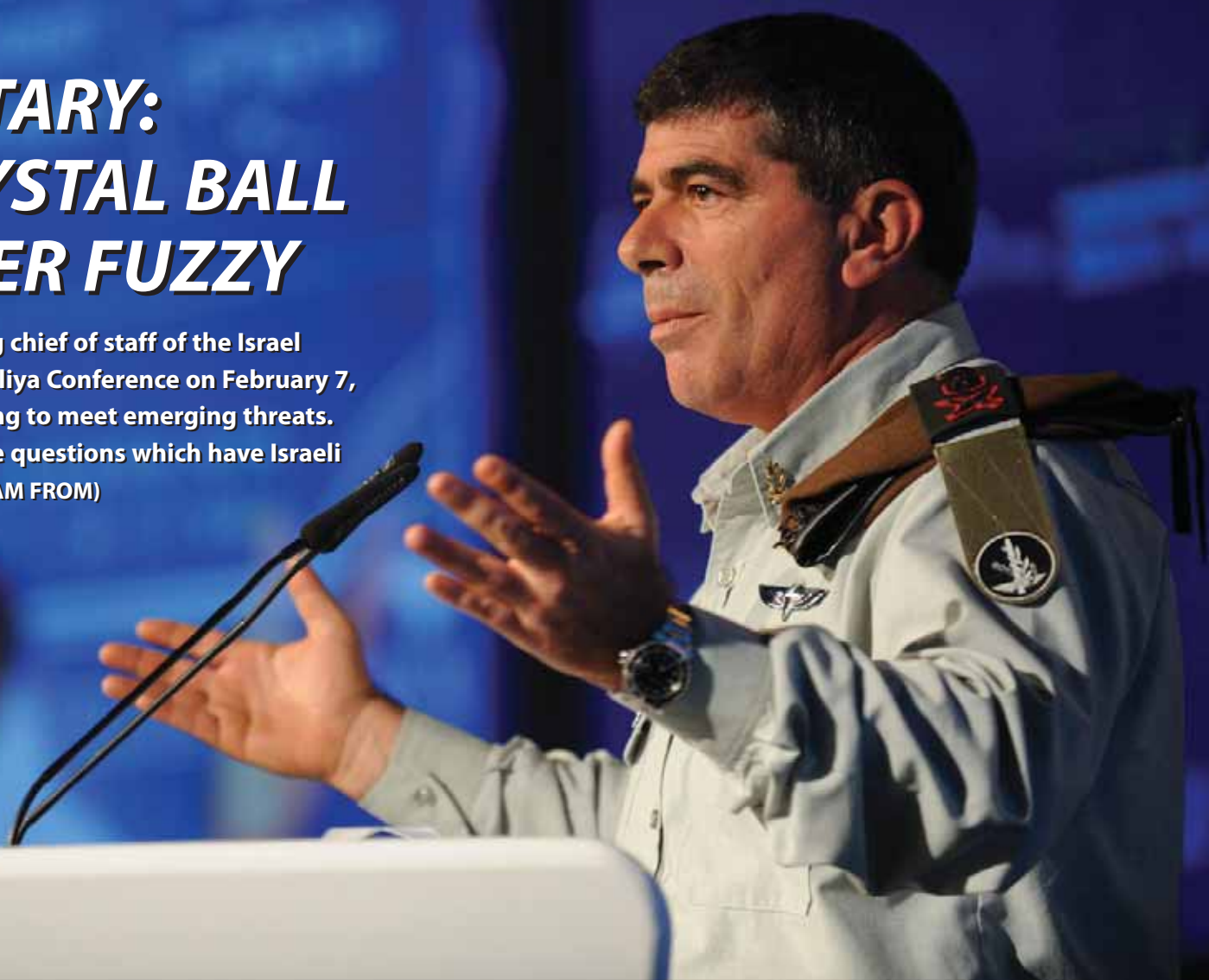
Friday, 18 February 2011 / 14 Adar I, 5771

Volume 15 Number 6

## Egyptian turmoil: Israel rethinks readiness for multi-front war **SEE PAGE 9**

### ISRAELI MILITARY: MIDEAST CRYSTAL BALL LOOKS RATHER FUZZY

Lt. Gen Gabi Ashkenazi, the outgoing chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces, speaking at the Herzliya Conference on February 7, about what the Israeli military is doing to meet emerging threats. The new developments in Egypt pose questions which have Israeli generals worried. (PHOTOGRAPH: YOTAM FROM)



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## PARSHA OF THE WEEK

# G-d keeps His promises!

OUR PARSHA this week describes how Moses ascends Mount Sinai to receive the 10 Commandments. The Israelites wait anxiously for 40 days after they had prepared themselves physically and spiritually. On the 40th day, they calculate and confirm that it is indeed the 40th day and they wait... and wait... but no Moses. The whole day passes and he doesn't come down.

If we backtrack for a moment and examine the background of the Israelites, we read a lot about them being "stiff-necked", stubborn and constantly complaining, but despite this, the Torah describes this generation as a "Dor Deah" – an enlightened generation – they weren't fools.

So they calculate, they don't see Moses coming down from the mountain, and they immediately engage in idol worship - fashioning and then dancing around a golden calf - the worst possible sin.

In trying to understand how such an enlightened and spiritually connected nation which witnessed open miracles, could sink so low, so quickly - virtually instantly - we need to examine



**PARSHAT  
KI TISA**  
**Rabbi Moshe Kazilsky**  
*Johannesburg Sephardi  
Hebrew Congregation*

their motive for the golden calf.

The Torah's description of them as a "Dor Deah" - a spiritually enlightened nation - is in fact the key to understanding how they could have built and worshipped an idol so passionately.

They wanted so badly to connect to G-d that when Moses didn't return on time according to their calculation, they went for "Plan B" - they channelled their passion into building and worshipping a golden calf which they believed would bring them the spirituality they yearned for.

They were able to do it because the evil inclination showed them a vision of Moses' coffin, and they were convinced that Moses had died.

It was the women, though, who refused to participate, and in the merit of these righteous women,

the entire nation was saved... Despite the fact that they too saw Moses' coffin - they said no! It's not over - G-d made a promise and He keeps His promises! Even if my eyes deceive me, I know that my soul will not!

The Rambam - Maimonides – writes: "Ani maamin be-emunah shelema" - "I believe with perfect faith that G-d can bring redemption to the world even today through our Messiah."

The Rambam says further that if you don't believe in that principle, you are a heretic - it's a fundamental principle.

If we look around, though, we see the world is in a terrible state - suffering, killings, starvation, a passionate resurgence of anti-Semitism. If we look, we see the coffin of Moses in front of us! For 2 000 years we've been waiting for redemption, maybe Judaism is a relic, let's move on - go to "Plan B" - immerse ourselves in worshipping the golden calf - the glitz and glamour of the physical world - but no, the righteous women say no! Don't be fooled by what you see. Just as you were ready to give up at Mount Sinai - Moses came down - even despite your loss of faith, and he brought the Torah with him.

## SHABBAT TIMES

**February 18/14 Adar 1**  
**February 19/15 Adar 1**

**Ki Tisa**

Starts	Ends	
18:15	19:20	Johannesburg
18:14	20:10	Cape Town
18:15	19:13	Durban
18:20	19:32	Bloemfontein
17:45	19:41	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:31	East London

When things around us in the world look bleak - Israel is continually getting bashed by the UN, when moral perspectives are so skewed that Israel is branded an apartheid state - indeed we see the coffin of Moses in front of us... we must not be fooled by what we see.

G-d will make good on all his promises to us. We will live in peace; in our land we will live spiritually rich and fulfilling lives.

When we face our own individual struggles, when the path in our personal lives looks bleak and all we see is the vision of Moses' coffin... our own "righteous woman", our soul, our essence connection tells us don't be fooled by what you see: G-d will make good on His promises.

# Memorial evening a celebration of survival

**LAUREN SHAPIRO  
DURBAN**

THE HALL was packed to capacity for the Durban Holocaust Centre's live staging of "The Boys from the Ashes" recently. The community had thronged to the Durban Jewish Centre to commemorate the United Nations Holocaust Remembrance Day (held at the end of January each year to commemorate the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau).

The play is co-written and directed by Courtneigh Cloud, and stars her sister Olivia Cloud, both the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor. The plot follows the life of young Israel Gurwicz and his family's experience of the Nazi's horrific regime.

Gurwicz and his brother were ultimately hidden and saved by their non-Jewish governess Tonia Pietryk - to whom the play is dedicated - while his mother, father and sister tragically perished.

Mauricio Marques and Aimee Goldsmith completed the talented cast.

The performance was authentic and touching in its own right, but the

pinnacle moment came at the end of the production, when Israel Gurwicz himself stood up before the applauding audience.

The evening was a celebration of survival, attended by several other Holocaust survivors and their families and friends.

This year the theme for the UN memorial ceremony was "Women in the Holocaust: Courage and Compassion".

Theme, the evening featured a special audio-visual presentation on the heroic role of women in the Partisans, presented by Mitch Braff, executive director of the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation (JPEF). Braff founded JPEF in 2000 because current Holocaust history and educational materials made little mention of the subject.

In his address, he paid tribute to the roles of those courageous individuals who played a part in resisting the Nazis and fighting for freedom and justice.

Deputy Director of the UN Information Centre in Pretoria Helene Hoedl, brought a message of support from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon:

"This year, we pay special tribute to the women who suffered in the Holocaust: mothers and daughters,

grandmothers, sisters and aunts, who saw their lives irrevocably changed, their families separated and their traditions shattered. Yet, despite appalling acts of discrimination, deprivation and cruelty, they consistently found ways to fight back against their persecutors."

Since opening less than three years ago, the Durban Holocaust Centre has become an educational and cultural landmark in the city and it is about to become a physical one, too.

Its exhibitions, school programmes and community events have become flagships in the city's cultural calendar. In 2010, despite the longer holidays and teacher strikes, the centre hosted 75 school groups to a four-hour workshop and had more than 4 000 visitors to the exhibition.

To keep up with the growing demand, the centre is in the process of relocating to a bigger venue on the same campus at 44 Old Fort Road.

The new centre will have its own separate entrance, a larger exhibition area and a dedicated seminar room. It will also house a new media centre containing computers for students to use for research projects, and an extensive library of Holocaust-related books and DVDs.

Durban Holocaust Centre Projects Manager Maureen Caminsky, who is responsible for the organisation of the centre, says: "As a stand-alone facility we will become well-known on the museum circuit – not only with schools but with visitors and locals."

The new centre will open at the end of March. For more information contact (031) 335-4461 or e-mail Maureen at dbnholocaust@djc.co.za

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

**ALLEGED PALESTINIAN  
TERRORIST ARRESTED IN  
ATHENS**

ATHENS - Athens police have arrested an alleged Palestinian terrorist accused of being in Greece to plan a major attack in Europe.

Ghaleb Taleb, who was arrested on February 12, is said to be a member of the Fatah-Al-Islam terror group based in Lebanon. He holds is a Lebanese.

Taleb will be deported for illegal entry into the country after being questioned by police, and may be sent to Lebanon or the Palestinian Authority, according to reports.

Ghaleb was under the surveillance of the Greek Central Intelligence agency after reportedly secretly entering Greece several months ago.

The police were forced to arrest Ghaleb over the weekend to avoid his fleeing the country following a story in the Italian daily Corriere della Sera reporting his presence in Greece and his alleged mission. The paper said that Ghaleb had attempted to facilitate the entrance into Greece of other terrorists, to whom he supplied money and false passports.

A Palestinian was last arrested in Greece on terrorism charges in 1991, according to reports. (JTA)



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Mary Kluk, vice chairman of the, SAJBD; Yaakov Finkelstein, deputy Chief of Mission, Israeli Embassy; Ambassador Dov Segev-Steinberg; Michael Bagraim, president, SAJBD and Zev Krengel, national chairman, SAJBD.

# Israel’s Ambassador Segev-Steinberg and the SAJBD’s Zev Krengel clear the air

DOV SEGEV-STEINBERG, Israel’s ambassador to South Africa and Zev Krengel, national chairman of the SAJBD, on Tuesday at a meeting in Pretoria, cleared the air in an effort to restore cordial relations between the embassy and the SAJBD, which had soured after the aborted Tzipi Livni visit to the country.

A strike of the Israel Foreign Affairs Ministry union at the time had prevented the ambassador from giving the necessary assistance to enable Livni, leader of Kadima in the Knesset, from visiting the country.

Minutes of an acrimonious January 16 meeting between Krengel and his brother Avrom, chairman of the SAZF and Segev-Steinberg and his deputy Yaacov Finkelstein, were leaked to the SA Jewish Report and other parties. At Tuesday’s meeting, besides Zev Krengel and Segev-Steinberg, were present Mary Kluk, vice chairman of the SAJBD, Michael Bagraim, president of the SAJBD and Yaacov Finkelstein, Segev-Steinberg’s deputy.

The media release issued after the meeting, reads:

“Ambassador Dov Segev-Steinberg and Mr Zev Krengel met on February 15 in Pretoria in an attempt to address the recent tension between the Embassy and the SA Jewish Board of Deputies.

“Mr Zev Krengel apologised for the acri-



Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa Dov Segev-Steinberg and Zev Krengel, national chairman of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, shake hands at a meeting in Pretoria to clear the air between them.

monious statements made at the meeting on January 16 and (for) any hurt that resulted from statements made.

“Ambassador Segev-Steinberg expressed his regret for the need to cancel the Tzipi Livni visit to South Africa earlier this year due to the strike in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“Both parties look forward to re-establishing the positive working relationship between the Embassy and Jewish communal leadership that has always existed in South Africa.”

## SAJBD (Cape Council) slams Zev Krengel

MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

IN AN unprecedented move, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (Cape Council) has broken ranks with the national body in connection with the breakdown in relations between National Chairman Zev Krengel and Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa Dov Segev-Steinberg over the cancellation of the visit of Israeli Opposition Leader Tzipi Livni to this country.

The Cape Board wrote to the ambassador late last week apologising for and dissociating itself from Krengel’s behaviour at a meeting that took place on January 16.

SAJBD National President Michael Bagraim, facilitated a mediation between the parties at a meeting in Pretoria on Tuesday night to try and ensure Shalom Bayit. “We’ve arrived at a workable solu-

tion,” he told Jewish Report afterwards.

“Already the ambassador has come forward with suggestions on a joint effort for a seminar he wants to give, including a video-conference with a high-ranking official in Israel to give feedback on what’s happening in Egypt. So they’ve reached out to the Board to start working together on projects.

“Krengel’s behaviour should never have happened and he agrees. He was emotional, he was distraught and that emotion was reflected in his language which unfortunately was directed at the ambassador.

“His reasoning is that he was so emotional about wanting to bring Livni to South Africa - he had been working round the clock to ensure that the visit went ahead - he met this last stumbling block that he could not overcome and his temper got the better of him.

“He understood that and has apologised.”

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**SYDENHAM:** 3 bed, 3 recep, 2 bath, pool and more, **R1,6 mil**

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# Benny Stalson z”l, a teacher, mentor and leader of Progressive Judaism

DARRYL EGNAL  
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

BENNY STALSON (pictured), who died on Sunday February 6 at age 93, dedicated his working life to the South African Union of Progressive Judaism (SAUPJ), and to Temple Israel, the mother synagogue of the movement. The impact Benny made on generations of Progressive Reform families over the past 65 years was immeasurable.

Benny’s name, as one of the stalwarts of the community, was legendary. My father, Trevor, had often mentioned him with affection, as he had been at Temple Israel’s Cheder when Benny was a teacher there, and he had regularly attended the Alan Isaacs Camp in Margate when Benny was in charge. He also had many dealings with Benny during his many years as chairman of Bet David and he always spoke of Benny with great respect.

I met Benny in 2006 when I interviewed him for the Tribute to Temple Israel brochure that I was putting together for the shul’s 70th anniversary. This was the first of many discussions. The entire movement celebrated his 90th birthday at Temple Israel in 2007 and I saw him and his family a number of times over the years.

I quote the following from an article I wrote about him in the Tribute to Temple Israel:

“Benny Stalson is a living legend in Progressive Judaism. Not only has he dedicated most of his active life to the South African Progressive Jewish movement, but he has also committed his retirement years to Temple Israel. In the absence of rabbinic leadership, he has acted as teacher, lay reader and spiritual adviser. Involved in Temple Israel almost from the beginning, Benny Stalson joined the synagogue in the early ‘40s and played an active part in its growth and development.”

“Benny was a wonderful man and we are so sorry to hear of his loss,” says Steve Lurie, chairman of the SA Union for Progressive Judaism (SAUPJ). “He taught me at cheder, and many of

those he taught and inspired through his leadership became leading members of the community.

“If it had not been for him and for Reeva Forman (chairman of Temple Israel), the mother synagogue would have been closed down and sold off. Instead it has been recognised as a heritage site by the South African Heritage Foundation.”

Says Forman: “In 1994, when there was a threat to close Temple Israel, which was founded in 1936, I was asked to prevent this. Without Benny’s support and encouragement, my dream of Temple Israel remaining in Hillbrow, today a disadvantaged area in downtown Johannesburg, as a mitzvah synagogue and outreach to both Jew and non-Jew alike, would not have become a reality.

“As our spiritual leader, ‘Rabbi’ Benny inspired in me and the congregation an amazing love of our Jewish religion, traditions and pride in our Progressive religious egalitarian and universal approach.

“Benny held this position for 15 years until he became too ill to continue. His dedication and commitment to Temple Israel and the Jewish religion, laid the strong foundation on which the very existence of Temple Israel is based,” she says.

“Benny was a kind and caring man who was always a pleasure to talk to,” says Lurie. “His knowledge, and passion for teaching Judaism was truly amazing. His presence and involvement in our community will be sorely missed.”

“Through almost the entire history of Progressive Reform Judaism in South Africa, Benny had the leadership necessary to put into practice the highest goals and ideals of our tradition,” says Rabbi Robert Jacobs, chairman of the SA Association of Progressive Rabbis (SAAPR).

“He was a stalwart at Temple Israel despite his advanced age. Benny touched many lives over the years and he will be remembered with fondness and affection by all who knew him.”

# With every right comes a set of responsibilities

LIONEL SLIER

LEAD SA and the Department of Basic Education with the support of the country’s interfaith religious leaders, have announced that they will soon launch a nationwide programme to teach learners the Bill of Responsibilities.

The Bill of Rights in the Constitution has been transformed into a practical document - the Bill of Responsibilities.

“With every right comes a responsibility. The Bill of Rights is a legal document while the Bill of Responsibilities provides a framework of values which we all need to embrace. It is especially aimed at the youth, but will in time filter into families and the community at large,” said Lead SA’s Terry Volkwyn, of Primedia in a media release.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein is behind the whole concept and he took it to Lead SA. Volkwyn and Moegsien Williams, editor of The Star, have bought into this and will be running with the campaign.

The Chief Rabbi has been working closely with Lead SA and will be involved in it throughout. He has previously met in public discussions with different faith leaders and also President Jacob Zuma to promote his Bill of Responsibilities which basically signposts a clear vision to a better future for all South Africans.

Opening the debate on the President’s State of Nation address in the National Assembly last week, ANC Chief Whip Dr Mathole Motshekga, said: “The

Bill seeks to inculcate the values of rights and responsibilities among school children. In particular, the Bill focuses on the respect for human dignity and the work ethic. It is particularly important for building the character of children, deterring teenage pregnancies, use and/or abuse of drugs and alcohol.”

Dr Motshekga said the partnership between Lead SA, the Department and the National Interfaith Movement, would be launched in March.

Volkwyn said the preamble of the Bill of Responsibilities reads: “I accept the call to responsibility that comes with the many rights and freedoms that I have been privileged to inherit from the sacrifice and the suffering of those who came before me.

“I appreciate that the rights enshrined in the Constitution are inseparable from the duties and responsibilities to others. Therefore I accept that with every right comes a set of responsibilities.”

Among the aspects covered in the Bill of Responsibilities are issues such as “the right to education places on me the responsibility to attend school regularly, to learn and to work hard; cooperate respectfully with teachers and fellow-learners and; adhere to rules and the code of conduct of the school”.

Other issues covered include how to be a “good and loyal South African citizen - obeying the laws of our country, and contributing in every possible way to make South Africa a greater country”.

Also covered are aspects such

as: “The responsibility in ensuring the right to life, responsibility in ensuring the right to equality, the responsibility in ensuring the right to freedom of religion, belief and opinion; the responsibility in ensuring the right to freedom of expression; responsibility in ensuring the right to live in a safe environment and responsibility in ensuring the right to family and parental care.”

Chief Rabbi Goldstein, who drafted the Bill of Responsibilities on behalf of the National Religious Leaders Forum, said: “The future of South Africa will be determined by the impressionable young children who sit in our classrooms day after day. It is the values in the Bill of Responsibilities that will influence the way our children view the world and their own position within it.

“The Bill of Responsibilities offers our children the gift of new words and a new spirit - the words and spirit of giving and contributing, of duty, accountability and responsibility, of respect and decency, of tolerance and understanding, of integrity and loyalty, of kindness and compassion.”

The National Interfaith Movement has been tasked with taking the messages from the Bill of Responsibilities to places of worship and to the various congregations. All religious groups are represented.

Lead SA was launched in August last year as a partnership between Primedia Broadcasting and the Independent Group of Newspapers.

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### ISRAEL RATES WITH AMERICANS, GALLUP POLL SHOWS

WASHINGTON - A substantial majority of Americans continue to rate Israel favourably according to the latest Gallup Poll.

Sixty-eight per cent of Americans rated Israel favourably in the poll conducted on February 2 - 5, statistically the same as the 67 per cent Israel scored in 2010.

Israel ranked seventh among 21 countries in this year's poll behind, in order, Canada, Britain, Germany, Japan, India and France.

Iran scored last, with 11 per cent approval, and the Palestinian Authority scored fifth from last, with 19 per cent approval.

In its commentary when the

poll was released on February 11, Gallup noted that Egypt had plunged in approval since the 2010 polling. The most recent poll was conducted before military authorities acceded to protesters' demands and removed Hosni Mubarak from the presidency.

France, meantime, had climbed steadily from a low of 34 per cent in 2003, when it opposed the US invasion of Iraq, to 71 per cent this year.

"Americans' ratings of foreign countries suggest Americans are aware of what is occurring internationally," Gallup said.

"Countries that are friendly to the United States and supportive

of its foreign policy are generally rated positively, while countries that are unfriendly to the United States and oppose its policies are rated negatively."

Gallup reached 1 015 respondents by telephone. The poll has a margin of error of 4 per cent.

Separately, a poll released on Monday by The Israel Project showed that a majority of Americans believed that the United States should support Israel in "the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in the Middle East".

Support for Israel was 55 per cent to 6 per cent for the Palestinians. Sixteen per cent responded "neither". (JTA)

### GERMANS OPPOSE A UNILATERAL PALESTINIAN STATE, POLL FINDS

BERLIN - A new poll suggests that most Germans would oppose an early declaration of a Palestinian state.

The poll also found that Germans would view a nuclear Iran as a serious threat both to Israel and Germany, and that respondents also backed enforcing sanctions against Iran even if it would hurt German companies.

The survey of 800 people was conducted between January 12 and 19. In addition, focus groups of opinion leaders were held on January 6.

Both polls were conducted by

the Greenberg Quinlan Rosner institution for The Israel Project, a think tank based in Washington and Jerusalem.

Asked if Germany should recognise a unilaterally declared Palestinian state, 57 per cent overall were opposed, with 27 per cent strongly opposed. Only 14 per cent strongly favoured such recognition; 36 per cent overall approved of the idea.

Asked to imagine a nuclear-armed Iran, 69 per cent felt this would be threatening to Germany, and 88 per cent saw it as a threat to Israel. Backing up their fears, 76 per cent said they

approved strong enforcement of economic sanctions against Iran, even if the sanctions had an impact on German business.

The survey was conducted just as a former German politician raised eyebrows by calling on the European Union to recognise an independent Palestinian state.

Former German development minister, Heidemarie Wieceorek-Zeul of the Social Democratic Party, drew a sharp reaction from Reinhold Robbe, head of the German-Israeli Friendship Society, who called her comments “irresponsible” and “naive”. (JTA)



AROUND THE WORLD  
NEWS IN BRIEF

ANTI-SEMITIC FLYERS  
ATTACK EMANUEL

CHICAGO - Flyers with anti-Semitic messages directed against Chicago mayoral front-runner Rahm Emanuel, were distributed on a city train line.

The flyer, distributed at a Chicago Transit Authority Red Line station, shows a silhouette of Emanuel and reads: "I will run Chicago as I ran Freddie Mac, PROFITABLE (for me, me, me) thirty millions\$\$\$\$\$. I was entitled to it, being a Holocaust survivor (I mean my family)."

Emanuel is "unfazed" by the fliers, according to the NBC television affiliate in Chicago, which quoted him as saying: "I have confidence in the people."

The nonpartisan election is scheduled for February 22; and a runoff, if necessary, would be six weeks later.

Last Sunday, fellow candidate Carol Moseley Braun compared Emanuel to a character in the Mel Brooks film "The Producers" who describes Hitler as "kind" and "gentle".

"I was not comparing him to Adolf Hitler; print that," Moseley Braun told reporters later. "I was trying to say... the kind, gentle concern for the public that is being portrayed in these ads does not square with the record."

Emanuel in a debate on Monday said he thought Braun's words were taken out of context.

Emanuel served for two years as President Barack Obama's White House chief of staff and also was a congressman. (JTA)

PA SETTLES LAWSUIT IN  
AMERICANS' MURDERS

JERUSALEM - The Palestinian Authority reportedly has settled a lawsuit over the murder of two American citizens living in Israel.

Court papers indicating that a settlement agreement was reached were filed on Monday in a Rhode Island District Court, but no details were provided, The Associated Press reported.

A \$116 million default judgment awarded by the Rhode Island court in 2004 was vacated by the agreement, according to the papers, the AP reported. The agreement also lifts a freeze on PA assets in the United States.

The 1st US Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston last year had sent the case back to the district court for more arguments on whether the unpaid default judgment should be set aside after new PA attorneys said they would fight the judgment.

The Rhode Island court had awarded the judgment to the family of terror victims Yaron and Efrat Ungar, American citizens killed in 1996 when they were attacked in their car by Palestinian terrorists as they drove home from a wedding near Beit Shemesh, west of Jerusalem. Their infant son survived the attack.

Lawyers for the Ungar family and the Palestinian Authority would not comment to AP. (JTA)

Beware the ‘bounce of a dead cat’

ALISON GOLDBERG

AGAINST A slowdown in house prices, there are some bright spots in the market - discounts of up to 30 per cent to market value at auctions of residential property and 6 per cent growth in flat rentals.

According to leading property economist Erwin Rode of Rode & Associates, a valuer and statistician, despite a slight recovery in the residential market during the first six months of 2010, house prices are back to zero per cent growth. The uptick "was nothing but the bounce of a dead cat".

This view is supported by analysts at Absa, FNB and Standard Bank.

"The message is sinking in with prospective buy-to-rent investors

that capital growth prospects are not that bright," says Rode. "As a result, they account for less than 10 per cent of sales."

Rode expects house prices in real terms (nominal prices less inflation - currently 3,5 per cent) to keep on declining for the next "up to" four years, which implies very little nominal growth in this period, assuming low inflation.

Absa's sectoral analyst Jacques du Toit corroborates Rode's finding of a low start for 2011. He forecasts nominal house price growth of around 3 per cent for 2011, while prices are expected to decline in real terms on the back of a projected price inflation rate of more than 4 per cent this year.

Over the next few years he expects price growth in nominal

terms, albeit in single digit figures.

In the meantime, Rode points to entrepreneurial investors following auctions of residential property where there is a 30 per cent discount to market value, but these investors are very selective at auctions. It is a very specialised market and not one for amateurs, he warns.

Lew Geffen of Sotheby's International Realty Lew Geffen, "differs completely" with Rode's outlook.

"We are on the coal face and usually ahead of the curve. Three years ago when I said house prices would drop 40 per cent, property economists John Loos at FNB and Standard Bank's Johan Botha were still bullish. Now that I'm bullish, economists are all pessimistic.

"We are seeing a lot of buying around the R2,5 million mark countrywide - mostly by professionals who are upgrading. It is a very attractive market.

"Our finding is that house prices increased by 6 per cent last year and we expect the same growth this year. Our February financial year-end, year-on-year, showed an increase in the number of sales by 30 per cent.

"Nor do I think the auction market is very good at the moment, from our experience with Saville Row Auctioneers. That is the report too of Rael Levitt (CEO of Auction Alliance) who says all the activity is below the R1m mark and very slow above. Our finding is that not many houses are sold on auction. The real estate market is far superior."

While no one doubts house

prices increased by a nominal 6 per cent in 2010 - Absa in fact recorded a 7 per cent growth in house prices below R3,1 million - the real story is the continued slow-down in house price growth, as Absa's graph shows, in the second half of last year and continuing into January.

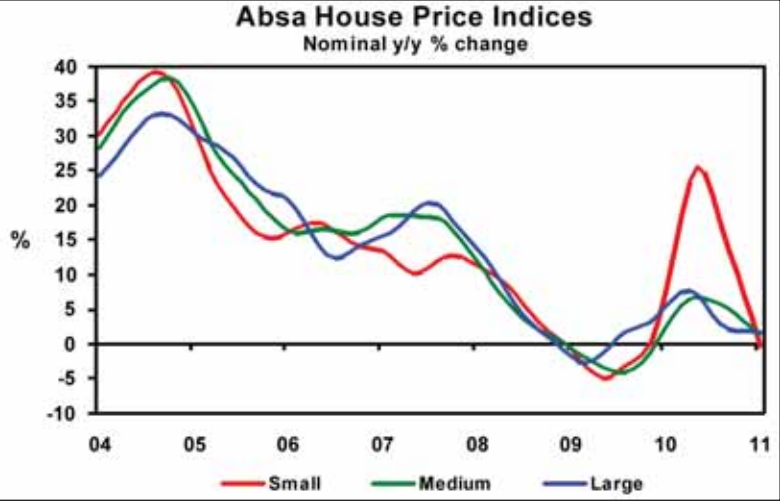
As for residential rentals, Rode says these are showing little growth. The one bright spot is flat rentals, which are growing at about 6 per cent. But growth in house and townhouse rentals is below the inflation rate.

"If you were to invest in flats rather than townhouses, the immediate advantage is that your income return would be higher. The problem with townhouses is that there is an oversupply due to the fact that in the boom years - 2000-2007 - most residential development took place in this sector. The other negative is that townhouses are generally built further away from work opportunities."

Prominent Johannesburg agent Jawitz Properties CEO Hershel Jawitz, believes the yields on flat rentals in the R1m and under market are pretty good.

"The buy-to-let market is attractive from this point of view, though there are not many investors out there because of banks' strict lending criteria. So it is down to seasonal investors."

He is seeing both flat and townhouse rentals in urban areas increasing at between 8 - 10 per cent a year, while house rentals are growing at 6 - 7 per cent. The good rental demand Jawitz attributes to a lack of affordability and access to bonds.



**ABSA HOUSE PRICE INDICES, Nominal y/y % change . The post May 2010 slowdown in house prices below R3,1 million in nominal terms in all three categories: small houses (80m2-140m2); medium-sized houses (141m2-220m2); and large houses (221m2-400 m2).**

ORT SA celebrates 75 years with a musical

CAROL ROD  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
EXECUTIVE ORT SA

THERE IS much excitement about "The 10 Tap Dancing Rabbis from Minsk", featuring 10 local talents from various shul choirs including Great Park and Sydenham Shuls, for the upcoming Yiddish musical in celebration of ORT SA's spectacular, titled "ORT Azey!".

The show will be performed in Johannesburg for one night only on Wednesday night, March 16, at the Lyric Theatre at Gold Reef City.

ORT is inviting the community to join them for a le'chaim to celebrate ORT SA's 75th birthday. Contact ORT SA on (011) 728-7154 for tickets and information, or book online at Computicket.

Dean Murinik of the Great Park choir has handpicked his 10 contemporaries and all are very excited to perform in the show. They will inter alia perform a song that was composed by internationally acclaimed songwriter, Hal Shaper (scored by Matthew Reid, assisted by Fay Singer).

The main cast will fly in from Cape Town and the production includes local talent as well.

"We are very excited to incorporate new talent into the show and these boys have such wonderful voices," says director Irma Kesler.

The show which is being produced by Phillip Todres boasts a spectacular line-up of songs that is sure to wow the Johannesburg audience, with a little something for everyone.

Through the universal language

of song, Yiddish reaches out with an evocative embrace that has been surprisingly effective. The poignant lyrics and infectious melodies have been warmly received across generations and to a wider audience that was ever anticipated.

Originally conceived as a fundraiser for the CJSA (Cape Jewish Seniors Association), the festival developed a life of its own.

The Yiddish Song Festival is endorsed by JMI South Africa and the JMI SOAS - the Jewish Music Institute, London.



**Sabelo Ndlovu, one of MaAfrica Tikkun's computer trainers.**

ORT SA, MaAfrika Tikkun  
join up in HP GET-IT training

LISA MORALEE  
PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

ORT SA has been asked to train MaAfrika Tikkun's computer trainers in the latest HP GET-IT Training (Graduate Entrepreneurship Training through IT) Guidance Course.

This course was established in Zurich, Switzerland, ORT SA says in a media release. The training is based on business principles, including marketing, time management and presentation.

The subjects are explored by applying them practically to relevant computer skills needed while learning different aspects of basic computer programmes such as Microsoft

Word, Outlook and PowerPoint. ORT is an NGO that believes in "educating for life".

Last year, from December 7 - 9, HP GET-IT training took place at the MaAfrika Tikkun training centre in the Diepsloot township. The training was aimed primarily at MaAfrika Tikkun community computer centre trainers from townships in both Gauteng and Cape Town.

All participants were trained on the HP GET IT methodology and given training materials. They were certainly eager and receptive, says ORT SA Chairman Irwin Lipworth. Although at first apparently somewhat be unsure, they relaxed quickly and soon

enjoyed the atmosphere. The range of training and technical computer skills made for an interesting mix of contributions.

MaAfrika Tikkun is an organisation that fosters empowerment by providing holistic services focused on caring for children ranging from one to 19 years of age, as well as their guardians. In its community centres, it provides a computer centre for young adults.

Now, following the training of their trainers, they will be able to transfer this knowledge to the community.

• For more information about the HP GET IT training, call ORT SA on (011) 728-7154 or visit [www.ortsa.org.za](http://www.ortsa.org.za)





**Gary Friedman, the caterer for the function at the HOD, with Isaac Reznik, organiser of the Bobba's Kitchen affair.**

SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis [jont@global.co.za](mailto:jont@global.co.za)



**Above: Five chefs have cooked up a storm for the function.**



**Left: Veliswa Miti balances two plates of newly prepared fish balls.**

# It was, Eat and be merry à la Bobba

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

THE RECENT “Bobba’s Kitchen” function held at the HOD hall in Johannesburg, with a magnificent selection of “Bobba’s foods” on offer, was the brainchild of Isaac Reznik, who believes that modern day Jews know very little about how “traditional” Jewish food was made in “Bobba’s days” or how it tasted.

He believed many older people had forgotten about Jewish delicacies such as kishke, flaumen tzimmes, gehacked herring, as well as how our parents hung up sour milk wrapped up in muslin and waited for it to turn into cheese.

Many of the younger generations had never even heard of such things! And Reznik was going to enlighten them all.

Who better to discuss this with than the doyen of “Jewish-style” food, Dulcie Braude and caterer Gary Friedman – who jumped at the idea of a function offering a variety of “homemade” soups, kugels, compotes and wet teiglach, among others.

They decided that there would be - and there was - a cold buffet offering three differ-

ent kinds of herrings, gefilte fish and pickled fish together with a large salad bar where assorted rye and continental breads were available as well as an assortment of drinks.

These were followed by three different soups, chicken, bean and barley and meat borscht and accompaniments.

Then followed a hot buffet with cholent and potato kugel; slow-roast chicken; Kraut blintzes, roast brisket with flaumen tzimmes, potato knish with meaty gravy and assorted mustards.

If you had any room left to cater for your sweet tooth, an assortment of magical puddings was awaiting you.

Choices could be made from the warm sweet lokshen and apple compote, pear and apple compote; ice cream and chocolate sauce, malva pudding and wet teiglach with almonds.

All this could be washed down with coffee and Russian tea served with sugar cubes and homemade plum jam.

Everyone at the function certainly let their hair down probably thinking, “tonight let’s eat and be merry”, for tomorrow the scale will hopefully not be working.



**A proud Judy Mindel shows off her bowls of salad and garnishes.**



**Gary Friedman with his host of chefs standing between him and food connoisseur and caterer, Dulcie Braude.**



**Yvonne and Ronnie Kaplan with Solly Krok showing off a “Bobba’s apron” specially made for the occasion.**



**Lorraine Reznick makes a family threesome between two brothers, her husband Maish and his brother Isaac.**



**Entertainers of the evening were singer Russel Lurie and musician Evelyn Green on keyboard.**

## COMMUNITY BUZZ

### LIONEL SLIER

082-444-9832, fax: 011-440-0448, [lionel.slier@absamail.co.za](mailto:lionel.slier@absamail.co.za)

### ROBERTSON

From Marc Kopman continues:

“As per my usual experiences in the plateland, I couldn’t help being overcome by feelings of wanting to be transported back in time when the shul was operating at its zenith, who the people were, their simchas, their cheder, their community vibe.

“The cemetery, just recently renovated to an excellent state of affairs, Yasherkoach to Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft (who I believe had been there barely a week before my visit) for his department’s fine efforts right around the country communities in all aspects.

“My good friend (then Cantor) Stuart Serwator actually taught cheder to the children of Robertson from the mid to late 1990s, so it was not so long ago that the community was still an active one.

“That being that and watching the timepiece announcing time for lunch, I found a delightful little restaurant/coffee shop at the exit to the town called ‘De Oude Kombuis’ — friendly and excellent service without a doubt! On exiting, the words inscribed at the top of the archway proclaim ‘shalom’. Yes, indeed, a fine end to a short but eventful experience.

“From there, we headed for Cape Town to be with family in Sea Point/Milnerton areas and enjoyed the Chanukah celebrations at Cape Town Sephardi Congregation - that’s another story.

“My next stop will be Massinga in Mozambique - and anything Jewish. Well, I’m not that sure at all, but if there is, you will hear about it soon.”

### KRUGERSDORP

From Alan Porter:

“With great interest I read Marc Kopman’s recollections last week of the so-called legend, Morris Fainsinger. He was my late grandfather’s brother. My grandfather was Joe Fainsinger.

“The Fainsingers came to Krugersdorp from Pokroy at the end of the 1800s. They were pretty unique as they came as a family. My grandfather spoke about coming to Krugersdorp. I think that he finished his schooling there.

“They were father Gerald, mother Tilla and brothers Lazarus, Zundel, Morris and Joe. The sisters were Ethel, Sarah, Lena and Freda. Freda died very young. All were very musical.

“Being two generations down, I do not know much about any of them. As I understand the next generation - my late mother’s - there are two left: Tsippy Yutar in Cape Town with her son David and George Cohen at Randjieslaagte Retirement Village in Johannesburg.

“The Fainsingers and family of my generation are well dispersed over the world. I think there are some grandchildren left in Johannesburg, Hillcrest in KwaZulu-Natal and Cape Town.

“My grandfather, Joe, often spoke of his brother’s death. It shook him badly and he maintained his distrust of the British. He preferred Afrikaans as a language, but spoke impeccable English. As I understand it, Morris loved music and playing his violin around the Boer camps.

“When he was challenged by a British sentry, either he did not understand the challenge or the possibility that he was hard of hearing and never heard the challenge and was shot.

“If Mr Kopman cares to go to the Krugersdorp Cemetery, right at the back is a family plot. Buried there are my great-grandparents, Gerald and Tilla, together with Freda and Morris.

“I also sent some photographs to the Krugersdorp Shul, including Gerald Fainsinger. Any Fainsingers wishing to contact me can do so on my e-mail: [porteraj@absamail.co.za](mailto:porteraj@absamail.co.za).”

### PORT ELIZABETH

From Rollo Berman:

“Under the Elms’, the official history of

Grey High School, tells of when Cecil Morris and Zick Kraitzick were at the crease in a nail-biting cricket final for a prestigious trophy.

“Between overs they met in the middle of the pitch for a powwow. The spectators were in no doubt that the two were discussing strategy on how to win the match. After the game was over, Morris was asked what the meeting was about. He answered that it was to ask Zick whether he had booked the Saturday evening bioscope tickets.

“Morris Glick, ‘Dopey’, got colours for rugby and played for the First Fifteen. During a big match on the main field, his father, Ruby (who spoke with a burr), saw Morris get the ball on the 22 metre line.

“In his excitement he belted out: ‘Moggie gibba drop!’ That outburst is remembered to this day by Grey boys who attended the school at the time.

“Until 1956 up to 20 per cent of the Grey pupils were Jewish; that was until the Theodore Herzl Jewish Day School opened.”

### MUIZENBERG

From Hyman Jocum:

“Also interesting in the exhibition at the Labia is a photograph of Muizenberg High School girls who voluntarily gave up their Sundays to help with the nursing at the Seahurst Hospital for convalescing servicemen. This hospital was situated on the mountainside of the Main Road between St James and Kalk Bay.

“People who choose to vacation in the Cape Peninsular during the remaining summer months, will be well rewarded by a visit to the former home of Princess Labia just to view the Old Muizenberg Exhibition.”

### THE ATKINS SCHMALTZ DIET

Sent in by Frank Friedman:

“This actually goes back two generations or three, if you are under 50. I miss it all and can’t help but wonder how my grandparents did not have a cholesterol problem.

“Before we start, there are some variations in ingredients because of the various types of Jewish tastes - Polack (Polish); Litvak (Lithuanian) and Gallicianer (Galicia).

“Just as we Jews have six seasons of the year - winter, spring, summer, autumn, the busy season and the slack season - we all focus on the main ingredient which unfortunately and undeservedly has disappeared from our diet. I am talking, of course, about schmaltz (chicken fat or goose fat).

“Schmaltz has, for centuries, been the prime ingredient in almost every Jewish dish and I feel that it is time to revive its rightful place in our homes. I have plans to distribute it in a green glass Gucci bottle with a label clearly saying: ‘Low fat, no cholesterol, Newman’s Choice, Extra Virgin Schmaltz’. It cannot miss!

“Let’s start, of course, with the ‘forsh-peiz’ (appetiser) - gehackteh leiber (chopped liver) with schmaltz is always good, but how about something more exotic for your dear ones, like boiled carp in yoyech (soup) which sets in a jelly form, or ‘gefilteh miltz’ (stuffed spleen), from which all the veins are removed (thank G-d) and it is fried (you guessed it) in schmaltz, bread crumbs, eggs, onions, salt and pepper.

“Love it! How about stewed ‘lunge’ (lungs), very chewy or ‘geheren’? Am I making your mouth water yet?”

More next week.

### JOHANNESBURG

A long-time woman resident of Doornfontein goes into Crystals (this is in the old days) to buy a chicken. She rejects half a dozen, then finally selects one. She lifts a wing and smells underneath. Then she smells under the other wing. Then she spreads the chicken’s legs and smells again.

She says to the assistant: “This chicken is no good. I want another one.” The assistant rather put out, answers: “Tell me, could you pass a test like that?”



# BUILDING SOUTH AFRICA

## People doing remarkable things

# Davidow builds lasting bridges

LIONEL SLIER  
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

MICKEY DAVIDOW is the only holder of a 10th Dan Black Belt in South Africa, the highest that one can go in the martial arts field of judo. And on top of that, he is one of the most modest persons that one can ever meet.

Davidow trains youngsters in martial arts and is completely colour blind about whomever he trains - blacks, coloureds, Indians, whites... they all come to him and he gives of his time and knowledge and experience freely.

He trains them at Irving Ginsburg's club which is at the Torah Academy Hall in Highlands North, Johannesburg and moreover, he is always available whenever he is called for something extra, which, he says, happens a couple of times a month. If there is a tournament, he is usually helping out as a referee. He gives as much time as is humanly possible to his passion and to the kids he tries to uplift.

Davidow was born in Johannesburg, in the "south" as people sometimes call it, somewhat with embarrassment as if there is some sort of stigma attached to it. He went to primary school in Regents Park and then on to Hillel College, which was a Jewish boarding school in Oxford Road, Parktown, run by a Colonel Levinson and his wife. Hillel College has long since gone and, in fact, Temple Emanuel has since been built on the site.

"There was no martial arts in those days," he explains, "only boxing, so as a kid I learnt boxing." (Growing up in the "south" it was a useful skill to have!)

He later learnt ju jitsu, taught by a Brigadier Morris who had trained British troops during the war. He used to go to a centre at the Johannesburg Technical College, near Park Station.

Davidow afterwards changed to judo and was trained by the well-known master, Norman Robinson, who is still around, training in Randburg. "He is the greatest martial arts personality in South Africa," says Davidow.

"In actual fact, the first Jewish guy to teach martial arts in South Africa was Leon Ossendryver, who learnt it in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp. I learnt from him." His son, Ilan, is a well-known photographer in Johannesburg.

When he is not involved with martial arts, Davidow teaches refrigeration and electronics technology and "all sorts of things" at Torah Academy. "In fact, many of my former black students have gone on to do extremely well in the refrigeration field and a number of them run their own businesses, very successfully.

"In the sixties I went to America to study martial arts - judo, karate, Akido, the whole lot," said Davidow. When he was in the US, he earned a doctorate in Chinese therapy. "Then, when I came back, I taught at the Berea Social Club which was



Mickey Davidow teaches Orel Rubin and Samuel Goldberg a grip in judo.

at the back of the Berea Shul."

One had to prise out of him that he was the South African judo champion in the light and then heavyweight divisions. He was also in a Springbok team of six that competed against Italy and Israel.

Some other achievements: In the 1970s a grandmaster of Kung Fu was Edward Liang who trained in China. Davidow was a student of his and later became an instructor of Liang's methods and started teaching Kung Fu in his garage in Johannesburg - always having a passion to involve the young and to "empower" them.

Davidow started his own martial arts style, known as "Franchento" in this country. He said that the word is Chinese for "way of the snake". Then for 10 years he was vice-president of the South African National Judo Association.

He speaks fondly of Dennis Hanover who is the world president of the Judo Association. "Dennis was born here and was a pupil of mine. He now lives in Israel. There are 27 members in the world body and when Dennis was elected, two countries objected to his election - Germany and Egypt."

Davidow and Hanover got judo recognised as a Maccabi sport and since the Sixth Maccabiah it is part of the tournament.

Davidow mentioned that when he was vice-president of the South African National Amateur Judo Association, they affiliated with the parallel Black Judo Association during the apartheid era.

Davidow "lived" his credo of non-racialism even in the days when it bucked the trend.

"It caused quite a ruckus at the time, as you can imagine," he said "So I went to see Dr Piet Koornhof, who was Minister of Sports and he said to me: 'Go for it. It's okay.'"

Today the national body is very big with Peter Zinge the national president. Davidow brought the first black person - Dandile Dlabuntu - onto the executive He was a student of Davidow for 12 years. Dlabuntu is now a 3rd Dan.

Martial arts is the umbrella name for a variety of sports such as judo, ju jitsu, Akido, kung fu... All these different forms - members of the same family - are bridge builders par excellence over cultural boundaries.

Marc Kahn, who was a student of Davidow for 45 years says: "Without doubt, it is one of the most popular activities among the black community. Many have reached Black Belt standard. There are also many black instructors today."

Kahn added: "Mickey Davidow has reached the highest grade among South Africans. He is known all over the world and has even been recognised in the Martial Arts Hall of Fame. He is one of the most honoured people in martial arts in South Africa."

Asked to espouse the philosophy behind martial arts, Davidow says: "It offers one the ability to defend oneself.

"It is ironically a philosophy of non-violence, and it teaches respect for G-d, parents, also for each other."

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OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS



Could the Arab street stop hating Israel?

LOOKED AT from here, at the bottom of Africa, the protests in Egypt, Tunisia and other Arab and Muslim countries - which have already achieved the removal of two long-time rulers - seem far away. But the very fluid situation which has emerged, with no-one knowing where it will lead, has the potential to affect us all.

Within a mere few weeks, Arab “people power” ended the 30-year rule of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and before it, ousted the long-time dictator of Tunisia. This is a new phenomenon in the Arab world, where the Arab street has not often stood up to hard-line regimes which had kept them under a brutal thumb through intimidation, torture and other means.

As we know in South Africa, people power, with all the accompanying euphoria, is a means, not an end in itself. The expectation that all problems will be fixed and all grievances removed by the mere fact of revolution, is unrealistic and naive. In most cases, the poverty, the lack of service delivery and other reasons for the people’s revolt in the first place, remain intact, and old dictators are often merely replaced by new ones in different guises.

People’s power means nothing unless channelled into a positive structure and ethos. It has to be “for” something, not merely “against”. To demonstrate against Mubarak is not enough. He must be replaced with a system that will bring progress and betterment to Egyptians as a whole. It would be tragic if Mubarak’s regime were replaced by the tyranny of an Islamic fundamentalist regime.

For Israel, it is sadly true that the Arab street still largely reviles it. Its peace agreements with various Arab countries have been built primarily through the leaders, rather than the people. In other cases, the United States has helped create a sense of common interests between governments, if not exactly peace - such as that between Israel and Saudi Arabia on the Iranian nuclear weapons issue.

The reality remains, however, that in Egypt and Jordan, the two Arab countries with full diplomatic ties with Israel, professional bodies and unions are still fixed in a mode of not condoning interaction with Israelis working in the same fields.

Surveys among their Arab populations still show that huge majorities perceive Jews - and Israel - unfavourably.

Would the establishment of democracy in Egypt or Tunisia make their people less belligerent toward Israel? Turkey might be a possible precedent - a Muslim country which is democratic and where business and personal relationships between Turks and Israelis have continued even during times of mutual acrimony and harsh rhetoric, such as the “flotilla” saga during the last two years.

There is no telling. Winds of change may be welcome, but it is never certain that that they will not turn into a tornado.

Repairing relationships

The mending of fences between the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and the Israeli Embassy after the extremely distasteful public spat between them recently, provoked by the cancellation of Tzipi Livni’s visit to South Africa, is to be welcomed.

We publish on page 3 the joint statement issued by them on Tuesday after their peace-making meeting in Pretoria.

Public feuds like that do no good for the Jewish community or for Israel, which have far more serious issues to tackle, requiring co-operation between all parties.

The Jewish community must demand that its leaders and representatives rise above petty sniping, and maintain a level of dignity and diplomacy that brings credit to the community, rather than demeaning it.

ME democracy only guarantee for sustainable peace

ONE OF the advantages of a teaching stint at a prestigious institution like Georgetown located in Washington DC, is the opportunity to gain a different perspective of important developments, such as the implications of the political changes which have been wrought from the dictatorial regime in Egypt.

For starters, I have learnt that the Jewish community is hardly the monolith presented to us by our own Jewish establishment. J Street, for example, is an important new institution; a rich diversity of opinion is evident among Jewish students and academics and Prof Alan Dershowitz, whose hackneyed perspective (see Jewish Report February 10) is much loved by many in our community, appears to have been relegated to irrelevance here save for the hard US right wing. He would say that, wouldn’t he, is a refrain I have heard often about Dershowitz!

By contrast serious commentators warn that Israel drags its heels in seeking peace at its own peril. As an illustration, Thomas Friedman, surely from the mainstream, has warned over the past two weeks that Israel needs to act responsively to the new developments in Egypt, by which he means expediting a sustainable two-state solution.

Since the time of (Ehud) Barak in his initial incarnation, that appears unlikely, as is evident from the WikiLeaks revelations. Even the abandonment by the Palestinians of the right to return and East Jerusalem as their capital, did not ensure agreement. This disclosure puts paid to the idea that the mistakes of Arafat at Taba will inevitably be repeated by Palestinian negotiators.

Given the manifest impossibility that an Avigdor Lieberman de facto-led government (with Bibi Netanyahu in toe) will ever agree to a sustainable peace agreement, the key question is what implications now flow from the titanic struggles enveloping Egypt.



THE JURY IS OUT

Dennis Davis

If one listens only to the Lieberman/Netanyahu/Dershowitz camp, disaster awaits as the Muslim Brotherhood replaces that “nice Mr Mubarak” or the “sensible Mr Suleiman” and converts Egypt into the Islamic dictatorship along the lines of Iran.

Obviously if that is correct, then the vacuum which exists in the West Bank will be filled by Hamas or worse, aided and abetted by a powerful southern neighbour.

But if one reads the reports from Egypt carefully, talks to people who have just returned from Cairo, particularly from international agencies, then it may well be that the Muslim Brotherhood is the bogeyman being employed both by the Mubarak/Suleiman regime and Mr Lieberman et al to deflect attention away from a democratic possibility.

The most recent available survey evidence suggests that the Brotherhood enjoys less than 15 per cent support in Egypt. Further, the broad coalition which has forced Mubarak out of power after 30 years, is dominated by young people, many if not most who are secular.

With imaginative assistance from the US and the EU, this is the time to nudge Egypt into the kind of secular democratic society, arguably best exemplified by Turkey.

South Africans should remember the response to the prospect of majority rule that many whites, including some within our own community employed, namely that it will be one person, one vote, once!

Of course transition is a dangerous business precisely because it is so unpre-

dictable. But if the largest country in the region becomes a democracy, the entire face of the Middle East changes.

Other countries, including Iran, will feel the democratic pressure and the dominance of Islamic fundamentalism will, at least, in significant part, be diluted. Besides, the long-term relationships between Israel and its neighbours can never be guaranteed by dictators, even if, at times, they may be “our dictators”.

In the long run, Israel’s future can only be secured by way of a sustainable peace with Palestinians and neighbours who share a similar idea about governance.

For years the cry has been heard about the lack of democracy in the region. Suddenly when a people rises against a vicious dictator, we want to side with the latter and by implication his murderous means.

I cannot help feeling that those who said that blacks were not ready for democracy in our country, remain untransformed, save that this time they substitute Arabs for blacks!

Dictatorship is unsustainable in the long run. Only democracy can sustain a long-term prospect of stability, certainty and peace in the region.

For those like me who are committed to a secure Israel, Egypt holds significant transformative possibility. Israel should seek to promote democracy in the region as opposed to supping with ruthless dictators, while at the same time developing meaningful initiatives for peace with Palestinians.

The alternative is increasingly to draw into a military laager, thereby playing only the short-term game while the legitimacy of the state ebbs away both within those countries who traditionally supported Israel and an increasing segment of Jewry within the Diaspora. That is no viable alternative for those who hold to the ideal of Israel as the moral beacon of the Jewish world.

With Egypt in turmoil, Israel rethinks readiness for multi-front war



Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, right, the Egyptian defence minister, greets Adm Mike Mullen, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, in Cairo, on February 14, 2010. (PHOTOGRAPH: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE - CHAD J MCNEELEY)

SEE STORY ON FACING PAGE



OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# With Egypt in turmoil, Israel rethinks its readiness for a multi-front war

LESLIE SUSSER  
JERUSALEM

ALTHOUGH IT'S still far from clear how the uprising in Egypt is going to play out, the volatility there is already raising questions in Israel about the Jewish state's readiness for a war on several fronts.

The optimistic view in Israel is that a wave of democracy will sweep the Middle East from Cairo to Tehran, making war in any form less likely.

The pessimists - there are many here - see an ascendant Islamic radicalism taking hold in Egypt and elsewhere, thus compounding the military threats facing Israel.

In the Israel Defence Forces, generals are planning for worst-case scenarios.

In a series of farewell addresses this month, outgoing IDF Chief of Staff Gabi Ashkenazi offered a rare insight into how the Israeli military sees the emerging threats and what it is doing to meet them.

Ashkenazi spoke of "tectonic changes" in the region, leading to gains for the Iranian-led radical axis at the expense of the region's moderates. He pointed to the growing dominance of Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Islamist shift in Turkey and now the danger that Egypt, once the lynchpin of the moderate camp, will fall into the

orbit of radical Islam.

Things could get even worse, he said, when the Americans finally pull out of Iraq, leaving that Shiite-dominated country free to lurch toward the radicals.

In Ashkenazi's view, all this means that the IDF needs to prepare for a significant broadening of the spectrum of threats against Israel. Not only does the IDF have to be ready to fight a simultaneous war on several fronts, it must be able to wage very different kinds of warfare - from "low intensity" irregular conflict with terrorists, to classical conventional warfare against regular armies, to missile warfare against states or powerful non-state actors like Hezbollah.

Even though the threat of terrorist or missile attack might seem more imminent, IDF doctrine under Ashkenazi has put the emphasis on war between regular armies.

"We must train for classic conventional warfare. It poses the biggest challenge, and from it we can make adaptations to other forms of warfare, but not vice versa," Ashkenazi argued earlier this month at the 11th annual Herzliya Conference on national, regional and global strategic issues.

"It would be a mistake to train for low-intensity conflict and to think that the army will be ready

overnight to make the switch to full-scale warfare."

During Ashkenazi's watch, which began in 2007 in the wake of the army's much-criticised performance in the 2006 Second Lebanon War, the IDF focused on enhancing its already impressive accurate long-range firepower, rebuilding its neglected capacity for sweeping armoured manoeuvres, and honing co-ordination for joint ground, sea and air strikes. Training on all relevant parameters was increased by an estimated 200 per cent.

According to Ashkenazi, Israel's "smart" guided missile firepower is at the cutting edge, and in some aspects the IDF may even be a world leader - for example, in its ability to pinpoint targets in the heat of battle and bring lethal fire to bear within seconds.

Despite the focus on conventional warfare, the IDF also developed specific capabilities for terrorist and missile warfare. This includes a four-layered anti-missile defence system starting with the Arrow missile, capable of intercepting long-range missiles at altitudes of above 50 miles (80 km), to the Iron Dome system for shooting down low-flying, short-range rockets.

In any future missile war against Hezbollah in Lebanon, Ashkenazi says the IDF will apply conventional warfare skills, committing

ground forces to attack the enemy in its embedded positions and considerably shortening the duration of the conflict.

Perhaps the most dramatic stride forward made by the IDF over the past few years is in field intelligence. If in 2006, its "bank" of targets in Lebanon numbered approximately 200, today the figure is in the thousands. Ashkenazi insists that firepower is meaningless unless there are targets of high military value.

"Show me your targets and I will tell you what your military achievement will be," he declared at the Herzliya Conference.

All this adds up to a military doctrine that is likely to give the IDF the capacity to wage different kinds of warfare simultaneously on several fronts: the so-called Revolution in Military Affairs, or RMA. Israel sees an edge here over potential foes: While Israel has inculcated this sophisticated, real-time interoperation of accurate long-range firepower, high-grade intelligence, command and control, and joint forces operations, its potential adversaries have not.

For comparison, the largely American-equipped and -trained Egyptian army - with some 700 000 troops (450 000 in the standing army and about 250 000 reserves), 12 ground force divisions, and

approximately 3 400 tanks and 500 fighter planes - is considered by far the strongest in the Arab world. Some of the equipment is state of the art: Egypt has about 1 000 Abrams M1 tanks and just over 200 F-16 fighters.

But the Egyptians have not even begun to incorporate RMA.

"RMA requires a great deal of training of a very special kind," Yiftah Shapir, director of the Military Balance Project at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies, told JTA. "In my view there are just two armies who have these capabilities at the highest level: the US Army and the IDF. And simply buying the platforms does not give this kind of capability."

Not that anyone thinks the Egyptians will be quick to wage war on Israel or abrogate the peace treaty between the two countries. If Egypt did, at the very least it would forfeit the \$1.3 billion it receives in annual American military aid.

Moreover, to launch a ground war against Israel, Egypt would have to order the American-led multinational peacekeeping force out of Sinai, the huge buffer zone between the two countries. That's something a new regime would be unlikely to undertake lightly.

Nevertheless, Israeli generals already are insisting that in an increasingly unstable region, they will need more platforms and more troops. Otherwise the IDF, fighting on several fronts, could find itself overextended.

The change of events in Egypt portends a major argument in Israel over increasing the defence budget here. (JTA)

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**Emperor’s, Kempton Park:** Nataniël’s “Combat” until March 17, (011) 928-1000.

**Everard Read Gallery, Rosebank, Johannesburg:** “Earth and Ink”, new work by Thea Soggot, until March 9, (011) 788-4805.

**Gold of Africa Barbier Mueller Museum, Cape Town:** “Earth is Watching Us”, an exhibition by Threads of Africa, until March 31, (021) 405-1540.

**Heritage Theatre, Durban:** Grant Bell and Barry Thomson in “Neil Diamond: The Jazz Singer” until February 27, (031) 765-4197.

**iArt Gallery, Wembley, Cape Town:** “To Skip the Last Step”, sculptures by Beth Armstrong, in honour of the late Mark Hipper, until February 23, (021) 424-5150.

**Linder Auditorium, Parktown:** On February 19, ‘cellist Georgi Anichenko performs works by Faure, Poulenc, Hanmer and Shostakovich for the JMS, (011) 728-5492. February 23, 24, the JPO performs works by Tchaikovsky, Ravel, Saint-Saëns and Rimsky-Korsakov. Soloist: Svetlin Roussev (violin), conductor: Emil Tabakov, (011) 789-2733.

**Market, Newtown:** In the Barney Simon, James Ngcobo’s “Sunjata”, ends on March 6. In the Laager, Fugard’s “Sizwe Banzi is Dead”, directed by Monageng Motshabi, ends on February 20, (011) 832-1641.

**Montecasino, Fourways:** In the Pieter Toerien, “Sentimientos”, a work by Cape Town-based Spanish dance company La Rosa, ends on Feburary 20; in the Studio, “Mass Appeal” directed by Alan Swerdlow, until March 27, (011) 511-1818. In Teatro, “Riverdance” until February 20, (011) 510-7472.

**Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton:** On February 24, the acclaimed “London Road” opens. The Friday concerts feature Malané Hofmeyr-Burger, Miro Chakaryan (violin), Susan Mouton (‘cello) and Lady Hester Martin (piano) on February 18; and “In Cinq” - Dorota Swart (violin), Ginger Neff (violin), Andrea Erasmus (viola), Sonja Bass (‘cello) and Morné van Heerden (clarinet) on February 25, (011) 883-8606.

**Radium Beer Hall, Orange Grove:** On February 19, Laurie Levine and Christine and the Hollowbodies perform their first gig for 2011, (011) 728-3866.



**Playing with Fire (Balkan - Klezmer band) comprises Keith Tabisher (guitar); Joe Bolton (tuba); Mike Blake (trumpet); Matthew Reid (saxophone/clarinet); Dave Ridgway (darambuka); and Andre van Vuuren (accordion). (PHOTOGRAPH: ADELE GOLDBERG)**

# ‘Infecting the city’ in klezmer

MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

YOU DON’T have to be Jewish. That certainly applies to the musicians of Playing with Fire (Balkan - Klezmer band), none of whose members are of the faith. While some may find this paradoxical, leader Matthew Reid is not one of them. “The genre is open to anybody these days – if you look at any of the big bands like The Klezmatics (US), they’re made up of musicians of all kinds. “The most important thing is to identify with the music.” As far as Reid is aware, the band is the only one in this country playing the characteristic dance music and instrumental display pieces enjoyed at weddings and other celebrations, which has its origins in

the shtetls of Eastern Europe. It has a following, he says, and has definitely come into its own in the last decade, particularly in the European countries that have opened up over this time. “I think people are sick of commercial music and are longing to hear some of the rough, original sounds that come from different countries,” the clarinetist ventures. “Fabulous film scores have done a lot to create something of a cult following, certainly of Balkan music,” which he describes as being fairly similar to klezmer. Yet, Reid says, there is a strange feeling among Jewish people in this country towards the genre. “I think there’s a wish to leave Eastern Europe behind - certainly the younger generation has taken on Hebrew and Israeli music.

“It’s only the older people - of whom there are not many left - who really know about it and identify with it. There’s this whole younger generation that doesn’t know anything about it and thinks it’s “oude doos”, meaning in a sense it is antiquated. Reid was first attracted to klezmer as a student at UCT in the 1980s. He was sharing digs with a girl who had a record of Giora Feidman, an “awesome” Argentinian clarinetist now living in Israel, who he regards as “singularly responsible” for reviving the genre. “I remember listening to this record and hearing the same instrument make all these sounds - I couldn’t believe it was the same instrument. At the time, I wrote some of the pieces down and tried

# Bieber scoops World Press

ROBYN SASSEN

SOUTH AFRICAN photographer Jodi Bieber joined a prestige group of world photographers when she scooped the overall 2010 World Press award for her photograph of the disfigured face of an 18-year-old Afghan girl which appeared on the cover of Time magazine year August. (pictured left) Bibi Aisha had her nose and ears cut off by the Taliban as punishment for fleeing her abusive husband’s house. Bieber has, since 1993, won eight category prizes in the World Press Photo awards, but never the top prize. She is now one of only two South Africans to have attained this singular honour—Leslie Hammond took the photograph of the year in 1977. Bieber was “amazed” by the accolade: “It’s not a big breaking news story. Violence against women...

happens to women every single day all over the world.” Aisha’s image has become a global symbol of the Taliban’s violence towards women; David Burnett, the jury chairman, commented on the World Press website that this could be “one of those pictures - and we have maybe just 10 in our lifetime - where somebody says: ‘You know, that picture of a girl...’ and you know exactly what they’re talking about.” Other prize-winning photographs showed everything from flooding in Pakistan to protesters rioting in Thailand and covered many of last year’s major events, including the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and Iceland’s volcanic ash cloud. Bieber will receive her award, which carries a cash prize of €10 000 and a Canon EOS Digital SLR Camera and lens kit, in Amsterdam in May. She will be profiled in these pages in the next few weeks.





FELDMAN  
ON FILM

Peter Feldman

## PICK OF THE WEEK

True Grit

**Cast:** Jeff Bridges; Hailee Steinfeld; Matt Damon; Josh Brolin; Barry Pepper  
**Directors:** Joel and Ethan Coen

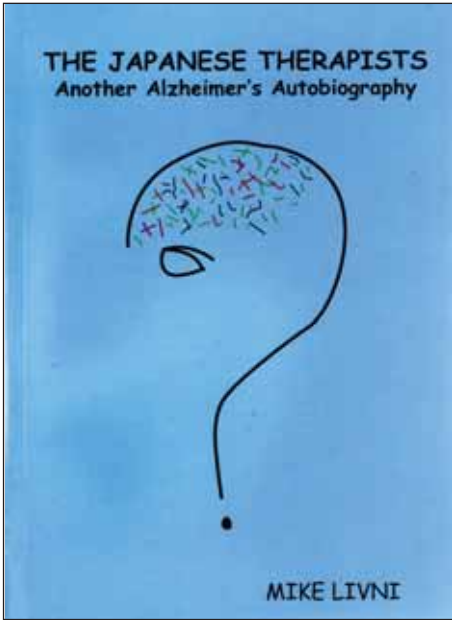
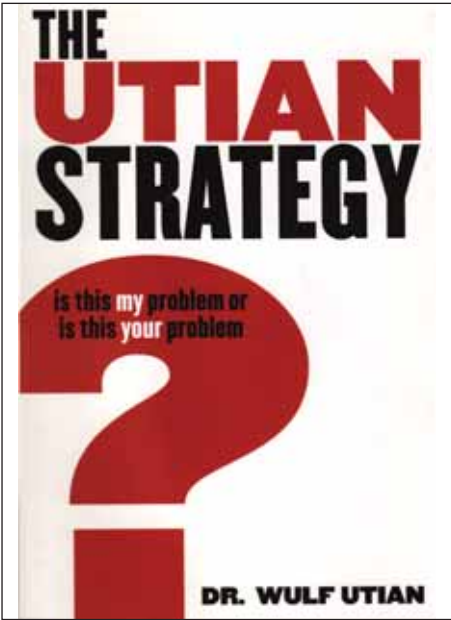
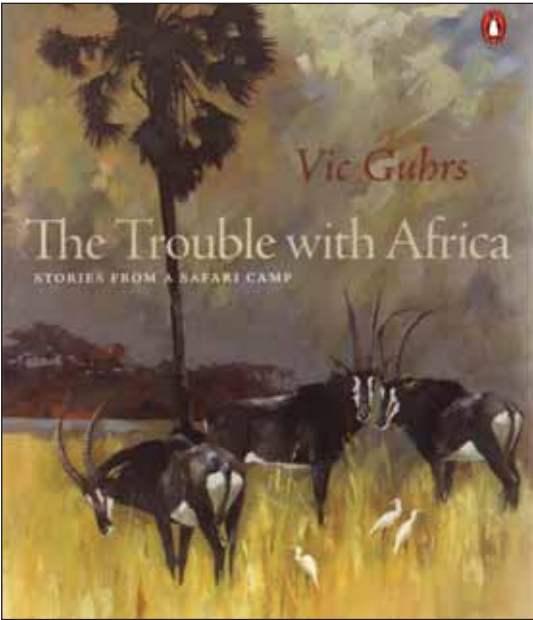
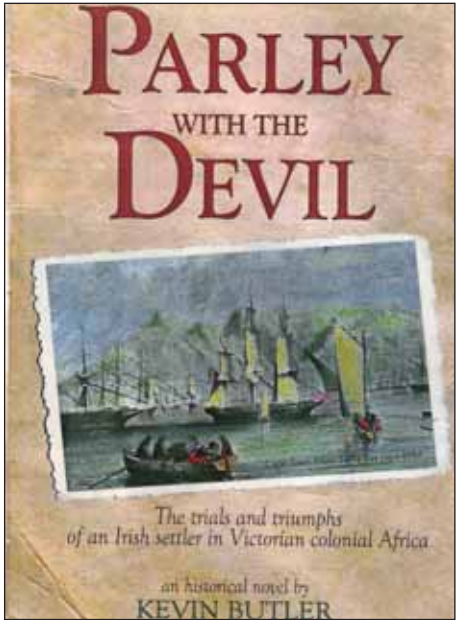
The Oscar-nominated “True Grit” gives this Western classic something of a dust-up in the hands of the famed Coen brothers. It’s a stirring reworking of the Charles Portis novel imbued with a darker, sardonic tone. However, John Wayne the original Rooster Cogburn remains the definitive entity in my book. While The Duke may not have succeeded with the Coens’ many sly in-jokes, he was able to reach out and move his audience to heights of emotion that the present incumbent, Oscar

nominee Jeff Bridges, is unable to achieve. That said, True Grit gains a great deal from the Coen brothers’ fresh interpretation and is superior in many departments. While no actor could arguably hope to eclipse Wayne’s iconic performance of Marshall Cogburn - the role for which he won his only Oscar - Bridges applies his own slant to the character - and it works. This new production boasts stronger overall acting, a tighter script, a better production design, more graphic violence – and a marvelous performance from the young Oscar nominated Hailee Steinfeld who forcefully drives the narrative. This was a role originally played by Kim Darby but the Coens have now made this feisty character the film’s focal point. True Grit is a tale of vengeance in the Old West (Oklahoma, around the end of the 19th century) – where 14-year old Mattie Ross (Steinfeld) is seeking justice for her murdered father. The culprit is a drifter named Tom Chaney, played by a comically simian Josh Brolin, who has fled into Indian territory to join up with a gang fronted by Lucky Ned Pepper

(Barry Pepper). The indifference of the local law has prompted the bright-as-a-button Mattie to seek out Cogburn, a one-eyed, tough-as-nails drunkard to act as a bounty hunter. Although initially not interested, Cogburn changes his mind when Mattie offers an attractive reward. Also accompanying Mattie and Cogburn is LaBoeuf (Matt Damon), a Texas Ranger hunting Chaney for the assassination of a senator. There is no sentimental bonding between Mattie and Cogburn, but the marshall does admire Mattie’s straightforward approach and her ability to keep on track even when things got tough. She sees beneath the whiskey fumes and recognises that he can be a hero when circumstances dictate. Matt Damon’s LaBoeuf is a dull individual and fades into the background of the story. The Coen brothers have stated that their version of True Grit is closer to the source material than Henry Hathaway’s 1969 version, but there remain changes, including a reworking of the ending.



TAPESTRY – ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE



# Good reads with an African flavour

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

*Parley With the Devil*  
by Kevin Butler, price on request,  
ISBN 978-0-620458-86-3

A dark, but captivating novel set in the colonial age in Cape Town, with abolitionists battling to prevent the importation of slave labour - a conflict which eventually results in the abduction of a city councillor to the West African coast.

Butler's writing is both educational and entertaining, bringing to vivid life much of this sorely neglected aspect of our national history and skilfully winding it into a

story of love and political intrigue. Gripping reading.

*The Trouble With Africa* by  
Vic Guhrs (Penguin, R184)

Short stories illustrating precisely why German-born artist Guhrs, who immigrated to this continent at the age of 22 and lived for 25 years in an isolated bush camp in the Luangwa Valley in Zambia, passionately loves Africa, in spite of (or, perhaps, because of) its many contradictions, complexities and anomalies.

The trouble with Africa, he declares, is that it gets into one's

blood and, like a virus, remains there forever. A book of wonderful insights, great poignancy and superbly realised cameos of the African experience.

*The Utian Strategy: Is This My Problem or is This Your Problem?*  
by Dr Wolf Utian (Utian Press, R158,91, available at: [www.kalahari.net](http://www.kalahari.net))

A careful analysis of how easily we allow the dilemmas created by (and belonging to) others to become our own, thus complicating our lives and our relationships.

Utian's books advises on things

like sensing when someone else is passing the buck, managing interpersonal relations and conflict, as well as problem-solving. Not, perhaps, the most commendable response to the "am I my brother's keeper?" question, but a useful guide to navigating the messy boundaries of so many 21st century relationships.

*The Japanese Therapists* by Michael Livni (Michael Livni, R90, tel (011) 646-4488 or 083-468-5975)

After a lifetime spent in dementia care, which included serving on the boards of the Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Association in

SA and Alzheimer's Disease International, Livni - a neurologist by profession - began himself experiencing symptoms of the disease, and has documented these in order to track its progression and impact on his daily life.

He includes the long, hard battle towards acceptance, beginning with denial and moving on to anger and the desperate search for answers to stem the slow loss of memory, relationships and self-hood.

The book is centred on his interactions with his two Japanese therapists. A startling and highly valuable, work for anyone affected by Alzheimer's.

## A reflection of growing old and loneliness

ROBYN SASSEN

A PLAY that melted hearts when it took the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown last year by storm, "London Road" written by Nicholas Spagnoletti and directed by Lara Bye, premiers in Gauteng from this week.

The first winner of the Standard

Bank Ovation Award, this small-scale production which featured on the festival's fringe, became a festival must-see, over and above more than 300 productions.

Featuring 30-something Robyn Scott in the role of Rosa Kaplowitz, a 70-something widow living alone in Sea Point, opposite Ntombi Makutshi - as Stella, a young

Nigerian woman - it tells a tale of South African stereotypes with gentleness and perspicacity.

"London Road is a simple and intimate reflection on growing old, loneliness, fragmented families and the healing power of a friendship," said Bye.

A long-time resident of Sea Point, Spagnoletti has constructed London Road from observations and overhead conversations within this suburb.

"Sea Point has long been a new home for many immigrants," he said. "The play echoes the realities of families in a state of migration and emigration - looking at what happens to those who stay behind."

London Road is at Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton, from February 22 until March 19, (011) 883-8606. It will be reviewed in these pages within the next few weeks.



Rosa (Robyn Scott) and Stella (Ntombi Makutshi) in London Road. (PHOTOGRAPH: SUZY BERNSTEIN)

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NEW YORK POST

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<b>Guidelines for letters:</b> Letters up to 400 words will get preference. Please provide your full first name and surname, place of residence, and a daytime contact telephone or cell number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.	<b>Disclaimer:</b> 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
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EVIAN’S GENERALISATION STICKS IN THE CRAW

I WAS incensed by the patronising, self-righteous, judgemental letter from David Evian of Australia (Jewish Report February 11). How dare he judge and make sweeping statements such as “...what astounded me was how disgustingly the white people talk to the black people in all walks of life, especially noticed at kosher counters in hypermarkets... abusing attendants as if they were animals”.

The people he saw behaving badly (which should never be acceptable) at the kosher counters or elsewhere, are individuals and do not represent all the Jews or for that matter whites in South Africa.

In every society there are bad mannered people. How does he know that they were not dealing with poor service, dished out by a rude and insolent shop attendant, where the colour of their skin made no difference? We have moved on.

If he felt so strongly about how these people, “his fellow Jews”, treated the assistants at the

various counters, he had every right, even a responsibility, to speak up then and there, to correct their behaviour, rather than to return to his pedestal, in the “utopia” where he has been living for 25 years and then pass judgement.

That is what needs to be done here and wherever we find ourselves: speak up, try and change what we believe is unjust, but not run away from our responsibility and then criticise others from afar. He ran away because he predicted “...blood baths and anarchy...” (in themselves racist sentiments).

After 25 years out of South Africa, Mr Evian, I feel confident to say you have contributed little to change in this country, so you are merely a visitor and as such should not insult your hosts, which too is very bad manners; rather don’t visit again.

Shirley Bricker  
Johannesburg

BE AT ALL TIMES AWARE OF THE POLITICAL DECOY

I AM referring to the letters in the Jewish Report regarding the Baal Shem Tov Shul nightmare.

Jewish people are very apologetic by nature. As arrogant as we may be labelled, we always seem to be the ones conceding and apologising in the end.

This issue of “public” figures is about custodians of support bases within specific communities. Christine Walters is a councillor in the City of Johannesburg. She has a further responsibility by virtue of the fact that she is also a member of the Mayoral Committee.

This responsibility is not just to people that may have voted her party (the ANC) into the majority position, but it is to any and all residents of Johannesburg. This is a mandate that I hope she provides fairly, without bias or prejudice to any community.

In the 10 years I have been in Council, I have always found Walters approachable and one of the more transparent councillors. I would be utterly disappointed and shocked if I find the allegations against her to be true, because I am fond of her and her fairness.

However, if I am to support Walters and believe that this was all just about a process and that she religiously watches all the rezoning applications and acts with the same amount of certainty and rigour in all cases, then I would be saying that the rabbi and his congregants are liars, opportunists and not worldly enough to recognise cars accelerating near them or mutterings from neighbours.

So, now I find myself at a cross roads because we all know there are three sides to every story: the one the other and the truth.

Enters the third “public” figure in the story and that is the SAJBD. What are their terms of reference?

I think the community entrusts such a board to protect their interests as a minority in this country and to be the voice of reason when it comes to mediation in public forums.

More importantly, when a high profile issue such as this one arises, it is crucial that our “public” figures ensure that not they not only maintain the higher moral ground, but that they communicate with the rest of their constituents to follow suit.

Unfortunately not in the Jewish community. Here we find a different animal. The board is packed with many colourful characters.

Now I say this upfront, I really do not have a problem with the SAJBD as I believe they have

a very thankless job and more importantly due to the very nature of our community, to please half of the community means to irritate or disappoint the other half. We therefore all agree there is no winning for the board.

However, when we go back to the moral ground, I would strongly suggest that the SAJBD endeavours to reclaim this position and either remain neutral and helpful, or take themselves out of the picture completely until the matter is resolved.

There is too much at stake for them and I personally believe that internally they are divided on this issue and therefore the perceived contradictions that some of the community are seeing and writing about.

This does not help those who know the necessity of having a strong umbrella body that protects the interests of the community, because we are seeing early signs of weakness in terms of these contradictions reported above.

From the reported weighted mediation that has taken place so far, it would seem that the SAJBD has fallen for one of the greatest deceptive political tricks in the book - decoy. While the SAJBD and the Baal Shem Tov congregation are at loggerheads, the real enemies are allowed to win moral ground by virtue of their silence and our own usual “implosion”.

This whole scenario should be focused on two pertinent questions and all other emotions should be taken out so that concentration and focus be left for the real tasks at hand:

1. Were the land rezoning objections handled correctly and legally? Was due process followed? Is the synagogue a threat to any infringement due to its existence?
2. Was there an abuse of power by a high-profile public representative and was it fuelled by anti-Semitism? Either way, if any of these two channels are proven then punishment should be dished out against the perpetrator.

Darren Bergman  
Johannesburg

BOARD’S BAAL SHEM TOV RESPONSE IS DISINGENUOUS

IT WAS with pleasure that I noted the SABJD’s response (“SABJD responds to Stanley Luntz’s letter in SAJR”, February 11) to my previous challenge. My compliments to the Board for upholding Jewry’s penchant for robust, fat-wah-free debate.

SABJD respondent David Saks essentially says the Board does not respond to allegations of anti-Semitism unless it can be incontrovertibly proved that such allegations were indeed made. Sound point. Mr Saks, however, then goes on to say... “the Board... investigates the allegations very thoroughly indeed”.

Indeed? Mr Saks is respectfully reminded that the Board’s conclusion was made without any Board member actually visiting the Baal Shem Tov Shul.

Mr Saks’ next point is that Wendy Kahn answers only for herself personally when

answering the question: “Did you meet with (Councillor Christine) Walters?” in the negative. Oh, come off it! “Did YOU meet with Walters?” CLEARLY means: “Did the BOARD” meet with Walters?”

So I could bounce your question straight back: “Why deny meeting Walters?”

But let us rise above tit-for-tat exchanges and wave-of-the-hand dismissals and grasp the nettle. What we, BST congregants, crave is a lucid explanation for what we see as incomprehensible conduct by the Board.

The Board has made an encouraging start by showing its preparedness to engage in debate. All we now ask is the explanation that will turn heat into light.

Darren Bergman  
DA Spokesperson on Safety  
(Johannesburg)  
Raedene

The letter has been shortened. - Editor

CALLS FOR SAJBD’S RESIGNATION ARE JUSTIFIED

ONE HAS to sympathise with (associate director) David Saks and (national director) Wendy Kahn. They’re paid employees of the SAJBD, forced to obey the elected officials. Those elected officials seem happy to ask their employees to lie.

It’s an impossible choice: stay true to your principles and lose your job, or do your masters’ bidding. Kahn and Saks can be forgiven for choosing the latter in today’s economic climate.

In last week’s Jewish Report, Saks says allegations that Kahn lied when asked about the SAJBD’s meeting with (ANC Councillor and member of Johannesburg’s mayoral committee, Christine) Walters are “unjust and uncalled for”.

He says Kahn thought they were asking if she herself had met Walters.

This is playing semantics. When Kahn was asked “Did the SAJBD meet with Walters?” she said, “No”.

I believe that Kahn thought she was being truthful, and that she did not know about the meeting. I think (SAJBD national chairman) Zev Krengel acted unilaterally and met Walters without keeping his colleagues informed.

That points to serious internal problems at the SAJBD that are beyond the scope of this letter.

There is no doubt in my mind that the SAJBD did try to hide its meeting with Walters.

When Rabbi Gavin Michal (of the Baal Shem Tov Shul) asked Krengel if the SAJBD had met Walters, Krengel refused to answer and stormed out of the meeting. It subsequently emerged that Krengel, representing the SAJBD, had met with Walters.

Saks is correct that the matter has escalated into “an exceptionally acri-

monious, damaging and divisive controversy”. But the SAJBD is responsible for much of the acrimony. Kahn’s scurrilous attack on Rabbi Michal on the MyShtetl website is a case in point.

Now the SAJBD is also at loggerheads with the Israeli ambassador the Israeli Embassy, and the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Two key questions need answers: First, can the rift between the SAJBD and the community be healed? Second, are calls for the Board to resign justified and, if so, how best to appoint a new Board.

I do believe the rift can be healed. But the SAJBD would have to apologise to the community for the lies it told and for its perceived arrogance. It would also have to show that it takes the threat to the Baal Shem Tov Shul and other communal institutions seriously.

And yes, the calls to resign are justified. The fact that the SAJBD is at loggerheads with so many parties within the community proves that its elected officials are not able to discharge their duties adequately.

The electoral process at the SAJBD needs a radical overhaul. Those members of the community not affiliated to formal structures must have a voice, and the pool of people available to serve on the SAJBD must be broadened.

One method could be to establish a website where all members of the community could register. Registered members could then participate in the election process, and nominate people to stand for election.

Leslie Harris  
Johannesburg

DEFILING OF A PERSONALITY IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE

MAY I be permitted to pass some remarks regarding the SA Jewish Report’s editorial of February 11? The relevant editorial comments were as follows:

“Many letters received are published, others aren’t because of the ugly tone. It is a search for the golden mean - allowing robust, even heated debate and giving people a medium for their own voice, yet giving a sense of decorum and dignity. Stifling healthy argumentation or virulent views would be to insult the energetic minds of readers. Yet an unbridled free for all is unacceptable.”

The critical point is that to attack the messenger in his personal capacity is defamatory and as such is subject to litigation and punishment. This defiling of personality is totally unacceptable and only serves to distract from the topic at hand by clouding, and overriding the issues being debated. A personal vendetta must be totally forbidden.

Attacking the thought processes, ideologies, and political pronouncements is not an attack on the individual as such, but rather it questions the validity, and in many cases the morality, of the opinions being expressed.

Denigrating the individual in his personal capacity is often a ploy resorted to by those who do not understand, respect, or have the ability to question with dignity and decorum the subject matter at hand. This is not an uncommon method of destroying the validity of a message being delivered, and is one frequently evident among many political appointees who hold office in this

country.

Criticism of a message is a freedom of expression which permits and encourages, debate and disagreement by any individual. This difference of opinion is the foundation of a healthy debate and should be encouraged to “extract” the truth, and justify the comments being made.

Where the problem may lie, is that some editors, especially those whose newspapers are “affiliated” to a given political ideology, will deliberately avoid publication of articles which may successfully repudiate the concepts of a given political edict in the fear that this will weaken, if not destroy, the credibility of that political programme.

This hidden editorial agenda is what makes individuals suspicious of the so-called “freedom of the press” and may thus regard this as a platitude of mouth, and which is certainly not implemented.

Vigorous debate, differences of opinion, and perhaps more importantly, the opportunity to give expression to these multiplicities of thought, is a vital component of freedom of speech, which is in turn, a fundamental backbone of a democratic society.

Authoritarianism, and autocratic behaviour coupled with regulated control of differing opinions, can only lead to intellectual dishonesty and destruction of the principles of freedom of thought and freedom of expression. This must never be allowed to happen.

Dr A M Levin  
Bryanston, Sandton

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RCHCC MEMBERSHIP

THE RABBI Cyril Harris Community Centre in Johannesburg, advises members or those still wishing to take out membership, that the bank has advised the centre

“that all cheques must now be made out to ‘Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre’ as they will no longer accept cheques made out to RCHCC”.



COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Zev Krengel,  
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Voter registration

THE YEAR 2011 is “Local Elections” year and voter registration is now underway. We hope very much that our community will ensure that they are part of this process. How people choose to cast their votes on the day is entirely their affair, of course.

What the Board urges is that as many people as possible do ensure that they are properly registered and that they turn out on polling day to cast their ballots. The strength or otherwise of a democracy is very much tied up with how much ordinary citizens participate in it.

South African Jews have traditionally identified themselves with the political culture of the day, and we hope that this will continue.

Some polling stations have moved, so you may not be registered in a particular area. To call to see if you are registered, you need to SMS you ID number to 32810, or visit [www.elections.org.za](http://www.elections.org.za). You can also phone the IEC toll free on 0800 118 000.

‘Faithless’ anti-Israel advert

Much anger was generated in the community by a scurrilous advertisement calling for a cultural boycott of Israel that was aired on the radio station 5fm. The advertisement featured Dave Randall, guitarist of the Faithless Rock Band then about to tour South Africa, making a statement likening Israel to apartheid South

Africa and urging people to join him in boycotting it. It was encouraging that the band as a whole, in response to the well-co-ordinated public outrage, distanced itself from the advert. SABC also issued a statement in which it declared that it did not associate itself with the view expressed in the advertisement, but that it would continue with it unless the Advertising Standards Authority of SA (ASA) ruled that it was in conflict with the ASA Code.

The Board’s response was to seek expert opinion as to the acceptability of the advert in terms of the ASA Code. The advocate we briefed was of the opinion that there were indeed good grounds to lodge a complaint with the ASA. On our instructions, he drafted the letter of complaint, which we lodged with the ASA. We will update you in due course as to the outcome.

Bursaries 2011

The Board’s bursary subcommittees in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban recently met to make appropriate grants for the 2011 academic year, with well over 100 applicants receiving bursaries to continue their studies. The funds administered by the Board comprise various legacies from community members entrusted to it over the years for purposes of helping needy and/or academically deserving students, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

Those wishing to apply for future bursaries from the SAJBD and require the necessary information, should contact our national offices on (011) 645-2521/ [jenni@beyachad.co.za](mailto:jenni@beyachad.co.za) or write to PO Box 87557, Houghton, 2041.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

FOR THE RECORD

SAZF CONFERENCE OPENING IS ON MARCH 26

In the SA Zionist Federation column in last week’s paper, through an editing mistake we provided a wrong date for its “Footsteps to the Future” conference opening night. The correct date is March 26 and not March 2 as stated. We regret the error.

LETTERS

‘JEW-ON-JEW FEUDS’ AND THE BRITISH REALITY

ON A recent visit to Oxford, England, I was delighted to find that the Oxford Jewish Centre is an Orthodox shul, but also has liberal and Masorti minyanim and collaborates their leadership equally, sharing the role of president among the three denominations by unofficially changing this role about every two years.

They are in adjacent premises and harmoniously share the same hall for Shabbos Kiddush and other functions.

What a rare and wonderful example of civilised Jewish behaviour! Perhaps if our South African Jewish community followed this pattern we could make a reality of our beautiful Prayer for Peace:

Establish peace, goodness, blessing, graciousness,

EVIAN HAS A LOT OF BAGGAGE HE SHOULD LEAVE BEHIND

I RECOMMEND David Evian leave his fellow Jews and Israelis that he brought with him from Australia, who “abused attendants as if they were animals”, at home next time he comes to South Africa.

He should also leave the old apartheid baggage he carries around there, also. In the post-1994 South Africa all people have rights and no one need tolerate

kindness and compassion upon US and upon ALL OF YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL.

Bless us, our Father, ALL OF US AS ONE, with the light of Your countenance, for with the light of Your countenance,

You gave us, Hashem, our G-d, the Torah of life and LOVE OF KINDNESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS, BLESSING, compassion, life and PEACE.

May peace, love, dignity and mutual respect soon reign among all our Jewish people throughout South Africa, Israel and the world.

Edna Freinkel  
Johannesburg

any abusive behaviour from any person. No racial, cultural, national or any other profiling of abusive people is required, as it is common knowledge that abusive people are found in all forms of life.

Louis Mielke  
Johannesburg.

GLENHAZEL / KILLARNEY / BEDFORDVIEW

GOLD PORTFOLIO

- K1043** Norwood Garden Village, Norwood - **R10 500.00**
- K1112** Garden Road, Orchards - **R12 000.00**
- K1069** Killarney Park, Killarney - **R14 000.00**
- K1073** Sandler Road, Glenhazel - **R15 000.00**
- K1034** Rosemary Road, Sunningdale - **R16 000.00**
- K1132** Houghton Drive, Houghton - **R45 000.00**
- K1132** Campbell Street, Waverley - **R60 000.00**
- K1100** 8th Street Houghton - **R70 000.00**

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Members of the Habonim Dror Veida Artzit (national assembly) vote on a proposal.

# Habonim Dror’s Veida Artzit provides food for thought

GABI ALTAMIRANO (JOHANNESBURG YOUTH WORKER OF 2011).  
PHOTOGRAPH: GEMMA COWAN

HA'DERECH: Peulah – “The Path: Action”, was certainly an apt name to be given to this year’s Veida Artzit (national assembly). Veida is a biennial conference, where the leadership of Habonim Dror Southern Africa (HDSA) gathers as the highest decision-making body of the movement to engage with, revise and, if necessary, change the movement’s ideals, platforms and direction.

Veida was held at the Happy Haven Rotary campsite in Glencairn from January 26 – 30. During the five days, over 50 bogrim (Habonim leadership), shlichim and overseas guests grappled with, debated and defined what HDSA is, what we stand for and how we can make our actions reflect this.

The name Ha’derech: Peulah, was chosen in order to encourage action and the implementation of our chukka (constitution).

Through focusing on the concept of implementation, Veida provided a chance for the leadership to come up with practical ways of ensuring that our ideology is not only inspiring, but can come to fruition through structured policies.

Veida is a chance for members of the

bogrim body to put forward proposals to make changes to the ideology of HDSA or to introduce new ways of implementing this ideology.

One example of a proposal that was passed, reads: “To encourage the use of relevant biblical, classic and modern Jewish texts as well as material that deals with the culture, heritage and history of the Jewish people in all spheres of our education.”

As a movement which takes our ideological stance very seriously, proposals such as these are essential in ensuring that our ideology and chukka are properly engaged with and practised.

Ideology is the core of why we do what we do; it is the motivation and reason behind our actions and as such, requires time and energy in deciding how we go about actualising all that we stand for.

During the Veida, we were privileged to host two members from Habonim Dror Olami (World Habonim Dror), who spent the time getting to know and understand HDSA. The event was a great success, which proved to be extremely inspiring, passionate and at times, rather challenging.

The last Veida to revise the chukka was held in January 2009. We will soon have the newly revised chukka, as well as an implementation book, on our website for review.

# Four Jewish kids receive Crawford Pretoria awards



Demi Brenner, Leora Fine, and Jonathan Wolfson receiving their awards. Sahar Funis is absent.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH: DIANE WOLFSON  
PRETORIA

AT THE special assembly held at Crawford College Pretoria this past week, four Jewish learners received colours and awards for academics, culture and service.

Demi Brenner (grade 9) - academic full colours: average 85 per cent, 10 distinctions and junior half cultural colours for dramatic arts in 2010.

Leora Fine (grade 10), academic full colours: average 87 per cent, 9 distinctions, certificate of merit for dramatic arts in 2010 and junior half cultural colours for dance

Sahar Funis (grade 10) - academic full colours: average 89 per cent, 10 distinctions.

Jonathan Wolfson (grade 11) - senior full colours for service to the college and the community in 2010.

# Matric Dux Assembly – fitting tribute to the group of 2010

KEREN ZWICK  
PHOTOGRAPH: GARY BLOCK

FRIDAY JANUARY 21 was King David Linsfield High School’s annual Matric Dux Assembly.

The assembly serves to celebrate the exceptional achievements of the matric group and the 2010 matric’s certainly gave our school reason to celebrate.

Dux of the school, Ricky Bonner, who achieved eight distinctions, came in the top five per cent of the IEB nationally and several other learners achieved incredible results.

King David Linksfield achieved monumental success with the matrics of 2010 and this is testament to the parental involvement, learner commitment and exceptional staff of our school.



Ricky Bonner, Dux of the school

# Daron Golden’s another bright Jewish kid

IN AN article in Jewish Report of January 21, we mentioned under the headline “What the two brightest Jewish kids intend to do” the two top scorers in Jewish day schools in the 2010 matric examination.

Although not attending a Jewish day school, Daron Golden - who attended Rondebosch High School in Cape Town - came 9th in the Western Cape in the matric results. Therefore another “bright Jewish kid.”

## YOUTH TALK Alison Goldberg youthsajr@global.co.za

# Johannesburg Art Gallery comes to King David Sandton

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY VIVIENNE WEINER (KDS ART TEACHER)

GRADE 7 art learners at King David Sandton were treated to a visit from Lorraine Deift, a lecturer at the Johannesburg Art Gallery, who spoke to the learners about the gallery and further complemented their current study of surrealism with a discussion of the work of particular artists.

Grade 7s created a surreal poem and collage, using techniques and games that provide inspiration. It was an interactive and informative hour which was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants.

**Pictured are Erin Smith; Shayna Harris; and Kerry Izerel, King David Sandton grade 7 learners, enjoying a surrealist art activity.**



# SA Jewish youth embark on an enriching Israel Encounter tour

OWN CORRESPONDENT  
PHOTOGRAPH SHIRA ROI

ISRAEL ENCOUNTER, the annual Torah Academy grade 11 tour for the Girls’ and Boys’ High Schools and which also includes learners from other Jewish schools, were led during the school holidays by Torah Academy’s two high school principals, Rebecca Sarchi and Rabbi Motti Hadar.

Before embarking on their 2011 matric year, the learners visited various places of interest, touring the country from north to south, including the Golan Heights, Tiberius, Kesem HaGolan, Kfar Kedem, Ein Gedi, Masada and Jerusalem.

The girls went on a cruise of the Kinneret

with a drum café, rode donkeys and camels and slept in a Bedouin tent.

They visited museums, climbed Masada at sunrise and in Jerusalem visited the Old City, the Kotel, Kotel tunnels and held a tish in Mea Shearim. They spent time at the Dead Sea and visited seminaries with a view to study in the future.

The girls also volunteered at Aleh, a home for mentally and physically disabled children.

They were joined by girls from Beis Yaakov, Maharsha, Yeshiva College and schools in Melbourne and Sydney.

They are pictured in Safed with TA Girls’ High principal Rebecca Sarchi (seated, third from right).

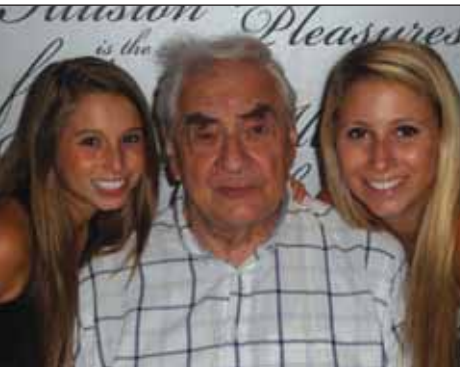


# Potent play by 4th year Wits student

ROBYN SASSEN

THIS YEAR’S “O” week celebrations at Wits University features a potent play written, directed and developed by drama graduate Courtneigh Cloud as a part of her fourth year direction project last year. The play draws from the true life story of Cloud’s Johannesburg-based grandfather, Israel Gurwicz, who as a 12-year-old escaped from the Vilna ghetto, losing his parents and young sister and eventually being raised by the young Polish woman who had been the family’s governess before the war.

It’s an astonishing theatrical achievement of one so young made the more so by a brilliant performance of Courtneigh’s sister, Olivia (13), in the role of her grandfather as a child. The three-hander, performed with a minimal set and a haunting music backing reflects an important understanding of theatre possibilities for



**Olivia (left) and Courtneigh Cloud, with their beloved grampa, Israel Gurwicz. (PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)**

both young Cloud women.

“Boys from the Ashes” is in the Main Theatre at Wits University, until February 18, (011) 717-1380.



# Bransby a fresh breeze in science and maths teaching

**STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN**

A LACK of textbooks and qualified teachers face education in this country. But this could be history as far as mathematics and science teaching are concerned if a methodology of presenting these subjects devised by John Bransby is further adopted.

Bransby, who has been head of science at Herzlia High for the past 20 years and principal of Theodore Herzl in Port Elizabeth prior to that, has since his early career been an innovator with many of his ideas having been introduced in schools across the country.

In 2004, he decided “digital was the way to go”, introducing a set of 10 CDs each for teachers and learners covering the science curriculum for grades 10 - 12, that are in use by some 350 schools.

Bransby says there are very few master mathematics and science teachers, namely “people who are really on top of their game”, in South Africa. In the majority of schools, teachers are ill-trained, lack equipment and in many instances, textbooks.

Bransby’s interactive method of teaching science has been available for five years, but he has decided that it needs some changes.

The new format has 150 hyperlinks

embedded for grades 10, 11 and 12 science. “I have decided to make our PowerPoint slides much more interactive, so I’ve hyperlinked hundreds of simulations into it; this is what we are now testing at this school and the other 10 on the project,” he says, referring to the Siyafunda Science Project, whose goal it is to extend the system to 10 underprivileged Western Cape schools.

“We’ve got a huge textbook problem in South Africa. My programme solves that: the school has the facilities to make the guides - all you need is access to a photocopier.”

As for teachers who don’t have “quite the necessary training to stand on their own two feet”, he says that because the system fits together so logically, it will assist them to become “pretty competent”.

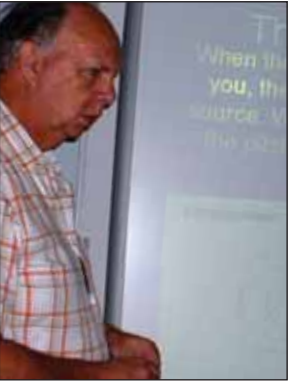
According to Bransby, learners relying on the study guides alone could easily score 70 per cent for the subject. He maintains that his method produced an average matric science mark of 81 per cent at Herzlia last year. The usual average mark for the subject would be around 50 per cent, if that.

“I’m passionate about teaching maths and science and the fact that it needs to be improved,” he adds. “Last year in matric, 52 per cent failed maths and 53 per cent failed science - that means they couldn’t even get 30 per cent.

“This is criminal!” he exclaims. “Here we’ve got the facilities to make a huge difference - what we need is people to come to the party in terms of funding.”

Bransby estimates it would cost R10 000 per school to roll out, in addition to the cost of a computer and data projector. At the moment, he is sponsoring the Siyafunda Project out of his own pocket.

And what has been the reaction of his learners? “The kids are so excited about this that they almost run to science so they don’t miss out on anything,” he says.



**John Bransby, head of science at Herzlia High School, demonstrates the interactive method of teaching he wants to extend to disadvantaged schools.**

# This maths teaching all adds up

**ALISON GOLDBERG**

SINCE THE Department of Education did away with higher grade mathematics in 2008, mathematics standards had dropped. Some matriculants achieving distinctions in mathematics now, would probably have scored only 60 or 70 per cent on the higher grade.

That’s according to Ruth Heilbronn, head of the maths department at King David High School Linksfield in Johannesburg.

Gila Scheidegger, science teacher at Torah Academy, Toras Emes and Beis Yaacov, concurs. Universities today were looking at matric physical science as opposed to mathematics results to assess university applicants.

While mathematics standards had indeed dropped, science standards had, conversely, risen.

She says there is a high correlation between pass rates in first year university relative to science marks. The drawback for science teachers is that the syllabus has become so long that there is insufficient time to study past papers.

A recent study based on comparative statistical analyses of Senior Certificate (replaced by the National Senior Certificate syllabus in 2008) and National Senior Certificate results over the past decade, by the Centre for Development and Enterprise, found that half of university entrance level passes in mathematics are produced by only 6,6 per cent of schools, and half of science passes by only 5,5 per cent of schools.

“This suggests, if additional resources were devoted to schools below this top layer of schools, the national performance in mathematics and science could be significantly improved,” said Dr Jeff McCarthy, a senior consultant at the CDE.

The way Jewish schools operate – many of which follow the IEB curriculum, considered to be of a higher standard than the NSC – could be instructive.

From the junior grades (grades 8 to 9) to matric at King David Linksfield, learners are thoroughly taught and given homework every day. The maths staff of grade 11, includes former matric examiners and IEB moderators who are very experienced.

Heilbronn emphasises that the nature of maths learning is that it builds upon itself each year. “We have to ensure that our junior teaching is solid. Obviously, senior teachers also have to be on their toes. There can be no weak links in the chain.”

Toras Emes, a small religious school in Observatory, Johannesburg received the Certificate of Acknowledgement in Mathematics from the Department of Education

for the highest maths results in the Johannesburg East District in 2004. Its maths teacher then, Bernice Hattingh, now the school’s general studies co-ordinator, runs an organisation called Radical Mathematics & Science, based in Benoni, which trains maths and science teachers. Hundreds of teachers have been trained by its field staff.

In 2009, Toras Emes won the award for Best School in the Johannesburg East District as well as the Top Performer in the Johannesburg East District. Two specific learning areas of excellent performance in 2009 were in mathematics and accounting.

While bound by the national curriculum, her maths content is, as is the case with Heilbronn and Scheidegger, an accumulation of years of teaching, which she has transformed into book form for training purposes.

Scheidegger says the Department of Education releases its examination guidelines late every year. This makes reliance on one’s own syllabus as a teacher all the more necessary. She adds that a lot of Jewish day schools write the NSC exams.

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ORGANISATIONS, VENUES, CONTACT DETAILS, COST

- Beit Emanuel Progressive Synagogue, 38 Oxford Road, Parktown.
- JJRC - Johannesburg Jewish Resource Centre (Formerly Beyachad Resource Centre/Library), 2 Elray St, Raedene. Norma Shulman, (011) 645-2567, e-mail: library@beyachad.co.za
- Bikkur Cholim - Jewish Society for Visiting the Sick, 7A Chester Road, Greenside East, Jhb. Joy Gafin (011) 447-6689.
- CAJE - College of Adult Jewish Education, Sydenham Highlands North Shul, (011) 640-5021.
- CARE (Chabad Addiction Rehabilitation Centre) Cell: 079-882-6776.Fax: 086 551 4485, e-mail: justine@chabad.org.za, hotline: 0861 111 770.
- CSO - Emergency phone number 086 18 000 18.
- ELBM - Emunah Ladies Beit Midrash, 60 Mejon St Glenhazel, (011) 887-2910. “Lessons of our Lives” course on Wednesdays at 10:00. R350 for the course or R50 per shiur.
- FFHS - Friendship Forum for Holocaust Survivors, Second Generation and Members of the Community Affected by the Holocaust. Presentations held at the Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, 85 George Ave, Sandringham.

- HOD - Hebrew Order of David International, HOD Centre Oaklands Road, Orchards. Office, (011) 640 3017 or info@hodavid.org
- JAFFA - Jewish Accommodation for Fellow Aged, tel (012) 346-2007/8, 42 Mackie St, Bailey's Muckleneuck.
- Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC), tel (011) 640-3100, e-mail: info@jhbholocaust.co.za
- KDSF - King David Schools’ Foundation. King David Alumni info@kdsf.org, (011) 480-4723.
- Nechama Bereavement Counselling Centre - Room A304, 3rd Floor, Hospital Wing, Sandringham Gardens, 85 George Ave, Sandringham. Contact (011) 640-1322.
- New Friendship Ladies’ Group - a group for single women. Contact Lucille (011) 791-5226 or 082-927-5786.
- ORT and ORT JET South Africa - 44 Central Street, Cnr 10th Ave, Houghton, contact (011) 728-7154.
- Preview Theatre - 9 Valerie Crescent, Bagleyston, (011) 640-1061.
- Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre (RCHCC) and Great Park Shul, Jhb. Contact Hazel, (011) 728-8088 or Rene Sidley (011) 728-8378. Cost usually R50, including refreshments.
- SAIJE - Sandton Adult Institute of Jewish Education, Sandton Shul, e-mail:

- saije@sandtonshul.co.za, tel (011) 883-4210.
- Second Innings, Jhb - Jewish Community Services - Donald Gordon Centre, 85 George Ave Sandringham. At the Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, every Sunday morning for tea at 10:00, followed by the meeting at 10:30. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members.
- SA Friends of Beit Halochem: Beyachad, 2 Elray St,Raedene. Contact Leanne tel (011) 645 2553, e-mail: beithalochem@beyachad.co.za
- South African Jewish Board of Deputies (Johannesburg) - Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact (011) 645-2500 or (011) 645-2523.
- SA Zionist Federation (SAZF), Johannesburg - Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact Froma, (011) 645-2505.
- Israel Centre. Contact Debbie (011) 645-2560.
- Jewish National Fund (JNF), Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact Crystal Kaplan, 083-376-5999.
- Jewish Outlook. Contact Ryan Cane, e-mail info@jewishoutlook.org.za. Support line: 27 76 215 8600, website www.jewishoutlook.org.za
- Jewish Women's Benevolent Society (JWBS) - Sandringham Gardens, 85 George Ave Sandringham. Contact Carolyn Sabbagh, (011) 485-5232.
- Simcha Friendship and Cultural Circle (SFCC), Johannesburg - Sandton

- Shul. Contact Sylvia Shull, (011) 783-5600. Meetings on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Wednesday each month at Sandton Shul at 10:00 unless stated otherwise.
- United Sisterhood, 38 Oxford Rd Parktown. Contact Marian (011) 646-2409. Website: www.unitedsisterhood.co.za.
- Tiyulim (Jewish Outdoor Club). Contact Martin 082-965-7419 or Greg 082-959-9026.
- Union of Jewish Women (UJW), Jhb, 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Cost R15 for the Friendship Luncheon Club and a R20 donation for lectures unless otherwise stated.
- Union of Jewish Women (UJW), CT, (021) 434-9555, or e-mail info@ujw cape.co.za
- UJW CT AED Programme at Stonehaven, Albany Road, Sea Point, 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments).
- United Zionist Luncheon Club (UZLC), Jhb - Our Parents Home. Contact Gloria, (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.
- UOS - Union of Orthodox Synagogues, (011) 485-4865, e-mail: info@uos.co.za, fax 086-610-3442.
- WIZO Jhb - Beyachad, 2 Elray St Raedene,e-mail: wizopublicrelations@bey achad.co.za. Contact Joyce Chodos (011) 645-2548 or Sandy Kramer (011) 645-2515.

**NOTE:** Deadline for all entries is 12:00 on the Friday prior to publication.

Today Friday (February 18)

- **UZLC** presents Naomi Musiker, on “Jewish Newspapers and Their Role in South Africa”.

Sunday (February 20)

- **Second Innings** presents Bronwyn Feldwick-Davis and Angie Pape on “Reach for a Dream”.

- **Limmud SA** is holding its first programme meeting of the year at Beyachad from 16:00 to 18:00. Please RSVP to Mike Golding at michael@golding.za.net or Brenda Stern at brendamstern@googlemail.com.

- **RCHCC** presents “The Jews of Japan” by Hugh Raichlin at 19:30. Cost R70.

Monday (February 21)

- **UJW Johannesburg** presents Ray Hartley, editor of the Sunday Times on “Topics of the Day”.

Tuesday (February 22)

- **WIZO Fortnightly Forum** hosts a special tea to honour four Jewish women who have made a difference to the community – Marlene Bethlehem; Edna Freinkel; Sylvia Glasser; and Natalie Knight at 09:30 at Beyachad. All welcome. To book phone (011) 645-2515.

Wednesday (February 23)

- **UJW Johannesburg** presents Marcia Leveson on “A Passage to India”.

- **Second Innings**’ outing to Lifestyle Garden Centre, for a conducted tour of the show gardens and a film and talk on the “Gardens of Soweto”, with tea. Lunch for your own account. Book with Helen Wolfson by no later than February 20.

- **WIZO Cyrilidene branch** is hosting an Israeli break-

fast and “One Thousand Club” draw at 09:30. Cost R80. Phone Crystal on 083-376-5999 to book.

- **UJW Cape Town** presents David Bloomberg, former mayor of Cape Town on “Cape Town Jewish Mayors”.

- **Balfour Park Parkinson's Disease Support Group** meets in the Lighthouse Hall, St Luke’s Anglican Church, High Road, Orchards, at 10:00. Norman Doidge, MD, will speak about the discovery that the brain is neuroplastic, and that it can change its structure and function. People with Parkinson’s Disease, their families, friends and caregivers are welcome. Contact Rosemary Burke on (011) 640-3919 or burke.rosemary1@gmail.com

Friday (February 25)

- **UZLC** presents David Batzofin on “Welcoming 2011”.

- **FNC** presents **Setlogane Manchidi of Investec Bank** on “How I mixed Mealie Pap and Perogen at the Sussmans”. Bookings essential on (011) 640-5021.

Sunday (February 27)

- **Second Innings** presents Tali Nates on “Portraits of Moral Choices: Perpetrators, Bystanders and Upstanders during the Holocaust”.

- **Society of Israel Philately** meeting at 10:00 in the boardroom of the Waverley Synagogue. All welcome. Refreshments. Free entry. Contact M Daniels 082-385-9736.

Monday (February 28)

- **UJW Johannesburg** presents Ronnie Mink on “Modern Research on the Holocaust in the Ukraine”.

Tuesday (March 1)

- **Aish Hatorah** invites you to a special dinner with Lori Palatnik of Aish.com at the Capri in Savoy at 19:30 for 20:00. Cost R220. Advance bookings only with Fruma on 082-689-2961 or e-mail willis.shelley20@gmail.com.

Wednesday (March 2)

- **SFCC** presents Lance Metz on “Reaching the Summit of Everest”.

Saturday evening (March 5)

- **Bikkur Cholim** is hosting a special showing of “London Road” at Liberty Theatre on the Square at 20:30. Cost R150. Call Joy on (011) 44-6689 to book.

Sunday (March 6)

- **Second Innings** presents Andre Hattingh on “Change Your World”.

Monday (March 7)

- **UJW Johannesburg** presents Yael Horowitz on “The Hillbrow Health Precinct: an Urban Regeneration Unit”.

Monday (March 14)

- **UJW Johannesburg** presents Meshack Mabogoane on “SA and Israel: Call for Greater Collaboration”.

Wednesday (March 16)

- **Torah Academy** is hosting a business breakfast with Dr Ali Bacher at the HOD Hall at 07:30 for 08:00. RSVP Adrienne on 082 600-8059 or adik@octagonfinancial.co.za.

- **SFCC** presents Prof Celine Bernstein on “Hormone Replacement - is it Necessary?”

Wednesday (March 23)

- **Second Innings** presents Bobby Godsell on “Renewing the South African Dream”.

Saturday evening (March 26)

- **SAZF** is holding their 47th conference this evening and tomorrow. Guest speakers: Harvard

academic Prof Alan Dershowitz; John Howard - former prime minister of Australia; and Col Richard Kemp - former commander of British forces in Afghanistan. Bookings: (011) 645-2541 or sharon@beyachad.co.za.

Sunday (March 27)

- **Second Innings** presents Jacqueline Teague on “Spring Clean Your Life”.

- **Society of Israel Philately** meeting at 10:00 in the boardroom of the Waverley Synagogue. All welcome. Refreshments. Free entry. Contact M Daniels 082-385-9736.

Monday (March 28)

- **UJW Johannesburg** presents Tom Wheeler on “A South African Diplomat Remembers: from Verwoerd to Mandela”.

Wednesday (March 30)

- **Second Innings** outing to Doonholm Herb Farm and Nursery. Meet at 09:00 at Oxford Street Shul parking. R130 includes the bus, the guided tour, and lunch. Book with Annette Bergman by no later than March 27.

Wednesday (April 6)

- **SFCC** outing to Alexandra to see the refurbished Nokathuli Centre and then to Skala Jazz Club for tea. Transport cost to be advised. Meet at Sandton Shul at 10:00.

Wednesday (May 4)

- **SFCC** presents Clem Sunter on “The Latest Possibilities for the Global Economy and South Africa”.

Wednesday (May 18)

- **SFCC** presents Nadine Lemmer on ”Whats And Hows of Arthritis”.

Sudoku Puzzle 26

(Medium, difficulty rating 0.45)

	1				5	4	3	
9				2	4		6	
						1		2
3	8		4					1
		7		8		6		
1					3		7	8
8		3						
	9		7	3				4
	2	1	6				8	

\* Answer to follow with next puzzle

Answer - Puzzle 25

6	2	7	4	8	3	5	9	1
4	9	3	6	5	1	8	2	7
8	1	5	9	7	2	4	3	6
9	7	8	3	1	4	2	6	5
3	4	1	5	2	6	9	7	8
5	6	2	8	9	7	3	1	4
1	5	4	2	6	9	7	8	3
2	8	6	7	3	5	1	4	9
7	3	9	1	4	8	6	5	2

Note to readers: Our bridge column and our Sudoku puzzle alternate week by week.

CROSSWORD NO 198

BY LEAH SIMON

19. Throw the dice, being chilled (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 197

**ACROSS:** 1. Gods; 3. Fancourt; 8. Also; 9. Jealousy; 11. Pearl Harbour; 13. Strays; 14. Hatter; 17. United States; 20. Purports; 21. Anon; 22. Greenery; 23. Aces. **DOWN:** 1. Goal post; 2. Despair; 4. Arena; 5. Celebrants; 6. Uhuru; 7. Toys; 10. Play it down; 12. Presents; 15. Titanic; 16. Editor; 18. Norse; 19. SPUG.

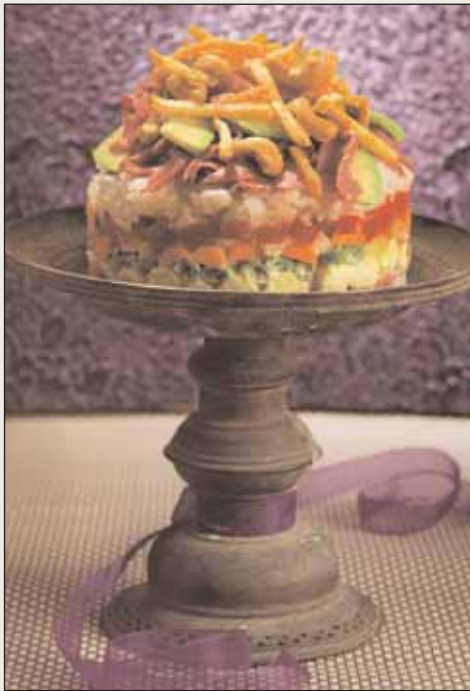
1		2			3	4		5		6		7
8					9							
				10								
11												
13							14			15		
						16						
	17	18										
19												
20								21				
22									23			



# Welcome new addition to kosher cooking

RITA LEWIS

THERE ARE four aspects which a cook needs to take into account for food to be appetising and enjoyed, namely; appearance, smell, taste and nutritional value. Sharon Lurie's new cookbook, *Celebrating with the Kosher Butcher's Wife* shows not only how to create food which incorporates all these facets, but also how to create versatile and stunning table layouts on which these can be served for any occasion. It is not just the magnificent colourful photos throughout the book, showing glimpses of a glamorous Jewish lifestyle and cuisine for Shabbat and the six main festivals that overwhelm, it is also the depiction of all the food items in such a way as to make



them truly mouth-watering that adds the coup de grace that's Sharon Lurie's style. In fact, this book is so beautiful that it could have been meant to be kept for show on a coffee table rather than for use on a kitchen shelf. This is Lurie's second book (the first one being *Cooking with the Kosher Butcher's Wife*) and again the layout, choice of recipes and entire format entice the reader to try out her recipes and choices. Written by a South African who is married into a fourth generation family of butchers, it is a boon to find out that all the ingredients in the different recipes are not only available locally, but the weights and measurements are given in understandable terms – without the reader having to rummage at the last minute in the kitchen drawers to find a calculator or metric converter. Another plus is that there is nothing in the book not permissible in terms of keeping kosher - from a dietary point of view as well as being halachically correct. Lurie says that each chag, "possesses its own vibrancy and colour. Each one brings its own unique customs and traditions - especially with regard to food." "With the ever-increasing variety of kosher food, twists on traditional foods have enabled us to follow food trends while keeping within the traditions," she said. Her comprehensive writing and instructions are clear, simple to follow and written in a humorous, easy way, with her own anecdotes interspersed between recipes. Lurie has been experimenting and creating new food ideas and décor for some 25 years, proving that an enthusiastic housewife cum professional chef, can really do anything if she puts her mind to it. This book, published by Random House Struik, costs R220 and will inspire beginners as well as the experienced to cook, to create, to cook and to enjoy.

# WUPJ's new Mishkan T'Filah siddur launched

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY RITA LEWIS

LAST WEEK saw the launch of a new edition of the World Union for Progressive Judaism's siddur, entitled *Mishkan T'Filah*, which took place at Bet David in Sandton. Some 180 people attended the celebration at which Avi Kanar conducted a choir of Bet Emanuel and Bet David members. This latest edition of *Mishkan T'Filah* was produced by the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) and the North American Reform Rabbinate. It was adapted from the original *Mishkan T'Filah* (produced in 2007) by the Union for Progressive Judaism, Australia, New Zealand and Asia and the South African Union for Progressive Judaism. The beauty of this siddur is that it is not just the run of the mill prayer book; there are not one, but many interesting facets to it. One of these is the layout, with on the right of each page the particular prayers, psalms or writings printed in Hebrew. For the convenience of those who cannot read the Hebrew text, the transliteration of the work is printed next to it on the same page. Rules to be followed to acquire the skill of reading the transliteration are given at the beginning of the siddur. On each of the pages opposite the prayer and the transliteration, are a literal translation of the text of the prayer and different examples of writings and penmanship in English, pertaining to the prayers, explaining, expounding and interpreting the text of the prayers and writings, not only in an intellectual, academic, theological form, but using the English to its ultimate in descrip-



Bet David's Rabbi Robert Jacobs holding the new Progressive siddur entitled, *Mishkan T'Filah*.

tive beauty. These appear in both both prose and poetic style, full of spiritual richness which is embedded in the words. These have been written by various contributors and bring another dimension of understanding to the writings. The siddur not only includes weekday prayers, and ones for Shabbat and Festivals, but also prayers for "other occasions of worship". These include prayers and readings for Yom Hashoah, commemorating the Holocaust; Yom Hazikaron, the Israeli Memorial Day; Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day; Hodaa inserts giving thanks to the A-mighty for the miracles bestowed on the Jews at Chanukah and Purim; the Yizkor prayers in the House of Mourning, as well as many "general" prayers said in the home and synagogue including psalms, hymns and songs sung at various auspicious times. The comprehensive index at the back, gives the names of the authors, sources and notations, as well as songs and quotations from *Pirkei Avot*. Bet David's Rabbi Jacobs who is chairman of the South African Association of Progressive Rabbis, said the new edition added to the ideas in the old one, with a strong enforcement of the equality of women and many contemporary issues. The ecology and the environment have also been taken into account and with this in mind – it is interesting to note the book was printed on 100 per cent sustainable low-impact acid-free paper. A stand of trees was also planted "to offset some of the emissions associated with the publication of this book".

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD KEEP PEACE WITH ISRAEL'

WASHINGTON - The next Egyptian government should recognise its peace with Israel, the White House has said. "It's important that the next government of Egypt recognise the accords that have been signed with Israel," spokesman Robert Gibbs said in a news conference after President Barack Obama congratulated Egyptians following the exit of President Hosni Mubarak. Obama in his statement said the United States would provide assistance toward tran-

sitioning Egypt to democracy "if asked" and that "nothing less than genuine democracy will carry the day". The American leader also said that all parties should have a say in the transition to democracy, suggesting that the United States would not object to participation by the Muslim Brotherhood in the process. "This transition must bring all of Egypt's voices to the table," he said. Gibbs suggested that the recent fretting

over the prospects of an Islamist Egypt were overstated. "I don't think we have to fear democracy," he said. The democracy wave in the Middle East might sweep Iran, Gibbs said, noting recent reports of intensified Iranian government repression. "What you've seen in the region is the government of Iran quite frankly scared of the will of its people," he said. (JTA)

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# New site available for ‘Jewishly focused’ films



ROBYN SASSEN

“HOW DO I know who is my real mother?” South African-born Natalia Haziza asks Rebecca, the woman who for 10 years worked as her childhood nanny. She’s met with a poignant silence.

This question, poised on an emotional confrontation with her own mother, is the cornerstone of *Lullaby*, an independently-made Israeli short film, one of many Jewishly focused films, now available for rent online.

Itinerant traveller, Denmark-born Israel-based David Silberman, the man whose door you knock on if Jewish film is your desire, is fascinated by how similarly Jews anywhere live.

“You see this in Jewish movies from around the world,” he explained. “The same topics and concerns are repeated again

and again.” This fascination fed his love of Jewish film.

A few years ago, he noticed a small ad in his local paper, advertising the screening of independent Jewish movies. A self-described amateur film enthusiast, he attended the screening “and saw four short movies, not all excellent but for sure a better way to get entertained than TV.

“I started searching for more movies like this and I was surprised to discover that hundreds such movies are produced every year.”

This set him on a project which has borne fruit as a website: [www.thejewishcinema.com](http://www.thejewishcinema.com). It’s set up like a video rental store. A film costs \$5 for hire. Payment in rands is made through PayPal, “a reliable Internet service in which no credit information nor personal information is transferred to my

site, so there are no security concerns”.

The project is protected against theft: “Movies on the site are streamed directly to the browser without saving them on the computer’s hard disk.” The disadvantage of this is that you only get to watch the film from your computer.

“The site has now around 20 movies,” he says. He doesn’t boast of the “critical strengths” of the movies he’s chosen to stream.

“I just know that the movies that I personally like are what other people like too. I believe that the commercial movie producers - and film festival organisers - dictate what ordinary people like me get to watch.

“My dream is to make a Jewish movie boutique on the Internet. There is so much electronic entertainment available today, I can’t hope to compete



David Silberman, the man behind the website. (PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)

with satellite TV, YouTube and so on. But it’s not about competition: hopefully my audience will enjoy once in a while the possibility of watching a good Jewish movie.”

On [www.thejewishcinema.com](http://www.thejewishcinema.com) you can rent fiction (organised into children, humour, Israeli movies, Jewish identity and marriage), documentaries (politics, culture, Israel, Holocaust and religion) and short movies. Silberman may be contacted at [david@thejewishcinema.com](mailto:david@thejewishcinema.com)

# Jack Puterman bears testimony to Holocaust horrors

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY LYNN MATISONN

IN A FIRST for Durban, Jack Puterman, one of the few remaining Holocaust survivors still living in the city, launched his book “Testimony”, an account of his experiences during and after the Holocaust.

Born in 1929, Jack was only 10 when the Nazis invaded Poland and the horror began for him and his family. His memoirs, beautifully illustrated with numerous old photographs, provide a vivid and moving story of a young boy with an amazing memory of those events, whose courage and resilience enabled him to survive.

Great excitement was generated in the community at the announcement of the launch

and close on 180 people attended the function. Supporting Jack were his wife, Marcia, and four of his five sons (the only one absent was his son in America).

All proceeds from the sale of the book are being donated to the Durban Holocaust Centre.

Mary Kluk, director of the Durban Holocaust Centre, welcomed the audience. She stressed the importance of the role of such survivor testimonies in order to ensure that the world should never forget and that such horrors should never be repeated.

Lynn Matisonn who was acknowledged by Puterman in his memoirs “for taking my words and putting them on to paper”. explained how, after making a short speech at the opening of the Durban Holocaust

Centre in March 2008, Puterman had been motivated to write his story – at that stage primarily so that his family would know his history – and enlisted Matisonn’s help in doing so.

For nearly two years she and Jack worked on the project, painstakingly putting together the pieces of the puzzle that made up the events of Puterman’s extraordinary life.

After two years it was clear that the story should be printed, not just for Puterman’s family, but also for general consumption.

Puterman’s son Allan, expressed his pride in his father’s achievements, saying that although the family had known of some of the events of his father’s life, the book enabled them to gain a much fuller and more detailed account of his



Mary Kluk, Jack Puterman and John Moshal.

experiences and a greater understanding of the horrors as well as of his father’s strengths in overcoming them.

An overwhelmed Puterman explained how difficult and emotionally disturbing it had been to put his story on to paper.

# Expanded role for cancer-causing gene discovered



Dr Shulamit Katzav-Shapira (left) with Galit Lazer. (PHOTOGRAPH: DOUGLAS GUTHRIE)

JERUSALEM - Researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have discovered that Vav1 - an oncogene (cancer-causing gene) found in recent years to be one of the factors in tumorous tissue growth - plays a wider role in several types of cancer than had previously been thought.

The discovery has implications for further concentration on targeting this gene in cancer research.

The work of the researchers, led by Dr Shulamit Katzav-Shapira of the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Faculty of Medicine, was published recently in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

Vav1 has been known to be involved in alterations in gene expression in the immune system, where it is physiologically expressed. Vav1 was discovered a few years ago by Katzav-Shapira when she was working in the National Cancer Institute labora-

tory of Dr Mariano Barbacid in the US.

Since this newly identified gene represented the sixth oncogene detected in Dr Barbacid’s laboratory, it was designated by Katzav-Shapira as Vav (six in Hebrew) 1.

Vav1 is involved in the process whereby cells are “triggered” into action. When receptors on the surface of a cell, known as growth factor receptors, receive signals for growth, they relay this information into the cell.

This chain of command is often called a “signal transduction cascade” or a “pathway”. Signal transduction cascades play a fundamental role in controlling normal cell proliferation, differentiation, cell adhesion, spontaneous movement, and programmed cell death.

Mutations in the proteins driving this signal transduction process are among the main causes for driving cells to develop into cancer. Thus, identifica-

tion of the signal transducers that are involved in malignant transformation is a prerequisite for understanding cancer and improving its diagnosis and treatment.

Since Vav1 was shown to be involved in events leading to alterations in gene expression in the immune system, it is a “key player” in this process.

Now, mutated Vav1 has been shown by Dr Katzav-Shapira and others to be highly expressed also in neuroblastoma (a cancer that forms in nerve tissue), pancreatic and lung cancer. Indeed, it was surprisingly found to be expressed in 44 per cent of malignant human lung cancer tissue samples that were studied.

Since, say the researchers, Vav1 has now been shown to play a role in the process of abnormal tissue growth in several human cancers, it has become an even more highly important potential therapeutic target for cancer therapy.

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Left: The Dis-Chem team: Mark and Saul Saltzman, Brian Epstein and Saul Lever.

Below: Jeff Rubenstein came all the way from Sydney to present the Sandra Bransky Memorial Trophy to the winners: Bradleigh Benatar; Brett Neilson; S Nair; and J Dinis.



# Dis-Chem Golf Day raises funds for Sydenham Shul

**RABBI YOSSY GOLDMAN  
SYDENHAM HIGHLANDS NORTH SHUL**

SYDENHAM SHUL'S Annual Golf Day has become a highlight of Johannesburg's Jewish sporting calendar. Thanks to a generous headline sponsorship from Dis-Chem, the event - the 14th - held at Killarney Country Club in Johannesburg towards the end of last year, was the biggest and best of all time.

The course, the food, the fun and top quality prizes, all contributed to a truly stunning success. In the words of golf committee chairman, Michael Stein: "I never heard a

single complaint!" Now in Jewish organisational life this is truly an exceptional achievement!

The field stretches well beyond members of Sydenham and the efficient organisation of the dedicated committee ensured a smooth and slick day to revel in and to remember.

Rabbi Yossy Goldman prayed extra hard beseeching the A-mighty's assistance in keeping the rain away! Indeed, the heavens opened just as the 18th hole was coming to a close.

Grateful thanks are due to Michael Stein (chairman); Ingrid Seeff; Norman Stein; Milton Maloon; Des Rosen; and Julian Nathan.

# Manchester United to sign Israel's Kayal?

**JACK MILNER**

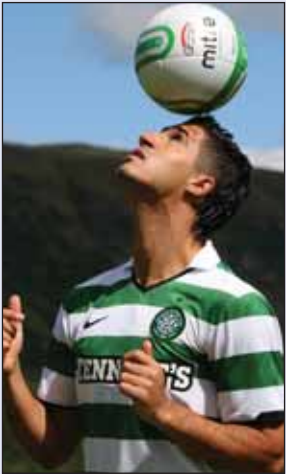
ACCORDING TO website Caughtoffside.com, Sir Alex Ferguson is keen on strengthening his midfield this summer and as a result, Manchester United is reportedly interested in Celtic midfielder, Israel's Beram Kayal.

The 22-year-old has been in good form for the Hoops this season since joining the SPL club on a four-year deal from Maccabi Haifa last August and is believed to have caught the eye of the Premier League leaders. United is now considering making a move for the Israel international at the end of the season.

Kayal is reportedly valued at £8-million (about R96-million), although Celtic would be extremely reluctant to sell.

Kayal started his career as a striker in the various youth teams of Maccabi Haifa and scored many goals before taking on the role of a midfielder. Despite being only 16 years old at the time, he moved up to the Maccabi Haifa under-19 team for the 2004-05 campaign and excelled as part of the team that won a League and Cup double. Kayal was named the League's Outstanding Player.

He made his first-team debut for Maccabi Haifa at the end of the 2005-06 season in a 2-1 win over Maccabi Petah Tikva which sealed Maccabi's third League title in a row at the age of 17 making two



Israeli midfielder Beram Kayal appears to be in Sir Alex Ferguson's line of sight.

appearances that season.

In the 2006-07 season, he made six appearances in all competitions, but took on the role of captain of the under-19 team that won another League and Cup double. He scored a hat-trick in a league win against Beitar Jerusalem.

In the 2007-08 season Kayal became a first team regular featuring 36 times; since then he has become an integral part of the team and enjoyed success in recent seasons, winning the Premier League and Toto Cup.

During the 2007 Torneo di Viareggio youth tournament in Italy, Kayal was praised by the Italian press for a man-of-the-match performance against their counterparts from Fiorentina. Both Corriere della Sera

and Gazzetta dello Sport seemed to be astonished to learn that he was an Arab in a Jewish team and took a great amount of time to learn more about him.

On July 29 2010, Kayal signed a four-year deal with Celtic and was given the number 33 shirt. He made his debut for The Hoops against FC Utrecht on August 19 and showed his full potential by getting off to the best possible start, setting up the opening goal of the game for Efrain Juarez and winning the Man of the Match award.

Kayal has recently consolidated his place in the heart of the Celtic midfield and put in some impressive performances, most notably in Celtic's 2-2 Scottish Cup last-16 draw with Old Firm rivals Rangers.

# sport

## To stretch, or not to stretch, that is the question

**JACK MILNER**

IT HAS become common conjecture that before one participates in any sporting activity one needs to first warm up; an important part of that warm-up is to stretch.

However, is stretching actually good for you?

In a recent series of articles, Yonatan Kaplan (PT PhD), director of the Jerusalem Sports Medicine Institute at the Lerner Sports Centre, Hebrew University, discusses the validity of all these theories.

He points out that there are several studies that reported that stretching does not help prevent injuries. On the other hand, there is some research that supports the claim that stretching is effective at reducing injuries.

Such an opinion maintains that stretching prevents injuries because it increases the flexibility of muscles, which makes muscle contractions smoother, thereby reducing injuries.

Others have found that stretching was also effective when it was combined with a warm-up.

Some scientists recommend that stretching is most effective when done within 15 minutes of engaging in physical activity.

Another study has found that stretching

helps to lower the risk of musculotendinous injuries.

Conversely, there are several studies reporting that stretching does not help prevent injuries. One study found that general fitness was more important in injury prevention than stretching.

When it comes to stretching itself, some studies have found that stretching can actually hurt muscle strength and reduce power. Other scientists discovered that when stretching was added after warming up, it did not lower the incidence of injuries that resulted from overuse.

The extra flexibility in range of motion was reported to not as beneficial as initially thought, and was found to lead to injury as well as to impede performance.

Stretching has been found to bring about damage at the cytoskeleton level.

Kaplan found that one of the biggest problems with the literature on stretching was that many studies contained fatal design flaws. Many of them did not distinguish between the types of physical activity performed when they examined the effect of stretching on injury reduction.



Yonatan Kaplan – stretching a point...



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