



Yael Farber pulls the blood and guts from Strindberg.
(page 20)

• south african •
jewish report

www.sajewishreport.co.za

Enough is enough!

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

There was hardly a dry eye among former patients of Professor Cyril Karabus as they recounted what he meant to them at a solidarity gathering at the offices of his local attorney, Michael Bagraim, on Monday.

The 77-year-old retired paediatric oncologist has been held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) since August, when he was arrested on his way back from his son's wedding in Canada. Unbeknown to him, he had been convicted in absentia of homicide and falsifying documents over the death of three-year-old Sarah Abdulla, who he had treated while doing a locum in Abu Dhabi a decade ago.

Bagraim told the gathering that Karabus had been arrested during Eid and it had taken four days just to find out where he was being held and why he had been arrested. "He was treated really badly in prison - it was almost 45 degrees and he's not a young man."

Eventually bail had been granted. The fresh criminal trial has been postponed sine die (with no date set) which Bagraim said was "not acceptable" anywhere in the world.

"It's a most frustrating exercise



Deborah, Michael and Dr Sarah Karabus, children of Professor Cyril Karabus, at the gathering at which Michael thanked former patients for sharing their stories about the professor.

for him," Bagraim stated. "He's got resilience and fortitude, but he's not holding up at the moment."

On Sunday, the Department of International Relations and Co-operation, issued a demarche - a strong protest - to the UAE calling on it to urgently finalise the matter.

The case has been postponed time and time again as the original file on the child could not be found.

Taryn Harkness, whose idea it

was to hold the gathering, said she had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma at the age of three years. "I went through treatment with (Dr Karabus) and as you can see, I'm fine," she said.

Bradley Rayner was diagnosed with "severe haemophilia" at the age of three months. "I'm 48 now - I've known him all my life," he said, referring to the professor.

"He treated me and taught me

how to manage my condition. Everything I've done in my life comes down to the Prof."

A former patient's mother, Freble Reid, recalled that Karabus "would come any time of the night to see his patients and he'd stay with them. He's a fantastic man, really."

Gill McCulloch was a single mother when her 19-month-old son was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a condition that had a 10 per cent

survival rate. "Dr Karabus was like a substitute granddad and father - he comforted so many patients, he had time to console you."

With some patients it "wasn't okay. But that's the nature of the disease - it had nothing to do with what the doctor did or didn't do," she said. "I have my son today because of Dr Karabus and his team."

Elise Burns-Hoffman's daughter was diagnosed with hepatoblastoma at four months. "The Prof was always there to comfort me."

"He saved my daughter's life. She has just walked away with a straight-A aggregate in matric."

Dr Melodie Hougaard worked with Karabus in the 70s. "Cyril taught me how to care, to go to the funerals of patients who died, to be part of the families of those who were going to lose people."

Professor Jan Glazewski, UCT law professor and a haemophiliac who had been treated by Karabus, remembered his "intense involvement not only in (patients') care, but in their lives."

"Abu Dhabi is coming to play cricket here - I want to stand at the airport with a placard telling them to go home and bring Professor Karabus back."

See story on page 3

New Commonwealth chief rabbi, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis' SA links

"In assuming this post, I follow in the footsteps of giants. I would like to pay tribute to the current Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, who, with his unique gifts, has served British Jewry with distinction."

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Matric supplement



9-16

Inside the 2013 Israeli election: The system and the players

Thirty-four parties are competing in this election, with PM Benjamin Netanyahu's newly-formed Likud-Beiteinu party favoured to win the most Knesset seats, meaning his re-election.

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Obama: 'Israel doesn't know what its best interests are'

With each new settlement announcement in Obama's view, Netanyahu is moving his country down a path toward near isolation. If Israel becomes more of a pariah... it won't survive.

7

Israel's political cycle not stuck on the right

Israel is no stranger to the political cycle. Israelis tend to lean left or right for a period until the ideological camp in power overreaches, sending the pendulum in the opposite direction.

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Shabbat Times

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Jan 19 / 8 Shevat

Parshat Bo		
18:15	19:38	Johannesburg
18:32	20:36	Cape Town
18:15	19:35	Durban
18:20	19:52	Bloemfontein
18:05	20:08	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:56	East London

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Four sons beget four parents

When David Ben-Gurion was prime minister of Israel, he met US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles who challenged Ben-Gurion as follows: “Who do you and your state represent? Does it represent the Jews of Poland, perhaps Yemen, Morocco, Iraq, Russia or perhaps Brazil?

“After 2 000 years of exile, can you honestly speak about a single nation, a single culture or a single Jewish tradition?”

Ben-Gurion answered: “Approximately 300 years ago the Mayflower set sail. Go into the streets and ask 10 American children what the name of the captain of the Mayflower was, how long the voyage took, what the people on the ship ate. There is a good chance you won’t get answers.

“More than 3 000 years ago, the

Jews left Egypt. On one of your trips, ask 10 Jewish children in different countries: What was the name of the leader who took the Jews from Egypt? How long did it take them to get to the Land of Israel? What did they eat during this period? Once you get the answers to these questions, carefully consider the question that you have just asked me!”

In this week’s parsha we are told the secret that has enabled children for millennia to answer the questions above. “So you may relate it to your sons and your grandchildren what I have done upon Egypt... that you may know that I am the L-rd” (Exodus 10:2).

Education has been the cornerstone of Jewish existence for the last 2 000 years, moulding a people that has survived as no other.

One of the central sections of the Haggada is the Four Sons. It is a deep and revealing insight into different types of children. However, as is clear to us all, children do not come from storks but rather grow up in families through which they begin to experience the world and through which they learn to find meaning.

Just as we look at the Four Sons, we know that lurking in their history are Four Parents. Perhaps we could suggest what kind of home each of the sons grew up in.

The Righteous Son has been brought up in a home that nurtures spiritual values and that sees the quest for depth and understanding in life of great significance.

The Wicked Son is brought up in a home that focuses on one’s own



PARSHAT BO
Rabbi Brian Opert
Milnerton Hebrew
Congregation

needs and what one can gain from any situation.

The Simple Son might be exposed to the great complexities of the wisdoms of the world but when it comes to spiritual values, his parents have allowed his training to remain on a superficial level that gives him very little.

Finally, the Son Who Doesn’t Know How to Ask. Ditto above, but he has never been in a Jewish environment; in fact he doesn’t know the difference between a kneidel and a rotti.

This is the challenge of the Four Sons: They have been included in the Haggadah not in order to lengthen the seder, but to confront us with our privilege of parenting.

African refugee boys get a new start in Israel.

ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN

Some years ago, while out on jogs two kilometres from the Sinai border, David Palmach, saw traumatised refugees from Eritrea and Sudan dropping to the sand in exhaustion.

The refugees had come overland from home countries torn by strife, and had made a long and dangerous journey to Israel, often by way of Bedouin torture camps in the Sinai desert, and past trigger-happy Egyptian soldiers.

Up until two years ago, on arrival in Israel, they were taken to prison-like facilities for lack of suitable alternatives. In 2010, however, Israel’s lawmakers decided to find ways to house and educate the many teenage boys among these African refugees and asylum-seekers. Palmach was one of the first to step in.

Palmach, director of the Jewish Agency for Israel’s Nitzana Educational Community today runs Tikun Olam, a boarding school set up for teenage African refugees at Nitzana, an Israeli kibbutz near the Egyptian border.

There are 50 African teens there. Through Israel’s Ministry of Education, the boys - most of them 14 and 15 - receive an allowance for housing, food and education that must be supplemented by the generosity of donors.

“David Palmach had the willingness and foresight to help these young men,” says Karen Kellerman, delegation co-ordinator for the Nitzana Educational Community, which encompasses an immigrant absorption centre, a military prep school and intensive ecology workshops for Israeli schoolchildren.

“There are about 80 000 refugees from Sudan and Eritrea in Israel, some escaping for their lives from genocide and religious sectarian violence,” said Kellerman. “The Israeli Ministry of Education wanted to give the young



Tikun Olam students on a trip in the Eilat mountains.

boys a chance to have a more normal life and equip them with the tools to do that.”

Tikun Olam is now is at full capacity, having designated 10 of Nitzana’s nicest youth hostel suites to these 50 students. They may remain until they reach legal majority.

“They’ve seen atrocities at home. Some of them were captured by Bedouins in the Sinai and turned into slaves; some have marks on their bodies to prove what they have been through. We’re offering them a stable, loving environment, and food in their stomachs every day and a place they can go to sleep every night knowing they will be safe in the morning. They haven’t had that before.”

Kellerman relates that Palmach’s decision to found Tikun Olam – a Jewish term for “repairing the world” – was controversial.

“It would have been easy to say no. We have a lot of poor people in Israel and many argue that we must take care of our own first. But on the other hand, our Torah tells us we are supposed to care for strangers and orphans,” she

says. “David saw the opportunity to give them new hope and a home.”

In May 2011, IDF personnel escorted the first 24 boys to the centre, where Israel’s Minister of Education greeted them along with the entire Nitzana staff.

They’d arrived with nothing but the clothes on their backs. A French volunteer at Nitzana arranged for a donation from a French Christian group that allowed the staff to buy bare necessities for the boys.

And after months on the run, they were not used to rules and routines - up at 7, breakfast, school till 1, curfew. Twelve of them ultimately went back to the detention centre because they couldn’t adapt to the structure.

The school’s staff also came up against huge gaps in the boys’ knowledge of concepts such as democracy.

Tikun Olam Director Yair Amir said in his weekly citizenship lesson, he tried to simulate a candidates’ debate but his students didn’t grasp the idea of presenting differing plat-

forms. Before the US elections, they asked: “If Obama loses, will they shoot him?”

Counsellors are with the group at all times, and the boys meet with social workers weekly or monthly, depending on their situation.

“For the longest time, even now, the boys were afraid to speak about some of the things that happened because they are afraid their tormentors will find them and kill them.”

Nine of the African boys are academically gifted and attend regular school in Beersheva. The rest study subjects such as English, Hebrew, computers, math, geography, history and citizenship on the premises. Physical education is part of their daily schedule. In the evenings, two Israeli volunteers take them for activities like ceramics, biking and swimming.

Kellerman arranges for groups from Israel and abroad to visit the facility with the hope of gaining volunteers, sponsors and informal spokespeople.

Because Nitzana is a sister city with Denver, many of the volunteers come from Colorado. One of them wants to invite a Tikun Olam boy to her house this summer. Another is sending Colorado Rapids soccer jerseys for all 50 boys. And Denver resident Pam Solomon filmed a documentary about Tikun Olam that Kellerman plans to use for awareness and fundraising purposes.

Finances at Tikun Olam are always precarious. “The difference in our boarding school is that our students have no other home to go to, as regular boarding school students do,” says Amir. “We never shut down, and we must have electricity on and food served every day.” Not to mention clothing, shoes and spending money for each child.

The big question is what will happen when the boys turn 18. (Israel21C)

jewish report

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Professor Karabus is caught in a country which has no real system of justice



Cyril Karabus

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Cape Town based attorney for Professor Cyril Karabus, Michael Bagraim is convinced that “Karabus will come back”, but when this will be, is in the hands of the Attorney-General in Abu Dhabi.

“We know that the medical committees met yesterday (Tuesday),” said Bagraim in a telephone interview. “We were hoping to get an acknowledgement of this meeting, but we have heard nothing at all. Karabus did not go down to court today, but since January 2, it has been incredibly frustrating.

“I have told him to go down to the court every day with the attorney, to inquire what the decision has been from the Attorney-General, and every day he sits in the corridor all day. It’s a case of hurry up and wait. That is exactly what happens. Cyril spends most of his time in the flat of Dr Elwin Buchel, the former head of gastroenterology at the University of Pretoria, where he has stayed since being released on bail, reading and writing his memoirs.

“It is almost five months since his arrest. While his health is failing physically, mentally and spiritually he is alert. His wife Jenifer is currently there with him, and has been since Monday. She is also trying to help get to the bottom of this situation.

“We were expecting a response to the demarche issued by the Department of International Relations and Co-operation by this coming Friday, which hopefully would offer some sort of indication as to what is happening.

“Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Marius Fransman, visited Abu Dhabi with Dr Philip Dexter, former chief spokesman for Cope on my behest. Fransman has agreed to send a delegation to the government within seven day from this coming Friday in an attempt to break this logjam.

“Every one of us on this case in South Africa and Abu Dhabi, including the judge in the case, believe that there is no evidence against Karabus. It is just an impasse. It is an incredibly untenable situation. A decision could be taken in three years’ time. Or twenty. There



Michael Bagraim

is no system of justice there. But actually it is illegal to postpone a criminal court case without a date.

“The Attorney-General is not controlled by the court in the UAE. Everything rests on the Attorney-General’s decision.”

On the other hand, the case has developed momentum on the part of the international legal and medical fraternities. “The international medical community is being advised not to even consider doing locums in the UAE.

“The legal fraternity in Abu Dhabi is a little nervous of the situation. We have asked them to explore different angles within Abu Dhabi law as to how they might find loopholes, but they are nervous as they do not want to compromise the bail situation and cause Karabus’ bail to be withdrawn and see him thrown in jail again. His experience there was terrible. He was not very happily treated.

“In a way you can almost understand the inertia. The local authorities are deeply embarrassed by the situation. After the whole court case, conducted in Karabus’ absence, the parents were paid blood money and effectively, the case went away. In years subsequent to the death of this child (three-year-old Sarah Abdullah) and the court case, Karabus, unaware of the situation, applied for further locums in Abu Dhabi. Each time he was turned down, but no reason was ever given. No one ever bothered to explain to him that putting foot on UAE territory would be immensely dangerous.

“My office has been inundated with letters, e-mails, phone-calls, from people showing the love and respect they have for Karabus,” Bagraim added, commenting that he had been obliged to employ two additional secretaries to field the correspondence.

“And many, many of his former patients are impoverished people from the Cape Flats. Many of them have been coming to our offices to give money. It’s really heart breaking to see. This morning we had a woman come with R30, which she had obviously saved up. These are really poor old people with sick families.

“There is a real human side to all of this, and this comes literally from the ground up.

We have had all sorts of people come forward with all offers of help in different ways. There has been strong involvement from the churches. There is a group of people who are currently printing t-shirts to wear at the airport for the day when Karabus returns. There’s a Cape Minstrel troupe rehearsing a performance for the day he arrives. All they

want is the date.”

Karabus has been made aware of all of these stories and the support and love that is being sent to him and he has been very touched by it all. “He did not know,” added Bagraim, “that he had touched so many lives. For him, for the last 40 years, it was just a job and he had never really had much feedback.”

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SUNDAY
20 January
2013

PARTIES TO BE REPRESENTED

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Labour
Meretz
Hadash
Shas
Bayit Yehudi

On Tuesday 22 January 2013, 34 political parties in Israel will be contesting the elections for the 19th Knesset, with parties already in the parliament eager to boost their current standing and the rest dreaming of passing the electoral threshold for the first time. Ehud Barak’s Independence Party will not participate in the January elections; Yisrael Beiteinu will run jointly with Likud; and Tzipi Livni’s Hatnua (The Movement,) is a brand new party.

There are 120 seats in the Knesset. The Israeli political landscape is fascinating and challenging but often difficult to comprehend.

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New Commonwealth chief rabbi has South African links

SUZANNE BELLING

“I am thrilled and proud. We always knew that he was somebody special and that he would make it,” said renowned Kabbalist Rabbi Dr Lionel Mirvis, of Kenilworth, Cape Town, on the appointment of his son Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis as the 11th chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth.

A former Herzlia learner, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis grew up in Wynberg, Cape Town, where his father was the spiritual leader of the congregation before becoming rabbi of Claremont.

A call to London to wish Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis “mazal

tov” from all the old Wynberg residents, evoked many memories, on which he said we would have to rely for the present as he was not permitted to give individual interviews till he assumes office in September this year on the retirement of Lord Sacks (Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks).

Lord Sacks, however, commented: “It’s a terrific appointment. Rabbi Mirvis is a good friend and valued colleague, respected by the rabinate and community alike. He is a man of warmth and wisdom, who will excel in his new role.

“I wish him and Valerie (the former Valerie Kaplan from Bulawayo) blessings and best wishes in the great task

ahead.”

In a statement released by his office Rabbi Mirvis said: “It is with enormous excitement and a deep sense of privilege that I accept the post of chief rabbi. I thank the many who are placing their confidence in me and look forward, with G-d’s help, to leading our community into an era of authentic, inclusive and confident modern Orthodox Judaism.

“Our United Hebrew Congregations have outstanding rabbis and I will seek to inspire and empower them further to transform their synagogues into powerhouses of religious, educational, cultural and social activity.

“The Jewish community is

widely admired, both within the UK and beyond, and I will endeavour to take us to even greater heights through a deeper commitment to Jewish identity, values and learning.

“I will seek to bring an ethical voice to the national debate in these changing and challenging times. A sense of religious identity has never been more relevant, nor more necessary, in our fast-changing world and these difficult economic times.”

Rabbi Mirvis said he and his wife Valerie, a local authority senior social worker, looked forward to serving as a team.

“I am indebted to the many teachers and role models who have inspired me, particularly my father and late mother (Freida Mirvis). We share this momentous time with our four sons, Hillel, Danny, Noam and Eitan and their families, and are remembering our late daughter, Liora, with great fondness.” The Mirvises have five grandchildren.

The rabbinical tradition runs in the family. Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis’s grandfather, the Rev Lazar Mirvis lived in Pretoria. Rabbi Mirvis’ brother Jonathan, has smicha and his brother-in-law Vivian Silverman (married to his sister Lynette) is also a rabbi. He has another brother Howard (Zvi) living in Israel.

Rabbi Mirvis was chief rabbi of Ireland from 1984 to 1992. He served as rabbi of the Western Marble Arch Synagogue in London from



Photo: John Rifkin

Newly-appointed Chief Rabbi of the Commonwealth Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, a former Capetonian.

1992 to 1996 and joined the Finchley community (Kinloss), where he still serves, in May, 1996.

At Kinloss he became founder and director of the Kinloss Learning Centre, founder and honorary principal of the Morasha Jewish Primary School, and founder and president of the Kinloss Community Kollel.

Rabbi Mirvis has taken part in high-level dialogue with church leaders and is a former president of the Irish Council of Christians and Jews. He has also made great strides towards interfaith relations with the Muslim community.

He has been a member of the steering committee of the Conference of European Rabbis since 1986. He studied at Yeshivat Kerem BeYavne, Yeshivat Har Etzion and qualified as a teacher at the Yaakov Herzog Teachers’ In-

stitute.

A qualified shochet and mohel, Rabbi Mirvis balances this with his great love of music, having studied voice production in Jerusalem with the world-famous tenor Yakov Roden.

“In assuming this post, I follow in the footsteps of giants. I would like to pay tribute to the current Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, who, with his unique gifts, has served British Jewry with distinction. He has been one of the most articulate faith voices in the world.

“Through his more than two decades of service, he has brought great honour and blessing to the Jewish community. I look forward to continuing to work with him. I was privileged, as well, to know and admire Lord Sacks’ predecessor, Lord Jakobovits, who I followed as Chief Rabbi of Ireland,” Rabbi Mirvis said.

Chief Rabbi Goldstein conveys mazal tov to Rabbi Mirvis

“Soon after the announcement [that Rabbi Mirvis was to be the new chief rabbi of Britain] I called Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis to convey, on behalf of the South African Jewish community, warmest mazal tov to him on his appointment as Chief Rabbi of Britain.

“Our community takes particular pride in the appointment

of Rabbi Mirvis, who was born and educated in Cape Town.

British Jewry is indeed blessed to have appointed a leader of such standing and reputation to continue the finest traditions of its Chief Rabbinate.

“I look forward greatly to working closely with Chief Rabbi Mirvis as I have done for

many years with Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, who has led British Jewry in such an inspiring and distinguished manner for more than two decades.

“I look forward to continuing to foster the close ties between the South African and British Jewish communities, who share so much in common.”

World News in Brief

REPORT: IRAN COULD PRODUCE ONE OR TWO NUCLEAR BOMBS BY MID-2014

NEW YORK - A new report issued by an American think tank warns that Iran could build one or two nuclear bombs by next year and calls for stricter sanctions against the Islamic Republic, Reuters reported.

“Based on the current trajectory of Iran’s nuclear programme, we estimate that Iran could reach critical capability in mid-2014,” the report said.

The report defines “critical capability” as the point when Iran can build a weapons grade bomb without detection.

The 154-page report titled “US Non-proliferation Strategy for the Changing Middle East” produced by five non-proliferation experts for the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) was released on January 14.

The report recommends that the US and its allies should intensify international sanctions against Iran, including imposing an international embargo on all investments and trade, before Iran reaches the critical capability point.

The report also advocated for President Barack Obama to make the threat of military action more explicit to Iran. “The president should explicitly declare that he will use military force to destroy Iran’s nuclear programme if Iran takes additional decisive steps toward producing a bomb,” the report said. (JNS.org)

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The Jewish World

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Canadian Jewish News, Toronto, Canada:

www.cjnews.com

“Toronto couple killed in Florida”

Earlier this week, the funeral was held for a Toronto couple found dead in their Florida condominium. Police in Florida are investigating the deaths of David Pichosky, 71, and his wife Rochelle Wise, 66. Wise was a founding director of Crestwood Valley Day Camp. Pichosky, was a retired businessman who had spent at least 20 years wintering in Florida.

Baltimore Jewish Times, Maryland, US:

www.jewishtimes.com

“Day school teacher charged with child abuse”

A physical education teacher at the Day School at Baltimore Hebrew, Foye Minton, 33, was arrested following charges of child abuse. The female victim, now 20, contacted police last year. The alleged abuse started when she was a minor at the Shoshana S Cardin School and Minton was its dean of students and director of athletics.

The Jewish Telegraph, Manchester, UK:

www.jewishtelegraph.com

“FA ‘laughing stock’ over anti-Semitism ban”

The Community Security Trust has blasted the Football Association for banning a player for three matches for an anti-Jewish remark. CST communications director Mark Gardner said the FA could become a “laughing stock” for the lenient punishment given to Baz Arjomandkhah in a match against Leeds Maccabi 1st, for called Maccabi’s Steven Berke a “dirty Jew”.

The Algemeiner, Brooklyn, US:

www.algemeiner.com

“Senator Jim Inhofe announces opposition to Hagel appointment”

Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe announced he would not back Secretary of Defence nominee Chuck Hagel. Despite sharing party affiliation, it was Hagel’s lack of concern about military budget cuts, his support for nuclear disarmament and the Global Zero Movement, and his record on Israel and Iran that were Inhofe’s reasons for opposing Hagel’s nomination.

The Jewish Chronicle, London, UK:

www.thejc.com

“Footballer Tal Ben Haim faces anti-Semitic abuse”

Israel-born footballer Tal Ben Haim has been targeted with anti-Semitic abuse by fans of his club, on the club’s facebook page. Ben Haim, who has played for Chelsea and Manchester City, transferred to Queens Park Rangers recently. The messages have been deleted. One questioned how Muslim Adel Taarabt, a QPR midfielder, could “live playing alongside a Jew”.

Arutz Sheva, West Bank, Israel:

www.israelnationalnews.com

“Bennett: We will do what’s good for Israel”

Jewish Home Chairman Naftali Bennett commented on face-book on reports that the White House is concerned about his position on issues like construction in Judea and Samaria. “We will listen to the Americans, but we will do what is good for Israel.” Bennett argued that Israel must ensure its own safety before taking into account international reactions.

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, international:

www.jta.org

“Air France sued for refusing to fly pro-Palestini-an protester”

A French pro-Palestinian activist has sued Air France for discrimination for not allowing her to fly to Israel. An attorney for Air France is scheduled to appear in court in Paris to respond to the lawsuit of Horia Ankour, 30, who says she was taken off a flight from Nice to Tel Aviv on April 15 last year as she tried to participate in the so-called “flytilla” at Tel Aviv’s Ben-Gurion Airport.

World News in Brief

HAGEL-CHAired THINK TANK PREDICTS IRAN WILL BE ‘NATURAL PARTNER’ FOR US

WASHINGTON - The Atlantic Council, a think tank chaired by defence secretary nominee Chuck Hagel which last month published a column titled “Israel’s Apartheid Policy”, during the same month predicted that Iran “should be viewed as a potential natural partner” for the US.

The Washington Free Beacon reported that the think tank’s December policy paper titled “Envisioning 2030: US Strategy for a Post-Western World” , which was not written by Hagel himself, predicted the following of an Iranian regime that continues to forge ahead with its nuclear programme and bankroll both Hamas and Hezbollah terrorism: “A post-mullah dominated government shedding Shia [Muslim] ideology could easily return to being a net contributor to stability by 2030.”The Republican Jewish Coalition (RJC) has called President Barack Obama’s nomination of Hagel “a blow to US-Israel relations, to the President’s relationship with the American Jewish community, and to US security in the Middle East”.

Glenn Kessler, author of the Washington Post’s “Fact Checker” column, noted that Hagel told the Associated Press after his 1998 Middle East visit that the Israeli government “essentially continues to play games” . Commenting on Palestinian terrorism, the former Nebraska senator said: “Desperate men do desperate things when you take hope away.”

Additionally, in 2002, Hagel told CNN regarding Yasser Arafat that he would not “single out the Palestinians and Arafat as the real problem” in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because “it doesn’t help when we take public sides on this and castigate and assign all of the responsibility and all the blame to one side” . (JNS.org)

JERUSALEM BLANKETED BY HEAVIEST SNOWFALL IN DECADES

JERUSALEM - Jerusalemites woke up to a world of white last week Thursday, as the city experienced its heaviest snowfall since 1992, Israel Hayom reported.

Jerusalem municipal official Elisha Peleg told Army Radio that 10 to 15 centimetres of snow had accumulated in the centre of Jerusalem, with higher amounts piling up in outlying areas. “The downtown area is bathed in white,” Peleg said.

The snow blocked the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway and public transportation inside Jerusalem was operating on a reduced basis. Schools in the city were closed. President Shimon Peres came outside to enjoy the snow after his security guards built a snowman at the entrance to the presidential residence in Jerusalem.

“Jerusalem has many colours,” Peres said. “In the morning in the sunshine, she is golden. In the sunset, she is blueish. But when she is white, it is so rare, so beautiful, so unifying. Whatever happens in Jerusalem is a blessing. This time is a blessing in white.” (JNS.org)

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To matric and beyond

As in previous years, the Jewish day schools all achieved a 100 per cent pass rate in this year’s matric exams, with numerous learners getting a myriad distinctions. Our supplement in this issue highlights the results for Jewish learners countrywide in both Jewish schools and others.

The impressive picture derives from the quality of the schools, as well as Jewish attitudes towards education. Jewish schools employ teachers of the highest calibre at competitive salaries. Their insistence on quality is illustrated by the number of non-Jewish teachers among the staff who complement the excellent Jewish teaching staff.

These teachers’ dedication sets a high benchmark. It is unthinkable not to come to work or be ill-prepared, as unfortunately is the case all too often in South Africa’s general education system, where incompetent, unreliable teachers are often protected by the system of powerful trade unions and have become a law unto themselves.

For Jews traditionally, education is a priority, as illustrated by South African Jewish history. Immigrant Jews who came to this country in the late 1800s and early 1900s from Eastern Europe, were often not well educated, yet within a generation their South African-born children were being sent to school and were performing well relative to other groups. Within another generation, a large percentage was receiving tertiary education at university.

The outstanding results from Jewish learners unfortunately come in the context of serious problems in the general South African education system, including the matric exams. One point of criticism is the low marks needed to receive a matric certificate: a learner needs to pass three subjects with a minimum of 40 per cent and three subjects with a minimum of 30 per cent, depending on what a candidate wants to study. One of these subjects must be a home language with a minimum of 40 per cent.

Professor Jonathan Jansen, rector of the University of the Free State and a respected education expert, points out that over half a million South African children who started 12 years ago in grade one did not make it to grade 12. He also lamented the drop in the number of learners writing mathematics and physics compared with 2009 and 2010, and other issues.

In a newspaper article he said the quality of teaching and learning in South African schools generally was declining, rather than improving, as Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga claims. Some educationists believe she is driven by the political imperative to show improvements rather than the quality of the education system itself.

Graeme Bloch, an education expert and visiting adjunct professor at the Wits School of Public and Development Management, also expressed concern in a newspaper article that the numbers of learners doing maths and science were down, and the requirement of a 30 per cent pass rate was not good enough, but he was much more upbeat about the results.

Essentially, the “improvement” in the South African matric results being claimed by the government, may be somewhat of an illusion - the quantity of matric passes must be measured against their quality.

Does this worrying picture of South Africa’s education system impact on Jewish schools and learners? There are two prisms through which to view it. Firstly, as Jews, we can be extremely proud of our Jewish learners’ achievements and the institutions in which they are being educated. There is no question that they are performing excellently.

Secondly, as South Africans, we should be very concerned at the abysmal state of the country’s general education system, which bodes ill for our country as a whole.

We must also beware of the excessive hype that has become part and parcel of the matric “industry”. The true test for Jewish learners comes after matric, at university or in other directions, where the solid grounding from their schools and homes will hopefully equip them to succeed.

We must not be dazzled only by the top achievers, but keep in mind that there are others less academically noticeable who, through sheer guts and grit, hold their own. They, and the dedicated teachers who help them reach their potential, must also be applauded.

We heartily salute our 2012 matriculants and wish them well for their future lives and careers.

Israel’s political cycle not stuck on the right

DAVID BERNSTEIN
WASHINGTON

With Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu poised to win re-election later this month, some critics of Israel’s peace and security policies worry out loud that Israel’s political cycle - its pattern of cycling alternately between the political left and right - is stuck on the right.

“This is the Israeli reality of 2013, enabled in part by American politicians and staunch supporters in this country... as the two-state solution slips through our fingers,” asserts

J Street Executive Director Jeremy Ben-Ami in the Washington Post.

Anyone who has ever taken a course in economics is familiar with the concept of the business cycle, the observation that our economic fortunes expand and contract in distinct phases. Politics, similarly, has its own natural cycle.

One political party becomes strong, thinks it has a lock on the electorate, purges its own ranks of political moderates, enunciates policy positions at odds with mainstream sensibilities and alienates the very middle-of-the-road voters that brought it to power. Republicans and Democrats have been vulnerable to its vicissitudes.

Israel, to be sure, is no stranger to the political cycle

Israel, to be sure, is no stranger to the political cycle. Just like Americans, Israelis tend to lean left or right for a period until the ideological camp in power overreaches or external conditions dictate otherwise, sending the pendulum swinging in the opposite direction.

Since the onset of the peace process with the Palestinians in the early 1990s, the Israeli public has ousted Israeli prime ministers whenever the prime minister has appeared resistant to opportunities for peace or appeared too eager for peace in the face of intransigence on the other side.

In 1992, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir lost the election for

being perceived as inflexible in the Madrid peace talks; in 1996, Shimon Peres lost for being too forthcoming in the Oslo process; in 1999, Netanyahu lost for being too hawkish; and in 2001, Ehud Barak lost for being too dovish.

Since that time, two prime ministers - Ariel Sharon and Ehud Olmert - left office for reasons other than their stances on peace and security. Elected for a second time in the spring of 2009, Netanyahu is on track to win another term in office.

If the political cycle holds true, sooner or later there will be a

perceived opening for peace, at which time either the right-leaning government will move to the centre (such as Begin’s peace with Egypt or Sharon’s disengagement from Gaza) or will be defeated by a left-leaning challenger.

Some critics of current Israeli government policy are troubled that Israelis haven’t punished Netanyahu for a lack of progress in the peace process.

They surmise that the growth of the Israeli religious nationalist camp and right-leaning Jews from the former Soviet Union has moved the electorate decidedly to the right. Israelis, they fulminate, may permanently forsake the possibility of a two-state solution.

But in a recent poll of Israeli attitudes toward peace, a full two-thirds of the respondents said they would support a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, with land swaps and a demilitarised Palestinian state. Even a majority of Likud voters supported such a deal.

The issue, then, is not that Israeli attitudes have hardened against making painful compromises for peace - quite the contrary - it’s that most Israelis don’t believe that peace is a realistic option at the moment.

It’s not hard to see why. Given the massive unrest sweeping through the Arab world and the ascendance of the Muslim Brotherhood, many wonder how a fledgling Palestinian state could stave off such radical forces or survive a Hamas onslaught.

The results of Israel’s 2005 withdrawal from Gaza, Hamas’ subsequent takeover and the unremitting rocket fire aimed at Israeli population centres do not inspire confidence. Rather than setting a precedent for neighbourly relations and sound governance, it gave Israelis a glimpse into a possible mess on its eastern border in the event of a peace deal in the West Bank.

“There will be those who say: ‘If you didn’t like the book [in Gaza], why would you see the movie [in the West Bank]?’” observed Middle East analyst David Makovsky.

And while some critics of Israel’s peace policies point to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas’ recent statements indicating that he would be willing to come to terms with a Jewish state, fresh on the mind of many Israelis is Abbas’ refusal to negotiate for 10 months during Israel’s 2010 settlement freeze, the recent unilateral move for statehood at the UN and various statements denying the Jewish connection to the land.

Most Israelis don’t believe enough has changed in the Palestinian camp or in regional conditions to justify a shift in approach.

Most Israelis don’t believe enough has changed in the Palestinian camp or in regional conditions to justify a shift in approach.

Do critics of Israeli policy expect that no matter what the Arab world dishes out, Israelis will continue to elect governments with a predilection for making comprehensive peace offers to the Palestinians? Do they expect Israel to be on a permanent peace footing?

If so, then they want Israel to be a country not made up of diverse people with diverse attitudes subject to political swings, but of people just like them who will make concessions at any time and at all costs.

They want Israel to be a country like no other - that cannot exist - because all democratic polities are, in their own way, beholden to the inexorable logic of the political cycle. (JTA)

(David Bernstein is the executive director of the David Project.)

Netanyahu moves ahead with E1 construction east of Jerusalem

JERUSALEM - Just more than a week ahead of the Israeli general elections, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged to move ahead with construction in the E1 zone between Jerusalem and Ma’aleh Adumim, following the eviction of Palestinian protesters from the area on Sunday.

The E1 zone - short for East 1 - is a 4,6 square mile area consisting mainly of rocky desert, located just east of Jerusalem.

Netanyahu originally announced plans for construction in the area in late November, after the Palestinians’ status upgrade at the United Nations.

Palestinian activists, with the support of the Palestinian Authority (PA), recently established a tent city in the area to protest the Israeli announcement. The

Palestinians maintain that the area is essential for continuity of a future Palestinian state and their proposed capital in eastern Jerusalem.

Late Saturday, Netanyahu ordered the police to remove the protesters.

Despite opposition from Palestinians and the international community, Netanyahu told Israel’s Army Radio on Sunday: “We will complete the planning, and there will be construction.”

Israel argues that it hold on to the E1 area in any peace agreement and compensate the Palestinians with land swaps. Israel needs the area in order to maintain a connection with the large Jewish commuter city of Ma’aleh Adumim, which is east of the E1 zone. (JNS.org)

‘Israel doesn’t know best interests’

JEFFREY GOLDBERG

Shortly after the UN General Assembly voted in late November to upgrade the status of the Palestinians, the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that it would advance plans to establish a settlement in an area of the West Bank known as E-1, and that it would build 3 000 additional housing units in east Jerusalem and the West Bank.

A large settlement in E-1, an empty zone between Jerusalem and the Jewish settlement city of Maaleh Adumim, would make the goal of politically moderate Palestinians – the creation of a geographically contiguous state – much harder to achieve.

The world reacted to the E-1 announcement in the usual manner: It condemned the plans as a provocation and an injustice.

President Barack Obama’s administration, too, criticised it. “We believe these actions are counterproductive and make it harder to resume direct negotiations or achieve a two-state solution,” said Tommy Vietor, a spokesman for the National Security Council.

But what didn’t happen in the White House after the announcement is actually more interesting than what did.

When informed about the Israeli decision, Obama, who has a famously contentious relationship with the prime minister, didn’t even bother getting angry. He told several people that this sort of behaviour on Netanyahu’s part is what he has come to expect, and he suggested that he has become inured to what he sees as self-defeating policies of his Israeli counterpart.

In the weeks after the UN vote, Obama said privately and repeatedly: “Israel doesn’t know what its own best interests are.” With each new settlement announcement, in Obama’s view, Netanyahu is moving his country down a path toward near-total isolation.

And if Israel, a small state in an inhospitable region, becomes more of a pariah – one that alienates even the affections of the US, its last steadfast friend – it won’t survive. Iran poses a short-term threat to Israel’s survival; Israel’s own behaviour poses a long-term one.

The dysfunctional relationship between Netanyahu and Obama is poised to enter a new phase. Next week, Israeli voters will probably return Netanyahu to power, this time at the head of a coalition even more intractably rightwing than the one he currently leads.

Obama has always had a complicated relationship with the prime minister. On matters of genuine security, Obama has been a reliable ally, encouraging close military co-operation, helping maintain Israel’s

qualitative military edge over its regional rivals and, most important, promising that he won’t allow Iran to cross the nuclear-weapons threshold.

Yet even this support didn’t keep Netanyahu from pulling for Republican candidate Mitt Romney in last year’s presidential campaign.

On matters related to the Palestinians, the president seems to view the prime minister as a political coward, an

essentially unchallenged leader who nevertheless is unwilling to lead or spend political capital to advance the cause of compromise.

Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts, Obama’s nominee to replace Hillary Clinton as secretary of state, is said to be eager to re-energise the Middle East peace process, but Obama – who already has a Nobel Peace Prize – is thought to be considerably more wary.

He views the government of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas as weak, but he has become convinced that Netanyahu is so captive to the settler lobby, and so uninterested in making anything more than the slightest conciliatory gesture toward Palestinian moderates, that an investment of presidential interest in the peace process wouldn’t be a wise use of his time.

Obama, since his time in the Senate, has been consistent in his analysis of Israel’s underlying challenge: If it doesn’t disentangle itself from the lives of West Bank Palestinians, the world will one day decide it is behaving as an apartheid state.

For Israel, the short-term consequences of Obama’s frustration are limited. The US won’t cut off its aid to Israel, and Obama’s effort to thwart Iran’s nuclear ambitions will continue whether or not he’s fed up with Netanyahu.

But it is in terms of American diplomatic protection – among the Europeans and especially at the UN – that Israel may one day soon notice a significant shift. During November’s vote on Palestine’s status, the US supported Israel and asked its allies to do the same. In the end, they were joined by a total of seven other countries, including the Pacific powerhouses Palau and Micronesia.

When such an issue arises again, Israel may find itself even lonelier. It wouldn’t surprise me if the US failed to whip votes the next time, or if the US actually abstained. I

wouldn’t be particularly surprised, either, if Obama eventually offered a public vision of what a state of Palestine should look like, and affirmed that it should have its capital in East Jerusalem.

Obama isn’t making unreasonable demands. Israeli concerns about the turmoil in Syria and the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood are legitimate in the American view; Obama knows broad territorial compromise by Israel in such an unstable environment is unlikely.

But what Obama wants is recognition by Netanyahu that Israel’s settlement policies are foreclosing on the possibility of a two-

state solution, and he wants Netanyahu to acknowledge that a two-state solution represents the best chance of preserving the country as a Jewish-majority democracy. Obama wants, in other words, for Netanyahu to act in Israel’s best interests.

So far, though, there has been no sign that the Israeli government is gaining a better understanding of the world in which it lives.

(Jeffrey Goldberg is a Bloomberg View columnist and a national correspondent for the Atlantic. The opinions expressed are his own.)
See story on facing page

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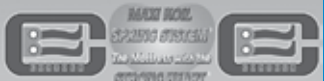

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Israeli election: the system and the players



Benjamin Netanyahu with members of his family

ALINA DAIN SHARON/JNS.ORG

“Bibi”, “Bennett”, “Tzipi”, “Shelly”. The way names of major candidates in the Israeli elections have been bandied about by international observers and media analysts, you would think Israeli voters are only electing the prime minister.

Not so. When they enter the “kalfi” (Hebrew for ballot box) on January 22, Israelis will decide the composition of the 19th Knesset by casting votes for whole parties - not specific candidates.

Each party, which presents candidates for membership in the Knesset, must win at least two per cent of the total vote to get two members in. The government will be established based on how many seats each party wins, and the president will appoint the prime minister, usually the leader of the party that won the most votes. That candidate must then form a coalition with other Knesset-elected parties, and those parties that are not included become the opposition.

Thirty-four parties are competing in this election, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s newly-formed Likud-Beiteinu party favoured to win the most Knesset seats, which would mean the re-election of the prime minister.

Despite a radically different elections system from the US - at least technically speaking - over the past decade Israeli elections “became personalised”, Israel Democracy Institute (IDI) researcher Dr Ofer Kenig told JNS.org.

“Some even call this phenomenon ‘the Americanisation of elections/politics,’” he wrote in an e-mail.

Israeli election results, however, still only “determine the balance of power between parties in the Knesset”, according to Kenig, who explained that the elections “never produce a party with an overall ma-

jority”.

In the last election, Kadima beat current Netanyahu’s Likud, but Netanyahu still formed the government. This time, the right-religious bloc of parties could gain the most seats, but Netanyahu may still leave parties from that bloc out of his future coalition.

“When Israelis go to the polls they don’t really know what kind of government/coalition they are going to end up with. And so, a considerable part of the campaign revolves around questions such as ‘which party will consider co-operating with other parties following the elections,’” Kenig wrote.

The key players in this year’s race:

Likud-Beitenu

An alliance between the centre-right Likud (Hebrew for “unification”) party led by Netanyahu and the rightwing Yisrael Beiteinu (Hebrew for “Israel our Home”) party.

Likud is a conservative party that seeks a capitalist free-market, supports Israeli construction in Judea and Samaria and affirms Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. It places a priority on Israeli security against attacks when it comes to negotiating with the Palestinians. But previously, Likud politicians have gone against their party’s traditional views on the Middle East conflict through offering concessions to the Arab side.

In 1977, Prime Minister Menachem Begin led Israel to a peace treaty with Egypt, and in 2005 Prime Minister Ariel Sharon (before leaving the Likud party) led the disengagement from Gaza. Netanyahu himself recently announced support for a demilitarised and peaceful Palestinian state.

Yisrael Beitenu is a nationalist party founded by recently resigned Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor



Lieberman. It initially tended to represent Russian-Jewish immigrants, but has expanded to other Israelis.

The party is focused on security and stipulates that the core goal of the Palestinians is not the achievement of peace through negotiation but to destroy the Jewish State. “We extend our hand in peace to our enemies, but as long as they choose the path of war, we must be diligent and fight back,” states the party’s official online description.

Habayit Hayehudi

Habayit Hayehudi (Hebrew for “The Jewish Home”) is a national religious party currently led by 40-year-old software tycoon and veteran of an elite IDF unit, Naftali Bennett.

Bennett, whose family is American, has become a phenomenon in Israel. The party seeks to strengthen the identity of Israel as a Jewish, Zionist state while upholding “the rights of Israel’s minorities, among them the Arab minority”, according to its official website.

“My positions are very clear: I never hide the fact that I categorically oppose a Palestinian state inside our country,” Bennett said in a recent TV interview.

The party proposes the full Israeli annexation of Area C in Judea and Samaria, granting full citizenship to Arabs who currently reside there. The party also wants to invest in the building of infrastructure that will improve the daily lives of both Arabs and Jews in the entire region, and it wants to integrate ultra-Orthodox citizens into the Israeli workforce and military service.

Habayit Hayehudi is “probably the only party in this race that will not agree with any further [Palestinian] land deal,” and it does not agree with a two-state solution, said Uri Bank, the party’s Knesset candidate and US native in a teleconference hosted by the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) on January 10.

Shas

Shas (a Hebrew acronym that roughly translates to the Sephardic Torah Guardians Movement) is an Orthodox religious political party that primarily caters to Sephardic religious Jews in Israel.

Israeli Interior Minister Eli Yishai is the current chairman. On domestic issues, the party supports the current exemption of military service for ultra-Orthodox Jews and



promotes social welfare projects.

On the conflict with the Palestinians, Shas has tended to have centrist views, which has allowed it to form a coalition with nearly any ruling party. Recently, though, it has begun to lean more to the right on the Palestinian issue, opposing any Likud freezing of construction in Judea and Samaria.

Avoda (Labour)

Avoda (Hebrew for “Labour”) is a social-liberal political party led by former Israeli journalist and writer Shelly Yachimovich. The party follows the social democratic principle by calling for a free-market economy and minimal government interference as long as the government protects the basic social needs of its citizens such as the needs for housing, health and education.

The party wants to negotiate a political solution with the Palestinians and opposes Israeli construction in Judea and Samaria. Several well-known Israeli politicians came from this party, such as Israel’s only female prime minister, Golda Meir, and former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated in 1995.

According to MK Nachman Shai, a member of Labour who spoke on the January 10 JFNA teleconference, said the party’s aim is “to preserve the Jewish and democratic character” of Israel.

Hatnua

Kadima leader Tzipi Livni, who was defeated by Shaul Mofaz for that party’s chairmanship in May 2012, founded a new centrist party, Hatnua (Hebrew for “The Movement”). In a November 2012 media conference announcing the new party, Livni vowed to fight for a “democratic Israel”.

“The government enters dialogue with those who support terror and avoids the camp that has prevented terror, that fights for two states,” she said.

In terms of domestic issues, Livni wants “young people to have homes, earn a living, and live with dignity without always fearing for the future”. Hatnua is also committed to pass a law that would require the ultra-Orthodox to serve in the IDF, from which they are currently exempt. “I’m in favour of a Zionist party - a liberal, secular, and democratic party,” Livni said.



Yesh Atid

Yesh Atid (Hebrew for “There is a Future”) was founded in 2012 by Israeli journalist Yair Lapid, who left his journalistic career to enter politics. This party is primarily focused on domestic issues. One of its major platforms is reforming the Israeli government by reducing the number of political parties that can form a coalition and the number of ministers that can serve in the Knesset, so that the overall system is more like the governments of European nations such as Germany or the United Kingdom.

The party believes that many issues on its agenda, such as the reform of education and the need for equality in military service, could in this manner be dealt with more efficiently. The party also proposes an economic programme to help small businesses and the middle class.

Kadima

A poll commissioned by Yedioth Ahronoth from the Mina Tzemach polling company in November showed that Kadima (Hebrew for “Forward”), a major party in past elections, wouldn’t likely make the two per cent threshold required to get Knesset seats in the upcoming election.

The Pirate Party

Although it has little realistic expectation of winning any Knesset seats, the Israeli Pirate Party may garner some votes from Israelis disillusioned with larger and more conventional parties.

The party was founded by pony-tailed 33-year-old Ohad Shem-Tov, who showed up at the Knesset to register the party wearing a headscarf and hook on his hand. But the party isn’t all about fun and games.

As part of a larger movement of international pirate parties that began in Sweden in 2006, the party is connected to concerns over the freedom of information, including reforming international copyright and patent law related to the controversial yet popular Bit Torrent file-sharing platform.

“Dressing up is a gimmick, it’s a way to draw attention,” Shem-Tov told the Associated Press. “But this party is serious, even if we use a little humour and do it with a smile.”

• *Additional material for this article was taken from Mako.co.il, The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Haaretz, Knesset.gov.il, Election-guide.org, MyJewishLearning.com, Israel Hayom, Judaism.about.com, Maariv, Baityehudi.org.il, Myisrael.org.il, Yeshatid.org.il, The Forward, Time, and Front Page Magazine.*



Top Results 2012

National Senior Certificate & Independent Examination Board

Compiled by Britt Landsman tel: 082-292-9520 e-mail: britt@sajewishreport.co.za or visit www.sajewishreport.co.za

Jewish day schools sparkle in 2012

Yes, South Africa’s Jewish day schools have done it again. As has now become tradition, they have all achieved a 100 per cent matric pass rate for 2012 – those who wrote the Independent Examination Board exams as well of those who wrote the National Senior Certificate exams. It caps 12 years of hard work, on a solid foundation laid by well-qualified, dedicated teachers with strong parental support. Kol hakavod!

Marc Falconer, headmaster of King David Linksfield, is justifiably proud of his crop of 2012. “It has been another year of outstanding success for King David, Linksfield. We are proud of and delighted with our 2012 group of matriculants and of the successes attained by many of our individual students - top achievers as well as the personal and private triumphs that are not always as obvious. “Once again we had a 100 per cent pass rate with 97 per cent of the candidates achieving university exemption. The remaining candidates qualified for diploma study. We are delighted with the staggering 358 distinctions earned by the group.” He adds: “Distinctions alone do not necessarily paint the full picture - even of our top achievers’ successes. Michaela Eisenberg, Talya Harris and Devin Krok are top ranked in the national IEB Outstanding Achievers list and Ashleigh Favish and Ryan Jacobson are on the IEB national Commendable Achievers list. No fewer than nine candidates were ranked in the top one per cent, nationally, in individual subjects. “These superb results are, of course, the result of a great deal of hard work on the part of the candidates themselves and the result of significant emotional and material investment on the part of their parents. These successes would certainly not be possible, however, without the wisdom, expert guidance and deep experience of the teachers who have, over many years, nurtured and supported these pupils and have furnished them with the academic competence and the confidence to achieve so spectacularly.” Gavin Budd, headmaster of King David Victory Park, is equally chuffed with the results of his 71 matriculants, with a 100 per cent pass rate. “Achieving 185 subject

distinctions (an average of 2,6 distinctions per student), and individual students achieving 10 distinctions and 99 per cent in AP English and AP mathematics, the KDHSVP matriculants of 2012 certainly have done their school and parents proud. In fact, this year’s grade12 group typifies what we at KD Victory Park aspire to produce. “Two students appear on the IEB Outstanding Achievement list: Oren Benguri Karstaedt and Saul Musker. They were ranked in the top five per cent of all IEB students in six or more subjects. Jake Pencharz was ranked in the top five per cent in five subjects and is on the IEB Commendable Achievement list. Six students were ranked in the top one per cent of all IEB candidates in one or more subjects.” Besides their academic achievement, this matric group produced a talented senior rugby team who won the Kudu Cup, a cricket team who achieved 1st place in the Johnny Waite tournament; a senior debating team who won the provincial SACEE debating competition; and individuals like Lee Gruskin (Gauteng u-19 cricket) and Saul Musker (2nd place in the English Olympiad and chosen to represent SA in the World Debating Championships in Turkey). “My thanks to the academic staff for their excellent preparation of our students and for creating a caring and stimulating learning environment in which each student felt nurtured as an individual and inspired to achieve their best. A final thank you to our parents for their unwavering support for their children during this crucial matric year.” Geoff Cohen director of education of Herzlia Schools, commenting on Herzlia’s sparkling matric results, says: “Herzlia’s ethos rests on four pillars - Jewish life and learning, academics, sport and arts and culture. We are an inclusive school that accepts pupils with various learning disabilities. We strive to produce educated, balanced individuals that will make a contribution to Jewish and wider society here in Cape Town and communities worldwide.” Herzlia’s success is due to a the combined efforts of teachers, parents, pupils and lay leaders. “The nurturing, love and care of our pupils, together with the dedication and professionalism of our staff, starts at our playschools and continues throughout all phases of our academic programme.

“Committed parents are vital to the success of our schools.” Miranda Kantor received an award for being the top English pupil in the Western Cape, obtaining 286 marks out of 300. She also received an award for Excellent Academic Achievement. The Torah Academy Girls’ and Boys’ High Schools maintained their unbroken record of 100 per cent pass rate in the 2012 National Senior Certificate examinations, with two girls, Soshe Lewin and Sara Tauby, attaining full houses of nine distinctions in all their subjects. Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, dean of The Torah Academy said he was very proud of the results. “We congratulate our students and educators on our outstanding matric results and the unbroken record of 100 per cent pass rate at Torah Academy. We are proud of the exceptional high achievers of full houses and multiple distinctions, but we are equally proud of all the students to whom we have been committed to help realise their individual potential. “We see the success of our matric results as a part of a broader programme of education that includes excellence in Torah studies and commitment to Jewish values.” Rebecca Sarchi, principal of Torah Academy Girls’ High School, says: “I am of the opinion that success is not only measured by the number of distinctions Torah Academy Girls’ High school attains; one has to place equally a value on the journey travelled to arrive at these marks: outstanding teachers; a warm nurturing environment; motivated students and co-operative parents - all these factors are part and parcel of our tremendous success. “I salute every matric student of 2012 for fulfilling her individual potential. Each girl has not only done the school and her parents proud, but more importantly, has done herself proud. That is what really counts! “As a result of the well-rounded holistic education we offer, we proudly salute our students who are leaders in the Jewish community both here and abroad.” Rabbi Motti Hadar, principal of Torah Academy Boy’s High School, says: “I am proud of every single student and his achievement and commend them for their hard work and



accomplishments. Their remarkable results are a tribute to the dedicated teachers at Torah Academy who have nurtured our students with care and who, through their expertise, have inspired each student to reach their individual goals. “As is well known, in Torah Academy we don’t measure success by academic achievement alone. The real nachas that we draw from our students is for who they are and how they act as individuals. These boys are true menschen, who will no doubt continue to contribute positively to the greater society, as they have to our school. “Despite the pressure of matric, they have applied themselves to their Limudei Kodesh studies throughout the year, completing an entire Masechta of Gemora and every one of them is furthering their Jewish studies for at least one year in yeshiva abroad.” Denese Bloch, headmistress of Yeshiva College, paid tribute to her matric class of 2012. “Yeshiva College had 51 learners in matric. Being the Torah School of Excellence, our learners continue with their Torah studies throughout the matric year. A large percentage of the school day is devoted to learning Torah. “In spite of this, many of our learners chose to study eight general studies subjects. “This, with their Torah subjects, means that they are in fact studying between 12 and 13 subjects. “I am enormously proud of every single learner who completed matric at Yeshiva College last year. “Our matrics achieved a total of 202 distinctions which is an average of 3,96 distinctions per candidate. “I firmly believe that the discipline and skills that our learners gain from their Torah studies contribute to their ability to achieve these extraordinary results. We wish them all continued success.”


12 years’ hard work rewarded

OWN CORRESPONDENT The 100 per cent yearly matric pass rate of Jewish day schools has become such a given that one tends to overlook the colossal effort of learners and overall a dedicated and well-qualified teaching staff, coupled with enthusiastic support from parents. The crop of 2012 matriculants again did themselves and their schools proud, crowning 12 years of dedication and hard work. Learners either wrote the Independent Examination Board exam (written by some private schools), or the National Senior Certificate, written by the bulk of the candidates, mostly from government schools. No fewer than 98,2 per cent of candidates who wrote the IEB exam passed. Last year’s pass rate was 98,15 per cent. A total of 183 schools with 8 959 fulltime and 534 part-time candidates passed. Anne Oberholzer, CEO of the IEB, was pleased with the result, with 83,6 per cent of candidates qualifying for degree studies. In the NSC exam, 527 335 fulltime and 120 352 part-time candidates, took part. The 2012 pass rate was 73,9 per cent, a 3,7 per cent increase on 2011’s 70,2 per cent. A total of 136 047 candidates qualified for degree study (26,6 per cent), 139 741 qualified to study for a diploma and 88 604 qualified to study for a certificate. Gauteng was the top province with an 83,9 per cent pass rate, up from last year’s 81,1 per cent, ousting

the Western Cape who last year occupied the top spot with 82,9 per cent, dropping a percentage point in 2012. An encouraging improvement, according to Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga, was “a marked improvement” in key subjects, including maths and science. In maths the pass rate rose from 46 per cent in 2011 to 54 per cent in 2012; physical sciences pass rate improved from 54 per cent in 2011 to 64,3 per cent in 2012. Spokespeople from political parties, as well as experts on educational matters welcomed the better performance, but there was a warning against euphoria. Basic Education director-general, Bobby Soobrayan, warned against putting too much emphasis on the matric pass rate, saying that it could cause the public and policymakers to ignore other priorities in education. Lynn Bowie, lecturer in mathematics education at the University of the Witwatersrand, was pleased with the increase in the maths pass rate. She had found the maths exam papers to be of a good quality. Said Motshekga: “Teachers are empowered with clear, concise and unambiguous curriculum and assessment statements. This helps in improving the learners’ ability to count, read and write,” she said. Critics of the matric exam as it is at present – led by Professor Jonathan Jansen, rector of the University of the Free State and an expert on education – point to the low marks needed to receive a


Yeshiva College IEB

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS




Sarah Aronson Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics Paper 3, Mathematics, Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS




Jaimee Brozin Afrikaans, Drama, English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS




Dayle Disler Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS




Rachel Goldberg Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS




Jonathan Jacobson Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS




Avital Kabatznik Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS



Yoni Lazarus Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Science

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS



Benjamin Burman Business studies, English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Science

51 Learners

100% Pass Rate

Every learner achieved at least 1 A

202 DISTINCTIONS from 51 learners

= 3,96 per learner

7 learners achieved 8 distinctions

1 learner achieved 7 distinctions


6 learners achieved 6 distinctions

2 learners in the top 141 in the country

Yeshiva College aims to be the Torah school of excellence, balancing excellence in general studies with excellence in Kodesh, and striving to instill in our learners a deep love of Torah, the People and Land of Israel.


T: 011 640 9900
F: 011 485 1674
info@yeshivacollege.co.za
www.yeshivacollege.co.za

SIX DISTINCTIONS




Michy Azaraf Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Science, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Science

SIX DISTINCTIONS




Rivki Bank Afrikaans, Hebrew, English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics

SIX DISTINCTIONS




Daron Biddle Business Studies, English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Science

SIX DISTINCTIONS




Jason Newfield Business studies, Information Technology, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Science

SIX DISTINCTIONS




Josh Rod Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics

SIX DISTINCTIONS




Migal Tighe English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS




Michael Damelin Business studies, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS



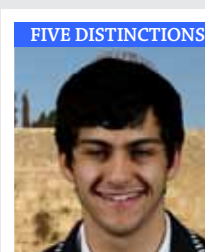
Eli Hodes English, Hebrew, History, Life Orientation, Life Sciences

FIVE DISTINCTIONS



Gabi Lew English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics Lit

FIVE DISTINCTIONS



Marom Mishan Afrikaans, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3

Jewish day schools sparkle in 2012

From page 1

matric certificate. To pass matric, a learner needs to pass three subjects with a minimum of 40 per cent and three subjects with 30 per cent or more. One of these subjects must be a home language with a minimum of 40 per cent.

The minimum requirements to pass matric are seven subjects of which Life Orientation is not an exam subject. Candidates have to pass five of the six subjects, of which two have to be languages; they must achieve at least 40 per cent in one of them.

The candidates may get as little as 25 per cent in the other subjects, but

should acquire a combined total of 720 points in all the subjects, to pass.

To qualify to study for a certificate, the normal matric requirements apply, while a minimum of 30 to 39 per cent must be achieved in the candidates' first language. To qualify to study for a diploma, candidates must meet matric requirements in four subjects, with a minimum mark of between 40 and 49 per cent and 30 to 39 per cent in the institution's language of instruction.

To study for a degree, candidates must also meet matric exam requirements in four subjects with a mini-

um of between 50 and 59 per cent and at least two between 30 and 39 per cent in the institution's language of instruction.

Prof Jansen wrote in a newspaper article, highly critical of Motshekga, that she should have been fired for the "textbook debacle" in Limpopo, instead of heaping praise on her when she announced the 2012 results.

"Nobody in that upbeat room asked why, again, more than half-a-million children who started 12 years ago in grade 1, did not even make it to grade 12.

"Nobody asked why the proportion of pupils writing mathematical literacy has again risen sharply in relation to those in the 2012 class doing mathematics..."

"The most serious indictment... at the announcement of the results... was that nobody asked: 'What do these results mean?'"

He does not believe that the quality of teaching and learning in our schools is improving. He believes the opposite is true.


Eugene Daniels of education NGO Citizen's Movement, said: "Many of our schools are trying to achieve the

lucrative 100 per cent pass rate, and mathematics, science and accounting are problematic subjects. Schools tend to steer the pupils towards easier subjects to achieve that pass rate."

Graeme Bloch, a visiting adjunct professor at the Wits School of Public and Development Management, an expert on education, although conceding in a newspaper article that there was a real problem that maths and science numbers were down, the focus should, however, not only be on matric maths and science, but on what happens in the grades leading up to this point.


Yeshiva College IEB

FIVE DISTINCTIONS




Benji Shear English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics

FIVE DISTINCTIONS




Rochel Weber English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics

FIVE DISTINCTIONS




Adam Picker Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Science

FOUR DISTINCTIONS




Gidon Ronthal English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics

FOUR DISTINCTIONS




Ariella Blumenthal Business Studies, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation

FOUR DISTINCTIONS




Daniel Hirshowitz Business Studies, English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences

FOUR DISTINCTIONS




Jordan Moshe English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Mathematics Lit

FOUR DISTINCTIONS



Ariella Rabson English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences

FOUR DISTINCTIONS



Chavi Immerman Business Studies, Drama, Life Orientation, Mathematics Lit

THREE DISTINCTIONS

Dina Elvey - Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3


Tova Feldman - English, Hebrew, Life Orientation

Lielle Genish - English, Hebrew, Life Orientation

Batya Kur - English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences

Keren Nochumsohn - English, Hebrew, Life Orientation

Amit Harton-Hotinsky - English, Hebrew, Life Orientation



Congratulations to our King David Matriculants Of 2012!



208 Learners - 543 Distinctions! 100% Pass rate!

Outstanding Achievement

4 out of 78 in the country ranked in top 5% in 6 subjects.

Commendable Achievement

4 out of 63 in the country ranked in top 5% in 5 subjects.

In 22 individual subjects, the King David Schools were in the top 1% in the country.

46 Learners with 5 Distinctions or more:

4 Learners with 10 distinctions

5 Learners with 9 distinctions

7 Learners with 8 distinctions

7 Learners with 7 distinctions


9 Learners with 6 distinctions


14 Learners with 5 distinctions

The South African Board of Jewish Education pays tribute to all the academic and administrative staff of the King David Schools for providing an educational environment of Jewish and general excellence for learners.

We are proud of the magnificent success of our Matrics and welcome them to our global King David alumni family.

 King David Schools

 KD Schools



South African Board of Jewish Education

ועד החינוך היהודי בדרום אפריקה

Member of the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa



Our results speak for themselves...

Here they are in black and white:

- 100% pass rate - unbroken
- 83% of all papers attained Cs and above
- 35.9% of all papers attained As

Mazel tov matrices!

TORAH ACADEMY
THE SCHOOL WITH A NESHAMA

Full Marks

104 Matric Candidates. 100% Pass Rate.
Academically Inclusive School. 99 achieve University Entrance - 95%







269 Subject Distinctions. 83 out of 104 candidates achieved 1 or more distinctions (79.8%). 1 candidate achieved 9 out of 10 distinctions. 3 candidates achieved 9 out of 9 distinctions. 2 candidates achieved 7 out of 9 distinctions. 1 candidate achieved 7 out of 8 distinctions. 1 candidate achieved 7 out of 7 distinctions. 7 candidates achieved 6 distinctions. 6 candidates achieved 5 distinctions. 9 candidates achieved 4 distinctions. 15 candidates achieved 3 distinctions.

Congratulations to our pupils and staff on their outstanding achievements.



YOUR SCHOOL OF CHOICE
www.herzlia.com

Herzlia Schools Cape Town

<div>NINE DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Miranda Kantor - English, Afrikaans, French, Mathematics, Life Orientation, History, Life Sciences, Physical Science, Mathematics Paper 3</div>	<div>NINE DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Eshed Cohen - English, Afrikaans, Mathematics, Life Orientation, History, Information Technology, Physical Science, Mathematics Paper 3, Advanced Mathematics</div>	<div>NINE DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Carla Kirk-Cohen - English, Afrikaans, Maths, Life Orientation, History, Information Technology, Physical Science, Mathematics Paper 3, Advanced Mathematics</div>	<div>NINE DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Vaughn Saben - English, Afrikaans, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Accounting, Economics, Physical Science, Mathematics Paper 3, Advanced Mathematics</div>	<div>SEVEN DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Michael Mesarcik - English, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Design, Information Technology, Physical Science, Mathematics Paper 3</div>
<div>SEVEN DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Stuart Norrie - English, Afrikaans, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Accounting, Life Sciences, Physical Science</div>	<div>SEVEN DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Jessie Zinn - English, Afrikaans, Maths, Life Orientation, Dramatic Arts, Life Sciences, Physical Science</div>	<div>SEVEN DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Elisheva Sacks – English, Afrikaans, Maths, Life Orientation, History, Life Sciences, Physical Science</div>	<div>SIX DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Georgina Annenberg – English, Afrikaans, Life Orientation, Design, History, Life Sciences</div>	<div>SIX DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Joel Berman - Mathematics, Life Orientation, Information Technology, Life Sciences, Physical Science, Music</div>
<div>SIX DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Joshua Buchalter - Mathematics, Life Orientation, Information Technology, Physical Science, Music, Mathematics Paper 3</div>	<div>SIX DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Barak Setton - Mathematics, Life Orientation, Dramatic Arts, Information Technology, Physical Science, Visual Arts</div>	<div>SIX DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Hannah Simon - English, Afrikaans, Life Orientation, Economics, Information Technology, Life Sciences</div>	<div>SIX DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Emma Strumpman - English, Afrikaans, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Design, Life Sciences</div>	
<div>SIX DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Jaime Uranovsky - English, Afrikaans, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Dramatic Arts, History</div>	<div>FIVE DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Daniel Ambor - English, Life Orientation, Dramatic Arts, Economics, History</div>	<div>FIVE DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Nicole Feldman - Mathematics, Life Orientation, Accounting, Information Technology, Physical Science</div>	<div>FIVE DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Benjamin Lewis - English, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Information Technology, Physical Science</div>	
<div>FIVE DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Jonathan Srubis - Mathematics, Life Orientation, Accounting, Economics, Physical Science</div>	<div>FIVE DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Leila Stein - English, Afrikaans, Life Orientation, Dramatic Arts, History</div>	<div>FIVE DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Michal Zieff - English, Afrikaans, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences</div>	<div>FOUR DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Joshua (Ruby) Abrahams - Mathematics, Life Sciences, Physical Science, Advanced Mathematics</div>	
<div>FOUR DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Jared Cape - Afrikaans, Mathematics, Accounting, Physical Science</div>		<div>FOUR DISTINCTIONS</div> <div></div> <div>Galia Davimes - Afrikaans, Life Orientation, Dramatic Arts, Life Sciences</div>		

NSC

FOUR DISTINCTIONS



Danielle Friedman - Life Orientation, Business Studies, History, Life Sciences

FOUR DISTINCTIONS



Brandon Joffe - Mathematics, Life Orientation, Information Technology, Physical Science

FOUR DISTINCTIONS



Kim Jones - English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Accounting

FOUR DISTINCTIONS



Robert Katz - Mathematics, Life Orientation, Information Technology, Physical Science

Torah Academy NSC

NINE DISTINCTIONS



Soshe Lewin English, Afrikaans, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Mathematics Paper 3, Business Studies, Hebrew, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences

NINE DISTINCTIONS



Sara Tauby English, Afrikaans, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Hebrew, History, Mathematics Paper 3

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS



Mendel Gralnik Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation

FIVE DISTINCTIONS



Liora Glassman English, Life Orientation, Design, Hebrew, Accounting

FOUR DISTINCTIONS



Shifra Bacher Hebrew, History, Life Sciences, Life Orientation

- Elishva Masinter** - Life Orientation, Hebrew, History
- Itamar Yaakov Menachemi** - Life Orientation, Physical Science, Hebrew
- Dovid Mendelow** - Life Orientation, Business Studies, History
- Levi Yitchok Segal** - Life Orientation, History, Accounting.

FOUR DISTINCTIONS



Bianca Sarembock - English, Afrikaans, Life Orientation, History

FOUR DISTINCTIONS



Steven Piha - Life Orientation, Economics, History, Information Technology

THREE DISTINCTIONS

- Djavan Arrigone** - Life Orientation, Information Technology, Music
- Jacques Bagraim** Music; Life Sciences; Physical Science
- Natasha Bernstein** - Consumer Studies, Design, Dramatic Arts
- David Casper** - Information Technology, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences
- Ta Wei (Robert) Chao** - Chinese A level, Life Orientation, Computer Applications Technology
- Tal Hartuv** - Life Orientation, Dramatic Arts, Tourism
- Samantha Miller** - English, Life Orientation, Accounting
- Carla Salingre** - Life Orientation, Computer Applications Technology, Visual Arts
- Michael Serraf** - Mathematics Literacy, Dramatic Arts, Visual Arts
- Jessica Shub** - Mathematics Literacy, Life Orientation, Design
- Osher Shuman** - Mathematics, Accounting, Information Technology
- Lara Srot** - Life Orientation, Dramatic Arts, Life Sciences
- Emma Srubis** - Life Orientation, History, Life Sciences
- Jessie Venter** - Mathematics, Life Orientation, Life Sciences
- Jarryd Zetner** - Life Orientation, Economics, History

Abadi Yonatan, Abrahamson Arielle, Adler Romi, Amoils Benjamin, Baum Jordan, Bernitz Lauren, Binder Chad, Blankfield Terry, Blumberg Gabriella, Boni Illan, Boolkin Steele, Boonzaaier Daniella, Borer Jordin, Botbol Alisa, Brayton Genna, Brick Ryan, BrookstoneGeorgia, Broomberg Jesse, Brown Joshua, Buskin Samantha, Buskin Sean, Chalom Jason, Chertkow Talya, Chesler Daniel, Chimes Tarryn, Cohen Gabrielle, Cohen Jason, Colman Megan, Crawford Camilla, Dimant Kerri, Diner Hirshi, Drue Stefan, Dukes Michael, Edelstein Rowan, Egdes Eitan, Eisenberg Micaela, Elias Daniel, Epstein Eitan, Epstein Levi, Esra Nathan, Farlam Kayleigh, Favish Ashleigh, Feinberg Joshua, Fevrier Danielle, Fisher Bianca, Fisher Talia, Flink Shelby, Fouche Tyler, Frank Brett, Friedman Danielle, Furman Tal, Ginsberg Rudi, Gittelso Tarryn, Glocer Ariella, Glocer Ruth, Goldberg Liora, Goldblatt Craig, Gottschalk Cindy, Greenberg Gaby-Lee, Gruzin Micaela, Harris Talya, Heneck Anouk, Heymann Daniel, Horwitz Beth, Hyman Gabriella, Ilouze Itai, Isserow Justin, Jacobson Ryan, Jankelow Daniel, Joffe Philippa, Kaicer Jade, Kaplan Daniella, Kaplan Jaime, Kassuto Chantal, Kaufmann Chadd, Knoetze Amber-Rose, Krok Andrea, Krok Devin, Kruger Davida, Kuming Jordan, Kupritz Mikayla, Landau Paula, Lasarow Hayley, Lazarus Joshua, Levin Jonathan, Levinthal Batya, Levitas Justine, Lewis Ruth, Lieberthal Jessica, Lieberthal Nicholas, Malin Jonathan, Marx Isabelle, Mayers Shari, Melamed Alon, Mer Paul, Milner Hilliard, Mink Stephanie, Mizrahi Liron, Morris Kayla, Narotzky Gabriela, Navarro Daniel, Oddes Kaylee, Ohayon Danielle, Ozynski Benjamin, Phillips Steven, Pokroy Shane, Polakow Joshua, Rabinovitch Lori, Ritz Aden, Rosen Ryan, Rosenfeld Ariel, Ruso Eitan, Sanders Liron, Scher Dean, Schneider Alyssa, Selby Alexander, Sher Jake, Shneier Melanie, Sineor Amir, Simpson Guy, Smith Lisa, Smith Talya, Smukler Mathew, Sostak Jason, Subel Joshua, Sundelson Danny, Taitz Jaimee, Uptier Mikayla, Vinokur Daniel, Wainstein Kelly, Weissman Shane, Wilensky Jason, Wolpe Kayla-Beth, Young Lori-Jade, Zackon Arianne, Zackon Kerryn, Zlotnick Ashlee, Abadi Yonatan, Abrahamson Arielle, Adler Romi, Amoils Benjamin, Baum Jordan, Bernitz Lauren, Binder Chad, Blankfield Terry, Blumberg Gabriella, Boni Illan, Boolkin Steele, Boonzaaier Daniella, Borer Jordin, Botbol Alisa, Brayton Genna, Brick Ryan, Brookstone Georgia, Broomberg Jesse, Brown Joshua, Buskin Samantha, Buskin Sean, Chalom Jason, Chertkow Talya, Chesler Daniel, Chimes Tarryn, Cohen Gabrielle, Cohen Jason, Colman Megan, Crawford Camilla, Dimant Kerri, Diner Hirshi, Drue Stefan, Dukes Michael, Edelstein Rowan, Egdes Eitan, Eisenberg Micaela, Elias Daniel, Epstein Eitan, Epstein Levi, Esra Nathan, Farlam Kayleigh, Favish Ashleigh, Feinberg Joshua, Fevrier Danielle, Fisher Bianca, Fisher Talia, Flink Shelby, Fouche Tyler, Frank Brett, Friedman Danielle, Furman Tal, Ginsberg Rudi, Gittelso Tarryn, Glocer Ariella, Glocer Ruth, Goldberg Liora, Goldblatt Craig, Gottschalk Cindy, Greenberg Gaby-Lee, Gruzin Micaela, Harris Talya, Heneck Anouk, Heymann Daniel, Horwitz Beth, Hyman Gabriella, Ilouze Itai, Isserow Justin, Jacobson Ryan, Jankelow Daniel, Joffe Philippa, Kaicer Jade, Kaplan Daniella, Kaplan Jaime, Kassuto Chantal, Kaufmann Chadd, Knoetze Amber-Rose, Krok Andrea, Krok Devin, Kruger Davida, Kuming Jordan, Kupritz Mikayla, Landau Paula, Lasarow Hayley, Lazarus Joshua, Levin Jonathan, Levinthal Batya, Levitas Justine, Lewis Ruth, Lieberthal Jessica, Lieberthal Nicholas, Malin Jonathan, Marx Isabelle, Mayers Shari, Melamed Alon, Mer Paul, Milner Hilliard, Mink Stephanie, Mizrahi Liron, Morris Kayla, Narotzky Gabriela, Navarro Daniel, Oddes Kaylee, Ohayon Danielle, Ozynski Benjamin, Phillips Steven, Pokroy Shane, Polakow Joshua, Rabinovitch Lori, Ritz Aden, Rosen Ryan, Rosenfeld Ariel, Ruso Eitan, Sanders Liron, Scher Dean, Schneider Alyssa, Selby Alexander, Sher Jake, Shneier Melanie, Sineor Amir, Simpson Guy, Smith Lisa, Smith Talya, Smukler Mathew, Sostak Jason, Subel Joshua, Sundelson Danny, Taitz Jaimee, Uptier Mikayla, Vinokur Daniel, Wainstein Kelly, Weissman Shane, Wilensky Jason, Wolpe Kayla-Beth, Young Lori-Jade, Zackon Arianne, Zackon Kerryn, Zlotnick Ashlee

to all our matriculants, parents and teachers - on another superb set of results

- 10 Distinctions: Devin Krok
- 9 Distinctions: Micaela Eisenberg, Levi Epstein, Ashleigh Favish, Beth Horwitz, Gabriella Hyman
- 8 Distinctions: Yonatan Abadi, Megan Colman, Tayla Harris
- 7 Distinctions: Ryan Jacobson, Shane Pokroy, Joshua Subel

Five nationally top-ranked IEB candidates: Micaela Eisenberg, Ashleigh Favish, Talya Harris, Ryan Jacobson, Devin Krok

Nine candidates ranked in the top one percent in the IEB national individual subject rankings: Micaela Eisenberg, Levi Epstein, Ashleigh Favish, Tal Furman, Gabriella Hyman, Ryan Jacobson, Devin Krok, Beth Horwitz, Isabelle Marx

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EIGHT DISTINCTIONS



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TEN DISTINCTIONS
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NINE DISTINCTIONS
Micaela Eisenberg - English, Afrikaans, Maths, Life Orientation, History, Life Sciences, Maths Paper 3, Physical Sciences, AP Maths



NINE DISTINCTIONS
Levi Epstein English, Afrikaans, Maths, Life Orientation, Hebrew, History, Maths Paper 3, Physical Sciences, AP Maths



NINE DISTINCTIONS
Ashleigh Favish English, Afrikaans, Maths, Life Orientation, Accountancy, History, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science, AP Maths



NINE DISTINCTIONS
Beth Horwitz English, Afrikaans, Maths, Life Orientation, Accountancy, Hebrew, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science, AP Maths



NINE DISTINCTIONS
Gabriella Hyman English, Afrikaans, Maths, Life Orientation, Hebrew, Life Science, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science, AP English



EIGHT DISTINCTIONS
Yonatan Abadi English, Afrikaans, Maths, Life Orientation, Accountancy, Hebrew, History, Maths Paper 3



EIGHT DISTINCTIONS
Megan Colman English, Afrikaans, Maths, Life Orientation, Hebrew, History, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science



EIGHT DISTINCTIONS
Talya Harris - English, Afrikaans, Maths, Life Orientation, Hebrew, History, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science



SEVEN DISTINCTIONS
Ryan Jacobson English, Maths, Life Orientation, Accountancy, Geography, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science



SEVEN DISTINCTIONS
Shane Pokroy English, Maths, Life Orientation, Hebrew, Life Science, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science



SEVEN DISTINCTIONS
Joshua Subel English, Maths, Life Orientation, History, Life Science, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science



SIX DISTINCTIONS
Gabriella Blumberg English, Maths, Life Orientation, Dramatic Art, Life Science, AP English



SIX DISTINCTIONS
Stefan Drue English, Life Orientation, Geography, Maths, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science



SIX DISTINCTIONS
Tyler Fouche Afrikaans, English, Geography, Hebrew, History, Life Orientation



SIX DISTINCTIONS
Tal Furman English, Life Orientation, Afrikaans, Business Studies, Hebrew, Life Science



SIX DISTINCTIONS
Micaela Gruzin English, Life Orientation, Hebrew, Life Science, Maths, Physical Science



SIX DISTINCTIONS
Phillipa Joffe Accountancy, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Maths, Maths Paper 3



SIX DISTINCTIONS
Ruth Lewis Accountancy, Life Orientation, Life Science, Maths, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science



SIX DISTINCTIONS
Benjamin Ozynski English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Maths, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Steele Boolkin English, Life Orientation, Hebrew, Maths, Maths Paper 3



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Alisa Botbol Life Orientation, Life Science, Maths, Maths Paper 3, Music



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Talya Chertkow English, Life Orientation, History, Life Science, Visual Art



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Hirsh Diner Geography, Life Orientation, Maths, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Jonathan Malin Life Orientation, Geography, Life Science, Maths, Physical Science



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Isabelle Marx English, Life Orientation, Hebrew, Maths, Physical Science



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Steven Phillips Life Orientation, Geography, Maths, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Ariel Rosenfeld Hebrew, Information Technology, Life Orientation, Maths, Maths Paper 3



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Melanie Shneier Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Science, Maths, Maths Paper 3



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Kayla-Beth Wolpe English, Hebrew, History, Life Orientation, Life Science



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Jason Chalom Life Orientation, English, Geography, Information Technology



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Tarryn Chimes Accountancy, Consumer Studies, Life Orientation, Visual Arts



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Gaby-Lee Greenberg Consumer Studies, Life Orientation, Life Science, Maths Literacy



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Daniella Kaplan Life Orientation, Business Studies, History, Maths Literacy



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Chadd Kaufmann Accountancy, Consumer Studies, Geography, Maths



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Andrea Krok Life Orientation, Business Studies, Consumer Studies, Maths Literacy



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Davida Kruger Life Orientation, Afrikaans, English, Geography



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Rowan Edelstein Life Orientation, Accountancy, Life Science, Maths



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Brett Frank Life Orientation, English, Geography, History



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Paula Landau Life Orientation, English, Hebrew, Visual Arts

THREE DISTINCTIONS
Romy Adler - Life Orientation, Business Studies, English
Jordan Baum - Business Studies, Life Orientation, Maths Literacy
Chad Binder - Life Orientation, Business Studies, Maths Literacy
Ilan Boni - Business Studies, History, Life Orientation
Jordin Borer - Accountancy, Life Orientation, Maths
Ryan Brick - Accountancy, Life Orientation, Maths
Sean Buskin - Business Studies, Life Orientation, Maths Literacy
Gabrielle Cohen - English, Hebrew, Life Orientation

Michael Dukes - Hebrew, Maths, Maths Paper 3
Daniel Elias - Life Orientation, Maths, Physical Science
Nathan Esra - Hebrew, Life Orientation, Maths
Danielle Fevrier - Hebrew, Life Orientation, Maths
Cindy Gottschalk - Accountancy, Geography, Life Orientation
Jordan Kuming - Business Studies, Hebrew, Life Orientation
Jessica Lieberthal - Business Studies, Geography, Life Orientation
Lori Rabinovitch - Drama, English, Life Orientation

Liron Sanders - Accountancy, Maths, Maths Paper 3
Dean Scher - Geography, Life Orientation, Life Science
Talya Smith - Business Studies, Consumer Studies, Maths Literacy
Jason Sostak - Life Orientation, Maths, Maths Paper 3
Mikayla Upiter - Geography, Hebrew, Life Orientation

King David Victory Park IEB



EIGHT DISTINCTIONS
Kayla-Jade Butkow Afrikaans , English, History, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Physical Sciences



EIGHT DISTINCTIONS
Sarah Katzew AP English, Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physical Sciences



EIGHT DISTINCTIONS
Tzvi Lipschitz AP Mathematics, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Music, Physical Sciences



EIGHT DISTINCTIONS
Saul Maserow Accounting, Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Physical Sciences



SEVEN DISTINCTIONS
Ari Croock AP Mathematics, Hebrew, Information Technology, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Physical Sciences



SEVEN DISTINCTIONS
Jake Gordin AP English, AP Mathematics, English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3



SEVEN DISTINCTIONS
Daniel Levin AP Mathematics, English, Hebrew, Information Technology, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Physical Sciences



SEVEN DISTINCTIONS
Benjamin Lieberman - AP English, English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Visual Arts



SIX DISTINCTIONS
Joshua Gordon Business Studies, English, Geography, History, Life Orientation, Mathematics



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Shani Cohen English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Tal Leiboff English, Geography, History, Life Orientation, Visual Arts



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Alexa Schmidt Business Studies, Dramatic Arts, English, Life Orientation, Mathematical Literacy



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Aviva Sher Afrikaans, Dance Studies, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Mathematics



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Rafael Friedman Dramatic Arts, English, History, Life Orientation



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Jessie Lewis Dramatic Arts, English, Mathematical Literacy, Visual Arts



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Zoë Wein AP English, Dramatic Arts, English, Life Orientation

Redhill School NSC



SEVEN DISTINCTIONS
Liora Gordon Afrikaans, Business Studies, Design, English, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3



SIX DISTINCTIONS
Jonathan Sive English, History, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics Paper 3, Physical Sciences



SIX DISTINCTIONS
Joni Symon English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Visual Arts,



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Godrumie Kriel Dramatic Arts, English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences

THREE DISTINCTIONS

Ilan Ben-David – English, Geography, Life Orientation
Sacha Cramer - AP English, Business Studies, Life Orientation
Jaimie Day - Dramatic Arts, English, Life Orientation
Adam Dison - Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3
Marc Redfern – Afrikaans, Life Orientation, Mathematics
Tevia Sapire - AP Mathematics, English, Mathematics
Alexander Woolf - Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Visual Arts

Crawford College NSC



EIGHT DISTINCTIONS
Caitlin Munchick Business Studies, Design, Dance, History, Mathematics Paper 3, English, Mathematics, Life Orientation



SEVEN DISTINCTIONS
Reuben Ichikowitz Business Studies, Geography, Information Technology, Physical Science, English, Mathematics, Life Orientation



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Genya Gluckman Accounting, Afrikaans, Dramatic Arts, English, Life Orientation



FIVE DISTINCTIONS
Gillian Franks Geography, Mathematics, Life Orientation, English, Business Studies



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Claire Lazar Afrikaans, Life Sciences, Visual Arts, Life Orientation



FOUR DISTINCTIONS
Joshua Karp Accounting, Information Technology, Mathematics, Life Orientation

THREE DISTINCTIONS

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The Yiddish language’s literal and figurative rescuer

PAUL FOER/JNS.ORG
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Aaron Lansky’s decades-long mission is typified by an “emergency” call he once received on a wintry night, summoning him to New York to rescue thousands of Yiddish-language volumes from a dumpster.

Lansky springs into action, barely gets to the city, and gathers a crew of volunteers. Despite the difficulties, he manages to safely remove the precious books - only to end up with a 104-degree fever.

That anecdote opens Lansky’s 2004 book *Outwitting History* - whose title is apt, given that this recipient of a McArthur “genius” grant is at least partially responsible for the fact that Yiddish is more secure now than at any time since the Second World War.

One can easily find Yiddish’s strengthening pulse at the National Yiddish Book Centre (NYBC), which Lansky founded. The NYBC - housed at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, where Lansky was a student in the 1970s - recently announced a partnership with The National Library of Israel to digitise 20 000 titles in Yiddish.

Lansky tells JNS.org that, thanks to this partnership, “Yiddish will become the single-most accessible literature in history, with virtually all of its titles available online”.

The NYBC has collected, rescued, catalogued and redistributed vast libraries of printed Yiddish, recordings, movies and artwork. The centre publishes a colourful quarterly, *Der Pakn Treger* (The Book Seller), offers fellowships for students of all ages, and has established collections at major libraries.

Thanks to support from movie producer

Steven Spielberg, the NYBC has created a downloadable, digital library of 11 000 (and counting) texts online, and made high-quality reprints available on demand.

The NYBC Fellowship Programme, meanwhile, offers talented young college graduates who are passionate about Yiddish the opportunity to spend a year on the NYBC staff to advance their knowledge of Yiddish language, literature, and culture. With help from Spielberg, the NYBC has launched new translation fellowships to help train a new generation of Yiddish translators.

Lansky, a New Bedford, Massachusetts, native, began to rescue Yiddish books from obscurity or destruction when he was a graduate student at Montreal’s McGill’s University in the early 1980s.

Today, the Jewish cultural organisation he founded, boasts 17 000 members and is headquartered in a unique spacious building that is reminiscent of an old country “shtetl”. The centre houses books, papers, documents, permanent and visiting exhibit space, a bookstore, performance centre and oral history recording studios.

With an annual budget of \$4 million, the NYBC is on target to meet its endowment goal of \$40 million in time for its 40th anniversary in 2020.

In a brief film on the NYBC website that documents his story, Lansky recalls his early experiences more than 30 years ago of literally rescuing endangered Yiddish volumes.

“Here I am, 23 years old you know, in jeans and a T-shirt and somehow it’s fallen on me to try to pick up the fragments of this world and save them for the future, because when people give you their books it’s a very candid



National Yiddish Book Centre founder Aaron Lansky speaks at the centre in Amherst, Massachusetts.

moment in their lives,” he says.

Yiddish was inextricably intertwined with Jewish life and identity for a majority of Jews for centuries, and it blossomed into a remarkably vibrant and influential literary, political and cultural phenomenon - until it clashed with powerful forces of modernity that very nearly spelled its extinction.

As with the effects of oxidation on many objects, there was both a slow and a rapid form of destruction. The slow form, or the “rust”, was immigration, assimilation, modernity, universalism, the desire to leave the shtetl and the ghettoised past, and Zionism’s primacy of Hebrew.

The faster form was plain and simply that of “fire”, with the burning of its masses of speakers and its books during the Holocaust.

Still, a portion of Yiddish literature has been translated into English and is familiar to many, especially through Sholom Aleichim and Isaac Bashevis Singer, who won the Nobel Prize for his Yiddish writings. Lansky’s role from that of a jean-clad book rescuer to a leading light in a major Jewish cultural revival has taken decades. While he is no longer that young graduate student himself, it is the interest of today’s youth in Yiddish that continues to excite him. (JNS.org)

• In Johannesburg, The Yiddish Academy holds weekly classes at the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre, Glenhove Road, Houghton. Call Hazel Cohen on (011) 728-8088.

Please note: Your vote will not actually be counted, it does however reflect the opinion of the South African Jewish Community

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22h00
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Disclaimer The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report	Guidelines for letters Letters up to 400 words 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.
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SHOW GRATITUDE TO THE COUNTRY WHICH HELPED YOU SETTLE

I refer to the letter in Jewish Report of December 14, titled “Don’t spit in the well you drink from”, by Avner Eliyahu Romm. I would like to express my support for his views. I have also come across people who have prospered in this country and who have lived well, educated their children, whether they were born here or not. We are of course talking about people who the Afrikaans government brought to this country at the taxpayers/the State’s expense, paying for their air ticket, accommodation for a few weeks and helped them to find a decent job, etc. This was all free for the new immigrant!

Not long after that, these needy people turned against the very government who provided all of that for us. We should be grateful for both the present and the previous South African governments; the previous government set everything up for us perfectly and the present government continues in that way.

God bless them all I say!

George Kondogiannis
Johannesburg

QUITE A DIFFERENCE TO COMPARE GOVERNMENTS TO NAZI GERMANY

Gwen Jacobson, in the Jewish Report of December 14, accuses me of making “personal attacks” (on Don Krausz).

The point I tried to make is that there is a difference between criticising some government as “unfair” and comparing governments to Nazi Germany, by basically saying it directly or indirectly - as I understood the letter I criticised to mean.

Maybe I didn’t understand it properly, in which case I apologise. Indeed, I don’t think the South African government of the time was fair to the so-called “Coloured” and Asian populations, who were not granted proper self-determination like other nations were.

I was in Europe during the Holocaust and in South Africa during apartheid, and therefore I know what I say when I compare them to one another”. This amounts to one spitting into the well one drank from, and is immoral.

As far as my Sea Point address is concerned: It is true that I give this address whenever I write a letter to the South African Jewish Report. It doesn’t mean, however, that I am always there, whenever I write a letter to the paper. But I like giving only details of my whereabouts to people who have to know them.

The same thing is true regarding the reasons for me living in Sea Point - whenever I live there. If I could afford living in nicer places, I surely would!

Avner Eliyahu Romm
Cape Town

JEWISH PRISONERS SEEMINGLY ARE ‘A LOST CAUSE’

I have for some time been trying to get kosher food, prison visits from a rabbi, as well as a little bit of Jewish community spirit for two Jewish prisoners being held in Leeuwkop Prisons, which is located in Sunninghill, Johannesburg.

To no avail. Are they just a lost cause? Sure, they did something wrong, they are doing their time, but they are still Jewish. Is everybody too busy to give them a little support?

Surely there must be many young rabbis or student rabbis who could work on a roster system to visit and support these Jews. It is unthinkable that they are only visited twice a year and given no rehabilitation or Jewish guidance.

Maureen Marks
Highlands North,
Johannesburg

HOW WILL ISRAEL DEAL WITH A FRACKING PROBLEM?

I have just read an interesting résumé showing all the wonderful things that are happening that will make Israel have a brighter future.

There are the gas reserves and the immigrants and there is oil, but the report I read said that the huge reserves of oil, comparable to Saudi Arabia’s, could be got at by fracking. As people especially in the Cape are aware, the fracking process can be disastrous.

Will this promote another new political party or two in Israel - the pro-fracking and the anti-fracking parties?

For those people who have not been made aware of the effects of fracking, the people of the Karoo fear that the fracking process where oil is extracted from shale rock by using huge amounts of water under extreme pressure, will result in damage to the underground water resources and cause pollution.

How will Israel, with its shortage of underground water sources, deal with this problem?

Colin Plen
Durban

BEWARE THIS DANGEROUS ISRAELI ‘CONTRABAND’!

Allow me to quote from a cartoon which appeared in an Israeli newspaper.

The picture shows an immigration official inspecting a visitor’s bag.

The caption reads as follows: “Hmmm, food, flowers and products grown or produced on formerly barren land on the West Bank by Jews, or as we in the anti-Israel camp say, DANGEROUS CONTRABAND!

Bennie Katzman
Bnei Dror,
Israel

SOPHISTRY IN LEFT’S DISTINCTION BETWEEN ANTI-SEMITISM AND ANTI-ZIONISM

We are living in an age where Zionists, Zionism, the State of Israel and the Israeli people are being increasingly demonised and delegitimised by the media, universities and others who control public opinion.

In elite circles Zionism has become a dirty word. We must deconstruct the diabolical lie that Zionism - the return of the Jews to their ancient cradle of birth - is somehow, as the far left and Islamists have brainwashed much of the world (to believe), an act of “colonialism” and that the system of ideas behind the only democracy in the Middle East is “fascist”.

This mindset has been strongly influenced by the international Left; ironically the European Left which is today so venomously anti-Zionist and anti-Israeli, was once strongly supportive of the Zionist enterprise, the creation of the State of Israel after the Second World War.

But the ideology of the Left metamorphed in the last few decades into a nihilistic monstrosity of tawdry Third Worldism, the cult of the noble savage returned with a vengeance.

Israeli Jews are depicted as too white and well-to-do to be objects of sympathy or understanding and the Palestinian as the exploited and dispossessed dark skinned Third World masses.

It is this anti-Western Third Worldist cult of the noble savage mentality that also accounts for the contempt the post-modern Left holds the white working class in Britain, persecuting the latter in favour of “noble victims” - the Third World immigrants.

The neo-Maoist strategy of Yasser Arafat’s Al Fatah terrorist organisation, suggested that the invented Palestinian cause was an integral part of the “struggle against imperialism and colonialism”.

MONEY DEFINITELY DOES NOT ALWAYS EQUATE TO HAPPINESS

Mendy Gralnik writes in the SAJR (14/12/2012) an article on money being a key contributor to personal happiness, but this is only partly true: Money and happiness are not always companions. Or are they?

If one is familiar with Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy or needs, one will understand that there is more to happiness than money can buy.

Maslow explained that one needed to satisfy basic needs such as clean air, clean water, toilet facilities, food, protection from the environment, etc, as primary basic needs. Money can buy these needs (category 1).

He proceeds to explain that one has other, higher level needs, which are psychological and emotional, such as a need to belong, to feel useful, to be appreciated, to love and be loved and the need for self-actualisation, (category two needs). I would add spiritual needs (category three).

When one’s needs, in the second category, are not fulfilled, one can use money to increase consumption in the first category. For example,

CAN YOU ASSIST WITH THE KATZ FAMILY TREE?

Reuven (Robert) Katz (82), from Monsey, New York, writes that his parents came to the US from Latvia/Lithuania in 1898. “We were told that some family members went to South Africa at or about the same time.

We have a grandson who has badgered us endlessly to compile a family tree of all his grandparents, great-grandparents, and associated relatives.

Because of him I am asking for your assistance in helping us locate any possible relatives.

“My address is 20 Smolley Drive, Monsey NY 10952 – USA. Home phone 845-356-4834, cellphone 845-304-6600.”

WRC IS A BRANCH OF UJW IN CAPE TOWN

The article by Shira Druion, “Tribute to our domestic workers, true unsung heroes” (Jewish Report December 14, 2012) states that the Women’s Resource Centre in Cape Town is a branch of WIZO. This is incorrect as it is in fact a branch of the Union of Jewish Women of Cape Town. We regret the error.

The Left also today violently suppresses any idea that anti-Zionism may be linked to anti-Semitism, disseminating the lie that any reference to a relationship between the two is a sinister Zionist plot to deflect condemnation of the occupation and the great Israeli crimes supposedly committed against the innocent Palestinians.

And yet, anti-Zionism is the conviction that Israel, of all the world’s countries, does not have the right to exist. It is the conviction that the determination of what constitutes Israel’s ‘secure and defensible borders’ should not be made by the Israeli people, either directly or via representation

Israel today has the world’s largest Jewish community, with the numbers of Jews living there being nearly half of the world’s Jewish population. Any destruction of Israel would mean a second Holocaust of Jews.

The anti-Zionists claim they are not anti-Semitic as they only hate and want to harm Jews who live in Israel. This is as absurd as claiming for instance that one is not a racist as one only hates and wants to harm blacks who live in Africa, not blacks elsewhere.

The enemies of Israel want the physical elimination of the Jewish people from the Land of Israel. This constitutes anti-Semitism.

Jews in Israel are targeted for one thing: being Jews.

I find it interesting that if somebody is against British Jews, they are anti-Semitic, if they are against American Jews they are anti-Semitic, if they are against European Jews they are anti-Semitic, but if they hate Israeli Jews they are merely “anti-Zionist” but not anti-Semitic.

Gary Selikow
Johannesburg

one can upgrade from a three-bedroom house, to a six-bedroom house to a 12-bedroom house.

The only problem is that the law of diminishing returns applies, for instance, although the number of rooms increase by 100 per cent, the level of satisfaction/utility may only increase by say 20 per cent.

For category two needs, one could volunteer to join a charity organisation or join a golf or bowling club. For category three needs, one would need to join a shul and/or attend religious shiurim.

Mendy raises the interesting correlation between financial success in one’s career and attending an expensive school: this is a self-sustaining cycle; a knee-jerk reaction as to condemn costly education - but one should rather be concerned as to why the education at public (government) schools is inferior.

John Brenner
Johannesburg

PACKING FOR PERTH - OR TORONTO - ON THE RUN

Mary and Warren and all, Kluked in vain, Cos anti-Semitism’s not on the wane! The ANC’s now got the Jews on the run - They don’t want us here: it’s not going to be fun!

So all hail Toronto - or maybe it’s Perth; Start packing, people, for all that you’re worth! The signs are all there - please wake from your snooze - They think it’s so odd that G-d chose the Jews.

Whatever you say now, it’s all much too late, They prefer not to talk - they just want to hate. Even the Nats liked a Jew on the team, But post-Mangaung nothing’s left of that dream!

Susan Tucker
Dunkeld West, Johannesburg

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Looking back on the year 2012

The year 2012, in many ways an extremely difficult and testing, ended on a high note for the Board, with encouraging progress being made in a number of important spheres. In the area of combating anti-Semitism, still the core mandate of the SAJBD, the Broadcasting Monitoring and Complaints Committee convened a four-day hearing into our complaint against Radio 786 for anti-Semitic broadcasting.

From our side, expert testimony was provided by Dr David Hirsh, Professor Milton Shain, Rabbi Yossy Goldman and Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss, step sister of Anne Frank. Eva's first-hand testimony as to



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

the kind of horrors that unrestrained hate speech can lead to, was particularly relevant.

The hearing will resume sometime in the near future, and we will continue to keep our community thoroughly updated regarding how this landmark case is developing. For on-the-spot overviews of what transpired during the first four days, I invite you to see our website (<http://www.jewishsa.co.za/category/media/>).

I would like to take the opportunity of commending our superb legal team, headed by the Board's esteemed elder statesman Mervyn Smith, as well as all those who took the trouble and effort to testify so

admirably on our behalf.

It was also encouraging, after enduring a number of previous dead ends and disappointments, to end the year with several very positive meetings with government. This included meetings with the Office of the Presidency and with Minister of Trade and Industry Dr Rob Davies.

The latter meeting addressed the question of labelling Israeli products emanating from the West Bank, one of the most pressing issues we had to deal with last year. It at last proved possible for us to discuss this complex issue in a cordial and constructive manner, and we are optimistic at this stage that we will see a mutually satisfactory resolution to it.

We also anticipate meeting with President Jacob Zuma in the first quarter of this year, at which our community's main issues and con-

cerns will be raised and addressed.

The big story for the country as a whole was the ANC's much anticipated Mangaung conference. Our president, Zev Krengel, attended the proceedings as an observer, and had many opportunities of engaging with some of South Africa's present and upcoming leaders.

The long-term impact of this important event will become evident over time, but we can at this stage welcome the appointment of several highly capable new leaders to the top echelons of the ruling party's leadership structure. We are hopeful of being able to establish constructive working relations with them in the coming years.

Our Jewish day schools throughout the country once again recorded outstanding matric results. This was true even of the more religious-focused schools, where pupils, in addition to carry-

ing a full load of secular subjects, devoted a considerable portion of their school time to Kodesh subjects as well.

It is inspiring indeed to see how our youth are being provided with the best of both worlds by our schools, which are able to provide an excellent Jewish education without compromising on their high standards of secular instruction. That being said, a great deal of the credit is due to the learners themselves, who put in so many dedicated hours to achieve the superb results they did.

I warmly congratulate all our successful matriculants and wish them all success in whatever field of endeavour they are now moving into.

- Listen to Steven Gruzd on Jewish Board Talk on 101.9 Chai FM every Friday 12:00 - 13:00.

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

POLL: 50 PER CENT OF ISRAELIS SAY US PRESSURE SHOULD NOT SWAY ISRAEL

JERUSALEM - Half of the Israeli Jewish public concurs that Israel should follow current government policy even at the price of a confrontation with the US administration, a new poll published on Tuesday, revealed.

Additionally, according to the Israel Democracy Institute and Tel Aviv University December 2012 Peace Index poll, two-thirds (67 per cent) of Jewish Israelis agree that, no matter which parties prevail, the peace process with the Palestinians will remain at a standstill for reasons not connected to Israel.

In the poll, Israeli Jews continued to define themselves as right-wing (55 per cent) more than centrist (21 per cent) or left-wing (17 per cent). In addition, 50 per cent reported their intention to vote for the secular and religious right-wing parties and 30 per cent for parties of the centre and left, while 20 per cent remain undecided or would not answer.

The public was also polled on their attitudes toward some of the politicians leading parties in the Knesset elections. With regard to their ability to handle political-security issues, Benjamin Netanyahu (Likud) was judged suitable by 53 per cent of Israeli Jews, Avigdor Lieberman (Yisrael Beytenu) by 28 per cent, Naftali Bennett (Habayit Hayehudi) by 25 per cent, Shaul Mofaz (Kadima) by 22 per cent, Tzipi Livni (Hatnuah) by 19 per cent, Shelly Yachimovich (Labour) by 14 per cent, and Yair Lapid (Yesh Atid) by eight per cent.

When asked about their ability to handle socio-economic issues, Yachimovich was deemed suitable by 45 per cent of Israeli Jews, Netanyahu by 36 per cent, Lapid by 25 per cent, Naftali Bennett by 20 per cent, Livni by 19 per cent, Lieberman by 17 per cent, and Mofaz by 12 per cent. (JNS.org)

'JEW' IS THE NEW 'COOL' IN DUTCH, LINGUIST SAYS

THE HAGUE- Dutch teenagers are using "Jew" akin to "cool" or "awesome" in English, according to a linguist from Leiden University.

Prof Marc van Oostendorp wrote on Monday on his blog, that he heard the new usage of the word "jood" (pronounced yode) at a high school in Leiden shortly after learning about the phenomenon from an online forum about the Dutch language.

"One is at first unsettled by it. The word Jew is still a slightly sensitive issue if used improperly," van Oostendorp wrote, adding an example of how soccer fans use it as a pejorative.

Van Oostendorp notes that Dutch already has one positive exclamation connected to Judaism in "tof", which was borrowed from Yiddish and means "good", but he writes that "it's not clear if those two are connected. I don't believe too many people are aware of the etymology."

He notes that "the ideal word to express teenage enthusiasm would make parents raise their eyebrows" but would not invoke disciplinary intervention.

"The word 'Jew' is apparently suitable in that regard," Van Oostendorp wrote. (JTA)

OU, WORLD'S LARGEST KOSHER CERTIFIER, IN DISARRAY

NEW YORK - The leadership of the world's largest provider of kosher certification, the Orthodox Union, is in disarray.

Sources on Monday confirmed massive infighting among the OU leadership and a slew of managerial changes as members of the board of directors vie for control. The situation at the OU was first reported last week in The New York Jewish Week.

Harvey Blitz, chairman of the OU's kashrut commission, reportedly is challenging Simcha Katz for the presidency of the group. Meanwhile, the group's executive vice president, Rabbi Steven Weil, has retained his title and an office at headquarters despite being stripped of any executive responsibility.

Mayer Fertig, a spokesman for the OU, said Weil remained the public face of the organisation and was involved in fundraising on its behalf.

Rabbi Steven Burg, the former head of the OU's youth group, NCSY, had been made temporary caretaker of the group last year but recently left.

Michael Cohen, the former New York state political director, left within a year of his appointment.

With its logo appearing on more than 500 000 consumer products, the Orthodox Union is the largest kosher supervision agency in the world. The total revenue from the operation - a closely guarded institutional secret - is used to fund an array of religious services and communal operations, including a public affairs office in Washington, a publishing house and a congregational umbrella group for synagogues. (JTA)

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Beit Emanuel, a Progressive Synagogue in the historic suburb of Parktown, Johannesburg (South Africa) is seeking a full-time rabbi with effect from April 2013.

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The ideal candidate will combine warmth and learning, and will have a demonstrated ability to build and grow a community, as well as the skills and abilities usually expected of a solo or senior rabbi for a Progressive community.

Due to the imminent deadline, interim appointments will be welcomed, and in this regard, applications are invited from senior students, rabbis on sabbatical or those recently retired.

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Yael Farber’s Mies Julie is still riding the crest of the wave

ROBYN SASSEN

“It’s the closest I’ve ever been to celebrity,” South African-born director Yael Farber, who now lives in Montreal, crinkles her eyes with delight, speaking of how her play, *Mies Julie*, has been feted internationally.

“We came to South Africa last year hot from Edinburgh where the play was named pick of the festival. These moments are rare. When they come, you must drink them up.” The play, fresh from New York, where it has been considered among the ten best plays in the city, opens tomorrow in Johannesburg. It has a London season booked and an international tour is on the cards.

“Lara Foot, the Baxter Theatre’s CEO, has always brought me home.” The Baxter facilitated *Mies Julie*. Farber met Foot over 20 years ago, while they were drama students at Wits. “When I’m not creating, it’s like I’m not breathing; Lara recognises that.”

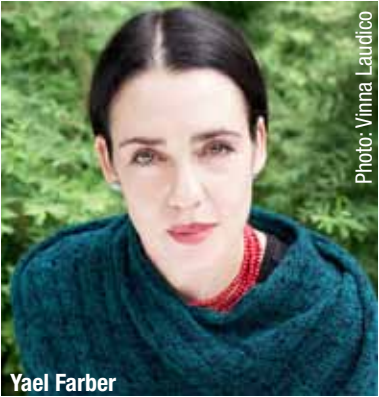
Farber’s formidable reputation for violent and provocative work holds. “This play is like a punch in the gut. If people take offence, it’s apt: our country is volatile. My fear is never that the work will not be loved. It is that I’m not doing the material justice.”

Mies Julie is based on its eponymous 1888 forebear by August Strindberg, about class and sex, a shocker in its time. The original is couched in innuendo specific to the era.

“When I read this play again, I experienced a strong urge to know its underbelly, teeming as it is with issues about the body,



Farber (right) directing Bongile Mantsai and Hilda Cronje in *Mies Julie* at its Edinburgh Festival debut.



the land and how the power pendulum swings. Strindberg’s language is antiquated. It has lost the terrifying sensuality it had in 1888.

“My play is written to enable the cast to say everything people in this kind of situation want to, but don’t. When the sexual dy-

namic unlocks, something primal escapes.

“This country’s past created a terrible rupture. But beauty is possible. In this play, there is a possibility that John, the servant (Bongile Mantsai) and Julie the master’s daughter (Hilda Cronje) can trip up that past and embrace the future, but they cannot, really. We have to be so much larger than the history to be able to move beyond it.”

They’re a dream cast, she continues. “Bongi has the wisdom, sensuality and grace, for this complex role. And Hilda: She came into the audition, took off her shoes and lit a cigarette. And I knew the role was hers. Hilda’s really earned her dues. For 10 years, this Waterfront Theatre-

trained performer, did kids’ theatre.

“Bongi and Hilda have real chemistry; you cannot rehearse this. You cannot buy this. They instinctively recognise this work as a breathing, shifting thing; in each performance, everything converges in a moment in time when they bring all their gifts and history.”

Many things are currently cooking in Farber’s diary, including an Indian project in development premised on the recent gang rape of a young woman, and adaptations of theatre from Shakespeare to Sophocles. “Making work is my oxygen.”

• *Mies Julie is at the Market Theatre, until Feb 24 (011) 832-1641.*

Arts Briefs

LINDER BRINGS SHOW BACK TO FOXWOOD IN HOUGHTON

Veteran theatre performer, comedienne and cabaret virtuoso Annabel Linder, by popular demand, brings her show “Telling It Like It Is”, an intimate glimpse into her life and career, which performed toward the end of last year to sell-out seasons, back to Foxwood Theatre in Houghton. She offers a prism into the rich highs and lows of a career which spanned everything from radio and pop songs to the stage, and she collaborates with her husband jazz clarinetist and songwriter, Sam Sklair in several numbers. The show performs on February 2 and 3 and February 9 and 10. (011) 486-0935.

PHOTOGRAPHER MEYERSFELD EXHIBITS AT UJ ART GALLERY

Photographer Michael Meyersfeld presents a solo exhibition entitled “Discordance” at the UJ Art Gallery in Auckland Park, from February 6. The exhibition will be opened by Stephen Hobbs and Marcus Neustetter, founding members of the Trinity Session. For five decades, Meyersfeld’s career has straddled advertising and fine art photography; this is his 17th fine art exhibition. According to a media release, each image on this show forms part of a collective story and the works are divided into themes: “Urban disquiet”, “Bent” and “Observance”. The artist will present a lecture on February 16; the exhibition closes on February 27. (011) 559-2099.

ROSE KORBER MEETS DEMAND FOR LONGER EXHIBITION

Veteran curator Rose Korber, who opened her annual salon exhibition toward the end of last year advises in a press release that Summer Show 2012 has been extended by popular demand, until February 28, 2013. Featuring top local contemporary artists of the ilk of Sam Nhlengethwa, Deborah Bell, Richard Smith and William Kentridge and practitioners working in a diversity of fields from ceramics to photography, the gallery, in Camps Bay is open daily, including on weekends and public holidays; a selection of the works on show are accessible via www.rosekorber.com. Korber may be contacted on (021)438-9152 or 082-781-6144 or roskorb@icon.co.za

Photographs and words lie side by side in harmony

On the Mines by David Goldblatt and Nadine Gordimer. Stiedl (2012)

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

There is a passage in Joseph Heller’s classic novel *Catch 22* in which the technical task of bombing an Italian city in a Second World War US Air Force formation is explained without affectation.

You come away from it with an intimate grasp of the task. You can smell gasoline, hear flak, understand the urgency to get free of the conflagration. You emerge from the text ears ringing, heart pounding.

Something similar happens when you read arguably this publication’s central text. It’s by David Goldblatt, and is a frank portrayal of the process of shaft sinking. Couched between immensely powerful photographs and an essay by Nadine Gordimer, written in 1968 and revisited last year, it unaffectedly pulls the book together with a wrench.

This rekindled cleavage between the words of Gordimer and the photographs of Goldblatt and both of their lived experience in gold mining towns is dignified and deep.

Originally published in 1973, “On The Mines” is redesigned, with some new, some omitted photographs from the original suite, many of which were shown last year at the Goodman Gallery. The original words and images are sensitively curated within contemporary images and ideas, but aren’t bruised by current rhetoric.

It might contain the thoughtful contribution of two of South Africa’s highest profiled creative practitioners, but this publication’s brilliance is in how it embraces its

subject, the contributors’ egos bow humbly to the grit and history of mining itself.

The words allow the book to reach back into South African mining’s history. It touches Chinese indentured mining labour imported to South Africa from 1904, and explains how a compound became a hostel.

It offers you a taste of the horrors of mining, but also the complicated hierarchy inextricably rotten with apartheid values. The images vie from paraphernalia to men, to being in the presence of the process of shaft shinking, to the broader contexts, which embrace portraits of mining magnates or their homes.

The mine captain at City Deep in 1966 is a middle-aged white man at his desk. But look again. From the Bakelite phone behind him to how he holds his pen between index and middle fingers; to the knot of his tie and the knitted fair-aisle waistcoat he wears beneath his jacket, this photograph is an essay about context.

In another photograph, you learn of the level of illiteracy among black mineworkers, taken for granted in cartoons designed to warn them of underground dangers.

Goldblatt touches you in several ways with his photographs. He seduces your eye, as it slides in the interstices of composition; but then, he astonishes you with the work’s title.

In many instances, the title gives you completely unexpected re-entry into the image. Above all, you are never allowed to forget that this is not an illustrated text. Photographs and words lie side by side; both mediums breathe and speak.

“Basuto shaftsinkers seeking work, President Steyn No 4, Welkom. 1969”, a photograph by David Goldblatt in his book ‘On the Mines’.



Yesh Camp SA leads in lifeguard, CPR training



Pictured practising the in-water spinal board management are: Azi Levin, Doniel Climer, Chananya Tocker, Jaryd Lake and acting the part of the victim, Shmueli Schwartz.

Since the middle of August 2012, Yesh Camp SA has been conducting a lifeguard course as part of its leadership development programme. Every Sunday afternoon for three hours, some 17 boys aged between 14 – 24, have come together for training sessions with a qualified Lifesaving South Africa lifeguard instructor.

Yesh Camp SA, says in a media release that Malcolm Hunter, with his assistant Enzo Ourique has been instructing the boys in relevant first aid, CPR, pool open water and beach safety. Besides the interesting and lifesaving knowledge that the cadets must know to pass their exam, they must also be able to swim a challenging

100 metres in under two minutes. According to Hunter “more than 75 per cent of drowning incidents in South Africa are swimming pool related and not open water or beach. This is because people tend to think that a swimming pool is not as scary as the ocean or a river and they therefore generally underestimate the dangers of the swimming pool”. Since January last year, there has been more than 30 swimming pool incidents of drowning at private homes, schools, public pools and holiday resorts.

Velvy Bokow director of Yesh Camp SA, said: “To see boys give of their time on a Sunday afternoon to learn lifesaving skills, is commendable. However, when one bears in mind that so many people have unprotected pools in Johannesburg, and when one considers the dozens of calls relating to swimming pool victims that

the emergency services respond to, it baffles the mind as to why we are so lax in this issue. ”Do our domestics know how to swim should G-d forbid a kid fall in the pool while mom and dad are out at work? Hatzolah is doing amazing work in educating the Johannesburg community in CPR training but it’s not enough. “Every school that has a swimming team should have its team be qualified lifeguards. We are not talking about earning medals; we are talking about preventing loss of life.” Due to the rate of such incidents, Yesh Camp SA also conducted CPR introduction at its December event in St Lucia in Kwa-Zulu Natal, with those attending its camp. Yesh Camp SA will be running courses in first aid, CPR, and lifeguard training early this year. Anyone interested should e-mail Velvy Bokow on yeshcampsa@gmail.com

Minnie Bersohn bids sad farewell to Jackie Kotzen



Photo supplied

MICHELLE VINOKUR

Jackie Kotzen has been a playschool teacher at Minnie Bersohn Pre-Primary School for 15 years. She has helped develop the unit to what it is today. Unfortunately the time has come to bid her farewell. We would like to thank her for her commitment, loyalty and dedication to her job. The love and care that she shows to the teachers, parents and especially the children, is indescribable.

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What's On

Today, Friday (January 18)

• UZLC hosts Wendy Kahn, national director of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, who will talk on: “2012 - The Year That Was”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 14:00. Contact: Gloria, (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.

Sunday (January 20)

• Second Innings hosts performers Avi Kanar and Roni Lea who will present “Dancing Through the Decades”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 09:15 for 10:00. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Monday (January 28)

• UJW hosts retired Justice Ivor Schwartzman who will talk on “Politicians and the Law”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Contact: (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Cost: R15 for the Friendship Luncheon Club and a R20 donation for lectures unless otherwise stated.

Friday (February 1)

• United Sisterhood has its book sale at the Benmore Gardens Shopping Centre. Unwanted books and maga-

zines donations are gladly accepted. Contact: (011) 646-2409, fax (011) 646-4654.

Sunday (February 3)

• Second Innings hosts Tali Frankel who will speak on “Women Conquer Mountains”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Monday (February 4)

• UJW hosts Wendy Kahn, national director of the SAJBD, who will speak on “2013 - New Horizons or New HorrORIZONS”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Contact: (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Cost: R15 for the Friendship Luncheon Club and a R20 donation for lectures unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday (February 5)

• UJW presents “Santa’s Story” with Aviva Pelham. Venue: Theatre on the Square, Sandton. Time: 20:15. Donation:

R180 per ticket. Booking: Margot 083-383-2986 or Barbara (011) 645-2591.

Wednesday (February 6)

• UJW CT’s adult education division hosts pathologist Dr Len Anstey, who will talk on “Medial Ethics and Religions”. Venue: Stonehaven, 7 Albany Road, Sea Point. Enquiries: 083-439-8006.

Sunday (February 10)

• Second Innings hosts geriatrician, Dr Stanley Lipschitz, who will speak on “Memory Loss and Memory Disorders”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Monday (February 11)

• UJW hosts ballet historian Jonathan Hurwitz, who will speak on “The Future of Ballet in South Africa”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Contact: (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Cost: R15 for the Friendship Luncheon Club and a R20 donation for lectures unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday (February 12)

• Second Innings hosts Ernie

Saks who will speak on “The Anglo Boer War and the Seven VCs won at Colenso”. Venue: Our Parents Home, Orchards. Time: 14:00 for 14:30. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Wednesday (February 13)

• UJW CT’s adult education division hosts Daniel Silke, economist and motivational speaker, who will talk on “Cruising Into the Future - Travels Around the World”. Venue: Stonehaven, 7 Albany Road, Sea Point. Enquiries: 083-439-8006.

Sunday (February 17)

• Second Innings hosts author David Fleminger, who will speak on “Fair Game - The Hidden History of the Kruger National Park”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Tuesday (March 12)

• UJW CT adult education division hosts a “Card Afternoon”. Venue: V & A Waterfront. Cost: R75. Tea will be served. Exciting prizes to be won. Contact: (021) 434-9555.

• Elise WIZO Gift Shop has an exciting range of gifts available. Contact (011) 620-2760 or call in at Genesis, Bradfield Drive, Fairmount. Open Sundays.

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

• WIZO Elise Gift Shop in the Genesis Shopping Centre, Fairmount, entrance from Bradfield Drive opposite Shula’s Bakery. Exciting range of baby gifts and gifts for all occasions available at reasonable prices. Hours: Mon - Thurs 09:00 - 17:00, Friday 09:00 - 13:30, Sunday 10:00 - 13:00. (011) 640-2760.

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

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

Leave the ‘wanting to win’ to Bafana Bafana



ROCKING THE BOAT
Jack Milner

I remember years ago asking South African tennis player Marcos Ondruska how he approached a match. Ondruska had just reached his highest ranking of No 27 in the world and he was regarded as a danger to many of the top players.

He had just beaten both Michael Stich and Michael Chang to reach the semifinals of what is now known as the Miami Masters, when I popped the question: “Do you go into each match thinking you are going to win?”

He replied: “I go into each match WANTING to win. Thinking you are GOING to win is often not realistic, especially when you are taking on stronger players.”

The African Cup of Nations kicks off this weekend and once again I have to listen to two camps. On the one hand there are those who say that we are hopeless and have absolutely no chance. On the other hand there are those who firmly believe we are going to win. I heard somebody on a radio phone-in programme the other night claim that the reason we would win is that coach Gordon Igesund was using the Kaizer Chiefs strike force and they were the best on the continent.

So, where are all the goals?

In another interview I heard former Bafana Bafana player Sean Bartlett basically come out and say we can’t score, we can’t defend, but other than that the team is in good nick...

I hardly consider myself to be the world’s authority on soccer, but if you can’t score and you can’t stop the other team from scoring, what are you doing out there?

Today I read that President Jacob Zuma told the South African team they will win, as they did on home soil in 1996.

“There are too many critics in this country,” said Zuma, after meeting the team at the Orlando Stadium in Johannesburg. “I was telling the team that [those] who are critics have never touched a football. They don’t know how it feels.

“We are satisfied that the team is well prepared for the tournament. They must relax, they must not be tense, they must not listen to all these critics. They must just stick to what they have been preparing to do and



President Jacob Zuma addresses the Bafana Bafana soccer squad at Orlando Stadium in Johannesburg on Tuesday ahead of the African Cup of Nations that begins this weekend.

they will do it.

“I’m more confident this time than any other time that we will show people what we are made of as South Africans.

“I said to the team ‘I want to touch the Cup’, and touching it means we should be there at the final and we should take it. And they will take it. We should have no problem.”

Strong words! I wonder at what level of the game Zuma has played that he is able to predict the outcome so accurately. How many team practices has he attended that he can forecast so accurately what is going on in the camp?

One understands that he is the president of the country and he has to display a touch of optimism; he can hardly go out there and tell the team they have no chance. But temper it a little with a touch of reality.

Bafana Bafana are ranked 23rd in Africa - 87th overall in the Fifa world rankings. They have also failed to qualify for the last two Nations Cup tournaments. The only reason we are competing is because we are hosting the event.

During my time as sports editor of the South African Press Association (Sapa) I had a lot of discussions with Igesund and found him to be quite a rational man. He has been left with this near impossible task of guiding this team through the tournament and will have to carry the can if things go wrong.

I have also learned that no professional walks on to a sporting field with the aim of losing. As Ondruska said, they all WANT to win and I have no doubt Bafana Bafana will go out doing their best.

Are they good enough? Only the tournament will tell, but let us all allow the team to



Yshai Oliel joined a list of names that includes Jimmy Connors and Andy Murray after winning the prestigious Orange Bowl tennis championship at Miami in December.

determine their own fate. After all, very few of us have the wisdom of Solomon.

In our last edition of 2012, I was in the US attending the Nike Junior Tour International Tennis Masters which was played at Club Med in Port St Lucie, Florida.

In that column I spoke about a 12-year-old Israeli, Yshai Oliel, who had attracted a lot of interest from the sponsors and walked away from the tournament with a Nike contract. He lost in the semifinals of that tournament to Germany’s Rudi Molleker but that event was played on clay.

A week later Yshai played in probably the most prestigious junior tennis tournament in the world - the Orange Bowl in Miami - and won the title.

The young lefthander’s name will be added to a list that includes the likes of Jimmy Connors and Andy Murray. When he arrived back in Israel, he, his family and coach, were invited to meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu and Culture and Sports Minister Livnat announced that the Israel Sports Betting Board would provide Yshai with a 1 000 shekels monthly scholarship. He would also receive a 10 000 shekels grant from the Israel School Sports Association.

“You brought great pride to the country, to Ramla and to your parents,” Netanyahu said. “I am certain you will continue to excel and that you will continue in the glorious tradition of Israeli tennis players who have made great achievements in the world. The state will continue to help you to fulfil your potential and continue your progress.”

It certainly turned out to be a profitable US tour for Yshai.

Maccabi SA cricket trials throughout the year

JACK MILNER

Maccabi Cricket will be holding two organised trial sessions to select junior Gauteng regional teams who will participate in local and regional cricket festivals and matches throughout 2013.

Maccabi will ensure an inclusive, positive and fair selection environment for every player participating in these trials, so that a significant pool of junior players can be identified for long-term development and potential higher Maccabi cricket honours in years to come.

An independent panel of selectors will pick the teams. No Maccabi officials or parents of players will be involved in team selection.

These qualified selectors have been tasked with choosing four or five teams of 12 players each in each age category (under-11 to under-14) - of equal strength, if possible.

All Jewish boys throughout Gauteng who were born between January 1999 and December 2003, are eligible.

The first set of trials will be held on Sunday January 27 at Crawford College, 11 Benmore Road, Sandton and on Sunday February 3 at Montrose School, 91 12th Street, Parkmore. Trials for players born in 2002 and 2003 will take place from 08:00 to 11:00 and for those born in 1999, 2000 and 2001, from 12:30 to 16:00.

The cost will be R200 per player and players are requested to attend at both trial dates.

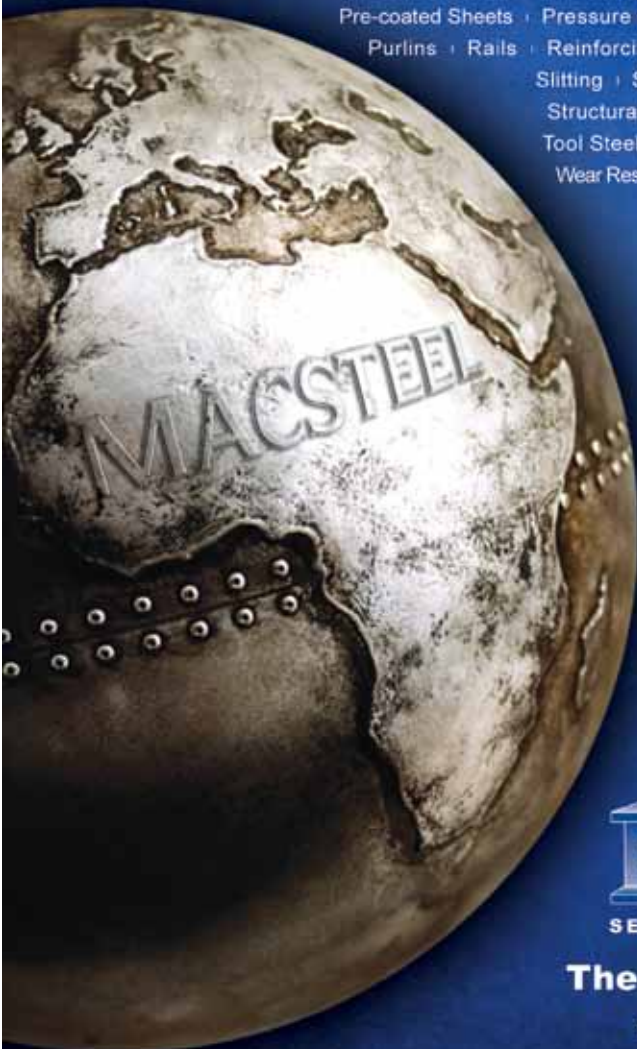
Players to be at trial venues 30 minutes before scheduled starting time in whites (shorts or longs) and cap, with own kit, liquid refreshments, snacks and sun protection lotion.


To receive the registration documents e-mail your son’s name, age and date of birth to Gavin Novis at agent2k@netactive.co.za or fax same to 086 695 8188. The closing date for registration is January 25.

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