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SOUTH AFRICAN

Jewish Report



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Friday, 18 March 2011 / 12 Adar II, 5771

Volume 15 Number 10

Terrorism at Itamar - Israelis ask if Palestinians are serious about peace

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PURIM: IT'S ALL OLD HAT

In anticipation of Purim and the Proteas' Cricket World Cup hopes, Rabbi Yossy Goldman met with cricket legend Darryl Cullinan. In the spirit of Purim they dressed up in each other's outfits. Sydenham Shul, Johannesburg is having another Friday Night Fever next week, March 25 and the rabbi will be saying a special prayer for the Proteas. The shul service will be followed by a street brocha featuring "Ponchos and Nachos." All welcome. (PHOTOGRAPHER: FRIK WEPENER)

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March 19/13 Adar 2		
Tzav/Zachor		
Starts	Ends	
18:04	18:52	Johannesburg
18:10	19:33	Cape Town
17:52	18:41	Durban
18:12	19:00	Bloemfontein
18:00	19:04	Port Elizabeth
18:05	18:55	East London



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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Body and soul

THIS PARSHA begins: “Hashem spoke to Moses, saying: Command (tzav) Aaron and his sons, saying: This is the law of the elevation offering: It is the elevation offering (that stays) on the flame, on the Altar, all night until the morning, and the fire of the Altar should remain aflame on it.”

Rashi comments: “The word ‘tzav’ implies that the Cohanim must be zealous regarding this law, now and for future generations. Rabbi Shimon said that scripture needs to be much more emphatic about the need for zealousness and alacrity in an instance where there is a monetary loss.”

The words of Rashi need clarification. Firstly, why does he state that this law requires zealousness “now and for future generations”? Why do the future generations require their own warning? And, secondly, what is the “monetary loss” referred to?

The simple explanation is that the Torah is referring to the elevation-offering that was totally consumed on the Altar, leaving the Cohanim no part to enjoy.

Rabbi Shimon Schwab explains that from the earliest days of Divine service, Hashem warned His servants not to focus on the secondary and ignore the primary. The main point of the sacrifices was the intention of the one bringing the offering - that through this sacrifice he would improve himself and come closer to his Creator.

When Cain and Abel brought their sacrifices and Cain’s was rejected by G-d, Hashem said: “Surely, if you improve yourself, you will be forgiven. But if you do not improve yourself, sin rests at the door. Its desire is toward you, yet you can conquer it.”

Cain erred in his belief that the main point of the sacrifice was the physical item rather than the intention behind it. This error became commonplace during the era of the First Temple, to the extent that the books of the prophets are full of rebuke for this sin. The prophet Isaiah said to the wayward nation: “Why do I need your numerous sacrifices? says Hashem. I am sated with elevation-offerings of rams and the fat of fatlings; the blood of bulls, sheep and goats I do not desire... Bring your worthless meal-offering no longer, it is incense of abomination to Me.”

However, in the period of the Second Temple, the nation had already accepted the rebuke of the prophets to such an extent that they now held an opposite viewpoint: If the main point of a sacrifice is the intention of one’s heart and the feelings of contrition and repentance it evokes, then why should G-d care at all what the sacrifice looks like?

It should make no difference



PARSHAT TZAV

Rabbi Matthew Liebenberg
Claremont Wynberg Shul, Cape Town

whether the animal is in good condition or not as long as one’s intention is pure. This belief became so commonplace that the prophet Malachi remarked: “You present on my Altar loathsome food, and you say, ‘How have we loathed you?’ By your saying, ‘The table of Hashem is repulsive.’

“When you present a blind animal for sacrifice, is nothing wrong? And when you present a lame or sick animal, is nothing wrong? Present it, if you please, to your governor: Would he be pleased with you or show you favour? said Hashem, Master of Legions.”

Although they were correct to believe that the main point of the sacrifice was the inner feelings of the heart, nevertheless that did not give them the right to omit even the smallest detail of the sacrifice as itemised by Hashem in the Torah.

Every mitzvah has a body and a soul and both are vital. The body of the mitzvah is the physical item that is used to perform it and the space and time in which it is fulfilled. The soul of the mitzvah is the intention behind the act. A body without a soul is lifeless and a soul without a body is a meaningless phantom.

Thus, the Torah has a special warning “for future generations”. The people who would live in the times of the Second Temple, needed to understand that a sacrifice requires just as good a “body” as a soul.

The Torah had to be more empathic about this commandment because it involved a monetary loss - that of a perfectly good animal, which, they believed, could have been saved in favour of the inner feelings that the sacrifice was meant to inspire. The Torah warns that both are essential and both are required.

Rabbi Schwab concludes that our generation should take care not to fall into either of these two traps - the trap of mitzvoth without souls and mitzvoth without bodies.

Many Jews excuse their lack of religiosity by claiming they “are Jews at heart”. They have a strong Jewish identity. They are the soul without the body. There are also Jews who observe every mitzvah scrupulously, but their hearts are nowhere to be found in the midst of their actions. These Jews are bodies without souls.

Our challenge is to fuse the two components of inner feeling and outer action into a vital, beautiful mitzvah, thereby fulfilling G-d’s words in their entirety.

Shabbat Shalom.



Second, third and fourth generations of the Lantermans family.

Righteous Among Nations award to a Dutch couple

CHONI GOLDMAN, PRETORIA
PHOTO: DIANE WOLFSON

IN A very moving ceremony in The Pretoria Hebrew Congregation Shul, the Righteous Among the Nations Award was given posthumously to Karel and Hilda Lantermans who risked their lives to save two Jewish men in Holland during the Second World War.

Their son and daughter, Henk Lantermans and Dr Elizabeth Lantermans-Crusoe of Johannesburg, received the award from the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Israel on behalf of

their late parents.

This award is Israel’s highest honour and the Ambassador of Israel to South Africa, Dov Segev-Steinberg (himself the son of survivors) handed over the medal and diploma to Henk and Elizabeth.

Referring to the Lantermans’ bravery, the ambassador said: “These were examples of altruism at its very finest, where the concept of ‘self’ became secondary to the reality of ‘the other’. These were heroic deeds that simply do not make sense in the real world, but are shining beacons of light during periods of insanity.”

KASHRUT NOTICE

MRS BALLS CHUTNEY IN RETAIL SIZE IS KOSHER

AS THIS product has a long shelf life, there is still stock of the previous non-kosher product on store shelves, the kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues says.

Unilever will be printing the Beth Din logo on the labels of the new kosher stock, but only after their existing supply of labels has run out, which is approximately six months.

In the interim, the new kosher stock of Mrs Balls Chutney may be identified by the “best before date” appearing on the container. On glass bottles - from February 2013 and; on plastic jars - from July 2012.

SHOP WITH EYES WIDE OPEN FOR PESACH

Supermarkets have already begun stocking their shelves with Pesach products.

It is important for the consumer to check each product purchased for Pesach, even when found in the “Pesach Section” of the supermarket, the Union of Orthodox Synagogues advises.

The Beth Din is not responsible for the purchases and placement of Pesach products in supermarkets. It remains the responsibility of consumers to ensure any items purchased carry a valid Pesach hechsher (such as each and every soup cube).

“Please also note that many imported products, especially from Israel, carry a valid Pesach hechsher but contain “kitniyot”. The custom among Ashkenazi Jews is not to consume kitniyot peanuts, chickpeas etc on Pesach.

“Any product queries may be addressed to the kashrut department: www.uos.co.za.

“We will soon have the complete Pesach guide, kashering instructions, sale of chametz and other important Pesach information available on our website.”

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New chairman for SA Jewish Report

GEOFF SIFRIN
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

THE NEW chairman of the board of the SA Jewish Report, Howard Feldman (pictured), who was elected unanimously last week, believes the paper “should be a mirror of the diversity and richness of our unique and phenomenal country and community, and a forum with which the community should actively engage on all issues”.

Feldman, a businessman who matriculated at Yeshiva College – where he was head boy - in 1986 and obtained a law degree at Wits University in 1992, took over from outgoing chairman, Stan Kaplan.

Married with five children, Feldman is the chairman of Metalmin, a leading minerals and metals trading company involved in the procurement, logistics, warehousing and sales of ores and alloys. The company has offices in South Africa, Europe, China, Israel, Zimbabwe, India and Mauritius.

In an interview with the Jewish Report this week, Feldman paid tribute to people involved in the paper, including Kaplan, for their “commitment, devotion and tireless work over many years”. Issie Kirsh, vice-chairman of the Jewish Report board, said after Feldman’s appointment: “We look forward to his enthusiastic and youthful leadership and are sure he will be a great credit to the newspaper.”

Feldman said: “I am moved by the daunting and exciting task this paper represents. Many other Jewish papers around the world are narrowly focused in their coverage and readership. The Jewish Report, however, as our only Jewish paper, must be inclusive of all parts of our Jewish community. It must celebrate the magnificence of our community and its diversity and be a forum for all our different communities.”

He intends bringing in new people who will enhance different aspects of the paper. On a practical level, he wants to increase the number of pages in the paper so that it can



broaden the range of subjects focused on.

Talking about his own life, Feldman said: “Personally, I am religious, but I move easily in the different worlds and cultures, religious and non-religious. My business takes me to exciting places of great cultural diversity.”

Feldman started his studies at Wits in 1987 during the state of emergency in South Africa. “My parents were afraid that this was a dangerous time. I didn’t become embroiled in radical politics, however, but I was editor of the Wits Law Review and an elected member of the first non racial Law Student Council.

“My mother’s family came here from Germany before the war. She was born in Johannesburg among the Yekke community in Yeoville - we went to the German Shul there. My father, whose parents came from Latvia, was born in Pilgrims Rest.”

In 1996 Feldman and his family moved to Israel, where they lived for several years, before spending a year and a half in New York, which they left a few months before 9/11, to return to South Africa.

“We decided South Africa and Israel are the places we belong to. Possibly we might live in Israel eventually. Israel is part of the mental and emotional makeup of the Jews of South Africa.”

Feldman believes the media, whether the Jewish Report or other papers and platforms, plays an important role on many levels: “To inform, to educate, and to act as a watchdog. The Jewish Report has the task of representing and reflecting the country, South Africa, and the Jewish community within it. It is a great responsibility, and a difficult task.”

Acknowledging the complicated political context in which the paper has to operate, he stresses: “We are unashamedly South African, unashamedly Jewish and unashamedly supportive of the State of Israel. It is also true that being Jewish means being open to diverse views and engaging in introspection.

“This means accepting that there are many different views on all of those aspects. Part of the makeup of the Jewish people is that we have debate as part of our history and culture.

“We want the Jewish Report to be the reference point for all Jews in this country. We also have many non-Jewish readers. The paper should be the face of the Jewish community.

“Personally, I have no previous experience in the media, but I am excited by the opportunity and look forward to the challenge.”

Lighting candles in memory of Fogels

RITA LEWIS

THE JEWISH response to any tragic happening is to attempt to add some light to this dark and troubled world.

SA Jewish women are therefore being asked to join their counterparts around the world to unite in solidarity and sympathy by lighting their Shabbat candles this Friday night, March 18, in the merit of the souls of the members of the Fogel family murdered so mercilessly in Itamar, Israel this week and those Jews and Israelis killed in the devastating earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Japan.

Candle lighting times for South Africa are to be found on page 2.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

ORACLE'S ELLISON BIGGEST JEWISH BILLIONAIRE ON FORBES LIST

NEW YORK - Oracle founder Larry Ellison is the highest Jewish person ranked on Forbes magazine's annual list of world billionaires, at sixth with \$28 billion.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg was the next Jewish person at 17th, with \$16 billion, followed by Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page, who were tied for 24th with \$17.5 billion each. George Soros landed in 35th with \$14 billion.

Other Jews to make the top 100 included Brazilian banking and investment mogul Joseph Safra, at 64th with \$10 billion, and casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, 73rd with \$9.3 billion.

Sixteen Israelis made the list, including shipping magnate Sammy Ofer at No 79 with \$10.3 billion.

Mexican telecom businessman Carlos Slim Helu and his family topped the list with \$74 billion. (JTA)



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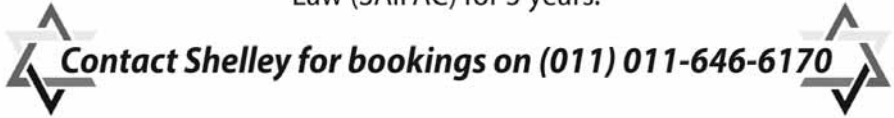
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Professor David Bilchitz is Associate Professor at the University of Jo'burg and has been Director of the SA Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law (SAIFAC) for 5 years.



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David Hoffman – bigger than life, with a heart to match it

**MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN
PHOTOGRAPH: WWW.BEIT-OR.ORG**



RABBI DAVID Hoffman (pictured), “leader and soul” of the Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation for 17 years until his departure in 2006, passed away after a heart attack on March 7 in California, at the age of 57.

During his time in Cape Town, he made an indelible impression on all with whom he came into contact, both in the Jewish and wider communities, as was evidenced by the tributes paid to him at a memorial service held at Temple Israel in Green Point.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Rabbi Hoffman involved himself with gusto in communal affairs. He was an ardent Zionist and in recognition of his contribution, was made honorary life vice-president of the South African Zionist Federation (Cape Council) towards the end of his stay here.

He also chaired the Cape Town Interfaith Forum for several years, was instrumental in arranging services at Highlands House and was involved with the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD).

Noting that he had been ordained as a Conservative rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Rabbi Greg Alexander said that his late colleague had “towered quite literally and intellectually over the Jewish community of Cape Town”.

Recalling the rabbi’s “boisterous, loud but friendly voice”, Cyril Saxe, trustee of the congregation, said he had seen the potential for a community on the West Coast and, in 2003, had been honoured by the inclusion of his name on the cornerstone of the temple there.

SAJBD President Michael Bagraim remembered “his level-headed approach to everything that arose”. He added: “For the Cape Council, he was the go-to person when we needed someone for interfaith events.

“He established meaningful bonds with

several South African leaders. He was passionate about Zionism and his pen was always ready to do battle with anti-Israel elements,” he said, referring to Rabbi Hoffman’s numerous contributions to the letters and opinion pages of the local press.

Echoing these sentiments, SAZE President Jonathan Silke described

Rabbi Hoffman as the “leader and soul” of the local Progressive movement whose input to the Federation had been immense over many years. He was a strong and fearless champion in Cape Town of Israel’s cause, who had felt “the need to express his deep feelings when Israel was being maligned in the press” as well as on radio talk shows.

Netzer youth movement graduate Greg Flash described the singing, guitar-playing rabbi as “so American, so loud and tall with such big feet... he was always so happy to see you.

“He was one of the biggest and most consistent supporters of Netzer in South Africa.”

Speaking on behalf of the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative, Mary Frost described Rabbi Hoffman’s “warmth and generosity of spirit”, recalling that he had been the first person to arrive at her house after the death of her father-in-law.

In a message read out from his daughter Liat, she said that she would remember her father’s “hare-brained yet genius schemes, but most of all, his eternal optimism”.

In a similar tribute, daughter Michal wrote of her “one-of-a-kind, wonderful Daddy.” She added: “You never lost your inner child, your spontaneity and sense of fun. Your five-octave range really represented your range as a person - you always found the right note to connect to people with your giant heart.”

Rabbi Hoffman leaves his wife, former Capetonian Beverley (Rosenbaum) and children Nadav, Michal, Liat and Yael.

‘Past differences have been resolved’

THE OFFICE of the Chief Rabbi has issued a statement regarding the Baal Shem Tov Shul’s threatened closure.

The statement by Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, reads: “The Rosh Beth Din and the Chief Rabbi convened a meeting, at

which representatives of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and Rabbi Gavin Michal of the Baal Shem Tov Shul agreed to put their past differences behind them and to move forward in a spirit of co-operation in the best interests of the community.”

Even bulkas in ANC colours couldn’t do the trick

PIXIE LA BELLE

WITH MORE and more South Africans disgruntled by rampant inflation, poor service delivery and a host of other civic ills, and women – in particular – disturbed by rising crime levels and seemingly entrenched sexism in the labour market, two members of the Jewish community, have formed a new political party.

Women Against Inefficient Laws (WAIL) has been registered as an official political body and will contend in the 2013 general national elections.

Esther-Malka Bat-Yachne and Mordechai “Motty” Shpielson, say they were motivated by “a dismaying dearth of opportunities for Jewish businesswomen”.

“I have personal experience of this,” says Bat-Yachne. “I set up a venture called Zaffig for Zuma, where some friends and myself baked daily batches of bulkas and tried to partner with local government in selling them at council meetings. But the proposal was turned down out of hand. I’m sure it’s because we were women.”

Shpielson adds: “The refusal was bewildering. We iced the bulkas in ANC colours, and offered to box them in cartons bearing slogans we thought would appeal to them, like ‘Graft is Groovy’ and ‘Love My Tender’. We even had cakes on which we’d superimposed the faces of Julius Malema and national Police Chief Bheki Cele, and iced the words ‘Schweet Like Schabir’, but we were curtly shown the door.”

WAIL aims to attract the votes of other frustrated South African women entrepre-

neurs. “This is 2011. The country’s come a long way since the days when women were seen, but not heard,” adds Shpielson.

“It’s now common to see women vending everything from condoms to koeksisters. And, as everyone knows, it’s women who really control the purse-strings and who make the most important consumer decisions. So we’re calling on ladies around the country to stand up and be counted.”

Accordingly, the party embraces policies which clearly favour feminism as the solution to the country’s ills.

“We believe that a roomful of men making speeches, trading insults and trying pathetically to defend the indefensible, isn’t the way forward. Why not a group of sensible, practical women who can solve all problems with a good cup of tea, a piece of cheesecake and some quick decision-making about what’s really needed, how much it costs and who’s best suited to achieve it?” says Bat-Yachne.

“As for safety and security issues, women don’t need any training in getting the upper hand. A good, loud kvetch is enough to galvanise the most recalcitrant, corrupt policeman into action.”

For all his support of WAIL, Shpielson admits that joining the ranks of the party did not come easily. “My wife nagged me to do it. She threatened to withhold my bowling club fees, hid away my woods and even stopped making supper until I agreed. You know what women are like. But please don’t tell her I said that,” he whispered.

• For further information about WAIL, visit: www.mirup.co.za.



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One of the braver children hangs on for dear life to the handle of the “bucking bronco”.

SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis jont@global.co.za



Noah Disler and Danny Frankel placing tins of food into the collection point.

Oodles of fun – and all for a good cause

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

EVER SINCE the completion of the Genesis Shopping Centre in Fairmount, Johannesburg, the parking area on the west side of the complex has rarely been more than half utilised with many people also using the underground parking garage.

Last week, however, and on another previous occasion - a few weeks prior to the first one - the area reverberated with the happy laughter of children, the music of a four piece band and a singer, as well as the general buzz of a crowd of several hundred all enjoying time out with their families.

The two functions, WIZO’s Carousel and Yad Aharon’s Can Can, offered similar, but different, rides and “blown-up” apparatus and activities for the kids, stalls with all manner of books, knick-knacks and a variety of

foods for the hungry and not so hungry.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein attended WIZO’s Carousel, commending them for a job well done in raising much-needed funds for facilities in Israel.

That function offered a “bucking bronco” for kids with enough staying power (and guts) to hang on to it, as well as a “parachute rocket” which transported kids slowly into the air as it inflated and would then drop them back onto the cushioned floor, when it deflated.

The second function had donkey rides, a plastic slide, face painting and music.

Both events were well attended and had children queuing for the assortment of rides and experiences which will not be forgotten for a long time to come.



Meshak Tra leads the donkey with Sahara Rogoff enjoying the ride.



Getting ready to “fly” on the bungee trampoline.



The band creates a musical background to all the fun going on.

HOD hosts international summit

STORY BY RITA LEWIS

THE HEBREW Order of David recently held a two day international summit at their premises in Johannesburg. The summit was attended by members of the executive as well as five brethren and their wives from overseas: Wor Bros Les Kraitzick; Alan Rubenstein; and Barry Simon of the North American Governing Lodge and Wor Bros Michael Margolis and Joe Cohen of the London Governing Lodge.

In opening the summit, Stan Klaff the South African Grand President, said this was an historic occasion for the HOD International. He explained that the purpose of the summit was to reach consensus on the future of the organisation and to amend and update the constitution accordingly.

It was announced that the two-day Biennial Conference would be held in August this year, prior to which a tour to South Africa was envisaged.

COMMUNITY BUZZ

LIONEL SLIER

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

BULAWAYO. ZIMBABWE

This city is named after the Gubulawayo kraal where Lobengula the king of the Matabele (1836 - 1894) originally held court.

Shulamit Kagan continues:

“The spiritual leader at the time (early 1950s), was Reverend Yesorsky, a tolerant and learned man who was much in demand as a lecturer both in English and Hebrew. The leader of the Reform congregation was Rabbi Cassel. He was a liberal man who was not afraid to speak against the government’s racial policies. Like Rev Yesorsky he was erudite and never refused to share his knowledge with others.

“Rev Yesorsky and Rabbi Cassel got on well together. Rabbi Cassel never failed to attend the second day of Yamin Tovim in the Orthodox shul. In time Rev Yesorsky got ‘smichah’ and became a rabbi. Among the many dignitaries who attended his induction were all the Christian clergymen of the town.

“In 1964 Rabbi Yesorsky committed suicide in a most horrific way. The community buried him with all the honours due to a spiritual leader - virtually the whole community followed him to his last resting place - but not one of the Christian clergy.

“During Rabbi Yesorsky’s time we had a ‘shochet cum chazzan’ who had served the community for many years. However, he eventually disgraced himself by stealing meat from the abattoir.

“After him came shochetim from Israel who served the community, but whose main task was to slaughter and kosher meat for Israel.

“I don’t remember who came after him, but I have an idea that it was Rev Shlapek, a learned but nervous survivor of the Holocaust, who served also as a teacher in the cheder.”

JOHANNESBURG

The trial of Jewey Cooke:

“The Sunday Times of March 3, 1907 reported the case with the headline: ‘The Rape Case. Two Scoundrels Go Up’.

“‘The High Court produced a drama last week and it played to full houses and the interest never flagged for a moment. The central figures stood up or slouched in the dock for all to see - one an insignificant, undersized figure furtive and, hangdog; the other broad shouldered bull-necked with the untaught cunning of Whitechapel in every line of him.’

(LS: For Whitechapel read Jew).

“In the dock was the child whose story was to convict the pair; a Boer girl of the Veldschoendorp (sic) type, a simple, modest, quite uneducated and as the doctor who examined her said, stupid, too stupid clearly to invent so complicated and improbable a tale. For it was improbable.

“This is a well-policed town and orderly in the main. Yet the crime had been committed openly; in the ‘chic’ street of the town, in daytime. Was it conceivable that it would have been perpetrated openly, without someone giving the alarm?

“The best answer to this question was to look around and mark the gang that had crowded every corner at the back of the court. These were the friends and neighbours of the prisoners and one look was sufficient to show that in the quarter where they lived anything might happen.

“In due course the witnesses for the defence began to fill the box. They had the

evident belief in the big battalion theory; they would beat down the girl’s story by force of numbers.”

GARIES

A town in the Namaqualand district of the Northern Cape, on the N11 from Vanrhynsdorp to Kamieskroon and near Soutfontein on the Bitter River, near Wolfhok and Bokkraal, if that helps.

The name is Khoikhoi and means “couch-grass” or in Afrikaans “kweekgras”.

David Teperson went to school there in the 1930s and 1940s.

“We had two rugby teams - A and B and two netball teams. We started training early in the year. Our rugby field was in the riverbed. It had no grass; it was a gravel field.

“We used to pad our rugby shorts on the hips with cotton wool so that we wouldn’t get scratched too badly. Rugby was played after school, so we ran from school to the field which was two km away and the teacher would be on a bicycle.

“He would hit us with a cane if we didn’t run fast enough. We all kept our boots on, but the boys who were the backs, took off theirs so that they could run faster.

“When we played against another team, we all had to play with our boots on, but after five minutes the backs took theirs off. We had a back who was our goal kicker and he kicked very well without his boots. Once we had to have our boots on, he could not kick. When he finished school he became a church minister.

“We would play against other village schools and whenever we had a game away, we would leave home at 05:00 - two rugby teams and two netball teams. We would all be cramped into the back of a truck. It was cold in the morning so we would try and get one of the netball girls to sit next to us so that we could warm each other up.

“Some of the bigger boys also played for the Garies town team. Netball was a girl’s game that boys did not play. When I came to Israel and discovered that men played netball/basketball, I was shocked.”

From “The Volunteer” by David “Migdal” Teperson.

PRETORIA

Hyman Henry Solomon, who in 1873 became mayor of Port Elizabeth, spent his last years in that city. His son, Harry Solomon, became an Alderman of Johannesburg and in that capacity laid the foundation stone of the Pretoria Synagogue in 1897, three months after the death of his father.

Harry’s sister, Rose, became Mrs Herman Davis and was the mother of Advocate Adolf Davis. Herman Davis was a rent collector and met his death in a tragic manner.

A Mr Smit owed him money which he could never recover. It is reported that one day Mr Smit arrived at his home and promised to lead him to a site where he knew of some buried treasure. They set out together in a dog cart and Herman Davis never returned. After a search his body was found and it was established that he had been shot. At the subsequent murder trial, Smit was defended by Advocate Smuts, later to become General JC Smuts.

From “The Story of the Pretoria Jewish Community Up to 1930”.

A LOSER

In the gallery of men who played a part in shaping the destiny of South Africa, Professor James R Gregory of London deserves particular note. He takes his place among the select company of those who were so monumentally wrong in their judgement that their sheer mistakenness has given their views a place of distinction.

Gregory was the first man to prove in the 1870s, once and for all and to the satisfaction of his fellow (geological) experts, that South Africa and in particular, the river diggings possessed no diamonds.

By Eric Rosenthal.



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More Purim events...

Saturday night, March 19 (first megillah reading): Shuls are halachically obliged to host a megillah reading, motzei Shabbat, whether or not they host a party.

- **Chabad of the North Coast, Umhlanga:** Purim Fever Rocks Umhlanga: after the Ma'ariv service and Megillah reading, R30 covers soup and perogen, (031) 561-2487 or chabadnc@global.co.za .
- **East London Hebrew Congregation:** A mock wedding at 19:00, near the beach of Nahoon, (043) 722-2017.
- **Northcliff Hebrew Congregation:** a mock wedding, with a prenuptial megillah reading, 18:45, followed by a reception and creative crafts for the kids. R100 (adults), R50 (kids), (011) 678-6766.
- **Sephardi Hebrew Congregation, Sea Point:** Megillah reading 19:45. No charge, (021) 439-1962.

Sunday March 20 (second megillah reading): Shuls are halachically obliged to host a megillah reading during the day of Purim, whether or not they host a party.

- **Camps Bay Hebrew Congregation:** Sharon Geffen show for kids, face painting, fancy dress, hamantashen, megillah reading, at 09:00, breakfast at 10:00. No charge, (021) 438-8082.
- **Chabad of the North Coast, Umhlanga:** After the megillah reading at 12:15, there will be a party for all. R40 covers a pie from the Pie Works, hot chips and all entertainment, (031) 561-2487 or email them on chabad-nc@global.co.za
- **Federation of Synagogues, Women's Guilds of SA:** at the HOD Shul in Gardens, Johannesburg, Rabbi Moshe Schnerb will read the megillah at 11:00 followed by tea and hamantashen, (010) 214-2600.
- **Jewish Learning Centre, Milnerton:** Megillah reading at 10:00 followed by brunch. Donations welcome, 082-739-0096.
- **Sephardi Hebrew Congregation:** Megillah reading at 08:30, followed by a "Crazy Hatz" fancy dress parade and carnival with chocolate fountain, hamantashen and mishloach manot at 10:00. No charge, but RSVP essential, (021)439-1962.
- **Temple Israel, Wynberg:** Purim Carnival. Interactive Megillah reading followed by games, jumping castle, fancy dress at 10:00, (021) 762-1745.



Purim is not just for kids

RABBI ARI KIEVMAN

PURIM IS undoubtedly one of everyone's most favourite holidays. Every shul plans its uniquely themed party, especially attracting the kids to rejoice in the festive holiday's celebrations.

Although Purim is time for kids to masquerade in fancy dress and for adults to have a good time too, we mustn't forget the elderly.

At every age, we must never forget how to have fun and experience the lighter side of life. Especially as we get older and have to contend with factors that sometimes get us down, we need the extra merriment that Purim brings.

Many elderly people are suffering from depression, health issues, financial constraints, loss of a spouse, children far away, loneliness etc. So, Purim is a natural time to celebrate and put our worries and concerns aside. It's a time to reflect on previous celebrations and make this year's exceed them all. It's a time for real reJewvination.

Every year when Purim comes around, Chabad House invites all seniors to attend its annual Seniors' Purim Party on Purim day, Sunday, March 20, at 11:00.

Come nosh on Hamantashen and

other treats and spend an entertaining afternoon schmoozing with friends and neighbours in a cheerful holiday setting.

You'll hear the Megillah (be sure to boo Haman!), along with a fun multimedia megillah projection. Have some l'chaims, listen to holiday music and enjoy delicious food.

Who knows, maybe you'll win a great prize in the raffle! Admission to this not-to-be-missed party is free.

This terrific event will take place in Chabad House at 27 Aintree Avenue in Savoy.

Everyone is welcome to join the merrymaking at this affair.

Some seniors whose children and family all live far away, have no place to celebrate the holiday. Others may wish to come with their favourite grandchildren or adopted family.

It's great to have intergenerational interaction because the older adults have so much to teach and inspire the youngsters, while the younger generation can infuse joy and companionship with their older friends and family.

Rabbi Ari Kievman is director of Chabad's Chai Seniors programme and can be reached at 079-434-1293 or via e-mail rak@chabad.org.za. Call (011) 440-6600 for more information.

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Jewish groups mobilise response to Japan quake



Smoke rises from a burning building in a Tokyo neighbourhood after an 8,9-magnitude earthquakes hit Japan last week Friday. (PHOTOGRAPH: HIKOSAEMON/CC)

**JTA STAFF
NEW YORK**

JEWISH ORGANISATIONS are mobilising responses to the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan last week Friday.

And in South Africa the SA Jewish Board of Deputies has appealed to the community to make monetary contributions to help with rescue efforts.

The appeal reads: “None of us can have been left untouched by the horrific tragedy that has

befallen the Japanese people over the past few days. South African Jewry is now answering the worldwide call to assist with relief to alleviate the suffering caused by the earthquake and tsunami.”

Should members of the South African community wish to donate money, it may be sent to: Account name: SA Jewish Board of Deputies. Bank: Standard Bank Killarney (code 007205). Account number: 200305190. Reference: Japan YOURSUR-NAME. (JTA)

Chai FM is heading for ja well no Fine

**ALISON GOLDBERG
PHOTO: ILAN OSSENDRYVER**

CHAI FM RELAUNCHED last Wednesday night at Club ZAR in Sandton, with a new image, identity, logo and payoff line. What was once referred to as ChaiFM is now being positioned as “101.9 Chai FM, a hundred and one megahertz of life”.

The rebranding is to highlight the call sign of the station and give it a new look that will enhance the perception of existing listeners and attract a new audience.

New CEO Kevin Fine said that

while the station was Jewish-led and its mandate was to serve the Jewish community, it was not a Jewish only radio station.

The relaunched station aims to talk to new audiences and impress upon the entire broadcast community and footprint (area reached) that they can use the platform as a mouthpiece any time without the delays that for example print media experience.

According to Fine, over the past six months, efforts to reach beyond the Jewish community had seen the station targeting mainstream events to partner with them as a media platform.



101.9 ChaiFM CEO Kevin Fine and founder and programme manager Kathy Kaler at the relaunch of the station.

New local Likud party founded

Likud SA, a new Zionist political party, has emerged on the South African Zionist scene. Co-founder David Abel of George (pictured), says it has the potential to make a significant impact on Zionism in general; motivating greater awareness of the role to be played by supporters of

Israel in assisting the Jewish national homeland currently being confronted with serious existential challenges as it battles to live in peace and harmony amidst hostile neighbours, according to biblical prophecy.



Likud SA has appointed (to be ratified by the party caucus at conference) the following office bearers: national chairman: Leon Reich; national vice chairman: David Abel; national general secretary: Aubrey Katzef.

In addition, Likud SA has nominated David Abel and Trevor Traube as vice chairmen of the South African Zionist Federation.

The new party has been able to register - within a hectic organisational period of just 10 days - 27 delegates in time for the SAZF national conference in Johannesburg on March 26 and 27.

Long journey: From Lithuania to SA shores

**MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN**

A DOCUMENTARY tracing the journey of Lithuanian Jews from Eastern Europe to SA, is to air on SABC 2, Sunday March 27, at 09:00. Before the Second World War, Lithuania was one of the most celebrated centres of Jewish culture in Europe, with a Jewish population of over

250 000. The community was almost totally destroyed by the Nazi Holocaust and decades of Soviet repression.

The 48-minute production, “From the Ashes: a New Beginning”, contains interviews with South Africans Jews - the overwhelming number of whom trace their roots to Lithuania - and others with Litvak roots.

Among them is Professor

Richard Mendelsohn, Richard Freedman, Michael Bagraim and Mr Justice Albie Sachs.

Also featured is Isaac Abramowitz who came here at the age of seven.

“We speak to Hugh Raichlin, who talks about his childhood and the stories he was told by his grandmother,” says Heather Blumenthal, director of Spirit Sister Productions, who has

filmed largely Jewish and Jewish religious topics for the SABC for 10 years.

“Most of the South Africans we interviewed had gone back to look for their roots, so that also became part of the documentary.”

Blumenthal also filmed in Lithuania, where she interviewed historians and Jews living there today.

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AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

JOHN MCCAIN JOINS CALLS FOR POLLARD RELEASE

WASHINGTON - US Senator John McCain has become the first active Republican politician to join the recent calls for the release of Jonathan Pollard.

McCain (Republican Arizona), the GOP presidential candidate in 2008, spoke with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office last week Thursday, according to a statement released by Netanyahu’s office and confirmed to JTA by McCain’s office.

Activists seeking clemency for Pollard, who was convicted of espionage in 1987 and sentenced to life, in recent months have garnered the support of dozens of leading Democrats, both sitting and retired, and Republican former officials.

Until McCain, however, they had failed to get the endorsement of a sitting Republican, which is considered critical to establishing broad-based support for clemency.

McCain's voice is significant as well because of his storied career as a Navy pilot. Pollard was a civilian Navy analyst when he was caught spying on behalf of Israel.

Pollard, who has been incarcerated since his 1985 arrest, is said to be ill.

Netanyahu has formerly asked President Barack Obama to grant clemency for Pollard, as have 39 Democratic Congress members, led by Representative Barney Frank (Democrat Massachusetts). (JTA)

CHARLIE SHEEN HIRES ISRAELI BODYGUARDS

NEW YORK - Actor Charlie Sheen has hired Israeli military veterans as round-the-clock security guards.

The guards were hired last week-end after a crazed fan broke into his home, surprising Sheen and his entourage as they relaxed by the pool, according to reports.

David Pack of Kansas City, was arrested for trespassing on March 10 at night, shortly after police completed a raid on Sheen's home.

Sheen was fired last week from his hit CBS sitcom "Two and a Half Men" in the wake of a rant against the show's Jewish executive producer that was called "borderline anti-Semitism". The series was not cancelled, however.

Warner Brothers said Sheen's “statements, conduct and condition prevented him from performing his essential duties”.

Sheen, in a radio interview on February 24 and in a letter posted on the TMZ website, called "Two and a Half Men" executive producer Chuck Lorre a "contaminated little maggot", said he was a "clown" and "stupid", and referred to him several times as Chaim Levine. Lorre's given name is Charles Michael Levine.

"By invoking television producer Chuck Lorre's Jewish name in the context of an angry tirade against him, Charlie Sheen left the impression that another reason for his dislike of M. Lorre is his Jewishness," Abraham Foxman, the Anti-Defamation League's national director, said in a statement.

"This fact has no relevance to Mr Sheen's complaint or disagreement, and his words are at best bizarre, and at worst, borderline anti-Semitism."

Sheen has called on the ADL to apologise. He also claims that he is Jewish because his mother, actress Janet Templeton, is Jewish, and that he is proud of it. (JTA)

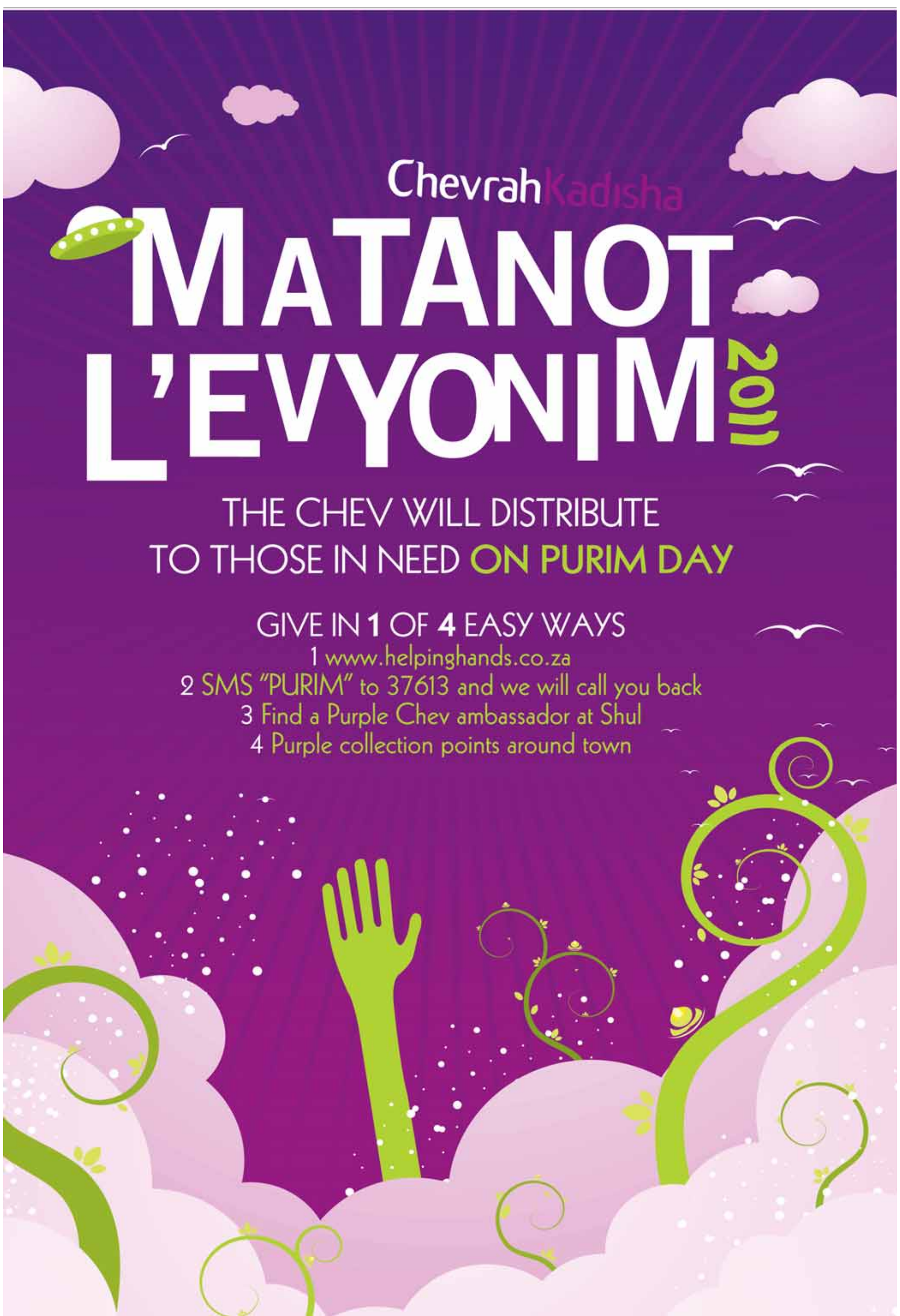
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OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS



The toxic intimacy of a terrorist

ONE ASPECT of last Friday’s night-time murder of five members of the Fogel family in the West Bank settlement of Itamar, is the horrific “intimacy” of it - contrasted with for instance the September 11 New York attacks in 2001, where terrorists piloting planes never saw their 3 000 victims in the World Trade Centre, eyeball to eyeball. They were merely “anonymous” Americans.

In the Itamar attack, a man – or men - with knives, standing in a dark bedroom above a three-month-old infant, killed the baby in an intensely personal way. The same with the other four members of the family who were stabbed to death - the terrorists must have looked into their petrified eyes as they thrust their knives. It defies understanding. Did the perpetrators then go home to their own wives and kids with no sense of remorse?

During the anti-apartheid struggle in this country, if someone had killed children cold-bloodedly like that for his “liberation movement”, he would have been condemned and ostracised by comrades. South African culture would not allow a celebratory throwing of sweets in the streets for the killing of “whites” - the enemy.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, interviewed on Israel Radio, called the acts “inhuman... A human being is not capable of something like that”. Sadly, though, a human did it, one who almost certainly came from Abbas’ own people. How much hatred does it take to act so? It is way beyond politics.

The Israeli response should be to redouble peace efforts and find the humanity in all - Israelis and Palestinians. Palestinians have families too, infants sleeping peacefully with their mothers like the Fogels, children in school. Behind the posturing and celebrating in the Arab world about the killing of these “Zionists”, there must be Palestinian mothers cringing at hearing what was done to this Israeli mother and her children.

Good leadership reacts to crises by seeking solutions, not exacerbating it. Benjamin Netanyahu’s rapid approval of 500 more controversial housing units in West Bank settlements after the killings is understandable, but was it a “heat-of-the-moment” response, or a considered political move?

The Jerusalem Post, which generally supports him, criticised him in its editorial: “Now is the time for Netanyahu to be proactive and formulate a peace plan that protects Israel’s cardinal interests...”

“Failing to do so leaves him approving new building projects in the territories as an inappropriate response to despicable acts of terrorism, rather than as part of a clear, coherent strategy to safeguard the sovereign Jewish nation.”

As a newspaper, we are deeply troubled at the dissemination to the media - ostensibly by “relatives” - of gruesome pictures of the slain Fogel children splayed out in their blood on the floor and beds. It is profoundly disrespectful. We will not publish them. The people who distributed these pictures have sensationalised and desecrated the memory of the family.

JTA, the Jewish world’s respected wire service, also refused to use the pictures. In a message to editors worldwide, it said: “While some Israeli media outlets have run the photos, which show graphic images of the dead, we have declined to use them thus far out of respect for the victims and their privacy.

“While the attached note (supplying an Internet link to the pictures) says relatives of the victims have permission to use the photos, in this instance we felt that say-so from unnamed relatives was not enough to warrant showing photos of dead and mutilated children, and that only a parent could grant such permission. In this case, tragically, those parents were themselves murdered.”

We concur.

Our hearts go out to the Fogel children who survived the killing frenzy and their relatives. We hope that the perpetrators of this evil deed will be brought to book soon.

• • •

The Jewish Report’s board of directors has a new chairman, as described in the story on page 3. We welcome Howard Feldman to the Jewish Report family. We look forward to working creatively with him, taking this newspaper to ever greater heights. As the Jewish Report approaches its 13th birthday in May this year – our “barmitzvah” – we will continue providing relevant and thought-provoking journalism to our readers in this unique Jewish community and unique, inspiring country.

Pressure mounts, will Bibi go left or right?

LESLIE SUSSE
JERUSALEM

ISRAEL IS staring at a fork in the road, with potential disaster along either path.

On the path to the left lies a major Israeli peace initiative that deals with all the core issues under dispute with the Palestinians. On the path to the right lies more waiting, possibly with some kind of offer of an interim peace agreement with the Palestinians, until conditions are right for something more.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the man behind the wheel at this critical juncture, is expected to announce a new peace initiative within the next two months, and the battle over which path it will hew to is causing serious divisions within his Cabinet.

His defence minister, Ehud Barak, says the only way to head off a “diplomatic tsunami” that will engulf the Jewish State is by pressing for a major initiative on the Palestinian track that deals with all the core issues. Likud moderates such as Dan Meridor and Michael Eitan support Barak’s stance.

Hard-liners from the ruling Likud Party warn that if Israel makes premature territorial concessions, disaster will follow. Benny Begin, Silvan Shalom and Moshe Ya’alon are leading this very strong and vocal campaign against Barak’s proposal.

The debate has brought to the fore the fundamental differences within the Cabinet on the Palestinian issue.

Barak argues that unless Israel has a peace plan on the table within the next few months, it could suffer its worst-ever diplomatic defeat. With Israel failing to offer any alternative, he envisions a situation in which the Palestinians take their case to the United Nations in September and get wall-to-wall international recognition of their state along the 1967 lines without having to make concessions on borders, refugees or Jerusalem — or even declare an end to the conflict.

In Barak’s view, if Israel wants its case to be heard, it must offer an alternative plan. Otherwise, it will find itself under increasing international pressure to withdraw to the pre-1967 lines without even its most basic security demands taken into account. Israel also will face growing delegitimation as an occupying power in defiance of the will of the

international community.

“It would be a mistake to ignore this tsunami,” he said last Sunday at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv. “Israel’s delegitimation is just over the horizon, even if the public doesn’t see it. It’s very dangerous and we need to act.”

For the hard-liners, the danger lies in what they call Barak’s “delusional” approach. Ya’alon, who like Barak is a former Israeli army chief of staff, argues that it is dangerously naive to think the conflict can be solved by territorial concessions when the real problem is a fundamental Palestinian refusal to come to terms with Israel’s existence.

Ya’alon says that even moderate Palestinian leaders such as Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas would like to see Israel disappear, and that peace will be possible only when the Palestinian mind-set changes and all forms of anti-Israel education and incitement stop.

It’s a view that has gained some more traction among the Israeli public following the brutal killings last Friday night of five family members in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Itamar.

For now, Ya’alon says, the focus should be on Palestinian institution-building and economic improvement; in other words, slow bottom-up building of a Palestinian capacity for peace.

Big ambitious peace moves like Barak’s inevitably will fail and likely spawn new violence, he says. Ya’alon insists that any proposed new peace plan should have no territorial dimension.

Which way is Netanyahu likely to go?

On the one hand, he and his closest advisers have a great deal of respect for Barak and are well aware of the widespread international perception that it is Netanyahu’s foot-dragging on peace-making that is responsible for the current impasse.

Indeed, the leaks on Netanyahu’s purported new peace plan followed a heated telephone exchange in which German Chancellor Angela Merkel reportedly accused Netanyahu of having “done nothing to advance peace”.

Similarly, on March 1, President Barack Obama told a roomful of American Jewish organisational leaders that they and their friends and col-

leagues in Israel should “search your souls” over Israel’s seriousness about making peace.

On the other hand, Netanyahu’s circle is comprised of hard-liners who are widely believed to wield much influence over the prime minister. The prime minister also has made some recent hard line moves — for example, appointing the hawkish Yaakov Amidror as his new national security adviser and holding talks with the far right National Union Party on joining the governing coalition.

The question is not whether Netanyahu will present a peace plan but how far he will go.

Despite Ya’alon’s reservations, the plan is expected to focus on territorial and security issues, and the linkage between them. The way the plan is shaping up, Israel probably will offer to hand over more territory to full Palestinian jurisdiction ahead of negotiations on final borders and allay Palestinian fears that the interim stage will become permanent.

Under the plan, the United States will assure the Palestinians that final borders will be based on the pre-1967 lines with relatively minor land swaps, and Israel will seek US assurances for an Israeli military presence in the Jordan Valley and for retention of large settlement blocs as part of Israel proper.

On the basis of the plan, reflecting Israeli good will and seriousness about peacemaking with a strong international underpinning, the Palestinians will be invited to talks on all the core issues.

Due to the differences between Cabinet moderates and hard-liners, Netanyahu has not discussed the plan in the Forum of Seven senior ministers, which includes Barak, Meridor, Begin and Ya’alon. Instead he is holding a series of one-on-one consultations.

There will also have to be detailed talks with the Americans to finalise a package in which they have a major role.

Despite the hype surrounding the new peace package, it remains too early to gauge whether Netanyahu is serious about peacemaking, as he insists, or simply playing for time, as his critics contend.

But with perception growing overseas that Netanyahu is the problem, not the Palestinians, the onus is on the prime minister to prove that this time he means business. (JTA)

Itamar victims laid to rest



The bodies of the victims of the terror attack in the West Bank are laid out at their Jerusalem funeral on March 13. (Yossi Zamir/Flash90/JTA) **SEE PAGE 11**

OPINION AND ANALYSIS – FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Itamar killings: Is ME peace possible?

JTA STAFF
JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN reaction to the grisly killings of five Israeli family members in the Jewish settlement of Itamar, on the West Bank, has prompted many Israelis to ask the question of the Palestinians the world often asks Israel: Are they really serious about peace?

On the one hand, PA President Mahmoud Abbas went on Israel Radio on Monday to condemn the March 11 killings of the Fogel family members, as “despicable, inhuman and immoral”.

On the other hand, a day after the attack, members of Abbas’ Fatah faction participated in an official dedication ceremony in the West Bank town of Al-Bireh for a town square dedicated to the memory of Dalal Mughrabi, a terrorist involved in killing 37 Israelis in a 1978 bus

hijacking on Israel’s coastal road.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu derided the PA’s reaction to the Itamar killings as full of “weak and mumbled” statements, accusing the Palestinians of continuing to incite against Israel in mosques and schools. In Gaza, Hamas members reportedly handed out candy in celebration of the attack.

The brutal murders of the Fogel parents, Udi, 36, and Ruth, 35, and three of their six children - Yoav, 11, along with Elad, 4, and Hadas, 3 months - shocked and angered a nation that had seen terrorist attacks dwindle in recent years.

A group called the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades of Imad Mughniyeh, claimed responsibility for the attack. Israeli forces combed the area after the attack. The PA agreed to participate in a joint investigation.

The funeral in Jerusalem for the Fogels drew an estimated 20 000 peo-

ple. Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin said the Fogel parents personified devotion to the Zionist vision.

“Your hands held both scythe and book - teachers and settlers whose entire lives were the love of their country and the love they had for their neighbours,” Rivlin said. “Build more, live more, more footholds - that is our response to the murderers.”

Udi Fogel’s brother, Motti, appeared to reject the politicisation of the deaths, saying: “All the slogans about Torah and settlement, the Land of Israel, and the Jewish people try to make us forget the simple and painful truth: You are gone. You are gone and no slogan will bring you back. Above all, this funeral must be a private event.

“Udi, you are not a symbol or a national event. Your life had a purpose of its own and your horrible death must not make your life into a pawn.” (JTA)



A ZAKA volunteer holds a body bag on March 11, containing one of the victims of the terror attack in the West Bank settlement of Itamar. (PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF ZAKA)

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record that is held by no other airline.

- For more information, visit www.comair.co.za

Comair sets industry benchmark in South African airline training

Comair Limited, operator of British Airways in South Africa and kulula.com, has officially opened its new R30 million Comair Training Centre and Simulator Building in Rhodesfield, Johannesburg. This local training centre and flight simulator meets international training demands.



Above: Erik Venter (Comair joint CEO) and Gidon Novick (Comair joint CEO) in Comair's new flight simulator.



Right: Executive Manager: Group Marketing, Heidi Brauer (right) at the Comair simulator launch with Comair staff member Mildred Mohale.

COMAIR'S TRAINING Centre is one of only a few highly sophisticated training centres on the African continent and offers training to Comair's own highly skilled professional Boeing 737 pilots, cabin crew, flight operation personnel and specialises in a vast range of training solutions.

The Comair Training Centre, and the Simulator Building in particular, boasts a non-conventional, dome-shaped structure, which clearly sets it apart from the traditional simulator environment. Strong focus was placed on the use of glass and light steel structures in order to allow for optimal use of natural light.

"Not only does this contribute to energy efficiency, but it also plays a major role from a psychological viewpoint," said Glen Warden, manager of Commercial Operations & External Training at the Comair Training Centre.

"Historically pilots associate simulator training with a rather gloomy, enclosed environment. The modern, light and sophisticated surrounds, largely contribute to an overall positive learning experience," he explains.

Comair also officially announced the acquisition of eight new generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft which are more technologically advanced, require lower maintenance and are more eco-friendly.

"These extensions to Comair's already highly successful training facilities will provide a major boost for the further development of the airline pilot skills pool in Africa and abroad," says Erik Venter, joint CEO of Comair Limited.



State-of-the-art Comair Training Centre and the Simulator Building, boasts a non-conventional dome-shaped structure. The use of glass and light steel allows for optimal use of natural light, contributing to energy efficiency and a positive learning experience.

KINGJAMES 20700



In all the excitement of organising the stag do in Cape Town and the forthcoming polo season, Wills has possibly forgotten to do the right thing.

So in that proud spirit of über-ubuntu between two Commonwealth nations, we at kulula will organise the lobola so that Wills can seal the deal properly, Mzansi style. A percentage of every kulula ticket sold between now and 28 April will go towards buying the cows and getting them to Wills before the wedding. Help us to calculate the number of cows for Kate's bride price by visiting Royal Wedding on our facebook page: iflykulula.

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CONFERENCE, TRAVEL & INCENTIVES

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Relaxing in a chauffeur-driven car from Europcar.

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as well as ensuring their complete security, whether they are travelling for business or leisure,” says Pieter Jacobs, executive director at Europcar South Africa. Adds Jacobs: “The service allows clients to be collected at a convenient address and time, allowing the users to avoid driving themselves in traffic, unreliable lifts or missed flights, while allowing them to make the most of valuable time to relax or work in comfort. “Clients can also choose to be welcomed at an airport and dropped off at their preferred destination.” There are various chauffeur service options available for travellers, which can be booked through Europcar’s website or call centre: **Chauffeur Transfer Service** - include airport pick up or drop off and collection from a preferred address and convenient time. **Daily Chauffeur Drive** - is the more traditional chauffeur service and is appropriate for clients who require a car and driver for the day. **VIP Chauffeur Drive** - offers added exclusivity appropriate for clients who require a luxury car and driver for the day, or for as long as they please. “Europcar’s Chauffeur Service is the ultimate in travel peace of mind and it removes the stress of having to drive yourself from destination to destination”, says Jacobs.

Europcar ‘revs up’ Green Office Week

Environmental awareness and responsibility is urgently needed in workplace

DEMONSTRATING THAT green is not just its corporate colour, but also its calling, Europcar is the lead sponsor of Green Office Week, an exciting new initiative taking place from April 18 – 21, to maximise awareness of environmental responsibility and sustainability in the workplace. Green Office Week is aimed at encouraging corporate South Africa to examine their current work practices and consider adopting more eco-friendly, economical and sustainable ways of undertaking their activities on a daily basis. Importantly, the week is also aimed at raising awareness of sustainability issues and bringing about an ongoing commitment to making environmental-friendliness a core, rather than a fringe aspect of the working scenario. Years ago in education circles, the basics used to be referred to as the three “R”s - Reading, (w)Riting and (a)Rithmetic. By sponsoring Green Office Week, Europcar wants to highlight and further the widespread acceptance and adoption of an equally vital set of three “R”s - namely, Reduce, Re-use and Recycle. Europcar’s ultimate goal is to encourage corporate South Africa and its employees to make environmental awareness and responsibility a central part of their everyday lives - not just for one week, but throughout the year. In the lead-up to Green Office Week, the www.gowithgreen.co.za website will be regularly popu-



Zavi Stein, general manager: marketing for Europcar; Claire Tyler, marketing manager at Europcar; and Simon Gear, environmental change ambassador.

lated with downloadable resources to enable organisations to proactively make their business premises more environmentally-friendly. Visitors to the site will have access to Green Office Toolkit resources, enabling them to run their own internal green office campaigns. Apart from interacting with other environmentally-aware people, the site will also from time to time provide useful documentation, such as a draft environmental policy and handy hints and tips on how to make the workplace “greener”. Europcar’s commitment to the environment is evident throughout its own operations, principles and strategies. Over the past decade, the company has limited the lifespan of its fleet and constantly upgraded to more fuel-efficient models. It is also committed to reducing its fuel consumption by 10 per cent by July of this year.

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CONFERENCE, TRAVEL & INCENTIVES

Successful conference tips from Dorianne Weil, ‘Dr D’

‘I don’t know if you are aware of the hope and inspiration you offer and the difference you make to so many lives. Dori, thank you for the great contribution you make to building our nation.’ President Nelson Mandela.

THE EXCITEMENT AFTER a memorable conference is palpable and contagious. There are a few essential non-negotiable key elements.

Start with the end in mind - be clear about your desired outcome.

Check and recheck lighting, AV and technology. If PowerPoint is going to be used, a bright audience and a dim screen is best. Excellent technical support is essential and worth the cost.

“Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts” - Einstein.

The take-home value therefore includes knowledge, skills, ideas, stimulating challenges and insights on both a cognitive and emotional level. Delegates are inspired, as well as informed.

Both form and content are important, thus “big names” and undisputed knowledge is not enough. Excellent presentations are compelling, engaging, relate specifically to the audience, are entertaining, often illustrated with a story and eloquently delivered.

Offer enough time for discussion of presentations in a format that allows for information and idea exchange.

Networking is an essential part of any successful conference. The conversations during breaks

present unexpected opportunity.

Although I have presented to diverse audiences in 49 countries, people respond enthusiastically when they feel that they are being addressed personally.

Everyone wants to know how “not to let suffering go to waste” and to use insight gained from challenging experiences to influence the present and future positively.

Everyone would like to understand the people that they live or work with in a more in-depth manner and improve their relationships.

Everyone wants to feel confident, in control and harbour an optimistic world view.

Everyone wants to develop as a parent, partner, friend, or employer.

Everyone wants to understand the true meaning of success.

Dorianne's acclaimed topics include:

- Success Psyche
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- From Trauma to Transformation - Life's Lessons Through Life's Experiences

- Emotional Intelligence - The Deciding Factor
 - The Essence of Women
 - Is the Man in Your Head the Man in Your Bed?
 - You and Your Partner - The Harder You Practice, the Luckier You Get!
 - Mid-Life and Marriage - Crisis or Opportunity?
 - Men and Women: Same Planet, Different Species.
 - Happiness is a Choice – The Characteristics of Confident Empowered People
 - From Adversity to Insight and Beyond
 - Make the Rest of Your Life the Best of Your Life
 - Mid-Life – “It's Only too Late if You Don't Start Now”
- NB** Dori will design specific presentations to meet your requirements.
- Contact her on (011) 783-6716 or e-mail her on dore@dorianneweil.com

New central venue of note

The Greenside

ROBYN SASSEN
PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER

IT IS ALWAYS a healthy sign when new venues become a reality in the community. It is an even better sign when old venues are rejuvenated and new “bums on seats” populate them.

Such was the aim of Dorann Ben David who has taken the former shul hall of the Greenside Shul and charged it with new energy.

Ben David, who is the wife of the shul's chairman, recalls being at the hall for a bingo evening. “This hall was just so majestic - it was built in 1946, designed by Gliksman, Dirksen and Amson architects, according to the foundation stone, and is replete with high ceilings, fantastic acoustics and large balconies - and I was dying to redecorate it!”

Not a decorator by trade, Ben David, fuelled with the funding of a private donor, headed up the renovations, rendering it an elegant, neutral space.

“It had to be gutted from A to Z. The beautiful oak flooring was covered in a horrible 20-year-old carpet. The cloakrooms had to be totally reworked

from scratch. Everything has been retiled, repainted, rejigged.”

The Greenside is marketed as an entertainment/conference venue, which, able to seat 600, is also an ideal barmitzvah or wedding venue. The only proviso is that the affairs be kosher.

“The Greenside is not affiliated to the shul,” she added.

“There is parking for over 150 cars in the shul grounds” she said, “but parking in the street has always been quite acceptable at this venue, and we have good security.”

- Contact (011) 880-5720, 083-691-9032 or info@thegreenside.co.za



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“Well done on your outstanding achievement of receiving this prestigious award. This award is very much deserved. You make a wonderful contribution, both to the South African Jewish community and to the broader society, and your work is an outstanding Kiddush Hashem”.
Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein

“Thank you for your brilliant presentation given to a full house. You make a difference to people's lives. We value your words of wisdom and have had many requests for a further presentation”.
Rabbi S Suchard, spiritual head, Sandton Shul

“Dori has the unique ability of communicating her considerable knowledge in an entertaining, poignant and relaxed style. Each member of the audience feels that she is talking directly to them. Each time I hear her speak I remain totally riveted. She discusses serious issues in a manner which maximises take home value which is both quantitative and qualitative. I would truly recommend Dori as the most excellent resource”.
Marc Lubner, World Presidents Organisation 2011

“The response to your talk has been overwhelming. It was packed with information, coherently and elegantly ordered, delivered with eloquence, passion and enthusiasm. You are an engrossing story-teller, your material utterly absorbing and your delivery brilliant.”
Hazel Cohen, Convener – Adult Education, Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre

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Theatre of Marcellus, Emperor’s, Kempton Park: Nataniël’s “Combat” until March 26, (011) 928-1000.

Fugard Theatre, District Six: “Broken Glass”, by Arthur Miller, with Sir Antony Sher in the lead, March 22 - April 16, (021) 461-4554.

Joburg Theatre, Braamfontein: In the Nelson Mandela, “Simply the Best”, Rebecca O’Connor’s tribute to Tina Turner, until March 20. On March 21 Sibongile Khumalo performs “A Spirit Ascending”, (011) 877-6800. In the People’s Theatre, “Pinocchio” until April 10, (011) 484-1584.

Lyric Theatre, Gold Reef City, Ormonde: ORT Azey, Johannesburg’s first Yiddish Song Festival, produced by Philip Todres, March 16, (011) 728-7154. On March 24, “Streets of Gold”, written by Alan Swerdlow, directed by Vicky Friedman, opens for 10 performances, (011) 248-5168.

Maker, Parkwood: Jonah Sack’s exhibition “The Reverse of the Woolf”, ends April 15, (011) 447-6680.

Market, Newtown: In the Main Theatre, Marc Lottering’s “Not in 3-D” until March 27. In the Barney Simon, Shakespeare’s “Richard III”, directed by Fred Abrahamse, until April 24, (011) 832-1641.

Montecasino, Fourways: In the Pieter Toerien, “Evita”, extended until April 10; in the Studio, “Mass Appeal”, until March 27, (011) 511-1818. In Teatro, “Dreamgirls” until May 22, (011) 510-7472.

National Children’s Theatre, Parktown: “Pippi Longstocking”, until April 16, (011) 484-1584.

Ninth Street, Linden: An exhibition of drawings by Lionel Murcott and Juanita Frier until March 26, (011) 781-8820.

Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton: “London Road”, until March 19. On March 22, “Page by Page with Judy” a revue by Judy Page, opens. Friday concerts feature Zanta Hofmeyr (violin), Daline Wilson (violin), Morkel Murbink (viola) and Wessel Beukes (cello) on March 18, and the “Venato” trio playing Piazzolla’s “Four Seasons in Buenos Aires” on March 25, (011) 883-8606.

ProMusica Theatre, Roodepoort: Arthur Miller’s “Crucible” until March 26, (011) 674-1356

SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch: “Fugitive Lines”, an exhibition by Sue Pam-Grant, until May 8, (021) 887-3607.

Wakkerstroom, Mpumalanga: Wakkerstroom Arts Festival, organised by Rona Sonnenberg, March 19 - 21, (017) 730-0778.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Glorious ‘Dreamgirls’ sexy, cynical and informative

Show: “Dreamgirls” (Teatro, Montecasino, (011) 510-7472)
Cast: Bjorn Blignaut; Lindiwe Bungane; Hayley Christian; Candida Mosoma; Tracey Lee Oliver; Aubrey Poo; Lebo Toko; Shane Wellington; Mortimer Williams
Ensemble: Caroline Borole; Londiwe Dhlomo; Trudy Fredericks; Zane Gillion; Earl Gregory; Mbali Guliwe; Christopher Jaftha; Jeremia Lekgetho; Clint Lesch; Sifiso Mazibuko; Nicole Magolie; Mmabatho Moepowa; Nicholas Nkuna; Pulane Rampoana; Ziyanda Yako; Pume Zondi.
Lyrics: Tom Eyen
Music: Henry Krieger
Director: Robert Longbottom
Musical Supervisor: Bryan Schimmel
Musical Director: Tshepo Mngoma
Design: Robin Wagner (set); William Ivey Long (costumes); Ken Billington (lighting)
Until: May 22.

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

WHETHER OR not you are the kind of person who whoops when you hear the first few bars of a familiar song onstage doesn’t matter: “Dreamgirls” will sweep you away in a froth of optimism and pink sequins. It’s not only the show’s message that does this, but the flawlessness of its articulation.

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

IN HIS second venture onto the South African stage in a Holocaust-themed production, Sir Antony Sher, who is to star in Arthur Miller’s “Broken Glass”, admits that he is increasingly drawn to the “very haunting subject”.

The Cape Town-born acclaimed actor points out that the playwright himself became “awakened” to the Holocaust at a relatively late stage, having written the work at the age of 79. This he describes as “extraordinary, because the play has all the energy and anger and rawness of his younger work, his great classics, ‘Death of a Salesman’, ‘The Crucible’ - that’s very impressive.”

Despite Sher’s international success, the thrill of performing in his home city does not diminish. “One of the most delightful things that’s happened in my career is developing part of (it) here. Things have come full circle,” he says.

“I left in 1968 and I’ve lived in England ever since, but now I’m coming home. When I left here, I couldn’t wait to get away - now I come back here with the same excitement as I once arrived in England.”

Sher says he hopes to continue performing here “if they want me”.

He has just starred in a sell-out season of the



FELDMAN
ON FILM
Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

Rango

Cast: Voices of Johnny Depp; Isla Fisher; Bill Nighy; Ned Beatty; Abigail Breslin; Alfred Molina; Harry Dean Stanton; Timothy Olyphant; Ray Winstone
Director: Gore Verbinski

Another animated hero has stepped onto the big screen and he is guaranteed to win over a legion of fans.

His name is Rango, a once sheltered chameleon who finds his voice in the Wild West and you’ll love him in this crazy, funny and ram-bunctious comedy.

It abounds with comically grotesque wit and



The “Dreamettes” Deena Jones (Tracey Lee Oliver); Effie White (Lindiwe Bungane); and Lorelle Robinson (Candida Mosoma) debut as backing singers for Jimmy “Thunder” Early (Bjorn Blignaut). (PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTIAAN KOTZE)

Based loosely on the life of Flo Ballard (1943 - 1976) founding member of the MoTown 1960s all-girl black trio, the Supremes, which saw the evolution of Diana Ross, “Dreamgirls” tells of three young women with big dreams. It’s a tale of defeat, victory, worse defeat and more victorious victory, which will make your heart feel as though it should burst.

But it’s not only about sunshine, platitudes and MoTown tunes, it’s also beautifully written, cleaving popular song and dialogue like opera, blending spoken and sung articulations.

In broad brushstrokes, “Dreamgirls” unflinchingly rips showbiz open from top to toe, exposing putrid innards: corrupt managers, hostility, willy-nilly jiggling of copyright, manipulating talent shows and chart listings and all the other bits of sham, drudgery and broken dreams this industry is heir to.

Carrying it is a cast replete with “usual suspects”, like Aubrey Poo who sizzles on stage as the manager Curtis Taylor, who wins hearts and contracts with the same wheeler-dealer smarminess; and Candida Mosoma whose vocal range will give you goosebumps.

More exciting are the unknowns: Bjorn Blignaut as Jimmy “Thunder” Early, Lindiwe

Bungane as Effie White and Tracey-Lee Oliver as Deena Jones. None are professionally trained. Each reins in the complex emotions of their character with assurance and passion that makes you weep with delight.

Blignaut’s sense of self makes you fall in love; Oliver and Bungane’s vocal ranges and improvisatory skills scribble their individuality into the music like treacle.

The transparent LED-screens which inform the set, force this show beyond anything we’ve seen before, dovetailing choreography and visuals, technology and images with seamless sophistication.

From paced narrative to multiple costume changes - one effected in a matter of seconds - the show is sexy, cynical and informative.

It touches with brevity and intensity on all issues central to being in a racist, economically tight world, where sad love songs might be the chart topping trend but are covers for messy relationships; and where compromise and rejection are success’s middle names.

You leave with hands and voice bruised from applauding; and with a sense of imperviousness to negativity, and renewed self-belief. This is the musical of a lifetime. Don’t miss it.

Sher finds resonance with ‘fascinating’ Gellburg role



Sir Antony Sher stars as Phillip Gellburg in Arthur Miller’s Broken Glass at the Fugard Theatre. (PHOTOGRAPH: JESSE KRAMER)

Olivier award-winning drama at London’s Tricycle Theatre. He says that this production would have local resonance as it “deals with some issues which I think South Africans, perhaps specially Jewish South Africans, would find fascinating.

“There’s stuff about prejudice, anti-Semitism that South Africans, because of their history, are obviously very alert to.”

Sher and director Janice Honeyman go back a long way, having played on the beach together as five-year-olds while their mothers “exchanged Sea Point gossip”.

This is their third professional encounter. His eyes light up as he says: “It’s lovely because Janice is actually one of the friends that I’ve known for the longest time in my life.”

I ask Sher if there was any particular preparation necessary for his role as Phillip Gellburg, a Wall Street banker who lives in a Jewish community in Brooklyn with his wife. The play is set in 1938 at the time of Kristallnacht, when homes and shops across Germany were ransacked, hence the title.

“There are some roles where you do a lot of research and there are some that you just have to

play from the heart,” he begins. “He’s a very complicated character; he wrestles with his own identity as a Jew - he could be called a self-hating Jew.

“He finds the whole focus on Judaism that’s happening because of events in Europe, uncomfortable to him. It’s really one of the most fascinating characters I’ve played.

“You have to just find stuff inside yourself and for me that’s not hard because there was a period when I left South Africa where I tried to hide from all the primary aspects of my own identity.

“Once I got to England, I suddenly became embarrassed about being a white South African, so I lost my accent and stopped telling people I was South African. I was not ‘out’ as a gay man and also decided not to tell anybody that I was Jewish.

“So I know what it’s like and how stupid and what a waste of time and energy it is to try and not be who you are. In a way, that’s what Gellburg’s doing in the play and so my own history’s useful to put into it.”

• “Broken Glass” is at the Fugard, District Six, March 22-April 16, (021) 461- 4554.

Looney Tunes-type energy as director Gore Verbinski transforms well-known desert clichés into unexpected visual puns and anachronisms.

Verbinski, of “Pirates of the Caribbean” fame, has roped in a galaxy of star names to flesh out the many bizarre characters inhabiting his production – and he does it with style.

Original in concept, the film pays healthy tribute to the spirit of the Wild West as Rango (voiced by Johnny Depp) is forced to undertake a comical, transformative journey of discovery.

We meet this character as a family pet facing a major identity crisis.

He is an aspiring actor-playwright who stages his one-lizard productions in a fish tank. His lonesome lifestyle is literally shattered and Rango winds up stranded on a Mojave highway, where a kindly armadillo with a tyre groove through his stomach, advises him to go west.

He ends up in a parched town called Dirt where he spins a yarn about his gun-slinging exploits to impress the locals. This new hero is immediately appointed town sheriff of this lawless desert outpost populated by a variety of wily and whimsical creatures.

He is the last stand against the invasion of outrageous, gun-slinging creatures, which come to town in search of life-giving water.

“Rango” offers cinema-goers a brilliantly fresh twist to the classic Western legend of the outsider who saves a town – and himself in the process.

This satire is aimed at a higher level of intelligence, and is not strictly for the kiddie brigade, with references to famous classics – “High Noon” comes immediately to mind – and a scene where he finally meets the Spirit of the West, sequences that encapsulate the film’s inner strength and wisdom.

The beauty of “Rango” is its animation technique. And Gore Verbinski doesn’t believe in following standard animation procedures as can be seen in his desert-brown backgrounds and in his handling of a motor accident that initially sends Rango off on his life-changing journey.

There is one character, though, which may frighten small children. He is a giant reptilian nightmare, a gun-slinger named Rattlesnake Jake, in the mould of the famous Jack Palance.

All in all, “Rango” certainly hits its target.

TAPESTRY – ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

De Waal’s unforgettable work, sentimental but never mawkish

The Hare With Amber Eyes by Edmund de Waal (Random House Struik, R280)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

WHEN WORLD-RENOWNED potter Edmund de Waal was given a collection of 264 netsuke - miniature, infinitely detailed, exquisitely carved Japanese figurines depicting scenes from daily life - by his great-uncle Iggy, both his artistic and his genealogical passions were fired.

Who had first possessed these delicate, cunning, matchbox-sized masterpieces made of ivory and wood? What had they seen? What had they meant to those whose salons they adorned?

“How objects are handed on is all about storytelling. I am giving you this because I love you. Or because it was given to me. Because I bought it somewhere special. Because you will care for it. Because it will complicate your life. Because it will make someone else envious.

“There is no easy story in legacy. What is remember and what is forgotten? There can be a chain of forgetting, the rubbing away of previous ownership as much as the slow accretion of stories. What is being passed on to me with all these small Japanese objects?”

Thus begins De Waal’s magnificent biography of his family. The story starts in Paris in the late 20th century where his maternal great-grandfather, Charles Ephrussi, had settled. The Ephrussi family - fabulously wealthy as Europe’s foremost wheat exporters - had arrived from Odessa and established themselves as one of the great Jewish dynasties in central Europe.

This was Paris in its cultural heyday, with Impressionism, existentialism and - above all - Japonisme driving the city’s savants into a frenzy.

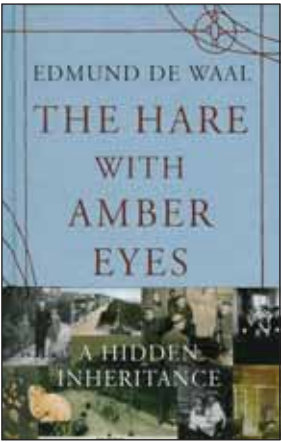
From his palatial home on Rue de Monceau, Charles Ephrussi established himself as one of the foremost mondains of the day, a man with a legendary reputation as a connoisseur, patron and collector of artworks. As much at home with royalty as in the buzz of Montmartre, he hobnobbed with Oscar Wilde, with Whistler, Manet and Degas. He guided Queen Victoria around the cultural highlights of Paris.

His opinions and acquisitions were immediately seized upon as harbingers of the next new trend. He even appears in Renoir’s painting, “Les Dejeuner des Canotiers”, a black-suited figure unobtrusively, but irreplaceably, claiming his position as a key role-player in French culture.

When the craze for Japanese art and carvings hit Paris, Charles purchased the netsuke, “small, tough explosions of exactitude”: many of them charged with sinuous, erotic energy. A girl in the embrace of an octopus; children playing with dogs; a medlar tree; a couple making love; a lithe Noh dancer holding a fan; a persimmon, among many others - and the pale hare with amber eyes, looking knowingly at its pursuer.

The figurines were housed in a magnificent, mirror-backed vitrine: a suitable addition to a connoisseur’s drawing room.

When Charles’ nephew Viktor Ephrussi was about to be married in Vienna, the netsuke were sent to him as a wedding gift. Appropriated by Viktor’s wife Emmy, the vitrine and its contents came to occupy her dressing room in the almost obscenely ornate, oversized Palais Ephrussi on the Ringstrasse.



While Emmy dressed for her social functions among the city’s elite, her children were permitted to play with the netsuke. They had now transformed from objets d’art to extravagant toys.

When the Nazis stormed Austria in the anchluss of 1938, the Ephrussi empire - and its treasures - were among their first targets. The great house was ransacked, its magnificent artworks pillaged or burnt. “How can I write about this time?” asks De Waal.

Though the family narrowly avoided deportation to Dachau, Emmy Ephrussi fled to the family estate in Kovescs, Czechoslovakia, where she committed suicide; her husband escaped to England,

where he lived - and died - in the home of his eldest daughter, Elisabeth (De Waal’s grandmother), in Tunbridge Wells.

When Elisabeth eventually returned to Vienna after the war, to salvage what she could of the Ephrussi fortune, she found that the Gentile family maid, Anna, had managed to hide the netsuke in her mattress, where they remained miraculously intact.

The figurines were duly entrusted to Iggy Ephrussi - a passionate Orientalist - until his passing of them to Edmund de Waal. They had again transformed, from elaborate children’s trinkets to tragic remnants of a ruined dynasty.

In its history of the netsuke, the book is also necessarily a history of the rise and fall of one of Europe’s greatest Jewish families. Despite their tremendous wealth and power, the Ephrussis endured prejudice in its most vitriolic forms, from the anti-Dreyfusards of 1890s Paris (where Renoir’s latent anti-Semitism was roused against his old friend, Charles Ephrussi - “You and your Jew art!”), to the less overt, though equally poisonous gossip of Vienna’s salons, to which affluent Jews were only admitted on sufferance. And, finally, to the advent of Hitler and the Holocaust.

The book is a triumph of intensive biographical research, and an exploration of the moral onus which comes with any legacy. The netsuke are testimonies to a history that lies buried in the streets of Paris and Vienna, though the once-great Ephrussi residences - now housing businesses and administrative offices - can still be seen.

First and foremost, though, the work is a masterpiece of writing. The craftsman’s touch of Edmund de Waal (now professor of ceramics at the University of Westminster, UK) - is evident in every word, his sentences coloured and contrasted with exquisite sensitivity, balancing tension and effect with the same mastery he uses to produce his pottery.

Sentimental, but never mawkish, alternately saturated with light and flecked with shadow, “The Hare With Amber Eyes” is unforgettable.

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LETTERS

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

Guidelines for letters: Letters up to 400 words will get preference. Please provide your full first name and surname, place of residence, and a daytime contact telephone or cell number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.	Disclaimer: The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report
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WORLD IS SILENT ON MURDER OF JEWISH FAMILY

ON FRIDAY night, March 11, a group of ‘Palestinian’ killers broke into the home of the Fogel family in the Israeli community of Itamar and stabbed to death two parents, and three children: an 11 year old, a four year old and a three-month-old baby whose throat was slashed.

Three Fogel children survived the attack. Twelve-year-old Tamar, who discovered the carnage, and her two brothers, Roi, 8, and Yishai, 2,

Iran’s semi-official Farsi News Agency told Iranians that the attackers “managed to kill all the five Zionists who were in the house... The Palestinian combatant has returned home safely after conducting his mission successfully.” Terrorist organisation Hamas, also praised the attack as “legitimate resistance against armed Zionists”, and the much loved ‘Palestinians of Gaza erupted into street celebrations in reaction to the crime and handed out baklava to Arab children.

There was very little coverage of this atrocity in the South African media and no mention of the ages of the children murdered, or on the international news networks such as CNN, Sky and BBC. Certainly no pictures of the victims were shown, unlike those of Arab children who have died as a result of being used by Hamas and Hezbollah as human shields.

Don’t a four year old and a three month old child slashed to death deserve at least one picture? Is it because they were Jewish?

No condemnation has come forth for this hideous murder of innocent children by the

South African government. Let us imagine if Jews had done this in Israel to an Arab family! There would be screaming headlines and pictures splashed all over the front pages of all South African newspapers, radio stations would be pulsing 24 hours a day with rage.

Jews in South Africa would come under threat from Muslims and Cosatu would organise mass marches across the country, including the storming of Jewish community centres. South Africa would sever diplomatic relations with Israel and would be extremely vocal at the emergency United Nations session which would certainly follow.

Activist for the rights of Lebanon’s Christian persecuted population, Brigitte Gabriel, aptly stated: “Once upon a time there was a special place in the lower depths of hell for anyone who would intentionally murder a child. Now the intentional murder of Israeli children is legitimised as Palestinian ‘armed struggle’.

“However, once such behaviour is legitimised against Israel, it is legitimised everywhere in the world, constrained by nothing more than the subjective belief of people who would wrap themselves in dynamite and nails for the purpose of killing children in the name of G-d”.

There can be no resolution to the conflict until it is recognised that Jews in Israel are also entitled to human rights and life.

Gary Selikow
Johanesburg

Why DEAFENING SILENCE ON MURDER OF ISRAELI FAMILY?

MAY I suggest that you run an article in your newspaper about the deafening silence emanating from those two human rights champions, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and Mr Justice Richard Goldstone, after the barbaric slaughter of a Jewish family (including a tiny baby) by Palestinian terrorists.

Brian Levenstein
Israel

Surely the world is not against Israel succeeding in all the fields mentioned above.

Israel is not criticised for its education system, for its labour laws, for its social welfare policy, etc.

There is only one policy that Israel is criticised for and that is its continued occupation.

Not one country in the world supports Israel in this policy. The “elephant in the room” is the “occupation” and if that was removed, Israel would open its doors to diplomatic and trade relations with many more countries than is the case today.

So, it’s a “win-win” situation for Israel to negotiate withdrawal from the occupied territories based on the Geneva Accord map. The alternatives are too dastardly to contemplate.

There is a window of opportunity for Israel to take and to show the world and the Middle East in particular, that the country appreciates the changes that are taking place in Tunisia and Egypt and in this spirit wants to negotiate an immediate withdrawal from the occupied territories, with the required adjustments and that it supports fully the creation of a Palestinian state to live side by side with Israel, in peace and co-operation.

Israelis and Jews who support this policy of withdrawal, should stand up and be counted.

Joe Berman
Waverley, Johannesburg

Circumcision or bris milah, may be the unkindest cut of all...

Done routinely in the Jewish religion, there may be instances in which circumcision is contraindicated, such as in hypospadias.

This is a condition in which the urethra opens on the dorsal aspect of the urethra. In such a case the prepuce or foreskin would be needed to correct the defect. Circumcision is believed to protect against HIV infection. It is also said that the incidence of cancer of the cervix is less in Jewish females than in non-Jews.

This is probably due to the absence of the smegma bacillus that lies beneath the prepuce in non-Jews.

Some maintain that a circumcised penis is less sensitive than a non-circumcised one. This

FOR THE RECORD

MARCH 22 FALLS ON A TUESDAY

LAST WEEK’S What’s On referred to March 22 as falling on a Monday, when it is in fact a Tuesday. We regret the error.

OUR ONLY HOPE IN ME IS A DEAL WITH LOCAL INHABITANTS

DOV GRAUMAN’S letter (SAJR March 4) on appeasement of the Arabs being the way to Israel’s demise, displays the most appalling ignorance and lack of understanding of the political realities and Hashem’s role in our Jewish history.

He says: “Jewish security comes only from Hashem. He has promised the land. All the land. The borders are clearly defined.”

Does Grauman, who holds up the bible as an inspiration for his political views on Israel, have the slightest notion of what is written in it? I think not. He would do well not to broadcast to the world those portions of the bible dealing with Hashem’s promise to the Jews as the basis for its political existence and borders.

Hashem, as our tribal deity, actually enjoined his people to seize the Promised Land and to secure it by committing the ethnic cleansing of its inhabitants by massacre and genocide and could not promise us land He did not have title to.

“But of the citizens of these people, which the L-rd thy G-d gave thee for an inheritance, though shall save alive nothing that breathes. But thou shall utterly destroy them, namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites the Hivites and the Jebusites; as the L-rd thy G-d has commanded thee.”

Hardly a sound basis for the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations to argue when making his case for the bible as the authority for establishing the final demarcation of Israel’s borders.

Grauman goes on to say: “The problem is that our intellectual friends don’t believe Hashem can keep His promise.”

I have news for him; Hashem has broken his promises to us too many times to record in this letter. Certainly He took us out of Egypt and within a few generations after the exodus He helped us build up quite a

neighbouring Gaza. He also says he begged Israel to provide evidence.

Clearly he didn’t sully his hands finding evidence himself, other than for the Palestinians, while sleeping in Gaza a couple of nights, which no Jew, other than one favourable and acceptable to its inhabitants would be able to do normally.

Well obviously his finding was a done deal.

For the Jews, as I have said before, I think he is about as notorious as the military judges in the Dreyfus affair. That is quite an underachievement.

Stephen Davimes
Orchards, Johannesburg

Rabbi Udi represents the uncountable fathers and teachers,
Who guided those in need and whose love poured from their features.
Ruth is a symbol for all those caring, devoted mothers
Who nurtured their children and wiped away their tears.
Yoav and Elad the innocent children who one day
Would have had families of their own and a reason to pray.
It wasn’t five precious lives that were so cruelly ended,
But rather billions upon billions, who could have continued for ever.
No matter what comes, no matter how many of us die,
We know You’ll never discard Your precious Bride.
The timeline of history, though impossible the odds,
Has not left behind the nation who revealed G-d.
Udi, Ruth, Yoav, Elad and Hadas
Though you are no longer here physically with us
We know you are smiling, sheltered and safe,
In the arms of our Father, with all those of the faith
Who were murdered for being Jewish, and seemingly gone
Still live on in our Father, an extension of His arm.

Yaakov Hodes
Savoy, Johannesburg

APARTHEID JUDGE CLUTCHED TO BERKELEY’S BOSOM

I WAS surprised to see that (Mr Justice Richard) Goldstone still thinks he has a smidgeon of credibility left, let alone self respect - especially after he was permitted to speak recently, un-heckled, at Berkeley, California.

I thought that that university had rejected and protested the South African government’s racism in the eighties, and here it is clutching the apartheid judge to its bosom.

As it was, I thought he had committed suicide - politically and career-wise.

Clearly his arrogance and mendacity still knows no bounds. Now he says Israel had the right to defend itself after all, after the many attacks on settlements

FALLEN, NOT FORGOTTEN

(In memory of Udi Fogel, Ruth, 11-year-old Yoav, four-year-old Elad, and three-month-old Hadas).

How will I ever feel happiness again?
On Friday night four of my brothers were slain.
How will I ever be at peace again?
On the Holy Shabbat my sister’s blood poured from her veins.
How can it be that the murderer is a hero
That these five holy souls are counted as zero
For in Gaza the streets were drunken with joy
From the outcome of a saviour who stabbed with his toy.
My Holy Father in Heaven, why do you allow
Your precious, beloved children to be slaughtered like cows?
The world looks on and pities the monsters
Who murder three-month-old babies along with their mothers.
Father, oh Father, nothing is as it appears
We are condemned of evil while our hearts pump fear.
More than six million perished in the last century
Their names swept away on the tides of history.
Remember, for our sakes, our righteous ancestors
Who refused to conform to the then pagan pressures.
Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca
Jacob and his wives Rachel and Leah.
14 million descendants around the globe
Who come from them, Father; and in You place their hope.
So many lost, so many experiences denied
The Fogel family one example in this tide.





FED FOCUS

Avrom Krengel
Chairman

A column of the South African Zionist Federation

WE'RE VERY excited with the high-calibre line-up of speakers at our forthcoming SAZF Conference, on Saturday night March 26 and Sunday March 27:

John Howard was Australia's prime minister from 1996 to 2007; he proved to be among Israel's most consistent and loyal friends. Under his tenure, Australia strongly supported the war against terrorism; and his support for Israel remains enduring and resolute.

Professor Alan Dershowitz is one of USA's most prominent legal figures. He has written prolifically presenting Israel's case through incontrovertible facts, arguments and analyses. As professor of law at Harvard University, he is one of the, if not the, most convincing and brilliant advocates for Israel.

As part of the evidence presented

Great Conference speakers!

to the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict - the Goldstone Commission - that of Colonel Richard Kemp, military expert who served in the British Army from 1977 - 2006, focused on allegations of Israeli "war crimes" in Gaza. Col. Kemp refuted these allegations, emphasising that the IDF had made every effort to safeguard civilians, while pointing out the virtual impossibility of their doing so in view of Hamas' tactics of using human shields.

DJ Schneeweiss has been a member of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1994, during which time he served as policy adviser to Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, and Israel's Deputy Ambassador to China. He is currently responsible for co-ordinating the ministry's strategy and action to counter boycott initiatives and related challenges to Israel; with the explosive international and local burgeoning of the delegitimation BDS campaign against Israel, his attendance at the conference is timely.

President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Dr Danny Lamm, has been involved in Jewish and Zionist communal affairs in

Australia for over 45 years. He is a member of the Zionist General Council of the World Zionist Organisation and a member of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors.

Closer to home, Paula Slier worked for several years as a senior reporter and news-reader with the SABC and is now the Middle East bureau chief for "Russia Today", as well as international correspondent for e.tv and 702 news. Paula's career has taken her from Afghanistan and Lebanon to Algeria and Libya, to Iran and India; and her balanced reports from conflict areas have secured her a hugely loyal following on both radio and television.

Finally there is Steven McQueen, politician and diplomat, consultant to local political and diplomatic bodies, and a former Deputy South African Ambassador to Israel. Previously adviser to the UN Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in New York, he brings with him a huge wealth of knowledge of and admiration for Israel.

Bookings for Saturday: (011) 645-2541; for Sunday: (011) 645-2505

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ABOVE BOARD

Zev Krengel,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

AMIDST ALL the trauma and grief of last year's fire tragedy in Northern Israel, one ray of comfort was provided by the alacrity with which the international community came to the aid of Israel.

Even Turkey, with whom Israel's relationship had been so fraught of late, assisted. It was heartening to see how on this occasion, humanitarian concerns were able to overcome political differences.

Last Friday, the people of Japan were subjected to a vast natural catastrophe, in the form of a gigantic earthquake and an ensuing tsunami. International Jewry has since joined in the international relief effort on behalf of the many thousands of victims, among them

A helping hand in times of tragedy

the American Joint Distribution Committee and B'nai B'rith Canada.

As expressed by Frank Diamant, CEO of the latter organisation, by contributing, we are able to "demonstrate in a tangible way to the victims that they are not alone".

We hope that this demonstration of caring by the international community will help bring comfort to the Japanese people.

The Board has set up a relief fund for earthquake victims in Japan:

Account name: SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Bank: Standard Bank Killarney (code 007205)

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Reference: Japan YOURSURNAME

When 'freedom of expression' is abused

The Board recently became involved in two cases of Nazi symbols displayed in the public domain.

While openly propagating such messages does not constitute prohibited hate speech in the sense of

directly inciting harm, we believe that it is nevertheless highly undesirable and should be confronted wherever possible.

It is no defence to argue that Nazism is simply another political ideology and that identifying with it therefore can be regarded as legitimate freedom of expression.

The reality is Nazism is inescapably associated with genocide and racism; Jews, while not its sole victims, were undeniably primary targets.

We therefore have every right to take offence when others, whether maliciously or simply thoughtlessly, publicly identify with and express support for the Nazi legacy.

While at this stage the details of the incidents cannot be disclosed, I can nevertheless give the assurance that we are working hard at various levels to address them and are confident that they will be satisfactorily resolved.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

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Maxis welcomes Trevor to the family

It is with great excitement that Max and everyone at Maxi Discount Kosher Butchery welcome Trevor Wainer to the Maxis family.

Maxis has been an ongoing concern for 18 years, servicing the local Jewish community with all their fleishik needs. In fact when Max Klass first started Maxis, Trevor was there at the inception to assist him.

Trevor moved on and broadened his horizons and has now brought back all that he has learnt over the past 10 years.

Maxis has always stocked a unique range of value-added products, as well as different cuts of meat in a variety of marinades. Friendly staff ensure that you get only the best cuts of meat, to the highest standards of kashrut.


And the good news doesn't stop there! In addition to the traditional-style kosher butchery, Trevor is passionate about his cooking. So, if you don't know what to serve your guests on Friday night for supper, or are just tired of your old recipes, give Trevor a call on (011) 485-1485.

He has a repertoire of recipes up his sleeve that will astound your taste buds and impress your guests. And if you are just too busy or lazy to try the recipes out yourself, ask Trevor and he will gladly cook up a storm for you in his new home.

With a combined 80 years in the butchery industry, Max and Trevor can offer you the best of everything fleishik; whether it is needing to know what is the right cut of meat to serve at your dinner table, or what goes down best on the braai for your child's birthday party, Max and Trevor are always at the end of the phone to help you plan your menus.

And they deliver too!

Max would like to take the opportunity of welcoming Trevor back to Maxis: "It's good to have you home again!"



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Barry Bilewitz barry@sajewishreport.co.za

ORGANISATIONS, VENUES, CONTACT DETAILS, COST	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Beit Emanuel Progressive Synagogue, 38 Oxford Road, Parktown.JJRC - Johannesburg Jewish Resource Centre (Formerly Beyachad Resource Centre/Library), 2 Elray St, Raedene. Norma Shulman, (011) 645-2567, e-mail: library@beyachad.co.zaBikkur Cholim - Jewish Society for Visiting the Sick, 7A Chester Road, Greenside East, Jhb. Joy Gafin (011) 447-6689.CAJE - College of Adult Jewish Education, Sydenham Highlands North Shul, (011) 640-5021.CARE (Chabad Addiction Rehabilitation Centre) Cell: 079-882-6776.Fax: 086 551 4485, e-mail: justine@chabad.org.za, hotline: 0861 111 770.CSO - Emergency phone number 086 18 000 18.ELBM - Emunah Ladies Beit Midrash, 60 Mejon St Glenhazel, (011) 887-2910. “Lessons of our Lives” course on Wednesdays at 10:00. R350 for the course or R50 per shiur.FFHS - Friendship Forum for Holocaust Survivors, Second Generation and Members of the Community Affected by the Holocaust. Presentations held at the Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, 85 George Ave, Sandringham.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HOD - Hebrew Order of David International, HOD Centre Oaklands Road, Orchards. Office, (011) 640 3017 or info@hodavid.orgJAFFA - Jewish Accommodation for Fellow Aged, tel (012) 346-2007/8, 42 Mackie St, Bailey's Muckleneuck.Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC), tel (011) 640-3100, e-mail: info@jhbholocaust.co.zaKDSF - King David Schools’ Foundation. King David Alumni info@kdsf.org, (011) 480-4723.Nechama Bereavement Counselling Centre - Room A304, 3rd Floor, Hospital Wing, Sandringham Gardens, 85 George Ave, Sandringham. Contact (011) 640-1322.New Friendship Ladies’ Group - a group for single women. Contact Lucille (011) 791-5226 or 082-927-5786.ORT and ORT JET South Africa - 44 Central Street, Cnr 10th Ave, Houghton, contact (011) 728-7154.Preview Theatre - 9 Valerie Crescent, Bagleyston, (011) 640-1061.Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre (RCHCC) and Great Park Shul, Oaklands, Jhb. Contact Hazel, (011) 728-8088 or Rene Sidley (011) 728-8378. Cost usually R50, including refreshments.SAIJE - Sandton Adult Institute of Jewish Education, Sandton Shul, e-mail: saije@sandtonshul.co.za, tel (011) 883-4210.Second Innings, Jhb - Jewish Community Services - Donald Gordon Centre, 85 George Ave Sandringham. At the Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, every Sunday morning for tea at 10:00, followed by the meeting at 10:30. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members.SA Friends of Beit Halochem: Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact Leanne (011) 645 2553, e-mail: beithalochem@beyachad.co.zaSouth African Jewish Board of Deputies (Johannesburg) - Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact (011) 645-2500 or (011) 645-2523.SA Zionist Federation (SAZF), Johannesburg - Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact Froma, (011) 645-2505.Israel Centre. Contact Debbie (011) 645-2560.Jewish National Fund (JNF), Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact Crystal Kaplan, 083-376-5999.Jewish Outlook. Contact Ryan Cane, e-mail info@jewishoutlook.org.za. Support line: 27 76 215 8600, website www.jewishoutlook.org.za.Jewish Women's Benevolent Society (JWBS) - Sandringham Gardens, 85 George Ave Sandringham. Contact Carolyn Sabbagh, (011) 485-5232.Simcha Friendship and Cultural Circle (SFCC), Johannesburg - Sandton Shul. Contact Sylvia Shull, (011) 783-5600. Meetings on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Wednesday each month at Sandton Shul at 10:00 unless stated otherwise.United Sisterhood, 38 Oxford Rd Parktown. Contact Marian (011) 646-2409. Website: www.unitedsisterhood.co.za.Tiyulim (Jewish Outdoor Club). Contact Martin 082-965-7419 or Greg 082-959-9026.Union of Jewish Women (UJW), Jhb, 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Cost R15 for the Friendship Luncheon Club and a R20 donation for lectures unless otherwise stated.Union of Jewish Women (UJW), CT, e-mail info@ujwcape.co.za or (021) 434-9555.UJW CT AED Programme at Stonehaven, Albany Road, Sea Point, 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments).United Zionist Luncheon Club (UZLC), Jhb - Our Parents Home. Contact Gloria, (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.UOS - Union of Orthodox Synagogues, (011) 485-4865, e-mail: info@uos.co.za, fax 086-610-3442.WIZO Jhb - Beyachad, 2 Elray St Raedene, Contact Joyce Chodos (011) 645-2548 or Sandy Kramer (011) 645-2515 or e-mail: wizopublicrelations@beyachad.co.za.

NOTE: Deadline for all entries is 12:00 on the Friday prior to publication.	
Today Friday (March 18)	Tuesday (March 22)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">UZLC presents Anna Cox on “Is there a billing crisis in Johannesburg?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WIZO Fortnightly Forum presents Dr Wendy Hendler on “The Value of Self-esteem in Forging Healthy and Meaningful Relationships” at 09:30 at Beyachad. Book on (011) 645-2515.
Sunday (March 20)	Wednesday (March 23)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">RCHCC presents “From Silence to Celebration” - an evening of stories, song and video with Zola; plus the launch of “No Goodbyes” by her late sister, Naava Piatka. Donation R70.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Second Innings presents Bobby Godsell on “Renewing the South African Dream”.UJW Cape Town presents Fran Robertson on “The History of the Friends of Valkenberg Trust”.UZLC presents Nadine Lemmer from the Arthritis Foundation on “Living with Arthritis”.
Monday (March 21)	Saturday evening (March 26)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bnei Akiva and SAUJS present Rabbi Ben Isaacson on “Human Rights in Judaism and a Rabbi’s Fight Against Racism in Apartheid South Africa”, at 19:00 at the Bnei Akiva Bayit, 63 Tanced Road, Glenhazel. RSVP Nadia on 082-770-2616 or e-mail liaison@saujs.co.zaWoW Raffle of Raffles. Viewing times: Monday, 21 from 13:00 to 18:00, Tuesday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 23 from 09:00 to 18:00 at Sydenham Shul Community Centre or buy tickets online www.womenoftheworld.org.za until draw on	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SAZF is holding their 47th conference this evening and tomorrow. Guest speakers: Harvard academic Prof Alan Dershowitz; John Howard - former prime minister of Australia; and Col Richard Kemp - former com-
	mander of British forces in Afghanistan. Bookings: (011) 645-2541 or sharon@beyachad.co.za
Sunday (March 27)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Second Innings presents Jacqueline Teague on “Spring Clean Your Life”.Society of Israel Philately meeting at 10:00 in the boardroom of the Waverley Synagogue. All welcome. Refreshments. Free entry. Contact Maurice Daniels 082-385-9736.	
Monday (March 28)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">UJW Johannesburg presents Tom Wheeler on “A South African Diplomat Remembers: From Verwoerd to Mandela”.	
Wednesday (March 30)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Balfour Park Parkinson's Disease Support Group meeting at 10:00 in the boardroom, Randjes Estate, Randjeslaagte Road, Highlands North. Dr Nadia Loewke will speak on a general introduction to homeopathy. Contact Rosemary Burke on (011) 640-3919.Second Innings outing to Doonholm Herb Farm and Nursery. Meet at 09:00 at Oxford Street Shul parking. R130 includes the bus, the guided tour, and lunch.	
Book with Annette Bergman by no later than March 27.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">CKCS meeting from 17:30 to 19:00. Call Tania Leibowitz on (011) 532-9719.	
Sunday (April 3)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Second Innings presents Betsie Schaap and Evert van Niekerk performing music from “Ladies in Lavender” and pieces from Beethoven and Haydn. R40 for members, R60 for non-members.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">WIZO presents the first in a series of workshops - “Beyond the Dress” (What to do After the Wedding). The first one is at HOD Hall at 09:30 for registration. Cost R200 including tea. Call Lori Milner on 083-677-6729.	
Wednesday (April 6)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">SFCC outing to Alexandra to see the refurbished Nokathuli Centre and then to Skala Jazz Club for tea. Transport cost to be advised. Meet at Sandton Shul at 10:00.	
Thursday (April 7)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A Taste of Limmud at King David High, Linksfield starts at 18:15. Cost R100 including a light meal. To register e-mail limmudsa@gmail.com or call 072-553-0164.	

Sudoku Puzzle 28

(Easy, difficulty rating 0.44)

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

* Answer to follow with next puzzle

Answer - Puzzle 27

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

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

CROSSWORD NO 202

BY LEAH SIMON

ACROSS:

- Flee backwards to get emotion (4)
- Game for two bouncers, we hear (4, 4)
- Engrossed in gift presentation, we hear (4)
- Narrow opening for bird who’s a foul-living female (8)
- Swayed a churn around for Little Miss Muffet’s meal (5, 3, 4)
- Wrench spelling a downpour (6)
- A hundred ranted, having desired it (6)
- Crisis in church leads to crisis in hospital (5, 7)
- Envisaged mad genii, somehow (8)
- Oriental to bind, we hear (4)
- Donald in bank robbery? But he’s a pleasure-seeker! (8)
- Winter nest hides sea eagle (4)

DOWN:

- Tore safe open to prediction (8)
- Myself, returning for each alternatively – and for ruler (7)
- Exists in country? No, in the main! (6)
- Rowing date upset, but manage to interject one’s argument (3, 1, 4, 2)
- Make old boy see badly, being fat (5)
- Diego nearly conceals it, not being here (4)
- Into pair as confusion produces ambition (10)
- With commercial that he has, I have produced something sticky (8)
- Oh, curve around for ticket! (7)
- Stale hesitations, but extends for the taking (6)

- Dahl, author (5)
- Wealthy and hidden in Maori church (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 201

ACROSS: GAHA; 3. Agonised; 8. Lore; 9. Moon walk; 11. Creepy crawly; 13. Inhale; 14. Preach; 17. Stick insects; 20. Bluebell; 21. Idol; 22. Unsteady; 23. Mars.
DOWN: 1. Galactic; 2. Harlech; 4. Grouch; 5. Nine across; 6. Small; 7. Duke; 10. Applicable; 12. Thistles; 15. Arcadia; 16. Killed; 18. Truss; 19. Abou.

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
8					9							
				10								
11												
												12
13							14			15		
						16						
	17	18										
19												
20									21			
22										23		

ON 7 APRIL THE SHTETL IS COMING TO TOWN.

Bring out the Litvak in you, even if you aren’t one, as Simon Gurevichius, der gantzer macher from Vilnius out, updates us on der heym. On der gantzer vot’s heppening.

A Taste of Limmud. 11 riveting sessions, Thursday 7 April. Register at limmudsa@gmail.com or on 072 553 0164 or at 6.15pm on the night at KDHS Linksfield. Simon Gurevichius courtesy of the Joint Distribution Committee

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



Participants of the 2010 Leadership Tour to Israel, visiting the Benedictine Monastery in the Israeli-Arab town of Abu Ghosh, situated just outside Jerusalem.

Education, exploration and becoming a madrich

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH:
GEMMA COWAN

AS EVENTS in the Cape Town and Johannesburg kenim (centres) slowly but surely start falling into place, March is proving to be a busy and exciting month for Habonim Dror.

We are holding our first mini-machanot of the year, entitled Le'Chalom, Le'Hagshim – 'To dream, To Fulfil' in Cape Town, this weekend, March 18 – 20. It is being headed up by a strong team, with Daniel Kruss as rosh mini-mach, Ilan Price as s'ganit (deputy) rosh mini-mach and Gary Ganz as rosh chinnuch (head of education).

The Johannesburg mini-mach, from April 1-3, will take place at Camp Nelu in Magaliesburg, with Gabi Altamirano as rosh mini-mach and Lynzi Bennun as s'ganit rosh mini-mach.

Both events are sure to be a great kick-start to a year filled with fun and informal education for our channichim.

On March 19, bogrim will embark on Habonim's annual leadership tour to Israel, for a jam-packed 10-day trip. The tour is geared to cater to a select few bogrim each year and is perhaps the most educationally and culturally condensed programme that Habonim offers throughout the year.

The aim is to enable the upcoming and top

leadership of the movement to engage at all levels with Israeli society on the ground. The tour will include meetings with people across the political spectrum, including renowned Haaretz journalist, Gideon Levy.

In addition to this, less prominent elements of Israeli life will also be explored, such as the Bedouin communities in the Negev and the multicultural city of Abu Ghosh, with its Arab-Israeli, Jewish and Christian citizens.

The opportunities that this trip offer are invaluable and serve only to better Habonim leadership's understanding of the rich, complex and diverse nature of Israel and her citizens.

In both Johannesburg and Cape Town, Habonim chaverim will once again be supporting equal education campaigns for quality and equality in education. In Cape Town, we will be attending the Equal Education March on Human Rights Day, in solidarity with those whose basic educational rights are not being upheld by the government.

With our calendar as active as ever, we are also proud to announce that according to the 2010 camp report by Gary Block, Habonim's was once again the biggest machaneh.

We had a total of 745 channichim on our campsite in Onrus on the Cape coast. We hope to bring in even more new chaverim this year.

Learnership Programme gets the girls ready for a teaching career

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH:
MIRIAM SCHIFF

LIAT KRUGER, Tamara Chavkin and Bryony Michel (pictured) are part of the SABJE King David Learnership Programme that offers post-matric King David pupils the opportunity to study for a pre-primary teaching degree, with tuition paid for by the SA Board of Jewish Education.

They are employed as teaching assistants at the SABJE pre-primary schools while they study for four years through Unisa. This is the first year that the learnership is in existence and it is hoped that many more girls will reap the benefits of this programme in the future, as full-time training



for pre-primary teachers has been discontinued by most colleges and universities over the years.

The girls attended a computer course with Michelle Vinokur (pictured right) at Minnie Bersohn Pre-Primary School to extend their knowledge and gain a better understanding of how to use computers in a preschool setting.

Training for early childhood caregivers

VAL ARONSON
PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

A WONDERFUL new initiative has been undertaken by a group of women, calling themselves Baobab. Founded by Andy Berzen, Maria Zwane, Willy Shackleton and Rennette Ullman, Baobab is a new training programme for early childhood caregivers in the developing communities of Alexandra, Soweto and Midrand.

The training programme's aim is to enable caregivers to obtain their NQF level 1

certificates with the EDTP Seta (Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority) in Early Childhood development teaching. The classes will be held at King David Linksfield grade R. The schools doing the training are all in the FEEDSA organisation. (FEEDSA is a non-profit organisation, whose main aim is to establish feeding programmes within the townships for all those who receive no other forms of funding whatsoever, and for the children who go to school on an empty stomach.)

Andy Berzen; Maria Zwane; Willy Shackleton; and Rennette Ullman, founders of the new outreach training school, Baobab, at the official opening at King David Pre-Primary Linksfield. Next to them is the beautiful "Baobab" cake made by our baking team.



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Things are in the swing at Great Park Synagogue

RABBI DOVID HAZDAN
PHOTOGRAPH: MELISSA HOFFMAN
(TAKEN BEFORE SHABBAT)

OVER 120 people enjoyed a special dinner at Great Park Synagogue in Johannesburg on Friday night, March 11, for all the families of the bar-/bat-mitzvah boys and girls this year. Rabbis Dovid Hazdan and Shmuel Simpson were in attendance, together with the chairman, Clive Blechman and honorary treasurer, Paul Werner, who welcomed the guests. The featured speakers - representatives from the bar- and batmitzvah groups - delivered inspiring talks and words of Torah. The general ambience, warmth and atmosphere were magical as families sensed the embrace of the

larger family of Great Park. This year, 20 girls and 13 boys celebrate their bar-/batmitzvah at Great Park Synagogue, which boasts a growing membership of young families. It is servicing the needs of its congregants with programmes and projects for every age and stage: Innovative, educational and exciting children's services; a stimulating bar- and batmitzvah programme; a monthly girls' "Teen Discussion" group; opportunities for young adults to socialise; parenting workshops for expecting parents and parents of young children and for parents of teenagers and pre-teenagers; and pre-fessional lectures and shiurim. The current six-week JLI lecture series is attended by 80 to 100 people.



Back: Rabbi Shmuel Simpson; Yisroel Simpson; Goldie Simpson; Keith Vogelman; and Lauren Vogelman. Front: Emie Vogelman; Edén Vogelman; and Shira Rozentvag.

Problems visiting Jewish hospital patients

BIKKUR CHOLIM says it is being stopped from visiting Jewish patients in the various hospitals in Johannesburg that are under the auspices of Medi-Clinic, "due to a line that has been inserted onto their admissions questionnaire", which is open to misinterpretation. In a media release, Bikkur Cholim says: "Recently Medi-Clinic has changed their admission form which asks if the patients would like to be visited by clergy. We have found that many patients misunderstand this question. They do not realise that this question refers to clergy as well as to our organisation. "Bikkur Cholim is a voluntary organisation that visits Jewish patients in hospitals. We do not attempt to convert or influence people; we only visit Jewish patients. "We are NOT clergy, but a Jewish voluntary organisation that visits Jewish patients. "We have found that the Jewish community has become accustomed to these visits. We

have been visiting the Donny Gordon, Morningside and Sand-ton Clinics for many years. When we do not visit, we find that many people complain." Over all the years, we have had very few, if any, complaints. We have had countless complaints that patients are not being visited. Unfortunately this is due to the misunderstanding of this particular question. "At this time we have not had a favourable response from Medi-Clinic and we hope that we will receive a favourable response to changing their admissions questionnaire." Bikkur Cholim advises Jewish patients in a Medi-Clinic hospital: "If you are admitted to any of these hospitals, please tell the admissions clerk to confirm that you wish to be visited by Bikkur Cholim. If you know of anyone in these hospitals, please contact Hospital Visiting Convener Janice Eliasov on 083-306-4499 so that arrangements can be made to visit these patients."

A book to pay homage to a road well travelled

BEVERLEY BERGER Benatar of Cape Town, is compiling a book to pay homage to South Africa's Jewish heritage. She calls it "a testament to the journey of Jews throughout the world (not only Ashkenazi), where we have travelled and ultimately settled". The format of the book is colour photographs and hand-written recipes from around the globe. In an appeal for recipes and stories she says: "Please assist me by referring members of your community who have an interesting story to tell and a recipe to complement it. Perhaps that person is you? "Please include the reason for your contribution with your

submission: How was the recipe handed down in your family? What is its origin? What important event is centred on that humble (or gourmet) meal in your life?" She says the book will be distributed to Jewish centres around the world. "It will be interlinked with religious festival food as well as everyday kosher cooking. This project is my labour of love and is not intended as a recipe book per se. Each page is devoted to one person who has a story to tell about their recipe contribution." Contact her on: +27 21 555 1449; cellphone +27 83 355 0848; bev@thetravellinglatke.co.za; or www.thetravellinglatke.co.za

Learn more about Israel

HIGHER education representatives from Interdisciplinary Centre (IDC), Israel by Choice, Technion, Student Authority and Aardvark Israel, will present information on their respective institutions at King David Linksfield, King David Victory Park, Yeshiva College, Torah Academy, from March 31 to April 3, from 08:00 until 21:00. Israel Centre will also hold a parents' evening at Beyachad on March 31 from 19:00. There will also be representatives from Masa and Kibbutz

Ulpan who will join Israel Centre via video conference from Jerusalem. "This Higher Education Expo will ensure that you get personal attention through one-on-one meetings with the representatives, which will take place at Beyachad on April 3 from 09:00 to 17:00. "To secure your seat at our parents evening and to book your one-on-one meeting, contact Debbie at the Israel Centre on (011) 645-2560 or e-mail eduproj@israelcentre.co.za

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

BULGARIA MARKS ITS HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

SOFIA, Bulgaria - Leaders of the Bulgarian Jewish community marked Holocaust Remembrance Day at a ceremony in Sofia last Thursday morning. The event, known officially as the Day of the Salvation of the Bulgarian Jews and of the Victims of the Holocaust and of the Crimes Against Humanity, was held opposite the National Assembly building. National politicians, ambassadors, Holocaust survivors and other dignitaries were on hand for the ceremony in the Bulgarian capital. Bulgaria declined to deport its Jewish population, numbering nearly 50 000, during the Holocaust. More than 11 000 Jews in Thrace in Macedonia, territories then administered by Bulgaria, were deported, however. (JTA)

ALASKA AIRLINES SORRY FOR DETAINING PASSENGERS OVER TEFILLIN

LOS ANGELES - Alaska Airlines has apologised for a flight crew issuing a security alert after three Mexican Orthodox Jews began praying with tefillin. The flight attendants, who were concerned by the prayers being said aloud in Hebrew and the unfamiliar boxes with leather straps hanging from them, locked down the cockpit and radioed a security alert ahead to Los Angeles International Airport. The flight originated last Sunday in Mexico City. It was met at the Los Angeles airport by fire crews, foam trucks, FBI agents, Transportation Security Administration personnel and police, according to Reuters. The men were escorted from the plane and questioned, then released to catch connecting flights with no charges filed. (JTA)



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SA runners for historic Jerusalem Marathon

JACK MILNER

For the first time in the more than 5 000 year history of the city, Jerusalem will be hosting a professional running event of such a large magnitude.

The first annual International Jerusalem Marathon will take place on Friday, March 25 and a group of South Africans will participate in the event.

Some 15 athletes have been doing all their training and will be in Israel to celebrate what looks to be a remarkable marathon.

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, himself an avid marathon runner, stated on the marathon's website: "Few cities in the world can combine breathtaking, inspirational views, like Jerusalem's famous historical sites and amazing landscapes, into their marathon course.

"As someone who has been running across the city for many years, I can personally testify that Jerusalem has been blessed with fresh mountain air and perfect running weather."

While Jerusalem's hilly terrain will present a challenge for the thousands of runners participating in the various running/walking tracks of the event, the mayor's praise for the unique running course should hold true.

The marathon has inspired not only those who enjoy running to get out there and compete, but it is also being used as a tool for various non-profit organisations to spread their message and raise funds for their respective worthwhile endeavours.

One such group running in this year's marathon, reports the Jerusalem Post, is "Team Daniel" or "Tzevet Daniel", named

in memory of 24-year-old Daniel Mandel who died in 2003 while on duty in the IDF defending his country in a battle against terrorists.

Since his untimely death, Daniel's parents, Cheryl and David - who made aliyah from Toronto and are residents of Alon Shvut - have been working hard to raise funds to establish a unique park in their home community in memory of their son.

The Mandels say the park, which will have music as its theme, will be named "Derech Daniel" or "Daniel's Path" and will "pay tribute to Daniel's musical talent, and magical qualities".

The construction of the park will also give the Mandels the opportunity to thank their community for reaching out in loving support ever since Daniel's passing.

Despite their pain, the Mandels decided to move forward and mobilise their energies towards building something concrete, thus making a real difference in memory of Daniel.

According to Cheryl, "the park is being constructed along the path that Daniel used to take walking to our shul every Shabbat".

So far almost 80 participants from all over the country will be sporting the team's green T shirts on race day.

Group members will be running either supporting the cause out of their own pockets, or encouraging family, friends, and local businesses to support their efforts via sponsorships.

Also included in Tzevet Daniel is a special group composed of 50 current IDF Nachal soldiers from the same unit that Daniel served in, who will be running the race in memory of their comrade who they never had the privilege of meeting.



Success of Interschool Sports Tournament continues

THE INTERSCHOOL Sports Tournament for Jewish primary schools took place throughout the past three weeks, on each Sunday, at the Zoo Lake Sports Club in Johannesburg. The schools which participated were the three King Davids - Linksfield, Victory Park and Sandton - as well as Yeshiva College.

At the opening of the event a group of athletes who have represented South Africa in

their various sports over the years, were at the tournament. They included pictured, from left Richard Kaplan (golf), Leon Tobias (standard and long distance triathlon and duathlon), Mandy Yachad (cricket and hockey), Basil Kletz (triathlon, duathlon, aquathlon and biathlon), Eda Greenway (cricket, hockey, netball), Jonnie Girnun (rugby league), David Flax (orienteering) and Gila Barit (table tennis).

Israeli cricketer earmarked for prestige ICC programme

ISRAELI CRICKETER Josh Evans (pictured), who is considered to be a rising star, was selected for the ICC European Emerging Players Programme, to be held at the La Manga Club in Murcia, Spain between March 21 and 26.

"I am extremely excited at being selected to go to Spain and represent Israel," Evans said. "I am hoping to learn a lot from my experience there and to come back and put it in to practice both in my performance and to help with the juniors in Israel.

"I also hope to gain a huge amount of knowledge and advice from the coaches that we will be working with abroad, which will benefit me as an Israeli player and an international player, and be able to benefit the up-and-coming youth in Israel."

Now in its third year, the Emerging Players Programme caters to talented players from around Europe who are performing at a high-level for their age group.

The squad consists of 11 players from eight different member countries.

Former South African Stanley Perlman, chairman of the Israel Cricket Association, was excited for Evans' unique opportunity.

"This prestigious academy is for the most promising young cricketers in Europe," Perlman said.

"Josh will be rubbing shoulders with players from Ireland, Italy and Denmark. This is a great achievement and accolade for the ICA.

"The choice of Josh puts us right up at the top in Europe, an achievement to be



proud of. Josh proved his promise at the senior European competition last year getting a big bag of wickets without conceding a wide or no ball in 45 overs."

"I am very grateful for this opportunity I have been given, and look forward to the great experience and knowledge I will gain from this for my future career in cricket. I would like to thank everybody who has made this possible," Evans said at receiving the invitation.

Herschel Gutman, coach of Israel's national cricket team and a former Capetonian, believes that Evans' ability warranted an invitation.

"Josh is a huge talent, he has been a fantastic addition to the local leagues and has performed remarkably in his debut season for the national team," Gutman said.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for him to enjoy the sport that he loves with players who will challenge him. I have no doubt he will come back a smarter cricketer." - Jerusalem Post



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