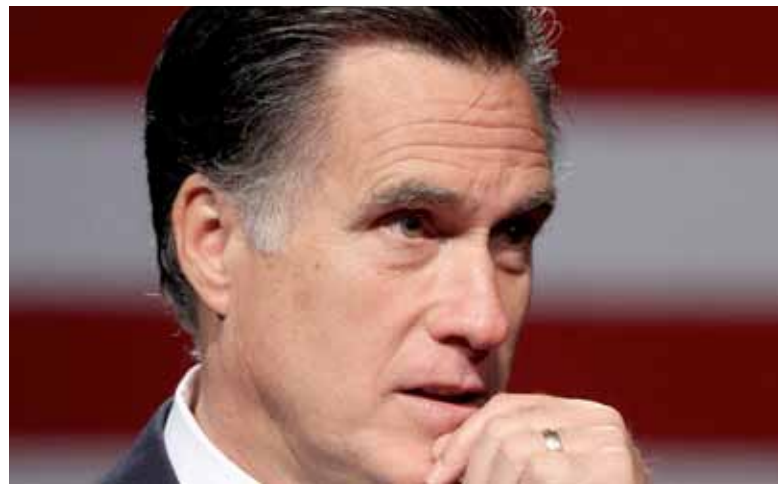


Who we can be at best or worst: Anoukh Markovits' *I am Forbidden* (page 11)

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“Consider the distance between ourselves and Israel; the president said that he was going to put daylight between us and Israel.”

During the debate, Obama did not engage on the Israel question, instead pushing back against Romney's claims that he was not fully engaged in the wake of the Libya attack.



Israel key player in US elections

JTA STAFF
WASHINGTON

Republican presidential hopeful, Mitt Romney, in the second presidential debate on Tuesday night, accused President Barack Obama of putting “daylight between us and Israel”.

Responding to Obama's pledge to investigate the circumstances of an attack that killed four US diplomats in Libya last month, Romney assailed Obama's overall foreign policy record, and pivoted to the president's at-times strained relationship with the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

“This calls into question the president's whole policy in the Middle East. Look what's happening in Syria, in Egypt, now in Libya,” Romney said at the Hofstra University debate in Long Island, New York.

“Consider the distance between our-

selves and Israel; the president said that he was going to put daylight between us and Israel.”

Obama, in a meeting in July 2009 with Jewish leaders, was asked whether he would preserve the policies of the Clinton and George W Bush administrations of “no daylight”, or keeping disputes with Israel private. Obama said the practice of not making public disputes with Israel did not advance the peace process.

During the debate, Obama did not engage on the Israel question, instead pushing back against Romney's claims that he was not fully engaged in the wake of the Libya attack.

Other than that segment, much of the debate focused on domestic issues like education, jobs creation, tax policy, etc.

On energy policy, each leader outlined different paths to energy independence. Obama focused on alternatives to fossil

fuel; Romney embraced these as well, but urging greater exploitation of oil, coal and gas.

Asked to distinguish his policies from those of Pres George W Bush, Romney said: “We can now, by virtue of new technology actually get all the energy we need in North America without having to go to the Arabs or the Venezuelans or anyone else.

“That wasn't true in his time, that's why my policy starts with a very robust policy to get all that energy in North America to become energy secure.”

Obama used his final remarks to take aim at Romney's remark at a fundraiser that 47 per cent of Americans would never vote for him because they did not pay income taxes and were dependent on government.

“I believe Gov Romney is a good man - loves his family, cares about his faith. But I also believe that when he said behind

closed doors, that 47 per cent of the country considered themselves victims, who refuse personal responsibility, think about who he was talking about,” Obama said, citing retirees on social security, veterans, active-duty soldiers etc.

Romney has previously said that he misspoke at the fundraiser.

Obama, who by most accounts lost the first debate through a lacklustre performance, came out strongly during the second debate, but Romney gave as good as he got. General feeling is that Obama managed to claw back some lost ground, although some would only go as far as calling it a tie at best.

With the election next month balanced on a knife's edge with a number of swing states holding the key to the White House, the incumbent always has “home advantage” and it may just be enough to see Obama scrape through. (JTA)

Travel Supplement:

Planning for your year-end break

18-25



Jewish and Greek South Africans celebrate a shared past

4

SAZF urges community support for Wellness Warehouse

“Despite OSS's vicious campaign of intimidation, Wellness Warehouse has refused to allow itself to be bullied and has stood firm in its commitment to the right of their customers to buy the products they wish to.”

3

Drop in venture capital funding puts squeeze on Israel's tech sector

“The question is how much time the founders are ready to sacrifice with minimal salaries, or whether they successfully convince the employees to work with reasonable salaries for a year or two.”

8

Supporting Israel's media strengthens its democracy

“An independent, thriving media is an asset for Israel and for anyone who loves it. Letting it perish will serve those who don't see Israeli democracy as an asset but as a liability.”

6

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Shabbat Times			Community Briefs
Oct 19 / 3 Cheshvan			‘804’ FOR LONDON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL The locally produced documentary “804”, focusing on the Machalniks who left South Africa to fight for Israel's life in 1948, will be screened in London this week at the UK Jewish Film Festival. The whole production team, including the director, Etienne Naude, and producers Sharit Krengel, Jason, Hoff and Stephanie Ronnet, will be attending.
Oct 20 / 4 Cheshvan			
Parshat Noach			
17:59	18:49	Johannesburg	
18:15	19:39	Cape Town	
17:51	18:43	Durban	
18:09	19:01	Bloemfontein	
18:05	19:10	Port Elizabeth	
18:07	18:59	East London	

We’re a reflection of G-d’s presence

Biblical narrative expands its vision from particularistic to universal through the two main stories of this weekly portion, each emblematic of human life. The tale of Noah is followed by the tale of the Tower of Babel. In each case, human activity receives Divine attention.

At the heart of Noah’s saga are two distinctive elements. The introduction of law through the Covenant, marked by a rainbow as G-d’s promise that the mabul will not return, calls all humans to a short list of fundamental social laws.

These laws call each person to moral behaviour, to respect for other humans and to responsibility for animals. The laws expect monotheism - belief in G-d’s oneness - although idolatry remains a challenge even in our times.

Noah, however, is not rewarded precisely as one would expect for the hero who saved biodiversity when most people had corrupted the world. We read that he plants vines and harvests grapes, makes wine and becomes intoxicated.

His immodesty while in that state, leads to punishment for Noah and real ethical conflicts for his sons, Shem, Ham and Japhet. When Ham “reveals” Noah’s nakedness, it is up to Shem and Japhet to cover him while not looking at their father: human curiosity is to be suppressed in favour of filial duty.

The Tower of Babel was a place of human arrogance. A second common human failing - even after the flood - makes us aware of the Jewish idea that humans remain human, or perhaps better said, seek to become fully human.

Arrogance and curiosity are qualities of human life rooted, according to Jewish tradition, in Yetzer Hara. The “inclination to evil” - often just yetzer-results from that balance expressed in rabbinic literature as hakol b’yidei shamayim, chuts mi’yirat shamayim - everything is determined by G-d, with the exception of awe of G-d.

Arrogance is a failure to stand in



PARSHAT NOACH
Rabbi Robert A Jacobs
Chairman, SA Association of Progressive Rabbis,
Bet David, Sandton

awe of G-d; curiosity becomes that when it is not marked off by a sense of responsibility for the consequences that result.

Judaism has long wrestled with boundaries as a basic concept. At Purim - to carry forward the theme of the drunkenness of Noah - we are commanded both to become intoxicated and to refrain from breaking even a single commandment.

That would seem internally contradictory at surface but represents the ethical imperative of transforming our yetzer through taking responsibility for what we do.

On the contrary, we are commanded to act in ways that preserve the beauty, wonder and diversity of life forms in the world.

What we see should remind us of G-d’s will and our responsibility. Like ubuntu, teaching respect for others, we are a reflection of G-d’s presence - especially when we devote ourselves to mitzvot.

In 18th century Europe, at the height of the Enlightenment that led to Jewish inclusion in civil society after centuries of political disability, the philosopher Moses Mendelssohn was asked whether a follower of the Noahide laws could be a tsaddik - righteous.

He replied affirmatively in a great expression of the values expressed in this Sedra. While a Jew who only follows these moral laws might be an ethical person, however, we have a larger calling which is the world of Torah.

Both Noah and Babel are landmarks in the history of humanity.

Human experience, like religious ideas, is cumulative and changes over time. Through the blessing of our yetzer we change and grow, expand our personal horizons.

Holocaust survivors visit the JHGC construction site



On top of the world. Wearing hard hats during their first visit to the JHGC construction site, a number of Holocaust survivors are seen together with volunteers and JHGC staff.

JANINE COHEN

A number of Johannesburg-based Holocaust survivors recently visited the construction site of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC) on Jan Smuts Avenue (opposite the West-cliff Hotel).

“I know that the new Holocaust Centre will outlast our survivors and so be a living memorial for our Kadoshim and for the testimony that we survivors have tried to give over the years,” said Don Krausz, chairman of the Association of Holocaust Survivors in Johannesburg.

A JHGC volunteer who assisted at the event, Rwandan genocide survivor, Bonaventure Kageruka, said: “My hope is that the JHGC will transform the painful memories into a message for a better future.”

Auschwitz survivor, Veronica Phillips commented: “I am happy to be alive to see the realisation of a centre of this nature in Johannesburg, so many years after the event.”

Due for completion late next year, construction of the first phase of the long-awaited permanent centre is well underway on a site made available by the Joburg Property Company and the City of Johannesburg.

“The centre will be a vibrant educational space and will house a permanent exhibition, venues for workshops and public events, a memorial garden and resource centre, a coffee shop and a book shop,” says director, Tali Nates.

The JHGC was established in 2008 in association with the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation and its centres in Cape Town and Durban. Despite the lack of a permanent facility, a small dedicated team continues to conduct ongoing educational activities and organise numerous events in collaboration with national and international partners.

One of the most meaningful initiatives that the

JHGC has been involved with over the past few years, is the Holocaust Survivors’ Interest Group . This gathering brings together the survivors of Johannesburg for a closed get-together every three to four weeks, where they enjoy lectures, performances, films and refreshments.

The survivors were involved with the architectural team in defining the symbolism of the building and are kept informed of the progress of the project.

Lewis Levin, architect and project manager, has designed many public buildings including synagogues in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town.

“The architectural language and aesthetic of the building have been carefully considered so that members of the public from diverse backgrounds will relate to it and understand its message,” he says.

Through multi-media installations, archival photographs and film footage, documents, artefacts and survivor testimony, the permanent exhibition will explore genocide, racism and anti-Semitism; Nazi Germany and the Holocaust; and post-Holocaust genocides, focusing on Rwanda, 1994.

The project is being funded entirely by donations. The centre has received pledges, spread over four years, totalling R20 million. According to the JHGC, the cost of the project will be R25 million; its running cost over the next four years has been projected at R10 million. They are still looking for pledges totalling R25 million.

“To date there has been a positive response by organisations, foundations and individuals, as well as companies who are providing building materials and services. As we look towards the commencement of phase two of the project, our fundraising efforts continue vigorously,” says Gerald Leissner who heads the fundraising initiative.

• For more information: info@jhbholocaust.co.za

jewish report

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SAZF urges community support for Wellness Warehouse



Ahava products sold by Wellness Warehouse.

Despite a “vicious campaign of intimidation” by Open Shuhada Street to force Wellness Warehouse to stop selling Ahava products, the company has stood firm, the SA Zionist Federation said in a media release.

“For the past two years Open Shuhada Street has waged a malicious propaganda campaign against Wellness Warehouse to try to force it to stop selling Ahava products. Tactics used have included illegal demonstrations, disruption of stores, harassment of customers and staff, the spreading of disinformation and threats against the company.

“Yet, despite this vicious campaign of intimidation, Wellness Warehouse has refused to allow itself to be bullied and has stood firm in its commitment to their customers and their right to choose the products they wish to buy.

“We salute the bravery of company staff and

management for the principled stand they have taken.”

The SAZF in what was now seen was a David versus Goliath struggle, where the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, unable to enforce its will, is using whatever means possible to prevent Wellness Warehouse from selling Ahava products.

“Time and again the BDS movement has demonstrated its contempt for truth, fairness and justice and its behaviour can only be described as bigoted, dishonest and shameful.

“We believe the most appropriate response to this pernicious campaign is to show your support for Wellness Warehouse. Visit their stores, send messages of support, buy products and demonstrate that we will no longer be silenced by these voices of intolerance, divisiveness and hatred, who seek to sow discord among peace-loving South Africans.”

World News in Brief



KARABUS OUT ON BAIL, BUT NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE DUBAI

Emeritus Associate Professor and specialist paediatric oncologist Cyril Karabus, 78, was granted bail in an Abu Dhabi court last week, subject to the surrender of his passport, confiscated when he was arrested nine weeks ago, and a payment of R240 000 to the court, which will be held as bond.

Karabus was arrested, tried in absentia and found guilty, on charges of culpable homicide, relating to the death of a three-year-old girl he had treated for leukemia in 2002 while working in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Further orders of the court last week were that the hospital had to give Karabus’ lawyers access to the patient’s original file and that an independent medical tribunal be established to review the case. Karabus’ next court appearance is on November 20.

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Jewish and Greek South Africans celebrate a shared past



The Jewish Choir performing at “The Song of Life”.



Mayor Loukas Karrer (foreground) and Bishop Chrysostomos laying a wreath in Zakynthos, 1943

DAN BROTMAN

Few Jewish and Greek South Africans realise just how much they have in common. On October 10, the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies, and the Hellenic Community of Cape Town, convened a celebration highlighting their shared history and respective cultures – it was previously celebrated in Johannesburg in October 2003.

Branded “The Song of Life”, the evening was dedicated to the emotional story of how the Jewish population of Zakynthos was saved in its entirety by its Greek neighbours. The impressive guest list included consul generals and prominent Jewish and Greek community leaders.

Hellenic Community President Nassos Martalas, welcomed to the Hellenic Community Centre the 450 plus Jewish and Greek community members who attended, as well as acknowledging the presence of John Brownstone, a local Second World War air force pilot who was the only Jew from his town in Greece to survive the Holocaust.

Zakynthos is a Greek island in

the Ionian Sea named after the son of the legendary Arcadian chief, Dardanus. Its Jews were part of the Romaniot minority, which unlike the Sephardi majority, were Hellenised and spoke Greek. Ninety two per cent of Greece’s Romaniot Jews perished in the Holocaust.

Martalas recounted Greece’s resistance and victory against the Italian invasion of 1940, which forced Germany to intervene in 1941. The first senior Greek officer to fall in the Battle of Greece was a Jew named Colonel Mordechai Frizis.

While the Greeks mounted the largest resistance ever to German forces in the Second World War at the Battle of Crete (51 South Africans died in defence and liberation of Greece in the Second World War, some of whom were South African Jews), they were eventually forced to surrender to Germany and were subjected to a brutal and dehumanising occupation.

The German occupation ruined Greece’s economy and led to a famine which killed over 300 000 civilians. Ordinary German soldiers then conducted a campaign of indiscriminate mass killings in numerous villages and towns.

In the village of Kommeno, 317 unarmed civilians were shot, the youngest a one-year-old girl and the oldest a 75-year-old woman. Not a single German soldier defected during the occupation out of conscience.

When the Germans began enforcing their race laws in 1943, Zakynthos’ Mayor Loukas Karrer and Bishop Chrysostomos refused to hand over a list of its Jewish community for deportation to the death camps. At one point, they even offered their own names to the Nazis.

All 275 Jews on the island were sent by the Bishop to the countryside and were hidden by ordinary residents. Not a single person in Zakynthos turned in a Jew to the Nazis, and it became the only place in Greece which saved its entire Jewish population.

“The Greek community of Zakynthos acted with indescribable courage and fortitude and with a deep sense of humanity,” said Cape Board Chairman Li Boiskin during her welcome address. By the end of the Second World War, 87 per cent (65 000) of Greece’s Jewish population were exterminated by

the Nazis.

Sephardi Hebrew Congregation member and historian Isaac Habib, who was born in the Congo to parents from the island of Rhodes, recalled how Rhodes had changed hands many times. Over the centuries, the Greek island has been occupied by the Romans, Persians, and Crusaders.

From 1522 - 1912, the island was occupied by the Ottomans, which in 1523 welcomed in Jews who had fled Spain following the Edit of Expulsion. The Italians controlled the island from 1912 to 1943, the Germans from 1943 to 1945, the British from 1945 to 1947, and after thousands years of foreign rule, it finally reverted back to Greek control in 1947.

In 1944, the entire Jewish population of Rhodes was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where most perished. Just like that, the 2 000 year Jewish presence on the island ended. Today, there are only 25 Jews living in Rhodes, but they are not the descendants of the island’s original Jewish inhabitants.

Following a poem

Habib recited in Ladino, which was then read in English by Cape Town Holocaust Director Richard Freedman, the audience viewed the documentary The Song of Life: The Rescue of the Jews of Zakynthos, which presented a thorough history of the island’s Jewish community and its residents’ decision to save their Jewish brethren.

The evening concluded with performances by Jewish and Hellenic choirs in Hebrew, Ladino and Greek.

The warmth and camaraderie between the two communities, which share so much common history, was palpable.

Hellenic community President Nassos Martalas; Cape Board Chairman Li Boiskin; and CT Holocaust Centre Chairman of the Board of Trustees Mervyn Smith.







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“**Pres Jacob Zuma congratulates Gill Marcus on Central Bank Governor of the Year Award**”
Pres Jacob Zuma has congratulated SA Reserve Bank Governor Gill Marcus on being named the 2012 Emerging Markets Central Bank Governor for Sub-Saharan Africa. “The award is proof we have outstanding leaders in our country,” said President Zuma

The Jewish Chronicle, London, UK:
www.thejc.com
“**UK Ambassador to Chile apologises for Falklands tweet**”
Britain's Ambassador to Chile Jon Benjamin apologised for a tweet suggesting Argentinians lost the Falklands War because they are “cowards”. His post, written in Spanish, referenced a lewd football chant. Benjamin said the tweet had been intended as a private message to a friend.

The Canadian Jewish News, Toronto, Canada:
www.cjnews.com
“**Roma Centre Distances itself from anti-Israel protest**”
Toronto's Roma Community Centre board has distanced itself from anti-Israel groups protesting Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney being honoured by Canadian Friends of the Haifa University in November. Kenney had run afoul of Romas when he sanctioned the passing of the immigration law allowing for easy extradition of failed refugee applicants to Canada.

Arutz Sheva, West Bank, Israel:
www.israelnationalnews.com
“**IAF strikes in Gaza after rocket barrage on Sderot**”
IAF aircraft struck a terror activity centre in northern Gaza earlier this week. Direct hits at the target were detected. Several hours before the airstrike, terrorists in Hamas-controlled Gaza fired a barrage of rockets at Sderot and the nearby area, one of which exploded next to a local kindergarten. No one was physically injured but building damage was caused.

Baltimore Jewish Times, Maryland, USA:
www.jewishtimes.com.
“**Jewish Federations of North America is working to reduce the GA's 2012 carbon footprint**”
At this year's Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly, an app is being promoted to serve as one of the ways JFNA is working to reduce the carbon footprint of its largest national gathering of the year.

Alliance, le Premier Magazine Juif sur le net, Paris, France:
www1.alliancefr.com
“**Custody extended for three suspected Islamists arrested at Drancy**”
The custody of three suspected jihadist apprentices, arrested earlier this week at Drancy in a preliminary inquiry by the prosecutor of Paris, has been extended. This week, the Senate passed a bill relating to security and the fight against terrorism. It instructs the French courts to severely punish French citizens who commit crimes relating to terrorism or go abroad to train for jihad.

The Algemeiner, Brooklyn, USA:
www.algemeiner.com
“**Romney attacks Obama's ME policy at presidential debate**”
Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney launched a sweeping critique of the US Administration's policy in the Middle East, terming President Barack Obama “weak” and saying that his policies led to negative developments in Syria, Iran, Egypt and Libya.

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Tikkun olam is not reparations

Predictably, Dr Ivor Blumenthal’s article in last week’s edition of the Jewish Report, in which he asked questions about how Jewish money for charitable purposes is allocated - in simple terms, what priority should be given to helping Jews only, as opposed to helping people outside the Jewish world - has created much debate among South African Jewry.

The Jewish imperative to tikkun olam - the repair and upliftment of the world - is fundamental and lies at the core of our faith and culture. Jewish philanthropists worldwide are known to be among the biggest “givers” among most groups.

A core function of the Jewish Report is to stimulate open debate. And this issue is certainly one which raises debate - and the ire of some. In this particular case, Blumenthal has raised the hackles of some people by questioning their motives in trying to help uplift and develop disadvantaged South Africans in broad society.

What better neutral platform than the Jewish Report to debate this important topic? This is also an ideal topic for a future Limmud forum.

Blumenthal’s argument can be boiled down to the maxim: “charity begins at home.” But looking after your own does not mean the exclusion of broader society, where the needs in this country are desperate and urgent.

The notion, even by implication, that Jewish givers are doing so to make themselves look good in the eyes of non-Jews, particularly South African blacks, is an insult to the many Jews who generously give anonymously, to outreach organisations like Afrika Tikkun, to the many Jewish companies who give with an open purse, and to the countless individuals who give in their own smaller but equally significant ways.

To cast aspersion on the motivations of many is obviously unfair, in particular, labelling their giving as “reparations” for the sins of apartheid is disingenuous. There is no doubt that most reasonable whites - including Jews - justifiably feel a degree of guilt about how people of colour were treated under apartheid, even if they - as Jews - personally were always opposed to the racist system.

But that does not mean that “guilt” is the primary driver for their basic Jewish deeds of tikkun olam, the very genuine and selfless giving of numerous people. There are many unsung heroes operating well below the radar for whom the word “reparation” is grossly unfair and unpalatable.

The idea that Jews must look after their own is perfectly sound, just like any other minority, such as the Muslim community referred to by Blumenthal which ensures that young Muslims will find jobs.

In fact, we pride ourselves on the fact that no Jew will go hungry in our community. The maxim “kol echad arevim zeh le zeh” is unequivocal in the imperative that “every Jew is responsible for other Jews”.

We also do not just give charity, but help people uplift themselves. Educational and training organisations like ORT are firm in their philosophy of give a “hand up” and not just a “handout”.

The question for debate is where we draw the line. In a context of limited and finite resources, and an ageing and needy Jewish community, it takes a Solomon to decide how to allocate the donations - internally for Jews, or externally for the broader society. Inevitably, people will have different views depending on their own contexts.

The word “reparation” as used by Blumenthal is extremely loaded because of its history and the “reparations” the Germans gave to Jews after the Holocaust. The use of this term unfortunately closes rather than opens debate because of the very negative connotations - as if Jews were Nazis needing to somehow atone. Once that word is used, many people will instinctively withdraw and not want to engage further.

We invite our readers to respond to this crucial issue. It would be a pity if it died down at this juncture.

Supporting Israel’s media strengthens its democracy



ORI NIR WASHINGTON

Can you imagine Israel without a free, independent, vociferous and diverse media? Can you imagine Israel without Maariv and Haaretz? Without biting commentary, investigative reporting and an open, cacophonous marketplace of views and ideas?

Such an Israel terrifies me, and it should alarm you, too. It is not the Israel in which I grew up, certainly not the Israel that we all love to love and be proud of. Increasingly, Israel is heading in that scary direction.

The media industry in Israel is alarmingly shrinking. Independent media organisations are struggling to survive, while a daily newspaper that serves as a de facto mouthpiece for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - fully funded by a rich conservative American Jew - is handed out free on every other street corner and threatens to dominate the public discourse.

Not only the commercial, independent printed press is fighting to survive; the electronic media also is in crisis.

Sure, online media and narrowcasting are eating away at traditional media or-

ganisations in other Western democracies. Newspapers are folding in America as well. Just like anywhere else, the proliferation of Israeli blogs is welcome. But just like anywhere else, personal blogs don’t have the resources that news organisations muster to produce deep, broad, professional and independent reporting.

Israel, however, is a special case. Its democracy is fragile, and for the past four years some of its basic tenets have been under attack by its own democratically elected officials.

Many of the notorious undemocratic bills and initiatives that ultranationalists in the current Knesset have introduced have the objective of silencing dissent, at weakening Israel’s civil society and at limiting political expression.

Netanyahu and his coalition have been striving - not without success - to dominate the public debate. The prime minister strongly believes in the power of words, images and perceptions. He therefore fights his battles, more than any past Israeli leader, in the public domain, using the media.

Media organisations, particularly ones that depend on

government funding or government control, have been losing their independence. Israel’s Broadcasting Authority, once known as the BBC of Israel, is a case in point. Under political pressure, its management and editorial staff are limiting criticism and dissent, and sticking to a perceived “party line”.

I admit, I am an Israeli media devotee. At the age of six, I severely injured myself while chasing my brother in a fight over a newspaper’s weekly supplement. I later worked for an Israeli daily newspaper for two decades. And recently I helped my organisation, Americans for Peace Now, establish a daily review of the Israeli media.

We offer it to anyone free because we believe that Americans should be familiar with the facts about Israel and with Israel’s public discourse.

When critics attack Israel for its shortcomings as a democracy, I always point out that Israel has an impressively thriving media, and therefore a well-informed public, engaging in open and unhampered debate on issues of supreme importance for their nation. That is still the case. But it may not be for long.

There may not be much that American Jews can do about other threats to Israeli democracy. When it comes to the threat to the Israeli media, however, they really can help. Buy a subscription for the electronic edition of an Israeli daily. Give a subscription to a young relative returning from a Birthright Israel trip.

Publish ads in the Israeli media. Encourage your local federation or your favourite American Jewish organisation to do the same. Get Israeli media apps for your mobile devices and pay for upgraded services.

Supporting the Israeli media is a win-win. It will make Israel a better democracy and you a better friend of Israel. You will be better informed and more deeply involved. You will have a stronger sense of reinforcing the kind of values that you believe in and would like Israel to follow.

An independent, thriving media is an asset for Israel and for anyone who loves it. Letting it perish will serve those who don’t see Israeli democracy as an asset but as a liability. (JTA)

• Ori Nir is the spokesman for Americans for Peace Now.



Heirs of owner of Nazi-looted ‘The Scream’ want an explanation from MoMA

NEW YORK - The heirs of a German-Jewish banker who claim the famous painting “The Scream” was looted from him by the Nazis, want a New York museum to explain its history in its new display.

The 1895 work by Edvard Munch is set to go on display on October 24 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the New York Post reported.

New York billionaire Leon

Black purchased the painting last spring at a Sotheby’s auction for nearly \$120 million.

Hugo Simon owned the painting in the 1920s and 1930s, but the banker and top art collector was to be forced sell it and flee Germany after the Nazis came to power in 1933.

His heirs contested the sale before the auction in the spring, but now say it is a moral issue and are calling on

MoMA to explain in its display the painting’s “tragic history”, the Post reported, citing Rafael Cardoso, a Brazilian curator and Simon’s great-grandson.

Simon consigned “The Scream” to a Swiss gallery before he and his family left Germany for Paris. In 1940, after the Nazis invaded France, Simon and his family immigrated to Brazil on fake passports. (JTA)

Jewish communities grapple with baby boomer retirement boom

NEIL RUBIN
BALTIMORE

Every Jewish community wants more Raymonde Fiol among its active retirees. The question is whether those communities are prepared to meet the needs she and hundreds of thousands of “younger seniors” and older ones will have in the near future.

Now 76, Fiol has resided in Las Vegas for the past 11 years. She belongs there to a synagogue, Hadassah and Na’amat USA, a women’s Zionist organisation. Her volunteer time largely is spent as president of the Holocaust Survivors Group of Southern Nevada. In spare moments, she and her husband of 56 years, Philip, enjoy the area’s nature parks and attending lectures.

“You have a choice of Jewish involvement, and we’re surrounded by Jewish friends,” Fiol said. “People look out for each other because a lot of them don’t have their children here, so you get invited for Yomtovim and your friends become family,” she said.

She and her husband are part of the area’s growing senior population. The Jewish community is thought to have a larger share of people ages 65 and over than America generally, based on statistics from the last National Jewish Population Study and the 2010 US Census.

With the baby boomer generation entering the 65+ age group, experts say Jewish institutions will have to work hard to keep up with what is expected to be a growing need for social services and social offerings among Jewish elderly.

Already, Jewish programmes ranging from medical assistance initiatives to psychological counselling, adult education and heritage trips are expanding.

Three retirement destinations with high concentrations of older Jews - Las Vegas, Palm Beach, Florida, and Phoenix, Arizona - offer instructive examples of how communities are grappling with the challenges of growing Jewish senior populations.

“We have the fastest growing Jewish seniors community population in the country,” said Keith Myers, president and CEO of MorseLife in West Palm Beach, a nonprofit that provides senior living and healthcare in the area.

Services provided by the multifaceted operation include short-term rehabilitation, long-term care, independent and assisted living, home care, geriatric care management, adult day care, meals on wheels, and research and education.

“Our clients are living longer and we’re dealing with more considerations than ever,” Myers said.

Mirroring the general population, similar expansions are taking place at Jewish retirement homes and centres around the country. Service providers also worry about meeting the needs of elderly people who chose to stay at home, many of them in what’s known as NORCs: naturally occurring retirement communities.

“No question that’s going to increase in the coming years,” Elliot Karp, president and CEO of the Las Vegas federation said of the need. “The number is stable at around 400 people served only because of limitation of resources. We could double it if we had the funds.”

It’s not just social service needs that are important, but social needs.

Synagogues are retooling for seniors, and new ones are opening in places with growing older-adult populations. In the mid-1990s, Temple Beit Knesset Bamidbar (Synagogue of the Desert) opened up in Sun City Summerlin, a gated community in the Las Vegas area for people age 55 and older.

Ellie Schwartzberg, vice president of older adults services and Jewish community ser-

vices at Phoenix’s Jewish Family & Children’s Services, says she’s worried that Jewish communities remain unprepared to help the baby-boomer generation.

“I don’t think the community is ready at all for these boomers as they age and need these services,” she said.

In Phoenix, the Jewish community has a NORC project, a hospital chaplaincy programme and a Jewish senior centre. For baby boomers the bottom line in choosing a retirement destination may be an array of quality-of-life considerations, of which senior services is just one. (JTA)



Eleanor Skolnick and Howard Woocher are avid ping-pong players at MorseLife, a multifaceted Jewish retirement community in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Photo Courtesy MorseLife



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Mehadrin Commission

Drop in venture capital funding puts squeeze on Israel’s tech sector



Photo: Ben Sales

Dan Frumkin of the Israeli biomedical startup Nucleix, works with DNA in the lab of Rad BioMed, a startup accelerator in Tel Aviv.

**BEN SALES
TEL AVIV**

The Facebook page of PlayArt Labs, an Israeli gaming startup, looks more like the homepage of an art museum than the profile of an emerging technology company.

It features an article about Johannes Vermeer’s “Girl with a Pearl Earring”, an animation of Vincent van Gogh’s “Starry Night” and a link to a Twitter feed, @FrescoJesus, about a century-old Spanish fresco.

The goal of the startup is to integrate art and cultural education into iPad games - to create “some added value from playing”, according to Adir Wanono, who launched PlayArt Labs 10 months ago.

But now Wanono, 34, who successfully funded another startup two years ago, has encountered an unfamiliar obstacle.

After eight months of working with barely any money, he has had trouble securing necessary funding from investors who like his idea but are hesitant to invest. He has secured \$55 000 in investments from family and friends, but with four people working at the company, even that shoestring budget will run out in six months, Wanono estimates.

He says the market in Israel has become tougher since his last startup.

“People say: ‘Go to the market, gain traction and we’ll invest,’ but this lowers the chances of most startups to succeed,” he said. “We need money now to maximise our chances to succeed. Without money now, we won’t be able to maximise the benefit from a good launch.”

PlayArt Labs is far from alone in encountering this problem. Recently, Israel’s famously booming startup scene has seen funding from large venture capital firms decline. That means there’s less

money available than there used to be for startups - a key engine of the Israeli economy - to get off the ground.

This drop in funding has come as Israel’s technology sector, which includes startups and larger established companies, has experienced dramatic layoffs.

According to an August article in Haaretz, 16 000 of Israel’s 80 000 tech workers have lost their jobs. Government funding of the tech sector also has dropped 40 per cent over the past decade, to \$400 million in 2011.

While the number of new startups has not declined from previous years, industry investors and entrepreneurs say that venture capital firms have been less willing to take risks on those companies as they seek to expand.

“The entire venture capital model is broken,” said Yesha Sivan, president of the Israel Internet Association. “It used to be that a fund would get \$100 million, it would invest in 10 companies and it would get two or three big winners that would make 10 times more on their money. Today the return on VCs is relatively lower, so people are looking for other avenues.”

Into that void have stepped individual “angel” investors, as well as several dozen companies called startup accelerators or incubators that provide funding, space, equipment and professional guidance to startups.

One such accelerator is Tel Aviv-based Rad BioMed, which focuses on biomedical startups. At the end of its central hallway, above a smooth beige table surrounded by beakers, microscopes and computers, Dan Frumkin

holds a test tube in his latex gloves.

Frumkin, 40, hopes to improve diagnoses of bladder cancer by analysing DNA. He is the vice president for biochemistry of Nucleix, a startup focusing on DNA analysis that he co-founded four years ago.

Nucleix rents space from Rad BioMed, though it does not receive funding from the lab.

“It’s cheaper and easier” to work at Rad BioMed’s offices, Frumkin said. “Instead of creating a laboratory, we entered an existing one. It helps that we have a little in common with other companies.”

Incubators and accelerators have less money to invest than venture capital firms - typically in the hundreds of thousands rather than the millions. But Yoav Chelouche, managing partner of Israel’s Aviv Venture Capital, says “the cost of building a new company is dramatically lower than it’s been” in the past.

“You don’t need to buy software and an operating system,” he said. “You can use a lot of open source code,” programmes that are available for free on the Internet.

According to Chelouche’s research, venture capital firms in Israel provided about \$3 billion of funding to startups in Israel from 2008 to 2012, versus \$3,6 billion from 2004 to 2008 and \$6,5 billion from 1999 to 2004.

He also found, however, that Israel is on track to see about 600 new companies created this year, a similar number to 1999 and 2000. Chelouche says this could be a positive development for Israel’s tech sector, as it will create “a situation where companies have to do more with less, which is not necessarily a bad thing - being more frugal”.

But another investor, Roni Einav, the founder of New Dimension Software, which he sold for a record \$675 million in 1999, says that companies may hit a roadblock as they seek to expand overseas.

“If the company is successful in developing and having the first three, four or five customers in Israel, they can try to go abroad, but then they need more money,” he said.

The drop in funding actually could help people like Wanono, however, as they would own a greater percentage of their own companies and thus make larger profits should they sell their companies or should they go public on the stock market, Einav said.

“The question is how much time the founders are ready to sacrifice with minimal salaries, or whether they successfully convince the employees to work with reasonable salaries for a year or two,” he said.

“If you’re an entrepreneur and you’re not ready to sacrifice a part of your salary, it’s like you have a dream but you want someone else to finance it.”

Einav also noted that the percentage of venture capital funding of Israeli companies from the United States is growing, which he says is “good because the biggest challenge is to cross the ocean, so an American investor will give credibility to the company”.

While some areas of the startup industry are hot targets for investment, like biomedical companies, Sivan says it’s harder now than in previous years to get major investments as a startup. Still, he has confidence that no matter how the industry changes, startups will always be an attractive career option for enterprising Israelis. “This will always be something people do,” he said. “People like to create things, to take a chance.” (JTA)

World News in Brief

ISRAEL WARNS IT WILL STOP SHIP FROM GAZA WATERS

JERUSALEM - Israel has warned Finland that it will stop a ship sailing under the Finnish flag carrying human rights activists attempting to break Israel’s naval blockade of Gaza.

The Swedish-owned Estelle, carrying 17 activists from countries including Canada, Norway, Sweden, Israel and the United States, is near Crete and expected to reach Gaza in about a week.

“Israel said that it would take action to stop the ship from reaching land if it tries to break the blockade,” Finnish Foreign Ministry spokesman Risto Piipponen said last Saturday, according to the French news agency AFP. “We pointed out that it is a civilian vessel and urged them to practise restraint in any action they take.”

Part of the Freedom Flotilla movement, the Estelle reportedly is carrying humanitarian aid such as cement, basketballs and musical instruments. The small vessel began its journey in Sweden and toured Europe, including Finland, France and Spain, before arriving earlier this month in the Gulf of Naples.

The Freedom Flotilla’s first attempt to break the blockade ended in the deaths of nine Turkish activists after Israeli Navy commandos on May 31, 2010 boarded the Mavi Marmara, which claimed to be carrying humanitarian aid, after warning the ship not to sail into waters near the Gaza Strip in circumvention of Israel’s naval blockade of the coastal strip. (JTA)

BOMBERS STILL AT LARGE

MARSEILLE - French authorities have indicted seven suspects in the recent bombing of a kosher store near Paris but have not caught those who hurled the bomb.

Francois Molins of the Paris public prosecutor’s office said that seven suspects had been indicted for belonging to a terrorist association and two of them would be tried for complicity in attempted murder.

Molins said the men belonged to “an extremely dangerous terrorist, Jihadist cell” which perpetrated the September 19 bombing of a kosher supermarket in Sarcelles, a northern suburb of Paris.

Two men wearing masks hurled a self-made explosive device into the crowded store at noon. Last week French authorities discovered a cache of weapons and explosives near Paris, which they believe belonged to the terrorist cell.

On October 6 and the following day, French anti-terror police arrested 12 suspects in connection with the attack in a series of raids in several French cities. In one raid, in Strasbourg, police shot and killed Jérémie Louis-Sidney, 33, after he fired on officers at his apartment building.

On Sunday, the weekly Journal du Dimanche quoted Molins as saying: “We have identified the planners of this attack, we know Louis-Sidney handled the explosive device, but we are missing the two people who actually threw it in.”

He is quoted as adding: “According to the testimonies, the videos from the security cameras and other materials from the investigation, the two young men - one black and the other white - who threw in the device are at large.” There is “a risk”, he said, that not all the culprits “would be identified beyond doubt.”

Such investigations, he added “always present the same problem: You either keep pulling on the thread until you’ve undone the whole yarn ball, or you cut the thread. With a terrorist network, and considering how dangerous this one was, we could not afford to wait.”

Richard Prasquier, the president of CRIF, the umbrella group representing French Jewish communities, has praised French authorities for the “quick action” in pursuing the perpetrators of the attack. (JTA)

Tribute to Eliot Osrin’s 50 years of community service

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

“Five glorious decades of community endeavour” was celebrated on Sunday night at an event coinciding with the 80th birthday of Eliot Osrin.

In fact, master of ceremonies Philip Krawitz went as far as to say that the Osrins, Eliot and his wife Myra, were “the closest thing we have in Cape Town to Jewish royalty. Nothing happens in the Jewish community of Cape Town without Eliot’s ‘hechsher’.

“This community has no bonds, no debts and it’s all thanks to him. He has done it with integrity, ingenuity, passion and humility. He is a mentor to so many and an inspiration to all.”

Presenting a musical tribute by the Herzlia vocal ensemble and instrumentalists, opera star Aviva Pelham said that Eliot had “influenced virtually every aspect of Jewish life in Cape Town”. She added that “no-one embodied the principle of ‘Im Tirzu’ - the school’s motto meaning ‘If you will it’ (it is no dream) - more than Eliot. He has ensured the future of our children’s Jewish education.”

Mentioning Eliot’s integrity and diplomacy as his hallmark qualities, she said he was a “superb role model to his own family, as well as for future generations”.

In thanking the organisers and donors, Eliot shared with the gathering a few insights of an octogenarian. “First you will find your secrets are safe with your friends because they can’t remember them either.

“Also your wild oats have now turned into prunes and All Bran. While you can do without sex you can’t do without your glasses and not surprisingly, your pharmacist has become your new best friend,” he joked.

Reminiscing on his early years, Eliot recalled growing up in the small community of Mossel Bay and attending the Punt Hoërskool, which he said was “certainly not a launch pad for Jewish communal life”. He had arrived in Cape Town at the age of 17 to be articulated to a law firm, where the senior partner, Barney Hoffman, had started him on his long road of communal involvement.

A few years later, the chairman of Herzlia School asked him if he intended sending his children to the school. “I told him quite emphatically that I would never send my children to that ghetto school - famous last words.

“When my children Malcolm and Jeffrey came home from nursery school singing ‘Ma Nishtana’ and other Hebrew songs, this really ignited my fascination with the community - and I have loved it ever since.”

A DVD highlighting Eliot’s 50 years of communal leadership was shown at the event. Before his involvement with Herzlia, the majority of Jewish children in this city did not attend the school. Today, 85 per cent do - a phenomenon that education director Geoff Cohen attributes to Eliot.

He was instrumental in establishing Herzlia Constantia, as well as the Remission Fund, now the Herzlia Foundation, which ensures that no Jewish child is prevented by financial need from receiving a Jewish education.

“He has a magical way of getting people to work together for the good of the community,” Cohen commented. “He has a disarming way about him that nobody can refuse,” added Krawitz.

A fundraiser par excellence, in the words of Ronnie Stein, Eliot has also been instrumental in getting wealthy individuals to establish charitable trusts for the benefit of the community.

Hugh Herman summed it all up succinctly, saying: “He is known in the community as Mr Fixit.”



Ann Harris with Eliot and Myra Osrin, at an event celebrating Eliot’s five decades of communal service.

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THE BLUE AGENCY



Bless Annabel Linder to really tell it like it is

ROBYN SASSEN

“A Jewish mother can only be as happy as her unhappiest child,” says veteran musical theatre star, Annabel Linder. “That is my job. But my career has been one of survival.”

Linder is currently writing her memoirs and she’s hosting a show to celebrate it: “Annabel Linder Tells It Like It Is”, features stories, songs and music by Linder and her husband of 18 years, international jazz composer and clarinetist Sam Sklair (86).

“I have had a fantastic career. When you hear my story, you will see how my choice in husbands and all the things I have done have left me a survivor. This show is also about all the wonderful roles I’ve had. So many of them were Jewish.”

She refers less to the schmaltzy Jewish yentas she’s performed as, and more to serious, wrenching pieces, like Martin Sherman’s “Rose” a Holocaust story, for which she won a Vita Award in 2001.

“I have been doing cabaret for 107 years,” she characteristically uses hyperbole. “It’s the hardest medium of all. You

have to perform while people are eating. Eventually, you become nerveless. My stage debut was at the age of 17. ‘When you get down to the white bit, it is a plate’, I used to quip to cabaret audiences who didn’t respond to me,” she laughs.

“Percy Seeff the authority on vaudeville and music hall music in the 1980s suggested I celebrate ‘funny ladies’ of the industry - Fanny Bryce, Mae West, Sophie Tucker... It was then that I started singing My Yiddishe Mama - a song in the Foxwood programme - which Tucker made famous.”

A band leader for over six decades, UK-born Sklair, who has written scores for many films as well as radio and television productions, remains a realist: “Because things are going down in this industry, you are forced to make your own work.

“Other than the four numbers I’ll be

Photos supplied



playing in this Foxwood show, I’m currently busy, with composer Dan Selsick, composing Jewish music.

“It’s provisionally named ‘Niggun 1 to 9’ and feeds from the beautiful soundtrack they produced for Sylvaine Strike’s play ‘The Table’ last year. We want to name them things like ‘Kvetch’ or ‘Gesvint’ or ‘Schlepping About’, but we’ll see.”

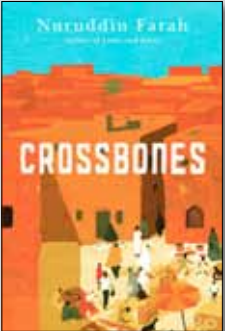
• *Annabel Linder Tells It Like It Is* is at Foxwood Theatre, Houghton, October 20, 21 and 27; November 3, 4, 10 and 11. Call (011)486-0935 or email admin@foxwood.co.za

Some good reads

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

Crossbones by Nuruddin Farah (Penguin, R129)

Now well past middle age, Jeebleh returns to Mogadiscio in his native Somalia in order to visit old friends. He is accompanied by his son-in-law Malik, a journalist who aims to use the time in that country to cover its ongoing political turmoil. However, upon reaching their destination, the two men find an eerie calm, enforced by figures robed in white and wielding whips. When Malik’s brother Ahl arrives Puntland - notorious as a pirates’ base - to search for his missing American stepson, who is thought to have been recruited by an imam allied to Somalian insurgents - the two brothers are thrown into an unimaginably brutal conflict. A vivid depiction of East versus West in terms of culture and ideologies, the novel completes Farah’s “Past Imperfect” trilogy.



Flowers in the Sky: A Celebration of Southern African Folklore by Clarissa Hughes (Clarissa Hughes, R268)---

A beautiful compilation of traditional tales which explain cosmology (and, by extension, cosmogony) in terms of human events. Related simply and movingly, these myths include Xam, Khwe, Sotho, Venda, Karanga, Tswana, Nguni and Xhosa stories about astronomical phenomena such as comets and shooting stars, as well as the creation of mankind. It also explores the relationship between language, consciousness and accountability. With a striking forward by Credo Mutwa, the book is theoretically for children, but is every bit as instructive and enchanting for adults. Highly recommended.



Arts in Brief

MENTALIST GILAN GORK IN CAPE TOWN NEXT MONTH

Mentalist Gilan Gork performs during November in Cape Town. A lot of his focus is on the audience. “We are all able to do a lot with our minds, more than we’ve imagined,” he says. Gork uses his mind to bend metal spoons and forks, extract a dream from the mind of a volunteer, and unlock the ability of an audience member to read the minds of three others. Beyond the Mind is at Theatre on the Bay, Cape Town, November 7 - 24. Gork asks that audience members bring a metal fork or spoon along with them for the performance.

JJMC CELEBRATES 27 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SA JEWRY

The Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir celebrates 27 years of service to SA Jewry, having debuted in 1986. This year, they partner Maccabi SA to raise funds for local Jewish youth to participate in Israel’s Maccabi Games next April 2013. Featuring guest artist Cantor Avron Alter of the Sandton Synagogue on November 11, the JJMC presents ‘Songs of Israel’, a concert focusing on the tribulations and joys of Israel. The programme includes Avinu Malkeinu, the Havdalah prayer and a selection of songs celebrating Jerusalem, culminating in the stirring Maccabi March. Tickets are available from Evelyn Green: (011) 728-5570 or through Computicket.

THE JITTERY CITIZENS HAVE TAKEN THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG BY STORM

Brand new local improv group, mooted The Jittery Citizens, comprising Claudine Ullman, Toni Morkel, James Cairns, Alex Radnitz and Jess Taylor (pictured), have taken the city by storm. They will be performing their new work at the Old Mutual Theatre on the Square in a once-off performance on October 21. In addition, the play Sunday Morning, which was featured recently in our Tapestry pages, written and directed by Jenine Collocott and Nick Warren, and performed by James Cunningham, is enjoying a return season by popular demand, at this theatre, until October 27. (011) 883-8606.



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The Editor, PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034 email: sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF TIKKUN OLAM

Dr Ivor Blumenthal's article (Jewish philanthropy: Is it charity or merely reparations, in last week's paper) is very provocative! There is no doubt that Jewish welfare organisations need our unstinting support, but I think he has forgotten the spirit of tikkun olam which should be part of our Jewish persona.

South Africa is a damaged society, which needs repair and I believe we should do whatever we can, whether as individuals, corporates or welfare organisations, to help the formerly disadvantaged sections of our society to become useful, productive, self-respecting individuals.

There are many members of our Jewish community who think and act this way, who are not specifically motivated by the hope of gaining friends for us as Jews, but who work for the betterment of the wider community.

If this results in a positive spin-off for our organisations and recognition of our community, so much the better. But to withdraw into our purely Jewish shell and only look after our own, implies a withdrawal from our responsibilities as South African citizens, and may have a negative effect which could be exploited by those who actively campaign against Jews, and by association, Israel.

Martin Behr
Johannesburg

PRESENT GOVERNMENT PUTS SA ON THE BRINK

We have in South Africa a so-called democracy in a modern day society, but at what a price! We eliminated the evil scourge of apartheid and installed a new race-free government.

Our great hero, Madiba, took over and was hailed as one of the finest and noblest statesmen of our times for his humility, dedication and compassion in creating a new dispensation for a better, just and brighter South Africa.

Fair enough. But at the present moment the saga of events happening here have definitely taken a nose dive. Wildcat strikes are the order of the day, corruption and maladministration are widespread. Heinous crime, murder and rape have devastated and ravaged our land and this has caused our economic landslide.

Our present government is totally out of touch and very inept in dealing with the affairs of state, which are in the doldrums.

Overseas investors are obviously wary to invest here - and who can blame them? As a result I firmly believe that to turn matters around we must wake up and smell the roses, and duly elect people to parliament who have the country's interests at heart, instead of politicians who feather their own nests and are set for self-enrichment at the expense of the masses.

Let's pray that sanity will prevail and that we will overcome and restore this once proud nation to the glory and status it rightly deserves.

Barney Segal
Johannesburg

KARABUS: UAE ACTION REFLECTS FAILURE TO OBSERVE HUMAN RIGHTS

The news of the imprisonment of Prof Cyril Karabus in the United Arab Emirates on a charge of manslaughter resulting from the death of a child suffering from leukaemia, reflects the failure of this Arab country to observe basic human rights.

In all countries, certainly in the Western world, if there is reason to believe that there was malpractice responsible for the death of the child, the treating doctor would be charged with malpractice, and not with manslaughter. Moreover, on the information provided, it would appear that the child suffered from acute leukaemia, a fatal disease despite all modern treatment, and even malpractice would seem to be excluded.

It is incumbent on medical associations and other medical groups throughout the world, to take up the appeal for his immediate release. I believe the South African government should join this appeal.

Prof Monty M Zion MD FRCP
Tel Mond, Israel

JEW'S MUST REMEMBER THAT CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

Dr Ivor Blumenthal in his article on Jewish philanthropy, has hit the nail on the head. Let it stay there, and let our brains think about looking after our own.

The Jewish community struggles to make ends meet, and we are constantly trying to raise funds for ourselves, yet we try to find favour with other causes and organisations that do not always appreciate what is being done for them.

Cut back on the money and see how vicious they will become. You will probably hear the same comments that were said 60 years ago.

Joel Goldstein
Sandton

TAKING ISSUE WITH THE HACKERS OF THE PALM TREE ON SYLVIA PASS

Two years ago Lionel Slier wrote an article about someone in the Jewish community (you will know who you are) who had hacked the branches of a palm tree that belongs to the city council, on the top of Sylvia Pass.

It is illegal to damage council property. The culprits cut the branches of the tree till it looked shocking, leaving a mess on the ground. Last year they left the tree alone. This year once again they took the same beautiful palm and cut all the lower branches again. I took a photograph of this hacked tree.

I would like to know if the guilty parties would like someone to come to their home and destroy their garden! They did not even bother to clean up the mess on the ground.

Please do not shame us in this community. I hope that in future you will not touch this beautiful tree.

Gina Bergman
De Wetshof
Johannesburg

World News in Brief

ISRAEL'S STATE PROSECUTOR TO APPEAL OLMERT ACQUITTALS

JERUSALEM - Israel's state prosecutor will appeal the acquittals of former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in two of three cases decided earlier this year.

The prosecutor informed Olmert's attorney on Tuesday that it would appeal the July acquittals on charges of fraud, breach of trust, tax evasion and falsifying corporate records in what became known as the Talansky and Rishon Tours affairs, according to the Justice Ministry.

His sentence in the Investment Centre Affair, in which the Jerusalem District Court found Olmert guilty on the lesser charge of breach of trust, also will be appealed.

Last month Olmert was sentenced to one to three years of probation and fined some \$19 000 for granting personal favours to attorney Uri Messer when Olmert served as trade minister. The former prime minister could have faced up to three years in jail.

The announcement came a day after the 18th Knesset voted to dissolve itself and to go to new elections in January next year, and as Olmert reportedly was deciding whether to attempt a political comeback in the elections.

Last week, Likud Party lawmaker Tzipi Hotovely petitioned Israel's Central Elections Committee to prevent Olmert from running for office, citing the July conviction.

The sentence in the Investment Centre case did not include a ruling of moral turpitude, which would have prevented the 67-year-old from re-entering politics for seven years.

Olmert had agreed to forgo the perks awarded to a former head of state, including a secretary, an office and a car, in exchange for the finding.

Olmert is the first former Israeli prime minister ever to stand trial. He officially resigned as prime minister in September 2008 after police investigators recommended that he be indicted in the Talansky case. (JTA)

KNESSET DISSOLUTION BILL PASSES ITS FINAL READING ON NEW ELECTIONS

JERUSALEM - Legislation to dissolve the Israeli Knesset and go to national elections was approved unanimously early Tuesday morning.

Israeli lawmakers voted unanimously on the bill's final reading to dissolve the 18th Knesset and hold elections for a new government on January 22.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, opposition leader Shaul Mofaz, President Shimon Peres, Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin and a host of other lawmakers spoke in the hours before the vote on the opening day of the winter session.

Elections for the next Knesset had been scheduled for October 2013. The new poll will take place four years since the last vote.

Netanyahu had announced last week, after consulting with his coalition partners, that the country would go to early elections, next year, saying that it was impossible to pass the 2013 budget without first holding elections.

"These coming elections are intended to set our goals for the future," Peres said.

He added, "They should be conducted with respect, with sensitivity to one another and with restraint.

The elections should be a national debate without senseless attacks." (JTA)

CAMERON TO LONDON JEWS: NOT TIME FOR ISRAEL TO ATTACK IRAN

LONDON - British Prime Minister David Cameron told members of London's Jewish community on Monday night that Israel should give sanctions more time to work.

"I have said to Prime Minister (Benjamin) Netanyahu that now is not the time for Israel to resort to military action," Cameron said at the United Jewish Israel Appeal annual fundraising dinner in London.

But, he told the audience of 700 Jewish community leaders and supporters: "In the long term, if Iran makes the wrong choice, nothing is off the table.

A nuclear-armed Iran is a threat to Israel. And a threat to the world.

"And this country will work unwaveringly to prevent that from happening," the British leader pledged.

The European Union Foreign Affairs Council on Monday adopted new economic sanctions against Iran that hit its banking, shipping and industrial areas.

Last month, Netanyahu warned the N General Assembly that Iran was close to acquiring enough enriched uranium to build a nuclear bomb.

Cameron also praised Britain's ambassador to Israel, Matthew Gould, who travelled from Israel to attend the event, the London Jewish Chronicle reported.

"There is no contradiction between being a proud Jew, a committed Zionist and a loyal British citizen," he said, reportedly responding to criticism that Gould has "dual loyalties", according to the newspaper. (JTA)

ISRAEL CONFERS ITS PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL ON MEHTA

JERUSALEM - Israeli conductor Zubin Mehta has been awarded a Presidential Medal of Distinction by Israeli President Shimon Peres.

Mehta is the music director for life of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and a visiting conductor for orchestras around the world.

The award, presented at a special event on Monday at the President's residence, was conferred "for his outstanding contribution to culture in the State of Israel".

Peres in conferring the award said that he could not think of anyone else who had offered such a unique contribution to Israel, its people and its mood.

"You have shown leadership," Peres said. "A leader was born to elate the spirit and the hopes of the people. That's what you did."

Peres said Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic "carried a flag of friendship across the world and represented our country in an unbelievable manner.

Music conducted by you became a message for peace, a message of hope".

In accepting the award, Mehta said: "What Israel has given me in the last 50 years I can only give back by having my musicians night after night play their hearts out all over the world."

The Presidential Medal of Distinction is awarded to individuals and organisations that have made unique and outstanding contributions to Israeli society and to Israel's image around the world.

An additional merit of these awards is that they constitute examples of genuine initiative, innovation, creativity and a long-term vision. (JTA)

DERI REINSTATED AS SHAS PARTY HEAD

JERUSALEM - Aryeh Deri, who resigned as head of the Sephardi haredi Orthodox Shas Party 13 years ago, has been reinstated by the party's spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, according to reports.

Deri would take the party chairmanship from Interior Minister Eli Yishai, who has served in the top party position for more than a decade. Yishai reportedly has been promised the most senior ministerial position should Shas join the next government.

Yishai's office responded to the report by saying that "nothing has changed, we will do whatever Rabbi Ovadia Yosef instructs us to do", according to the Times of Israel.

Deri, who decided to re-enter politics a few weeks ago, had threatened to launch his own party if he were not permitted to retake the Shas chairmanship.

He was indicted in 1993 for accepting bribes and sentenced in 2000 to three years in prison. Under the conviction, Deri was barred from public service in the political arena for seven years.

Yosef said at the time of the conviction that the party's leadership would be given to Yishai until Deri's return. (JTA)

KAFKA'S WRITINGS TO GO PUBLIC, TEL AVIV COURT RULES

JERUSALEM - An Israeli court has ruled that papers belonging to writer Franz Kafka be transferred to the Israel National Library in Jerusalem. The Tel Aviv District Family Court made the ruling last Friday following a years-long legal battle.

The papers, which also include correspondence between Kafka and his mentor and close friend Max Brod, have been the subject of a custody battle between the Hoffe family and Israel's National Library.

Kafka shortly before his death left the papers to Brod, who contrary to Kafka's wishes published what are now many of his most famous works. The rest of Brod's possessions passed on to his secretary, Esther Hoffe, who passed them down to her daughter Eva. Brod had bequeathed the manuscripts to the National Library in his will, according to Haaretz.

Eva and her sister, Ruth Wiesler, began selling off pieces of Brod's estate. They planned to sell the papers to the German Literary Archive in Marbach until the Israel National Library demanded the rights to them.

The manuscripts include tens of thousands of pages that were kept in 10 safe deposit boxes in banks in Tel Aviv and Zurich. (JTA)

WIFE OF ISRAELI CELEBRITY RABBI ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

JERUSALEM - The wife of Israeli kabbalist Rabbi Yoshiyahu Yosef Pinto on Sunday tried to commit suicide as her husband was being questioned by police.

The rabbi's wife, Rivka, was rushed to a Tel Aviv hospital after reportedly overdosing on pills, Israel Radio reported. The questioning of Pinto was suspended on Sunday after three hours.

The couple were arrested and released to home detention late last week after allegedly attempting to bribe a police officer to get information about an investigation into alleged money laundering by the couple.

A former aide to Pinto, Ofer Biton, was jailed last month in the United States over immigration violations. US officials reportedly have been scrutinising Biton's fundraising activities for a US congressman, Representative Michael Grimm (Republican New York). (JTA)

SAJR JUNIOR



HERZLIA HIGH SCHOOL

Inspiring view from my office window

LIZBE BOTES, PRINCIPAL, HERZLIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

The first thing I see when entering my office, is the silver calligraphy lettering reminding all who enter that “**If you will it, it is no legend**” – the motto of our school, encouraging pupils and staff to aspire to make their aspirations an everyday occurrence.

As I observe the daily activities at Herzlia Middle School, from early morning at 06:30, when parents drop off their children for pre-dawn water polo practice, to early evening, when the last teachers leave, I am struck by the determination of the pupils and staff to excel at their respective goals.

In 2012, we made a decision to extend our leadership programme to as many learners as possible in all three grades of the school, instead of limiting opportunities to only a select few grade 9 Student Council members.

The result is our Inclusive leadership programme in which more than 100 learners are occupying various leadership positions, including grade representatives, captains

of sports teams and class monitors.

In addition, all pupils are exposed to leadership training throughout the year, when different leadership styles, group dynamics and conflict resolution are discussed. An exciting development has been the 37 participants in the President’s Leadership Award.

Daily discussions with the pupils who visit my office, or with those to whom I have the pleasure of presenting tutorials, leave me without any doubt that each and every learner wants to improve him or herself.

As a principal, I have an open door policy that ensures interaction with staff members, current and prospective parents and, most importantly, the pupils. It is important for us to know that although we have amazingly talented pupils, they have a need to regularly discuss the challenges they face in their endeavours to develop and build their own identities and cope with a world with which we, as adults, still struggle to cope.

The inter-house system where the three houses compete in athletics, swimming, drama, surfing,

debating, soccer and basketball, has boosted the ruach in the school. I was privileged to be part of the step-by-step planning and preparation of our first-ever Inter-House School Play Festival in 2011. This too was an example of the commitment and determination of our pupils and staff to succeed.

The experience proved to be invaluable as it cemented relationships outside of the classroom environment. This year we are looking forward to showcasing our talent with a musical written and directed by our music educator, Monika Wassung.

At the Middle School it is important for us to provide a learning environment in which there is a balance between freedom to innovate and undergoing learning within a framework of discipline and acknowledgement of the rights of others.

Effective discipline can only be achieved and maintained through mutual respect. This is an easy task if we, as role-models, live out the values of co-operation and accountability.

Visitors to Herzlia Middle School often mention the happy “vibe”



they can sense sitting in the office area waiting for an appointment. I believe this is because we are a Herzlia family consisting of maintenance staff, administration staff, parents, teachers and our pupils.

If respect is shown to all and we all value each other’s contribu-

tions - big or small - towards this unique learning environment instilling Jewish values, allowing for each other’s differences, while nurturing a sense of belonging, we will live our motto every day believing that if **we** will it, it will be no legend.



Gabriella Saven, head girl of Middle School 2012.

The exciting journey through Middle School

GABRIELLA SAVEN, HEAD GIRL OF MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADE 9B

Middle School is like an exploration - you start off at the beginning of grade 7, not knowing what to expect, having mixed emotions of being extremely overwhelmed, but at the same time excited for the adventure to come...

However, as the journey of Middle School continues, you start to get your bearings and familiarise yourself with your new routine. Things become a lot less overwhelming, you start to learn more about your surroundings, and just like any great explorer, you find your true individuality. For some, this takes longer than others.

But that is the beauty of Middle School

and is what makes it unique to other schools. Middle School gives learners the opportunity to ease into the high school system, with other pupils their age and maturity, as well as giving them the opportunity to mature at a slow and steady rate, without having the pressure of the usual high school system and the older pupils.

During your adventure, there are many paths provided, each with its own set of challenges. However, no matter how big the challenge, Middle School will provide you with the skills and tools necessary for overcoming these obstacles.

In every journey, one needs a reliable compass which will guide you in the right direction and lead you on the right path.

At Middle School our compass is Mrs Lizbe Botes. She is not only a principal, she is also

a mentor, an incredible leader, but most of all someone that we know we can always approach, rely on, trust and follow as a fantastic role-model.

She has an open door policy and all the learners know that to talk to her, all that is required is a knock on her door.

At the end of your journey when you take some time to reflect on your trip, you will see the endless amount of opportunities that were offered to you. Not only on the sporting field, but also in the all-inclusive leadership programme, cultural events like musicals, one-act plays and showcase, community work, anti-bullying campaigns, exchange programmes, brilliant teachers, photography, debating and more. Herzlia Middle School is the most fantastic experience for all learners.

Klitah 2012 – oodles of fun for the grade 7s

AVIVA PHILLIPS GRADE 7A

Early this year the grade 7s of Herzlia Middle School had the privilege of going to the Habonim campsite in Onrus for their annual Klitah for three days.

When the group eventually got to their destination, they were welcomed by their excited grade 12 madrichim. They divided themselves into groups for all the wooden cozy cabins that they would be staying in.

Stuart Norrie and Jess Levitt their roshim (leader) split them into

groups that they would stay in for the rest of camp. In these groups they would have a chance to meet new people and make new friends.

All the youth movements - Habonim, Bnei Akiva and Netzer - went to visit the grade 7s at the campsite. They engaged in fun and interesting activities with the children; they played games, got to know more about their five senses and how to become pirates!

On the second day, our principal, Mrs Lizbe Botes, visited us in the freezing cold weather. JIPSY was at Klitah most of the time with them.

Most of the children agreed

that gangashlach was one of their highlights! It was a game that they played to see whenever one of the madrichim said “gangashlach”, who would hide under their sleeping bags the quickest.

During the breaks there were some “disgustingly funny” skits from the madrichim and some amazing talent and singing from grade 7s.

From the boys playing cricket and rugby, to the girls chilling and chatting on the field, I’m sure everyone who went to camp, would agree that Klitah 2012 was great fun and a huge highlight of our grade 7 year at Herzlia Middle School!



The grade 7s enjoying all the activities on offer at Seminar Klitah.

Liberty Life

“We at Liberty are delighted to be involved with the JNR Jewish Report. At Liberty we believe passionately in the value of education and have been supporting education initiatives for over 40 years.”

Steven Braudo
Chief Executive: Liberty Retail SA

LIBERTY
Own your life

Sirius magic and healing kept us enthralled



A student and Steve from The College of Magic, with Sean Barenblatt; Olivia Bernstein; Mark Helfrich; and Sherryn Berkovitz from Herzlia Middle School.

**OLIVIA BERNSTEIN, HEAD OF SIRIUS
GRADE 9C**

The “Sirius” portfolio is named after the brightest and most visible star in our galaxy. The Sirius portfolio aims to keep our Herzlia Middle School learners’ minds open, interested, extended and entertained.

To do this we offer opportunities that include current affairs, random facts, brain teasers and out-of-the-box thinking. We organise, for example, weekly quizzes, PowerPoint shows at assemblies and thought-provoking images on the TV screen in the school atrium.

In addition, two guest speakers are invited per term to address learners either after school or during a lunch break. We also go on at least one outing each term and one camp per year. Any interested learner in our school is welcome to participate.

We kicked off 2012 with the theme, “Magic” and in the beginning of the year, 45 Sirius Club members spent a morning filled with intrigue, fascination and excitement at the Cape Town College of Magic.

On arrival, we were welcomed by our guide, Steve. Our morning began with a few extracts, performed by College of Magic students, from their recent show at the Baxter Theatre. We were then privileged enough to watch an exhilarating set of tricks by a College of Magic graduate who was also a Western Province Magic winner.

We were fascinated by his mind blowing acts and his incredible ability to make an ordinary broom levitate! This was followed by a brief tour of the building.

Steve then split us into two equal groups. One followed him into “Houdini’s Chamber” where he performed card tricks that filled our minds with wonder! The second group was taught magic tricks that can now be performed to charm our friends and families. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and it was definitely a worthwhile, magical experience.

The highlight of our second theme, “Medicine”,

was a talk on homeopathy, by Ian Wheeler, a leading homeopath and pharmacist. Wheeler intrigued us with his fascinating knowledge on the subject. He led us through the history of homeopathy, explained how they derive the potency of remedies and gave examples of how homeopathy works, using simple and complex remedies.

The memory of water and the concepts that natural healing is built upon, such as “like cures like”, was intriguing. This was extremely interesting and got us all thinking about how we treat our bodies.

We watched a hilarious YouTube video, “Homeopathic ER”, which takes a more sceptical view on homeopathy. An interesting debate followed between those who have strong alternative opinions on the possibility of harmful effects of allopathic medication and those believing homeopathy is bogus! Just the response Sirius wants!

In March, Sirius hosted former Herzlian, David Gitelson, who presented an illustrated talk on his trip from Cape Town to Cairo, in a 1995 Toyota Land Cruiser named “The Beast”.

The aim of his trip was “to have an adventure and to raise funds for Lawrence’s Roundabout Well Appeal, which is a charity hoping to supply fresh water to Africa’s rural communities”.

He explained how water is drawn up while the kids play on a roundabout and is then stored in a raised tank. David hoped to raise enough funds to install two pumps at a cost of £7 500 each and had raised £8 660 so far.

I am over the moon (like the Sirius star!) with the enthusiasm that has been shown by learners and parents for what Sirius has offered thus far. I trust that with the ongoing assistance of my executive and the encouragement of Mark Helfrich, my vision of stirring the minds of our Herzlia Middle School learners with interesting, enriching and entertaining opportunities, will bear a fruitful and successful year.

Herzlia, Leap School, drum up goodwill and lots of support

**CAG AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE OF 2012
HERZLIA AND LEAP PARTNERSHIP.**

Leap Science and Maths School meet for the pupils of both schools to learn from each other’s experiences and environments.

At the start, the pupils were introduced to each other at the Leap School in Pinelands for a fun drumming session. At first we were all a bit shy and did not know what to talk about, but true to teenager style it didn’t take us long to start chatting up a storm!

We had an amazing drumming lesson together and everyone wanted to know when the next meeting would be.

The next meeting was in fact at The Green Point Park where we had lunch together and walked around on the paths discussing some of the exhibits. The afternoon went by very quickly and we were happy to hear that the next meeting had already been planned.

For this meeting the grade 9s and high school pupils were split for their outings. The grade 9s went to the new science centre and enjoyed the activities together.

The high school pupils from the Leap School joined the Herzlia pupils at the Jewish cemetery for the Yom Hashoah ceremony. Afterwards they all went to the Leap School and had a lengthy discussion about the day’s events.

We are all excited for our next outing - to Gugulethu - to have a look at two community centres where some of the Leap pupils are doing community work. We will be discussing some problems these centres are encountering and what the areas are where the Herzlia and Leap pupils can together get involved in.



The fantastic drumming session was the first encounter for the Herzlia and Leap partnership.

A glorious picnic to celebrate Pesach by

**SABRINA COHEN
GRADE 9 D**

The Judaica Committee of 2012 decided to make this year’s grade 9 Pesach seder inclusive and interactive. The grade 9 seder is a highlight of the grade’s year, as we celebrate and unite together.

We came up with the theme of a “Pesach Picnic” with the intention that our guests would feel relaxed and in a comfortable environment, symbolising the freedom of the Jewish people.

Our picnic took place in the Herzlia Middle School Sidney Gross Hall. The décor for the evening created the impression that you were walking into an enchanted garden with picnic baskets and checked tablecloths placed on each table, with striking pink and purple flowers alongside the baskets.

As deputy head of Judaica, I

headed up this project together with Kevin Pogrund (head of Judaica), Morah Debbie Suiza (head of Jewish Life in the Middle School) and the committee.

The evening started off in a serene atmosphere when Rabbi Jonathan Ross, our special guest speaker, gave us an insightful Dvar Torah that we could all take home and re-tell at our own Pesach sederim.

Our three main objectives for the seder were to combine having fun, learning and interacting as a grade. During the evening we had slideshows with information, videos and visuals playing on the walls.

Each table was given one of the Ten Plagues as the name of their team and had to come up and present a war cry and give information about their plague; we liked to call this “The Plague War Cry Competition Smack-Down” which got everyone

hyped up and on their feet.

This was just one of the ways we joined all of our three objectives together, along with playing our unique Pesach edition of “Who Wants to be a Jewllionaire”.



Levi Uranovsky; Jason Smith; Sabrina Cohen; Kevin Pogrund; Shai Levin; and Zach Levin entertain at the grade 9 seder dinner.

Throughout the seder there was a vibe of enthusiasm and enjoyment, whether it was singing along to all the Pesach number one hits, or just connecting during the meal. The catering was beautifully prepared and

presented by the PTA of the Middle School.

All in all we are proud to say that the Grade 9 Pesach Seder 2012 was a huge success and that it was definitely a night to remember.

What a way to get to know one another better!

DAVID MESARCIK
GRADE 8C


At the beginning of the year, the grade 8s were getting to know more about each other on the “Dare to Care” Breede River Camp.

This fantastic three-day experience was filled with fun and interesting activities to test our bodies and minds. We went on a five km kayak trip down the beautiful Breede River, braved our way across a terrifying “high rope” obstacle course, built several metres off the ground, navigated through a dark maze, raced each other in team building activities and learnt about our environment during the fantastic science and geography section.

Throughout the camp we developed important social skills and were constantly being put out of our comfort zones to complete difficult tasks. The camp was a great success and everyone really loved it.



Grade 8 learners encourage one another to conquer their fears on the high rope courses.



THE TORAH ACADEMY

**TEACHING STAFF
REQUIRED FOR 2013**
TORAH ACADEMY BOYS'
AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOLS

Torah Academy is looking for teachers in the following subjects:

Maths: Grades 7 & 8
Maths Lit: Grades 11 & 12
Afrikaans: Grades 7, 8 & 9

Please send CV to:
girlshigh@torahacademy.co.za
For Attention: Rebecca Sarchi

We'll remember our surf tour to Still Bay

LEVI KRUYER AND
PAZ SHINA
GRADES 9C AND 9E

Day 1:
We woke up at 05:30 to get to school bright and early as we had to pack the trailers with all our surfing gear before departing. Everyone was starting to get really excited. We then said adios to all the parents and off we went on the five hour bus ride ahead, with a quick stop at Koelbaai for a fun surf. We arrived at Still Bay in the late hours of the evening and went straight to the beach to hit the waves.

Day 2:
We woke up at 06:00 in our four-man bedrooms with only two beds. We arrived at the beach, still dark, with nothing to fear

but sharks! After a pleasant surf we went back to our digs for some much needed nourishment. Later, getting back into our wet wetsuits and waxing our boards, we enjoyed a fantastic surfing experience at Jongensfontein.

Day 3:
Sleep, surf, eat, surf, think, surf.

Day 4:
After our two surfs before 12:00, we were saddened to leave a memorable holiday. We arrived back at school feeling sunburnt and tired, but with no rashes thanks to Vaseline!
A big thank you to Mr Brorson, Mrs Kohler, Mr Joseph, Bernard and Mike Rubin, who arranged and accompanied us on this amazing surfing experience which we will remember fondly.



Pupils show off their amazing surfing talent on the Still Bay surf tour.



מכון ויצמן למדע
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

On Tuesday, November 13th at 12pm

The President of the Weizmann Institute of Science

Professor Daniel Zajfman will inaugurate the new

David Lopatie Hall of Graduate Studies

At the Weizmann Institute of Science.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be followed

by a luncheon celebrating this transformational

gift by David Lopatie of Johannesburg in support

of the graduate education of future generations

of scientific talent in Israel.

The dedication will take place during the

64th Annual International Board Meeting of the

Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel.

Should you wish to be present please contact
resource.development@weizmann.ac.il
Or call 972.8.934.4582

Photo: Peter Steyn



Strutting their stuff are Jessi Wainer; Isabella Friedman; Megan Kantor; and Kira Fisher.

KDVPP young entrepreneurs do very well indeed

STACY FLEISHMAN

The much anticipated annual King David Victory Park Primary School grade 5 mini market, this year did not disappoint. Planning went on for weeks as the children, who were split into groups, worked hard at making their stalls the most exciting and successful. Many stalls offered a wide variety of goods, ranging from food, jewellery, games and toys.



Gabriel Shapiro; Dylan Dermeik; Benjamin Melamdowitz; and Matthew Rauff.

The weather was perfect and the atmosphere exhilarating as each stall tried to entice the crowds to purchase from them. All monies raised will be donated to charity. Well done to the grade 5 teachers, parents and pupils on a very profitable morning.



King David Victory Park Primary School is an independent co-educational Jewish School for pupils from Grade 1 to 7. We invite applications for the following post which is available from 1 January 2013 or soon thereafter.

Media Centre Educational Ipad Apps Coordinator

The successful applicant will be a suitably qualified professional with integrity, innovation and passion for teaching primary school children.

- The minimum requirements for this position are:
- Proof of registration with SACE;
 - A minimum of 3 years' experience and a proven record of good classroom practice;
 - A passion for teaching primary school children in a diverse educational setting.
 - A willingness to participate in the extramural programme of the school and;
 - An ability to run a media centre or experience in working with Educational Ipad apps would be a distinct advantage.

The remuneration package for the post will be commensurate with experience. Please submit a letter of motivation with a full Curriculum Vitae and details of three contactable referees to Miss Alanda van Staden, PA to the Headmaster: vanstadena@sabje.co.za

KDVP SACEE debaters do it in style



Joshua Broomberg and Saul Musker (back), Rowan Lange, Elizabeth Leaver (HOD English) and Zoë Wein

ELIZABETH LEAVER

On Monday evening the King David High School Victory Park Senior SACEE team achieved gold when they defeated King David Linksfield in the final of the South African Council of English Education Debating Competition. The team, consisting of Saul Musker, Joshua Broomberg, Zoë Wein and Rowan

Lange, had debated consistently well throughout the year. Musker and Broomberg are the only Gauteng debaters in the South African team selected for the World Debating Championships, and Broomberg and Wein have been selected to represent Gauteng in the National Debating Championships to be held in Kimberley in December.

Who's excited about Bandana day?

HAILEY FOX

Pine Street Play-school learners Dani Josselowitz, Chase Cohen, Morgan Ezra and Liora Israel, are very excited to wear their bandanas in support of the Sunflower Fund. Bandana Day raises funds and awareness of those fighting leukaemia.



Photo: Hailey Fox

Amber-Rose wins 3rd prize



Photo: Renee Koch

RENEE KOCH

Amber-Rose Kaler of King David High School Linksfield, won third prize at the IEB Matric Art Awards for her wax and charcoal portraits. Eugene Hön of UJ, who hosted the exhibition, commended the learners, saying the exhibition was of the highest standard so far.

Minnie Bersohn tots donate teddy bears

MICHELLE VINOKUR

The children at Minnie Bersohn Pre-Primary School in Johannesburg, donated their own teddy bears to the Teddy Bear Clinic. The Teddy Bear Clinic assists abandoned and abused children. It is such a special mitzvah, especially at this time of the year!



Photo supplied

-----A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies-----

Minister Davies’ cynical action boggles the mind



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

We were aware that when we decided to join with other organisations in opposing the Department of Trade and Industry’s proposed new labelling legislation for products emanating in Jewish West Bank enclaves, that the process would be a lengthy and complex one. Perhaps the most frustrating obstacle we would have to contend against was the attitude of Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies, whose actions and statements clearly intimidated that he had prejudged the issue in favour of the pro-Palestinian lobby and was simply not interested in engaging with alternate views. Prior to issuing his original Notice, he had ignored over 30 approaches from our side to meet with him. When a meeting finally did take place, his overtly disdainful and dismissive demeanour suggested that he was no more than going through the motions of public consultation when in reality, in his own words, the matter was “a done deal”.

Given this background we were gratified, as reported in my previous column, to be given the opportunity of participating in the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry’s public hearings on the Notice. Representatives of all the main parties in Parliament were in attendance and participated in the debate. Overall, we were much encouraged by the Committee’s willingness to listen to our concerns and to try and find constructive solutions going forward. Crucially, it was agreed that further submissions would be requested from the stakeholders, outlining what were the minimum demands that each felt would be satisfactory in resolving the matter, before any final Notice was issued. The Minister’s representative at the Portfolio Committee meeting explicitly stated that there would “not be a final notice without talking to the public”. It was further agreed that all “minimum requirement documents” would be submitted on or before October 15, and both the SAJBD and SAZF ensured that this was done. The ink was hardly dry on this agreement when we received a communication advising that a second Notice had now been issued, with the public having a 30 day period in which to comment on it. It represented yet another circumvention of the consultation process by Minister Davies, who in his evident obsession with forcing through the measure demonstrated that he was not only uninterested in the Jewish community’s concerns, but was also quite happy to disregard his own Parliamentary Portfolio Committee’s considered recommendation that no Final Notice should be issued until a proper public participation process had taken place. Notwithstanding this latest setback, we remain committed as ever to fighting this battle, and in this regard will continue to explore all available diplomatic and legal avenues. Certainly, we will be making another detailed submission on the latest Notice, which has in no way allayed our concerns and in certain ways has gone even further than its predecessor in singling out Israel for discriminatory, inconsistent and unreasonable treatment. What really is so saddening about all of this is how private political agendas have been allowed to undermine the principle of public participation and consumer protection in our country. We have always respected these rules and sought to play by them, in turn expecting that, as South African citizens, we would be able to make meaningful input into the process. While we will continue to do this, it has to be said that our confidence in the system has been much eroded.

• Listen to Steven Gruzd on Jewish Board Talk on 101.9 Chai FM every Friday 12:00-13:00. Repeats Sundays, 11:00-12:00.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

World News in Brief

MOSHE DAYAN’S GRAVESITE VANDALISED ON YAHRTZHEIT JERUSALEM - The grave of Moshe Dayan was vandalised on the anniversary of the former Israeli defence minister’s death. Graffiti reading “The minister of failure, on behalf of the fallen” was painted in red on Dayan’s gravestone early Tuesday morning, 31 years since the date of his death. A memorial service was held at the site in the military section of Nahalal cemetery in northern Israel on October 14. The Defence Ministry in a statement issued on Tuesday “strongly” condemned the attack. The ministry said it sent members of its Unit for the Commemoration of the Soldier to repair the gravestone. Dayan served as defence minister during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. He also served as chief of staff for the Israel Defence Forces from 1953 to 1958. (JTA)

Communities celebrate High Holy Days

DAVID SAKS

Jewish communities a long distance from the mainstream and in sub-Saharan Africa, once again came together to celebrate the High Holy Days. Services took place in Bloemfontein, Plettenberg Bay, Oudtshoorn, Kimberley, Hermanus and Klerksdorp; Gaborone, Botswana, and Bulawayo and Harare, Zimbabwe. Officiants were provided through the SA-JBD Country Communities Department and African

Jewish Congress, which both fall under Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft. In many cases, those who led the services had been doing so in the same centres for many years. Rabbi Silberhaft said that he encouraged this practice, which built up a connection between the community and the baal tefilla concerned. Long-serving baalei tefilla included Yitzchak Sharon from Israel (Bloemfontein) and Yosef Shishler and Nachi Ash (Kimberley).



Penthouse in the Daniel Hotel



This one of a kind property is situated on the top floor of the Daniel hotel in Herzliya Pituach. 220 mrs of stunning panoramic views first line to the ocean with a view that will never change. **Asking price \$4,950,000**

Villa in the sky on Nitza



240 mrs of magnificent apartment in the sea opera towers Netanya. A unique opportunity to own one of the most luxurious apartmetns on Nitza boulevard. Double balcony with beautiful uninterrupted sea views. **Asking price \$2,400,000**

Villa in Raánana



In the prestigious East side of Raánana a villa built 420 sq mrs with a magnificent outside entertainment area and infinity Pool. 6 bedrooms, large separate lounge and dining room and beautiful open plan kitchen. **Asking price \$3,490,000**

Barry Cohen
[t] 076 577 2000 [m] +972 52 831 1174
[e] barry@LCM.CO.IL

Planning for your year-end break

Compiled by Marlene Bilewitz Tel: 083-475-0288 e-mail: marlene@sajewishreport.co.za or visit www.sajewishreport.co.za

It's time to get into holiday mood!

MARLENE BILEWITZ

The year 2012 has been a tough one, but as the year-end approaches, we must forget about business and politics, open our minds and prepare for leisure and pleasure.

It is time to think of family and friends, look for interesting and exciting destinations, or venture into those unknown areas where you can experience new things, eat exotic and rare delicacies in foreign lands, dance, sing, drink and enjoy with people in other parts of the world.

On the other hand, you can throw away the fancy formal clothes, pack a swim suit, track suit, sneakers and a sun hat and vegetate on a beach for a couple of weeks.

Take a look at what our reliable friends at Just Cruising and The Travel Company have on offer. There are many wonderful suggestions, discounted airfares, super cruises and exciting combination packages.

You can rely on Raymond, Les or Lynne, to organise "holidays of a lifetime" for you.

To ensure a relaxed and peaceful holiday, you need to be organised. Make sure that your wardrobe is suited to the weather and places that you're visiting; check if extra or unusual vaccinations or visas are required and last but not least, organise the most convenient and safe ways of carrying money, such as Standard Bank's Travel Wallet or Bidvest's World Currency Card.

The festive season often means that staff go home to be with their families and if you can't face the household chores, but can't get out of town, then close up the house, call in Stallion to protect all that you value at home and move into Garden Place for a month or two for a restful holiday "home from home", without leaving Joburg!

If you're taking a long trip - by car or plane - here are a few suggestions to pass the time, compliments of Europcar:

Games for the whole family

Without a doubt, as soon as you take off or pull out of the driveway, your whole family will have their noses buried in their mobile phones. As this is inevitable, why not consider downloading a multiplayer mobile game onto each person's phone and play against each other while travelling.

- *Draw something.* This is a Pictionary-like game where players have to draw a picture while other players guess what the end-result will look like.
- *Words with friends.* Players can take turns building words in crossword puzzle style with an opponent in a manner similar to the classic board game Scrabble.

For those who get motion sickness while travelling, there are still the favourite traditional games that the driver can take part in too.

- *Car cricket.* This game is great for long-distance trips and can be played on any road as the game relies on oncoming traffic. Split



up passengers in the car into two teams and select which team will bat and which will field.

The batting team will use the oncoming traffic as a means to score runs. Different colour cars will each have a value which must be predetermined before the game starts. For example, silver and white cars will have a run value of 1, blue cars will have a value of 2 and black cars will have a value of four.

yellow cars, which are not the most common colour to see on the roads, have a value of six runs while red cars are an out.

The batting team must "make" as many runs from the oncoming cars before passing a red car which puts them out and allows the fielding team to start batting.

Each team has two innings and the team to end with the most runs, wins.



Gigi von Helden, the address for chic, elegant and fashionable clothes

MARLENE BILEWITZ

An appointment with Gigi von Helden is always a treat. Gigi, a charming, immaculately dressed woman, welcomes you into her showroom in Parktown North, where you are given her

personal private and undivided attention.

There is a great selection of the latest up-to-date fashions for casual and formal wear for the younger and more mature woman.

Gigi travels to Germany and Italy twice a year for the Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter collections, where she personally selects items that she feels will be suitable for the South African climate and way of life, for her clientele.

"Clothes need to be elegant, chic and fashionable - as op-

posed to high fashion - comfortable and wearable," she emphasises.

As seen from her advert, appointments are made to enable her to give her undivided attention and advice to her valued clients.

"No matter how beautiful the outfit, one should always remember the importance of accessories and general good grooming. When dressed by Gigi, you can rest assured that you will look your very best for all occasions, whether at home or on your travels."

She has it all. Her good service and advice are evidenced by her loyal following. To quote one: "I wouldn't dream of going anywhere but to Gigi at the beginning of each season."

All alterations are done in-house by Gigi's capable assistant, Elizabeth, at no extra charge.

The "in" colours of this summer season are bright acid green, acid yellow and turquoise. Happily, smart navy has made a comeback and as always, the classic white/black and natural earthy colours remain ever popular and in fashion.



Gigi von Helden

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Just Cruising – your cruising specialists

It seems that destiny played some role in Raymond Leibman’s path to Just Cruising.

At age seven, Raymond experienced his first true taste of cruise lifestyle when taken by his parents from Cape Town to the UK and back. A far cry from the resort ships of today, the “Cape Town Castle” was utilitarian but in the mind of a seven-year-old it was majestic!

At age 23, Raymond became a merchant seaman aboard the cargo vessel “Londoner” for 30 days, to get to Europe where he spent a gap year on a secondhand Vespa in numerous youth hostels, experiencing the delights of a European summer.

Thus was born a love for travel and a yearning to see and experience the world and all it had to offer.

Thirty plus years of law and commerce followed, but the passion to experience the world remained.

So, it was in 1997, at age 57, that Raymond embarked on a second and final career. The opportunity to combine his passion with his working endeavours, proved irresistible.

Significantly, the cruise industry had just begun to emerge as a worldwide phenomenon. In South Africa it was a speck on the horizon and Raymond pioneered the “cruise only” concept to a small and receptive audience of friends, family and close associates.

He learnt what he could about the industry as quickly and effectively as possible and took every opportunity to cruise.

He represented himself as a cruise specialist and expert but justification of this claim could only come from hard and dedicated devotion to his trade.

Raymond was precisely what the industry needed.

The Riviera.



Bonny Gavina, Carol Turketti, Raymond Leibman and Les Riesnik.

He is a born salesman and selling cruises 16 years ago, required selling technique. People had to be persuaded that they wouldn’t be seasick, bored or feel confined.

Persuade them he

did and today many thousands of South Africans are grateful for the gentle but firm inducement.

Just Cruising, with Raymond at the helm and with right-hand man Les Riesnik, are still market leaders, consistently continuing to offer the personalised and knowledgeable extra mile service that it always has.

With 59 personal cruises under his belt, Raymond

claims to know a little about the ships. The only continent he has missed is the Antarctic, but that is on the schedule for December 2013.

Group, charter and special theme cruises are high on the Just Cruising agenda, with river cruising and specials like Rugby World Cup 2011 deserving of special mention.

Just Cruising has a database of “friends” not “clients” and the exceptional proportion of repeat business year after year, is testimony to this.

“The only clients we lose are from emigration and natural causes, not dissatisfaction.”

John Barrymore once said: “A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams.”

Cruising to exotic places at totally affordable prices is what dreams are made of.

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BARRY BILEWITZ

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In the years since the collapse of

the Soviet Union, many Jews have gone to Eastern Europe in search of their roots. Aiding these quests, Lynne suggests a visit to Lithuania and Latvia where you can take a journey in the footsteps of Jewish creativity and a Jewish world. (Kosher tours can be arranged.)

Says tour guide Shlomo Tikochinski: “This is a journey to the regions of Jewish heritage; with ‘Jerusalem of Lithuania’ at its heart, and the vistas of the lands of the north. It’s

an experiential voyage, including the beautiful cities of Vilna, Kaunas, Riga, Minsk, Volozhin, Mir, Pon-evezh, and little villages that look like they come from one of Chagall’s paintings.

“The fiddler is no longer on the roof here, but the wooden houses and Jewish life is still spread over the forests and alongside the rivers. In the past, hundreds of thousands of Jews of all types lived in these towns and hamlets.

This was the Jewish world – and it’s no more.

“The passage through Lithuania and Latvia is one that encompasses nature’s spectacular and the landscapes of Jewish tradition; it’s a journey to the events and characters of Jewish history.”

For more information on this and other fascinating destinations, speak to Lynne. You will find her encyclopaedic knowledge of travel invaluable.

The following special discounted airfares - local and international - will leave you with more budget to enjoy the facilities at your destination:

Destination	Fare	Taxes	Total
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Rome	R1 110	R3 863	R4 973
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Singapore	R7 170	R738	R7 908
Beijing	R3 920	R3 465	R7 385
New York	R2 530	R5 359	R7 889
Washington	R2 080	R5 209	R7 289
San Francisco	R7 430	R5 091	R12 521
Windhoek	R540	R1 923	R2 463
Cape Town (return incl taxes)			R1 650
Durban (return incl taxes)			R1 350
Port Elizabeth (return incl taxes)			R1 904



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Capitol Building - Washington.



Golden Gate Bridge



Ruins of the Coliseum in Rome at night.

Strict terms and conditions apply. All fares are subject to availability at time of booking, currency fluctuations and change without prior notice. All fares are ex-JNB and are correct at time of going to print (October 19, 2012). Fares exclude agency fees.

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54 on Bath for understated elegance



54 on Bath, Tsogo Sun's latest deluxe boutique hotel in Rosebank, is the elegant and fashionable haven on Bath Avenue in the heart of the trendy Johannesburg suburb. Classic and sophisticated, the accent is on understated elegance and the focus is on providing a unique guest experience combined with a personalised approach and intense attention to detail.

The hotel boasts 60 deluxe rooms and 12 executive rooms as well as an intimate champagne bar alongside the Level Four restaurant. The bar is sophisticated and modern, offers an array of champagne, cocktails and wines and is the perfect meeting spot for business get-togethers or relaxed pre-dinner drinks.

The restaurant is a perfect choice whether guests are looking for a healthier breakfast, a casual, light lunch or a gour-

met a la carte dinner. Choices from classical cuisine with contemporary influences ensure Level Four delivers a distinctive experience.

Guests can also experience a variety of the finest teas with afternoon tea served daily from 15:30 to 17:00, either in the classically stylish lounge or on the terrace overlooking the lush green gardens.

Of course, all these wonderfully exciting tea options are combined with luxurious treats for total indulgence!

Whether arranging a get-together for 24 people or simply a catch-up with a friend, afternoon tea at 54 on Bath is the perfect location for a memorable afternoon.

"We are excited about this new unique offering; 54 on Bath promises a distinctive guest experience with exceptional

attention to detail in an intimate, vibrant and energetic environment. An offering that assures that the diverse needs of the discerning business and leisure traveller will be fulfilled.

"As a Tsogo Sun hotel, 54 on Bath will benefit from the groups' investment strategy, guaranteeing that it will remain innovative and unique in years to come," says Graham Wood, MD of Tsogo Sun Hotels.



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TSOGO SUN

How to kit yourself out for overseas travel



Preparing for an overseas trip, whether it be for business or pleasure, can be trying at the best of times. With so many details to remember, one tends to overlook some important elements which could make your trip that much more comfortable and trouble-free.

The most important travelling tool... your luggage

• Buy luggage that meets your most demanding travel needs. Sensible, sturdy, good quality luggage is best. Look at how you will be doing most of your travelling once you've stepped off the plane. If you intend hiring a car, one hard suitcase and some smaller gear

bags, are best but if you intend on taking trains or buses, it is more convenient to take a roller-gear bag which has wheels.

- Always lock luggage, not only to discourage theft, but also to make sure it does not open during handling. Buy small locks to lock all external zipper pockets of bags. This will also protect against others slipping illegal substances into your luggage.

The USA Transportation Security Administration (TSA) requires that you leave your cases unlocked when travelling to and from the USA. Locks will be clipped off unless you have a TSA-approved lock which can be opened by

authorities with a special key should they wish to search your luggage.

- Identify your luggage with bright tape or stickers; this makes your bag recognisable to you. Be creative: remember hundreds of people will be watching your bag going around the carousel, but no one will be brave enough to walk away with it.
- A very useful piece of luggage is a money belt. This small belt which can be strapped to your waist, enables you to tuck away your money. It can be worn under your shirt and is also ideal for carrying important documents, airline tickets, and credit cards.

Useful little things to bring

- Bring a multi-nation adaptor plug from home that all your electrical items can plug into. This handy gadget will ensure that you are never left stranded with a flat battery.
 - A Leatherman Multitool also comes in handy, but with the new regulations, these must not be packed in your carry-on luggage, rather put them in your suitcase that will be put in the hold.
 - A travelling alarm clock.
 - A neck cushion is vital on any long journey.
 - Always take an extra pair of clothes in your hand luggage - there's nothing worse than being in a new country, where you don't speak the language and where the airline has lost your luggage.
- If you have a GPS, it would be a good idea to load it with maps of your destina-

tion. This will ensure you never lose your way and you spend your valuable time doing what you want to do. Preparation and knowledge is the key to a successful trip!



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Some salient points about your security



South Africa is currently experiencing an extreme increase in crime, which are getting more violent by the day, as can be seen by the crime stats recently released by SAPS.

With an under-staffed police force, the public is increasingly turning to the private security sector for protection. It is, however, very important that each individual ensures that he or she has the correct information when choosing a security company.

Surveys show that there are over 3 000 security companies in the country. So, how do you choose the right service provider to protect you, your family, your property and assets?

Here are some very important questions to ask your security company:

- Are all staff security vetted
- Is the company PSIRA registered and compliant
- Are the reaction officers trained in advanced driving, house penetration and undergo constant firearm training
- Will I be able to access management
- What is the command centre and reaction procedure when my alarm activates
- Do they have technical support and what is the turnaround time for a service call

Each and every individual needs to understand that the responsibility also lies with you. You need to ensure the following:

- That you test your alarm system with your security service provider at least once a month
- That your alarm system is assessed at least once every year
- That your system is armed and fully functional at all times
- That you do not cry wolf and cause false alarms delaying the reaction officer responding to a positive incident
- That you know your password
- That you notify the command centre when on holiday
- That the reaction officer can gain access into your property

Please feel free to contact us today for an assessment even if you are not a Stallion client, at no cost to you, on (011) 533-8801/0861 111 118, or at info@stallion.co.za.

Join us for a humdinger ‘Zandwijk Family Day’



Come and enjoy your Chanukah Family Picnic at Zandwijk Wine Farm in Paarl this year, on Sunday, December 16. It promises to be a fun-filled day with kosher food available on our premises. Regrettably, food and beverages from external sources cannot be brought onto the property. Activities for children up to the age of eight years, include a jumping castle, waterslide, SandArt and face painting. There will be a market

where you can buy fresh fruit, vegetables and craft gifts. For the adults we have cellar tours and wine tasting. Gates will open at 10:00 on the Sunday and all activities will end by 15:00. Farm gates will close strictly at 16:00. This will be our third annual “Zandwijk Family Day” and promises to be as exciting and enjoyable as the last two. We are located in Paarl, Western Cape about 45 minutes’ drive from Cape Town. For those of you who will not be able to join us on Sunday, December 16, there is the option of booking your picnic with us on any other day of the week. Please look at the picnic advert for the menu. We are open on Monday - Friday, from 08:00 – 16:00. The

last wine tasting for the day is at 15:00. We are closed on weekends, public holidays and Jewish Holy Days. • Please note that Zandwijk will be closed on the following days over the holiday season: Monday, December 17. Monday - Wednesday, December 24 – 26. Monday - December 31. Tuesday - January 1, 2013. New vintages available for tasting and are O U-registered. Kleine Draken Sauvignon Blanc 2012. Kleine Draken Chardonnay 2012. Kleine Draken Merlot 2012. • Contact Stephanie Malherbe Tel: (021) 863-2368



Come and enjoy a

Picnic at Zandwijk

CLOSED
17, 24 - 26, 31 Dec 2012
1 Jan 2013

PICNIC MENU

Caterers - Norrie Caterers (Music to your mouth)

KIDDIES PICNIC HAMPER: R 85.00 per head

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Driving an unfamiliar vehicle can be tricky, so to save time, remember to ask your rental agent important questions about the car's tyre pressure and how to adjust it for a heavier load before the trip.

Ask whether the vehicle is diesel or petrol, and where the lever is to open either the bonnet or the fuel flap. Knowing how to tune that particular car's radio, also saves time and frustration as well as allows you to keep focused on the road while driving. Ask the car park attendants to assist in pre-tuning the radio to your favourite stations before driving off.

Europcar also offer customers a GPS as well as SABS-approved child seats for rental from all branches across southern Africa, when booked in advance. Bike racks are also available for rent and take advantage of Europcar's baggage insurance which covers customers' baggage up to 24 hours before the rental period and 24 hours after the vehicle has been returned.

For people who spend long hours at work, often sacrificing time with their families; a road trip provides the perfect opportunity for quality time with a captive audience - in this instance your partner and children.

Use the time to interact with your loved ones and think up creative ways to pass the time. “After a challenging year, what we look forward to the most, is relaxing with our families and friends and recharging our batteries. We all deserve a good rest and at Europcar, we aim to make your trip an easy, personal and enjoyable one,” says Nathan-Jones.

Something to while away the time:

• **Riddles for a little fun communication. Both infuriating and challenging, riddles are a great way to pass the time and get everyone thinking outside the box. Also keep some brain teasers handy while travelling, such as:**

1. What is the beginning of the end, the end of time, the middle of yesterday, and nowhere in tomorrow?
Answer: the letter E

2. I have an eye but cannot see. I am stronger and faster than any man alive but have no limbs. What am I?

Answer: a hurricane

3. I give milk and a horn but I'm not a cow. What am I?

Answer: A milk truck



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Today, Friday (October 19)
• UZLC hosts Prof Tshilidzi Marwala who will speak on “Intelligent Machines and Society”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria at 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (October 21)
• Northfield Shul hosts Hugh Raichlin who will speak on “The Jews of Portugal”. Venue: Northfield Shul, 51 Northfield Avenue, Glenhazel. Time: 19:30. Cost: R70 per person (incl refreshments). Booking essential: E-mail rozannesack@gmail.com or SMS Rozanne on 082-469-6610.

• RCHCC is re-screening “Woody Allen: a Documentary”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 18:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net www.great-park.co.za

Sunday (October 21)
• UJW CT is celebrating its 80th birthday. Venue: Investec Building. Time: 17:30 for 18:00. Entrance: R250. Contact: (021) 434-9555. Tickets available at 7 Albany Road, Sea Point.

• WIZO Tzabar celebrates its 10th birthday at the EOH, 1 Osborne Lane, Bedfordview with an evening of cabaret, music and entertainment with Harry Sideropoulos and vocal force, Music Affair. Cost R200 incl buffet. Time: 17:30 for 19:00. Contact: Graciela 082-925-0924 or Ayala 082-412-2269.

- The Lewandowski Chorale is giving a fundraising concert to raise funds to buy air tickets for some of its choristers who are unable to do so themselves. The choir has been invited to participate in the Tri-Star Festival in Berlin in December. Venue: Redhill School Auditorium, 20 Summit Road, Morningside. Time 15:30. Seating is limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. A 33 per cent advance booking discount. Advance bookings at R100 each, can be made by e-mailing tickets@golding.za.net until October 17. Thereafter tickets can be purchased at the door if available for R150. Contact: Di Golding, chairman Lewandowski Chorale, 082-338-4462.
- Old Arcadian Association is holding a reunion luncheon of Old Arcs at Arcadia (Hollard), Oxford Road, Parktown, Johannesburg. Time: From 11:00. The last reunion was held four years ago. Information: Jules Gordon, cell 082-552-3148.

• Second Innings hosts Robin Binckes, owner of a tour company, on “Twenty Thousand Years in Sixty Minutes”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Monday (October 22)
• UJW is hosting Gavin Lewis, communications expert for the DA, on “The Mining Crisis”. Contact: (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Time: 09:30. Donation: R20.

Tuesday (October 23)
• Chabad House’s “Miracle Drive Young Drivers” invite you to “The Great Debate”

on “Gold, Property or Shares”, with David Shapiro, Alan Demby and Mark Wainer. Venue: Maroela Room, Sandton Sun. Time: 18:00. RSVP: greatdebate.co.za. Tel: 0718760763

Wednesday (October 24)
• UJW is hosting Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, formerly of the Dept of English, Wits, on the first lecture on a course on Thomas Hardy’s “The Mayor of Casterbridge”. Please read the book before coming to class. Time: 09:30. Contact: (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Donation: R20.

• UJW adult education division in Cape Town hosts Gina Flash who will talk on “Refugees from Burma in Thailand”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555.

• Chevrah Kadisha invites you to a focus evening on post-natal depression, “Gain Awareness and Understand. Become Empowered. Provide Support”. Special guest speakers: Debbie Levin (social worker in private practice) and Paula Levin (co-author of “Recognising Post-Natal Depression - a Handbook for Mothers”). Venue: Golden Acres Card Room. Time: 19:30. Bookings: Darrin (011) 532-9733.

• Great Park Shul invites you to “Moving From Spousal to Parental Relationships” - a parenting workshop with Dr Ronel Duchen aimed at expecting parents and parents of young children. Starts 19:30. Cost: R30 pp. Bookings essential. Contact: Goldie, 072-832-2001; goldiesimpson@gmail.com

Thursday (October 25)
• RCHCC hosts Ann Bernstein of the Centre for Development and Enterprise, in conversation with Mike Spicer and Donald Ncube, about her recent award-winning book, “The Case for Business in Developing Economies”. Autographed copies will be available for purchase. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R70 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net or www.greatpark.co.za

• JHGC in association with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Pretoria and Redhill School, hosts the “70th Commemoration of the Destruction of the Czech Village of Lidice”. Lidice, the Czech drama film by Petr Nikolaev, will be screened. Venue: Redhill High School Auditorium, 20 Summit Rd, Morningside, Sandton. Time: 18:00 for 18:30. To book or for more info: Thuli (011) 640-3100 or info@jhbholocaust.co.za.

Friday (October 26)
• Greenside Hebrew Congregation invites you to celebrate Shabbat with them from 17:45 to 20:00. There will be perogen, snacks and schnapps. All welcome. Information: tel and fax (011) 788-5036. E-mail: info@greensideshul.co.za.

• UZLC hosts David Batzofin who will speak on “Changing Horses in Midstream”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 14:00. Contact: Gloria, (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Israeli folkdance - health and fun, every Wednesday at 20:00 at King David Sandton. Beginners at 18:30. Contact Anat 083-326-7095, Miri 082-773-8248 or Ora 083-288-7202.• Join WIZO every Thursday for a “Lunch & Learn” shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz, 13:00 - 14:00 at Beyachad. Information: Joyce, (011) 640-2416.• Stellenbosch Hebrew Congregation has a Friday evening service every week in shul, starting at 18:45. Contact (021) 886-5257.• The Yiddish Academy offers weekly basic, intermediate and advanced classes on Monday evenings at 19:30, Tuesday mornings at 10:30 and Thursday evenings at 19:30 at the RCHCC, Glenhove Road, Houghton. Conversational groups. Details: e-mail yiddishacademy@gmail.com or call Hazel Cohen on (011) 728-8088.• Supervised bridge with Jeff Sapire Tuesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (intermediary) and Wednesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (advanced), at the Clive M Beck	<p>Auditorium. Booking: Hazel or René, (011) 728-8088/8378. E-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beis Midrash Chofetz Chaim is offering a second ma’ariv minyan every weekday evening (Monday - Friday) at 21:00, cnr Elray and Michel Streets, Raedene. Open to broader community. Don’t fret if you need a later minyan. Secure parking provided.• Sunday Scrabble Club meets every Sunday at 10:00 at Zahava’s, Grant Avenue, Norwood, off 9th Street. Cost R5. Players of all strengths welcome. Larry 082-888-5355.• Orchid Florist, a project of WIZO Johannesburg, offers beautiful arrangements of flowers and fruit for every occasion. No occasion too large or too small. Contact Annette (011) 728-4513.• JWBS Johannesburg, urgently requires second-hand clothing, kitchenware, household goods, books and bric-a-brac for its secondhand shop. Contact (011) 485-5232.• Celebrating a bar-/bat-mitzvah? Why not give a donation to WIZO’s bar-/	<p>batmitzvah project in Israel? You get a beautiful certificate to give to the bar-/batmitzvah child here. Certificates are available from WIZO tel (011) 645-2548.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second Innings runs a series of courses and activities including scrabble, bridge, discussion groups, play reading groups, women’s and men’s reading groups, symphony concert rehearsals, bowls, pilates, Yogic Pranayama, walking and aerobics, Golden Oldies Cine Club, weekly workshops (by arrangement) on “falls education for the elder adult”, and it also organises regular activities. For info ontact Grecia Gabriel at (011) 532-9718.• Don’t miss the opportunity to do a mitzvah. Visit the Selwyn Segal Shop. Gifts priced from R45. Glassware, pewter, silver, white ceramics and Selwyn Segal products. Phone: (011) 485-1344 or (011) 640-5171.• Benarc Gift Shop - Gift presentations for all occasions, made to order. Call (011) 485-5232, JWBS. All kosher under the Beth Din. Proceeds to support the less fortunate in our community.
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Batya sets a welcome first for Machaneh Ahavat Olam

SHIRA DRUION

Bnei Akiva has been a cornerstone of the community for many a decade, uniting young Jews in the quest to uphold the values of Judaism and Zionism.

The highlight of the calendar is the culmination of yearlong activities, which ends with "machaneh" - a three-week camp, taking place annually on their campsite in Mossel Bay. Traditionally, the "rosh machaneh" the director/head of the camp has been a male, but as of this year, times are changing, and this year's camp, Machaneh Ahavat Olam, will welcome the first female rosh machaneh in the person of 23-year-old former Davidian, Batya Bloch.

Batya is full of spunk and speaks of her proudly Zionist family and community roots. She was schooled at King David Linksfield, and went on to major in English, drama and film at Wits.

"I think the movement's move to appoint a female leader for camp is the reflection of an authentic desire to nurture leaders, male and female alike. I feel very privileged to have been elected and am working hard to ensure that Machaneh Ahavat Olam will run smoothly and be inspiring for our madrichim and channichim.

This year, Batya has introduced Shevet Yuval a division for special needs participants. "Shevet Yuval is an integrated part of the Bnei Akiva camp model all over the world, but until now has not been part of camp in SA.



"Three years ago, I attended Bnei Akiva camp in Melbourne, Australia. I was a madricha for the special needs division, and was so moved by the experience that when I was elected, I knew that I wanted my special project to be the incorporation of this shevet into Machaneh Ahavat Olam.

"We have collaborated with TLC's principal, Caron Levy to assist us with staff members and advice, so that we will be well prepared to accommodate the needs of our new arrivals.

"I believe this move will encourage our channichim to embrace diversity and will sensitise them to the challenges that others encounter; a priceless lesson for the youth of today. It may be a challenging road to navigate first time round, but 2012 will set the path for the years to come, so that our special needs participants will always have a place at machaneh, which is a great achievement on so many levels."

World News in Brief

US ECONOMISTS WITH TIES TO ISRAEL WIN NOBEL PRIZE
JERUSALEM - Alvin Roth and Lloyd Shapley, American economists with ties to Israeli universities, have won the Nobel Prize for economics.

The professors won the prize, called the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, for their research in how to make economic markets work better by more precisely matching supply with demand.

Shapley, 89, used game theory to study the problem. Roth, 60, helped redesign the medical residents' match programme to make it more efficient for young doctors.

The prize was announced on Monday. Shapley was awarded an honorary doctorate from Hebrew University in 1986 and has worked with Israeli Nobel Prize laureate Robert Auman, who won his Nobel for his work with game theory.

Roth, who is Jewish, was a visiting professor of economics at The Technion in Haifa in 1986, and a visiting professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University in 1995. Roth frequently visits Israel, Auman told JTA.

"I have been hoping for this for years," Auman said of the award to Roth and Shapley. "It is absolutely the best choice that could be made."

Roth is a professor at Harvard University in Boston, but will be leaving for Stanford University, where he is currently a visiting professor of economics, at the end of the year. Shapley is professor emeritus at the University of California, Los Angeles. (JTA)

Photos courtesy www.valor.com.br



Alvin Roth (top) and Lloyd Shapley

Brittany Cohen is turned on by speed



Brittany Cohen has two wheels off the ground as she takes a corner during the Zwartkops Regional last month.

JACK MILNER

One would expect that any 16-year-old boy would be fascinated by the thrill of cars and speed. It is all part of the testosterone experience at that age because they believe fast and sexy cars are the honeypot that female bees will enjoy hovering around. However, it is quite rare to have a 16-year-old girl in raptures over engines, cars and speed. But this is exactly what floats Brittany Cohen's boat - or in this case - kart. While other girls her age will be swooning over the likes of Justin Bieber,

this King David Linksfield pupil has Jody Scheckter, Ayrton Senna and new Mexican Formula 1 sensation, Sergio Perez as her heroes. "I have a thrill for fast cars," admits Brittany. She has taken up karting which takes place at three venues in the Gauteng area - Zwartkops, Kyalami and Vereeniging. She started karting at the age of 14 and started racing competitively this year in April. By usual standards Brittany is a late developer. "They have different levels," she explained. "The earliest class is from four to

eight years-old. I am at cadet level." In her age group, the youngsters compete in two different sections. The first is the Junior Max Rotax Series which is for a two-stroke 125cc engine. They can get up to speeds of around 110kph on a straight section of the track. "Vereeniging is a fast course with long straights, so there we have the opportunity to get our speed up," said Brittany. "My favourite track is Zwartkops but it has lots of turns and is more difficult." The second event is an endurance series known as the F400, which is for four-stroke engines. For this event she shares a kart with two other drivers - Andrew Boulet and Simon Hattingh.

This event is divided into three heats and Brittany had her first race in February. "We qualified in 11th place and in the first heat finished seventh out of 35 participants. In the second heat we finished 12th. Unfortunately in the final heat we had engine trouble and could only manage 15th position." As far as the Rotax Series is concerned, Brittany had a good run at Zwartkops in July, winning the Clubman's race. "These are 20-lap heats and you go flat out. It is a very professional series," said Brittany. She started the race fourth on the grid and after five laps managed to get herself into the lead. "In these events they mix the juniors with the seniors and I had a senior driver on my tail all the way to the finish. He was driving down the inside of every corner but I defended well.

"In the end I won by 0,2 seconds, but I ended up in third and fourth places in the other two heats and finished third overall." Her best effort in the F400 came recently - again at Zwartkops - when they qualified fourth of 56 competitors and finished third, ninth and ninth, to end up sixth overall. "We out-qualified two former SA champions." Many of those drivers are a lot older than Brittany and her teammates and one of those is Jaki Scheckter. Scheckter recently returned from the US and is now based in Gauteng. He is the son of six-time SA Drivers champion Ian, who is of course the brother of South Africa's sole F1 world champion and one of Brittany's idols, Jody Scheckter. Brittany plans to continue with her kart racing and hopefully move up from there. In order to maintain her fitness levels and improve her reflexes, she also has taken up boxing under the tutelage of Nic Durandt. And in case that is not enough, she also enjoys rock climbing... The tough part for father Ian Cohen is the expense involved. A decent kar - and that is second hand - costs around R35 000 and to schlep all the vehicles around the country to compete in the four national events, is extremely pricey. "Sponsorship is very difficult to find right now and we would probably need around R500 000 for Brittany to be in a comfortable position," says Ian. In the meantime, Brittany is out to fulfil a dream and she certainly is enjoying every opportunity she gets.

Vets claim soccer title



A delighted Balfour Park veterans team after their 3-0 victory over Old Parks to claim the league title.

JACK MILNER

A run of three goals in the second half saw the Balfour Park veterans soccer team become league champions after defeating Old Parks in Randburg. Balfour needed all three points to secure the league title and came up trumps with a 3 - 0 victory.

The first half was scoreless but 10 minutes into the second half Ilan Herrmann opened the scoring for Balfour. Nissim Levi added a second with a spectacular free kick and Tzvika Fisher made it three with 10 minutes left on the clock. Allan Nossel is captain and manager of the Balfour vets.

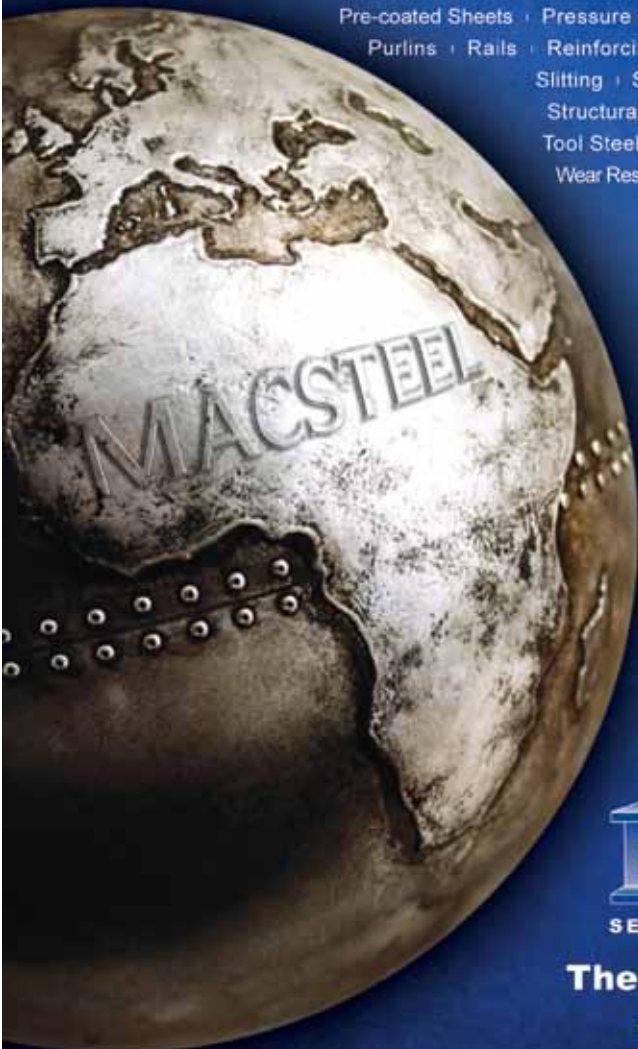
World News in Brief


US, ISRAEL SIGN TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRADE PACT WASHINGTON - The United States and Israel on Monday signed a trade agreement designed to make it easier for American companies to export telecommunications products to Israel. As a result of the 33-page pact, Israeli regulatory authorities will accept test results on American telecommunications products that are recognised in US laboratories. Additional testing had been required by labs in Israel before the products could be sold there. "This agreement will save American manufacturers money and time," Miriam Sapiro, deputy US trade representative, said of the agreement. "It will facilitate trade by allowing for product testing and certification only once, in the United States, prior to exporting the product to Israel." The pact also enables the two countries to agree in the future to accept equipment certifications from recognised conformity assessment bodies in the two countries, according to a statement from the Office of the US Trade Representative. Last year, trade between the two countries totaled more than \$31 billion, according to the office. The agreement covers wire and wireless equipment, as well as terrestrial and satellite equipment. (JTA)

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