

14  
DAYS

TO  
JEWISH  
ACHIEVER  
AWARDS!  
(page 2)

# South african Jewish Report

www.sajewishreport.co.za

Photo: Luke Jansen/Without a Blink Productions

## Black and Jewish entrepreneurs building new business

Vida e Caffè and Mr Delivery owner David Chait with SA Black Entrepreneurs Forum President Lebo Gunguluza at the recent opening of the second Black-Jewish Entrepreneurs Network event, in Cape Town, which was “filled with opportunities for engagement” in “an atmosphere energised as participants got down to business”. The event fits into the SAJBD’s mandate promoting business integration in Cape Town between black and Jewish business people and is enthusiastically supported across the board. See story on page 3.

### Homosexuals are still being persecuted around the world

On paper, our Constitution with clauses protecting sexual minorities is the most developed in the world. But can the LGBTI community trust protection in South Africa?



6

### Be careful not to destroy Israeli ‘yichus’

With marriage controlled by the rabbinate, at least the fundamental acceptance of Israel’s “yichus” can be taken for granted. Without this, uncertainty and confusion will prevail.

7

### Science and religion aren’t mutually exclusive, says Schoub

Anti-scientific proponents generalise from gaps and isolated findings. They quote from scientists in other fields. They have loud voices and often “win” debates with scientists by shouting them down.

5

### Impact for Christ Ministries donate MDA ambulance

“At the heart of our organisation’s mission statement lies our G-d-ordained obligation to stand in defence of the State of Israel and the Jewish people wherever they are scattered across the nations and all over the world.”

14

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# Virtue, vice and vision

Blessings and curses. Stirring stuff from the Bible this week as Moses again cautions his congregation. The great prophet reminds them that living a life of goodness will bring them blessings while ignoring the Divine call must inexorably lead to a cursed existence.

Moses prefaces his admonition with the Hebrew word Re’eh, “See.” See, I present before you today a blessing and a curse.

But why see? What is there to see? Did he show them anything at all? The Torah does not use flowery language just because it has a nice ring to it and sounds poetic. What was there to behold? Why Re’eh?

One answer is that how we look will, in itself, determine whether our lives will be blessed or cursed. How do we look at others, at ourselves? Our perspective, how we behold and see things, will result in our own lives being blessed or, G-d forbid, the opposite.

The saintly Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev once chanced upon a strong, young man who was brazenly eating on Yom Kippur. The rabbi suggested that perhaps he was feeling ill. The fellow insisted he was in the best of health.

Perhaps he had forgotten that today was the holy day of fasting? Who doesn’t know that today is Yom Kippur?” responded the young man.

Perhaps he was never taught that Jews do not eat on this day? Every child knows that Yom Kippur is a fast day, Rabbi!”

Whereupon Rabbi Levi Yitzchak raised his eyes heavenward and said: “Master of the Universe, see how wonderful Your people are! Here is a Jew who, despite so many opportunities, simply refuses to tell a lie!” The Berditchever was always able to look at others with a compassionate, understanding and benevolent eye.

How do we view the good fortune enjoyed by others? Are we happy for them, or do we look at them with begrudging envy? How do we look at ourselves and our own shortcomings? Are we objectively truthful or subjectively slanted?

“He is a stingy, rotten good-for-nothing. Me? I am just careful about how I spend my money.”

“She is a bore of bores, absolutely anti-social. Me? I am a private person who just



ParshatRe’eh

**Rabbi Yossy Goldman**  
*Sydenham Highlands North Hebrew Congregation*

happens to enjoy staying at home.”

“He is as stubborn as an ox! Me? I am just a determined person.”

Clearly, the manner in which we look at our world and those around us will have a major impact on the way life will treat us. Quite justifiably, Moses says See. For how we will see things in life will undoubtedly affect life’s outcomes.

Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneerson (1880 - 1950) once told how when he was a young child he asked his father: why does a person have two eyes? The right eye, his father replied, is to be used lovingly, when looking at others; the left eye is to be used discerningly, when looking at sweets or other objects that are not that important in the grand scheme of things.

When I was in Yeshivah, the same build-

ing also housed a synagogue where we would often interact with the adult men who would come to the daily minyan. One particular gentleman, may he rest in peace, always seemed to us rather cantankerous, what you might call a grumpy old man.

I cannot remember whether he was actually a bit cross-eyed or not, but we referred to him as “left-eyed Sam” because he always seemed to be looking at us students with that proverbial left eye.

The parshah that is entitled Re’eh, “See,” is a perennial reminder to all of us that our vision alone can bring virtue or vice. Let us look at the world correctly and invite the blessings of G-d into our lives.

Shabbat Times		
<b>August 2/ 26 Av</b>		
<b>August 3 / 27 Av</b>		
<b>Parshat Re’eh</b>		
17:24	18:14	Johannesburg
17:49	18:43	Cape Town
17:06	17:58	Durban
17:26	18:18	Bloemfontein
17:20	18:14	Port Elizabeth
17:13	18:06	East London

# It’s a landmark 110 years for the Board

DAVID SAKS

One hundred and ten years ago, a group of eminent Jewish leaders came together in Johannesburg to establish a Board of Deputies “to watch and take action with reference to all matters affecting the welfare of Transvaal and Natal Jews”.

In 1912, a national South African Board of Deputies came into being with the amalgamation of the various branches of the Board in the four provinces of the newly-established Union of South Africa.

The SAJBD has since become the acknowledged representative voice and civil rights lobby for the country’s Jewish community, while its biennial national congresses have been attended by a range of prominent local and international Jewish leaders.

The Board is celebrating this landmark historical event with a special gala dinner at the Sandton Sun on Sunday evening, August 25, and invites the entire community to join it for the occasion. The dinner replaces the traditional Saturday night event.

The SAJBD National Conference is taking place on the same day, same venue for the morning and the public are welcome to

attend. The annual meeting of the African Jewish Congress, to take place immediately after the Board’s conference, is also open to the public.

Keynote speaker at the gala dinner will be Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, a distinguished former member of the South African Cabinet and today chairman of the African Union Commission.

This year the Board’s Human Rights award will be presented to the renowned anti-apartheid journalist Benjamin Pogrund. The Eric Samson Mendel Kaplan Communal Service awards will go to Michael Katz and Isla Feldman. Katz’s many years of communal involvement in a lay capacity includes having served as chairman and afterwards as president of the SAJBD from 1983 to 1991. He has since rendered much expert assistance to the Jewish leadership in an informal capacity.

Feldman recently retired after 30 years as director of JNF-SA and continues to serve as director of the SA Zionist Federation. Entertainment for the evening will be provided by The Buskaid Soweto String Project which comprises young local musicians.

The morning conference



**Johannesburg pioneer, Herman Tobiansky and his wife Sophie (after whom Sophiatown is named) and their children, circa 1905, shortly before the establishment of the SAJBD.**

programme consists mainly of two panel discussions, “Creating ‘Open Spaces’ in South Africa” (with the facilitator, Tony Leon) and “Imagine a World Without Hate”.

The question of “open spaces” for debate, has become especially relevant at a time when South Africa is gearing up for its national elections next year. It has acquired a particular resonance for the Jewish community in view of attempts to silence or intimidate those seeking to speak on behalf of Israel, a problem that has become especially prevalent on university campuses.

Panelists will address the challenge of creating free spaces in universities (Prof Rob Moore, deputy vice-chancellor, Wits), in

Parliament (Joanmarie Fubbs, chairman: Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry), the media (Lulama Mokghobo, CEO of SABC) and within the Jewish community itself (Mary Kluk, chairman SA-JBD).

Panelists for the second session, to be facilitated by radio presenter Steven Grootes, are Minister of Justice Jeff Radebe and Michael Whine, a renowned expert on combating hate crimes in the UK and EU. She’ll speak on the free spaces panel.

• *For more information and costs to attend the conference and dinner, please contact Jenni Fearnley on (011) 645-2521 / jenni@beyachad.co.za.*

# Achiever award presenters are themselves achievers

OWN CORRESPONDENT

It’s less than two weeks to go before the annual Jewish Report Jewish Achievers banquet, a highlight on the community’s social calendar. The banquet takes place on August 15 at the Maroela Room, Sandton Sun.

The organisers are at present confirming the presenters of the different awards. These people of calibre draw from previous winners, and include Raymond Ackerman, Ann Harris, Arthur Gillis, Jules and Selma Browde, and Stephen Koseff, among others.

Ackerman, the founder of Pick n Pay, received the Helen Suzman Lifetime Achiever Award in 2010, an award for which he acknowledged how humble he felt receiving a prize in the name of political icon, Suzman.

Ann Harris, widow of former Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, presents the award in his name, an award developed to celebrate humanitarian work in the broader community. It is awarded to either Jewish or non-Jewish individuals.

Investec Bank’s CEO Stephen Koseff, was the winner for listed companies in 2003. Arthur Gillis of Protea Hotels, received the award in 2008 for unlisted companies. Jules and Selma Browde, were joint-winners of the Helen Suzman Lifetime Achievement award in 2011. They achieved individually in their fields of medicine and law and were immensely important stalwarts in the whirlwind of human rights activism in the anti-apartheid movement.

“This is the second time in our marriage of 64 years that we were both honoured,” said Jules, at the time. “The first was when we were awarded honorary doctorates from our alma mater, Wits University.”

Jewish Report

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# Jewish, Black entrepreneurs engage with new visions



Photo: Luke Jansen / Without a Blink Productions

Jarren Collet and Jarred Freedberg, founders of Exoh Electronics, get down to business with Donovan Muller, founder and MD of Cedelink Business Consultants.

## TALI FEINBERG

The government could not solve unemployment, inequality and poverty alone. “We need a platform to provide integration and transformation,” said Matsi Modise, national director of the South African Black Entrepreneurs Forum (SABEF), at the opening of the second Black-Jewish Entrepreneurs Network event last week Thursday.

The Entrepreneurs Network aims to address these societal issues, but in a new and exciting way. “This event is very much part of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies’ mandate,” said Rael

Kaimowitz, vice-chairman of the Cape SAJBD.

“We are responding to old objectives with new initiatives. We are building alliances with this country’s future thought leaders. There is a world of possibility.”

This is what both SABEF and the SAJBD envisioned when they united in creating this initiative. Investec Bank was also supportive of this concept, and provided sponsorship.

Participants were equally enthusiastic. Said Donovan Muller: “I’m interested in business integration in Cape Town. The Jewish community has that experience and knowledge, so I would like to learn from them.”

# Liliesleaf combats amnesia

## DAVID SAKS

June 11, 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of the police raid on Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia, secret headquarters of the ANC’s armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe. The Liliesleaf Trust is running a “Memory and Heritage” series of commemorative events focusing on various aspects of the Rivonia legacy.

As part of this project, the Liliesleaf Trust, in partnership with the SAJBD and Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre last week hosted a thought-provoking and well-attended panel discussion at Liliesleaf on why so many anti-apartheid activists had been Jews and why the mainstream Jewish community did not support them at the time.

Panellists were “Struggle” veterans Denis Goldberg, Albie Sachs and AnnMarie Wolpe and SAJBD President Zev Krengel. JHGC Director Tali Nates, chaired the discussion.

Liliesleaf Trust Director Nic Wolpe, whose father, Harold, was one of those arrested in the Rivonia raid, warned that the legacy of the liberation struggle and the universal message it encapsulated, was in danger of disappearing.

If it was possible, as he had seen for himself, for certain people in Cambodia to deny that the atrocities of the Pol Pot regime had ever happened, what was to prevent the same thing happening in South Africa?

Krengel acknowledged that while today’s Jewish community “stood on the shoulders” of those Jews who had fought apartheid, they had signally failed to support them at the time.

Here the Board, in its concern to maintain harmonious relations with the Nationalist government, had failed in its mandate by not taken a stand on behalf of Jewish individuals who were being persecuted by the State.

Goldberg responded that the real recipients of an apology from the Jewish community should be those South Africans who had been the victims of apartheid. It was because of the large-scale apathy and tolerance for racial injustice shown by the community that he personally had a problem visiting the Cape Town Holocaust Centre.

The community’s challenge now was to help build a more just and equal society; if the yawning wealth gap between the haves and have-nots could not be closed, then whatever had been

achieved would “turn to ashes in our mouths”.

Sachs pointed out that activists like himself had been targeted for their political actions, not because they were Jews. He agreed that the real soul-searching required of South African Jewry concerned the failure of the organised community to confront racism in South Africa, including the racism that existed within its own ranks.

AnneMarie Wolpe commented on how no support whatever had been forthcoming from the Jewish community when she and her husband were arrested. She had assumed that if the worst came to the worst, the community would as a matter of course rally round, but had been sadly disillusioned.

Amongst the points made from the floor was that the SAJBD’s quiescence should be seen in the context of the National Party’s record of anti-Semitism and the community’s understandable feelings of vulnerability in this regard.

Krengel also reminded the audience of how the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris had apologised on behalf of the Jewish community for its failure to confront apartheid, at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings.

The evening was filled with opportunities for engagement, and the atmosphere was energised as participants got down to business. After introductions, they were given the opportunity to make four “appointments” with each other, where the networking began.

Despite being brief, these meetings had the potential to lead to bigger things. For example, because of one such interaction at the previous gathering, David Chait of Mr Delivery and Naushad Khan of “the Next 48 Hours” newspaper, are now working together, where the paper is distributed through the delivery service. “They would never have met if it were not for this forum,” said MC for the evening, Vuyisa Qabaka.

They keynote address by Alan Winde, MEC of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism in the Western Cape, integrated many of the key objectives: “It’s an exciting time to be on the southern tip of Africa - the world’s eyes are on the

continent. We can be part of that by creating and innovating in Africa, for Africa, by Africa,” he said.

The evening continued with a Dragon’s Den-style component, where six entrepreneurs presented their businesses in two-minute pitches to judges, including Winde, Sven Koenig of Investec, Rapelang Rabana (Founder of ReKindle Learning) and Julia Raphaely (MD of Associated Media Publishing).

Looking beyond the business side, Donovan Goliath said: “We can learn so much from each other about healing divisions. The black community needs to stand together, and the Jewish community is a classic example of how to do this. Jews overcame oppression and so can we - it’s a great parallel. We have a common history.”

“It is a privilege to be here,” said Cape SAJBD Executive Director David Jacobson in closing. “The energy and optimism in this room demonstrate the potential this country holds. We can grow this economy. We can do it together.”



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# Jews in the News

An overview of the SA media Correct on August 2

**CITY PRESS:**  
[www.citypress.co.za](http://www.citypress.co.za)  
“Effects of unemployment will be felt for decades - Marcus”  
The effects of South Africa’s high unemployment will be felt for decades to come, SA Reserve Bank Governor Gill Marcus said at a labour law conference this week. “Joblessness is the most pressing economic issue facing the world today.”

**MAIL AND GUARDIAN:**  
[www.mg.co.za](http://www.mg.co.za)  
“Thing of beauty: we love Mandela exhibition”  
SA artists have used the figure of Nelson Mandela as their muse and metaphor. The works are in an exhibition titled We Love Mandela at Sandton’s Nelson Mandela Square. Exhibition curator Natalie Knight said: “This is the third time I’ve done a Madiba birthday exhibition. We will be taking the exhibition to London in October.”

**NORTH EASTERN TRIBUNE:**  
[www.looklocal.co.za](http://www.looklocal.co.za)  
“Residents support Councillor Ravid”  
There has been an overwhelming response regarding the article about Ward 73 Councillor Marcelle Ravid being asked to step down by the Orange Grove Community Forum. Since the publication of “Out of favour” on July 19, the North Eastern Tribune has received numerous phone calls and letters both in praise of, and questioning the role of the councillor.

**IOL NEWS:**  
[www.iol.co.za](http://www.iol.co.za)  
“Jack Bloom to run for Gauteng Premier”  
The official launch of the Democratic Alliance Gauteng leader Jack Bloom’s campaign as a candidate for Gauteng premier ahead of the 2014 election, is going to be a “razzmatazz affair”, reports The Star.

## Remembering defunct country communities

Recently, Country Communities Spiritual Leader Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, visited Kroonstad in the Free State to inspect the relaying of the communal foundation stones in the surviving wall of the ohel. He was joined for the occasion by Father Stephen Giles, a friend of the Jewish community, and remaining Jewish residents of Kroonstad, Eve Goldsmith, Pam Witten and Grace Abrams.

It has become a standard practice when a community closes, for the SAJBD’s Country Communities Department to erect the foundation stones of its communal buildings in the local Jewish cemetery as a memorial to Jewish life in the town.

After Bloemfontein, Kroonstad was home to the largest Jewish community in the Free State, comprising well over 300 souls at its height in the middle of the last century. In common with all the province’s country and small town Jewish centres, the congregation went into steady decline after the Second World War, before finally closing its doors a few years ago.



## After 32 years, International Bible Quiz is back

The registration for the International Bible Quiz which will be held in Jerusalem for the second year after a long break of 32 years, is already open and will remain open till the end of September.

The participants will be getting an opportunity to learn more bible, while the winner is going to enjoy a wonderful hospitality, in a good hotel in Jerusalem, and meet the president, the prime minister and the minister of education, as well as go on tours of interesting places in Jerusalem, courtesy of the Israeli Education Ministry. The winner will compete next year in Israel against other international winners. Participation is free. All Jews of 25 years and over residing in South Africa, are eligible to take part.

• More information: 082-496-1111.

## Sonya wins prestigious pharmacy award

Community member Sonya Kolman recently won the SA Pharmacy Council Private Institutional Pharmacist of the year award for 2013. Employed since 2008 as a pharmacist for the Netcare Linksfield Pharmacy, Kolman was appointed to start the Antibiotic Stewardship Programme at Netcare Linksfield and Linkwood hospitals three years ago.

In a media release, Netcare says: “Sonya’s involvement has made a difference. She is constantly improving her knowledge, research and interactions with other healthcare professionals. “She has trained the pharmacy team at Linksfield on how to manage the Antibiotic Stewardship Programme for us to be able to deliver sustainable service at all times.”

## Bloem community may be down, but not out

On a Sunday in June, a most successful communal lunch was organised by the United Hebrew Institutions of Bloemfontein. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Gerald and Minnie Galaun for their combined 96 years of service on the Bloemfontein Chevrah Kadisha. They are a dwindling community, but continue to hold minyanim on Mondays and Wednesdays as well as services on Shabbat.

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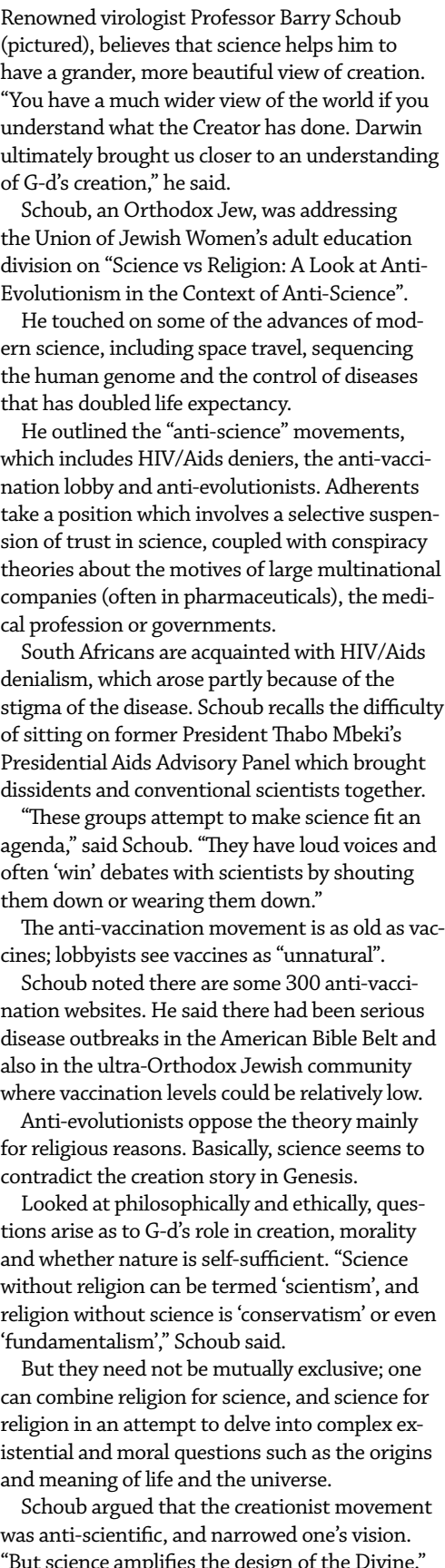
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In February, he became the first pope in modern times to succeed a living pontiff, Benedict XVI, after Benedict resigned. Benedict went to Israel in 2009, and his predecessor, John Paul II, visited in 2000. (JTA)





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# We don’t march in lockstep

It is fashionable - and safe - these days, to be proud of our Jewish Struggle heroes, who many years ago plunged into the abyss of physical and other dangers by fighting the apartheid regime head-on when most Jews did not. Other things we are proud of are Israel and Zionism, and we want all Jews to feel the same.

It is easy when these two are in synch. What happens, however, when they are at odds, when Struggle heroes such as Denis Goldberg are harshly critical of Israel? Does it make them lesser Jews? The Jewish Report’s front page photograph last week showed Jewish Struggle veterans sitting in former President Nelson Mandela’s room at Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia, together with Zev Krenzel, SAJBD president and Tali Nates, director of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Foundation.

The event was a panel discussion about the large number of Jewish Struggle activists who were Mandela’s comrades, and the lack of support for them by the mainstream Jewish community at a time when they sorely needed this. Indeed, what they often received was actual resentment for “rocking the boat”. Our story on page 3 poses uncomfortable questions. The event was organised by the SAJBD , the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Foundation and the Liliesleaf Trust. One objective was to make sure this history is not forgotten or reduced to a mere footnote. It was also a beautiful bringing together of Jews of different generations, all of them sharing a concern for the well-being of human society.

In response to our front page, we received letters both criticising and complimenting us (see pages 8 and 9). The former expressed anger that a “Jewish” newspaper should give space to people like Goldberg, who they see as rejecting the basic tenets of the State of Israel and its policies.

One letter-writer produced a whole list of people she considered “beyond the pale” for their views and unworthy of being allowed to take up space in a Jewish newspaper.

A stimulating question arises from these letters: Does one’s politics decide the extent of one’s Jewishness? Should all Jews, regardless of their politics, have a legitimate space in this Jewish newspaper?

Taking the point further, who has a right to decide that any Jew should be excluded from the Jewish community - to impose what amounts to a form of cherem?

One of the greatest assets of the Jewish people and a key source of our fertile minds (and our genius), is that we don’t all think alike - that we are actually not “One”. Indeed, we are enriched by having to engage with people whose viewpoints differ from our own and who pose uncomfortable questions, whether from the margins - perhaps as “mavericks” - or from the centre.

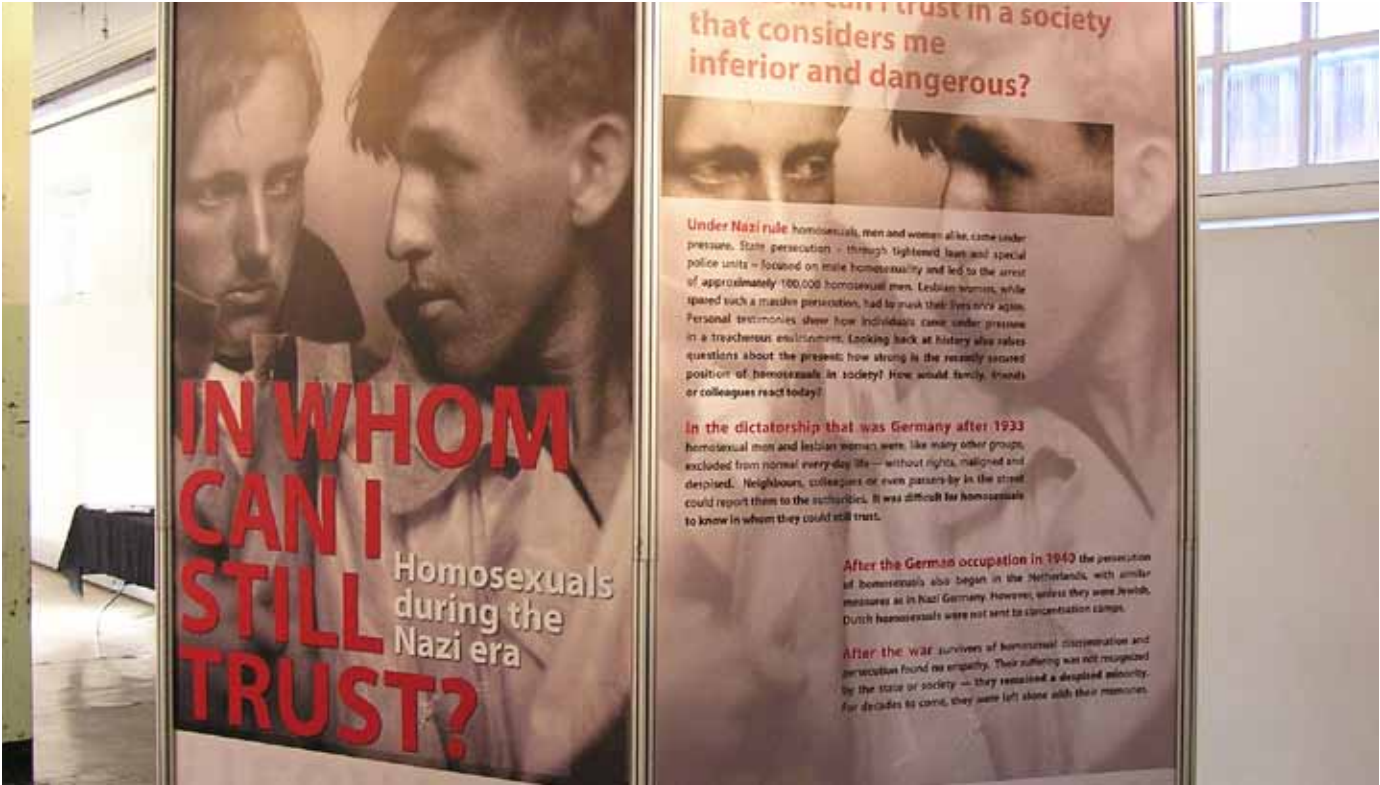
By stimulating debate, they force people to rethink issues about which they have become complacent. They may end up clarifying and reinforcing their own views, or embracing fresh perspectives.

Like any good newspaper, we provide our readers with an even-handed picture of what is happening and what people are thinking across as broad a spectrum as possible. We obviously can never please everyone; nor should we try to.

To those letter-writers who object to Goldberg and others of similar views appearing in our paper, we answer that it is perfectly appropriate and within our mandate. The appearance of anyone in our pages does not automatically mean we share their views. In addition, the people who write to us wanting Goldberg and his views to be excluded are ironically fostering the very debate that we encourage and seek.

Furthermore, we are not only a Jewish newspaper, but also a proudly South African one. And it is incumbent upon us to make Goldberg and other Jews like him, who risked life and limb in the Struggle and are indubitably among its heroes, part of our newspaper and community.

# Homosexuals are still being persecuted around the world



## ROBYN SASSEN

Unlike Jews during the Holocaust, homosexuals were not liberated after the war; they are still persecuted today, Lutz van Dijk, co-editor of Challenging Homophobia: Teaching about Sexual Diversity, said in opening “In Whom Can I Still Trust?” at the old Women’s Jail in Johannesburg, an exhibition on the plight of homosexuals during the Holocaust.

Divided into sections on love, identity and death, the display was made in Amsterdam and translated into English especially for its South African leg. It’s running in conjunction with “It Gets Better”, a campaign to build courage among bullied sexual minorities.

“If you are a young Jew or a young Zulu, you might experience discrimination; but you are not alone. You have family. If you discover you are gay or transsexual or intersexual, you are at odds with the world, including your family, often.

“In the SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation’s logo, a green leaf grows out of barbed wire. There’s so much barbed wire,” he says, speaking of the scourge of so-called “corrective rapes” perpetrated on lesbians locally, and homophobic murders in the Cameroons. “We need more green leaves.

“Homosexuals, distinguished as such by the Nazis by having to wear a pink triangle, weren’t sent to gas chambers, they were ‘re-educated’. More than 60 per cent didn’t survive.” Statistics reveal that some 600 000 homosexuals died under Nazi persecution, but as the exhibition explains, many concentration camp fatalities were recorded in such a way that the victim’s name, age and vocation are all that remains of a life lived.

Richard Freedman, director of the SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation and the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, was instrumental in bringing this exhibition to South Africa.

On paper, our Constitution with its clauses to protect sexual minorities was the most developed in the world, he said, but “there’s a gap between lived realities and constitutional premises. Can the LGBTI community trust protection in South Africa?”



Khayum Ahmed; CEO of the SA Human Rights Commission.

Khayum Ahmed, CEO of the SA Human Rights Commission, offered three scenarios: An imam’s anti-Semitic rants in mosque-based youth education: “He said ‘more Jews should have been killed in the Holocaust’”; a local priest who wanted to “take out all lesbians... because they confuse our children”; and a third from a Sharpeville businessman who wanted to get rid of Somali shopkeepers as they were compromising local businesses.

“Each perpetrator felt something had been taken from him. They need education to change their hearts.

“My perception of Jews shattered when I visited Jerusalem. An Israeli soldier was at a checkpoint. After telling us we couldn’t go further, he exclaimed: ‘Do you really think I want to be here?’

“I suddenly looked at him as a human being rather than an instrument of ‘the Israeli regime’. My ability to see myself in the face of this Israeli soldier forced me to question anti-Semitic values I’d been taught. We need to look one another in the face.”

The exhibition is elegant and imposing. It’s been put together with considerable aesthetic sensitivity and serious research. The stories in the panels resonate between Nazi atrocities on homosexuals, love that was vapourised out of fear and openly gay people who disappeared from society - in one instance, a young man is known

to have been the lover of the son of a prominent family, but he disappeared when the Nazis came to power; even his name is no longer remembered - as well as stories of defiance in the face of this ongoing persecution.

One of these is Frieda Belinfante, an Amsterdam-born lesbian conductor and solo cellist, who in her later life founded the Orange County Philharmonic. Belinfante, a Jew of Portuguese-Sephardi descent, was a prominent member of the Dutch Resistance during the Second World War.

Her life during the war was coloured by both being a part of the resistance, and the horror of being watched by the Nazis. Eventually she managed to elude their grasp by crossing the Alps by foot. Her life story was distinguished by keynote speaker Van Dijk as one of the “green leaves” in this narrative, that audiences to the exhibition need to embrace.

Black gay activist Zanele Muholi’s accounts of all the so-called corrective rapes that have been perpetrated in the country, appears on a panel at the exhibition’s conclusion, alongside several local stories that highlight the plight of the LGBTI community in this country.

The Victorian-built Women’s Jail in Johannesburg, has cement floors. It’s abysmally cold and full of incarcerated women’s memories. The exhibition is in a section which housed up to 70 prisoners. It’s a powerful - almost hostile - environment; hopefully one which won’t scare off its intended public.

As Van Dijk pointed out, the scourge of homosexual persecution is invidious and ongoing and while this exhibition has been allowed to resonate with the ghosts of other persecuted people, it should also be allowed to resonate with those who don’t necessarily choose to drive to Hillbrow; people who may be innocent or ignorant of the issue, and who may, accordingly, have their heads and hearts opened to the reality.

• *In Whom Can I Still Trust is at the Women’s Jail, Constitution Hill, Hillbrow, until August 25. It has extremely well-developed auxiliary programmes, which have so far been well attended, for educators, learners and the public (011) 640-3100.*



# Marriage: Be careful not to destroy Israeli ‘yichus’

RABBI STEVEN KRAWITZ

Marriage as an institution is experiencing continuous assault. In many parts of the developed world fewer people are getting married and often at a much later age. Many of these marriages are ending in divorce. From hook-ups to long-term living together, there are many other options besides marriage to gain the benefits marriage used to confer.

Traditionally marriage was a declaration between two people to commit to a long-term relationship. Raising a family was an extension of that commitment and within marriage sex was permitted. Within the Torah view, marriage fulfils all these functions and also, to a degree, maintains Jewish “yichus”, the kashrus of our genealogy, enabling people to marry.

Modern states and employers have added tax benefits, rights of inheritance and spousal benefits such as medical aid coverage to married couples.

One of the most pronounced challenges in many people’s minds to the traditional roles of marriage, is the push to have gay marriages recognised, a movement that is gaining momentum in Europe, America and here in South Africa.

The culture wars that rage within America and pit the liberal coastal elites against the more traditional and religious “middle America”, have recently heated up with the Supreme Court weakening DOMA - the Defence of Marriage Act - opening the way towards recognition of gay marriage.

Within Israel a unique situation has evolved with the rabbinate controlling marriage and divorce. This helps maintain the “yichus” of Israeli Jewish society.

Two of the biggest issues connected to marriage, are firstly conversions to Judaism and ensuring that all marriages are between Jews and secondly mamzerim, the children born from an affair between a married woman and another man.

If a woman was married in an Orthodox marriage and subsequently divorced without a “get”, any child she has with any other man besides her former husband is a mamzer. The tragedy of the mamzer is that they can only marry other mamzerim, being cut off from marrying all other Jews.

With Israeli marriages centralised under the rabbinate, there is a strong acceptance that these two issues are taken into account when a marriage occurs. In South Africa too, the Beth Din’s oversight of marriages, divorces and conversions have maintained a strong community whose “yichus” is problem free.

Israeli society is unfortunately very fractured, with many groupings living separate, parallel lives. Not only is Israeli society divided along the secular/religious divide, but also along ethnic lines (Ashkenazi, every shade of Sefardi and Oriental Jew, recent Russian arrivals) and among many splinterings within the religious segment of society.

With marriage controlled by the rabbinate, at least the fundamental acceptance of Israel’s “yichus” can be taken for granted allowing for marriages between all Israeli Jews.

The recent fashion among secular Israelis wanting to wrestle control over their own marriages and to live away from the rabbinate is therefore very worrying. Israel recognises marriages from other countries and a growing trend is for Israelis to get married in nearby Cyprus and have their marriage accepted by Israel, thereby removing the rabbinate entirely.

A gay couple will soon be able to get married in France and return to Israel. If large numbers of Israelis get married in this manner, how long will it take for the foundations of Israeli nationwide “yichus” to be destroyed? Who would value rugged individuality and self autonomy over a degree of unity among Jews?

Unfortunately such a scenario is not new in Jewish history. After the Babylonian-Persian exile, when many Jews returned under the leadership of Ezra and Nechemia to Jerusalem and under the protection of Darius II built the second Temple, the Jews were divided into 10 groupings, some of whom could not marry others.

Whether couples married outside of Israel receive tax, other state or employer benefits, will not destroy the institution of marriage. But the existence of this option will chip away at the foundations of a Jewish society.

It would be a tragedy of epic proportions if the pursuit of modern ideals returned the Jewish nation to a divided state it experienced in ancient times.





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ADVERTORIAL

# Mané-Katz’s masterpiece on auction in Johannesburg

Ukranian Jewish painter Emmanuel Mané-Katz’s painting The Shepherd, valued at between R1 600 000 and R2 500 000, will go under the hammer at the forthcoming Stephan Welz & Co. auction in Johannesburg on Tuesday August 6 and Wednesday August 7 August.

Dr Fred Scott, MD at Stephan Welz & Co, said in a media release that Mané-Katz paintings were relatively scarce on the market and only appeared sporadically in South African auctions.

Since the sale of his first painting for over R1 million in 1993 in Israel, 15 others had gone under the hammer to sell for over the R1 million mark, with the current record of R2,2 million achieved in June this year by Christies.

Born in 1894 in what is now the Ukraine, Mané-Katz studied in the Kiev and Vilnius Schools of Fine Arts before moving to Paris in 1913 with only 25 roubles to his name. He continued his studies in the studio of Cormon at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts.

Mané-Katz became affiliated with a movement known as the Jewish School of Paris and was a colleague of Pablo Picasso and Marc Chagall. He was an important expressionist painter best known for his depictions of life in the shtetls in Eastern Europe.

He travelled extensively through Europe and Palestine until the Second World War, during which time he managed to escape from arrest. Afterwards he settled in Paris, but continued to travel



and spend time in Israel, where he died in 1962. He considered Israel to be his spiritual home, and he bequeathed his paintings and a large collection of Judaica to the city of Haifa.

Other items of Judaica going under the hammer at the Stephan Welz & Co auction, include a set of American sterling silver Torah ornaments valued at between R40 000 and R60 000, as well as a Polish silver pedestal Chanukiah valued at between R15 000 and R20 000.

The auction will take place in Johannesburg at 13 Biermann Avenue, Rosebank. Pre-auction viewing is open to the public from Wednesday July 31 to Sunday August 4, between 10:00 and 17:00 daily.

• For more information, contact (011) 880-3125 or e-mail [jhb@stephanwelzandco.co.za](mailto:jhb@stephanwelzandco.co.za). The auction catalogue can be viewed at [www.stephanwelzandco.co.za](http://www.stephanwelzandco.co.za)

## VIRULENT ANTI-JEWISH CAMPAIGNERS HAVE NO PLACE ON JR PAGES

I object passionately about the inclusion of Denis Goldberg in last week’s Jewish Report’s front page photo, standing next to Zev Krenkel. I do hope that you have the courage to print my letter as I know there are others who are just as offended as I am.

How can a Jewish newspaper so widely circulated, err so badly on the side of insensitivity as to put a picture of a man who actively spreads anti-Israel propaganda at the Israeli Apartheid Week and who spearheads the BDS campaign in South Africa?

I quote from two items on the BDS website:

A public discussion with Denis Goldberg (“Rivonia Trialist and Anti-Apartheid stalwart”); Professor Farid Esack (“Anti-apartheid activist and academic”); and Braam Hanekom (“Co-ordinator of People Against Suffering Oppression and Poverty”), on the topic: “Israel’s racist relationship to African refugees”.

The website says the “ANC, at its recent Mangaung Conference, adopted resolution 35 (j) condemning this Israeli racism toward Africans. The resolution reads: “The ANC abhors the recent Israeli state-sponsored xenophobic attacks and deportation of people of African origin and request that this matter should be escalated to the African Union”.

The second is a public discussion at Wits on “Apartheid Then and Now? The emergence of the State of Israel and its racist foundational policies”. Speakers were Professor Ran Greenstein (Wits Sociology Department) and Allan Horwitz (spokesman of StopTheJNF).

Just two examples of Goldberg’s and Horwitz’s involvement with Israel Apartheid Week and BDS. (Allan Horwitz was also featured in the Jewish Report).

I believe in freedom of speech and have no objection to people of other religions and other race groups who, through indoctrination, support anti-Israel activity. However, I do not have the stomach for articles and pictures in a Jewish paper where Jews who openly and passionately display their feelings of negativity and who go so far as to join anti-Zionist factions in South Africa, are given space and a platform in a paper such as the Jewish Report.

These same people spew out their anti-Israel rhetoric on Arab and leftwing media such as Al Jazeera and Haaretz!

In a picture on page five of the same issue, a photo appears of Heidi Esakov, also a public anti-Israel figure in South Africa, who manages to go and visit Israel, the country she decries on Al Jazeera!

I strongly urge (avoiding) the sort of attention, in whatever context, to Jews who are actively involved in anti-Israel campaigns of any kind. It would be a terrible shame if people who are similarly uneasy about seeing these pictures and articles, felt that they could no longer bear to read a paper that is waited for with such anticipation every week!

My sincere thanks for your efforts at keeping us informed and looking forward to the use of discretion when publishing anything involving these Jews who are publicly anti-Israel.

That is not the Jewish thing to do: Without unity, the Jews will be under threat of losing their only homeland, the place where we are all welcomed, when the world turns against us.

**Janine Goodson  
Pretoria**



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The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report.

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

GREAT FRONT PAGE PIC OF THE STRUGGLE ACTIVISTS

I’ve just found your newspaper, while looking for pictures for my Facebook page stories of Krugersdorp. I’ve been living in Jerusalem for the last 36 years but I look back fondly - not longingly - to my days growing up and working in Jewish congregations all over South Africa as a Cheder teacher.

South Africa is a great country and I believe it has a great future. I always said that getting rid of apartheid, South Africa would become a leader of Africa. I’m happy to follow the doings of the Jewish community; now I can do it through your newspaper. Thank you and keep up the good work

I especially like to hear about political issues, such as Mr Bloom’s comments about President Jacob Zuma. This is really neat! Tell me, who is Bloom? Are there more guys like him? Give us more community news.

\* I liked the front page picture (in last week’s issue) of the Jewish (Struggle) activists. They did the right thing at the right time.

Leon Gork  
Israel

DENIS GOLDBERG IS NO PARAGON OF JEWISH COMMUNITY CONSCIENCE

I would like to express my disgust and outrage at the front page picture on last week’s Jewish Report, which shows SAJB President Zev Kren-gel seated next to Denis Goldberg.

We should not be honouring someone who has demonised our homeland and did not express himself against the killing of Jewish women and children. Goldberg’s hatred and seeming tacit support of terror cannot be excused by his record of having “fought apartheid”.

This is the mentality that has led to South African support for the atrocities of Robert Mugabe, somehow justified by the ANC/SACP, because Mugabe “liberated Zimbabwe” from white rule,

It is necessary in this regard to explore some of the callous remarks made by Goldberg in the 1980s on Arab terrorism against Israeli men, women and children. The source of my information is “The Jewish Idea and Its Enemies: Personalities, Issues and Events”, by Edward Alexander (1988).

Goldberg was released from prison in South Africa as a result of Israeli pressure on the South African government, and brought to Israel before moving to the United Kingdom. He very soon took up the venomous and vicious refrain of the Communists against Israel and Zionism.

According to my source, in the typical bloodthirsty fashion of Jewish-born radicals, Goldberg condoned PLO murder of Israeli men, women, children and babies.

He declared that every Israeli killed by a PLO bomb in a supermarket, street, school or nursery, deserved his or her fate. He claimed that “terror is not a moral issue” and that “most of the bus passengers and those wounded by explosive devices, are not innocent, since they support the oppression of the Palestinians”.

The saga of Goldberg begs the question as to the tragic mistake of Israel having taken up the cause of Jewish radicals imprisoned by conservative governments.

Is someone with such a cold-blooded attitude to his fellow Jews somebody we wish to engage with and honour and even hold up as a paragon of community conscience?

If you believe in human rights and are lauded for struggling for human rights, you cannot deny human rights to the Levantine Jews regardless of whether you were born into the Jewish people or not.

Indeed, many Jewish ultra-leftists lead the “Burn Israel” movement, sponsoring pro-Pal-estinian hate rallies, leading campaigns for the isolation of Israel, and demonising the Israeli people in the media and universities.

Israel cannot disappear and its six million Jews be exposed to mass murder simply to make life more comfortable in their social circles for leftwing Diaspora Jews and to enable faculty lunches and cocktail parties in the Galut to go more smoothly

Gary Selikow  
Johannesburg

Wrong picture used in JWBS Appeal

In last week’s issue we inadvertently used the photograph of Elaine Bobroff, convener of the Jewish Women Benevolent’s Rosh Hashanah appeal with the message of JWBS chairman, Maureen Disler. Pictured is Maureen Disler. We apologise to both Disler and Bobroff.



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# Glorious rocky road to self-deprecation and honest misery

Show: Love and Prozac (Auto & General Theatre on the Square, Sandton (011) 883-8606  
Until: August 17

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

Whatever else Sonia Esguiera is - and she is many more things than first meet the eye in this fabulous little show - she’s an immensely talented writer; Love and Prozac is brought to audacious life through her rich, detailed and feisty collaboration with John Trengove who also directs the piece.

Esguiera is an award-winning Shakespearean performer, who also hatched the “Porra” series of plays examining the parochialism of tribal behaviour with her critical faculties as sharp and intrusive as a curette.

Under her loupe in this new play is not so much the Portuguese community, though it does get a fair shake, it’s the institution of marriage and how women are tossed willy-nilly into a state of frenetic neurosis by it and by society’s expectations of them.

Sonia is the central character to the work. Esguiera plays her and the whole bang shoot of people populating her life, from her gay trainer Bruce, to her mother, to the myriad men she loves, loses or throws away.

The story is wild and rollicking and with the aid of a disco-ball dangling listlessly in one corner of an illuminated blue heart, a heart-shaped raised dais which doubles as a stagelet and is covered in puce satin, a stuffed polar bear and sultry pillows to say nothing of subtle costume shifts, she takes us on a rocky and slippery road to self-deprecation and sheer honest misery, and back again.

And in anyone else’s hands, the play would limpen and become maudlin, quite quickly. Esguiera has such a delicious stage presence and such a chameleonic means of climbing into a character’s skin that she keeps it light and frothy and completely hilarious throughout - through the fingering of her mother’s tsores at her younger sister’s wedding when all she, as the older sister, seems able to do is be drunk and cry; through being humiliated on blind dates and speed dating and the experiences of consulting everyone on her love life,



Photo courtesy of Auto & General Theatre on The Square

from the smoky enclave of a local sangoma’s place to an ashram in India; to the hysterically funny bravado that comes of extreme disappointment.

Esguiera succeeds in turning the whole institution of dating, marriage and society’s expectations of women inside out.

She doesn’t necessarily offer you new or untrammelled caveats about the issues, but she does spoof all those pressures with simple hilarity. It’s a lovely show: Esguiera’s got a stage presence that you will fall in love with.

## Arts News in Brief

### Last night of Murcott’s one-man exhibition

With art by Lionel Murcott, guitar music by Andre van Rensburg and new songs by Allan Kolski Horwitz, the Artists Club, at Gallery on Sixth, 28 Sixth Street, Parkhurst, invites the general public to the last night of Murcott’s current one-man exhibition today, Friday August 2. Murcott is an artist and published poet proficient in a range of media, who has for decades pushed the interplay between word and image in his work. Schooled at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, in Pietermaritzburg, he has paid his fees to the industry and is today a fulltime artist and poet.

### Unique opportunity to listen to Patlansky’s trio

Die Boer, Durbanville, Cape Town supper club hosts the Dan Patlansky Trio from August 1 - 3. “Proper blues gigs are hard to find in SA,” they write in a media release. “A really good three-piece blues-band is even rarer. In a three-piece set-up, there is nowhere for a mediocre player to hide. As unforgiving as it is for the average musician, so rewarding it is for the master. Blues can be played on most instruments, but on the electric guitar this genre really comes into its own; Dan Patlansky is one of the finest exponents of this art form you will ever see.” (021) 979-1911.

### ‘Developing Characters’ on in Downtown Johannesburg

“Developing Characters”, an exhibition of an archive of black and white photographs curated by New York-based academic Dr Steven Dubin, opens on August 4 for a three-week season at Nirox Gallery, Arts on Main, Downtown Johannesburg. The exhibition comprises printed-up negatives from Kitty’s Photographic Studio in Pietermaritzburg and represents a curious and strangely beautiful insight into the miens and behaviour of the local community between 1972 and 1984. The exhibition features a panel discussion by leading academics from all over the country, on August 8 and will be on show until August 22.

Advertorial

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# TANS joins well-wishers to Madiba’s Houghton home



OWN CORRESPONDENT  
PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE BELLING

For two consecutive days, children from Torah Academy Nursery School joined the throngs of well-wishers outside former President Nelson Mandela’s Houghton home after learning in their classroom about the international hero and his contribution to democracy and peace in South Africa.

The school has been praying for him on a regular basis.

Parents, teachers and classroom assistants accompanied the children and all recited tehillim together.

“Even though these children will never fully know what life was like in South Africa pre-1994, it is important for them to be aware of how Madiba changed life for the good in our

beautiful country and what an icon of a man he is,” one of the parents said.

Each class delivered its own special artwork as a tribute. They proudly displayed their handicraft on the wall and grass. This included portraits of Madiba, a vase of handprinted flowers, a heart full of happy faces and a rainbow of handprints representing the rainbow nation.

The children were filmed by the international media as they delivered their artwork and explored the mounting array of gifts of rocks, candles and flowers from other visitors.

Sara Bronstein, director of the Nursery School, said Torah Academy’s trip to Houghton was three-fold: It encompassed the mitzvah of the 67 minutes, served to bring birthday greetings to Madiba and had the added dimension of prayer.

# ‘ORT 2 B Responsible’ rolled out in primary schools

MARCELLE RAVID  
PHOTOGRAPH: DANIEL ACKERMAN

As well as participating in the LeadSA project at Denver Primary School in Johannesburg, ORT SA’s Mandela Day project included 4 500 pupils in six Alexandra township primary schools. The project consisted of an interactive educational, but fun game called “ORT 2 B Responsible”, created by volunteer and project co-ordinator, Sharon Wilensky.

The game is based on The Bill of Responsibilities, developed by the then Religious Forum which included Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and later adopted by the Department of Basic Education and more recently, the government’s National Development

Plan.

The Bill mirrors the Bill of Rights and teaches children, among other things, to be aware of their responsibility in ensuring they get the best education possible. Grade 4 - 7 pupils received stationery and a snack from community donors.

Over 100 volunteers assisted ORT SA staff to roll out the huge project.

“South Africa is the only country in the world which has adopted a ‘Bill of Responsibilities’ and what better way to inspire the youth of South Africa than with a fun game with an educational message? ORT SA strives to teach skills to a new generation so that they can commit to the ethics and values of the ‘Bill of Responsibilities’, says Yehuda Kay, CEO of ORT SA.



Robyn Smookler from ORT JET Women’s Empowerment Division; “Panda” from LeadSA and Siobhan Wilson, an ORT SA Mandela Day volunteer; at the Denver Primary School.



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A column of WIZO South Africa

## Ayaan Hirsi Ali sets a fine example



At the recent, very exciting and stimulating President’s Conference held in Israel and hosted by President Shimon Peres, one of the prominent guest speakers was Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali was born in Somalia, to a Muslim family in 1969, and grew up in Africa and Saudi Arabia. She escaped an arranged marriage and what would have been a life of bondage, seeking refuge in Holland. She is a feminist, atheist, activist, writer and politician, known for her strong views on women’s rights.

Her decision to break away from oppression and lead a more fulfilling life echoes the actions of women in Israel who flee abuse and sometimes mortal danger to find shelter in WIZO’s safe houses. WIZO not only provides shelters for victims of domestic violence, but offers independent housing assistance to women ready to leave the shelter. Centres for the prevention and treatment of violence in the family and national hotlines for the prevention of domestic violence and children at risk, are some of the services offered by WIZO in Israel.

An even more famous women’s rights activist and nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, recently celebrated her 16th birthday in the freedom of the West where she too has highlighted the conditions in which women in oppressed societies find themselves.

Malala Yousafzal survived an assassination attempt by the Taliban forces while on a bus on her way home from school in Pakistan. Two of her friends were also

shot. In her recent address to the United Nations, she stressed the importance of education for all young people .Through education, youth will be able to make more informed decisions about their lives, choose careers and play an important role in uplifting society as a whole.

WIZO Israel’s devoted and highly professional staff, echo her sentiments exactly and strive to provide a first class education for all their pupils in a nurturing and co-operative environment in the many day-care centres, special-needs schools, career-orientated centres of learning and youth villages throughout Israel.

At present the search is on to secure premises for the 5th Neve WIZO House, funded by the supporters of WIZO South Africa for children and youth at risk.

As Women’s Day approaches, we are very aware of all that is done in South Africa for those who face many serious challenges such as rape, Aids, abusive relationships, single parenting and the breakdown of traditional and societal checks and balances. Theirs is a monumental task and we salute the organisations and individuals who stand up and make the difference.

We can all make a difference in the lives of those less free, less fortunate, less safe. WIZO strives to lift women up by advancing the status of women, developing leadership among women, advancing legal rights, empowering adolescent girls in distress and providing a mentoring programme for older girls who have successfully left a state of distress and intend to serve as role models for younger girls at risk.

In the words of Nelson Mandela: “Freedom cannot be achieved unless the women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression.”

If a member of your family is an active WIZO Johannesburg woman and you would like to honour her in our 100th Birthday Celebration brochure, please contact: Nava 082-789-9118 or [gonen@global.co.za](mailto:gonen@global.co.za) before August 31, 2013.

This column is paid for by WIZO SA

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

## The gentlest touch of all



The Chev touches people’s lives every day, in so many ways. But perhaps our gentlest touch is in the humane and personal way we deal with death. When people are at their most vulnerable - facing the devastating loss of loved ones - the effect of kindness and compassion is lasting, and

the end of a person’s life and that those of us left behind are sad, but will feel better in time. The greatest gift we can give to someone who is no longer with us, is to perform acts of goodness and benevolence in their memory - and to try never to forget them.

There were many questions and Rabbi Fox answered them with patience and empathy. At the end of the gathering it was clear that he had managed to offer them a degree of comfort.

There are times when West Park Cemetery has to arrange as many as six or seven funerals in a day, like right after a Yomtov, and in almost every case there are arrangements to be made with families overwhelmed by grief and in need of support and gentle understanding.

We receive hundreds of notes every year thanking our staff for their efficient and compassionate handling of preparations at a time when families were overcome by sadness and unable to think clearly.

The Chev deals with many situations every day that require a gentle, caring approach, but when we reach out to those facing the harsh inevitability of death, we try to do so with the gentlest touch of all.

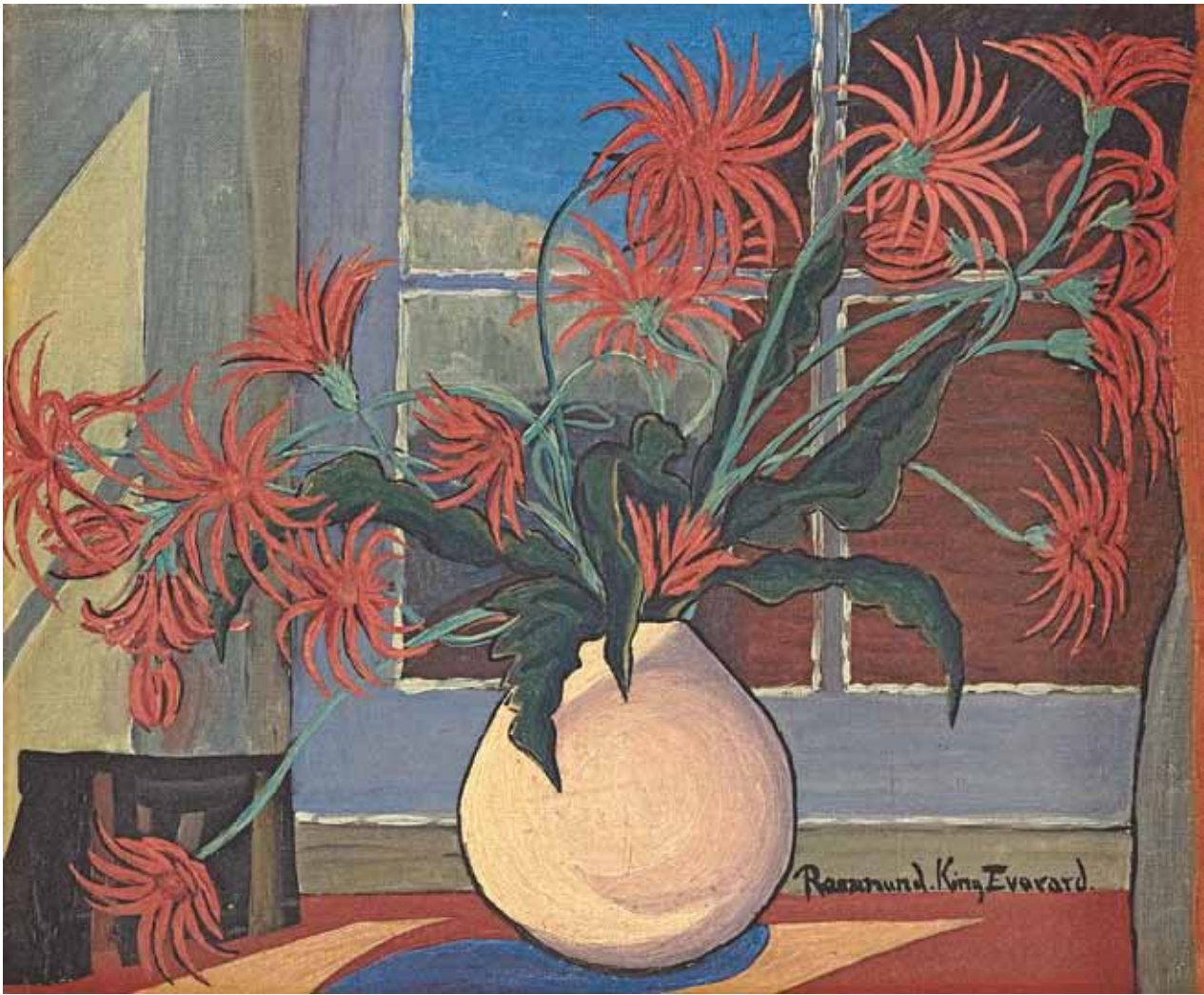
May our partnership continue to thrive.

Please share your thoughts with me on [feedback@thechev.org.za](mailto:feedback@thechev.org.za)

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**Above Board**  
**Mary Kluk**  
National Chairman

# Milestone 110th anniversary of the Board of Deputies

Less than four weeks remain until the Board’s 47th biennial conference, to be held at the Sandton Sun Hotel on August 25. It is, as always, a very busy time for our staff and leadership, but it is exciting as well.

Whereas the bulk of the SAJBD’s day-to-day work takes place out of the public eye, conference time gives us a suitably high profile and prestigious platform through which to present to our constituents what we are all about and provide a window into some of the important issues that we are dealing with.

What makes this year’s conference special is that it marks the 110th anniversary of the SAJBD. To celebrate this milestone, we are holding a special post-conference gala dinner, to which all members of our community are cordially invited. This takes the place of the traditional conference opening night.

The main conference will address, in the form of successive panel discussions, two themes with which the Board, as the body that both works to uphold Jewish civil rights and represent as broad a spectrum of the Jewish community as possible, is particularly concerned with.

The first is on the need to create “safe spaces” for debate and free expression, both in such areas in the wider society as the media, academia and politics and internally within the ranks of our own community.

Freedom of expression is a crucial value in any democracy, and in many ways, we have seen this come under attack in this country. We have become especially concerned about attempts at certain universities to censor pro-Israel viewpoints, as well as exclude Israeli academics or artists from participating in any on-campus events.

The Board’s conferences, while they do provide valuable guidelines as to the way forward for the organisation, should not be seen as policy-making forums. Rather, they are an opportunity for our constituents to learn and think about what it is we do on their behalf, and be provided with some level of understanding of where the Jewish community finds itself in the contemporary environment.

Essentially, they constitute a kind of “State of the Nation” address for South African Jewry, in the form of both oral presentations by the Board leadership and the relevant conference literature reporting on the significant developments of the past two years.

Even so, a fair amount of time is allocated to enable delegates representing our affiliate organisations to pose questions or make comments from the floor. Conferences also provide an opportunity for delegates to network informally with one another and liaise with the Board’s leadership in between sessions.

For the gala dinner, we are privileged to have as our keynote speaker Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, chairman of the African Union Commission and a former long-serving government minister.

As reported in a previous column, we will also be honouring community members who have rendered outstanding service in the area of human rights activism and in the sphere of Jewish communal service in South Africa.

We look forward to what promises to be a very stimulating and uplifting series of events and I hope very much to see many members of our community joining us for the occasion. For more information regarding bookings and costs, both to attend the conference and for the dinner, contact our conference co-ordinator Jenni Fearnley on (011) 645-2521 / [jenni@beyachad.co.za](mailto:jenni@beyachad.co.za).

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

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



**Ariellah Rosenberg**  
Head of Educators Empowerment

# Inspiring teachers

I have worked in the educational field for more than 20 years, mainly working with teachers, offering them professional development and training and giving them classroom-based support.

One of the main things I have learnt is that teaching is tough! Teachers are required to have a specialty and to impart this knowledge at different depths and levels, to various age groups, while always keeping in mind the home backgrounds and emotional states of the learners. And at the end of all this, they must remain well-balanced and sane!

With talk on technological trends in education, the one role I have no doubt will remain, is that of the teacher. No online, e-learning cloud can replace the physical presence in the classroom of the teacher. We therefore need to invest in our teachers and prioritise their status as one of the top ranks on the professional scale and ensure that they are suitably compensated. No other entity has such an impact on the future of education in the country than the teacher.

But in order to raise the professional standards of teachers, some major steps need to be taken in SA. There is a need to raise the quality of pre-service teacher training offered by universities, especially in the field of maths, science and technology. Another challenge that needs to be overcome is the generally negative perception that people have of teachers.

How can we change this? That remains a challenge. Lee Iacocca said: “In a completely rational society, the best of us would be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something else. If students’ achievements determine the number of critical thinkers, the level of science literacy and the number of future entrepreneurs the country produces, the link between teachers and the future economy of the country is non-negotiable.”

• Ariellah Rosenberg is head of Teachers Empowerment, ORT SA. This is an extract from her blog: <http://ariellah.wordpress.com/2013/07/08/building-strong-inspired-teaching-force-in-south-africa> or [www.ortsa.org.za](http://www.ortsa.org.za)

*This column is paid for by ORT SA*

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World News in Brief

Lau and Yosef elected chief rabbis of Israel

JERUSALEM - Rabbi David Lau, Modiin's chief rabbi, was last week named Israel's chief Ashkenazi rabbi, with Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef, as Sephardi rabbi. Both are sons of former chief rabbis: Lau's father was chief Ashkenazi rabbi between 1993 and 2003. Yosef's father served as the chief Sephardi rabbi between 1973 and 1983.

The 150 electors responsible for choosing Israel's chief rabbis gave Lau and Yosef the same number of votes - 68.

"This is a joyous occasion, of course, but there is also a sense of great responsibility," Lau told Israel Hayom shortly after he was named the new chief rabbi. "I was sitting by Father when the results came in. He hugged me and told me that I have a heavy burden to carry. I thank G-d that I have been blessed to sit on the same chair as my father," Yosef said. (JNS.org)

Beloved community stalwart Denis Levy passes on

ISAAC REZNIK

It is with deep regret that I write this obituary in memory of the late Denis Robert Levy z'l (pictured), who passed away after a short illness on Tisha B'Av, 5773, July 16.

Denis served the Chevrah Kadisha and the community with selfless dedication for 20 years, until his retirement a few years ago. He left his post with the blessing and best wishes of his colleagues and committees.

His duties included the management of all welfare activities across the group - an endeavour that touched the lives of thousands of people on a daily basis

I first met Denis, when he lived in Cyrildene with his late parents, and owned the Spencer's Jewellery Store in Eloff Street, in central Johannesburg

After he moved from Cyrildene, he settled in Emmarentia and was involved with the Emmarentia Hebrew Congregation for many years where he served on the committee and later became chairman of the

congregation, which he served with distinction.

He was very close to the late Simon Jackson, the then general secretary of the Chevrah Kadisha, who introduced him to the organisation, as a volunteer in 1986.

In the late 1980s he chose to make the Chevrah Kadisha his career and was appointed funeral director. In what had become his vocational trademark, he approached the job with compassion and professionalism.

With the untimely passing in 1993 of Simon Jackson, who served the Chevrah Kadisha as general secretary for over 45 years, Denis was selected to succeed Jackson and assumed responsibility for the broader functioning of the organisation, as executive director. True to form, he adapted to the new role and rose rapidly to the challenge.

In later years, at the request of community leaders, the Chevrah Kadisha was called upon to assume both managerial and financial responsibilities for many welfare or-

ganisations within the Johannesburg Jewish community.

Under his competent leadership and guidance, Denis integrated and managed what has today become a vast, complex welfare network, incorporating Jewish Community Services; Sandringham Gardens; Our Parents Home; Arcadia Jewish Children's Home; Selwyn Segal Society for the Jewish Handicapped; and Kadimah Occupational Centre.

His position evolved into that of group CEO. He surrounded himself with a professional and skilled management team to assist him with his ever-growing and demanding responsibilities.

In keeping with the Chevrah Kadisha's custom, he maintained close liaison with the Johannesburg Beth Din and continuously benefited from the counsel of Rosh Beth Din Rabbi Moshe Kurtstag.

In 2003, as an expression of sincere appreciation and high esteem, Denis was presented with the "Guardian of the Community" service award, the first recipient of this award since the



establishment of the Chev 115 years ago.

Rabbis Hirsch Rosenblum and Menachem Raff, in their respective hespeidim, spoke about his chesed - compassion that touched the lives of thousands of people on a daily basis and his love of Torah, which he embraced after his retirement.

I am sure the entire Jewish community extends its heartfelt condolences to his wife Diana, his son Arthur, daughter Nicky, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, and grandchildren.

May his memory be for a blessing.

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Impact for Christ Ministries donate an ambulance to MDA-SA

DAVID SAKS

On Wednesday, July 17, Magen David Adom - South Africa (MDA-SA) hosted a well-attended dedication ceremony for the donation of an MDA-SA ambulance to Israel by the Impact for Christ Ministries at the HOD Hall.

The occasion was also used to pay tribute to Prophet Philip Banda, head of Impact for Christ Ministries, for the long record of dedicated support he and his organisation have rendered to Israel. The formal dedication of the ambulance was conducted by Prophet Banda and MDA-SA patron, Michael Bagraim.

The new ambulance is already in Israel, and a similar dedication ceremony will be held there in August.

In his opening address, MDS-SA Chairman Mark Hyman focused on how the secret of Jewish survival, as well as the survival of the Judeo-Christian heritage as a whole, was to be found in the devotion of its adherents to the eternal teachings of the Bible.

"Just being Jewish or Christian by birth, does not guarantee survival of any kind. Only where there has been a concrete commitment to the study of the Bible, to teaching it to our children, and to the fulfilment of its eternal practices, has this miracle been seen to happen," he said.

Hyman concluded by praising Prophet Banda and his church, saying that their generous donation epitomised the Talmudic teaching that one who saved the life of a single person was deemed to have saved the entire world.

Following Hyman's talk, a short DVD was screened showing aspects of the MDA's work, both in Israel and in providing emergency disaster relief further afield, such as after the Haiti earthquake in 2011.

Other speakers included Pastor Abel Zumani from Impact for Christ Ministries, SAZF Chairman Avrom Krengel and MDA-SA patrons Rev-



**Prophet Philip Banda of Impact for Christ ministries, with a special award presented to him by MDA-SA.**

erend Kenneth Meshoe of the African Christian Democratic Party, former Registrar of Banks Christo Wiese and Michael Bagraim.

Pastor Zumani emphasised the Judaic roots of the Christian faith and dwelt on the centrality of the Holy Land in the theology and prophetic traditions of the two religions.

"At the heart of our organisation's mission statement lies our G-d-ordained obligation to stand in defence of the State of Israel and the Jewish people wherever they are scattered across the nations and all over the world," he said.

Krengel recalled what it had been like to be in Jerusalem 10 years previously, when the terrorist campaign launched by Yasser Arafat after he had rejected Israel's peace offering, was at its height.

Then, one would react to the sound of an ambulance siren with the desperate hope that it would be the only one; when a second, and then a third siren were heard, it was a sombre indication that yet another atrocity had been perpetrated.

Magen David Adom, which under Hyman's leadership had undergone a dramatic transformation in recent years, had been at the forefront of the emergency rescue efforts during those difficult times.

  
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GENERAL

Jewish Women's Benevolent is happy to announce the following winners: Bonanza 13 winners: Merle Liebesman, ticket no 544 R7 500 Myra Hart, ticket no 675, R3 500 Membership drive draw: Mrs Woolf R2 500 Spar shopping voucher

Annual General Meeting of the Bikkur Cholim will take place on Sunday, August 18, 2013, at the offices of the Bikkur Cholim, Athol House, 128 Athol Street, Highlands North at 10:30.

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SA JEWISH REPORT 15

Nates' women's day of prayer: Based on trust

ROBYN SASSEN

"The name's an anachronism," said Devorah Nates, president of the Federation of Synagogues Women's Guilds of SA, of her organisation, established in 1962. "It's because there are very few active women's guilds left in South Africa.

"Our mandate is to have as many as possible Orthodox women from all the shuls in the community to be members of our organisation in their own right. We're the national voice of Orthodox women."

Nates established the Women's National Day of Prayer in 1995. "Eighteen years ago, the heady feelings as we stood in long queues to vote (in South Africa's first democratic elections), the fears for a positive outcome for the years ahead were all present. As Jews we are aware that Hashem runs this world and whenever we are in crisis we turn as a community in supplication and prayer. Sometimes as the fear and anxiety of a crisis fade, we forget to collectively gather together to say thank you.

"The idea was born out of a quote by 19th century British poet Matthew Arnold: 'If there ever comes a time when the women of the world come together purely and simply for the benefit of mankind, it will be a force such as the world has never known.'"

The Federation is part of the national co-ordinating council of women's organisations, alongside the UJW, Emunah, WIZO, the Sephardi Ladies and the Sisterhood.

"Under our auspices, the still functional Kosher Consumers' Organisation, a kosher watchdog body was established in 1983 by the late Reb-betzen Doreen Bender.

"The Provincial Hospitals Kosher Kitchens, established in 1903 at the Johannesburg Hospital in Hillbrow to ensure Jewish patients in state hospitals had kosher meals, became a department of our organisation in the late 1980s.

"Ten years earlier, when the currently named Charlotte Maxeke Hospital in Parktown was built, the Kosher Kitchens had purpose-built premises to operate from. It closed in 2006: The quantity of Jews treated in state hospitals was negligible; the Chevrah Kadisha undertook to deliver kosher food to them.

"The spirit of volunteerism has diluted. While economics does play a role in women's free time, many are just not interested.

"The Federation hosts several events annually: a Purim megillah reading, prize-givings for kosher posters, succahs and the Sheila Muznitsky Floating Trophy, given to a guild or individual who's given yeoman's service; Prayer Day is the pinnacle."

Prayer Day is based on trust. When lighting Shabbat candles on August 9, women are asked to recite Psalm 27 and give a donation to charity.

"It brings spiritual value to the Federation," says Nates. "Jews all over the world recite Psalm 27 between the beginning go Elul and the end of Succoth. It encompasses the whole spectrum of human emotions."

What's On

Today, Friday (August 2)

- RCHCC hosts an exhibition of artwork and photography by Loren Hodes and Ilan Ossendryver, "The Tree of Life", until Sunday, September 1. Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378.
- UZLC hosts journalist and TV presenter Paula Slier on "Egypt and the Arab Spring". Our Parents Home. 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.
- United Sisterhood holds its monthly book sale at the Benmore Gardens Shopping Centre. Contact: (011) 646-2409.

Saturday (August 3)

- Beit Emanuel hosts a "Bingo Bash". Beit Emanuel, Parktown. 19:30. R150 for 5 games: Ilana (011) 646-6170/1/2.

Sunday (August 4)

- Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets in the Jeffrey Auditorium at St Johns College Lower Houghton. 14:15. Dave (011) 885-3525 or Barney (011) 440-1996.
- Second Innings hosts Dr Claire Nicolson, immediate past head of Institute for Human Movement, Wits, on "Ageing is Not For Sissies". Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. 10:00 for 10:30. R20 members, R40 visitors. Grecia, (011) 532-9718.

Monday (August 5)

- UJW hosts Prof Selma

Wednesday (August 7)

- UJW hosts Dr Lorraine

Tuesday (August 6)

- Browde, formerly professor of radiation oncology at Johannesburg Academic Hospital, on "You and Your Doctor - Avoiding Unnecessary Suffering". Time: 09:30. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Contact: (011) 648-1053. Donation: R30.
- Pine Street Shul hosts a talk on women's health, "Urinary Incontinence, Bladder and Uterine Prolapse", with Dr Megan Fisher and "Hormone Replacement Therapy" with Dr Malepule Mseleku. Women only. Venue: Pine Street Shul. Time: 19:15 sharp. Donation: R50. RSVP: Kiki 083-692-6399 or Jenny 083-788-2206.
- UJW CT branch executive committee, together with the Gender-Based Violence & Abuse Education & Awareness Campaign will be hosting a light breakfast, with Manny Waks on his journey as a survivor of institutional child sexual abuse within the Jewish community. Coffee Time, Gardens. 08:30 for 09:00. R150. Call Georgie (021) 434-9555, e-mail: admin@ujwcape.co.za
- Morris Rutstein-SAZF evening Hebrew Ulpan course starts today and runs every Tuesday evening until it terminates on Tuesday November 19. Registration Monday, August 5 at 18:30. Yeshiva College. 19:00 - 21:15. Enquiries: SAZF, (011) 645-2531 (office hours).

Thursday (August 8)

- Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Dept of English at Wits, on part 3 of her series on "Contemporary Poetry". 1 Oak Street, Houghton. 09:30. R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.
- UJW CT's adult education programme hosts Marlene Silbert on "Learning to Live Together". Stonehaven. 10:00 for 10:30. R20.00. Enquires: (021) 434-9555 (until 14:00).
- JWBS launches its new recipe book, L'Chaim, endorsed by the Chief Rabbi, dedicated to JWBS stalwart, Vera Davimes. Waverley Shul hall. Books can be purchased between 08:30 and 12:30. Cost R270 or R500 for two. Enquiries: (011) 485-5232 or e-mail Gloria@jwbs.co.za
- WIZO Pretoria hosts a fundraiser with entertainment by Clint & Co. Venue: Wingate Park Country Club. Time: 19:00 for 19:30. Cost: R180. For tickets contact (012) 346-8712 or 082-707-9471
- Join WIZO every Thursday for a "Lunch & Learn" shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 13:00. Information: (011) 645-2515.

Friday (August 9)

- National Prayer Day: Women and girls are asked to recite Psalm 27 and pledge money to a charity of their choice, before lighting Shabbat candles, in honour of Women's National Day of Prayer.



# Jabeur feigns injury rather than face Jewish Peer



ROCKING THE BOAT  
*Jack Milner*

Before going on to the Maccabiah, which came to an end on Wednesday night, I would like to touch on the subject of Ons Jabeur, an 18-year-old tennis player from Tunisia.

The youngster could be a remarkable talent as she won the French Open junior title in 2012 and is about to break into the top 200 in the world. She was playing a quarter-final match at the Baku Cup in Azerbaijan against Magda Linette of Poland and was leading 6-4 4-1. She showed absolutely no signs of injury but suddenly walked up to the net, shook her opponent’s hand and withdrew, citing an ankle injury.

It was immediately seen as a strange move as few players who are so close to victory pull out unless they are badly injured. Many people were mystified by her move, but then the news had come through during the match that Israel’s Shahar Peer had won her quarter-final encounter and would have been Jabeur’s next opponent.

According to her Facebook page and reports in the Tunisian newspaper Alsabah, Jabeur had pulled out as she did not wish to come up against a Jewish player. They quote members of her close family in the piece.

Apparently this is not the first time she has done this and hopefully the WTA, the body that runs women’s tennis, will investigate the incident thoroughly.

Her action is interesting because if she won the match and then refused to play, it would become a political incident. By pulling out during the match her actual reasons would be hard to prove. She is also not depriving the tournament of a semifinal match as her opponent has been allowed to go through.

My other concern was the report about not being prepared to face a “Jewish” player rather than just “Israeli”. This could have serious repercussions, although perhaps it is an error in the translation from Arabic to English.

The good news for Peer, however, is that she went on to reach her first final in a number of years and although she lost, she



Cyclist Kevin Evans with the gold medal he won at the Maccabiah.

at least appears to be back on track.

Interestingly, the Israeli put out South Africa’s Chani Scheepers in the second round. Perhaps Scheepers would have been saved the embarrassment of losing had she heeded Desmond Tutu’s call to boycott Israel.

Anyway, back to the Maccabiah. I have been told there were some errors in last week’s results. Unfortunately, the Maccabiah website which is intended to keep track of the results is not good. In fact, it does not seem to have been updated for quite a while.



Tunisian Ons Jabeur retired from her match rather than play Israel's Shahar Peer.

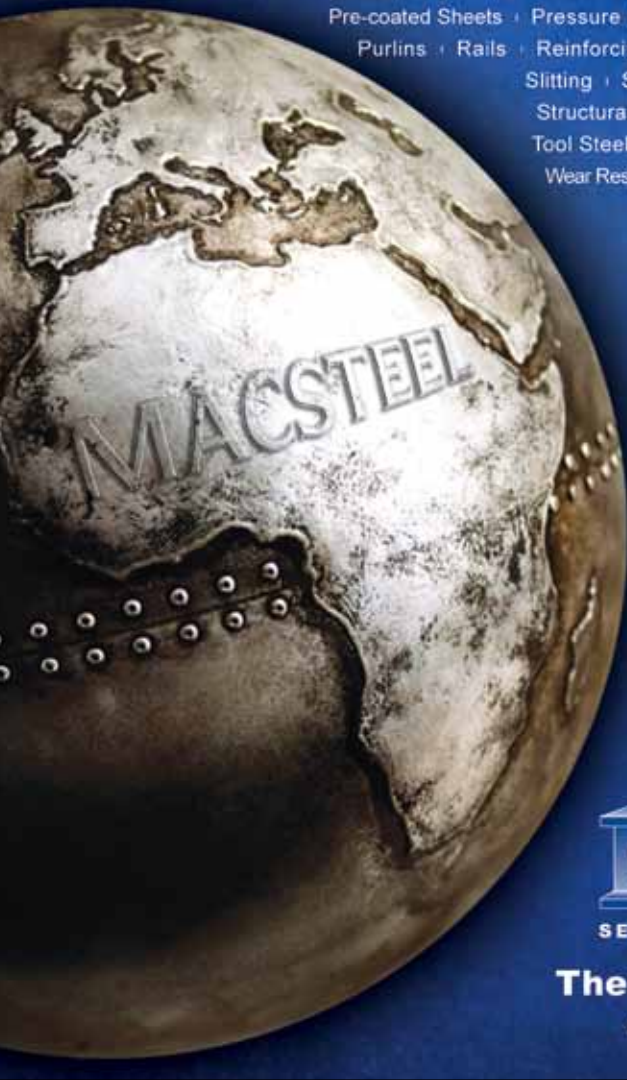
I can confirm however, that the gold medal for cycling was won by Kevin Evans, a multiple South African champion, when he claimed victory in the Elite men’s road race last week Thursday.


Anyway, everybody will soon be back and by next week we will be able (hopefully) to get the (correct) final results.

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## Winning after lung transplant

ALANA BARANOV

From planning her wedding to planning her funeral, within a matter of months. Nearly a decade ago Justine Laymond (pictured) was told by doctors that without a double lung transplant she would die.

Today she has not only defied her medical fate and celebrated seven years since the transplant, but has made history as the first woman with a double lung transplant to sail across the Atlantic. She is currently representing Team Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the 2013 World Transplant Games in Durban.

Tousled red and blue hair is certainly not the feistiest feature of this accomplished sportswoman and miracle survivor. Laymond and her parents, Barry and Jo, all speak of Justine’s incredible attitude and fighting character.

Jo says: “She was born with an inner strength; Laymond points to a rebellious streak as her lifesaver. “If someone tells me I can’t do something, I will go out and do it.”

Laymond was diagnosed with the incredibly rare condition Lymphangioleiomyomatosis, known as LAM, in 2005. For years she had suffered with chest pains that had gone untreated, even after she experienced collapsed lungs in her early 20s.

At age 31 she suffered a double lung collapse and was rushed to London’s Harefield Hospital where a CT scan showed that her lungs were riddled with cysts. This was LAM, a disease which only affects women and one in a million people on earth.

Soon after the diagnosis, Laymond’s health took a turn for the worse and within eight months her left lung collapsed a further 13 times. Eventually - in 2006 - she was hospitalised for six months and, unable to even talk, her body quickly deteriorated.

After being on oxygen 24 hours a day, she was put into an induced coma for three weeks. This period was what Laymond calls her “dark days”. The words of a fellow patient helped her get through the challenges. “Once you accept, you can move forward she told me. Acceptance changed everything.”

Finally in 2006, after 16 months of waiting and three false alarms, Laymond received a new set of lungs in a 10 hour operation.

“I’m definitely a fighter. When I came out of the coma I had to learn how to walk again. At the hospital I decided to set myself daily challenges and to try to do more each day.”

Family support and the outpouring of well wishes from her website readers, which she started in hospital with the help of her father who would write updates when she couldn’t, are factors in her triumph over the odds.


Laymond is competing in badminton and various other sports at the World Transplant Games which sees 900 athletes from 49 countries taking part.

She uses her blog and sporting success to raise awareness and support those affected by LAM. She is passionate about organ donation, and still thinks about her donor every single day.

Her personal motto is “Always smiling, always will” and it encapsulates her unique spirit. “I have been put here for a purpose.”

• Justine Laymond can be followed on Twitter @lamlungartist and on her blog www.justinedoublelungs.blogspot.co.uk





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