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Friday, 02 September 2011 / 03 Elul, 5771

Volume 15 Number 33

Old comrades at SAJBD Conference



Michael Schneider, secretary general emeritus of the World Jewish Congress, with Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe at the 46th South African Jewish Board of Deputies conference last Saturday in Johannesburg. In the 1960s Schneider was a member of the anti-apartheid African Resistance Movement and fled to London to avoid arrest when the movement was crushed by the apartheid government. (PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDYVER) **SEE PAGES 4-5**

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September 2/3 Elul
September 3/4 Elul

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18:10	19:03	Cape Town
17:24	18:14	Durban
17:43	18:34	Bloemfontein
17:42	18:34	Port Elizabeth
17:34	18:26	East London

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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Who am I?



PARSHAT SHOFTIM

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin
Rav, Oxford Synagogue-Centre

ON WEDNESDAY morning we started blowing the shofar, heralding the countdown to Rosh Hashanah. “Wake up,” the piercing, shrill sound tells us, “you are in the last month of the year. The Day of Judgment is getting nearer.”

There is no doubt that a Jew behaves differently during the month of Elul. The soul can intuitively feel that the High Holy Days are coming up. The result is that we are more careful and more deliberate in the way we speak or act. So there is less lashon hara, more attention to kashrut, Shabbat, our relationship with our friends and family.

Each of our actions, words and even thoughts, is carefully weighed against the measure of our Torah value system.

Hypocritical, one may ask: After all is said and done, we are judged on Rosh Hashanah for the entire year’s behaviour, not just for the desperate last-ditch attempts to ingratiate ourselves before G-d. And clearly Hashem cannot be fooled. So, why not just be ourselves and be honest with our Maker?

This raises a very fundamental question: Who, in fact, is the real me?

Let me illustrate my point by way of a well-known Chassidic story:

A certain Chassid left his home shtetl for business purposes. Living in the big city, he did not feel comfortable walking around with the full Chassidic regalia. He thus started dressing in a business suit, as he thought befits a respectable person of his stature.

But of course the civvies were reserved for the city. On every visit back home, when he came to see the Rebbe, he would once again don the full Chassidic garb, including the long black jacket, the fur hat and the knee-length socks.

This carried on for years until one day the Chassid thought to himself: “Why am I being a hypocrite? Why do I need to pretend and dress up for the Rebbe? I must just be honest with myself and with him.”

On his next visit, the man went home, sans Chassidic garb. As was his custom, he set off for the house of his mentor, and put out his hand in greeting. “Shalom Aleichem, Rebbe... Please excuse my appearance. I have decided no longer to pretend and to dress up for you, so I’ve come clothed the way I normally do.”

The Rebbe gave his pupil a deep, long, penetrating glance. Then, with a sigh, he said: “So it seems that it was for me you that have been dressing up. I am so disappointed. All along, I assumed you were getting dressed up for them.”

So, this is in fact the question each one of us must ask ourselves: Which one is the real me? The Jew of the whole year or the Jew of the month of Elul? The person who talks as he pleases, eats what he pleases, partakes in whatever comes his or her way? Or the individual who is deliberate and calculated in each of his or her actions, testing each thought, word and deed against an ethical and moral standard.

What the shofar is really telling us is: “Be true to your real self.”

Ketiva vaChatima Tova



Premier of the Western Cape Helen Zille flanked by a guest (left) and his “friend for the day” at the One to One Fair.

Albert’s amazing joyride of service

EDITED BY MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

ONE TO One Day Fair for the Intellectually Challenged convener for the past 31 years, Albert Glass, is challenging other centres to emulate Cape Town’s example. And he is even prepared to lend a hand in getting things up and running.

Inspired by the biblical imperative to “Love thy neighbour”, Glass has been at the helm of over 30 organisations, including Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Christian religious groups, as well as service, social, school and student groups, convening a fair, replete with stalls, live entertainment and an assortment of bands, exclusively for the handicapped.

In excess of 3 500 handicapped are feted in the company of volunteer “friends for

the day”, sharing the fun-of-the-fair as buddies.

Glass describes “an air of fun, laughter and camaraderie” at this year’s event that took place on August 14 at the Good Hope Centre. “Wall to wall, the guests enjoyed themselves and shared the enjoyment with the new-found friend,” he recalls.

He still experiences as much joy and satisfaction, coupled with a great deal of excitement, as he did at the first such gathering in 1981.

“To have the merit to organise an event such as this and to see the smiles of satisfaction and hear the squeals of joy and excitement, makes the effort so worthwhile,” he says.

“Coupled with working and engaging with so many like-minded fellow Capetonians, has made it an amazing joy ride.”

KASHRUT ALERT

KINDER JOY CHOCOLATE EGGS NOW KOSHER

THE KASHRUT department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues has announced that Kinder Joy Chocolate Eggs (with a toy in the centre), are now kosher, milchick, (not chalav Yisrael) under supervision of the Johannesburg Beth Din, “when manufactured in South Africa, with or without the Beth Din logo on the packaging”.

Only Kinder Joy Eggs are approved at this stage. Other Kinder Joy products may become approved at a later date.

The kashrut department says Illovo Chocolate Sauce is erroneously marked as Parev; however, this product is Milchik. The company has apologised for the error. The kashrut department is taking steps to

ensure that such errors are prevented in future.

Appletiser and Peartiser are kosher and Parev with or without the Beth Din Logo in any form of packaging

The Freshers range of products available at Fruit and Veg City erroneously bear the Beth Din logo, and are NOT certified as kosher. The kashrut department is working closely with the company to correct this, and Fruit and Veg City apologises for the error

The kashrut department was informed by the OK that Goldcrest Artichoke Hearts erroneously bears an OK logo, and this product is NOT certified by the OK.

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‘Negotiations’ a mere ruse to build settlements - Barghouti

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN.

NEGOTIATIONS HAD become nothing but a cover for Israel’s de facto process of building settlements on the ground and that was why the country was “so crazy” about the Palestinians’ intention to ask the United Nations for state recognition in September.

So said Palestinian politician and activist Dr Mustafa Barghouti, at a seminar titled “The way forward for the Palestinian struggle”, held under the auspices of the Palestine Solidarity Forum at the University of Cape Town.

Barghouti, a former presidential candidate for the Palestinian Authority and 2010 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, who received his postgraduate medical training in Jerusalem, was on a lecture tour of South Africa.

He is the secretary-general of the Palestinian National Initiative (PNI), a political/social party he co-founded with (the late) Edward Said, among others and is a distant cousin of jailed Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti.

Comparing the occupied territories to Bantustans in apartheid South Africa, he said the whole of the Palestinian Authority was under occupation. “Even the president can’t move from one city to another without an Israeli permit.”

Conceding that some Israelis were “upset” at the apartheid comparison, he said: “Israel should not be angry at what we call it, but about the fact that they created the worst system of apartheid at



Dr Mustafa Barghouti, Palestinian politician and activist, speaking at UCT.

the beginning of the 21st century.”

Referring to what he termed “road segregation”, Barghouti said this never existed in South Africa or the United States under segregation. “Most main roads inside the West Bank are blocked and for the exclusive use of Israeli settlers and the army.

“I would be sentenced to six months in jail if I was caught driving or walking in these streets. How would you call this situation if not apartheid?” he asked.

Barghouti, a medical doctor, used to work in Jerusalem, but said the Israelis had not allowed him to do so since he had run for the presidency of the Palestinian Authority.

Acknowledging the suffering of the Jewish people in history, he said that that did not justify the suffering of Palestinians today. “Because of their suffering, they should be much more careful about the suffering of other peo-

ple,” he said to applause.

Referring to the “very powerful and important” Goldstone Commission Report on the 2008/9 Gaza War, Barghouti said the justice had been “subjected to the worst level of blackmailing, to the extent that he was forced to deny sections of the Report”. Comparing this to McCarthyism in the United States, he described doing “such a thing to a person who is Jewish and an intellectual” as “the ultimate violation of human rights”.

Barghouti said that the weekly demonstrations by his “non-violent popular resistance movement” were met in some areas with severe violence. “I can’t understand it when the world remains silent in the face of this and they (Israel) don’t get any criticism.”

Asked by a member of the audience whether he acknowledged that there was a legitimate existential threat to Israel, Barghouti denied that that country was threatened in any way.

“It has the fourth-largest army in the world, the strongest army in the Middle East - nobody is planning to destroy Israel,” except for those who threatened to do so but weren’t able to, he said.

“To keep using the old propaganda that Israel is the victim, is nothing but an illusion. You cannot equate between the occupier and the occupied, just like you can’t compare (the situation between) a rapist and a woman being raped,” he said.

Barghouti was scheduled to meet with parliamentarians and officials of the Department of International Relations and Co-operation while in the country.



Controversial former Fox News talk-show host Glenn Beck, addresses the community at the Gardens Synagogue.

Controversial Glenn Beck professes his love for Israel

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

WHEN THE world turns its back on Israel and the Jewish people, it turns its back on human rights. “Your very existence teaches us this every single day - you are vital.”

These were the words of controversial conservative commentator and former Fox News talk-show host Glenn Beck, who addressed an almost capacity audience at the Gardens Synagogue this week, under the auspices of Israel advocacy organisation Group 18.

His presentation, which took on the tone of an evangelical rally, followed a four-day visit to Israel, both part of his “Courage to Stand for Israel” global campaign.

“The case of human rights has been so perverted, it doesn’t even resemble humanity anymore,” he said to enthusiastic applause. Human rights proponents had become “nothing other than gross caricatures” of the original leaders of the movement.

“I propose a path where we link arms, where we have to agree on the big things. We can’t leave it to other people. Who’s going to protect your rights? Who cares more than you? The commissions of the world didn’t stop the Holocaust, it was individuals that stopped apartheid.”

Beck, a recovering alcoholic, told the audience that he was a Mormon. “We’re the Jews of Christendom,” he said to laughter. “They hate us - I don’t know why, but they do.

“I’ve been so moved by the obedience to G-d that your faith has demonstrated,” he added, referring to individuals he had witnessed praying at the Western Wall at 02:00. “Why? Because G-d told them to.

“I respect you, I thank you for your example. How few people there are that live it and if you’re not living it, shame on you,” he stated.

Beck recalled seeing prayer shawls on display in a room on a recent visit to Auschwitz. “I thought: ‘Who stands there amidst all the evil and you put on a prayer shawl?’

“In the worst of the worst, the obedience to G-d - what a miracle!”

Recalling his first Shabbat at the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem, he said he had heard a prayer that had been “in my heart and on my lips since”. Beck wept - one of several such occasions during his address - as he quoted from the Shemoneh Esrei in reference to “those who design evil against me”: “Thwart them, not destroy them,” he summarised the supplicant’s request.

“This is the message the world is missing, this is the message the world has forgotten,” he stressed.

Israel had “one of the highest standards of freedom”, he maintained, asking, “Where else in the Middle East can women drive, go out at night and homosexuals serve in the army and not be stoned to death?”

Noting that he was sometimes called “a Jew-loving anti-Semite”, Beck said he was often asked what motivated him by people who “can’t figure out why someone would stand up for the Jewish people. I’d stand up for any people - I happen to be pro-human.

“Do you think I want to do this and be called every name in the book? I don’t care - I’m doing what I understand the Lord is telling me to do.”

Nationalisation of mines not an option, says Turok

STORY BY ILAN SOLOMONS
SAUJS NATIONAL LIAISON

AN ANC stalwart has been blunt that nationalisation of the country’s mines was not an option. SAUJS recently hosted ANC parliamentarian and anti-apartheid Struggle icon, economist Prof Ben Turok, editor of the New Agenda and founder of the Institute of African Alternatives in the UK and Africa.

Turok, who has written many books, especially relating to the ANC’s policies and its history, spoke to SAUJS students from Wits and the University of Johannesburg, on the development of the ANC’s economic policies over the course of its history.

His talks were based mostly on his book “From the Freedom Charter to Polokwane - The Evolution of ANC Economic Policy”.

The obvious questions that arose related to the nationalisation of the mines in South Africa, in light of ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema’s demand for the mines to be nationalised, the lack of growth in ANC’s Freedom Charter relating to economic policy, made it clear that “nationalisation of our mines is just not an option. It has failed elsewhere and there is nothing to indicate that it will work here.”

SAUJS was also fortunate to host a public event with Prof Turok in conjunction with the Trevor Huddleston Memorial Centre in Sophiatown, at the Sophiatown Cultural Centre and

Museum in Johannesburg. The site is of major significance as it is the original 1930s home of political leader Dr AB Xuma, who was a prominent member of the ANC.

The public talk took the form of the official Johannesburg book launch of Turok’s latest series of books entitled “The Historical Roots of the ANC - Understanding the ANC Today”. On a bitterly cold evening, the audience was warmed by the fascinating history of a movement which is close onto 100 years old.

There was a lively discussion afterwards regarding some of the professor’s analysis of certain elements of the ANC and especially of the particular figures who he felt tarnished the image of the movement. All in all it was a very enlightening evening which holds a very significant and tragic place in South African history due to apartheid laws that caused the wholesale demolition not only of the physical buildings of the suburb, but of its vibrant community as well.

SAUJS also set up a meeting between Turok and his old comrade of the predominantly white affiliate of the ANC, the Congress of Democrats, in which both men were very active. Rabbi Ben Isaacson, in fact, once took in Turok’s young children when Turok and his wife Mary, went into hiding in the 1960s and none of his family was willing to take the children in for security reasons.

Rabbi Isaacson was at the time the rabbi of the conservatively-minded Krugersdorp Jewish community and his

opposition to apartheid had already cost him his position in Johannesburg as assistant rabbi at the Wolmarans Street Shul, where he had a clash with state prosecutor Dr Percy Yutar, for his anti-apartheid sermons.

The community in Krugersdorp informed the security police that the rabbi had taken in the children of Ben Turok, a banned person. This resulted in the security police ransacking the rabbi’s house and causing tremendous emotional strife to his young family and to the young Turok children. The full account of this story can be found in the book Cutting Through the Mountain.

SAUJS believes strongly in engaging in matters which are of relevance to South Africa, which is why we host the likes of Prof Turok and others who have played and continue to play an important role in our society.

We are also reminded that although some, including Prof Turok, Denis Goldberg, Rabbi Isaacson and others whom we have hosted recently, played an integral part in the anti-apartheid struggle, we are also reminded about the opposition they faced by segments of the Jewish community and the fact that just as there were individual Jews who opposed the apartheid system in South Africa, so too there were those who not only were silent, but openly collaborated with system.

SAUJS hopes that by hosting this type of speakers, it can raise the level of conscience in our community and ensure that we increase the sensitivity of not only the Jewish community, but the broader South African society. This is to ensure more people are aware of our painful history and learn from it, in order to allow for a far brighter future for all people who live in South Africa.



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Zev Krengel and Yuli Edelstein.



Michael Schneider and Kgalema Motlanthe.

SA JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES CONFERENCE

Go home or stay home, says Krengel

STAFF REPORTER

THE TOP six members of the ANC and the presidency were good friends of Israel, but (trade union umbrella body) Cosatu needed to be watched, outgoing chairman of the SAJBD, Zev Krengel, told the conference. Krengel who was elected unopposed as national president, was succeeded as national chairman by Mary Kluk from Durban.

“We need not overact to anti-Semitism. Jacob Zuma said he stood by Israel and supported a two-state solution. But Cosatu could become a problem and needs to be watched.

“The ANC will pull them in line and anyone who is anti-Semitic. There is a deep commitment to make Jews feel at home,” he said.

Former President Thabo Mbeki used to use the Jewish litmus test to gauge if they felt at home. If they did, other minorities would too.

Krengel said South African Jews should either stay at home or go home.

Yuli Edelstein, Israel’s Minister of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs, a guest speaker at the Conference, slammed critics of his country, who compare Israel to apartheid. “We have a free, democratic and open society for all. Everyone can vote, has recourse to the law, rights and obligations.”

Edelstein extended a hand of friendship to South Africa and offered Israel’s assistance, “whether it is technology, agriculture or water.

“It is a pleasure to see progress in the country since Mandela’s liberation. Israel is always ready to assist.”

Anti-apartheid activist Michael Schneider, secretary general emeritus of the World Jewish Congress, also a guest speaker at the conference, said there should be concern among Jews about the return of hatred of Jews with neo-Nazism resurging in Eastern Europe and a burgeoning number of Muslims living in Europe.

“Anti-Semitism, untruths and false notions are being spread. Police in Europe should pay more attention to what is being said in mosques on a daily basis. If Muslims start voting en-block in some countries, they could take control of governments in France, the UK and Germany,” he warned.

Schneider said there were moderate Muslims and Jews should reach out on dialogue to them, and should sponsor new initiatives for mullahs and rabbis to meet, study the Qur’an and Torah together and find commonalities, he said.

The Internet was a powerful tool which was being successfully used for good as well as bad messages.

“It, and other social network media is being used by neo-Nazis and Jew haters and we have to find a counter to this,” he said.

Schneider was a member of the African Resistance Movement during apartheid, before he fled to London to escape the Special Branch.

“I had a dream of seeing a free South Africa and I lived to see that. Now I dream of one day seeing peace between Israel and Palestine.

Jewish community can help defuse youth unemployment time-bomb - Motlanthe

STAFF REPORTER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ILAN OSSENDYVER

UNEMPLOYMENT among the youth in South Africa is a ticking time bomb and the Jewish community can help out in this regard.

These were the words of Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, speaking at the 46th conference of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD).

“We have recently seen around the world how disgruntled youth have participated in spontaneous revolution because governments have not provided them with hope of a better future; while at the same time minority class groups continue to flaunt their wealth through conspicuous consumptive culture,” he said.

South Africa was not insulated from those challenges, especially because it had close to 2,8 million young people between

the ages of 18 - 24 who were unemployed and not in any institution of learning.

“This statistic represents the ticking time-bomb that threatens to flame pent-up emotions within the youth if not urgently addressed.

“I believe that the South African Jewish Board of Deputies is well-positioned to help us answer some of these challenges because of the skills, knowledge and influence your members wield as significant role-players in the South African economy,” he said.

“We also believe that, given your experience in developing an independent schooling system, the Jewish Board of Deputies can share and contribute immensely to our education improvement objectives through teacher training and other mentoring activities.

“We are also looking to your contribution through our business-adopt- a-school pro-

Blatant anti-Semitism rife in Chavez’s Venezuela

STAFF REPORTER

THE VENEZUELAN government (of Hugo Chavez) was blatantly anti-Semitic, Sammy Eppel, a representative of the Venezuela Jewish community, told the SAJBD Conference.

There were “thousands of different communications” on a daily basis by government and officials which spread anti-Semitic views in the media in general and on TV.

Slogans such as “Terrorist state of Israel” were prominent. There were stories put out of Israeli girls painting bombs which were to be dropped on Palestinians.

“We are subjected to daily abuse by government media,” he said.

Even at Christmas time, when, in Latin America the tradition was to have nativity scenes, the government placed pictures or statues of Israeli soldiers guarding baby Jesus and other anti-Israel propaganda.

Children were influenced by this anti-Semitism and the seeds of hatred were being sewn in the new generation.

The propaganda during last year’s Soccer World Cup was outrageous, he said. During the TV breaks between the games, Israeli soldiers were shown kicking a ball into a group of cowering Muslim women.



Sammy Eppel.

“When we complained, we were told that if we reported the matter to Fifa, the players would be punished, not the government, so we should go ahead. We could not be punishing the team so we shut up,” he said.

Some of the choices and challenges facing Indian Jewry at present, were little different from those that had faced Diaspora Jewry generally over the past centuries, Ralphy Jhirad, India chairman of the Indian Zionist Federation, said.

There were three main Jewish communities in India: Bene Israel Jews – who arrived 175 BCE from Caanan after a shipwreck at Navgaon; Bagdadi Jews - who arrived at the

beginning of 19th century from Iraq and prospered due to trade and business they conducted with the British in India; Cochini Jews – whose first arrival was at the beginning of first century BCE, settled at Shingley near Cochin, the second arrival being during 1492 at the time of Spanish Expulsion.

The Indian Jewish community, he said, had been highly respected in India and hence the population was reasonably well-integrated into Indian society, where persecution or anti-Semitism did not exist.

Serge Berdugo, ambassador at large of the King of Morocco and president of the Moroccan Jewish community, said the South African Jewish community and the Moroccan one were among the very few last organised Jewish communities established as such in Africa.

“Once upon a time, not so far away, beautiful and numerous Jewish communities lived for years in Morocco and in all of northern and eastern Africa.

“From Morocco to Libya, Egypt and Sudan, Ethiopia, all along the southern Mediterranean to Minor Asia, the historical nest and centre of Judaism, very large communities lived in these lands of Islam and contributed to world knowledge and civilisation,” he said.

Struggle activism also takes its toll on the children

STAFF REPORTER

THE CONGRESS of South African Students (Cosas) tried to put a halt to the hosting of Paul and Amos Goldreich, sons of the late anti-apartheid stalwart Arthur Goldreich, at Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia, at the start of the SAJBD conference.

After hearing that they, and other Jewish struggle heroes would be attending a meeting and media conference at Liliesleaf - which is now a national monument - Cosas tried to pressurise Nick Wolpe, head of Liliesleaf, into refusing the Board permission to host the function there. Wolpe ignored the request.

However, many other prominent Jewish activists refused to attend. The feeling was that they had been ostracised during apartheid and now the community was trying to embrace them.

Children of Struggle activists suffered enormous trauma, much the same as their parents, said Paul Goldreich, at the event. Paul was in South Africa to receive the SA Jewish Board Director’s Human Rights Award which was given to him and his brother Amos on behalf of their father.

He said he had a deep connection with the farm. He was a child of six-and-a-half on the night of the police raid, where all the adult occupants, including both his parents, were arrested.

“It was a night I cannot forget. It marked the end of our way of life as we knew it. We saw our parents being arrested and police taking all our belongings. They also questioned me,” he said.

Paul said the raid was the start of a life where he experienced a profound sense of shame because his parents were in prison. It was the start of a life of a constant stem of abuse, attacks and shunning by members of the Jewish community and the broader com-

munity as well.

Paul, who is a psychoanalyst, said studies showed worldwide there was a high rate of mental illness among children of political fighters.

Steven Gruzd of the SAJBD said the Jewish community was proud of the life and work of Arthur Goldreich, who passed away in Israel in May, and the Board was privileged to host two of his sons at Liliesleaf (where the Goldreichs actually lived).

“As we know, the lives of the children of political activists were profoundly affected by their parents’ activities. They too can be regarded in many ways as Struggle veterans. It is well known that many of the prominent white activists and Struggle leaders, seized in the police raid on this place in July 1963, were Jewish by birth, and many of the white people involved in other aspects of the Struggle had Jewish roots,” he said.

SA JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES CONFERENCE

African Jewish Congress discusses black African ‘Jewish’ groupings

DAVID SAKS

IMMEDIATELY following the SAJBD national conference on Sunday, representatives from seven Southern African countries came together at the same venue for the meeting of the African Jewish Congress (AJC). Participating countries included South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Swaziland and Zambia. Amongst the issues reported back on and discussed were the question of black African groupings claiming to be Jewish, the impact of the Middle East situation and welfare initiatives in Zimbabwe aimed at assisting both Jews and the general population.

The two international speakers, Israeli Minister of Public Diplomacy & Diaspora Affairs Yuli Edelstein and Michael Schneider, Secretary General Emeritus of the World Jewish Congress, focused mainly on the global campaign to delegitimise Israel and what was being done and needed to be done to counter it. Schneider described the diplomatic initiatives currently underway by the World Jewish Congress concerning the imminent UN vote on the proposed unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood, as well as the ongoing need to counter the baleful influence of Iran in the region. Edelstein said that the root cause of hostility to Israel was not so much prejudice as

sheer ignorance, and emphasised the need for all friends of Israel, Jewish and non-Jewish, to continually find ways to make the real facts known to the wider public.

AJC President Mervyn Smith introduced the topic of black African groups claiming Jewish descent and/or that they practiced Judaism as their religion and requested input on what kind of policy should be followed in this regard by the AJC. The prevailing view was that since these groups were not halachically Jewish nor in fact practicing any recognised form of Judaism, there could not be any interaction with them that suggested extending recognition on a religious basis. However, this did not preclude engaging in normal outreach activities or general cultural exchanges with them.

Jewish-headed social outreach initiatives extending beyond the confines of the Jewish community featured in AJC committee member Ann Harris’ report on Bulawayo. Harris described the work of SGOFOTI (Support Group of Families of Terminally Ill), founded and is co-headed by community member Ruth Bolnick-Feigenbaum. She also reported back on the opening of the Rabbi Moshe Library for primary school-age children, named after AJC Spiritual Leader and CEO Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, at the Vulindledla Youth Centre on 25 July this year.

In his report on the current situation in Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Jewish Board of Deputies chairman Sam Benatar said that there had been some improvement on the economic front, but unfortunately this had not been paralleled by any similar progress in the political realm.

In an audiovisual presentation, Rabbi Silberhaft showed some of the highlights of the AJC’s activities over the past two years. This included the unveiling of new plaques honouring individuals associated with the Jewish Second World War detainees on Mauritius and the maintenance of the cemetery there, participating in the UN International Holocaust Day in Namibia and the ongoing work of the AJC Zimbabwe Fund in assisting needy members of the Zimbabwe Jewish community. He also described how he had been hospitalised following an attack by bees in Harare, quipping that was one ‘BEE deal’ that had gone very wrong.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Smith was re-elected as President, while Ann Harris was elected as a vice-chairperson and Benatar and Harold Pupkewitz from Namibia as co-vice chairmen. Ordinary committee members appointed are Laurence Miller and Li Boiskin (Cape Town), Richard Lyons (Botswana) and Irene Zuckerman (representing the International Council of Jewish Women).



Benita Levin, Danny K, Amanda Kravitz Herson, Steven Bacher and Wayne Sussman.

Don’t be spectators in SA, Benita Levin urges

STAFF REPORTER

OUTRAGE ABOUT anti-Semitic remarks should not be kept quiet, but should be shouted loudly from the rooftops, Benita Levin of Radio 94.7, told the Conference in a session on “Our Roles, Rights and Responsibilities”.

South African Jewish singer, Danny K (Koppel) started Shout SA, an anti-crime movement, about 18 months ago in response to an incident where singer Lucky Dube was shot and killed in a hijacking. He said it had galvanised the music industry into the fight against crime.

The ringtone of a song composed about crime, sold more tones than ever before in South Africa.

Amanda Krawitz Herson, a

brand manager who returned to South Africa after a 12-year stay in the United States said that on her return, she wanted to get involved in the country, but found it difficult.

“I didn’t know how to integrate Jewish values and generosity and found it is about small things like LeadSA where all small deeds count,” she said.

Wayne Sussman said there were amazing opportunities in which the Jewish community could become involved and one was South Africa’s bid for the SKA telescope.

He said education in the country, and the standard of matric was not good enough.

“We have to get rid of dependency. It is not about Jewish rights and roles, but about our responsibility,” he said.



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Mike and Benoni-born Jeannette Krasner.

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The function's organising team, Cynthia Eppel; Bernice Ichikowitz; Adele Hill; and Greta Ronthal. With them is Lynette Douglas, (née Epstein) (now living in Umhlanga Rocks) who spoke on Radio Chai FM this week about the Springs/Brakpan/Benoni community and the reunion.

Rich Jewish heritage of East Rand towns recalled

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

THE FACT that there were no official speeches at the reunion of the East Rand towns of Springs/Brakpan/Benoni, etc, held at the Capri Hotel in Savoy, Johannesburg, this week, made no difference to some 300 guests who spent their time catching up on all the latest news from their long-time "landsleit" friends.

It seemed that everybody who was somebody was there at the get-together.

Many had something to say about those days, including Adele Hill, Bernice Ichikowitz, Cynthia Eppel and Greta Ronthal, who worked well as a team to make this event the success that it was.

It was learned that Barry Krasner and Hilton Kort had unfortunately passed on. The two were both popular doctors and would have loved being at the reunion, a close friend said.

Ivor Ichikowitz of the Umoja Foundation who recently launched a book on the Jewish community's

relationship with Nelson Mandela, spoke on how much the community's young people who had moved away from the area, were losing out on the closeness and chavershaft of what small town communities could provide.

He spoke of the closeness and single-mindedness of everyone (in those small South African "shtetls") and the friendship and camaraderie that had existed then.

He recalled that there had been no Jewish school in Springs and explained that most of the Jewish children had gone to Hillel in Benoni which was for both girls and boys and offered a primary and high school education for young and older learners.

Jackie Krawitz recalled how painful it was closing the doors of the shul for the last time – a harrowing moment in all their lives – especially for that of Rabbi Mendel Liberow and his family, who had since moved to Johannesburg.

Lynette Douglas, née Epstein (now living in Umhlanga Rocks) spoke on Radio Chai FM this week about the reunion.

She said that the prosperity of the area had been built on the discovery of coal in the 1800s and a rich gold seam some 100 years later.

People flocked to the area – and soon a growing Jewish community had established itself there.

The stone for a new shul in Springs was laid by Rabbi Dr Joseph H. Hertz who wrote the Chumash many use today and who went on to be the new chief rabbi of the UK.

Very soon shuls in the other towns were built and a Chevrah Kadisha was formed - as was a Zionist League, a Union of Jewish Women and Habonim for the youth.

The cemetery was in Boksburg, although many Springs names appear on the tombstones.

The spiritual life of Springs, Boksburg, Brakpan and Benoni, etc was always served by devoted men who ran the shul services, taught Torah in the Cheder and generally administered to the needs of their flocks.

To grow up in such a cohesive and warm community (as it still is – although somewhat dispersed) was good fortune indeed.



From Benoni - Lorna Ossip (née Jacobson) and Selma Buch (née Sacks).



Luba Janet; Jackie Krawitz; and Adele Hill, from Springs.



Cynthia Eppel (née Miller) with Jackie Krawitz and Theo Kramer, who were neighbours, sang together in the shul choir and played cricket together.



Lana Roy; Sheila Lis; and Lana Stein.

COMMUNITY BUZZ

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

CAPE TOWN

Robin Cranko passed away in Cape Town earlier this month. Educated at Parktown Boys' High, he did legal articles at Shneir Attorneys in Johannesburg.

Phil Shneir was chairman of the JSAR Transvaal Amateur Football Club and later of the Southern Transvaal (Amateur) Football Association. (Incidentally his cousin was John Cranko who became a leading choreographer in London and Germany).

Cranko practised law in Johannesburg and once asked for help by a man with a problem concerning a rental agreement, he remarked: "The law says this; now we must see how we get around it." This so impressed a visiting overseas attorney that he called it "The Cranko Factor".

Cranko relocated to Durban where he set up practice and helped in many ANC cases. He left Durban under a cloud and to escape from the Security Police - the Special Branch as they were ominously called - he ended up in Lesotho, in a township outside Maseru, scraping a living for several years.

In October 1966, when Lesotho became independent, and South African Prime Minister BJ Vorster, attended the celebrations, Cranko approached the security police from South Africa, who accompanied Vorster, to ask them if he could return. They said that he could.

Shortly afterwards he did return and was promptly arrested and brought to court and charged with leaving South Africa without a passport. He was jailed but later this was commuted to house arrest. He lived in Orange Grove and once hid a political prisoner who had escaped from Pretoria Central, for a few months.

When his sentence was over Cranko took a trip to Durban with an Indian girl. They stopped halfway for something to eat at a restaurant and the proprietor said that the girl was not allowed into his restaurant. There and then Cranko decided to leave South Africa and he went to Zimbabwe where he worked as a public prosecutor.

He left suddenly after a few years there and returned to Durban. From there he went to Cape Town where he went off the radar, so to speak.

Later he was located at Highland House, Cape Town's residence for the Jewish elderly. He suffered from failing health and spent his last years in a wheelchair.

He was in his 70s when he passed away, but will be remembered for "The Cranko Factor" contribution to jurisprudence.

VEREENIGING

From Malcolm Pain:

"I grew up in Vereeniging and attended Selborne Primary School from 1945 to 1952. Many of the pupils were fine young Jewish boys and girls.

"Now as an old man, I have great regret that I did not know the history of the Jewish people. So, now that I do know, I can only say to the Jewish community please forgive us, the gentiles who have treated you so badly.

"No one will get away for what they have done, G d is in control and all will have to stand before Him and give an account for what he or she has done. I am part of a group that regularly get together to discuss what is happening in Israel and to pray strategically for its enemies to be defeated and also to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

"I would love to hear from those Jewish boys and girls who also attended Selborne School to contact me on my cell, 083-279-5389 or through my e-mail, malpain@yahoo.com"

JOHANNESBURG

SA Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth are pleased to announce the launch of Volume 4 in the series Jewish Life in the South African Country Communities.

This volume covers all the towns and villages in KwaZulu-Natal, with the exclusion of the City of Durban.

We will be publishing a separate book on the Free State which will be available in the next few months. Research on the towns and villages of the Southern Transvaal and Greater Escarpment is now in progress.

We would greatly appreciate information, anecdotes and photographs from people who came from the following towns: Amersfoort, Balfour, Bethal, Breyten, Carolina, Delmas, Devon, Ermelo, Greylingstad, Heidelberg, Hendrina, Kinross, Leandra (Leslie), Morgenzon, Nigel, Ogies, Piet Retief, Standerton, Trichardt, Volksrust, Wakkerstroom.

Information and queries may be submitted by e-mail to: museum@beyachad.co.za or by telephone: (011) 645-2598.

Elona Steinfeld, Research Co-ordinator. SA Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth +2711-6452598.



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Jewish ‘change-makers’

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY
MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

MORE THAN 500 people attended the fifth Limmud conference, held at the Protea Hotel Technopark in Stellenbosch last weekend. For the first time, Limmud CT introduced a Sunday attendance to what was previously a totally residential event.

As usual, there was a wide range of topics on offer; participants were often hard-pressed to make a choice. From a lively discussion on whether Sarah mistreated Hagar, the “other woman” in Abraham’s life, conducted by a passionate Rebbetzen Esther Maizels examining biblical commentators, to strategies to counter the BDS campaign, to a session on controversial artist Steven Cohen, to name but a few, there was something for everyone.

Participating in a panel discussion on young Jewish people making a difference, a Tertiary School in Business Administration (Tsiba) founder Gia Whitehead, noted that the country’s higher education system was unable to meet the need for high quality graduates.

Tsiba - started in 2004 - focused on taking underprivileged youths out of the townships and providing them with a business education to equip them to join the entrepreneurial class and become captains of industry.

Students of the four-year Bachelor of Business Administration degree in entrepreneurial leadership, were not required to pay anything or pay back, but were expected to “pay forward” in their communities, schools and Tsiba, she said. Thus far, there have been 30 graduates per year, of whom four have been awarded the prestigious Mandela Rhodes Scholarship.

There are two campuses and a further two are planned for 2013. “We have a fabulous relationship with UCT. We’re not competing, but targeting a different market.”

Andy Bolnick, who held leadership posi-



Andy Bolnick.



Elan Burman.



Gia Whitehead.

tions in Habonim, established iKhayalami - “my home” in Xhosa - which upgrades shelters in informal settlements. She spoke of a massive backlog in housing, pointing out that only one in 20 people would receive a government RDP house each year, with population growth and movement from other areas, exacerbating the situation irredeemably.

The NGO regarded informal settlements as part of the solution, not the problem and set about upgrading shelters, improving basic services and trying to ensure security of tenure for the country’s (officially) 2,2 million shack-dwellers.

iKhayalami also reconfigured the layout of informal settlements as the existing “maze” lent itself to crime and violence, particularly violence against women, she said.

It had also created safe places for kids where there had been none before. “We are setting precedents that we want government to replicate,” she stated.

Aside from its “very strong relationship” with the City of Cape Town, the group enjoyed broader partnerships with national government and was able to influence policy, she said.

“‘In situ’ upgrade is the whole concept and it has to happen very quickly,” she said.

Elan Burman, the assistant director of the United Jewish Campaign here, pointed out that there was a side of the community in serious need, with between eight and 12 per cent relying on some form of “financial intervention”.

“There are some cases where mothers have contemplated prostitution to feed their children,” he said.

“I see my role as a change-maker in individual lives. There are so many people who have found a new energy through philanthropic endeavour.”

The donor base was, however, ageing, he added. “There is a responsibility on parents to assist us in promoting philanthropy.”

Average Jewish educational model ‘hopeless’ in certain ways

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY
MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

EVERY JEW needed to know Torah to be educated and needed to study the classical texts in Hebrew. So said Rabbi Greg Alexander of the Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation, sharing his vision for Jewish education at a panel discussion at Limmud, Stellenbosch.

Describing the average Jewish educational model as “hopeless” in certain respects, he described the “scorched earth” policy in religious education of not providing a spectrum of Jewish practice, as “self-defeating”.

“Limmud is a fantastic model,” he said, “but how many people stretch themselves and on a Friday night go to ‘the other service’?”

“They go with what they’re comfortable with. I need to give my kids the skills and ability to go out and thrive in whatever Jewish practice they choose - that’s real Jewish education.”

Rabbi Alexander’s eight-year-old son attends the Sinai Academy, a Chabad initiative, where he has the benefit of 10 hours a week of Limmudei Kodesh, far exceeding what is available elsewhere for his age. “I’ll send my child where he can get a great and inspirational Jewish education - I don’t care about labels,” he commented.

On the topic of role models, he stated: “We need to see women, lesbian rabbis, long-haired rabbis of the Chassidic Litvish tradition - I want my child to see all of that. I’m not afraid of that - I demand that from an educational institu-



Dr Sally Frankental.



Saul Kaplan.



Rabbi Greg Alexander.

tion.”

Academic Dr Sally Frankental endorsed what the rabbi said in terms of offering a range of knowledge. She said that teachers should possess a broad view, without being experts in each aspect, so that a “variegated, staggered, exciting” curriculum could be drawn up, not her experience of Jewish education in this country.

Teachers needed to engage and challenge by asking questions that made their learners think. There was, she said, a critical need in the SA Jewish community for continuing teacher Jewish education.

Saul Kaplan, newly-appointed head of Jewish Life and Learning for the United Herzlia Schools, said he walked a tightrope: “For many I’m way too ‘frum’, for others I’m not religious enough.”

Sharing his idea of the measure of success of Jewish education, he said: “It doesn’t matter to me whether an individual is Orthodox or Reform. What matters is whether the learners use the insights gained about Judaism to pattern their lives after they have left Herzlia and whether they’re involved in Jewish life.”

Stating that he intended to act “inclusively”, he added: “Every person in a Herzlia uniform is part of the Jewish community to me.” He faced many challenges, he noted, “close-mindedness.”

A learner in the audience commented on the “indoctrination” at Herzlia and “right-wing” ideas being “shoved down our throats”. Rabbi Alexander proposed a think tank around Jewish education, an idea endorsed by others present.



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Stepping up to the plate

SCENES OF violence outside Luthuli House in Johannesburg this week, where ANCYL members purporting to support their president, Julius Malema burnt T-shirts with a picture of President Jacob Zuma, threw broken bricks at police and harassed journalists, sent shivers down peoples’ spines. Although the event was organised as a specific political statement, it was also a glimpse of what could happen in this country if the massive unemployment, poverty and social problems are not are not mitigated somehow.

They are, as Vice President Kgalema Motlanthe said at last weekend’s SAJBD conference (reported on pages 4 and 5), a “ticking bomb”.

Strong leadership from the ANC and others is needed to prevent South Africa descending into a catastrophe of social upheaval. Finding solutions is far from simple. Creating jobs is a slow, long-term project requiring investment, confidence and optimism. And in the meantime, angry South African youth without jobs or prospects, feel betrayed by the society which promised them that after apartheid, things would get better.

The Jewish community is an integral, influential part of South Africa. It boxes above its weight in many fields. Jews’ skills and resources can - and do - play a role in alleviating the situation through their businesses, educational know-how, professions and organisations. Motlanthe urged Jews to continue helping wherever they can.

Any significant Jewish leader in this country must take up this challenge for our own future’s sake, as well as the country’s. Many discussions at the conference were about this.

SAJBD outgoing National Chairman Zev Krengel, repeatedly called on Jews to be positive about South Africa; guest speaker Michael Schneider - a former anti-apartheid activist and member of the African Resistance Movement who had to flee the country to escape the security police in the 1960s - spoke of the dreams he had had for a free South Africa; a panel discussion of five young Jews, including moderator Steven Bacher, exhorted South African Jewry to “get involved” in helping the country heal and develop.

On the flipside, Jewish leaders must also tackle issues that Jews face here as Jews. For one thing, increasing demonisation of Israel and its effect on South African Jewry, including a possible rise in anti-Semitism - which has traditionally been low in the country.

A few decades ago, public expressions of anti-Semitism were unacceptable in most parts of the world after the Holocaust, and Israel was widely seen as a brave little country fighting for its place among the nations.

This has changed in many places. Anti-Semitism is “coming out of the closet”; the campaign to delegitimise Israel and brand it an “apartheid state” is growing.

The words of Sammy Eppel, a Venezuelan Jewish community leader, acted as a warning at the conference: Venezuela was until recently not regarded as a place of serious anti-Semitism, but video clips he screened showed President Hugo Chavez spewing explicit anti-Semitic rhetoric on state TV.

This trend represented, said Eppel, “the first time in recent history where there is state-sponsored anti-Semitism”. His other clips showed state TV’s coverage of the Fifa Soccer World Cup, containing regular inserts promoting the Palestinian cause against Israel.

This growing antipathy towards Israel in the media, academia and government, is a central challenge for South African Jewish leaders going forward, including the upcoming Russell Tribunal in Cape Town in November, and the BDS campaign.

Internally, leaders see a vibrant Jewish community which remains highly organised with superb Jewish schools and other institutions. But it has shrunk by half over the past couple of decades, due to emigration, and stands now at some 70 000. It is hard for leaders to talk against emigration when sometimes their own relatives and even children are leaving.

Krengel has stepped down after a successful four-year tenure during which channels to government were significantly enhanced, to the clear benefit of South African Jewry. He is now national president. The Board is in good shape, with many young people in its ranks with the energy and talent to face the challenges of the time.

Mary Kluk from Durban has stepped up to the plate as national chairman. She takes on a tough job in a tough time. We wish her strength and a strong hand on the tiller. May the saying “Cometh the hour, cometh the man (or woman)” apply in all its positive meaning.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Russell Tribunal: A charade of bias dressed up as impartiality

A FEW weeks ago I participated yet again, in a debate about the academic and cultural boycott of Israel, this time held at UCT.

The occasion had more than the usual degree of surrealism which characterises these events. The audience was subjected to Associate Prof Andrew Nash, excoriating not simply current Israeli government policy, but, in effect, the very idea of Israel at exactly the time that the Syrian regime was butchering its own citizens.

Save for a claim by Nash’s debating partner at this event, Zackie Achmat, that he condemned the Syrian regime and its repression, the idea that it would be morally principled to debate how best to protest Syrian murder, was anathema to the pro-boycotter advocates.

Sadly, debate with those who propose academic boycotts against Israel is a futile business, save for two vital qualifications. It is futile because the advocates of these boycotts refuse to accept the power of ideas, the capacity of art to deconstruct shibboleths and, in this case, the sheer complexity and contradictions which are inherent in Israeli democracy.

For these people, all Israelis are the same and all of Israel is a monolith and no amount of fact is permitted to alter their argument.

The qualifications are, however, important: In every audience I have addressed, I have found many who refuse to be railroaded by the kind of passionate rhetoric of Achmat or the moral expediency of Nash.

Others who have argued against these boycotts, tell of similar experiences. Thus, to ensure that the boycotters are resisted, it is necessary to put Israel in the best possible light.

For me, that entails showing audiences that Israel cannot be conflated with the toxic views of Avigdor Lieberman, that the majority of Israelis, absent a persistent existential threat, favour a viable two-state solution and that resistance to boycotts



THE JURY IS OUT
Dennis Davis

does not dictate a denial that the Occupation is foundationally wrong and has caused untold pain.

For me, once the debate is taken over by ideologues on the left who deny Israel a right to exist and myopics on the right who refuse to accept that an Israeli government can do any wrong, those who are susceptible to rational engagement, head for the hills and the boycotters then win the day.

And that leads to the second qualification: There is a point trying to persuade reasonable people that an academic and cultural boycott is wrong. Expressed differently, those who oppose the boycott and are deeply committed to the peaceful sovereignty of Israel, need to ask a simple question: When we engage in the public domain, whom are we trying to persuade?

If the answer is only a percentage (even the majority) of our own community, then, sadly, it will not be long before we experience the widespread success of the boycott campaign.

If we are not simply willing or prepared to write off the entire world, then it seems we need to argue from a point of view in which Israel is placed in its best possible light, in which the complexity of the country is properly articulated and understanding of the “Other” is simultaneously present as dictated by our tradition when read in the most coherent light.

For this reason, it is truly counter-productive to invite the most reactionary and hateful voices to argue the case for Israel, as is now evident in the meeting which hosted

Israelis continue their march for social justice

OWN CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS OF Israelis marched through the streets of Jerusalem on August 27 as they protested social inequalities and high living costs.

The government committee on social and economic issues will hand in its findings before Rosh Hashanah, September 28, Committee head Professor Manuel Trajtenberg vowed Wednesday. Trajtenberg spoke as the committee held its last open session before beginning internal discussions and handing in its findings to the government.

Israelis took part in several mass protests last Saturday night, as the



social issues movement resumed in force. Rallies occurred in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Rishon LeZion, Katzrin, Jaffa, Harish and Tiberias. Organisers said more than 20 000 people took part in the Tel Aviv event on Ibn Gvirol Street.

That rally was addressed by Noam Shalit, father of kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit, held by Hamas in Gaza since June 2006. It was his first public collaboration with the tent-city movement, showing solidarity between the movement to free his son and the social issues movement, ahead of Gilad’s 25th birthday on Sunday.

“Gilad Shalit back at home is the first

Glenn Beck.

Now, it may be that Beck was not fired by Fox News, but it certainly appears that he had become even unpalatable to that most right-wing of news channels. This is a man who said of President Barack Obama: “...a guy who has a deep-seated hatred for white people or white culture...This guy is, I believe a racist.” (Fox New show July 28, 2009)

This is the same person the New York Review of Books called the most effective demagogue in America, who on September 9, 2005 in the Glenn Beck show said: “When I see a 9/11 victim on television or whatever, I am just like, Oh shut up I’m sick of them.”

Let me be clear: Anyone should be free to hear Beck, but the question must be asked as to whom is he speaking, save for the most reactionary elements of society?

Have we reached the point where we are prepared to ignore any view, however racist, hateful or xenophobic, as long as the person says nice things about Israel?

I refuse to believe that we are in so parlous a position of moral bankruptcy that there are not those who have the capacity to make us proud of defending Jewish sovereignty, while helping to persuade those who will listen to reason, that engagement, not boycotts, is the preferred route. Sometimes we need to peek beyond our ghetto to realise that sometimes we are our own worst enemies.

As soon as Beck leaves our shores, arrives the Kasrils travelling circus, known in the trade as the Russell Tribunal, which specialises in the charade of bias dressed up as impartiality.

While the best course is to ignore this exercise in partiality, all of these events - the boycott debate, Beck and his left-wing doppelganger Kasrils - compel even greater efforts to bring reason and nuance into the public discourse. People of goodwill should not be silent at this time.

Liberals must resist relegation to the backburner of history



**BARBARIC
YAWP**
David Saks

LAST FRIDAY, a diverse group of Johannesburg Jews participated in what was billed as “a conversation with Paul and Amos Goldreich” at the historic Liliesleaf venue.

The Goldreichs were in the country for the presentation of the SAJBD Human Rights Award to their late father, the iconic anti-apartheid campaigner, Arthur Goldreich. The purpose of the event was to have them share their experiences of being the children of a political activist who risked everything to confront a tyrannical regime, and the heavy material and psychological price that had to be paid for this, with other Jewish families of similar backgrounds.

Liliesleaf in Rivonia, legendary secret headquarters of the anti-apartheid underground in the early 1960s and the place where Goldreich and his family actually lived during that time, was an especially meaningful place at which to hold the event.

The SAJBD has over the past two decades sought to lead South African Jewry in identifying with South Africa’s democratic struggle heritage. Inter alia, it has held a public function to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Charter in 2005 and a year later organised a delegation to participate in the 30th anniversary of the commencement of the 1976 Soweto Uprising. The Liliesleaf event was intended as falling into this category.

It therefore was rather shocking to learn that because the function was taking place under the auspices of the SAJBD, the CEO of the Liliesleaf Trust had come under intense pressure to cancel it. Evidently, much of this pressure came from veterans of the apartheid struggle who were themselves “of Jewish origin”.

From what I understand about South African law, refusing to allow the representative body of the Jewish community to hold a function at what is a national heritage site, would not merely have been immoral and unethical, but almost certainly illegal as well.

Denying any sector of the population wishing to identify itself in such a way with their country’s historical legacy on the alleged grounds that its designated spokesperson is somehow permanently tainted by its apartheid-era record, would surely constitute unfair discrimination.

That Cosatu, which has been engaging in increasingly open Jew-baiting in recent years, should have called for the function to be boycotted is one thing, but why on earth would people of Jewish birth, no matter how distanced they may be from their roots, seek to ban mainstream Jewry from identifying themselves with national symbols relating to “the Struggle”?

It seems to be predicated on the assumption that the SAJBD (unlike the rest of white South Africa) can never be credited with the ability to change, but must be made to bear the burden of collective guilt from generation to generation.

Because the SAJBD did not identify itself with the liberation movements at the time of apartheid, it must never be allowed to do so even 20 years and more later. That those who constitute the Board today and those whom they represent are largely a new, post-apartheid generation, is apparently irrelevant. The effect is to represent the Jewish collective as being somehow uniquely guilty of the crime of apartheid.

Part of the “beef” the Jewish left has with the SAJBD is certainly their perception that the mainstream community is opportunistically cashing in on their apartheid-era exploits when at the time they had remained quiescent. I believe it goes further than that,

though; at bottom, what so many of them bitterly resent is being publically identified as being Jewish at all.

My theory as to why the ranks of white communists were dominated by Jews is because Communism provided both an outlet for the intrinsic idealism and utopianism that pervades Jewish culture that even secular Jews have imbibed and at the same time offered an ideological escape route for Jews wishing to disavow their Jewishness altogether.

No wonder, then, do such individuals feel uncomfortable about being “outed” in this way.

Another interesting dimension to this is how it relates to another contentious phenomenon, namely the sharp divide between what can broadly be termed the “liberal” and the “left” spectrums of white anti-apartheid activism.

Jewish anti-apartheid activists were by no means all detribalised ultra-leftists. Quite a few, in fact, were also strongly identifying Jews who held important Jewish communal leadership positions.

Their opposition to apartheid tended to be conducted within the framework of the law – in Parliament, in the courts, in legal entities such as the Black Sash and in other ways.

The more Jews leaned towards the liberal side of the spectrum, the more connected they tended to be with matters Jewish.

Post-1994, the role played by liberals (most famously, by Helen Suzman) in bringing about non-racial democracy, has been progressively underplayed, and not infrequently openly scorned, by the dominant political culture.

It would seem that in order to qualify as a “Struggle” veteran, one had to have been jailed, banned or forced into exile. Additionally, it was necessary to have identified oneself with regimes like the Soviet Union and China, rather than the capitalist West.

Liberals need to hit back robustly and often to counter trends aimed at writing their role out of history. At stake are not merely individual reputations, but liberalism itself, since if liberals themselves can be mocked with impunity, it surely follows that the fundamental principles of liberalism that they espouse, will likewise come to be denigrated.

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Artisan Contemporary Gallery, Durban: “Kimonos Unlimited”, until end September, (031) 312-4364.

Artscape Theatre, Cape Town: In the Opera House, “Fiddler on the Roof”, performed by the Cape Gilbert and Sullvian society opens September 9. In the Arena, “!Aia: From Cave to Sky”, a new work by Theatre Tallipot directed by Phillipe Pelen Baldini, until September 17, (021) 410-9800.

Cinema Nouveau, Durban: Israeli film festival, until September 8, (012) 470-3513.

Dance Factory, Newtown: (and associated venues) New Dance Festival, hosted by Dance Forum, September 6 - 18, (011) 492-0709.

Everard Read Gallery, Rosebank: “The Horse”, curated by Ricky Burnett, featuring work by 60 local artists, opens September 8, (011) 788-4805.

Iziko: SA National Gallery, Cape Town: “Tretchikoff: The People’s Painter”, curated by Andrew Lamprecht, until September 25, (021) 481-3970.

Johannesburg Zoo, Parktown: “Shakespeare Dreaming”, compiled by Robert Whitehead, Vanessa Cooke and Mark Hawkins September 9 and 10, (011) 646-2000.

Market Theatre, Newtown: In the Laager, “The Table”, directed by Sylvaine Strike, until September 18. In the Main Theatre, “Refuse the Hour”, collaborations between Dada Masilo, William Kentridge and others, September 6 - 18, (011) 832-1641.

Montecasino, Fourways: In the Main Theatre, Alan Bennett’s “The History Boys”, extended by popular demand until September 18. In the Studio, “Off Beat Broadway 4”, until October 2, (011) 511-1988.

Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton: “The Prize of Peace” by Les Morison, until September 24. Friday concert: Malcolm Nay (piano) and Maceij Lancy (‘cello), September 2; Miro Chakaryan (violin) and Jacobus Swart (piano), play gypsy music, September 9. On September 11, renowned educationist Marcelle Pincus performs “What if nobody comes?” a revue with Zelda Martin and Natasha Millar, (011) 883-8606.

SA Jewish Museum, Gardens: “Jiving with Madiba”, until November 27. On September 8, press cartoonists Wilson Mgbhozi and Themba Siwela speak about their work, (021) 465-1546.

Sibikwa, Benoni: “Stories without borders” Sibikwa’s storytelling festival, September 10 - 23, (011) 422-2132.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Nina Schumann - rhythmically nimble and lyrically responsive

Concert: Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra (Linder)
Conductor: Bernhard Gueller
Soloist: Nina Schumann, piano
Programme: Music by Gershwin, Copland and Bernstein

REVIEWED BY PAUL BOEKKOOI

IF THERE ever was any instrument by which one could measure pure joy, it might have totally seized up during last week’s programme of music by three American composers: Gershwin, Copland and Bernstein.

Our German Kapellmeister, Bernhard Gueller, seems to love their exuberant fer-vidness, their boundlessly creative Jewish spirit,



George Gershwin. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MASTERWORKS-BROADWAY.COM.)

as well as the adrenalin flowing through every artery of their bodies - now, alas, all of them decomposing.

The party opened with Gershwin’s An American in Paris. It’s no joke transforming the JPO into a near-ideal blend of French sophistication and New York streetwise audacity. One can imagine Gene Kelly hoofing down the stately Parisian boulevards. What drew us into this bustle, were the honking taxi horns and the busy rattle of the xylophone.

Still, there was time to spare in all those cheeky musical asides Gershwin was so fond of. Gueller

allowed the orchestra to gently slip into the sensuously plangent central blues, with Donny Bouwer’s lazy muted trumpet and the three crooning saxes - decadent throughout, but seldom more so than in the crescendo pay-off at the end of the work. The conductor wasn’t in a hurry to move on. Neither were we, but pianist Nina Schumann was waiting in the wings...

Let me say at once that her performance of the same composer’s Piano Concerto in F was refreshingly enjoyable. Without downplaying any of the jazz inflections, her point of departure was to treat the work like a major romantic masterpiece, which it is. With great verve and spontaneity she managed to overcome the loose-structured impression it sometimes reflects.

The tunes have an evergreen quality. They never seem to pall in the right hands. Ms Schumann was rhythmically nimble and lyrically responsive. In a finely integrated rapport, like here where she and Gueller enlightened the spiky contrasts between melancholy blues and emotional ardour, skittish scherzando effects (as



Aaron Copland. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY DEDICA.LA)

On Terezín stage stars could perform without yellow stars

ROBYN SASSEN
PHOTOGRAPH BY
JOE YUDELOWITZ

FORMER TEREZÍN inmate, Ela Weissberger, who now lives in New York, was recently hosted by the Holocaust centres in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban and spoke at the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre, Oaklands.

Known for her children’s book, “The Cat with the Yellow Star”, co-written with Susan Goldman Rubin, Weissberger spoke of her experiences in the former garrison town, Terezín, built in the city of Theresienstadt. It was originally built to house 4 000. When it became a Jewish ghetto, in 1941, 40 000 people were placed there.

Terezín was set up as a model ghetto for public relations purposes. On the outside, it featured a bandstand and flower beds. “We hoped



Ela Weissberger, survivor of Terezin.

with all our hearts that the Red Cross officials would see beyond the façade. They never did.

“Terezín was a link in the chain that led inevitably to the gas chambers,” the voiceover in “As Seen Through Their Eyes”, Hilary Helstein’s 2008 film, introducing Weissberger, said. It began with a reflection on Hitler’s peculiar relationship to art. A mediocre watercolourist, he was rejected by the Viennese Academy of Fine Art and “thus opened himself to a larger canvas” - German politics.

He persecuted art first; labelling artists degenerate and burning books. And then he graduated to destroy people. Ironically, this encouraged new artists: defiant witnesses, armed only with pencils and paintbrushes.

“Suddenly we are other. We are Jews. We have to be eliminated,” Weissberger described the shift in values she experienced in 1942. “At the

into a criminal vortex that may finally sink him.

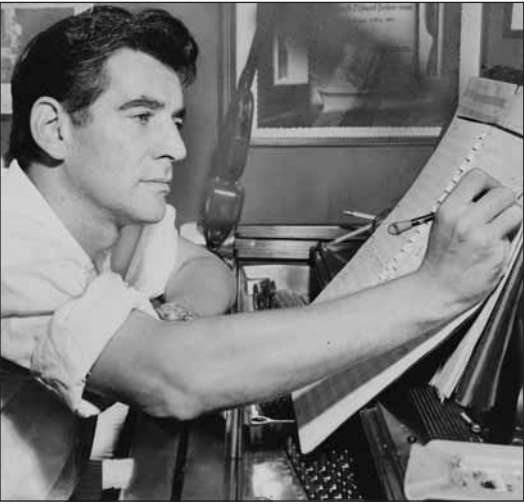
Touched by her beauty and vulnerability, Mitchell rapidly becomes her protector, fending off aggressive paparazzi, stalkers and other villains, as well as a friend’s ploy to rob the house of its expensive art and vintage cars.

At the top of the criminal ladder is ruthless mob boss Gant (Ray Winstone) who finds that Mitchell has a special talent and he wants to recruit him into his firm.

When Mitchell declines Gant’s lucrative offer, the situation becomes increasingly nasty and from there on the production spirals into a series of violent confrontations which, at the end, ruins the delicate balance of the film.

London Boulevard marks the directing debut of American William Monahan. He wrote Martin Scorsese’s Oscar-winning The Departed and Ridley Scott’s Body of Lies. This film has been adapted from Irish writer Ken Bruen’s novel.

For the most part, Monahan does a sterling job in developing his theme and pinpointing fascinating underworld characters, which inhabit a different kind of world from normal people. It



Leonard Bernstein. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG)

in the Andante) and the boldly rhythmic Allegro agitato of the finale, everything was characterised with pure naturalness.

This was not only a splendid performance, but also an involving and glamorous one. Gershwin would have been proud.

The only “calm” piece of the evening was Aaron Copland’s nostalgic Corral Nocturne from his ballet “Rodeo” of some four minutes’ duration. Its glowing ambient effect was caught with the right kind of atmospheric intensity.

Leonard Bernstein, who was a great interpreter of both Gershwin’s and Copland’s work, was no doubt cherished by every listener during the startling performance the JPO gave of his Symphonic Dances from West Side Story.

Legend has it that late in life Bernstein was at a party lamenting the fact that he was known only as the composer of WSS. One particularly bitchy guest snapped: “It’s better than being known only as the composer of A Quiet Place.”

With the luxury of hindsight we all know now that he was in fact the most versatile musical luminary of his time, with tons of pizzazz. In this performance of the Symphonic Dances with jagged rhythmic mayhem occasionally giving way to a folksy-blues lyricism, we realised once again that the best “street songs” are those which unashamedly acknowledge West Side Story.

age of 11, I was torn from my happy family home. I was taken to a children’s home. I was made to share a room with 35 strangers.”

“I can only thank G-d for Friedl Decker-Branders, the art teacher. She was our defining light. We loved her. Art became an escape and a comfort for us. It let us be somebody.”

Weissberger performed as the cat in the 1938 Hans Krása opera Brundibär. Made up with whiskers (in black shoe polish), she sung in all 55 of its performances.

“The stage was the only place we could be without the star,” she still has the original yellow star she and her peers were forced to wear. “It became my lucky star.”

Brundibär tells of poor children who need money for milk for their sick mother; they’re thwarted by an evil organ-grinder, Brundibär. With the help of three animals, the children defeat him and return home triumphant.

In Terezín, the lyrics changed. “Originally, it spoke of mothers, fathers and the homeland. The main thing was we overcame Brundibár 55 times. In our eyes, he was Hitler.”

Almost 70 years later, children in Cape Town performed Brundibär for Mandela Day, directed by soprano Aviva Pelham and Mark Fleishman. Weissberger was deeply moved, “Seeing youngsters in the audience, made me feel I can go now.”

has style and a veneer of wit and intrigue.

But, after about an hour or so, the energy and ideas, so rampant in the beginning, collapse and what is left is murder most foul on the streets of London.

Farrell is potent as Mitchell, cheeky, strong, confident and with the right amount of nous to make an impact, while Knightley, who looks too thin by far, never convinces, parading her faux-slobbish act as a celebrity who is in constant hiding.

Veteran British actor Winstone veers towards cliché in depicting this well-dressed psychotic gangster, the type of shady character who has slipped beneath Winstone’s skin often enough before, while Chaplin is the awkward, low-life gangster Billy who’s looking to Mitchell for backup for a job he is planning.

Anna Friel is cast as Mitchell’s troubled sister Briony and David Thewlis does as well as can be expected as the unemployed, pot-smoking Bohemian film producer ensconced in Charlotte’s home.

If anything, London Boulevard makes a somewhat impressive debut for its director - a pity it couldn’t have been prolonged.

TAPESTRY – ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Patronising tone jars in war account

Battle Scarred: Hidden Costs of the Border War by Anthony Feinstein (Tafelberg, R170)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

IN THE early 1980s, Anthony Feinstein – a Johannesburg-born, newly-qualified doctor – reluctantly boarded a plane in Paris, where he had been studying the violin, to return to South Africa and report for military duty. It was an ordeal he had deferred throughout his studies, but now – pursued relentlessly by call-up reminders – he decided to come home and get it over with.

Feinstein’s induction into the army was, inevitably, a harsh one, exposing him to the crudities of barracks life, bawled instructions, sadistic drill routines and all the arbitrary authority that governs an army base.

Granted an officer’s rank because of his medical degree, he completed his basic training and was then transferred to One Military Hospital in Pretoria, where he was ordered to render his professional services not in the field of general practice, but in psychiatry: an area in which he had very little experience.

However, a large number of his patients did not present with psychiatric disorders per se, either in Pretoria, or in Oshakati, on the northern border of (then) South West Africa, where Feinstein was subsequently posted. Instead, they complained of boils, skin rashes, the after-effects of excessive drinking and – overwhelmingly – venereal diseases: pretty standard fare for any army.

Frustrated and homesick, Feinstein despaired of the military mindset: “Yes, Colonel. No, Colonel. Of course, Colonel. Whatever you say, Colonel. The bowing and scraping is nauseating. These are men of great power – life and death power. A signature from one can send a man to damnation, further north into Angola, away from family, run-

ning water and a clean lavatory. Not to mention landmines, RPGs and Cubans.”

A number of his patients were civilians: for example, Marie, the beautiful, abused wife of a particularly loathsome officer, who – after baring her unhappy soul to the young doctor – finally found the courage to leave her husband. (A disproportionately long passage in the book is devoted to this case, suggesting that Feinstein’s sympathy was aroused more by the plight of a sexy young woman than that of, say, an acne-scarred soldier.)

As retribution, the officer in question was instrumental in having Feinstein transferred again, this time to Tsandi, a tiny, hellish outpost in the sweltering Ongandjera region, near Etunda, in the heart of Swapo insurgents’ territory. His fears had been realised.

Officially, he was now attached not to an army unit, but to a group of policemen. However, they faced the same perils as the soldiers, going out on patrol every dawn and – on one occasion – driving straight into an ambush, where a horrified Feinstein witnessed men on both sides being blown into pieces by grenades and machine-gun fire.

In the aftermath of the battle, having tended to survivors surrounded by dismembered, blood-soaked limbs, he realised that he faced not only the terrors of such attacks, but the added burden of alienation. “Here I huddle behind walls of sand, captive to an ideology I never believed in and a lethal enemy towards whom I bear no malice.”

The memory of that morning, he writes, remained with him for many years, long after his tour of duty was over and he had settled in Canada with a wife and children. Now a professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto, as well as an award-winning writer whose previous works have also explored the effects of battle on both soldiers and war correspondents, Feinstein cred-

its his military days as the incubus for his interest in this field of medicine.

Yet, for all his erudition, eloquence and candour, the book is not satisfying. Most unsettling is Feinstein’s overly jaunty, occasionally patronising tone which conveys his inner gingeriness at dealing with zealous, belligerent South African men, either as combatants on active service in Owamboland, or as bored, dissipated inmates of camps within South Africa’s borders.

It is a tone which also contains more than a hint of intellectual arrogance and vanity in his own (admittedly impressive) talents. This is not the voice one would like to associate with an empathetic, non-judgemental healer.

The inherent racism (including anti-Semitism) of the soldiers was hardly the point: they, like him, were citizens conscripted to fight this war, and – unlike him – many of them did not return from it. Armies – no matter where, when or why they exist – are the same for the men trying to cope inside them.

Having said that, some flickers of compassion are discernible from time to time: in his dealing with a combatant shocked into muteness, and again in his account of the traumatised captain of the Tsandi unit.

These are genuine cases of psychiatric “battle scars”. Feinstein’s other patients, however, cannot be said to be victims of their environment: Marie’s abusive marriage, for example, would be no better in any other setting. The drug addict/alcoholic with whom Feinstein shares his quarters in Tsandi would be feeding the same habits in civilian life.

The officer suffering from psychosomatic genital pain would be just as obsessed by his libido anywhere else. The onset of the schizophrenic soldier’s symptoms might have been accelerated by his army stint, but they would have emerged eventually, no matter what his surroundings.

Which leads one to question: how does one legitimately define – as the book’s cover expresses it – “what war does to the minds of men”? Ultimately, is it war which causes madness, or is it madness which causes war?

Whatever its shortcomings, Feinstein’s books poses intriguing, and crucial, questions.

Irony of Zapiro’s Mandela exhibition venue, doesn’t go unnoticed

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

IT IS difficult to satirise somebody who is universally loved, admits cartoonist Zapiro, referring to the exhibition showcasing his depiction of Nelson Mandela, currently on at the South African Jewish Museum.

“I had to attack aspects of his fallibility from the time he became president,” he says. But, he adds: “They’re outnumbered vastly by the cartoons in praise of him.

“Some of the things I’ve criticised is his being too supportive of old comrades who clearly should be censured, some aspects of foreign policy, accepting awards from dictators in kleptocracies and around what he didn’t do on HIV-Aids while he was president, but then I’ve praised him for what he did after he left office.”

It is perhaps ironic that he should be exhibiting at the Jewish Museum, given that he is persona non grata among certain sections of the community, due to his take on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

“There are people in the Jewish community who see me as somebody outside of the mainstream of thought,” he begins diplomatically, “and I certainly am. I’m not sure exactly what to make of (the invitation),” he says hesitantly, while adding that he is “thrilled” to be



Zapiro photographed in front of an original cartoon he gave to Nelson Mandela. (PHOTO: KARINA TUROK PHOTOGRAPHY, WITH THANKS TO THE MANDELA RHODES FOUNDATION)

exhibiting there.

“I’m really happy that Madiba is the bridge-builder once again and I think that’s very appropriate. I do imagine that there would be people who feel that by being feted in that way, I’m beholden to something and that I should then be a little quieter in the next few months. I’m afraid that’s not how it works for a cartoonist - I hope they know me better than that.”

Zapiro concedes he has found the negative attitude towards him by some in the community “really difficult and sometimes hurtful”. “I’m not one of those Jews who has thrown away all aspects of being Jewish - not at all,” he stresses.

“I have a very strong Jewish identi-

ty. Our children are at Herzlia,” he says, adding that he has had “one or two odd encounters” there following the publication of some of his work.

“I would love it if it appeared that this was part of some movement in the Jewish community to accommodate people outside of the mainstream who are in good faith saying things that are uncomfortable and difficult for the rest to hear.”

The cartoonist says he has had “fantastic” responses to the exhibition from people he doesn’t see eye-to-eye with politically on issues of Israel and Palestine.

“I think it’s important that people are able to express (alternative opinions) and not be pariahs. The idea of entirely ostracising people who think differently from you, is not a good one,” he states.

This is the largest-ever exhibition of Zapiro’s work. It comprises over 130 cartoons tracing Mandela’s life over a quarter of a century, from prisoner to president to pensioner, including sketches for his 70th birthday card which then-United Democratic Front activist Zapiro did while both were imprisoned at Pollsmoor in the late 1980s.

Mandela has never tackled him on aspects of his cartoons that were critical of him, the government or the ANC, he says, once telling the cartoonist: “That is your job.”

Zapiro: Jiving with Madiba is on at the South African Jewish Museum until November 27, (021) 465-1546.

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LETTERS

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

WITH THE recent media coverage of the upcoming Russell Tribunal on Palestine, and given those named as forming both jury and witnesses, it astounds that members of our Jewish judiciary (both active and retired) as well as our legal fraternity have remained so mute in the face of what looks like a blatant travesty of justice.

I am no lawyer but in my naive understanding of the basic precepts of law in a democracy, the make-up of this tribunal seems to run contrary to any legal process.

Any tribunal, court or arbitration, should have the very basics in place before it can claim any credibility or morality:

- An independent judge or adjudicator of unquestionable integrity.
- A jury (as in the case of this tribunal) whose selection is not tainted with, again, bias and the selection process of such a body, subject to scrutiny ensuring complete impartiality.
- Counsel to argue both for and against the issue, with right of cross-

examination.

Hardly any of the above seems to be present in the make-up of this tribunal. I do know that a request was made to the secretary of the tribunal for the right of cross-examination, and was declined on the grounds that members of the public don’t have that right.

Yet, one of the participants of the tribunal, Ronnie Kasrils, has emphasised that this is a “people’s court” but the people (public) have been denied their rights!

He has also said that the tribunal is made up of eminent people; no doubt they are.

The question, however, begs: Where are our eminent people steeped in the liberal tradition of legal process, given what our constitutional court stands for, who would recognise this tribunal as not being constitutional, legal or moral?

Where are they?

Allan Wolman
Norwood, Johannesburg

TRIBUTE PAID TO BEV GOLDMAN FOR HER STERLING WORK

AS A South African Zionist media activist, I find it difficult to express adequately my appreciation for Bev Goldman’s outstanding efforts these past nine and a half years as the head of media, public relations and education, at the SAZF.

Often operating within a hostile environment while promoting Israel’s best interests, Bev has been a pillar of strength, providing insightful information, guidance and mentorship in her professional capacity.

In particular, I have appreciated the excellent selections included in the SAZF’s regular “Opinion and Analysis” bulletins, as well as her highly informative “report backs” on the important national and international conferences

she attended (and often helped organise).

In addition, Bev was also the “go to” person at the Fed who provided much helpful advice to organisations like the Support Association for Zionism (SAZ) regarding speakers and visual presentations for public meetings.

While we Zionist activists regret her resignation due to “professional exhaustion” (understandably in the circumstances), we are grateful that she will be retaining her invaluable link with local advocacy for Israel.

Thank you Bev, go well and G-d bless!

David Abel
SAZ Co-Chairman
Vice Chairman Likud SA.
George

FOR THE RECORD

RONNIE BASS IS NOT THE CHAIRMAN

AN ARTICLE in last week’s issue on page 17, stated that Ronnie Bass was the chairman of the Jewish Guild Melrose Bowling Club. He pointed out that he was in fact a committee member of the Hatzolah Bowls Day. Roy Lampert is the

chairman.

Please also note that Ray Levin. CEO of Kia, is not a member of the bowling club.

We apologise for the errors and embarrassment caused to Bass.

IT’S RICHARD SETATI AND MIKE KING

ON PAGE 7 of last week’s issue, we carried an article “Making ORT SA’s vision a reality”. The supplied caption was

wrong and should read: Richard Setati - school teacher and Mike King - ORT SA project manager.

ISAAC OCHBERG: A FITTING TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MAN, AT KIBBUTZ DALIA

I WAS privileged to attend the dedication ceremony honouring Isaac Ochberg at the beautiful Ramot Menashe biosphere park near Kibbutz Dalia on July 20.

The aesthetic and artistic planning of the memorial wall in honour of the orphans, embraces the scenic beauty of the site that the KKL-JNF chose for this very meaningful tribute to a great South African who believed in the future of Israel and supported the state generously, both in his lifetime and in his bequests.

A ceremony such as the one we attended, is not a random event; it takes years of research, planning and organisation to produce a result of such distinction. The descendants of the original 200 orphans had to be traced and contacted.

Accommodation had to be found for the hundreds of descendants who attended from all over the world. Contacts had to be maintained. The site had to be chosen, designed and created - the list is endless and the work involved, intense.

This was the effort put in by a dedicated committee under the chairmanship in Israel of Bennie Penzik, whose late parents had both been Ochberg orphans. It was Bennie who originally

dreamt the dream of a gathering of the descendants of “Isaac Ochberg’s Orphans” in Israel, to honour the man who is responsible for their very existence.

It was very moving to see the crowd at the dedication rise to their feet as one and all give Bennie a standing ovation after his heart-warming tribute to the committees and individuals who all contributed to the success of an amazing occasion. It was a spontaneous honour he richly deserved.

I overheard a comment from one of the visiting descendants who referred to the two-day event as “something that can never be repeated and will never be forgotten by those who attended”.

The article covering this event in your edition of the Jewish Report of August 5, did not mention the sterling work of the organisers of the event and I feel strongly that this omission should be rectified.

Lynette Karp
Kfar Saba
Israel

A BIG THUMBS-UP FOR LIMMUD 2011

IT WAS our privilege to attend the first residential Johannesburg Limmud conference held on the banks of the Vaal River last weekend.

We want to express our tremendous gratitude and say a big Yasher Koach to all the dynamic volunteers who worked tirelessly for many months to ensure its success. In particular, we single out Wayne Sussman (national co-chairman), a wonderful professional, who was always on call for our questions and who we thought worked for Limmud, until we realised that each and every person is a volunteer!

We really appreciate the efforts of the committee, volunteers and hotel staff, who were extremely accommodating to our Shabbos needs. From the communal dinner to the musical Havdalah service, we had a fantastic Shabbos at Limmud.

The programming co-chairmen did an

exceptional job and the programme was full and interesting, creative and diverse.

The international speakers were exceptional. Rabbi Nathan Lopes Cardozo enthralled audiences with his vision and philosophy, and Rabbi Simon Jacobson engaged his listeners with his sincerity and encouraged everyone to change their perspective, even for a moment.

More than the wonderful speakers, and the fascinating discussions they presented, we would like to thank our fellow Limmudniks who brought to conference feelings of warmth, enthusiasm, genuine tolerance and respect for one another’s diversity.

We encourage everyone in our community to attend Limmud. You will be surprised and inspired!

Steven and Tanya Lowenstein
Johannesburg

CHAI FM DESERVES THE COMMUNITY’S UNRESERVED SUPPORT

I MONITOR radio station broadcasts, day and night, worldwide and have been both a guest broadcaster and contributor on numerous occasions to Radio 5, Radio Metro, Radio Today, Greek Radio, Punt Gesels Radio, Radio 702, SABC, The BBC once and Radio Chai FM and being very Jewish and a bit biased, since December 2008 when Chai FM officially hit the airwaves, it was for me “sommer groot lekker kry” (a source of great pleasure).

I have learned so much more Yiddish and Yiddishkeit - (yes I too bunked on occasions cheder in the past, but thanks to radio Chai FM’s Chasidim contributors, they are fast filling in the gaps of my cheder bunking days - among so

many other informative and inspiring contributions.

Anthony Reich’s “Daily Report” direct from Eretz Yisrael, is honest, not slanted, or like certain news deliverers who handle the truth carelessly in favour or anti-Israel sentiment and with point-scoring prejudice.

The amount of monies raised by Chai FM for both charities and institutions, is awesome! We have a unique voice! Chai deserves our unstinting support.

Russel Sadowsky
Linksfield
Johannesburg

‘HATE MACHINE’ AGAINST ISRAEL FUNCTIONS ON ALL CYLINDERS

I WOULD like to express my disgust and rage against the abusive and racist treatment of Israeli students visiting South Africa, by the likes of Zackie Achmat, Mohammed Desai and Mbungiseni Ndlozi at Wits. It indeed makes me ashamed to be a South African.

It is infradig today to refer to anti-Israel hatred, malice and violence as anti-Semitism, because people forget that Israelis ARE Jews and make up the largest Jewish community in the world. Also the definition of racism includes hatred of a country or the population of a country.

To ensure that the hate machine against the existence of the tiny Jewish State will not be allowed to slow down or its venom be watered down, we must now contend with another vile hate fest against the Jewish State, driven by three hate-filled bigots with morally compromised records.

South Africa is periodically rocked by nationwide paroxysms of vicious rage and murderous hate of the tiny nation of Israel, encouraged by the ruling party and its allies, civil society, universities and the media.

Some examples: Sixty years after the Nazi Holocaust, anti-Jewish hatred reached another climax at the hideous anti-Israel hate fest, the UN Conference on Racism in Durban, where the Left demonstrated their common cause with radical Islam, by embracing anti-Zionist propaganda and feverishly supporting the genocidal programme against Israel.

This agenda was furthered by the grotesquely biased Delegation to “Palestine” by a number of

viciously anti-Israel propagandists in 2008, who came to Israel full of hate and prejudice, only to confirm their preconceived bigotry, meeting hardly any Israelis and engaging enthusiastically with the Hamas mass murder gang.

Then there was the Goldstone Commission which showed contempt for Israeli attempts to put forward the case of victims of terror and the violent demonstrations of murderous hate by the various Muslim organisations, Cosatu and a variety of dubious NGOs such as the misnamed Treatment Action Campaign.

Does the latter still work on Aids-related issues in South Africa? It seems they are occupied with fulltime demonisation, delegitimation and economic warfare against the Jewish State.

Those of us who cherish Israel, must be subjected to watching this display of genocidal rage and hate.

The same way the demonisation of Jews by Hitler, Goebbels and Der Sterner paved the way for the Holocaust, I believe that the purpose of anti-Zionist propaganda is to pave the way for the genocide of Israel’s Jews.

This is done especially given that members of South Africa’s anti-Israel lobby have written such vitriolic comments on their Facebook pages, such as that “the children of Israel must pay for the sins of their fathers” - incitement to the murder of children.

Gary Selikow
Johannesburg

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COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Mary Kluk,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

New hand at the Board’s helm

THERE WAS a changing of the guard at last weekend’s SAJBD national conference. After four distinguished years in the chair, Zev Krengel stepped down to take up the position of national president, and I was elected to succeed him.

Also appointed to the SAJBD executive were the three national vice-chairmen, Doron Joffe, Li Boiskin and David Simpson, while Gerald Leissner was reappointed as national treasurer. I congratulate them all and look forward very much to working with them over the next two years.

At the National Executive Committee meeting held immediately after the conference, I said how honoured I was to have been entrusted with so important a communal leadership position and pledged to do the very best I could to justify the faith that had been put in me.

In this, my first column as national chairman and also on behalf of my colleagues on the executive, I would like to reiterate this pledge to you, the Jewish community of South Africa: To the best of our ability, we will strive to carry out our mandate.

The Board is the umbrella co-ordinating body for South Africa’s Jewish organisations and the representative voice of the Jewish community in its dealings with the wider society. In this regard, I see our primary task going forward as sustaining and building on the good relationships we have with government and civil society, while at the same time striving at all times to maintain Jewish communal unity.

The latter, of course, does not mean discouraging debate within the community. There will always be a range of views on how we, as Jews, should be responding to the issues of the day, and robust debate is both healthy and necessary. Through such exchanges, we can arrive at a broad consensus, enabling us to stand together on the most important issues that confront us.

To facilitate this process, we aim to provide a regular flow of reliable, up-to-date information on all the important issues of the day. In this way, even if people decide to pursue their own course of action, they will at least be doing so from a properly informed perspective.

Two important issues that came out of our conference, was the need to find ways to involve the Jewish youth in Jewish communal affairs and Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe’s appeal to our community to assist in addressing the formidable challenge of unemployment in our country.

Both of these questions will be taken on board when we next meet, and hopefully will be taken forward at both the national and the regional level.

That the potential to achieve meaningful successes in these areas exists, is undeniable. There are huge, and largely untapped, resources within our community that can be used to benefit South African Jewry and society as a whole.

Our challenge will be to find practical, innovative ways to harness these resources and channel them in a sustained, practical direction. I look forward, with the rest of the Board, to taking on that challenge and to reporting back to you in this forum on how it all develops.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

Chai FM faces future with resolve

ALISON GOLDBERG
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

CHAI FM will not be closing its doors. Though the community radio station estimates it raised less than it had hoped for through its Radiothon last Thursday, it believes this could be a sign of the economic times.

Fundraising for charitable organisations appears to have been easier: Yad Aharon (R1,2m) in 2009 and Hatzolah (R4m) last year. The station’s founder, Kathy Kaler said the pledges were much smaller this time around. Nor did big business come out in support of the station, as hoped, though this avenue had not been exhausted.

“We’ve been struggling and working very hard for little return ever since we began in June 2008. From the required start-up capital of R6,5m, as a result of the economic crisis which hit in October 2008, Chai FM managed to only get support to the tune of R500 000, to back up a bank loan of the same amount three years ago,” said Kaler.

Since then the station has been able to generate funds, but not nearly as much as it was hoping for and hence the call to the community for financial assistance.



DJs Denel Honeyball; Niki Seberini; and Thabo Mlangeni, give a thumbs up during the Chai FM telethon to raise money for the Jewish radio station.

Efforts to cut overheads over the past six months have meant not replacing staff who have left. Chai FM today has a core staff of eight, and 21 people on air. Three years ago, it had a total of 54 people before the station went on air, 51 of whom were prepared to do so on a volunteer basis.

Chai FM Chairman Stanley Seeff said that “unfortunately Chai FM was undercapitalised when it started, and it’s been exceedingly difficult to play catch-up as well as always being in a position to fund our monthly running costs. Our target set for the Radiothon - R1,8 million - might have been over-optimistic and not having achieved it keeps

us under pressure, but it’s something we believe we can and will manage”.

Come November the station will hold elections, run by the Independent Electoral Commission, as per the conditions of its licence, to elect a new board.

“While we only achieved half the financial goal we had set, the outpouring of support far surpassed anything we could have imagined.

“Chai FM will continue broadcasting and bringing the ‘Jewish Voice’ into the lives of many thousands, locally and abroad, six days a week. Going forward, the challenge is to secure an additional amount of R500 000, a sum that we feel confident in being able to achieve.”

JNF helps Rippon Primary celebrate Madiba Day

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
LAUREN SHAPIRO

MEMBERS of the Jewish National Fund (JNF), Durban, as well as grade three learners from Rippon Primary School, spent the morning of August 30 elbow-deep in soil.

The planting initiative comprised part of the “67 minutes” campaign, part of the school’s celebrations of Madiba Day on September 2.

The plants, donated by Ayanda Hlubi of Nedbank, will beautify the school entrance, creating a sense of pride in the staff and learners. In addition, they will protect the campus from the noise and fumes of the busy road on which the school is set.

The grade three learners have also propagated marigold seedlings in recycled muffin trays, which they will plant in the school’s food garden at the weekend.

The management of this garden is linked to the academic curriculum and the produce is used to feed indigent learners and their families. The JNF has also planted pawpaw and banana trees to augment the school’s food garden.

JNF’s Debby Shapiro had this to say: “It is such an honour to be involved in a wonderful initiative like this. The JNF has been planting trees all over the world for more than 100 years and

it’s exciting to be a part of this great work. We wish Rippon Primary the best of luck and look forward to future collaboration to make the school a better, greener, place.”

In addition to a history of tree-planting, the JNF is involved in all aspects of greening. Their proposed “Eco-education Centre” being built in Hammarsdale will provide a base for all schools to learn how they can apply environmental lessons in their own settings.

Thanks to close work with award-winning Khanyisa Projects, which specialises in education, development and communication projects, the JNF Centre will boast an environmentally-friendly integrated water system based on world-renowned Israeli drip-irrigation, a biogas digester which uses sewage and organic waste to generate energy, and a solar stove.

The education learners receive at the “Eco-education Centre” will be in alignment with the relevant aspects of the national curriculum.

• For more information contact Debby Shapiro on 072-335-2678.



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AROUND THE WORLD
NEWS IN BRIEF

MEXICAN COUSIN OF BEN-GURION WINS JEWISH SINGING CONTEST

JERUSALEM - Mexican singer Adam Kleinberg, a distant cousin of David Ben-Gurion, has won an international Jewish singing contest.

Kleinberg, 21, whose great-grandmother was Ben-Gurion's first cousin, beat 30 finalists from around the world to win the Hallelujah music contest. He sang the song "Zeh Lo Kal", or "It's Not Easy" by Israeli band HaYehudim.

The finals were held on August 25 before a live audience in Hod Hasharon.

The 30 finalists spent three weeks in Israel touring and performing.

Some 260 young Jews aged 16 to 26 from around the world, submitted video auditions for the contest, resurrected after nearly 20 years.

Kleinberg won the top prize of \$8 000 and will record a duet with a popular Israeli singer; the song will be distributed to Jewish radio stations throughout the world. He will also go on tour, singing in Jewish venues around the world.

Oliver Ghnassia, 20, from Brussels, was the first runner-up, and David Kobiashvili of Russia came in third place. They were awarded \$4 000 and \$2 000, respectively. (JTA)

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HOSTS IFTAR DINNER

WASHINGTON - Israel's ambassador to the United States has hosted an iftar dinner to break the Ramadan fast at his Washington residence.

The event hosted by Michael Oren was the first of its kind to be held at the Israeli ambassador's house in Washington, according to the embassy.

Among the guests were government officials and local Muslims. Imam Talib Shareef, president of the Muslim-American Military Association, led prayers.

"My job is to reach out to different communities, including communities that have been connected with Israel and those who have not," Oren said in an interview on August 25 with The Huffington Post.

"Israel is a country with a large and respected Muslim minority. I just got back from Jerusalem two days ago and it's all decorated for Ramadan. They're an important part of our society." (JTA)

City and Suburban has that tired look of neglect about it

STAFF REPORTER
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

ISIDORE SOSTAK has watched the once-vibrant inner city area of Johannesburg, City and Suburban, decline in front of his eyes.

Sostak (pictured), who owns the well-known specialist automotive brake and power steering business Wingate Motors, has been in the City and Suburban suburb since 1960 when he started out. Today, he says, despite declining conditions in the area, it is still renowned in the motor industry as one of the most successful specialist businesses in the country.

"It has become a household name in the motor industry," he said.

Sostak started his life in Boksburg before the family moved to Johannesburg. He grew up in Doornfontein. During his apprenticeship as a motor mechanic, his parents had a fish and chip shop in Village Main where he used to start off his day at 05:00 to help and then rode his bicycle to work from there and home in the evening.

Sostak attended Doornfontein Primary and Athlone Boys' High Schools, but left when he was 16 and started work as an apprentice motor

mechanic.

In 1957 he went to Europe with friends. They sailed there on the Carnarvon Castle and went to London where he worked at the Cord Car Company, a prestigious player in the industry.

He and his friends, Mickey Davidow and Archie Kaplan, then bought a 1935 Lanchester car and drove through Europe to Switzerland where he met another well-known player in the motor industry, Abe Joffe.

"The car broke down in several places which included Bergen Belsen, and we visited the concentration camp, and I always managed to fix it, but it finally died on us in France. We were broke and hungry and after a short spell in Paris went back to London by ferry," he said.

Then he got a call from his parents to say they had been held up.

"Yes, it even happened in those days. My parents sent me money for the air ticket and food because I had been living on Cadbury's chocolate and hadn't eaten for days. We then went to see a Judy Garland show, booked our flight and it took us two days to get home," he said.

On his return, Sostak married and started doing "backyard" work on

cars at night in his Yeoville home after his day's work. The business in his garage grew and he borrowed £1 000 and started a car repair workshop in Wolhuter. After five years, he decided to become a brake specialist and became the first specialist workshop of its kind in the country.

He later moved to City and Suburban, a few blocks away from where he had started. He is still there.

"I had bought an old petrol station owned by a Jewish boy who was immigrating to Israel. This was later to become the first Esso petrol station to open in the country.

It was a very vibrant and clean suburb at the time as there were still many of the old mining houses, with families. There was gold mine headgear across the road, as well as top fashion house factories and many light industrial businesses.

"The metal scrapyard across the road from me, was owned by Jacobs and Salminis who became owners of Simmer and Jack Mines," he said.

A study by Sostak shows that his workshop is on the same corner where the old horse-drawn tram from the city area had its terminus.

Today Sostak is disappointed with how the area has changed since 1994.



Lost souls from Rhodes are remembered

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
RITA LEWIS

LAST SUNDAY, August 28, corresponding to 28th Av, Ladino-speaking families who lost relatives and friends at the hands of the Nazis, gathered at the Johannesburg Sephardi Hebrew Congregation to mark the annual Zehirah (yahrzeit), to light candles and to recite Kaddish for the souls of all those from Rhodes Island who were killed that day in Auschwitz in 1944.

In Cape Town a similar ceremony was also held, attended by some born on Rhodes and those incarcerated in the concentration camps. Their attendance, as well as many members of the younger generation, bears testimony to the endurance of the Rhodes legacy and serves as a reminder that the hand of Nazi persecution stopped at nothing to exterminate Jews.

Prior to the service, Aaron Hanan, the son of a survivor who recently passed away, asked the only Holocaust survivor from Rhodes Island, Anna Almelech, to lead the community in lighting the first of the 22 candles in the centre of the shul.

Surviving descendants and members of families of those from Rhodes Island lost in the Shoah and others, came forward in this most moving ceremony.

Maurice Turiel, whose parents were from Rhodes, together with Morris

Mizrahi, both senior members of the Johannesburg Sephardi Congregation, then read "Lamentacions", a prayer in Ladino, while the Ark was open, showing three Sephardi Torah scrolls standing proudly in their beautiful silver cases.

The guest speaker, Holocaust Centre's Tali Nates (pictured), the daughter of two survivors, grew up with the shadow of the Holocaust in her background.

She spoke of the importance of educating all of our youth about the endurance, cruelty, starvation and ultimate demise of the six million Jews who died at the hands of the Nazis and implored that the younger generation never be allowed to forget what had happened to the Jews during the Holocaust.

She recalled how once when she was visiting the death camp of Auschwitz, she saw thousands of train tickets printed in Greek.

"They were actually tickets which the Greek Jews had to buy for themselves to 'relocate'. Someone had to print those tickets; to design them; to sell them. Someone else had to distribute them to Jews who had lived peacefully with others for hundreds of years."

She spoke on how the Greek Jews had left their homes in their best



clothes, taking the best food and drink with them - totally unaware of what was to be their fate.

In Rhodes, the implementation of the anti-Jewish laws by the Italian governor caused great alarm and hardship to the Jews there, resulting in an exodus of over 2 000 of them - half the population.

In September, 1943 full control of Rhodes was taken over by the Germans who ordered all male Jews over 16 to gather with their work permits and identity cards at the Airforce Command Centre.

The following day, the women were ordered to repeat the process but this time to bring their valuables with them.

Naturally, their papers and valuables were taken away and four days later they were all marched to the port where they boarded three overcrowded boats which took them - and others picked up on the way from the island of Kos - to the Haidari Concentration Camp in Athens.

After that ordeal during which seven people died, the remaining 1 673 Jews were forced on to trains en route for Auschwitz. Only 150 survived.

An interesting story was told by Aaron Hannan who spoke of his

"Today it is in a state of decay," he said, blaming the City of Johannesburg for neglecting it.

The city does nothing about cutting the grass, fixing the storm water drains or cleaning up the streets. The streets have potholes and there is debris strewn all over the place.

The Indian Sports Club was across the road and was thriving with tennis courts and soccer matches. Today it is completely neglected.

"There was a huge invasion of rats and we have spent thousands to eradicate them," he added.

Sostak says he has tried to get other neighbouring businesses involved in revitalising the area; no one seems to be interested: the council is not doing what they pay rates for.

"We all look after our own patch of land. It's a pity and I am sad because the area has such good potential, but I am tired of asking the council to do something. I have had water pipes stolen and a steel balustrade taken off my building. A building down the road was stolen, brick by brick."

Sostak has tried to sell his properties and even put them on auction.

"But people come here, take one look and decline. We used to have 65 staff and are now down to nine. We have closed three divisions in the factory.

"People are out of work because of the neglect of the council. Customers come here to do business because we have been around for so long and have the expertise, but some take one look at the area, and drive off," he said.

The buildings are on the corner of Maritzburg Street, which is a main entry into Johannesburg from the exit on the M2, so the council should be enhancing this entry point.

A large factory building, valued at about R4 million in the "good old days" was sold for R200 000.

Sostak says his property is worth R5 million, but now he is lucky if he gets R2,75 million.

We are a diamond in the coalfield. But I still do believe the area will come right.

"Gerald Olitzsky is revamping Fox Street to Anderson Street which is 500 metres from my building. He has built a hotel and bioscope in Fox Street, as well as converted old factories into apartment blocks.

"I take my hat off to him. But private enterprise needs assistance from the council to make the area look respectable. It is time for them to do something for us," he said.

Jewish Travel

Visiting places of Jewish interest

Greece – a country steeped in (Jewish) history

ROBYN SASSEN

You might think Greek culture and cast your mind to the wonderful scene at the culmination of Nikos Kazantzakis' *Zorba the Greek*, where the mesmerising dance steps of the syrtaki are played out to their full elegant proportions.

Or Greek culture might conjure up thoughts of ouzo, olives and honey. "Greek" may draw the Greek isles to your mind's eye or the relics of ancient architecture and pagan myths.

Then again, thinking of Greece might cause you to recall the story of Chanukah, or how the Christian community of the island of Zakynthos rallied to protect the lives of every one of its Jews under Nazi threat.

There is evidence of Jews in Greece for more than 2 300 years; by all accounts they were integrated, though remained distinct. The philosopher Aristotle commended Jews as having "something of their own to impart to the world".

While today, most Greek Jews are Sephardic, Greece is also the home of Romaniote culture, distinct from Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jewry, and a strand of Jewry all but destroyed during the Holocaust.

Archaeologists have found 2nd century BCE synagogues in Greece: one in Athens,

near the Acropolis, today the site of Greece's Jewish Museum. At the time, Jews were considered fodder to Christian proselytising. Paul of Tarsus, himself a Hellenised Jew, was ousted from Thessaloniki for this reason.

Hellenisation is central to the Chanukah story, in 166 BCE. Jews were being Hellenised by legislation: Greek rulers had banned circumcision under punishment of death and hijacked synagogues for pagan worship. The Hasmoneans under Matitياهو, from Modin, near Jerusalem, finally stood up to this; a war broke out. It was bloody and long; at its culmination, after the fortress of Antonius, restricting access to the synagogue, had fallen, Jews rushed inside, to find but one vial of olive oil not desecrated by the Greeks. It would take eight days to produce new oil to light the synagogue. Miraculously, the oil lasted eight days.

Some time later, in 1376, the first wave of Ashkenazi immigration hit Greece because of



The astonishingly beautiful Greek coastline, with its Ottoman-redolent architecture and its characteristic white stone.



The Parthenon in Greece, built to honour the goddess Athena between 447 and 432 BCE.



The façade of the Jewish Museum of Athens, established in 1977. It is situated at the foot of the Acropolis.

the Spanish Inquisition. Jews gravitated toward the city of Thessaloniki, mooted "Mother of Israel". Torah and secular education and commerce boomed.

Sephardic Jewish tailors of Thessaloniki were exclusively employed by Ottoman military leadership; other Jews held administrative and key posts in the empire's commerce. By 1519, Jews were in the majority.

By the early 17th century, Thessalonikan Jewry numbered 30 000. The city was so Jewish, it shut down on Shabbat. But it had become overcrowded; resources were scarce and fires and hygiene problems proliferated.

Records document Jewish violence against Christians, the result of Jewish traders asserting power. This was followed by a massacre of Jews in the 1820s by Ottoman Turks.

At the end of the 19th century, Greeks attained independence from Turkish rule. This forged a shift in Jewish demographics from the north of Greece: today most Jewish Greeks live in Athens where there is a healthy Chabad presence. Among the emigrants to this city was the German banking family of Baron de Rothschild. Athens' first shul was built in 1905.

Ottoman rule in Thessaloniki officially ended in 1912. The Greek government won the support of the city's Jewish community; under the rule of Eleftherios Venizelos, Greece was one of the first countries to accept the Balfour Declaration in 1917.

On July 11, 1942, the Jews of Thessaloniki were rounded up by the Nazis. Desperate for freedom, they paid 2,5 billion drachmas to the Nazis, which only delayed their departure to Auschwitz-Birkenau by eight months. Of the 46 091 people deported, 1 950 returned. Today,

there are 1 000 Jews in Thessaloniki.

Greek Christians in Thessaloniki spearheaded initiatives to avert deportations. A document exists, signed by the leadership of Thessaloniki, outlining the unbreakable bonds between Christians and Jews.

The Nazi intervention into Greece was not specific to her mainland. After the fall of Italian fascism in 1943, Nazis took control of the island of Corfu. The island's then mayor, Spyridonos Kollas, was a collaborator. Just 200 of 1 900 escaped the prospect of Auschwitz by hiding among locals.

A Holocaust story centres on another of the Greek islands, Zakynthos. When its mayor, Lucas Carrer, was presented with the German order to hand over a list of the names of his 275 Jewish constituents, the local Bishop, Demetriou Chrysostomos returned to the Germans with two names: his own and that of the mayor. Zakynthos hid every single Jew, at the risk of being destroyed themselves.

While anti-Semitism is not virulent in contemporary Greece, it is not absent, according to the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia. In 2005, Hrisi Avgi, a Greek Neo-Nazi group was forced to disband, after a period of 25 years.

Today, Athens is home to Greece's Central Board of Jewish Communities. Comprising representatives of Jewry all over Greece, this body makes decisions for the now 5 000-strong community, which is mostly settled in Athens, a city boasting a kosher hospitality culture and facilities for the locals, from schools and Holocaust memorials to old aged homes and community centres.

Tips for when you go to Greece

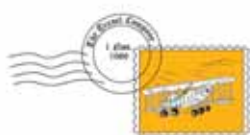
- You need a Greek Schengen visa to visit. South Africa has four Greek Consulates: Durban (031) 301-4880; Cape Town (021) 424-8160; Johannesburg (011) 214-2300; and Pretoria (012) 430-7351. A Greek Schengen visa for an adult costs €60.
- During 2011, there have been reported cases of West Nile Virus in Greece. This virus affects human beings and birds and is mosquito-borne. You should dose yourself with insect bite avoidance measures before travelling to Greece.
- The climate is sunny and dry, affected by seasonal winds called the meltemi. The best time of the year to visit is between May and October; bearing in mind that the middle of summer is July and August and the beaches are traditionally very full during these months.
- Greek is the official language of Greece, and in addition to Turkish and Albanian, you will hear many tourist tongues; English is taught at most Greek high schools and much of the Greek economy is fed by tourism.
- Greece's monetary unit is the Euro. At the time of going to press, one Euro will cost you R10,32.
- Traffic in Greece is on the right hand side; the speed limit is between 100 and 120km/h and while petrol stations are plentiful, you cannot buy petrol on a credit card.
- Electricity in Greece is 230 volts. Plugs in Greece all have two round pins.
- Greece's tap water is generally safe to drink, but might require acclimatisation in terms of its taste. Tap water, however, on the Greek Islands is not safe to drink, and you should watch out for ice or iced drinks from the islands as well.
- Greece is one hour ahead of South Africa.



A memorial to Athenian Jews destroyed in the Holocaust, created by Greek-American sculptor DeAnna Maganias, which was unveiled earlier this year.

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YOUTH TALK

Alison Goldberg youthsajr@global.co.za

A ‘Mitzvah Tea’ for the elderly held at KDHVP

NICOLE MEYERSON, GRADE 8
PHOTOGRAPH: YAEL GORDON

ON WEDNESDAY, August 17, the grade 8



Former learners Merle Croock; Rabbi Mendel Rabinowitz; Ilana Flaum, with Barney Meyers, former KDVP Primary School headmaster, guests at the Mitzvah Tea.

learners of King David High School Victory Park, hosted our annual “Mitzvah Tea” for the senior citizens of Our Parents Home and Sandringham Gardens.

The morning began with great excitement as the learners greeted the senior citizens at the buses and escorted them to the tables where they would be spending the morning.

The learners had chosen a unique theme for the décor on each table. The hall looked beautiful and there was a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Teacher Lara Wittels once again excelled as both MC and entertainer. Smiles seemed to multiply as the entertainment and dancing began. It was almost like a dream as the learners took a bobba by the hand and they began to dance to the music, together.

After a morning spent laughing, eating, chatting and enjoying the outstanding entertainment provided by Wittels, guest singer Debbie Mizrachi and our talented learners, it was time for the senior citizens to leave.

It was a morning that would be cherished by everyone.

SA in all its diversity, shown to YC young

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

YESHIVA COLLEGE Primary School was privileged to host Wynand and Annelie Botha from South Africa Educational shows. The foundation phase was treated to a show

educating them about the different aspects of our beautiful country - from the rainbow nation, to our fauna and flora, from our food and farming to different languages.

The highlight of the event was the dress-up time, when certain learners were afforded the opportunity to dress up in traditional garb.



Michaela Kretzer; Annelie Botha; Aurah Kopelowitz; Noa Liebowitz; Aaron Mograbi; and Joseph Maraney, all dressed up.

Getting to grips with science the fun way

STORY AND PHOTORGRAPH BY SAMANTHA MAKIN

ON TUESDAY, August 23, the grade twos from King David Victory Park Primary School, went on an outing to the Sci-Bono Museum in Newtown, Johannesburg.

The children learnt a lot about the forms and properties of water and had great fun helping to conduct different experiments. They were also given an opportunity to investigate and discover different areas of science, using the apparatus and equipment around the museum.

An enjoyable day was had by all and was ended with a lovely picnic at Delta Park.



Jessica MacGregor making a beautiful magnetic picture.

And the war cries ring out loudly!

SUE BENJAMIN
PHOTOGRAPH: INGRID SEEFF
SYDENHAM PRE PRIMARY

FROM EARLY in the morning there was a buzz of excitement as the children of Sydenham Pre-Primary waited for Sports

Day to begin. They participated with enthusiasm and were very happy to congratulate the winners.

Each group had their own war cry that could be heard from afar. The staff race was the highlight of the morning and this was thoroughly enjoyed by the young spectators!



Chad Brest with his mom Hayley and Offir Elmaleh.



Cycalive 2011 participants on the steps of the Durban City Hall after completion of their 700 kilometre relay ride from Johannesburg. (PHOTO SUPPLIED)

Durban welcomes the Cycalive boys

TRAFFIC POLICE had met the cyclists in Hillcrest, providing them with an escort all the way along the M13 into Durban, where they put their sirens on.

“We arrived at the Esplanade right on

time. The boys felt like VIPs,” said Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, Torah Academy Boys High School principal. He, Rabbi Motti Hadar and Pace principal, Dan Zimba, accompanied the boys on their long journey.

KDL under-9s are soccer champions

DAVID FLAX
PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE GADDIN

THE CUP Final of school soccer’s most prestigious event, was recently held at Wits Bidvest Stadium in Johannesburg.

In an exciting and hard-fought match, King Edward Primary School lost 4-0 to a motivated and talented King David Linksfield under-9 team. Not only can the King David boys play superb soccer, they are superb sportsmen to boot.

The KDL under-9s have now won the Adrian Henning floating trophy for the last five years in a row and were presented with gold medals for their outstanding performance. No other school has ever managed to



Kicking for victory. Daniel Lurie is on the right.

achieve this amazing feat.

The under-9 team has also won The Discovery Soccer Competition since its inception. This competition is the brainchild of Dr Craig Nossel of Discovery, in an effort to promote fitness and health in all children.



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WHAT’S ON

Sharon Akum sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

DEADLINE

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for all entries is 12:00 on the Friday prior to publication, without exception.

Today, Friday (September 2)

- **UZL** hosts Shirley Zar who will speak on “An Amazing School - Jewish Government School in the Shtetl Doornfontein”.

- **Federation of Synagogues Women’s Guilds of SA**, asks all Jewish women throughout SA to set aside a few minutes on Erev Shabbat, today, 3 Elul 5771, at 17:25 to pray together for peace and harmony in our land. Pledge a donation to any charity of choice and recite Psalm 27, just before lighting the Shabbat candles, in the tranquility of your own homes.

Saturday evening (September 3)

- **Northcliff Shul** hosts “A Touch of Class” with the music of Rabbi Ari Kievman, Chazzan Ezra Sher, the JJMC Ensemble and Evelyn Green. Good food and exciting prize. Time: 20:00. Venue: Northcliff Shul Hall. Cost R300. Information and bookings, call us at our landline, (011)-678-3015 or louis@northcliffshul.co.za.

- **Israeli Film Festival**. Cinema Nouveau, Gateway Durban, until September 8. R15 entry. Proceeds go to “Vision mission” charity project. Pre-booking available at www.sterkinekor.com or at box office.

Sunday (September 4)

- **RCHCC** will be screening “Steal A Pencil For Me”, the story of a love imprisoned. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium at the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre (RCHCC). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378 or e-mail us at hazelc@greatpark.co.za, renes@greatpark.co.za or our website www.greatpark.co.za

- **Bet Menorah** has a “Yard Sale” from 10:00 - 15:00, at the corner of Mackie and Roper Streets, Bailey’s Muckleneuk, Pretoria. Extensive selection of second-hand goods for sale at prices to suit all pockets. Tea garden. For further details call (012) 460-7296.

- **Second Innings** hosts Avrom Krengel, chair-

man of the SAZF, who will speak on “Update on the Middle East”. Venue GH Lounge, Golden Acres. Time 10:00 for 10:30.

Monday (September 5)

- **UJW adult education division**, hosts Prof Steven Friedman, Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Johannesburg, on “A Voice in the Wilderness” at 09:30.

- **SFCC** presents Nadine Lemmer on “Whats and Hows of Arthritis” at 10:00 at Sandton Shul.

Tuesday (September 6)

- **Sandton Shul** is hosting a blood and platelet drive in its foyer, run by South African National Blood Service, from 09:30 to 13:30. For more information call Harelle Isaacs tel (011) 883-4210 or fax (011) 883-4245.

Wednesday (September 7)

- **UJW adult education division CT**, hosts Ladan Eshraghi who will talk on aspects of “The B’Hai Faith”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555.

- **Federation of Synagogues Women’s Guilds of SA**, incorporating the Kosher Consumers Organisation, presents “National Voice of Orthodox Jewish Women”. Joyce Levin will talk on “My Bittersweet Journey to Lithuania” and Rebbetzen Shternie Wineberg will talk on “Our Bobba’s Maiyses” Venue: HOD Centre. Time: 10:00. There will be refreshments. Donation: R30. RSVP Hannah (mornings only) on (010) 214-2600 or e-mail: dawn@uos.co.za

Thursday (September 8)

- **UJW** hosts Lawrence Anthony, author of “The Elephant Whisperer”, at the Orchid Room, HOD, at 19:45. Donation: R180. Booking: (011) 648-1053 or email us at ujw@mweb.co.za

Sunday (September 11)

- **The-BZA WIZO Yomtov Market** takes place at the Sea Point Civic Centre, Cape Town.

Collectables - bric-a-brac, “granny’s cupboard” and lots more. Time: From 10:00 onwards.

- **Israel Centre** in conjunction with 101.9 Chai FM presents “Israel Fair Art Contest” at Beyachad. Fabulous prizes to be won. Details: Debbie (011) 645-2560.

- **Second Innings** hosts journalist and author Mandy Wiener who will talk on her book. “Killing Kebble, an Underworld Exposed”. Venue: GH Lounge, Golden Acres. Time 10:00 for 10:30.

- **Big Band Music Appreciation Society** meets at St Johns College in the Jeffrey auditorium in St Johns Road Lower Houghton, at 14:15 sharp. There will be a selection of audio and video material featuring the great big bands of yesteryear. For further information contact Dave at (011) 885-3525 or Barney on (011) 440-1996.

- **Second Innings** outing to see “The History Boys” at Pieter Toerien’s Montecasino Theatre at 15:00. Meet the bus at Oxford Shul parking at 13:30. Cost: R90 per ticket for the show; R50 for the bus. Book with Laura Sher on (011) 786-5109.

Monday (September 12)

- **UJW adult education division** hosts Tom Wheeler, research associate, SA Institute of International Affairs, on “From Verwoerd to Mandela - a South African Diplomat Remembers”, at 09:30.

Tuesday (September 13)

- **Second Innings Men’s Group** hosts Sybil Silverman on “My Fascinating Work of Tape Aids for the Visually Impaired”. Time: 14:15 for 14:30. Venue: Our Parents Home.

Wednesday (September 14)

- **UJW adult education division** hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer dept of English at Wits, at 09:30 on “Place & Process in Adam Bede by George Eliot”.

- **UJW CT adult education division** is host-

ing Simon Susman who will be talking on “Building a Sustainable Branch”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (September 15)

- **The Hebrew Speakers Society** hosts a talk by Naomi Dinur on Dura Europos, the amazing synagogue covered in murals from the Talmud era. Venue: UJW, 1 Oak street, Houghton. Time: 10:30 for 11:00. The talk will be in Hebrew. Cost: R20 for visitors (incl refreshments). To book call Shulamit (011) 882-9221, or Avigail 072-432-9198.

Sunday (September 18)

- **WIZO’s Women** Inspired branch hosts a Sharon Glass cookery morning at the HOD. Cost R250. Bookings imperative. Please phone either Lorraine 083-268-8016 or Maureen 082-445-1515

- **PS Ladies** host “Time for Me” Ladies Day and Market, with speakers Tanya Sachs, Melanie Levy, Michal Samovich and Debbie Pollack. Time: 08:30 - 12:30,Venue: Judin Hall, Pine Street Shul. Cost: R100, RSVP Kiki on 083-692-6399.

- **Second Innings** presents “The Japanese Ladies Choir in Song” at the GH Lounge at Golden Acres. Time 10:00 for 10:30.

Monday (September 19)

- **UJW adult education division**, hosts Dr Susan Schwart, a Jungian psychoanalyst from Phoenix, Arizona, on “As the Spirit Grows; Learning From the Dreams of Carl Jung”, at 09:30.

Tuesday (September 20)

- **WIZO Fortnightly Forum** presents Dr Craig Golding, specialist physician, who will reveal all the secrets to the fountain of youth.

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE by Jeff Sapire

DEFENCE IS generally regarded as the most difficult part of bridge. At times it requires a tremendous amount of foresight to see what might happen. The thing to understand is that on some hands what the one defender sees from his side of the table is quite different to the view from the other side.

East dealer, neither vul

NORTH				EAST	
♠	AJ5	♥	K1096		
♦	10	♣	QJ982		
WEST				SOUTH	
♠	32	♥	J83	♠	4
♦	Q762	♣	K1063	♥	AQ54
				♦	AK9843
				♣	54
				♠	KQ109876
				♥	72
				♦	J5
				♣	A7

South West North East
3S Pass 4S 1D
Opening lead: D2

After South’s pre-emptive jump overcall, which showed a seven card suit (2S would have been a weak jump overcall with six cards), North correctly raised with his three trumps, the singleton, and some scattered values.

East won with the king and had to decide how to continue. Clearly West did not have both the ace and king of clubs, as he would surely have led the suit, so declarer was marked with one of the honours.

A heart switch was out of the question, so East switched to the five of clubs. Declarer played low and West took the king and had to decide what

to do next.

Of course we can see that a heart switch beats the contract, and that was what East was waiting for – but it never came. West was fairly sure that his partner had the ace of hearts and likely the queen too, but he had to deal with the possibility that East had switched to a singleton club.

So, after much deliberation he returned a club, and that was the end of the defence. Declarer won, drew trumps and ran the clubs, discarding both his hearts, making 11 tricks.

When declarer tabled his hand the comments started: “Why didn’t you return a heart?” said East. “Because I thought you may well have a singleton club – declarer could quite easily have had one more club and a heart less,” replied West.

“But then I would have had five hearts, which is most unlikely,” continued East. And so the argument continued.

I charge East as the guilty party. He should have realised what the effect of the club switch might be. The correct defence is for East not to play clubs at all, but to return a passive trump.

Declarer can draw trumps but will have to play clubs himself, and now when West wins (with either the king or ace), with no club ruff available, he will be forced into the winning defence of a heart return.

Every Tuesday (Intermediate) and Wednesday (Advanced), I run bridge workshops from 10:00 – 12:00 at the Great Park Shul – alternating play hands one week and a bidding lecture on the other. Corner Glenhove Road and 4th Avenue, Houghton. E-mail me at jeffshirl@telkomsa.net

CROSSWORD NO 225

BY LEAH SIMON

ACROSS:

- Way of cleaning oneself in English city (4)
- School group initially gets international culinary standard for timeless works (8)
- It’s about Alfred – and that’s genuine! (4)
- Mild peel broken, and driven forward (8)
- Two ideals you’d find in Elgar’s land (4, 3, 5)
- They’re made to show contrition (6)
- Brawl in east, somehow – and sing like a bird (6)
- Insect found on a flower? (5, 7)
- Time chap was ordered to be forceful (8)
- Still, one gets a mythical creature (4)
- Ironmongers? No – and they don’t always get things straight, either! (8)
- Sounds like I will be going to the land, in the main (4)

DOWN:

- An occasion best celebrated in Natal! (8)
- Hobo causes the French to walk all over it (7)
- It’s the fashion in Italy (2, 4)
- How the thief makes a get-away? (6, 4)
- Lazy person is badly riled (5)
- Turf gets article for drink (4)

- They help bikers come to grips with things (6, 4)
- Until then, not a good period (4, 4)
- Hobo for each southerner with fenders (7)
- Compel to lie about bog (6)
- Frut found in cheap pleasures (5)
- Cry, being small and quiet (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 224

ACROSS: 1. Rude; 3. Rye bread; 8. Oafs; 9. Monastic; 11. Back tracking; 13. Ersatz; 14. Matron; 17. The family way; 20. Policies; 21. Tina; 22. Cressida; 23. Depp.
DOWN: 1. Root beer; 2. Defaces; 4. Yeoman; 5. Blackmails; 6. Eaten; 7. Duck; 10. State facts; 12. Andy Capp; 15. Rawhide; 16. Impend; 18. Halle; 19. Epic.

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



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Rugby takes centre stage as World Cup approaches

JACK MILNER

WITH THE Rugby World Cup in New Zealand just one week away - it kicks off on September 9 - it is no surprise that it is the sport attracting most attention at the moment.

There are a number of events taking place in the next few days that centre on rugby, in particular the exhibition from the South African Jewish Museum that has arrived in Johannesburg, a tribute dinner to one of the legends of South African rugby, Springbok wing Syd Nomis, and a breakfast organised by Maccabi South Africa so that people can come together to watch the Springboks play Wales in their opening match (on September 11).

Rugby and the Jewish Springbok Minyan

Over the years there have been 10 Jewish Springboks and with them comes the legend that in order to have a winning team, the team had to contain a Jewish player.

The 10 members of the “Rugby Minyan” were: Morris Zimmerman, Fred Smollan, Louis Babrow, Okey Geffin, Wilf Rosenberg, Cecil Moss, Syd Nomis, Joe Kaminer, Alan Menter, and Joel Stransky.

The exhibition - The Glory of the Game: Rugby and the Jewish Springbok Minyan - is currently on show at the Cyril Harris Community Centre in Houghton and will run until October 5.

The exhibition pays tribute to those Jewish Springboks who made their mark on the world sporting stage as players, coaches, selectors, referees, administra-

tors, commentators and medics. It comprises text, graphics, audio and video recordings and interviews, and unique documentary footage.

Viewers can discover remarkable anecdotes about the players who were not only heroes on the rugby field, but also in war, politics and their careers. Every individual has an exceptional story to tell.

The hours of viewing are: Monday - Thursday 09:00 to 16:00, Friday 09:00 to 12:00, evenings when there are events on and selected Sundays. Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

On Wednesday September 7, there will be a tribute to the late Mendel Kaplan, who was instrumental in bringing the whole project together.

• For further information, contact either Hazel or René on (011) 728-8088/8378.

Tribute to ‘Sydie’

Winger Syd Nomis is arguably the most famous of the Jewish Springboks and a tribute will be paid to him when former Springboks, rugby fans, media and business, join forces to pay tribute to the Bok legend at a glitzy dinner at the Wanderers Club in Johannesburg on September 6. The evening will be hosted by leading courier company, RAM Hand-to-Hand Couriers.

During a visit to Switzerland in September last year, Nomis developed life-threatening blood clots in his left leg, which had to be amputated above the knee.

Former Springbok captains Dawie de Villiers and Morne du Plessis, as well as Ray Mordt and famous rugby commenta-



Syd Nomis (right) will be honoured at a dinner at The Wanderers Club in Johannesburg on Tuesday night, while his good friend, Hugh Bladen, will be hosting a World Cup discussion at the event. (PHOTO SUPPLIED)

tor Hugh Bladen, have come together to support their friend and former teammate at the dinner, one year after Nomis’ operation.

Forming part of the evening’s festivities will be an interactive panel discussion involving the former Springboks.

With the 2011 Rugby World Cup kicking off days after the dinner, panel master Bladen will be on hand to test the knowledge and opinions of the fellow rugby stars.

Watch the Boks kick off at Maccabi breakfast

The Springboks open their Rugby World Cup campaign in Wellington on Sunday

September 11 with kick off at 10:30 SA time. Why sit at home and watch it alone when you can be with a whole bunch of chaverim at Grill On Grant in Norwood, enjoying a delicious kosher breakfast?

Maccabi South Africa will be hosting a meat breakfast where one can scrum down to a wonderful plate of macon and eggs, while John Smit and his boys do all the work against Wales.

Cheer on the Boks with good food in good company for just R160 per person.

• Anybody interested can book a seat with Max Klass on (011) 485-1485 or contact the Maccabi SA office on (011) 645-2557; fax: (011)-458-1011; or e-mail them on: maccabisa@beyachad.co.za.

A festival of Maccabi golf

MACCABI GOLF will be hosting three golf tournaments at Fancourt in the Southern Cape, in what will be called the Festival of Golf 2011 - Masters, Super Masters, 49ers.

There will be three separate tournaments played at the same venue from October 30 to November 1.

Golfers may enter either on their own, with a betterball partner or with their own four-ball. Alternatively they can mix players within the three categories.

For those participants who do not make their own game, Maccabi Golf will put you in a game.

The tournament is an Individual Stableford

competition. There are daily individual as well as alliance prizes

The Masters Individual Tournament for the Solly Berger Trophy, is open to men and women who are 50 years and older.

Then there is the Super Masters Individual Tournament for the “elder statesmen” who are 65 years and older and who are handicapped at their clubs off senior tees.

Finally, there is 49ers Individual Tournament for the youngsters. This tournament is open to male and female golfers between the ages of 19 and 49.

Entry details are on the website www.maccabigolf.co.za

Benayoun looks set to leave Chelsea

CHELSEA MIDFIELDER Yossi Benayoun has revealed that he is in talks with “several teams” following reports linking him with a move to Arsenal or former club Liverpool.

Tottenham has also been linked with the 31-year-old, with reports earlier this month suggesting Chelsea boss Andre Villas-Boas was ready to offer the Israel international to Harry Redknapp as a makeweight in a deal to lure Luka Modric to Stamford Bridge.

But reports in Israel on Monday suggested a return to Liverpool, or a move to Arsenal, was possible.

And Benayoun has confirmed via his Twitter account that he is in negotiations with “several teams” ahead of the



Israeli soccer player Yossi Benayoun will be leaving Chelsea and could be joining Arsenal or rejoining Liverpool.


transfer window, due to close on Wednesday night.

French champions Lille are thought to be keen on the playmaker, who enjoyed three years at Anfield before leaving Liverpool for Chelsea in July last year.


Liverpool already has a number of options in midfield, but as a squad player, it is possible that manager Kenny Dalglish fancies bringing him back to Merseyside for a second spell.

A move to Arsenal likely shouldn’t be ruled out either, as under-pressure manager Arsene Wenger looks to replace Cesc Fabregas and Samir Nasri before the transfer deadline.

Last Sunday evening the Arsenal manager called Benayoun to discuss his interest in leaving Chelsea for his club.



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