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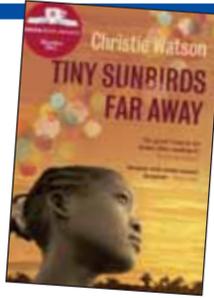
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# Jewish Report

www.sajewishreport.co.za

Friday, 20 January 2012 / 25 Tevet, 5772

Volume 16 Number 1

## 12 of the best for our Benjy

Pages 7-17



Crawford Sandton matriculant Benjy Levin, who achieved the most distinctions in the country (12), with the awards that he won during his last school year, including the Durbach Languages Trophy, the Van Wyk Official Languages Trophy, the David Gordon Trophy for Initiative and the Fisher Hoffman Stride Economics Trophy for Accounting, Business Studies and Information Technology. Benjy stresses that concentrating in class and understanding what you study, are some of the keys to his success. This bright young man even made time for extramural activities as well. Benjy plans to study at an Ivy League university. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

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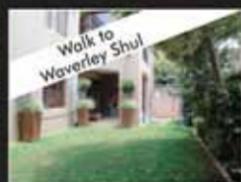
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18:03	20:07	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:55	East London

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## PARSHA OF THE WEEK

## Prisoners of patience



## PARSHAT VAEIRA

Rabbi Yossy Goldman  
Sydenham Shul

WE KEEP hearing about tolerance. Be accepting of other people, of differences. Diverse cultures need to find ways of coexisting on a planet that keeps getting smaller. But there are times when too much tolerance can be detrimental. Like when the Jews were slaves in Egypt.

"And I shall take you out from under the burdens of Egypt" is the promise the A-mighty told Moses to pass on to the Jewish people in this week's parsha. One of my holy ancestors, Rabbi Yitzchak Meir of Gur (widely known by his work Chiddushei HaRim), once re-interpreted the Hebrew word for "burdens" - sivlos - to mean patience, as in savlanut in modern Israeli Hebrew today.

What he meant was that before the Children of Israel could be freed from Pharaoh, G-d had to first free them of their own inner bondage. Years of slavery and drudgery had left the Israelites so oppressed and so hopeless that they had sunk into a terrible tolerance, accepting their situation as final and unalterable.

Depression had taken its toll on the Jewish psyche and they were in no position to leave Egypt. They were so low, so downtrodden, that at that stage freedom was unimaginable.

Some of us are too tolerant of intolerable situations and so long-suffering that we ourselves become insufferable. Before G-d can take us out of our personal Egypts we need to banish the "suffering servant" mentality from our own headspace.

Some years ago I was doing marriage counselling for a couple who were having domestic troubles. During one of our sessions, the wife confided that she would never suspect her husband of being unfaithful. When I asked her why, she said: "He's too lazy, listless and lethargic. He would never have the energy to even attempt an affair."

"He has no ambition. He never gets angry no matter what I do. I can scream and shout, abuse him, send him to the dog house and he never says Boo! I can feed him bread and jam for dinner every night and he will never complain."

It reminded me of the story of the shtetl shlemiel whose wife had her girlfriends over and wanted to demonstrate to them how she was the master of her home. So she called over her husband and started giving him all sorts of little chores around the house. "Shlemiel do this, shlemiel do that, shlemiel come here, go there."

The timid little man did everything as commanded. Then for her grand finale, the shrew says: "Now shlemiel, I want you to go under the table and stay there until I call for you."

So Shlemiel dutifully obeys. After 10 minutes, she calls for him to come out from under the table. At this point our shlemiel decides to assert his manhood and defiantly declares: "I'm not coming out from under the table just because you told me to. I will stay here as long as I please. I will show you who is the boss in this house!"

I remember when we were busy doing alterations on our house and I was convinced that the new tiles in one of the rooms didn't look straight. When we had a site meeting with the builder and the architect, I asked the architect to give us his opinion. He said I was right but that, unfortunately, this was the standard of workmanship today and it was acceptable.

I couldn't believe my ears. Why should I have to accept inferior work? It was plain to see that the tiles and the ceiling were not lining up! Sadly, we live in a world of mediocrity where society - including the very professionals who should be safeguarding those standards - has become tolerant of that mediocrity.

It pains me when I see many Jewish organisations in our community lowering the bar of professionalism and accepting inferior standards on so many levels. We seem to be plagued by a morass of mediocrity. We should always strive for excellence and insist on the highest standards - whether at work or in the synagogue. Patience and tolerance are virtues but we have become too tolerant.

In order to become truly free, we must first remove the shackles of servitude from our own mentality. We must stop being so patient and accepting of all that is oppressive in our lives - whether it be slavery, exile, discrimination, anti-Semitism or mediocrity in general.

We can become masters of our own destiny if we want to. But the first step on the road to our own personal exodus is to lower our threshold for tolerance and break out of the prison of patience.



Arguably the largest luxury cruise ship in the world, on its side, just 200m from the coast of Italy's Giglio Island, shortly after it was holed by rocks last Friday evening. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.TOPUSPOST.NET)

## Davis couple survive Costa Concordia disaster

ROBYN SASSEN

GLENHAZEL resident Maureen Rubenstein told the SA Jewish Report how her nephew Laurance Davis and his wife Andy were among the few to have miraculously survived the crash of the Costa Concordia cruise ship off the Italian coast last Friday.

The ship had its hull ripped through when it hit rocks, hours after leaving the port of Civitavecchia for a week-long cruise. The captain had deliberately steered the ship toward Giglio Island, to salute the family of a crew-member who live there - and ventured too close to the shore.

"Laurance Davis is my late brother's son," Rubenstein said. "He lives in Calgary, Canada, with his wife and their two children. They'd visited South Africa during December, to see Laurance's new granddaughter, and were taking a detour through London and Italy, to celebrate both their birthdays before they went home."

"And then suddenly I saw Laurance on the news! They jumped from the equivalent height of four storeys into the sea and then swam about 200m to the shore, when the ship started keeling."

"We're gone," I thought" Davis (60), an insurance salesman, told international news media. "We were in the ship's dining room, and we heard a tremendous thud. Then the lights went out. Then they told us to come on deck. Then everything started sloping and the water was up to our knees."

"It was then that I realised we had to jump or we would drown. We



Laurance and Andy Davis, back home in Calgary. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.CALGARYHERALD.COM)

swam to the shore. I was very scared. I swam backstroke and could see the ship leaning over. I was terrified it would crush us. I told my wife to kick!"

Consular services put up all survivors in Rome before flying them home, first class, on Monday. There weren't enough life boats or life jackets for all 4 200 souls on board.

Miraculously, Davis, who is short-sighted, had the prescience to put his glasses in his pocket before jumping into the sea; even more miraculously, the glasses did not break!

At the time of going to press, 11 people are known to have died and hopes are fading for the remaining 23 passengers who have still not been accounted for. The ship's captain, Captain Francesco Schettino has been blamed for the accident, and is currently being held on suspicion of manslaughter and for abandoning his vessel. As the rescue operation continues, a further operation is underway to pump out the vessel's fuel oil before it leaks out and damages a maritime reserve.

## KASHRUT ALERT

## TIM TAM BISCUITS IN SA ARE NOT KOSHER

The kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues advises that Tim Tam biscuits available in South Africa are not kosher, even when bearing the KA logo on the packaging.

According to Kosher Australia, these are definitely not kosher unless there is a KA also by the use-by date. The non-kosher variety will say "Not Kosher" by the use-by date.

Bestnut Royal Mix and Bestnut Tokyo Snack are no longer certified by the Beth Din with or without the Beth Din Logo.

Boudoir Biscuits produced in Portugal are kosher certified as parev, with or without the Beth Din logo.

There are some varieties of Nestle ice-cream that are not kosher certified. All kosher certified products have a Beth Din logo.

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# Our man in Mangaung

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein reflects on the ANC's Centenary celebrations, interfaith dialogue and connections between religion and politics in South Africa.

STEVEN GRUZD

CHIEF RABBI Goldstein was invited to deliver an opening prayer on Sunday January 8, 2012, at the celebrations to commemorate 100 years since the founding of the African National Congress in Mangaung (Bloemfontein).

In blazing sunshine before a packed Free State Stadium, he recited the Birkat HaKohanim (priestly blessing) from the Book of Numbers, explaining that it was one of humankind's oldest blessings, having been said in Biblical times, in the Temple and still in the synagogue to this day.

He shared the podium with a representative of African traditional religion and the Reverend Jesse Jackson. Although some observers questioned why no Hindu or Muslim religious leaders offered prayers, Rabbi Goldstein said: "The ANC has such a strong tradition of diversity, of including all groups... so I would be very surprised if other religious leaders were not invited."

When asked why he'd chosen to attend what was, after all, a political party's anniversary and not a state occasion, Rabbi Goldstein defended the ANC's right to celebrate its impressive achievements and did not feel that his presence should be seen as necessarily endorsing any political views.

He said: "My position is that all major political parties are involved in constructing the future of South Africa and when a key organisation like the ANC requests a prayer, it was only right to oblige. To have declined would not have been proper. I would have done the same had other parties invited me."

He added that he'd enjoyed the atmosphere and the energy in the stadium, and was also pleased to spend Shabbat with Bloem-

fontein's small but warm and welcoming Jewish community.

In characterising interfaith dialogue in contemporary South Africa, Rabbi Goldstein felt that multilateral relations, on the whole, were becoming healthier than bilateral ones.

"The interfaith concept is deeply rooted in the 'New South Africa'", he noted.

He hoped that the newly-formed National Inter-Faith Leaders Council of South Africa - uniting the previously squabbling National Religious Leaders Forum and National Inter-Faith Leadership Council - would finally move beyond the politicisation that had hobbled the constituent formations to become a more effective moral voice in interaction with government. It's been a turbulent few years, which has been a pity. It's time to settle down and get on with things."

But should religion and politics mix? In a multi-ethnic, diverse democracy, with many different views and interpretations, Rabbi Goldstein believes it is imperative the Jewish community is part of national conversations: "In this country, religion is a major force in terms of numbers and impact, and we look to religious leaders to play an important role in society. My own philosophy of Judaism is that involvement in the world is part and parcel of Hashem's vision in our Torah. I don't have to take off my yarmulke, metaphorically," he chuckles, "to do things that matter to society."

He explains that projects he's championed - like CAP to provide better security in Johannesburg's suburbs, the Sinai Indaba of Jewish learning and the Bill of Responsibilities - are all strongly grounded in Jewish values.

# Absa reaffirms relationship with Jewish Achievers



At a breakfast hosted by Absa Bank towards the end of last year, Bobby Malabie, chief executive of Absa Business Bank, and Howard Sackstein, chairman of the Jewish Achievers Committee and member of the board of directors of the SA Jewish Report, signed the agreement confirming Absa's sponsorship of awards at this year's Jewish Achievers' function later this year. In his talk to the guests at the breakfast, Malabie spoke about the positive relationship between Absa and the Jewish Report. Absa has been a major sponsor of the Jewish Achiever Awards since 2003. (PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE YUDELOWITZ)

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## SOCIAL SCENE

# Ossac empowers through skills and knowledge

RITA LEWIS  
PHOTOGRAPHS:  
MEIRA PUTERMAN

ONCE AGAIN the end-of-year party for the many students of Ossac (the Oxford Synagogue Skills for Adults Centre) was the culmination of a year's work. It was also the opportunity for those who were part of the dressmaking group to display some of the clothes they had made during the year.

Despite the fact that many of the students have fulltime jobs, they had all made the time to attend regularly.

This was also a fitting tribute to all the effort, time and caring their teachers had expended, as well as the work done for them by the Ossac executive.

This had also assisted them in aspiring (and reaching) the level of competence they had attained.

In welcoming everyone to the function at Oxford Shul, Rabbi Yossi Chaikin said how proud he, and all the organisers were to see the achievements of the students, which would go a long way in enhancing their future lives.

He was proud to come every year and each time to see their progress and spirit of friendship.

Ossac's high level of teaching has created a tremendous improvement in the literacy, numeracy, cooking, baking and computer skills of the students and the display of clothes which were all made by the students exemplified this.

Several of the students gave a few touching words on how Ossac had impacted on their lives - for the better.

Marc Lubner, CEO of outreach organisation Afrika Tikkun, which funds Ossac, was full of praise for the achievements of the group and highlighted the need to prepare young people for South Africa's job market.

Much of the success of the project is due to the input of Beryl Unterhalter and her team who work tirelessly. Unterhalter praised everyone including the volunteer teachers without whom this project would not be as successful as it is.

Shelia Kemp, chairman of the Ossac Executive Committee thanked Rabbi Chaikin and Lubner for their words and singled out Unterhalter "who had worked tirelessly for years and without whom there would be no Ossac".



Carol Moshuwe Ossac's computer facilitator with Marc Lubner the CEO of Afrika Tikkun.



Oxford Shul's Rabbi Yossi and Rivky Chaikin.



Two dress-making students "model" their wedding dresses.

## COMMUNITY BUZZ

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### LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Marc Kopman (Krugersdorp):

"On my travel, again looking for vanishing Jewish footprints in the country districts.

"Well, what with itchy feet and a 32nd wedding anniversary to go off and celebrate, my wife, Bev and I chose Ekhuleni Lodge in Limpopo Province between Hoedspruit and Phalaborwa. This is how it went; sadly from leaving home in Krugersdorp and travelling past Pretoria, these would be the only two places where Jewish life still exists all the way to our destination, however, mercifully not so the case on our way back:

"Polokwane (Pietersburg): This town was the first major growth point which we encountered and

driving through we spotted an impressive looking shopping mall reminiscent of those only found in the bigger cities and as the 'innocently ignorant' we would wonder as to whether or not Jews still reside here in significant numbers.

"Indeed, and of course, I am well aware that since 1885 the town boasted a most vibrant Jewish community in every sense of the word. In fact, the excellent Beth Hatefutsoth's volume lists almost 300 Jewish names bearing mute testimony to this fact!

"I have previously reported on my trip there with fellow congregant, Harley Hirschmann (former Pietersburg) where we visited the immaculately kept Jewish cemetery, including a tablet at the entrance depicting the history of the congregation as well as the shul (now used as municipal offices) and where this family lived.

"We had met with Morris Jedwood, one of the last few remaining Jews in the town and spent time with him. Nothing more to add this time around!

"Tzaneen: Having temporarily

become lost, we eventually arrived in Tzaneen, a very busy, bustling town, evident as we drove through the town centre and at points where we asked directions, enquiries about Jewish presence were met with blank unknowing stares. The Beth Hatefutsoth Jewish Life Volume, always at hand, informed us of the rest, no Jewish formal congregation had existed. The Jewish residents had made use of Pietersburg's fine facilities. A very empty feeling when you realise that whatever Jewish life existed there is no more.

"Gravelotte: Eventually passed through this hamlet and again, the same story repeats itself. The Jewish traders and hoteliers there also once upon a time used the Pietersburg facilities. Originally, Jewish mining magnates Hersov, Menell and Erleigh had been firmly at the forefront of Gravelotte's early economical activity and development. Again, we could detect no current signs of any Jewish presence in the here and now."

To be continued.

**ADVERTORIAL**

# Guiding Jewish job seekers in their quest to make an honest living

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Over the past year the team has identified the key issues affecting job seekers in a tough economic environment. The seminars are divided into two sessions.

The first session, lectured by an executive life coach, will introduce the candidate to concepts such as personal branding, establishing career goals and breaking through emotional barriers.

The second session will focus on creating a resumé, searching for positions online, developing a network, interviewing effectively, and good decision making.

As industry experts, the lecturers offer guidance and support to

candidates, making the daunting task of finding employment a little less intimidating.

The first seminar is open for booking but places are limited.

**Session 1:** February 8

**Session 2:** February 22

**Time:** 08:30 - 12:30

**Venue:** Beyachad, Sydenham

To register, visit the ORT JET website [www.ortjet.org.za](http://www.ortjet.org.za) or contact Tracy on (011) 728-7154



# Mayor Issy Schlapobersky's Johannesburg legacy lives on

STAFF REPORTER

FORMER Johannesburg mayor Israel (Issy) Schlapobersky (pictured), who also played a vital role in the running of the Lions Shul in Doornfontein, passed away at the age of 96.

Schlapobersky dedicated his life to public and community interests and he related to people from all walks of life equally.

He served as a city councillor for 38 years, first under the Progressive Federal Party, which later became the Democratic Party and then the DA. He was first elected councillor in 1957. From 1988 he represented the wards of Observatory, Bez Valley, Linksfield and De Wetshof.

In 1967 - '68 he was deputy mayor, and was elected mayor the following year. The title "alderman" was bestowed on him in 1983.

Schlapobersky also served on the city's management committee in the 1960s, and on many other committees, including finance.

During his tenure, he initiated many new developments in the city, including a worldwide competition for the design of the Civic Centre in Braamfontein.

One of his most notable achievements was the city's motorway system. He was known as the "father of the motorways", which took 10 years to build. He obtained a huge subsidy from the national government for the upgrade and extension of the motorway system around the city. He had been refused the subsidy five times.

Schlapobersky was the first graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand to become mayor of Johannesburg.

According to his grandson Steven

Frankel, he started the Saturday morning services at the Lions Synagogue in Doornfontein over 40 years ago, and attended regularly until about a year ago. He served the Jewish community with dedication and was a member of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies.

"His Lithuanian Jewish roots and humble beginnings in Belgravia/Jeppe played a big role in his unswerving integrity and moral standards. He was a true leader who led by example - a powerful man in an unassuming way.

"He was a humanist right to the end, a people's person, charming and always endearing himself to anyone who met him." he said.

Schlapobersky leaves three children and eight grandchildren.



# Louis Rimer – a dignified man of noble qualities

ROBYN SASSEN

CHAZZAN LOUIS Rimer (pictured), who started off as a boy soprano in Berele Chaggy's choir in the 1930s, and rose to become one of the more popular freelance chazzanim in Johannesburg and the outlying districts during the 1950s and 1960s, died suddenly as a result of a fall at the age of 83.

Said Rabbi Yossy Goldman, of the Sydenham-Highlands North Shul, of which Chazzan Rimer had been a member for 25 years: "Musically, Chazzan Rimer was very talented; he composed a particular kedusha, often used by choirs in the community. He truly had a gutte neshomah."

Born on May 10, 1928 in Bertrams, Johannesburg, Chazzan Rimer was trained by opera tenor, Francis Russel and is fondly remembered as having a melodic sweet voice, tempered by his feeling for the music. He retired from chazzanut at the age of 65 and went into the tombstone industry in 1980.

Last May, Chazzan Rimer celebrated his second barmitzvah at the Sydenham Shul.

A dignified man of noble qualities, Rimer was described as a pillar of love, support and courage by his loved ones. "He had a very difficult life," added Rabbi Goldman. "At the age of six, he was involved in a car accident, which left him slightly handicapped, but didn't compromise his ability to function, to joke and smile, readily.

"He was self-taught in davening, from listening and practising. He loved Sydenham Shul, best of all, and he had certainly been around, in terms of shul experience," said Rabbi Goldman. "Chazzan Rimer was well known and well loved in the shul family; his sweetness and sincerity were all pervading."



PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSEDRYVER

Indeed, last year sometime, Darren "Whackhead" Simpson of 94.7 Highveld Stereo, played a telephone prank on him, in his capacity as a tombstone guy. Simpson was "commissioning" a tombstone that told the truth, about a maligned late relative.

Rabbi Goldman fondly explained, "In his own way, Louis was so genuine, he frustrated Whackhead's attempt at making a mockery of him."

Chazzan Rimer leaves his wife Pearl, sons Jerome, Gavin and Jonathan, daughter-in-law Pam and a granddaughter, born a few days before he died.

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Banquet 22nd Feb 2012

## Jewish Report

# Congratulations and good luck

CONSISTENT WITH the pattern of recent years, the 2011 matric results of the Jewish day schools are outstanding. They – again – achieved 100 per cent pass rates. This has almost become the benchmark and is something of which we should be enormously proud. Jewish kids at other schools such as Crawford College, Eden and Pretoria Boys' High, to name some, also did very well.

Without doubt, part of the learners' success can be attributed to solid, traditional Jewish family values, where a drive for learning and excelling is inculcated from a very young age.

Not enough credit can be given to the Jewish day school system as a whole, where there is an ethos of dedicated teaching and learning. The schools hand-picked the best teachers in every field. The aborted OBE system of recent years, which negatively affected so many unfortunate learners in the country, did not dent the exemplary results achieved at the Jewish schools, since steps had been taken to work around the problems it created.

Among the matriculants, there are also obviously youngsters who are comparatively less gifted. However, many of them, with the devoted help of parents, teachers and the school as a whole, also achieved good results – thus the 100 per cent pass rate.

We must not only applaud learners who obtained distinctions, but also those who may have to work twice as hard because they are not naturally talented. A learner who, through tenacious hard work, achieves a pass in a subject in which he or she struggles, is just as worthy of praise as others.

It is also to the credit of our Jewish matriculants that a large percentage took "tough" subjects like maths and physical science, rather than "easier" options to obtain more distinctions.

There is, of course, another side to the picture, which is tied up with the era we live in. While we are justifiably more than satisfied with the excellent results, we need to be aware that kids today are subjected to enormous pressures because of the range of subjects they have to take, the grades expected of them, as well as numerous extramural activities. There is, in fact, very little time left for them to be "just kids".

In addition, they face the difficulties – particularly as white youngsters – of gaining entrance to a South African university in certain fields, where their grades need to be truly phenomenal in order to secure a place. In this country, which has shortages of skilled people in so many areas, tertiary education is not nearly as available as it ought to be.

The recent stampede of matriculants trying to register at the University of Johannesburg, which resulted in the death of a mother trying to enroll her child, is a sad metaphor for the plight of thousands of young South Africans seeking to better their lives through education.

The government school system, alas, leaves much to be desired, even though the pass rate this year has shot up to 70.2 per cent from 67.8 per cent last year. Government schools suffer from many obstacles, including being under-resourced, the absence of a learning or teaching ethos, poor-quality teachers and the stranglehold of the SA Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU) over the system. It is hardly surprising that the children of many government ministers, top officials and "black diamonds" are sent to private schools, where they do exceptionally well.

As South Africans, it is essential we do whatever we can to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Towards this end, Jewish schools have many outreach and "twinning" programmes with underprivileged schools, which have greatly benefited from them. In the process, Jewish learners have come to understand the importance of seeing beyond their own needs. These programmes are often conducted quietly, without fanfare.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to all our Jewish matriculants on ending their 12 years of hard work in school on such a high note. We wish them success and fulfilment in everything they undertake in the future.

## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# From Wannsee to Tehran

THIS MONTH marks the 70th anniversary of one of the most chilling events of the modern era.

On January 20, 1942, 15 senior Nazi officials headed by SS General Reinhard Heydrich, convened at a villa outside of Berlin in the suburb of Wannsee, to discuss the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question".

Though the Germans had already been busy murdering Jews en masse for some time, the Wannsee Conference, as it came to be known, sought to co-ordinate efforts across the various arms of the Nazi regime with the aim of fully implementing Hitler's plan to eradicate the Jewish people.

It set in motion a full-fledged and synchronised bureaucratic endeavour unprecedented in the history of mankind, one which resulted in the systematic murder of six million Jews.

As we look back at that frightening event, and consider just how close its participants came to achieving their monstrous goals, there are two words which inevitably ring loudly in our minds: Never Again.

After the Holocaust, with all the defiance and determination that we could muster, the Jewish people made a vow that we would not allow another genocidal fiend to threaten our existence.

But the question we need to ask ourselves with utmost sincerity is: Do we really mean it?

After all, there is a gathering storm over the horizon, as the Iranian regime drives relentlessly towards its goal of developing a nuclear arsenal.

Are we really prepared to take the steps necessary to stop them?

Make no mistake. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the would-be Hitler of Persia, has spoken openly of his ambition to wipe Israel off the map, in effect promising to complete what the plotters of Wannsee began.

On January 3, the tyrant of Tehran was quoted by Iranian television as saying once again that Israel will be destroyed. "Zionists, who have no faith in religion or even G-d, now claim piety and intend to take away the Islamic identity of Jerusalem," he declared.

"This ridiculous move is in fact the continuation of the colonialist policies of oppressors, which will not save the Zionist regime, but also take the regime closer to the end-point of its existence," he vowed.

Indeed, Ahmadinejad's rants about exterminating the Jewish people have become so routine that they no longer receive much attention in the Western press.

But just because his threats have lost their news value does not mean they pose any less of a danger. We would be making a fateful and perhaps existential error to think otherwise.

Consider how belligerent Iran has been in just the past few weeks. Earlier this month, Iran's Revolutionary Court had the audacity to sentence an Iranian-American to death on trumped up charges, accusing him of being a CIA spy.

The ayatollahs have also repeatedly threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, a critical transit route for interna-



**FUNDAMENTALLY  
FREUND**

MICHAEL FREUND

tional oil shipments, in retaliation for Western sanctions.

And the Iranians even went so far as to confirm reports that they have begun to enrich uranium at a second facility in defiance of United Nations resolutions.

They are openly thumbing their noses at the international community, obviously calculating that they can get away with doing so.

If this is how Iran conducts itself before acquiring "the Bomb", can you imagine what they would do if they were actually to obtain a nuclear arsenal?

The threat that a nuclear-armed Iran would pose to Israel and the entire Western world cannot and must not be underestimated. On a visit to Venezuela on January 10, Ahmadinejad and his host Hugo Chavez joked before the television cameras about having a "big atomic bomb" at their disposal.

An atomic Iran would threaten its neighbours, undermine the stability of the region, and endanger the future of Western civilisation.

Like it or not, 2012 is a year of decision. In the coming months, there will be no shying away from a momentous choice. Iran will either be stopped, or the ayatollahs will be able to construct their own weapons of mass destruction.

No one is itching to pull the trigger and to start bombing Iran. Such a course of action would have plenty of unintended consequences and would throw the Middle East into turmoil.

But several rounds of sanctions and attempts at diplomatic pressure have all failed to dissuade the Iranian regime.

At this point, there is no choice left but for Israel or the United States to resort to military force. Iran simply cannot be allowed to go nuclear.

Sure, the thought of attacking Iran is terrifying. But as alarming as the idea might seem, it pales in comparison with the ayatollahs being able to threaten the world.

As the events of seven decades ago at Wannsee demonstrated, when someone says they plan to annihilate you, you had best believe them.

Time is of the essence, and there is not a moment to lose. We must prepare ourselves for what may lie ahead.

The US or Israel should take action against Iran now, before it proves too late.

*The writer serves as chairman of Shavei Israel (www.shavei.org), which assists lost tribes and hidden Jewish communities to return to the Jewish people.*



The Wannsee villa outside Berlin where the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question" was discussed 70 years ago.



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# Top Results 2011

National Senior Certificate & Independent Examinations Board



A supplement compiled by Britt Landsman. Contact (011) 023-8160 or visit [www.sajewishreport.co.za](http://www.sajewishreport.co.za)

## The cream of our exciting Jewish crop

### OWN CORRESPONDENT

EUPHORIA JUSTIFIABLY greeted the announcement of the 2011 matric results – first those of the Independent Examinations Board and then a day later, that of the National Senior Certificate – showing an increase in the 2010 pass rate of 67,8 per cent up to a whopping 70,2 per cent. Just more than 600 000 learners sat for the NSC exams (government schools).

Again the Jewish day schools excelled and a 100 per cent pass rate has become the norm. Every year the day schools exceed the ever-higher benchmark. The year 2011 was no exception

A total of 8 281 private school learners in 173 schools wrote the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) exams, giving the Board an almost perfect score for the second year in a row, with all those who passed qualifying to be admitted to study

at tertiary level. The 98,15 per cent who passed showed a slight decrease of the 98,38 per cent pass rate of 2010.

Only half the pupils who started grade 1 in the government schools, however, made it through to grade 12. This a major worry

King David Schools "maintain their reputation of excellence", Rabbi Craig Kacev, executive director of the King David Schools Foundation, writes.

"It is frequently remarked that history repeats itself and King David High School Linksfield and King David High School Victory Park have once again proved the truth of this adage in their magnificent matriculation results in the IEB system."

He says this is the result of "the magnificent teamwork of teachers and learners over a number of years, and we pay tribute to the outstanding efforts of our dedicated teaching staff, to the hard work of our learners

and to our loyal parents for endowing the right combination of genes.

"Such a tripartite combination of forces must inevitably produce excellence. The statistics of the results make staggering reading: 221 learners wrote the examinations, and a total of 562 distinctions were obtained with 95 per cent achieving university degree exemption. Four King David learners were placed among the IEB 'Outstanding' Top 59 which requires such learners to be in the top five per cent in six subjects.

"Three learners were placed among the 'commendable' top 61 which requires such learners to be in the top five per cent in five subjects. Thirty five learners achieved the proverbial "full house". Of equal importance is the fact that many of those originally assessed as learning-disadvantaged, proved the sceptics wrong by achieving matriculation passes. The 100 per cent pass rate thus included many learners who achieved diploma en-

trances, allowing them to continue their studies at both university and technical institutions of higher learning. We are very proud of the combined class average being over 70 per cent."

He stresses that academic achievement is not the only measure of success. "Our schools have recorded outstanding results in every facet of school life across a broad spectrum of sporting and cultural activities and are highly respected for their achievements in these areas.

"Not to be overlooked is the very commendable social awareness programmes of all the King David Schools and their considerable efforts to assist their disadvantaged counterparts."

The 74 matriculants from King David High School Victory Park who wrote the IEB examinations again had a 100 per cent pass rate and achieved 164 distinctions. Three learners appear on the IEB "Outstanding Achieve-

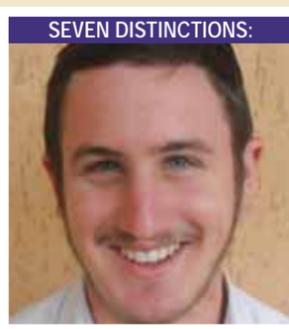
ment list", namely Jordan Bortz, Jon-ty Pincus and Galit Seligmann. Eleven learners were ranked in the top one per cent of all IEB candidates in one or more subjects.

King David High School, Linksfield, again excelled with a 100 per cent pass rate. Among the many sporting and cultural successes the school has enjoyed in 2011, the matric results have provided the perfect conclusion to a wonderful school year.

Of the 147 candidates who wrote these exams, 143 (all of those who entered for university exemptions – 97,2 per cent of the group) achieved their university admittance status. Four candidates met the requirements for higher diploma or certificate study.

King David, Linksfield achieved a staggering 400 distinctions in total – an impressive 2,7 distinctions per candidate, in comparison with the 2,2 distinctions last year and the 1,9 the year before.

Continued on page 13

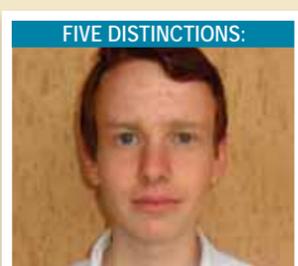


**SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:**  
Yaakov Gralnik. English, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Accounting, Business Studies, Physical Sciences, Mathematics: probability data handling.

### Torah Academy Boys NSC



**FIVE DISTINCTIONS:**  
Chaim Chaikin. English, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Business Studies, History.



**FIVE DISTINCTIONS:**  
Menachem Hecht. Mathematical Literacy, Life Orientation, Business Studies, History and Life Sciences.

### Torah Academy Girls NSC

**THREE DISTINCTIONS:**

<b>Devorah Kazarnovsky.</b> Life Orientation, History, Physical Science	<b>Tamar Kimberley.</b> English, Afrikaans, Life Orientation	<b>Jessica Vinokur.</b> Life Orientation, History, Life Sciences
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### Before you "go on diet"...

Follow these five steps to improve your chances of successful weight loss before you even start:

1. Remove the word "diet" from your vocabulary. Healthy eating needs to become a way of life. If you decide to go "on diet", you are subtly giving yourself permission to go "off diet" at a later point.
2. Get real with yourself. Despite what diet advertisements may say, there is no effort-free way to permanently lose weight. Acknowledge the sacrifices you will need to make before you begin and weigh these up against the benefits you could enjoy.
3. Set realistic goals. Unrealistic expectations of miraculous weight loss will lead to your feeling disillusioned and despondent. Weight loss experts recommend that the initial goal of weight loss should be 10 per cent of your starting body weight.
4. Take a long, hard look at your eating patterns. Are you an emotional or stress eater? Do you eat too quickly, when standing or on the run? Do you eat while watching television, preparing food or cleaning up leftovers? Do you go without eating during the day and then overeat at night? Acknowledge the need to change these patterns and think of strategies you could use to achieve this.
5. Get support. Research shows that the more support you have, the more successful you will be. This should ideally include a professional but encouragement from friends and family can also be great motivators.

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Our outstanding results attest to excellence in Torah and secular studies.

## WHY NOT OPEN ALL YOUR DOORS? JOIN THE SUCCESS OF THE TORAH ACADEMY. OUR DOORS ARE OPEN TO YOU!

The Torah Academy congratulates its 2011 matriculants and salutes its educators and principals, Rabbi Motti Hadar (Boys' High) and Mrs Rebecca Sarchi (Girls' High), on:

- Maintaining an unbroken record of 100% pass rates;
- Distinctions achieved in 30% of all papers written;
- Above a B symbol achieved in 60% of all papers;
- One third of candidates attained 3 or more distinctions;
- Outstanding achievement in comprehensive Torah curriculum.

## THE TORAH ACADEMY

**THE SCHOOL WITH A NESHAMA**

TOP RESULTS 2011

# CrawfordSchools™ Sandton NSC



**TWELVE DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Benjamin Levin.** Accounting, Advanced Maths, Afrikaans, Business Studies, English, Geography, Hebrew, Information Technology, LO, Maths, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science.



**NINE DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Gabriella Gershoni.** Ad Maths, Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, History, LO, Maths, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science.



**EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Eden Clingman.** Afrikaans, Dramatic Arts, English, History, LO, Maths, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science.



**EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Saul Grossberg.** Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, IT, LO, Maths, Music, Physical Science.



**EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Haidee Lyons.** Accounting, Afrikaans, Dramatic Arts, English, Geography, LO, Maths, Maths Paper 3, Physical Science.



**EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:**  
**David Torpey.** Afrikaans, English, Geography, History, IT, LO, Maths, Physical Science.



**SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Ariella Epstein.** Accounting, Afrikaans, Dramatic Arts, English, History, LO, Maths.



**SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Savannah Lucas.** Business Studies, Dramatic Arts, English, History, LO, Maths, Physical Science.



**SIX DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Jeffrey Bolon.** Dramatic Arts, English, History, LO, Life Sciences, Physical Science.



**SIX DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Daniella Dinur.** Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, History, LO, Maths, Physical Science.



**SIX DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Chad Echakowitz.** Dramatic Arts, English, History, LO, Maths, Physical Science.



**SIX DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Stephanie Greenberg.** English, History, LO, Maths, Physical Science, Visual Arts.



**SIX DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Luc Varejes.** Advanced Mathematics, Afrikaans, Business Studies, LO, Maths, Physical Science.



**FIVE DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Jason Fleischer.** Business Studies, English, Geography, History, LO.



**FIVE DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Amy Gerson.** Business Studies, English, History, LO, Maths.



**FIVE DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Rikki Greenberg.** English, History, LO, Life Sciences, Visual Arts.



**FIVE DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Brent Machlup.** Ad Maths, Dramatic Arts, IT, LO, Maths.



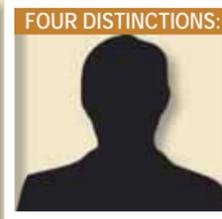
**FIVE DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Blasie Selvan.** English, History, LO, Life Sciences, Visual Arts.



**FOUR DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Kira Louw.** Dramatic Arts, Afrikaans, LO, Physical Science.



**FOUR DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Dean Lurie.** Dramatic Arts, History, LO, Maths Literacy.



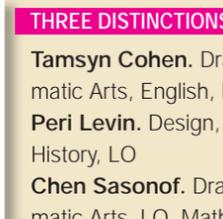
**FOUR DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Lori Merdjan.** Business Studies, Dramatic Arts, History, LO.



**FOUR DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Gabi Steiner.** Dramatic Arts, English, History, LO.



**FOUR DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Kelsey Wishnuff.** English, History, Life Orientation, Visual Arts.



**THREE DISTINCTIONS:**  
**Tamsyn Cohen.** Dramatic Arts, English, LO.  
**Peri Levin.** Design, History, LO.  
**Chen Sasonof.** Dramatic Arts, LO, Maths Literacy.

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OUR TOP JEWISH STUDENTS



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- CrawfordSchools™ Lonehill (Grade 000 - 12)
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# TOP RESULTS 2011

## King David High School Victory Park IEB

## CrawfordSchools™ La Lucia's proud crop

NINE DISTINCTIONS:



**Jordan Bortz**  
Accounting, Advanced Programme Mathematics, Afrikaans 1st Additional Language, English Home Language, Hebrew 2nd Additional Language, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Physical Science

NINE DISTINCTIONS:



**Jonty Pincus**  
Accounting, Advanced Programme Mathematics, Afrikaans 1st Additional Language, English Home Language, Hebrew 2nd Additional Language, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Physical Science

NINE DISTINCTIONS:



**Galit Seligmann**  
Advanced Programme English, Afrikaans 1st Additional Language, English Home Language, Hebrew 2nd Additional Language, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Physical Science

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:



**Romy Wulfohn**  
Afrikaans 1st Additional Language, English Home Language, French 2nd Additional Language, Hebrew 2nd Additional Language, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Physical Science

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Geena Bennun**  
English Home Language, History, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physical Science

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Savanna Flax**  
Afrikaans 1st Additional Language, English Home Language, French 2nd Additional Language, Hebrew 2nd Additional Language, Life Orientation, Mathematics

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Vivienne Jonker**  
Afrikaans 1st Additional Language, English Home Language, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physical Science

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Jake Nudelman**  
Dramatic Arts, English Home Language, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Music

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Jason Perlow**  
Advanced Programme Mathematics, English Home Language, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Physical Science

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Dana Toerien**  
Advanced Programme English, Afrikaans 1st Additional Language, English Home Language, French 2nd Additional Language, Life Orientation, Life Sciences

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Russel Ziman**  
English Home Language, Hebrew 2nd Additional Language, History, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Physical Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Gregory Hodes**  
Accounting, French 2nd Additional Language, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Marc Black**  
Geography, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Danielle Hertz**  
English Home Language, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Physical Science

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Saul Moross**  
Dance Studies, Dramatic Arts, English Home Language, Life Orientation

THREE DISTINCTIONS:

**Noah Bamberger:** English Home Language, Life Orientation, Mathematics  
**Jessica Kaplan:** Dramatic Arts, English Home Language, Life Orientation  
**Rebecca Pein:** Dramatic Arts, English Home Language, Life Orientation  
**Genna Price:** English Home Language, Life Orientation, Mathematics  
**Ryan Unterslak:** Computer Applications Technology, English Home Language, Mathematics

*Crawford College (NSC) in La Lucia in Durban, boasts some excellent results among its Jewish matriculants.*

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Joshua Muller.**  
Business Studies, English, Life Orientation, Mathematics Literacy, History

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Aron Calo.** Dramatic Arts, English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Leanne Murcia.**  
English, History, Life Orientation, Visual Arts

THREE DISTINCTIONS:

**Shahar Bar.** Hebrew, Information Technology, Life Orientation

## Pretoria matriculant excels with four

DIANE WOLFSON - PRETORIA

WITH ONLY one Jewish matriculant in 2011, Ariel Yuter certainly held up Pretoria's reputation for good results, having matriculated at Crawford College with four distinctions in Accounting, Life Orientation, Hebrew and Information Technology. Ariel will be going to Israel on a Bnei Akiva programme and will be studying information technology on his return.

## Crawford Pretoria NSC

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Ariel Yuter.**  
Accounting, Hebrew, Information Technology, Life Orientation

# KING DAVID VICTORY PARK CAMPUS



We congratulate our matriculants on their outstanding results achieved in the IEB Examinations

## MATRIC 2011

74 CANDIDATES  
164 SUBJECT DISTINCTIONS  
100% PASS RATE

**JORDAN BORTZ**  
IEB Outstanding Achiever  
9 Distinctions  
Top 1% in 4 subjects

**JONTY PINCUS**  
IEB Outstanding Achiever  
9 Distinctions  
Top 1% in 5 subjects

**GALIT SELIGMANN**  
IEB Outstanding Achiever  
9 Distinctions  
Top 1% in 1 subject

**ROMY WULFSOHN**  
7 Distinctions  
Top 1% in 1 subject

**GEENA BENNUN**  
6 Distinctions  
Top 1% in 1 subject

**SAVANNA FLAX**  
6 Distinctions

**VIVIENNE JONKER**  
6 Distinctions  
Top 1% in 1 subject

**JAKE NUDELMAN**  
6 Distinctions  
Top 1% in 1 subject

**JASON PERLOW**  
6 Distinctions  
Top 1% in 1 subject

**DANA TOERIEN**  
6 Distinctions  
Top 1% in 1 subject

**RUSSEL ZIMAN**  
6 Distinctions

**GREGORY HODES**  
5 Distinctions

**MARC BLACK**  
4 Distinctions

**DANIELLE HERTZ**  
4 Distinctions

**SAUL MOROSS**  
4 Distinctions  
Top 1% in 1 subject

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TOP RESULTS 2011

# Herzlia Schools - Cape Town NSC



NINE DISTINCTIONS:

**David Levin.** English, Afrikaans, Hebrew, Maths, LO, Accounting, Physical Science, Maths 3, Ap Maths



NINE DISTINCTIONS:

**Gabriella Stein.** English, Afrikaans, Hebrew, Maths, LO, Life Sciences, Physical Science, Maths 3, Ap Maths



EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:

**Cara Davidson.** English, Afrikaans, Hebrew, Maths, LO, Accounting, Physical Science, Maths 3, Ap Maths



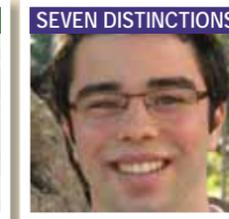
EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:

**Michael Alhadeff.** English, Afrikaans, Maths, LO, Accounting, Economics, Physical Science, Maths 3



EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:

**Ruth Urson.** English, Afrikaans, Maths, LO, History, Life Sciences, Physical Science, Maths 3



SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:

**Rael Chapman.** English, Afrikaans, Maths, LO, Accounting, Business Studies, Economics



SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:

**Alexander Cohen.** English, Afrikaans, Maths, LO, Accounting, IT, Physical Science



SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:

**Candice Linde.** English, Afrikaans, Hebrew, Maths, LO, Business Studies, History



SIX DISTINCTIONS:

**Tal Aharanov.** English, Hebrew, Maths, LO, Dramatic Arts, Maths 3



SIX DISTINCTIONS:

**Saul Anstey.** Maths, LO, Accounting, IT, Physical Science, Maths 3



SIX DISTINCTIONS:

**Megan Davidson.** English, Afrikaans, LO, Dramatic Arts, Life Sciences, Physical Science



SIX DISTINCTIONS:

**Sarah Edelberg.** Afrikaans, Maths, LO, Accounting, Business Studies, Computer Applications Technology



SIX DISTINCTIONS:

**Jonathan Glick.** English, Maths, LO, Accounting, Economics, History



SIX DISTINCTIONS:

**Dina Hammerschlag.** English, Maths, LO, Business Studies, History, Visual Arts



SIX DISTINCTIONS:

**Steele Katzeff.** English, Maths, LO, Dramatic Arts, History, Visual Arts



SIX DISTINCTIONS:

**Caitlin Le Roith.** English, Maths, LO, History, Life Sciences, Visual Arts



SIX DISTINCTIONS:

**Janna Rubin.** English, Maths Lit., LO, Dramatic Arts, History, Tourism



SIX DISTINCTIONS:

**Shavit Sachs.** English, Afrikaans, Hebrew, Maths, LO, Life Sciences



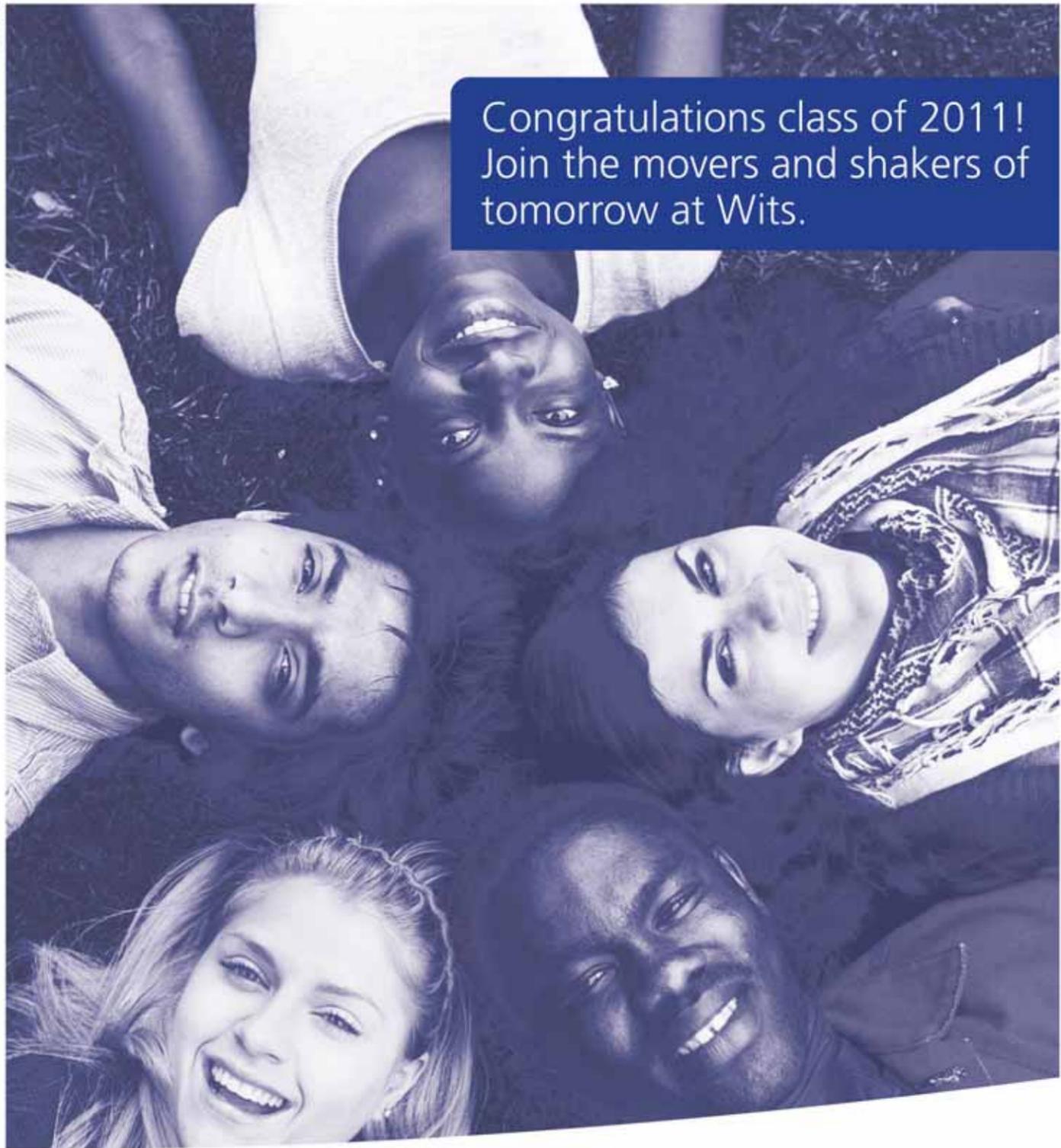
SIX DISTINCTIONS:

**Harrison Scherzer.** Maths, LO, Accounting, IT, Physical Science, Maths 3



SIX DISTINCTIONS:

**Tegan Schultz.** English, LO, Business Studies, Consumer Studies, Dance Studies, Economics



Congratulations class of 2011! Join the movers and shakers of tomorrow at Wits.

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[www.wits.ac.za](http://www.wits.ac.za)





# TOP RESULTS 2011

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Amy Alexander.** English, LO, Business Studies, Dramatic Arts, Life Sciences

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Dalit Anstey.** English, Maths, LO, Dramatic Arts, History

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Dalit Blumenthal.** Maths, LO, Accounting, Life Sciences, Physical Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Megan Bryer.** Maths, LO, Business Studies, Economics, Life Sciences

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Kyle Epstein.** Maths, LO, Accounting, IT, Physical Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Mark Galante.** Maths, Life Orientation, Consumer Studies, Life Sciences, Physical Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Nicole Goldberg.** English, LO, Business Studies, Life Sciences, Visual Arts

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Amy Hoffenberg.** Maths, LO, Dramatic Arts, Life Sciences, Tourism

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Steven Kimmel.** Maths, LO, Accounting, IT, Physical Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Jonathan Levenson.** English, Maths, LO, IT, Physical Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Zachary Melnick.** Maths, LO, IT, Life Sciences, Physical Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



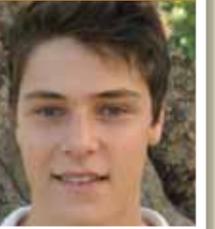
**Louise Stoch.** English, Maths, LO, IT, Physical Science

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Keren Bauman.** Maths Lit, LO, Dramatic Arts, Visual Arts

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Jason Finkelstein.** LO, Business Studies, Dramatic Arts, History

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Jarred Freedberg.** Maths, LO, Economics, IT

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Romy Fur.** Maths Lit, LO, Computer Applications Technology, Visual Arts

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Philip Kolevsohn.** Maths, LO, Business Studies, Physical Science

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Steven Korber.** English, Maths, LO, IT

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Raphael Mackintosh.** Maths, LO, Dramatic Arts, History

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Aaron Sarembock.** Maths, LO, IT, Life Sciences

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Melody Schneider.** Business Studies, Dance Studies, Dramatic Arts, Life Sciences

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Jemma Shargey.** LO, Business Studies, Economics, Life Sciences

THREE DISTINCTIONS:

- Emily Alhadeff.** LO, IT, Life Sciences
- Ryan Berelowitz.** Accounting, Business Studies, Economics
- Alon Bresler.** Maths, IT, Physical Science
- Nathaniel Delit.** Maths, IT, Physical Science
- Mikayla Gordon.** LO, Accounting, Life Sciences
- Jenna Kassel.** LO, Dramatic Arts, Life Sciences
- Jake Klass.** Maths Lit, LO, Dramatic Arts
- Dara Kometz.** English, LOI, Dramatic Arts
- Nicole Lee.** LO, Business Studies, Life Sciences
- Gila Maizels.** LO, Business Studies, Dramatic Arts
- Samantha Saacks.** LO, Business Studies, Life Sciences
- Ilan Scher.** LO, Accounting, Computer Applications Technology
- Jason Sher.** LO, Business Studies, Economics
- Donovan Stefan.** LO, Economics, History
- Asher Stern.** LO, Accounting, IT
- Jaemi Widan.** LO, Computer Applications Technology

## Hirsch Lyons Boys' High School IEB

NINE DISTINCTIONS:



**Yair Katz.** Afrikaans, Advanced Programme Mathematics, English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper III, Physical Science.

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Shmuel Bartkunsky.** Accounting, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper III, Physical Science

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**David Levin.** English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, Mathematics.

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Joshua Poyurs.** English, Hebrew, Life Orientation, History.

THREE DISTINCTIONS:

**Elad Jacobs.** Hebrew, Life Orientation, Mathematics

# Full Marks

112 Matric Candidates, 100% Pass Rate  
(Academically Inclusive School. 108 achieve University Entrance - 98%)

328 Subject Distinctions. The Class of 2011 achieved an average of 70% or more in 17 out of 22 subjects offered. 89 out of 112 candidates achieved 1 or more distinctions (79.5%), 2 candidates achieved 9 out of 9 distinctions, 1 candidate achieved 8 out of 9 distinctions, 2 candidates achieved 8 out of 8 distinctions, 2 candidates achieved 7 out of 8 distinctions, 1 candidate achieved 7 out of 7 distinctions, 12 candidates achieved 6 distinctions, 12 candidates achieved 5 distinctions, 10 candidates achieved 4 distinctions, 16 candidates achieved 3 distinctions.

Congratulations to all our pupils and staff on their outstanding achievements.



**HERZLIA**  
YOUR SCHOOL OF CHOICE  
[www.herzlia.com](http://www.herzlia.com)

## TOP RESULTS 2011

# Maths still remains the matric Achilles heel

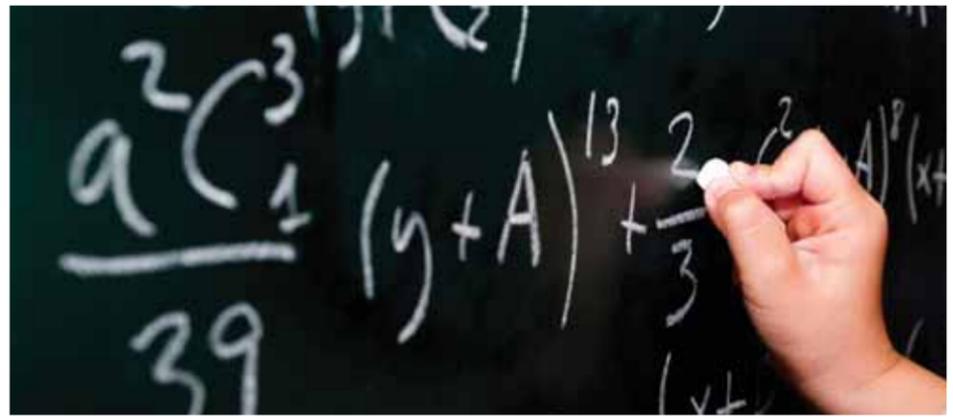
Three experts on education have commented on the matric pass rate, warning that the focus is too narrow.

IN AN op-ed piece in the Sunday Times of January 15, Mary Metcalfe, Mark Orkin and Jenny Glennie said three issues dominated the debate around the matric results, "but they do not illuminate our challenges".

Metcalfe is a sector specialist at the Development Bank of Southern Africa. With Mark Orkin she is a visiting professor at the University of the Witwatersrand School of Public and Develop-

ment Management. Glennie is executive director of the SA Institute for Distance Education.

The first of the three issues, according to them, is to see matric results as an evaluation of the strength of the educational system; the second ranks provinces in a "pass-rate race"; the third evaluates schools based on their pass rates. This simple comparison across provinces or schools is not a valid indicator of performance and may



undermine other essential indicators.

In addition to the pass rate, they say, an effective education system should also satisfy other criteria such as "retention", "quality" and improving equity across, for example, gender and race. "Retention" pertains to high proportions of learners proceeding to a credible exit point. "Quality" is necessary for innovation and for societies to flourish.

"If the matric pass rate is taken as the key performance target without an emphasis on retention, quality and equity, educational leaders are pressured to focus on it with damaging consequences."

They mention the "push-out" of weaker learners to secure a better matric pass rate for the whole school. The other is the encouragement of subject choices, for instance life sciences over physical science, because the former requires less maths and will yield higher pass rates.

In maths, which they call the "litmus test" of system quality for the needs of a modern economy, pass rates have remained unchanged, so the decline in candidates has resulted in a decline in passes.

"Maths passes at the 40 per cent-plus level are down from 85 000 to 67 000 for the period 2009 - 2011." This means 18 000 fewer matriculants able to enter university programmes requiring this level.

Department of Basic Education Director-General Bobby Soobrayan also expressed concern over a decrease in the maths and physical science pass rate. In 2010 the maths pass rate was 47,4 per cent and in 2011 this dropped to 46,3 per cent. The pass rate in physical science increased from 47,8 per cent in 2010 to 53,4 per cent.

Education expert Graeme Bloch also expressed his concern about maths performance and those who fall by the wayside before reaching grade 12. "There are still a lot of challenges. South Africa needs to keep up with the rest of the world and the tech age. That is why the decline in maths is a real concern.

Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga attributed the poor performance in maths largely to "inadequate foundational competences". Her department is now focusing on the earlier years of schooling.

Educationist Prof Jonathan Jansen, now vice-chancellor of the University of the Free State, has expressed concern that the current focus in schools on preparing children for exams instead of learning, "has demonstrated the sad demise of education in our society".

He mentions "this obsession with writing tests". He says there are enormous pressure on learners to do well "in these often mindless tests". He adds that "...this pressure on children to do well in school examinations is good for the school. Principals obsess with looking good in the eyes of their peers, the parents and their province."

Learning is not possible by selecting things to study because you try to anticipate what will be in the exam. "The point of learning complex subject matter is to understand the subject deeply, to probe, to inquire and to unsettle... At its best, learning is transformation."



## JEWISH EDUCATION – OUR COMMUNITY'S GREATEST INSURANCE

At the King David Schools' Foundation (KDSF) we do more than provide learners, who cannot afford it, the privilege of a Jewish and secular education of excellence. We believe that we provide the building blocks that will maintain our South African Jewish Community. As Jews, we all understand the power of education and that this is the greatest insurance for the perpetuation of the Jewish Nation.

The KDSF congratulates all our matriculants. However, we are particularly proud of **6 matriculants** – individuals who, **without the generous donations of our community**, would not have been afforded the chance of a King David education. **These 6 subsidised learners achieved 36 distinctions, an average of 6 distinctions each!**

It is our belief that learners like these will help build and preserve our community. **Join our list of generous donors and help provide another learner with the gift of a King David education.**

To assist learners who require financial assistance, to benefit from an education of excellence, please donate to:

King David Schools' Foundation  
Standard Bank Ellis Park  
Acc no: 002101076  
Branch code: 004605  
Reference: Help Learners  
or donate online at: [www.kdsf.org](http://www.kdsf.org)



## TOP RESULTS 2011

## The cream of our exciting Jewish crop

part of the class of 2011 a hearty mazeltov and look forward to watching their future progress. We know that they are well prepared for whatever paths they may choose."

The Hirsch Lyons matric class of 2011 has achieved fantastic results for such a small school - 31 distinctions from eight learners. Says Rabbi Steven Krawitz, headmaster of the school: "A well deserved mazeltov to the teaching staff and the matriculants themselves on these achievements."

Particular mention must be made of Yair Katz who achieved nine distinctions, of which four were in the nineties; Shmuel Bartkunsky who achieved six and David Levin and Joshua Poyours who achieved four each. Elad Jacobs received three.

Continued from page 7

For the fifth consecutive year KDL's overall aggregate has risen, to 74,7 in 2011 from 71,1 in 2010. The school had four candidates in the top "National Achievers" listings:

Commendable Achievers - in the top five per cent of the IEB national averages in five subjects - are Ashleigh Forman, Natalie Shemesh and Lior Sinai. Michael Levin is an "Outstanding Achiever" - in the top five per cent of the IEB national averages in six subjects.

Three candidates received nine distinctions, six had eight and eight had seven, seven had six, eight had five, 14 candidates had four, 19 candidates had three, 25 had two and 22 had one.

Sixteen candidates were placed in the top one per cent for subject achievements nationally.

"These results are inspirational and promise to generate future success for the candidates who are to come after and for the group of 2011 in their tertiary studies. These results affirm intelligence, effort, teaching and self-sacrifice."

Torah Academy has maintained its unbroken record of a 100 per cent pass rate, with 60 per cent of all the papers written achieving a 70 per cent or higher average in the 2011 NSC exams.

The learners attained distinctions in 30 per cent of all exam papers and a third of candidates received three or more distinctions.

Dean of Torah Academy Rabbi Dovid Hazdan told the Jewish Report: "I am delighted with the tremendous achievements of the Torah Academy matric class of 2011. The matrics' success is due to their hard work throughout the year and the support of their dedicated educators and principals Rabbi Motti Hadar (Boys' High School) and Rebecca Sarchi (Girls' High).

"At Torah Academy, we strive for a holistic education, pursuing excellence in Limudei Kodesh and secular studies and most importantly learning to be a mensch and a G-d-fearing Jew.

"True success is not measured by grades and distinctions, but by the quality of the individuals graduating from school. In this case, we are extremely proud and confident that each and every one of these learners will make positive contributions to society and continue to bring joy and nachas to their families, the school and the Jewish community."

Highest achiever at the school was, Yaakov Granik (seven distinctions), obtaining 79 per cent for his eighth subject, which is likely to be raised to an A on re-marking.

"Thanks and congratulations go to the teachers who have cultivated and educated these boys and girls throughout their school career. They have extended themselves far beyond the call of duty, caring to bring out the best in each learner in and out of the classroom," Rabbi Hazdan said.

Geoff Cohen, director of education at Herzlia Schools in Cape Town, expressed his pride in the matric class of 2011. Herzlia was placed fourth of all schools in the Western Cape. He said the 2011 matrics "have risen to the occasion with diligence, confidence and enthusiasm. Mazeltov to all of them and to their parents. Mazaltov also to Mrs Marianne Marks and the teaching staff of the High School."

The class of 112 boasted a 100 per cent pass rate. There were 108 admissions to higher education - 98,2 per cent received matric exemptions. There were 331 distinctions. In 17 out of 22 subjects offered, the 2011 year group achieved an average of 70 per cent or more.

Two candidates achieved 9 out of 9 distinctions; one achieved 8 out of 9; two achieved 8 out of 8; two achieved 7 out of 8; one achieved 7 out of 7; 12 achieved 6 distinctions and 12

5 distinctions.

The Yeshiva College learners achieved remarkable success in the 2011 matric exams. A total of 43 wrote matric and between them they achieved 132 distinctions - an incredible average of 3,07 distinctions per candidate.

Furthermore, 42 per cent of all exams written achieved a distinction and 53 per cent of all learners achieved three or more distinctions. English is one of the key matric subjects which is afforded an extra two points for university application. No less than 65 per cent achieved an A in English. Hebrew reflects one of the core values of Yeshiva College; 77 per cent of the

learners achieved a distinction.

These results reflect the fact that both the student body and the staff applied themselves to the preparations for the final exams with commitment, professionalism and total dedication.

"We are enormously proud of the learners and thankful to the staff who are always willing to go way beyond the bounds of their professional responsibility in order to ensure that each learner is given the opportunity to achieve the best possible result," said Principal Denese Bloch.

"We would like to wish all those who were

ת"ד



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR KING DAVID MATRICULANTS OF 2011!



**221  
LEARNERS  
100%  
PASS RATE!  
95% UNIVERSITY  
EXEMPTION FOR DEGREE  
STUDY**

### KD schools maintain reputation of excellence

It is frequently remarked that history repeats itself and King David High School Linksfield and King David High School Victory Park have once again proved the truth of this adage in their magnificent matriculation results in the IEB system.

Of course, it is important not to take such excellence for granted and to remember that such standards are not achieved simply because it is traditional. They are the result of the magnificent teamwork of teachers and learners over a number of years, and we pay tribute to the outstanding efforts of our dedicated teaching staff, to the hard work of our learners and to our loyal parents for endowing the right combination of genes.

Such a tripartite combination of forces must inevitably produce excellence. The statistics of the results make staggering reading: 221 learners wrote the examinations, and a total of 562 distinctions were obtained with 95 percent achieving university degree exemption. Four King David learners were placed among the IEB "Outstanding" Top 59 which requires such learners to be in the top 5% in 6 subjects. 3 learners were placed among the "commendable" top 61 which requires such learners to be in the top 5% in 5 subjects. 35 learners achieved the proverbial "full house".

Of equal importance is the fact that many of those originally assessed as learning-disadvantaged, proved the sceptics wrong by achieving matriculation passes. The 100% pass rate thus included many learners who achieved diploma entrances allowing them to continue their studies at both university and technical institutions of higher learning. We are very proud of the combined class average being over 70%.

These magnificent matric results, the culmination of a 12-year learning process, might suggest that our learners are ruthlessly competitive and that academic achievement is the only measure of success. Our schools have recorded outstanding results in every facet of school life across a broad spectrum of sporting and cultural activities and are highly respected for their achievements in these areas.

Not to be overlooked is the very commendable social awareness programmes of all the King David schools and their considerable efforts to assist their disadvantaged counterparts.

We are justifiably proud of our achievements in 2011 and look forward to the challenges of 2012. We are sure that the tradition of excellence, the results of the remarkable spirit of co-operation between learners and teachers, will once again prove the wisdom of the verse in Tehillim: "From all my teachers I have gained understanding."



**4 LEARNERS IN  
IEB "OUTSTANDING LIST" Top 5% in 6 Subjects**

**3 LEARNERS IN  
IEB "COMMENDABLE LIST" Top 5% in 5 Subjects**

**562 DISTINCTIONS**

6 Learners with 9 distinctions  
6 Learners with 8 distinctions  
9 Learners with 7 distinctions  
14 Learners with 6 distinctions  
9 Learners with 5 distinctions  
16 Learners with 4 distinctions  
25 Learners with 3 distinctions

**A class average  
of over  
70%**



**King David Schools' Foundation**  
Supporting Educational Excellence  
for Tomorrow's Leaders

To assist those learners who require financial assistance to benefit from an education of excellence, please make a contribution to:

King David Schools' Foundation  
Standard Bank Ellis Park  
Acc no: 002101076  
Branch code: 004605  
Reference: Help Learners  
or donate online at: [www.kdsf.org](http://www.kdsf.org)



South African Board of Jewish Education  
ועד הוראה חינוכי ביהדות אפריקה  
Member of the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa

 King David Schools  KD Schools

## TOP RESULTS 2011

## King David Linksfield IEB

NINE DISTINCTIONS:



**Ariel Polakow.** Ap Maths, Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, IT, LO, Maths, Maths Paper3, Physical Science

NINE DISTINCTIONS:



**Natalie Shemesh.** Ap Maths, Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, LO, Life Science, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

NINE DISTINCTIONS:



**Nicole Smith.** Accountancy, Ap Maths, Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:



**Jonathon Ferrer.** Accountancy, Ap Maths, Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, LO, Maths, Physical Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:



**Benjamin Goldberg.** Ap Maths, English, Hebrew, LO, Life Science, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:



**Michael Levin.** Accountancy, Ap Maths, English, History, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:



**Leon Richman.** Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, History, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:



**Lior Sinai.** Accountancy, Ap Maths, English, History, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:



**Hillel Tradonsky.** Accountancy, Afrikaans, English, History, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:



**Kate Berkenfeld.** Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, History, LO, Maths, Maths P3

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:



**Jason Brener.** Accountancy, English, LO, Life Science, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:



**David Cohen.** Accountancy, English, Geography, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:



**Amy Samson.** Drama, English, LO, Life Science, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:



**Ashleigh Forman.** Accountancy, English, Geography, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:



**Ryan Frame.** Accountancy, English, History, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:



**Benjamin Kollenberg.** English, History, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science, Visual Arts

## Mazeltov to the King David, Linksfield

family: pupils, staff and parents

### Another Tour de Force: Academic, Cultural & Sporting

Number of candidates who wrote: 147

Pass rate: 100%

Number of university exemptions: 143

Total number of distinctions: 400

Percentage of distinctions per pupil: 2.7

Percentage of pupils who achieved one or more distinctions: 76%

5th Year of improvement on all statistics including Total Aggregate

Unbeaten U14, U15, U16 Netball teams

Unbeaten XV Rugby team - winners of Kudu League

Unbeaten Table Tennis teams - Junior & Senior 4 years running

4 Members in Prestige Athletics team

3 members in SA Schools Debating team

Matrics, B'hatzlacha  
for the road ahead

A school of distinction, nurturing menschen





# TOP RESULTS 2011

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:



**Jonathan Sinai.** Accountancy, English, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science, AP English

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Stacy Barkunsky.** Accountancy, LO, Life Science, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Farra Green.** Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, LO, Life Science, Maths

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Ricky Kadish.** Accountancy, Hebrew, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Tanna Michel.** Consumer Studies, LO, Life Science, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Danielle Pantano-witz.** Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, LO, Maths, Physical Science

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Danielle Rachman.** Hebrew, LO, Life Science, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Yarin Weltzman.** English, Hebrew, LO, Life Science, Maths, Visual Arts

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Jonathan Berkowitz.** Business Studies, English, Geography, LO, Maths Literacy

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Nicholas Bernstein.** Accountancy, Business Studies, English, LO, Maths

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Joshua Clacher.** Geography, LO, Life Science, Maths, Physical Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Gemma Hurwitz.** Hebrew, LO, Life Science, Maths, Physical Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Adam Kowal.** Accountancy, Business Studies, History, LO, Maths

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Joshua Miltz.** IT, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Nathan Sklair.** English, Hebrew, IT, LO, Maths

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Adam Zar.** Accountancy, LO, Maths, Maths P3, Physical Science

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Jay Baum.** Business Studies, Consumer Studies, LO, Maths Literacy

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Ryan Berrel.** English, LO, Maths, Maths P3

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Natasha Brainin.** Drama, English, History, LO

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Ilan Carno.** Business Studies, English, History, LO

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Kim Gohari.** Consumer Studies, English, Hebrew, LO

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Sasha Goldstein.** Drama, English, LO, Maths Literacy

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Rebecca Gore.** English, Hebrew, History, LO

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Kim Kantor.** English, LO, Maths, Maths P3

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Lorine Rosenberg.** English, Hebrew, LO, Maths P3

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:

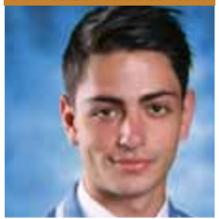


**Dean Shmeizer.** Accountancy, Business Studies, LO, Maths

THREE DISTINCTIONS:

- Ilan Aronstam.** History, LO, Maths
- Greg Cook.** Business Studies, Geography, Maths Literacy
- Chelsey Dribbin.** Drama, LO, Maths Literacy
- Gina Fainman.** English, Hebrew, LO
- Shani Feller.** Hebrew, LO, Maths
- Kira Genende.** Business Studies, LO, Maths Literacy
- Bianca Holthuis.** LO, Maths, Maths P3
- Alex Isakow.** Drama, LO, Maths Literacy
- Adam Israelsohn.** Business Studies, History, LO
- Talia Nasatyr.** English, LO, Maths Literacy
- Ashleigh Nestadt.** Accountancy, LO, Visual Arts
- Ryan Nestadt.** LO, Maths, Business Studies
- Craig Portnoy.** Business Studies, LO, Maths
- Ryan Ritz.** Business Studies, LO, Maths Literacy
- Adam Ross.** Accountancy, Hebrew, LO
- Evan Rubin.** IT, Maths, Maths P3
- Alexa Seligman.** Drama, English, LO
- Greg Sher.** Geography, LO, Maths
- Dylan Silver.** Drama, Geography, LO
- Aron Sutner.** English, LO, Maths

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



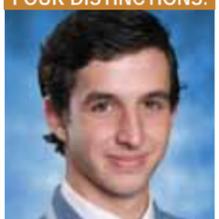
**Jaime Trope.** English, LO, Maths Literacy, Visual Arts

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Ryan Sonik.** Accountancy, Business Studies, English, LO

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Saul Nossel.** Drama, English, LO, Music

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:



**Ben Sapo:** English, Afrikaans, Hebrew, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Accounting, Physics, Mathematics Paper 3.

## Benjy - bright as a pin, but no nerd

ALISON GOLDBERG  
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER



WITH 12 DISTINCTIONS in the 2011 matric examination, Benjy Levin, a former Crawford Sandton learner, boasts the highest number of distinctions in the country. He recalled at his home near Crawford, that half-way through his matric year, when he looked at the number of learners with 11 distinctions on the honours board at school, he decided he wanted to be the first to achieve 12 and took up Business Studies, catching up fairly quickly. With that many subjects, though, emphasis had to be on understanding the subjects, as opposed to learning parrot-fashion - for which there was no time.

The first question for learners with seven distinctions in grade 11 - Benjy got 11 in grade 11 - is where he found the time for 12. "It is about managing your time properly; not wasting time which is easy to do; balancing it with a social life; splitting up the work, juggling and scheduling; setting goals. I learnt 70 per cent of my work in class, hated homework, so I did it during lessons. 'I'm a 'day-before' learner, working best under pressure."

After a typical eight hour day at school, Benjy would come home, make lunch for himself - his mother works fulltime as a pharmacist in Benmore - relax until 18:00 and work for another three hours, interspersed with hour-long breaks. The "off times" he would use to either play strategy games on a computer he built himself three years ago, or watching programmes like Dexter, Doctor Who or Supernatural - "series that have witty and intricate plots that arc over multiple seasons". Or reading: currently George R R Martin's A Clash of Kings, which followed Martin's A Game of Thrones.

His favourite subject is maths - achieving 98 per cent and in the nineties for maths paper 3 and advanced mathematics. He scored the same mark in

physical science.

He wants to study actuarial science, like Discovery's CEO Adrian Gore, and has been accepted at the University of Cape Town. But he would ideally like to study at an Ivy League university in the US, where in addition to core courses in the subject, he can do a minor in Mandarin and other "random" subjects that interest him.

Benjy has had interviews with Ivy League alumni and did not have much of a holiday in December in Cape Town or Plett, writing instead in his hotel room a myriad motivations for each application. He had to do applications while writing his matric exams too. He's applying for financial aid: the cost of these universities is around US\$55 000 per year.

An only child of divorced parents, Benjy, contrary to some reports on radio, has many friends. He was off to a club called Manhattan at the time of the interview. Until a couple of years ago, he played tennis on the school team, was on Crawford's public speaking team and found time even in his matric year to design and teach a maths literacy course for disadvantaged young black adults.

He hopes to return from his studies in the US with something he can use to advance South Africa.

# Eden College Durban NSC

## TOP RESULTS 2011

## Education in SA in dire straits - Jansen

## STAFF REPORTER

THE EDUCATION system in South Africa, with its low academic standards, is in serious trouble and does not augur well for the future of the country.

So said Professor Jonathan Jansen, vice chancellor of the University of the Free State, addressing the Union of Jewish Women towards the end of last year.

The very low academic standards set by government was "scary" and would lead to

a failure in the economy, democracy and human decency, he said. The school system only worked for one quarter of pupils - those in private schools - the rest was chaos.

The teachers, he said, had reached the height of callousness with their constant decisions to go on strike.

"Government has lowered the bar in education and made it very easy to pass grade 12. Basically what all learners have to do is just show up and they will be passed. The biggest problem is that not much is expected from

learners and it is not easy to raise expectations," he said.

If pupils were told that they could not achieve, they would not do so.

The message Jansen put out to his 33 000 students when he took over at UFS, is that they must be decent, honourable, and respectful, irrespective of what they look like.

"But this is not the message which is coming from politicians; in fact, the opposite is happening. (ANCYL suspended leader) Julius Malema is an example. He is a bad product of

the system, not being able to pass woodwork. But he had no father to look up to," Jansen said.

Jansen grew up on the Cape Flats where his parents taught their children to always be decent, honourable and to be themselves. The Hebrew influence in his life was strong. His father's name was Abraham and, coincidentally his mother's was Sara. He was brought up with good basic values in work and family life.

"My parents experienced great loss and pain during apartheid but taught us that, despite this, we could all still be decent human beings," he said.

Jansen says when he took over at Free State University, the first thing he told his students was that they were expected to attend classes and lectures. "This shocked them - they were used to not going to class and just waiting for notes to be handed out.

"I got a letter from the Black Law Students' Association, which was full of grammatical and spelling errors, asking why they had to attend classes. I told them in no uncertain terms that if they wanted to study by correspondence, they should go to Unisa. They now attend classes and we are monitoring their attendance on a daily basis. The marks went up overnight," he said.

Jansen says the maths literacy subject is a "crime". Any child can pass maths if he or she is taught well.

He cites an example of a disadvantaged school in KwaZulu-Natal, where dedicated teachers taught their pupils before and after school hours and where there was a 100 per cent pass rate in maths.

"It is not about having resources - it is about proper teaching and dedication of teachers and learners," he stressed.

Pupils had to be taught that they were not dumb and that they could do it. If they had a mindset which said they could not do maths, they would not be able to do so, he said.

"In this country non-performance has become a virtue, as has ignorance. There is little respect for the education system, as has been seen with the vandalising of educational institutions."

Another lesson which has to be taught to students is how to be decent to themselves and to other humans. Jansen said this was important when he took over at UFS after the Reitz incident in which cleaners were humiliated by some Afrikaans students.

"Today, we have taught our students the value of respect. At one rugby match we got photos of a black female student running onto the field and hugging a victorious team. This picture paints a thousand words about the transformation at the university. We worked hard at brining students together as human beings," he said.

Jansen says he constantly gets calls from friends, parents and outsiders expressing appreciation at the transformation of the university.

"Our work must be deepened and we must learn to live and love together," he emphasised.

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• Contact Boston on (011) 883-0933, e-mail [evy@boston.co.za](mailto:evy@boston.co.za), visit [www.boston.co.za](http://www.boston.co.za), or catch up with Boston students on Facebook.

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# TOP RESULTS 2011

## Yeshiva College IEB

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:



**Shira Amar.** English, Afrikaans, Hebrew, LO, Life Science, Maths, Maths paper 3, Physical Science

EIGHT DISTINCTIONS:



**Zara Sidney.** Afrikaans, Drama, English, Hebrew, LO, Maths, Maths paper 3, Physical Science

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:



**Shira Bartkunsky.** Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, LO, Life Science, Maths, Maths 3

SEVEN DISTINCTIONS:



**Shira Gerson.** Afrikaans, English, IT, LO, Life Science, Maths, Maths 3

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Kayla Helfer.** Drama, English, Hebrew, LO, Maths, Maths paper 3

SIX DISTINCTIONS:



**Naomi Shear.** Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, LO, Life Science, Maths

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Shani Gordon.** English, Hebrew, LO, Maths, Maths paper 3

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Sarah Levin.** English, Hebrew, History, LO, Life Science

FIVE DISTINCTIONS:



**Dani Winer.** Drama, English, IT, LO, Maths

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Karli Anavi.** English, IT, LO, Maths

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Traci Bloch.** English, LO, Life Science, Art

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Avigal Cutler.** Afrikaans, English, LO, Life Science

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Leah Heilbrunn.** Afrikaans, English, Hebrew, LO

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Daniella Hovsha.** Drama, English, History, LO

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Yehudit Leibovitz.** Bus Studies, English, LO, Life Science

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Rafi Menachemson.** Accounts, English, Hebrew, LO

FOUR DISTINCTIONS:



**Jethro Polliack.** English, History, LO, Life Science

THREE DISTINCTIONS:

**Meagan Atcheson.** English, LO, Life Science  
**Daniella Cohen.** English, Hebrew, LO  
**Zackary Feldman.** English, Hebrew, LO  
**Ryan Kruger.** English, LO, Life Science  
**Chen Smadja.** English, Hebrew, LO  
**Aron Soffer.** English, Hebrew, LO

# 43 LEARNERS 132 DISTINCTIONS

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**42%** of all exams written achieved a distinction  
**53%** of learners achieved 3 or more distinctions  
**100%** matric pass rate (I.E.B)  
**TOP ACHIEVERS:**  
 2x8 distinctions, 2x7, 2x6, 3x5, 8x4

### OUR STUDENTS ARE OUR BEST RESULTS

*Behatzlacha for your future!*




Rabbi Dovid Hazdan (centre) dancing with soldiers of the IDF at their base outside Jerusalem. On the extreme left is Shaun Zagnoev, a parent at the Torah Academy, and standing next to Rabbi Hazdan (in civilian clothes) is Ariel Nachum, who co-ordinated branches of LIBI in a number of countries.

## Cementing bonds between religious leaders and IDF

SUZANNE BELLING  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHNEOR SCHIFF

RABBI DOVID Hazdan, spiritual leader of the Great Park Synagogue and dean of The Torah Academy, returned recently to Johannesburg from Israel after representing LIBI South Africa (Friends of the Israel Defence Forces) - an organisation dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of soldiers in the IDF.

"We are highlighting the potential to develop trust and a productive working relationship between religious leaders and the IDF," he told Jewish Report. "It is so important to establish warm bonds of communication and co-operation between the Diaspora and Israel and among various sectors of the Jewish community, particularly at a time when one is feeling the pain of division and intolerance."

Rabbi Hazdan met with Minister of Finance Yuval Shteinitz and Minister of Information and Diaspora Yuli Edelstein, as well as high-ranking representatives of the IDF.

Discussions with Lieutenant-Colonel Raanan Simchi and Asher Goldshlager, who heads LIBI and reports directly to the prime minister, resulted in the establishment of LIBI South Africa which will work to assist with specific projects in the IDF such as education, spiritual programmes, recreation,

assisting the "lone soldier", and improving the quality of life of the soldiers.

The partnership began with the celebration of the barmitzvah of Jonathan Werner which was celebrated at the Kotel in July last year. His parents, Paul (honorary treasurer of Great Park) and Lisa decided to host 200 soldiers at the reception which was held in an army base through the assistance of Ariel Nachum.

"The dancing and celebration was indescribable and unforgettable and left a huge impact on the chayalim (soldiers) as well as on the Werner family. The Werner family together with other families from Johannesburg and Pretoria, made a meaningful contribution to the IDF which procured thousands of winter jackets for the soldiers and will result in the establishment of a magnificent gym in an army base on the outskirts of Jerusalem," said Rabbi Hazdan.

The bridgehead of co-operation is now being extended into the establishment of a South African office for LIBI. Lieutenant-Colonel Raanan Simchi will visit the South African Jewish community in the near future in this regard.

• For further information regarding LIBI visit [www.libi-fund.org.il](http://www.libi-fund.org.il) or contact Rabbi Hazdan at the Great Park office (011) 728-8152 or at The Torah Academy on (011) 640-7561.



Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, spiritual leader of the Great Park Synagogue and dean of The Torah Academy, lighting a Chanukah candle on his recent visit to Israel where he represented LIBI South Africa (Friends of the Israel Defence Forces). On the extreme left is Yossi Kochavi, deputy mayor of Kiryat Ono, and on the right are Finance Minister Yuval Shteinitz and Minister of Information and Diaspora Yuli Edelstein.

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### ISRAELI HACKERS BRING DOWN ARAB WEBSITES

JERUSALEM - Israeli hackers said they brought down the websites of the Saudi Stock Exchange and the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange.

The hackers, who call themselves IDF-Team, said in a post on the PasteBin website that Tuesday's attacks were in retaliation for the cyber attack the previous day on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and El Al website, adding: "This is only the beginning."

The Israeli hackers also threatened to paralyse websites for up to a month if attacks on Israeli sites continue.

Saudi hackers used the PasteBin website last week to publish the credit card infor-

mation of thousands of Israelis.

Also on Tuesday, the pro-Israel hacker Hannibal published a list of e-mail addresses and Facebook passwords for some 30 000 users from Arab countries, Haaretz reported. He also claims to have information to allow access to 10 million Iranian and Saudi bank accounts.

Meanwhile, a different group of Israeli hackers posted the details of e-mail accounts belonging to dozens of Saudi medical students.

The Saudi hacker 0xOmar said he would continue to attack Israeli websites until Israeli officials asked for forgiveness from the people of Gaza for "genocide". (JTA)

## BUILDING SOUTH AFRICA

People doing remarkable things



Basil Kransdorff receiving an Ashoka fellow award from Ashoka director, Valeria Merino, in Kenya. (PHOTO SUPPLIED)

## Basil Kransdorff - is a true change-maker par excellence

ALISON GOLDBERG

FOR MOST of his working life, industrial chemist Basil Kransdorff has been at the cutting-edge of new processes. He is father of the revolutionary, micronutrient-fortified e'Pap porridge, which earned him an Ashoka social entrepreneur award in April last year.

This drive for social change, he comments, is a feature of Ashoka's 3 000 Ashoka fellows around the world, half of whom have been responsible for policy changes in their home countries. The Washington-based NGO describes its fellows as being the "one in 10 million" real change-makers in society.

Kransdorff has a number of other credits to his name. Foremost, in 2000, as a result of his "fight for pension fund justice" in the Adjudicators Court (Kransdorff vs Sentrachem), legislation was implemented to force pension funds to distribute "members reserves" assigned as "surpluses" back to employees.

After leaving his former employer Sentrachem, he applied his specialist skills to the mining industry with technologies for mine dump rehabilitation, backfill and slimes dam settlement.

"The development of e'Pap arose curiously," he says. "It was at the start of the Aids pandemic in 2000. CARE (Community Aids Response) founder Jenny Marcus, for whom my wife Rose was a volunteer, successfully raised donations from former South African anti-apartheid legal activist-turned UK insurance businessman Joel Joffe, and the Elton John Foundation.

"Jenny asked me 'to apply some science' to food packs for HIV/Aids patients queuing outside the hospitals. Most had lost their jobs and been alienated by their families.

"As a social responsibility project, we accessed the best brains in the world on food fortification. We understood that nutrient form, nutrient interactions and bioavailability (absorption by the body) to achieve nutrient repleteness, were key."

Kransdorff remembers with special gratitude the contribution of the late Professor Oscar Penado of the Guatemalan Institute of Biochemistry for sharing his understanding of nutrition.

"In the early stages of the HIV pandemic anti-retrovirals were not yet available, so doctors advised their patients to 'eat a well-balanced diet', something which was unaffordable to most.

"Most were advised to return to their ancestral homes to die so that the transport costs would not be a burden on their families. Because most people were succumbing to opportunistic diseases, we concluded, nutrient status was important."

The e'Pap formulation approach was designed to deliver many of the important micronutrients found in a healthy, well-bal-

anced diet in an affordable single meal portion.

The objective: address the "hidden hunger" and achieve nutrient repleteness. Today the price of e'Pap varies between R1 and R2 per meal portion, depending on the area and mechanism to market.

Prices are kept at the low end for outreach organisations and NGOs working in the poorest communities. In South Africa, the United Sisterhood is using the product in its community outreach programmes, as is Sandringham Gardens Medical Centre and Our Parents Home.

e'Pap, is a pre-cooked, whole-grain maize, fortified with whole grain soya and 28 minerals and vitamins in a form chosen for its ready absorption. Flavour options and line extensions include e'Soup, e'Drink and e'Spread. e'Pap is gluten and lactose free and carries a Beth Din hechsher.

It is best eaten with cold or hot (but not boiling) water, milk, or maas, fermented milk.

Kransdorff and his family eat it every day for breakfast; it can be made into a "nutrition smoothy" or into bread, crumpets and muffins.

"In the past 12 years we have distributed over 120 million food portions to 15 African countries. The product is used in different programmes which include TB/HIV patients early child development, old age, corporate wellness, and sport. We have just sent 110 tons to Kenya for Somali refugees."

In response to international demand for e'Pap, Kransdorff is now creating the technology to manufacture it in countries that have different taste preferences.

Gaining support from the medical fraternity has been difficult since the "waters were muddied" by the dysfunctional nutrition debate around pronouncements by late Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang.

"In our view, she could have been lauded for having the guts to raise the nutrition agenda, but the dunce for defining it as only 'garlic and beetroot'. The media frenzy around the Minister's pronouncements on nutrition polarised the medical and nutrition industries. It resulted in doctors refusing to engage and investigate effective nutrition as a support tool for fear of giving Tshabalala-Msimang any credence.

Attitudes, however, are changing, with recognition at an international level of the importance of nutrient repleteness as part of a holistic medical treatment versus a drug-only approach for malnourished people.

Kransdorff, ever the change-maker, has his eye on the whole food chain. It is acknowledged that over the past 40 years, up to 75 per cent of nutrients have been lost in many vegetables and fruits. The fault lies with modern agriculture approaches and food processing that is focused only on yield/taste and ignores the nutrient content of food.

## LETTERS

The Editor, Suite 175, Postnet X10039, Randburg, 2125 email: [carro@global.co.za](mailto:carro@global.co.za)

## PESLA LIS MAY BE OLDEST SA HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

IN YOUR edition of June 9, 2006, there is an article written by David Saks, headlined "SA's oldest Holocaust survivor passes on". It is an inspiring article about a clearly wonderful woman, but she is not the oldest survivor.

My mother, Pesla Lis, turned 96 on December 5, 2011. Until July last year, she lived in her own flat and regularly went to the Marais Road Shul in Sea Point, Cape Town. Due to her increased lack of mobility, she was moved to a facility in Wynberg six months ago.

Although, sadly, her memory has largely failed, she is still able to talk about her child-

hood in Poland and about her experiences growing up. She is featured in the Holocaust Museum in Cape Town.

It was distressing to see her presence wiped away in your article. I am sure that there are other survivors, too, who had similar reactions. Just in Sea Point, I know of others - Miriam Lichtenstein and Ella Blumenthal, for starters. To my knowledge, they are both still alert, alive and active.

**Rena Lis**  
New York

## PROGRESSIVES NEGLECTED ON PAGES OF JEWISH REPORT

I FULLY agree with what Saul Schlesinger had to write. I think Samuel Kornblum is out of line. He wants proof, well here we have it. We all know that there is not a Progressive on your Board and that is because the Chief Rabbi will not tolerate it.

Another proof is that we hear not a word of what is going on in the Progressive shuls. In Milnerton a new Progressive shul was built - no pictures of this beautiful shul, nor an article.

We do not read about the money that is

given to various organisations. We do not read about the late Rabbi Dr David Sherman z"l who led his congregation to anti-apartheid fame. He was a great leader.

We need to read more about the Progressive Movement in South Africa. We are all over the country. We only do good things.

Don't forget we are Jews.

**Cedric Braudo**  
Green Point, Cape Town

## SAUL SCHLESINGER SHOULD HEED QUOTE ON SCRIPTURES

THE LETTER by Saul Schlesinger which appeared in the SAJR (December 9) refers.

His letter remind me of a quote by a good friend of mine: "When my neighbour quoteth the scriptures I counteth my sheep", when responding to holier than thou persons who repeatedly quote sources (scriptures, religion or others) to support

their arguments.

Without debating the merits of Schlesinger's viewpoints (sufficient correspondents have been published) the above quote immediately enters my thoughts.

**Myron Robinson**  
East London

## FOR THE RECORD

## MILLER IS CHAIRMAN AND NOT FREEDMAN

IN OUR report in the paper of December 2, 2011, "GRJA gives Jews a sense of community" it is stated that Marc Freedman is the chair-

man of the UHI of Oudtshoorn. This is incorrect; Clifford Miller has been the chairman for the last seven years. We regret the error.

## COMMUNITY COLUMNS



## ABOVE BOARD

Mary Kluk,  
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

THE START of the secular new year is a time of new beginnings and in particular for our school leavers now taking their first steps in forging their own life's pathways as independent adults. Once again, all our Jewish day schools produced consistently outstanding results, and Jewish candidates figured prominently among the country's top achievers.

I congratulate all concerned, and wish all matriculants every success in their future endeavours. For many, this involves further study, whether at university, Technicon or some other institution. With the university term about to start, the SA Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) is hard at work preparing for orientation week, where it is hoped that as many Jewish students as possible will sign up as members.

SAUJS provides a crucial bridge between Jewish school and home life and the senior Jewish establishment. It creates forums where students can continue to build on their Jewish identity while at the same time preparing them for future leadership roles within the community.

The SAJBD works closely with SAUJS, helping to address problems of anti-Semitism or anti-Zionism on campus, resolving problems of examinations being scheduled on Yomtov, arranging on-campus events or in other areas.

I strongly urge Jewish students to join SAUJS and involve themselves in its multi-faceted activities. It is through the

## A time of new beginnings

continued commitment and enthusiasm of our youth that our community's future success will be assured.

\*\*\*

For Durban Jewry, an exciting new chapter has commenced with the opening of a Jewish day school in Umhlanga. The school caters for pre-school through to grade five and will offer the best of both Kodesh and secular education.

Umhlanga now also has a Kollel, whose initial five families will no doubt be very much involved in the school and in the activities of the broader community. It has been a real privilege for me to have been involved in this whole initiative, one that marks a resounding vote of confidence by the Durban community in the future.

\*\*\*

Just as we look to imbue our youth with a knowledge of and commitment to their Jewish heritage, so can we also look back on what past Jewish leaders have achieved. This year, as well as being the 100th anniversary of the African National Congress, also marks the centenary of the united SA Jewish Board of Deputies.

It was in August 1912 that the various provincial branches of the Board came together to form a national body, which ever since has served as the umbrella representative body for the entire Jewish community. We are currently considering various ways in which we can best celebrate this important milestone, both for our organisation and for those whom we represent.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

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**Johannesburg Art Gallery, Joubert Park:**  
"A Fragile Archive", work by pioneer painters Gladys Mgudlandlu and Valerie Desmore, curated by Nontobeko Ntombela, January 29 - April 8, (011) 725-3130.

**Linder Auditorium, Parktown:** The 4th Johannesburg International Mozart Festival, directed by Florian Uhlig, at this and related venues, January 27 - February 19. See <http://www.join-mozart-festival.org/> for details, (011) 447-9264.

**Market Theatre, Newtown:** In the Laager, "Yellow Man" with Mwenya Kabwe and David Johnson until February 5; in the Main Theatre, Anthony Akerman's "Somewhere on the Border" until February 12; in the Barney Simon, "Woza Albert", with Mncedisi Shabangu and Hamilton Dlamini, directed by Prince Lamla - written by Barney Simon, Percy Mtwa and Mbongeni Ngema (1981), until February 5, (011) 832-1641.

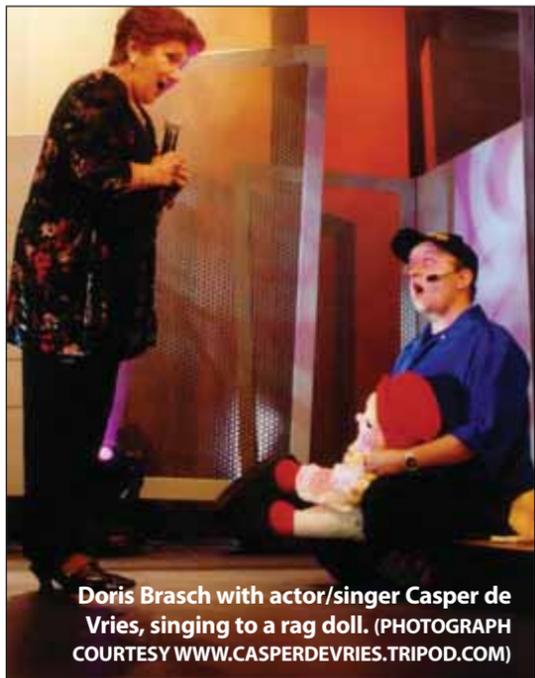
**Maynardville Theatre, Cape Town:** Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors", directed by Matthew Wild, until February 18, (021) 421-7595.

Montecasino, Fourways: In the Pieter Toerien Theatre, Agatha Christie's whodunnit, "The Mousetrap" directed by Alan Swerdlow, until February 26, (011) 511-1988.

**Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton:** "Body Language", with Gaëtan Schmidt until February 4, (011) 883-8606.

**Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town:** "The Unspoken" by Nandipha Mntambo and "Parasomnia" by Viviane Sassen, until February 25, (021) 462-1500.

**UJ Art Gallery, Auckland Park:** Diane Victor's "Ashes to Ashes and Smoke to Dust", until January 25, (011) 559-2099.



Doris Brasch with actor/singer Casper de Vries, singing to a rag doll. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.CASPERDEVRIES.TRIPOD.COM)

ROBYN SASSEN

WELL-LOVED South African lyrical soprano, Doris Brasch, known for her fresh interpretations of children's songs in English and Afrikaans, lieder recitals and duets with baritone Bob Borowsky, died on January 12 at the age of 82.

Born in the farm village of Rysmierbult, near Potchefstroom, she was bilingual from the get-go, and warmly embraced by the small Jewish community there. As a tot she became known as the "Shirley Temple" of the district. As she grew, her name became synonymous with popular

Afrikaans music.

She enjoyed her first professional break at the age of 27, when she was a soloist with the London Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Jascha Horenstein in Mahler's Second Symphony.

Brasch's first collaboration with Bob Borowsky - who now lives in Australia - in the 1950s, was the start of 22 years of duets earning standing ovations. It was also their first meeting, Borowsky recalls: "We did the duet from I Pagliacci and some others. We felt our voices blended well and we started doing some of the lighter stuff - Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddie - translated into Afrikaans. We pioneered the whole area and struck our first record in 1960."

But it is for her work with young people that she will always be remembered - songs like Pollywaggle, Die Lappop and Die Dapper Muis, are the ones for which she earned the fond nickname, Geliefde Doortjie, from her Afrikaans audiences.

Born on September 19, 1929, she was schooled in Newcastle's convent, St Dominic's where she got her first taste of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. When she was 14, her family moved to Johannesburg, and she began formal opera training, under Sophie Gimkewitz and later Lili Lehmann.

"Sophie enabled me to fall in love with the German lieder of Schubert, Wolf, Schumann,

Mahler and Strauss, which always remained an important part of my repertoire," she told the Afrikaans press in 2004.

Radio was the medium that earned Brasch her status to a broad audience; her first audition was with the SAUK, at the age of 18. She undertook frequent tours and appeared under the mantle of the national arts councils, with the national symphony orchestras as well as many commercial recordings of conventional classics and children's songs in English and Afrikaans, many composed by children's story writer Betty Misheiker.

"Afrikaans music lovers made me who and what I am," this Jewish girl from the North West commented. "We had a great love affair."

Operatic roles she reprised include Adele in Strauss' Die Fledermaus, Musetta in Puccini's La Bohème, Papagena in Mozart's Magic Flute and the witch in Engelberg Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel.

"Every evening I thank G-d for blessing me with a voice with which I was able to live all my dreams," she said.

Brasch retired from operatic work at 50. A lover of tennis and water aerobics, she was married to Nathan Cooperman for 55 years, until his death in 2005. She leaves two children, Janine and Michael, and seven grandchildren.

## Diversity of styles at Mozart Festival

PAUL BOEKKOOI

"QUASI IMPROVISANDO" is the overarching theme of this year's edition of the Johannesburg International Mozart Festival (JIMF). There is quite a change of direction which is reflected in the theme: jazz will feature quite strongly.

The festival runs for three and a half weeks, from January 27, it will present an enormous diversity in musical styles, ranging from symphony concerts to choral concerts and many top-class chamber music programmes by a well-selected range of overseas and local musicians.

As always, Richard Cock, the founder of this festival, will conduct his own Johannesburg Festival Orchestra (JFO) as well as the immensely popular chamber choir, the Chanticleer Singers.

Florian Uhlig, the German pianist, is once again the artistic director of the festival. The composer in residence for 2012 is a pianist as well: our own Paul Hamner who will perform his latest works and join jazz musos for concerts on February 2 and 3 in The Bioscope at Arts on Main.

Among the greatest overseas drawcards, is Kristjan Järvi, of the internationally known Järvi family who will conduct the JFO in the final concert of the festival, on February 19 in the Linder Auditorium.

The Brazilian pianist Cristina Ortiz, who last visited us in

the 1970s, will perform on February 9 and 10 in the UJ Arts Centre in respectively a solo concert as well as an ensemble one with members of the JFO.

The German-Japanese violinist Mirijam Contzen will play chamber music with Uhlig on piano and the Stellenbosch-based 'cellist, Peter Martens, on February 4.

The following evening, the winner of this year's Unisa International Piano Competition will give a recital in the same venue, while on February 15, Uhlig will perform there with flautist Massimo Mercelli and violinist Misha Simonyan.

On January 29, Cock, soloists, the JFO and the Chanticleer Singers will present Mozart's unique arrangement of Handel's Messiah in the Linder, while two days later the conductor and his choir will present a jazz-inspired concert with saxophonist Shannon Mowday.

The festival features a new venue in Parktown: Villa Arcadia. On St Valentine's Day Rosemary Nalden conducts her Buskaid Soweto String Project there; Maurice Steger (recorder) and James Grace (guitar) perform there two days later.

Two jazz highlights are the opening concert on January 27 in the UJ Arts Centre, featuring the Quattro Fusion ensemble with Melanie Scholtz (voice). She will also sing in the final jazz concert of the festival, on February 13 at Baseline.

For more details, visit [www.richardck.co.za](http://www.richardck.co.za) and click on the JIMF link, or call (011) 447 9264.



Left: Pianist Florian Uhlig, artistic director of the Johannesburg International Mozart Festival. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.BACHCANTATAS.COM)



(PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WULFSOHN, TURPIN FAMILY ARCHIVES)

## World is so much poorer without Gisèle's pictures

ROBYN SASSEN

ON DECEMBER 27, critically renowned portrait photographer and Aids-awareness advocate, Gisèle Wulfsohn died. A remembrance picnic will be held in her honour on January 28, at the Emmarentia Rose Garden, from 13:00. Friends and associates are intimidated to read poems, say words, or just share the day together.

Born in 1957, Wulfsohn went to school in Rustenburg. She studied graphics at the then Johannesburg College of Art; her photo-journalistic skills were self-taught. She was a staffer for several national publications before going freelance in 1987, when she joined Afrapix, which focused on documenting the anti-apartheid struggle.

requires three things: no scruples, an accomplice and a human guinea pig.

Scruples were never a problem. Second, his faithful housekeeper Marilia (Marisa Paredes), the woman who looked after him from the day he was born, is his willing accomplice. And, third, his human guinea pig is an arrogant individual who had been responsible for the rape of his naïve young daughter.

Loosely based on Thierry Jonquet's 1995 novel "Mygale", Almodóvar manages to paint his picture on a broad canvas, one that can best be described as the mixing of elements from a melodramatic thriller with those of a medical horror show.

His relentless obsession to achieve a medical breakthrough is driven by grief over his late wife and the satisfaction at extracting revenge over his daughter's sexual assault.

Wulfsohn was universally loved. She was an important, talented voice in South African photo-journalism.

When she was diagnosed with cancer, she wrote "Photographing HIV-positive children was traumatic; particularly as I was the mother of two healthy children. At first, I put my cameras down and sobbed. But despite the sadness, there are so many brave people.

"So, when I, a non-smoker, was diagnosed with lung cancer, I was greatly inspired by those I had met on the HIV/Aids journey. I could choose not to talk about it at all, or to find out as much about it as I could. I chose to do just that."

Wulfsohn leaves her husband, Mark Turpin, twin sons of 16, Joseph and Samuel; her mother Perla, two sisters, Diane and Susan and a brother Philip.

What he creates, in the end, is Vera, a more glamorous version of the Frankenstein concept, seductively played by Elena Anaya.

Vera flirts with the doctor with "I'm made to measure for you", while his housekeeper offers a dark warning: "If you don't kill her, she will kill you."

It is clear that there is a strong sexual attraction between the doctor and his beautiful creation.

Wildly original in concept, "The Skin I Live In" peppers the viewer with a multitude of responses and asks questions about appearances and whether deep down, do we really know who we truly are?

Almodóvar is a master manipulator, a gifted artist who cunningly draws you into his dark, diabolical web. And with his final shots he reveals in a sharp, painful, exposé everything that had gone before.

issues and violence and, yet, it challenges the viewer on both intellectual and ethical levels. It deals with crime and punishment, guilt and madness, all of which are moulded into a moody, perverse, science-fiction tragedy.

Antonio Banderas, still looking slickly appealing in his well-cut threads, portrays Dr Robert Ledgard. He is an eminent plastic surgeon and scientist who has been experimenting with the possibility of creating a new kind of skin which would protect people, an exploration triggered by the fate of his wife who was badly burnt and disfigured in a motor accident and who later died in what looked like a suicide.

After 12 years, the good doctor manages to cultivate a skin that is a real shield against every assault.

To execute a successful experiment, he

## FELDMAN ON FILM

Peter Feldman

### PICK OF THE WEEK

#### The Skin I Live In

Cast: Antonio Banderas, Elena Anaya, Marisa Paredes

Director: Pedro Almodóvar

Of all the films Spanish master Pedro Almodóvar has made during his distinguished career, "The Skin I Live In" is unlike anything he has ever attempted before.

It's bold, it's creepy, it involves gender

## TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

# Despite structural flaws, a heart-wrenching novel

*Tiny Sunbirds Far Away* by Christie Watson (Quercus, R120)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

OCCASIONALLY a writer produces a work which is riddled with structural flaws, over-lengthy or a little self-indulgent, but whose central truth is so compelling that one is seduced, despite oneself. This novel is one of them.

For 12-year-old Blessing, life in Lagos in a large, well-appointed apartment overlooking the central market, is one of privilege, pleasure and - crucially - predictability. Her over-loud, gregarious father is drunk too often, and her mother Timi is emotionally cold, but Blessing's elder brother Ezekiel - academically gifted, ambitious and protective - is always there to look out for her.

So when the father runs off with another woman, forcing his nominally Christian family to resettle in Warri, in the Niger Delta, in a compound belonging to Timi's Muslim parents, the shock and upheaval are enormous.

For one thing, adjusting to life in near-primitive conditions, with neither water nor electricity, and a score of squatters milling in and out of the house, is a violent introduction to the reality of

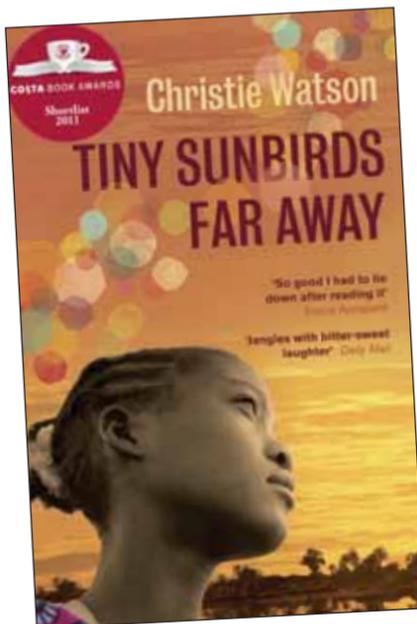
poverty. Hunger, continual noise, extreme heat, dust, lack of privacy and endless physically taxing domestic chores bear down on Blessing.

The author's eye for the pitiful minutiae of life within a threadbare dwelling is extraordinary and brings the extent of the family's predicament into almost unbearable clarity.

Being forced to attend the only school in the region - under-equipped, overcrowded and employing brutal corporal punishment as a matter of policy - is another trauma. Even more frightening is the fact that the severely asthmatic Ezekiel is now far removed from the medications he needs.

Allergic to nuts, he cannot eat what little food there is, since it is all fried in groundnut oil, so he subsists on scraps. Timi, humiliated and despondent, is compelled to seek work as an escort at the local hotel, where white men employed by the "Western (read: Shell) Oil Company" spend their leisure hours.

Blessing, frightened and sidelined by both her distraught mother and her ailing brother, seeks reassurance - but does not receive it. In rooms filled with empty, cockroach-infested mattresses, tenderness is in short



supply.

"I wondered if Mama was about to say: 'I love you.' I held my breath. I had never heard those words before, and wanted to hear the exact way she said them... (But she) did not say: 'I love you.' She turned away from the window and looked through me, past me. 'I hate this f---ing place,' she said."

It is the grandmother who manages the family, both nuclear and extended. A self-trained herbalist and midwife to all the women in

the region, she does the lion's share of the work on the compound, faces down the periodic incursions of "Kill and Go" police (who do precisely that, and are paid by the oil company to terrorise the locals into subjugation) and clothes and nurtures her kin.

Forming an almost preternatural bond with Blessing, and recognising the girl's innate compassion and practicality, she begins taking her as an attendant to deliver babies. Later, tending her wounded brother, the girl reflects on what she has learnt: "I looked closely at the bandage. I could not see any blood at all. There had been a lot of blood. Almost as much as a woman giving birth. I wondered which thing hurt more, giving life or having it taken."

Slowly and painfully, but steadily, Blessing learns that while life in the Warri compound is harsh and filled with privations, it has its compensations - and its own, unique beauty.

One of the author's strengths is her ability to turn satire to sobriety. Several of the characters in the novel begin as ludicrous caricatures: the children's grandfather, Alhaji, for example, who claims to have been an engineer, bullies the family to attend mosque every dawn and smears Marmite - which he believes to be a universal elixir - on anyone who falls ill.

His second, younger wife Celestine - an illiterate, overweight hoyden - is another caricature. Obsessed with lycra fash-

ions, intimidated by her new husband's formidable senior wife and given to hysteria, she instantly becomes the family laughing stock.

But when Ezekiel is shot by the local "area boys" (young hoodlums), then drops out of school, and brings calamity down on the family by organising the abduction of his mother's new boyfriend, it is Alhaji and Celestine who emerge as the strongest, most courageous and most dignified individuals.

As still further tragedy engulfs Ezekiel, Blessing - having developed from an insecure child to a deeply self-assured, resourceful young woman - finds she cannot only shoulder grief and cope with crisis, but also celebrate Nigeria in all its squalor, bloodlust, colours, vibrancy, external gaudiness and spiritual greatness.

"We looked at Dan as one of us," she says of her white British stepfather. "He had earned his Nigerian-ness by surviving. Ijaw people are survivors."

Watson's novel could do with a judicious re-edit, particularly in its habitual usage of supposedly sagacious (but, in fact, obscure) ethnic proverbs. However, the coming of age of Blessing, her deepening prism into the events and individuals around her and her gradual awareness that, devastation and danger notwithstanding, Nigeria pumps her life blood are beautifully realised.

As a celebration of peoples finding meaning and affirmation in shared pain and defiant pride, the book wrenches the heart.

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For a full duty statement email [a.givoni@yavneh.vic.edu.au](mailto:a.givoni@yavneh.vic.edu.au) or visit our website at [www.yavneh.vic.edu.au](http://www.yavneh.vic.edu.au)

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A CAP ICCC controller radioing-in an instruction to a tactical unit on the ground. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDYVER)

# Capping a myriad successful crime-fighting stories

OWN CORRESPONDENT

COMMUNITY ACTIVE Protection (CAP), established five years ago, continues to enjoy great success with keeping crime away from the suburbs. The organisation currently protects some 150 000 people in 16 designated CAP areas.

"Crime does not stop over the holiday season," a CAP spokesman told the SAJR. "We continue to be very vigilant over these times. Our vehicles patrol 24-hours a day, and we've maintained an overall decrease in crime of between 80 and 90 per cent."

Over the December period alone, CAP was party to six arrests, bringing the total of arrests accomplished in 2011 to 137. The spokesman recounted a few of the "many stories that illustrate the CAP system coming together successfully through different parties involved."

"We rely on the residents in CAP areas to be our eyes and ears, the tactical officers on the ground to remain vigilant; without the close relationship and hard work of the SAPS, we could not achieve the result of criminals being put behind bars."

"On December 13, three individuals were apprehended in the Strathavon area in connection with a home invasion that took place when the homeowner was present. She called the CAP control room as soon as the suspects left her house and a 'lookout brief' was initiated by the CAP ICCC (Incident Command and Control Centre).

"The ICCC is CAP's security backbone and is the centre of all of CAP's security analysis, management and procedural protocol. One of the individuals matching the description given

was spotted by CAP personnel within minutes. He divulged information on the other two suspects; within 10 minutes, all three suspects had been found. With the help of the SAPS, these criminals are now behind bars.

"Also in December, a male was reported to have been robbing members of the public of their jewellery in a shopping centre in an area supported by CAP. Our debriefing department, a division of CAP ICCC focusing specifically on the collection of information, was deployed to collect information on the trend of the incidents.

"A pre-emptive plan was put into place with the deployment of personnel in the area where the robberies were taking place. This plan included a detailed description of the suspect. Within a day he was caught in possession of stolen goods.

"In November, a call was placed by a witness to a hijacking. A description of the vehicle and number plate was relayed and immediately an instruction was communicated to tactical vehicles to block streets around the area. The vehicle was soon located, but the suspects had exited the vehicle and were now on foot.

"A separate phone-call was placed by a resident in close proximity, reporting two trespassers on her property. Tactical officers were dispatched to her premises and with the help of the SAPS, one of the criminals was found and arrested.

"We urge residents in CAP areas to 'call-in' suspicious activity to 086-18-000-18," he added, quoting the CAP website which lists further information, as well as details of the 16 areas it protects: <http://www.c-a-p.org.za/pages/areas.asp>

CAP currently operates in Glenhazel; Sydenham; Rouxville; Orange Grove; Sandringham; Highlands North; Savoy/Waverley; Oaklands/Orchards; Senderwood/Linksfeld; Houghton; Saxonwold; Melrose/Birdhaven; Victory Park; Sandown/Strathavon; Gresswold; Norwood.

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'CONDEMN LIBYA FOR SUDANESE LEADER'S VISIT; OBAMA TOLD

WASHINGTON - Eighty Holocaust and genocide scholars have signed a petition calling on President Barack Obama to condemn Libya's new government for hosting a visit by Sudanese President Omar Bashir.

Bashir has been indicted by the International Criminal Court for his role in the Darfur genocide.

"Especially in view of the role the United States played in bringing about the overthrow of the Gaddafi regime," the petition says, "the US has a right, and a moral obligation, to demand that the new Libya

join us in treating perpetrators of genocide as pariahs."

The petition, which was spearheaded by the David S Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, urges Obama to "speak out publicly against Libya's embrace of Bashir and to make it clear to the international community that the US regards the hosting of visits by Bashir as unacceptable." Its signatories - from the United States, Europe and Israel - call for "a firmer policy by the US toward perpetrators of genocide and those who coddle them." (JTA)

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### NOTICES

#### ANNIVERSARY

#### IT'S A GIRL!

ANGEL JAYE

Gavin and Jocelyn are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their precious daughter Alexia Jade Angel on January 9, 2012.

Sister to Danni and Jesse. Grandparents Vivienne, Serwyn, Judy and Melvyn are ecstatic. Grateful thanks to Hakadosh Baruch Hu, and to Doctors Apostoleris, Hay and staff at Morningside Clinic. Baruch Hashem

#### IT'S A GIRL!

LEVYJAYE

Cecil, Tamara and Rachel are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their precious daughter and sister Rebecca Mia Levy on December 7, 2011.

Grandparents Rene, Leon, Judy and Melvyn are ecstatic. Grateful thanks to Hakadosh Baruch Hu, and to Doctors Moore, Davies and staff at Parklane Clinic. Baruch Hashem

### COMMUNITY NOTICES

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# sport

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## Barit siblings win at table tennis championships



**JACK MILNER**

WHILE SOME learners spent their summer holidays basking on the beaches of KwaZulu-Natal, brother and sister combination of Avi and Gila Barit spent much of their vacation time in the table tennis halls of the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Gila and Avi took part in the South African Universities Table Tennis Championship, which featured virtually every South African university and Technicon. The Barit siblings represented the University of Pretoria.

By the end of the tournament Gila came away with two gold and two silver medals while Avi won a gold and three silvers. The University of Pretoria won the team competition and in doing so gave Gila and Avi a gold medal.

The format of the team event was based on the best of five games, with four singles matches and one doubles rubber.

In the individual section Gila, who was the previous year's gold medallist, reached the final but lost a hard-fought match. However, she made up for it in the girls doubles when teaming up with Kanyasele Madlala they won the title and earned Gila her second gold medal.

In the mixed doubles Gila teamed up with Avi and they once again made it through to the final but had to settle for the runners-up spot.

In the men's doubles Avi and his partner, Luke Abrahams, reached the finals where they were beaten.

Both Gila and Avi are students at Tukkies, Gila in the sport science faculty and Avi in the medical faculty. Both are former King David Linksfield learners.

Avi Barit at the awards dinner after receiving his gold medal for the team event at the South African Universities Table Tennis Championships in Durban.

## Maccabi Football prepares for Maccabiah 2013

**JACK MILNER**

IT IS hard to believe that it is just around a year and a half to the start of the 19th Maccabiah. With that in mind Maccabi South Africa is already looking at the selection of the teams to represent the country in 2013.

The Maccabi Games were first held in 1932 when 390 athletes and 14 nations competed, figures similar to the participation in the very first Olympic Games 36 years before. The Maccabiah is now the third largest sporting event in the world, after the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games, and take place every four years in Israel.

The 19th Games will see almost 60 countries participate in some 30 sports, with an expected 10 000 participants.

Maccabi SA is expecting to send their largest ever delegation of over 360 competitors, managers, coaches, medical staff and management team.

Football will constitute close to half of the entire South African delegation for the Games, to take place from July 17 to 31, 2013. To ensure that the teams are well prepared for the Games and for the experience of a lifetime, trials for the various football teams will take place from March 2012.

South Africa will be sending an under-16

boys team (born 1997-1998), under-18 boys (born 1995-1996), under-18 girls (born 1995-1998), open men's (under-35), open ladies (under-35), masters men (over-35) and grand masters (over-45).

Maccabi is one of the biggest Zionist organisations in the world and the goal of Maccabi Football is to ensure that as many deserving participants as possible are given the opportunity to experience the Games. The team of conveners, including Daniel Witz, Debbie Ilouze, Sandra Brookstone, Ryan Kalk, Allan Nossel and Clive Bedell, as well as the junior convener, Mannie Witz, and ladies sports co-ordinator Lisa Hack. They have already begun setting out the processes and procedures for ensuring that these goals are achieved.

All those interested in participating in the trials or interested in managing or coaching one of the teams are to send their details to [football@maccabi.co.za](mailto:football@maccabi.co.za) with their full name, cell number, e-mail address and date of birth, so that they can be kept updated with the relevant information for the various trials that will take place.

Guidelines for all trials have been put in place, which will be strictly adhered to. These have been accepted by all football conveners, including the use of external selectors.

## Two young YC sports stars get awards

Two young girls came out with awards at the 2011 valedictory ceremony at Yeshiva College in Johannesburg. Carmella Illos received the sports girl of the year trophy while Sera Shor was honoured as the top netball player of the year.



Carmella Illos.



Sera Shor



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