

TALK TO THE PROFESSIONALS

For the **WIDEST RANGE** of lounge, dining, bedroom suites & other furniture



Midwaymall Shopping Centre
Tel 011 887 5456/7/8/9 | Fax 011 887 5480
hntfurn@mweb.co.za | www.hntfurn.co.za

DWORZYSKI'S BRILLIANCE IN JPO'S LINDER CONCERT / 12

DEAN SIMON - MASTER OF MULTI-LAYERED REALITY / 12

THE DARK UNDERSIDE OF EPHRON'S ESSAYS / 13



Subscribe to our **FREE** epaper - go to www.sajewishreport.co.za

SOUTH AFRICAN

Jewish Report



www.sajewishreport.co.za

Friday, 20 May 2011 / 16 Iyar, 5771

Volume 15 Number 18

Netanyahu heads to Washington - US, Israel on same page about terrorism

PAGE 3



**WILL THIS
ELECTION
LEAVE US
BETTER OFF?**

Has the 'Arab Spring' come to Israel? / 10

UJ debates pros and cons of academic boycotts / 4

Beware of hackers asking for money / 4

Ilan Baruch writes to Jacob Zuma about Mideast solution / 11

Bullying has so many faces and guises / 8

A musical ring to a most unusual 2nd barmitzvah / 2

Music to remember Mother's Day by / 6

Men who successfully put Israel on ice / 20

An election about service delivery - or the lack thereof - fighting crime and corruption, affordable rates and taxes - value for money - and a clean, safe environment. Only time will tell whether the issues could rise above open toilets and racism. By the time the Jewish Report hits the streets most results should be out. May whoever wins have the interests of his or her constituents as priority number one. May the feeding trough mercifully remain empty. (PHOTOGRAPH: RITA LEWIS)

YOUTH / 16

SPORT / 20

LETTERS / 14

CROSSWORD & SUDOKU / 18

COMMUNITY BUZZ / 7

WHAT'S ON / 18

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE... INVEST IN ISRAEL!



Denese Zaslansky
FIRZT
REALTY COMPANY

OPPORTUNITIES IN TEL AVIV - RAMAT AVIV - RAMAT GAN - PETAH TIKVA - ASHDOD
Call SOLLY ZASLANSKY 083 327 2739 / 011 731 0300 or email solly@firzt.co.za

SHABBAT TIMES

May 20/17 Iyar
May 21/18 Iyar

Bechukotai

Starts	Ends	
17:10	18:00	Johannesburg
17:33	18:26	Cape Town
16:51	17:42	Durban
17:11	18:03	Bloemfontein
17:04	17:57	Port Elizabeth
16:57	17:49	East London



Published by
S A Jewish Report (Pty) Ltd,
PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034
Tel: (011) 023-8160
Fax: (086) 634-7935
Printed by Caxton Ltd

EDITOR - Geoff Sifrin
geoff@sajewishreport.co.za
Sub-Editor - Paul Maree
Ed Co-ordinator - Barry Bilewitz
barry@sajewishreport.co.za
Senior Reporter - Rita Lewis
rita@sajewishreport.co.za
Sports Editor - Jack Milner
jackmilner@telkomsa.net
Books Editor - Gwen Podbrey
Arts Editor - Robyn Sassen
robyn@sajewishreport.co.za
Youth Editor - Alison Goldberg
alison@sajewishreport.co.za
Cape Town correspondent
Molira Schneider: 021-794-4206
Pretoria correspondent
Diane Wolfson: 082-707-9471
Manager: Distribution
Britt Landsman
britt@sajewishreport.co.za
Sales Executives - (011) 023-8160
Britt Landsman: 082-292-9520
Manuela Bernstein: 082-951-3838
Murray Schoeman: 083-627-6670
Freelance Sales Executive
Marlene Bilewitz: 083-475-0288
Classified Sales
jrclassified@global.co.za
Design and layout
Frankie Matthysen
Nicole Cook
Website
www.sajewishreport.co.za
Ilan Ossendryver
IC-Creations
ilan@ic-creations.com
Subscription enquiries
Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd
Tel: 0860-13-2652

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Howard Feldman (Chairman), Issie Kirsh (Deputy Chairman), Stan Kaplan, Marlene Bethlehem, Russell Gaddin, Norman Lowenthal, Bertie Lubner, Benji Porter, Herby Rosenberg, Howard Sackstein, Jason Valkin.



KASHRUT
The following symbols will appear on advertisements and/or advertising features to indicate whether or not they are kosher. Where no Kashrut mark appears on an advert, the Jewish Report assumes no responsibility for the Kashrut status of that establishment or advertiser:


NK Non-Kosher **K** Kosher

Where no symbols appear, consult the Beth Din Kosher Guide or contact the advertiser.

Advertisements and editorial copy from outside sources do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and staff.

PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Life is serious and not ‘keri’ - by chance



PARSHAT BECHUKOTAI
Rabbi Samuel Suchard
Beit Hamedrash Hagadol, Sandton

THE WONDROUS happenings are there to teach us to be awake and be aware.

In the chapter dealing with the punishments for not keeping Torah and mitzvoth, the Torah repeats the word keri. “And if you will walk with Me keri - by chance - and do not listen to Me, I will add seven more punishments according to your sins” (Vayikra 26:21).

This word keri is mentioned again, in another verse: “And if with these you will not be admonished to Me, and you will continue to go with Me Keri (Verse 23).

Rashi explains that keri means by chance and superficial. This is one of the causes of sin when Man does not take things seriously and acts in a nonchalant manner.

Generally one must be aware of the happenings of life, not to live in an ostrich-like fashion. If one takes in what is happening, then one realises that life is serious and not keri. All events, even world events can and should shape one’s attitude to the way one must run his life.

Moshe Rabeinu, Moses our teacher, was first visited by Hashem when he heard a voice from the burning bush. Moshe noticed the sight of a bush which was not consumed by fire and he turned to wonder at that phenomenon.

This in itself was a lesson in keri, not to shrug off spectacular happenings. Hashem makes Himself known with great events and extraordinary occurrences; it is our challenge to wake up to those calls.

Can you imagine what would have been, had Hitler been assassinated before he perpetrated his barbaric policies? If immediately after Kristallnacht when shuls were burnt in Germany, the world would have realised his evil potential and acted against him - so many lives would have been saved.

Osama bin Laden’s assassination is a world awakening event. Many Twin Towers have been saved because of this! It teaches us not to walk keri. Our generation is fortunate that some world powers understand that justice is more important than evil.

The fall of Muammar Gaddafi and the many monarchs of Arabia, are events which have weakened threats against Israel. However, Iran, Hamas and the Palestinian leadership, are real threats.

The tsunami in Japan within days brought about the weakening of a formidable power. A great rabbi in Bnei Brak pointed to the fact that the Japanese are holding two yeshiva students who unwittingly brought drugs into Japan - and they still keep them in jail.

Bin Laden was killed on the last day of Pesach when the Jews went through the Red Sea, and he was buried at sea. An article by a sage compared bin Laden to the archangel of Yishmael who tried to vilify Israel at the Red Sea.

Israel celebrated 63 years of statehood - against all odds. The State is not idyllic, because of those who do not understand that it must be a Jewish State, a religious nation.

However the existence of the State is a modern-day miracle and it has facilitated much Torah learning.

Through an awakening to the phenomena playing out in the international arena, we must apply the verses of keri to our personal lives, that when things happen they are indicators to guide our lives.

As this parshah begins: “If you will walk in My ways... I will turn to you and I will make you fruitful and increase you and I will establish My covenant with you.” (Vayikra 26:3, 9)



Hymie Sacks (left) and Louis Rimer on the eve of their second barmitzvah. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

A musical ring to a most unusual 2nd barmitzvah

ROBYN SASSEN

THIS SHABBAT, Sydenham Shul in Johannesburg is host to a most unusual barmitzvah. Not only is it a second barmitzvah – a recent custom is for men to have a second barmitzvah 13 years after the allotted three score and ten years, according to Psalms – but it is a twin second barmitzvah.

Chazzan Louis Rimer and Hymie Sacks - a shul chorister for many decades - are not filial twins. They’re not even related. But they were both born in Johannesburg on May 10, 1928, and together, but apart - Rimer in Bertrams under Rev Greisman, and Sacks in Ophirton under Rev Perlman, they read Bechukotai, 13 years later.

Seventy years later, they are both well loved members of the Sydenham Shul, and will once again - this time together - read the maftir and haftorah on May 21, and then party.

Both men shy coyly from the camera and the spotlight, being careful to name every single person who has influenced their lives and supported them throughout the years; their humility belies their wonderful talents, not only in singing, but in composing too. There is a very special “v’shomru” refrain in the Friday night service that Sacks composed, and the kedushah we hear on a Shabbat morning is Rimer’s.

“I always kept my age a secret,” Rimer grins. He and Sacks have known one another for over 50 years, but they never knew they were “twins”. They performed together just once, in the 1970s. It was at Cyrildene Shul; the choir was under the baton of Bob Borowsky. Chazzan Rimer was a guest chazzan. Sacks was one of the choir’s basses. “Those were the illustrious days of Cyrildene Shul, so ably and respectably led by Rabbi Dr Dennis Isaacs,” Sacks remembers fondly and Rimer concurs.

Trained by the late Francis Russel, an opera tenor, Rimer was a boy soprano in Berele Chagy’s choir in the 1930s. He started davening professionally from the age of 18, doing significant stints at Mayfair, Jeppe and Parys shuls as well as filling in over the High Holy Days in

Springs and Brakpan.

“I did not always have a fulltime job,” he explains, referring to the fashion in the ‘50s and ‘60s in South Africa to import chazzonim from overseas. Insurance became Rimer’s stop-gap form of employment for a while.

“I went into the tombstone industry in 1980. It is not a happy business. One has to have compassion.” Rimer retired formally as a chazzan at the age of 65.

Born in Witbank, Sacks served articles with Sachs and Berman after matriculating. He was admitted as an attorney in July 1952 and partnered Kowalsky and Tuch for a decade, then switched to insurance, and joined a then nascent Liberty Life - recruited by Donald Gordon - where he remained for 35 years, until his retirement.

“I have always had a great love for liturgical music.” He sang under the baton of many a choir master, including Bob Borowsky, in Cyrildene; and Londoner Martin White, who conducted the Oxford Shul choir. Sacks has always been a chorister; he never wanted to do solo work. “I also sang under the baton of the late great Gus Levy, in Berea, who I admired so much. He was my close personal friend and one of the reasons I became interested in classical music.” Sacks enjoyed several years’ association with the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir, under Levy.

He remembers boy soprano Oshy Tugendhaft taking to the bimah and wowing the congregants at Cyrildene Shul; indeed, it was Tugendhaft, together with Ken Braude and Colin Band, who invited him to join the Sydenham Shul choir 15 years ago.

“This is one of the finest liturgical choirs in the world,” he insists. “Under the incomparable leadership of Jose Stern, whose knowledge of the service and the music and being able to teach parts to the choir, is outstanding. I’ve watched Chazzan Yudi Cohen grow over the years, to become a truly remarkable talent on the podium.”

Rimer, who has been a member of the Sydenham Shul for over 25 years agrees: “This shul is so close to my heart, I feel I am among family here.”



Trevor Stamelman: 082-608-0168
Geoff Lees 082 923- 8317
Tel: (011) 885-3742
trevor@stamelmanproperties.co.za
www.stamelmanproperties.co.za

“Extraordinary Service Extraordinary Trust”

PERCELA ESTATE/GLENHAZEL



BRAND NEW RELEASE



Elegant, stylish and sophisticated. 4/5 grand & opulent recep, state-of-the-art modern gourmet kitchens meat & milk. 4 distinguished bedrooms all en-suite, master bedroom suite includes lounge, walk-in dressing room & more! Indoor heated pool, garden, secure indoor parking, staff suite & guest cottage with so much more.
Calling buyers in the late R8 mil.

HIGHLANDS NORTH/PERCELA ESTATE



BRAND NEW RELEASE IN BOOM!



Indoor/outdoor living at its best, 4 recep, 4 sunny warm beds, 2 1/2 bath, new modern kitchen, laundry, scullery, stunning sun-drenched patio, lush gardens and pool, with security, garage, additional carports, staff room or cottage potential and much more. Hurry! R2,2 mil.

GLENHAZEL/VIEW CREST



BRAND NEW RELEASE - MODERN SECURE CLUSTER



2/3 recep, modern eat-in Kitchen, undercover patio, garden & pool, 3/4 bed, 2 1/2 bath, staff suite, double automatic garage and much more! Hurry R2 399 000.

WIN AN ISLAND HOLIDAY & OTHER GREAT PRIZES - VISIT WWW.STAMELMANPROPERTIES.CO.ZA FOR DETAILS

CHEAP
INTERNATIONAL
PHONE CALLS



ISRAEL, UK, USA, OZZ
R0.36/MIN
VISIT WWW.HELLOHOWZIT.COM
OR PHONE (011) 402-5319

On eve of Netanyahu visit and AIPAC conference, Obama and Bibi on same page

RON KAMPEAS
WASHINGTON

CRUSH TERRORISTS and then make peace.

Through quirks of timing, it's a narrative that President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu finally can agree on when they meet this week in Washington.

There remains a critical difference, however, between the two over what happens in the next chapter: Keep up the fight or step out and make peace.

The Obama administration, at least by default, seems to have embraced Netanyahu's longtime mantra that the best way to clear the path to calm, is through the elimination of terrorists.

Within two weeks, the administration lost both its bloodiest enemy and its best-known peacemaker: Osama bin Laden, the terrorist leader, died at the hands of US soldiers, and George Mitchell quit his post as the administration's lead peace broker for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On May 24, Netanyahu will speak to a joint meeting of Congress, and the theme is likely to be the threat of terrorism faced both by Israel and the United States. He is slated to meet today (Friday) with Obama.

Both leaders are expected to address this year's annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference, which starts on May 22.

The conference - the largest annual Israel-related gathering in the US capital - comes just weeks after the announcement of a new unity government between the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority and Hamas, the terrorist group that controls the Gaza Strip. The Obama and Netanyahu administrations have made clear that they believe the reconciliation of the two Palestinian factions will impede peace negotiations with Israel.

Meanwhile, the violence last Sunday in



President Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meet in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, July 6, 2010. (AMOS BENGERSHOM / GPO)

Israel and on its borders by Arabs marking the anniversary of the "Nakba" - the "catastrophe" of Israel's birth - appeared to strengthen Netanyahu's resolve to stand tough.

"I regret that there are extremists among Israeli Arabs and in neighbouring countries who have turned the day on which the State of Israel was established, the day on which the Israeli democracy was established, into a day of incitement, violence and rage," he said at the outset of his weekly Cabinet meeting.

"There is no place for this, for denying the existence of the State of Israel. No to extremism and no to violence."

In a separate statement at the end of the day, Netanyahu concluded with a promise and a warning.

"We will continue to defend our borders and sovereignty," he said. "We must regard the reality with open eyes, and see with what and whom we are dealing."

Days earlier Tom Donilon, Obama's national security adviser, had sounded a similar note in how the Obama administration would deal with terrorists, referring to the bin Laden operation.

"Our action sent a powerful message for America's friends and adversaries: We do

what we say we will do," he said in a May 12 address to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "That is an important message that resonates across our other strategic interests."

The reference to friends, adversaries and "other strategic interests", as well as the venue - the premier pro-Israel think tank in Washington and a crowd peppered with potential campaign donors - made Donilon's subtext clear: The Obama administration and Israel are on the same page when it comes to confronting terrorism.

That's a message likely to be reinforced next week at the AIPAC parley.

The message from the Obama administration was underscored as well by how Donilon made what had been the administration's mantra until now - the critical necessity of achieving a two-state solution - almost an afterthought in a speech that otherwise was dedicated to confronting terrorism and Iran.

That reference included a dig at the Palestinians for pursuing international recognition through the United Nations.

"An enduring two-state solution can only be achieved through negotiations," Donilon said. "There are no shortcuts."

Mitchell's resignation the next day underscored the administration's turn away from intensive peacemaking for now.

Steve Rosen, the director of the Middle East Forum's Washington Project and a former foreign policy director for AIPAC, said international pressure to advance peace was likely to emerge around August, on the eve of the UN General Assembly.

If the Palestinians, as expected, have the votes in support of statehood not only in the General Assembly but in the UN Security Council, that would necessitate a US veto. Such a turn of events would discomfit an Obama administration that has made its dedication to arriving at a two-state solution

a key plank of its outreach to Europe and the Arab world.

"They pretty much have to veto, but it's not going to be easy for them," said Rosen, who blamed the Obama administration for cornering itself with its past insistence on an extended settlement freeze Netanyahu didn't deliver.

One way to relieve the international pressure would be for the Obama administration at around August to again push for talks with the Palestinians, Rubin said.

"That's a situation where there has to be a triage," he said, referring to the looming UN recognition.

Netanyahu, with the backing of much of the US Congress, has counted out negotiations as long as Hamas is involved with the Palestinian Authority.

What, exactly, Netanyahu was planning - if anything - was not clear, Rosen said.

"I tried to find out where the prime minister was going," he said. "I was told repeatedly by several aides that they did not know." (JTA)

E&B.JONAS
LADIES FASHION WEAR

RELOCATION
Celebration Sale
INCREDIBLE BARGAINS
LADIES WINTER WEAR

OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY
CLOSED ON SHABBOS

335 Jan Smuts Avenue
Craighall Park Tel: (011) 325-4986
Parking outside store

HOME OWNERS!
STOP - LOOK - LISTEN
Hashem gave us the sun
- it's a crime not to use it
Sid Green (BSC Engineering. Mech. & Elec.)
will help you to
PAINT SOUTH AFRICA GREEN with a
SOLAR WATER-HEATING SYSTEM
Use the sun, it's FREE!
No deposit is needed
Help Eskom solve "The Power Crisis"
they will chip in with plus minus R4 000
Your 30% reduced electricity bill will pay the rest!
Phone Sid Green NOW for a speedy installation.
Tel: (011) 447-9258 (Up till 8pm) Cell: 082-854-1586
E-mail: sidnom@netactive.co.za
P.S. - 26% rise in electricity cost expected in July 2011.

Get 1 month's FREE insurance now if you pay upfront for the year!
That's right! Pay 11 months' premiums upfront and get the 12th free. But MiWay not only offers you great premiums, we also offer you 24-hour free roadside assistance and home emergency services as well as rewards after being a client for 3 years*.
Call us today on 0860 33 11 11 and get an obligation-free quote!
MiWay and Chai'M are challenging the Jewish community. We will donate R500 000 to the Chevrah Kadisha's interest-free student loans if we reach our sales target of 2000 sales. Get involved today! Call us on 0860 33 11 11 or SMS 'thechev' to 39439. Follow the Chai'M/MiWay Challenge on Facebook: facebook.com/thechev.
*Terms and conditions apply. MiWay is an Authorised Financial Services Provider (License No. 23970). Standard SMS rates apply.

miWay
rewards your way
0860 33 11 11
Motor and Household Insurance

UJ-BGU severing of ties: Boycotts pros and cons debated

ALISON GOLDBERG

ATTEMPTS BY pro-boycotters at the University of Johannesburg to muzzle staff and student dissent at UJ following its Senate’s vote some time ago to sever formal ties with Ben-Gurion University in Israel on water reclamation research, failed last Friday when a seminar, questioning whether academic boycotts are justifiable, motivated by the Department of Humanities, found a new home at the Faculty of Law.

The point of the seminar was to explore broader principled questions relating to academic boycotts in general as well as those “more specific to the Israel/Palestine and the UJ/BGU relationship”.

Guest speakers Dr David Hirsh, a lecturer in sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London, and founding editor of www.engage.org.uk flew out specially for the debate, as did Dr Joel Fishman, project director of Democracy in Israel, for the Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs.

The two speakers chosen to argue the case for the justifiability of boycotts were Ran Greenstein, an associate professor of sociology at the University of the Witwatersrand and a signatory to the UJ petition to boycott BGU. The other was Na’eem Jeenah, director of the Afro-Middle East Centre and a doctoral student at Wits, whose teaching at Wits had been objected to by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, he told the audience.

While Fishman said in his discourse academic boycotts were illegal in the United States and France, Hirsh said academic boycotts and specifically the policy adopted by UJ to end its scientific collaboration with BGU “would break anti-racist law in Britain”.

Author of “No such thing as a victimless boycott” in the Mail & Guardian online (April 15), Hirsh questioned the distinction UJ adopted to boycott BGU as an academic institution but not its individual academics, saying a boycott affected individual academics nonetheless.

Further, if every university was boycotted because of the military occupations and alleged human rights abuses of its host country, it would be the end of universities.

The singling out of Israel, and Israel only, was anti-Semitic. “Wouldn’t it be strange if any anti-Israeli sentiment had no anti-Semitic element. We should be concerned about it. People fall into it. It is a problem for those who deny it.”

Any political discussion had to address the issue of occupation, which he is against. “Either we are for peace and reconciliation, or we support one or the other in the battle and take a position like that of Hamas”.

He also showed that the apartheid analogy was inconsistent with the Israeli state and was not a solution to the occupation. “There are different rules. The settlers should go home to Israel. This will not be a unitary state.”

Greenstein accused Israel of being an ethnic state. As an Israeli citizen, he said he cared about the state but argued that Israel is not a Jewish democratic state, but a Jewish democratic one. He also called Israel a “greater Israel”, also a “greater Palestine”, which prevented Palestinians from returning. “I want Israel



Dr David Hirsh



Dr Joel Fishman



Na’eem Jeenah



Prof Ran Greenstein

to grant equality to Israelis and Arabs alike”. He said he also favoured the 1948 borders.

He believes academic boycotts are justified but said just because they worked against South Africa doesn’t mean they will work against Israel. Israel, he maintains, abuses the academic rights of Palestinians.

The boycott is a political strategy to be used when people subject to oppression, call for sanctions themselves; when universities have military ties; when they are part of an elite. Because Israel was sheltered by the United States, he felt Israel was complacent. Calling the boycott one of peace, he said: “Anything we do to undermine that complacency is justified.”

Claims by Greenstein and Jeenah that such boycotts are peaceful, belie the fact of a series of rocket attacks on the south of Israel by Hamas from Gaza, accompanying the debate on UJ-BGU, finally killed a 16-year-old boy in a school bus.

Fishman described the aim of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign to replace Israel with Palestine. The boycotters believed the end justified the means. He refuted the claim that Palestinians wanted the boycott, citing the Palestinian Authority as an example.

“Our view is that academic boycotts are not justifiable. The BDS campaign promotes the conflict and is fundamentally destructive. Both Israelis and Palestinians have grievances. The support of South Africans for boycotts denies them a role to play in reconciliation.

“Opportunities for peace have not been exhausted. Arabs have rights and opportunities. Palestinians have had access to the legal system since 1967. The ‘evidence’ used by the boycott movement must be re-examined.”

Jeenah defended boycotts as a tactic, not a principle; as peaceful and non-violent and as a support for negotiations. In sympathy with South African blacks he said, he declared himself one and told the audience how in the eighties he had sung songs about killing whites.

Universities were linked to the economy and politics of the state. This, he said, was especially true of Israel. Israel did not respect the academic freedom of others, as evidenced at Haifa University where allowing “Nakba studies” (Israel’s independence viewed as “the catastrophe” by Palestinians) was questioned.

Arabs were denied access to schools and universities because of the checkpoints.

Jeenah also accused the IDF of a policy to shoot to harm schoolchildren, which drew howls of condemnation from the audience.

Fishman pointed out that the IDF went to great lengths to limit civilian casualties while the Palestinians expressly targeted civilians, which was murder in the first degree. Further, Hamas deliberately mixed its civilian population with combatants.

One commentator posed the question as to whose political strategy it was at UJ to pursue a boycott against Israel and whether it made sense for a Senate - unlike a political party or trade union - to have a political strategy or tactic; that it bordered on the absurd.

Don’s act of goodness costs him dearly

ALISON GOLDBERG

HOLOCAUST survivor and historian Don Krausz, a public defender of Israel and one who calls for “fair” treatment of Israel in the press, was victim over the Passover weekend to an e-mail scam, denuding him of R9 000 he sent to London to help his good friend Gill Katz who ostensibly was in urgent need of cash. She said she had been mugged and robbed. She promised to repay him when she returned.



Don Krausz



Gill Katz

Problem was, it was hackers using Katz’s Yahoo e-mail address and posing as Katz herself who sent the e-mails soliciting Krausz’s help. But Katz was in Johannesburg all the time, oblivious that such as scam was being carried out.

Katz added that the hackers also sent everyone on her e-mail list a message.

Krausz told Katz: “I saw this message and while I didn’t think it looked like your style of writing - I thought that you were - after all, - concussed, and based on that image of you, I did not hesitate to send you the money.”

Says Katz: “Don could not conceive of the fact that someone had done this via a computer. He still cannot comprehend how I could be e-mailing him as someone else, and vice versa.”

Bidvest Bank has since begun an investigation to capture the recipient of the three tranches of money sent to the UK by Krausz. “Will he be reimbursed? I don’t know,” says Katz.

Krausz then received a subsequent, unsolicited e-mail, another scam, from the hackers posing as the FBI in barely literate English and claiming

capture of the culprit with a suspiciously Jewish-sounding name. The case was put to Arthur Goldstuck, MD of World Wide Worx who said sadly the hackers had caught one of a tiny proportion of people whose ignorance of the online world makes it viable for such cons to continue their criminal activity.

Efforts by banks to educate their customers has made traditional mass phishing less successful for criminals than in the past, and they have increasingly turned to “spear-phishing”, which is a personally targeted attempt at persuading specific individuals to part with their money or account details.

Since it’s not possible for e-mail hosts like Yahoo or Gmail to educate their users on every scam doing the rounds, users need to educate themselves and be aware that there are numerous dangers lurking in the online world just as there are in the physical world.

The most common way of having your account hacked right now, for example, is to click on a link you receive in Facebook saying things like: “You won’t believe what pic I found of you” or “Look at this outrageous video” or “I can see exactly who visits my profile”, etcetera. If you click on it, you are accepting a piece of software, known as malware, that may well capture your Facebook log-in details.

This, in turn, can give access to your e-mail account details, since your e-mail address is part of your user profile on Facebook, and most people use the same password for both. From there, “spear-phishing” becomes a cinch.

Some tips to avoid hacking scam

IT IS impossible to provide a list of guidelines that will cover all possibilities, but here are some tips to avoid becoming a victim of hacking:

If you fear you’ve been a victim, or have in fact been a victim, immediately change all affected passwords (including Facebook, if that could have been the way in). However, make sure, in the settings of your account, that your account details haven’t been changed to send an e-mail confirming the new password to someone else’s address.

If you receive a message urging you to click on a link in Facebook or Twitter, and it is out of character with the person sending it, don’t click on it, especially if it does not make any reference to the person’s relationship with you or knowledge of you

If you do click on it by mistake, try to change your password as quickly as possible.

Don’t use the same password for your various social networks (such as Facebook and Twitter), and don’t use any of your social network passwords for an online e-mail service.

Be deeply suspicious of any communication from someone you know asking for money, doing it by e-mail, SMS or other form of non-verbal communication. Verify through other means.

If you are using an Internet cafe or other form of publicly accessible computer (such as in an airport business lounge), do not type in passwords for personal sites unless you have some form of assurance that no record is kept of what is typed on computers. At worst, if you just use such online services in a public site, go to the Tools or Options section of the browser menu and select Clear Recent History or equivalent option.

Above all, however, there is one piece of advice for all users: the Internet plays host to as many criminals as does the real world. Both prey on vulnerability, and knowledge is your best form of protection.

At 63, Israel is still determined and confident - Segev-Steinberg

DIANE WOLFSON
PRETORIA

THE EMBASSY of Israel in Pretoria celebrated Israel’s 63rd anniversary with a wonderful luncheon in the garden at the Embassy.

Official guests were Gert Oosthuizen, deputy minister for Sport, Ambassador Johann Marx, the chief director, Middle East, Department of International Relations and Co-operation, members of the Diplomatic Corps and Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, as well as various leaders and members of the Jewish community.

The large crowd were entertained by the Tshwane University of Technology Choir led by Josias Moleele, who also sang both the South African and Israeli national anthems.

Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa Dov Segev-Steinberg, mentioned that apart from what has occurred during the past year and the ongoing challenges that Israel faces, Israel’s independence day is celebrated with “joy in our hearts as we look back on both what we have endured to get where we are and review how much we have achieved.

“We in Israel, and those who support us around the world, are well aware of what it means to be Israeli - the unique position we maintain in a world beset with hypocrisy and

hostility. To claim that we have become used to the intense spotlight of misguided world opinion, would be misleading.

“As much as we adjust to the daily challenges some positive and some negative it would be false to claim that we, as human beings with a deep sensitivity for fairness and morality, are left untainted and unaffected.”

Segev-Steinberg referred to the disastrous fires in the Carmel forest and how Israel was gratified to discover that she was not alone, with over 20 countries rushing to her assistance, and that, in the face of catastrophe, Israel was blessed with a display of humanity.

“Israel celebrates her 63rd birthday, unchanged, determined and confident. She stands at one of the most important crossroads of her history as she waits for some indication of which path her neighbours will choose to follow... the path of fundamentalism and further conflict, or the path of democracy, redemption and peace.

“As Ambassador of the State of Israel, I carry an ever-present message of hope and goodwill, of friendship and co-operation and I feel deeply honoured to stand amongst you, on this, the 63rd anniversary of her independence declaration, with particular reference to this year’s theme: ‘Responsible for one another - the year of mutual responsibility’,” he said.

JNF’s AGM, where you can hear laughter in the stones

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
BENJY SHULMAN

GUEST SPEAKER, at this year’s JNF AGM, environmental journalist and 50/50 presenter Simon Gear, talked about how “going green” was good, as everyone benefited. The AGM was held at its Walter Sisulu Environment Centre in Mamelodi, near Pretoria.

Gear explained that everyone wanted to be happier, healthier and wealthier. Just by doing something toward two of these goal’s properly, could make them green goals.

“If you build an RDP (house) with a ceiling, you are achieving two of these goals. The house is warmer (happier) and you save on electricity (wealthier) and you put less pressure on the grid (green)”, he said. He was “very impressed”



Isla Feldman of the JNF presents environmentalist Simon Gear with a certificate stating that a thicket of trees had been planted in his name in Israel.

with the centre and “could feel the laughter in the stones of the place”. At the AGM, awards were made to various teachers and learners for the good work they have been doing in their schools and commu-

nities. However, the highlight of the day was the opening of the new community-connect nursery at the centre. The nursery will help grow the 3 000 trees needed annually for its harbour day celebrations. It would also teach horticulture skills, cut procurement costs and create jobs in the community.

The centre is a major environmental resource for Mamelodi, with 10 000 learners coming through the doors every year. The centre boasts a number of rooms, including an energy room, a water room, a biodiversity room, a waste management room, a permaculture outdoor classroom and pensioner’s food garden.

The centre also sponsors various projects such as an environmental quiz and school-based feeding gardens.

Four Lions Shul Torahs to be restored

OWN CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG’S longest serving shul, the Lions Shul in Doornfontein, is launching an incredible quadruple Torah restoration and rekindling project. In a few months this extraordinary event will celebrate the bringing home of these four Torahs to the shul’s 106-year-old ark.

The Johannesburg Jewish community, as well as many other Jewish families throughout South Africa and indeed abroad, have a special affiliation to both Doornfontein and to the Lion’s Shul as their foundations and roots were established in that “Medinah” and for many in that mother shul.

That the Lions Shul continues to be thriving and has an active congregation, is in itself a wonder. It has defied all the trends of demographic migration of communities and shuls to the city’s northern suburbs and not only is it surviving, but indeed it still fetches an excellent attendance and carries an ambiance that is unique.

Why the quadruple Torah dedication and how does it work? As Reverend Ilan Herrmann of the Lions Shul describes it, the ark dis-



The Torahs’ nest - The ark at the 106-year-old Lions Shul. (PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)

played a full house of Torahs until a Torah was found to be invalid for a defective word.

This happened several times over the last number of years and the Torahs that were valid for use, were becoming fewer and fewer and were eventually outnumbered by the invalid ones.

What was more concerning was that the Torahs were not just defective of a letter, but often were discovered to have sections of words, paragraphs and even columns and portions lost to degeneration.

The restoration of the Torahs will comprise the virtual re-embellishment, beautification and revalidation of them so that they will all

be in use again and will be given a new lease on life - indeed for many long years - and together with the rekindling of the Torahs so will the Lions community itself take on a new sense of spirit and vitality and pave the way for many future years of continued service to the Jewish community.

The exciting news is that each and every person is able to participate by sponsoring and dedicating words, verses or sections of the Torahs that will be mended and will be able to have the great merit conferred upon the one in whose name this dedication is made.

It can be for the living and for the departed and truly there is no greater merit than to have a Torah dedication for a person.

There are currently options for the dedication with a cost breakdown: A special highlight section of the Torah at R10 800; A portion at R5 400; A column at R1 800; A verse at R540; A word at R360; A letter at R180.

Certificates will be handed out to the sponsoring participants. Every person is encouraged and invited to be a part of this legacy of Johannesburg Jewry and participate in bringing a very great zechut to ourselves, our families, the community and all Klal Yisrael.

Visit www.lionsdoornfontein-shul.org or call us to make your dedication: Mike Baum on 082-445-1010 or mikeb@jhbchev.co.za or Rev Ilan Herrmann on 082-683-4100 or lionsshul@yahoo.com.



Daphne Miller, chairman UJW Cape Town; guest speaker Rhoda Kadalie; and UJW national president, Margot Segal; at the group’s Cape Town AGM.

Kadalie: TAC uses its volunteers as anti-Israel foot soldiers

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

MANY OF South Africa’s “left” mirrored the ANC government’s unofficial foreign policy stance of hostility towards Israel, guest speaker Rhoda Kadalie said at the annual general meeting of the Cape Town branch of the Union of Jewish Women (UJW).

Kadalie, the executive director of Impumelelo Innovations Award Trust, is a political commentator and columnist for Die Burger, Business Day and Beeld and was appointed a human rights commissioner by former President Nelson Mandela in 1995.

Lashing out at the government, she said that it lacked an “autonomous moral compass” and described its policy towards Israel as “rotten”. Setting her sights on the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Kadalie was equally scathing.

“(The TAC) has been willing to use its volunteers as Zackie Achmat’s anti-Israel foot soldiers, abetted by anti-Israel zealots like Doron Isaacs, Nathan Geffen, Ronnie Kasrils and others,” she charged. “Deliriously, they made an ass of themselves when they ambushed the Ahava counter in Claremont a few months ago.

“They had the cheek to confront the organisers of the opera, Porgy and Bess, demanding that they boycott Israel. And through all this, they hang onto the coat-tails of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, to give moral legitimacy to their self-interested campaigns.”

held up as if he is the only moral beacon in South Africa.

“He is entitled to his anti-Semitic views,” she added, “but to continue to be a patron of the Holocaust Museum is hypocritical at best.”

Describing some of Tutu’s struggle veteran supporters as “like-minded sycophants”, she said: “Having clearly failed to create an accountable democratic state here in South Africa, these political has-beens use Israel as their whipping boy to boost their dwindling struggle reputations.”

The University of Cape Town (UCT), of which she is a Council member, did not escape her wrath either. “UCT is quick to host debates that criticise Israel, but will find all kinds of excuses when a balanced debate based on empirical reality is proposed,” she alleged of the Dershowitz issue.

On peace prospects in the Middle East, Kadalie conceded that Israel could “certainly” do more, by, for example, “reining in the settlements and settlers in the West Bank.”

The “immediate task”, she proposed, was to prepare Palestinians for statehood, as leaving this until the conclusion of the peace process would be “far too late”.

“We see the damage that can be done by a liberation movement that arrives in office without being properly prepared to govern,” she said in a further salvo to the ANC. Acknowledging the forthcoming local government elections, Kadalie, a former ANC supporter, swore she would “never, ever vote for that party again because it defies everything I stand for”.

Sonja Keschner received the Circle of Excellence Award for her work at Pollsmoor Prison translating for Spanish-speaking inmates who participate in the UJW’s Women’s Resource Centre project at the facility.

Old Lions Shul menorah now as good as new

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTO SUPPLIED

THE 102-year-old Chanukiah of the historic Lions Shul in Johannesburg, has been rededicated by Jeff Fine, collector and appreciator of Jewish artefacts.

“Last year when Jeff Fine’s keen eye spotted the candelabra in less than ideal condition he undertook to personally refurbish it. It was returned this week and was hardly

recognisable.” said Reverend Ilan Herrmann

“The years of use and standing had eroded this once beautiful and historical shul artefact; it has now been restored.”

The menorah was originally made in Warsaw Poland in the late 1880s. It was brought to South Africa and in 1909 it was dedicated by Mr and Mrs D Silverman and family in memory of their late son Henry.



CAJE

The Johannesburg College of Adult Jewish Education

YOUR SECOND CHANCE TO KNOW

PRESENTS

BY YORAM BOGACZ

The Ultimate Design

Finding the Fingerprints in the Cosmos

Monday 30th May | 8:00pm

Sydenham Shul Community Centre

24 Main Street, Rouxville

R50. Tea will be served | Secure Parking

For further information or to book contact

011 640 5021 or

sydshul@sydshul.co.za

סדר

SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis jont@global.co.za



Jenny Hewitt and Barbara Joseph.

Music to remember mothers by

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY
RITA LEWIS

WHETHER OR not you believe that Valentine's Day, Father's Day and all the other days including Mother's Day are just "money making rackets" and "not for me", it has to be conceded that every single person in this world has to have had a mother to bring him or her into this world.

Just this thought alone should make almost everyone appreciate their mothers, whether or not by officially celebrating Mother's Day - but where possible show your love with a bunch of flowers, a phone call, a card or just a hug.

For the thousands of people at the Mother's Day Concert at Johannesburg Zoo, it was certainly a celebration of enormous proportions.

Despite the water-logged ground, the quagmires everywhere and the green grass so valiantly covered with straw by the Johannesburg Zoo staff, nothing could take away the obvious pleasure of families sitting together and enjoying the event.

The atmosphere - and weather -

was more than congenial, with people of all colours and creeds sitting side by side, (on groundsheets, raincoats, blankets - anything that would keep them away from the wet ground.

Listening to the wonderful timeless songs and music being played by the musicians on the bandstand under the baton of the popular Richard Cock, was both relaxing and enjoyable.

Cock was, as usual, also thoroughly enjoying the day. He light-heartedly joked - asking people what they wanted to hear and suggesting song titles from the '50s, '60s and '70s, but leaving out the last few lines of the title so that everyone who knew them could shout them out in unison.

There was much laughter and an air of frivolity and also unity.

Entertainers were eager to sing and perform for the crowd who joined in the singing and with some adding to the atmosphere by dancing away in time to the music.

This gave a glimpse of Madiba's Rainbow Nation and of mothers at their happiest, being appreciated for the backbone role they fulfil in the home and broader community.



The bandstand and crowd enjoying Mother's Day.



Maxine and Kiara Smith.



Ingrid Danin with her two sons, Wayne and Shaun, his baby Josh and wife Vanessa.



The zoo's Caleb Roberry holds up a Eurasian Eagle Owl for Mark Willward and other onlookers to admire.



Monty Ruch and Gail Nickel.



Gary, Tanya, Sa'hara and Dror Rogoff.



Elaine Silberg and Tevis Shapiro.



Andy Malkin with her mother Joyce Stein.



Re/max Netanya - International Team
Will be in Cape Town from May 20 - 23 & in Johannesburg from May 23 - 26

EXCLUSIVELY MARKETING MAGNIFICENT NEW PROJECTS BY LEADING DEVELOPERS IN NETANYA, TEL AVIV, RAMAT GAN AND RISHON LEZION!

* Professional advice on all legal and financial matters * Largest amount of resell properties

FOR A PRIVATE MEETING PLEASE CONTACT:

info@homeinisrael.net • www.homeinisrael.net • Julian Shapiro +972-54-232-1800
Selwyn Hare +972-52-555-0482 or Stan in Johannesburg - 082-900-7938

GINDI
HOLDINGS

COMMUNITY BUZZ

LIONEL SLIER

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

BULAWAYO

From Shalamit Kagan (continued):

“Being on the road from South Africa to the Victoria Falls, many lecturers took the opportunity to visit the Bulawayo community which was renowned for its hospitality and generosity.

“We hosted Rabbi Casper, Rabbi Dr Rappaport, Rabbi Goss, Rabbi Bernhard, Rabbi Goldman and more. Dr. Moshe Natas was a frequent visitor as were Raciel Rappoport, Mrs Bronner and Denis Diamond.

“From Israel came Moshe Sharett, Moshe Dayan, Ruth Dayan, Shoshannah Damari, Yaffeh Yarkoni, the well-known actor Margallit and many more whose names I cannot now remember.

“Worth a special mention is Norbert Masur, the Swedish representative of the World Jewish Congress and a member of Count Bernadotte’s team negotiating the exchange, during the Second World War, of concentration camp inmates and prisoners-of-war.

“Masur told us of a meeting with Himmler, arch murderer and second most powerful man in the Nazi regime. He described, how, towards the end of the meeting, Masur lost his temper and told Himmler exactly what he thought of him and how history would judge him. His story makes my hair stand on end to this day.

“I am not even mentioning, because I cannot do justice, to people like Abe Abrahamson and others who contributed so much, politically, socially and culturally to the general population of what was Rhodesia at the time.”

THE DIAMOND CUTTING INDUSTRY

Continued:

In 1920 plans for the proposed factory were in course of preparation, blueprints and plans having been obtained from London in March, but the project at that stage began to hang fire.

The chairman of De Beers explained that closer investigation had convinced the Board that it would be unwise to embark on another venture involving certain loss.

Until 1924 diamond cutting appeared to have been forgotten, but at that time the South African government proposed an agreement with one A Korb, of Antwerp with a view to establishing a factory in South Africa.

In August 1924, it was reported that Korb had formed a company with capital of 100 pounds sterling, the government granting a subsidy, spread over three years and a bonus

for every white apprentice in training during the years 1927 – ‘28.

Parliament had before it the proposed agreement with the firm Rosentrauch and Korb, which was ratified by the government. A factory was erected at the West End in Kimberley, but the venture petered out after a few years.

It was then proposed that the diamond producers and the Diamond Syndicate (De Beers) form a cutting company.

De Beers made an official announcement: They would organise a South African company in which the four Conference producers and the Diamond Syndicate would participate and subscribe the capital between them.

JOHANNESBURG

A pharmacist in Hillbrow (1955 – ‘97) by Honey Gluckman:

“Samuel Gluckman was born on May 12, 1929 in Georgetown, Germiston, in the (then) province of Transvaal, (now Gauteng).

“He lived in a house attached to a general dealer shop called ‘G and M Stores’ that his father, Myer Gluckman, had built and owned. He stayed there until 1939 with his father, mother and older sister, Minnie.

“They would eat in the kitchen on a wooden table near the coal stove in which all the cooking, baking and roasting was done.

“The only bathroom had a wash basin and a bath. The toilet was a small hut in the backyard. The seat was a wooden bench with a hole cut into it.

“At night the ‘night soil’ workers would come in their carts and retrieve the buckets and replace them with fresh ones.

“At the back of the house was a large yard where two big wagons and six horses were kept. These were used for delivering goods to the mines and other customers. Occasionally Sam was allowed to go with the driver and they spent the whole day delivering the goods.

“When Sam was six, he developed scarlet fever. The treatment then was the old pre-sulfa drugs, M&B 125 and M&B 693 and these were not effective in preventing secondary infections.

“As a result the infection spread to his ear and he had to have a mastoid operation at the then Kensington Sanatorium. This was a Catholic hospital run by nuns and the specialist was a Dr Pink.

“Three years later Sam again developed scarlet fever and had to have mastoid operations in both ears. This time he spent several weeks in the newly-built Children’s Hospital in Hillbrow.”

To be continued.

IT’S TRULY A SMALL (JEWISH) WORLD

From Marc Kopman, vice-chairman. United Hebrew Institutions,

Krugersdorp:

“While visiting our congregation’s president, Dr David Jankelowitz at his home (recovering from major surgery), among his other visitors were the Durbachs from Pretoria (his ‘machuten’) and after being introduced and chatting about one thing and another, it was mentioned about my (so far) 29-year-long visiting/researching southern African country Jewish communities ‘hobby’ and Sloam Durbach mentioned Umtata (now Mthata) from where he came.

“In 1983, while living and working in Queenstown, I had to be in Umtata on business and a work colleague who had previously visited the Umtata Jewish Cemetery, directed me to it and among the graves I spotted and singled out was a Mrs Durbach’s tomb. She had passed away in 1970 and it turned out to be Sloam Durbach’s late mother.

“I would never have imagined that 28 years later I would meet her son from Pretoria in Krugersdorp!

“It turns out that Sloam went to Queens College in Queenstown to be barmitzvahed by the late Reverend Gordon who was the spiritual leader there.

“While continuing the conversation, I mentioned Wepener, a town that I had often visited earlier while living in Bloemfontein and working in the southern and western Free State country districts and that my agent in the town had shown me the former shul being used as a garage for the local school bus, also advising me that the only Jew in the district was a farmer, Jacob Meltz, whom I enquired about visiting but was told that he was away in Israel.

“Yes, and snapping back to present time: Jacob Meltz was a cousin of Sloam Durbach!”

To be continued:

JOHANNESBURG

The United Zionist Luncheon Club was started in the 1940s and since then it has held a luncheon every Friday and provided an invited speaker.

Except for the end-of-year holidays, chagim and public holidays, it has never missed a meeting, except for Friday April 29 (three weeks ago) when a wedding somewhere or other, caused the luncheon to be cancelled, as many indicated that they could not attend.

Avrom Krengel, chairman of the SA Zionist Federation, last week, paid tribute to the Luncheon Club for its nearly seven decades of effort and dedication and said that it was the oldest Jewish social club in South Africa.

• Gloria Sherman (011) 485-4851 will provide details of the club’s luncheons.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

WORLD’S LARGEST FALAFEL BALL IS CERTIFIED

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY - A falafel ball weighing nearly 52,8 pounds created at a Jewish food festival in California has been certified as the world’s largest.

The falafel ball was certified last Sunday for submission to the Guinness Book of World Records at the Santa Clarita Valley Jewish Food and Cultural Festival, the Los Angeles Daily

News reported. The ball, made of ground chickpeas and fava beans, also measured 12,5 inches high.

The previous Guinness record falafel ball, created by an Israeli chef in New York, was 24 pounds.


Health regulations prevented food festival attendees from tasting the record-setting falafel ball. (JTA)

A land of history, challenges, leisure and celebrations. It remains a preferred holiday destination for those who want a bit more.

ISRAEL IT'S YOUR HOME

For holidays to Israel and around the world, you can rely on our 30 years' expertise and outstanding personal service.

Start planning your next trip and call us NOW to avoid disappointment!



sure executive travel

SA'S LEADING ISRAEL TRAVEL SPECIALIST

Ground Floor JHI House, 11 Cradock Avenue
Cnr Baker Street, Rosebank

ASATA **Tel: (011) 788-2050** **IATA**

NOBODY BEATS US FOR PRICE & SERVICE

Divorce & Family Law



Litigation
Mediation
Access
Custody
ANCs

Michael B. Notelovitz LLB (Wits)

1 The Avenue, Norwood.
Tel: (011) 728-4554 Cell:073-232-7482



HUGH RAICHLIN
ATTORNEYS NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

SUBSCRIBE to the **FREE** weekly e-mail version of the

Jewish Report

Simply log on to www.sajewishreport.co.za and click on ‘Subscribe Now’

DAVID ‘BEN GURION UNIVERSITY’ NEWMAN

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



IS COMING

19-21 August
0725530164
limmud.org.za

Courtesy of Friends of Ben Gurion University in South Africa



Being bullied can damage a child’s personality, sometimes for life. Photograph courtesy (WWW.HOWTO-PREVENTBULLY-ING.COM)

Bullying – so many faces, so many guises...

ROBYN SASSEN

THE WORLD-TRAVELLING production “Two Men Talking” (2002) by Murray Nossel and Paul Browde, contains an anecdote in which a boy is trapped in a school locker and thrown down stairs. It occurs because he is identified by his peers as gay. It is not only sexual preference - or assumed sexual preference - that can result in a child being bullied.

Jane Kobrin* is an above-average 15-year-old. She attends a private school, and until a few months ago, was a normal confident teenager, with a loyal circles of friends. Then, she won a dance eisteddfod, which afforded her the opportunity to travel overseas in the middle of the school term.

Suddenly, according to her mother, she was the “odd girl out”. No one wanted to sit with her. Gossip was circulated and friends dropped like flies.

Alan Park* a performer in the entertainment industry today, explained how because he was overweight as a teenager, he was laughed at and ignored by his peers.

Sadly, none of these incidents are singular. American writer Rachel Simmons, who visited South Africa in 2009 and is a research specialist in girl bullying, argues that among girls, bullying is a hidden, catastrophically destructive scourge.

In her book, “Odd Girl Out” (2002) she outlines the main situations which can result in bullying. Popularity, she argues, particularly among girls conscientised by society to be social, is “a cutthroat contest into which girls pour boundless energy and anxiety...”

All of our schools are attempting to address, explain and understand bullying, which, according to Simmons, is not impervious to socio-economic conditions, age groups or religious levels. It’s across the board.

Desmond Zeelie, principal of King David Victory Park Primary, focused his masters degree on the phenomenon of bullying within the school arena. He takes a tough line against it, with the support of the SA Board of Jewish Education.

“In 2009, bullying was in the school’s code of conduct; it referred to old school type of bullying. These days, cyber-bullying is practiced: bullying by SMS, facebook, mixit and in other means associated with the internet.”

Clinical psychologist Pinchas Shiel agrees. “Bullying occurs away from an adult’s attention: in the bathrooms, at break, between classes, on the sports field. On the internet, it’s uncontrollable.”

“Bullying grows out of a group dynamic,” said Zeelie. “Addressing it is less about punishment and more about being able to identify the behaviour. Often, the bully needs as much help as the one bullied.

“Why does a child bully? There’s no one answer. It could develop out of a conflicted home environment. A bully might bully for gratifica-

tion - the bully wants the person they are bullying to manifest pain, in order for them to feel they have achieved something.

“In addressing it, we must be authentic. It is important that we understand both sides of a situation before we jump in, emotions ablaze. This generation of parents wants immediate answers, but it doesn’t work that way. Bullying is complicated and requires interventionist skills. And no one wants to hear that it is their child who is doing the bullying.

“Repeated unkind behaviour fuels bullying,” he added. “This can manifest in anything from direct insults and inflicting physical pain to gossip and inflicting psychological hurt. But it is also about a group dynamic. A teacher would not be aware of what might be going on - the group as an entity knows instinctively how to close ranks.”

Says Shiel: “Children work in the concrete; how they are brought up plays a major role in how they respond to their peers. The child mirrors the adult, particularly in social behaviour.

“A significant indicator of problems at school is when a parent has no idea of what their child is doing, or who the child actually is. It can have catastrophic results as the child interacts with his or her peers. In the case of bullying on facebook and mixit, the fault often lies with the parent’s failure to communicate with the child. Parents allow their kids to lie.

“Parents have been known to downplay their children’s problems,” Zeelie concurred. “As parents, we need to make sure our children can talk to us, but we should not believe we are our children’s pal. If we ‘get’ our kids and connect to them, the need for psychologists and Ritalin would diminish. Dysfunctional children have become an industry: parents are not parenting.

“Denial or defensive mechanism comes into play, when the child feels under threat. A child cannot step back and evaluate a situation. A victim can turn into a reactor, not necessarily a bully, but one who is pushed far enough can learn to hit back,”

Shiel supports the notion that a child who might be susceptible to being bullied learns to sidestep the barbs and stand up for him- or herself and move out of the bully’s range (or circle of friends).

“Invariably, a bully targets others around him or her who do not fit into the same peer group,” he adds. “Kids are consumed by the need to belong. And particularly very young kids have not the capacity to function alone in a group dependent environment.

“But the phenomenon is not restricted to children. Teachers can bully children. Parents can; bullying tactics are taken beyond the classroom into adult life. The implications for the individuals involved in bullying have not yet been properly tabled,” he added.

• Names have been changed.

Gandhi’s memory back in ‘The Kraal’

STORY AND PHOTO BY DAVID SAKS

PINE STREET Shul regulars and other visitors to that particular area of Johannesburg will no doubt have wondered occasionally about the adjoining property, a traditional African-style thatched roof building whose presence would clearly seem to predate the synagogue by a good many years.

Those who have probed a little further, will have learned the fact that the house is not only, by Johannesburg standards, remarkably old but was originally occupied by none other than one of the towering icons of the 20th century, Mohandas K Gandhi.

For roughly a year in 1908-’09, “The Kraal” as it was then known, was the home of Gandhi and his close friend and fellow Indian rights activist Herman Kallenbach. The latter, one of the city’s leading architects, had designed and at the time owned the house. Of Lithuanian Jewish origin but educated in Germany, he was one of a number of individual Jews who fell under Gandhi’s spell during his time in Johannesburg and played a significant supporting role in his activities. In later life, he was prominently involved in local Zionist affairs.



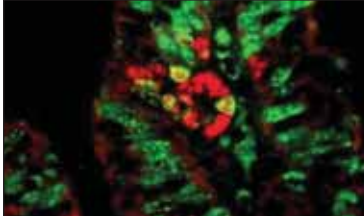
Israelis find a key to containing cancer

ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN JERUSALEM

(Reprinted with permission of Nature, Macmillan Publishers 2011)

ISRAELI SCIENTISTS already knew that when it is activated, the p53 gene produces a protein that can halt and even kill cancerous cells. Now, a team headed by Prof Yonon Ben-Neriah and Dr Eli Pikarsky of the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, have discovered that p53 also governs a mechanism that keeps those deadly cells from invading healthy epithelial tissue lining the cavities and surfaces of many internal organs.

As the researchers described in the February issue of the journal



The red cells, tumour “micro-islands,” express a p53-suppressed gene. The green cells are rapidly proliferating due to p53 deficiency. It is called simply p53, a short name that belies its starring role in halting the spread of cancer.

The early years of the 20th century was a time of significant developments in the evolution of Gandhi’s political philosophy. The Kraal was a meeting place for likeminded intellectuals and political activists, and much of his important early writing was done there. The famous philosophy of Satyagraha - loosely meaning “love in a firm cause” which Gandhi coined to describe the passive resistance campaign against anti-Indian discrimination, was to a large extent born within its walls.

For a full century following Gandhi’s departure, the house was an ordinary domestic residence, its historic origins all but forgotten. In September 2009, however, it was acquired by the Voyageurs du Monde Group, a French tour operator owned by CEO Jean-Francois Rial and Alain Capestan. It was purchased from then owners Jared and Nancy Ball with the intention of turning it into a memorial for Gandhi and his philosophy.

A renovation proposal was successful put to the City of Johannesburg Heritage Council, leading in due course to the property being officially registered as a national heritage site. Since then, restoration work has pro-

ceeded apace.

The restored property is to include a museum and a small guest house, the proceeds of which will help to make the project financially sustainable. Once completed, it will be officially renamed Satyagraha Guest House, an event scheduled to take place on October 2 this year.

The main consultant for the project is Eric Itzkin, deputy director: Immoveable Heritage at City Of Johannesburg and author of the trail-blazing book Gandhi’s Johannesburg, a comprehensive account of the various places in the city that were associated with Gandhi during his 10- year-long stay.

Last Friday Itzkin, together with Voyageurs du Monde Africa director, Fabrice Dabouineau, conducted a preview tour of the property for city councilors and members of the Johannesburg heritage establishment. The museum section will be designed by Lauren Segal, who designed the Gandhi exhibition both at Constitution Hill and at the Apartheid Museum.

Some controversy has been generated recently by alleged suggestions in a new biography of Gandhi, Great Soul by Joseph Lelyfeld, that Gandhi and Kallenbach had a homosexual relationship during this time. This suggestion (which the author has hotly denied making) is essentially based on certain ambiguous passages in the two men’s correspondence, including their practice of referring to one another as “Upper House” (Gandhi) and “Lower House” (Kallenbach).

In reality, far from describing the mechanics of a supposed physical relationship, this referred simply to the fact that Gandhi used to sleep in the loft while Kallenbach bedded down below. Itzkin further believes it to be a jocular reference to the undoubted Master-Disciple nature of the friendship and Gandhi’s gently “bossy” nature.

something fundamental going on that had to do with 53.”

Using sophisticated tools to analyse DNA and gene expression, the researchers found specific genes that kick off the invasion process. And when p53 is activated, it keeps those invasion-activating genes in check.

Pikarsky, one of Israel’s leading pathologists, thinks it could be possible to use invasion-activating genes as diagnostic biomarkers for determining if a tumour is contained (benign) or invasive (malignant) at a very early stage.

Current methods cannot make this determination before the malignant cells have already invaded surrounding tissue, typically lymph nodes.

“Using the biomarker, we could have a chance to find out without going to the lymph nodes, and that would be a tremendous advantage,” says Ben-Neriah. Survival rates could be greatly enhanced if treatment started so early, and people with benign tumours would get the good news much sooner.

Another possible application of their discovery - though Ben-Neriah says it’s still just wishful thinking - would be to boost the group-control function of p53 to keep benign tumours from developing a spreading capacity. This idea is now being studied at the Hebrew University researchers’ labs.

Yissum, the Hebrew University’s technology transfer company, is lining up investors for human studies to begin this summer at Hadassah Medical Centre on breast cancer patients and in Japan on gastric cancer patients. (Israel21c)

AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

WHITE HOUSE: ISRAEL HAS A RIGHT TO DEFEND BORDERS

WASHINGTON - The White House said Israel had a right to defend itself from unauthorised border crossings and blamed Syria for "inciting" violence.

White House spokesman Jay Carney on Monday addressed incidents along Israel's Lebanon, Syria and Gaza Strip borders the day before in which Palestinians marking Israel's 1948 founding attempted to cross over.

"Israel, like all countries, has the right to prevent unauthorised crossings at its borders," Carney said. "Its neighbours have a responsibility to prevent such activity. We urge maximum restraint on all sides."

Israel opened fire on the rioters, killing as many as four on the border with the Golan Heights, captured by Israel from Syria in 1967. As many as 10 protesters were killed on the border with Lebanon, though Israel says most were likely killed by Lebanese troops.

Carney echoed Israel's charge that Syria's Assad regime was to blame for allowing the protesters to approach the Israeli border.

"We're also strongly opposed to the Syrian government's involvement in inciting yesterday's protests in the Golan Heights," he said. "Such behaviour is unacceptable and does not serve as a distraction from the Syrian government's ongoing repression of demonstrators in its own country." (JTA)

NETANYAHU TO KNESSET: ISRAEL IS READY FOR 'TRUE PEACE'

JERUSALEM - Israel is willing to have "true peace" with the Palestinians, but the current Palestinian government is not a true partner for peace, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told the Knesset.

Israel also would be willing to make compromises including ceding land to the Palestinians for peace, Netanyahu told the Knesset on Monday at the opening of its summer session and a day after Palestinian demonstrations marking “Nakba Day”, the anniversary of the day that Israel achieved statehood, turned violent and deadly.

"This is not a conflict about 1967 but about 1948, when the State of Israel was established," Netanyahu said, suggesting that it is not just the occupied territories that are at the root of the problem with the Palestinians.

"We cannot bury our heads in the sand," he said. "We must look at this reality with open eyes. We must call this child by its name - the reason there is no peace is because the Palestinians refuse to recognise Israel as the national state of the Jewish people."

Netanyahu, who will meet next week with President Barack Obama and address both houses of Congress, laid out a basic policy statement that will likely follow him to Washington.

In addition to requiring the Palestinians to recognise Israel as a Jewish state, Netanyahu made a commitment to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; called for Palestinian refugees to be absorbed outside of the Jewish State; agreed to a demilitarised Palestinian state that does not threaten Israel's security; called for keeping large West Bank settlements as part of Israel and for Jerusalem to be the "undivided capital" of Israel.

Netanyahu called on the Israeli opposition to join in a unity government "while our very existence is being challenged".

Opposition leader Tzipi Livni rejected the unity call, telling Netanyahu that "unity to keep you in your seat after the damage you have inflicted on the State of Israel is not worthy of unity".

Livni said that Netanyahu would go down in history as the prime minister who allowed the formation of a unilaterally declared Palestinian state.

The session, which also marked the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Herzl, was interrupted several times by heckling from lawmakers. (JTA)

PROSECUTORS APPEAL DEMJANJUK'S RELEASE FROM JAIL

BERLIN - Munich state prosecutors have appealed a district court's decision to release convicted Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk from prison pending his appeal.

Monday's appeal of Demjanjuk's release, following his conviction on war crimes on May 12, also appealed the five-year sentence handed down that day for being too lenient.

The prosecutors' reasons will be presented in writing and only then released to the public, according to a spokesman for the Munich District II court, which found Demjanjuk, 91, guilty as an accessory to nearly 28 000 murders in the Nazi death camp Sobibor in occupied Poland in 1943.

Demjanjuk's main attorney, Ulrich Busch, appealed the conviction immediately. It is likely the appeals process will take more than a year, observers have said.

Demjanjuk, who is stateless and has no relatives in Germany, has been placed in a nursing home.

While Jewish leaders have decried Demjanjuk's release from jail, a group of Dutch co-plaintiffs said they found the entire court proceeding encouraging.

Their “respect for the court’s verdict includes respect for the court’s decision to release Demjanjuk until his appeals are decided and the guilty verdict is upheld”, said a statement from their Cologne-based attorney, Cornelius Nestler.

Meanwhile, US District Court Judge Dan Polster last week appointed a public defender to assist Demjanjuk in reviving the US denaturalisation case against him.

The move follows the release by The Associated Press of a 1985 FBI report challenging the authenticity of the Nazi ID card that was the key evidence against him in the German trial and in stripping him of his US citizenship for lying about his Nazi past in order to gain entry into the United States. (JTA)

MASS EASTERN EUROPEAN GRAVES DATABASE TO GO ONLINE

WASHINGTON - Information gleaned from Father Patrick Desbois' years-long search for mass Jewish graves in Eastern Europe, will be made available on a database.

Desbois' organisation, Yahad-In Unum, has joined with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Jewish Committee to set up an online database of his findings since 2004 of mass graves in more than 600 towns and villages in Belarus, Ukraine, Russia and Poland.

The database, known as Traces, will be available by midsummer on Yahad-In Unum's website and via the museum's website, according to a statement issued on May 13 by the groups.

Each village report will include summaries and extracts of videotaped testimony by eyewitnesses to the mass shootings of Jews, Roma and Soviet prisoners in the East by the Nazis and their allies.

The database joins a number of other Holocaust-era online information search sites that have been made available recently through the US Holocaust museum, Yad Vashem, the US National Archives and other national archives.

Desbois, in Washington last week to meet with officials at the State Department, says his work is only half done.

Hannah Rosenthal, the State Department envoy in charge of combating anti-Semitism, told JTA that she hoped to help Desbois continue his research by "twinning" American Jewish communities with possible gravesites.

Desbois focuses on the first phase of the Holocaust in which German troops murdered an estimated one million people in mass shootings. (JTA)



IT WAS A RUSH...

UNTIL IT BECAME A CRIME SCENE.

When “huffing” you feel like you’re on top of the world. Then your lungs begin to absorb the gases you’ve inhaled. After some time your heart struggles to pump blood through your body, you find it hard to breathe. You go into cardiac arrest and finally your body gives in. You’re dead.

Huffing is a silent killer. Call us at the Chabad Addiction Rehabilitation Centre on 086 1111 770 or email care@chabad.org.za for help or to find out more about huffing. This initiative is funded by Miracle Drive.

chabad addiction rehabilitation centre

Arabs seek the Hector Pieterse image

THE “ARAB Spring” is coming to Israel, it seems. The dangers are immense.

The protests engulfing Arab countries against long-time dictators have so far largely left Israel out of the picture. This changed on Sunday, when civilians from Syria crossed Israel’s northern border on “Nakba Day” - the day on which Palestinians commemorate their “nakba” or “catastrophe” of Israel’s creation. They were met by Israeli soldiers and some were killed in the clash.

Questions remain about the circumstances of the soldiers opening fire on unarmed people and whether the situation might have been better handled. However, whatever the case, it was naïve to imagine Israel would remain immune, an island of stability amid the regional chaos.

A clear attempt is apparent to draw it in, to change its image to just another Middle Eastern country shooting unarmed civilians - a good lightning rod to draw attention away from atrocities taking place in their countries – particularly Syria.

Did the border-crossers reflect a new sense of “people empowerment” among Arabs, after they threw out dictators in Tunisia and Egypt, and are confronting Libya’s Muammar Gaddafi and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad?

Senior IDF officers believe it is something else: a calculated diversion by Assad of his troubles at home, where a two-month-long uprising is underway and where protesters are brutally dealt with. The protesters confronting Israel’s border, mostly Palestinian refugees from camps near Damascus, could not have got to the border without Assad’s go-ahead - Syria is a police state.

If Israel shot and killed them, the world’s focus would shift away from Assad’s cruel suppression of protests at home. Arab leaders desperately want Israel back as the enemy, as a lightning rod leading the spotlight away from their own internal unrest, to take centre stage as the world’s prime “pariah state”, the suppressor of human rights.

Sunday’s events are probably the start of a concerted plan. The pressure and incidents will increase as September approaches, when Palestinian leaders intend asking the UN General Assembly to recognise a Palestinian state. The IDF top brass is looking into upgrading its soldiers and equipment with more sophisticated, non-lethal crowd control.

Palestinian protesters in Syria and the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank, approached Israeli army positions on the weekend without weapons. The aim seems to be to re-brand the Palestinian-Israeli conflict along the same “non-violent” lines that unseated dictatorships in Egypt and Tunisia.

Killings by Israel will garner international sympathy for them, as it did for protesters in those countries; Israel’s enemies could then argue that the region’s upheavals are really about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, not the Arab dictators fighting their own people seeking freedom.

It is a fight for a specific image. South Africans know the impact the image of a bloody Hector Pieterse had on the country and world – an unarmed young man shot dead by police, being carried away from student protests in Soweto by a hysterical young fellow-protester.

The Arabs want their equivalents of Hector Pieterse - as many as they can get. Even if these images are later shown to be staged or contrived - as the Mohamed al-Dura killing was shown to be - the damage to Israel’s image will remain.

Which brings us to the concept of the “martyr”, nurtured in the last couple of decades in the Muslim and Arab world, where youngsters are purposely sent to die for political aims. The suicide bomber, for example, is a cynical manipulation by leaders - religious or otherwise - who convince people to go and die the martyr’s death so they will go straight to heaven.

In Africa, this concept is an unknown phenomenon. Even with Hector Pieterse, he became a “martyr” after the fact. His death is regarded as “tragic”, rather than “the heroic act of a martyr”. Ask any kid in Soweto if they would offer themselves to purposely die. They will say “no”. Life is valued in African culture.

If Arabs and Palestinians get their “Hector Pieterse” images to display to the world, it is likely most African countries will align with them as the so-called “under-dog”.

South African Jews already live in a context where anti-Israel sentiments are pervasive. They are likely to feel the heat of what happens in the months to come – conceivably resulting in protests by anti-Israel groups, like the one staged previously outside Beyachad by Cosatu, the Palestinian Solidarity Committee and others.

If this happens, we hope our government will behave like a democratic government should, and take any actions necessary to protect its Jewish community.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

With border breaches, has the ‘Arab Spring’ reached Israel?

URIEL HEILMAN
TEL AVIV

IF A single phrase could capture the sentiment that motivated thousands of Arabs to try to cross Israel’s borders last Sunday to “retake Palestine” from the Jews, it would be this: Yes, we can.

That can-do attitude had toppled regimes in Egypt and Tunisia, and threatened dictators from Tripoli to Damascus. So, why not apply it toward Israel? If Arab leaders weren’t willing to send their armies to storm the Zionist state, the Arab protesters figured, well then, they’d just do it themselves.

The charge toward Israel’s borders from Arabs in Syria, Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank led to the most violent day in Israel in months, with about a dozen protesters reportedly killed by Israeli fire - some on foreign soil - and a suspected terrorist attack in Tel Aviv that left one Israeli civilian dead.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said late on Sunday that Israel would do what it needed to defend itself.

“Let nobody be mistaken, we are determined to defend our borders and sovereignty,” he said.

Coming on “Nakba Day” - the annual date Arabs mark the “catastrophe” of Israel’s birth on May 15, 1948 - the protests signalled that the “Arab Spring”, which until now has spared Israel, may be arriving at the borders of the Jewish State. Among Palestinians, calls for a third Palestinian intifada are rising - at least on Facebook.

“The whole Arab world is roiling around the Nakba,” Professor Eyal Zisser, an expert on Syria at Tel Aviv University’s Moshe Dayan Centre for Middle East and African Studies, told JTA.

“Add to that that youngsters think they can make a difference. They decided that instead of just shouting and demonstrating, they’d go across the border.”

For Israel, the breach of the Syria-Israel border came as something of a surprise. It marked the first major violence along the border since the May 1974 disengagement agreement that followed the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

In the Golan Heights, hundreds of Arabs from Syria reported to be Palestinians surged through a part of the border known as the Shouting Hill, so named because Druze relatives on opposite sides of the boundary use it to shout to each other by bullhorn. The few Israeli troops stationed in the area tried to keep the marchers at bay. Shots were fired; as many as four people were reported killed.

As scores surged across the border and into the Druze town of Majdal Shams - near one of the only parts of



Stone-throwing Palestinians clash with Israeli troops near the Kalandiya check-point between the West Bank city of Ramallah and Jerusalem on the 63rd anniversary of the “Nakba”, on May 15. (PHOTOGRAPH:NATI SHOHAT/FLASH90/JTA)

the border not covered by mines because it occasionally serves as an international crossing point - the Israel Defence Forces dispatched reinforcements and set up check-points around the town to catch infiltrators. The infiltrators who were caught were sent back to Syria.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops stationed along the international boundary with Lebanon used live fire to keep back thousands of protesters from Lebanon. At least 10 people were reported killed, some by Lebanese army fire, according to the IDF.

In Gaza and the West Bank, Palestinian demonstrators attacked Israeli checkpoints, and Israeli soldiers responded mostly with tear gas. Demonstrators in Egypt and Jordan also sought to force their way into Israel, but they were held back by local troops.

Eli Malka, head of the Golan Regional Council, called on residents of northern Israel to prepare to take up arms to defend the homeland, warning on Israel Radio: “Sixty-three years on, the War of Independence of the State of Israel is not over.”

Malka described the border breaches as a new form of warfare against Israel: by citizens from neighbouring states intent on retaking “Palestine” with their own hands.

On Monday, the Israeli airwaves were rife with talk of how to deter further border breaches, from laying anti-personnel mines along the boundary to mobilising Israeli residents of border towns against possible infiltrations to bombing Damascus - which many Israelis held responsible for last Sunday’s border breach in the Golan.

In Syria, one cannot charter buses

to the Golan or approach the border area without the say-so of the regime of Bashar Assad, noted Effi Eitam, a former Israeli Knesset member.

“This was a deliberate provocation,” he told Israel Radio, suggesting that any response should be directed toward Damascus.

The border breach also was seen as a warning by the Syrian regime of what could happen in the region if Assad’s government were to fall. For weeks, Assad’s security forces have been responding to widespread protests against it with deadly violence; an estimated 800 people have been killed.

In contrast to Libya, the subject of a US-led bombing campaign, the Syrian regime has drawn only subdued protestations from Western powers who fear that the collapse of Assad’s rule could herald even more turmoil in the region, including trouble for Israel.

Israeli leaders have kept mostly silent about the unrest in Syria, guessing that the devil they know in Assad would be better than the alternative of a Syria in the throes of anarchy or a militant Islamic government.

Last Sunday’s violence on the Syrian border should serve as a cautionary tale, Israeli analysts said.

Likewise, the suspected terrorist attack in Tel Aviv by a 22-year-old Israeli Arab from Kafr Kassem who rammed his truck into cars and pedestrians on a busy street, killing one, was a warning that the next Palestinian uprising against Israel might not be limited to West Bank Palestinians.

Indeed, Palestinian media have been rife in recent weeks with calls for a third intifada.

On Monday, Israel was mostly quiet, as the IDF imposed a full closure on the West Bank and deployed in greater numbers along Israel’s borders.

The question now is whether Arabs from the Palestinian-populated territories and Israel’s Arab neighbours will be encouraged or discouraged from their experience on “Nakba Day”.

When the unrest began spreading across the Arab world this winter, threatening autocratic regimes all around the region, Israel appeared to be an island of stability - a testament to its democratic character and, perhaps, to Israeli security strategy.

Last Sunday’s border breaches suggest that if Israel doesn’t take effective steps to stanch any unrest along its borders or in the West Bank - with the minimum possible loss of life so as not to inflame the Arab world - the honeymoon might be over. (JTA)



Arab demonstrators marking the 63rd anniversary of the “Nakba”, hold Palestinian flags as they approach the village of Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights, between Syria and Israel, on May 15. (PHOTOGRAPH: HAMAD ALMAKT/FLASH90/JTA)

OPINION AND ANALYSIS – FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

South Africa has an urgent role to play

AMBASSADOR (RET) ILAN BARUCH
FORMER
AMBASSADOR OF
ISRAEL TO SA



ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is now preparing for his most important visit to Washington. In the course of his visit he will meet with President Barack Obama and speak to the American legislators and address the American Jewish leadership.

In all three events, and in numerous media briefings, Mr. Netanyahu will be expected to stand up to the challenges awaiting him in the up-and-coming United Nations General Assembly due in September, where a draft resolution, proposing recognition of the State of Palestine and its admission as a full member to the UN, will be discussed.

The UN is a theatre of perennial defeat for Israel. That is, however, the way Israelis perceive multilateralism, and not without reason. The Non-aligned Movement is a-priori siding with the Palestinians on every issue pertaining to the Middle East conflict.

Israelis, rightly, fear delegitimisation. Being accepted on equal grounds as a member of the family of nations is highly desirable, yet places us in a predicament when security concerns are to be addressed politically - essential in any solution pursued in our region.

It seems that the Israeli electorate votes for hawkish governments, for fear of being left exposed to the dangers of total isolation, a reminder of South Africa prior to its victory over apartheid.

South Africa, as one of the most prominent leaders of the Nonaligned Movement, holds a golden historic opportunity to save the Middle East from yet another unnecessary spiral into conflict. I propose in this regard that President Jacob Zuma write Mr Netanyahu a letter and suggest - all protocol observed - the the following wording:

“Dear Mr. Netanyahu,
“As the President of both the ANC and the Republic of South Africa, I have been following the Middle East conflict with great care for years. It is not a secret that we, South Africans, side with the Palestinians in their endeavour to achieve freedom, as comrades who shared our trenches for decades, struggling for liberation. Multilateralism is our prioritised tool for conflict resolution. We believe in the ‘Two State’ solution based on the principles at the heart of all UN resolutions since 1967 regarding the Middle East conflict, namely, ‘territory for peace’.

“We regard Israel as a friend. However, we have difficulties expanding our friendship and bilateral relations, as long as the Middle East conflict is arrested in its impasse. We believe time has come to prepare for the establishment of the independent State of Palestine, side by side with Israel.

“Our conviction is that to transform Palestine into a viable state, Israel must relinquish its hold on territories it conquered in 1967. The border between Israel and Palestine and other pertaining issues, should be agreed by both and serve mutual security and prosperity requirements.

“You are preparing for your visit to Washington, the place of your choice to announce political plans towards the challenges in the near future. All members of the UN intending to vote in the anticipated UNGA will be listening to you.

“My message to you is as follows: In the wake of your predecessors Yitzhak Rabin, Ehud Barak, Ariel Sharon and Ehud Olmert, declare your explicit commitment to bring occupation of lands seized by Israel in 1967 to an end through a negotiated agreement.

“If this declaration is made, I commit myself to the task of leading a thrust to end the isolation of Israel in the UN and other multilateral forums.

“This will, no doubt, be a unique political asset for you and a victory that you could win gallantly. It will change Israel’s stand internationally and undermine any attempt to de-legitimise it or remove it from the family of nations.

Sincerely yours,
Jacob Zuma,
President.”

It will help.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

ISRAEL WILL TRANSFER COLLECTED TAX MONEY TO PA

JERUSALEM - Israel will resume the transfer of collected tax funds to the Palestinian Authority, its finance minister has said.

Yuval Steinitz, saying he was satisfied that none of the tax transfers would be given to the government's new partner Hamas or any other terrorist group, confirmed last Sunday night to reporters that his ministry would begin transferring the approximately \$88 million in customs and other taxes that it collects for the Palestinians.

The money had been withheld for the past two weeks following the reconciliation between PA President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah Party and Hamas. (JTA)



CHIEF RABBI LAU
SAYS I TO SINAI
19 June
Maroela Room, Sandton Sun

Chief Rabbi Lau is a child Holocaust survivor who went on to become the Chief Rabbi of Israel.

He is one of 7 international speakers at Sinai Indaba.

Sinai Indaba is a unity event for all South African Jews to come together to be strengthened, inspired and uplifted through our shared Jewish values. Dynamic international and local speakers including Chief Rabbi Lau will deal with a wide-range of relevant and current topics.

Say I to Sinai

SINAI INDABA
Torah talking in a modern world

7 INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS facebook.com/SinaiIndaba
sinai-indaba.co.za



Union of Jewish Women of South Africa

Some of our activities:

- Kosher Mobile Meals** provides 160 needy, mostly elderly Jewish people with daily, nutritious, cooked meals.
- Funds are raised** for shuls; homes for Jewish aged, mentally and physically challenged; Jewish youth movements; Hatzolah and the CSO.
- Operation Jonathan** provides finance for the education of disabled Israeli soldiers.
- Thousands of people are fed** at our daily **soup kitchens**, and also through our feeding scheme for Child and Granny Headed Households.
- We respond swiftly to **emergencies in the general community**, such as **feeding refugees** during the xenophobic crisis; **holding classes for children** during the public service strike; running a **holiday school** to take children off the street during the World Cup Soccer Tournament; and **handing out blankets** in winter after fires in squatter camps.
- We support **crèches** in the general communities and also give **comfort packs to rape survivors** as well as abused children at crisis centres around the country.
- Our **Women's Resource Centre's life skills programme** is mandatory for all Pollsmoor's women prisoners applying for parole.

National Head Office: 011 645 2591 Website: www.ujw.co.za PBO No: 18/11/13/2794
Email: ujwexec@beyachad.co.za NPO No: 004-143

We get things done!



ARTS MATTERS

COMPILED BY
ROBYN SASSEN
Call 084-319-7844 or
info@frodo.co.za at least one
week prior to publication

Adler Museum of Medicine, Wits Medical School, Parktown: “Reflect”, an exhibition by Elaine Hirschowitz, until July 11, (011) 717-2067.

Art on Paper Gallery, Milpark: “Still, life”, drawings by Terry Kurgan and Ruth Rosengarten, until May 28, (011) 726-2234.

Fugard Theatre, District Six: The world premiere of Athol Fugard’s “Birdwatchers”, directed by Fugard, until June 4, (021) 461-4554.

HOD Centre, Orchards, Johannesburg: In the Banquet Hall, on May 29, the Jewish Guild Orchestra, under the baton of Professor Brian Buch, performs, (011) 640-3017.

Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg: “A fearless vision”, major retrospective of the late Alan Crump, curated by Federico Freschi, until June 12, (011) 726-3130.

Joburg Theatre Complex, Braamfontein: In the Nelson Mandela, SA Ballet Theatre in collaboration with Vuyani Dance Theatre, performs “Romeo and Juliet” from May 27, (011) 877-6898.

Linder Auditorium, Parktown, Johannesburg: On May 25 and 16, JPO plays Fauré’s “Pelléas et Mélisande” suite, Haydn’s Double Horn concerto and Tchaikovsky’s first symphony. Conductor: Bernhard Gueller; soloist Shannon Armer and Peter Griffiths (horns), (011) 789-2733.

Market Theatre, Newtown, Johannesburg: In the Laager, “A Teacher in the Bushveld”, based on the writings of Herman Charles Bosman, performed by David Butler, until June 12. In the Main Theatre, by popular demand, Tshwane Dance Theatre’s “15 Mins of Fame”, until June 6, featuring Leigh Novis, (011) 832-1641.

Montecasino, Fourways: In the Studio, “Love, Loss and What I Wore” until June 12, (011) 510-1988.

Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton: “Bend it like Beauty”, until May 21. Friday concerts: Laurelin Trio, May 20; Philip Coetzee and Morné van Heerden (clarinets), accompanied by Tinus Botha (piano), May 27, (011) 883-8606.

Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg: “Listening to Distant Thunder”, a Peter Clarke retrospective, until July 2, (011) 631-1889.

Wits University Campus, Braamfontein: In the Origins Centre, “Life of Bone” an exhibition by Joni Brenner, Gerhard Marx and Karel Nel, until May 31, (011) 717-4700.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Dworzynski’s brilliance evident in JPO’s Linder concert

Concert: *Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra (Linder)*
Conductor: *Michal Dworzynski*
Programme: *Music by Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov*

REVIEWED BY PAUL BOEKKOOI

VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY once remarked in a TV documentary that Tchaikovsky’s apparent sentimentality was “sincere in Russian terms”. One was reminded of this through the JPO’s ability to inflect a Tchaikovsky melody without artifice during last week’s performance of the Symphony No 3 in D major, Opus 29 - the Polish.

We were fortunate to have the Polish conductor Michal Dworzynski back after an absence of three years. He is one of the greats among the younger generation who has collaborated with our orchestra. The way Dworzynski modulated, paced and shaded the music, appeared as if this was developed over years. But no, it’s been achieved in a rehearsal period of two and a half days.

Apart from some initial weaknesses in ensemble during the first six, seven minutes of the opening movement, the playing caught fire. Even the strings, not always observing the finer points of Tchaikovsky’s phrase and articulation markings, were ever ready to sing out with firm, focused tone, expressive abandon and at times fever pitch intensity.

Dworzynski did not only ride the big waves. He also gave a lot of attention to inner textures, tonal refinement, and the fact that this is one of Tchaikovsky’s most challenging symphonies due to its exposed nature and exacting technical demands.

He readily disguised the structural flaws of the symphony with his geniality and a clever ebb and flow of tempos. The changing lyrical atmosphere of the three inner movements was caught with evocative colouring and subtle rubato. Especially in the Scherzo (4th movement) a Mendelssohnian elfin quality was evoked.

The swaggering reading of the Finale - always in danger of sounding bombastic - set the seal on Dworzynski’s success. His shaping of the anthem-like second subject avoided the usual squareness both in the initial statement and even in the big broadening at the end, which punched home hard, but never sounded coarse.

In the second half Rimsky-Korsakov’s Scheherazade followed - a work the JPO performed more often than any other in its 11 year history. There are many ways a conductor can approach this most brilliantly orchestrated of all the composer’s works. The more successful ones are those where the symphonic sweep and the narrative or descriptive elements are in an ideal equilibrium.

Dworzynski’s interpretation was first-rate: tautly controlled throughout, rhythmically crisp,



Conductor Michal Dworzynski. (PHOTOGRAPH BY SASHA GUSOV, COURTESY WWW.GAVLE.SE)

electrifying in its dynamism, but by no means lacking in lyrical grace. He chose the right mix of ingredients to achieve a truly magisterial end result, while erasing the ones brought to us by second rate conductors. Dworzynski’s reading was unrivalled for poetic eloquence, kaleidoscopic colouring, and dramatic grandeur.

Concert master Miro Chakaryan does not count among the finer exponents of the eponymous solo violin role. With his fast vibrato he sounded rather sweet and sentimental instead of partly mysterious and often sensuous.

• Dworzynski will conduct his final concert this Sunday at 15:00 in the ZK Matthews Hall, Unisa, Pretoria.

Simon has taken this archetypal anti-Semitic symbol, using his own interpretations to make a comment about the nature of tolerance. The work will be shown later this year.

Tolerance, survival, lack of entitlement, anti-Semitism and the absence of bitterness, are among the central themes that matter to Simon. He cites Marcel Marceau (1923 - 2007) best known as a mime artist. Marceau joined the French Resistance and saved numerous children from concentration camps. He started miming as a way of keeping children quiet, as they were escaping.

Simon’s calendar, “Hurt to Hope” is about taking stories that people don’t know and showing the best that human beings can be; people who have done exceptional things, in spite of their background.

What else drives this man? There seems to be a pulse that keeps pulling him back and informing his present, whether it be fixing a 1953 Cadillac Eldorado; telling of his vintage phonograph, or searching through historical archives. “There’s magic about it all. You can’t put your finger on it. It’s not tangible.”

Hats off to the magical realism Selwyn Klass (narrator), Gail Dendy (poet), Tony Bentel (piano), Gerrit Koorsen (‘cello) and Marli Labuschagne (flute) will bring to light exploring Simon’s calendar, “From Hurt to Hope”. The event marks what would have been Anne Frank’s 81st birthday, on June 12.

• The showcase revue of “From Hurt to Hope” will be hosted by Second Innings on June 5 at the Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, Sandringham at R40 for Second Innings members and R60 for non-members. Call Grecia on (011) 532-9718.

Simon – master of multi-layered reality

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZY BERNSTEIN

MYSTIQUE AND myth are just two concepts which artist Dean Simon bares with a simple graphite pencil. His celebrated calendar “From Hurt to Hope” is pivotal to a special morning to be hosted by Second Innings on June 5.

Simon explains that his genre of art - hyper-realism - is different to creating an artistic rendition of a photograph. He adds subtleties to the image he garners from a multi-layered reality.

He gives the example of the mystique we have, a generation later, of a shtetl, and how stories he heard from his grandmother, (who survived three pogroms) spurred him to educate himself about life as it truly was in Eastern Europe.

It was the same for him in South Africa, where he worked as a war artist in the late ‘80s. Where a photograph reflects a portion of reality, he is able to add a broader perspective by giving a hyper-realist view, thus texturing a crafted, layered piece of work.

The army was a crossroads in his life. At that time, he considered going to America. But he has no regrets: “Things happen for the right reason. If I hadn’t gone to the army, I wouldn’t have been doing what I am doing now.”


Currently, Simon’s “The Last Supper”, commissioned by a local businessman, has become quite controversial. It is a contemporary local version of Leonardo da Vinci’s eponymous fresco. Former President Nelson Mandela is depicted as Jesus Christ; there are 12 other figures who dedicated their lives to the abolition of apartheid.

I asked him if he liked the limelight: “No. It doesn’t bring any good. It brings trouble.”

Simon stresses this work was a commission and is not necessarily reflective of his own views. However, he recently completed another piece, which does speak from his heart, and which he predicts will be as controversial, if not more. It’s a contemporary take on the work of Flemish artist Hieronymus Bosch and is entitled “Amalek: Christ Carrying the Cross”.



Dean Simon, the artist, at home with his work and his vintage phonograph.



FELDMAN ON FILM

Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides

Cast: *Johnny Depp; Penelope Cruz; Geoffrey Rush; Ian McShane; Kevin McNally*
Director: *Rob Marshall*

THE TIDE has come in and brought with it a fourth instalment of the immensely successful franchise, “Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides”.

It’s a rollicking, rambunctious adventure yarn, full of good cheer, sharp, funny dialogue and a star cast who take their roles pretty seriously.

It is far superior in tone and texture to the two previous excursions on the high seas, and the inclusion of Penelope Cruz and Ian McShane add immeasurably to the overall impact.

There is even room here for a surprise package, Judi Dench, who grabs about 30 seconds of screen time, Rolling Stone Keith Richards as Sparrow’s father and a rotund Richard Griffiths bursting forth as King George IV.

The previous two productions of Pirates had lost much of their initial magic and became tired and predictable and something of an endurance test.

In view of this, one had to pose the question whether there was any wisdom in extending the life of this franchise, a concept which had initially been highly innovative and fun, to create yet another hyped-up blockbuster.

Happily, director Rob Marshall has managed to inject spirit and style into this new production, which is driven by a stirring Hans Zimmer soundtrack and camera work that ducks and dives and swivels and swings.

Johnny Depp’s immortal creation, Jack Sparrow, a loveable, swaggering rascal, with a quirky disposition and penchant for getting into some amazingly tight spots, is a completely

dominant force now and at times he threatened to overwhelm the production.

But he is up against Geoffrey Rush’s immaculately visualised Barbossa who has miraculously survived a few past terrors, and escaped with one foot intact, while the other is wooden and proves a handy receptacle for alcohol.

The story centres on the search for the fountain of youth. There is plenty of swashbuckling action during the journey as the Spanish, the British, with Barbossa at the helm after switching sides, and the dastardly Blackbeard (McShane) and his daughter, Angelica (Cruz), all set out on an adventure, with the enigmatic Sparrow leading the way in his own inimitable manner.

Along the way they also encounter zombies, a sea of vicious mermaids, from whom they have to extract a tear, and a young missionary who falls under the spell of a mermaid named Serena,

Fans of the series certainly won’t be disappointed with this one as there are some ingenious touches, especially the ironic ending involving the feisty Angelica.

TAPESTRY – ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Dark underside of Ephron’s essays

I Remember Nothing by Nora Ephron
(Random House Struik, R215)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

WHEN AN internationally acclaimed journalist and scriptwriter (Julie & Julia, You’ve Got Mail and the Academy Award-nominated When Harry Met Sally, Silkwood and Sleepless in Seattle) condenses her considerable worldly wisdom into one slim volume, the result can only be compelling.

At first glance, Ephron’s essays seem too epigrammatic to deliver more than a brief, cynical laugh. But read them carefully and their dark underside shows through, dragging the reader into the murky territory beneath America’s social surface.

The pieces are constructed as columns, or - in some cases - even as New Age haikus, with Ephron challenging almost all the assumptions on which a modern Western life rests.

Like few others in her genre, she is a master of economy, understatement and the art of disguising granite behind a light veil. Her humour is lacerating enough to match Dorothy Parker’s. But there is also a big, bold, unapologetic honesty which refuses to cower in the face of the famous, the infamous or the revered, and removes all self-consciousness from the book.

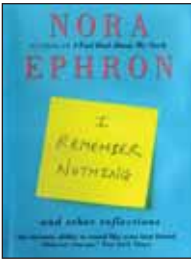
Thus in her list of “23 Things People Have a Shocking Capacity to be Surprised at Over and Over Again”, Ephron slips the devastating revelation: “You can never know the truth of anyone’s marriage, including your own”.

After spending much of her lifetime in the media, her targets necessarily include newsrooms, editors and press conferences. She offers a disarmingly frank account of her own entry into journalism (at a still overtly sexist “Newsweek”, where the hardened backroom sub-editors quickly disabused her of any romantic notions regarding her profession), then swings smoothly into a gut-wrenching recollection of her mother’s addiction to, and early demise from, alcoholism.

In both cases, she deals head-on with the emotional core of the experience. “Alcoholic parents are so confusing. They’re your parents, so you love them; but they’re drunks, so you hate them. But you love them. But you hate them. They have moments when they’re still the people you grew up idolising; they have moments when you can’t imagine they were ever anything but monsters. And then, after a while, they’re monsters full-time.”

The opening piece - from which the book’s title is taken - explores the vagaries of ageing, with particular reference to failing memory and the invariable shock one experiences on encountering long-lost friends and wondering whether one looks quite as bad as they do. (The answer is yes.)

For Ephron, coming to terms with vulnerability and mortality in middle-class American circles means picking one’s way through the myriad hypocrisies that lubri-



cate social intercourse. The pick of the book, however, is Ephron’s essay on her ill-fated relationship with playwright Lillian Hellman, just before the publication of her best-known (and, later, most reviled) work, “Pentimento”, on which the iconic 1970s film “Julia” was based. This was the novella in which Hellman described her great childhood friend, British-born “Julia Fox”, who became an avid anti-Nazi activist while studying medicine in Berlin.

According to Hellman, when war broke out, it was Fox who persuaded her to make the trip to Europe from the USA and smuggle a large amount of money hidden inside a fur hat to Nazi Germany, where it was used to help Jewish refugees. The novella, like the film, ended tragically, with Fox’s murder at the hands of the Gestapo.

The young and idealistic Ephron was dazzled at meeting Hellman, and describes her eccentricity, her fiercely independent spirit, her utter disregard for social niceties and her lifelong flouting of convention.

A committed communist, Hellman was hauled up before Senator McCarthy’s House Un-American Activities and ordered to denounce fellow members of the party. “I cannot cut my conscience to fit this year’s patterns,” she famously declared.

Though the age gap between Ephron and the older Hellman was considerable, a friendship developed, each woman recognising a kindred spirit in the other.

When the news broke that “Pentimento” had, in fact, been plagiarised from a story written by Muriel Gardiner, a dismayed Ephron severed her ties to the disgraced playwright.

Ephron rationalised that she had done the right thing. “I told myself that I could never have gone on with the friendship because Lillian had turned out to be a pathological liar,” she recalls.

Only later - with the temperance of maturity and compassion, having learnt to appraise individuals’ worth based on their larger, ultimate whole, rather than on one event - did the penny drop.

“The story is always the same: the younger woman idolises the older woman; she stalks her; the older woman takes her up; the younger woman finds out the older woman is only human. The story ends.

“If the younger woman is a writer, she eventually writes something about the older woman. And then years pass. And she herself gets older. And there are moments when she would like to apologise - at least for the way it ended. And this may be one of them.”

It is this realisation of what does and does not constitute being “only human” that gives Ephron’s book its power.

‘Fugitive inevitability’ pervades this exhibition

Exhibition: “Still, life” (Art on Paper) Milpark (011) 726-2234
Artists: Terry Kurgan and Ruth Rosengarten
Until: May 28

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

A FUGITIVE inevitability pervades this exhibition of drawings about photography, which walks a thin line between abstracted and specifically focused nostalgia: its strength is in how the artists’ ideas dovetail. It will not take you hours to peruse; tender and light as it is visually, so will it touch your heart.

Kurgan takes an innocuous image and plays with it, repeats it, challenges it. She works on paper primed with glue, in ink, pencil and tracing paper-transferred red oxide to create beguilingly simple images, some discomfiting in dreamlike illogic. She cites a ritual of hers before starting new work.

Menashe Golashevsky was the “landsman” of her grandfather, coming from Lithuania on the same ship in 1928. He became a studio photographer in Salt River. When he died, a shoe box of his work was abandoned. From it Kurgan culled a portfolio reaching through snaps of strangers into the trajectory of her career. She doesn’t



An image from Ruth Rosengarten’s “Untitled (Photographs)”, pencil on paper. (PHOTOGRAPH BY RUTH ROSENGARTEN)

Like the blocks of colour all around it, this is the back of a photograph, photographed. “Purim 1958-9” says another. A few are torn from old photograph albums. All we see is the rough detritus of glued black chalk paper, looking like a modernist painting.

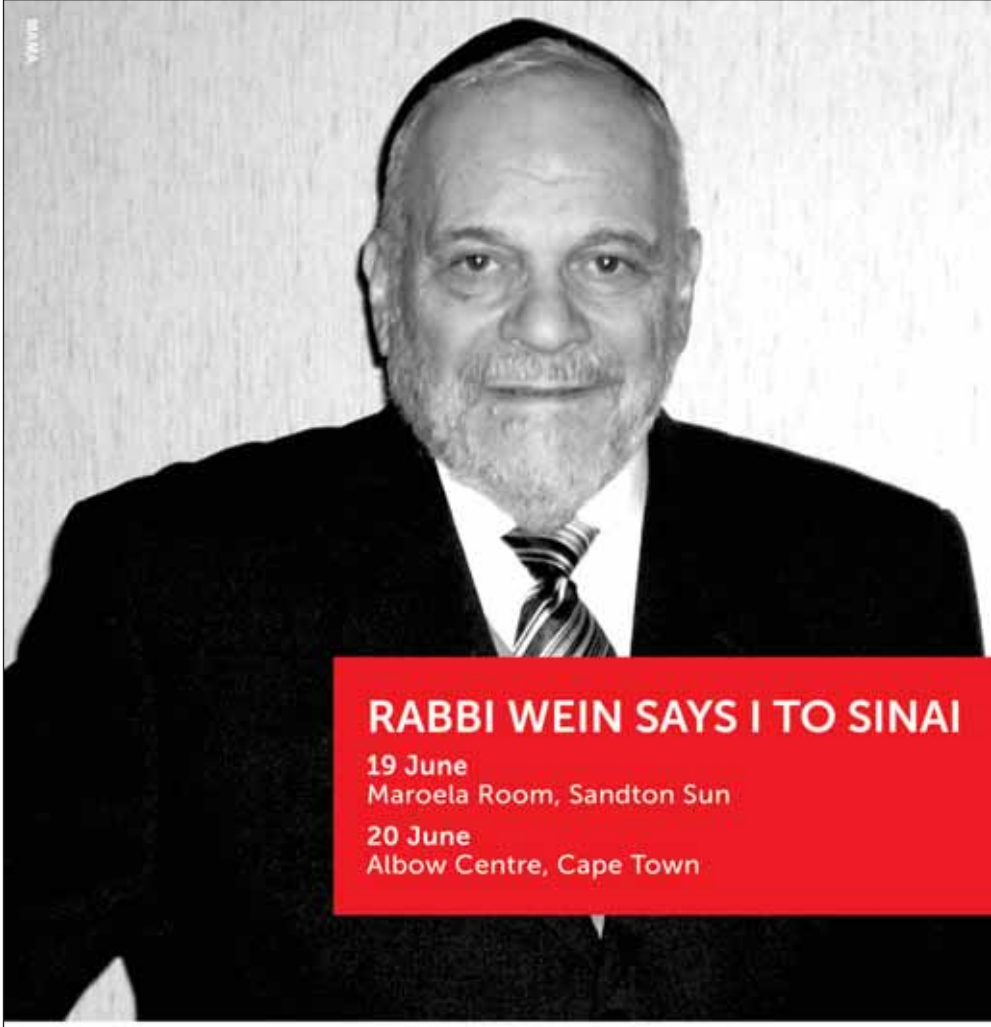
The snaps are Rosengarten’s personal ones; without labels to this effect, it is clear these details are irrelevant. Similarly, the specificity of Kurgan’s works is veiled behind “untitled” titles. They force you to look at the work, not ponder connections.

quote these images, they’re a talisman to her work.

Two installations by Israel-born Ruth Rosengarten fill the second part of the gallery’s “L-shape”. Four series of drawings on uniform sized sheets of paper are made with a blunt pencil, and totter and carp quickly across the lines of old family snaps.

They’re her family, but are not labelled as such. The drawings erase a self-conscious sense of artistry.

In the far corner, there’s an installation, which at first glance seems abstract. But look closely. “To Fay darling, with sincere affection and everlasting friendship, love, Al,” one piece says. It’s dated May 25, 1948, Shanghai.



RABBI WEIN SAYS I TO SINAI

19 June
Maroela Room, Sandton Sun
20 June
Albow Centre, Cape Town

Rabbi Berel Wein is a noted scholar, historian, educator and raconteur - admired the world over for his lectures, books and now films - particularly on Jewish history.

He is one of 7 international speakers at Sinai Indaba.

Sinai Indaba is a unity event for all South African Jews to come together to be strengthened, inspired and uplifted through our shared Jewish values. Dynamic international and local speakers including Rabbi Wein will deal with a wide-range of relevant and current topics.

SINAI INDABA
Torah talking in a modern world

Say I to Sinai

7 INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

facebook.com/SinaiIndaba
sinai-indaba.co.za

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES THINKING OF SELLING? CASH PAID

ART: SA AND INTERNATIONAL.
PIERNEEF, IRMA STERN,
BOYLEY, SUMNER, ETC

BRONZES: SA AND
INTERNATIONAL. ULLMAN,
LORENZL, ANTON VAN
WOUW, ETC.

CHINA: ROYAL ALBERT,
MOORCROFT, ROYAL
DOULTON, CLARICE CLIFF

ANTIQUE FURNITURE: LINEN
PRESSES, 12-24 SEATER
DININGROOM TABLES, OCCASIONAL TABLES, ETC

JEWELLERY: ANTIQUE GOLD AND GOOD COSTUME

DO NOT GET CAUGHT PAYING
HIGH COMMISSIONS... SELL DIRECT!
DOWN-SIZING OR CASHING IN?
TOP PRICES PAID.

CALL 082-883-4933



1867-1844 - Frans David Oeder
Oil on Canvas, Grazing Horses,
measuring 89cm X 50cm

LETTERS

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

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

BIN LADEN MAY BE LIKENED TO HAMAN OF OLD

IN REGARD to Rabbi Jeremy Rosen’s article in last week’s Jewish Report, “Torah injunction for Jews not to celebrate enemy death” he quotes Proverbs: “When your enemy falls do not rejoice”.
In fact, in Gemorah Megilla 16a, Haman, “The Wicked” quotes this same verse from Proverbs to Mordechai, “The Righteous”, trying to inspire Mordechai not to rub in Haman’s humiliation and is told this only applies to Jews. Whereas to your kind, that is enemies of the Jews,

then one is encouraged to trample over them.
I think it is fair to say that bin Laden may be likened to Haman of old and therefore just as, we celebrate Haman’s demise...
Furthermore, the Talmudic tale of Rabbi Meir was also clearly dealing with Jewish gangsters to whom different rules apply than would to non-Jewish enemies.

**Rabbi Mordechai Abraham
Johannesburg**

ARABS JUST CANNOT STOMACH A SOVEREIGN JEWISH STATE

AS I write, the Arabs who call themselves “Palestinians” have launched their first terror attacks on Israel’s men, women and children, with an Arab truck driver killing an Israeli civilian in an attack aimed at a school full of children.
The Arabs know that they can start wars with impunity - they announced that they would start this intifada on May 15 - an intifada means war!
And yet those who claim to be for peace, demonstrate their support for the intifada - that is war. What a strange Orwellian world we live in!
Hamas and the other instigators of this terror war know that their supporters will attack Jews and friends of Israel around the world the moment Israel takes steps to defend her population.
We only have to look at what happened when Israel took steps to defend her civilian population from rocket fire by Hamas and Islamic jihad terrorists in Gaza: media hysteria, violent marches by the Marxists and Muslims of the anti-Israel lobby and cowardly petitions will become the order of the day.
It is simply mind-boggling how terrorist movements can deliberately start a war of aggression against a tiny country and its population and know they will win massive world support.
The biggest obstacle to peace between Israel and the Arabs is the pro-Palestine lobby. Arabs have been attacking Jews in the Holy Land for decades before the State of Israel was re-established in 1948.
In fact, the pogroms carried out by Arabs against Jews in the Land of Israel in 1920 - 1921, 1929 and 1936 – 1939, were referred to as the first, second and third intifadas, which would

make what the Arab genocidal terrorists are now threatening the “sixth intifada”.
As Edwin Black in his book The Farhud describes the 1929 Hebron pogrom: “House to house they went bursting into every room looking for hiding Jews. Religious scrolls or books were burned or torn to shreds.
“The defenceless Jews were variously beheaded, castrated, their breasts and fingers sliced off, and in some cases their eyes plucked from their sockets. Infants and adults, men and women, it mattered not.
“The carnage went on for hours, with the Arab policemen standing down. Blood ran in streamlets down the narrow stone staircases outside the buildings. House by house, room by room the savagery was repeated.”
The driving force behind Arab terrorists and intifadas and the Muslim jihad against Israel is Islamic supremacy akin to Nazism.
The idea of Jews in the Middle East being sovereign in an independent state and not subjugated to Muslim rule and humiliated under dhimni status, is what was intolerable to the Arabs and the roots of the violent Arab rejection of the State of Israel.
Every decent human being must stand up against the hateful campaign to destroy Israel, its Jews and the loathsome and satanic international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign together with media and academic demonisation of Israel, with the goal of preparing the world for a second Holocaust.
Let us say enough is enough. Jews in Israel are also entitled to human rights.

**Gary Selikow
Johanesburg**

LEGISLATION IN ORANGE GROVE APPLIED VERY SELECTIVELY

HELEN ARON says in her letter (SAJR May 13) “Arnold Levy is wrong regarding Baal Shem Tov”.
Technically, he may be... but there’s so much more at play regarding BST.
Aron herself advocates: “Whether the complainant has a bias towards any institutions, religious or otherwise, is of absolutely no relevance... Rather confine oneself to the legislation... Common decency requires that, surely.”
Stop right there! Just look how selectively “legislation” is being applied in Orange Grove.
Baal Shem Tov’s detractors determinedly ignore Orange Grove’s proliferation of illegal clubs and she-beens, accommodation establishments and churches that cause parking havoc. All the heat is saved for tiny, innocuous BST.
Baal Shem Tov’s detractors determinedly ignore the fact that the little shul is noiseless, spotless, and is

unattended 23’s hours a day.
Baal Shem Tov’s detractors determinedly ignore the fact that all BST’s neighbours have stated in writing that they approve of the shul... except (Councillor) Christine Walters, whose crusade to get the shul closed was handled from a high political office.
So much for the assertion: “Whether the complainant has a bias towards any institutions, religious or otherwise, is of absolutely no relevance.”
Indeed, as Helen Aron advocates: “Rather confine oneself to the legislation... Common decency requires that, surely.” Indeed. Confine yourself to the legislation. That precludes Walters using her position in the Council to get BST’s application blocked. Common decency requires that, surely.
**S Luntz
Observatory, Johannesburg**

HOW DO YOU KNOW THESE WOMEN WERE JEWISH?

CAN ASHNE Beinart Segal please let us know how she knew that the women driving, either talking on their cellphones or texting, are Jewish.

I could not help but laugh at such an outrageous statement.
**Zelda J Katz Endlin
Petach Tikvah**

YEVTUSHENKO’S GREAT POEM ON BABI YAR REMEMBERED

THE MENTION of the Babi Yar massacre in a news brief in Jewish Report, brings to mind the poem “Babi Yar” written in Russian by Yevtushenko, a non-Jew.
While the Babi Yar massacre will go down forever, in the annals of the Holocaust, the poem will go down

SLANDERERS OF ISRAEL SHOULD BE PERMANENTLY ‘SEPARATED FROM COMMUNITY’

I WOULD like to commend Rabbi Widmonte for his inspiring words on lashon hara in his parsha in your April 1 edition. At the same time I would like to ask him and his colleagues who preached on this subject during Shabbat, whether they were actually serious about the issue or was it just simply “talking points”?
Now that the real truth behind the “Goldstone Report” is beginning to emerge, it is time for the South African Jewish community and its leaders to start dealing with the perpetrators of vicious slander against Israel, who reside in its midst.
It is time that the community publicly denounced them and disassociated themselves from them on a permanent basis. It was Elie Wiesel who told us “never to forget”. We should not forget how they have spent the last 20 years trying to demonise Israel, even using the pretext that they were trying to help by offering “constructive criticism”.
(Such criticism offered publicly instead of privately, fits the exact definition of lashon hara).
We must not forget how they smirked with glee when using the findings of the “Goldstone Report” to put their proverbial knives into Israel’s back. We must not forget how the self-proclaimed “guardians of free speech” left no stone unturned in trying to silence Professor Alan Dershowitz and prevent him from coming to South Africa and telling the truth about Israel.
The leaders must not come forward with platitudes

‘RAJAK’ DOESN’T SHOW PROPER RESPECT TO JULIA RAJAK

IN THE edition of May 13, there was a report celebrating the 100th birthday of Julia Rajak. The story repeatedly referred to her as “Rajak”, rather than Mrs Rajak, Julia, or Julia Rajak.
Not only did this jar somewhat in a happy story of a wonderful lady, but it reminded me of the practice of The Times of London, where it is customary to use the title or the full name of the person in question, unless they are a convicted criminal, in which case the courtesies cease, and they simply are referred to by their surname.
I can assure you that this is not the case with Mrs Rajak and it jarred somewhat in a story celebrating

JEWISH ADDRESS LIST A BLATANT INVASION OF PRIVACY

I PICKED up “The Jewish Guide for Jozies” (Everything you need to know about living in Jewish Jhb) from one of the kosher outlets.
I was appalled when I opened it. Indeed, everything anyone - who might not necessarily have the Jewish community’s best interests at heart - would like to know about Jewish Johannesburg.
This includes the names and telephone numbers - taken from whatever list the publishers laid their hands on - of random members, Jews living in Johannesburg. My name was among them and several of my friends were included, but a lot of well-known Jews were (fortunately) left out.
This is, at very least, an invasion of privacy, and, possibly even actionable. I have spoken to several people whose names are on the list and not one had given permission.
It is definitely not akin to the telephone directory, where people are able to be unlisted if they so wish.
This first “addition” (sic) of this booklet, to me, is

FOR THE RECORD

Erratum Yom Ha’atzmaut

IN OUR social column of last week’s issue, it was mentioned that the Israeli performer Omri Rotbard had given up a prestigious concert in New York to perform in South Africa’s “Footsteps to the Future”.

forever, in the annals of literature as one of the greatest and most powerful of the 20th century.
What a pity that it is not mentioned more often.

**Shulamit Kagan
Johannesburg**

of inclusivity or “how can we exclude our fellow Jews?” If Miriam, who was one of the most righteous women of all time and who risked her life to save Moses when he was an infant, could be separated from the Jewish community for a week for one off-the-cuff remark against him, then those who have been slandering an entire nation state over a period of many years, deserve to be separated from the community on a permanent basis.
Justice must be done and must be seen to be done. I would like to ask Rabbi Widmonte and his colleagues if, when they say the 19th bracha of the amidah (“may the slanderers have no hope”) three times a day, six days a week, they really mean what they say, or is this also simply “empty words”?
While I have always fully supported the absolute right to freedom of speech, those who abuse this right by using it for malicious slander, can and must be fully counteracted by the exercise of another fundamental right: freedom of association.
Freedom of association includes the right to dissociation and the community at large has the moral obligation to exercise this right against the slanderers.
It was Edmund Burke who said that all it takes for evil to prosper is for good men to remain silent.

**Irwin Gutkin
Jerusalem**

such a milestone. If “Julia” is too familiar, then perhaps “Mrs Rajak” would have had a better ring to it. It certainly would have shown greater respect to her age.
**Andrew Levy
Athol, Johannesburg**
Using only surnames is not intended by any means to show any disrespect, as the story about her makes abundantly clear. The Jewish Report follows the lead of many prominent newspapers all over the world. – Editor.

purely a way for some individual or group to make a quick buck and is an insult to the well-researched and official “Guide to Jewish South Africa” put out by the Jewish Board of Deputies to Jewish organisations.
There is no name of the editor or publisher - only a fax, anonymous cell number and a website, which, when you try to access, state: “Website Under Construction”.
I think the advertisers have been duped, individuals face a security risk (we reported it to the CSO) and are absolutely furious.
Maybe the anonymous people behind this publication should have the derech erez to own up and issue a public apology through the pages of the Jewish Report.
**R P Blumenthal
Bagleyston
Johannesburg**

It was in fact internationally celebrated performer Hananel Edri, who had done so. Edri performed in last year’s Yom Ha’atzmaut celebration under the baton of Bryan Schimmel. We regret the error.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

ISRAEL FILES COMPLAINT WITH UN OVER BORDER INFILTRATIONS

JERUSALEM - Israel has filed a complaint with the United Nations Security Council against Syria and Lebanon over the breach of its border by protesters.
The delegation said on Monday it filed the complaint in the Security Council and with the UN Secretary-General's office for violation of international law.
The complaint follows demonstrations last Sunday for “Nakba Day”, or “Catastrophe Day”, marking Israel's achieving statehood. Israeli troops fired on protesters from Syria, Lebanon and Gaza who tried, and in some cases succeeded, in breaching Israel's border.
As many as four Syrian protesters and up to 10 Lebanese protesters were killed during the infiltration attempts.
Also on Monday, Lebanon's delegation filed a complaint against Israel over the Lebanese deaths, citing "Israel's disregard for Lebanese sovereignty and UN resolutions". (JTA)

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Zev Krengel,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

IN THE course of our regular networking with political leaders from across the spectrum, there have been certain individuals with whom we have been able to establish a particularly warm rapport over the years. Through mutual trust and respect, these relationships have been allowed to blossom into true partnerships, transcending political affiliations and enabling each party to render assistance to, or in turn be, assisted by the other as circumstances require. Following our Gauteng Council meeting last week Thursday, a function was held for Council members to meet with three such individuals, namely Minister Paul Mashatile (also ANC Gauteng chairman), MEC for Economic Development and Planning, Dorothy Mahlangu and Gauteng ANC secretary, David Makhura.

Political relationships we treasure

Given the proximity of the local government elections and the demands this must have been making on them, their giving of their time to be with us was much appreciated. A relationship based on mutual trust and respect does not, of course, require the respective parties to always feel obliged to agree with one another. Indeed, the contrary is true. Thus, during the meeting, robust discussion took place on a wide range of pressing issues confronting our society, including how best to deal with such problems as poor service delivery, crime, unemployment, inadequate public transport, urban decay and instances of misconduct by government officials. While the ruling party's performance in this regard came in for some strong criticism, it was also evident that in broad terms the vision for creating a more just and equitable society for all, was in all essentials shared by our members. One theme that kept recurring was the importance of government and civil society working together as much as possible to address the country's problems. Here, our guests were assured of the Jewish community's being fully committed to doing its part to alleviate the many daunting challenges facing our society, regardless of who might be in office at the time. It was stressed, though, that just as civil society should look to assist government, so should government itself ensure that the necessary conditions were in place to facilitate such a partnership. This, unfortunately, was not happening at the level necessary to bring optimum results. A number of our Gauteng Council members are very much involved in social upliftment initiatives on behalf of the greater South African community. We hope that through frank, constructive exchanges like last week Thursday's meeting, we can better exploit all available resources for the betterment of Gauteng and the country as a whole. It is a process we hope to see increasingly implemented in the future, regardless of who comes out on top in this week's elections.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

Finding the right tenant shouldn't be like finding a needle in a ...

Just Letting is South Africa's largest rental and management specialist, offering unbeatable landlord services.

just LETTING
PROPERTY RENTAL AND MANAGEMENT

Tel: 011 483 1265

SPECIALISTS | ONLINE | NATIONWIDE

www.justletting.co.za

AROUND THE WORLD
NEWS IN BRIEF

RAHM EMANUEL SWORN IN TO LEAD CHICAGO

CHICAGO - Rahm Emanuel has been sworn in as the first Jewish mayor of Chicago. Emanuel, the former White House chief of staff, took the oath of office on Monday. He was elected mayor of the country's third-largest city in February after sitting mayor Richard Daley declined to seek a

seventh term in office. Emanuel, 51, also worked in the Clinton White House and is a former congressman from Chicago's North Side. A Hebrew speaker, Emanuel is the son of an Israeli doctor who moved to the United States in the 1950s. Emanuel faced a residency chal-

lenge during the campaign as he did not live in Chicago for a full year before the election; his candidacy was upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court. He now faces the formidable task of helping the city pull out of serious financial difficulties, including a 2011 budget deficit of more than \$500 million.

SUBSCRIBE to the **FREE** weekly e-mail version of the **Jewish Report** ⬠

Simply log on to www.sajewishreport.co.za and click on 'Subscribe Now'

THE BNEI AKIVA FOUNDATION INVITES ALL

Alumni

TO A

Chocolate Milk & Doughnut Reunion

Share photos & memories! Bring friends along!

Date: Wednesday, 25 May 2011
Time: 8:00pm
Venue: Bnei Bayit (63 Tanced Rd, Glenhazel)
Dress: Camp 'Shabbat Morning' Designer Outfits





RSVP: Jolene Swartz
events@bnei.co.za | 082 850 9779





Bnei Akiva FOUNDATION

Join **King David High, Linksfield** for our annual legendary **Open Day** on the **1st June** (Yom Yerushalyim). Take the opportunity to **explore** the sensational spirit of a **truly wonderful** and **diverse** school.

King David High School, Linksfield, has a justly deserved reputation as one of the **leading academic schools** in the country with a legacy of high achievers – nationally and internationally. Our mission is to “**nurture menschen**” holistically: as **aware Jews** and in **cultural, community outreach, sport** and **academic** pursuits.

The programme starts at **11h00**. **Parents** are invited to join us at **18h00** for a short information session and tea.





Academic
Judaica
Sport
Zionism
Cultural
Outreach

King David High School Linksfield

A school of distinction nurturing menschen

www.lh.kingdavid.org 011 480 4500 lhadmin@sabje.co.za



Netzer's Gauteng madrichim at Beit Emanuel in Johannesburg.

Netzer's Kliptown visit builds strong bridges

MELISSA BROWER 18 (NELSPRUIT)
PHOTOGRAPH: NATHANEL GOZLAN

NETZER'S HADSEM was a weekend spent at Beit Emanuel where the Gauteng madrichim got to explore the various styles of leadership, as well as identify with which leadership style suited each person. It was a weekend full of laughs, coffee breaks and complaining about the cold, but when we all had our coffee, we were all prepared to focus on how to be the best madrichim we could personally be and ensure that all the channichim who attend any Netzer event, would have an unforgettable experience! Each day we had around three to four activities where we wrote our own activities for specific age groups, learned how to deal with certain scenarios, identified our own leadership styles, haggled on religious and cultural points of view and ideology, as well as bond as a community. Personally, the weekend was amazing and I had a great time. Hadsem taught me things that are not only useful for me as a madricha, but for my normal day-to-day life.

On our last day of Hadsem, we all went to Soweto for an outreach programme at Kliptown Youth Project, which is a project that creates facilities for all the young children in the community to go to on a daily basis after school, with facilities available for them to help them with their homework. It also gives the children food, as well as deals with their life issues. When we got there, we were taken around the township and were shown their lifestyle, which was quite a shock for all of us. We then spent the afternoon with the kids, drawing pictures, making cards, learning maths or English and reading books. It was such an eye opening experience! To see our small contribution make their community so happy was fantastic; they were all so open and accepting of us. Netzer plans to make frequent visits to the Kliptown Youth Project in the future and to get involved with them, something which I can't wait for! The Netzer community is one filled with fun, a lot of love for each other and one that I look forward to sharing many amazing memories with.

KDS mitzvah for outreach school

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
JANICE SPIRO

LEARNERS FROM King David Sandton collected over 3 000 Easter eggs last term. The Civic Awareness Committee then visited Mayibuye Primary School in Tembisa (our outreach school) to distribute them.



Grade 7s from Mayibuye Primary School make friends with the KDS Civic Awareness Committee.

Modimolle experience a truly enriching one for grade 8s

KEREN ZWICK
PHOTOGRAPHS: GARY BLOCK

KING DAVID High School Linksfield's grade 8 Shabbaton this year was a trip with a difference. The grade 8 2011 Shabbaton saw the learners, the DIJE (Department of Informal Jewish Edu-

cation) and the student leaders head off for a weekend of fun. The difference? This time their weekend included Gemilat Chasidim - acts of loving-kindness - where they interacted with learners of Modimolle Primary School. The experience was undoubtedly an enriching one for all involved.



Matan Traube and Adam Rabinowitch with learners of Modimolle Primary School.

YOUTH TALK Alison Goldberg youthsajr@global.co.za

Blue and white in honour of Israel



KAREEN SANDLER
PHOTOGRAPHS: SHIRA TOLLMAN

TO CELEBRATE Israel's 63rd year of independence, the pupils at King David Victory Park Primary School all wore blue and white and paraded with Israeli flags through the school hall.

They danced and sang with the band Zenith and Bnei Akiva showed them movies and spoke about their experiences in the Israeli army. The day ended on a high note with the children and teachers participating in the Drum Café. A wonderful, fun day was had by all.



Front: Dalia Solomon; Sarah Becker; and Micaela Tucker. Back: Tori Wainer; Jason Banner; Matthew Rosenthal; Joey Avinir; and Matthew Sive.

Leigh Novis shows her indomitable spirit in '15 Mins of Fame'

IN APRIL the Tshwane Dance Theatre (TDT) presented a new season of dance titled "15 Mins of Fame", featuring works by top South African choreographers, Thabo Rapoo, Mari-Louise Basson, Celeste Botha, and Timothy le Roux.



As with previous TDT seasons, this show featured innovative and cutting-edge production and lighting design by Wilhelm Disbergen. Each choreographer was given only 15 minutes to showcase his/her mettle using the very skilled TDT dancers.

The production met with universal critical acclaim and played to packed houses at the UJ Arts Theatre. TDT, in a media release says the production now comes to the Main Stage of the Market Theatre from May 19 – June 6.

The first work is by the 2008 Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year winner, Thabo Rapoo.

"Silken Road" charts the journey along a life path and the eventual intersection/connection between two worlds. Audiences can expect to see a unique synergy of contemporary, Eastern, and African dance, and even ballet.

"Synonyms for Seth" is choreographed by internationally acclaimed Mari-Louise Basson and follows in this adventurous vein by positioning the dancers atop, below and alongside a specially constructed security boom.

A 15-year-old King David High School Linksfield pupil, Leigh Novis, rejoins the TDT dancers for weekend performances and so continues with her dream of being on stage with the top contemporary dancers in South Africa. Leigh is in remission from Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and her inclusion in 15 Mins of Fame is facilitated by The Reach

for a Dream Foundation. "Synonyms for Seth" deals with physical and mental barriers and the inherent paralyses that fear instills in all of us. Through Leigh's courageous struggle with and recent victory over a life-threatening disease, her spirited character and emotive dance performance epitomises the fight and will that is required by all of us, particularly when we must confront our deepest fears. On a lighter note "Here and Now", choreographed by Naledi award nominee Celeste Botha, the defining moments in one's life is interrogated: how a simple and on the spur of the moment decision can unleash a series of unexpected events that inevitably change the course of one's life. "All the King's Horses", choreographed by Timothy le Roux, deals with issues of the differences between the "haves" and "extreme have-nots". For this piece, Le Roux uses the full company of 10 dancers. Audiovisuals of animal trophies against living room walls and Mozart's Requiem further darken this already stark vision. TDT is under the artistic directorship of Esther Nasser, an award winning choreographer. Video highlights of TDT's 15 Mins of Fame can be viewed on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/wildis2>. Bookings can be done through Computicket. Prices range between R66 to R120 with special discounts for groups, students and pensioners.

Klass shares her survival story with KDHPV young

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY Yael Gordon

IRENE KLASS, a Holocaust survivor, addressed the grade 8 and 10 learners of

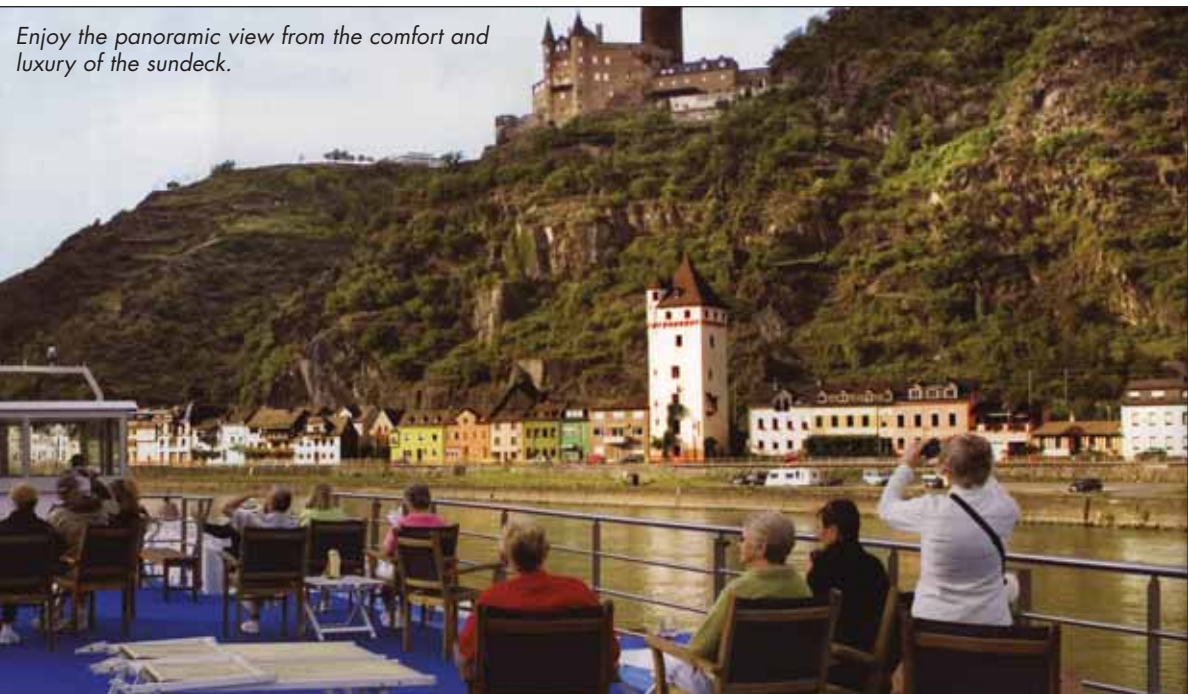
King David High School Victory Park recently and told of her miraculous survival in the Warsaw Ghetto. The learners were extremely moved by her emotional story.



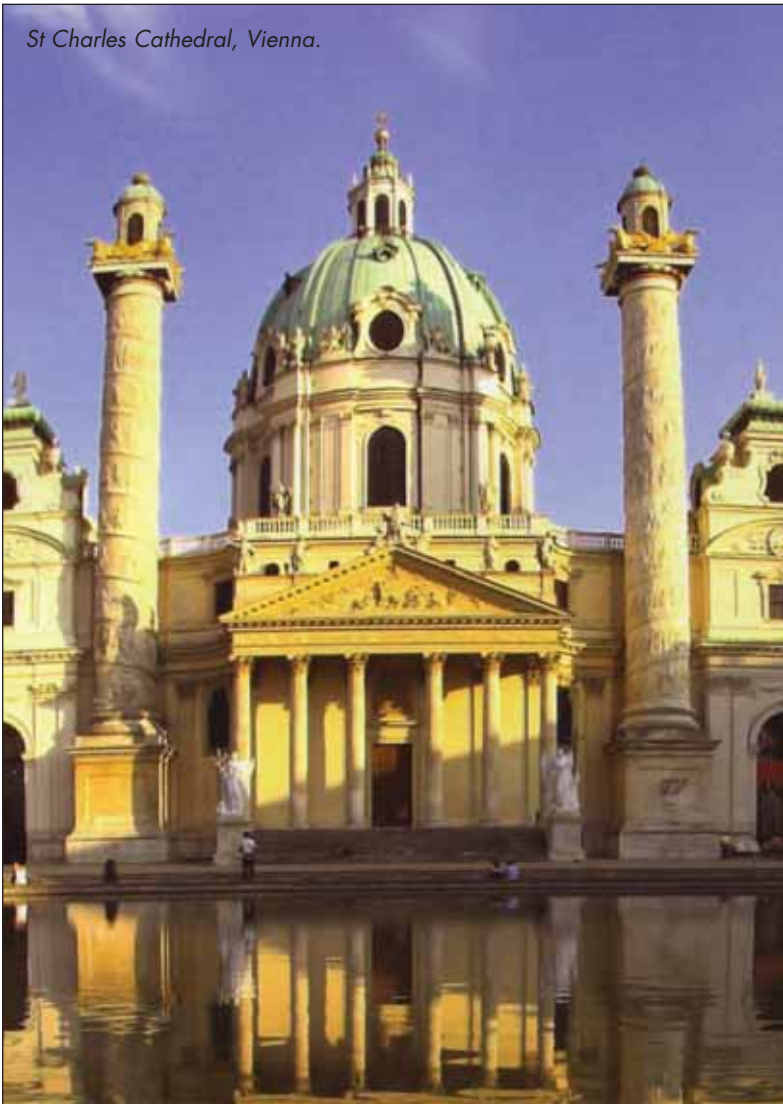
Pictured with Irene Klass are grade 10 learners and teachers: Gabriel Zollmann; Rafaela Setzen; Daniella Hertz; Romi Blumenau; Talya Granat; Naama Man; Irene Klass; Lori Friedman; Hanna Ben-Moshe; Julia Chaskalson; Michal Shushan; and Helena Kahanovitz.

Holocaust survivor Irene Klass visits King David High School Victory Park.

Cultural and musical experience on Danube cruise with *Just Cruising*



Enjoy the panoramic view from the comfort and luxury of the sundeck.



St Charles Cathedral, Vienna.

Raymond Leibman, CEO of Just Cruising and his wife Gail, invite you to join them on a unique, first-time ever, chartered 11-day 10-night river cruise package.

MARLENE BILEWITZ

YOUR VACATION will begin with a three-night stay in majestic Prague, followed by seven nights of luxurious heaven on the timeless Danube River from Vilshofen to Budapest.

Explore a 2 000-year-old city, savour the local wines, beer and foods of the area and have your senses heightened by the ageless beauty and rich history of Vienna and Budapest.

For the duration of the trip, you will be treated like royalty. Every logistical detail will be catered for, leaving you to indulge and enjoy. If your choice is to be free in your own leisure activities and/or any optional available excursions, the choice is yours.

If you choose the alternative almost fully inclusive programme which will entertain and excite you every moment of the 11-day wonder trip, that too is available. We will ensure that your every wish and desire, no matter how personal, is fulfilled.

We will be travelling on one of the most elegant ships on the waterways of Europe, the Amawaterways "MS Amadolce", launched in 2009. Like others in its class, this custom-built ship symbolises the newest in river cruising.

The ship has been designed to maximise the enjoyment, convenience and comfort of our guests. On this ship, the journey is every bit as important as the destinations.

It is unquestionably five star luxury,

purpose-built for a maximum 148 guests with a high staff-to-guest ratio and designed to optimise the ever-changing beauty of the surrounding scenery as we wind our way through the locks and towns without having to worry about sea-sickness, as we would on an ocean cruise.

You can lie on the sundeck, splash around in the pool or play giant chess while experiencing a panoramic view of Europe gliding by. During the day, on arrival at the different ports, there are tours guided by knowledgeable English-speaking tour guides who offer participants complimentary headsets. Free bicycles are supplied for the young at heart who wish to explore on their own.

A special optional treat for our pas-

sengers: Start in Prague with a visit to the Jewish Quarter, followed by a service at one of the magnificent shuls (200 still remain in the Czech Republic) then complete the Shabbat festivities at a kosher restaurant.

Your luxurious cabins have French balconies. Their floor-to-ceiling doors open wide, allowing for fresh air and superb views of the passing scenery. However, we doubt that you will want to remain in your cabins as there will be so much fun, music and entertainment in the communal section of the ship.

Nightly entertainment will take the form of the culture of the area - Hungarian gypsy music and dance performed by an authentic local group, the sound of an accompanying piano, or a

classical violin, but the pièce de résistance will be the presence of special guest, Ian von Memerty and his delightful wife Vivienne.

Ian will be bringing with him a small "Handful of his Keys" which he promises to share with all us fellow-travellers. In Vienna there will be another optional treat - you could attend a Mozart/ Strauss concert.

Gail and Raymond would like to share this fairytale experience with you and have pleasure in inviting you to join them on the July 8 trip of a lifetime on the romantic and legendary land and cruise package down the Danube.

• Contact: Just Cruising, (011) 483-1997, Raymond: 082-893-7613 or Les: 082-801-8684.



French balconies for fresh air and riverside views from your bed.



Optional complimentary bikes for sightseeing.

VISIT: PRAGUE, REGENSBURG, VILSHOFEN, PASSAU, LINZ, MELK, KREMS, VIENNA, BRATISLAVA and BUDAPEST

Czech Rep Germany Germany Germany Austria Austria Austria Austria Slovakia Hungary

- 3 Nights Prague in 5★ Intercontinental (or similar)
- 7 Nights Deluxe Cruise accommodation
- Daily sightseeing programme included

Call (011) 483-1997
www.justcruising.co.za

Just Cruising
...where every day's a sail!

RAYMOND 082-893-7613
LES 082-801-8684

LAST FEW CABINS

WHAT’S ON

Barry Bilewitz barry@sajewishreport.co.za

NOTE: Deadline for all entries is 12:00 on the Friday prior to publication.

Today Friday (May 20)

- **RCHCC** presents “The Ivy Artists” until May 25. Exhibition opens at 18:00. Contact Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378 or after hours (011) 728-8378) for viewing times.
- **UZLC** presents Peta Krost Maunder on “Is the Press in South Africa Under Threat?”

Saturday evening (May 21)

- **WIZO Tzabar branch** is hosting an opera evening screening portions of various Broadway shows and operas at 20:15. Tickets R90 including coffee and snacks. Contact Shelley on 071-438-0263.

Sunday (May 22)

- **RCHCC** is screening “Mandela and De Klerk” at 19:30. Cost R60 including refreshments.

Monday (May 23)

- **UJW Johannesburg** presents Prof John Lubbe on “The Dead Sea Scrolls - The Ruins and the Graves” at 09:30.

Wednesday (May 25)

- **Federation of Synagogues Women's Guilds of SA** hosts Prof Celine Bernstein and Rebettzen Eidel Kazilsky on "Maximising a Healthy Diet for Both Body and Soul" at 09:30 for 10:00, at HOD Centre. Donation R30. RSVP Hannah (mornings only) (010) 214-2600.
- **UJW Johannesburg** presents Dr Lorraine Chaskalson on Elizabeth Gaskell’s “North and South” at 09:30.
- **UJW Cape Town** presents June Juritz on “Yachting in Green Point in the 1890s: One Family’s Story”.
- **Balfour Park Parkinson’s Disease Support Group**

meeting in the Boardroom, Randjes Estate, Randjeslaagte Road, Highlands North, at 10:00. Lee Baker will give an update on the medicines used to control the symptoms of Parkinson’s Disease. Contact Rosemary Burke on (011) 640-3919.

- **Second Innings** outing - a guided tour of the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens. Meet the bus at 09:00 at Oxford Shul parking. Cost: R130 per person, includes bus, entry fee to the park, the guided tour, lunch and a drink.

Sunday (May 29)

- **Second Innings** presents Dr Wendy Friedlander on “Cultural Aspects of Psychiatry in South Africa”.
- **HOD** presents the Jewish Guild Orchestra at the HOD Centre at 15:00. Cost R60 per adult, R30 for children of 14 and under. Book on (011) 640-3017.
- **JWBS** is holding its annual book fair and morning market at the Jabula Recreation Centre, Sandringham

from 08:30. Enquiries on (011) 485-5232.

Monday (May 30)

- **UJW Johannesburg** presents Col Kevin Williams on “The Role of Military Music - Past and Present” at 09:30.

Tuesday (May 31)

- **WIZO Women Inspired branch** is hosting Linda Levy on “When Love Replaces Fear – Miracles Happen” at 09:30 for 10:00. Cost R80. Contact Isarae on 083-375-1212 for bookings.

Wednesday (June 1)

- **UJW Cape Town** presents Dr Maurice Kibel on “A Celebration of Failure”.
- **WIZO Fortnightly Forum** celebrates Yom Yerushalayim with the girls of Salon Soiree. Cost R80 per person at Beyachad – bookings Sandy (011) 645-2548.

Sudoku Puzzle 32
(Medium, difficulty rating 0.54)

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

* Answer to follow with next puzzle

Answer - Puzzle 31

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

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

CROSSWORD NO 210

BY LEAH SIMON

ACROSS:

1. Diplomacy will make trade leaders play a role (4)
3. Production very sad – and leads to confrontation (4, 4)
8. Called for step in ladder (4)
9. I can be me, somehow, for atmosphere (8)
11. Sensational court case in Paris (5, 7)
13. Least right around – and gives warning (6)
14. Amos queries, hiding Islamic place of worship (6)
17. How to testify in 11 across (4, 3, 5)
20. Cassette reels attempt to form needlework hanging (8)
21. Nuts about it – to shock! (4)
22. Useful, for a carpenter (5, 3)
23. Fair isle hides flower (4)

DOWN:

1. Spin winter garment for the traitor (4, 4)
2. Focus on north-east, somehow – and muddle up (7)
4. Impede picnic basket (6)
5. Strange place for an anti-racist American President to live? (5, 5)
6. Possessor gives nothing to injured wren (5)
7. It’s never shortened (4)
10. Not tranquilly, and without the remainder (10)
12. Culs-de-sac for undertakers? (4, 4)
15. Mercy for one-fourth of them (7)
16. Native Nepalese mountaineer (6)
18. Snake gives two points to tree (5)
19. Wait cheerfully, disguising urge to scratch (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 209


ACROSS: Hire; 3. Touching; 8. Nose; 9. Standing; 11. Sees the light; 13. Motors; 14. Action; 17. In a tight spot; 20. Mercutio; 21. Love; 22. Trackers; 23. Vera.
DOWN: Handsome; 2. Respect; 4. Outlet; 5. Confiscation; 6. Irish; 7. Gags; 10. Star struck; 12. Anathema; 15. Implore; 16. Uglier; 18. Norma; 19. Omit.

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

spotlight on local businesses

ANTIQUE JUDAICA
BUYING SELLING & VALUATIONS
SOUTH AFRICA’S JUDAICA APPRAISER

JEFF M. FINE
DIP BUS MAN (D.M.S) APSSA




A collection of Russian silver 'Stetyl' bechers from the last quarter of the 19th century. For sale as a collection or single.

FOR APPOINTMENTS TO YOUR HOME CALL
083 279 1027
email: jefffine@telkomsa.net

Wright's
Silver Cream

Agents for The Wright's silver & brass non-abrasive cream polish that works!

NORWOOD GOLD



TURN YOUR GOLD & DIAMONDS, JEWELLERY, COINS, WATCHES, ANTIQUES & OTHER VALUABLES INTO CASH

HOUSE CALLS FOR QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE

CELL: 082-601-0983
TEL: (011) 483-3223
OR (011) 483-2426
NORWOODGOLD@GMAIL.COM

FINANCIAL LOANS AVAILABLE IN MINUTES

MATRIX WAREHOUSE COMPUTERS

200 ATHOL STREET
HIGHLANDS NORTH
TEL. 011 885 2786
011 887 2538

Servicing All Your Computer Needs!

PC'S • LAPTOPS • ACCESSORIES
SALES • SERVICE
WALK-IN REPAIR CENTRE
ONSITE TECHNICAL SUPPORT

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
For Your Convenience!
Mon-Fri: 9am to 6pm
Sat: 9am to 3pm Sun: 9am to 1pm
(Closed on Fridays between 12 & 2pm)

Wishing All Our Clients a Prosperous 2011!

SUBSCRIBE to the **FREE** weekly e-mail version of the **Jewish Report** 

Simply log on to www.sajewishreport.co.za and click on 'Subscribe Now'



The Annual **sasfin bank** Sports Quiz Evening 2011

In aid of the Selwyn Segal Society for the handicapped

Date Thursday 30 June 2011 **Time** 19h00 for 19h30
Venue Maroela Room, Sandton Sun, Sandton
Dress Smart Casual **Cost** R12 000 per table (incl. VAT)
Contact Danny Blumberg
Tel 011 646 7340/1 **Fax** 086 632 4903
E-mail danny@mscsports.co.za

 
sasfin bank
a partner beyond expectations

Men who successfully put Israel on ice

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN
PHOTOGRAPH: ASAF SOROTZKY

ISRAEL TOOK gold in the annual Ice Hockey World Championships (division three) held in Cape Town last month, the second year running that the country has finished in first place. It has been competing internationally in the sport since its debut in South Africa in 1992.

Sergei Matin, Russian-born executive director of the Israeli Ice Hockey Federation who doubled as manager this year, went on aliyah in 1990. He had played professionally in Russia for 10 years and then for the Israeli national team for five years before serving a 12-year stint as president of the Federation. Ice hockey was started by Russian, Canadian and European immigrants to Israel in the late '80s, becoming part of the International Ice Hockey Federation in 1991. The team is similarly constituted of immigrants as opposed to native Israelis, though this is changing as time goes on. The sport is not very big in Israel. "The problem is facilities," says Matin. "It's not

soccer that you can play everywhere, or basketball. "It's expensive and you need ice." There is only one Olympic-size ice arena in Metullah, in the north of the country, and a small one in Ma'alot. Players have to travel up to four-and-a-half hours each way to reach Metullah. While an arena in Eilat is presently under construction, the ideal is to have a "good" facility in the centre of the country, either in Tel Aviv, Netanya or Rishon LeZion, Matin says. While it may seem "ridiculous" for the largely-desert country to adopt ice hockey as a sport, "for us it's normal, it's part of our culture," he says, referring to his roots. The sport is certainly catching on - there are at present over 2 000 youngsters participating. "Most of the time they practise inline hockey," he says, which is similar, but employs skates on asphalt. Matin says the team played "pretty good" in the championships. "The first game (against South Africa, which they won 6 - 5) was very, very tough." Israel also won the rest of their games, beating Luxembourg (11 - 1), Greece (26 - 2)



The Israeli team photographed on their way to winning the Ice Hockey World Championships (third division) held in Cape Town last month.

and Turkey (9 - 1). Matin dismisses the notion that politics makes these encounters awkward in any way. "We have very, very friendly and good (sporting) connections with Turkey," he says, adding that there was no animosity whatsoever between the players. Matin was in fact the coach for Turkey at one stage and some of the team were "my players", he laughs. "Higher up it gets more political, but not at our level." Nor did the team experience any anti-Israel feeling during the tournament here. "Our game against South Africa was crowded - we had very good support," he states. "A lot of Israelis came to support us -

there was a very good atmosphere." Matin, with the help of the Canadian Jewish community, organised the first World Jewish Ice Hockey Tournament in Metulla in 2007 with Israel, Canada, France and the US participating. A similar event followed in 2009, but a shortage of funds has prevented it taking place this year as scheduled. As for Israel hosting the Ice Hockey World Championships, Matin says "some of the countries" regard it as unsafe, what with the Metullah rink being close to the Lebanese border, which he describes as "not a quiet area. If we have an arena in the centre (of the country), for sure we will do it," he says.

Fate of victorious 1928 Dutch Olympic team uncovered

JACK MILNER


A FEW weeks back we remembered those who died in the Holocaust and recently I came across the story of the 1928 Dutch women's gymnastics team, who won gold at the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam. For over 50 years, the fate of almost half of that team remained unknown. The 1928 Games were the first in which women participated in gymnastics events. This is the tragic tale of the team, once the Nazis occupied Europe. The 12-woman Dutch team became local heroes after recording a score of 316,75 points to beat Italy and Great Britain for first place, one of just six golds won at the Games by the Netherlands. Five of the gymnasts, as well as their coach Gerrit Kleerekoper, were Jewish. Only one of those six survived the Holocaust. Kleerekoper made a living as a diamond cutter, but his true passion was gymnastics. He painstakingly put together a gold-medal winning team that competed in Drill, Apparatus, and Jumps, with medals only being awarded for allround team performance. It was known that Kleerekoper died at Sobibor on July 2, 1943, but it was not until the mid-1990s that the fortunes of Estella Agsteribbe, Helena Nordheim, Anna Polak, Elka de Levie, and Judikje Simons were finally established.

The Netherlands Olympic Committee could find no trace of them, despite many years of searching, due to the fact that the Nazis, who kept very systematic records, did not bother to include the maiden names of their female victims. The gymnasts had all likely married after 1928. However, thanks to one relentless Dutch engineer, Fred A Lobatto, who as a schoolboy saw the 1928 Games, the fates of the five Jewish female members of the Dutch gymnastics team were finally brought to light. Judikje Simons, later Judikje Themans-Simons, born August 20, 1904, died March 3, 1943, at Sobibor, together with her husband, Bernard, their five-year-old daughter Sonja, and their three-year-old son Leon. Simons, who ran an orphanage with her husband in Utrecht that housed 83 children,




Elka de Levie (second from right) with her Gold winning team (1928).

had apparently been warned that the Nazis were heading her way, and was offered a hiding place by Dutch friends. However, she had no intention of forsaking her orphans, sealing her fate, and that of almost all of the children. It is believed that Jewish gymnasts were many times the first to be rounded up by the Nazis as their excellence in what the Germans considered the purest of sports, dispelled their belief in the supremacy of the Aryan race. Four months after Simons' death, Helena Nordheim, later Helena Kloot-Nordheim, born August 1, 1903, was gassed on July 2, 1943, at Sobibor, with her husband, Abraham, and their 10-year-old daughter Rebecca. On the exact same day at the exact same place, Kleerekoper, born February 15, 1897, also died with his wife, Kaatje, and their 14-year-old daughter Elisabeth. His 18-year-old son Leendert died at Auschwitz on July 31, 1944. Anna Polak, later Anna Dresden-Polak, born November 24, 1906, died July 23, 1943, at Sobibor, together with her six-year-old daughter, Eva. Her husband, Barend, died at Auschwitz on November 30, 1944. Estella Agsterribe, later Estella Blits-Agsterribe, born April 6, 1909, died on September 17, 1943 at Auschwitz, together with her six-year-old daughter Nanny and two-year-old son Alfred. Her husband, Samuel Blits, died on April 28, 1944, at Auschwitz. The only Jewish gymnast of the triumphant Amsterdam team to survive the horrors of the Holocaust was Elka de Levie, whose story of survival remains untold. She died on December 12, 1979.



Achieve your goal with Macsteel



MACSTEEL

SERVICE CENTRES SA

Africa's leading steel supplier

www.macsteel.co.za

THE MACSTEEL GROUP