TO
JEWISH
ACHIEVER
AWARDS!
(page 16)

Jewish Report

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UK Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks and South Africa's Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein in conversation at last weekend's Sinai Indaba III. This conference, focused only on Torah learning, is unprecedented in the rest of the world, and was established by Rabbi Warren Goldstein three years ago. This year, it was attended by some 6 000 members of the community, in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban. See stories on pages 11-14.

Wolmarans Synagogue: Celebrating a journey of a century

Rabbi Dovid Hazdan: "Its illustrious rabbis and lay leaders addressed two world wars, the Holocaust, Israel's birth and wars and the political highs and lows of a century of history."

Marius Fransman trying to wiggle out of hole he dug himself

Chairman of the ANC in the Western Cape and Deputy Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Marius Fransman has demanded a public apology from the SAJBD "for misleading the people".

SA's ambassador to Israel Ismail Coovadia looks a 'gift' horse in the mouth

Coovadia calls a JNF certificate, that 18 trees would be planted in his honour as "nothing less than an offence to my dignity and integrity."

ACDP President Rev Meshoe, agrees to become a patron of Magen David Adom SA

Says Mark Hyman of MDA-SA, "Rev Meshoe's commitment to the people of and the Land of Israel, has been unprecedented..."



All-star celebration honours Peres on his 90th birthday

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Parshat Balak June 21 / 13 Tammuz June 22 / 14 Tammuz

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World News in Brief

Netanyahu on Iran: 'We won't allow another Holocaust'

BONN - Speaking last week Thursday at the opening of a Holocaust exhibit at the site of Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, where more than one million Jews were murdered during the Holocaust, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu warned Iran had a "regime that is building nuclear weapons with the expressed purpose to annihilate Israel's six million Jews". The Holocaust exhibit, designed by experts from Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, centres on a book displaying the names of 4,2 million Jews murdered. It will be housed in Block 27 of the former death camp, Haaretz reported.

Netanyahu also warned against Iran's regime while visiting Warsaw a day before. "We will never allow another Holocaust," he said. (JNS.org)

Keeping up with the Cohens

"That's some new kitchen Sandra just had done. State of the art!"
"Psst... Did you see the new car Mark just took delivery of? It's got every gadget in the book!" Common conversation. Rather routine, everyday talk.

They tell of a rep on the road that had broken all records for sales in his company. When asked the secret of his success, he explained that the first thing he said when someone opened the door was: "Did you see what your neighbour Mrs Jones just got?" That trick never failed him.

This was never the Jewish ethic, however. We were taught differently and our ancient value system is as relevant as ever in contemporary life. Privacy, modesty and discretion are all characteristics our people have cherished since we became a nation.

Balaam raised his eyes and saw Israel dwelling according to its tribes. Rashi offers one interpretation of the verse to mean that the doorways of the Israelites in the wilderness were designed so that they did not face each other.

That way, one person was not able to see into his neighbour's tent and their privacy was protected. In fact, this is one of the explanations of Balaam's famous praise of the Jews, Ma Tovu Oholecha Yaakov - How goodly are your tents, O Jacob.

The heathen prophet was extolling the Jews' virtues in their town planning whereby they took precautions in safeguarding their modesty and protecting their personal family lives from would be busybodies and peeping toms, otherwise known as yentas and nudniks.

But here is another interpretation of "not looking into your neighbour's tent". Do not look into your neighbour's tent to help you decide what you should be doing. Your decisions in life should not be based on what other people are, or are not, doing; certainly not on what your neighbours have or do not have.

Social workers today will painfully testify that family breakdowns

are often a result of financial difficulties and the stress it puts on marriages. Many of those stresses are self-imposed.

Their clients confessed that they didn't really need the new kitchen or the new car, but once their friends were moving up in the status stakes, they felt under pressure to maintain their social standing.

Whether it is the kitchen, car, or an overseas holiday, if we allow ourselves to be judged by other people's criteria, we lay ourselves open to a lot of unnecessary stress. Even a simcha - wedding or barmitzvah - can get us into "keeping up with the Cohens" mode, from the 7-layered hand-delivered designer invitation down to the posh dinner-dance replete with chopped liver sculptures

Why? All because we are busy looking over our shoulders or peering into the next-door neighbour's place.

The principle even applies to Tzedakah. There is an appeal for



Parshat Balak

Rabbi Yossy Goldman Sydenham Highlands North Shul

the Shul or a Jewish charity and how do we respond? "Well if so and so who is a multi-millionaire only gave R10,000 then all I should give is R10!" What difference does it make what someone else gave or didn't give. You should give what you can, irrespective of what others gave.

How much resentment, bitterness, disappointment and fardrus we would avoid if we didn't try to measure ourselves by other people's standards. We would be much happier people if we looked into ourselves and achieved what we could and should without drawing comparisons with others.

If you want to enjoy the blessing of "goodly tents" or even just good housekeeping, keep your eyes and your nose in your own tent. Then you will be content too.

Celebrating a journey of triumph stretching over a century

SHIRA DRUION

The Great Park Shul, (which started off as the Wolmarans Street Shul), celebrated its centennial anniversary on Tuesday night, in an occasion attended by 560 guests in the Sandton Sun Maroela Room. The audience was inspired by Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, the guest of honour, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and Rabbi Dovid Hazdan of Great Park, as well as an array of talented artists and chazzanim, as well as movies of bygone days, lent lustre to a joyous evening.

The Wolmarans Street Shul was the original epicentre of Jewish life in Johannesburg and the evening brought to life that nostalgic Johannesburg that had only just upgraded its public transport from the horse-drawn carriage when Wolmarans Street Shul was built in 1913

Through a demographic shift, The Great Park Synagogue was built and all that remained of Wolmarans Street Shul in Joubert Park, were sweet memories, although many of its accoutrements can be found in the Great Park Shul.

"The Wolmarans Synagogue

galvanised the community, said Rabbi Hazdan: "Its illustrious rabbis and lay leaders addressed two world wars, the devastation of the Holocaust, modern Israel's birth and its wars and the economic, social and political highs and lows of a century of world and local Jewish history.

"The journey of our shul is the journey of our people," he said in his address. "It is an ongoing journey that began in the desert thousands of years ago; it is the journey of each and every one of us. It's the journey of the triumph of hope over despair. It's the journey of light over darkness and determination over apathy."

Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, was at his erudite best: "In the 22 years I have served as chief rabbi (in the UK), never have I been witness to an anniversary celebrated so imaginatively, so lovingly and so movingly. This is not the Great Park Synagogue; this is the Great, Great Synagogue!"

Chief Rabbi Goldstein said:
"My wife has many fond child-hood memories of this shul and more than that, her grandmother and great-grandmother were all members who went through all of



the milestones of life in the original building that flew its banner high, confirming for the world the authenticity of the vibrant Jewish Johannesburg of old.

"However, what is most remarkable and touching about this celebration, is the rejuvenation of the Great Park Shul that everyone thought would melt into the annals of history but instead launched back as the 'Comeback Kid'!

"Today, the shul is filled with vitality and energy and is symbolic of the future of South African Jewry." The evening offered the guests a chance to reminisce and go back into history, to a time when the old wooden seats which can now be found in the new building, held the makings of South African Jewish history. It is those same seats that are now home to the grandchildren of their former owners.

"G-d does not live in buildings," said Rabbi Sacks. "G-d lives in the hearts and minds of those who use the buildings. So, I encourage you to use your shul more, to bring your friends and to make your shul your

home-away-from-home.

"Shul is place where we let G-d in, where we unite as Jews and we endeavour to create a home for the Infinite one. It is a place where Jews have brought their deepest prayers, wishes and celebrations for generations.

"So, treasure this sacred place and use it regularly, because, despite the fact that our shuls may not be the most opulent architectural creations, they are ours, and should therefore be treasured accordingly."

Jewish Report

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Fransman trying to wiggle out of hole he dug himself

STAFF REPORTER

The FW de Klerk Foundation and the Sunday Times last weekend joined the fray over the impasse between ANC heavyweight Marius Fransman and the SA Jewish Board of Deputies.

The Sunday Times called Fransman the "ANC Rottweiler - who moonlights as our Deputy Minister of International Co-operation", while the FW de Klerk Foundation published a scathing indictment of Fransman's statements and subsequent behaviour on their website.

The dispute began on February 27, when Fransman, chairman of the ANC in the Western Cape and Deputy Minister of International Affairs and Co-operation, said in an interview on Muslim radio station Voice of the Cape that "...the DA had given over building contracts ...as well as lots of contracts in Woodstock and Observatory that historically were in the hands of Muslim participants... to people from the Jewish community".

After repeated requests by the SAJBD to Fransman's office to meet and discuss his statements received negative responses, the Board laid a complaint with the SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC).

The Commission set up a mediation meeting with the Board and Fransman for Friday June 7 - an agreed date.

SAJBD National Chairman Mary Kluk and Li Boiskin (Cape Council chairman) flew up from Durban and Cape Town respectively to attend the meeting.

But, said SAJBD National Executive Director Wendy Kahn, "when the SAJBD representatives arrived they were informed not only that Fransman would not be attending, but that he had no interest in participating in any future mediation process".

On June 11 Kahn said in a statement that the Board found it "completely unacceptable" that Fransman "had accused it of being 'un-South African', unpatriotic and of driving an interest outside of the national interest on behalf of a foreign country".

Fransman's "eleventh-hour withdrawal from a meeting he had previously agreed to attend, together with his declaring himself to be uninterested in any further mediation by the SAHRC, sends a clear message to South African Jewry and minority communities in general that he is disdainful of their concerns and has little respect for the constitutional processes that have been put in place to protect their rights."

Doron Isaacs - co-founder of Open Shuhada Street - wrote in the Cape Times and on website allAfrica.com last Friday that "Fransman's conduct cannot be excused". Isaacs wrote that Fransman's conduct "insults the Constitution", and "conjures a Jewish scapegoat".

This sentiment mirrored the Board's complaint which, said Kahn,

centred on Fransman's "public remarks likely to stir up ill-feeling and mistrust between the Jewish and Muslim communities in Cape Town".

There are, however, conflicting reports of just what Fransman had said in his letter to the SAHRC.

On Wednesday June 12, "Fransman snubs rights body", was the front page lead in the Cape Times. This showed disrespect of the concerns of the Jewish community and other minority groups, the paper quoted Mary Kluk as saying.

SAHRC spokesman Isaac Mangena confirmed receipt of the letter from Fransman and told the Cape Times: "As he didn't attend... we will issue him with a notice that (sets out) the complaint against him. He will be given a chance to respond. For now, the investigation into the complaint... will continue."

The following day saw another page one lead in the Cape Times, headlined "Jews nose picking" and gave Fransman's side of the story. He accused the Board of "abusing" the SAHRC with a "frivolous" complaint against him.

He demanded a public apology from the Board for running a mischievous media campaign and that the SAJBD wanted "to fight a proxy battle on behalf of the DA".

Kluk pointed out in the Cape Times story on the Thursday that the ANC's statement was distressing. "The Board has reached out to (Fransman) to resolve the matter from the start." She regarded his allegations as "preposterous". "We are an apolitical organisation."

Later on Thursday, the Cape Times published a story on their website under the headline "Fransman did not snub SAHRC" - quoting a Sapa-sourced story which had all the trappings of an attempt at damage control.

In this version of the story, the Cape Times said that the SAHRC had stated that Fransman had not snubbed the meeting.

"The commission would like to point out that Mr Fransman wrote a letter to the commission in which he excused himself from the meeting due to urgent engagements in Parliament," SAHRC, Mangena said.

"In this regard, his absence from the meeting cannot be viewed as a 'snub' either to the Commission or the process initiated by the SAJBD."

Jewish community news website MyShtetl suggested this week that the Sapa-sourced story was an exercise in "damage-control. Of course, that wasn't what the original version of the letter had said at all," said MyShtetl. "The Board delegation... had been told differently.

"The mediation had failed to take place... as Fransman informed the SAHRC (after close of business the night before) who in turn informed the Board delegation when they arrived: 'Not only that Fransman would



not be attending - but he had no interest in participating in any future mediation," said the website.

The Sunday Times on June 16, referring to Fransman as the "ANC Rottweiler" said he had "gagged himself and had then "decided not to attend an HRC mediation with the SAJBD because, he said, they were 'trying to nose-pick' his accusation that the DA was taking business from Muslims and giving it to Jews".

The FW de Klerk Foundation concluded that "South Africa cannot afford politics that are consciously intended to inflame divisions and animosities between our communities and our religions.

"The SAJBD complaint is not 'frivolous'. It is the task of the SAHRC - and not that of Fransman - to define the boundaries of acceptable political discourse and to determine whether his remarks crossed the line into hate speech."



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Meshoe, Wiese become new MDA SA patrons

OWN CORRESPONDENT

African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) President Rev Kenneth Meshoe, has agreed to become a patron of Magen David Adom SA, as has banker Christo Wiese, while long-standing patron Michael Bagraim changes from being "the" patron to being "a" patron.

Mark Hyman, chairman of MDA-SA and an active member of both the SAZF and SAJBD, thanked Meshoe this week for accepting the position.

"Rev Meshoe's commitment to the people of and the Land of Israel, has been unprecedented in the

almost 20 years he has served as a distinguished member of Parliament and president of the ACDP," Hyman told the SAJR.

In a letter to Meshoe, Hyman wrote: "On behalf of the executive of Magen David Adom in South Africa, we would like to take this opportunity of extending to you our heartfelt thanks and appreciation in accepting the position as a patron.

"With your unstinting labour for the South African community and Israel, may your righteousness endure and our joint efforts bring with it the fruits of our labours. We salute you and thank you once again for accepting this position."



The Reverend Kenneth Meshoe with his wife Lydia in front of a mobile command centre donated by France

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SA diplomat Coovadia looks a 'gift' horse in the mouth

OWN CORRESPONDENT

South Africa's ambassador to Israel, Ismail Coovadia (pictured), who completed his term in Tel Aviv last December, has rejected and is returning a "gift" presented to him by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to a media release issued by the ambassador.

The "gift" was a certificate indicating that 18 trees would be planted in honour and in the name of Coovadia by the Israeli parastatal, the Jewish National Fund.

In a letter, Coovadia explains the reasoning for his actions: "I have recently completed serving my term... to the State of Israel... regrettably, my permission was not sought [by the JNF nor the Israeli Government] to plant a tree/s in my or the name of the South African Ambassador on usurped land, the rightful land of the Palestinians and Bedouins.

"I reserve the right to the usage of my name... I have supported the struggle against apartheid South Africa and now I cannot be a proponent of what I have witnessed in Israel, and that is, a replication of apartheid!"

Coovadia calls the certificate "nothing less than an offence to my dignity and integrity. I was not a party to, and never will be, to the planting of '18 trees', in my 'honour', on expropriated and stolen land... I shall be returning the 'Certificate' to the director general of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a humble request to remove the '18 trees..."

The JNF is the subject of a recently released documentary titled "Village Under the Forest" by filmmaker, Mark Kaplan and Cape Town-based Jewish scholar, Heidi Grunebaum. The film

explores the role of the JNF in building the "South Africa Forest" over the Israeli-destroyed Palestinian village of Lubya (destroyed by Israeli forces in 1948, during the Palestinian "Nakba").

(The JNF in South Africa in a media release has refuted the "Village Under the Forest" film, pointing out that the village under discussion had been abandoned by the Bedouins for some 18 years before the JNF took over the land.)

In his letter Coovadia writes: "The racist actions of the Israeli parastatal... together with various other Israeli state institutions to forcibly remove the Palestinians and Bedouins from their legitimate homes, is yet another repeat of the ongoing injustice meted out by the Israeli Defence Forces..."

He said "the forced removal by Israel of Lubyans from their place of abode bears all the hallmarks of apartheid South Africa's forced removals of the legitimate inhabitants of Sophia-

"I am pleased to be associated with the film 'Village under the Forest', a truly objective, honest and a far-reaching story that requires national and international viewing..."

Meanwhile, Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS South Africa) has written to the Department of International Relations and Co-operation requesting an investigation into the use of the name of "South Africa" by Israeli authorities for the forest planted above the former village of Lubya.

BDS South Africa contends that permission cannot be granted to Israel on ethical and policy grounds.



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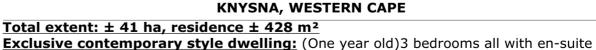












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Leave functional schools alone, pleads ex-headmaster

STAFF REPORTER

There is hope for education in South Africa because we have wonderful youths who carry no baggage of the past. But on the "ugly" side, matric results have become devalued and unions held education in their grip.

These views were expressed by Bill Schroder, former headmaster of Pretoria Boys' High (PBH) (pictured) at a Second Innings meeting at Our Parents Home recently.

Schroder was in education for 40 years and headmaster of PBH from 1990 to 2009. He has since retired. He spoke on "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Education".

"I am optimistic about the future of education in general. I have had the privilege of working with young people in the last two decades, and I have hope. The young don't carry any baggage and they don't see

colour as an issue anymore.

"My optimism stems from the belief I have in the young people we have - there is good material to

Being a teenager in SA was tough "and we have dreadful role models in our leaders.

"We have the best schools in the world, and the worst. I judge this not only from academic results, but by the way in which the youngsters turn out.

"I have seen this in the spirit of compassion the pupils have for one another and for others," he said.

The bad was that between 70 and 80 per cent of government schools were dysfunctional. Since 1994 there had been various government policies in place, including the outcomes-based education system which was scrapped because it failed. Another bad thing was the bureaucracy in the department

with which teachers were battling to cope.

Another problem was that teaching was no longer a respected profession.

Yet a further problem was that it was difficult to discipline pupils and staff because of this.

"I don't believe the education department has the political will to fix the problem," he posited.

The ugly aspect was functional and independent schools had "lost the plot", he said. "They are more concerned about the image of the school than the individual pupils. Matric results have become worthless. The schools make sure they get 100 per cent results by making pupils take certain subjects which are easy to pass and the result is that many fail when they get to university. Only 50 per cent are taking maths and science."

Another "ugly" was that schools



were not coming to grips with the social reality of drugs. They pretended drugs didn't happen. Bullying and racism were other ugly aspects, he said.

The answer, said Schroder, was for the education department to leave functioning schools exempt them from the bureaucracy.

"The schools must earn this independence and then must be expected to take on about six other schools to mentor them. The raw material in our schools is fantastic. If the youth is properly empowered, we will see a huge difference."



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JNF refutes false claims



The Jewish National Fund of South Africa has been accused of participating in a deliberate attempt to obliterate Palestinian history in Israel. It says in a media release "These historically baseless and sensationalistic claims have been made by the recently released documentary film 'The Village Under the Forest'.

"The reality is that the agricultural village of Lubya, far from being razed to the ground to make way for a forest, had been deserted for 18 years before the forest was planted in 1964. The village was subject to the Land Reparations Act and after being abandoned en masse by its residents in 1948, with no subsequent claims made for it, it was then, after the passing of the requisite amount of time, earmarked for the

"There was never any sinister and underhanded plot to destroy the historical evidence of a Palestinian Arab presence. In fact, it is the Palestinians and the neighbouring Arab states which over the decades have been guilty of obliterating evidence of the millennia-old Jewish presence in Israel.

"Throughout the world, new settlements are routinely established on the remains of old ones. This is particularly true of Israel, a tiny country where the archaeological record reveals layers upon layer of previous civilisations that were established and supplanted over a period of more than 5 000 years."

The release says that across the length and breadth of Israel, there are archaeological remains of ancient Jewish communities, testifying to a Jewish presence in the land that long preceded the Arab invasion.

"The South African Jewish community, in the mould of the JNF worldwide, funded the establishment of this forest as part of a 110-year long environmental campaign aimed at land reclamation, greening and development in the historic Jewish homeland.

"The JNF eschews the policy of displacing people. The destruction of homes and the eviction of residents has never been a part of the JNF policy and its projects are always carried out under the direction of the Israel Land Administration, on land that is owned by the State of Israel or owned by the Keren Kayemet Leisrael - Jewish National Fund in accordance with the law. Through its work, over 260 million trees have been planted and a network of water reservoirs as well as hundreds megawatts of renewable solar power created. These projects work across the spectrum to benefit both Jewish and non-Jewish citizens of Israel. This, and not the politically-charged smears levelled at it by anti-Israel agitators, is the true JNF legacy."



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Jewish Report

Why the deafening silence from government?

Two ugly developments in recent weeks raise serious questions about whether our government is operating openly or hiding behind a screen when it comes to issues affecting South African Jewry and Israel.

The first is the debacle regarding Deputy Minister and leader of the ANC in the Western Cape Marius Fransman. He raised a storm last week by refusing to appear at a Human Rights Commission mediation meeting between him and the SAJBD regarding his slander of South African Jews on Voice of the Cape Radio. Now, this week, his behaviour has become even more bizarre. He has issued a vile media statement (see page 3) accusing the SAJBD and the Democratic Alliance of "nose-picking" while human rights are being trampled in the Western Cape. And he repeatedly conflates the DA, who controls the Western Cape province, with Jews, making any political criticism of the DA automatically a criticism of Jews.

The second is the contentious refusal of Ismail Coovadia, who recently ended his term as South African ambassador to Israel, to accept a "gift" of goodwill from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs - the planting of 18 trees in his name in a JNF forest. He issued a letter rejecting the gesture, claiming he did not want to be associated with the planting of trees on "expropriated and stolen" land, citing the newly released film The Village Under the Forest.

He says the forest, which covers the ruins of an abandoned Arab village, Lubya, represents Israeli "forced removals" of Arabs and Bedouins similar to the forced removal policies which were in place in apartheid South Africa, against which he fought.

That view has been challenged by the South African branch of the JNF in its own media release (see page 5). It says the village had been abandoned for 18 years when the forest was planted, with no claim on it from any former inhabitants, which according to Israeli law allowed the land to be used for forestry. The village had been abandoned since the 1948 War of Independence.

Without debating the merits or demerits of each of the statements from Fransman or Coovadia, what is clear is that the government is keeping mum. It has been absolutely silent on the vitriolic Fransman affair, which has the potential of badly affecting Muslim-Jewish relations in the country.

And thus far we have heard nothing from them on the Coovadia issue, where one of their own diplomat's actions - and a former ambassador to Israel, no less - risk damaging further the already-cold Israel-South Africa diplomatic link. Meanwhile, South African Jews and the Israeli government are becoming increasingly agitated.

The question hanging in the air is this: Does this silence on the part of the government indicate a hardening of attitudes? Clearly it cannot be unaware of these two cases. Does it carry the government's tacit approval?

Fransman, instead of being contrite about his faux pas regarding Jews benefitting at the expense of Muslims in the Western Cape (which the ANC is desperately trying to wrestle back from the DA, especially with elections scheduled for next year), came out with guns blazing and put more oil on the fire. Furthermore, using an old political trick of conflating the Jews and the DA, plays cynical politics with the election in mind.

This has even evoked a response from the FW de Klerk Foundation, which said: "South Africa cannot afford politics that are consciously intended to inflame divisions and animosities between our communities and our religions. And a Sunday Times columnist has referred to Fransman as "the ANC Rottweiler..."

Our appeal to the government is to act like a government should. It must come out clearly with its position on these matters, rather than let these two loose cannons seemingly determine its policy. Are Fransman and Coovadia saying things the government agrees with but is too afraid to come out openly and say?

We expect a government to lead, not formulate policy through innuendo. Such vagueness and indecisiveness has unfortunately become a hallmark of this government.

'Facing tomorrow' to prepare for a brighter future

The Facing Tomorrow 2013 conference which took place over three days in Jerusalem this week, covered an array of exciting topics, with top speakers sharing their insights.

Two of the topics are presented below, with panelists' comments.

The Web and traditional media

"Has Traditional Media Been Caught in the Web?" is a timely reminder that communication has irrevocably changed with the introduction of the Internet. On Wednesday top TV, print marketing and blogger experts debated this vexing, yet intriguing question.

Jane Eisner, editor-in-chief of The Jewish Daily Forward, monitored the discussion, whose speakers included Phil Griffin, president of MSNBC; Richard Plepler, CEO of HBO; Ed Morissey, the lead blogger on HotAir; Aluf Benn, editor-in-chief of Haaretz; and Dr Renana Peres, Assistant Professor of Marketing at Hebrew University.

"It's about differentiation" said Pepler. "If you have something with good storytelling and with an original voice, you can monetise it... and original voice, like Girls, or Larry David with 5 million viewers, is just as important to us as our blockbusters, like Game of Thrones. This is despite the difference of viewership."

Ed Morissey explained that the key to the new digital age is that the real revolution wasn't the web, it was choice, a notion seconded by MSNBC's Griffin, explaining that this choice created a market to provide progressive, opinionated news rather than appearing neutral, and helped turn around MSNBC.

Dr Peres of the Hebrew University tackled the question of the relationship between new and old media. "You need traditional media to attract new consumers," she explained, but you need new social media to retain them. So, should traditional media feel threatened? I say no - it's a wonderful opportunity."







Renana Peres

f Benn Jane Eisner

Economic Principles vs Social Values - Harmony or Conflict?

Dr Manuel Trajtenberg, whose committee submitted recommendations on social and economic reforms to the Israeli government following the country's 2011 social protests, participated in an animated panel discussion on the challenges of balancing economic principles - particularly the aims of capitalism - with social values.

The panel, moderated by Guy Rolnik, editor-in-chief of Israeli economics publication, The Marker, also included Sir Ronald Cohen (UK), chairman of Big Society Capital; Adrian Gore (South Africa), CEO of Discovery; Abby Joseph Cohen (US), president of the Global Markets Institute; and Lord Professor Robert Skidelsky (UK), author of an award-winning, three-volume biography of British economist John Maynard Keynes.

Trajtenberg attacked the "trick-le-down" economic theory that wealth spreads from the top sectors of society to the benefit of all members of society, but emphatically noted that government cannot be expected to solve society's problems by itself.

He cited the example of Israel, which followed the "manual" of market-based economics that, while creating great wealth among the few, left many in society facing continuous financial difficulties.

He attributed this to policies that placed an undue focus on the arithmetic of economics coupled with an insufficient emphasis on social values. As a remedy, Trajtenberg called for a "conceptual revolution" in how government and the private sector interact.

Sir Richard Cohen noted the vital role that private financing can play in "social impact investments", adding that we can be as successful in social issues as well as we have been in technology

and innovation issues. He proposed the idea of a "social stock exchange", and added that we are "on the threshold of a revolution of social impact investment".

Adrian Gore underscored (the fallacy) that "capitalism is a dangerous message", noting that only business creates prosperity, not government, adding that government has a critically important role to play in ensuring that a society has universal healthcare and universal daycare and whose investment is a necessity for a more productive and healthy society.

While assessing that basic economic principles work, he acknowledged that they need be carefully re-worked to address social inequities.

Abby Joseph Cohen said that growth and prosperity for all members of society require the investment of education, infrastructure, and research/innovation. As an example, she noted pre-recession unemployment figures in the United States contrasting college graduates (4 per cent) with those with a high school diploma or less (18 per cent)

The most spirited aspect of the discussion occurred when panel moderator Guy Rolnik asked about the correlation between economics and incentive. Cohen accepted the basic premise that there is a strong correlation, suggesting the need to re-assess and improve the incentives.

Prof. Skidelsky rejected the correlation, surmising that on average, people make decisions not based on rational considerations.

Trajtenberg proposed that economic policies reflect the factors that comprise human decision-making: incentives, morality, and complex psychological processes. Skidelsky responded that economics is unable to simultaneously manage these factors.



Manuel Trajtenberg



Adrian Gore



Ernesto Zedillo



Prince Albert II

EXCITING NEWS!

THE UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN JOHANNESBURG PROUDLY LAUNCHES ITS



(Previously known as the Women's United Communal Fund)

The **Union of Jewish Women** has re-branded its Women's United Communal Fund which has been in existence since 1953. Through this Fund we have assisted the Johannesburg Jewish community as well as Jewish organisations over the past 60 years.

The UJW's new JEWISH COMMUNITY FUND will continue its passionate commitment to support beneficiaries in the Johannesburg Jewish community.

THE BENEFICIARIES OF OUR CURRENT 2-YEAR CAMPAIGN ARE:



CSO - whose dedicated members safeguard us all and secure our Jewish way of life



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THE UJW'S ELDERLY **KOSHER MOBILE MEALS RECIPIENTS**WHO DESPERATELY NEED **LIFE-SAVING PANIC BUTTONS**

The majority of the recipients are in their 80s and 90s, with two over 100 years old. Many of them live in unsafe suburbs such as Hillbrow, Berea, Yeoville and Bellevue and have no family to call upon should an emergency occur, as most of their children have emigrated. With the invaluable help of the CSO, the panic buttons are connected to a security company 24 hours a day.

"I fell and pressed the panic button. The response was immediate. Hatzolah fixed me up and took me to hospital. I have to thank the Union of Jewish Women for giving me this wonderful instrument. The Union of Jewish Women saved my life."

Becky - Aged 84

Johannesburg's Jewish women have always been extremely generous in contributing to the UJW's Community Fund and for this we are deeply grateful to all who have contributed over the years.

We urge you all to continue this proud tradition!

PLEASE NOTE that the Women's United Communal Fund is no longer in existence, having been replaced by the UJW's new JEWISH COMMUNITY FUND.

Your generous donations will help us to help our Community.

If you are already a contributor or have an existing debit / stop order for the former Women's UCF, please phone our office asap on 011 648-1053.

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Celebrating Peres' 90th birthday

JERUSALEM - Former US President Bill Clinton, Barbra Streisand, former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, Sharon Stone and numerous other dignitaries and celebrities, headlined a gala event this week celebrating the 90th birthday of Israeli President Shimon Peres. The event was attended by more than 2 500 VIP guests.

In addition to the numerous presentations, video birthday greetings were sent by US President Barack Obama, Secretary-General of the UN Ban Ki-moon, Nobel Prize-winning writer Elie Wiesel, U2 front man Bono, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollander, King of Spain Juan Carlos, Former Soviet Statesman Mikhail Gorbachev, and Russian President Vladimir Putin

The programme included numerous musical and dance performances by renowned Israeli artists, and was highlighted by Barbra Streisand's moving performance of the Hebrew song, Avinu Malkeinu, Peres' personal request. She also sang her classic song People.



"I admire Shimon for who he is," she said, "Always willing to challenge the status quo, always willing to risk his all for what is right. He knows that the key to a better tomorrow is the fact that we are more alike than different, and that we share a common bond that links us all."

Tony Blair: "[Peres] is the youngest 90 year-old I know. You are one of the greatest global statesmen of our age.We in Britain have our Queen and you [Israel] have your Shimon. "Tonight we do not celebrate the president's age, we celebrate his character. His dreams are continuously leading us forward to tomorrow."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu: "In general, when a man gets older and looks at his life, he looks at the past. However, you look to the future... you don't stop dreaming. Peace favours the strong; nobody makes peace with the weak. We have learned this and Shimon Peres has devoted his life to build Israel and to build peace.

"A strong Israel creates a possibility for peace. We extend our hand in peace to our neighbours, all of them, but we are always ready to defend ourselves. This is what I've learned from Shimon look to the future, remember the past, be prepared for peace and be prepared to defend yourself."

Former US President Bill Clinlast living Israeli who knew Kind try, Israel is small in territory but

David. We have been friends now for more than two decades, we've buried people we love together, celebrated great hopes, endured great disappointments... what I love most about you is the great combination of mind and heart which has always allowed you to be big.

"You are the world's social Einstein, you have tried to put together a unified theory of meaning to unite politics and philosophy and history and science and technology. You never stop reminding us that what we have in common is more important than our differences. Every one of us who has been blessed to know you has been made a little bigger, a little stronger and a little more optimistic that someday your theory will come to fruition in this Holy Land and all of the world. On your 90th birthday what we really celebrate is your great gift to all of us."

President Shimon Peres: "I have learned that a dream is only the beginning of a better tomorrow. And this is the spirit of the gathering which we open tonight; making the dream of tomorrow, today's agenda. (

"Our work is not yet complete. We came to the Promised Land and now we must make it a land of on: "Tonight we pay tribute to the promise. Into an exemplary councan be great in justice.

"We must make it into a country where no-one goes hungry, a country in which every child has access to quality education, from the day that they are born and throughout their entire life, a nation in which the majority governs but the minority always enjoys full and equal rights.

"A country which welcomes different opinions but rejects all forms of discrimination, whether based on religion, nationality, ethnicity or gender. A society which respects the weak and is kind to the foreigner, which cares for the orphan and the widow, the old and the sick.

"A country of solidarity and tolerance, but a country with zerotolerance for violence, corruption and bullying.

"We long for peace with our neighbours. The yesterday between us and the Palestinians is full of sadness. I believe that the Israel and Palestine of tomorrow can offer our children a ray of hope.

"The advancement of peace will complete the march of Israel towards the fulfilment of its founding vision - an exemplary and thriving country, a country living in peace and security in its homeland and among its neighbours." (Facing Tomorrow 2013)



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bit as preposterous, ridiculous and absurd as you'd expect!

Bill Clinton receives Israel's 'President's Award'

JERUSALEM - Former US President Bill Clinton accepted Israel's President's Award from Israeli President Shimon Peres, in a ceremony on Wednesday at Jerusalem's International Convention Centre. Clinton is the sixth recipient of the award,

"(Clinton) became a leader of humanity by inspiring and not imposing," said Peres. "Your unwavering commitment to the Jewish people and your moving support for the State of Israel will always be cherished. The future will hang upon your immeasurable contribution."

Also present for the award, which took place during the opening plenary session, "Leadership that Makes a Difference", were official Middle East Quartet envoy

and Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

In his acceptance speech, Clinton discussed the importance of increasing the appreciation of differences with a goal of unifying humanity.

"I accept this award because I feel like a poor pilgrim on a constant journey to expand the definition of 'us' and shrink the definition of 'them'. The first step of building a new tomorrow is to get rid of the things that divide us, including seeing ourselves as victims," said Clinton.

"There are no final victories. There are no perfect warriors for peace. There are no flawless leaders. There is no perfect answer to any of this.

"Every one of us - each in our own way will face challenges in our lives, and we will not meet them all. The lesson of Shimon Peres is not to give up and give in, but to get up and keep going."

The five previous recipients of the award are US President Barack Obama; former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger; Maestro Zubin Mehta; Rabbi Adin Even Yisrael-Steinsaltz; and the Rashi Foundation.

The opening plenary session focused on principles of leadership, with both Blair and Emanuel drawing upon their personal experiences to communicate that true leadership is not effective unless expectation of mistakes and changing realities are part of the context. (Facing Tomorrow 2013)

FOR WHOM THE BELLS (E-)TOLL

E-tolling, if it is implemented, will definitely take its toll on the hardpressed motorists, who are daily suffering from the effects of exorbi-

What with the high cost of living and the rand's demise, is it any wonder that people are battling to survive? In bygone days the authorities used to send out special trucks at night to assess the damages from potholes, etc and then tarring the whole street with special machines.

Not so nowadays where patch jobs are the norm and the urban roads are always in disarray because of the sloppy workmanship.

Then again the traffic lights in days gone by, used to work efficiently, whereas the lights now are forever on the blink.

So much is to be said for the inept powers-that-be, who have scant regard for service and delivery for the masses at large.

Bernard Segal Johannesburg

EDNA AGMON WANTS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH FAMILY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Edna Agmon (née Grunfeld), of Israel, is trying to locate part of her mother's family who lived - or still live - in South Africa.

She writes: "My mother is Rita Grunfeld (maiden name Lichtenstein), born 1913 in Regensburg, Germany. She moved to Israel in 1933 and in 1958 to the US, where she lives in Denver, Colorado."

In the "Zionist Record and SA Jewish Chronicle" of December 20, 1974, on page 9, is an article about "The three cousins". Traute Baldinger of Cape Town, was Rita Grunfeld's cousin. Her husband might have been Kurt Baldinger.

"As stated in the article, Recha Abrahams, (Traute Baldinger's mother) was then the only one left of her generation (and lived in South Africa). Recha's husband was James Abrahams.

"Perhaps Thea Cowen(??) was also Recha's daughter (not mentioned in the article). Herta Levy (my mother's sister, mentioned in the article), lived in Brazil. We have photos sent to my mother by Traute Baldinger. From these we learn that her son's name is Gerald Baldinger (he would be about 80 today). Gerald's son is Adam (his barmitzvah was in 1997).

"If we understand correctly, Traute's daughter is Evi (in her mid-70s today?). Her three children are Gregory, Marc and Candice." Edna Agmon may be contacted at ezagmon@bezeqint.net

WHEN WE PRAY, DO WE REALLY REALISE WHAT WE ARE PRAYING FOR?

As a little girl I was taught a poem that went something like this: "Help us today and every day to live more nearly as we pray."

I was (therefore) horrified to read in the Jewish Report of June 7 the report entitled: "In case you forgot, Israel's Chief Rabbinate opposes Women of the Wall". Then the words of the poem of some seven decades ago, suddenly came to

Are the Women of the Wall and the Chief Rabbinate living more nearly as they and we pray? When we pray: "Hear oh Israel, the L-rd our G-d is one G-d", do we just say or sing these words, or do we truly, absolutely, feel and recognise the awesome implications that with one G-d, one loving G-d, the Creator of every one of us as individuals, is deserving of the utmost, wholehearted praise from everyone, everywhere?

When we pray the beautiful prayer for peace: "Bless us, our Father, all of us as one, with the light of Your countenance, for with the light of Your countenance You gave us, Hashem, our G-d, the Torah of life and a love of kindness, righteousness, blessing compassion, life and peace", do we really realise what we are praying for?

The prayer says: "Bless all of us as ONE", not excepting the Women of the Wall, or the Chief Rabbinate, or excepting any other Jew or person, but all of us as ONE, with a love of kindness, blessing and peace.

Let each one of us pray daily that all of us as ONE, recognise G-d's Oneness, rejoice in it together and live as nearly as we pray so that what the Wall represents - G-d's eternal love and power - will bring peace among all Jews everywhere and, of course, particularly throughout Israel, the whole Middle East and the world.

Edna Freinkel Lyndhurst, Johannesburg



In the summer of 2013, Israel will host the world's largest Jewish sporting event. Thousands of spectators will be travelling to and from the Maccabiah Games events in Israel. Come and support your South African sportsmen and women in Israel.

> Please contact Debbie or Sandra for any assistance with regards to flights and accommodation.



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

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

HORWITZ DOES NOT GIVE THE COMPLETE HOLOCAUST STORY

Kol ha kavod to the Jewish Report for providing a platform for different opinions and discussions in the paper. I refer to Allan Horwitz' article on the JNF. I don't agree with him, but we have always been a people of different views as demonstrated by the Gemarah. In printing his op-ed the paper will have stimulated lively responses.

Martin Zagnoev denies that the populations of Eastern Europe would have been aware of the murder of one and a half million of their Jewish neighbours because of the secrecy involved.

In describing the Shoah, Zagnoev confines himself to the concentration and death camps. He correctly points out that those were run by fanatical SS troops who were sworn to secrecy.

But he does not mention the one and a half million Jewish men, women and children who were slaughtered by the so-called Einsatzgruppen, German units that followed their armies and went from shtetl to shtetl shooting and burning every Jew that they could find. Those victims were not gassed.

Jews constituted up to 60 per cent of the inhabitants in those East European villages. They were taken from their homes, marched through their villages to the nearest forest and murdered. The locals were then free to enter the homes of their erstwhile neighbours and help themselves to those homes and its items of value.

Does Zagnoev believe that those locals were unaware of what was happening to their Jewish communities, many of whom had lived alongside them for a thousand years? To those non-Jewish people the Shoah was not a secret at all!

Our Shoah literature is overflowing with evidence and personal testimony that bears out the foregoing. Our few remaining survivors of Eastern Europe have testified to its truth, as did their departed surviving family and friends.

Yes, we are aware of the Righteous Gentiles among these people, honour and respect them. But I would strongly advise Zagnoev to research the population numbers of those Eastern European nations, the percentages of those who became Righteous Gentiles and then see how many were prepared to assist their fellow Jews.

What assistance was given by the Armea Krajowa, the Polish Home Army, to the Jewish fighters during the Warsaw Uprising. What happened to Jews that fled to the forests and came across these non-Jewish or even Russian partisans. Or even the murderous reception given to the pathetic and broken remnants from the concentration camps by their erstwhile neighbours when they returned after the war to their stolen homes.

Don Krausz Chairman, Association of Holocaust Survivors in Johannesburg

Grey College Bloemfontein's matric class of 1963

Beryl Lewus is seeking information for Rubin A Mandelstam for the Grey College Bloemfontein 1963 matric class' 50th reunion in October. Beryl and Cecil Lewus may be contacted on (011) 440-2583 or 082-455-5556, or e-mail berylcecil@telkomsa.net

'THANK YOU' TO SOUTH AFRICA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY FOR THIS YEAR'S BITTER-SWEET HOPE TOUR

Each year The Chaiyanu Hope Tour brings a group of 20 Israeli children who are currently in treatment for cancer, to South Africa for a 10 day trip of fun, excitement and love.

Unfortunately, at the end of our tour this year one of our boys passed away in the Linksfield Clinic. For almost two weeks the Jewish community here in Johannesburg showered Kobie Tzemach's family and tour organisers with love, support, food, minyanim and tehillim groups almost around the clock.

The Hope Tour is a special tour. It is a tour of love, a tour of giving, a tour of hope. To give all that we are able of, both of ourselves and of our country, to reignite the spirit and excitement in children that have been fighting for too long - that is our aim.

To the South African Jewish community: It is your love, your time, your selflessness and your dedication, your financial support, the expenses you incurred on our behalf and the donations you made that allowed us to make this year's tour a reality.

The community of South Africa reaches out and opens up to the children of The Hope Tour with love and generosity that cannot be found anywhere else in the world and for this we say, from the bottom of our hearts: Thank you.

In truth, words cannot wholly explain what it is that this tour gives to our children. It is a transformation that one has to see with one's own eyes to fully comprehend - the return of their smiles; the light in their eyes; the jump in their step.

Thank you for giving the children of The Hope Tour a tour that changes their lives and reignites their love of living.

This has been an especially bittersweet tour. Losing one of our boys as our trip came to end, was a horrifying shock to all of us. And yet the words of Kobie's mother will always remain with us and continue to push us forward: "Hearing Kobie on the phone during the tour, he sounded like his old self. The joy in his voice - I hadn't heard it in so long. Only now, meeting the wonderful people of this country, do I understand just what this tour meant to him."

SAJR ACCUSED OF GIVING TOO MUCH PROMINENCE TO THOSE

"Fair and balanced" has become the myth that all news and media try to

uphold. In today's corporate world of sponsored, advertising and special interest groups, any organisation that claims to be fair and balanced is

This is also true for the SAJR. For far too long I have indulged in the

SAJR pandering to extreme groups on the far fringes of the community

who are given equal representation in the pages of the SAJR to great

If the SAJR believes that the opinions of Stop the JNF are entitled

support or even read such a paper. As South African policy becomes ever

Please remove me from your mailing list and I believe it is within my

their support and contributions to a publication that believes anti-Israel

rights to encourage other individuals and organisations to reconsider

and even anti-Jewish fringe opinions should have equal access to the

As a newspaper with credibility built over nearly 15 years, we indeed pride

even warrant a denial. Does our letter writer really believe that by ignoring

unpalatable happenings they "didn't happen"? We report on events - indeed as

even-handedly as possible - and open up our pages for healthy debate. We don't

create news. We are unashamedly Zionist and have flown this flag over all the years

with pride. If you are advocating Pollyanna reporting, then you won't find it in the

ourselves in providing our readers with views from all quarters of the community.

To accuse us of giving publicity, or endorsing the Stop the JNF campaign shouldn't

more hostile toward Israel and as demonstrated by the actions Deputy

Minister (Marius) Fransman, more hostile to the Jewish community,

should I wish to read anti-Israel messages and opinions; I can simply

to equal representation to those of the JNF, then I no longer wish to

Meirav Shenker Organiser, My Hope Tour

community stalwarts and organisations.

open-up any other tabloid or paper.

South Africa Jewish community paper.

Shaun Sacks

Jewish Report. - Editor

Jerusalem

ON FRINGES

MUSLIM LAWYERS' SILLY COMPLAINTS AGAINST OBAMA A **STAIN ON OUR COUNTRY**

Muslim Lawyers Association lodging a 658 page complaint with the National Prosecuting Authority and the Hawks last week Friday.

form of a complaint to the NPA and the Hawks, calling upon them to investigate, charge and arrest President Barack Obama for war crimes against Iraq and Afghanistan.)

If lawyers of that association knew anything about the law then they would know that the courts and police in South Africa have no jurisdiction over any head of state of a foreign country. They would also know that any of the offences alleged, were not committed on South African

Can you imagine the amount of tripe one has to write to fill 658

that the NPA and Hawks will probably dispose of it accordingly.

Libya and Iran for fomenting sectarian strife in the Muslim world. And killing their own people.

They fail to mention the atrocities committed by Sunnis against

do they comprehend the nature of peaceful co-existence with anyone, including their own kind.

The pity about this group of Muslims is that they have added to the stain on our country in making the American president unwelcome in

The controversy over the Obama visit recently was strengthened by the

(The Muslim Lawyers Association has written the document in the

Seriously, can you imagine arresting the president of the world's most powerful nations right here in South Africa?

pages of complaints?

I suggest that the 658 page document contains mainly sewage and

But, these same Muslims fail to condemn their own leaders in Syria,

Shiites in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, etc.

These same people do not perceive a problem in the Arab world, nor

Nathan Cheiman

Northcliff, Johannesburg

But I suppose that the world is also less harmonious because of them.

CHOICE BETWEEN LOWER WAGES OR INDIGNITY OF UNEMPLOYMENT

I refer to the article "Haredim: Fundamentalist or exemplars of the purpose driven life" in the Jewish Report of May 31.

From the article it appears that being haredi is a preferable lifestyle to a secular one. However, if the numbers of haredim increase significantly, it is not sustainable for the host country. The country in this instance is Israel.

There is a limit to how many people tax-paying citizens can subsidise. Ask the Greeks: In Greece the subsidy took the form of employing superfluous staff in the civil service. In Israel the subsidies go to the poor, to those disabled in the wars, to immigrants, to hi-tech, education, etc and to yeshivot. Israel carries an extra burden, namely a large defence budget.

As the ratio of haredim in Israel increases in proportion to the secular tax-paying population, the burden on the national budget will

Back-up Solutions

become unsustainable. Again, ask the Greeks, or if you don't speak Greek, ask the Irish.

We in South Africa might be heading in the same direction. We have about 15 million poor on subsidies. We have approximately three million personal taxpayers. (Fortunately we have VAT and company tax). It is a matter of economic reality that the social grants are parsimoni-

As long as the trade unions have a monopolistic power over wages, we will be burdened with our impoverished citizens. Individuals are not given the choice whether to accept a low wage or accept the indignity of being jobless.

John Brenner Cyrildene, Johannesburg



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Sinai Indaba – Torah learning with an African flavour



Sinai Indaba Johannesburg - about the power of Torah words

STAFF REPORTER

They came with spiritual hunger: bearded and be-sheitled, some with prams. More than 4 500 attended Sinai-Indaba III in Johannesburg last weekend to listen to the "superstars" of contemporary rabbinic teaching. Countrywide, including Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, Sinai Indaba saw some 6 500 attendees.

Themes ranged from women's issues with Rabbanit Yemima Mizrachi, considered among Israel's most influential women and Holocaust survivor Rebbetzen Esther Jungreis; relationships, with psychotherapist Gary Neuman; to reflections on the value of Israel and the Jewish nation's future, by Dayan Yonasan Abraham from

London's Beth Din; Manchester's leading rabbi, Rabbi Yossi Chazan; Rabbi Paysach Krohn a fifth generation mohel and storyteller; and economist and Torah scholar Rabbi Ozer Glickman.

Headliners, London's retiring Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks and Ambassador Yehuda Avner, speechwriter to five Israeli presidents, drew packed auditoriums.

Opening the Indaba, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein spoke of the value of words. "Words create worlds. Sinai Indaba is about the power of words, but not just any words, Torah words. In using Torah words, we partner with Hashem. But what is a partner? Ownership defines a partner; it is also about taking responsibility.

"When our great-grandparents

arrived from Europe, they saw nothing, no shuls, no schools. They built this community's infrastructure by becoming partners. A partnership means we're not alone. We have each other. We have Hashem."

Ambassador Avner began by praising "that tzaddik, Nelson Mandela", saying that if Israel had someone of his calibre, the problems in the Middle East would have been resolved long ago.

He congratulated Rabbi Goldstein on the remarkable initiative of Sinai Indaba, which "has no peer in the world.

"Committed Jews are wearying of having to defend Israel. I'm also weary," he spoke of his sister, killed in 1948; his son, wounded in 1974; his daughter, wounded n 1991.

"I've three grandchildren in the army. I'm weary: I couldn't keep the promise I made my children that the last war I had to fight would be the last war.

"Jews and Judaism have been around a long time," Rabbi Sacks pointed out. "We stand collectively as Jews as never before in 4 000 years: now we have independence in Israel and equality in the Diaspora.

"What previous generations longed for, we have. What are we doing about it? Not much, other than complain. We complain about anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and assimilation.

"This is a mistake. The message is: Stay Jewish and you'll be hated. The youth of 1980s

and 1990s learnt Jewish identity defined by the Holocaust. Can we blame them for marrying out?"

He spoke of challenges of faith in a world filled with evil; scientific answers; and healing a fractured world.

"Globalisation is this century's buzzword. For Jews, an old concept: We don't speak the same language. Our fate is not the same. Conditions of us being one nation aren't normal."

"I love Israel in spite of much," said Avner. "but mah yehiyeh (what will be)? I don't know. We've never known. Lech Lecha's essence, when G-d told Abraham to leave his land, was the unknown. Indeed, Israel was achieved by leaps into the unknown."



Esther Jungreis proudly flying the flag for Jewish observance

SHIRA DRUION

Rebbetzen Esther Jungreis' (pictured) countless stories all carry the resonant theme of faith and as this Holocaust survivor recounts the miracles of her salvation, she continuously mentions her parents and husband who she refers to as saintly beings, all of whom are or were great lovers and advocates of the Jewish people.

As one of Sinai Indaba's keynote speakers, she used words of rebuke and encouragement to get her audience back to a life of meaning and faith. What makes this extremely popular speaker most famous for worldwide audiences, is her extraordinary ability to ignite the Jewish spark that often lies dormant in Diaspora Jewry; this she does with a fiery passion that moves her packed audiences.

Despite still recovering from breaking her hip recently, she continues to travel from continent to continent to invigorate audiences with her message about all that it means to be a Jew and also how to remain steadfast in one's loyalty to G-d even in times of turmoil.

In a Jewish Report interview, Jungreis shared miraculous stories of her tumultuous past. Yet she is able to recount the atrocities of her experience in the Holocaust free of bitterness. Instead, her messages echo a vision that is refracted through the lenses of G-d in all of His glory.

"My father loved Jews from all walks of life. He never stood in judgement or criticised another's religious observance. Instead, he encouraged and praised every Jew, assisting many to go forward and grow in their observance. His example is etched in my memory.

"My parents loved the Jewish people and our home was always open to others. After the Holocaust, our home became a home for many forlorn orphans whose parents had perished in the flames of European



Jewry.

"In fact, later at the age of 19, I married one of the boys who had spent many hours around our table. He turned out to also be a Jungreis, and was a fourth cousin. The Jungreis family consisted of 86 rabbis, all who lived in Hungary pre-war and who can trace their lineage back to King David.

"My great-great-grandfather took on the family name Jungreis. He said that he chose to combine those two words because 'Jung' which means young in German was to symbolise youth so that we would always remain energetic in our service and devotion to G-d and 'reis' meant old, so that we would live with the wisdom that comes with old age."

"My great-great-grandfather's aspiration for his grandchildren remains with me always.

It is clear that the passion Jungreis embodies is one that runs generations deep. Indeed, Rebbetzen Jungreis is proof that the dream to have children who embody both an incorrigible spirit and an age-old wisdom, is one that has come to fruition, as she touches the hearts of those in her orbit.

Preciousness of the Jewish woman, brought vividly to life



Rabbanit Yemima Mizrachi blesses a Sinai Indaba attendee. SHIRA DRUION

"I know with conviction that invested in every Jewish woman, there is a great power to create and to build Jewish homes that are connected to G-d and to Torah. The Jewish home is essentially the fountain of nourishment for the Jewish soul and is the source from which the redemption will come."

This is the philosophy of Sinai Indaba speaker, Israeli Yemima Mizrachi, granddaughter of Morocco's chief rabbi. She is able to juggle many hats, all of which she wears with great flair. As a mother of nine, a wife and lawyer, she boasts many achievements, all of which have enabled her to galvanise troops of thousands of women to come out in droves to listen to her disseminate Torah and Jewish values with passion.

Her inextricable commitment to her faith resonates with women from across the religious and cultural spectrum. "It is said that in the merit of righteous women, G-d will bring the redemption. This is the reason I concentrate my efforts on women.

"Jewish homes have been governed by noble women throughout our history," she said. "The foremothers were all wise women who each in their own right shaped the course of history for the generations that followed: Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah each imbued the world with different strengths and essentially sewed their unique qualities into the DNA for all Jewish women thereafter."

Mizrachi explained that when a Jewish woman is going to be given a test by G-d, the foremothers come together in the heavenly chambers and testify that each of them will assist her in their own way with overcoming her specific challenge by sharing with her, the unique character traits that each of them embodied.

"Sarah embodied the character trait of laughter, so that when a Jewish women is in a state of being tested, Sarah the matriarch comes forward and volunteers to guide the woman by creating a space for laughter and joy, while she is in the throes of her pain.

"Rebecca teaches women about the trials of having children, because after waiting 19 years to have a baby, she gave birth to Esau who was a troublesome murderer.

"Leah taught women about patience, as she was challenged that her destiny was not delivered with immediacy but only came to her with time. She had to suffer before she was able to enjoy blessing.

"Rachel was the woman who had to learn how to cry, because until she was challenged with giving up Jacob and then later with being infertile, life had been easy for her, but through her trials and tribulations, she learned to turn to G-d and to cry out to Him for salvation."

Mizrachi brought the flavour of authentic Sephardic warmth to her South African audience and ensured that the women in the audience left inspired to connect to G-d, to their families and their communities.



Sinai Indaba Cape Town Hypothesis of G-d is overwhelming - Rabbi Sacks

MOIRA SCHNEIDER CAPE TOWN

How is it that bad things happen to good people? This, according to Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, is "the question that burns in the heart of Judaism".

Rabbi Sacks was speaking at Sinai Indaba 111 held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. The day-long event was attended by an estimated 1 700 people.

Stating that religious faith had come in for a "tremendous battering", he listed science, evil and existentialism as constituting the three major challenges to religion today.

With regard to science, Rabbi Sacks noted that the man who had led the project to decode the human genome, began as an atheist and ended as a religious believer. "The more we unravel of this extraordinary cosmos, the more we're moved to say: 'How wondrous are your works, Oh Lord'.

"The hypothesis of G-d is now simply overwhelming," he stated.

On the challenge of evil, Rabbi Sacks said that the issue of why bad things happened to good people was at the "very centre of our faith". Repeating the oft-invoked question: "Where was G-d at Auschwitz?" he said that the Holocaust did not in and of itself present a new challenge to faith.

"Why did G-d not stop Cain killing Abel?" he asked, describing the biblical episode as a similar challenge. "Because G-d gave us freedom.

"When we choose good, we're a little lower than the angels, when we choose bad, we're a little above the beasts. G-d doesn't intervene to stop us doing evil." Noting that some had lost their faith in G-d after the Holocaust, Rabbi Sacks countered: "After Auschwitz, it is impossible to believe in man.

"Without the fear of heaven, man is a wild beast to man. After Auschwitz, you have to be very ignorant or very naïve to believe we can do without G-d."

Dealing with existentialism, Rabbi Sacks commented that Europe had created the most secular society the world had ever seen, but since the 1960s, marriage had lost its sanctity and families had collapsed.

In Britain there had been a rise among young people of between 300 and 1 000 per cent in alcohol abuse, eating disorders, suicides and depression.

A 2012 study showed that the average Briton had 237 Facebook friends. When asked how many they could rely on in a crisis, some said two, some said none.

"Shul is where you'll find real friends, not Facebook friends," Rabbi Sacks said. A US study had shown that acts of kindness we did for each other were to be found in places of worship, he added.

Another study had shown that regular shul attendance added seven years to one's life expectancy. Referring to what he called "deep discontent" among atheists, the chief rabbi said the challenges of science, the Holocaust and personal happiness were challenges for the non-believer much more than for the believer.

Slated to speak on Faith after the Holocaust, Rebbetzen Esther Jungreis described this as "a piece of cake.

"Faith in the Holocaust is another story," the child survivor of Bergen-Belsen said.

"In the Holocaust, Jews gave up their last piece of bread to be able to pray from the Siddur," she recounted. "We taught mankind about G-d and how to pray - do we pray today?

"The average Jew does not pray." Remembering her father telling her during the Holocaust that she and the other children were angels of Shabbos, she said: "We live in a mad world today. So many people are in therapy, on pills. Don't you think it would give some peace to the soul to know they're angels of Shabbos?"

Referring to the six million who perished, she pleaded: "You have to daven for them because they can no longer daven. You have to learn for them because they can no longer learn.

"Stay with Torah," she cried. "I was there and I know there is a G-d."

Speaking on his experiences as adviser and speechwriter to five Israeli prime ministers, Ambassador Yehuda Avner described their jobs as "probably one of the loneliest in the world, dealing with one of the most intractable conflicts in the world.

"How and when to wield military force in self-defence, was a question confronting all of them. I've seen the look on their faces when deliberations have ended and their compatriots have left the room, because the decision has been taken and people are going to die.

"I've seen prime ministers' lips tremble in prayer... The greatest lesson I've learned is the meaning of the word 'leadership'.

"True leaders must be ready to risk our futures in order to do what they deem right and be prepared to disregard the advice of their closest confidantes." The early prime ministers, he said, were "incapable of being anyone but themselves. They knew nothing of pollsters and even less about image-makers.

"They had authenticity. They devoted their lives to ideals, which is why they all died virtually penniless. Not so the new generation who were born into much more of a material world."

Avner asked whether current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - "a gifted man with sharp political acumen and a fine communicator" - had what it took to lead the country into a challenging future.

"The answer is in how he faces up to the challenges of war and peace which might be confronting him soon." A combination of sentiment and granite, as evidenced by Menachem Begin, was what was needed, he believed.

"True authentic Kabbalah opens your eyes to see the hand of G-d in everything in life." So said Manchester-based Rabbi Yossi Chazan, addressing the topic of Mysticism.

"The problem with today's generation is that people want short cuts. The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary," he quipped.

"Anyone who offers you an easy way to heaven without purifying your character... is making a mockery of Yiddishkeit."

Rabbi Chazan slammed "New Age" Kabbalah that saw adherents drinking "Kabbalah waters" to cure cancer, sleeping on top of the Zohar and indulging in other practices "some crackerjack rabbi has blessed. In proper authentic Kabbalah, you're not allowed to use it for any personal (gain) - that's the sign of a cult"



This raw play resonates with S African reality



Marion (Dame Janet Suzman) contemplates her loss, while Solomon (Khayalethu Anthony) prepares to paint her house.

Show: "Solomon and Marion" (Auto & General Theatre on the Square, Sandton (011) 883-8606; Baxter Golden Arrow Studio, July 10 - 20

Until: June 29

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

"Be kind," Greek philosopher Plato said. "Everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." This dictum could be applied to how both characters in Lara Foot's Solomon and Marion engage with one another.

But the converse is also true in how the characters are developed. It's a play of often unintentionally inflicted cruelty as much as it is one of succour, but it does slip into cliché.

Elderly white woman abandoned by her loved ones in a South African city, encounters a young person of colour in a context shrouded in familiarity and the possibility of violence.

We've seen it in the pens of Craig Higginson, Nicholas Spagnoletti, Pieter-Dirk Uys, Barry Berk: it's become well-trodden in local contemporary writing; it still touches chords. We've seen it in the pen of Lara Foot herself: Solomon and Marion is a version of Reach staged in 2007.

Marion Banning is an elderly white English woman living in a Cape Town suburban home, once rich in the happy rough and tumble of family life, and now hollow with loneliness. Her husband Frank has left her. Her daughter Anne lives in Australia with her husband and two sons. Marion's son, Jonathan has died. She has her ghosts and her cigarettes for company and a book to read which she finds depressing and boring.

Enter Solomon Xaba, the grandson of Thozama, Marion's domestic maid, who Marion hasn't seen for years. He presents himself sullenly from under a morass of unsaid things and clumsily phrased care; he's a keg of dynamite on the point of igniting. He's in a battle with death, ritual, responsibility and history that in turn ricochet off Marion's fears.

The play's denouement comes with a yellow shirt which causes Solomon to touch Marion innocently yet candidly in the place where the wound left by her son's absence is most raw: Jonathan was murdered. The indignity and shame of it, and the utter horror of a senselessly lost life are rivetingly cast in the sedate set by Patrick Curtis, constructed as a comfortable - and believable - living space, rendered sinister by our awareness of how isolated Marion is.

It's a pleasure to see Janet Suzman reprising the role of Marion; she enables you to taste her outrage, to smell the futility with which she regards her own life.

No less compelling is Khayalethu Anthony (as Solomon), a young man who debuts professionally here, after having cut his teeth in community theatre. The reciprocity between these two polar opposites is well-rounded: you come away with a sophisticated appreciation of how, where and why they intersect, a cleavage which is deeply unsettling.

This immensely skillful play is balanced on local realities, bruised as they are by how society embraces stereotypes. It's premised on the 2006 murder of Brett Goldin and Richard Bloom, and reflects deeply on the ramifications of the violent loss of a child on a mother.

SAJR's Sassen on shortlist for prestigious journo award

OWN CORRESPONDENT

SA Jewish Report Arts Editor Robyn Sassen, is among the finalists in the inaugural National Arts Festival/Business and Arts South Africa (BASA) Arts Journalism Awards.

In a media release the National Arts Festival says: "Each finalist is a Silver Award winner. Gold Award winners, together with the overall Arts Journalist of the Year, will be announced in Grahamstown on June 30."

It adds: "These awards are a celebration of the excellence and passion demonstrated by our country's arts journalists."

National Arts Festival CEO Tony Lankester said. "They are a vital part of the industry, offering criticism and insight into the work our artists do. They represent the best of the

Apart from the Features, Reviews and Opinion category winners, the judges also made a number of commendatory Silver Awards, including an individual commendation for sustained contribution to the arts through journalism, to jazz writer Don Albert.

"The importance of arts journalism cannot be overstated," BASA CEO Michelle Constant said. "Without the kind of interrogation and exposure journalists provide, our artists would be working in a vacuum.

"A good journalist is not simply a publicity machine for the arts, their role in provoking intelligent debate and raising awareness of the arts is crucial. We hope that, by supporting these awards, we are helping to raise the standard of arts journalism, and to encourage young journalists to consider reporting and commenting on the arts as a career."



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Mon., Aug. 5	At Sea		
Tues., Aug. 6	Naples, Italy	7:00 am	7:00 pm
Wed., Aug. 7	Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy	6:00 am	7:00 pm
Thurs., Aug. 8	Florence/Pisa (Livorno), Italy	7:00 am	7:00 pm
Fri., Aug. 9	Provence (Marseille), France	10:00 am	7:00 pm
Sat., Aug. 10	Palma, Majorca, Spain	1:00 pm	8:00 pm
Sun., Aug. 11	Barcelona, Spain	5:00 am	Arrives

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ASATA

Silberhaft travels to tumultuous welcome Down Under

MICHAEL BELLING

Hundreds of people - South African expatriates and Australians - attended book launches and talks by The Travelling Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft recently to promote the story of the South African country communities and the Jewish communities of sub-Saharan Africa.

Silberhaft is the country communities rabbi of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and spiritual leader and CEO of the African Jewish Congress.

"I found everyone extremely interested in what is happening in South Africa and the former South Africans really wanting to know about the various communities they came from," Silberhaft said.

"I encouraged them to relate to the children, grandchildren and friends, the wonderful life they had in South Africa and the challenge they had in maintaining their Judaism in the country communities, as well as how their Judaism enabled them to land in Australia and maintain their Yiddishkeit there."

He added that it was heartwarming to see many former South Africans playing vital roles in the establishment and growth of Jewish life in Australia. They took their passion for Judaism there from South Africa. The two main shuls in Sydney and Melbourne, both ran South African-style services and the new Central Shul in Melbourne is known as the South African shul.

Silberhaft addressed 2 500 people in his visits to Perth, Melbourne and Sydney and included seven launches of the book, The Travelling Rabbi: My African Tribe - the Rabbi's story as told to Suzanne Belling.

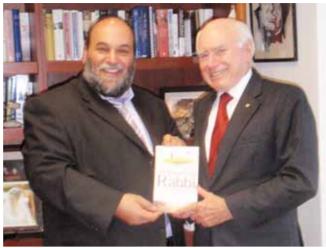
Proceeds from the book launch will go to the Support Group for Families of the Terminally Ill (SGOFOTI), a project supported by the African Jewish Congress in Bulawayo.

Attendances exceeded expectations. In Perth, where Rhoda Berman, former president of the SA Union of Jewish Women, co-ordinated the visit, the book launch had to be moved from the shul hall into the main shul when 225 people attended, double the expected number.

In Perth Silberhaft met Malcolm McCusker, the governor of Western Australia.

Barrister Norman Rosenbaum hosted Silberhaft in Melbourne. He addressed three classes at the Mount Scopus Jewish day school and in the evening attended the Shabbat service at the Central Shul in Caulfield.

The service included Lecha Dodi to the tune of Sarie Marais



Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft (left) showing a copy of The Travelling Rabbi: My African Tribe, to former Australian Prime Minister John Howard in Sydney.

and Yigdal to the melody of Jan Pierewiet.

On his 50-minute walk to the Rosenbaums after shul, Silberhaft was caught in the worst rainstorm in Melbourne for over a century that led to several flood warnings. This is the second time in his recent travels that he has endured hardships of nature - he was stung 87 times by a swarm of bees last year in Harare as he was walking to shul on Shabbat morning.

The Melbourne leg was arranged by ex-Capetonian Barry Barron, a founder member of the shul.

On Shabbat morning he spoke at the Chabad shul in Caulfield.

Two book launches took place in Melbourne, the one at the

Central Shul and the other in Doncaster, attended by nearly 500 people.

The last stop of the visit was in Sydney. The first book launch was at the Central Shul. Justice Ralph Zulman, chairman of the country communities department of SA Jewish Board of Deputies, was visiting Sydney and introduced the rabbi. Silberhaft also spoke at the Central Shul in Bondi and a book launch at Kehillat Masada on the North Shore.

In Sydney, he spent two hours with former Australian Prime Minister John Howard, accompanied by another South African expatriate, Rob Schneider, who arranged the Sydney itinerary.

Hurry up with that Jewish Achiever nomination!

OWN CORRESPONDENT

With just a week to go before the nominations for this year's Jewish Report Jewish Achievers banquet event closes, the situation is smoking. Event organisers and judges are vigorously busy with confirming the nominations and ascertaining acceptances from the nominees, indicating that they are willing to be part of the process. Over 100 nominations have been received for the different categories of awards.

If you know or know of a fantastic achiever in the fields of business and industry; humanitarianism; the arts, science, sport; community service; or entrepreneurship; if you're aware of someone who has spent his or her life doing wonderful things, or if you know of an extraordinary businessman, in a listed or an unlisted company, and you haven't yet nominated him or her, do not despair: it is not yet too late. Nominations close with the close of business on Friday, June 28.

Please e-mail your nominations to nominations@SAJew-ishReport.co.za. Members of the Board of Directors of the SA Jewish Report or their families are not eligible for nominations.

The event is hosted this year on August 15 at the magnificent Maroela Room, Sandton Sun, and by all accounts, promises to again be the social event of the year.



Selma and Jules Browde, joint-winners of the Helen Suzman Lifetime Achievement award in 2011. They achieved individually in their fields of medicine and law and were immensely important stalwarts in the whirlwind of human rights activism in the anti-apartheid movement.

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





Above Board Mary Kluk National Chairman

Most successful Sinai Indaba

At the time of writing, the third Sinai Indaba has just taken place in Johannesburg and Cape Town and will shortly be held in Port Elizabeth and Durban. From all accounts, it has once again been a resounding success, attracting a capacity attendance from across the spectrum of our community.

As always, the speakers were of the highest calibre, among them Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Rabbi Paysach Krohn, Rabbi Yossi Chazan, Ambassador Yehuda Avner and Rebbetzen Esther Jungreis.

In order to maximise the reach of this special event, the organisers will ensure that podcasts of the various presentation will be made freely accessible. I congratulate Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and his office on this wonderful initiative. It brings our community together for a festival of Jewish learning that is both intellectually challenging and celebratory.

For Jews, Torah learning has never been regarded as the preserve of a few elite scholars. Rather, it has always been an eternally relevant spiritual heritage in which everyone is encouraged, indeed is duty-bound, to share in.

The majority of South African Jews are of Lithuanian origin, descendants of those who emigrated from there over half a century commencing in the 1880s. Lithuanian Jewry was famed throughout the Diaspora for its devotion to Jewish learning.

From its ranks came many of the greatest religious leaders produced by our people during the exile, and the names of its illustrious yeshivot, despite these having been tragically destroyed in the Shoah, continue to resound around the Jewish world. Given our community's Litvak roots, it is especially fitting that our own Chief Rabbi has now co-authored, with the world-renowned historian and speaker Rabbi Berel Wein, a new book celebrating this heritage. Entitled The Legacy: Teachings for Life from the Great Lithuanian Rabbis, it received its launch in South Africa at the Sinai Indaba, with both authors present to speak about it.

The South African Jewish heritage is being further celebrated this week at a gala dinner marking the launch of a new history of the mother congregation of Johannesburg Jewry, the Great Park

This year marks a century since the foundation stone of the Great Synagogue in Wolmarans Street was laid. During its 80-year existence, this magnificent structure served as the seat of the Chief Rabbi and also served as the central gathering place for the community on special occasions, such as celebrating the establishment of the State of Israel.

The congregation itself dates back almost to the founding of Johannesburg itself, having been constituted in mid-1887. The book, written by our Associate Director David Saks, recounts the story of this prestigious congregation from its earliest days to the present.

We congratulate Rabbi Dovid Hazdan of the Great Park Synagogue, not only on reaching yet another milestone in its long history, but on continuing to be so dynamic and forward-looking a force in our community's religious and communal life.

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

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

Take a deep breath...

Debbie Gross visited our shores from Israel, lectured to hundreds - professionals and community alike - and left many of us in a state of heightened anxiety, akin to panic. Why? Because she is an internationally acclaimed expert on abuse who told us that child sexual abuse has reached epidemic proportions worldwide.

Brought to this country by KoleinuSA, Debbie travels the world raising awareness and educating about the abuse of children, women and teenagers. Always on the alert to take advantage of opportunities to enhance our services and hone the skills of professionals - our own as well as others - the Chev partnered with them by hosting three events. One was an all-day workshop for professionals to which therapists from NGOs across the city were invited.

The second was a morning of skills training for Jewish social workers, teachers, psychologists and social service professionals that focussed on effective intervention and therapeutic techniques. The third was our Chev Social Services/CAJE presentation to parents about how to keep their children safe from sexual abuse.



Partners in Chesed **Michael Sieff** Group CEO

Her statistics are alarming: 97 per cent of child sexual abusers are men; 80 per cent of them are known to the children and the ratio of abused boys to girls is estimated to be about equal. Her cautionary advice to parents was explicit: There are rules to be followed, conversations to be had and boundaries to be established and well-guarded. "Tell your children" advised Debbie, "that most people are good - the rules are in place for the few who are not." But many have come away afraid to trust anyone. That's why I'm suggesting, take a deep breath!

Although Debbie has boarded her flight for home, help, guidance and structures are in place to assist and support the community. Parents need to take cognisance of what they have learned - to process it calmly and without hysteria. Knowledge is strength and self-empowerment is encouraged. They have every right to find out about the people who work, teach and interact with their children.

They can demand credentials from people in positions of authority at our schools and insist that as dictated by law - due diligence is done on everyone who applies to work with children. Paedophiles - often the gentlest, most unassuming of people - will seek an environment in which they can be with children. And while their addiction can be managed, it cannot be cured. Lifelong prevention strategies are required.

If, G-d forbid, there has been abuse, remember that there can be a healthy road to recovery for victims and their families who can be galvanised to become survivors. The Chev Social Services division has many years of experience in providing support services to survivors, families and even perpetrators, who are in desperate need of containment through intervention and counselling.

If you're worried or have concerns, please contact a professional counsellor during office hours on (011) 532-9616; on our after hours hotline 082-499-1010 or by e-mail on intake@jhbchev.co.za May our partnership continue to thrive. Communicate with me on feedback@thechev.org.za

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Capetown:

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Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, M.D.:

"I'm familiar with the excellent work Mimi Dickman has done, and I believe that her seminar on marriage is extremely important, especially in our times, when the stability of so many marriages has weakened."

Rav Aharon Bina, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh:

"I have known & worked with Mimi for well over 15 years, watching her turn around varieties of difficult disorders. I am impressed not only by her expertise, but also by her yir'at shamayim. This is a subject of great importance for every Jewish home. Mimi has never disappointed me yet.

For Reservation and Information contact Mimi at: 972-547-55422, mimipsy@gmail.com



Zichron Menachem brings comfort to young cancer sufferers

In a whirlwind trip, Zichron Menachem, has made its mark on communities throughout South Africa. It's an organisation based in Jerusalem that cares for Israeli children suffering from cancer and their families. It operates roundthe-clock with dedication and love.

In a media release it says "services and assistance are dispensed equally to all Israeli citizens". It offers a wide range of educational, recreational and therapeutic treatments.

Learners in Johannesburg and Cape Town have embraced the "Hair Care" project and pledged to do whatever they can to help.

Amidst the ravages of chemotherapy, hospitals, doctors and uncertainty, the child is often faced with the additional trauma of losing his or her hair. To help ease this ordeal, Zichron Menachem provides custom-made hairpieces for them.

The project entails girls growing their hair, raising money in sponsorship, and then cutting braids of at least 30cm off. The hair and sponsorship raised is then used to make hairpieces and also to help finance uplifting activities for the children.

Coinciding with the launch, Talli Ross, daughter of Rabbi Johnny and Danya Ross of Ohr Somayach Cape Town, had her hair cut off by the founder of Zichron Menachem, Miri Erenthal, and donated it to the children of Zichron Menachem at her batmitzvah celebration.

Inspired by her act, members of the Ohr Somayach community will sponsor a child at Zichron Menachem's camp in the UK next month in her honour.

During the launch at Torah Academy Girls' High School in Johannesburg, Ga'alya Shalpid, in grade 9, asked to have her hair cut off on the spot: "Hashem has put me in this world to make a difference, she said"

Schools participating in the ZM project include Beis Yaakov, Cape Town Torah High, Herzlia Middle School, Herzlia High School, Hirsch Lyons (Girls' High School), King David High School (Linksfield), Phyllis Jowell and Torah Academy (Girls' High School) and Yeshiva Maharsha (Girls' High School).



Eli Seliger, chairman of Zichron Menachem UK; Chaim and Miri Ehrenthal, founders of Zichron Menachem and Talli Ross who cut her hair for Zichron Menachem.

Passageway now a colourful work of art

MARCELLE OLIVER

King David Victory Park High has embarked on a number of refurbishment projects. One of these projects that the PTA took up at the headmaster's suggestion, was the corridor linking the administration block to the hall (the "tunnel").

The PTA and the art department involved the learner body in producing 400 handmade tiles that took eight months to complete

The once dark passageway is now a colourful, creative work of art, which will further be brightened by down-lights and which will remain a lasting legacy for the learners of 2012 and 2013.



Nurit Josselowsky is the lucky Millennium Draw winner

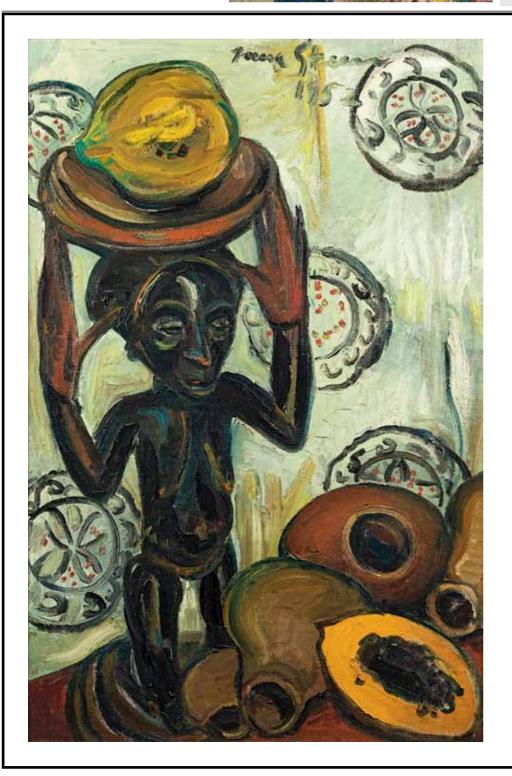
All babies born in the year 2000, who were presented with a Sefer Hayeled certificate through the JNF, were entered into the Children's Register in Israel and thereby qualified for the Millennium Draw.

The prize for the draw was a ticket to Israel in the year of their bar- or batmitzvah. WIZO SA received the list of names from JNF in Israel, and after five semi-finalists were drawn, Nurit Josselowsky from Johannesburg became the lucky winner.

She won a free ticket to Israel sponsored by WIZO South Africa, JNF and the Israel Centre. In a media release, WIZO SA said: "We wish her a hearty mazeltov on winning this prize and hope that she will take the time to visit the various WIZO and JNF projects in Israel."



Tamar Lazarus (president, WIZO South Africa); Shimon Shamila (aliyah shaliach , Israel Centre); Nurit Josselowsky; Isla Feldman (SAZF director and JNF executive director); Amber Cummins (JNF).



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Irma Stern, Still Life with Buli Stool signed and dated 1952 oil on board, 90 by 59cm R4 000 000 – 5 000 000

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Sunday (June 23)

- RCHCC shows the documentary, "The Flat". Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30, Donation: R70. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net or www.greatpark.co.za
- Johannesburg Light Music Society's monthly meeting takes place at the Roosevelt Park Recreation Centre Cnr Anton van Wouw and Preller Drive, Roosevelt Park. Ivan Daniels will present a programme on 1949s music with a German flavour followed by Trish Gallagher who will play her tribute to George Gershwin. Time: 14:00 sharp. Enquiries: Ron, (011) 793-2383 or Marilyn, 072-243-7436.
- Greenside Shul hosts wardrobe stylist Janine Carley-James who will give a talk titled "Restyle You" on general style tips. Time: 10:00 for 10:30am for 10:30am. Venue: Greenside Shul. Cost: R100 (incl refreshments). RSVP: Aviva Rabinowitz 083-600-4515 or Wendy Richard 082-903-6711. Remember to bring your contributions for the Greenside Shul blanket & winter clothing drive for Yad Aharon & Pholosha Primary School.
- Johannesburg Heritage Foundation is hosting a bus tour in the eastern suburbs of Johannesburg to pay tribute to Jewish Struggle activists. Duration of tour is $2^{1}/_{2}$ hours. Bus leaves from Sunnyside Park Hotel at 14:00. Cost: R120 members, R200 non-members. Booking essential, either through Computicket or (011) 482-3349 weekdays 09:00 13:00.

• Second Innings hosts Neil Kirby, a director of Werksmans Attorneys, on "National Health Insurance - Fear of the Unknown". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Wednesday (June 26)

• UJW CT's adult education programme hosts Gavin Morris (Jewish Museum) talking on "The Jewish Museum and Its Role in the Community". Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Friday (June 28)

• UZLC hosts Jewish Report arts editor Robyn Sassen on "From Where I Sit: What Being an Arts Editor for a Community Newspaper is Like". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (June 30)

• Hospice Flea Boot Market held at the Checkers car park on Barry Hertzog Ave in Emmarentia. Every first, and last, Sunday of the month, from 08:00 until 13:00. An assortment of goods, ranging from hand-made leather goods, toys, bric-a-brac, honey, plants, hardware, crafts, etc. Information: Madeline (011) 794-5464 or Amanda at Hospice (011) 728-1052.

JWBS Johannesburg, urgently requires secondhand clothing, kitchenware, household goods, books and bric-a-brac for its secondhand shop. Contact (011) 485-5232.

What's On

- Celebrating a bar-/batmitzvah?
 Why not give a donation to
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 batmitzvah child here. Certificates are available from WIZO
 tel (011) 645-2548.
- Second Innings runs a series courses and activities including scrabble, bridge, discussion groups, play reading groups, women's and men's reading groups, symphony concert rehearsals, bowls, pilates, Yogic Pranayama, walking and aerobics, Golden Oldies Cine Club, weekly workshops (by arrangement) on "falls education for the elder adult", and organises regular activities. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.
- Benarc Gift Shop has gift presentations for all occasions, made to order. Call (011) 485-5232, JWBS. All kosher under the Beth Din. Proceeds to support the less fortunate in our community.
- Elise WIZO Gift Shop has an exciting range of gifts available. Contact (011) 640-2760 or call in at Genesis, bottom level of the Genesis Shopping Centre, 3 Bradfield Drive, Fairmount.
- Chabad House hosts a series

of events throughout the year. Chai Seniors - Holistic & Kabbalistic Nourishment". Daily programmes: Men's Kolel Mon-Fri at Chabad House Library, 09:00 -11:00, followed by lunch. Ladies Kolel Tuesdays & Thursdays. Special programmes: Mondays: Brain Worx with occupational therapist, Cynthia Liptz for brain exercises, 09:00 - 13:00. Both men and women welcome. Tuesdays: Guest lectures. For more info contact Rabbi Ari Kievman (011) 440-6600 or e-mail rak@chabad. org.za

- Orchid WIZO Florist, for chuppahs in shuls or gardens; canopy, drapes and floral arrangements our specialty. Daily deliveries of floral and fruit arrangements as well. Contact: (011) 728-4513, after hours: (011) 728-2769.
- Bnoth Zion Association WIZO is collecting anything of value for its store. Contact (021) 464-6729 or Linda Saban 072-245-3225 or Cherna Kredo 084-589-8588
- Johannesburg Children's Home is appealing for shoes and takkies for children and teenagers. Contact Edna or Hylton Segal (011) 970-4266.
- Intimate Antiques Fair held on last Sunday of every month at Cedar Square corner Witkoppen/Cedar Avenue in Fourways, from 09:00 - 16:00. Contact Robyn 083-311-4768.

- The Selwyn Segal Gift Centre has a wonderful selection of well priced gifts for all occasions. Visit them Monday to Thursday from 8.30 to 4.00 and Friday till 2.00 Phone 011-640-6413 or 011-640-5171 Web site: www.selwynsegalgifts.co.za
- Join WIZO every Thursday for a "Lunch & Learn" shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz, 13:00 - 14:00 at Beyachad. Information: Joyce, (011) 640-2416.
- Stellenbosch Hebrew Congregation has a Friday evening service every week in shul, starting at 18:45. Contact (021) 886-5257.
- The Yiddish Academy offers weekly basic, intermediate and advanced classes on Monday evenings at 19:30, Tuesday mornings at 10:30 and Thursday evenings at 19:30 at the RCHCC, Glenhove Road, Houghton. Conversational groups. Details: email yiddishacademy@gmail. com or call Hazel Cohen on (011) 728-8088.
- Supervised bridge with Jeff Sapire Tuesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (intermediary) and Wednesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (advanced), at the Clive M Beck Auditorium. Booking: Hazel or René, (011) 728-8088/8378. E-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za

Maccabi athletes get ready to handle the pain



ROCKING THE BOAT Jack Milner

One of my favourite books on sport was written by David Hemery. At the Mexico Olympics in 1968, Hemery won the 400m hurdles in 48,12 seconds, a world record at the time. His margin of victory was the largest since the 1924 Games, beating second-placed Gerhard Hennige from West Germany by almost

BBC coverage of the race is notorious for the words of the commentator, David Coleman, shortly after Hemery crossed the line when he said: "Who cares who's third - it doesn't matter!'

The reason for Coleman's notoriety was that Hemery's British teammate, John Sherwood, turned out to be the bronze medal winner in a close finish that had to be settled by slow motion replay.

Hemery took up writing about sport and in 1991 released his first book called Sporting Excellence: What Makes a Champion?

In it he interviews some of the world's greatest sportsmen and women and looks for that common denominator that separates them from the rest. He discovered that at the age of 10, Billie Jean Moffatt (later King) told her mother that she was going to win Wimbledon. I'm sure many kids tell their parents things like that, but, alas, never get close to

Among the people he interviewed were decathlete Daley Thompson, cricketer Ian Botham, world No 1 squash player Jonah Barrington, Stefan Edberg and a host of other superstars. He looked at their eating habits and found that Thompson lived off fish and chips from his local fish and chip shop.

There were two things in particular he noticed. They all had great self-belief and were prepared to do whatever it took to reach those great heights.

But perhaps the one common thread he picked up in all of them, was their ability to handle pain - both physical and mental. Botham, for example, went in to bat for England with a broken finger and still managed to score 50 and help his team to win.

Pete Sampras got physically sick at the US Tennis Open in the quarter-finals, even got a warning for wasting time, but still managed to beat Spain's Alex Corretia.

In this group I would like to add jockey Anton Marcus. He recently injured his thumb and was told he needed urgent surgery which

would have put him out for eight weeks, effectively destroying his chances of riding in the big feature races in Durban, including the Durban July.

He took a temporary solution and had a pin inserted in his thumb to the extent that he is not capable of bending the thumb. According to trainer Joey Ramsden the pain can be excruciating but Anton has continued to ride.

He might have cut back on the number of rides, but he still managed to win the Grade 1 Gold Challenge on Variety Club without a murmur of complaint. That is a champion and explains why he has been South African champion jockey five times and is one of the most sought after jockeys in the country.

That is something the Maccabi teams will have to deal with when they fly out to Israel next month to compete in the Maccabiah. The men's football team has certainly been taking it seriously and have even called for assistance of a world-renowned soccer player - formerly from Manchester United's treble-winning side - to give them some advice. He might not be as famous as his illustrious father, but Jordi Cruyff has played for Barcelona as well as Manchester United and is currently general manager of football at Maccabi Tel Aviv.

The coach of the Maccabi side is Shaun Bishop of Mamelodi Sundowns, and it was he who persuaded Cruyff to hold a training session with the players and impart his knowledge to the team.

It is always an advantage to get some information from somebody who has done it all and it was an experience the players felt was immensely rewarding and inspiring.

The South African team has been hard at work since April last year and their training has been building up slowly to ensure they peak at the perfect time.

High intensity training sessions are currently being held four times a week at various soccer fields in Johannesburg and Cape Town and the level of intensity continues to increase with each session.

The Cape Town-based players make every effort to come up to Johannesburg for training camps and friendlies as often as possible.



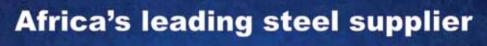
The Maccabi men's open soccer team with Jordi Cruyff (back row, fourth from left) after their practice session at Mark's Park in Johannesburg.

As the training sessions increase in strength and frequency, a host of other specialised coaches and staff such as Gavin Hunt and the Bidvest Wits fitness team come in to assist in ensuring that the players are well prepared for the tournament.

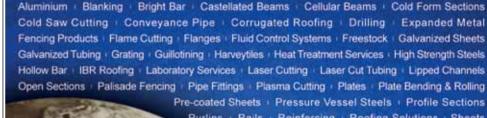
The soccer teams have received fantastic support from their sponsors - Sasfin Bank, RAM Couriers and Bidvest.

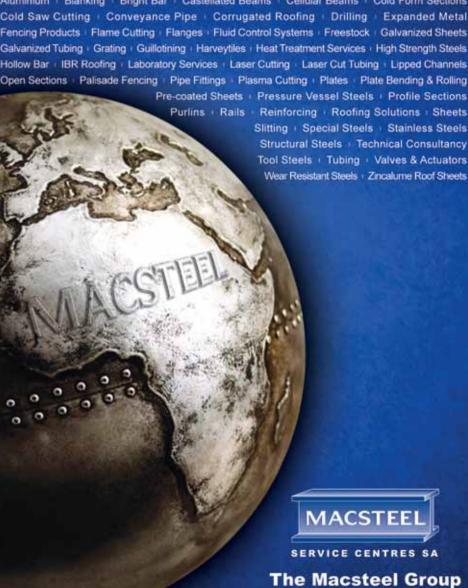
The teams need to go out and have fun, but if they are going to be successful, they will need to play through the pain.

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World News in Brief

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei promotes anti-Semitic conspiracy on Facebook before elections

TEHRAN - On the eve of Iran's June 14 presidential elections, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's promoted an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory on his Facebook profile by featuring the logo of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee accompanied by text reading: "The US president is being elected from only two parties while Zionist regime is controlling everything behind the

Additionally, Khamenei's Facebook page said: "In Iran, there have been many presidents being elected in a pure democratic process from ordinary people even without any affiliation to a party.' Anti-Defamation League National Director Abraham Foxman said in a statement: "Shame on the Ayatollah for yet again giving voice to raw, full-throated and unadulterated anti-Semitism, this time in a forum where millions of ordinary Iranians see and share his message on the eve of national elections." (JNS.org)