



BOOKS:  
*Care of Wooden Floors* by Will Wiles  
“imaginative  
brilliance...”

# south african jewish report

www.sajewishreport.co.za

## Victims of terror



Rabbi Jonathan Sandler and his two sons, Arieh, left, and Gabriel, were killed in the shooting at the Ozar Hatorah School in Toulouse, France. The rabbi's wife is holding their daughter. (Flash90/JTA)

See pages 3,6,10

### Nominations now open for Jewish Achievers

You can now nominate your favourite Jewish achiever for the annual Jewish Achiever Award, in the categories of Lifetime Achievement, Listed or Unlisted companies, Entrepreneurship, Humanitarianism, Art, Science Sport and Culture. The banquet takes place on June 20; nominations close at the end of April.

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### Is Pesach too expensive? The community speaks



07

### Yom Ha'atzmaut: SAZF says women can sing

WIZO's Tzabar group has reached an agreement with SAZF Chairman Avrom Krengel, to allow women to sing in a mixed choir at this year's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations.

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### Munich massacre survivor Shaul Ladany honoured in the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame



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### SAKS: Kaddish for a non-Jew

'Rob was someone who always trod his own, distinctive path.'

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**FEATURE:  
CONFERENCE  
VENUES AND  
EVENTS**

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Parshat Vayikra

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18:10	19:25	Cape Town
17:45	18:34	Durban
18:05	18:53	Bloemfontein
18:00	18:56	Port Elizabeth
17:57	18:47	East London

Kashrut Alert

PICK N PAY PESACH GUIDE NOW ONLINE

The 5772/2012 Beth Din/Pick n Pay Pesach Guide is now available online at [www.uos.co.za](http://www.uos.co.za), according to a notification by the kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues. Hard copies of the guide should be available in Pick n Pay stores towards the end of this week.

The kashrut department says retail supermarkets have begun stocking their Pesach shelves. “We have no control over how independent retailers stock their products and the shelves themselves are not under supervision. Look at each item carefully. Often the retailer will pack anything that has Hebrew writing and looks kosher.”

The kashrut department says it is available to answer Pesach-related queries. Call 010 214 2600 (Johannesburg) or (021) 461-6310 (Cape Town) or e-mail [kashrutnotice@uos.co.za](mailto:kashrutnotice@uos.co.za) via [www.uos.co.za](http://www.uos.co.za)

- Please note that Pick n Pay Killarney is no longer Yoshon.

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south african jewish report

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Howard Feldman (Chairman), Issie Kirsh (Deputy Chairman), Marlene Bethlehem, Bertie Lubner, Benjy Porter, Herby Rosenberg, Howard Sackstein, Jason Valkin, Elton Bondi, Michael Sieff, Steven Krawitz and Denese Bloch.

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Parsha of the week

# Go home!

*What is a shul good for? I recall touring Europe in the ‘90s and being struck by the diminutive size of some of the greatest shuls ever: the shul of the celebrated Rem’uh in Krakow; the Maharal’s famous “Altneu” Shul in Prague. The greatest of rabbis presided over shuls that could hold maybe 45 people!*

Jews track time by following the cycle of the moon. Indeed, Israel is compared to the moon, which is why on this Shabbos in anticipation of Pesach, shuls around the world will take out an extra Torah from the Holy Ark and read a section, titled “Hachodesh”.

But why would we seek to be compared to the moon, which is smaller and weaker than the great luminary, the sun? Surely we as a people should strive for the brilliance of the sun’s rays? Why settle for second best?

King Solomon teaches: “Shema B’ni!” Listen, my son, to the admonishment of your father- but never forget the “Torah” of your mother. A father’s input is crucial in a child’s development but, says King Solomon, it is the mother who causes one to “never forget” who they are.

A father provides, but a mother nurtures. And it is this inner, less dramatic, nurturing feature that keeps our Jewish identity eternal.

Of the celestial beings, the sun burns



**Parshat Vayikra**  
*Rabbi Dovid Wineberg*  
The Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation

brighter- it makes all life possible. But then it sets, leaving behind a dark world; it is not constant. The moon, however, in its soft nurturing glow, represents a constant.

Sure, it waxes and wanes, but is often visible not only at night, but by day as well. The sun-provider burns bright, but it is the nurturing moon which serves as the symbol of our eternity as a people.

While the shul is the most visible symbol of our Judaism, it is the home that ensures our survival as a people. One of the unfortunate consequences of the demographic shifts in the early 20th century (due to wars, anti-Semitism, and modern technology) is that

the shul became an institution.

This represented a shift of emphasis from the home to the synagogue, from which we are yet to recover and which poses a real threat to our survival. Yiddishkeit needs to be primarily experienced in the home.

The shul should serve as a refuelling spot in the landscape of Judaism, not the destination. In fact, I would put my job on the line and advise any sincere Jew who claims they can’t afford a Jewish home, whether it’s kosher meat which costs too much or tefillin that is out of their budget, to drop their shul membership and use the money to build a Jewish home.

In two weeks’ time, Jewish families around the world will gather in their homes around seder tables to worship Hashem, just as our forefathers did on that fateful night in Egypt. It is there, in the nurturing glow of the home, that our people were born. And it is there, in the home, that we will live on.

Shabbat Shalom!

## Shul rejuvenation: Rabbis think out of the box

SHIRA DRUION

Traditional South African Jewry has always upheld a strong commitment to the values of old. However the last decade has seen a wave of assimilation bring traditional Judaism to its knees and rabbis and committee members have had to put their heads together to rejuvenate their communities .

Rabbi Yossy Goldman (inset) of Sydenham Shul, says: “We have really been blessed with wonderful and loyal congregants, but as all good rabbis will tell you, one can’t sit by idly and hope that the shul will run itself. My wife and I, alongside our unbelievably capable committee, are relentless in our striving to expand.

“We recently brought out Rabbi Akiva Tatz to launch our new learning programme, The Shabbos Smorgasbord, which offers a choice of six Shabbat shiurim. The response, has been fantastic! Friday Night Live is also a real road stopper, as hundreds of congregants and visitors pack the street to take part in the exotic Shabbos street brochas.”

The dynamic Ohr Somayach Cape Town community has recently appointed the energetic and charismatic Rabbi Jared and Amy Bloch as the new rabbi and rebbetzen. Rabbi Bloch tells of how privileged he feels to have been afforded this opportunity.

“We have some very exciting new endeavours, like the BBM (Business Breakfast Meaning), given my local and international guest speakers. We have also



introduced CTYS (Cape Town Youth Shul) which runs weekly services to enrich the bat- and barmitzvah experience for our young congregants, not to mention our kids programme which now boasts three Shabbat services which are led by enthusiastic and trained young students. It is the place to be on a Saturday morning!”

Learning has become the real attraction of communities across the country and Rabbi Justin Treger, young adults rabbi of Sandton Shul has this advice: “The congregants of today are in many ways more excited about learning and therein enriching their lives, as opposed to the traditional attending of weekly services, which is a more passive experience.

“We have therefore initiated an unbelievable repertoire of learning programmes to stimulate a thirst for the acquisition of Torah knowledge, which is so imperative to

the modern-day Jew.”

Rabbi Dovid Wineberg of the Sea Point, Marais Road Congregation in Cape Town, has this to say: “The community has been exceptionally generous in their feedback and they have displayed a real desire to be involved and committed to the different initiatives which we have undertaken, surpassing our greatest expectations.

“We have initiated a Tuesday morning minyan on Lion’s Head. We have two groups who climb at 06:00 and 06:30 and our most successful one to date attracted over 60 participants on Rosh Chodesh Tevet and Chanukah.

“A former Israeli soldier carried up the Torah and a baboon even attended the service! We also have Shabbat Unplugged once a month, and have all the tunes of the service following a movie theme, like The Lion king and Fiddler on the Roof.”

Only in Cape Town could you have a minyan with Rabbi Dovid Wineberg on the top of Lion Head every Tuesday!

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# Thousands march in the memory of Toulouse victims

*This week France reeled in horror at the cold-blooded killing of a Jewish man, his two young sons and a young Jewish girl.*



JTA CORRESPONDENT  
PARIS

Presidential candidates suspended their election campaigns to express sympathy and show their support for the French Jewish community in Toulouse. And a leading French-Jewish intellectual, Bernard-Henri Lévy, has called for a solidarity march, as was the case 20 years ago, to show the nation's abhorrence against this barbaric deed.

Thousands silently demonstrated on Monday evening in Paris to pay tribute to the four victims of a shooting attack at a Jewish school in southwestern France.

A man riding a motorbike opened fire that morning outside the Ozar Hatorah School in Toulouse, where learners were waiting to enter the building at the start of the school day, before fleeing. Rabbi Jonathan Sandler, 30, and his three- and six-year-old sons, as well as the eight-year-old daughter of the school's principal, were killed in the attack.

Members of Jewish organisations and antiracist movements, as well as politicians, gathered between Place de la République and Place de la Bastille for the march organised by the French Union of Jewish Students.

The crowd made up of many youths, held many French flags; most wore the tricolor scarf, the symbol of the French Republic. Marchers also displayed a banner reading: "In France, Blacks, Jews and Arabs are killed".

Earlier Monday evening, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, his socialist rival François Hollande, and several other top French politicians attended a memorial ceremony at the Nazareth Synagogue in Paris.

Lévy writing in Haaretz on Tuesday, says French leaders must come together to say that all of France is being attacked in the wake of the Toulouse killings.

"A little over 20 years ago, the entire political class, all families together with the exception of the National Front, was capable of marching behind President François Mitterrand to condemn the profanation of 34 Jewish graves at a cemetery in Carpentras.

"Today, we need an equivalent of that demonstration, with Nicolas Sarkozy and François Hollande in the lead, in grieving Toulouse, at the Place Capitole, this landmark where General De Gaulle came, on September 16, 1945, to preach the unity of the country to the people of the maquis, FFI, FTP, and survivors of the International Brigades of the Spanish Civil War.

"A great meeting, all political forces attending, to come to say, without nuance, all of France is being attacked and must take a united stand when its children, whatever they may be and whatever the profile of the killer or his reasons, are massacred like this.

"There can be no worse blow to French culture, to the soul of our country, its history and when all is said and done, to its grandeur than racism and, today, anti-Semitism."

Pres Sarkozy said on Monday afternoon that he would suspend his re-election campaign until at least later this week. "This is a horrible attack that cannot go unpunished. Every possible means will be engaged to stop this criminal. Our country had never known a shooting inside a school. The whole republic is mobilised to face this tragedy."

French Interior Minister Claude Gueant said the gunman might have been filming the attack with a camera attached to his chest. French police were searching the Internet to see if a video of the attack had been posted online, according to reports.

French police also said they believed the attacks were carried out by French soldiers suspected of being neo-Nazis, dismissed from the military several years ago. (JTA)

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בי"ה



# Nominations now open for Jewish Achievers

*Each year, the SA Jewish Report hosts the Jewish Achievers' Gala Banquet to honour members of the Jewish community who have excelled in business, entrepreneurship and humanitarianism as well as several other categories.*

### OWN CORRESPONDENT

One of the directors of the Jewish Report, Howard Sackstein, who is spearheading the event, this week opens up the awards to the general public for nominations.

"The Business and Entrepreneurial awards are judged by a panel of independent business people, financial journalists, stockbrokers and Absa Bank representatives, who interview all of the candidates," he adds in a media release. The event will again be hosted at the Maroela Room, Sandton Sun. This year's date is June 20.

Previous winners of Jewish Achiever awards include Bidvest's Brian Joffe, Discovery's Adrian Gore, Pick n Pay's Raymond Ackerman, as well as Gill Marcus, governor of the Reserve Bank, entrepreneurs Abe and Solly Krok, palaeontologist Philip Tobias, cricket great Ali Bacher and creative icons of the community, including William Kentridge, Pieter-Dirk Uys, and Johnny Clegg, among others.

The awards, over the years, have also honoured former President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu for their contributions to South Africa.

One can nominate in the following categories: The Helen Suzman Lifetime Achievement Award; the Absa Listed



**2010's Art, Science, Sports and Culture Jewish Achievers Award winner, Dr Ali Bacher, handing the award to artist William Kentridge acknowledged in last year's event. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER)**

Company Award; the Absa Unlisted Company Award; Entrepreneur Award; The Community Service Award; The Arts Science, Sports & Culture Award; The Chivas Humanitarian Award in Honour of Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris – the recipient of this award could come from either the Jewish or non-Jewish community.

Nominations should include: The nominee's name and contact details; the award for which the nominee is nominated; a short motivation for the nomination. Please send nominations to [nominations@SAJewishReport.co.za](mailto:nominations@SAJewishReport.co.za), by the end of April 2012.

### Community Briefs

#### KASHRUT DEPARTMENT APPEALS FOR VOLUNTEERS

A number of years ago, the kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues, established a laboratory for monitoring infestation in flour, fruits, vegetables, grains, etc.

In order to keep monitoring changes in the local situation, need volunteers to systematically assess the current circumstances.

If you are willing to assist them, you may contact Pinchas Goldberg via e-mail at [pinchas@uos.co.za](mailto:pinchas@uos.co.za).

#### L'CHAIM FOR JWBS'S WINE

The Jewish Women's Benevolent Society has announced that its popular wine will be back on supermarket shelves as well as at the JWBS offices from March 26.

It is presented under the new name of L'Chaim, JWBS adds: "We can assure our loyal customers that the recipe and taste is as enjoyable as in the past. We have been supplying Kiddush wine for many years and have built up a strong customer base. The money raised goes towards our funds to assist the needy in our community."

#### LARGE-PRINT HAGGADOTH FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Brooklyn-based Jewish Heritage for the Blind, like other handicap-awareness organisations, offers free assistance to people with impaired vision, particularly over text-based festivals like Pesach. Running solely on donations and dedicated to serving and promoting the independence of individuals who suffer visual impairment, the organisation ships, without cost, specially designed large-print Haggadoth, as well as other products, anywhere in the world: [services@jhbinternational.org](mailto:services@jhbinternational.org) or [www.jhbinternational.org](http://www.jhbinternational.org).

#### KMM IS THERE FOR JEWS IN NEED

Forty years ago, the Union of Jewish Women realised how many people in the community were not able to shop for food or prepare a meal for themselves.

Today Kosher Mobile Meals feeds 165 people daily.

"Unlike any other organisation," says Shirley Ancer, UJW's vice chairman, "come rain or shine, strikes or riots, Christmas or public holidays, our volunteers are there. Over 40 volunteers tirelessly assist every single day." - *Robyn Sassen*

#### USING GREY MATTER TO GENERATE FUNDS

Next week, two quiz nights, in the style of London pub quizzes popularised in the 1970s, feature on Johannesburg's Jewish fundraiser calendar.

On March 26 Kevin Bonner is quizmaster for the first of a regular quiz night at Metzuyan, Rosebank. March 29 sees quizmaster Larry Benjamin at a fundraiser for SAUJS to assist students with fees, at Colony Arms, Craighall. He says the popularity of these evenings is becoming enthusiastically inter-generational. Call 082-888-5355. – *Robyn Sassen*.

#### UJW: YOUNG FACES ARE AN ENCOURAGING SIGN

At the UJW's recent national executive meeting held in Port Elizabeth, it was most encouraging to see so many young women from all over the country in leadership positions.

The deliberations were extremely constructive with new strategies emerging to take the UJW forward well into the future, and the tangible passion and unswerving commitment of all present augurs well for the future of the organisation.



*On the February 21, 2012, the IUA-UCF held their annual campaign launch gala dinner. It was a very successful and spectacular event held at the Scarlet Ribbon and was attended by Gauteng's most prominent members of the Jewish community.*



On the February 21, 2012, the IUA-UCF held their annual campaign launch gala dinner. It was a very successful and spectacular event held at the Scarlet Ribbon and was attended by Gauteng's most prominent members of the Jewish community.

The evening commenced with a musical performance of Israeli music, with traditional African musical instruments.

The distinguished guest speakers were Minister Limor Livnat, Israel's minister for Culture and Sport and Professor Irwin Cotler, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

Minister Livnat gave an insightful and astute report on the current situation in Israel, the situation in Syria, the Arab Spring and the threat of Iran. Co-chairman Gerald Leissner made a presentation to the Minister. Professor Cotler addressed the issue of the delegitimisation of Israel and solutions of what can be done to counteract it.

The annual presentation of the IUA-UCF's

most prestigious award was made to Brett and Mark Levy. This award is made every year to patrons of the community who are an inspiration of generosity and big-heartedness. The award presentation was made by Stephen Koseff and the previous recipients of the award, Natie Kirsh and Ivan Saltzman.

The goals of the IUA-UCF are primarily to secure and nurture the future of the Jewish community here and in Israel. This is vital in saving Jewish life and lives. These goals are achieved through fund-raising, creating awareness and educating the local Jewish community.

Avrom Krengel Gauteng co-chairman of the IUA-UCF, appealed to the guests to be generous and understanding in making their donation this year, as the needs are



ever more pressing and critical.

The beneficiaries of the UCF are the CSO, South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the South African Union of Jewish Students. The IUA supports the SAZF and Israel Centre in Gauteng as well projects in Israel, including Holocaust survivors, victims of terror, children at risk and many more who help to ensure that we have a strong



UCF, Zev Krengel from the SABJD and Israeli ambassador Dov Segev-Steinberg, were present at the meeting.

A joint statement issued on behalf of the two ministers read:

"The meeting focused on strengthening the cultural relations between Israel and South Africa.

"The Israeli minister invited Minister Mashatle to visit Israel during this coming May in order to discuss ways to promote cultural ties and the signing of a cultural agreement between the two countries.

"Minister Mashatle welcomed the invitation and indicated that he will be pleased if Minister Livnat can come back to South Africa on an official visit."

After many years, of no Israeli minister being invited in their official capacity to South Africa, we look forward to the start of a new chapter in Israel-South Africa relations.



and secure Jewish homeland.

A meeting facilitated by the South African Jewish community was recently held - on February 22 - in Cape Town, between South African Minister of Arts and Culture, Paul Mashatle and Israeli Minister of Sport and Culture Limor Livnat.

Minister Limor Livnat was invited to South Africa by the IUA-UCF Gauteng. Avrom Krengel and Naomi Hadar, representing the, SAZF and IUA-

*Don't be a bystander; stand by us. Make a difference today and help us secure our future.*



News in brief

AIPAC PRAISES SWIFT ON IRAN COMPLIANCE

WASHINGTON - The American Israel Public Affairs Committee has praised the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication's compliance with sanctions on Iranian banks.

SWIFT, which serves as the final entry point for electronic transactions before entering the global financial system, said on March 15 that it had no choice but to abide by European Union sanctions on designated Iranian financial institutions. "This welcome step must now be supplemented by additional measures to press the regime to change course," AIPAC said in one of its rare statements.

In addition, AIPAC urged Congress to act on proposed legislation that would close loopholes in existing sanctions laws and called on the administration to strongly implement sanctions against the Central Bank of Iran. (JTA)

THE JEWISH WORLD

in seven seconds

**Jewish Telegraph, Manchester:**  
[www.jewishtelegraph.com](http://www.jewishtelegraph.com)

**‘RICH’ PARENTS DON’T HELP KD**

King David Schools’ Chairman Joshua Rowe, has slammed wealthy parents who refuse to make voluntary contributions to the school.

**Haaretz, Israel:**  
[www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com)

**ISRAELI OFFICIAL: IRANIAN MILITARY EXPERTS OPERATING IN GAZA, SINAI**

Iran pressured Islamic Jihad and popular resistance groups in Gaza to continue firing rockets into Israel despite ceasefire.

**European Jewish Press:**  
[www.ejp.org](http://www.ejp.org)

**DUTCH JEWISH WEEKLY UNDERGOES EXTREME MAKEOVER**

The 141-year-old Dutch Jewish Weekly has undergone a complete redesign, in an attempt to capture a younger audience.

**Alliance, Paris:**  
[www1.alliancefr.com](http://www1.alliancefr.com)

**JEWISH COMMUNITY IN SHOCK**

The Jewish community is in shock after the murder of three people, including two children at a Jewish school in Toulouse on March 19.

**The Algemeiner, New York:**  
[www.algemeiner.com](http://www.algemeiner.com)

**GOLDMAN SACHS ON EMPLOYEE WHO BASHED FIRM IN NY TIMES**

Goldman Sachs push back against a NY Times op-ed by a former employee who said he quit because the culture of the bank had become toxic.

**Jewish Telegraphic Agency:**  
[www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org)

**DESPITE PUBLISHER’S LIQUIDATION, BALTIMORE JEWISH TIMES VOWS TO PRESS ON**

The 93-year-old Baltimore Jewish Times which says it has never missed an issue, could close by the end of the week.

**Lubavitch News Service:**  
[www.chabad.org](http://www.chabad.org)

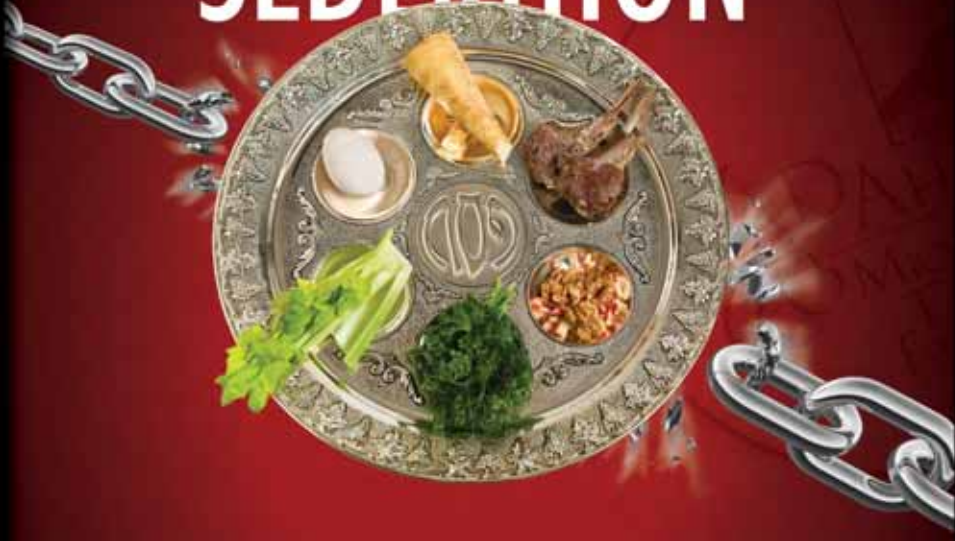
**MOROCCO KNIGHTS NEW YORK RABBI**

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# The Toulouse attack: what can we do here?

At the time of the Jewish Report going to print, the gunman who attacked the Jewish school Ozar HaTorah in Toulouse, France on Monday and murdered teacher Yonatan Sandler, his two young sons Aryeh and Gavriel, and little girl Miriam Montenegro, daughter of the school's principal, had not yet been identified, nor any group to which he might belong.

All signs, however, indicated that this was a hate crime, not an ordinary criminal act. And that it was linked to recent attacks in the same area on soldiers of North African and Caribbean origin. Police said the .45 calibre gun fired at the school was the same calibre used to kill the soldiers, as was the scooter on which the assailant rode.

President Nicolas Sarkozy has come out very strongly on this issue and has vowed that the police would leave no stone unturned to bring the culprit to book.

While French Jews - Europe's largest Jewish community, estimated at some 700 000 - can be classified as just another piece in that country's mosaic of ethnic minorities, the fact that they are being targeted is about more than France's simmering ethnic tensions.

It happens in the context of a dramatic resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe and the world. Using anti-Zionism and the call for boycotts, divestment and sanctions as a cover for crude Jew-hatred, its proponents have in recent years focused their attentions on both Israel and Jewish institutions worldwide.

Rabid antipathy to Jews which pervades the Arab and Muslim world, has infiltrated Europe and reignited expressions of anti-Semitism in mainstream media and general society, where it has long existed and only took a temporary break in public after the Holocaust.

As the great Zionist visionary Ze'ev Jabotinsky warned in a 1939 article, on the eve of the Second World War, anti-Semitism is a beast which never dies, but merely naps intermittently. And each time it awakens, its appetite is increasingly voracious.

History has shown repeatedly how verbal expressions of hatred for an ethnic or religious group can lead ultimately to actual violence. The Holocaust was made possible by years of dehumanisation of Jews in European society before it.

We saw a similar phenomenon in South Africa, where the many years of dehumanisation of black people - and their being reduced to simple labour units for white industry, business and society - allowed their violent submission by the white regime during apartheid to be tolerated and even seen as "natural and necessary" by whites.

European governments, including the European Commission, the Vatican, Italy, Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands and France itself, among others, have condemned the Toulouse school attack. German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said: "Anti-Semitism and violence against Jewish institutions or people of Jewish faith have no place in Europe and must be rigorously punished."

But clearly, the growing hatred for Jews becoming so widespread in Europe, carries the huge risk of it sooner or later becoming violent. Regrettably, the Toulouse events might illustrate exactly that danger.

What can we do here in South Africa, in our corner of the world at the bottom of Africa? We cannot greatly influence what happens in Europe, but we can try to exorcise racist hatred from our own society, particularly given our history.

Anti-black racist sentiments from whites still mired in the apartheid mindset are not only unacceptable, but inherently dangerous. So are anti-white statements from the likes of Julius Malema. Words, as the single units of rhetoric, are enormously volatile weapons and can ignite conflagrations to which there is no reasonable limit.

The recent nationalistic outbursts of Sarkozy against immigrants in his country, may not have been intended to end in bloodshed, but they certainly carried its seeds. Looking at the world today, ethnic tensions are volatile and, indeed, actively incendiary in so many regions - from the Middle East to Europe and Africa - that it is incumbent upon leaders to do whatever they can to calm, rather than inflame, these hatreds.

# Sad farewell to a very dear friend

*From personal experience, I understand perhaps better than most why Jews are meant to keep themselves as much as possible apart from the rest of humanity. It is not because we “dislike the goyim” and look down on them, but rather the opposite.*

It is because we feel a natural attraction to the other nations, as fellow beings created B'tzelem Elokim, that we need to keep our distance, lest we be distracted from carrying out our particular mission. The more we mix at a social level with non-Jews, the more we will be influenced by their behaviour and modes of thinking, to the inevitable detriment of living lives wholeheartedly devoted to what the Torah demands.

I fully recognise the impossibility of living in both camps. That being stressed, I feel the need at this time to express a measure of regret over the absence in our tradition of ways to formally grieve when gentiles to whom we might have been close pass on. No Kaddish can be said when this happens, nor do any other of our complex laws of mourning apply. The loss we feel is allowed no formal channel of expression.

The first time I encountered Robert Jackson, as a seven-year-old in the Sandown Primary School playground, I hit him in the teeth and made him howl. This was ironic in that during our respective school careers I was a first-class wuss whereas Rob had a reputation as something of a fighter.

The second irony was that in due course we established a firm friendship that would endure for more than three decades - right up until last Sunday afternoon, in fact.

Over the years, Rob and I spent our time together playing table tennis, soccer and, later, pool in a nearby pub, watching videos or sport and devising games and ratings systems for tennis players.

We also formed a music group of sorts - called The Holy Godfathers - with me on piano and Rob bawling his own highly distinctive lyrics into a tape recorder. Towards the end, though, we simply met every few weeks at a pub near his Blairgowrie flat and talked.



BARBARIC YAWP  
David Saks

We did so yesterday, after which I dropped him back at his flat and went home. A couple of hours later, I was contacted by a paramedic who had got my number through his mobile. Rob had been hit by a car, and was in a bad way. Did I know how to get hold of his next of kin?

I could not help, though I made several fruitless calls later that night.

The following day, a family member called to tell me that Rob had died that night in hospital.

In retrospect, there was a distinctly valedictory feel about our last meeting. We felt more comfortable with one another, chatting more easily than had, in truth, been the case in more recent times when we had begun to struggle at last to find common ground.

On several occasions, Rob told me how much he was enjoying being with me - he had never put it that way before - and for once it was he who dispensed some advice about how to conduct my life.

The next time we were to meet would be at my home. At long last, Rob could actually get there himself, since he had finally obtained his driver's licence and, shortly after that, his own car. It is of some comfort that Rob, in his mid-forties, broke through what had been a demoralising psychological barrier to pass his driver's test and gain that crucial measure of independence that comes with being mobile.

**There was a distinctly valedictory feel about our last meeting.**

The older they get, most people rarely think, let alone speak, about their schooldays. What was so real and intense at the time, becomes less and less relevant in negotiating the newer, more prolonged challenges of adulthood.

Rob was not like that. For him, the schooldays we shared were perpetually fresh. He would frequently speak of incidents that had taken place over 30 years previously as if they had occurred quite recently. Rob never shone as a scholar, but he had a formidable memory. As for me, much of the desolation I now feel comes from having lost a vital link with those formative years.

Rob was someone who always trod his own, distinctive path. For this, he paid a high price since, for all his talents and likeability, he was unable to find an enduring place for himself in a society that continually demands compromises of its members.

He felt keenly that he had under-achieved in his life. During our last meeting, he spoke wistfully of his failure to ever win the tennis championship at school, even when he was the obvious favourite. A more recent disappointment was how the considerable investment he had put into training a talented young player from the Czech Republic had come to nothing.

But Robert was not a failure - far from it. I will always remember him as someone who was always true to him-

self, who never ceased to yearn for and dream about attaining something more than the safe, materialistic lives everyone around him were settling for.

As a friend, he was unfailingly loyal, and as a human being generous, sensitive and totally without malice. I am grateful and much moved that Hakadosh Baruch Hu, in His infinite kindness, allowed me a chance to say goodbye.

# SAJBD expresses shock and anger over France killings

*The SA Jewish Board of Deputies has expressed its shock and anger at the killings of Jews in France.*

In a media release it said: "The South African Jewish community is deeply shocked by the cold-blooded killing of a rabbi, his two young sons and a third young child in a shooting outside a Jewish school in Toulouse, France, on Monday.

"Mary Kluk, national chairman of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, has extended the South African Jewish community's heartfelt sympathy to the families of the victims and to the Jewish community of France.

"This tragedy has demonstrated how frighteningly vulnerable innocent people can be when pitiless killers driven by irrational hatred, target them for attack. We commend the French government for the seriousness with which they are responding to this atrocity and hope that the perpetrator will soon be brought to justice," she said.

Kluk further commented that while this had yet to be confirmed, all indications pointed to this having been a racially motivated hate crime.

Previous victims of the same killer are believed to be three men of North African and one of West Indian origin.



Miriam Monsonego, the daughter of Ozar Hatorah School headmaster Rabbi Yaacov Monsonego, was killed in the shooting attack at the school in Toulouse, France. (Flash90/JTA)



'Religion is the problem, not the solution'

I would like to know who owns the Jewish Report and who nominates the members to the Board.

Religion is the problem, not the solution. Religions produce fanatics and fanatics cannot think clearly. Religion is blind fate: nothing to do with reason, logic or evidence.

Religious fanatics belong in the Middle Ages. There is never a true, open public debate about religion. Because the religious people and establishments are not interested. Dissenting voices like mine, have been silenced.

I attended the Yom Hashoah memorials several times, but I have never heard any speaker say that there was no G-d at Auschwitz.

The Jewish mentality is sickly obsessed with success. If you are not rich, you are nobody. We always focus on the Nobel Prizes and the achievers of the year, but conveniently forget about Selwyn Segal residents and too many "nebechlech" (pitiful) individuals in our midst. We may have an inbreeding problem.

If being Jewish means being religious, I am out of it. No religious Jew will represent me.

Up to a few years ago, I actively participated in community life. Now I am totally disappointed with Judaism and with the community. I have lost a son to religion.

Also: The community owns a number of properties and investments. I would like a full disclosure to the community of who benefits from them.

Yossi Bogacz  
Johannesburg

Jewish Report focuses too much on Johannesburg

May I suggest that the name be changed to the Johannesburg Jewish Report, because that would more fairly encapsulate its target market and exclusivity.

To us out-of-towners, it seems that the paper presumes that South African means Johannesburg.

I cannot give a better example than your heading in the Report of March 9:

SA Jewish day schools unite for friendship.

Johannesburg is not South Africa; it is only part of South Africa.

Jewish day schools in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban and Umhlanga are equally friendly and equally South African as the Johannesburg-only schools it mentioned.

Gwynne Robins  
Claremont  
Cape Town

Correction

Dr Levin lives in Benoni, not in Pretoria

A letter by Dr Billy Levin was published last week in Jewish Report. We wrongly stated that he lives in Pretoria. He has been a Benoni resident for the past 66 years. We regret the error.

SAJBD connived with Walters behind shul's back

In my capacity as an attorney, I represented the Baal Shem Tov Shul (in Orange Grove) throughout its zoning hearings and would like to comment on last week's article in the SAJR, "'The fight for the closure of the Baal Shem Tov Shul is not over".

The article contains several inaccuracies and was published without first calling for comment from the shul.

1. On no account did Rabbi (Gavin) Michal admit that he did not have the necessary permits. On the contrary, I appeared at the first tribunal and submitted that the shul had received an informal consent from the former mayor of Johannesburg, Mr Neppe.

2. At the outbreak of this matter, Tiaan Ehlers, head of town planning at the City of Johannesburg, called upon our town planner to attend a "without prejudice" meeting in his office with the complainant, Councillor Christine Walters. I was denied a right of audience at the meeting, its intention having been to hold a "round table" meeting in order to gain an understanding of the dispute.

To my shock, I discovered that although I had been refused a right of audience, the chairman of the Orange Grove Residents Association, Roger Chadwick, Councillor Walters and her ally, Marian Lasersohn, were all in attendance.

The meeting was, by design, more of an ambush than a settlement discussion. At such meeting utterances were made to the effect that there had been "a horrific proliferation of synagogues" and steps would be taken to clamp down on an alleged 22 illegal synagogues.

Rabbi Michal, in response, did no more than his civic and religious duty by reporting this to the Jewish Board of Deputies. Why the Board not only did nothing, but seemingly aligned itself with Walters by negotiating with her behind the shul's back, remains a complete mystery.

3. No appeal has been launched by Walters, as reported. There is no merit in her allegation that she was not notified of the hearing. Furthermore, there is no right of appeal against the decision of an appeal tribunal.

4. As for the alleged failure to comply with building bylaws, this is the furthest thing from the truth. The shul has a favourable report from an independent architect. In any event, building bylaws have absolutely no bearing upon the determination of zoning rights.

Just another attempt to muddy the waters!

Gerald Nochumsohn  
Johannesburg

*We do not dispute our letter writer's bona fides, but are only interested in factual reporting. Many of the issues he raises as being incorrect, are in dispute and cannot at this stage be deemed to be "factually incorrect". We welcome this letter as putting forward the shul's case, but at present that is merely what it is: the shul's case. It may be true that some of Councillor Walters' actions are "without merit", but that is not for us to decide. We leave the sideswipe at the SAJBD's so-called inaction, for them to react to. - Editor*

Community Voices

'Can one still afford to stock up for Pesach?'



Yes, we can. Let's simplify the meal and amplify the meaning. We must not become slaves to the kitchen and the supermarket but focus on how fortunate we South Africans are to have help and the freedom to celebrate.

NATALIE  
LIKNAITZKY



Yes, we can. Just keep it simple and local. Pesach food is costlier because of the extra hashkocha required. The savvy kosher consumer avoids exorbitant products, which makes manufacturers wrongly assume that demand is less, not that their price is wrong.

DEVORAH NATES.



The question posed by hundreds of people for whom "stocking up" is foreign, is: "Can we afford Pesach altogether?" These people walk shopping aisles, desperately seeking bare essentials, conscious of how carefree the affluent in our midst load their trolleys.

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Good reads

Reviewed by Gwen Podbrey

# Imaginative brilliance more than make up for flaws

*Care of Wooden Floors* by Will Wiles  
(Harper Press, R262)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

Occupying someone else’s private living space is always an excursion into their experience of themselves in the world - and, by default, into one’s own experience of it too. And the truths which emerge from the journey can change both parties forever.

This novel is set in an unnamed Eastern European city where the narrator (also unnamed) - a London bachelor - arrives to look after the flat of his friend Oskar, a German-born minimalist composer whose most famous work is “Variations on Tram Timetables”.

The reason for the flatsit is logical enough: Oskar has gone to Los Angeles for a few weeks to finalise his divorce from his American wife. What is inexplicable, however, is that he has prevailed on this particular friend - whom he knows from their shared university digs days to be a barfly, a slob, a philistine who considers all classical music no more than “high-quality aural wallpaper” and a man constitutionally incapable of any kind of ordered living - to care for his impossibly pristine home.

The apartment’s intimidating sterility comes as no surprise. Oskar - pathologically tidy, pedantic, rigidly controlled and as sterile in his environment as in his interactions with others - has created an Elysian dream home.

For the chaotic Londoner, however, it is a minefield of potential hazards, including immaculate designer furniture, spotless white walls and bedlinen, rigidly organised systems for cupboards, books and groceries, and two cats.

Most daunting of all, though, are the magnificent, unimaginably expensive and hypersensitive French oak floorboards, requiring infinite care and caution in order to maintain their unique gleam and texture.

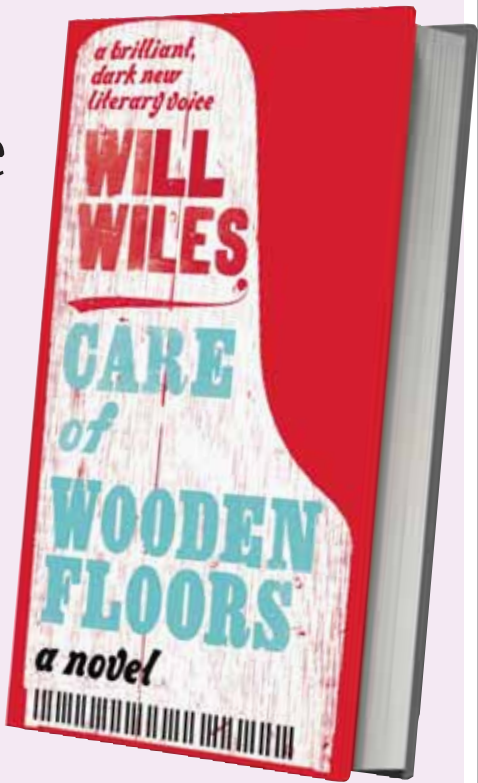
The apartment’s antiseptic aura is sharply contrasted by the industrial city beyond it, filled with grey apartment blocks, hideous monuments which could only have been “gifts from the Soviet Union”, filthy canals, derelict factories and grim-faced citizens.

The friend soon starts finding notes, left in strategic places for him by Oskar, reminding him at every turn to be careful, to clean up after himself and - above all - to take especial care of the floor.

Of course, within a few hours, the first disaster strikes. The floors, it turns out, are super-absorbent, and when a few drops of red wine are spilt on them, the effects are instant, dramatic - and irreversible.

“The floorboards... lay there, welcoming the red deeper and deeper into their substance, like self-conscious, passive-aggressive martyrs. If they had been lino, or even sealed wood, this would never have happened. But Oskar had to have everything just so. He had to have this one kind of wood... Wasn’t this calamity inevitable, given enough time? Didn’t he realise that? His precious, delicate floorboards had their fate written into their absorbent grain.”

This initial mishap quickly triggers a chain of further calamities: the Londoner, returning from a bender to a nightclub, is too drunk to control either his bladder or



his vomit reflexes. Having left the piano (which he was instructed not to touch) open, and failed to let the cats out, he discovers that one of them has crawled onto the keyboard, where the heavy instrument lid has fallen on it and killed it.

Disposing of a dead cat in a strange apartment, in a strange city, the Londoner finds, is no easy task. And manoeuvring its corpse past the building caretaker-cum-cleaner - a sour, belligerent harridan who speaks no English - is harder still.

But there is worse to come. Having tried - with frightful results - to undo the damage to the floorboards using soap, then detergents, then pumice and, finally, a mixture of oxalic acid crystals and vinegar, the panicking Londoner decides to prise off the floorboards, flip them over and reset them with the (hopefully) pristine undersides on top. The intrusion of the caretaker, however, quickly puts paid to this plan - and pushes the situation into the realms of unimagined horror.

Like all good satires, the novel has a tragic subtext. The collision of two men’s worlds - seemingly irreconcilable, yet strangely similar in their alienation and despair - creates an interface which generates many startling revelations.

Oskar, it turns out, is neither as implacable nor as impenetrable as he appears. The men do not know each other well, but their secret envy of each other’s lives provides a portal for them to explore the road not taken. Their relationship with their respective living spaces, and with each other, is both tremulous and treacherous.

Far more than coping with wine spills and the other thousand natural shocks that expensive blonde wooden floors are heir to, this is a novel about the pursuit of perfection, privacy and inviolability – none of which exist. It is also about identity, boundaries and entropy.

Wiles’ writing can be problematic: on the one hand, there is electrifying imagery and deeply moving insights: “We make our rooms and then our rooms make us,” Oskar sadly tells his friend.

On the other hand, there are grotesquely contrived sentences like: “Above it all, my angle-poise shone cyclopically like the fire brigade floodlights at a midnight motorway catastrophe” and smart-ass asides like: “Who cheesed her move?”

Wiles’ novel often risks being hijacked by his smarmy, self-delighting cleverness and his inability to resist milking a metaphor for all it is worth.

Yet this reviewer found herself succumbing steadily to his imaginative brilliance, compulsively turning the pages and, finally, conceding wholehearted defeat. Part farce, part thriller, part existential polemic, the novel is full of surprises, ingenuity – and unforgettable revelations.



A matter of poise:  
Sandra Rosenberg  
with student Michelle  
Cloete at the barre.  
(PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN  
OSSENDRYVER)

## Tapping into the rich reserve of SA dancing talent

*Seventy-three-year-old Sandra Rosenberg can still effortlessly “shoulder her leg”, an exercise in which the dancer raises her leg to shoulder height. Physical dexterity is not the only skill of this doyenne of tap dancing in South Africa.*

ROBYN SASSEN

AT THE age of six, she had her first lesson; 10 years later she took her tap-dancing teaching exam. She’d lost her father as a nine-year-old and moved to Durban to live with an uncle and aunt after the remarriage of her mother.

By 10, she was earning her living teaching - dance lessons were by then central to her existence; a luxury she couldn’t otherwise afford. Her first teaching studio was in Doornside: “Each Saturday from 04:30, I would travel on the milk train with the mine workers to get there.”

At 17, Rosenberg returned to Johannesburg after the death of her uncle. She started dancing with Paddy Chellin, gaining board and lodging in return for lessons she gave. She married at 19.

“We lived initially in the Stephanie Hotel in Berea. I set up my studio in Yeoville, until we were able to afford to move to Cyrildene, where we’ve been 47 years. My studio was built on the property in 1971.”

She taught many of today’s headlining dancers and choreographers: Shelley Meskin, Vicky Friedman, Esther Nasser... “This little suburban studio has seen much. Pride isn’t the word to describe how I feel when I see former pupils being wonderful. It’s nachas.”

Rosenberg made dance controversy in 1994. She was “expelled from the SA Dance Teachers Association; I wanted to develop outreach. I didn’t care if it was for black or white dancers, but felt it was necessary.

“Meetings were held in my home by young teachers keen to sabotage SADTA. This is where DanceCor, a co-operative of dance teachers, was born.”

Specialising in tap, hip-hop and modern,

it aims to develop dance teaching. Close to 80, mostly Johannesburg teachers, are associated with DanceCor.

With her daughter, Megan, also an acclaimed tap dancer/choreographer, Rosenberg is affiliated to a network of outreach training, embracing not only previously disadvantaged dancers, but also senior beginners.

Having recently changed the name of her 1999-established tap school, the only one in South Africa, from Tap Talk Rhythm Company to Foot Musicians, Rosenberg is writing a tap handbook.

It includes an overview of South African tap terminology; reflections on how eight parts of the foot are used for tap; descriptions of the six knee movements; tips, like the fact that turning the screws on a tap shoe can alter its sound; and the South African history of tap.

She speaks of how tap, a hybrid of African rhythm and European footwork, was only named as such in 1903. “It was practised in South Africa from mid-1920, coming through Irish clog dance; it’s a sibling to township genres marabi and mbaqanga.”

Like other art forms, tap in apartheid South Africa was squeezed. According to anthropologist David Coplan: “With inner-city clubs off limits, old location halls torn down, and the ‘matchbox’ township of Soweto almost without recreational facilities, Johannesburg’s once-proud black bandsmen were confined to Dorkay House, the Bantu Men’s Social Centre,” in Eloff Street, from 1960. It was a venue of choice for not only black burlesquers, but also people like the late Bertha Egnos, producer of Ipi Ntombi.

Rosenberg’s classes filled the gap: “Foot Musicians move their audiences,” she adds.





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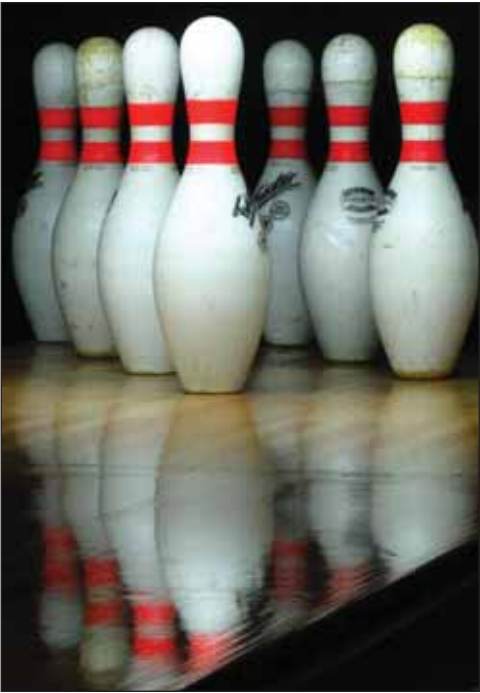
“The rabbinic decree not allowing men to hear a woman singing, proclaimed in 1000, was based incorrectly on the Talmud’s Brachot 24, which maintained that men could not concentrate when praying the Shema if they heard a woman’s voice,” according to Dinur.



# Conferences, venues & events

A feature compiled by Marlene Bilewitz.

Contact: (011) 023 8160, Cell: 083-475-0288 or e-mail [marlene@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:marlene@sajewishreport.co.za)



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## The Greenside - centrally situated kosher super venue

### MARLENE BILEWITZ

Dorann Ben-David is the general manager and proud owner of "The Greenside", an extremely attractive, conveniently situated venue in the Johannesburg suburb of Greenside, adjacent to the shul.

This venue can cater to all kinds and sizes of functions and events.

Dorann recalls how four years ago, she was at a bingo evening in the once function hall of the shul and as she sat there her imagination began to run riot.

She went home and told her husband that she just "had to have this place - the hall was just so majestic".

According to the foundation stone, it was built in 1946, designed by Gliksmann, Dirksen and Amson architects and is replete with high ceilings, fantastic acoustics and large balconies.

"The Greenside is run completely independently of the synagogue, but does, however, have one proviso: that all functions be kosher as all catering is under the auspices of the Beth Din.

"There is a resident kosher caterer who is available for all types of affairs such as weddings, barmitzvahs, conferences and even

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The venue can accommodate from brunches to lunches, teas to cocktails, dinners to dances - no event is too small or too large.

The Greenside can accommodate up to 600 people banquet style, 800 theatre style for conferences and can be made more intimate for smaller affairs. It is an adaptable, elegant shell which lends itself comfortably to change for theme parties, with different colour decorations. There is safe parking with good resident security.

• For enquiries and a tour of the venue, contact Dorann or Johan on (011) 880-5720, 083-691-9032 or e-mail [info@thegreenside.co.za](mailto:info@thegreenside.co.za). See our website: [www.thegreenside.co.za](http://www.thegreenside.co.za)



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# Intimate conference venue in the heart of Sandton

MARLENE BILEWITZ

The Stables, an elite small venue in the grounds of the Travel Company’s premises in Sandton, is open Monday to Friday, from 08:00 to 17:00.

It provides complete catering and conference facilities for small functions (maximum 18). Teas and lunch are served around the pool, or in the cosy atmosphere of an oversized boardroom.

The Travel Company has become known for its expertise and efficiency in corporate travel, conferences and events. Lynne Backos and her right-hand work partner, Corinna, Adele and Maggie, are always there to take care of you.

Business or leisure, The Travel Company's the one. Lynne, CEO of a 36-year-old family-run business, is a workaholic who is passionate about travel. She says if she didn't have a family to anchor her down, she surely would

have been the epitome of your "wandering Jew".

The Travel Company, conveniently situated in Sandown, deals in all forms of travel. On the corporate level Lynne and her competent and friendly staff will organise events of all sizes, from small think-tanks in their charming little conference venue attached to their premises, to full-scale conferences, incentive and team-building packages for the businessman/woman in destinations and venues of choice nationally or internationally.

They will arrange all the travel, accommodation, transport, speakers, conference equipment and entertainment if requested.

On the leisure side, kosher travel, including kosher cruises, have become quite a specialty.

The Travel Company will organise absolutely everything for you, right from assisting with documentation and visas, to (over and above the standard air tickets) car-hire, hotel accommodation, transport and transfers. Nothing is too much trouble.

If you are not sure of what's available or suitable for your company, rest assured that Lynne will find it.

The Travel Company instils great confidence while imparting a definite sense of authority and knowledge, on whatever they sell. Please look at the website <http://www.travelcompany.co.za>, which is constantly being updated and is very informative.

- Contact Lynne at e-mail: [lynne@travelcompany.co.za](mailto:lynne@travelcompany.co.za) for all your corporate and leisure travel requirements.



For intimate boardroom meetings in the heart of Sandton.

# No compromise on coaching standards from Coachman

MARLENE BILEWITZ

Upping standards in coach maintenance means safety and reliability on the roads, which in turn means happy passengers. That has been the single-minded aim behind Thinus le Roux’s decision to launch his own coach company in 1994 - Coachman Coaches.

There are stringent maintenance schedules that every Coachman coach is subjected to in the company’s state-of-the-art in-house workshop. The schedules mean comfortable and hassle-free journeys for passengers.

“Passengers shouldn’t have to be concerned about what it is that makes a journey great, from comfortable, clean, well-maintained coaches, excellent drivers, to smooth, efficient, and friendly handling of all arrangements,” Le Roux says.

The first coaches were three Stradas, called Paris, Brussels, and London. This whimsical practice led to all Coachman coaches from then on being given their own names.

In 1998 Le Roux’s wife Sonja, joined the company to take over its finances and together they set about growing Coachman with no compromise on standards in maintenance or service.

Today Coachman Coaches has a fleet of vehicles ranging from a 15-seater luxury bus to a 60-seater, including a boardroom coach, which accommodates 28 people around a boardroom table in a luxurious



“on-the-move” setting with reclining seats.

Every new Coachman driver is put on a five-day intensive training course, which includes procedures such as company regulations, care of the coach when travelling, communication with the office and clients, general conduct, accident procedures, documentation, map reading and route planning, pre-trip and post-trip checks and general maintenance, customer care and driver attitude.

“Our drivers are the face of the company; their attitude and conduct will make a difference to the passengers’ experience of the trip. Every passenger is a VIP and every trip is special,” emphasises Sonja le Roux.

Sonja and Thinus are on the subcommittee of COASA (Coach Operators Association of SA), as well as of SABOA (SA Bus Operators Association), with Sonja recently having been elected chairman of the association.

“We’re set to encouraging greater responsibility for passenger safety and comfort throughout the coaching value chain, as well as compensating for the carbon footprint our coaches leave on the planet,” says Sonja.



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Telephone: +27 11 807 5111, fax: 086 457 9100.

We are also on Facebook. Our address is [www.facebook.com/msccstarlight](http://www.facebook.com/msccstarlight)

Our physical address is MSC Starlight Cruises, 1 Wessels Road, Rivonia, Johannesburg.



News in brief

BRITAIN OPPOSES ISRAELI IRAN STRIKE AT THIS TIME

NEW YORK - British Prime Minister David Cameron says his country has informed Jerusalem that it opposes an Israeli military strike against Iran at this time.

"I don't think as we stand today that military action by Israel would be justified," Cameron told NBC's Brian Williams. "I don't think the Israelis should take that action now. We told them they shouldn't and said we wouldn't support it if they did. We've been very clear. (JTA)

AL-QAIDA CHIEF OFFERS SWAP FOR WEINSTEIN

JERUSALEM - Al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri said he would swap an American hostage for prisoners in the US with links to the organisation.

In exchange for Warren Weinstein (70), Zawahiri called for the release of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the blind cleric convicted of attempting to blow up the World Trade Centre in the early 1990s; the family of Osama bin Laden, the assassinated leader of Al-Qaida; and Aafia Siddiqui, who was convicted in 2010 in New York for attempting to murder US government officials. (JTA)

BILLS TO RELAX MARRIAGE REGISTRATION RULES PASS KNESSET COMMITTEE

JERUSALEM - Two bills that would allow Jewish couples in Israel to be married by national-religious rabbis in the city of their choice were approved by a Kneset committee.

The "Tzohar laws", named after the organisation of Modern Orthodox rabbis that performs alternative religious wedding ceremonies would remove jurisdictional hurdles that prevent the organisation's rabbis from performing wedding ceremonies recognised by the office of the Chief Rabbinate. (JTA)

CONVICTED NAZI WAR CRIMINAL JOHN DEMJANJUK DIES

BONN - John Demjanjuk, the Cleveland-area autoworker convicted for crimes he committed as a Nazi death camp guard, has died in a German nursing home.

Demjanjuk, 91, died last Saturday at an old-age home in southern Germany, where he was free while he appealed his conviction last year for his role in the murder of 28 060 people at the Sobibor death camp in Poland. (JTA)

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

Today Friday (March 23)

- *UZLC* hosts columnist David Bullard on "18 Years On - Do We Really Live In a Non-Racial South Africa?" Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact Gloria: 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Saturday evening (March 24)

- *Pine Street Shul* has its Pre-Pesach Concert at the shul in Orchards: Time: 20:00 for 20:20. Entrance: R100. Featuring Ezra Sher, Tzvi Gudelsky, Ari Kievman and others. Music: Evelyn Green and Ray Perkel. Beneficiaries: Chabad Seniors Programme and Lubavitch Yeshiva Pretoria. Tickets: Lilly (011) 485-2645 or Ashley (011) 728-6366.

Sunday (March 25)

- *KDSF* is hosting a performance of the hit Broadway musical "The Last Five Years", starring ex-Davidian Talia Kodesh with Niall Griffin and directed by ex-Davidian Gina Shmukler. Venue: Montecasino Studio Theatre. Time: 18:00. A light supper will be served before the show. Tickets: R250. To book: Carly Mervis at mervisc@sabje.co.za or (011) 480-4710.
- *Second Innings* hosts The Russel Singers (Choir) in "Across the Footlights". Venue: Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30.

Monday (March 26)

- *King David High School Victory Park's* annual musical, this year "A Night at the Theatre" starts today and runs until Wednesday, March 28. Further information: Eida Schneiderman, (011) 446-7862.
- *Metzuyan Quiz Night* at Metzuyan in Rosebank. The quiz, with quizmaster Kevin Bonner, covers a range of topics from history to science and nature, movies, sport, music, current events etc. Teams of 4-8. Time: 19:30. Cost R35pp. Prizes to be won. Early booking is essential. Call or SMS Larry on 082-888-5355.

Tuesday (March 27)

- *WIZO Forum* hosts Dr Jonathan Broomberg, CEO of Discovery Health, who will speak on "Health

Issues in 2012". Venue: Beyachad. Time: 09:30. Enquiries: Gertie (011) 646-1478.

Wednesday (March 28)

- *Balfour Park Parkinson's Disease Support Group* meeting in the boardroom of Randjes Estate, Highlands North. Time: 10:00. Jane Khedeyer, Sandton Support Group leader of the Depression and Anxiety Society, will speak on depression, which is a common problem in Parkinson's Disease. Information: Rosemary Burke (011) 640-391.
- *WIZO Meir Szold* screening of the film "The Black Book". Venue: Beyachad. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R40. Information: Sandy (011) 645-2515.
- *RCHCC* is hosting best-selling author and speaker Chris van Wyk on his books "Shirley Goodness and Mercy" and "Eggs to Lay, Chickens to Hatch", introduced by Prof David Medalie. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378. E-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za
- *UJW CT adult education division* hosts author Mike Nicol, on "Nelson Mandela and the Three Warders" Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (March 29)

- Fundraiser quiz for *SAUJS* at Colony Arms. The quiz covers a range of topics from history to science and nature, movies, sport, music, current events etc. Teams of 4-8. Time: 19:30. Cost R35pp. Prizes to be won. Early booking is essential. To book call or SMS Larry on 082-888-5355.
- *UJW CT's Constantia Group* is having "Breakfast Under the Trees" with Jonathan Nkala and Faith in Love. Cost: R120. Enquiries: J Poswell: 083-446-2535.

Monday (April 2)

- *Bnoth Zion WIZO* hosts leading Israeli businesswoman and talk-show host Galia Albin, who will launch the 2012-2013 Women's Biennial Zionist Campaign. Her

mission is to influence and empower women throughout the world and to strengthen the Jewish-Zionist identity. Time: 19:45. Venue: Sephardi Shul Hall, Sea Point. Cost: R40. (Parking on Kloof Road at Herzlia School.) (021) 464-6729 e-mail bza@ctjc.co.za

Wednesday (April 4)

- *UJW CT adult education division* is hosting David Davidson who will talk about his visit to Japan and "African Gardens in the Far East". Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Tuesday (April 17)

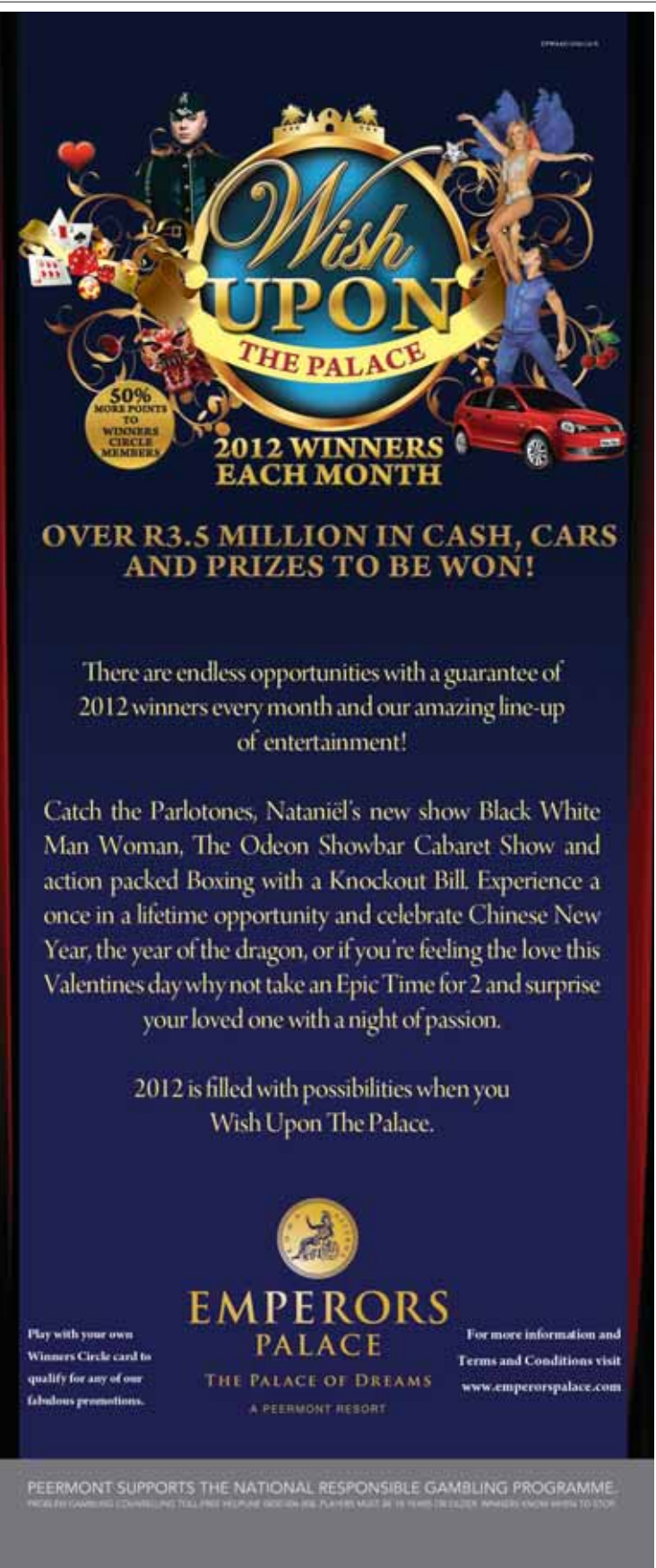
- *The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School* presents a two-year academic course teaching Jewish education to adults. The first year course starts today and it will run every Tuesday evening from 19:15 to 21:30. Registration now open. Venue: Beyachad. For more details contact Ariella Milner, (011) 882-4051 or 082-804-6113. E-mail: milnerariella@gmail.com or www.fmams.org.il

Friday (April 20)

- *Chevrah Kadisha Social Services* is facilitating a support group for women who are or have been in abusive relationships. It starts today. The group, which will be facilitated by a social worker, offers a safe and confidential space where women can become empowered with information and support. For bookings or more information, call Jacqui: (011) 532-9732.

Wednesday (April 25)

- *Chevrah Kadisha* is offering a support group for family members/significant others of people with mental illness, starting today. Contact Darrin on (011) 532-9733 for more information.
- *Chevrah Kadisha Community Services* is offering a life skills group for teens, "Teens 1010". The group kicks off today. Come learn about: building self esteem, managing friendships and other relationships, how to deal with conflict and much more. Contact Gabriella, (011) 532-9616 for more information.



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# World through Auschwitz lens amounts to Jewish and Israeli PTSD

*Israelis and many US Jews seem to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, looking at events primarily through the framework of Auschwitz. Rabbi Lerner makes out a case against an Israeli first strike in Iran.*

**MICHAEL LERNER  
SAN FRANCISCO**

When I learned of the murder of dozens of members of my family in the Holocaust and then met my Israeli relatives whose Auschwitz numbers could hardly be missed on their arms, I decided to dedicate my life to challenging war, the denial of human rights, the hatred of minorities, and social and economic injustice.

I also wanted to challenge the breakdown of human solidarity and the fear that competitive societies generate in their citizens, which destroys the natural instinct of individuals to care for “the other” and lead people to grab on to fascistic pseudo-solutions to their growing misery.

Imagine my surprise, then, when I found that my own Jewish people, which for 2 000 years had fostered a religion of compassion, nonviolence, social justice, pursuing peace and generosity toward others, had responded to Auschwitz and the Holocaust by adopting a fear-based worldview.

In this post-Holocaust period, power over others - rather than love, kindness and generosity (that is the teachings of our Torah) - would be our new way of identifying as Jews.

In so doing we began to give Hitler a victory he did not deserve and abandoned the G-d who was revealed as a force in the universe for chesed, loving-kindness, compassion and mercy. Instead, we worshipped at the altar of power and military might.

And the Jewish State became famous as the most powerful army in the Middle East.

I’m glad Israel is strong, and I’ve opposed those who seek to promote the campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel (though I support BDS against the settlements of the West Bank).

I’m against those who sought to reduce US military aid to Israel. I was proud to have brought my son to Israel, sent him to high school there and been there to wash his clothes and feed him every weekend during the time he served in one of the Israeli Defence Forces’ scariest combat units, the paratroopers, praying that he would survive those perilous jumps.

But as a researcher at Tel Aviv and Hebrew Universities, I discovered that Israelis were suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. They were seeing current events primarily through the framework of Auschwitz, the Holocaust and the sufferings of our life in exile.

I already had discovered in my work as a psychotherapist - before I became a rabbi or editor of Tikkun magazine - that a significant section of American Jews suffered from similar PTSD.

PTSD is the psychological category that does not attribute the distortions in perception to one’s inner life. It acknowledges that there really was a trauma, but that the source of the trauma is no longer there.

American Jews are one of the most

politically and economically powerful groups in society, and Israel is one of the strongest military powers on Earth both in conventional and nuclear military power. Yet speak to many American Jews or Israelis and they feel totally insecure. They see Amalek, Haman or Hitler lurking in every enemy.

So the Palestinian people, without an army, has been seen consistently as Nazis. First Yasser Arafat, then Hezbollah and Hamas, and now Iran are seen as the embodiment of the Nazi threat.

As a result, Israel and many American Jews have been unable to respond to reasonable plans for a peace accord that have come from the Israeli peace movement and even from the Saudi peace proposal in 2002 - re-offered in 2007 - for peace and reconciliation between Israel and the entire Arab world.

Not everyone has been completely unable to see that an attack on Iran by Israel - and the likely embroilment of the US in a war with Iran - will be a disaster for Israel and the US. Such an attack also likely would intensify anti-Semitism around the world based not on previous irrational beliefs that the Jews killed Jesus, but on the legitimate outrage of people around the world against any country that engages in a “pre-emptive first strike” against another.

In fact, in the first week of March, a poll showed that a majority of Israelis disagree with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and oppose a unilateral Israeli first strike.

The US did not take a pre-emptive strike against North Korea or any of the other Communist states with ideological fanatics at their helm - including the Soviet Union and China when they developed nuclear war capacities - instead relying on its own nuclear capacity to wipe out any country that would attempt to strike at us.

Many Israelis recognise that the strategy of mutually assured destruction, which has kept the world safe even with some countries having nuclear weapons, will keep Israel safe even if Iran has nuclear weapons.

It is only PTSD that makes it difficult for many American Jews and some Israeli hawks to recognise that as ideologically crazy as the Iranian government is today, there is zero reason to believe that it would be willing to have Iran bombed into oblivion by US and Israeli nuclear retaliation from a first strike by Iran.

PTSD so obscures our vision that many Jews have sided with US militarists who always like a good excuse to amp up the military-industrial complex.

It’s time to heal from the distorted perceptions of seeing the world through the framework of Auschwitz.

• Rabbi Michael Lerner is the editor of Tikkun magazine and author most recently of “Embracing Israel/Palestine: A Strategy to Heal and Transform the Middle East.”



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# Looking for ‘insanity’ in the right place

JANICE LEIBOWITZ  
PHOTOGRAPH BY HAYLEY GINSBERG

Thanks to the vision of Women of the World, once again educationist Gavin Keller (pictured) has left teachers and parents of Johannesburg learners inspired and awe-struck with his incredible insight into the workings of young, developing brains.

Keller, as a guest speaker of WoW, reminded his audience our children were not adults, and treating them as such would only lead to a communication breakdown between parents and their offspring.

Starting with a well-balanced panel discussion with visiting Rabbi Akiva Tatz on “Raising Sane Children in an Insane Society”, Keller started his lecture tour with the not so gentle intimation that society had actually evolved into what it was today.

That said, the only solution was that the “kids of today” were actually the sane ones, and it was the adults who were, in fact, insane!

Once we’ve come to terms with that mind-numbing fact, we should be one step further to understanding our “?-generation” children.

The venue was packed. During his talks on “The Talent Code”, “Secrets of the Teenage Brain” and “Motivational DNA”, he reinforced the concept of “Crocodile (animal/reactive) Brain”, “Elephant (emotional) Brain”, and “Thinking Brain”.

If people thought they were only coming to listen, they were mistaken. Keller’s interactive style ensures that everyone participates in his foot-stomping, arm-waving interludes, timed at regular intervals to guarantee that nobody’s concentration wanes.



In order to better understand and educate today’s children, one needs to know that we cannot expect them to think for themselves as their thought processes are not yet developed enough to make informed choices.

Parents and teachers, the adult influences and role models in our children’s lives, need to guide them in the right direction and help them to make the choices best suited to them.

We need to encourage them in what they are most talented at in order for them to feel that they are able to achieve, although it may not be in similar areas to others.

Each child is unique and has his or her own unique abilities. It is fundamental to their well-being and self-confidence that they are nurtured in the areas that they are good at.

Yet again, Keller has left his indelible mark on our community. And the adults of the future will only be better off for it.

• Women of the World is committed to enhancing education in SA and nurturing the nurturers. For more information, go to [www.womenoftheworld.org.za](http://www.womenoftheworld.org.za)



Rabbi Ramon Widmonte (executive director of Mizrachi SA); Jonathan van der Westhuizen; Jonty Bennie; Rabbi Laurence Perez (rabbi of Mizrachi SA); Norbe Rodrigues; and Richard van der Westhuizen. (PHOTOGRAPH: BLUE AVENUE PARTNERS)

## Chivas Regal Mizrachi Golf Day

ROZANNE SACK

On February 21, the Chivas Regal Mizrachi Golf Day was held at Glendower Golf Course.

This day is one of the longest-running ones in the Jewish community and is attended by young businessmen as well as more established pillars of the business community. This year, 112 players compet-

ed, with a host of notable hole sponsors.

The vibe on the course was festive, with Rabbi Laurence Perez performing trick shots on the 17th hole and keeping the players entertained.

The day ended with a jovial prize-giving dinner run by Rabbi Ramon Widmonte. The winners walked out with flat screen TV and bottles of Chivas Regal, among other prizes.

## Elephant Whisperer’s voice now quiet

BEV GOLDMAN

Conservationist and author Lawrence Anthony of “The Elephant Whisperer” fame, who died three weeks ago, gave his last public talk to the Union of Jewish Women at Shepstone Gardens, the beautiful Mountain View venue, in Johannesburg on February 21 – just a week before his death in his sleep on March 1.

Elephants are the most fascinating and intriguing of all mammals, and a capacity crowd listened and laughed with Lawrence as he took us on his life’s journey with these magnificent creatures with whom he lived and worked for so many years.

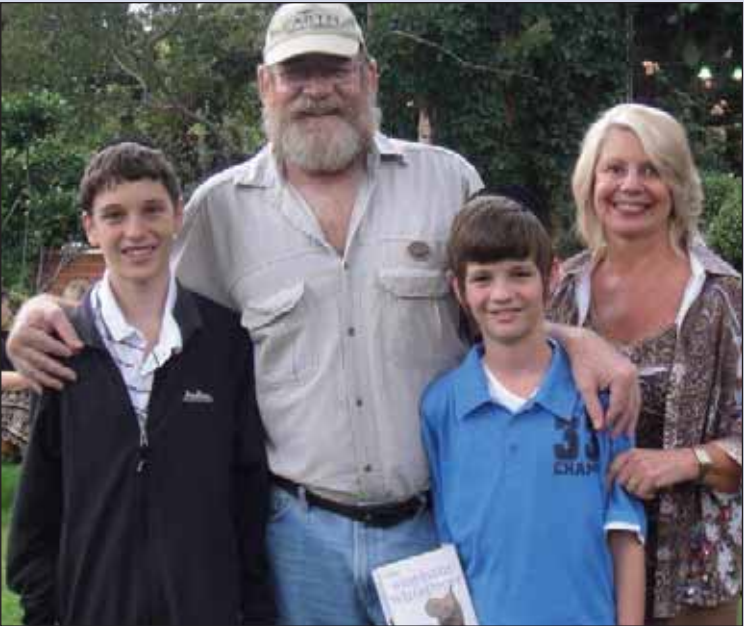
He told delightful stories and anecdotes, and the number and variety of questions at the close of his talk bore testament to his ability to draw us all into the fasci-

nating world of these animals.

The evening was a great success. UJW is to be congratulated on a wonderful event.

His death leaves behind a void that will not easily be filled. His book, “The Elephant Whisperer”, on which he based his talk, has become a best-seller; he was about to launch his next book, “The Last Rhinos: The Powerful Story of One Man’s Battle to Save a Species”.

Having impressed on the audience how perceptive elephants are, it came as no surprise that two days after Lawrence’s death a herd of elephants, which had not been near his home on Thula Thula for well over a year, walked for over 12 hours and filed past the house in single file, in what Lawrence’s wife said was “the Elephants paying their last respects”.



Conservationist Lawrence Anthony with Lynne Raphaely, co-chairman of UJW, Johannesburg, and her grandsons, wildlife enthusiasts, Dani and Natan Abramson.

### Community Briefs

#### CHONI G WINS JEWISH STAR IN NY

Last week, Choni Goldman, aka Choni G, son of Rabbi Yossy and Rebbetzen Rochel Goldman of Sydenham Shul, won the Jewish Star at Brooklyn College, New York. Entrants came from as far afield as the Ukraine and Mexico to take part in this competition, which has the clout of a Jewish Idols.

Choni was voted among the top 16 in the public online vote; a panel of Jewish music experts chose him among the top eight; excitement rose as he made the top three, and finally, first place. Following this win, Goldman sang in a drug rehabilitation-focused telethon in Hollywood. – Robyn Sassen

#### ‘MATERIAL’ – STORY OF PURSUING A DREAM

Last week, Great Park Synagogue hosted a dinner for young adults featuring Ronnie Apteker, producer of acclaimed film Material. He described the film’s journey from inception to release: “Material could just as easily have been set in a Jewish, Italian or Portuguese community. It is the story of an individual pursuing a dream despite the societal and cultural pressures – a theme with which we can all identify.” Apteker’s visit is part of an initiative by the shul to attract young people. It follows another successful dinner honouring bar- and batmitzvah candidates for 2012. - Rabbi Shmuel Simpson

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# Malema pronouncements hurt SA - Clem Sunter

ALISON GOLDBERG

Policy uncertainty in South Africa over mine nationalisation and potential land expropriation saw South Africa tumble last year from 44th place among the 59 member premier league economies to 52nd place in The World Competitiveness Year Book's rankings.

Scenario planner Clem Sunter, of consultancy Mind of a Fox, says there is a 50 per cent probability South Africa will stay in the premier league; a 35 per cent chance it'll join the second division; and 15 per cent odds it'll become a failed state. Second division would mean exclusion from the G20; an inability to earn tax revenue and access finance; and its certain replacement by Nigeria among the fast-growing Brics nations.

Sunter was addressing the inaugural WIZO Forum recently at Beyachad.

Referring to the failed state possibility, Sunter says South Africa has got to get its ducks in a row on several red flags and one tendency - the latter best exemplified by Japan's tendency towards earthquakes.

Nationalisation of mines, poses the ques-



tion as to how government would pay for them. Government borrowings would push the country's debt-to-GDP ratio from 38 per cent to 138 per cent. Greece stands at 160 per cent.

A clumsy implementation of the mooted National Health Insurance would lead to a decline in private healthcare.

The imposition of a media tribunal to curb press freedom, allied with the ongoing undermining of the judiciary's inde-

pendence, would lead to a massive increase in corruption.

The potential for land grabs as occurred in Zimbabwe calls for an "Agridesa" (a play on SA's Codesa talks prior to 1994). This requires multi-party talks on the best way to implement land transfers to "a substantial number of good emerging farmers". A Zanu-PF government official recently admitted that Zimbabwe, from being the fastest growing country in Sadec, "hit the wall" after the invasion of white-owned farms.

The tendency in South Africa - a flag Western embassies failed to notice in the run-up to the Arab Spring - is youth unemploy-

ment; the alienation of the youth from society as a result; and their use of social media to communicate their grievances.

Sunter's failed state scenario could be triggered by a random event caused by South Africa's 40-50 per cent unemployment rate among the 18-24 year olds, which would then spiral into political unrest.

Other flags are the country's education

system where on no account can the 5 000 performing schools out of a total 28 000 be allowed to be "dumbed-down".

The global scenario is likely to be one of hard times for the next five years, putting the onus on businesses to offer value for money and nations to work smarter as they move from the age of information to the age of intelligence.

----- Advertorial -----

## Welcome to Auction Inc, a boutique auction house



John Tibane (director); Paul Winterstein (CEO); Mike Nkuna (chairman); and Charles Kahn (business development).

There is a definite indication that South Africa is following suit with the worldwide trend of turning toward the sale of property by way of auction.

A new auction house, Auction Inc, launched this month and plans to hold its first multiple property auction early next year, which will be followed by a national roll-out of the company.

Co-founder Paul Winterstein (CEO), son of Eddie Winterstein (former chairman and founder of Aucor) has the vision and expertise to ensure that Auction Inc meets the ever-changing needs of both buyer and seller in our economic climate.

A "boutique auction" house designed to "do things differently" is exactly what the market needs.

The company's planned growth path will include offering auctions across the board on a national basis, with a special focus on industrial, commercial and residential property.

"We are confident we can offer the market a level of service never experienced before in the industry. Our aim is to synthesise the old and the new by capitalising not only on our extensive experience, but to involve our team of young professionals eager to live up to their reputations," Winterstein says.

The expertise he can offer to the industry includes Mike Nkuna (chairman), who established the Masingita Group of Companies. The latter's subsidiaries has been involved in property development and management as well as construction in South Africa since 1986.

"More and more individuals have the drive and vision to invent their own business with a primary focus on partnerships with key players in the industry. Such a method is distinct from the traditional corporates which are run in silos."

Auction Inc intends to service this trend

by delivering a total package which provides financial and investment benefits to clients. This evolution in the property market is promoted by the co-founders of the company who have credentials in all facets of real estate and auctioneering.

"We are for real, but then our slogan is: 'We seal the deal!'," says Winterstein.

• For more information contact Ari Ben (011) 880-9554.

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"I want to read more about youth"

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Amy Lissoos; Sarah Rosenthal; Lily Segal; and Eden Meyerthal.

# ‘Big Walk’ strengthens family ties

JOHANNES MOUTON  
PHOTOGRAPH: STACY FLEISHMAN


What a wonderful and successful day! The “Big Walk” at King David Victory Park Primary School went off with a bang. It was great to see all the children and parents, their dogs and family, all there to enjoy the day.

The Johannesburg Metro Police Department’s lead car, the road closures and police presence, was a hit and a great source of comfort for all as we could enjoy the scenic route unhindered by traffic and other disturbances.



Jonathan van Vuren; Gaby Nossel; Joshua Katz; Joshua Nossel; Joshua Modlin; and Daniel Fleishman. Seated in front is Aryn Bloch.

The smiles we saw and the laughter accompanying it, made us all appreciate the time we could spend with family and friends. The children really enjoyed the jumping castles and waterslides and we had to switch off the power to get them off.



## Hope for Heroism

### TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE JOHANNESBURG JEWISH COMMUNITY

Last month, eight injured Israeli combat soldiers entered your community as part of the first Johannesburg delegation.

We arrived as strangers to South Africa, but left as family. For those of us who fought, lost our closest friends and were wounded, it has been a long road back from injury. Some of us still have a long way to go. However, coming to a place which is physically far yet spiritually close to Israel, with people who have such love for the country and its soldiers, made us feel that we are not alone but rather supported by so many Jews.

We would especially like to thank Mark and Bendeta Gordon who put their heart and soul into the delegation, as well as the Sandler, Sessman and Nathan families for adopting our wounded soldiers. We would also like to thank HaRav Suchard and the Sandton Shul, Great Park Synagogue, the Zionist Federation, Chai FM, The Jewish Report, King David Schools and all the other people and organisations for their great support.

With great gratitude and Next Year in Jerusalem,  
The wounded soldiers of Hope for Heroism.

PS. Please visit our website [www.hopeforheroism.org](http://www.hopeforheroism.org) or join us on Facebook and Twitter @HopeforHeroism. If you are planning a trip to Israel, please contact us about our Hope for Heroism Tours led by our injured combat soldiers.

# Principal Rebecca Sarchi on TA Girls High

CLARA ELYOVICS GRADE 11

**CE:** *How long have you been involved with Torah Academy?*

**RS:** Twenty seven years and in that time I’ve seen our learners go on to become doctors, lawyers, businesswomen, rebbetzins and generally productive and giving members of the Jewish community.

**CE:** *What do you enjoy the most about being a principal?*

**RS:** The girls - my interaction with different types of girls. Every girl is different. And I love spending time and getting to know them. And seeing the “end result”. It is always so gratifying to see a learner develop from a pre-teen girl into a young woman ready to take on the world.

And also the warm, nurturing atmosphere of the school with its happy staff members.

**CE:** *What are your best and worst moments?*

**RS:** My best moments? My best memories come from times when the whole school is together as one united group - the Purim parties, the school productions, the annual Shabbatons and so on. And I love seeing learners fulfilling their potential. That always makes me really proud.

My worst moments are saying goodbye. It is always a bitter-sweet experience when a class of matric girls leaves. There is a sense of pride, but it feels like part of the family is leaving.

**CE:** *What have you learned or gained from your experience as a principal?*

**RS:** Firstly, I have learned never to judge. There is a reason behind everything.

Secondly, I have gained a massive understanding of people generally, and an insight into interpersonal relationships.

Thirdly, I have gained a tremendous pride and satisfaction - a real nachas - from seeing what our girls have gained during their years at TAGH.

Fourthly, I have definitely learned to



Principal Rebecca Sarchi.

multi-task.

Fifthly, I have learned to believe in every learner. This is what ultimately brings about her success. And so often, when you believe in someone, they begin to believe in themselves as well, even where they did not before.

I have learned to be ready to listen. It is so important to a person, and especially a learner, to feel that they can come to me with a problem or concern, and that they will be heard and taken seriously.

**CE:** *What lasting message would you like learners to internalise from TAGH?*

**RS:** Life is what you make of it, and everything depends on your attitude toward any situation. Always be a mensch. Never judge others. Be so happy that when others look at you they become happy too.

I believe that we have made a difference and impacted positively on the lives of all of our girls. In most cases I know that that is the case, because I have kept in touch with girls whenever possible, and follow their life successes. And our girls feel that the years they spent at Torah Academy were some of the best years of their lives.

**CE:** *If a new learner comes to TAGH, what should she expect?*

**RS:** A warm, nurturing, loving and caring environment, where she can fulfil her social, emotional and academic potential.

## Well done King David Sandton Primary School

LAUREN DOVE  
PHOTOGRAPH: LINDA GREENSTEIN

King David Sandton Primary School is proud of its two grade 7 learners who have taken up executive positions on the Johannesburg Mini City Council for 2012.

Jared Greenstein is mayor of the Mini City Council. This honour has now been bestowed on King David Sandton for two years in a row.



Gila Dove is the executive chairman of her committee, The Smile Committee.

Both Jared and Gila look forward to an exciting and beneficial year, aiding various organisations in our community through the council.

## TA Primary’s eager matzah makers

OWN CORRESPONDENT  
PHOTOGRAPH: SUZANNE BELLING



Grade 1 learners at Torah Academy Primary School visited the matzah factory at Chabad House in Savoy, Johannesburg, last week Wednesday where, under the watchful eye of Mendel Kievman, they learnt how to mix and bake their own matzah, with the assistance of master matzah baker Patrick Kamazizwa.

Pictured are Ella Levin and Devorah Leah Woznica brandishing their rolling pins - not as weapons - but to roll out the dough.



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NOTICES  
PERSONAL

Apologies that last week The Jewish Report inadvertently omitted this ad

WAINER Dennis

You were so special in my life during the precious time we were together, but you will be forever in my heart. Dennis, you were such an honourable, just and righteous mensch who taught me so much. Thanks for all the good and happy times we shared. I was indeed privileged. How I wish I could still hold your hand. You passed on as you lived, peacefully and with dignity. Anne, Pretoria.

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# Opportunities beyond all imagination... in Israel

LAINE WALLDORF  
ISRAEL CENTRE MARKETING

The Israel Centre SA hosted its annual  
Higher Education Expo, from March 12 - 14  
in Johannesburg and March 15 - 18 in CT.

The Expo welcomed a dynamic delega-  
tion of representatives of various Israeli  
institutions to South Africa. The aim of the  
Expo was to inform young Jews in South  
Africa, between the ages of 15 and 35, of the  
myriad options available to them in Israel,  
whether it be studying, volunteering or tak-  
ing part in an internship.

Over the past two years, it had seen a  
substantial growth in the number of partic-  
ipants taking part in short- and long-term  
programmes in Israel, due to the fact that  
Israel offered world class institutions, a  
thriving academic scene and a high level of  
education.

Most universities offer top bursaries to  
international students and in some cases  
are almost free, thus ensuring that Israel is  
an attractive option. After spending an  
extended period of time in Israel, the major-  
ity of students decide to make the country  
their home.

The Expo featured delegates from the  
renowned IDC Herzliya, which offers under-  
graduate and graduate programmes in  
English, as well as Student Authority which  
was on hand to explain in detail the rights  
that olim, who decide to study in Israel, are  
eligible for.

A representative from Naale/Elite  
Academy, discussed with high school learn-  
ers the option of completing their last three  
years of high school in Israel. Internship  
programmes were represented by Real Life  
Israel; this organisation hosts a range of  
Masa-related programmes for post-high  
school students and university graduates.

Representatives of Israel by Choice (IBC)  
discussed their recommended Masa gap  
year programme. Masa representative,  
Rhoda Shochet, discussed the various long-  
term programmes available, as well as the  
financial assistance that is provided.

Ilan Wagner from the Jewish Agency  
spoke of the several short-term pro-  
grammes the Jewish Agency has on offer,  
and finally Yehoshua Friedlander from  
Israel Centre's partnership region of Beit  
Shemesh, provided first-hand advice on  
aliyah and the process of integration into  
Israeli society.

## All the experts provided comprehensive information on options in Israel.

All the experts provided comprehensive  
information and were able to give the Expo  
attendees a clear idea of the options avail-  
able.

The Expo incorporated a wide range of  
events which allowed learners and students  
of all ages to find out what options are avail-  
able. The Jewish high schools in  
Johannesburg and Cape Town welcomed all  
the representatives. University students  
and graduates attended specific events  
which focused on options to study further  
or take part in Internship programmes in  
Israel.

The Higher Education Expo was a huge  
success. Hundreds attended the various  
informative events in Johannesburg and  
Cape Town. This is the beginning of an  
exciting journey for many of those who  
attended, as they have become more aware  
of the opportunities awaiting them in Israel.

For those who were not able to meet  
with the delegates, please do not hesitate to  
contact the Israel Centre for more informa-  
tion, Johannesburg (011) 645-2560 or Cape  
Town (021) 464-6718.



# Munich survivor is to be inducted into Hall of Fame

*Six Israeli athletes are to be inducted this year into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, covering a wide range of sporting disciplines.*

JACK MILNER

The International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame has released the names of those who will be inducted this year.

While the Hall Of Fame is based at the Wingate Institute in Israel, the organisation behind it is American and as such, they hold the purse strings, so to speak, of who gets in.

This year they have honoured a basketball player, a figure skating champion, a fencer, a boxer a table tennis champ and an Israeli athlete who survived the terrorist attack on the Israeli team at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

The inductees are American Louis Bender, Petra Burka of Canada, Americans Sada Jacobson and Ben Jeby, Austrian-born Argentinian Erwin Kohn and Israeli Shaul Ladany.

Starting at the end, Ladany was one of Israel's top race-walkers of the 1960s-70s and set the World 50-mile record in 1972, his 7:44:47,2 shattering the existing world mark that had endured since 1935. He was gold medalist at the '72 World Championships in the 100km event (9:31:00). Ladany was top walker at the US Championships five times between 1973 and 1981, winning the 75km championships from 1974 to 1977, and the 100km title in 1974.

He won championships in Belgium 1971 and 1972; Switzerland 1972; and South Africa 1975. As an eight-year old in Belgrade, Yugoslavia during the Second World War, Shaul was sent to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. A US-inspired ransom deal saved 2 000 camp prisoners, of which he was one, and brought him to the United States.

After the state of Israel became into being in 1948, Ladany emigrated to the Jewish homeland where he began his track career as a marathoner, but changed to walking in the early 1960s.

He was the lone male member of the 1972 Israeli Olympic men's track team, and one of only five who survived the Arab terrorist attack that claimed the lives of 11 team members. The Olympic Games in London this year will mark the 40th anniversary of the attack.

**Boxer Ben Jeby was world middleweight champion in 1933, beating Frankie Battaglia.**

Canada's Petra Burka won the World Figure Skating Championship in 1965. A year earlier, she took the bronze medal at the 1964 Winter Olympic Games. Burka also won bronze at the 1964 and 1966 World Championships.

The Netherlands-born figure skater, who emigrated to Canada in 1951, was the first woman to land a triple salchow in competition, achieving the feat en route to winning the 1965 Canadian Figure Skating Championship. She also won the 1964 and 1966 Canadian titles.

Petra was named Canada's Outstanding Athlete of the Year in 1964, and twice,



1964 and 1965, was Canada's Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year. Petra is the daughter of 2010 Hall Of Fame figure skating honoree Ellen Burka

In 2004, Sada Jacobson was ranked No 1 in women's World Sabre rankings, the only American to ever reach the top position. At the age of 17, she won a team gold medal at the 2000 World Championships, and a second team gold in 2005.

At the 2004 and 2006 World Championships, Sada earned a pair of team silver medals, as well as an Individual bronze in 2006. At the Olympic Games Sada captured an individual silver and team bronze in 2008, and an individual bronze in 2004. The Yale University undergraduate was NCAA collegiate sabre champion in 2001 and 2002, and US women's sabre champion in 2004 and 2006. She was US Fencer of the Year in 2003.

New York-born Ben Jeby was world middleweight champion in 1933. He won his title on January 13 1933 in a 12-round TKO over Frankie Battaglia. Following several successful title defences, Jeby lost the championship to Lou Brouillard on August 9 1933.

Jeby had his first pro fight in 1927 at the age of 17, and didn't get a crack at the title until five-and-a half-years later, when reigning world champion Marcel Thil vacated his middleweight crown. Jeby fought 73 pro fights, winning 54 (22 by KO), drew 4, lost 14 (12 by KO) with one no-contest.

Austrian Erwin Kohn won the 1936 World Doubles Table Tennis Championship (with Richard Bergman), and his Austrian team won the Swathling Cup, the men's team World Table Tennis Championship.

In 1932 and 1935, Kohn took bronze in Men's World Singles. In 1933 (with Paul Flussmann) and 1934 (with Miroslav Hamr), he earned bronze medals in men's World Doubles. In 1929, at the age of 17, and again in 1934, Kohn's Austrian team were silver medallists at the World Championships and bronze finishers in 1932, 1933 and 1935.

Kohn was Austria's national table tennis champion by the age of 16, and European champion at 17.

In 1938, at the outset of the Second World War, Kohn escaped to England and then emigrated to Argentina where he dominated table tennis between 1940 and



Above: Munich massacre survivor Shaul Ladany at the Game of their Lives: Achievements in Spirit and Sport exhibition held in Israel earlier this year.

Left: Fencer Sada Jacobson in action at the last Olympics.

1952.

Basketball player Louis Bender, Columbia University All-America 1930 and 1932, and All Ivy League 1930, 1931 and 1932, was the Ivy League's top scorer in 1930 and 1931, and one of, if not the most, celebrated major college stars of his era. He led his Columbia Lions to League championships in 1930 and 1931.

Bender played professionally from

1934 to 1941 - with the Boston Celtics (1934-35), Union City Reds (1936-37), Boston Trojans (1938-40) and New York Whirlwinds (1941).

Also honoured are New York Times sportswriter Murray Chass and Bill Davidson, majority owner of the National Basketball League's Detroit Pistons from the summer of 1974 until his passing in March 2009,

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