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Goldblatt and Jaar show brilliant work. (page 10)

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Mashabane: Recalling South Africa's ambassador to Israel 'a consideration'

MOIRA SCHNEIDER CAPE TOWN

Recalling the South African ambassador to Israel because of

the Gaza conflict, was "a consideration", Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane (pictured) said at a media briefing at Parliament. She was replying to a question put to her.

She maintained that "Israel's continued

illegal occupation of Palestinian land, especially the continuing blockade of Gaza", lay at the heart of the conflict. She condemned "the disproportionate use of force by the Israeli government".

The aggression and extrajudicial elimination of people "we don't like" in other people's territories was in violation of international law and those who engaged in such activities needed to be called to account by international bodies like the Security Council, she said, referring to the killing of the head of Hamas's military wing in the Gaza Strip, Ahmed Jabri, last week by an Israeli missile.

"We are continuing to engage

and put pressure, largely on the Israeli side, but also to appeal to the Hamas to scale down whatever... because we think they are not necessarily helpful," she said.

She said the government's focus should be on working together with the people of Palestine and Israel to resolve the crisis. "We are meeting with the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (Wednesday) to continue raising our concerns - we are

raising them with both friends of Israel and talking to our friends on the Palestinian side, for a cessation of hostilities," she said.

Replying to a questioner who asked if the government would be recalling its ambassador, she said this was "a consideration we'll take at the appropriate time".

Earlier the Minister read out a prepared statement in which she said that the SA government was "gravely concerned at the escalating conflict between Israel and Gaza. We strongly condemn the disproportionate use of force by the Israeli government, which has resulted in a significant number of deaths and injuries on

both sides, particularly among Palestinian civilians, including children." She called on Israel to cease its airstrikes and shelling into Gaza, while the Palestinian militants there should "immediately suspend the firing of rockets into Israeli territory".

She labelled Israel's decision to call up 75 000 military reservists "an ominous development",

saying it seemed that a large-scale ground assault by the Jewish state into Gaza was being "seriously contemplated".

"The South African government appeals to the government of Israel to refrain from such a fatal step," she said, stating that "Israel's continued illegal occupation of Palestinian land, especially the continuing blockade of Gaza", lay at the heart of the conflict.

"The SA government further calls on the international community to put pressure on both Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza to halt this escalation of violence," she concluded, expressing the wish that the parties would achieve peaceful co-existence through negotiations rather than "continuous conflict."



The Iron Dome defence system fires to intercept incoming missiles from Gaza in the port town of Ashdod, on Thursday, November 15. With hundreds of rockets raining down from Gaza, this missile defence system has saved an untold number of lives. According to the figures from the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), since Operation Pillar of Defence began on November 14, the Iron Dome system has intercepted some 300 rockets - a handful also headed for Tel Aviv - with an 85-per cent plus interception success rate. (JNS)

Jewish solidarity for Israel-Gaza conflict; prayers held

"...even when we as the Jewish people have been forced to take up instruments of war in order to defend ourselves, we do so with a sense of innate morality."

SAKS: This war not against Ishmael, but against Amalek

This is what modern-day Jew hatred has mutated into... falsely accusing Jews of precisely the things their enemies are guilty of while portraying the latter as being innocent victims.

Nzimande on Jews, Afrikaners: SAJBD wants clarity

Minister Blade Nzimande said whites in SA "respected only Jewish and Afrikaner cultures" while disrespecting cultural sensitivities of the black population, and has caused ripples.

Israelis share their stories on Gaza rockets

Even during quiet times, the Israeli south gets hit by at least one to two rockets a week – usually more. Men, women and children have 15 seconds to get to a safe house before a rocket hits.

MILNER: Caring who wins, clouds one's judgement

Often caring who wins blinds one to the reality of what is happening in front of you. It is worth watching a match for a second time on TV, knowing the outcome.

2.4



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Shabbat Times

Nov 23 / 9 Kislev Nov 24 / 10 Kislev Parshat Vayetzei

18:15	19:15	Johannesburg
18:15	20:14	Cape Town
18:15	19:13	Durban
18:20	19:30	Bloemfontein
18:05	19:46	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:34	East London

LINKSFIELD-SENDERWOOD **ERUV IS DOWN ON EASTERN**

The Linksfield-Senderwood eruv is down the eastern side towards Senderwood, according to the Union of Orthodox Synagogues' eruv team.

It advises that the Club Street entrance to the school/shul remains in the eruv, and everything to the east, towards Senderwood, is down.

This includes John Avenue, Senderwood.

This is the result of massive construction and the removal of fencing in the area, it says.

I am an African (shaliach of the Rebbe)

Last Sunday as the orchestra in the grand ballroom of the NYC Hilton struck up N'kosi Sikelel', I had to blink twice to make sure I was still standing in the middle of the Kinus HaShluchim - Chabad Leadership Forum. There we were: 70 South Africans in a sea of 4 000 black hats at the gala banquet, cheering to the music as Steven Solarsh introduced keynote speaker Rabbi Ari Shishler from Strathavon.

But am I an African?

On the one hand as a shaliach of the Rebbe with a Torah-inspired vision of perfecting our world through acts of goodness and kindness, we hope to achieve the coming of Moshiach and the return to our Holy Land - Eretz Yisrael.

On the other hand, SA gave me, my wife, my children, and the amazing opportunities that I have been

able to utilise and appreciate over the last eight years. It is here that I wake up every day and face life's challenges, whether it's paying the bills, raising well-balanced children, or inspiring a community.

It's almost like I have a double identity - and which one do I choose? Do I have to choose?

The first individual in a very similar dilemma carried both identities, and names, with pride.

He was originally known as Yaakov - Jacob - taken from the Hebrew word Ekev which means "heel", referring to the foot of his twin brother Esav, with which he had already struggled in the womb or their mother Rivka.

Yaakov's early life was one of struggling with life's challenges and growing through those experiences. As we read in this week's parsha,

the struggles of his life climaxed. After decades of Yaakov engaging with the warriors of man on earth, as he is about to come back home, he encounters a warrior of heaven, an angel of his brother Esav who by virtue of his celestial powers seeks to dominate him. But Yaakov is relentless in his struggle and prevails. This wrestling match with an angel proves to be the climax of his youthful experiences and the beginning of a new era, to the extent that he is now crowned a new name - Yisrael - for you have wrestled with an angel of G-d, and you have overcome.

But he still keeps his old name. Never forgetting the formative experiences in life's darkest times, Yaakov is still often referred to in the Torah by his original name because whether it's the struggles



PARSHAT VAYETZEI Rabbi Asher Deren, The Shul of Blouberg – West Coast

of our Yaakov experiences, or the victories of our Yisrael moments, both play an important role in who we are, and how we got there.

I am an African because I am a descendant of Yaakov - who engaged with life, struggled with it, and didn't choose to ignore society, modernity, and even materialism.

But I am a shaliach of the Rebbe because I'm a descendant of Yisrael, inspired to live in Africa and bring the words of Hashem's Torah, and spirit of His mitzvoth, to illuminate everyday African life experiences.

Just like you.

Gaza conflict: Israel's morality and restraint commendable

DIANE WOLFSON

The Pretoria Jewish community came out in force, joined by many members of various Christian organisations on Tuesday evening, to pray for the peace and safety of Israel and her citizens.

The prayer meeting was arranged under the auspices of the Pretoria Council of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and the Israel United Appeal.

Welcoming the packed hall at Jaffa, Pretoria's home for the aged, Lawrence Nowosenetz, chairman of the Board of Deputies Pretoria, thanked everyone for publicly and proudly expressing solidarity and support for Israel.

He quoted UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon who earlier in the day had commended Israel on its restraint and condemned the actions

Nowosenetz spoke about the smuggling of arms into Gaza via its neighbours - and yet no-one accused Hamas of war crimes against Israel and the lack of human rights activists on the streets of the world in protest. But unlike before, the West, particularly the US and UK had openly supported Israel's right to defend itself.

Israel's ambassador to South Africa, Dov Segev-Steinberg, reiterated that Israel did not want war and had never wanted war. He stressed,



Elayne Ossip; Hilary Jocum; Ambassador Dov Segev-Steinberg; Rabbi Gidon Fox; Harold Jacobs; and Advocate Lawrence Nowosenetz.

however, that if force was necessary, it had to be applied with overriding morality.

He spoke of the lies and distortion accepted by governments, the UN and the media without question and that Israel had displayed unprecedented patience in the face of the most severe provocation.

Harold Jacobs, vice chairman of the SAZF, said that inasmuch as Israel was always unjustly condemned by the UN as an occupier of Arab land, this had no basis in fact or law. "No country in the world has undergone so much in its short existence to defend itself."

While the SA government condemned Israel for its "disproportionate force", Syria went by without any condemnation of the bloodshed. Jacobs pointed out. He said Israel's record on human rights compared favourably to that of any other country.

Having returned one day earlier from Israel, Elayne Ossip, chairman of WIZO Aviv in Pretoria, spoke of her experiences visiting the various WIZO projects, as well as experiencing first hand, the sirens and rocket attacks on Tel Aviv.

Rabbi Gidon Fox of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation, gave an overview of Israel's 65-year history as a

"The 2 000 year dream of our return to our land was realised and replaced by a new dream, one of peace and prosperity, duty and development and using our gross national income not for missiles, but for medicine, not for sirens, but for school not for warplanes, but for water and not for Jews alone, but for all citizens of the State of Israel."

However, these dreams had remained just that: illusive dreams.

SA community shows its solidarity with Israel in prayer



Johannesburg Jewry en masse at Yeshiva Shul this week.

SHIRA DRUION

Tuesday evening saw the Yeshiva college campus in Johannesburg hosting hundreds of community members who arrived in droves to show their solidarity with Israel in light of the Gaza conflict.

The evening was one of unity, prayer and shared words of hope about the present situation in Israel. The prayer meeting was organised by The Office of the Chief Rabbi, the Beth Din, the South African Rabbinical Association and The South African Zionist Federa-

"Tonight, we are standing shoulder to shoulder with brave soldiers to whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude," said Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, who welcomed the large gathering which included Deputy Ambassador of Israel, Yaakov Finkelstein.

the Jewish people's pristine value possible for every life taken."

for life and for morality, for even when we as the Jewish people have been forced to take up instruments of war in order to defend ourselves, we do so with a sense of innate morality that stems from a deep value for human life, a character trait that is unique to our nation and to her army."

"These events occur far too often", said Avrom Krengel, chairman of the Zionist Federation. "No matter how overtly tyrannical, unjust or iniquitous the situation is, Israel is condemned for her 'disproportionate' defence, despite the fact that the world remains silent to treacherous war crimes like that of (Syria's) Bashar Assad who has the blood of 40 000 innocent civilians on his

"No longer will our perpetrators be allowed to commit these heinous crimes: we will ensure "This evening is a testimony to that they pay the highest price

jewish report

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A la Orwell, some sociologists are more equal than others...

DAVID SAKS

A heated correspondence has ensued between the SAJBD and the SA Sociology Association (SASA) over the treatment of an Israeli academic at its last annual conference, held on University of Cape Town campus on July 3.

Professor Jeffrey Kantor, a visiting Israeli professor of sociology, was scheduled to deliver a paper on the 2011 Social Protest Movement in Israel. On his arrival, however, he was confronted without prior warning by Prof Peter Alexander, head of the sociology department at the University of Johannesburg, and told that before he delivered his paper, he was expected to say something distancing himself from Israel's

treatment of the Palestinians.

Kantor declined to comply with the demand, and an angry altercation, in which members of the audience got involved, then ensued.

As a "compromise", it was decided that the other speakers on the panel would give their papers at another venue while those in the audience wishing to listen to Kantor could remain. The remaining panellists, along with the entire audience, thereupon walked out, leaving Kantor to deliver his paper to an empty room.

On being made aware of the incident, the SAJBD wrote to SASA deploring what it called the "demeaning, underhanded and frankly bullying treatment" of someone solely on the basis of his being an Israeli national.

It described what Kantor had been subjected to as being "reminiscent of the worst kind of Macarthyism... a form of intellectual totalitarianism whereby individuals are browbeaten into acquiescing in a particular ideological stance regardless of what their personal beliefs might be".

The SAJBD further contended that Kantor's treatment constituted a clear infringement of SASA's own stated mission to uphold freedom from all forms of discrimination, including that based on nationality.

The singling out of Kantor would also seem to be in violation of the code of ethics of the International Sociological Association, to which SASA belongs.

This asserts: "As scientists, so-

ciologists are expected to co-operate locally and trans-nationally on the basis of scientific correctness alone, without discrimination on the basis of scientifically irrelevant factors such as age, sex, sexual preference, ethnicity, language, religion or political affiliation."

In its response, SASA declined to distance itself from Alexander's actions and instead proffered the defence that those who walked out on Kantor were simply exercising their right to freedom of expression.

On receiving a follow-up letter from the Board rejecting this premise, it responded that the matter had been so escalated as to necessitate its being deferred to the next SASA AGM, to be held in Pretoria in June 2013.

World News in Brief

US POSITIONS SHIPS FOR 'REMOTE' POSSIBILITY OF EVACUATION

WASHINGTON - The United States positioned three warships in the eastern Mediterranean, reportedly to evacuate Americans in the "remote" possibility that the Israel-Gaza conflict requires it.

CNN reported on Monday that the 2 500 Marines on board the USS Iwo Jima, the USS New York and the USS Gunston Hall, had been scheduled to return to Norfolk, Virginia for Thanksgiving, but are now on standby near Israel.

The online report quoted two officials as saying that such a contingency was still seen as "extremely remote".

The officials said the ships would not be used in combat.

Israel launched air strikes on Gaza on November 14 after an intensification of rocket fire from the strip.

It has since called up reserves and is considering a ground offensive pending the outcome of truce talks in Cairo. (JTA)

Blade Nzimande on Jews, Afrikaners: SAJBD wants clarity on his comments



DAVID SAKS

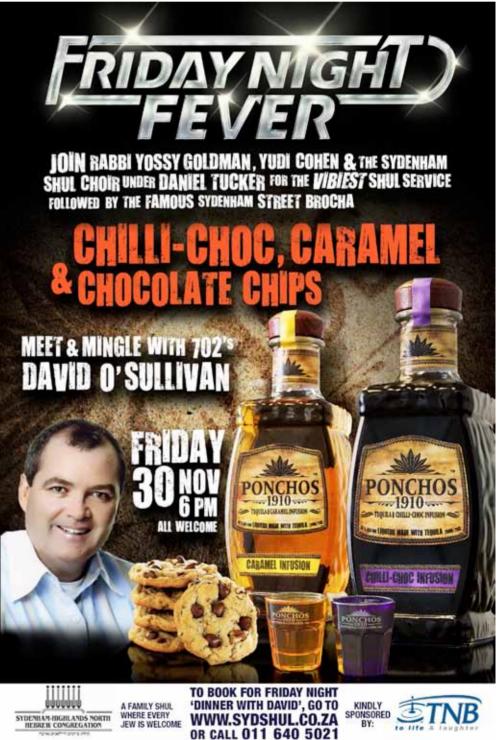
A reported comment by Minister for Higher Education and Training Blade Nzimande (pictured) that whites in South Africa "respected only Jewish and Afrikaner cultures" while disrespecting the cultural sensitivities of the black population, has caused ripples in the Jewish community.

The remark was made in the context of Nzimande calling for a law preventing people from insulting a sitting president in light of how white South Africans had shown so little respect for blacks culture.

According to a report in The Star of November 15, Nzimande's actual words were, "It's like we don't have a culture. I'm Jewish you know, I'm Afrikaans, but if you're black African, you are not supposed to have a culture, and that's a problem. In fact, the danger of this thing, with the path it is pointing to, we can undo the 1994 deal very easily and undermine the social cohesion" [sic].

Several community members have interpreted this as an accusation that Jews and Afrikaners are especially guilty of denigrating black culture and thereby "undermining social cohesion". However, others feel that Nzimande's actual words merely cited the Jewish and Afrikaner communities by way of examples of white ethnic groups with a specific cultural identity.

The SAJBD has written to Nzimande requesting a meeting to discuss and clarify his comments.



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Existence of State of Israel is what is at stake

The South African Zionist Federation and the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, have pledged their full support to Israel's actions in Gaza, blaming the action on "ruthless fanatics".

In a media statement it said: Yet again, Israel is being forced to go to war against those seeking its destruction. Following countless acts of criminal provocation by Hamas and other extremist groups, including hundreds of lethal missiles fired at its cities, Israel is now carrying out defensive

operations against those responsible.

This is not a war the Israeli people wanted, and we do not believe that the majority of the people of Gaza wanted it either. Rather, it has been instigated by ruthless fanatics driven by an obsessive desire to oppose the very existence of the State of Israel, regardless of how many innocent people on either side will suffer.

So long as such extremism is allowed to flourish, the peace that the great majority of

both Israelis and Palestinians yearn for, can never be achieved.

We can but hope that the stranglehold exercised by militant extremists over the Gaza population will soon be broken and that a leadership committed to achieving peaceful co-existence with Israel, will come to the fore.

The thoughts and sympathies of the South African Jewish community are with the Israeli people, and indeed with all innocent people affected during this trying time.

We pray that calm will soon be restored with as few lives lost as possible, and those responsible for provoking this tragic confrontation will realise the futility of such actions.

Signed:
Mary Kluk
Chairman: SAJBD
Avrom Krengel
Chairman: SAZF

War may be necessary - as a last resort - says Segev-Steinberg

VICTOR GORDON

Dov Segev-Steinberg, Israel's ambassador to South Africa, has emphasised that Israel does not want war. It has never ever wanted war and war would never be its first option in finding a solution to any problem. Yet war is necessary when responsible nations seek to safeguard their inherent morality and integrity.

In a message delivered at solidarity gatherings in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town, the ambassador pointed out that in 2005, in a gesture of unprecedented goodwill, Israel handed over the region of Gaza, removing all her troops and every Israeli civilian.

Within days of her departure, rockets were directed towards towns in southern Israel, establishing a practice that has never ceased. With the election of Hamas a short while later, the scene was set for a future of unexpected conflict, finally resulting in Israel reacting in 2008 - '09.

The universal condemnation that followed, displayed cynicism and indifference in the face of truth and reason, underlining a lack of appreciation of the dangers she faced.

In the future Israel would be

expected to defend herself under the harsh glare of international scrutiny.

The country had thus displayed extreme patience in the face of the most severe provocation. Under an unending barrage of rockets, resulting in death, destruction, 1,5 million Israeli citizens spent a major portion of their lives in underground shelters with devastating effect.

The resulting action by the government and IDF should therefore come as little surprise.

The ambassador raised the question of what Israel's relations would be with her neighbours following the so-called "Arab Spring".

Of paramount importance was the position adopted by Egypt under Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood. While there were signs that the radical Brotherhood appeared to understand that its role in the region needed to be a responsible one, there were also signs that the new-found Arab "freedom" would create its own pressures on the Muslim Brotherhood to keep matters under control.

Throughout all the provocation Israel had endured, she had continued to meet humanitarian obligations under extreme circumstances. On November 18 alone, the IDF opened the Kerem Shalom crossing for the movement of food, medicine, medical supplies and other goods into Gaza. Twenty Gazans also entered Israel for medical treatment.

Between January and October this year, approximately 14 500 patients from Gaza entered Israel for medical treatment; 99 per cent of the medical requests from Gaza were approved by Israel.

Israel continued to supply five million cubic metres of water to Gaza per annum and, amazingly, continued to supply 125 megawatts of electricity to the Gaza Strip from the power station in Ashkelon despite the rocket attacks on Ashkelon itself.

Israel would not turn its back on humanitarian behaviour, even towards its enemies.

The ambassador concluded by saying that he knew he spoke for all Israelis in expressing their combined appreciation of this wonderful South African community who cared so passionately "for our shared homeland. Your love and concern are of immeasurable importance in keeping up our spirits and enabling us to face these challenges with fortitude and strength."

SAUPJ supports Israel

The Psalmist said: "Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it" (34:14).

The World Union for Progressive Judaism sends its message of hope and support for a swift cessation of the current conflict, which jeopardises the lives of Israelis and those in Gaza as well.

Having suffered over 400 rocket attacks from Gaza in the past few days alone, Israel had little choice but to react in self-defence and initiated Operation Pillar of Defence, and we unequivocally support Israel's action at this time.

We hope for a swift cessation of armed conflict and we pray that Israel will soon be able to wage peace, to turn from destruction that comes from weapons of war, and fight the difficult battle of negotiating for peace.

For now, our abiding concern remains with Israel and her citizens - prayers from around the world focus on the protection of our sisters and brothers in the land of our history and heritage and the promise of our future.

Signed:
Steve Lurie
SAUPJ Chairman
Mike Grabiner
WUPJ Chairman
Dr. Philip Bliss
WUPJ Chairman, Advocacy
Committee

Rockets from Gaza



An Israeli woman stands outside a damaged house hit by a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip near the Israel-Gaza border, Friday, November 16, 2012.

The day Tel Aviv came under rocket attack

South African journalist LIONEL SLIER, was in Tel Aviv, visiting his award-winning journalist daughter, Paula, when the city came under Hamas rocket attack. This is his first-hand account.

All we heard about for the last few days was that people living in the south of Israel - Sderot, Ashdod and environs - had had enough. The government in Jerusalem was unconcerned about their fate, they said; they had become the orphan children of Israel.

They had 15 seconds to reach shelter after hearing the siren warning of incoming rockets. Life was becoming intolerable.

Now on this, the third day of the non-declared war by Hamas, Israelis were shaken when they learnt that Hamas had rockets that could reach the major population centres around Tel Aviv and also Jerusalem.

Last Saturday afternoon the offices of Newshound Media (Paula's TV studio) were thrown into disarray when a siren went off warning of an approaching rocket. I know what the time was, because I and some South Africans in the office were just settling down to watch the rugby match between Scotland and South Africa which was starting.

Surprisingly there was complete calm in the office. Some people went to the windows to see what it was they could see. The rugby followers did not allow a disruption of their viewing.

Outside people seemed oblivious of the danger; life was carrying on as it would on any Sabbath afternoon - the streets not too busy, but there was some traffic and people standing around and talking and in a nearby restaurant, afternoon tea did not seem to be interrupted.

We later heard that Israel's "Iron Dome" anti-rocket defence had intercepted a Fajr rocket

which was a new type to us all. Apparently it is from Iran and a rocket that can fall on Tel Aviv and environs, crosses a red line and will cause a stronger response from the Israel Defence Forces.

Then today I heard another siren sounded in Tel Aviv and again it was destroyed by the "Iron Dome". But how long will luck be on the side of the Tel Avivians, people ask?

Yet, there is a sense of relief down in southern Israel that at last something is being done and people in government are alleviating the unbearable existence that they have been subjected to for the last eight years.

Today there are rumours that an armistice could be in the air, but Israel will not settle for an uncompleted campaign as was done in operation "Cast Lead".

Israel just cannot, will not, allow an unresolved threat over her citizens to remain unresolved. This campaign called "Pillar of Defence", must not be waged in vain say the Israelis.

Obviously most TV stations have led with the conflict and invariably with the number of casualties, emphasising the civilian deaths, and more especially those of the children. It is almost as if the Israeli air force is purposely targeting civilians.

Here is a strange anomaly: Today more than 130 trucks entered Gaza from Israel, bringing food, medical supplies and fuel to the boycotted territory.

What was the possibility of Britain or America doing this to Germany during the Second World War, especially after the D-Day invasion? About nil, I would guess. The eminent British soldier who fought in Afghanistan, Colonel Richard Kemp, is on record as saying that Israel's is the most humane army in history.

On Sunday evening at about 19:30, the sirens went off again in Tel Aviv and I was again in Paula's studio. People there insisted that we all go into a shelter which was in the stairwell and basement of the building.

There were quite a few people there as Sunday is a normal working day. Yet at this hour there were still quite a few offices busy. We learnt almost immediately from the local TV stations that two rockets had been intercepted; visuals of the rockets being blown up in mid-air were screened.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

TEL AVIV - An explosion hit a bus in central Tel Aviv on Wednesday, injuring at least 21 people, one in a serious condition, one with light-to-moderate injuries, and the rest only slightly injured.

Police immediately started a manhunt for two suspected terrorists. A suspect was arrested about half an hour after the explosion, but was quickly released from custody.

The explosion occurred at the corner of Shaul Hamelech and Henrietta Szold Streets just after noon.

Police temporarily closed off the Azrieli Centre nearby, but ruled out suspicion of an additional terror plot in the area.

The Shin Bet security service earlier this week received intelligence information regarding dozens of "terror plots" currently being planned. The central suspicion was that terrorists were going to try to assassinate a senior member of the government or military echelon, using either explosives or a high-trajectory weapon.

The security establishment estimates that whoever orchestrated the attack was not a member of a known terror organisation. Police Commissioner Yohanan Danino said: "As far as we are concerned, this is a terror attack. All of the signs point to this being a terrorist bombing. One of the things we've been preparing for since the beginning of the recent events is that we must be ready for more



Israeli police and rescue personnel at the scene of a bombing on a Tel Aviv passenger bus on Wednesday, Nov. 21, that left at least 20 people wounded.

than rockets on the south, for the possibility of [terror]

"Talk of a ceasefire [with Hamas] just caused further [terror] attempts," added Danino.

A Palestinian source in the West Bank told Haaretz that the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade claimed responsibility for the attack, but it had been carried out by a delegation from the Gaza Strip. Celebratory gunfire rang out in Gaza

City when local radio stations reported the news. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri praised the bombing, but came short of accepting responsibility for it.

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The Jewish World

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The London Jewish Chronicle, London, UK: www.thejc.com

"Israel and Gaza ceasefire efforts backed by Cameron and Miliband"

PM David Cameron and opposition leader Ed Miliband have repeated calls for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Speaking during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons, Cameron said more pressure should be put on US Pres Barack Obama to pursue peace talks.

The Canadian Jewish News, Toronto, Canada: www.cjnews.com

"Kashrut agency denies coercion in labour case'

The Kashrut Council of Canada is defending itself against allegations that it's pressuring a group of mashgichim (kosher supervisors) to give back money to the tune of \$10 000 it was ordered to pay them by the Ontario Ministry of Labour.

Arutz Sheva, West Bank, Israel:

www.israelnationalnews.com

"Terror attack on bus in Tel Aviv; Hamas celebrates"

A bomb exploded in a bus central Tel Aviv, on Wednesday. Three people were seriously injured. No one was killed. Eyewitnesses said a man boarded the bus, placed a package there and fled. No terrorist group has taken responsibility; Islamic Jihad and Hamas have threatened to strike anywhere in Israel.

Baltimore Jewish Times, Maryland, US: www.jewishtimes.com

"Anti-Semitic, anti-Israel flyers distributed in Pikesville neighbourhood"

A series of hate mail fliers, consisting of jumbled statements and assertions urging the US to "declare war on Israel" and accusing Zionist Jews of plotting the death of non-Jews in the community, circulated last week in Pikesville's Ralston community, Baltimore County.

The Jewish Telegraph, UK:

www.jewishtelegraph.com

"Israelis told to hide their identities"

Israeli teenagers in Poland claimed to be from Greece when they met a delegation from Leeds on a three-day educational trip. They advised Jewish teenagers from Leeds that they had been told not to say they were from Israel. "We seem to have gone backwards when you now can't openly admit who you are."

Alliance: le Premier Magazine Juif sur le net,

www1_alliancefr.com

"Anonymous has failed! Israeli websites are under threat from hackers"

Hackers have made inroads in attempting to destroy key Jewish and Israeli websites in France. Nineteen hours after these cuts, some websites are back online; others are no longer available. These websites include juif.org, tsahal.fr and others.

Haaretz newspaper, Tel Aviv, Israel:

"Israel braced for Iranian efforts to arm Gaza"

There is concern in Israel that Iran will try to re-arm terrorist groups in Gaza - particularly with mediumrange rockets - once the current hostilities end. The Israeli intelligence community, with the assistance of Western intelligence agencies, has been investing great effort in keeping tabs on Iran's smuggling network in order to thwart it.





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jewish report

Gaza and SA: the script is not fixed

"Oh no! Not again!"

One reaction to the Gaza flare-up is that we've seen it before and the script is predictable, like Operation Cast Lead in 2008: Hamas fires rockets into Israeli towns; Israel reacts and bombs Gaza; Israel is denounced as barbaric; the United States and EU support Israel's "right to self-defence"; world leaders facilitate a ceasefire through Egypt; calm is restored until the "next time"; underlying issues and Arab/Muslim hatred of Israel remain unresolved.

The local script in South Africa is familiar too: denunciations of Israeli "barbarity" from Cosatu, the SA Communist Party and the Palestine Solidarity Committee; calls to expel Israel's ambassador; BDS sends mass e-mails promoting countrywide protests against the heartless "Israeli regime"; the South African government remains predictably silent or issues a terse statement demanding Israel cease attacking Gaza with our otherwise mum minister of international relations calling the recalling of our ambassador to Israel "a consideration"; Israel is accused of "disproportionate force", as proven by more Palestinians being killed than Israelis.

Israel has slammed the UN Human Rights Council head - South African Navi Pillay - over her lack of condemnation of the 800 missiles fired into Israel this year. An Israeli foreign ministry media statement said: "Not a word of sympathy, not a word of concern for the violation of the human rights of Israeli citizens. Just a ringing silence."

The script may look the same, but it isn't. The old maxim about generals losing a war because in their minds they were still fighting the last one, is apt. In our digital age, social media and cyber-warfare have become forms of combat. False information goes viral at a mouse-click, instantly reaching thousands or millions, most of whom know little about the conflict and cannot distinguish fact from fiction.

This time around, Israel has learnt from past media debacles and is flooding the social media with pro-Israel messages. But that, too, quickly loses its effectiveness. People begin to question it when a flood of "ready-to-share" images seem to trivialise the war's horrors by turning them into a digital game.

The Arab world is different too, after the Arab Spring. Old-style dictators like Hosni Mubarak, who kept the lid on the Arab street, are gone. Populists and Islamists rule, with whom making a deal is a different challenge.

Hamas, technically still called a "terrorist" organisation by the US and EU, has become a legitimate player in the negotiations.

Where is South African Jewry in all this? In our localised context, one might say: "Don't bother us now, we've got Mangaung to worry about!" There's some truth there: aside from a small, vocal minority, most South Africans have no views at all about Israel - they couldn't find it on a map - and are concerned with service delivery, finding jobs, education and the economy. BDS may be loud, but it is not all-pervasive.

Even so, with increasing public denunciations of Israel and government negativity towards it, South African Jewry is feeling embattled. Recent examples give a taste of what's to come: Pretoria Jews now drive day after day past anti-Israel billboards displayed in the city, which have become part of the landscape, something unthinkable a few years ago; the BDS campaign is attempting to mount those billboards in Johannesburg too; an Israeli sociology professor giving a paper at a Cape Town conference who refused a demand to denounce Israel's treatment of Palestinians, was left alone in the room when the other panelists walked out.

What should Jewish leadership do? The Jewish mainstream is pretty unified in their support for Israel in situations like this. It is essential that our small Jewish community of some 70 000 retains dignity and perspective and does not stoop to hysteria.

For all the ME troubles and our local ones, SA Muslims and Jews generally have had, and continue to have an amicable, even warm relationship. We must not let this be sullied.

We must also denounce the ugly phenomenon of hatefilled Jews who establish Facebook pages - such as Die Jode van Suid-Afrika - spewing venom against Muslims, left-wing Jews, and others they don't like.

To counter the hatred against Israel by becoming equally hateful, is just plain stupid. We look to our leaders for guidance. It is tough to be a Jewish leader in these times.

Israelis share their stories on Gaza rocket attacks

ALINA DAIN SHARON

The day that longtime Sderot resident Adi Kaslasy, 25, was driving home in her car as rockets started falling around her, a ceasefire was supposed to be in effect. It was one of those frequent ceasefires between the Israeli government and Hamas-ruled Gaza that never truly made the rockets stop coming.

Driving through huge balls of fire hitting the road less than two metres away from her on her left and on her right, it was like she was engaging in an action-movie stunt. But this was reality. Kaslasy lay down on the ground and covered her face, stopped at street shelters (miguniyot) on the way when she could, then drove on every time there was a break in the fire. It took her an hour to get to her house about two kilometres away.

According to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the current conflict between Israel and Gaza began back on Saturday, November 10, when an anti-tank missile fired from Gaza struck an Israel Defence Forces (IDF) jeep and wounded four Israeli soldiers.

Hamas followed that attack by firing 120 rockets at Israel from November 10 - 14, prompting the IDF to kill Ahmed Jabari, head of Hamas's military wing. This marked the start of the IDF's "Pillar of Defence" air offensive.

Since then about 700 rockets were fired from Gaza at Israel, and three

Israelis were killed despite the deployment of the Iron Dome missile defence system to intercept the rockets. According to Reuters, at least 16 Palestinian civilians were killed by Israel's airstrikes on Gaza.

Gaza rockets killed a total of 23 Israelis between January 2004 and November 2012, according to the ministry of foreign affairs. This year, March, June and October saw a major upsurge in rockets from Gaza, with more than 100 launches in each of those months, according to data from the Jewish Virtual Library.

Even during relatively quiet times, the Israeli south gets hit by at least one to two rockets a week - usually many more. Men, women and children have 15 seconds to get to a safe house before the next rocket hits. Often that is not long enough.

Once as a teenager, Kaslasy was travelling to Dimona in the Negev when she met a good friend on the way. A rocket killed the friend two hours after this meeting. "In Sderot you never know which day will really be your last... It's like Russian roulette," she told JNS.org.

The Eshkol Regional Council - a collection of 32 villages, kibbutzim and small communities that runs along 40 kilometres, or nearly two-thirds, of the Israel-Gaza border - saw 40 - 60 per cent of the rockets that fell inside Israeli territory, said Ronit Minaker, the council's official speaker. There is also the danger of sniper shootings and terrorist infiltration attempts, which shut the villages down when they occur - residents get a notice not to leave their homes.

The Israeli government paid for the construction of safe rooms inside most homes in the Eshkol region, but "some villages don't have shelters, so (people) have to run to hallways or some windowless space," JNS.org was told.

"If they're outside, they have to lie flat on the ground or go into a nearby building, though sometimes there isn't one," she said. About 40 per cent of the Eshkol population has left the area during the most recent rocket attacks. Of those that remain, many experience posttraumatic stress symptoms, not only adults but also children.

Adele Raemer is a Kibbutz Nirim resident who founded a Facebook group, Life on the Border with Gaza, which has more than 1 300 members and publicises what residents are experiencing in Israel's south. Kibbutz Nirim, about two kilometres from the Gaza border, gets hit by the short-range mortars, which are much deadlier than the Qassam rockets.

They don't have an early warning system for these, so the mortars "just land and the only way you know about them is when you hear the explosion," Raemer told JNS. org.

During this latest escalation, she has been sleeping in a safe room. On Saturday she sought shelter about 10 times during the day.

The 2005 Israeli disengagement from Gaza made the situation for southern Israelis much worse. "The feeling is that instead of building a life in Gaza, they made the area into a place for shooting rockets," Minaker said.

In recent years there were several escalations that led to a barrage of rockets. Many residents are angry that Israel is willing to accept massive fire daily, sometimes dozens of rockets a day, on its citizens. Many of those residents welcome Operation Pillar of Defence.

But even if the current operation winds down and the launching of the rockets subsides for a few months," in the end it will happen again", so the conflict has to be ended through a political agreement, Minaker said.

"We as citizens know that citizens on both sides ultimately just want to live a normal life, take their children to kindergarten, go to work and stroll freely through their gardens," she said.

In the latest barrages, several rockets also fell near the central cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The Israeli government is considering a ground offensive into Gaza, mobilising up to 75 000 reserve soldiers in preparation.

"Tel Aviv itself is very much a bubble. When rockets hit Sderot, it's very much a reaction like 'out of sight, out of mind'. Tel Aviv hasn't had [an air raid] siren in over 20 years, so it was very unexpected for us," 18-year-old Tel Aviv University student Ilana Sivachenk said. (JNS.org)

Tripartite Alliance demands recall of Israeli ambassador



OWN CORRESPONDENT

On Wednesday, the tripartite alliance, including members of the ANC began a 24-hour candlelit vigil outside the Ministry of International Relations in Pretoria, in protest against Israel's offensive in Gaza. The protesters from Cosatu and the SA Communist Party, are calling for the government to expel Israel's ambassador to South Africa and to recall Pretoria's envoy to Tel Aviv.

Photo: Ilan Ossendryver.

This war not against Ishmael, but against Amalek



BARBARIC YAWP David Saks

At the time of writing, the latest war in Gaza is winding down, without Israel having sent in its ground troops to finish the job. It should have been done, risky and unpleasant for all concerned as this would have been (including for Jews in the Diaspora).

Actually, it is looking increasingly like Israel will have to reoccupy the Strip, or at least substantial parts of it, for a sustained period to enable it to locate and destroy every missile stash and weapons factory it can find.

Merely giving the terrorist infrastructure another hammering from the air will bring only temporary relief; it will not be very long before the missiles return.

Probably because the anticipated ground war never happened, we are not seeing the degree of rage that Operation Cast Lead evoked in January 2009. Again, the casualty rate is, Baruch Hashem, dramatically lopsided, with some 130 Arab deaths as against five Israeli ones.

Reading through the countless diatribes against Israel last time round, one quickly sees how much of the fury was based on this unbalanced ratio; evidently, more Jews need to die if their acts of self-defence are not to be depicted as crimes against humanity.

Don't be fooled by the hand-wringing anguish of those now loudly deploring the deaths of Palestinian civilians. Had they really cared about them, they would have implored Hamas to cease their acts of murderous provocation that could only have one outcome.

They would further have slammed Hamas

for using civilians as human shields, secure in the knowledge that Israel would go to extraordinary lengths to avoid harming non-combatants and that when such harm inevitably ensued occasionally, it could then claim to be the victim of Zionist genocide.

Instead, they studiedly looked the other way when the rockets were falling, and only now, choose to express their moral outrage.

This is what modern-day Jew hatred has mutated into. Essentially, it is about falsely accusing Jews of precisely the things their enemies are guilty of, while portraying the latter as being innocent victims occasionally driven to desperate measures by the extent of their suffering.

I wish the Jew in the street would start to recognise and adapt to this, rather than becoming hysterical every time they see a swastika. The old right-wing, Nazi-type anti-Semitism has done its damage and is now largely a thing of the past. Today, it is all about demonising the Jewish State, and inevitably therefore its Jewish supporters, wherever they happen to be.

To taunt the Israelis and give a kind of twisted chizuk to their own beleaguered population, Hamas has been broadcasting a host of propaganda messages aimed as much at Israelis as Palestinians.

One is a variation on the chilling, "Jews love life, we love death" theme: "From the Al-Qassam Brigades to the Zionist soldiers: The Al-Qassam Brigades love death more than you love life".

Another video shows mourning Israelis and scenes of funerals, accompanied by such voiceovers as, "All of Palestine is ours... There is nothing here for you but death... Do not send your sons to fight; you will never see them again - they will return as body parts."

According to the International Red Cross, the ratio of civilians to military personnel

killed in the course of all wars fought over the past 60 years, is a staggering 10:1. During the last Gaza war, that ratio was less than one to one; this time round, the proportions have been similar.

Confronted by an enemy so hell-bent on wreaking death and mayhem among Israeli civilians as to turn their own young children into human bombs, Israel has again gone to extraordinary lengths to minimise civilian casualties, and been remarkably successful.

Israel has by no means always been the "Light unto the Nations" that a Jewish state should be, but in the way it has carried out its military operations it certainly has been. Jews everywhere can feel proud right now; gratitude to Hashem for shielding our people from the worst of what their would-be killers intended, should be uppermost.

In an interview with Al-Quds Radio, a Hamas spokesman was recorded urging Palestinian civilians to ignore IDF warnings that attacks were imminent. Unbelievably, while the world sheds crocodile tears and urges Israel to exercise more restraint, Gaza's demented Islamist leadership is trying to bring out more civilian deaths so that it can achieve what it has really been aiming for in starting this war: propaganda victories, an enhanced culture of victimhood and martyrdom, Israel's isolation in the international community.

This is not a war against Ishmael, but against Amalek, a nation characterised by a hatred of the Jewish people so intense that it overrides the most natural human desire of all - to remain alive.



World News in Brief

MURDOCH APOLOGISES FOR 'JEWISH-OWNED PRESS' TWEET

LONDON - Media mogul Rupert Murdoch has apologised for a tweet slamming the "Jewish owned press" for its "anti-Israel" coverage of the Gaza conflict. On Sunday, Murdoch tweeted: "'Jewish owned press' have been sternly criticised, suggesting link to Jewish reporters. Don't see this, but apologise unreservedly."

Murdoch followed up with a letter to the Anti-Defamation League, calling his tweet about the news media "awkward and inappropriate". He wrote: "I feel very strongly about the righteousness of Israel's cause, particularly when its citizens are under missile attack.

"So I do get very upset when I see coverage that I feel is unfair and biased towards Israel. But I should have stuck to the substance of the issue and not bring in irrelevant and incorrect ethnic matters."

He reportedly received angry responses to his tweet from Saturday that asked: "Why Is Jewish owned press so consistently anti-Israel in every crisis?" In a second tweet Murdoch, who has positioned himself as a supporter of Israel, added: "Middle East ready to boil over any day. Israel position precarious. Meanwhile watch CNN and AP bias to point of embarrassment."

Murdoch is the founder and chief executive of News Corp, which owns Fox News, The Wall Street Journal and many other media properties. (JTA)



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The Editor, PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034 email: sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

Disclaimer

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

ON MANY ISSUES EMOTION CAN OFTEN OVERRULE LOGIC

Last weekend I watched a David Frost interview with Archbishop-emeritus Desmond Tutu and former US President Jimmy Carter.

I arrived in SA in June 1946, having been in concentration camps from September 1942 until I was liberated by the end of the war. I was in this country during apartheid and so have a good basis for comparisons.

Apartheid brought back memories and horrified me. From April 1954 until the end of 1958 I lived in Israel and saw nothing there that remotely resembled apartheid. I did experience instances of Palestinian aggression, including a massacre of a busload of Israeli civilians not far from where I worked.

In last weekend's interview there was not a word that Tutu said on the subject of apartheid that I could disagree with. He was objective, to the point and factual. Yet when the interview switched to Israel, both Tutu and Carter agreed that the apartheid in Israel was worse than it had been in South Africa. That left me with a problem.

After leaving Israel I visited the country a few times, the last being some two years ago. What had happened in the interim that was obvious to Tutu and not to me?

I was made aware of the checkpoints, the security walls and the separate highways for Israeli and Palestinian traffic. I accepted the explanations that these measures saved civilian lives, albeit inconvenient for Palestinians.

To me lives saved are more important than temporary inconvenience. But why do supposedly intelligent men such as Tutu and Carter not see it this way?

Reverting to the war years provided an answer. In mid-1944 the Allies launched devastating air raids on Hamburg and for the first time Germany experienced the horror of a fire storm – 30 000 people died. A half-Jewish woman, a so-called Mischling, was deprived by the raid of her hiding place, picked up and brought to the Ravensbruck concentration camp. I was present when she related her ghastly experiences.

She told what she knew and then began to speculate on what kind of creatures the British and Americans were. How was it possible that human beings could inflict such

Guidelines for letters

Letters up to 400 words will get preference. Please provide your full first name and surname, place of residence, and a daytime contact telephone or cell number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.

suffering on civilians? Yes, this was uttered in a Nazi concentration camp where out of 134 000 women inmates between 50 000 and 90 000 died.

I was only 13, but had endured the Luft-waffe destruction of the mediaeval centre of Rotterdam, including our home and business. So I asked this well-spoken lady what her views were on the Nazi destruction of Warsaw, Rotterdam, Belgrade and the British cities. I did not know about Guernica yet.

She turned on me in anger:

"Can't you understand that we had to bomb those cities?" she cried. "Look what they have just done to Hamburg!"

Her use of the word "we" did not escape me, nor the lack of logic in her explanation. I am aware that there are both logic and emotion and that emotion can overrule logic.

I can see that a security wall that reduces the death toll caused by suicide bombers by 90 per cent is not a manifestation of apartheid. So, what is the emotion that is overruling his logic? Anti-Semitism?

Don Krausz Johannesburg

JIMMY CARTER IS A BETTER MIDEAST PEACE ENVOY CHOICE, THAN BILL CLINTON

I would like to comment on your editorial of November 16, titled "Icons and photoops",- suggesting that former President Bill Clinton "should be appointed as peace envoy to the Middle East".

My suggestion is that former President Jimmy Carter should be appointed for this position instead, as Carter is known for his peace efforts around the world, not as a war monger, something which can't be said about Clinton.

I know Carter is not regarded as pro-Israel, but he is definitely and rightly (at least to some extent) regarded as a peace maker.

Avner Eliyahu Romm Sea Point Cape Town

We did not suggest that former Pres Bill Clinton be appointed ME peace envoy; we quoted a New York Times poll. - Editor

Advertorial

ORT JET's mentors enjoy night of fun at the Barnyard



Yehuda Kay, CEO ORT SA; Jonny Newfield, marketing director, Sasfin; Paul Bacher, CEO ORT JET; and Darryl Weisz, chairman, ORT SA.

With over 350 active mentors who volunteer to the ORT JET division of ORT SA, there is no doubt that they have been the "key to success" of the programme over the past six years.

This year over 100 clients enrolled in order to gain access to the various services offered by ORT JET, including mentorship and training.

Each year the mentors are invited to an event sponsored by Sasfin Bank in celebration of their incredible generosity and hard work.

"Sasfin Bank believes in the work that ORT JET is doing. It is inspiring to see how the mentors give of their time so willingly and making a real impact on someone's life. We are proud to be associated with such a great initiative." said Jonny Newfield, Sasfin's marketing director when addressing more than 150 mentors who attended the event earlier this month.

The guests were treated to a supper followed by an evening of the entertainment and fun at the Barnyard Theatre in Rivonia.



"We consider our mentors the crown jewel of our organisation and hope that we can in some small way thank them for all they do," says Paul Bacher, CEO ORT JET.





Lee-Anne Coosner and Debbie Michels enjoying the evening.

A PERNICIOUS ACT OF SURRENDERING PRINCIPLE TO EXPEDIENCY

I write in response to Jules Hirshowitz's letter in last week's Jewish Report, stating that a European (Lithuanian) passport might one day be a lifesaver for a South African Jew. I think it would be an appalling state of affairs if offices were placed in Cape Town and Johannesburg in order for South African Jews of Lithuanian extraction to obtain a Lithuanian passport just in case they should need it.

Personally I need to ask why any South African Jew, whose parents or grandparents were probably refugees from Eastern Europe and would have suffered at the hands of the Lithuanians, would out of principle wish to acquire a Lithuanian passport as a passport of convenience? Is this not a pernicious act of surrendering principle to expediency?

Is it OK to seek a passport from Lithuania, which has never paid reparations for the Holocaust and the Jewish loss of life suffered in various pogroms over decades? Germany at least has paid reparations and continues to support Israel.

But has Lithuania ever honoured the Jews decimated in the Holocausts and before? And what became of the country without the Jews? Nothing but a second class Eastern European nothing nation.

Look at Poland as well. Who paid the Hapsburg emperors their

taxes? And what happened when the Jews left Eastern Europe as refugees to the New World - the collapse of economies with deficient structures was the pattern of Eastern Europe.

However, the argument that a European passport from Lithuania is better than no EU passport for SA Jews who could in the future be persecuted in the unlikely event of an ANC anti-Jewish campaign led by Muslim reactionaries, is a false and misleading argument.

Jews have a homeland and that this is Israel. Finish and klaar! Do you think the rest of Europe would want these Jews with their Lithuanian passports? Come on Jules, be a realist!

We do not need to belittle the history and graves - where there are graves - of our forefathers and desecrate their proud cultural and religious history by ignoring what would be G-d's will, which is to rejoin our historical homeland which is central to every prayer. Eretz Yisrael.

Sorry Jules, you may have an argument for the convenience of a EU passport, but it is not the only option. SA Jews should remember the Holocaust and not give in to the convenience of carrying a Lithuanian passport, when they murdered previous generations of Jews.

It is recorded that at the end of the Second World War, there were 3 000 Jews left in Lithuania. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were forced to emigrate or perished! Do you really want a Lithuanian passport?

Ben Sachs Victory Park, Johannesburg

CONFUSING ISRAELI ARABS WITH ARABS IN SO-CALLED PALESTINE

I refer to the op-ed piece in last week's Jewish Report by Rebecca Hodes, "Jewish dissent in SA's public sphere".

Unfortunately, Hodes confuses Israeli Arabs - citizens of Israel with equal rights - with Arabs in so-called Palestine, whose stated aim is the annihilation of Israel.

And of course her criticism of JDVSA members who state their opinions - free speech - is entirely unjustified, because she herself is a proponent of free speech (except if it disagrees with her agenda, it seems).

Jonathan Danilowitz Tel Aviv

The Editor, PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034 email: sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

ONLY WOEFULLY UNINFORMED WILL COMPARE WEST BANK OCCUPATION TO APARTHEID

Gideon Levy, senior journalist of Israel's leftist daily, Haaretz, writes: "Anyone who tries to draw a comparison between the occupation regime in the territories (West Bank) to the South African apartheid regime... is instantly labelled anti-Israel and anti-Semitic."

Levy is wrong: Anyone attempting to draw this wearisome comparison is either woefully uninformed or wilfully obtuse. With the abundant availability of sensible analysis, there is no excuse for this odious comparison other than to purposefully distort the issue and knowingly label Israel with another undeserved accusation.

Levy further confuses matters by writing: "Israel is not an apartheid state, but the occupation in the territories is apartheid... that isn't to say there are no differences between the two regimes (Israel and South Africa's apartheid regime)... the biggest difference... is that apartheid is gone while the occupation is only becoming further entrenched."

If this is the "biggest difference" Levy can offer, it shows scant understanding of the history and underlying premise of apartheid (South African-style) as opposed to so-called "occupation" of disputed territories that have provided every reason to believe that they present an ever present danger to both Israel's security and very existence.

Whereas the demise of apartheid rode on the wave of the mutual desire of the majority from every sector of South African society to put the past behind and work towards a mutually beneficial future, the Palestinians have displayed little enthusiasm to seek a similar accommodation.

Displaying a shocking ignorance of the historical facts, Levy states: "The Union of South Africa conquered its neighbour (Namibia, then South West Africa) and governed it under a League of Nations mandate (while) Israel conquered the Palestinian territories around 50 years after that - (in violation of international law)."

South Africa never "conquered" SWA but ruled under legal mandate after the First World War (following its conquest by South African forces acting at the behest of Britain) at the request of the League of Nations, until 1990.

As for Israel's "violation of international law", both Israel's War of Independence and the Six Day War, were unquestionably legal defensive wars, which lead to the aggressors losing land to the victor; a perfectly acceptable consequence of belligerent intent.

Again, Levy's claim that "the violence of the African National Congress and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, respectively, was (merely) reactive", is another indication of his total disregard of fact. The PLO was founded in 1964, well prior to the Six Day War and the subsequent "occupation" of the disputed territories.

At that time, therefore, there was nothing to which to react. From its very inception, the PLO (and now Hamas) has shared a declared objective: the destruction of the Jewish State.

The same cannot be said for the ANC which only resorted to armed struggle aimed at government organs and not civilians. Yet Levy accuses Israel of being the "(instigator) of the original institutionalised violence (directed against the Palestinians)", as was the apartheid regime against the ANC.

Letters

Finally, Levy appears not to know that Israel's immigration policy allows for the immigration of non-Jews through a process of naturalisation. Instead he opines that Israel permits Jews alone to become Israeli citizens.

While the Law of Return allows for the automatic acceptance of Jews as citizens, there is nothing to prevent non-Jews from applying in the same manner and through the same process as many other countries. As a Jew, perhaps Levy could try applying for citizenship of Saudi Arabia or Jordan.

The question is, why would Levy offer such a blatant lie? What is to be gained other than the denigration of his own homeland and, if so, to what purpose?

Considering Levy's pre-eminence as one of Haaretz's senior writers, one must question his motivation in producing such garbage.

It would appear to be aimed at satisfying the hunger of those in need of reasons to vilify Israel at any, and every, opportunity, no matter the cost to truth and integrity. It displays the shallowness and dubious intent of Israel's leftwing media.

Victor Gordon Pretoria

BARACK OBAMA IS NO FRIEND OF ISRAEL

The argument is often made that if President Barack Obama is so "bad for Israel", then why do so many Jews support him? It's not that Jews support him per se, it's that US Jews have been lifelong Demo-

Obama is the face of the party, but it is the party that Jews have an affiliation with, not necessarily with him. That having been said, were the Jews not there to check the actions of Obama, he would have enacted more outwardly hostile policies towards Israel.

This is evidenced by his refusal to travel to Israel since he first became president in 2008. He was thrifty enough to visit Sderot in Israel in 2008 prior to the election, to curry favour with US Jews, but since his inauguration, he has not stepped foot in Israel. However, he has visited Turkey, Egypt and several other Arab countries - where his true affiliation rests.

As Jews, we have to guard against these types of snake oil salesmen. Chicago-style politicking may well have a place in US politics, but as Jews we must remain ever vigilant and guard against the policies of the Obama administration. The next four years are going to prove telling to Americans, to Israel, and indeed the world.

Obama's roots have shaped his policies - and they are not in Israel's best interests. The reality is that the next Israeli administration will have to tread carefully with regards to US support of its actions. The Jewish state can no longer count on the US veto of anti-Israel motions at the

UN Security Council - until further notice.

Therefore, a caveat is in order: Obama may be surrounded by Jewish lobbyists, but ultimately way too much power is concentrated in his hands and we are all still unsure of what he wants his legacy to be. What we can say with certainty is that he is no longer fully accountable to the electorate.

Failing gross malfeasance, he is free to propagate as many economic, political and ideological measures as he likes. There is no re-election issue. Does that make him more dangerous, less dangerous, or benign?

Brett L Chatz Clearwater, Florida USA

TYPICAL BIASED TUTU RANT ON MIDEAST CONFLICT

Arcbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu's latest biased, hypocritical comments on the latest Gazan conflict, is true to form.

How can he apportion blame to "fanatics on both sides" when it is obvious that in this instance the only cause is the fault of fanatics on the Gazan side. I have yet to hear him condemn in plain. clear English, the deliberate targeting of innocent Israeli citizens.

As a first generation South African Jew of European origin who lost almost his whole family in the Holocaust, I object to him having any honorary position to do with the Holocaust.

Isaac Lew Johannesburg

TIME TO RETHINK JEWISH EDUCATION IN SA

Women of the World recently hosted the energetic educator, Gavin Keller. He's entertaining, but his message is a serious one. He claims that our school system prepares children to graduate into the industrial revolution and not into the creative, technologically-inclined market that the world demands in the 21st century.

He claims that in the future creative jobs will increase 300 per cent and that "structured jobs" will decrease.

Are we preparing our children for the future, or are we just encouraging the child (and parents) to adapt to a school culture that doesn't cater to this "new" brand of child or the "new world" that is emerging?

Are we surprised that on the one hand our society feeds young children chemically fortified, bright fizzers and jelly tots (now with Beth Din logo) etc, and then when they can't sit still we put them on Ritalin - a schedule 7 drug.

"Teach a child according to his way and when he is old he will not depart from it." - proverb from King Solomon. This is usually applied to the way parents discipline their children.

I'd like to suggest that it also applies to the school system, where our children are educated and spend more waking hours than they do at home.

Children who can sit for hours and memorise information

and retrieve it, can do well with the current teaching methods. There are, however, many children who find it difficult to sit in silence for long periods and watch the teacher, etc.

These children would benefit greatly from being taught "according to (their) way". They will be able to grasp and apply the learnt information and therefore will not "depart from" (or forget) it.

I think it would be exceptionally beneficial to have different schools (or classes) that cater to children with different learning styles, ensuring that they can succeed in education and in life.

But, instead of having one or two larger Orthodox Jewish schools, which would be able to afford different classes for different children and their learning needs, we have several small observant schools, which (for the most part) do not cater for a child who doesn't fit into the "industrial revolution" mould. These children, who are bright and creative in their own right, are either put onto medication or sent to non-Jewish schools that do cater for them.

I think we should rethink the structure of Jewish education as a whole in this country - for the benefit of our children.

Michele Engelberg Johannesburg

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Goldblatt's brilliance shines through

Exhibitions "On the mines" by David Goldblatt and "Gold in the Morning" by Alfredo Jaar. Goodman Gallery, Rosebank, Johannesburg (011) 788-1113 Until: December 14

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

As you walk into the gallery's vestibule, you're catapulted, heart first, into a back-lit image of men quarrying in South America, in a piece revealing the land pillaged; the men, ant-like from the photographer's vantage point.

As frenetic and detailed as the approach of Dutch 15th century moralist painter Hieronymus Bosch, the work by Chilean photographer Alfredo Jaar sets the tone for a resonant exhibition, which also celebrates the publication of an updated version of "On the Mines" which David Goldblatt made with Nadine Gordimer in 1973.

While the use of light-boxes showing Jaar's photographs may vie with sensationalism, don't be misled: Jaar's and Goldblatt's work come from different sides of mining's discourse and dovetail astutely.

It's a timeous exhibition, forcing you to think of the min-

ing crisis rocking South Africa right now, and to allow your ideas to inch behind political discourse and touch the human back story.

As Goldblatt reveals in fragments he wrote about his childhood near Randfontein's mines in the 1930s, it's about embracing the core of what historically made Johannesburg the city to migrate to.

While Goldblatt presents to you the almost-detritus of old mines in the process of demolition - like the General Manager's house in New Kleinfontein, Benoni, bits of its stoep balcony already splintered away, he also presents deep personal poignancy.

Novice Miner from the Transkei, in the Fanakalo school, Hartbeesfontein Gold Mines, Klerksdorp, is a photograph Goldblatt took in 1972 of a young man wearing the protective paraphernalia for the task.

Don't just look at this subject, peer deep into his eyes, as you consider him through time and geography. The protective gear almost reads like calipers, but it is the palpable fear and hint of bravado you see in this youngster, not yet hardened by scary challenge, that brings him to life, demonstrating the subtle brilliance of Goldblatt, which remains like a glass of fresh clear water, in a dusty state of ambiguity.

In 1969 - '70, Goldblatt went down mineshafts in Welkom to do several shoots. These images are shown in the space called "The Bolton Room"; in looking at them you can hear the rumbling catastrophe and taste the claustrophobia that being beneath kilometres of solid rock, near the very heart and guts of the planet, evokes.

A concession store owner and his assistant gaze at the photographer; and through him and through a generation, to you, amidst a price-tagged display of rough blankets, smooth suits and hats, tailored and priced to suit mining consumers, another and not-to-be-forgotten sidekick that oiled the mining industry.

This exhibition will leave you subliminally shattered and deeply mesmerised by the bigness of it all: the beautiful, intelligent photographs, the mining crisis and the infinitesimal place where they meet.

• Steidl's edition of On The Mines is on sale at the gallery and www. kalahari.com.



David Goldblatt's Concession store proprietor (seated) and assistant, Rose Deep, Germiston.October 1966. Silver gelatin on fibre based paper. Edition of 10. 40 x 28 cm

'Annie' is jolly good theatre



The baddies in the tale, Rooster (Adam Pelkowitz) and Lily (Bianca de Klerk), smarmily trying to pretend they're Annie's parents, so that they can bag the reward!

Show: Annie Jr, National Children's Theatre, Parktown (011) 484-1584 Until: December 23

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

Child performers can kill a production. Armed with scant stage - let alone life - experience, they can get hooked on their own cuteness; they can make a show implode into amateur silliness.

It takes a fine blend of a wise directorial hand, a sensitive, committed child and sophisticated support and design teams to make a show starring a child really fly with the acumen of proper entertainment, without tripping on schmaltz. The National Children Theatre's Annie Jr does just this.

British child Barclay Wright debuted in 1995 in a Channel Four TV mini-series, created by Alan Bleasdale, called "Jake's Progress". It's black and funny and sinister and shocking; the seven-year-old highlights its idiosyncrasies because he is bright and so capable of nuance.

Similarly, Emma Rogers, one of the two reprising the eponymous role (the other is Lintle Lesela), manifests a bell-clear singing voice, understated confidence and ability to express behavioural nuance in the tribulations of a Depression-era American orphan.

She convinces you without forcing the role; the touch with which she transitions into it is light and ordinary-seeming. She may have orange curls like Aileen Quinn who made the role famous on the silver screen in 1982, but the character she embraces is far from a dated saccharine sweetheart. She's real.

To think of this production as good feel-good theatre, is an under-

statement. From its construction, featuring choreography by Genna Galloway and set by Stan Knight that spontaneously brings out gasps of wonder in audiences and is smartly bare of gimmick in its representation of 1933 America, the play is honed and crafted within the unforgiving ambit of a small stage, with such skill and guts, you leave with a new perspective on hope.

There are two child casts of seven little girls each, and an adult cast of nine, featuring several stage debuts and highlighted by the inimitable Adam Pelkowitz opposite Bianca de Klerk as society-driven 1920s crooks.



Emma Rogers is Annie.

The cast is headed by Sean McGrath as the generous mogul who gives Annie her chance; and Chantal Stanfield, as the bitter orphanage manager.

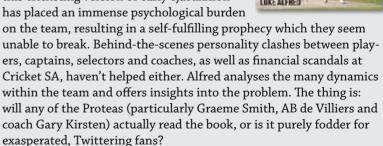
Director Francois Theron continuously raises the bar in this theatre. More than an incubator for young actors as children's theatre is traditionally, it's incubating audiences, effectively serving as a meaningful tool to turn over a new leaf in the whole industry.

Some very good reads

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

The Art of Losing: Why the Proteas Choke at the Cricket World Cup by Luke Alfred (Zebra Press, R226)

Since South Africa's readmission to global cricket in 1991, the Proteas have acquired a reputation for playing like champions in the opening stages of a World Cup, only to choke at the last minute. Though they unquestionably have the talent and technique to win, this cricketing version of early ejaculation has placed an immense psychological burden



100 Moments That Mattered: Events That Built South Africa by Peter Joyce (Zebra Press, R200)

Joyce begins with an overview of claimants to and role-players in the country, from its indigenous peoples (including the "Black Jews" - the Lemba) to colonists, and chronologically identifies seminal events which steered its course. From the Boer/British/tribal wars and crucial battles like Isandlwana and Majuba to the arrival of "that bloody woman" Emily Hobhouse, the Bambatha Rebellion, Sol T Plaatje's conceptualisation of a

resistance movement (later to crystallise as the ANC), the gold rush, the Rand Revolt, the rise of the National Party and apartheid, the Sharpeville massacre, the Rivonia Trial and - of course - the events marking the ultimate demise of the regime: Nelson Mandela's release, the new constitution and the first democratic elections. While the book offers no new information, it is nevertheless an unusual and refreshing approach to SA's socio-political history.

The Peer2Peer programme brings people together successfully



P2P Programme Co-ordinator Do Machin (HCl Foundation) assists Li Boiskin (Cape SAJBD Chairman) and Thuso Segopolo (national chairman BMF Young Professionals), in awarding Participation Certificates to mentors and mentees in the 2012 pilot programme.

TALI FEINBERG **EDITOR OF THE CAPE JEWISH CHRONICLE**

"If I can make a difference to one person, it will be worth it," said one mentor in the Peer2Peer Mentorship Programme, a joint initiative of the HCI Foundation, Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies and Black Management Forum (BMF).

While many disadvantaged students are admitted to university with bursaries, a great number "fall through the cracks" and do not make it past their first year. In this context, the Peer2Peer Mentorship Programme was launched at the University of Cape Town early this year and matches senior students with first year HCI Foundation bursary recipients.

Having a mentor who has "walked the same road",

has proven to increase academic success and lower dropout rates among first year students.

"I know what first year is like, it can be hectic!" says the mentor, who came to the programme through the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS).

Shayni Geffen and Mordechai Serraf agree. They both wanted to make a difference, and have found that the best aspect of the programme was the opportunity to engage with others across different faculties and communities. Despite the fact that Shayni studies psychology and her mentee studies accounting, they found common ground and both learned from each other.

This is the essence of the programme, which was celebrated with a graduation ceremony for all participants on November 15 at the Baxter Theatre. At the ceremony, each mentor and mentee was presented with a graduation certificate by Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies Chairman Li Boiskin.

Thuso Segopolo, national chairman of the BMF Young Professionals, at the event congratulated those who had chosen to be mentored. "Congratulations for allowing someone to come into your life and fill a vacancy. It takes a lot to admit that you need a guide. Those who had too much pride, are now lagging behind," he said.

He also congratulated mentors: "Our generation is facing huge challenges. We think it is all about ourselves, but we need to realise we are here because of others. You changed someone's life and allowed them to change yours. We are in this together."

This sentiment was echoed with a special performance by Larry Joe and Aron Turest-Swartz. Formerly of the band Freshly Ground, Aron discovered Larry while the latter was serving a prison sentence in Douglas, Northern Cape.

The multi-talented musician used his art to turn his life around; the two now travel to high schools and venues across the world, sharing their inspirational story. From their collaborative work to their perfect harmonies, the duo demonstrated that everyone

benefits from helping each other.

Many mentors have felt the effects already. As she is studying to become a teacher, Ulfa Hendricks said that being a mentor helped her gain the skills she will need for her profession, all while contributing to someone else's life.

Meanwhile, Jeanne, who chose to be mentored in her first year of studies, sums it up best: "I did not know what to expect, but first year is really hard. In this programme, someone's always got your back."

• The Peer2Peer Mentorship Programme will continue at UCT in 2013 and opportunities to expand into UWC are also underway. To take part, contact Gina Flash at the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies on (021) 464-6746 or gina@ctjc.co.za



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Cycalive groups meet to rekindle relationships

RABBI MOTTI HADAR PRINCIPAL, TA BOYS' HIGH

The 25 participants from Torah Academy Boys High, Pace Community College and Moletsane High School, who had joined together to cycle from Johannesburg to Durban as part of Cycalive 2012, reunited last week in an afternoon of rekindling special relationships.

The learners, with their teachers and principals, met at Moletsane High School in Soweto, where each Soweto learner received his own bicycle as a gift from a sponsor.

As in previous years, each school received funds raised through Cycalive, which will once again be used to upgrade the school facilities.

Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, dean of Torah Academy, handed over cheques to Dan Zimba, principal of Pace, and to Andrew Setshedi, principal of Moletsane.

KDS scoops 6 poster prizes

VIVIENNE WEINER

The annual kosher poster competition is run for grade six learners from all the Jewish day schools. The brief to the art learners was to create a poster with a slogan and an

image to complement it. Kol hakavod to the

1st prize: Gina Izerel; 2nd prize: Ryan Bloch; 3rd prize: Natalia Laffer-Liebson; Terren Lefkowitz; Laura Davidson; 4th prize: Saul Mayers.



Ryan Bloch; Saul Mayers; Gina Izerel; Laura Davidson; Natalia Laffer-Liebson; and Terren Lefkowitz.

Children of the book live up to following learners: their name

PHYLLIS SOLL, TA LIBRARIAN

The Torah Academy Primary School library is abuzz with children every day. During each break and during library lessons they fill the library to change or choose books, coming to spend quiet time with a favourite author, or even to just chat. Despite the kindle and other technology, books are special; they bring ideas and words to life and take us to explore new horizons. The Torah Academy Primary School library is amazing there's a book just waiting to be read!



llan Shevel (grade 5), engaging in his favourite

KDLPS bonds with Har Tuv



YONIT WEIL

As part of the Partnership Together programme run by the Jewish Agency, a delegation of teachers recently spent a few days at King David Linksfield Primary School, working with the children and doing projects related to Israel.

KDLP has been involved in this project for about three years now and one of our grade 6 classes is partnered with a class at Har Tuv School on Kibbutz Tzora.

We have had many activities over the past few years, including regular contact between the children, video conferences and joint projects but a visit in person from the teacher on the other side, How-

ard Gordon, was definitely a highlight. Howie spent time with the grade 6 teaching about Israel and creating a shared

presentation on Google docs, which his own classes will continue at a later stage. The time spent between Shelly Frein-

kel and Chava Migdal, the two heads of school, truly made the bridge between the two schools closer.

Pictured are: Back: Howie Gordon; Sonia Shurhavetsky; Mor Tzohabani Karni; Orly Reingold; Debbie Mendel; Remond Elias; Etti Eskapa; Ellen Ozery; Lydia Tass; and Darryl Frankel. Front: Rachel Shlomo Zuzut; Shelley Freinkel; Chava Migdal; Ofra Davidowich; and Dlila

Sandton Sinai School is to open its doors in January

DANI ZEKRY

hanks to the encouragement of the Sandton community, the input of the some of the best educationalists in the country and the support of Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, an exceptional school will be opening its doors to our children in January 2013.

Families in the Sandton area vary in their current level of mitzvah observance but are united in their thirst for an authentic and substantial Jewish education for their children, that will give them a love for living Torah values and at the same time, have uncompromised standards in the secular and sporting arenas.



Renovations underway for the launch of Sandton Sinai School in January 2013.

This has sparked the necessity for a new school in the Sandton area - Sandton Sinai - which will open in January. Renovations are underway for the first of two state-of-the-art buildings that will house the 52 learners already enrolled. These will form the base and feeder for grade 1, 2014, with the intention of progressively adding a grade each year.

The school is based in Wendywood and will be run by Rabbi Justin Treger. "Sandton Sinai will be a school of unprecedented excellence, from the teachers we employ to the facilities we build," he explains. "Most importantly, it will be an institution that balances the best of both Jewish and secular studies, and set a new standard for educational excellence."

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

Empathising with all victims of the Gaza conflict

The story that has gripped all of us above any other over the past week, has been the renewed cycle of deadly conflict in Gaza. It has been a tense time for us all, not only because of the anxiety we feel for our brothers and sisters in Israel, but because of the inevitable negative backlash our local Jewish community is feeling.

The reality is that in times of heightened conflict in the Middle East, levels of hostility towards Jews everywhere rise sharply. In South Africa, the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents ever recorded

since detailed records began to be

Above Board Mary Kluk



kept, was logged in 2009, the year of the last major war in Gaza. The CSO has requested that proper security measures are implemented at communal buildings and events. In an emergency or to report suspicious activity, contact the CSO on: 086 18 000 18.

In a joint SAJBD-SAZF communiqué to our community, we emphasised that this was a war that neither the Israeli people nor the majority of the people of Gaza wanted. Rather, it had been "instigated by ruthless fanatics driven

by an obsessive desire to oppose the very existence of the State of Israel,

regardless of how many innocent people on either side will suffer".

In voicing our solidarity with the Israeli people, we also expressed sympathy for all innocent victims of the conflict. Our role needs to be to provide a humane voice of reason at a time when extremist voices are at their loudest. We can only pray that by the time I next write, calm will have been restored with as few lives lost as possible, and that on the other side, a more rational, pragmatic leadership that realises the futility of endless conflict will come to the fore.

Avoiding hate speech is a twoway street

Much concern was expressed over a comment by Minister of Higher Education Blade Nzimande in the media in which he apparently

suggested that whites in South Africa "respected only Jewish and Afrikaner cultures" while not respecting the cultural sensitivities of the black population. The Board has written to Mr Nzimande requesting a meeting to discuss and clarify his statement, as is reported on separately elsewhere in this issue.

In a society such as ours, where there is so much sensitivity and polaristion between people of different race, ethnicity, faith or culture, people have a responsibility to weigh their words carefully and not say things that may be unnecessarily hurtful and divisive.

In this regard, I wish to address a most unfortunate case of anti-Muslim hate speech being disseminated, via Facebook by certain members of our Jewish

community. Two recent opinion pieces in this paper have rightly deplored this incident, and I can only endorse their view that such communications are completely unacceptable.

Having read the posts, I can only imagine how offended our community would be if they had referred to religious Jews rather than Muslims. The SAJBD is fully committed to combating all forms of anti-Semitism, but in doing so we must also take a strong stand whenever prejudice and racism manifests within its own constituency. Our community as a whole is likewise duty-bound to address such cases whenever they occur.

• Listen to Steven Gruzd on Jewish Board Talk on 101.9 ChaiFM every Friday 12:00-13:00.

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

CYRIL KARABUS HAS HIS CASE POSTPONED - AGAIN

"Despite the Karabus case being postponed five times because the prosecution could not find the hospital file," said Cape Town lawyer Michael Bagraim, the family lawyer of Prof Cyril Karabus who is on trial on a 10-year-old manslaughter charge in Abu Dhabi, "the case, which was meant to be heard on Tuesday, has been postponed again to December 6. It appears that the file will never be found." Bagraim explained in Business Day Live that under these circumstances, the judge has three options. He can adjourn the case, he can hear evidence from Prof Karabus or he can discharge him.

ICJW ADDS ITS VOICE IN SUPPORT OF STATE OF ISRAEL

The International Council of Jewish Women, of which the Union of Jewish Women is an affiliate, adds its voice and support to the people of Israel and to Israel's inviolate right to self-defence. The thousands of rockets launched from Gaza by Hamas threaten Israel's territory and citizens. Israel's obligation to defend herself has led to a military buildup and a conflict in response to these attacks. Air strikes are causing loss of life on both sides. As the threat of a ground war looms, the women of ICJW hope and pray that efforts will continue towards peace and

SOLIDARITY PRAYERS FOR ISRAEL

Soul Workout under the auspices of Rabbi Ilan Herrmann has responded with a communal initiative of solidarity with Israel through prayer. A prayer card insertion in this week's Jewish Report or accessible on line at www.soulworkout.co.za invites each and every person to make a daily appointment to recite a prayer for Israel and the IDF. "Turning to G-d for divine intervention is essential at a time of crisis. The power of prayer knows no geographical limitation. We here in South Africa or anywhere for that matter can be a catalyst for divine blessing through our prayers on behalf of Israel and the IDF for peace, safety and security," says Rabbi Herrmann.

BIBLE QUIZ: NAOMI DINUR THE WINNER

Local community member Naomi Dinur will be representing South Africa at the International Bible Quiz in Jerusalem over Chanukah, on December 12. She expressed her "great surprise" winning the preliminary quiz. The programme in Israel includes meeting with VIPs like Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as well as the minister of education and others, going on sightseeing tours and experiencing Israel in various ways.

----- A column of the WIZO Rockets in Israel's south traumatic for children



response to any emergency appeal that is sent from World WIZO in Israel.

So, although WIZO boasts the first, and only, rocket-proof day-care centre to be built in Sderot, the need to safeguard thousands of children in all the other centres in the south and other affected areas, is now urgent. With a 15 second warning, it is almost impossible to ensure their safety, unless the day-care centre is fully protected.

At the same time, WIZO has been approached to provide trauma counselling and support for the children and their families.

Nightmares, tantrums, anti-social

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manifestations of the tension and fear in the present situation.

We have received news that many of the youngsters in Neve Amiel were unable to reach their families in the south for Shabbat, due to missile attacks and were forced to remain in the youth village where extra meals and accommodation were provided.

The 15 Neve Amiel graduates of last year who have finished their basic training in the IDF, are currently awaiting orders at the Gaza border and our thoughts and prayers are with the children and residents of Israel and the brave men and women in uniform.

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Senior years - a time full of new opportunities



Dr Moshe Fayman and Shoshi Shachar



Andrea Wainer; Joyce Kruger, WIZO Forum committee; and Dr Stanley Lipschitz.

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SHIRA DRUION

The ageing process is an inevitable part of life and no one is immune. From it. Last week, WIZO packed out the Beyachad auditorium to host three top professionals who not only spoke on how to age gracefully but they also inspired their mature audience for the golden years.

Dr Moshe Fayman, a plastic surgeon opened the panel discussion with a slideshow of the many procedures that may be helpful to those seeking assistance with the physical ageing process.

Fayman, who has published a host of papers in international medical journals, detailed the myriad options that modern medicine has made available to both sexes, who are uncomfortable in their own skin. As proof he showed a variety of before and after procedure shots.

He said many were unaware that the ageing process affected the bone structure as well as the skin and that those who were feeling weathered by their senior years, should be aware that the procedure of redistribution from areas of excess to areas of loss, had been very effective.

Dr Stanley Lipschitz, a specialist physician and geriatrician, guided the audience through the ageing process and detailed a multitude of tips that could be beneficial to the prevention of a hasty ageing process.

"The major causes of an accelerated ageing process are lack of exercise, protein malnutrition, an acceptance of decrepitude, bad genetics and an inability to manage stress appropriately.

"Exercise can delay the ageing process by 20 years, so get moving! It is also imperative for you all to eat ample protein and fibre, to have an adequate calcium and fluid intake, and to have fun and keep your brain stimulated."

His comment that his audience members could drink "up to two glasses of red wine a day" to assist with bone density as well as an increase in brain and cardiovascular functioning, was met with general approval!

"The time for us seniors is now, "said social worker

Julienne Sackstein. "We are the best we have ever been and need to treasure how very precious life is for us at this time."

She said the four biggest regrets that people experienced, were "not expressing the feelings held in their hearts, both positively and negatively; working too hard; not grabbing at life from early on; and living somebody else's dreams".

She added: "The years should not get longer with time, but should be enriched with the gift of life experience. After weathering the stormy seas of life's journey, we should all be more humble and more empathic to the pain of others.

"We were all born with much to accomplish and as we shift into this next period of our lives, we need to become more internally focused, more forgiving, more joyous and filled with wonder and finally, we learn to love more deeply and more passionately.

"If we start to say yes to life, we will begin to live more buoyantly, ultimately being able to reach a more exalted existence."

Lauren Segal - heritage professional detective par excellence

ROBYN SASSEN

This week, historian and museum professional Lauren Segal, writer of recently published "One Law One Nation", addressed the Union of Jewish Women on the challenges faced by the heritage sector, effectively re-made and re-thought by creative professionals like herself from the time of democracy.

She began with a museum-focused glance at presidential eras over the past 15 years. "In 1994, South Africa had over 4 000 museums. One per cent represented any kind of black story.

"Mandela wanted to give those silenced in the public realm, space - celebrating people previously ignored by museum establishments.

"Mbeki's priority was about positioning museum values in an African knowledge system.

"Zuma believes that heritage is a way of building an economy."

She focused on five of the projects she has worked on: Constitution Hill in Hillbrow, transformed from jail to Constitutional

Court; Chancellor House in the Johannesburg city centre - where Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo established the first black legal practice in South Africa in the early 1950s; Satyagraha House in Oaklands - where Mahatma Gandhi stayed with architect Hermann Kallenbach in the early 20th century; the Workers' Museum in Newtown; and heritage tours of Soweto and Newtown.

"A heritage professional is a bit like a detective." Research on a project begins with finding former occupants of a site who are willing to speak about it - from former prisoners (political and apartheid-deemed ones), to hostel workers who lived in the compound now called the Workers' Museum, for instance.

"We had to invent a methodology to tease out the ghosts from the walls of the places. For most people we spoke to, it was the first time they were revisiting these places.

"Many of these sites were horribly neglected." But added to pragmatic challenges are political ones and tension between heritage and commercial development.

"Marketing is a problem. There was incredible energy to revitalise Johannesburg but now there's scant support to grow these projects. Everything is mired in political battles."

The sector needs private money; "but it takes a company with vision and commitment. Heritage is messy, promising zero financial returns, the world over. The casualty becomes the institutional vision."



The disarmingly beautiful but politically horrifying foyer of what once was the Women's Goal.

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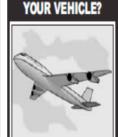
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ria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (November 25)

• RCHCC is rescreening the David Hockney documentary, "A Bigger Picture". Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30 Donation: R60.00 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378), after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net, or www.greatpark.

• UZLC hosts David Saks who will talk on "Johannesburg's Oldest

Jewish Congregation - the Story of the Great Park Synagogue".

Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Glo-

- Second Innings, in conjunction with Radio Today 1485, presents Tony Bentel on piano, Gerrit Koorsen on cello, and Selwyn Klass in "Moments in Time" in their special year-end function. Venue: Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718. Cost: R60 members, R80 non-members. Booking essential.
- · Cyrildene Shul is celebrating its 70th anniversary by holding a cantorial evening in its shul. Oshy Tugendhaft with his 20 choristers will perform. The evening will also celebrate 40 years of service by the shul's chazzan, Yehudah Davidowitz. Time: 19:00. Contact: Rona (011) 616-3312.

Monday (November 26)

· UJW is hosting Prof David Block of the School of Computational and Applied Mathematics at Wits, on "What is Time? Is Human Habitation on Mars a Time-Reality?" Time: 09:30. Contact: (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Donation: R20.

Tuesday (November 27)

• RCHCC hosts journalist and political commentator Eusebius McKaiser, who will talk on his book "A Bantu in the Bathroom". Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 18:30. Donation: R70 (incl refreshments. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378), after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@ telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net or www.greatpark.co.za

Wednesday (November 28)

- · Balfour Park Parkinson's Disease Support Group has its last meeting of the year today in the boardroom of Randjes Estate, Randjeslaagte Road, Highlands North. The main speaker is Lynn Pearson, a neuro-physiotherapist, who will talk about, and demonstrate, breathing exercises. John Pepper, a member of the support group, will speak on making life easier for people with Parkinson's Disease. Contact: Rosemary Burke (011) 640-3919.
- Second Innings has arranged an "Outing to Rondeklip Organic Herb Farm" in the Hartebeespoort district. Programme: A guided tour of the farm and a talk on medicinal herbs and their uses. Time: Bus departs in front of Golden Acres at 08:30 sharp. Cost: R150 includes everything - a full day on the farm. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.
- UJW is hosting Daniel Kagan and Fay Picker, representing Exclusive Books, on "Book Corner - the Reviewing of Current Books Available". Time: 09:30. Contact: (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Donation: R25.
- U.IW CT adult education division hosts Richard Freedman. director of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, who will talk on "Holocaust Education in Post-Apartheid South Africa". Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555.

Monday (December 3)

· UJW is hosting Marcia Leveson, former professor of English at Wits, on "Please Sir, I Want Some More", Charles Dickens and children in this his bicentenary year. Time: 09:30. Contact: (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Donation: R20. UJW invites you to join them for an informal tea after the lecture. Please phone UJW office (011) 648-1053 by November 6, for catering purposes.

Sunday (December 6)

• UJW CT adult education division hosts Isaac Habib who will talk on "Rhodes". The venue is Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries call: (021)

Caring who wins a match must not be allowed to cloud one's judgement



ROCKING THE BOAT
Jack Milner

A few years ago I remember having a discussion with SA tennis legend Gordon Forbes (pictured) about the excitement a sports encounter brings to a viewer.

For those who do not know, Forbes is not only one of South Africa's best players of yesteryear, but he also teamed up with Abe Segal to produce one of the world's greatest doubles teams. They were at the peak in an era where everybody played both singles and doubles.

Forbes wrote two popular books on tennis. His first - A Handful of Summers remains a definitive records of an age where sport was not driven by money.



To get back to the main subject, Gordon and I were talking about sport in general and the support people have for various teams. We also touched on the fact that so many sportsmen and women - and here we might have been talking more about tennis than anything else - are happy to take the money and just go through the motions. He mentioned that he got a bigger thrill going to watch his son's school team perform than watching some of the professional players.

"You know what that is," he said. "It's because when I watch my son play, I care who wins"

That is exactly what gives an armchair supporter the thrill: caring who wins. Watching the Boks play Scotland in last Saturday's rugby test, elicited "oohs, ahs and cheers", depending on who had the ball. But later, watching England versus Australia, while

there was interest, the room was not filled with the same "gees", to use a good Afrikaans word.

The problem with all that "gees" is that objectivity often flies out of the window and all one hears are excuses for the beaten team. In South Africa's case it is usually a biased referee or umpire.

Objectivity has always been an important consideration for me when writing sports reports. We all carry our own opinions into any situation, but it is vital one does not become "a fan with a pen" when covering an event.

There are tennis players, golfers and cricketers - three of the main sports I have covered as a journalist - who I dislike, but one has to focus on their performance on the day.

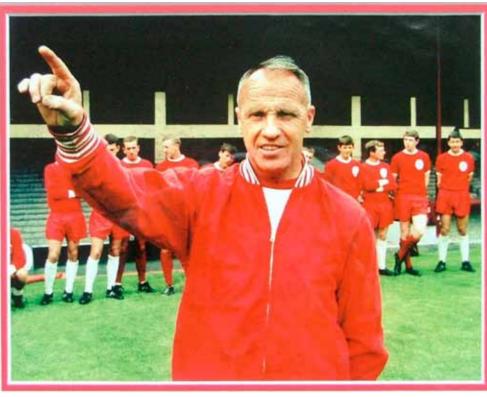
The converse is also true. For example, when it comes to English soccer, I am what is known as an ABU - Anybody But United! For the less knowledgeable, that is specifically Manchester United. I don't really support any English team, other than those who play against Man U, and for years I have tried to work out why I have this repugnance for a successful soccer team, 13 719 km away.

Some people have suggested I just dislike them because they are successful and have a great record. I have rejected that view because I don't support any club in the Premiership, so why would I care if United is successful or not. I also support Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, Tiger Woods, AB de Villiers and others who have proven themselves at the top of their respective sports, so why not United?

While I respect Sir Alex Ferguson, he is not my most favourite person but that has little impact on my dislike of the team.

I finally worked it out: It is not the team that annoys me, but their supporters. In the early 1990s when I worked at The Citizen as the sports night sub - before the days of SuperSport and the internet - people would call to get the soccer results and the most irritating were the United fans. They would call the season a formality after United had won their first match and that arrogance really got to me to the extent that I want the team to lose just to shut up the supporters.

The point of this diatribe is to point out that if I ever found myself reporting on a United match, I would have to put all that behind me and report what I see in front of



Liverpool icon Bill Shankly's comment about football is taken far too seriously by football nutters.

me - untainted by my opinion.

The truth is that often caring who wins blinds one to the reality of what is happening in front of you. Emotion takes over and reality flies out the window. It is often worthy watching a match for a second time on TV, knowing the outcome, because the "care who wins" syndrome is not so much a factor and

one is often far more honest.

So, when football nutters hurl that famous Bill Shankly quote at me: "Some people believe football is a matter of life and death; I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that" - my response is: "It's just a game - go and get a life!"

Maccabi SA Futsal kicks off with a bang for the Games

JACK MILNEI

With the recent Fifa Futsal World Cup having come to an end, the SA Maccabi Men's Open Futsal team are looking forward to showcasing their talent at next year's Maccabi Games.

Futsal, more commonly known as five-a-side football, has been added to SA Maccabi sporting codes for the Maccabiah, so this will be the first time Maccabi SA will be sending a Men's Open team. The sport has gained strength in South Africa and a 12-man squad has been selected.

They have already held a successful national train-

ing camp in Cape Town in
August, with fitness assessments and various other
an technical and tactical sessions having taken place at
ing UCT and Sunningdale Sports
ir Complex. The sessions were
bi conducted by head coach
Quinton Allies (also the current national SAFA coach).

The Futsal squad is hoping to use the experience they gained from the Pan-Am Games in Brazil last year, to hopefully bring back a medal. The team currently trains twice a week with their progress continuously being monitored by head coach Quinton. Their next training camp is scheduled for early next year.

During their training camp in August, the squad received their training kit and equipment.

The Men's Open Futsal Squad:

Ronen Cohen (CT); Hilton Jacobson (CT); Josh Gordon (JHB); Levi Groner (CT); Eugene Lazarus (DBN); Sholem Lange (JHB); Moshe Lichtenstien (JHB); Trevor Morris (CT); Mendy Sarchi (JHB); Daniel Serman (CT); Joel Serman (CT); Darren Smith (DBN)

• For any further information related to Futsal, contact Ronen at samaccabi.futsal@gmail.com

