



**Daphne Kuhn
brings Sunday
Morning to
Johannesburg
(page 12)**

• south african • jewish report

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Visiting the Marikana ‘killing fields’ to bring solace to victims

A delegation from the National Inter-faith Council of SA, on Tuesday visited Marikana in North West Province, where 34 miners were killed in a police confrontation. The delegation - of which Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein was a member - had as its purpose, in his words, “to see what we, as religious leaders, could do to bring comfort to the victims...” Pictured are boxing legend Baby Jake Matlala; Catholic Archbishop of Johannesburg Buti Tlhagale; Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein; and Pastor Ray McCauley of the Rhema Church. Archbishop Tlhagale and Pastor McCauley are co-chairmen of the NIFC-SA. (Photograph supplied)

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Ebrahim’s ‘travel directive’ against Israel still makes waves

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, in a strongly-worded open letter to Ebrahim, takes issue with the deputy minister’s stance, accusing him of abusing his high office.

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These gals can proudly say: ‘Been to Kili, done it!’



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SACKSTEIN: South African-Israel relations implode

SA has lost credibility to play any meaningful role in ME.. Its pronouncements are platitudes to gain votes; fewer and fewer SA government officials will receive the training in Israel they so desperately need.

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Renowned Jewish writer Ariel Dorfman presents world debut of his play



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BLUMENTHAL: How we treat our disabled, reflects on all of us

We have, as a society, to ensure that people with disabilities are not regarded as lepers who must be hidden from our children or placed where they cannot offend our delicate sensitivities.

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Parshat Shoftim

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| 18:08 | 18:58 | Cape Town |
| 17:20 | 18:10 | Durban |
| 17:39 | 18:30 | Bloemfontein |
| 17:37 | 18:29 | Port Elizabeth |
| 17:29 | 18:21 | East London |

Community Briefs

SHARE THE LOAD RAISES MORE THAN R2 MILLION

The annual Share the Load event was held last week at Golden Acres in aid of Sandringham Gardens. Starting at R1 800, the prize money for each round rose in multiples of 18 until the highest amount was reached at round 15. This year the unexpected happened: Both the first and second prizes went to the same person. Several people donated their winnings back to Sandringham Gardens. Michael Sieff, the Chevrah Kadisha's CEO, praised organiser Myrna Jankelowitz and her team of Phyllis Noick, Pam Fluxman and Janet Skikne, for raising over R2 million. RITA LEWIS

‘Judges and law-enforcers’

A tweet I saw claims that having a lot of followers doesn't make you a marketing expert. Just as holding a microphone in your hand does not make you a great singer.

We live in a day and age where information is moving around faster than we could ever have imagined. The young teenage blogger down the street may have an audience similar to a media network.

Many of us are now publishers. A famous English playwright might have commented: "All the world's a cyber stage, and all the men and women merely publishers."

We are producing and distributing material, participating in a massive flow of information and networking. We publish and communicate while being an audience for material produced by others.

Who would have predicted this bizarre mixture? Vital information is catalogued and offered with an efficiency that once was a niche of the world's top libraries. This is all mixed together with massive doses of obscure, silly information.

All of it is lurking in a quagmire of clarity and confusion at the same time. High levels of skill and potential, co-exist side by side with destructive elements.



PARSHAT SHOFTIM
Rabbi Sholem Bacher
Craighall Blairgowrie
Hebrew Centre

The message of our Torah is for all times and places. Torah is aware of developing challenges and opportunities. It is once again the ultimate anchor in a turbulent cyber world.

"Judges and law-enforcers you shall place at all your city gates." Shoftim 16:18

At the outset this is a call for law enforcement. We know how vital it is for any society to have proper governmental infrastructure. Security, respect for our fellow man and his possessions, depends on capable leadership with efficient enforcement bodies.

Adherence and loyalty to Torah and mitzvoth depends on society being blessed with leaders who communicate and direct Torah ideals in a constructive way.

"Your city gates" according to Rabbi Shabtai HaKohen (The Shach) also applies

on a personal level - the seven points of contact; our channels of communication with the world around us.

We should appoint our own "judges and law-enforcers" over our eyes, ears, nostrils and mouth. These should judge, weigh and filter the desirable and constructive stimuli from the negative and destructive ones that we encounter.

Our responsibility to appoint those judges and law-enforcers is now more important than ever. As communication has gathered momentum, so must our ability to discern what is good and correct.

Our fingers that type on a keyboard posting data and publishing material, have to also become our own little "judges and law-enforcers". To post or not to post becomes an important question.

The gates of our homes are the gates of our own little cities. The virtual world has made entry into our homes far more accessible than ever before. "Judges and law-enforcers you shall place at your city gates" means the computer terminals in the "Yid-disher home".

May Hashem grant us the merit to protect the sanctity of our homes and families.

These gals can proudly say: Been to Kili, done it!



A joyous airport welcome on August 16, at OR Tambo. Back: Rahima Ismail; Kiki Marx; Estelle Smit; Tali Frankel; Tribe Safari guide Lance De Willers; Robyn Smookler; Kate Gershuni; Daphna Horowitz; Sharon Willensky; and Galit Fluxman. Front: Andy Feldman; Yocheved Bacher; Tahlia Levin; Shira Zadikov; Amanda Porter and Jena Daitz.



The ORT SA girls summitting Mount Kilimanjaro.



Robyn Smookler (in front) and Daphna Horowitz laying stones and saying a prayer for those to follow, "as those who came before us did".



The challenge of brushing teeth and washing faces in the cold was a stiff one. Pictured are Terri Zidel; Daphna Horowitz; Robyn Smookler; Siobhan Wilson; Andy Feldman; and Shira Zadikov.

ROBYN SASSEN
PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

"It was a dream and a nightmare in one," said Robyn Smookler (32), the driver behind the ORT SA Kili initiative, and manager of the Women's Empowerment Division at ORT. Alongside 17 others, she's just returned from Mount Kilimanjaro. "It stripped you down to your core and built you back up again."

The 18 women were on a training regime since March 5; it was a lot tougher than they imagined - they opted for the Umbwe Route to the Kili summit, the road less travelled, by all accounts. Fellow climber Daphna

Horowitz (39), a personal and executive coach, said: "The climb up was one thing; down was even worse. We walked all night the night we summited, August 14."

The fear of a trip of this nature is multiple. Twisting an ankle could be major. Altitude sickness could be fatal. "My three children, aged nearly 15, 11 and seven, were very anxious. This was no ordinary trip," said Horowitz. "I struggled all the way. But the kindness between all of us was unbelievable."

"While our guides told us that you could lose up to five kilogram in summiting, they'd never seen people with so much food for the trip. Jewish women and

their relation to food was something they'd never imagined possible," said Smookler.

And did they question themselves as to why on earth they were doing this? "Literally constantly," they laughed.

Said Horowitz: "I was not as physically fit as most of them; I believe fitness gives you stamina. The bigger challenges are fatigue, altitude, cold, dehydration, and mental and emotional resilience. You know it will be tough; you have no context. This was the toughest event in my life."

Smookler nods: "You have to really want to do this, but you don't experience the 'magic' of achievement until you've done

it. The message is clichéd, but it's true: you can do this. You can always go beyond your furthest beliefs in yourself."

Horowitz adds: "Yes, we conquered Kili; the experience was much more. I reached breaking point on that last night. It was dark. It seemed endless. It was freezing. I couldn't breathe. But I knew soon the sun would rise."

They spoke of the miracle of seeing the mountain breaking through cloud cover as they sang Lecha Dodi on Friday night, and of how wonderful bread, tomato and onion tasted after a day of walking.

So far - each woman covered her own costs for the climb -

the project has yielded some R400 000 in the name of ORT SA. "After this project, we will start a new initiative called the Women's Empowerment Academy, which will aim to take self-growth and financial independence to the next level.

"It's about sisters doing it for themselves," Smookler adds. "Doing it for a cause made it worthwhile. We had the whole community's support. The build up was huge. It must feel very empty afterwards if you do this without this motivation behind you."

And what's next? Never again, says Smookler, but there's a twinkle in her eye.



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Rabbi Goldstein, as part of NIFC-SA, reaches out to Lonmin victims

DAVID SAKS

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein was part of a delegation from the National Inter-faith Council of South Africa (NIFC-SA) who visited the stricken town of Marikana in the North West Province on Tuesday, to offer condolences and support to the community, following last week's deadly confrontation at Lonmin's mine between striking miners and police. In that clash, 34 miners were killed and scores more injured when the police opened fire on the demonstrators.

The delegation was headed by the NIFC-SA's two co-chairmen, Rhema Church head Pastor Ray McCauley and Archbishop Buti Tlhagale, Catholic Archbishop of Johannesburg. Also participating was former boxing legend Baby Jake Matlala, who is a member of McCauley's congregation.

Among those met with, were injured strikers in the hospital and representatives of the Lonmin mine management, and the site of the shooting was visited. The possibility of the religious leadership playing a mediating role in the still-unresolved dispute between the workers and management, was also explored.

Rabbi Goldstein said that the entire country had been deeply shaken by the Lon-

min shootings. The Jewish community had to regard themselves as being very much a part of the national mourning process, since wherever they were, Jews had an obligation to pray for the welfare of their country and the host society.

"This was a national tragedy, a terrible human tragedy, which has left no South African unmoved. Our purpose in going there was to see what we, as religious leaders, could do to bring comfort to the victims, to heal and to help," he said.

At the concluding media conference, Rabbi Goldstein made the point that the country at this time needed to stand together in a spirit of unity, upholding the principles of peaceful dialogue and the sanctity of human life.

The NIFC-SA, the representative body for the interfaith movement in South Africa, was established in September 2011 when the then National Religious Leaders Forum and the National Inter-faith Leadership Council amalgamated. Rabbi Goldstein said that he had established warm relationships with fellow Council members and, as the representative of the Jewish faith community, was working closely with them in various areas of common concern.

Kimberley Shul turns 110 in style

DAVID SAKS

Kimberley, the famed Diamond City, has an extraordinary history, and Jews have been a part of it from the very beginning. The Griqualand West Hebrew Congregation, founded in 1871, is the third-oldest still extant Jewish congregation in the country, behind Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.

Early this month, members of the Jewish and general community were joined by former congregants and well-wishers for an exciting programme of events marking the 110th anniversary of the congregation's synagogue.

This magnificent structure is regarded as one of the finest examples of synagogue architecture anywhere in the world.

The programme was organised under the combined auspices of the African Jewish Congress, SAJBD country communities department and GWHC, the brainchild of AJC President Mervyn Smith.

It kicked off on Thursday, August 9, with a Maariv service in the shul, with country communities spiritual leader, Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, officiating. Afterwards, Jewish participants were joined by members of the local community at the William Humphrey Art Gallery, at an exhibition of work by Jewish artists.

GWHC Chairman Barney Horwitz brought greetings and President David Allen spoke on the history of the congregation, from the first settler onwards.

Friday was devoted to visiting sites of local historical interest, including a guided tour of the Magersfontein battlefield and a "virtual mining experience, the Kimberley Mining Museum and Big Hole.

A common theme that emerged through-



out the celebrations, from the ensuing comments from the floor, was how, in a small community, every individual counted to a much greater extent than was the case in places like Johannesburg, where one could easily become just a statistic.

Rebbetzen Ann Harris paid tribute to the remaining members of the Kimberley Jewish community for keeping their historic congregation active. "While it is sad that a community of such stature, one of the first bastions of Jewish life in South Africa, has suffered an inevitable decline in numbers, all who took part were delighted to be able to support and salute those who still keep the shul alive and to marvel at their optimism, resilience and loyalty to our traditions" she said.

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Ebrahim’s ‘travel directive’ against Israel, still makes waves

The “travel directive” issued by Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Ebrahim Ebrahim for South Africans not to visit Israel, has led to widespread condemnation by the Jewish community’s communal leadership, as well as by Christian groups well disposed to Israel.



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Ebrahim Ebrahim

As could be expected, the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC), the broadest coalition of Palestinian trade unions, NGOs and mass organisations, could not contain its glee at the directive.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, in a strongly-worded open letter to Ebrahim, takes issue with Ebrahim’s stance, accusing him of abusing his high office.

He writes: “You are a minister of the South African government, appointed to advance the interests of the Republic and the people of South Africa in an impartial and rational manner. As a citizen and as a national religious leader of South Africa, I object to the way in which you are abusing your high office to promote your own personal agenda.

“You obviously have a ‘blind spot’ when it comes to Israel; you lose your sense of objectivity and rationality when dealing with the Jewish State.

“Most recently you have used your platform and title in an active campaign to prevent South Africans - and especially members of government - from visiting Israel. This is but one example of your irrational obsession with Israel to the detriment of the proper execution of your governmental duties.

“You have acted in breach of your government’s own foreign policy, in terms of which South Africa and Israel have full diplomatic relations.

“Your actions hark back to apartheid-style control of information and censorship. Why would you try to prevent South Africans from travelling to Israel and seeing the situation for

themselves?

“Are you concerned that when South Africans travel on buses, visit parks, malls, hospitals and university campuses, attend the Israeli Parliament and the Supreme Court, they will find Jews and Arabs living and working together in complete equality?

“Maybe you are afraid that South African Christians will find that Israel is the only country in the Middle East where they can practise their religion freely without fear; that South African women will find that Israel is the only country in the Middle East where they can be fully equal citizens; that South African trade unionists will discover that Israel is the only country in the Middle East where there are legal and active trade unions which protect workers’ rights.

“Are you worried that our fellow-South Africans may learn that successive Israeli governments have supported the establishment of a Palestinian state as part of a negotiated peace agreement?

“Are you concerned that South Africans might hear for themselves directly from the current Israeli government how it seeks to return immediately to the negotiating table without preconditions, and that it is the Palestinian leadership that refuses to do so?

“Mr Ebrahim, your personal bias against Israel prevents you from fulfilling your legal and ethical duties as Minister of International Relations, who, with impartiality and sound judgement, is supposed to further peace, justice and South African strategic interests in the world.

“Your actions to discourage South Africans from travelling to Israel are but one manifestation of your extremist views. In so doing you are jeopardising South Africa’s international credibility and strategic interests.

“It is indeed the ideological allies of Hamas and Hezbollah - Israel’s sworn enemies - who have also launched a terror campaign against Christian communities throughout Africa.

- In a media release the BNC said it “salutes and warmly congratulates the SA government for adopting a principled policy to dissuade South African citizens and especially official organisations from travelling to Israel due to its “continued occupation of Palestinian land”.
 - The African Christian Democratic Party says in a media release it is “outraged” by the call made by Ebrahim, to South Africans, many of whom are Christians, not to visit Israel.
- The ACDP adds that one of the examples of anti-Semitism given by the European Union Monitoring Committee is “applying double standards by requiring of it (Israel) a behaviour not accepted or demanded of any other democratic nation”.



Dr Hanan Ashrawi

Senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) member, Dr Hanan Ashrawi, has written to the Department of International Relations and Co-operation (DIRCO) strongly commending South Africa for its discouragement of relations with Israel. Ashrawi writes:

“I strongly commend your recent statement in which you unequivocally communicated the consistent South African government’s position opposing Israel’s occupation and upholding the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.”



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SA Jewish leadership deplores the Cabinet's surprise decision on relabelling of Israeli goods.

While the contentious "relabelling" issue of goods purported to be emanating from, what the SA government calls "Israeli occupied territories", still rages, the Jewish community had to learn from a government website that the Cabinet had approved of the relabelling of such goods.

Government was supposed to still engage with the various stakeholders on this issue, when the leadership discovered from the website that this was in fact a done deal. The SAJBD, SAZF and Chief Rabbi, expressed "outrage" in a joint media release on Wednesday and accused Government of acting in "a cavalier manner". The media release reads: "The South African Jewish community is outraged over Cabinet's decision approving the Minister of Trade and Industry's notice requiring that goods emanating from what it refers to as 'Israeli occupied territories', be relabelled.

"In acting in so cavalier a manner, government has not only bypassed the consultation process set in motion by the notice (in terms of the Consumer Protection

As a community, South African Jewry has consistently demonstrated a willingness to engage with Government regarding this complex and controversial issue.

Act, 2008) but shown itself to be completely dismissive of Jewish concerns.

"As a community, South African Jewry has consistently demonstrated a willingness to engage with Government regarding this complex and controversial issue. Just as consistently, however, its representatives have been denied any meaningful opportunity of explaining their position and airing the concerns they feel.

"It is the firm belief of the Jewish communal leadership that the proposed measures are discriminatory, divisive, inconsistent with South African trade policy and seriously flawed from both an administrative and procedural point of view.

The release was signed by Zev Krenkel, SAJBD president; Avrom Krenkel, chairman: SAZF; and Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein.

"At bottom, they are believed to be motivated not by technical trade concerns, but by political bias against the State of Israel. All attempts to discuss these concerns, however, have come to nothing.

"While the Jewish leadership has shown a willingness to discuss compromises and explore solutions that might allay the concerns of all parties, Government has refused to meaningfully engage on the issue. Regrettably, this in turn is indicative of Government's increasingly hostile attitude not against Israel, but towards acknowledging and engaging with how the Jewish community feels about issues relating to it."

The release was signed by Zev Krenkel, SAJBD president; Avrom Krenkel, chairman: SAZF; and Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein.

The government notice reads as follows: "Cabinet approved that a notice in terms of the Consumer Protection Act, 2008 be issued by the Minister of Trade and Industry requiring the labelling of goods or products emanating from IOTs to prevent consumers being led to believe that such goods come from Israel.

"This is in line with South Africa's stance that recognises the 1948 borders delineated by the United Nations and does not recognise occupied territories beyond these borders as being part of the state of Israel."

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The Jewish Agency is funded by United Jewish Communities, major Jewish institutions in North America, Keren Hayesod, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, foundations and donors from Israel and around the world.

Why do we not hear from the minister?

Last week we questioned the government’s disturbing silence in the face of Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Ebrahim Ebrahim’s remarks discouraging people from visiting Israel officially. We hoped the furore provoked in Jewish and Israeli circles would be a wake-up call for it to make a public statement clarifying its position.

This has not happened and our disquiet is growing. What does it indicate? Are the Israeli link and the interests of SA Jewry - who are passionately connected to Israel - so easily nullified?

If there is indeed a change of policy, we challenge Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, to unequivocally spell it out. How does government formulate strategy on international relations? Has there been a Cabinet decision on this? Clearly this cannot be a one-man show, subject to a single individual’s whims.

It is ludicrous for Ebrahim to discourage people from going to Israel and simultaneously claim policy has not changed. Nkoana-Mashabane’s failure to endorse or repudiate Ebrahim’s statements, suggests that South Africa’s foreign policy is either rudderless or one of expediency.

The question of the relationship to Israel and the Palestinians is so sensitive and loaded that it is necessary for government to avoid even the slightest impression that there might be hidden agendas at play unrelated to formal policy.

Some people from Jewish as well as non-Jewish groups, ask with genuine concern whether Ebrahim has gone beyond his official mandate and is injecting personal prejudices into government policy. For example, ACDP President Rev Kenneth Meshoe, said in a media release that Ebrahim should keep what appears to be “a personal vendetta against Israel” to himself.

But the fact that Ebrahim last week called a media briefing in his official capacity and reiterated and even defended his “discouragement” of official travel to Israel, gives weight to the notion that this has indeed become the official government’s approach. For him to say this is not new is obviously disingenuous.

Another recent incident when Marius Fransman, Ebrahim’s counterpart in the Department of International Relations and Co-operation, put pressure on a Western Cape Cabinet minister not to visit Israel, makes both of them appear to be endorsing what government wants - by proxy expounding the Minister’s views.

Jewish leadership cannot be caught napping in a situation like this, lest those attitudes become “normalised” as the status quo. It was encouraging to read the combined media statement criticising Ebrahim from communal bodies - the SAJBD, SAZF and Chief Rabbi - followed by a strong open letter in the general media by the Chief Rabbi calling on Ebrahim to resign.

Obviously incidents like these lead to considerable uneasiness among SA Jewry, with many quietly reassessing their long-term options. South Africa seems to be climbing high on the list of the most Israel-unfriendly places in the world; Jews - and many Christians as well - find this, as South Africans, highly problematic.

Jewish leadership faces a dilemma. Should it publicly confront Government head-on? Or should it use quiet behind-the-scenes diplomacy? The problem with the latter course is that it does not allay the community’s fears, since they don’t know about it. Leadership has to be seen in order to reassure its followers.

By the same token, Nkoana-Mashabane and her deputies are part of national leadership where policy is formulated. It is incumbent upon her to personally address this issue urgently, and not leave it to her deputies. We are waiting for her to act.

Marikana: a national tragedy

Like the rest of the country, we were stunned and horrified by the shooting deaths at Lonmin in Marikana of 34 miners, with scores of others wounded.

At this stage, no clear picture has emerged of who is in fact responsible for the initial violence. But it remains a tragedy of enormous proportions. We extend our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who died and were injured.

This matter must be treated as a national priority. The last time we had killings like this was during apartheid. We are in a different situation today, but heaven forbid we should return to such acts.

President Jacob Zuma’s words that it should never happen again must be indelibly printed on our national psyche.

South African-Israel relations implode

HOWARD SACKSTEIN

One-by-one, South Africa has watched its friends in the Middle East tumble from power. It has defended some of the most tyrannical dictatorships in the modern world and has supported the oppressive governments of Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Iran and Sudan. It watches silently as tens of thousands of Syrians die and that country spirals irreversibly into civil war.

Among this indifference to human suffering, Israel features as a cornerstone of South African foreign policy.

South Africa’s ruling party, the African National Congress, has never had a particularly close relationship with Israel. The PLO provided logistic support to the ANC in exile and Israel had a close relationship with the apartheid regime. For many within the ANC, they see echoes of their own struggle for freedom within the Palestinian conflict.

Over the past few months, the South African government’s increasingly aggressive statements have caused relations between Jerusalem

In the wake of the Turkey flotilla debacle, South Africa, Nicaragua and Ecuador were the only countries other than Turkey, to withdraw their ambassadors from Tel Aviv.

and Pretoria to spiral to implosion.

In the wake of the Turkey flotilla debacle, South Africa, Nicaragua and Ecuador were the only countries other than Turkey, to withdraw their ambassadors from Tel Aviv.

In March of this year, the South African government granted entry to renowned Hamas terrorist Abdul Aziz Umar to visit the country. Umar, was given seven life sentences in Israel for taking part in the Café Hillel suicide bombing attack in Jerusalem which killed seven people and injured 50. Ironically, Umar was dispatched to South Africa to promote “Israel Apartheid Week”.

Recently, at the behest of pro-Palestinian advocates, South African Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies, announced that he was to issue an official notice “to require traders in South Africa not to incorrectly label products that originate from the Occupied Palestinian Territory as products of Israel”.

Davies denied the move was politically motivated. His statements were, however, soon contradicted by Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Marius Fransman, who announced that “economic diplomacy could be one of the most effective weapons of change in the Palestin-



So sympathetic has South Africa become to the anti-Israel cause, that terrorists last month felt comfortable enough to attempt a foiled attack on Israeli targets in South Africa.

ian situation. I am glad to inform you that our government released a government notice, as a strategy to apply economic pressure on Israel.”

So sympathetic has South Africa become to the anti-Israel cause, that terrorists last month felt comfortable enough to attempt a foiled attack on Israeli targets in South Africa.

When a group of South African Jewish communal organisations and business leaders attempted to address the poor service delivery record of its government by training South Africans in Israel, their government applied pressure to scupper the trips.

Over the past 60 years Israel has been training Africans throughout the continent. Under the leadership of Yehuda Paz and the Afro/Asian Institute of the Histadrut, black South African civic leaders, trade unionists and NGOs, have been trained in Israel since the 1970s.

Paz was banned by the apartheid government from entering South Africa. Today, a post-apartheid South African government attempts to use the same tactics to ban South Africans from travelling to meet Paz at the Negev Institute in Israel.

Last week, International Relations and Co-operation Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim, informed South Africans that Pretoria discourages all South Africans from visiting Israel. He said: “Because of the treatment and policies of Israel towards the Palestinian people, we strongly discourage South Africans from going there.”

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies described the deputy minister’s stance as “grossly discriminatory, counter-productive and wholly inconsistent with how South Africa normally conducts its international relations”.

Probably the most scathing criticism of the deputy minister came from Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, who, described the deputy minister as unfit to hold public office and demanded that he should resign. Rabbi Goldstein

Probably the most scathing criticism of the deputy minister came from Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, who, described the deputy minister as unfit to hold public office and demanded that he should resign.

said: “Your actions hark back to apartheid-style control of information and censorship. For the sake of peace and justice, we need more information, not less; we need more dialogue, not less; we need more connections with other societies, not less.”

Israel has little to gain from its contributions to South Africa. In the mind of Israel, South Africa is an underdeveloped nation battling with rampant corruption, spiralling unemployment, chronic under-education and crippling service delivery.

South Africans should fear that Israel may take action to restrict its technology from being used in this country. Many farmers in rural South Africa have moved from subsistence farming to commercial farming, based on Israeli knowhow and technology.

South Africa’s bona fides has been further dented by the MTN-Turkcell court case in the US. If the Turkcell allegations against MTN are true, South Africa protected Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency in return for the awarding of a cellular operating licence to MTN.

Assisting Iran to obtain nuclear weapons, not only destabilises the entire Middle Eastern region, but also puts South Africa on a collision path with most of the civilised world.

The ANC is hoping that its anti-Israel policy will win it lost votes among the Muslim community in the Western Cape, the only South African province not controlled by the ANC, and which boasts a large Muslim community.

South Africa has lost its credibility to play any meaningful role in Middle East conflict resolution. Its failure to take any moral stand on international conflicts other than Israel/Palestine, has merely undermined its own credibility. Its pronouncements are mere platitudes to gain domestic votes and while service delivery protests spread across that country, fewer and fewer South African government officials will receive the training in Israel they so desperately need.

Howard Sackstein has a degree in law and international relations, a postgraduate law degree and a masters in political advocacy and international conflict resolution. He was one of the founders of the Jewish Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa and was executive director of South Africa’s Independent Electoral Commission. He led the only ANC delegation to ever visit Israel and took Nelson Mandela to Brussels on behalf of the World Jewish Congress.

How we treat our disabled, reflects on all of us

DR IVOR BLUMENTHAL

We judge our society by how it treats those who are disabled, and otherwise unable to compete equally. South Africa is not doing very well in this regard. One would, however, have expected that a culturally sophisticated and humane community such as the Jewish community, would distinguish itself in how and what it does for its disabled.

Let me be clear: I am not talking about money. As a community we are very generous in giving when it comes to the disabled. Equally, I am not referring to care. There are trained and dedicated professionals working tirelessly in more than one Jewish institution to ensure that both the child as well as the parents are well and properly treated.

What I am talking about is dignity, not charity. Jobs. Sustainability.

There are two truly inspirational people whom I have had the pleasure of meeting in this field. The first is Ralph Salo who has singlehandedly over the past 20 years turned a private organisation dedicated to would-be job seekers with disabilities, throughout Germany, into a national state-endorsed and funded programme.

The second is Prof Reuven Feuerstein whose organisation I have had the pleasure of bringing to SA to train over 1 000 teachers, therapists, parents and care givers, including therapists at the Chevrah Kadisha.

The object is to coach the person to self-actualise, to become everything he or she has the potential to become irrespective of their disability, thereby developing a sense of independence and freedom from charity.

We have superb enabling legislation in this country which promotes the employment of people with disabilities. Our tax regime is exceptionally generous for those companies prepared to employ people who are otherwise-abled.

Equally there are many jobs, which globally have been shown to be very well suited to people with specific disabilities. In the US, Germany, the UK and Israel, people with autism are used as sound engineers in recording companies, at radio stations.

They also work well in the news industry and in photography. Call centres in India employ a very high percentage of people in wheelchairs or on crutches. Pharmaceutical and chemical companies recruit blind people to work in areas such as in the production of perfumes.

A number of the best clinical and counselling psychologists around the world are

disabled in some way, as are many lecturers at universities.

We must not ignore the fact that working with the disabled is time consuming and often frustrating, particularly when dealing with those who are mentally, rather than physically disabled.

This is where both Salo and Feuerstein through decades of mastery, have developed systems which latch onto the individual, and those in the immediate environment and through trial and error simply make it work to its utmost consequence. Failure is not an option.

In their world, a conscious decision by an employer to recruit the disabled, results in extensive matching activities between the potential pool of employees and the job as well

as the workplace.

Bright employers and managers know, however, that there are also many direct and indirect advantages in recruiting people with disabilities. All expenses incurred in facilitating the introduction of people with disabilities into a company, are deductible.

Tax incentives and rewards are also available in addition to deductions designed to encourage such employment. HR managers know that they will earn as much affirmative action recognition against targets as they would in employing people of colour.

Additionally the company earns BBBEE points and rating for these activities. The softer intangible rewards are also there. The workplace becomes place of acceptance and a higher level of consciousness. Disabled employees are among the most loyal, committed and social employees.

The secret is strategic intent; it's about seeking the co-operation of Jewish business working in concert with Jewish NGOs and institutions to jointly own, rather than avoid the challenge of accommodating differently-abled members of our community.

It is about wanting to try rather than being smug that in giving charity, other people will take care of the person.

We have, as a society, to ensure that people with disabilities are not regarded as lepers placed where they cannot offend our delicate sensitivities.

For disabled people to be weaned off charity, which is becoming harder and harder to find, they have to be mainstreamed into the workplace wherever possible.



Ivor Blumenthal

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Food Lover's Market Norwood is more than just a place to do your grocery shopping – it's a theatre of food where every element combines to create a unique gourmet experience in a stylish, up-market setting.

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More highlights to look forward to when visiting our store include the Fruitstop counter, a seafood department filled with fresh and frozen fish, and a Hot Foods section where you'll find delicious home-cooked meals to take home and enjoy.

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Limmud makes no apology for having had Valley as a presenter

Limmud SA would like to respond to the letter of Dr Rob Bloch in the Jewish Report of August 17 (objecting to the presentation by artist Eli Valley).

Valley was one of 17 international presenters who attended Limmud SA this year. These included presenters from across the political, religious and ideological spectrum. It also included presenters in the field of arts and culture, Torah, philosophy, history, Israel, current affairs, music, and text.

Our international presenters came from the US, Israel, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. This spread of presenters is reflective of one of the aims of Limmud SA, namely to provide a wide choice to our participants of the different approaches to Jewish life and culture in the Jewish world today.

Valley has presented at the Limmud conference in the United Kingdom and at Limmud New York. He is the author of The Great Jewish Cities of Central and Eastern Europe, and the artist in residence for the Jewish Daily Forward. The Forward is a publication which has been in existence for 115 years and is one of the Jewish world's most renowned publications.

Three years ago we had protests outside Limmud because of the participation of David Benjamin, a former legal adviser to the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF). There were those in our community who felt that Benjamin should not have been given a room to speak in.

We defended the right of Benjamin to present, just as much as we defend the right of Valley to present. Eli Valley is definitely a voice that is part of the global Jewish conversation. We received one other complaint in Johannesburg about Valley. We received no complaints in Durban or Cape Town. We must also note that those who heard Valley at the same talk were not an "an impressionable and mainly unaffiliated young audience".

This is the same for Durban, and in Cape Town. The people in the audience comprised a range of ages, views and political outlooks. These are discerning and intellectual minds who had also been exposed to a range of diverse views throughout the course of the Limmud weekend.

Being a volunteer-driven organisation, Limmud SA is not perfect. We invite Dr Bloch to join our programming team in 2013 and help us make Limmud Johannesburg 2013 a brilliant event.

Wayne Sussman and Adina Roth
Limmud SA National Executive

Criticism of Eli Valley's satirical take at Limmud is unfair

I respond to the online letter by Dr Rob Bloch regarding the satirist comic guest Eli Valley who attended the excellent Limmud conference at the Vaal, which catered to all spectrums of our fabulous and diverse community, with guests including Orthodox rabbis, the former-chief rabbi's wife, Rebbetzen Ann Harris, Shmuley Boteach (who missed his flight but made it to Limmud Durban and Cape Town) to leftists such as Eli Valley and others; apologies for the many omissions on all sides.

Unlike Dr Bloch, I was impressed by the comical and satirical comedic lecture that Valley gave. I may not share his every sentiment, but certainly enjoyed his self-deprecating sense of humour. The lecture was given late in the evening, and I confess, slightly later than my 55yrs is accustomed to!

There may have been "young" members in the audience, but besides one very mature almost 17-year-old, the youngest was about 22, an age that should be able to accommodate the satirical content.

To classify the content as anti-Semitic, is a falsity. Let's save that one for BDS et al, the over-reactive groupings who need to wake up to the fact that they are simply calling a Jew a Jew and are no more that anti-Semites, whether they are ASHamed Jews or not!

(Dr) Sam Nudelman
Johannesburg

For the record

Through editing, 'wrong message' is conveyed in Dr Bloch's letter

Due to space constraints, Dr Rob Bloch's letter in last week's Jewish Report, in which he took satirist Eli Valley's Limmud appearance to task, unfortunately had to be severely edited.

Dr Bloch writes: "In only a few lines, I tried to explain exactly what it was that Valley said that I found so objectionable and offensive. You left this out completely. As a result, my comments went unexplained and unsubstantiated."

The paragraph left out of Dr Bloch's letter, reads as follows: "Seemingly influenced by his own dysfunctional upbringing and experiences in Israel and the US, he (Valley) is overtly anti-Semitic and vociferously anti-Zionist. Without going into specific details here, he attacks and degrades Israelis, particularly the ultra-Orthodox. He singles out the IDF for their 'macho brutality', the way they look and the way they behave.

"He trivialises the Holocaust and is critical of Jews for being overly obsessed with it. I found this particularly offensive and obnoxious. Why are Jews so concerned about and obsessed with intermarriage? he asks."

We hope this clarifies the situation.

Silence from SA community in Israel is deafening

It is distressing to note the silence from Telfed (The SA Zionist Fed in Israel), the representative of the former SA community in Israel with regards to Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim's pronouncement on advising South Africans not to travel to Israel, especially given the number of South Africans living there.

I have looked at the Telfed website, scoured the press and the silence from Telfed is deafening!

I am amazed that Telfed has chosen to be silent and nowhere has any protest by them been seen in this regard, be it an official letter of condemnation to the SA Embassy, letter to the press, organising mass letters by each former SA citizen to be sent to the SA Embassy in Israel or some other communication, whereby they voice their disgust at such an anti-Semitic and ill-informed stance.

It amazes one at the anti-Israel stance taken by the SA Government, being the so-called beacon of human rights, yet their stance on other worldwide atrocities is conspicuous by its absence.

OraRuth Rother
London

In SA, jobseekers have a hard journey

In response to Dr Ivor Blumenthal's article in last week's Jewish Report, I must agree that he has raised some valid points regarding uncertainties for Jewish jobseekers.

Staff Wise Cape Town has been assisting Jewish jobseekers since 1999. We have found that Jewish jobseekers need assistance across the board from school leavers, to the retrenched, to the seniors; it is by no means only graduates feeling the pressure.

Living in a South Africa with affirmative action means that jobseekers have a much harder journey and need to be far more proactive than in the past. There are no longer guarantees when it comes to employment.

We are proud to have exceeded our 1 500th placement this year and we will continue to assist the many jobseekers in our community.

Linda Kavalsky
Director, Staff Wise Cape Town

This year's Limmud get thumbs up

Kol Hakovod to the organisers and presenters of Limmud. It was so wonderful to be in a community of chaver-shaft and tolerance for the Shabbat and the weekend of August 5.

Despite the fact that some presenters didn't arrive, the lectures were of an extremely standard, both educational and enjoyable.

Yvonne Heitner
Johannesburg

Time to think about Jewish future in SA

The recent statements by Deputy Minister Ebrahim have disturbed and angered the South African Jewish community.

Similar statements have been made against Jews for the last two millennia. A non-Jewish work colleague of mine recently visited the United State Holocaust Museum in Washington. His comment to me was: "Didn't they see what was happening? Why did they not leave when they could?"

The recent local campaigns against Israel and the Boycott, Divest and Sanction movement, should give us cause to pause and think. No amount of advocacy, currying of political favour, nor high-level meetings will change the fact that every Jewish community in the Diaspora has had a beginning, a middle and an end.

I hope that the end of our community will not be through violence or assimilation, but rather through the natural movement of Jews to our homeland.

Dean Lutrin
Johannesburg

It was Nkoana-Mashabane and not Dlamini-Zuma

In last week's editorial, a reference was made to "Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma". This was incorrect. We intended to refer to the Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane. We regret the error.

Going, going... on auction

Compiled by the SA Jewish Report. Tel: (011) 274-1400 e-mail: advertising@sajewishreport.co.za or visit www.sajewishreport.co.za

Bidding with confidence: a guide to auction finance

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On-line bidding system raises the bar

COMPILED BY THE LATE DAVE GRAY

Against the background of a booming vehicle auction sector, South Africa's first live, on-line, real time Internet-based vehicle auction bidding system, has been unveiled.

Backed by market leaders Park Village Auctions, the system puts the latest interactive IT technology to work and is opening up the burgeoning vehicle auction market to a vast new audience of consumers, dealers and businesses via the Internet.

PVA is also applying the technology to its property and mining auctions with great success. The technology has proven particularly useful to the mining sector in that it limits foot traffic to viewing days and collection only, which is great news for mining entities concerned about safety issues.

Says Park Village director Roy Lazarus: "With the click of a mouse, it's now possible to take part in our auctions while they're in progress, without actually being on site. We believe it's nothing less than a quantum leap for the auction sector.

"The online vehicle bidding platform raises the bar in electronic auctions, which, until now, have been restricted to 'static' bids without the benefit of taking part in the action while it's happening," adds Lazarus.

According to him, bidders have to pay a deposit first, which enables them to register and bid. Once registered, bidders can see who is bidding against them which ensures transparency and eliminates the risk of "ghost bidding". He explains that on-line bids are submitted incrementally as bidding

proceeds on the day, via home, office PC or other devices.

"Bidders can now view on-line and attend the live auction or view at the warehouse and then bid on-line on the day, via PC or other device, while using the live streaming web-cast to view proceedings as they unfold.

In terms of the actual user interface, bidders will be able to view virtual catalogues on the screen accompanied by information about each lot. The display changes in real time during the course of the auction showing the next lot to be sold and lots that have already been sold.

An electronic vending roll sends a text message to the successful bidder - also in real time - to confirm that a bid is accepted and the display is projected at the auction site, allowing bidders on the floor to keep track as well.

The on-line system offers numerous advantages, says Lazarus. "There's no more waiting in lines to register. Information is to hand both before the auction begins and during the auction and all the necessary formalities are accommodated on the software platform.

"Live attendance at an auction is still probably the first choice of most bidders, as it allows them to kick the tyres as it were. However, it's not always possible to attend an auction personally for whatever reason and today's auction environment is about value adds, so our bidders now have the options, flexibility and convenience of choice, irrespective of where they are," concludes Lazarus.

SAIA's Code of Conduct



The South African Institute of Auctioneers (SAIA) is a voluntary body that represents the auctioneering industry in South Africa. It was established to provide a set of standards which its members would adhere to in order to promote the ethical and professional practice of auctioneering as a profession.

Members of the organisation vary from large corporates to smaller businesses. No matter the size of the company, by becoming a member of SAIA, auctioneering houses display their commitment to offering a professional service to both sellers and buyers.

SAIA members are compelled to meet legal requirements by belonging to the Estate Agency Affairs Board if they sell property. They also contribute towards a Fidelity Fund that offers financial protection for the public who are involved in selling or buying movable goods at auction.

"Good fences good neighbours make" is a well-known saying. The "good fences" don't mean you distrust your neighbour; it simply means that "good-neighbourliness" is structured and all ambiguity removed. It entails "dos" and don'ts".

SAIA has an all-encompassing Code of Conduct which spells out in detail what is expected from its members – and obviously, what's not. To agree to the terms and to adhere to its rules, lend credence to its membership. It is a document protecting both auction house and clients and again shows how important it is to deal with a body willing to put its professional reputation on the line.

Looking at the Code of Conduct, it is imperative that anyone attending an auction or entrusting an item to be sold, deal with an accredited auctioneer who is a member of the Institute and adheres to its Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct kicks off by stating: "A member may be held responsible for a breach of, or failure to, comply with this code..."

It adds: "A member may not, under the guise or through the medium of a partnership, company, close corporation or any other entity, do anything or allow anything to be done which he or she would not be permitted to do as an individual in terms of this code of conduct."

A key word is "integrity". "Every member is obliged to conduct his or her affairs in the auctioneering profession with integrity. It says: "All members are obliged to practise in a manner which is fair, honest and free of conflicts of interest, prejudice and bias."

Because money is at stake, the Code says: "A member entrusted with monies belonging to others (by example sellers or liquidators) in the course of his or her professional work should keep such monies separate from personal or firm money; use such monies only for the purpose for which they are intended; and at all times be ready to account for those monies to any person entitled to such accounting.

"Every member is required to have a detailed knowledge of and to abide by any legislation, statutory enactments, regulations and any other binding sources of authority..."

The Code stresses that any purchaser or seller who believes a member of the auctioneering services has acted "unethically" or "improper", is entitled to lay a complaint before the Institute.

The Code stresses that "it is the duty of every member of the Institute to the best of his knowledge and belief and with the exercise of reasonable care and without negligence, to protect users against: fraud; misrepresentations; unethical practices in connection with the sale, disposal or liquidation of any movable or immovable property".

On commissions to be paid, it says: "A member shall at all times ensure that the seller is informed of the rate of the seller's commission, the buyer's commission and all other expenses to be levied in respect of the auction."

The Code stresses: 'Every member has a general duty... to protect the public's interest. In terms of this duty.'


The Code stresses: "Every member has a general duty... to protect the public's interest. In terms of this duty."


The Code comes out explicitly against misrepresentation in advertising – the bane of many an auction-attende. It stresses that no member of the Institute shall "wilfully or negligently mislead or misrepresent in regard to any matter pertaining to property to be sold at an auction in respect of which he has a mandate to sell such property; use any harmful or misleading marketing technique or method to influence any user to confer upon him a mandate to conduct an auction in respect of that user's movable or immovable property."

Members of the Institute are also obliged to take "all reasonable and necessary steps" to prevent the manipulation of an auction, inter alia by bidders who are 'planted' with a view to manipulating the price of a particular item obtained at an auction and in circumstances where the 'planted' bidder is not a genuine prospective purchaser.

"Similarly, members are obliged to take all reasonable and necessary steps to prevent what is known as 'ghost bidding', that is, accepting a bid from a purchaser who is not physically present at the auction.

"Members are obliged to ensure that they do not collude with buyers in any manner whatsoever and, if a member is aware of any collusion between any buyers, the member is obliged to inform the seller of that knowledge."

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For more info visit:
www.parkvillageauctions.co.za



Golf Day aims to hit hole-in-one for rhino

Consolidated Auction Group will be doing its bit for the fight against rhino poaching at its Golf Day on September 14.

The benefit venture forms part of the company’s greater Corporate Social Investment (CSI) policy, and will serve to highlight the commitment of East Rand business people to “hit a hole-in-one for the rhino”.

Says Chico da Silva, Consolidated’s managing member: “Our rhinos are very much an important part of our natural heritage. When we recently launched a sideline CSI-project, Heritage Watch, to promote the preservation and appropriate procurement of artefacts, we thought it only natural to include the wealth of our wildlife in our ongoing heritage efforts.

“And what better month to do this in than September, when we celebrate South Africa’s diverse heritage?”

The company’s CSI contribution to matters of progressive preservation, has also been noted in the highest circles.

Earlier this year Da Silva was the preferred auctioneer when the Wildlands Trust held a rhino benefit art auction at a glittering gala in Sandton.

Luminaries at the gala included Minister of Arts and Culture Paul Mashatile.

The auction itself included several large-size rhino sculptures decorated by artists and sports stars like Freshly Ground and Oscar Pistorius.

“It was a highlight on our auction calendar and a privilege to do our bit for the Wildlands Trust.”

Consolidated’s Golf Day is organised in conjunction with the Southern Ekurhuleni Chamber of Business (Secob).

“We don’t just host some of the biggest auctions in Gauteng,” says Da Silva. “Our nerve centre in Germiston also hosts the head offices of

one of the biggest business chambers in South Africa.

“Through Secob we couldn’t ask for a better partner to attract leading role-players and stakeholders from one of the country’s biggest industrial zones to our Golf Day.

“In other words, profiling of the blight of rhino poaching will receive top billing among captains of industry and the like.”

The Golf Day will take the form of betterball stableford and will be held at the Germiston Country Club.

There are still several four balls available but they’re going fast.

- Interested people should contact Consolidated’s events organiser, Charmaine Stockdale, at (011) 872-1890; or Alta Mulder from Secob at 082-874-8282. Their respective e-mail addresses are: charmaine@cagp.co.za and alta@secob.co.za



Chico da Silva of Consolidated Auction Group during a recent rhino benefit auction that the company held at a Wildlands Trust-gala in Sandton.

Early history of the auction

The word “auction” is derived from the Latin *augeō* which means “I increase” or “I augment”. For most of history, auctions have been a relatively uncommon way to negotiate the exchange of goods and commodities. In practice, both haggling and sale by set-price have been significantly more common. Indeed, prior to the 17th century, the few auctions that were held were sporadic and infrequent.

Nonetheless, auctions have a long history, having been recorded as early as 500 BC.[According to Herodotus, in Babylon auctions of women for marriage were held annually. The auctions began with the woman the auctioneer considered to be the most beautiful and progressed to the least. It was considered illegal to allow a daughter to be sold outside of the auction method.

During the Roman Empire, following military victory, Roman soldiers would often drive a spear into the ground around which the spoils of war were left, to be auctioned off. Later slaves, often captured as the “spoils of war”, were auctioned in the forum under the sign of the spear, with the proceeds of sale going towards the war effort.

The Romans also used auctions to liquidate the assets of debtors whose property had been confiscated. For example, Marcus Aurelius sold household furniture to pay off debts, the sales lasting for months.

One of the most significant historical auctions occurred in the year 193 AD when the entire Roman Empire was put on the auction block by the Praetorian Guard. On March 23 The Praetorian Guard first killed emperor Pertinax, then offered the empire to the highest bidder.

Didius Julianus outbid everyone else for the price of 6 250 drachmas per Guard, an act that initiated a brief civil war. Didius was then beheaded two months later when Septimius Severus conquered Rome.

From the end of the Roman Empire to the 18th century auctions lost favour in Europe, while they had never been widespread in Asia.

In some parts of England during the 17th and 18th centuries, auction by candle was used for the sale of goods and leaseholds. This auction began by lighting a candle after which bids were offered in ascending order until the candle spluttered out. The high bid at the time the candle extinguished itself won the auction.

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Dorfman's 'Delirium' has world
debut at the Market next week

ROBYN SASSEN

Arguably one of the most important playwrights in the contemporary world, Jewish Argentine-born Chilean writer, Ariel Dorfman (70), who has written extensively and articulately about his layered relationship with American culture, enjoys a muscular relationship with South Africa, stretching back decades.

Premised on friendship and memories, it's about our politics as much as his own; above all, it's a relationship about trust. In his autobiography, Heading South, Looking North, he explains how he heard of his mother's death while he was in SA in 1997: "It was South Africa that found a way to start healing me: a nation that had been through so much death and had been, nevertheless, so passionately bent on hope and resurrection." Dorfman's play, Delirium, enjoys its world debut next week at the Market Theatre.

The play is directed by Greg Ho-

mann who skitters humbly from the thought that he is, in a sense filling the shoes of the late Barney Simon. Dorfman had a sustained deep friendship with Simon, who he met in 1991.

Homann met Dorfman through a story he was commissioned to write in 2010, when Dorfman visited SA.

"I interviewed Dorfman. He understood I was an arts writer, but realised, with my focus on his plays and his work



Ariel Dorfman

(PHOTO: www.gradschool.duke.edu)

with language and identity, I have my own priorities. After the interview's formalities, I put off the dictaphone, and we spoke informally; he was delighted to discover I was a director and invited me to the reading of an extract from Delirium the next evening.

"It really seemed like a fleeting meeting to me, but Dorfman was very excited about the prospect of my directing the play in South Africa. He thought South Africa was ideal for it to have its first season. And it's happening, now.

"The play is about borders and language: psychological and political,



David Dennis; Fezile Mpela and Fiona Ramsay, cast of Delirium. (PHOTOGRAPH BY RUPHIN COUDYZER)



Greg Homann

(PHOTO: MARKET THEATRE)

moving house at the moment; he teaches at Duke University and lives in Durham, in North Carolina."

• Delirium, starring David Dennis, Fiona Ramsay and Fezile Mpela, with design by Denis Hutchinson and

Jemma Kahn, opens in the Barney Simon Theatre on August 28 for four weeks. As part of the Mail & Guardian Literary Festival, Homann talks on the challenges of directing Delirium on August 30, (011) 832-1641.

Being marooned in a part of your life...

ROBYN SASSEN

"It's about the terror of fatherhood. It's about Joburg. It's about selfishness," former Londoner, writer Nick Warren describes his play Sunday Morning, "It's about that dusty sense of being marooned in a part of your life."

Without spoiling the plot, Warren's wife, Jenine Collocott, Sunday Morning's director adds: "Every time you stop at a robot, you're confronted with how involved in someone else's plight you can be." A graduate of AFDA film school, Collocott is currently studying theatre making at Hèlikos, in Florence, Italy.

"The question," adds Warren, "is what level of despair do you walk away from?"

"We approached actor James Cunningham to perform. It was the first time we've pitched a part; it was really funny telling him 'It has to be you!'," said Collocott.

Cunningham, a graduate of Paris' theatre school Jacques Lecoq, wasn't convinced. "It was the first time I'd had to work with a script and be alone on-stage. I thought it really didn't have to be me." Before he e-mailed his "no", he ran it by his wife, theatre practitioner, Helen Iskander. "She said I must do it," he grins. "The e-mail never went.

"In the play, I recognised a lot of personal stuff anyone in a big city can relate to. Life is hard. It's easy to get caught in your own path and become blind to everyone else's."

James Cunningham in
Sunday Morning.



(PHOTO: SUPPLIED)

Says Collocott: "James has a strong physicality and delivers dialogue that makes you cry and laugh."

She's right: the play debuted last August, in a season which garnered it smooth passage to the Grahamstown Festival and beyond.

Sunday Morning is a mono-drama with a scant set. Its beauty and grit rests on superb writing and impeccable performance and direction. "You can disregard elements like economic viability," says Warren, "if you own a theatre. If you don't, you've got to construct your work cleverly. Most plays are too long and indulgent. In cutting texts, you've got to respect them enough to stab them in the face."

The play was initially called Roadkill. "Theatre producer Daphne Kuhn e-mailed: 'It sounds wonderful. Pity about the name!' We don't want to make theatre scary to the public; we changed it to Sunday Morning, the name of a song we use in the play," says Collocott.

"It's a version of the Velvet Un-

derground cover song," Cunningham adds. "I wanted something with a Lou Reed-feel. On YouTube I found a beautifully fragile version of Velvet Underground's Femme Fatale, performed by 22-year-old Canadian student, Kayla Mohamed on her ukulele. We contacted her; she recorded her version of Sunday Morning for us."

Warren, Collocott and Cunningham, Iskander, James Cairns and Taryn Bennett, proactively believe in theatre's future. They're constantly creating new, irrepressible work, like "High Diving", "Kaput!" "Dirt", "Sie Weiss Alles" and "Sunday Morning". Cunningham agrees: "Evolutionary collaboration makes fresh work."

Sunday Morning is at Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton, September 3 - 15, (011) 883-8606; the Gauteng Schools Festival, September 4 - 7, call Neville: 084-498-2979; and the Hilton Arts Festival, Pietermaritzburg, September 21 - 23: www.hiltonfestival.co.za, (033) 383-0126.

Saul Musker shines in English Olympiad

ELIZABETH LEAVER
PHOTOGRAPH: Yael Gordon

Saul Musker of King David High School Victory Park, has finished second in the 2012 English Olympiad. This is a stellar performance as no fewer than 7 600 candidates wrote the Olympiad this year. The candidates who placed in the top 15 were invited to attend the Grahamstown Festival as guests of the Olympiad organisers, but the exact ranking remained unknown until a glittering ceremony on the last day of the Festival.

In front of 800 invited guests, it was announced that an entrant from the Eastern Cape had won, that Saul had placed second, and that a learner from Pretoria came third.

Saul is no stranger to English Olympiad success, as he placed in the top 50 candidates in 2010 when he was in grade 10. This ranking won Saul a full scholarship at Rhodes University.

This time, the top three prize-winners won a 10 day literary tour of England in December. They will visit places of literary interest, such as Stratford-on-Avon, birthplace of William Shakespeare, and Chawton House, home to Jane Austen. The tour concludes with a four day whirl of theatre attendances in London.

At KDVP, we are extremely proud of Saul's exceptional performance. He is having a most successful year, as he was the junior mayor on the Johannesburg Junior Council for 2011-2012, is one of five members of the 2011 and 2012 South African team for the World Debating Championships, and is a pivotal member of the KDVP SACEE Senior Debating Team which has so far won five out of its six debates.



Minnie Bersohn tots create a colour wheel



Pictured are Daniel Mailich; Hannah Nathan; Daria Cohn; and Jesse Michelow, creating a colour wheel.

MANDI DEFRIES
PHOTOGRAPH: MICHELLE VINOKUR

Colours everywhere! The children from Minnie Bersohn Pre-Primary School in Sandton, had a great time mixing and experimenting with various colours.

TA youngsters joyously finish Sefer Bereishis

STORY AND
PHOTOGRAPH BY
CHANI ZWICK

Grade 5 girls from Gila Ash's class at Torah Academy Primary School, finished Sefer Bereishis and celebrated with a breakfast siyum and divrei Torah. They are pictured enjoying their festive meal.



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

Today, Friday (August 24)

- The Federation of Synagogues Women’s Guilds of SA requests all Jewish women throughout SA to pray for peace and harmony in our land. Recite Psalm 27, just before lighting the Shabbat candles and pledge a donation to charity.
- UZLC hosts Graham Joffe, sports commentator talking on “Olympics”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (August 26)

- RCHCC by is rescreening the documentary “Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378
- UJW hosts “Diversity in Concert”. Venue: Victory Theatre, Louis Botha Avenue. Time: 20:00. Cost: R150 per ticket. Contact: (011) 648-1053 (office) or Bev 082-574-4770.
- Jewish and Israeli live music with Roni Lea singing/playing keyboards. Time: from 12:30. Venue: Kosher Mi Vami, Glenhazel.

- RCHCC hosts an exhibition of works by Avryl Haddon, Miriam Perkel and Rudi Trap. Exhibition closes on September 12. Opening: 18:00. Contact: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378.
- Hospice Flea Boot Market at the Checkers Car Park on Barry Hertzog Avenue, Emmarentia. Every first and last Sunday of each month 08:00 until 13:00. Call: (011) 794-5464.
- Our Parents Home Morning Market from 10:30 - 13:30. Contact: Cecilia (011) 489-7196.

- Second Innings hosts cellist Mishka Favis. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Contact: Grecia: (011) 532-9718.
- Johannesburg Jewish Resource Centre is hosting the launch of Steve Apfel’s book, “Hadrian’s Echo”. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 17:30. Cost: R40 Bookings library@beyachad.co.za
- WIZO hosts a “No Limit Texas Hold’em Charity Poker Tournament” at Simon Kuper Hall. Time: 15:00. Donation R500. Contact: Dina 082-452-4475.

Monday (August 27)

- UJW hosts Ronnie Mink, talking on “The Blood Lands” - an examination of the nations of Eastern Europe. Venue: 1 Oak Street Houghton. Time: 09:30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (August 28)

- UJW hosts Estelle Sher talking on “Brahm’s Violin Concerto in D Major opus 77”. (This will be performed by Joshua Bell on August 29 and 30 at the Linder Auditorium.) Venue: 1 Oak Street Houghton. Time: 09:30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Wednesday (August 29)

- Balfour Park Parkinson’s Disease Support Group meets in

the Boardroom, Randjes Estate. Nicky Pryor, a consultant dietitian, speaks on “The Importance of Diet in Parkinson’s Disease”. Time: 10:00. Call Rosemary (011) 640-3919.

- UJW CT adult education division hosts Rhoda Kadalie, executive director of Impumelelo Social Innovations Centre, talking on “Demonstrating Best Practice in SA”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

- WIZO Johannesburg hosts a Ladies Morning “In Living Colour”, with a stylist, brand consultant and art therapist. Venue: HOD. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Cost R200.

Bookings: Sandy (011) 645-2548.

- WIZO Meir Szold shows “Miracle at Midnight”. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R40. Contact: Cecily (011) 882-9996.

Thursday (August 30)

- UJW CT hosts three lectures by Toni Shaked “Understanding Your Teenager”, commencing today. Cost R200 for the course. Contact: Hermoine Sternberg (021) 434-9555.

Saturday evening (September 1)

- Northcliff Shul gala dinner: “Spring in Northcliff”. Time 20:00. Dress formal. R350 per person. Contact Sharon” 011 678- 3015 or 0723458219.

Community Columns

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

What I learned from Fran - without being there

It’s not news to anyone that most women today are strong, upfront and independent. Ask any husband, or child. Ask the colleagues of accomplished women in the workplace.

Although I wasn’t there, the Chev’s Fran Drescher event on August 5 - billed as an occasion “only for the gals” - taught me so much more about the strength and power of women who truly are a formidable force for good. Their hearts and their heads are perfectly positioned to change the world for the benefit of humanity.

Firstly, the function gained the support of 1 080 women of all ages, from communities across the city. So, what I know for sure is that Fran was a huge drawcard and the ladies really wanted to meet her.

Fran herself is a remarkable inspiration, a woman who has faced huge challenges in her life - violent crime, cancer and the subsequent inability to have children of her own. Her response was to become an international health advocate, demonstrating huge courage and determination and turning, as women so often do, lemons into lemonade.



Partners in Chesed
Michael Sieff
Group CEO

on feedback@thechev.org.za

Women cannot bear to witness suffering and their reaction is immediate and compassionate. So, another thing I learned from this event is just how supportive and generous they can be. Their response to the fundraising appeal was amazing and the Chev is very grateful.

The event provided an opportunity for the Chev to launch a new fundraising brand called “Friends of the Chev”. If you are not yet a “Pillar of the Community” donor and don’t quite fit into the “Helping Hand” age group, you are almost certainly a friend! And although Friends of the Chev is not restricted to women only, as the event was, it is championed by another strong, independent and successful woman, Rayanne Jacobson, who has agreed to drive the initiative as its honorary chairman.

With a woman in charge, it is bound to be another huge success!

- May our partnership continue to thrive!
- Please feel free to communicate with me

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

What is the true government policy?

The past week has been a difficult one not just for our Jewish community, but for the whole country. Overshadowing the difficult situation that has arisen regarding the SA-Israel relationship, which has been brought to the fore by the actions of certain hard-line anti-Israel elements within government, is obviously the Lonmin shooting tragedy.

It was very shocking to witness how even 18 years after the transition to democracy, deadly confrontations reminiscent of some of the darkest corners of our collective past can still take place in our country.

Another very disturbing incident was the deadly hate crime that claimed the life of a member of the Muslim community, Fayaaz Kazi. The suspected perpetrators have been apprehended and the full facts of the incident will in due course emerge in court, but at this stage there seems little doubt that the victim was targeted because of his religion.

The Board issued press statements on both of these cases. We believe it is important for us, as the representative spokesperson for SA Jewry, to participate in the broader national conversation, especially when issues of prejudice and discrimination are concerned.

The third statement we issued last week, was combined, released under the names of the Board, SA Zionist Federation and Office of the Chief Rabbi. It was released in response to reported statements emanating from the Department of International Relations and Co-operation clearly intimating that boycotts against Israel have now become official government policy.

Specifically, Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim stated that his department discouraged South Africans from visiting Israel, not just at the official but even the individual level.



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

Inter alia, our statement characterised this stance as being “grossly discriminatory, counter-productive and wholly inconsistent with how South Africa normally conducts its international relations and contradicts its official policy of having full diplomatic ties with Israel”.

So far as we are concerned, moving from critical rhetorical to active boycott crosses a red line. Just as we have been pulling out all the stops to confront the Department of Trade and Industry’s heavily politicised re-labeling policy re products from West Bank settlements, so have we been drawing on all available resources to counteract this dangerous foreign policy trend?

It is important to emphasise that there are differing schools of thought within the ruling party on the whole question, and while the hardline boycottist faction would seem to be in the ascendancy at present, the question of what is in fact government policy is far from clear.

The work we are currently doing through our diplomatic channels, aims both at achieving clarity on the question and a confirmation at the highest level that South Africa is, in fact, committed to maintaining full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Already, as a result of both internal and external pressure, the Deputy Minister has backtracked somewhat from his original unequivocal pronouncements. Hopefully, it will be possible to report back next week on real progress made in resolving the whole unfortunate situation.

- Listen to Steven Gruzd on Jewish Board Talk on 101.9 ChaiFM every Friday 12:00-13:00. Repeats Sundays, 11:00-12:00.

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Community Briefs

ABRAHAM BUCHMAN INSCRIBED IN JNF GOLDEN BOOK PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED
He was presented with the certificate at a tea at Highlands House last week. In his honour, the Abraham Buchman Award has been established and will be presented to an up-and-coming young Zionist at the biennial conferences of the SAZF in future. Buchman (right) is pictured here with Jonathan Silke, national president of the SAZF.-
MOIRA SCHNEIDER



Ninety-nine-year-old Abraham Buchman was inscribed in the JNF Golden Book by the South African Zionist Federation (Cape Council) to mark a lifetime of service to Zionism and the State of Israel.

YOUNG DRIVERS – ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MIRACLE DRIVE EVENT
Miracle Drive recently held an event to encourage “Young Driver”, a new generation of donors, to participate in the many projects Miracle Drive runs, under the guidance of Rabbi David Masinter and Young Drivers Chairman Gregg Cohen.

Rabbi Masinter emphasised the work Miracle Drive does to enrich the lives of those within the Jewish community and beyond. “Miracle Drive endeavours to brighten the lives of thousands by inviting countless individuals to create miracles for the many causes Miracle Drive supports.” Rabbi Ari Kievman presented certificates to three young drivers who had helped Chabad seniors in the iPad training programme. **SHIRA DRUION**

SAUJS RAISES FUNDS FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANTS
Recently, SAUJS staged a fundraiser for profoundly deaf children, mooted Sight 4 Sound. In a media statement, they quoted Pam Hammerschlag, mother of a deaf child: “Yakira’s first ear was implanted when she was 18 months; her second, nine months later. Seven years later, she leads a normal life.” A cochlear implant for one ear costs R200 000, including surgery and post-surgery therapy. The earlier a cochlear implant is done, the easier it is for a child to adapt to the technology and learn to speak. SAUJS is continuing to raise funds for this cause. Call Candice: 072-485-6019 or saujsightsound@gmail.com.

BOARD EXPRESSES SYMPATHY WITH SLAIN MUSLIM’S FAMILY
The South African Jewish Board of Deputies last week expressed sympathy with the family of Ventersdorp businessman Mohammed Fayaz Kazi who died from injuries sustained in a racially-motivated attack in the Hartebeespoort area a fortnight ago. “Such hate crimes have no place in a democratic SA,” they said in a press statement. “We condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms. We are pleased that the perpetrators have been arrested and hope that they are swiftly brought to justice”. For more information please contact Mary Kluk on 083-775-8618.

CHAI FM’S ROSH HASHANAH RADIOTHON COMING UP
On September 12, Chai FM hosts its annual Rosh Hashanah fundraising radiothon. This year’s initiative, mooted Who’s It Gonna Be? aims to actively involve the community. ChaiFM appeals to listeners to choose the registered Jewish not-for-profit organisation you consider most deserving. This Friday, August 24 is the deadline for nominating a charity by smsing the name of the organisation with the keyword “radiothon” to 34519. The three most popular charities will be featured on www.chaifm.com between August 27 and 31; you will get to vote online for the organisation you would like to see win. Contact Ronel Zeff for further information ronel@chaifm.com

WINTER WARMER 2012 CAMPAIGN A HUGE SUCCESS
The days were full of fun for the kids, with jumping castles, gingerbread men and hotdogs. After a morning of fun, “Uncle Ben” arrived to deliver fresh veggies for Yad Aharon and Michael.

The children were each given a bag of veggies to present to the Yad Aharon & Michael staff; the message of chesed and tzedakah were learned by all.



The Winter Warmer campaign is run every year by Chana Rivka Lewin, a teacher at Torah Academy Nursery School, as a way to give back during her holiday programme, called Kaleidoscope Kids, which took place this year during July.

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Turn Israel’s London drought into Rio medals

JACK MILNER

With the Olympic Games over and the dust starting to settle, countries all over the world are either crowing about their successes or licking their wounds and trying to find where they have put the blueprint so they may revisit it.

In South Africa, Sascoc seems quite happy about the six medals (three gold, two silver and a bronze) obtained by our athletes, although beforehand they were mentioning 12 as a possibility.

As far as Israel is concerned, the London Games may have been a great sporting event, but from a medals point of view - it was a catastrophe.

As Aaron Kalman from the Times of Israel points out, the country’s athletes demonstrated that the potential is there, “but it’s the thinnest of lines that separates victory from oh-so-close, and Israel, this time, couldn’t cross that line.

“Nobody will be waiting for the stragglers to catch up, either. So, un-

less Israel funds its talented youngsters and encourages teenagers to excel, it will most likely remain a country with dreams of victory but few or no medals. For the 2016 Rio Olympics to be any better than the London Games, things have to change. Drastically!”

Kalman believes the Jewish State could win medals if it adjusted its mindset and fixed some of the problems in its sporting system.

He has looked at three main issues: Firstly, money should rather be invested in training athletes than dished out for good performances. That money - or part of it - should be invested to guarantee victory, rather than be given to those who have already succeeded.

How would judokas and swimmers feel if they had a decent monthly salary, and didn’t need to practise part-time in order to live an average lifestyle? Not a glamorous over-the-top salary, just an average income that would allow them to dedicate themselves fulltime to their training routines.

Secondly, encourage kids to excel in sports. For years, learners who excelled in sports after school hours, receive no official recognition for their efforts. Thousands of children and teenagers take part in gymnastics, track and field, judo, cycling, fencing and a whole array of other disciplines, every year.

Thirdly, cancel the national criteria. For someone to participate in the Olympics, he or she must match the minimum criteria set by the International Olympic Committee.

To join the blue-and-white delegation, one must meet the Israeli standards - which are stricter than the international criteria.

Finally a country that doesn’t invest in its athletes or its sports culture won’t produce multiple medal-winning Olympians. Britain, realising the boost the Olympics have given to interest in sports, is now contemplating reversing years of neglect and underfunding.

There are cogent lessons here for Israel.

Gold medallist Aly Raisman to visit Israel in December

JACK MILNER

In a phone conversation facilitated by US Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro, two-time US gold medallist gymnast, Aly Raisman (18) told Edelstein that she was really happy to be invited and that she would decide with her family when would be the best time to come.

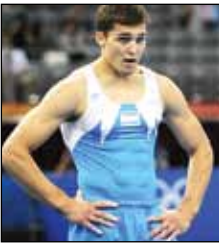
A source close to Edelstein said the end of December would be a likely choice because Raisman’s younger siblings Brett, Chloe, and Madison would be on vacation from school.

Likud MK Danny Danon, who chairs the Knesset’s Diaspora Affairs Committee, said he would invite Raisman to the Knesset to address the committee; what an 18-year-old American gymnast will be able to tell the Israeli parliament remains to be seen.


Raisman may not be the only medal winner to come to Israel. Sailor Jo Aleh, who won a gold medal for New Zealand in the women’s 470 class sailing, is expected to come to Israel for the batmitzvah of her half-sister, who lives on a kibbutz with her father Shuki.



US gymnast Aly Raisman with her Olympic gold medal, will be visiting Israel in December.



Israeli gymnast Alexander Shatilov was a medal hopeful by failed when finishing sixth in the floor exercise.



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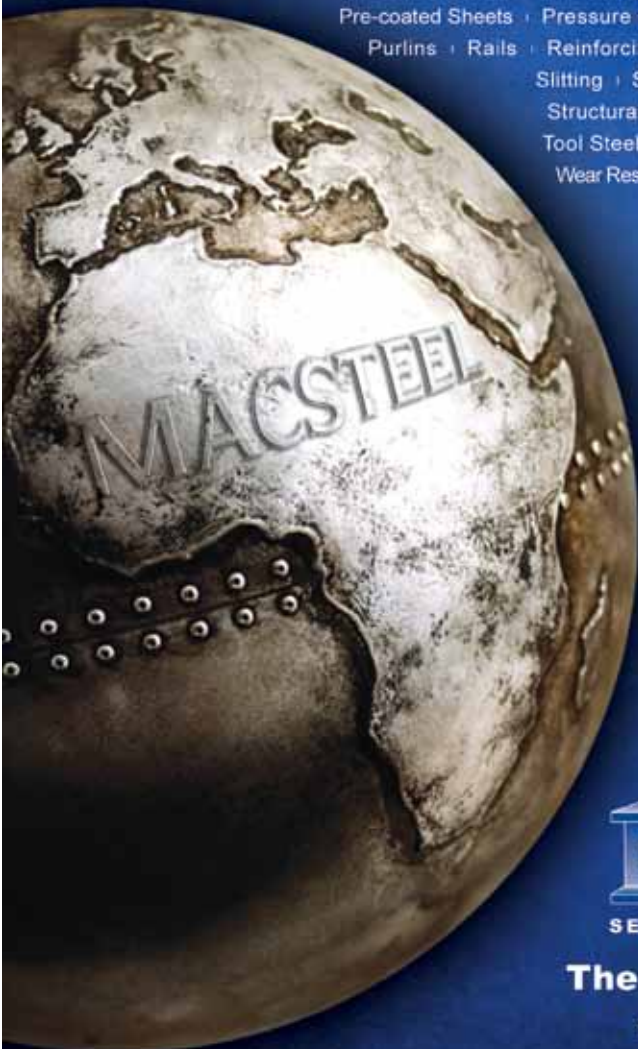
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