

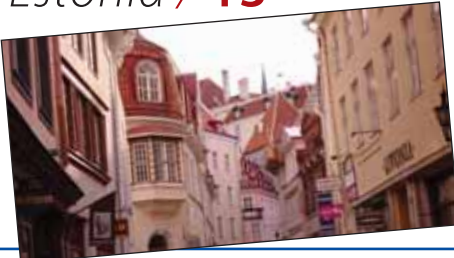
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Friday, 24 February 2012 / I Adar, 5772

Volume 16 Number 6

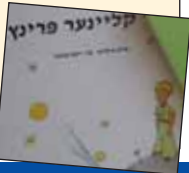
Their spirit remains unbroken



They came, not to seek pity, but to bring a message of hope and to bear witness to the indomitable human spirit. Eight young Israeli soldiers, all bearing the scars and trauma - literally or mentally - of horrific injuries sustained in war or terrorist attacks, visited South Africa last week as members of Hope for Heroism. They told their stories and the message from all of them shone through: No self-pity, just facing the fact that life goes on... despite a dud hand dealt to you. They truly epitomise hope. They found moral support and a warm embrace from the SA Jewish community. Pictured are Dudi Saydef; Eitan Miller; Yariv Giladi; and Asaf Ashkenazi. (PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDYVER) **PAGES 2, 8**

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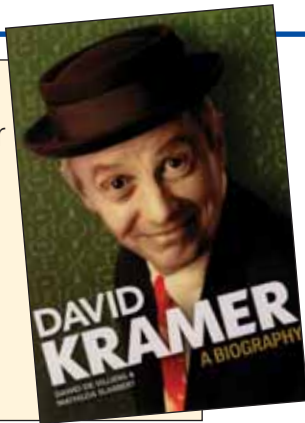


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February 25 / 2 Adar

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18:08	20:03	Cape Town
18:15	19:07	Durban
18:20	19:25	Bloemfontein
18:00	19:34	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:23	East London



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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Kindness shown
to the departed

Rabbi Jonathan Fox
Chevrah Kadisha group rabbi

WHAT IS the holiest physical object in the world today? You would get marks for answering that it is a Torah scroll. After all, the Torah contains the Divine wisdom as transmitted by G-d Himself to Moshe and the Jewish people.

In Parshat Terumah, we read about the design of the Mishkan (the Tabernacle). The central object in the Mishkan was the Holy Ark that contained the Torah. Because of the holiness of the Torah, G-d chose to communicate with Moshe from above the Holy Ark.

But there is another entity in the world that has at least the same level of sanctity as a Torah scroll and that is a Jew.

The Talmud states that one who is present at the passing of an upright Jew, must rend his garments as this is comparable to, and as tragic as, the burning of a Torah scroll.

The rabbis explain that a Jew is a living Torah. By performing the commandments of the Torah, one infuses one's body with holiness.

For this reason, it is prohibited to willfully injure or desecrate the body in any way. By treating one another respectfully, we recognise the holiness of our fellow Jews.

But even after the soul has left the body, the body maintains its inherent sanctity. A Sefer Torah that is no longer usable must be treated with the utmost respect. So too the human body, even after death, must be treated with the utmost respect. This concept is known as Kavod Hameit (Respect for the Dead).

Our community is blessed with a number of special people who devote much of their time and energy to dealing with the departed. Many of these people do their holy work on a voluntary basis and do not seek any honour. Their work includes:

- Washing of the body
- Purifying the body with water (taharah)
- Dressing the body in shrouds
- Escorting the body to burial
- The actual burial

Next Thursday, on the seventh of Adar (known as Zayin Adar), the men and women of the Chevrah Kadisha fast in order to repent for any inadvertent disrespect that they may have shown towards the deceased.

On Zayin Adar, we as a community acknowledge the tremendous kindness that the men and women of the Chevrah Kadisha provide to our departed loved ones. We express our enormous gratitude to them and pray that G-d should bless them in the merit of the holy work that they do.

If you would like to send a message of thanks to the people involved in the mitzvah of caring for the dead, please e-mail jonathan@jhbchev.co.za. We will try to convey your message at the Zayin Adar dinner that takes place at the breaking of the fast.

Shattered bodies can't dampen their spirits

ALISON GOLDBERG

“YOU KNOW, it’s alright to cry,” Arale Wattenstein, external relations director for Hope for Heroism, told the Jewish Report. This was just before the 28-year-old led his “brothers”, seven other injured, former combat Israeli soldiers, to the podium of the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre, last Sunday.

There was no overt message, save soldiers sharing their personal stories of injury, survival, and how through Hope for Heroism, they have forged a brotherhood and are helping each other reclaim their lives.

Ohad Abraham recounted his training in the Egoz anti-guerrilla unit (part of the Golani brigade). He lost his leg in 1997 in Lebanon. “We’re not trained to fight and kill, but to defend and protect. We may walk on the same ground, but we breathe mountain air, we were taught. We have a higher purpose.”

A former officer in the paratroop brigade, Wattenstein’s spine was broken jumping, with grenades attached to him, to avoid further explosions from a runaway jeep that had just been struck by a Molotov cocktail in Nablus, in 2005.

Like his comrades, Wattenstein has undergone years of physical rehabilitation, “but the nightmare of seeing the dead remains forever”.

Hope for Heroism, with 260 members, and growing slowly to cope with each new member, was founded in 2007, by injured combat soldiers from the elite Duvdevan unit, to help others like them. It is run by the soldiers themselves and helps wounded IDF soldiers put their lives back together, emotionally and financially.

Visiting Jewish communities abroad, is part of their rehabilitation, with funding mainly from US and South African donors.

A couple spoke for the first time. Yariv Giladi, a former medic, described a rescue mission through hell of a dead soldier in

Lebanon in 1994. He uttered: “I love you”, but could not speak further. “Excuse me, I’m a bit emotional.”

They reiterated earlier how grateful they were for the love of South African Jewry. Here they were appreciated and made to feel special, in contrast with the attitudes of Israelis, who expected injuries, they added.

Twenty-five per cent of Israeli soldiers, all volunteers, fight on the frontlines.

Eitan Miller’s reserve unit in 2006, in a house four kilometres inside Lebanon, was struck by two Hezbollah missiles, leaving nine dead and 25 injured. After waiting for hours in 40 degree heat, some dying from it, for helicopter rescue that never came, those less injured carried the seriously wounded on stretchers, back to the border, amid shelling and smoke. “It was like a movie, except it was reality.”

Wattenstein broke down. “That incident was the holocaust of the Second Lebanon War; coming from the son of (Czech) Holocaust survivors. He’s never spoken about it before.”

Dudu Saydef, a former border policeman, acting on Shin Bet information to find and stop a terrorist armed with TNT in the Jerusalem bus station in 2004, today is half paralysed by the explosion that ensued. The explosives were placed in a baby stroller and activated by a cell phone.

Shay Greenshtein, with peyot, suffering from memory loss due to brain damage, recalled how his tank unit drove over a 100kg C4 mine in 2005, in Bet Hanon, on the north side of the Gaza Strip.

“We want to move on and stop speaking about the past”, said Asaf Ashkenazi. “It’s enough. We’ve had to start our lives over again. HFH has given us the tools to cope with the future, to be stronger, when we came back to Israel. Talking to psychiatrists for years did not help as much as the soldiers have.” He was injured in Beit Ani by two suicide bombers on January 22, 1995.

AROUND THE WORLD
NEWS IN BRIEF

JEWISH GROUPS SLAM ANTI-SEMITISM IN VENEZUELA PRESIDENTIAL RACE

CARACAS - Jewish groups have condemned Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez for anti-Semitic attacks by government-controlled media on the opposition's presidential candidate, Henrique Capriles Radonski.

The Anti-Defamation League and the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in separate statements have called on Chavez and his supporters to refrain from using anti-Semitism as a political tool.

Capriles, 39, the grandson of Holocaust survivors, is governor of the Miranda state. Though Capriles' maternal grandmother is Jewish, he was raised Catholic and he describes himself as a fervent Catholic.

A column published last week on the website of state-run Venezuela National Radio said Capriles "has a platform opposed to our national and independent interests" and called on citizens to reject "international Zionism" by re-electing Chavez. It also accused Capriles of involvement in a neo-Nazi group that promotes "the national Aryan race".

Chavez last week in a televised speech compared Capriles to a pig and accused him of hiding his ideological leanings.

In a letter to Chavez, Dr Shimon Samuels, director for International Relations of the Wiesenthal Centre and Sergio Widder, the centre's director for Latin America, called on the Venezuelan

leader "to put an end to this campaign that will surely become more threatening as the elections date approaches" in April.

"Chavez is the only one in a position to stop these anti-Semitic attacks," Widder said. "His failure to respond effectively would be an endorsement and encouragement of racism."

Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director, said in a statement that Chavez and his government had used blatant and persistent anti-Semitism as a divisive political tool to scapegoat Jews.

"What we are seeing at the outset of Venezuela's presidential elections is an attempt to cast the opposition candidate as a 'traitorous Jew' who is unworthy of the presidency and who, if elected, will subvert the interests of the Venezuelan people for the benefit of some mythic worldwide Zionist plot," Foxman said, adding that the early appearance of government-sanctioned anti-Semitism was a "deeply troubling sign of the depths that President Chavez is willing to go to retain his oppressive power".

Capriles previously was the target of anti-Semitic attacks. In 2009, pro-government supporters dressed in red surrounded the Governor's House and painted swastikas on the yellow outer walls. During the governor's race in 2008, government-aligned media described Capriles as a member of the "Jewish-Zionist bourgeoisie" and "genetically fascist". (JTA)



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Wallenberg transformed history single-handedly

DAVID SAKS

WORLDWIDE, functions are being held to mark the centenary of the birth of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat through whose courage and initiative some 100 000 Hungarian Jews were rescued during the Holocaust.

On Monday, some 200 people gathered in the Abe Abrahamson Auditorium to hear former Canadian Justice Minister, Prof Irwin Cotler speak about Wallenberg's life and his legacy.

Among those present were Canadian High Commissioner Adele Dion; Hungarian Ambassador Bela Lazo; the ambassador and deputy ambassador of Israel, Dov Segev-Steinberg and Ya'acov Finkelstein; Johannes Oljelund from the Embassy of Sweden; and Earl T Miller, US Consul-General, Johannesburg.

SAJBD Gauteng Chairman Jeff Katz stressed that when remembering the Shoah, it was important to also remember that not all non-Jews were either perpetrators or passive bystanders.

"There were many exceptionally brave individuals who, at the risk of their own lives, went out of their way to rescue Jews from almost certain death. Some of these were able to save just one or two, others were able to save thousands, but all without exception gained undying honour for themselves," he said. Of these "Righteous Among the Nations", perhaps no-one was as well-known and revered as Wallenberg.

He had shown the world how a single individual could confront evil, prevail and transform history. As Swedish Ambassador in Budapest, he had gone beyond his authority to find ways to save Jews from deportation and almost certain death, most famously through issuing tens of thousands of specially created protective diplomatic passes, and through sheltering thousands of Jews in buildings designated as under Swedish diplomatic sovereignty.

He had also arranged for the provision of essential humanitarian services for women, children and the elderly, and during the notorious "Death Marches" had followed behind, distributing food and medicine.

Early in 1945, Wallenberg was arrested by the Soviet authorities for reasons still



Tali Nates of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre; Jeff Katz, SAJBD; and Prof Irwin Cotler. (PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

unclear, and has never been heard from since. Although the Soviet Union officially declared that he had died in prison in 1947, it was widely believed that he remained alive in Soviet custody long after that.

In the late 1980s, with the unravelling of the Soviet empire, Cotler was among a group of activists, including Eli Wiesel and Eichmann trial prosecutor Gideon Hausner, who formed a commission of enquiry to establish his true fate and whereabouts.

In May 1990, this presented then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev with a report which provided evidence not only that Wallenberg did not die in 1947 as claimed, but provided compelling evidence that he remained alive for many years afterwards.

Neither at the time nor in the post-Soviet years, had any satisfactory answer been provided by the Russians.

In the second part of his address, Cotler outlined some of the crucial lessons that should be learned from the Wallenberg story. This included the importance of continual Holocaust remembrance and education, an awareness of how words of hatred directed against certain targeted groups could lead to persecution and even genocide and understanding how mass atrocities could only come about because of the indifference and inaction of the world at large.

Such had been the case not just during the Holocaust but in genocides in Rwanda and Sudan. What made the Rwanda genocide particularly unspeakable was that no-one could have claimed at the time that they did not know what was happening, yet still the international community failed to act.

Meeting Min Mashatile

MINISTER OF Arts and Culture Paul Mashatile has clarified that, notwithstanding certain remarks attributed to him by the media, neither he nor his government supported anti-Israel boycotts.

In a meeting held in Cape Town last week with senior representatives of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and SA Zionist Federation, Mashatile reiterated the Government's long-standing position of support for a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine as independent states existing side by side. In a media release the Jewish leadership in

South Africa commended the SA government's continued commitment to supporting a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian question. It confirmed that it did not have a policy of supporting boycott campaigns against Israel.

"It was agreed at the meeting that current efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestine conflict should be supported, and that South Africa should continue to use its experience of how it brought about a peaceful negotiated settlement to assist with finding a lasting solution in the region."

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Ceramic artist
Yvette Polovin
with the mural
she created
for Highlands
House. (PHOTO
SUPPLIED)

CT Jewish life encapsulated in a mosaic mural

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

CERAMIC AND fine artist Yvette Polovin has given Highlands House a lasting 95th birthday gift – a mosaic mural that graces its entrance.

She recalls having to create a design that would represent the home's elderly Jewish residents as well as the city's vibrant Jewish community, while keeping in mind "the beauty and serenity of the location".

The result was a Cape Town scene done in glass, beads, shells and found objects that is displayed at the left entrance to the home.

"Table Mountain is the setting of a love story between two beautiful old people, he kissing her hand and she looking at him with love-light in her eyes," Polovin explains of the mural.

To the right is the historic Gardens Synagogue just visible through the trees in the Company Gardens and to the left are symbols representing Jewish life in Cape Town.

"I try to bring some magic into my work and to give it a spiritual quality by introducing glass that has colours that glimmer at different times of the day," she adds. "I also try to add as much texture as I can, giving it a three-dimensional quality by cutting the glass in different ways, thereby

adding interest and appeal."

So as to involve the community in the art exhibition held in celebration of Highlands House's anniversary, Polovin also gave mosaics classes to residents of the home, students from Weizmann and Herzlia schools and interested members of the community. The resulting work is featured at the right-hand entrance to the home.

Polovin has a bachelor of technology degree in ceramic design from the University of Johannesburg and taught pottery and craft from her studio in Johannesburg and at Crawford College in Sandton. She has shown her work at national ceramics exhibitions where she has been awarded "highly commended" status.

She has also been commissioned to produce ceramic murals for private homes and public spaces, including the Sports and Karate Centre in Melrose and the Old Mutual Theatre on the Square in Sandton.

Since relocating to Cape Town some eight years ago, she has exhibited her oil paintings, etchings and mosaics. "I am presently interested in exploring complementary landscapes in mosaics and oils," she says.

Polovin is currently participating in a group exhibition at The Cape Gallery, 60 Church Street, Cape Town, until March 3. Visit her on website www.mosaicartist.co.za

Oxford Shul hosts Italian evening

FRIDAY EVENING Parshat Mishpatim, Oxford Shul congregants enjoyed an amazing dinner a la Italy. Superb Italian cuisine from Stan and Pete was accompanied by a repertoire of Italian songs sung by Chazzan Tzvi

Gudelsky.

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin topped the evening off by presenting each table with an Italian quiz on the parsha and related subjects in Italian.

A great time was enjoyed by all.

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SA accountant at the heart of Israeli economy

A SOUTH AFRICAN accountant has swapped the field of international tax at Deloitte's in Sydney for a new set of challenges at the heart of the Israeli economy, according to a media release.

Twenty-five year old Daniel Barnett (pictured) from Johannesburg is a professional intern at Israel Securities Authority (ISA) in Jerusalem. Among other things, he can be found attending key meetings at the Bank of Israel and Ministry of Finance in Jerusalem with Israel's top economists discussing capital market activity and how to keep the Israeli economy healthy and well positioned vis-à-vis the international economy.

The ISA itself is charged with drafting and initiating virtually all primary and secondary legislation pertaining to securities law in Israel. In addition, it co-operates with government industries in formulating policies and laws pertaining to capital market activity.

Barnett is the only South African among a



cohort of 20 Israel Government Fellows and is the only non-Israeli at the ISA. He explains:

"At the ISA I report directly to the head economist of the department, and my work is concerned with the state of the Israeli economy, both current and forward looking, what issues the market may be facing now and in the future.

"We look at what issues such as investor safety and security concerns; trends in finance, economics and corporate governance; regulation and reform."

The Israel Government Fellows selects and screens suitable candidates from the Diaspora aged 21-30 and places them in key ministries and government authorities. The programme was established in 2007 and is run by the Menachem Begin Heritage Centre bringing to life the vision of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin to connect the diaspora with the heart of life at all levels.

Most interns join the programme after

graduating, or following a few years gaining experience in their field.

Barnett added: "For a long time I had wanted to come to Israel to spend time living here. I'd never had a particularly Zionist or religious upbringing, but more and more I found myself compelled to experience this country for myself.

"Looking to take a career break, I decided that IGF was the best combination of new experiences, challenges, relevant work and travel."

Currently the majority of interns are from North America and Europe and the programme is keen to encourage applications particularly from Australia and South Africa.

Paul Gross, IGF Programme Director said:

"Ideally we would like to see greater numbers of South African candidates applying for government internships with us. Most countries are not rushing to bring foreign nationals into key ministries, however we believe that one way to connect Diaspora Jews with Israel is to provide them with the opportunity to be involved with the decisions being made at the highest level in Israel."

IGF applications for the 2012/2013 year will close in May 2012. For more information visit the website at www.igf.org.il

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**MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN
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FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD Jonathan Benjamin plans to ride the 108-km Cape Argus Pick n Pay Cycle Tour on March 11, on a unicycle, in the process raising funds for Afrika Tikkun, the Jewish communi-

Jonathan Benjamin plans to ride the Argus Pick n Pay Cycle Tour on a unicycle.

ty's outreach initiative.

The particular project that will benefit from the Westerford High School pupil's efforts, is "Each One Teach One/Be a Sport", which assists underprivileged children with their primary education through Tikkun's Early Childhood Development Centres.

Benjamin has been riding a unicycle for five years, with his main interest being mountain unicycling. This is his second "Argus" - he rode last year's event "on two wheels", as he puts it.

He has to date raised over R10 000.

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STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
ROBYN SASSEN

AN IMPORTANT component to the Johannesburg Jewish Resource Centre (formerly the Zionist Library) in Beyachad, is the Yiddish Academy Library, containing over 2 000 books, videos and vinyl LPs. It's contained in a locked room, but this is temporary, says co-ordinator of the Yiddish Academy, Eli Goldstein.

According to arts editor of the Mail & Guardian and a Yiddish Academy pupil, Matthew Krouse, in its heyday, Benoni Hebrew Congregation housed arguably Gauteng's biggest communal collection of Yiddish literature.

Krouse has been proactive in rehoming the collection at Beyachad, a mission differing only in scale from that of Aaron Lansky, who, as a 23-year-old in 1980 began "rescuing" Yiddish books that had survived Hitler and Stalin, but were no longer read. Lansky's mission resulted in the massive Amherst, Massachusetts-based National Yiddish Book Centre; Krouse's is core to the Yiddish Academy Library.

"It is critical that the Yiddish Academy Library is under the auspices of the JJRC; the collection is too precious to be accessible to the public, right now" said Goldstein, who is also vice-chairman of the JJRC.

Yiddishist extraordinaire, the late Joseph Sherman, planted seeds for the academy. "I met with him, just before he left for Oxford in 2000, to take up the Woolf Corob Yiddish chair there," Goldstein recalled.

"He dearly wanted to start an academy here. It was begun with Joseph's blessing in

2003, a joint initiative between the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre, in Oaklands from where it operates, and Shtetl-Connections. It is taught on three levels by Tamar Olswang from Buenos Aires and Cedric Ginsberg, who studied at Oxford and in Vilnius.

"The new term started in January this year; new students are welcome at any time. We are gauging interest in starting a monthly discussion group.

"The importance of securing this heritage can't be measured," he commented on the library's appeal for funds. "We have long-term plans of digitisation. People get sentimentally attached to real books, but digitised books grow wider audiences."

Yiddish is always seemingly on its deathbed but always enjoying life in unexpected ways. So says Capetonian Philip Todres, a mastermind behind the annual Yiddish Song Festival.

"In Cape Town, rather than year-long classes, we host a two-and-a-half day immersion class. It's like a Yiddish mikveh," he explains "Ot Azey", which takes place each August, taught by Olswang and Jack Shmukler. "It's a schmoozing opportunity for those who love the language.

"Yiddish remains resilient but fragile. Whenever we sing Yiddish songs or read Yiddish literature, we say kaddish for someone murdered because of its culture."

• For information on the Yiddish Academy, contact: (011) 728-8088 or; yiddishacademy@gmail.com on the Yiddish Academy Library: (011) 645-2550 or library@beyachad.co.za; on Ot Azey in Cape Town: (021) 434-9691 or admin@cjsa.org.za

Community opens its heart to Yad Aharon

ALICE FRIEDMAN
MD YAD AHARON & MICHAEL
PHOTOGRAPH: JOSHUA REICHMAN

LAST SUNDAY, Matthew Cigler and Darren Tobias arrived at the Yad Aharon bayit with two car loads of clothing which they had received thus far in response to the Tobias and Cigler (TAC) Initiative Clothing Drive.

I was taken aback not only by the generosity of those people who have thus far contributed to the appeal, but the state of the garments and the general quality of the clothing was excellent! We received an assortment of items, from men's and ladies' clothing, to children's items, to shoes, bags and accessories.

When giving our pre-owned clothing to the underprivileged, we go to great lengths to ensure that the quality is such that our recipients' self-esteem remains intact and that they will feel good wearing garments which would otherwise be beyond their means to acquire.

Once we have selected what we consider suitable for our own recipients, we call in one of our "Opera-

tion Outreach" charities to collect the balance, ensuring that whatever we put aside for them, is in a perfectly wearable condition.

We supplement this with additional bags of our own, as we are fully aware of the plight of our fellow South Africans.

May this pilot project be the first of many, many more TAC initiatives and may your efforts serve as an inspiration to other charitable groups in the wider community.

Co-founders of the TAC Initiative, Darren Tobias and Matthew Cigler, with loads and loads of clothes for Yad Aharon.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS - FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Compliance and diversity

SOUTH AFRICA has a prickly past, and doing business here is not simple. There are several contingencies that directors at board level or owners of small businesses need to be mindful of when initiating business locally. Obviously Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) is one issue. There are rigidities in the scope and makeup of local or foreign ownership and critically, certain legislative challenges that if not dealt with, could result in severely depleted opportunities.

There is no sanction or punishment for failing to implement BEE. There is no disciplinary stick forcing compliance with BEE but, rather, a commercial incentive to embrace BEE, says Ismail Laher, an associate at legal firm Norton Rose.

Accordingly, BEE compliance is not compulsory - there is no “sanction or punishment” for failing to implement BEE, but as Laher says, there exists a commercial incentive. In the public sector the government has internal policies to only deal with entities with a particular BEE score and so a good BEE score is a prerequisite to being awarded a government contract.

Diversity in leadership and thought

Diversity is honourable not only in the classic sense. Though there is room to argue the merits of having multiple ethnicities, genders and religious creeds at board level, diversity really means in the context of running a company, that in streams of thought and the application of problem solving, it is beneficial. King III, the domestic benchmark for corporate governance stipulates:

“Every board should consider whether its size, diversity and demographics make it effective. Diversity applies to academic qualifications, expertise, relevant industry knowledge, experience, nationality, age, race, gender.”

To push forward in understanding diversity as a boardroom imperative, one needs to appreciate what diversity offers, and additionally, what the fringe benefits of compliance actually are. As Julie Methven, CEO of the SA Compliance Institute articulates, complying with non-binding rules raises the overall level of corporate governance in an organisation, something that benefits and appeals to all stakeholders.

“Clients are attracted to companies they feel they can trust, and employees are more loyal to a company with a good reputation; it also helps with recruiting.



**Bryan Silke's
BusinessBrief**
Know your business

Suppliers recognise that they can lower their contractual exposure by working with partners they can trust,” she says.

Integrated reporting and disclosure

Compliance at board level does not necessarily mean a visible set of minutes. Integrated reporting was in February 2010 made into a requirement for JSE-listed entities. King III, in addressing it as a necessary tool for corporate governance, requires disclosure and sustainability reporting to be integrated with the company's financial reporting.

Often this could make management teams, boards and directors nervous. Shaun Vorster of Mazars questions whether senior management might view integrated reporting as “yet another layer of compliance and regulation that will cost companies huge sums of money but deliver no obvious benefit”.

King III views integrated reporting as one criterion to achieve best business practise - arguably the noblest goal of any company, irrespective of its size. It describes integrated reporting as, “a holistic and integrated representation of a company's performance in terms of both its finance and its sustainability”.

Vorster advises that practically, an integrated report should comprise the following information to be valid and compliant: relevant information about the organisation's strategy, business model and the context in which it operates; historic performance (defined more holistically than simply by reference to standard financial metrics); and information to allow users to understand better the pressures (including risks) around achieving those performance measures and the sustainability of the business in the short, medium and longer term.

• For more information, and to read more from the above authors, visit www.bbrief.co.za

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The Job seeker seminars are yet another example of how ORT JET strives to empower people in a tangible and practical way. The two part seminar will be offered at various stages throughout the year and will assist job seekers with a range of skills from personal branding, understanding one's strengths to the practical tools of CV writing and interview etiquette.

Job seekers are finding it harder to market themselves in the job market, especially if they are already de-motivated after a couple of bad experiences. Our community can benefit from the skills and experience that the ORT JET trainers have to offer.

“Students and graduates experience a lot of anxiety when faced with the daunting task of looking for employment,” says Nicci Raz (ORT JET). “That is why we have allocated two of the seminars specifically to address this group of job seekers.”

The next job seeker seminar will kick off at the end of February and bookings are open.

The sessions will be held in the early evening to accommodate those who study/work during the day.

Dates: February 29 (Session 1), March 22 (Session 2)
Venue: Beyachad, Sydenham
Time: 17:30 – 20:00



The lectures will address the following topics:

- Personal branding and attitude
- Goal setting
- CV writing tips
- Marketing yourself for the job
- Where to look for jobs
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- Interview skills
- General Q&A

“I thoroughly enjoyed this seminar and would encourage others to attend future seminars. Informative, interesting and learnt a lot, may it continue to help people in my position” sent in by one of our attendees of the January Seminar.

• For more info visit www.ortjet.org.za or call Tracy on (011) 728-7154.

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Reclaiming their lives

STORIES ARE legion of soldiers coming home from one or another of the many wars throughout history, traumatised and broken. Shell-shocked First World War veterans who went through trench warfare and mustard gas, Vietnam veterans scarred by napalm, Korean War vets, soldiers who fought Hitler, etc.

Combatants on the other side also came home scarred from war - regardless of what cause they were fighting for.

Most familiar to us are the Israeli soldiers - veterans of the Six Day War, the War of Attrition, the Yom Kippur War, the Lebanon War, and the other battles Israel has fought.

Coming home from combat means readjusting to the mundane things of life - shopping at the supermarket for milk and eggs, working at ordinary eight-to-five jobs, driving the kids to school, etc. It is a difficult transition.

Greatest is the task for those with severe injuries, like the eight Israelis badly wounded in conflict situations in the Israeli army who spoke on Monday in Johannesburg, for whom the rest of their lives will be lived in the shadow of their injuries (see front page and page 2). Their families, too, will always be impacted by their ordeal. They have to put together the shattered pieces of their lives and find a way to carry on.

During the apartheid era, young South African men were conscripted into the army and many saw active battle. There were also numerous combatants who fought valiantly for MK. However, South Africans today, by and large, don't know war. Their contact with it is from the safety of a cinema seat or a page in a newspaper or website.

The younger generation, born from the '80s onwards, never experienced either the conflict of apartheid or any other type of war. Even the generation of Second World War veterans who have lived among us for decades, has essentially faded - most are very old or have passed on. The same goes for the survivors of the Holocaust. All that remains are chapters in recorded history and memorials here and there.

The reality for young Israelis is different. They not only serve in the army, but are in an active, combat-hardened army fighting real battles against real enemies. War is part of their lives, including for those who seem peaceful, strolling along the Tel Aviv beachfront promenade - which is not many kilometres from the borders separating Israel from its enemies.

During their visit to South Africa, the eight soldiers met local people to whom their experiences are alien and who can express sympathy, but obviously cannot fully understand the dreadfulness of what they have been through during the battles and in their struggles afterwards.

The eight come as role models, with the message that life goes on, nevertheless. They are not to be idealised; they are young men who could be anyone's children. But the fact of them coming to talk to strangers here about their attempts to heal, shows how far they have moved.

We in South Africa have taken to whinging endlessly about things in our country - crime, corruption, political uncertainty, etc. These are, of course, serious issues needing to be addressed. However, it is sobering to come face to face with these young Israeli men. The ordinary person is often uncomfortable and doesn't know how to relate to them, either exhibiting feigned indifference, or a schmaltzy show of sympathy. But the effect on people attending the talk on Monday was obvious and profound.

May the time come soon when young men from Israel will visit this country only with messages of peace and understanding, rather than to share their traumatic experiences of war.

A farewell to peace

EARLIER THIS month, Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas made a fateful decision. Thwarting renewed efforts by Israel to restart negotiations, Abbas flew to Doha, Qatar and signed a unity agreement with Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal.

With the stroke of his pen, the Palestinian leader sealed the fate of the peace process, effectively declaring an end to any chance of reaching an agreement with the Jewish state.

Under the terms of the Doha deal, Abbas will head an interim joint Fatah-Hamas government that will lay the groundwork for Palestinian presidential and parliamentary elections in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

The two sides also agreed to discuss the formal incorporation of Hamas into the PLO, which would transform the fundamentalist terrorist group into a primary component of the Palestinian leadership.

At the signing ceremony, Abbas and Mashaal stressed this was no charade.

"We are serious," said Mashaal, "in healing the wounds and ending the chapter of division and reinforcing and accomplishing reconciliation," adding that Fatah and Hamas are determined "to resist the enemy (Israel) and achieve our national goals".

Abbas emphasised "this effort will be implemented in the shortest time possible".

The signing of the pact marks a critical stage in the implementation of the Fatah-Hamas reconciliation agreement that was initialed in Cairo just nine months ago, and it underlines the fact that the two groups are moving closer towards unity.

Make no mistake: The forging of this agreement constitutes a strategic choice by Abbas to embrace extremism and toss aside two decades of dialogue with Israel. It is a farewell to peace and there should be no illusions about its meaning or significance.



FUNDAMENTALLY
FREUND
MICHAEL FREUND

After all, Hamas remains an uninhibited enemy of Israel that is dedicated both in word and deed to its destruction.

The group's charter says unequivocally that "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it". And it champions the use of jihad as the only "solution for the Palestinian question".

Moreover, ever since Hamas seized control of Gaza in 2007, it has used the territory as a launching pad for attacks against Israel.

Just since the beginning of last year, Palestinian terrorists in Gaza have fired more than 390 rockets and 240 mortar shells into southern Israel.

And Hamas continues to receive aid and support from Iran, which includes more advanced and precise weaponry.

Anyone who thinks that Palestinian unity will have a moderating effect on the masked gunmen of Hamas, is therefore deluding themselves. If anything, the unity agreement will only further radicalise the already immoderate members of Fatah, as they will find themselves competing for support from the Palestinian masses.

This impact is already beginning to be felt. Since signing the agreement, Abbas has adopted an even harsher tone towards Israel.

Last week Sunday, speaking to the foreign ministers of the Arab League in Cairo, the Palestinian chairman laid out a series of maximalist demands, insisting that Israel

Finkelstein 'turnaround' gives one hope

IT WAS regarded as a major surprise when Howard Jacobson's novel The Finkler Question, won for its author the 2010 Man Booker Prize, not because it lacked literary merit, but because of its unfashionable subject matter.

Among the British chattering classes, renegade Jewish dissidents who came out as conscientious objectors against the "Zionist Project" were as a matter of course accorded an elevated moral status.

In The Finkler Question, however, such paragons were made to look merely smug, self-obsessed and self-aggrandising - perennial malcontents nursing multiple hang-ups about their own identity and driven less by any purported sense of moral outrage than by the need to elevate themselves at the expense of their fellow Jews.

The self-aware, borderline neurotic and essentially detribalised Jewish intellectual, has become a stock figure in modern Jewish fiction, with Jacobson himself having in no small way contributed to propagating the type, but The Finkler Question is a quietly devastating exploration of an altogether newer and different form of Jewish alienation.

Leftwing Jewish anti-Zionism may not be itself new, but only in the last decade has it emerged from the fringes to become a persistent feature of Jewish discourse. Previously, no matter how personally distanced they might have felt about things Jewish, liberal-left Jewish intellectuals felt positively towards Israel, and even if they didn't, would almost never express negative views about it.

All that has changed. What is so startling about the new wave of Jewish-born anti-Zionist campaigners is not merely how brazenly they announce themselves, but the sheer depths of their hatred for Israel.

I still cannot fathom how anyone purporting to identify as a Jew, can even share a platform with people who spew such venom at the Jewish State, let alone that they themselves can unblinkingly rehash those same vile sentiments.



BARBARIC
YAWP
David Saks

As I concluded at an early stage, no-one is likely to mistake me for a pro-Palestinian activist. It took me a great deal longer to realise something more remarkable, namely that compared with your typical hardline anti-Israel agitator, I actually care about Palestinian well-being.

For me, the impressive economic growth in the territories since the petering out of the "Second Intifada" and the progressive normalisation of their inhabitants' day-to-day existence as security restrictions have been removed, is something to celebrate.

Admittedly, this is mainly because it is in Israel's interests to have peaceful, stable and relatively prosperous neighbours, but I also feel genuinely glad for the Palestinians.

This feeling one would expect vociferous Palestinian activists to share, but one soon finds they do not, since the more the plight of the Palestinians eases, the weaker and less urgent becomes their case against Israel.

It suits those clamouring against the siege of Gaza to depict the latter's residents as being on the verge of starvation, regardless of what is happening on the ground. The last thing they want in the West Bank is for Palestinians to succeed in living normal, stable lives, since they wish to convince the world that they are being subjected to a brutal form of Israeli apartheid.

If pro-Palestinian activists are so concerned about the situation of the Palestinians, surely one would expect them to advise the latter not to act in a way that will inevitably cause them harm.

Obviously included in this category would be persistently firing missiles at the citizens of a military dominant neighbour, provok-

ing a crushing counter-offensives. What one sees instead is total silence in the face of brazen Palestinian provocation, followed by snarls of faux moral outrage as soon as Israel retaliates.

They are, in a nutshell, bigoted frauds whose motivation is hatred for Israel, masquerading as concern for human rights.

One thing about The Finkler Question that bothered me was the implausibility of its eponymous central character's unexpected turnaround. Without warning, Finkler, up until then one of the leading lights of the Jewish anti-Israel community, suddenly turns on a speaker during an anti-Israel public debate and delivers a resounding argument for the Jewish-Israeli case.

Since then, I've come to reconsider my reaction and the one responsible for that, of all people, is that veteran Jewish-born anti-Israel radical Norman Finkelstein. On YouTube, Finkelstein recently launched a devastating attack on the world BDS movement against Israel, with eloquence, conviction and impeccable logic, laying bare its proponents' inconsistencies and moral posturing, and the weak and specious nature of their arguments.

It was, in my case, a jaw-dropping experience to watch just a few minutes of it. Jacobson, it seems, got it right after all.

In Jacobson's novel, Finkler, without actually becoming pro-Israel but having burnt his bridges with his erstwhile fellow travellers, begins tentatively moving closer to his Jewish heritage, even reciting kaddish for his father.

That in turn reminded me of how Ronnie Kasrils, while on the run from the apartheid state, sought out the local Israeli Embassy so that someone would help him say kaddish for his deceased father.

Of course, that happened long before he embarked on his present course of radical anti-Israel campaigning, but the Finkelstein turnaround makes me think that even he might not yet be completely beyond redemption.

LETTERS

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

A RECIPE TO COUNTERACT HATRED OF ISRAEL AND JEWS

IN THE Jewish Report of February 17, Allan Wolman exposes the human rights activists to be unconcerned, except when it concerns the Israeli/Palestinian “problem”. I would add that North Africa, Middle Eastern and sub-Saharan dictators, have been around for 30 to 40 years.

It could have taken say, 15 years, for the human rights activists to establish that dictatorships were in effect ruling there, so why were they (the activist) passive for the following 15 years?

Similarly David Hersch (“SAIPAC urges Israeli even-handedness”) complains about the South African government being prepared to boycott and apply sanctions against Israel.

All the above anti-Israel/Jewish sentiment can be explained by a passage in Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks’ newsletter of December 3, 2011: “In her book ‘World of Fire’, Amy Chua argues that ethnic hatred will always be directed by the host society against any conspicuously successful minority.

“All three conditions must be present (1) the hated group must be a minority or people will fear to attack it. (2) It must be successful or people will not envy it, merely have contempt for it. (3) It must be conspicuous or people will not notice it. Jews tended to fit all three. That is why they were hated.”

My solution to the three points above is: (1) Support Israel, which defends all Jews. Don’t antagonise our allies, particularly the US and this refers to settlers.

Everybody needs allies, especially if you’re six million surrounded by more than 100 million horrible neighbours. (2) and (3): Be successful but don’t flout it. Instead of being photographed in a Jaguar in front of a 10 roomed house, pose on a donkey appearing unshaven and dishevelled, but at the same time clean, in from of a building with flaking plaster.

John Brenner
Cyrildene
Johannesburg

LOOKING FOR...

INFORMATION SOUGHT ON THE LATE ANITA NATHANSON

THE CHILDREN of the late Anita Nathanson, also known as Nita and Honey, are looking for any information and photographs of their mother. She was born to Rose and Morris Nathanson in 1918 and married Solomon Salmonson in 1945 at the Yeoville

Shul. She passed away in November 1960.

She had a brother, Morris and a sister Bessy and lived at No 8 Fergil Court, Honey Street, Berea, between 1950 and 1960.

Her children are Arnold and Marcia, who can be contacted on marcia@ida.co.za

FOR THE RECORD

CARLI BASSIN DID THE PAINTING

IN THE most recent Jewish Report (Junior Jewish Report, February 10, page 12) there is a picture, of a work, “Identity”, credited

to Jake Pencharz when in fact the piece was done by Carli Bassin (grade 12). We regret the mistake.

EMIGRATION QUOTE WRONGLY ATTRIBUTED

IN OUR story on emigration in last week’s issue, the quote “indigence is rife in the community”, was incorrectly attributed to Grecia Gabriel, co-ordinator of Second Innings. It was also not clearly stated that Sandringham Gardens and Our Parents

Home have their own separate programmes for the elderly who live in those facilities. Second Innings activities fall under the Chevrah Kadisha Community Services, the social work arm of the Chevrah Kadisha.



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Kung Po, General Tao and Missy Moo. These are just a few of the Lucky Moo dishes enchanting Jozi diners in Parkhurst, Atholl Square and Rivonia Boulevard. Lucky Moo is a young brand on the Johannesburg food scene and judging from what's out there in the tweetsphere, the public like what they taste.

The brand was developed to bring a new kind of Chinese eatery to South Africa. "The idea is to present eateries that produce great tastes all the time and that are fun and vibrant in their branding. We've kept our kitchens so that our customers can see their meals being prepared," says MD Sam Halfon. It's about modern Chinese but also about Asian fusion. "Lucky Moo is an eatery. It's not about fast food."

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TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Coleman uses a bold, audacious palette

Show: *Samarkand*, by Trevor Coleman
Where: Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre, Oaklands
When: until March 4

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

RECENTLY, ARTIST Trevor Coleman visited Uzbekistan - part of his personal bid to visit a different country each year. Now in his mid-70s, Coleman gives us glorious insight into the light informing that part of the world, side-sweeping any knee-jerk response to the country's name, with respect to the economic and human rights morass it is otherwise known for. Here we see Uzbekistan through heat that could make a grown man wilt, boasting colour with audacity

that raises your pulse rate. It's an exhibition of paintings, painted sketches and photographs. Coleman's distinctive palette of saturated colour, untarnished by tints or tones, gives an understanding of how light and architecture touch one another, without bashfulness. The figures he represents have a monumentality not unlike the women Picasso painted in the teens of last century. They're faceless, fingerless, without any detail. Their rendition is about how the bulk of their forms displace space. Coleman's relationship with architecture is revealed in his smaller painterly sketches on show, in which the luscious detail of his photographic prints is reduced to the bare structure of how space and light interject and intersect.



PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

The paintings with the least conviction are a series of six abstract works, ostensibly playing with the traditions of occidental calligraphy. But for a glorious moment between an unadulterated bright line of teal and a swathe of orange, these works are heavy. It is Coleman's engagement with the life of the community he looks at, his palette knife briskly describing realities in great slabs of colour, that leaves you with a sense of levity. The colour is so direct, it taps you on the shoulder and turns your head.

David Kramer opens up a new dimension in Afrikaans music

David Kramer: A Biography by Dawid de Villiers and Mathilda Slabbert (Tafelberg, R200)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

ANYBODY WHO has watched David Kramer perform will recall the experience as cathodic. The son of a Jewish father, Kramer was raised in Worcester in the Western Cape. While he grew to cherish the idiosyncrasies and culture of small-town Afrikaner life, he also longed to break away. His musical and lyrical talent emerged at a young age, although he initially studied textile design. By the time he had married his childhood sweetheart, Renaye, Kramer had defined a compelling artistic mission: to reclaim Afrikaans from its toxic identity as the language of repression, celebrate its endlessly rich expressiveness, explore its vivid patois - the gammatjie vernacular of, particularly, Western Cape and Karoo communities, with their Khoisan heritage - and, above all, "to isolate the weird in that which is typical": in other words, to seek out the deep, residual humanism of its everyday vocabulary and steer it well away from what he called "Omo Afrikaans" (whiter than white).

A good example is "Botteltjie Blou" - a dirge depicting the marginal experience of Cape Town's bergies, plagued by both alcoholism and alienation: "Vir 'n slang is ekkie bangie / Maar vir jou, vir jou, my botteltjie blou." Kramer was the first balladeer in this country to do musically what Adam Small was doing poetically. As critic John Battersby observed, he has become to South African music what Herman Charles Bosman is to South African literature. And, like Bosman, his point of departure is cultural, rather than political, while his canvas is one of human beings, not ideologies. Kramer's major themes are of identity, bondage, cross-cultural casualties and the deceptiveness of stereotypes. Apart from several cult best-selling albums, his spectacularly successful collaboration with Taliep Petersen produced "District Six - The Musical" and "Kat and the Kings". More recently, there were "My Broertjie, My Bra" (a devastating journey into the hunger and terror of street children) and "Breyani", a celebration of the music of diverse



Cape cultures since the 17th century which employs instruments such as ghoema drums, banjos and the rabanna, and draws on genres such as fado, moppies, karienkels, Nederlandsliedjies, Griqua chants and Malay love songs. The book is warm, reverential and offers a lucid account of Kramer's long (and often lonely) artistic crusade. However, it skirts around who he is off stage, hinting at his private darkness and light. Among its revelations is that Kramer, a long-time sufferer of debilitating depression, battles to shrug off his OTT public persona. The troubadour of earlier years - clad in trademark red vellies and black braces, with a middle hair parting and a blikkitaar slung over his shoulder - originally touted himself "almal se pel", that appellation has come at considerable personal cost. What does emerge is that the real David Kramer is a man of immense complexity, moral enquiry and integrity. And although the authors insist on heavy-handedly analysing his lyrics, the book leaves one eager to rush out, buy a CD and hear his magic for oneself.

JMS pays tribute to the piano in 2012 concerts

PAUL BOECKKOOI

THE JOHANNESBURG Musical Society's 110th year is a celebration of the piano being the most performed instrument in classical music. Their 2012 season presents us with five solo recitals with some of the greatest exponents from all over the world, while in the remaining five programmes the piano either accompanied or is part of a chamber music ensemble. Here's a bird's eye view of what's on offer this year: an all-year music festival, starting tomorrow evening:

- February 25: Mirijam Contzen, violin; Bryan Wallick, piano. Contzen, from German-Japanese parents, is an internationally renowned exponent of her instrument. The duo will perform sonatas by Debussy, Mendelssohn and Schumann and Ravel's "Tzigane".
- March 10: Alexander Lubyantsev, piano. Born in 1986 in St Petersburg, Alexander's family - father, mother, four sisters - are all

professional musicians. Programme: Haydn, Rachmaninov, Chopin, Liszt, Beethoven and Ravel.

- April 1: Pallavi Mahidhara, piano. This 24-year-old Indian/US pianist, makes her JMS debut with Beethoven, Debussy, Prokofiev and Scriabin.
- May 13: Charl du Plessis Trio & Musa Sakupwanya, vocalist. The Gershwin Songbook is going to be opened in both the well-known and lesser known pages.
- June 10: Avigail Bushakewitz, violin; Ammiel Bushakewitz, piano. This Jewish brother/sister duo hasn't been heard for some time since Ammiel is based in Leipzig, while Avigail completes her studies at Juilliard, New York. The programme: Bartók, Strauss, Schubert, Lutoslawski and Wieniawski.
- August 11: Antonio Pompa-Baldi, piano. A first prize winner at the Cleveland International Piano Competition, Pompa-Baldi is in great demand internationally. His programme consists of Czerny, Hum-

mel, Rachmaninov and Brahms.

- September 1: Fidelio Trio. This piano trio from Britain will perform Beethoven, Arensky, Saint-Saëns and Liszt.
- September 30: Wolfgang Schmidt, 'cello; Bryan Wallick, piano. Schmidt, is one of the foremost younger generation 'cellists. He selected sonatas by Rachmaninov and Strauss, plus Beethoven's "Variations on Mozart's Magic Flute."
- October 13: Konstantin Scherbakov, piano. Perhaps the most famous name on the JMS's roster, Scherbakov will perform Liszt, Berlioz, Myaskovsky, Rachmaninov and the Saint-Saëns/Liszt/Horowitz "Danse Macabre".
- November 17: Israeli-born Inon Barnatan, piano in his 20s, has a wide reputation. He'll play Debussy, Thomas Ades, Ravel and Schubert. All concerts are presented in the Linder Auditorium, Parktown. Enquiries: Dr Avril Rubenstein: (011) 728-5492.



Jewish Travel

Visiting places of Jewish interest

Tallinn, the cultural capital of Europe

ROBYN SASSEN

WHEN (BUILDING) cranes abound, it's a sign of economic boom. I visited Tallinn, Estonia, shortly before it switched to the Eurozone, shortly after its emergence from Soviet rule.

In 2011, this city, housing a walled mediaeval town, was declared cultural capital of Europe. With cranes everywhere, it's a delicious mélange of hot contemporary cheek by jowl with mediaeval history.

Filled with "junk" shops selling disturbing Holocaust relics, Tallinn has beggars who are mostly elderly and female; they knit mittens for passing trade. Half of Estonia is forested; objects of aromatic juniper vie for your attention as curios.

Contemporary Tallinn emphasises culture: etchings even adorn McDonald's outlets. In 2006, the Kumu Museum of contemporary art opened. Proud in its post-modern severity, it stands outrageous in the wooded landscape.

Like many European cities in the Holocaust's shadow, Tallinn is proactive in ensuring Jews should visit these days. Its Jewish history is modest. Estonian Jews, having arrived in 1333, don't bear comparison in wealth with Latvians, nor in learnedness with Lithuanians.

Jews needed a special permit to be in Estonia which was beyond the Jewish Pale of Settlement. By 1830, it was a stable community; with leadership governed by cantonists – Jews in the Tsarist army. Its Chevrah Kadisha was formed in 1856. By 1930, the Jewish population was 5 000.

There are some 3 000 Jews in Estonia today. Many returned after the war, "because of the relatively high standard of living and

absence of anti-Semitism at the official level", says Estonia's chief rabbi, Rabbi Shmuel Kot, who arrived in Tallinn in 1999. He is in his 30s, the first rabbi in Estonia's post-war history.

"His arrival was a milestone in the revival of full-blooded community life in Tallinn, which increasingly sees brides, barmitzvahs and weddings. There is a choir, a Jewish school and a mikveh," explains historian Gennadi Gramberg.

Rabbi Kot took me on a tour of the community-funded shul, which opened in 2007. Like Kumu, it is retro in its modernity. It's much more than a place of prayer. It's a four-storey complex of Jewish culture, including a shop selling kosher food and ritual objects; kosher meat is only obtainable from Russia.

"The revival of Estonian Jewry began in the 1980s," said Chabad's Rabbi Kot, "For many years it was seen as a community with no future. Now we witness with our own eyes the miracle nobody believed."

Chairman of Estonia's Board of the Jewish community, Boris Oks, adds: "I cannot claim the construction of the new synagogue was my life's dream. Under the Soviet regime, most Jews didn't know what a synagogue was.

"The regime tried to prevent any desire to revive Jewish spirit; any commemoration of

those who perished in the Holocaust. In my involvement in the synagogue, I saw support from Jews and non-Jews, affluent and poor. I realised it is like air for the Jewish soul."

A restless energy flows through Tallinn. Conversations between old and new, in values, architecture and people define how itchy it is to reinvent itself.



Genuine quaintness in the mediaeval bypasses and thoroughfares of the Tallinn's Old city.



Kadriorg Palace, one of the historical landmarks near Tallinn, was built in 1718 by Tsar Peter 1 for his wife Catherine, and functions today as a historical museum.



The new Tallinn Synagogue, imposing from the street.

Tips for when you visit Estonia

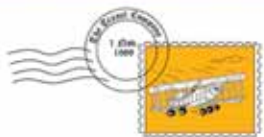
- If you're holidaying in Estonia and hold an SA passport, you need a Schengen visa.
- There are no medical precautions to take for visiting Estonia; it is suggested you indulge in the country's spa culture while visiting, it could alleviate medical conditions you currently have.
- Situated on the Baltic coast, and neighbouring Latvia and Russia (a ferry ride from Helsinki), Estonia boasts moderate summers with "white nights", or 19-hour days. I visited Estonia in October: the weather was mild, featuring occasional light dustings of snow; winter in Estonia is very cold, with lots of snow.
- The Estonian language is unique, bearing similarities to Russian and Lithuanian. Most Estonians, however, have more than a functional command of English.
- From the beginning of 2011, Estonia joined the Eurozone. At the time of going to press, 1€ will cost you R10,23
- Traffic in Estonia is on the right hand side.
- Electricity in Estonia is at 220-240v. The standard plugs in Estonia have dual round pins alongside one another.
- The quality of tap water varies in Estonia: more according to taste than toxicity. In some areas, lake water is safe to drink.
- There is no time difference between Johannesburg and Tallinn, capital of Estonia.



A view of the square defining the old city of Tallinn, where modern coffee shops and elderly women beggars selling knitted garments operate side by side.

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COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD
Mary Kluk,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Mashatile meeting very positive

LAST WEEK, I reported briefly on our just-concluded meeting with Minister of Arts and Culture Paul Mashatile, in which his reported comment that our government might consider implementing sanctions against Israel was discussed.

I can now elaborate on what transpired, and can say without reservation, that we were very satisfied with the outcomes achieved.

Minister Mashatile clarified that neither he nor his government supported anti-Israel boycotts, and that this position was not being reconsidered. He further reiterated Government’s long-standing position of support for a two state solution, with Israel and Palestine as independent states existing side by side.

It was agreed that current efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict, should be supported, and that South Africa’s experience in conflict resolution should be utilised to assist with finding a lasting solution in the region.

All of these points were unambiguously made in a written communication issued immediately afterwards by the Minister’s office. Essentially, any perceptions that there had been a shift in government policy towards favouring the boycottist camp, had been soundly quashed and current government policy officially reaffirmed.

It is fair to say that not all members of our community were happy with this outcome. Some suggested that we should have taken the Minister more strongly to task, and that his statements distancing himself from what he originally said should not have been taken at face value.

With respect, I believe this displays a misconception over what was intended by our meeting. What the Minister’s comment had suggested was a shift in Government policy on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, one that was moving away from one of engagement to one of boycotting Israel.

The truth or otherwise of this needed to be clarified, and if it was not the case, then it was important to obtain an authoritative statement confirming this. Essentially, we were concerned about establishing the fundamental facts regarding Government policy, not to engage in a nit-picking, exhaustive analysis of every reported word and nuance relating to a single, isolated statement.

We need to be careful about not becoming overly focused on what are essentially peripheral issues, to the detriment of seeing the bigger picture and to the point sometimes of stirring up needless controversy.

Irwin Cotler back in South Africa

Of the various international Jewish guests we have been involved with over the years, few have made so striking an impact as the Hon. Irwin Cotler, former Canadian Justice Minister and world-renowned human rights activist.

Prof Cotler, who is currently back in the country at the behest of the IUA-UCF, has again worked closely with the Board, participating in a number of high level functions and meetings. In my next column, I will go into detail about these, mentioning here only two of the functions that have already taken place.

In the first, the Board’s Gauteng Council partnered with the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre in hosting Prof Cotler’s address on the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg.

In the second, we participated in his presentation the next day to 450 international relations students at Wits University. Both events were a resounding success, and we are indebted yet again to our esteemed visitor for making them possible.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

Sweet scent of success

IN RESPONSE to the lack of career guidance for high school learners across South Africa, Nedbank and some prominent roleplayers, is investing more than R5 million towards its 2012 “My Future My Career” programme which will benefit more than 40 000 grade 9-12 learners from underprivileged communities across the country.

The “My Future My Career” concept is the brainchild of Primestars Marketing,



who is also the project manager. “My Future My Career” showcases more than 100 career choices available across 14 industries. It enables learners to also discover the academic as well as personality requirements for each career. For the third consecutive year, this innovative programme continues to enable learners to gain insight of what to expect in the workplace through testimonials from professionals plying their trade in the working world, a media

WHAT’S ON

Sharon Akum sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

DEADLINE

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for all entries is 12:00 on the Friday prior to publication, without exception.

Today Friday (February 24)

- UZLC hosts Shelley Elk who will speak on “Journeys, Pebbles and Other Metaphors”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485 4851.
- JNF Choir needs members - basses to sopranos. They meet every Wednesday evening at 18:45 for 19:00 at Lifestyle Centre, Sandringham Gardens. Contact Tzippi, (011) 640-4287 or 082-320-1555.

Sunday (February 26)

- WIZO invites you to an evening of enchantment and magic with an SA twist, with Ilan Smith, master of illusion and intrigue. Tickets: R160 pp. Contract: Andrea: 083-677-8999.
- Beyachad Library book launch: “Israel - Reclaiming the Narrative” by Barry Shaw. The author will be here from Israel. Books available from the library at R150. Time: 17:30. Venue: The Hon Abe Abrahamson Auditorium at Beyachad. Donation R30. Contact Norma (011) 645-2567 or e-mail library@beyachad.co.za
- Second Innings presents Prof John Lubbe (retired professor of Semitics) who will talk on “The Dead Sea Scrolls; Qumran, its Writings, Caves, Ruins and Graves”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Monday (February 27)

- UJW hosts David Shapiro, consultant to the Sasfin Group who will talk on “Outlook for the Coming Year”. Time: 09:30 Donation: R25. Venue: 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044.
- Women of the World hosts educationist Gavin Keller, an expert in brain-based teaching, learning and leading, who will present a series of three lectures for teachers and parents. The first lecture is “The Talent Code”. Venue: Sydenham Shul Community Centre, 24 Main Street, Rouxville. Cost R50 per person per session. Time 20:00. Mandy 083-380-5268.

Tuesday (February 28)

- Women of the World hosts educationist Gavin Keller, an expert in brain-based teaching, learning and leading, who will present the second of his series of three lectures for teachers and parents. The lecture is on “Secrets of the Teenage Brain”. Venue: Sydenham Shul Community Centre, 24 Main Street, Rouxville. Time 19:30. Cost R50 per person per session. For more

information call Mandy 083-380-5268.

- WIZO is hosting futurologist Clem Sunter who will talk on “2012 and Beyond” Venue: Beyachad at the WIZO Forum. Time: 09:30. Entrance R40. Enquiries: Joyce (011) 645-2548. Tuesday (February 28)

Wednesday (February 29)

- Chevrah Kadisha Social Services invites you to an evening on OCD and anxiety related disorders: “Dispelling the Myths and Promoting Understating and Awareness in the Community. Guest speaker Kevin Bolon, expert psychologist in the field. Venue: Golden Aces Card room. Time: 19:30 -2 1:00. Donation appreciated. Bookings or more info: (011) 532-9793/(011) 532-9733.
- UJW CT adult education division hosts Megan White who will talk on “The Cart Horse Protection Association”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).
- Balfour Park Parkinson’s Disease Support Group holds its meeting in the Boardroom of Randjes Estate, Highlands North. Judy Hough, of the Living Will Society, will speak on the importance of making a Living Will. Time: 10:00. For further information, contact Rosemary Burke on (011) 640-3919.
- Rosh Chodesh Ladies Group hosts Julienne Sackstein who will talk on “How to Make Your Life the Best it Can Be”. Venue: Pine Street Shul Hall. Time: 19:30. Donation R40. Contact Kiki 083-69-6399.

- Emunah Ladies Beit Midrash hosts Amanda Porter who will talk on “Juggling Family Life”. Time: 10:00 – 11:00. Address: 60 Mejon St, Glenhazel. Tel: (011) 887-2910. R50 donation.

- UJW Hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson former lecturer Dept English at Wits, who will be delivering part 3 of five lectures on Exploring George Elliot’s “Middelmarch - a Study of Provincial Life”. Time: 09:30

- Women of the World hosts educationist Gavin Keller, an expert in brain-based teaching, learning and leading, who will present the last of his series of three lectures for teachers and parents. The lecture is on “Motivational DNA”. Venue: Sydenham Shul Community Centre, 24 Main Street, Rouxville. Time 20:00. Cost R50 per person per session. For more information call Mandy 083-380-5268.

Thursday (March 1)

- UJW Hebrew speaking group is showing a DVD about Jonathan Pollard. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 10:30 for 11:00. Enquiries

release issued by Nedbank and the other participating sponsors, reads.

Martin Sweet, MD of Primestars Marketing, (pictured) says the project is aimed at inspiring the youth to play a key role in overcoming the current and projected skills shortage and the high rate of unemployment in South Africa and to encourage them to proactively explore and take full advantage of the career opportunities that exist for them.

This collaborative effort will enable participating learners to begin preparing themselves for the transition into the “World of Work”, helping them to realise their career ambitions while simultaneously strengthening the skills base of the country.

Shulamit (011) 882-922.

Friday (March 2)

- UZLC hosts attorney Zamie Likhaitzky, who will speak on “The Other Side of the Bench”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485 4851.

Sunday (March 4)

- WIZO Johannesburg invites you to their “Cardz for Kidz” week, from today until Sunday March 11. bridge, kaluki, rummy... pokerto raise money for children at risk in our hundreds of WIZO-sponsored centres throughout Isral. You are the host, your players make a donation - a suggested minimum donation of R18 or multiples of 18. Call Sandy to sign up and for more information (011) 645-2515
- WIZO Johannesburg has received the long-awaited book, “The Monday Morning Cook Club” from Australia. All proceeds to WIZO beneficiaries. Copies available from WIZO Johannesburg office at R400 per book. For more information phone (011) 645 2515 or (011) 645 2548 (Sandy), or e-mail sandy@beyachad.co.za

Monday (March 5)

- UJW hosts Rev Dr Paul Verryn of the Central Methodist Church, who will talk on “Affirming our Diversity”. Time: 09:30 Donation: R25. Venue: 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044.

Tuesday (March 6)

- UJW hosts Estelle Sher who will talk on “Cesar Franck and his Symphony in D Minor”. Time: 09:30 - 12:00. Cost: R30. Venue: 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044.

Wednesday (March 7)

- Greenside Shul has its Purim function today, at 19:30, after the Megilla reading. The shul is situated at 7a Chester Road, Greenside. There’s ample parking. Contact the shul office for details on (011) 788-5036, or e-mail info@greensideshul.co.za
- UJW CT adult education division hosts Daniel Silke who will talk on “Life’s a Cruise”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).
- UJW Hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson former lecturer Dept English at Wits, who will be delivering part 4 of five lectures on Exploring George Elliot’s “Middelmarch - a Study of Provincial Life”. Time: 09:30

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE by Jeff Sapire

SAFETY PLAYS are well known to all good players, but they vary considerably in their application, as can be seen from this hand. Would you have fallen into the same trap as the declarer below?

South ended up in 4S, which looks like a pretty sound contract. Bear in mind that

Teams, neither vul		
NORTH		
♠	A9643	
♥	A4	
♦	A1094	
♣	J2	
WEST		
♠	7	
♥	KQJ53	
♦	QJ852	
♣	A3	
EAST		
♠	J85	
♥	10976	
♦	K763	
♣	K5	
SOUTH		
♠	KQ102	
♥	82	
♦	-	
♣	Q1098764	

Contract: 4S by South Opening lead: HK

this was Team of Four bridge, where ensuring the contract is paramount - unlike Pairs, where overtricks count for so much.

Declarer won the opening lead on the table and immediately cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding his losing heart. He then played a spade to the king followed by a club. East won and continued a heart which South ruffed. The next club was taken by West, who now led a diamond, again ruffed by declarer.

Now he had only one trump left whereas East still had two. Declarer crossed his fingers and drew another trump, hoping that the remaining two would fall, but when they didn’t the hand collapsed. When he continued clubs East ruffed and the club suit was now dead. Declarer lost one trump, two clubs and a diamond.

So what went wrong? Strangely enough, the safety play is not to discard a heart at the second trick. The correct line of play is: Draw trumps, club to East, heart cashed, diamond switch won in dummy, another club taken by West, win any

return and run the clubs.

The ace of diamonds was used for the wrong purpose. It must be used to prevent the defence from weakening declarer’s trumps and not for discarding the losing heart.

By releasing the diamond ace, declarer allowed the defence to shorten the trump suit in the hand that contained the winning source of tricks - the long club suit.

Of course, had the trumps been 2-2, then declarer’s line would have made the contract with an overtrick. But that’s the point of the hand: The safe approach is to accept the loss of a heart in order to succeed against the more likely 3-1 trump break.

Every Tuesday (Intermediate) and Wednesday (Advanced) I run bridge workshops from 10:00 - 12:00 at the Great Park Shul, Corner Glenhove Road and 4th Avenue, Houghton - alternating with play hands one week and a bidding lecture on the other. For more information, call me on 082-551-2526 or e-mail me at jeffshirl@telkomsa.net.

Focus on Security

Compiled by The SA Jewish Report. Contact (011) 023-8160 or e-mail: advertising@sajewishreport.co.za

Stallion's armed response team... a cut above the rest

Stallion Security is one of the largest, most respected security companies in South Africa, offering an integrated one-stop total security solution. The business as a group, is in a position to offer services in armed response, guarding, electronic security, investigations, VIP protection and specialised security training.

IN THIS edition of the SA Jewish Report, we will concentrate on our armed response division, where we have developed a bouquet service menu for clients either looking to change their provider or looking for an armed response company capable of providing service at the highest levels.

We at Stallion can offer our clients a complete cost-effective and tailor-made security solution, where we have these service offerings split into categories at different rates, giving the client the choice of requirement and affordability.

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and each and every member undergoes an induction to "Stallionise" them. Our staff are our product. We therefore make sure that they have the necessary training, tools and are 100 per cent equipped to provide the great service levels we demand.

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MARLENE BILEWITZ

MARK KRAMER, Mantis CEO says: "Our name is synonymous with professionalism and expertise in the planning and execution of a broad spectrum of large-scale, integral turnkey security projects which optimise the client's requirements, while remaining cost effective."

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Not only are we a member of all relevant local industry associations, SSG is the first integrated security, risk services and facilities management group in South Africa to achieve ISO 9001 certification. Many firms might operate legally, but do they operate according to international best practice? We do.

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AROUND THE WORLD
NEWS IN BRIEF

ISRAEL'S SUPREME COURT FINDS TAL LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL

JERUSALEM - Israel's Supreme Court has ruled that the Tal Law, which allows yeshiva students to delay their military service, is unconstitutional.
The court issued the ruling on Tuesday evening by a vote of 6 to 3. The law, named for retired Supreme Court justice Tzvi Tal and enacted in 2002 under then-Prime Minister Ehud Barak, allows full-time yeshiva students to delay their army service until age 23. At that time, students either can continue to study fulltime, or perform a shortened army service or a year of national service. Afterward they may choose to join the workforce.
Last month, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delayed a Cabinet vote on extending the law, which is set to expire in August.
Barak, now the defence minister, reportedly welcomed Tuesday night's verdict. He has said that he would like to end the Tal Law and have a fairer system put into place. (JTA)

US ASSESSMENT: ISRAEL STRIKE ON IRAN WOULD BE 'HIGHLY COMPLEX'

NEW YORK - An Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear facilities would be a "huge and highly complex operation" that would be far different than its 1981 attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor, according to a New York Times report.
Citing US defence officials and military analysts close to the Pentagon, the Times wrote on Monday that the operation would take at least 100 planes and require in-air refuelling en route.
"All the pundits who talk about 'Oh, yeah, bomb Iran', it ain't going to be that easy," Lt Gen David Deptula, who retired last year as the Air Force's top intelligence official, was quoted as saying.
Israel in 1981 bombed and destroyed the Osirak nuclear reactor under construction 16km from Baghdad. In September 2007, at least four Israeli aircraft crossed into Syria and bombed an undeclared nuclear reactor.
The Times article appeared after a weekend in which Tom Donilon, the national security adviser, met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Ge. Martin Dempsey, warned on CNN that an Israeli strike on Iran now would be "destabilising".
Speculation that Israel might attack Iran has intensified in recent months. An Israeli spokesman in Washington told the newspaper that Israel "is keeping all options on the table".

According to the article, Israel would want to strike Iran's four major nuclear sites - the uranium enrichment facilities at Natanz and Fordo, the heavy-water reactor at Arak and the yellowcake-conversion plant at Isfahan.
The article speculates that Israel does not have enough airborne refuelling tanker planes to reach Iran and that it would need other planes to protect the tankers during the flight. It also points out that Israel may not have the appropriate bombs to penetrate the Natanz facility, which is located under more than nine metres of reinforced concrete, or Fordo, which is built into a mountain. (JTA)



Busy packing the gifts are Tzipporah Berman (grade 11); Sara Malka Fox (grade 7); Estee Zwick (grade 7); and Tali Abrahamson (grade 7).

TA girls are packing for Purim

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE BELLING

TORAH ACADEMY Girls' High School has embarked on its annual mishloach manot project for Purim.

Under the convenership of parent Ariella Glassman, the girls are making a variety of attractive gift packages, from dried fruits, nuts and teas, to beautiful fabric baskets which contain gift tea boxes and wine, and also made-to-order magnificent containers with imported wine, whisky and other delicacies.

- For orders, call (011) 485-3871 or 072-151-5398 or e-mail girlshigh@torahacademy.co.za

Such fun to become strong!

CHERYL HARTON HOTINSKY
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THE YESHIVA College Playschool recently had a wonderful muscle-strengthening session with Clamber Club. Climbing up and over ladders; balancing on beams; rollicking rides; crawling through a moving tunnel; going on and under a rippling, multi-coloured parachute - every activity was enjoyed to its fullest!



The Clamber Club team with the little learners of Yeshiva College Playschool.

Tots making challah for Shabbat

Some of the children from Chabad Fourways Jewish Montessori Pre-School, shown making challah for Shabbat. Pictured are Izzy Rabin; Mendel Rabin; Jordyn Carreira; Yoni Schewitz; Ashton Carreira; and Gabriel Goldberg. (PHOTOGRAPH: SHERRI ULLMAN)



YOUTH TALK

Sharon Akum sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

KDL holds anti-bullying workshop for grade 8s



Creating anti-bullying posters are Shira Kruger and Roni Katz.

MERYL MALKIN AND LISA KLOTZ
PHOTOGRAPH: GARY BLOCK

AS PART of King David Linksfield High School's ongoing commitment to "nurturing menschen" and creating a community school in which each individual is recognised, celebrated and respected, an anti-bullying programme was held for all grade 8s on Wednesday February15.

The grade 8 pupils participated exploring issues around exclusion of friends, hurtful behaviour, power imbal-

ances and repeated aggressive behaviour.

The morning-long workshop took the form of the group watching a video exploring bullying issues, and then breaking into smaller groups with an allocated trained facilitator where group discussions, brainstorming and activities followed.

Participating in the workshop also had the added benefit of being part of the life orientation syllabus for the year and the worksheet that was completed and the posters that were created, will go towards the pupils' LO mark.

This has been an annual workshop at the school which gets refined yearly, bringing contemporary examples, such as cyber-bullying as these issues emerge.

The workshop was created and developed by school social workers Meryl Malkin and Lisa Klotz.

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Doron Benjamin looks delighted after his performance in the swimming pool at Lincoln College in Chicago. (PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)

Chicago-based Doron in the swim

JACK MILNER

IT IS AMAZING how many South Africans have performed well when attending colleges or universities in the United States and now swimmer Doron Benjamin has joined their ranks.

Benjamin, who turns 21 in May, took a while to adjust to his new way of life and now he is thriving - both academically and in the swimming pool. In only one year at Lincoln College in Chicago, Doron has already made the President's List, which is the equivalent of the Dean's list in South Africa.

Last Sunday in a special ceremony, Benjamin was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Iona Chapter. The Chapter recognises academic achievements with a grade point average of 3,5 (out of a possible four) or higher, along with playing a positive role in the community and society as a whole. Inductees are selected for membership by

the institution and the faculty.

Benjamin's grade point average was 3,9. He got over 90 per cent for four out of his five subjects and got over 80 per cent for the other one.

A well as swimming and studying at Lincoln, Benjamin also works as a lifesaver to earn his own pocket money. In the pool he took part this past weekend in the Midwest Cup Region IV Championships. This is the division Lincoln College contests and it is based on area.

Benjamin came away from the meeting with a silver medal for the 200 yard backstroke, a bronze for the 100 yard backstroke and another bronze for the 200 yard individual medley - which was his first personal best time since 2009.

As a result of his performances, Benjamin will now be part of the team to compete in the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) nationals in Fort Pierce, Florida from March 7 to 10.

Maccabi trials for Western Province

MACCABI WESTERN Province will be holding their trials for the junior teams in the following sports:

Cricket (born 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998)
February 24 - Green Point Cricket Club, at 15:30. Contact Wayne on 083-610-0229

Netball (born 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998)
March 4 - Vredehoek Courts, Highlands - 08:00. Contact Lisa, lisahack01@gmail.com

Tennis (born 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998) - boys and girls
Those interested must send their details to wp@maccabi.co.za. Trials number dependent

Squash (born 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998) - boys and girls
Send your details to wp@maccabi.co.za. Trials number dependent

Soccer

Girls (born 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998)
March 4 - Nazareth House - 10:00. Contact ronen@native.co.za
Boys (born 1995, 1996)
March 4 - Nazareth House - 09:30. Contact ronen@native.co.za
(born 1997, 1998)
March 4 - Nazareth House - 09:30. Contact ronen@native.co.za

Young Samuel a dab hand at chess



STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE BELLING

ALTHOUGH ONLY 13 years old, Samuel David Goldberg outshone boys years his senior by captaining the under-16 SA Junior Chess Championship - which his team won!

He also took the under-14 individual title in the Championship.

Samuel, a grade 8 learner at Torah Academy Boys' High and the son of Pam and Israel Goldberg, has been playing chess since the age of seven and represents the Gauteng South Chess Association.

With eight additional tournament titles to his credit - four in Gauteng and the other four counting towards his SA ratings - he is a credit to his school and chess club.

sport

Sam dumps David for Brad

JACK MILNER

A COACH in almost every sport is the most tenuous of professions and one hears constantly of tennis players firing one coach for another.

South African David Nainkin has been coaching American hopeful Sam Querrey for quite a while now but they have now decided to part company.

The three-and-a-half year coaching partnership with Nainkin has suffered because of Querrey's losing run that followed after being sidelined from the tour for three months last year with elbow problems and subsequent surgery during his attempt to defend his title at London's Queen's Club.

Querrey decided a major change was needed to rejuvenate his career as he is on the point of dropping outside the world's top 100 for the second time in six months. So, what he did was to turn from one Jewish coach to another Jewish coach. This time he has approached American Brad Gilbert to assist him.

Querrey (24), currently ranked a disappointing 99th on the ATP World Tour rankings, has only managed to win one

match this year and last week was dumped out of the first round of the SAP Open in San Jose by Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin.

Querrey missed both Wimbledon and the US Open last year and the player, whose ranking peaked at No 17 early last year, approached Gilbert in San Jose to see if the former coach of Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick and Andy Murray, would be interested in helping out.

Gilbert is understood to have told Querrey that he was available on a part-time basis, as he did with Japan's Kei Nishikori last year. The 50-year-old from San Rafael, California, currently sees his main occupation as an analyst with the ESPN commentary team that currently works at all four majors. However, he is more than willing to assist on a week-to-week basis.

Interestingly, Gilbert worked wonders with Agassi. He was the man who resurrected Agassi's career and took him to the No 1 ranking. Gilbert also did pretty well with Roddick, but his association with Murray was rather short-lived.

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