



Israeli and Druze artists visit SA (page 12)

# South African Jewish Report

[www.sajewishreport.co.za](http://www.sajewishreport.co.za)



Photo: Moira Schneider

## So good seeing Table Mountain again!

Professor Cyril Karabus, and his wife Jenifer, celebrate his return to Cape Town after nine months of ‘house arrest’ in Abu Dhabi. Karabus was arrested while in transit through Dubai airport for ‘manslaughter’ relating to a locum he did 10 years ago in which a child died of leukaemia. He was acquitted after numerous delays and administrative blunders and finally came home last Friday, vowing never to return. See page 10 – 11.

### Bertie Lubner humbled by BGU lifetime achievement award

“You don’t do things in life (other than earning a living) for recognition. You do them for self-interest. Life is about more than making money. It’s about the smiles on the faces of the people you help...”

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### SAKS: “Where were the ‘real voices’ of SA Jews in documentary?”

Rather than being condemned for being merely quiescent under apartheid, SA Jewry’s leadership is falsely declared, in an SABC documentary from last year, to have actively supported that system.

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### ‘The outsider’ asks for understanding from SA Jewry

Jewish community members comment on homosexuality. Rabbi Alexander: “The Orthodox movement has moved a long way and is still discussing moving further and I’d like to see them being more vocal and open so that people understand that that is happening.”

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### Reshef concert: Disrupters’ hearing postponed

The Wits University disciplinary hearing against 11 students who disrupted a piano recital in early March, has been postponed, according to a media statement. The hearing will now take place on July 16, 17 and 18.

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### Have you nominated your Jewish achiever yet?

Nominate people you consider worthy of an award for their work and achievement. Send nominations for the annual Jewish Achievers Award to [nominations@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:nominations@sajewishreport.co.za) by June 28.

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16:54	17:47	East London

World News in Brief

Toulouse shooting arrests

TOULOUSE - French authorities have detained a 25-year-old on suspicion of helping the gunman who killed three Jewish children and a rabbi at a Jewish school in Toulouse in southern France in March 2012.

The man has not been named, but a formal investigation is working to determine whether he helped the gunman, Mohamed Merah, steal the scooter which was used during the Toulouse shooting. (JNS.org)

# The Torah becomes the source of light

The association of Aharon, and of all later High Priests of Israel, with the task of the daily lighting of the menorah/candelabra in the Temple, is significant.

In our current technologically advanced era, turning on the lights in a home or a room is hardly considered to be a difficult or especially meaningful event. The flick of a switch floods the area with light and illumination.

However, when light is sourced from candles, wicks and oil, it is a more complicated matter. To produce this type of light requires a modicum of motor skills, patience and great attention to detail. Many problems, even fatalities, may be caused by improperly lighting the candelabra such as the one in the Temple, with its imposing size and dimension.

Because of the care and attention that was needed to light the candelabra in the Temple, and to emphasise the holy nature of the task and of the candelabra itself, caring for it and kindling it was assigned to the highest priest of Israel, Aharon.

He and his successors symbolised light. They represented hope, optimism, holiness, purpose and peace. This physical representation of Aharon's general role in Jewish society served to remind all of the purpose of the Temple, its laws and rituals and infused the G-dly spirit into Jewish society generally.

The Torah characterises itself as light and radiance. The commandments are the candles and the kindling, and the Torah - its study and its observance - becomes the source of light itself for all generations of Jews. It be-

came the personal task of each and every High Priest of Israel to see to it that this light was kept eternally burning and refreshed daily.

It is interesting to note that the light of the menorah was not seen generally by the public, as not everyone had access to the area of the Temple where the menorah stood.

But, it was seen daily by the High Priest himself and the radiance emanating from the menorah inspired him to be the constant disseminator of light, Torah, social justice and tranquility within Jewish society.

This essential societal task naturally entailed the same type of precision, persistence and attention to detail, coupled with loving care and innate skills that was present when the High Priest serviced the physical lighting of



Parshat Beha'Alotecha  
Rabbi Berel Wein  
Founder and director of the Destiny Foundation

the menorah in the Temple daily.

The Talmud teaches us that the clothing of the High Priest was not to be soiled when he appeared in public view. Lighting the menorah can be a dirty job if one is not careful, as can any societal activity, no matter how well intentioned it may have been at the outset.

The process and commandment of lighting the menorah served as a constant reminder to the High Priest of the important role that he was to always play in the furtherance of Torah and holiness in Jewish society.

Shabbat shalom.

# It's not all doom and gloom for Johannesburg

STAFF REPORTER

Johannesburg has made some great strides in the past few years, and despite some negative aspects, the city is generally running well, Anna Cox, The Star editor of Metrowatch, told a meeting of the United Zionist Lunch-eon Club last Friday.

“We so often complain about the city, but things generally work. We wake up in the morning, have clean running water which we can drink straight from the taps, our electricity works, and we drive along well-kept roads and highways. Yes, there are potholes and traffic lights that don’t work, but show me a city where everything is perfect,” she said.

In the city, 98 per cent of residents now have clean drinking water from a tap. Nine out of 10 have access to electricity at the flick of a switch. About 91 per cent benefit from sanitation service and regular refuse removal.

“For a Third World city, this is quite an achievement,” she said.

The city has upgraded more than 9km of water and sewer networks in Fourways, Orange Farm and Alexandra, patched more than



Fixing potholes – an ongoing task.

18 000 potholes in the past year and cleaned more than 100km of storm-water pipes.

Johannesburg has also made great strides in becoming a “smart” city with 750km of broadband optic fibre rolled out.

In this vein, the city is installing smart meters in households - a process which will be complete by 2014.

“This means that the city will be able to read electricity meters remotely without meter readers having to visit people’s premises. This should help alleviate incorrect meter readings which are the main cause of incor-

rect billing, which is plaguing the city,” said Cox.

Public transport was improving, albeit on a slow scale; the Rea Vaya bus transport system which had been implemented in Soweto, the inner city and soon in Auckland Park, was proving to be successful.

It had carried an average of 42 000 passengers a day with bus occupancy during peak times reaching 95 per cent.

The Gautrain and its buses had contributed in making the city more accessible to all, she said.

“In Rosebank alone, there has been R6,8 billion of investment by the private sector because of the Gautrain station.”

The city was encouraging densification around the stations, to encourage people to live closer to transport.

Health services were performing well under the strain with some 3,2 million patients walking through the doors of the 80 primary healthcare facilities in Johannesburg in 2011/12 to receive free diagnosis, treatment, counselling and care.

She said as far as safety was concerned,

Johannesburg had just completed the roll-out of the “Joburg 10 Plus” campaign. This was a system where 10 Johannesburg Metro Police Department officers were assigned and dedicated to each ward in the city.

“The 10 officers are guided by the community who advise them of problems peculiar to their area, such as illegal dumping, illegal businesses, buildings and use of property. They will then tackle these problems and report back on a monthly basis.

“The scheme has taken off really well already in some areas, with a good relationship being established between police and residents,”

In general, things were looking positive, said Cox.

“Yes, the billing crisis is still around and not likely to disappear soon because of deep-rooted problems, but things get repaired fairly quickly if reported. Minor problems such as potholes, are usually repaired quickly.

“Yes, there are problems with infrastructure in some areas which were not designed to take so much development, but these are surmountable,” she said.

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# Reshef concert: Disrupters’ hearing postponed

*Student protesters at Wits begin to target general Jewish organisations; not just Israeli-related ones*



The Wits University disciplinary hearing against 11 students who disrupted a piano recital in early March, has been postponed, according to a media statement. Lawyers for the 11, charged for protesting the concert in which Israeli-born pianist Yossi Reshef performed, have successfully argued for the postponement of their disciplinary hearing, which will now take place on July 16, 17 and 18.

The reasons for the new dates include the difficulty students faced in obtaining

pro-bono legal representation. The decision of postponement follows two protest rallies organised in support of Wits University’s SRC earlier this month. The second rally, on May 13 was supported by members of Nehawu and the Workers Solidarity Committee.

In the photograph above, protesters display posters calling for the withdrawal of charges against the 11 students as well as general slogans against Israel and Jewish organisations, including the SA Jewish

Board of Deputies. The inset shows incoming Wits Vice-Chancellor Adam Habib, who addressed the students on behalf of the university administration.

Concerns have been raised that the protesters are targeting general Jewish organisations such as the SAJBD, which are not directly related to Israel, and thus are targeting SA Jewry directly.

They delivered a memorandum to Wits Registrar Kirti Menon, demanding that all charges against the students be dropped.



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# Bertie Lubner humbled by BGU lifetime achievement award

ROBYN SASSEN

“I have achieved many things,” a visibly moved Bertie Lubner, veteran businessman and philanthropist told the SA Jewish Report this week, “but this surpasses my life’s most memorable moments.” He was referring to his receiving the first ever lifetime achievement award of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in a lavish ceremony a fortnight ago.

“The award was completely unexpected. The university conferred an honorary doctorate on me in 1987. Some BGU council members had visited South Africa. They heard of my achievements in business, philanthropy and government and they visited Afrika Tikkun and Kibbutz Lubner and the Field Band. This award was conferred on me for all my diverse levels of involvement locally and similarly in Israel. They told me they could not give me a second doctorate.

“As a vice-chairman of the university, I had often taken part in the doctoral ceremonies, but was surprised when they told me I could not wear the academic hood, but also when I was told that I would be receiving an award first, before the honorary doctorates. When they played the video footage of about 10 minutes about my life, I was awestruck.

“You don’t do things in life for recognition. Life is about more than making money. It’s about the smiles on the faces of the people you help...”

Describing Lubner as “an exceptional man whose belief in the power of effecting innova-

tive social change has made a momentous contribution to his native South Africa and in Israel,” the award was presented in a frame.

Professor Rivka Carmi, president of BGU, called Lubner “a most remarkable and beloved friend of BGU and indeed of humanity.” She added that Lubner had been a major figure in the university and its board of governors since 1975.

“Brought up in a home where the values of caring and giving were taught and treasured, Bertie has over the years supported our students and encouraged them with projects and prizes to give to the less fortunate and to take responsible roles in society,” she said.

“He is a role model par excellence, dedicated and devoted to us as well as to the underprivileged communities in South Africa, and most worthy of the honour bestowed upon him.”

Lubner said retrospectively that on the evening he asked himself quietly: “What am I doing here? I could not believe the quality of the people getting honorary doctorates that night.”

In his acceptance speech, Lubner said he had been inspired by three people: his late father, Morrie, a prominent self-made entrepreneur in Johannesburg; Israel’s first and founding prime minister, David Ben-Gurion; and former South African President Nelson Mandela.

“Each in his own way had to pursue a life of hard work and sacrifice to succeed in his goals so that he, in turn, could add value to the lives of millions,” he said.

In 1975, Lubner was invited to be president of the SA Associates of BGU by the university’s



BGU's President Professor Rivka Carmi presents Bertie Lubner with the university's first-ever lifetime achievement award.

second president, Joseph Tekoa. He praised BGU’s success in helping to realise Ben-Gurion’s dream of making the desert bloom.

“This university was created with little; its success is about the triumph of the human spirit. In fact, its triumph is a microcosm of Israel and Zionism itself.”

Lubner has made philanthropy a key part of his life and has inculcated the importance of giving in his four children. Both in South Africa and Israel, he and his family have supported many worthy causes - especially in children and adults with special needs.

As a philanthropist, in collaboration with the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, in 1994 he founded Afrika Tikkun, which looks after thousands of beneficiaries in six township

based centres of excellence.

With his brother Ronnie, he founded the Field Band Foundation, which supports 42 bands incorporating some 6 000 children. The Lubner family also set up Kibbutz Lubner in 1978, for mentally challenged adults.

In 2011, he was among the Jerusalem Post’s list of 50 of the world’s most influential Jews.

“You have got to learn from life’s lessons,” he added. “You can never say you’re successful until you have had two successes: when you did it for yourself and your family and when you are able to pass it on to others. It’s about being part of this world. Also, you do not know what your best role is until you have challenged yourself. But morality and balance are key to everything.”

south african

Jewish Report

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## World News in Brief

### State Department notes a continued rise in global anti-Semitism



A member of the Jewish community looks at a swastika painted on a headstone in a Jewish cemetery in Herrlisheim, eastern France.

WASHINGTON - The US State Department’s religious freedoms report describes “a continued global increase in anti-Semitism”.

“Of great concern were expressions of anti-Semitism by government officials, by religious leaders, and by the media, particularly in Venezuela, Egypt, and Iran,” the report released on Monday, said. “At times, such statements led to desecration and violence.”

It noted the continued “flourishing” of the Passover blood libel as well as Holocaust denial. US Secretary of State John Kerry noted the phenomenon in introducing Ira Forman, the new envoy to combat anti-Semitism.

“Ira has long been a champion of fair treatment for all, and he has worked extensively to combat intolerance,” Kerry said of Forman, whose background is a longtime campaigner for the Democratic Party in the Jewish community.

In its Israel section, the report noted Orthodox Jewish hegemony in civil law as it applies to Jews, as well as restrictions on women’s prayer at the Western Wall.

It also noted how religious tensions at times erupt into violence, noting attacks on churches and mosques “in retaliation for government actions to restrict settlement activity in the West Bank and designed to exact a ‘price’ for actions settlers considered contrary to their interests” as well as Muslim attacks on haredi Orthodox Jews. (JTA)



# ORT SA is at the leading edge of entrepreneurship in South Africa

The Business Entrepreneurship Division (JET) of ORT SA, recognises that 70 per cent of all employees are employed in small businesses in South Africa.

ORT JET said in a media release that through its unique Business Mentorship Programme, small and start-up businesses could access support, guidance, mentoring and topnotch financial and business training.

In addition to this, for the third year running, ORT JET has created a platform for creativity through its Business Plan Competition, named Eureka! This year, the competition’s headline sponsor is Liberty.

Out of 90 entries, the final 10 business plans are competing for first, second and third places. “This annual competition is an innovative way of encouraging creativity and entrepreneurship,” says Paul Bacher, CEO of ORT JET.

“What better way to encourage entrepreneurship than to run a competition to get the creative juices working? We, at ORT JET believe our range of initiatives has the scope and depth to be able to transform our clients into successful entrepreneurs and income-earners.”

A judging panel, made up of successful business people from a various sectors, will be judging the finalists. The winners will take home a suite of prizes which include R75 000 in business start-up prizes, an interest-free loan of R100 000 and a support system from the ORT JET Mentorship Programme.

“Our judges and prize sponsors are thrilled to be part of such an exciting initiative”, said Cindy Silberg, Business Mentorship Manager.

The winners will be announced at a gala event which will be held in Johannesburg with a special performance by Johnny Clegg.



Nominees of the Most Improved Business of the Year are Aviva Baran Rothschild; Rodney Ntlemo; Valeria Mahlangu; and Julian Klavansky.

## Pogrund gets Media Award



Benjamin Pogrund (pictured), former deputy editor of the Rand Daily Mail in Johannesburg, now living in Israel, has received the prestigious “International Media Award 2013”.

Pogrund was an anti-apartheid activist in his newspaper time in South Africa. After a stint in London, he immigrated to Israel and started Yakar, a humanitarian NGO, creating bridges for interaction between Israelis and Palestinians. He is also co-founder of the Israel-Palestine Journal.

From Israel Pogrund told Jewish Report: “The award was for my work in South Africa and in Israel and came as a total surprise. I was especially happy about it because I was chosen by my peers, by a panel of journalists from many parts of the world.

“I am proud to have spent most of my life as a journalist. There have been a lot of hard experiences but I have been blessed and sustained by wonderful friends and have been surrounded by colleagues who do their jobs with honesty and courage.

“During the awards ceremony a roll call was read out of scores of journalists killed during the past year. I thought about the men and women who day after day put their lives on the line so that we can know the bad and the good of what happens in the world. They deserve recognition and honour.”

## Generation Sinai – a global success story

SHIRA DRUION

Generation Sinai, the brainchild of Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, is an initiative which has enjoyed enormous success over the last two years since its inception.

Every year, on Rosh Chodesh Sivan, all Jewish day schools in South Africa host a parent/child learning programme to welcome in the month of the receiving of the Torah over 3 000 years ago. This year, Rabbi Goldstein, assisted by Rabbi Gideon Pogrund, ensured Generation Sinai went global, partnered by more than 100 Jewish day schools in 38 cities on six continents.

“It was such an inspiring day for our community and for communities across the continents. The power of Generation Sinai is the precious bond that is created when parents and children learn Torah together,” said Rabbi Goldstein.

“The concept of Generation Sinai is simple, yet revolutionary,” said Rabbi Ricky Seeff, head of Jewish Life for King David Schools. “The bonding of parents and children

through the power of Torah, is beautiful to witness and be a part of.”

“We partnered with schools in 15 Israeli cities, schools across London and Moscow, Odessa, Melbourne, Sydney, Buenos Aires, San Diego, New Jersey, and all Jewish schools in South Africa,” said Rabbi Pogrund.

The programme centred on the first paragraph of Shema. “The Shema is one of the most important and universal texts in Jewish life and is one that all Jews can relate to. We aim for it to be a universal experience which does not preclude anyone, irrespective of education or level of observance.

“Jews around the world are separated by oceans and mountains, continents and climates, language and culture, but we have one Torah that holds us all together.

“The South African Jewish community can not only take great pride in the fact that Generation Sinai was born here, but also how we as a community are assuming a leadership role in world Jewry by sharing our programming with Jewish communities following our lead.”



Ari and Jordan Jutan study with their grandfather Ron at Yeshiva College

Photo by Ilan Ossendryver

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## The East is not the West

The Karabus saga is over. But it has reminded us of the fact that we cannot look at the world only through Western perspectives.

Our bemusement as to why all the criticism and protest against the United Arab Emirate’s treatment of Prof Cyril Karabus seemed to have virtually no effect, may be explained partially by the fact that the region in which the UAE exists is not at all Western. Indeed, the mindset and belief system is radically different. It is simply not a democratic system.

The fact that Dubai is to Westerners a gigantic shopping mall where one can, among all the glitz and glamour, buy anything at all, does not make it Western. Behind the façade they don’t play by “our” rules.

In addition, they have so much money and so much oil that they feel they can simply behave as if they “don’t give a damn”. They can buy whatever they want, wherever they want. We can console ourselves by saying: “One day they will run out of oil”. For the time being, however, they are in the driving seat.

To show up the difference of mindset from that of the West, one only needs to look at what is happening currently in Syria, another country in the Middle East which at times has seemed to be “almost” Western and which seemed to be stable, yet within a short space of time has descended into absolute chaos and barbarity with chemical weapons purportedly being used and some 90 000 people - mostly civilians - killed in the past nine months.

Clearly the Karabus saga had nothing to do with him being Jewish, even though to South African Jews that point is of great interest. The mainstream press was just as interested in the story and Karabus’ Jewishness was hardly mentioned and not material to the overall picture.

Has this sad story been a wakeup call? The talk among doctors and other professionals in South Africa today is that many would think twice about going to work in the Emirates or other places like Saudi Arabia, even though the money may be good.

Even the reputation of Emirates Airlines has been badly tarnished in this - Karabus himself is absolutely scathing about the fact that Emirates let him fly, when it knew he had a security notice against him – something Karabus was blissfully unaware of.

Karabus is back home next to his beloved Table Mountain, but he has become a catalyst for a serious rethink of what the “East” is really about. Has there been a smattering of arrogance in the Western mindset which assumes that all the world can be looked at through Western eyes and expected to play by Western rules. The old concept of “fair play” – as we know it - simply does not apply in the same way.

Perhaps the same wakeup call needs to be applied to a country like China, even though the religious issue - such as Sharia law in many Muslim countries - which draws the parameters so strictly in the Middle East, does not apply in China in the same way.

Nevertheless, child labourers in sweat shops are producing many of the wonderful Chinese products which are flooding the West at bargain basement prices and are being snapped up by eager Westerners.

Meanwhile, in the centre of the Middle East region, Israel exists as a Western-style democracy which indeed does try to play to the rules of Western common law and due process.

But with the neighbours that they have, they have to understand the mindset and the times when healthy political cynicism must be applied. Appealing to Western style fair play just doesn’t work.

Twenty-first century technology is another smoke-screen we must see through. Because of globalisation and the pervasiveness of the Internet, social media and so on in countries throughout the world today, we assume that our global neighbours are of the same mindset and worldview and that we are all clones of one big “progressive” community. Obviously we are not.

In a bizarre sort of way, we have to thank Karabus for the lesson which his ordeal has brought so vividly back into our minds - with a healthy dollop of realism.

# Community Voices

## Summing up views on Jewish homosexuality

*Last Friday was International Homophobia Day, coined in 2004 to commemorate the World Health Organisation’s 1990 decision to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. Today, organisations in more than 70 countries commemorate this day. The Jewish Report asked leading professionals in the lay and religious communities if they feel the Jewish ethos should be accepting toward homosexuality and same-sex marriage.*



**Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein**, “Torah law prohibits homosexual acts. However, Torah law also prohibits any form of verbal or physical abuse which may cause emotional or physical harm. Our Torah requires each one of us to treat all people with dignity, kindness and respect irrespective of their race, religion or sexual orientation. “Beloved is the human being created in G-d’s image” (Pirkei Avot 3:18) is a Talmudic principle that guides us to interact with every human being in a manner consistent with Judaism’s highest standards of derech eretz and sensitivity.”



**Rabbi Moshe Kurtstag** (Rosh Beth Din, Johannesburg): “According to Jewish law, a Jewish marriage can only take place between a man and a woman who are permitted to get married. Gay relationships are prohibited according to the Torah, hence there is no possibility of a Jewish marriage.”



**Kim Berman**, executive director Artist Proof Studio and associate professor, Dept of Visual Art, University of Johannesburg, who has been in a committed relationship with her life-partner Robyn for the past 22 years: “To address this question, one should ask why this question should even be asked. Why should the Jewish ethos not accept human rights, dignity, equality, freedom of choice? Why should a Jewish ethos consider the discrimination against the gay and lesbian community? Does this question imply that the Jews have a standard and ethos of humanity in which dignity and rights are reserved only for a certain heterosexual portion of the community?

“‘Tikkun olam’ means ‘to heal, repair and transform the world’. Is that a Jewish ethos? Jews who are racist, homophobic or discriminate against others, cannot uphold a Jewish ethos in my opinion.”



**Lael Bethlehem**, Johannesburg: “To me it’s simple. Some people are homosexual and that includes Jews. This is not something that can be changed, and nor it is a problem, except in the mind. If Jewish institutions choose to exclude gays, they are rejecting Jews who are often enthusiastic and valuable members of the community. Things have changed a lot in the last decade. Most people accept that some Jews are gay and we have rights, including marriage. If gays are excluded, it not only tramples on our humanity, it also weakens the Jewish community.

“I am married, gay, and proud to be an active member of the Jewish community.”

### Worldwide overview

**In several countries, including Iran, homosexuality is punishable by death. In some 80 countries, it is illegal, including Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Uganda.**

**In 14 countries, including South Africa, people cannot be discriminated against based on their sexual orientation and same-sex marriage is fully legal.**



**David Bilchitz** (professor, Human Rights and Constitutional Law, University of Johannesburg; founding member, Jewish OutLook:SA Jewish LGBTI Alliance): “Same-sex relationships, just like opposite sex relationships, are about connection between people and love. The deepest values of Jewish tradition - which include respect for human dignity (our being B’tzelem Elokim), equality, justice and family - all support recognising the diversity of sexual orientation and would require according equal respect to gay/lesbian relationships. That should include sanctifying those relationships in marriage (Kiddushin or a Brit Ahavah).

“Those who only speak the language of prejudice, hatred and condemnation against gay/lesbian people, dishonour Jewish tradition and reflect a shallow understanding of its capacity to embrace the full wonder of human diversity. Parts of the Jewish community still unfortunately condemn many to the tyranny of the closet; instead, all parts of our community should become a beacon of acceptance and embrace us - its gay and lesbian members - as part of its rich, varied tapestry.”



**Rabbi Greg Alexander**, rabbi of Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation: “The Jewish community should be shouting, ‘Shalom - welcome!’ from the rooftops. It is prejudice, not halachah, that has kept gay and lesbian Jews in the community closet - out of sight so we could pretend that they did not exist.

“It is time for every rabbi, leader, organisation or shul to recognise the right of people to be as the Creator made them. Whether one is Progressive or Orthodox, there is no contradiction in being gay and being frum.”



**Marc Falconer**, headmaster, King David Linksfield High School: “As it happens my personal opinion seems to mesh rather neatly with the official policy of the King David schools.

“I believe that the school should be a safe and happy place for all children. From what I understand, homosexuality is not condemned by the school, and from a personal point of view I would certainly not discriminate against anyone and would rather seek to support pupils who may find their own search for identity difficult or painful.”



**Professor Selma Browde**, founder and director of the Hospital Palliative Care Team: “As a Jew, I believe the foundation and heart of Judaism is captured in the phrase which appears in the Torah: ‘Love thy neighbour as thyself.’

“Hillel, one of the most important figures in Jewish history, when asked how he would describe Judaism while standing on one leg, spoke those words. He also said that all the rest is commentary. Therefore, loving one another means not discriminating against those who appear to be different in one way or another.

“There is no choice in homosexuality: It is genetically determined. Science has proved that one is born with one’s sexual orientation. Clearly, accepting homosexuality and, therefore, gay marriage is following the essence of Judaism: Namely tolerance.”



# ‘The outsider’ asks for understanding from broader community



Andrea Kuti; Melanie Judge; Shifra Jacobson; and Gina Flash at the gathering of LGBTI Jews and friends at the Table Bay Hotel.

## MOIRA SCHNEIDER CAPE TOWN

Is the Jewish community generally accepting of the outsider, particularly those with different sexual identities? Yes and no, according to participants at a gathering of LGBTI Jews and friends held at the Table Bay Hotel last week.

The acronym refers collectively to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals.

Harry Victor had both a good and a bad experience to relate. A member of a prominent shul in this city for close on 70 years - he is about to celebrate his second barmitzvah - Victor lost his same-sex partner of 48 years some six years ago.

During the time that he was saying “kaddish”

- the memorial prayer for the dead - he says the rabbi ignored him. “He never once put his arm around me and asked how I was doing. I told the ‘gabbai’ (president) I was leaving the shul.”

When the rabbi approached him saying he believed he had a problem, Victor did not hesitate in telling him exactly how he felt. “Do you know how many funerals I do?” was the response.

His good experience concerned the Chevra Kadisha. At the time of his partner’s death, he was asked whether he would like a single or a double grave. It emerged that the Jewish doctor had written on the death certificate, “Treat as a married couple”.

When Richard Freedman was about to be appointed principal of Weizmann Primary in Sea

Point, he felt he should inform the lay leaders of the school that he was living with a same-sex partner. “We’re not worried about what your particular lifestyle is, we’re concerned with your role as an educator,” they told him.

Some of the parents, however, would use his orientation, saying, “You don’t really know about children. I phoned the chairman of the school who supported me at every turn and supported me 100 per cent,” he said.

Dan Brotman said it was interesting to see how the Jewish community was embracing gay people. “I had a lot of letters from lay leaders and the professional leadership when I got engaged (to his male partner),” he recalled.

“I hope that the Jewish community is evol-

ing along with the rest of the country.”

Shifra Jacobson, who had “a particularly Jewish” commitment ceremony with her female partner in 1994, said she was “so happy” to be at the gathering. “I feel that tonight is the first time there’s been a public acknowledgement by members of the community that there are Jewish gay people.”

Speaking to Jewish Report afterwards, Rabbi Greg Alexander of the Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation, under whose auspices the event was held, said his concern was about any person or group that was “marginalised” by Judaism, specifically those motivated by prejudice, “and this is one of them”.

He said one aim of the meeting was to discuss possibilities of group activities such as Shabbos dinners, movie nights, involvement in the Gay Pride movement and challenging the broader Jewish community to be more inclusive and querying the biblical texts around the issue.


“There are Orthodox rabbis who are being a lot more proactive in getting the message out. Even in South Africa there are Orthodox rabbis, for example Rabbi (Ramon) Widmonte in Johannesburg, who have been a little bit more outspoken and welcoming.

“Broadly speaking, the Orthodox movement has moved a long way and is still discussing moving further and I’d like to see them being more vocal and open so that people understand that that is happening.”

Li Boiskin, chairman of SAJBD’s Cape Council, said the Board respected the fact that the community was diverse and invited those present to become involved in its representative institution. “You have the right to nominate people to stand for this body so that your opinions can be heard,” she said.


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# Where were the ‘real voices’ of SA Jews?



**BARBARIC YAWP**  
*David Saks*

Last year the SABC screened a series of documentaries, entitled “Imagined Homeland”, on different South African faith and/or ethnic communities. Those communities featured included the Greeks, Indians, Italians and you know who.

As was predictable, the Italian film lingered fondly on images of pretty young women preparing pasta in the bosom of the famiglia amid strains of La donna e mobile and the Indian doccie featured plenty on curry and Hindu prayer rituals, while delving into the deeper South African Indian saga of immigration, persecution and liberation.

The Greek film also focused mainly on food, family and language and religion. Popping up throughout was the great anti-apartheid advocate, George Bizos, who spoke about being Greek in the context of being a good, justice-seeking South African.

All in all, it was the usual feel-good, travel-brochure stuff, deadly dull in my view but certainly inoffensive and at bottom motivated by the filmmakers’ strong sense of pride in their respective identities.

And the Jewish programme? This took the form of a first-person exploration of what it meant to be Jewish in the context of the South African historical and contemporary experience. That could have been quite interesting, had the perspective that emerged not been so hopelessly unrepresentative.

For a start, the narrator was, by his own admission, little more than a Jew by birth. He had received no Jewish education, had almost

never been to shul and was in no way involved in Zionist-related activities. Moreover, the bulk of his film was devoted to the voices of those similarly on the fringes.

The result portrayed a community that was tortured, traumatised, confused, guilt-ridden and divided. Religion was something other Jews did, not the “rational humanists” that were chosen to convey to the rest of South Africa what it meant to be Jewish.

Whereas the other communities dealt with, depicted their South African past in terms of the immigrant experience - a success story in which greenhorns were able to forge a new life and identity in a new land - Jews were depicted either beating their breasts over their collective failure to oppose apartheid, or having contemptuous fingers pointed at them by those individuals who did.

Israel comes across as a kind of guilty secret, with those who dissent from the Zionist view being ostracised. The whole is largely flavoured by depictions of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism.

It is quite understandable that Greek South Africans should be proud of George Bizos, and that this should have featured in the documentary on them. However, apart from Bizos (and perhaps two or three more minor figures) how many Greeks, in truth, were involved in anti-apartheid activism?

Despite this, neither the Greeks nor the Italians indulge in self-flagellating apologies for their apartheid-era record in their respective programmes.

While the Greek community has Bizos, Jewish anti-apartheid lawyers alone include Isie Maisels, Sidney Kentridge, Joel Joffe and Arthur Chaskalson, to name just a few.

Then there are the parliamentarians (including Helen Suzman, Harry Schwarz, Leo Lovell and Sam Kahn), trade unionists (Solly Sachs, Ray

Alexander, Leon Levy among many others), extraparlimentary activists (too numerous to even attempt a short-list, although Lionel Bernstein, Ruth First and Joe Slovo most readily come to mind).

Journalists include Benjamin Pogrand and Anton Harber, novelists, Nadine Gordimer and playwrights and producers, Barney Simon.

It is a bizarre, as well as cruel and surely unfair irony that this remarkable plethora of Jews who were involved in the anti-apartheid struggle is often used not to reflect credit on the Jewish community as a whole, but as a way of denouncing those Jews who did not act in the same way.

The result is to depict Jews as being somehow uniquely guilty of exploiting and oppressing the black majority, even though of all the white sub-groups, they had a genuine excuse in light of their traumatic recent past to keep their collective heads below the parapet.

Recent developments have shown that this kind of finger-pointing can be taken beyond simply judging mainstream Jewry for what happened in the past to actively denigrating its leadership in the present.

Now, rather than being condemned for being merely quiescent under apartheid, its leadership is falsely declared to have actively supported that system.

Most recently, the SAJBD was said by the Young Communist League of SA to have had “a long history of supporting apartheid in South Africa and lobbying against attempts to end it”.

The more rabid wing of the anti-Israel lobby today has no compunction in invoking the apartheid experience as a way of isolating and discrediting mainstream Jewish voices, in effect playing the anti-white race card in order to smear Israel’s defenders.

## World News in Brief

### Govt report: IDF not responsible for al-Dura shooting.

JERUSALEM - An Israeli government review of the death of 12-year-old Muhammad al-Dura during the Al-Aqsa Intifada in 2000, has officially debunked a French television report suggesting he was killed by direct IDF fire.

The report, presented to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday, further concluded it was highly likely the boy survived the incident unscathed and may still be alive. The boy’s father urged an international inquest.

The incident took place on September 30, 2000 - the early days of the Al-Aqsa Intifada - when Jamal al-Dura and his 12-year-old son Muhammad were filmed by a France 2 news crew taking cover behind a concrete barrier after they were caught in a crossfire between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police forces in Netzarim Junction, in the Gaza Strip.

France 2 reported the boy was killed by direct fire from a nearby IDF post. The Israeli government review, however, examined raw footage filmed by the France 2 crew, and found it was edited to exclude a part in which the boy - declared dead by the reporter on film merely a moment earlier - is clearly seen alive and moving. (JNS.org)

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# Let those bridal photographs come in!

Today we publish the first batch of photographs of our lovely Jewish brides. Entries are open for Jewish Report’s exciting and prestigious Bride of the Year 2013 competition. Enticing prizes await the winning bridal couple. Come on, share the glory and happiness of your great day with our readers.

- Rules:**  
1. Entries close at the end of November 2013. (The exact date will be announced later.) All brides married between January 2013 and November 2013, are eligible for entry.  
2. Brides must be present in South Africa at the time of judging.  
3. The only photographs permitted for entry, are those submitted by the bride herself, or by her photographer with her explicit permission. All entries MUST be signed by the bride herself.
4. Photographs will be printed within the timeframe and discretion of the Jewish Report.  
5. Photographs for submission, must be in high resolution PDF or JPEG.  
6. The judges’ decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.  
7. Members of Jewish Report and competition sponsors, will not be allowed to vote on family member entries.
8. Very important: Please note that all photographs MUST be submitted to brides@sajewishreport.co.za - a form is available on www.sajewishreport.co.za  
Send the photos to: Attention: Susan at brides@sajewishreport.co.za  
Sponsorships are still available for the competition. It carries a tremendous amount of positive exposure. If you’re interested, contact advertising@sajewishreport.co.za for more details.



**MICHELLE GERSZT**  
**Groom’s name:** Eric Herr  
**Place of chuppah:** Summer Place  
**Date of wedding:** March 20, 2013  
**Photographer:** Splendid Productions



**ROBYN UNTERSLAK**  
**Groom’s name:** Jothan Dayan  
**Place of chuppah:** 5 Morribrook Avenue, Linksfield  
**Date of wedding:** March 19, 2013  
**Photographer:** Lawrence Paiken

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**Groom’s name:** Wayne Zwiers  
**Place of chuppah:** Killarney Country Club  
**Date of wedding:** March 17, 2013  
**Photographer:** Splendid Productions

**ZARA ZETLER**  
**Groom’s name:** Shawn Rudnick  
**Place of chuppah:** Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West  
**Date of wedding:** March 3, 2013  
**Photographer:** John Armstrong

**TALI SILVER**  
**Groom’s name:** Daniel Berman  
**Place of chuppah:** 26 Study Road  
**Date of wedding:** March 12, 2013  
**Photographer:** Andrew Knobloch

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Email consent given for the printing of this photograph

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Note: No entries will be accepted unless all the fields (name, telephone number, e-mail address etc) are filled in correctly.



# So good to be able to see Table

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

Professor Cyril Karabus does not know whether his captors knew he was Jewish, but feels that it didn't make "any damned difference" to his ordeal. "This is just the way (things are there) - non-Emiratis are second class citizens. "If anything happens, if you have a motor accident and they drive into you, don't bother to fight them because you're the one who's going to suffer, not them. They are superior, that's all."

The retired paediatric oncologist was speaking to Jewish Report on his return from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he has been held for the past nine months on charges of fraud and manslaughter in connection with the death of a three-year-old cancer patient he treated while doing a locum there in 2002. Karabus was in transit through Dubai on his way back from attending his son's wedding in Canada last August, when he was arrested at the airport. Unbeknown to him, he had been tried and convicted in absentia in 2003 and there was a warrant out for his arrest.

Karabus' parents were very

active members of the Claremont Hebrew Congregation, having joined when the family first came to Cape Town in 1949, making him one of its longest-standing members. His father, in fact, served as chairman of the Claremont Hebrew School.

**'I will never, ever fly Emirates again and I will be writing to all the medical journals in the world about this and advise people not to fly Emirates.'**

So it was not unexpected that he, along with his Cape Town attorney Michael Bagraim, would make the shul one of his first stops after his return to the country last Friday.

Arriving just before the Ma'ariv service, he was overwhelmed when the congregation, having spotted him trying to make an unobtrusive entry, broke into a hearty rendition of Heivenu Shalom Aleichem.

The quietly-spoken professor describes it as "the big hello", saying it was "really quite amazing, nice to see everybody, people I hadn't been in touch with for many, many months. It was very

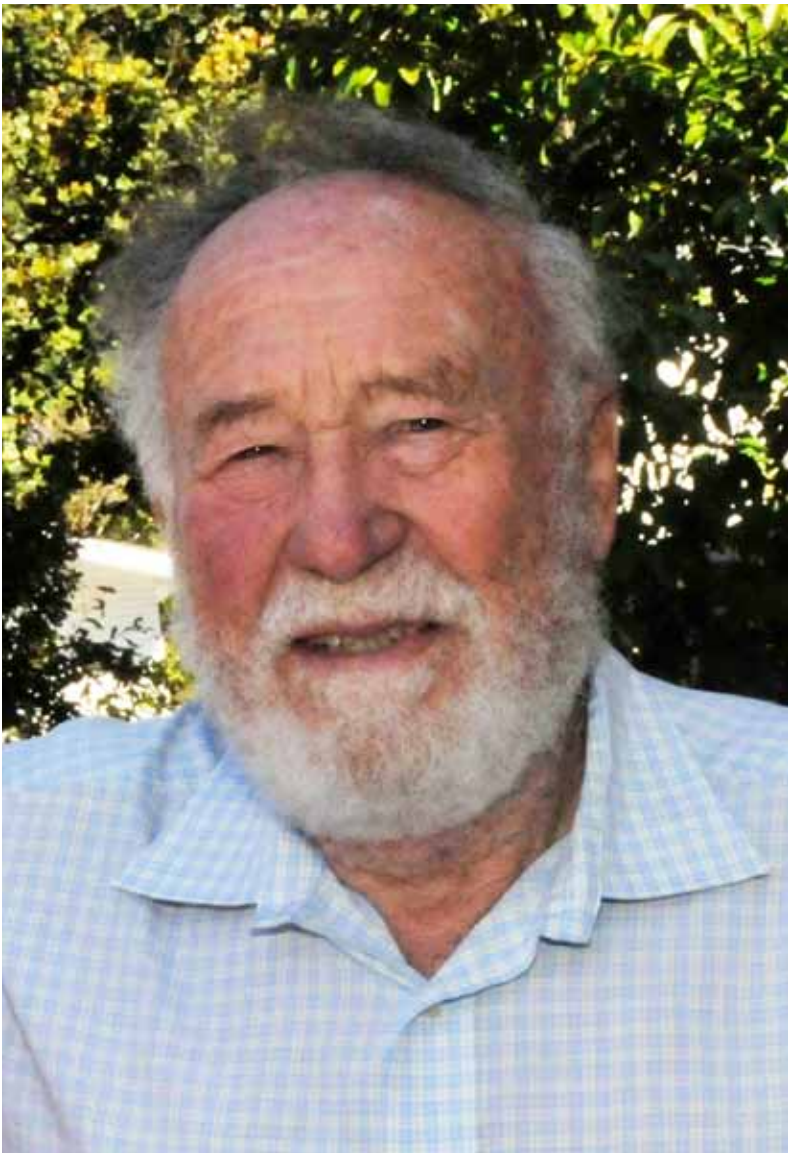
impressive, Ja."

On Shabbat morning, he "bensched gomel", the blessing said by an individual after surviving a life-threatening situation, an emotional moment, enhanced by the presence of his son and son-in-law. His joyous arrival greeted by hundreds at Cape Town International Airport the previous day, also had a Jewish flavour when he was blessed by Rabbi Asher Deren, chairman of the Rabbinical Association of the Western Cape, and a troupe of Cape minstrels sang Hava Nagila, Heivenu Shalom Aleichem and Welcome to Cape Town.

**'I think a boycott would have been more effective because they (UAE) take no notice of any protests in the world because it's not reported.'**

Also there were the children from the Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School, singing and dancing.

While the conditions in the Islamic UAE were not exactly conducive to Jewish festival observance, Karabus did the best he could. "I must say I did go off bread for the week of Pesach.



## Welcome home!

### *The medical fraternity celebrates Prof Karabus' safe return to South Africa*

*The safe home-coming of Prof Cyril Karabus, after his nine-month ordeal in the United Arab Emirates, on fraud and manslaughter charges which were later rejected by an Abu Dhabi court, has elicited much jubilation among the medical fraternity.*

**Dr Philip Matley** Prof, we are pleased to have you back home. From all at Dr Matley and Partners Surgical Practice.

**Dr Solly Burgin** We are happy that your ordeal has come to the end. Wish you many happy years. Best regards.

**Dr Mossie Silbert and his wife Marlene** Welcome home, Cyril. We wish you good health and much joy with your family. This message comes from Mossie Silbert, a member of your medical fraternity, and from Marlene Silbert who has the pleasure of working with your son-in-law, Gavin at the South African Jewish Museum.

**Dr Peter Baker and his wife Marleen** We were appalled at the treatment you received at the hands of the Emirates authorities and the regrettable role that the airline appeared to have played. Good to have you back at last and may you enjoy good health and a speedy recovery from your ordeal.

**Dr Theo Copenhagen** Dear Prof, it was wonderful to see your smiling face and hear your strong voice at your home-coming reception. From the evil done to you has come much good. Strangers met and rallied to your cause. The world was made aware that natural law and human rights are fragile concepts that require constant protection. Look how many people who have never ever met you, fought in every way possible to bring you home. Thank goodness our fears were not realised and that with you as the standard-bearer we can do the same for others in the same predicament. I honour you, sir, and your strength and fortitude.

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# ‘Rega’ - not for healing but for change

ROBYN SASSEN

In the 1980s in Tel Aviv, an art movement called “Rega” (Hebrew for “A Moment”) was born, bringing together Jewish and Arab artists. Its agenda was about activism through art.

This week two key collaborators - and veteran visual artists in Israel - who met through Rega, and have given Rega’s philosophy momentum throughout Israel, Israeli David Wakstein and Druze Asad Azi, were invited by Tararam, the Israel Embassy’s cultural arm, to show work at the Stephan Welz Gallery in Sandton.

“We came together to paint together and ask naïve and very important questions,” said Wakstein. “We exhibited work all over, at big city museums and small galleries. Since then our dialogue has continued.

“Rega was very prolific. Life and conflict in Israel were backdrop to our work. We have established several ‘art stations’ in areas from Ramle and Nazareth to Oramim and Ofaqim. Mostly, our young artists are half Arabs, half women



Asad Azi and David Wakstein measure their work preparatory to hanging it in the gallery, late last week.

in their demographics.”

Their art stations are about teaching art, as much as they are about dialogue. “Financially, we are alone,” he adds. “We don’t enjoy government support. But that doesn’t matter to us. What we are doing is sensitive, it is sophisticated and it is not for profit. Our art is a mirror.”

In South Africa for the first time, Wakstein and Azi express curiosity in the legacy left in apartheid’s wake. “We have to learn. Our roots, our symbols and our differences, but also our connections are what bind us; we aim to touch the heart of the problems through our work. Our art is not for healing but for

change.”

The threat of protest looms over this exhibition, given the recent bout of anti-Israel violent protest on the part of BDS supporters, and the disruption of a piano recital by Israeli-born pianist Yossi Reshef just over two months ago, at Wits university.

The two visiting artists are

not perturbed. “I need to look my attacker in the eyes,” said Azi. “These people are so wrong. Millions of people live in Israel. Everyone wants to solve the Israeli/Palestinian problem.

“If they cause trouble, they will be shutting our mouths, but more importantly, their own eyes. What they are doing is ridiculous. Art is opposite to the values they are espousing.

“But our ways are soft. We are not warriors in the conventional sense; in our work, there is no border between art and politics. But, unlike them, we can change lives and minds.

“Our position in the Middle East is very important for the development of our own aesthetic.

“Many Arab men and women are coming to study art in a Western framework. They are freaked out by the different aesthetic values: I was too, as a young artist, but it has been important to me to understand the different qualities in my art and to grow from being a painter from the East trying to paint in a Western style, into just a painter.”

## Show with an underlying theme of faux sweetness

Show: ‘Sentimental Value’, Liz Loubser Gallery, 11 Cecilia Avenue, Risidale, (011) 782-4051  
Until: May 31

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

A soldier, bodily phrased in a state of combat, with his arms asunder and helmeted head focused, is a cliché rendered so by hundreds of years of toy culture and his height of maybe 3cm.

These miniature people were cast in tin, later in plastic, and made available en masse for little boys the world over, by the squadron. Jeweller Geraldine Fenn takes them some steps further, alongside a simple Lego brick and a pair of shoes made for a Barbie doll, in her impeccable, darkly edged wearable art.

Both Fenn and Gina Waldman, Wits-trained artists, haven’t been on the gallery circuit for some years; their finely tuned essays on the culture of kitsch, lined with commercialism, fantasy and cliché are easy on the eye, sharp on the context. It’s also work that’s imminently haveable.

Waldman works with an array of collage elements, drawing from 1950s children’s illustrated books and comics, but also filled with beads, bobbles and do-dads, glitter, butterfly wings, fake pearls and gimlets.

All the kind of stuff that the nursery rhymes define as what little girls love. The more successful of these pieces are the frenetically busy ones, which play, wisely and wittily, with perceptions of the cute, the feminine and the precious in a manner neither destructive nor discursive, nor sterilely self-indulgent and conceptual, but rather almost complicit in its superficial gentleness.



Geraldine Fenn’s Gold Lego Brick, Gold Barbie Shoe and Gold Soldier. 9ct yellow gold.

It’s pretty. The closer you look, however, the more you understand how she’s turning all these über kitsch coins upside-down and inside out. Sometimes, she’s eviscerating them. Ultimately she’s yielding a body of work which is fresh and fanciful, but stripped of its veneers.

There’s an underlying theme of faux sweetness in this whole show, professionally exhibited and niftily hung, as it is, in this relatively new gallery which specialises in jewellery design.

In one series of work by both Fenn and Waldman, there’s a foray into teardrops which is deliciously sarcastic, bordering on the hilariously melodramatic images of tears or tear-stained women that artists associated with European surrealism used and quoted in their work.

The impact here is beautiful and outrageous but reflexive on a society that in spite of how developed it might have become in the corridors of universities, retains its conservative understanding of gender roles and cultural imperatives, at home.

Fenn contemplates and disembowels the notion of preciousness in our society with a firm hand and a sophisticated jeweller’s loupe. Her one Barbie shoe, cast in 9 ct yellow gold - or in sterling silver and manifesting as a pair of earrings or a pendant on a chain - speaks of a culture of fun, underlined by the solemnity of money which corrupts and exposes it and renders it all a little rotten with sweetness. It’s all about value. And things close to the heart, or what society deems the heart.

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A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

## Post-Shavuot reflections



**Above Board**  
**Mary Kluk**  
National Chairman

Jews are not required to cut themselves off from the world and life lives of monastic isolation. Rather, their religious heritage requires them to become involved in

The meaning for the Jewish people of the recently concluded Shavuot festival can aptly be summed up by the famous phrase from the Torah Naaseh v’nishma – “We will do and we will hear”.

One of the many possible interpretations of this collection assertion by our ancestors is that Judaism is a religion committed to action and not simply to affirmations of faith.

every aspect of daily living, with a view to elevating both themselves and the society of which they are a part.

It is a source of constant inspiration to me to witness at first hand just how much our Jewish community is doing, whether in the realm of ensuring the continuation of a full and meaningful Jewish life, or in working for the greater good of South Africa.

Wherever there is an organised Jewish presence in this country, no matter how small, one will always find communal activities whose purpose is to assist needy members of the greater society.

Another important dimension of outreach is engaging in initiatives aimed at building bridges of friendship and understanding between South Africans of all creeds and culture.

In the latter area, the various branches of the SAJBD have traditionally been very much involved, and thus was the case over the past week. For the first time, there

was a substantial Jewish presence at the annual Gandhi Walk in Lenasia, where Board and other community members were part of an inspiring bonding experience with thousands of fellow-South Africans of all backgrounds.

In that same week, Board representatives took part in a Hate Crimes Working Group strategy session in Johannesburg, while our Cape Town staff met with representatives of the SA Black Entrepreneurs Forum in connection with the forthcoming joint function to be held at Investec Bank at the end of July.

All these and other similar initiatives play a vital part in our being an active, identifying part of South African society. They are all the more important at a time when malicious voices, often thinly disguised as anti-Israel activism, are once again seeking to portray mainstream Jewry as working against the interests of this country.

### Cyril Karabus comes home at last

The story of Dr Cyril Karabus has gripped the Jewish world over the past nine months. The day after Shavuot, he at last returned home, to a rapturous welcome by the Cape Town community. His arrival in shul in Claremont that night was a particularly joyous occasion, which my daughter and son-in-law were privileged to be a part of.

We applaud everyone involved in bringing this saga to a happy conclusion, with a special mention of the role played by Dr Karabus’ legal representative in South Africa, Michael Bagraim.

Michael has rendered extensive service to South African Jewry over many years, including as national chairman of the SAJBD. The part he played in bringing Cyril Karabus home will certainly rank as one of his finest achievements.

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

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

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

## There is only One Address



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Group CEO

available. Whatever kind of assistance is needed, is certain to be in there somewhere, through that single entrance, at that one address.

Over cheesecake and coffee this past Yomtov, I was in the company of a couple who had just returned from an extended overseas visit to spend time with family who had experienced a tragic loss.

“There isn’t anything like the Chev over there,” they said, “or anywhere else in the world, for that matter.”

We discussed what that meant for a while and the more we talked, the clearer it became. The Chev is a one-stop address for any Jew in need of any kind of help.

Think for a moment, as I did, what it means for a community to offer a single door through which a vast range of help is

Maybe it’s burial or accommodation? Perhaps the person is in search of financial assistance or care for a parent suffering with dementia? How about someone facing depression, divorce or addiction?

Through that door are experienced counsellors, support groups, comforting words and attentive ears. Guidance, support and hope are all available.

I don’t take any credit for this, but rather acknowledge, with huge admiration, the calibre of a community that had the insight, foresight and compassion to establish such an inspired structure from the get-go, and to sustain and expand it to become what we are blessed to have today.

Everyone knows that if you’re in trouble, you come to the Chev. And if you are able to help those in trouble, you come to the Chev too - to give.

The thing is, you come to the Chev, because there is ONE ADDRESS, and everyone knows it.

That’s why, when South Africans are away from home, and in pain, they see clearly what is made conspicuous by its absence: “There is nothing like the Chev anywhere else in the world.”

May our partnership continue to thrive!  
Feedback@thechev.org.za

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha

## Original gates of Bulawayo cemetery rededicated

DAVID SAKS

Bulawayo’s Jewry came together just before Shavuot for a rededication ceremony for the Jewish cemetery’s original gates.

A plaque in memory of past and present members of the city’s Chevrah Kadisha was unveiled. Afterwards, the gathering moved on to the Jewish aged home, Savyon Lodge, to celebrate the 90th birthday of Harry Shmeizer, who immigrated to the then Southern Rhodesia from Eastern Europe as a youth and is today the congregation’s lay reader.

From a peak of over 3 500, the community

now numbers under 100, but the congregation holds regular Shabbat and Yomtov services. There are more than 1 200 graves in the well-maintained cemetery, some dating back well over a century.

Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader of the African Jewish Congress, focused on the eternal nature of the Jewish people in his address. The inscription on the cemetery gates - Beit Olam - meant “House of Eternity”, and alluded to the commitment the Jewish people show to maintaining their traditions. Despite its small size the Bulawayo community continued to epitomise this unfaltering dedication.



Anglican Father Francis Day; Harry Shmeizer; Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft; Hylton Solomon; Brian Sher; Raymond Roth; and Cantor Eric Wiener in front of the gates and memorial stone.



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Community Columns

A column of the Union of Jewish Women

International Council of Jewish Women join WJC



**Margot Segal**  
National President

For the first time in its history, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) has elected two women's organisations to their executive committee, including the International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW).  
At the WJC Plenary Assembly in Budapest on May 7, the ICJW was one of three international Jewish organisations elected to the WJC executive committee. ICJW was elected with 191 out of a possible 253 votes, together with World ORT and WIZO.  
ICJW will be represented at the WJC by Sara Winkowski from Montevideo, Uruguay. She has served twice as vice-president on the WJC Executive Committee and has held many senior positions in international Jewish and non-Jewish organisations, including president of ICJW from 2002 - 2006.  
The ICJW gives a voice to Jewish women around the world. Established in 1912, ICJW is an umbrella organisation representing Jewish

women's organisations and individual members in 43 countries. It has consultative status at the United Nations as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and maintains permanent delegations in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Paris.  
ICJW is also represented at the Council of Europe, the European Women's Lobby, the International Council of Women, the World Jewish Congress, and many other international and regional organisations.  
We are well into the 21st century and Jewish women are not only the majority of the Jewish people, they are highly educated, articulate and well-organised. So why haven't they achieved equality? The ICJW, of which the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa is an affiliate, held a demonstration at the Knesset last Sunday, entitled "Jewish Women Worldwide Demand Equality".  
Dressed in white and carrying placards with the flags of over 20 countries, women from the US, UK, Israel, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Australia, South Africa, Canada, Columbia, Uruguay and Croatia, stood silently, but powerfully.  
They reminded us that despite the remarkable progress made by women in the "feminist revolution" of the past 50 years,

women in general and Jewish women in particular, still suffer from inequality in almost every area of contemporary life.  
Decision making in government is still dominated almost entirely by men. Yes, the recent elections in Israel have resulted in the largest number of female MKs serving in the Knesset, but that number is 27. Certainly not 50 per cent and therefore not even close to equality.  
Several female ministers are holding important portfolios, but the Cabinet is clearly male dominated and decision making at the highest levels of government is controlled by them.  
Economic equality, as recently shown in several studies, does not exist. Women earn more than 30 per cent less than men, even when they hold executive positions. This inequality exists despite the fact that in Israel women are more highly educated than men.  
Somehow, the academic achievement of Jewish women does not translate into economic equality. While this economic inequality is found in the public as well as private sectors, it is particularly existent in Jewish communal organisations worldwide. Jewish women are rarely hired as CEOs of major Jewish organisations, and when they do break through that glass ceiling, they are paid less than their male colleagues.

Religious inequality is perhaps the most glaring and painful form of inequality. The Jewish divorce process is completely controlled by male Orthodox rabbis. We are all aware of the tragic and shameful existence of agunot, women trapped in an unwanted or non-existent marriage because their husbands refuse to give them a get or bill of divorce.  
Women cannot be appointed as rabbinical court judges (dayanim) and the statutory Commission to Appoint Dayanim is currently unable to function because for the first time in almost two decades not even one woman has been appointed or elected to the Commission.  
Women's organisations petitioned the Supreme Court to rectify this situation and the case is pending. Legislation has been proposed which would guarantee three places on the 10 member commission to women and add another position which would be held for a woman. Even if this legislation should be passed, which is doubtful, women would still be in the minority on the Commission. Yes, despite a great deal of progress in the last 50 years, Jewish women have not yet achieved full equality. We should all be joining effort to achieve this goal.

This column is paid for by the UJW



# An honour for Herschel Gutman and a farewell to Sir Alex Ferguson



ROCKING THE BOAT  
*Jack Milner*

When one thinks back to the origins of cricket, one cannot help regressing to the days of the British Empire. Even today, when one considers the countries who dominate in the sport, they all are prominent members of the British Commonwealth.

South Africa may have broken away from the Commonwealth in 1961, as a result of its apartheid policies, but joined again after the 1994 democratic election.

Israel managed to shun the British influence post-1948, but so many countries connected to the Commonwealth having some sort of influence on their sporting interests, there had to be a place for cricket.

Very much like tennis, in which Ian Froman led the way, cricket in Israel has a predominantly South African influence and flavour, courtesy of two Capetonians. Leading the way is Stanley Perlman, current chairman of the Israeli Cricket Association, and ably assisting him is Herschel Gutman, who played for the Israeli team, then became a player/coach for a while and is now coaching in Israel.

His efforts were rewarded when he was named Coach of the Year at the recent European Coach Awards for 2013.

Gutman earned the award for leading the coach development programme in Israel. He is an ECB Level 3 Performance Coach and ECB Tutor /Assessor and has established a night cricket league which runs successfully across Israel with over 10 teams participating for the league title.

Gutman is also leading a successful coach and player development programme within Israel.

In a statement Perlman heaped praise on Gutman: “Herschel has been our NCDO for nearly four years and his unabated enthusiasm, dedication and love for the game, is evident wherever he goes. Whether it be at the schools in the nets or on the field, Herschel will always be there with a 100 per cent effort.

“He has instigated and introduced many new forms of the game to Israeli cricket, but more so the way he puts everything across to the players is a sight to behold. With Herschel at the helm of cricket development in Israel, we can expect much success for Israeli cricket in the future.”

Gutman will be invited to attend ICC European Presidents’ Day which will be hosted on finals day at the ICC European Division 1 Championship.

Israel received another accolade when George Sheader was named runner-up in

the “Outstanding Contribution” category.

What I did find interesting in the statement from the ICC was who currently holds the position of director of cricket at Guernsey Cricket Board – Nic Pothas, who was a wicketkeeper/batsman for the Highveld Strikers but when the position became available in the national team, Pothas was overlooked in favour of Mark Boucher.

When it became apparent that there was no future for him in South Africa, Pothas moved to the UK.

Perlman and Gutman also play a massive role in the Maccabiah and South African teams have established a magnificent record in that sport. One hopes this year’s teams will be equally successful.

Moving on to an entirely different subject I saw a quote from Sir Alex Ferguson, going back to 2002. “I will be leaving Manchester United at the end of the season and that is it.” However, he stayed on and at the announcement to confirm his decision Sir Alex then said: “I’m pleased to be staying - but once this contract is up (2005), that will be it. I have no intention of staying on at the club in any capacity whatsoever.”

Then, in 2007, he said: “I still have a lot of passion. I’m still happy. But I’m 66 now - maybe three years more, then I’ll finish.”

This year he finally called it quits, with the news that he will be staying on in the boardroom. That could be a questionable



Israel’s Herschel Gutman was named cricket “Coach of the Year” at the recent European Coach Awards

decision and I have a lot of sympathy for David Moys who might find it difficult to stamp his authority on the team with Ferguson hovering in the shadows.


One can understand the Manchester United board wanting to make the Ferguson-Moys transition as smooth as possible, but perhaps it is time to accept that after 26 years, the time has come to move on.


After all, it had to happen sometime. If not this year, then when?

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### What’s On

#### Today, Friday (May 24)

- UZLC hosts Jack Mink on “The Upbeat Bing Crosby with Family and Friends”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

#### Saturday (May 25)

- Oxford Shul is hosting a choir festival at the shul from 20:00. It showcases performances by the choirs of the shuls at Oxford, Pine Street, Sydenham, Sandringham, Waverley and the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir. Cost: R60 per person. Contact: (011) 646-6020.
- Beit Emanuel in Parktown, is hosting a weekly series of talks in its adult education programme, in its boardroom every Saturday morning after the Shabbat morning service and before the Talmud study session. Times: From 11:15 to 12:15 and Talmud study at 12:15. No cost. Today, Dr Dora Wynchank will talk on “Jews and Moods: Mood Disorders and the Jewish People.

#### Sunday (May 26)

- RCHCC hosts classical guitarist Tessa Ziegler, whose programme will range from Bach to Ferdinand Sor, Tarrega and Piazzolla. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Cost: R100 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net or www.greatpark.co.za
- Limmud hosts an afternoon of Jewish culture and learning at the Maboneng Precinct. Six sessions in one afternoon, including Jewish comedy, SA fiction, a Holocaust documentary and discussion. Taste of Limmud, 15:00 – 18:00. Cost: R100 and R50 for students. Booking: limmudsa@gmail.com or 072-728-0584.
- Hospice Flea Boot Market held at the Checkers car park on Barry Hertzog Ave in Emmarentia.

#### Monday (May 27)

- JHGC in partnership with Liliesleaf and the Swiss Embassy hosts a talk and documentary, “Fading Traces - Postscripts from a Landscape of Memory” by Swiss filmmaker Walo Deuber. Venue: Liliesleaf Farm. Time: 18:30. Booking essential. Contact: Thuli (011) 640-3100 or thuli@jhbholocaust.co.za
- UJW adult education division hosts scenario planner Clem Sunter, who will talk on “America and South Africa Beyond 2013 The Last Scenarios, Flags and Probabilities”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton, Johannesburg. Time: 09:30. Donation: R30 unless otherwise stated. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

#### Tuesday (May 28)

- UJW adult education division hosts Arlene Bernstein, former head of LifeLine, who will lead a group discussion. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton, Johannesburg. Time: 09:30. Donation: R30 unless otherwise stated. Contact: (011) 648-1053.