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# Pre-Shavuot inspiration for parents and kids

About 12 000 parents and children gathered in Jewish schools across the country on Tuesday morning to learn Torah together as part of Generation Sinai under the leadership of Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein. Rabbi Goldstein said: "Generation Sinai is a tribute to the unity and strength of SA Jewry. When parents and children connect in an inspiring way to the eternal values and wisdom of Hashem's Torah, it is very precious in a turbulent challenging modern world." Pictured: Ariella; Max; Moshe; Keren; and David Lurie from Yeshiva Primary. (PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

## A 'Boykie from Klerksdorp' did it his way

Veteran radio man John Berks, who achieved iconic status at Talk Radio 702, after "doing the rounds", takes a stroll down "memory lane."



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## Re-labelling: Davies accused of 'politicising a trade issue'

Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies announces that importers are no longer permitted to "incorrectly label products that originate from the Occupied Palestinian Territory as products of Israel".

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## Deputy ambassador Finkelstein's UKZN lecture canned under 'intimidation'

The University of KwaZulu-Natal has cancelled a lecture by Israel Deputy Ambassador Yaakov Finkelstein on account of "negative publicity".

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## SAKS: A 'slightly meshugah' columnist on yenta issue

David Saks eats kosher humble pie, saying feminists, like everyone else, must have their views challenged occasionally; he admits he erred in how he went about it two weeks ago, but still disagrees with SACRED's modus operandi.



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## Comrades Marathon runner Elaine Greenblatt shows that age is just a number



Her aim in athletics is to improve on her times, but most importantly, to have fun - wherever or whenever she goes running.

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Shabbat Times

May 25/ 4 Sivan	
Parshat Bamidbar	
Candle-lighting	
17:05	Johannesburg
17:30	Cape Town
16:48	Durban
17:09	Bloemfontein
17:01	Port Elizabeth
16:54	East London

May 26 / 5 Sivan Erev Shavuot	
Candle-lighting from an existing flame	
17:58	Johannesburg
18:23	Cape Town
17:40	Durban
18:01	Bloemfontein
17:54	Port Elizabeth
17:47	East London

May 27/6 Sivan 1st Day Shavout	
Candle-lighting from an existing flame	
17:58	Johannesburg
18:23	Cape Town
17:40	Durban
18:00	Bloemfontein
17:54	Port Elizabeth
17:47	East London

May 28 / 7 Sivan	
Shavuot ends	
17:58	Johannesburg
18:22	Cape Town
17:40	Durban
18:00	Bloemfontein
17:54	Port Elizabeth
17:46	East London

News in brief

HAREDI ORTHODOX RABBIS DECRY DANGERS OF INTERNET

NEW YORK - Haredi Orthodox rabbis issued grave warnings about the dangers of the Internet to a sellout crowd at the New York Mets' Citi Field last week Sunday.

Speaking to the audience of 40 000 men, almost all of whom wore black hats, one speaker compared the threat of the Internet to the dangers that Zionism and the European Enlightenment posed in the past to traditional Jewish life. In particular, they decried the Internet's potential to distract yeshiva students. Several rabbis said that Jewish law forbade Jews from browsing the Internet without a filter that blocked inappropriate sites.

"The internet even with a filter is a minefield of immorality," said Rabbi Ephraim Wachsman. "This issue is the test of the generation. Your strength at this gathering will determine what Judaism will look like a few years from now."

The rally was organised by a Haredi Orthodox group called Ichud HaKehillos L'Tohar Hamachane, or Union of Communities for Purity of the Camp.

About 50 people protested the event across the street from the stadium. Many of the protesters came from Footsteps, a New York-based organisation that helps people who leave Haredi Orthodox life to integrate into non-Haredi society. (JTA)

# Bringing the desert to life

*The Parsha Bamidbar (literally “in the Desert”) is always read on the Shabbat before Shavuot. Even more specifically this year it is read on the day before Shavuot! There must be a connection.*

Shavuot is the festival celebrating our having received the Torah at Mount Sinai, and clearly it was all part of the plan that the Torah was given to us in the Desert. No-man’s land, a place that meant that no-one could claim that the Torah is exclusively theirs; it has meaning and messages for all mankind everywhere.

Furthermore, a desert is a place that by definition is desolate, a place devoid of life, and the implication thus is that we need to realise that the Torah is the very fountain of life, and it needs to be brought and taught to everyone, specifically where there is no Torah, no Jewish life, transforming the spiritual desert into a place of G-dliness.

But perhaps the most poignant meaning of the Parsha in relation to the Giving of The Torah and Shavuot, is that there



Parshat Bamidbar  
Rabbi Michael Katz  
Chabad of Illovo

are often times in our lives and certainly in our world, where we feel lost, we may feel desolate, we are in a spiritual desert. No direction, wandering from dune to dune, leaving confused and confounded footprints in the sand.

In that desolation and confusion, we need to realise the true value of Torah. It gives us direction. It takes away the doubts and the insecurity and gives us all a purpose, a meaning and a path that we can tread with confidence now and in the

future.

The Torah gives us permanence. In a disposable society, where fads and fashions change with each day, it stabilises us and guides us in a way that is unrivalled and unshakeable.

So, with the days ahead, as we celebrate the event of the Giving of The Torah over 3 300 years ago, let’s all focus on the relevance of Torah to each and every one of us today. Let’s spend the days ahead finding teachers, classes, shiurim, lectures and the like that will inspire us and help us to learn more.

In this way we will be able to once again justify G-d’s having chosen us to keep His Torah, and at the same time we will be able to turn the deserts of time and space into fertile and productive environs, enhancing the world each step of the way.

## Shavuot - celebrating the Giving of the Torah

OWN CORRESPONDENT

This week sees the end of the Omer, seven weeks since the second day of Pesach, and the communal celebration of the festival of Shavuot, which starts on Saturday evening, May 26 and ends on Monday evening, May 28 (see candle-lighting times, for all the national centres, on this page). In Hebrew, the word Shavuot means “weeks”, referring to the seven weeks just counted, but in truth, the festival is a repository for many other values, traditions and observances.

For one thing, it celebrates the Giving of the Torah to the Jews. The Talmud tells us that G-d gave the Ten Commandments to the Jews on the sixth night of the Hebrew month of Sivan. Shavuot always falls 50 days after the second night of Passover.

Further, in biblical times Shavuot also marked the beginning of the new agricultural season and was called Hag HaKatzir, which means “The Festival of the Harvest”.

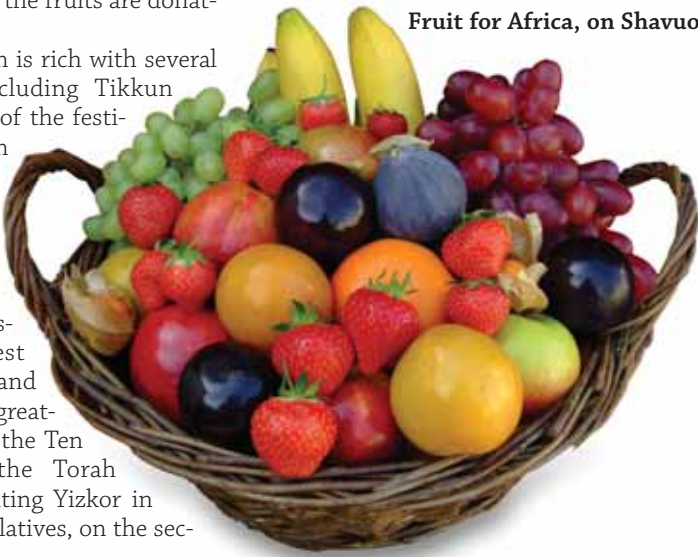
Shavuot is also called Hag HaBikkurim, meaning “The Holiday of First Fruits”. This

last name comes from the practice of bringing fruits to the Temple on Shavuot, a tradition which has been corrupted in terms of children making their own baskets of fruit and bringing them to shul on the second day of Shavuot. Prizes are traditionally given to the most beautiful, and the fruits are donated to the poor.

Shavuot observation is rich with several important details, including Tikkun Leil, on the first night of the festival, a mystical tradition upheld with all-night learning sessions; the reading of the Book of Ruth, one of Judaism’s more interesting love stories focusing on history but also harvest (Ruth was a convert, and was King David’s great-great-grandmother); hearing the Ten Commandments in the Torah reading; as well as reciting Yizkor in memory of one’s lost relatives, on the sec-

ond day of Yomtov.

Traditionally, one eats dairy foods on Shavuot, such as cheesecake and blintzes. The origins of this particular custom are vague; some sources attribute it to a passage from The Song of Songs.



Fruit for Africa, on Shavuot.

Community Briefs

PEARL MANDELSTAM HITS HER CENTURY IN HER STRIDE

On May 24, Pearl Mandelstam turned 100. The widow of Dr Mendel “Chic” Mandelstam, she was born in America and emigrated to SA as a youngster. Trained as a teacher, she rose through the ranks of the Union of Jewish Women, becoming its SA president and later its world president.

Says her niece Elaine Bacher: “She’s a wonderful person, discreet and refined. She went on holiday 18 years ago, to Miami to visit her son Rodney, and she loved it so much, she stayed.” Pearl has another son, Stanley, in Australia and a daughter, Lara Gelb, also in Miami.

EDUCATIONIST KELLER IS BACK BY POPULAR REQUEST

Educationist par excellence Gavin Keller who wowed the Women of the World initiative earlier this year, by popular demand recently again addressed principals, teachers and therapists on educational matters and included sessions for teens. Significantly, he emphasised the point that teachers must move into the digital age. Lessons should be fun and above all, interactive, incorporating the different approaches necessary for boys and girls, who function differently, intellectually and emotionally. On August 5, at a Women of the World Women’s Day Brunch, Keller will participate in a panel discussion on the brain and nutrition. Contact Mandy: 083-380-5286 or womenoftheworld.org.za



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# Re-labelling: Davies accused of ‘politicising a trade issue’

DAVID SAKS

Outrage, confusion and delight have been some of the reactions to the government’s call for comment on proposals that would compel local importers to re-label goods made in the West Bank settlements.

In the Government Gazette issued last week, Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies, announced that importers would no longer be permitted to “incorrectly label products that originate from the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) as products of Israel”.

The notice stated that SA recognition of Israel pertained “only within the borders demarcated by the United Nations in 1948”, and not to the territories captured in 1967.

Open Shuhada Street, a pro-Palestinian group based in Cape Town, was named as the source of allegations that products of Ahava were being identified as products that originated in Israel, whereas they originated from the OPT.

Speaking in Parliament on Monday, Davies nevertheless stressed that while the government’s view was that consumers had the right to know where goods were produced, there was no intention of promoting a boycott of goods from either Israel or the West Bank.

In a media statement responding to the notice, the SA Jewish Board of Deputies urged that South Africa not adopt a policy that was “discriminatory and inconsistent with how it deals with similar questions relating to products imported from other parts of the world”.

The statement also accused Davies of having “politicised a technical trade issue”, noting that his decision to issue the notice had been based solely on representations made by those with “a pronounced anti-Israel political agenda”, whereas he had repeatedly declined to

meet with the Board to hear its views on the issue: “The question of products originating from disputed territories is a technically complicated one. In addressing it, the SAJBD urges the SA government not to prejudice the issue.

“We believe that in line with the consultative ethos of SA, it is regrettable that the Minister has decided to gazette this issue without broad consultation.”

The SA Zionist Federation deplored the fact that the minister had evidently chosen to rely on “the narrow views of lobby groups whose stated aims are to enforce a regime of boycotts and sanctions against Israel”.

The minister’s notice was greeted with widespread outrage within Israel. Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor, described the stated intention of labelling Israeli products from the settlements as “crossing a red line”, and that it “reflected the sour state of ties between the two countries”.

It was reported in the Jerusalem Post that the Foreign Ministry had attempted to summon SA Ambassador to Tel Aviv Ismail Coovadia to protest the proposal, but that he had turned off his phone. Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman levelled outright charges of racism against SA for its discriminatory anti-Israel policies.

By contrast, the Government Gazette notice was greeted with predictable glee by BDS activists. Local BDS spokesman Muhammad Desai, said that the requirement to re-label products originating in the West Bank was just the beginning of a worldwide campaign to achieve an effective economic boycott of all Israeli goods”.

At the time of writing, a meeting between Minister Davies and the SAJBD had been scheduled, to take place shortly.

# Finkelstein’s UKZN lecture canned

DAVID SAKS

Local Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) activists were accorded another victory last Sunday when the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) cancelled a lecture scheduled for the next day by Israel Deputy Ambassador Yaakov Finkelstein.

In an e-mail to university staff informing them of the cancellation, Deputy Vice Chancellor Joseph Ayee gave the “negative publicity” that would result from the visit, as the reason for the cancellation. He wrote: “I believe that for an event to be held under a cloud, with likely reputational damage for the institution, is not in the interest of all of us.”

Israeli embassy spokesman, Hila Stern,

said that the lecture had been cancelled in co-operation with UKZN since the threats and intimidation of the campaign against it had reached a level where there was a genuine threat to the deputy ambassador’s safety”.

While welcomed by BDS proponents, UKZN’s decision drew condemnation beyond the confines of the Jewish community. Department of International Relations and Co-operation spokesman Clayton Monyela, said that the stance taken by a “private institution” did not reflect the views of the government, which had “cordial bilateral relations with Israel”. Freedom of Expression Institute Chairman Prof Anton Harber, expressed concern that someone had been prohibited from speaking on campus for the reasons given by UKZN.

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## Eroding government’s ‘correctness’ towards Israel

A troubling aspect of the saga about the requirement for re-labelling of “Israeli” products produced in the West Bank (see stories on page 3) as coming from the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) is the way in which the government’s new position was announced and comments invited.

Why was it gazetted with only the anti-Israel lobby being consulted and no prior consultation with the “other side” - those who support Israel? Whether the government accepted or rejected the Israeli supporters’ views, there should have been genuine consultation beforehand.

When lines of communication are blocked or not utilised on important issues, one gets the impression that the government is not interested in hearing all sides - that the decisions have already been made behind the scenes and they are simply going through the motions, as required by the law.

This impression is reinforced by the futile attempts of the SAJBD to get a meeting with Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies. It begs the question whether an agenda against Israel is being implemented by stealth - covertly one step at a time - without it being announced as such.

It is well known that the ANC has a special relationship with the Palestinians, born out of their closeness during the anti-apartheid Struggle, and only a “correct” relationship with Israel, lacking any warmth.

If this regulation becomes law, will it impact negatively on trade? Israeli products - whichever way they are labelled - are widely used in South Africa in agriculture, IT, hi-tech, medicine, etc. Ways may simply be found around the proposed regulations or restrictions.

Whatever happens, however, the re-labelling will be another step in the process of delegitimising Israel, pursued by the “baying for blood” anti-Israel lobby.

How can this requirement be implemented in such a complex reality? For example, if a particular product is made in Tel Aviv, but the paint with which it is coated comes from Jericho, must it be labelled “Israeli” or “OPT”? How will the government police it?

An equally worrying feature of the regulation is that only the borders demarcated by the 1948 UN resolution on the creation of Israel will qualify for labelling as “Made in Israel”. This is strange, since even the Palestinians - at least those willing to talk to Israel - and most countries around the world, de facto recognise Israel’s borders as at June 4, 1967. That is, the borders before the Six Day War, during which Israel captured the West Bank.

That boundary is the basis for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians towards a two-state solution - although mutually agreed modifications might eventually be made to it.

Furthermore, the official position of the SA government is to support such a two-state solution. So why is Davies now talking about the 1948 borders?

The increasingly hostile atmosphere towards Israel was illustrated by another event which, coincidentally, also occurred this week, namely the cancellation of a talk by Deputy Israeli Ambassador Yaakov Finkelstein, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

This decision was taken by the university administration together with the Israeli embassy, because the deputy ambassador’s safety was difficult to guarantee in the environment of “intimidation and threats” on the campus (according to the statement of the ambassador’s spokesman).

If Israeli diplomats and other public figures become unable to even talk on South African campuses, what happens to the notions of freedom of expression and dialogue South Africans fought for during the anti-apartheid struggle?

The anti-Israel lobby is obviously celebrating current events as adding to the momentum of isolating Israel and making it a pariah state. After a certain point, this label becomes self-reinforcing - it spills over to people who know little or nothing about the complex situation, but take it as read and think there must be justification to the label. Once this image is established, it is very difficult to shake off or overturn it.

There is vigorous debate in Israel itself about its policies in the West Bank, but most Israelis are also deeply concerned at the success the anti-Israel lobby is having in branding it a pariah state.

# Is Tel Aviv or Jerusalem the real Israel?

*There’s a long-running dispute among Israelis about which city better represents Israel’s true face: Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. One is a symbol of the historical and religious yearning of the Jewish people, the country’s political capital and a microcosm of the state’s divisions: religious and secular, Arab and Jewish, rich and poor.*

**URIEL HEILMAN  
JERUSALEM**

The other has comparatively little historical baggage, looks more like Mediterranean Europe than the Middle East, prizes secular culture and liberalism more than it does tradition and religion, and is the country’s cultural capital.

Sha’anán Streett, founder and lead singer of the popular Israeli hip-hop band Hadag Nahash, sings about being pulled between these twin poles of Israeli society in the band’s hit song “Hine Ani Ba” (“Here I Come”).

In an interview in 2009, Streett, who lives in Jerusalem, said Tel Aviv unquestionably was the symbol of Israel and Israeliness today.

Two public demonstrations on back-to-back weekends in 2009 epitomised the differences between the two cities. When Tel Aviv held its annual gay pride parade in mid-June 2009, Mayor Ron Huldai was at the centre of the festive, irreverent celebration, which drew thousands of party-goers and culminated in the mayor’s presiding over a sunset wedding on the city’s Gordon Beach for five gay couples. The weddings were not official; Israel does not recognise gay marriage.

A week earlier, Jerusalem also saw thousands take to the streets - for a rally that drew thousands of haredi Orthodox Israelis protesting

the opening on the Sabbath of a parking lot near the Old City. The demonstration, which Israeli media described as a riot, prompted the city’s police chief to ask Mayor Nir Barkat to shut down the parking garage for the next two Saturdays, until a plan for keeping the peace could be put in place. Barkat agreed.

Those different crowds on back-to-back weekends in Israel’s two largest cities were a symbol of the gulf that lies between 3 000-year-old Jerusalem and 100-year-old Tel Aviv, though the two cities are only a 50-minute car ride apart.

Yuval Turm, a physician from Shores, a suburb of Jerusalem, says Tel Aviv is not the real Israel. “Jerusalem is really a balagan,” Turm said, using the Hebrew word for hulabaloo. “Tel Aviv is more ordered. It looks more like a European city. It’s not really Israeli.”

Many Israelis, from the hills of Judea to the kibbutzim of the Negev, identify Tel Aviv with all that’s wrong with contemporary Israel: creeping materialism, a dearth of Zionism, detachment from the travails of those who live in Israel’s conflict zones, near Gaza and Lebanon.

“Their willingness to contribute to the state is zero,” an outgoing police chief in the West Bank, Shlomo Katabi, said of Tel Avivis in a June 2009 interview with Army Radio. “They sit in Tel Aviv, park their SUVs on Sheinkin Street,

drink espresso with their legs crossed and allow themselves to criticise (Jewish settlers in the West Bank).”

Katabi’s barb against Tel Aviv was emblematic of the irritation many feel about the city, a stronghold of the political left.

When southern Israel came under fire during Israel’s 2009 military operation in Gaza - with cities including Beersheva, Ashdod and Yavne suffering rocket strikes - Israeli media was filled with commentators decrying the lack of concern among Tel Avivis.

By the same token, many Tel Avivis look down their noses at Jerusalem - and by extension, the rest of the country - as parochial, uncultured and fraught with conflict.

“Tel Aviv has become some kind of antithesis to all this,” said Yehuda Melzer, a philosophy professor and founder of the small Tel Aviv publishing house Books in the Attic. “One of the great attractions of Tel Aviv is that it’s so unlike Jerusalem.”

Tel Aviv is an “oasis of normalcy in an insane country,” wrote Gideon Levy, a columnist for Israel’s daily Haaretz, in a scathing response to Katabi’s barb about Tel Avivis.

“Between the espresso and the SUV arise art, culture, finance, science, intellect, media, openness and a healthy (albeit insufficient) introspection of the State of Israel, without which it has no real backbone.” (JTA)

### News in brief

#### LIEBERMAN ‘UNBEARABLE’ AS GOVERNMENT MINISTER

JERUSALEM - Austria’s defence minister has called Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman’s participation in the government “unbearable”.

In an interview published last week Sunday in the Austrian daily Die Presse, Norbert Darabos said: “Honestly, the fact that Minister

Lieberman is a member of the Israeli government is unbearable.”

Darabos also called Israel’s threats to attack Iran’s nuclear facilities “unnecessary”, since “Iran can’t build a bomb yet”.

He said an Israeli attack on Iran “would spark an uncontrollable fire in the region and will

create solidarity and empathy for Iran in the Arab world and the world at large”.

Darabos said Israel complained about Iran and the Palestinians’ unwillingness to come to the peace table in order to shift focus from “internal social issues”. (JTA)

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# A ‘slightly meshugah’ columnist on yenta issue

“Thou should’st not have been old till thou had’st been wise,” as the Fool observed so devastatingly to the fallen Lear, must be one of the most poignant lines in literature.

Le’havdil, it is depressing to reflect that in a few months I’ll be on the wrong side of 45 and yet continue from time to time to make the same damaging blunders I made as an over-excitable schoolboy.

The way things are going, those entrusted with preparing me for my coffin will have a hell of a job prising one or more feet from my mouth.

Women’s rights activists are not a protected species, and must be prepared, like everyone else, to have their views challenged occasionally. However, there’s a right way and a wrong way of disagreeing with something, and my “Yodelling Yentas” offering of two weeks ago was clearly in the latter category.

One does not bring people with whom one has differences closer by belittling their beliefs. Moreover, as the SAJBD works to resolve intra-communal differences and as I am an SAJBD employee, I should never have taken sides.

There, Dennis Davis (in his The Jury is Out column) is certainly right. I can only apologise to all concerned and, suitably chastened, pledge to behave myself in future.

But it’s only fair to explain why I, too, have issues. Specifically, the bristling antagonism one finds against the Torah-observant community sometimes becomes a little too much.

I am outraged when our rabbonim, whom we respect and trust, are falsely depicted as narrow-minded, bullying fanatics. It is insulting when serious Orthodox Jews like myself are glibly dismissed as intellectually challenged Mediaeval morons.

The complacent portrayal of Orthodox women as cowed, desexualised and repressed non-persons; has anyone considered that such women might consider this offensive?

Jeremy Gordin was very much guilty of this. I think it’s only fair to warn him that my ex-Beth Yaakov daughter is after his blood, and I don’t know how long I can continue to restrain her. Run, Jeremy, run!

To Mr Justice Davis, I would like to pose the following: How would you react if someone came into your courtroom and, based on his layman’s reading of the SA Law Reports, informed you you were getting it wrong?

The answer hardly need be spelled out. Like it or not, the same things applies when it comes to determining the halacha. The trained rabbonim, in particular the Gedolim of each generation, are entrusted with this.

Express a view by all means, but less stridency, and more humility is called for. Regarding the on-going religious upsurge in the Jewish community, I would also urge that those who are not a part of it put aside for a



**BARBARIC YAWP**  
*David Saks*

while whatever knee-jerk prejudices they may be harbouring and make an effort to learn why so large and growing a proportion of the community are devoting their lives to it.

The art of gentle, persuasive kiruv is not my strong point, so I’ll say no more on that.

A few years ago, a group of mainly secular and left-leaning Jews in South Africa concluded that there was insufficient space in the community for more “pluralistic” expressions of what it meant to be Jewish.

Their response was not to go into victim mode and rail against Orthodox dominance. Instead, they launched Limmud, the extraordinary success of which we all know.

This was not aimed at being a snook-cocking secular-liberal challenge to the Orthodox establishment; on the contrary, every effort was made to bring the latter on board.

The objective was to celebrate the totality of Jewish experience as they believed it should be experienced, and I respect them for it, even while disagreeing with their worldview.

Perhaps SACRED should have taken a leaf out of Limmud’s book. In order to meaningfully address its members’ concerns, they should define themselves by what they are for, not what they are against, by being positive and proactive, not negative.

It is pointed out that SACRED aims at much more than resolving the women singing issue, but is looking to pursue a range of activities such as HIV status and drug use.

That is to be welcomed, certainly, and hopefully in future it will focus on implementing one or other of these projects, rather than opting to go the protest route.

While it is at best, a partial excuse, when I have used the word “yenta” in the past, it has been in reference to Jewish women in general. Once, for example, I used it in reference to frum women.

It has since been pointed out to me that the traditional meaning of the term is much less benign.

To conclude, while I belong to the religious Orthodox community and work for the SAJBD, when I write in this forum I should not be seen as being a spokesman for either. Just regard me as another columnist, a slightly meshugah one, who gets it wrong sometimes.

With tail jammed halfway up my nether regions, I now leave the stage so that cooler and wiser heads can take over.



*National strength. Local signature.*

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## IGNORANCE IS NOT AN EXCUSE FOR ARROGANCE AND RUDENESS

I was, to say the least, unhappy about David Saks’ Barbaric Yawp column on “Yodelling Yentas”. While I understand his frustration, it does not warrant such a column which makes fun of and denigrates these women.

Having said that, Jeremy Gordin not only denigrates religious women, but goes further to pass judgement on all (“irrational”) religious observance which he defines as sects unless they follow his way of rational thinking.

Modern Jewish Orthodoxy in Israel has for years supplied a solid core of officers in the IDF (“they have hardly played a starring role in the creation and defence of the State”- according to Gordin). In today’s modern world, religious Orthodox Jews include among their number, nuclear physicists, geneticists, lawyers, judges, engineers etc.

Modern Orthodox women, many of whom wear sheitels, are well groomed, attractive, confident members of their shuls and society in general. Many are professionals. Many of the Jews living in Johannesburg would be defined as haredim (fundamentalists by Jeremy). They are certainly not confined to the kitchen.

One wonders whether non-Orthodox women who choose to stay home and look after the children and family, are denigrated in the same way.

Ignorance is not an excuse for arrogance and rudeness and Jeremy’s article is full of all of these traits.

Let me try and approach the subject in a logical fashion. If I had a friend who was opposed to ritual slaughter and I wanted to take him out for a meal, I would choose a restaurant that satisfied both our needs eg a kosher, dairy (chalav yisroel) restaurant. If I insisted on a meat restaurant, I would be unreasonable.

After all, I have no obligation to eat meat at every meal and my friend has a belief that, while I don’t share it, allows me to accommodate him. I cannot insist on going to a meat restaurant and when he refuses to participate, accuse him of breaking up our friendship.

I accept that many find women’s voices spiritually uplifting in prayers and they are entitled to. While women should be allowed to sing in public, they are not obligated to.

If Dennis Davis does not want to split the Jewish community, if the community wants everyone to be able to attend, then where possible, they need to be sensitive to the needs of all the groups. There has to be a difference between “I have the right” and what is good for the unity of the community.

A few years ago, at a Yom Hashoah ceremony, there was a solo female vocalist. The Chief Rabbi didn’t make a fuss; he got up quietly and moved away. He was castigated because, as the Chief Rabbi he is rabbi to all of SA Jewry and he had no right to observe the Torah laws according to his interpretation.

Obligation versus “I have the right”. What next, Dennis, do we compromise on kashrut and then on the sanctity of Shabbat in order to show solidarity? Supporting SACRED is too heavy a price to pay because it appears that they hold their rights above what many Orthodox communities hold to be “SACRED”, ie the laws of the Torah. Respect, empathy, understanding and courtesy is a two way street.

Many of us make an effort to be part of community celebrations. Don’t make it impossible for us to attend by including items that make it impossible for us to be there and then accuse us of splitting the community. I will fight for your right to interpret as you believe; give me and those who believe like me the same courtesy.

**Mike Rootshtain, Johannesburg**

The letter has been slightly shortened. - Editor

## RELIGIOUS PEOPLE ARE PUSHING JEWS INTO ASSIMILATION

We are the only people in the world that has a specific term to identify the hatred towards us: anti-Semitism. One of the main causes of the Holocaust was that deep-rooted, widespread hatred of us.

Its causes are not irrational, as religious leaders would like us to believe. Its reasons can easily be found in our religion. All we need is to open our eyes, ears and minds to understand it.

The religious people are also pushing the vast majority of Jews, the secular, away from Judaism and into assimilation.

The encouragement of young couples to have too many children is nothing less than a disaster.

I have been asking for years to have public debates about religion, but obviously the rabbis are afraid and not interested at all. They have very good, selfish reasons for it.

**Yossi Bogacz, Highlands North, Johannesburg**



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

**INTELLIGENT PEOPLE NOT CONNECTING DOTS OF HISTORY**

Roger Cohen, columnist for The New York Times, recently spoke at the RCHCC. Like Rabbi Lerner, he states that Israel has a “victim” mentality that lingers from the Holocaust. He also admits he has few ties to religion but has found two quotes that he likes: “Do unto others as you would have done unto you”, (from Hillel), and that we should “remember we were strangers in a strange land”.

He applies this to Israel’s “maltreatment” of the Palestinians. I would like to point out that Israel has accepted more refugees than any other Middle-Eastern country, for instance from Sudan and Darfur. I refer here entirely to non-Jews.

Many more non-Jews work and live in Israel, as well as the 1,5 million Arab Israelis who enjoy equal rights. No, Israel is doing more than its share of treating “strangers” and downtrodden people with generosity and kindness.

Therefore, if Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians doesn’t fall in line with this theme, then please examine why this is so. Palestinians are not from the same cloth as the other peoples that Israel has extended herself to.

Sudanese people are not trying to annihilate the State of Israel. Many Muslim groups are. They are indoctrinated from early youth. Therefore, Israel must obviously set up barriers to protect her citizens from violence.

Admittedly, there are innocent Palestinians who are also affected. There doesn’t seem to be an accurate way to differentiate between people of good intention vs those with ill-intentions.

Furthermore, Cohen is disappointed that Israel didn’t heed the US president’s “small” request to cease building in the West Bank. Although, not long ago, there was a 10-month cease on building and during that time Mahmoud Abbas was nowhere to be found.

Cohen himself admits that “the Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity”. Many of their leaders clearly didn’t/don’t have the best interests of the Palestinian people at heart.

Finally, Cohen argues that Israel must give up land, yet again, for the elusive “peace”. I wonder: How can it be that intelligent people do not connect the dots of history?

Israel gave up the Sinai, a huge piece of land, in exchange for 30 years of cold “peace” and now the status of which is uncertain. Israel painfully expelled its own citizens from Gaza and now suffers endless rocket fire.

No other nation is expected to tolerate constant barrage of rockets on its citizens. Israel is. And then she is criticised by liberal, Jewish journalists for not doing more.

My feeling is that Mr Cohen is a man who has seen much in the world; much revolution and much suffering. Indeed, he has been in the centre of astounding events. And he wants to help. But his sympathy is misplaced and his conclusions are off the mark.

**Michele Engelberg, Johannesburg**

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

# Re-labelling: Both inconsistent and discriminatory

At the time of writing, the Board is wrestling with the complex question of how products originating from Jewish settlement blocs in the West Bank should be labelled. This is in response to a notice in the Gazette issued by the SA Department of Trade and Industry to the effect that such products should not continue to be labelled products of Israel since they originate in “occupied Palestinian territory”.

The notice called for the public’s input, and the Board intends making such a submission. We are working closely with other Jewish communal organisations with an interest in the matter, as well as consulting with the relevant experts in the field, including trade lawyers.

Our objections to these developments have as much to do with procedural as substantive questions. The decision taken by the Minister was based solely on representations made to him by a single lobby group, one with a pronounced anti-Israel political agenda.

Despite repeated approaches from the SAJBD, he has declined to allow us an opportunity of participating in the conversation. As we stated in our press release, it was regrettable that notwithstanding the consultative ethos of South Africa, the Minister had decided to gazette the issue without broad consultation.

The question of products originating from disputed territories is a technically complicated one. Sometimes, it is tied up with the terms of free trade agreements, as



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

is the case between Israel and the EU countries.

In the South African context, however, any changes to current labelling policies would be based primarily on political criteria. From the politically loaded wording of the Gazette notice, there is no doubt that the Minister has largely prejudged the issue and in doing so politicised what should be considered a technical trade-related question.

In our press statement, we also urged that South Africa not adopt a policy that was “discriminatory and inconsistent with how it deals with similar questions relating to products imported from other parts of the world”.

In other words, making it a legal requirement that only products from the disputed territory of the West Bank be labelled accordingly would certainly seem to constitute both inconsistency and discrimination.

In order to deflect such accusations, South African policy would have to require that products originating from all disputed territories to be labelled as such. This would include such disputed territories as Tibet, North Cyprus, Kashmir and Western Sahara.

Because of the sensitive nature of the processes involved, both from a legal and a political point of view, the exact nature of the steps we are considering obviously cannot be discussed at this stage. What I can do is assure the community that we view this latest challenge to the SA-Israel relationship in a serious light and will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to address it.

*Listen to “Jewish Board Talk” every Tuesday evening on 101.9 Chai FM with Steven Gruzd from 20:00 – 21:00, repeated Sundays 11:00 – 12:00. On Tuesday May 29, Steve chats to Howard Sackstein about the annual Jewish Achiever Awards; Leigh Nudelman on the Urban Arts Platform’s work in the Johannesburg CBD; Linda Menuhin, an Iraqi refugee in Israel and Tamar Lazarus from WIZO; and SAUJS’ Dan Ginsberg chats about Birthright. Also streaming on [www.chaifm.com](http://www.chaifm.com)*



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# A 'Boykie from Klerksdorp' did it his way

*From humble beginnings at the "Klerksdorp Record", meandering through many a radio station in South Africa and surrounding countries, John Berks finally found his niche at "Talk Radio 702" in Johannesburg, which gave him iconic status.*

## LIONEL SLIER

At a United Zionist Luncheon Club meeting in Johannesburg last week, Berks (pictured) reminisced about the many twists and turns his professional career took, from the time he left school after (then) standard eight, to fleetingly work for the local Klerksdorp Record before moving on to the Germiston Advocate.



He always had the dream to be a radio announcer and had been influenced by the top South African cricket commentator of the 1940s and 1950s, Charles Fortune.

At the Germiston Advocate he "mostly tried to sell advertising". A journalist he wasn't and one day the editor called him in and told him bluntly: "Journalism is not your forte."

It was just that time that Lourenco Marques Radio was starting up and he went to audition for it.

"The SABC had a monopoly on radio and LM Radio was based in Mozambique as the first independent radio station broadcasting popular music into South Africa. It was in the early 1950s." Lourenco Marques is now Maputo.

"I failed five auditions in a row but was accepted after the sixth. It was Europe by the sea. I spent four and a half years there."

There were David Davis, David Gresham, Leslie Sullivan, Darryl Jooste, Gary Edwards, Barry O'Donoghue and the greatest of them all, Clackie McKay.

"In the 1960s we introduced The Beatles into South Africa (they were banned by the SABC) and we brought in the sound of Liverpool and the Swinging Sixties; it was the time of Mary Quant, mini-skirts and all that."

Berks told how he and David Gresham would go around on a Friday evening and collect local Jews and go to the wonderful shul that was in LM.

"In 1970 I left LM Radio and joined Springbok Radio in Johannesburg as a continuity announcer. Springbok was the first commercial radio station in South Africa.

"Remember Eyes Right With Eyegene? There was Mike Silver, Bob Courtney and Pick a Box, Squad Cars and Consider Your Verdict and also excellent Afrikaans drama. There were wonderful people working there - Dougie Laws, Neville Dawson, Hugh Rouse and Leslie Green.

"The nearby Federal Hotel was our watering hole and the pub there was known as 'Studio 13'."

Berks left Springbok Radio to join Radio 5, which was just starting up, taking over LM Radio... After a spell there he relocated to Port St Johns and worked at Capital Radio. It did not last and in the meanwhile Swazi Music Radio was set up by Natie and Issie Kirsh and he joined. Three years later it became 702 Music Radio.

"Then freedom came to South Africa in the early 1990s," Berks said, "and we realised that we needed a talk radio station, because previously almost everything seemed to be banned by the Nationalist government. 702 Talk Radio became extremely powerful..." He mentioned John Robbie, Jenny Crwys Williams and David O'Sullivan as three top radio personalities there today.

Issie Kirsh tried to set up Ram Radio in Israel and Palestine, with studios in Jerusalem and Ramallah. Kirsh believed that if, as at Talk Radio 702 in South Africa people could talk openly to each other, the same could happen between Israelis and Palestinians.

Even Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat gave the venture his blessing.

Berks spent 15 months there, but the concept did not work there.

"The sensitivity in Israel was so great that the nitty gritty was that talk didn't succeed," said Berks.

Berks left the following thought with his audience: "Let there be no regrets; how good it was for a Boykie from Klerksdorp. I was grateful to have done all this."

There is a street named after John Berks in Klerksdorp...

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## News in brief

### ISRAELI REPORT RECOMMENDS SURROGATE MOTHERS FOR GAY MEN

JERUSALEM - An Israeli Health Ministry committee has recommended that gay men be allowed to use a surrogate mother to have a child.

The report issued last Sunday by the 12-member panel recommends that gay men and single women be allowed to conceive children with a surrogate mother and married women to be surrogates, Haaretz reported. It also permits non-anonymous sperm donation.

While gay men may gain the right to use a surrogate mother, the report only allows them to use a volunteer or altruistic surrogate, which will make finding a surrogate more difficult, according to Haaretz. Family members also will be allowed to serve as surrogates as long as they are not daughters, grandmothers or grandchildren.

Ethicists, doctors and social workers were among the members of the committee, which was appointed two years ago to make recommendations on fertility and birth policies. (JTA)



# Sinai Indaba - a shared vision for the future

SHIRA DRUION

Last year’s Indaba attracted over 3 500 people in three cities, which motivated the Chief Rabbi to extend his vision even further this year, so that the programme would now include a fourth city, a move that puts Port Elizabeth also on the Indaba map.

The response to the buildup has been so enthusiastic that the venue for this year’s Johannesburg event will be the spacious Sandton Convention Centre, to better accommodate the crowds who will come to listen to a choice of 12 of the Jewish world’s international greats.

Rabbi Goldstein speaks about this baby of his with enthusiasm and affection: “Sinai Indaba is a spectacular, communal rallying point and convention that brings together Jews from all over South Africa, from all backgrounds, across barriers of different levels of education, religious observance, geography, and all other barriers that divide us - to unify and inspire the entire community around a shared vision for the future which is uplifting and which is meaningful.

“Sinai Indaba is made up of many partnerships, with shuls, communal and outreach organisations - a true unity project for our community.”

Rabbi Goldstein and Rabbi Gideon Pogrand have worked tirelessly for several months to arrange an entirely new programme for this year’s Indaba. “This year, we are delighted to have been able to invite a completely fresh and dynamic group of speakers, all from totally diverse disciplines and fields of expertise. We have ensured that we are able to cater to each person’s interests.”

Harvard graduate and world expert on comparative religions, Rabbi Lawrence Keleman, one of the speakers, told Jewish Report: “The combination of the SA Jewish community’s love of learning, and the electrifying line-up of scholars, will ensure that this is one of the most

inspiring events I have ever attended. I am sure it will change my life and the lives of many others.”

The Indaba speakers encompass varied fields of expertise, but the common thread binding them together, is excellence. They are all renowned for their achievements in both the secular and religious worlds and many are Ivy League graduates and authors.

Their aim will be to encourage their audience to unite in inspiration as they journey to discover the wisdom of Torah.

David Weiss, renowned screenwriter of some of Hollywood’s biggest hits such as Shrek 2, The Smurfs and the Rugrats Movie, agreed to share the story of his own religious journey, his discovery of Judaism and his life as a Torah Jew in Hollywood.

Weiss has been nominated for both an Emmy and Academy Award, and weaves his story together through an inspiring presentation, helping wandering Jews find purpose and reconnecting established Jews with the joy and inspiration of living the Torah.

For the more politically minded, there is Dr Mordechai Kedar, a world expert on understanding the geopolitical and military situation in the Middle East. Kedar told Jewish Report: “I look forward to and hope to motivate the audience to try to influence and maybe change, the way local media and politicians relate to Israel, by understanding better the complicated situation in the ME.”

Kedar brings with him 25 years of experience in IDF Military Intelligence. In his talks he analyses and explains the complexity of the dynamics facing Israel: Syria, Iran, war and politics. Fluent in Arabic, Kedar has made several appearances on Al Jazeera and is one of the leading international authorities on the political discourse of Arab countries, terrorism, the Arab Spring and Palestinian statehood.

Leading thinker on Jewish spirituality and mysticism, Rabbi David Aaron, promises to wow the audience with his nouveau and deeply inspiring spiritual insights. He is a best-selling author and compelling speaker. His books, including The Secret Life of G-d, Inviting G-d In and Love is my Religion.

Man’s search for meaning has become evident in the 21st century and Dr David Pelcovitz, professor of psychology at Yeshiva University, a world expert on marriage, parenting, children and adolescent behaviour, will share his expertise with Torah insights to make sense of one’s life.

In addition to holding prestigious positions such as as director of psychology at New York School of Medicine, he has also authored a number of books on parenting and abuse.

The Indaba has been supported by five major corporates and Rabbi Goldstein expressed his gratitude for their support: “I am honoured and encouraged by the tremendous support.”

As the Indaba’s signature black, white and red branding campaign continues, street pole flags blowing in the winter wind; the 2012 revelation of Sinai is imminent.

• For more information: e-mail [www.sinai-indaba.co.za](mailto:www.sinai-indaba.co.za)



Dr David Pelcovitz, professor of psychology at Yeshiva University.



Rabbi Lawrence Keleman, an expert of comparative religions.



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# Womersley’s power and scale of vision atones for weak plot

*The Australian Outback may seem an unlikely setting for a ghost story, yet it is in fact peculiarly apposite.*

*Bereft* by Chris Womersley (Quercus, R179)

REVIEWED BY  
GWEN PODBREY

Perhaps the pitiless aridity of the region - its stark inhospitability, depleting heat and multitudes of hidden, magical creatures - lends itself to the otherworldly, or maybe the puniness of individuals in this enormous, ancient scrubland invites the intercession of spirits.

But the remarkable ability of Chris Womersley to weave sky, earth and the unseen together has a lot to do with this novel’s ultimate impact.

In the prelude to the book, 16-year-old Quinn Walker and his adored 12-year-old sister, Sarah - his inseparable companion - are out rambling one afternoon in 1908. However, when the children fail to return home, their father goes searching for them - and comes upon the ravaged corpse of Sarah, with his son standing over it, holding a knife.

Terrified, the boy flees, and is thereafter assumed by both his family and the rest of the town to have been his sister’s murderer.

Ten years later, a severely traumatised Quinn - who has not been heard of since the tragedy - returns from four years in the

bloodiest European trenches of the Great War and makes his painful, hesitant way home to Flint.

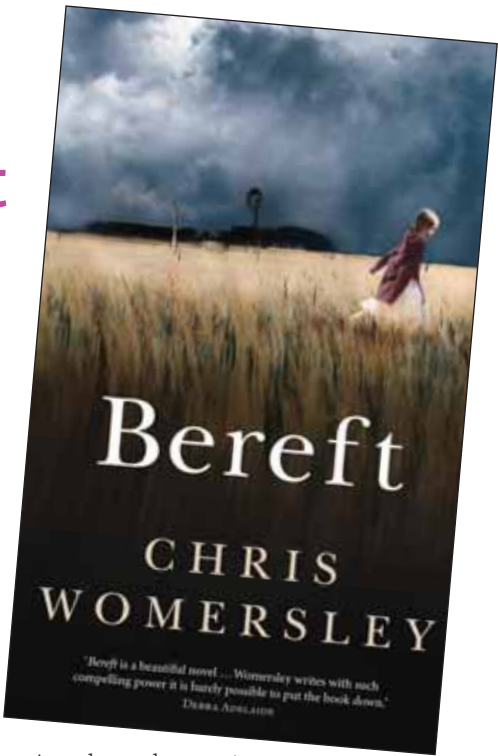
Stealing into the house, he finds his mother on her deathbed, a victim of the influenza epidemic sweeping Australia. Although unsure of how to tell her who really killed Sarah, Quinn gradually reconnects with her, but remains too afraid to confront his father.

Forced to hide out in the scrub around the town, Quinn meets a 12-year-old orphan, Sadie Fox. Like him, she is a fugitive and unbearably lonely; and - eerily like Sarah - she has access to phantoms, fiends and spectral companions with whom she communes continually.

“I know about lots of things,” she tells him. “I know about the wind and stars, about what happens in rivers.” The two forge a close bond.

The need to overcome loss - of loved ones, of innocence, of faith and hope - underpins the book.

“Sometimes the dead are trapped in an awful halfway world until they can say something to those left behind. Indeed, the living are sometimes themselves trapped, until they hear what the dead might have to tell them. There are some things that cannot be left unsaid,” Quinn is told by a clairvoyant.



Another theme is that of willing people and events into existence through sheer determination. Quinn’s mother asks: “Would you think it possible to imagine someone into being? With nothing but love?” Later, Sadie tells him: “I prayed you here.”

The novel’s plot is weak and predictable, for the author – having conjured up a cast of compelling characters – seems unsure of where to take them. The book’s villains are also far less credible than its heroes. However, the power and scale of Womersley’s vision in coalescing war and peace, guilt and punishment, grief and repletion, brutality and beneficence – atones for much.

His imagery is beautiful, his conviction overwhelming and his atavistic imagination haunting.

## Arts Briefs

### PEIMER, LOBELO WIN WITH ‘IT’S MAGIC’

On April 29, creative partners Ryan Peimer and Itumeleng Lobelo for Flaming Frames Productions, walked off with a coveted SA Music Association award for their video for the Parlotones’ single “It’s Magic”. This is the first music video which Peimer has directed and the first to be produced by Flaming Frames. By teaming up with the animators from Aces Up, Flaming Frames created a music video encapsulating magic as it builds a world, lures us in and flows harmoniously into a crescendo of fluttering origami coming to life and whisking around the screen. The Parlotones’ “It’s Magic” video is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YtVUVv-z4qc>

### THREE SA ARTISTS TO TAKE PART IN DOCUMENTA 13

From June 9, three SA artists will take part in Documenta 13, a major exhibition in Kassel, Germany: William Kentridge, Zimbabwe born-Kudzanai Chiurai and lesbian activist photographer Zanele Muholi. Held every five years, Documenta invites just 100 leading international artists. Kentridge is the only SA artist ever invited to Documenta three times – he was there in 1997 and 2002 – and he is unequivocal about it being the turning point for his international career. Documenta 13 will see him building an opera for spoken voice, drawing from the work he created with Dada Masilo last year, The Refusal of Time.

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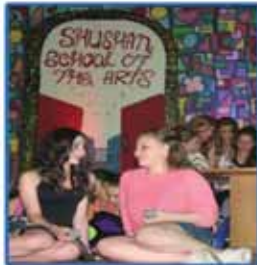
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Programme for **learners** starts at **13:30**

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# Bass shortlisted for Caine Prize for African writing

**MOIRA SCHNEIDER**  
**CAPE TOWN**  
**PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED**

“A really big shock” is how Jenna Bass describes her reaction at being one of five shortlisted for the annual Caine Prize for African Writing for her story Hunter Emmanuel. The 25-year-old filmmaker has been writing for as long as she can remember. After matriculating at Herzlia, Bass studied film at AFDA. About a year ago, she co-founded and now edits a bi-monthly pulp-fiction magazine - Jungle Jim - that showcases African writers in the detective, Western, sci-fi and horror genres. Hunter Emmanuel was

published in one of its editions. “It’s the kind of writing that’s often not considered serious in literary circles and not really deemed fit for literary journals,” she explains of the publication, “and a lot of writers don’t really feel that it’s worth their time. We wanted to have a magazine where we could publish this kind of writing because we feel it’s very important to learn how to tell stories - it’s a great starting point. “The rest of the world, in many ways, doesn’t understand Africa,” she continues. “If you want to show them a different side, a great way is by means of things they understand - by way of genre elements - and then using that as a springboard.

“I feel that there’s so much to be learnt from that way of writing’s ‘egolessness’, where it isn’t about you as this artist, but about telling the story and the characters. I found that very exciting and liberating.” Bass writes under the pseudonym Constance Myburgh. She hopes her nomination for the prize will establish a connection between the literary world and pulp.” She feels one of the spinoffs of her nomination is that it has brought the issue of using Western ways of telling stories in the African situation to the public arena.



**Jenna Bass, who has been short-listed for the Caine Prize for African Writing.**

“Until now, Africa has always seemed like the exotic, crazy place where anything is possible. “I think there’s so much exciting art that can be created from this clash of Western genre meets African culture. When you take a genre and set it in a place where the genre is a reality, you get some crazy and really disturbing results and I feel this is the opportunity we have to put this out there in a place where it’s accessible.” The winner of the Caine Prize will be announced at Oxford University on July 2.

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A feature compiled by Britt Landsman

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# Afrika Tikkun: run by people driven by passion

**Bertram ‘Bertie’ Lubner**  
Co-founder and chairman of Afrika Tikkun

Some people just have that aura about them that says: “I genuinely care”. “If I could touch the lives of ordinary people in need, even a few, I would have made a bold move that takes this world a step closer to being a better place for them, their families and communities.” This statement epitomises who Bertie Lubner is.

Lubner, recipient of the Order of Meritorius Service and past chairman and joint CEO of the PG Group, started Afrika Tikkun together with the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris. Known then as “Tikkun”, the organisation was essentially a Jewish community-led initiative that implemented projects to uplift children and people from previously disadvantaged communities post-1994.

Roughly translated, the Hebrew word “tikkun” means to uplift. This name was later changed to MaAfrika Tikkun and is now Afrika Tikkun. Lubner’s philosophy is: “We are running this organisation as a business with governance, credibility and sustainable outcomes.” Its credibility won it the personal support of then President Nelson Mandela as its Patron-in-Chief

Lubner is adamant that Afrika



Tikkun should be run by people who are driven by passion. He says: “When you deal with people’s lives, you have a responsibility towards them, particularly when you’re dealing with other people’s money. You also have a responsibility to ensure a beneficial outcome, as our own personal reputations are at stake.”

In true humanitarian spirit, Lubner concludes that the bottom line is to meet the needs of communities: “We’ve increasingly realised that we cannot do this alone and require partnerships with all stakeholders to be able to achieve our common goal of ensuring a better and more sustainable future for our children.”

## March to Empowerment

1995	2006	2008	2011	2012 Growth forecast
Ad hoc projects:- shack renovation, crèches, feeding schemes, skills development projects	Holistic Development model – Five core inter-related services	Holistic model + first Centre of Excellence developed	Three Centres of Excellence Completed	Five Centres of Excellence completed
Beneficiaries: 950 Capital spend: R0 Operational spend: R23 502	Beneficiaries: 4931 Capital spend: R243 462 Operational spend: R6 894 794	Beneficiaries: 10 000 Capital spend: R6 540 032 Operational spend: R14 444 972	Beneficiaries: 11 162 Capital spend: R12 567 808 Operational spend R38 729 781	Beneficiaries: 18 075 Capital spend: R5 562 000 Operational spend: R49 859 155

## Charismatic Rosenberg, an incredible ambassador

**Herby Rosenberg**  
Executive Deputy Chairman Afrika Tikkun

Known for his chirpy nature and “friend-raising” knack, it’s no wonder that Afrika Tikkun’s executive deputy chairman, Herby Rosenberg has often been referred to as a father or iQhawe lamaQhawe, meaning “hero of heroes” in Zulu by the community in Alexandra, northeast of Johannesburg.

Rosenberg’s charismatic nature, along with his passion for empowering people, is what makes him an incredible ambassador and fundraiser, keeping the Afrika Tikkun vision of “a sustainable future for children in South African townships” alive.

“Being an empowerment organisation has placed an enormous responsibility on us: We dare not fail. Thousands of vulnerable children and families, who are beneficiaries of our programmes, rely on us for their development and empowerment,” says a passionate Rosenberg.

He points out that assumptions that the organisation is excessively wealthy, are false, because without funding from donors and partners, it runs the risk of its empowerment resources running dry.

“Any business that succeeds, understands that it needs capital to operate and grow. And the worst thing that could happen to a business is that it grows and then it’s undercapitalised,” says Rosenberg.

The need for donor funding is



much more crucial at this stage of the organisation’s development, given that it has moved from supporting hundreds of people in its early days to thousands of beneficiaries today.

“In 2012, the organisation aims to empower and develop over 18 000 direct beneficiaries, and it needs partners to achieve this. Afrika Tikkun hopes that organisations and individuals begin to realise their impact and partner with it to ensure that we meet the needs of children and communities. Your collaborative support and funding do not only offer structure and stability but contribute to the growth of our nation.”

POEM

Author Thembinkosi Nxumolo cyclist

My name is Afrika Tikkun. I was born in South Afrika and raised by my parents Bertie Lubner and Rabbi Harris.

I was born to change  
To make difference in the lives of many people  
Yes to develop communities

I do it by teaching them life activities  
Giving them every tool they need to make it to the top

I create moments  
Happiness  
Memories and fulfil dreams

And it is all possible because of the effort You You and You  
It's all because of the effort you all take to raise funds and donate



# From a charity-based to a community-empowerment powerhouse

**Marc Lubner**  
CEO of Afrika Tikkun

In 2004, Marc Lubner took over the reins at Afrika Tikkun. His background in empowerment investment led to his belief that if members of a community were given the necessary assistance to empower themselves, then these individuals would take active steps towards contributing to the upliftment and development of their communities.

Thus began Afrika Tikkun's journey and transformation from a charity-based organisation to a community-empowerment powerhouse equipped with programmes and partnerships aimed at empowering communities to develop a new generation of productive citizens.

Lubner's MBA (Kellogg Graduate School) education and successful business career, led to the organisation's holistic developmental approach, which entailed the delivery of five core interrelated programmes that would nurture, educate and support children, youth and families, who face many social challenges depriving them of a decent livelihood.

The approach also focuses on leadership and empowerment from within the community by training members from the community and creating opportunities to deploy their skills.

The five core programmes being implemented as a result of the model are:

Family Support Services, Early Childhood Development, Child and Youth Development, Primary Healthcare and Nutrition & Food Security.

To successfully implement the model, Afrika Tikkun engaged and employed local community members to drive their own upliftment through the "Centres of Excellence" located in the townships.

These programmes are supported by financial controls and systems created and implemented by the organisation's financial director, Arnold Forman. This meant investing in teaching managerial and operational skills to people in townships.

"There might be many employers that employ people from the townships, but they are taking them out of the townships instead of investing in townships," says Lubner. He believes that it's this model that has earned Afrika Tikkun credibility within the communities it serves.

Afrika Tikkun's position is to adopt a long-term sustainable approach of meeting the various developmental needs of a child. This is achieved by starting with vulnerable infants in their homes and end with the employment or tertiary education of young adults.

"We're beginning to see the impact that this 'Holistic Developmental Model' is having on the communities. We now see young people, who we've taken through the programme, able to secure and maintain jobs," says Lubner.



The organisation's "Early Childhood Development" programmes provide a foundation that develops preschoolers to ensure they are school-ready and the "Family Support Services" strengthen families.

In all Afrika Tikkun's programmes, the organisation partners with other NGOs and complementary service providers, which are core to the model. But with so many other organisations doing good work out there, why decide to support Afrika Tikkun?

Lubner explains: "Afrika Tikkun is a very unique organisation, not just because of its

holistic approach, but particularly because of its recognition that without multi-stakeholder partnerships, it would be very difficult to maximise impact.

"Our responsibility is to provide the best and most cost-effective programme offerings. We recognise that we can't do this on our own, we therefore actively take steps to surround ourselves with partners who share the same vision of empowerment as we do and who are able to provide complementary services that will enable us to have a much greater impact in our communities."

## Three deserving Afrika Tikkun athletes participate in US Triathlon

The three athletes recruited and developed by Afrika Tikkun, came 3rd out of 45 teams in the USA Safelite Triathlon held in April this year in Las Vegas, Nevada. Through their efforts over \$300 000 was raised to fund Afrika Tikkun programmes in South Africa

Cyclist Thembinkosi Nxumalo from Diepsloot; runner Tshepo Serumula from Orange Farm; and swimmer Abongile Mvunyiswa from Alexandra, were overwhelmed

by all the attention they received from their hosts in Las Vegas - Safelite AutoGlass® - who invited them to participate in the Nevada, USA Triathlon.

This is the second team of three Afrika Tikkun sports people who have participated in the triathlon and the sixth group of triathletes will be going to participate in the London Triathlon as part of the Belron® Group in September this year.

Sports manager, Thomas Taole, says: "We recruited a whole new group of sports people who were interested in doing triathlons in January 2011 and now, all the training we have provided and experiences in other local duathlons and triathlons, is paying off. We are very confident in our "township talent".

Afrika Tikkun engages and employs local community members to drive their own upliftment through a holistic development approach.

"The importance of sport as one of our programmes cannot be emphasised strongly enough. In addition to being a fun activity that channels participants' energies in a healthy direction, it also teaches self-discipline and the value of team," says Marc Lubner CEO of Afrika Tikkun.

• To support the group of young triathletes going on their London Triathlon adventure, please SMS the word RSC to 40218 to donate R20 to the cause, call (011) 325-5914 or visit [www.afrikatikkun.org](http://www.afrikatikkun.org)

**Thembinkosi, Tshepo and Abongile.**



## Lucia's story of hope

Everyone can aspire to a better life, well, that's if they are given a helping hand to guide them in the right direction. This is exactly what happened to Lucia Tshotlhang, a grade 12 learner currently making use of Afrika Tikkun's Centre of Excellence in Alexandra, for extra lessons and homework assistance.

But this was not the case a year ago when her grade 11 marks were at their lowest, leaving her without much academic ambition. She also discovered that she's a natural born actress.

It turns out after attending extra-mural classes every weekday at the Centre, Tshotlhang and her fellow pupils who attended the classes, were taught how to study effectively, which boosted their hope of achieving their aspirations.

"My marks have now improved a lot. I love being on TV, but I no longer just want to be an actress. I want to go to university and study food technology, so that I can work in a laboratory and make sure that food is safe for people to eat," she says.

This young social butterfly says that being at the centre and attending the events, have given her a chance to meet various people like former Miss South Africa Bokang Montjane. It has also taught her how to behave in the presence of different people, improving how she interacts with others - a skill she will no doubt need when she rubs shoulders with many of the decision-makers she's bound to meet on the journey to a brighter future.



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[www.afrikatikkun.org](http://www.afrikatikkun.org)

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# Jewish Travel

Visiting places of Jewish interest

## Japan, an almost anachronistically Jew-friendly country

*The word “Japan”, may make you think of the haunting soundtrack of the film “Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence” (1983), based on war recollections by Laurent van der Post, which, composed by Ryuichi Sakamoto spawned many cover versions. You might think of cherry blossoms in woodcuts from the 1800s. Or haiku, origami and green tea. Either way, Japan is a fascinating, almost anachronistically Jew-friendly country.*

**ROBYN SASSEN**

Today some 2 000 Jews live in Japan, less than one per cent of the population. Jews first landed in Japan in the 16th century, with European explorers seeking out a new world. Jews only established themselves communally from the 19th century.

Russian Jews arrived in Japan via the Manchurian city of Harbin. Middle Eastern, “Baghdadi” Jews came to Kobe from present-day Iraq among other areas. Arguably the most prominent family among them was the Sassoons, known as the “Rothschilds of the East”. Other Jews came to Japan from Germany.

Generally, Jews lived peacefully in Japan. In 1938, a decision was taken by Japan’s political and military leadership to prohibit the expulsion of Jews from that country.

Despite Japan’s status as a German ally and pressure from the Nazis to destroy its Jewry, Japan remained a safe Holocaust refuge. Some luminaries from the Mir Yeshiva in Vilna, who survived the Holocaust, fled through Eastern Europe to Japan. After the war, most moved on to America, Canada and Israel.

Today, Japan has two major synagogues, Beth David Synagogue in Tokyo and Ohel Shlomo Synagogue in Kobe. Chabad has two centres in Tokyo. Most rabbis originate from egalitarian circles; most services are conducted according to Sephardic practice.

Tokyo has a higher Jewish profile than Kobe; the presence of the Israeli embassy in the capital may also give members additional opportunities for cultural activities. Tokyo’s central representative body is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

Recently, a Holocaust museum opened in Tokyo, supported by Jerusalem’s Yad Vashem, and an exhibition about Anne Frank, opened in Hiroshima.

Said Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles, proactive in bringing Holocaust studies to Japan: “It is appropriate for the world to pause and remember the innocent.”

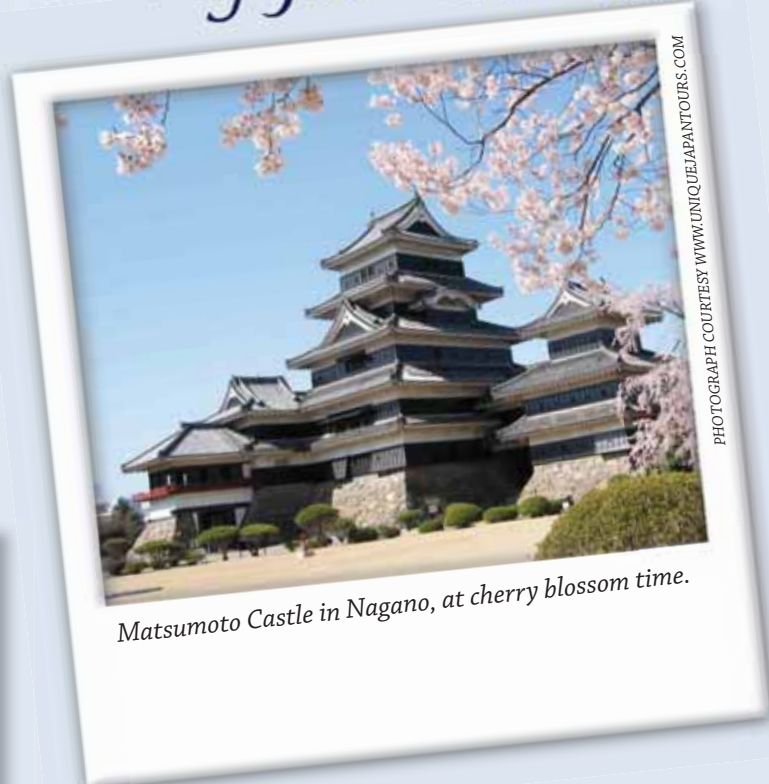
In general, Japanese attitude towards Jews and Israel is complex. Most lack awareness of Jews. Yet there is a Japanese fascination with kibbutz ideology: it resonates with Japanese values which give primacy to the group over the individual. In 1963, Tezuka Nobuyoshi set up the Japan Kibbutz Association.

Makuya, a pro-Israel Christian group, also sends Japanese volunteers to kibbutzim. It was founded by Teshima Ikuro, who believed the Japanese to be of the lost tribes, a belief also held by Kampo Harada, one of Japan’s most famous calligraphers.

When Beth David, the Tokyo synagogue was dedicated in 1968, the motives for maintaining Jewish life in Japan were articulated: “Here, in a strange land on the edge of the Diaspora, our generation is in constant danger of being lost. This is why we insist on a centre of Jewish life in Tokyo, to raise our children as Jews.”

### TIPS FOR WHEN YOU VISIT JAPAN

- If you’re holidaying in Japan and hold an SA passport, you need a Japanese tourist visa, which will cost you about 3 000 yen (about R315). The Embassy of Japan in SA has offices in Pretoria (012) 452-1500 and Cape Town (021) 425-1695.
- If you are planning to travel to rural farming areas in Japan, you should be inoculated against Japanese encephalitis.
- While the Japanese climate is generally mild, there are different highlights to the different seasons of the year, spring (March - May) sees many flower-related events, particularly before the rainy season which begins in May. Summer (July - August) is hot, humid and rainy, but autumn (September - November) is characterised by landscapular beauty and festivals honouring the harvest. Winter, at the end of the year, is most preferred by tourists, however.
- There is no official language in Japan though Japanese is the national tongue spoken, and English is the most widely used foreign language.
- The Japanese yen is the currency of Japan. At the time of going to press R1 will buy you JPY 9,54.
- Traffic in Japan is on the left hand side.
- Electricity in Japan is at 100v, but the frequency differs between regions. Eastern Japan uses 50 Hz; Western Japan prefers 60Hz. There are two standard plugs in Japan: one with two identical flat pins alongside one another, and another with two identical flat pins and a third, round, grounding pin.
- You can drink tap water in Japan with no threat of immediate health risks.
- Japan is seven hours ahead of Johannesburg.



Matsumoto Castle in Nagano, at cherry blossom time.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.UNIQUEJAPANTOURS.COM

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# His road to his Jewish roots

ALISON GOLDBERG  
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN  
OSSENDRYVER

“How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment – we can start now, start slowly changing the world! Everyone, great and small, can make their contribution straightaway... And you can always, always give something - even it if is only kindness!”

These words of 13-year-old Anne Frank, written while in hiding, were repeated by Union of Jewish Women Chairman Lynne Raphaely, at the UJW’s 80th AGM in Johannesburg last Tuesday.

The incoming executive committee: chairman Lynne Raphaely; vice chairman Diane Levine; treasurer Elaine Gavshon; vice treasurer Arleen Samuels; and secretary Shirley Ancer.

The UJW is known for its adult education top-flight speakers and its Kosher Mobile Meals and volunteers, but striking about this year’s meeting was the extent of its inter-faith work. In partnership with the Alexandra Lutheran Church, it runs a daily feeding scheme; a recently launched sewing and baking school for unemployed women; and an after-care centre for primary school pupils will shortly open its doors.

Keynote speaker Johan Redelinghuys, a psychologist, corporate career and succession planner, shared his and his wife Emma’s road to Zionism. He shared his dis-



UJW Co-chairman Lynne Raphaely and Margot Segal, UJW national president, talk to guest speaker Johan Redelinghuys.

covery of the Jewish roots of the faith in which he was born: the Dutch Reformed Church.

While still accepting Jesus as his messiah, he pointed out how Jesus’ Jewish faith was distorted by Paul, around 70 AD, who never knew him, and by the Roman Emperor Constantine in 312 AD, who as a canny politician, saw in the imposition of a common, pagan-laid Christianity, the means to rule his empire.

Paul fallaciously attributed to Jesus the declaration that he was the son of G-d; and introduced the concept of the trinity of G-d, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This marked the break with Judaism. Such a concept would have been anathema to Jesus, as it is to Judaism, whose core belief is in

one G-d.

“Jesus was born a Jew, lived the life of a Torah-observant rabbi, and died a Jew. He rebelled not against his fellow Jews, but against Roman oppression and taxation. Jesus’ “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s due” was adulterated as a betrayal of his fellow Jews.

It was the Romans who crucified him (among many other Jews), not the Jews. It was Constantine who falsely claimed Christ’s birth on Christmas Day; who introduced during Pesach, the pagan, fertility Easter festival, represented by the giving of eggs and bunnies.

“The Emperor moved Shabbat from Saturday to Sunday, in honour of the Sun god, as were the rest of the days of the week named after Roman gods.”

## Top-notch speaker for WIZO’s Campaign Launch

*WIZO’s Biennial Campaign Launch - their biggest fundraising event - on Wednesday June 6 and Thursday June 7 in Johannesburg and June 7 and 8 in Cape Town - has a top-drawer speaker to lend lustre to the event.*

WIZO gives some background on Linda Menuhin Abdul Aziz: She serves as a commentator in Middle East affairs both in Israeli and Arab media. Entrenched in the Arab culture, she reinvented herself in Israel, rising from an Iraqi refugee to a senior journalist.

Her unique background, accentuated by worldwide networking, provides her with an unprecedented scope of understanding both cultures - Arab and Israeli.

Having positioned herself on the seam line between Israel and the Arab world, she provides a new perspective, indispensable for understanding the misconception between Arabs and Israelis. Her trilingual, opinion pieces are essential for policymakers aiming at resolving the conflict. She has won a prize from the Next Century Foundation for outstanding contribution for peace in the media.

Throughout her career, Menuhin Abdul Aziz had the opportunity to influence public

policy, primarily through her work at the Ministry of Public Security and the Union of Local Authorities where she served as a spokesman.

Previously she had worked as a senior journalist with the Israeli Broadcasting Authority (IBA) and eventually she embarked on a mission to educate both Israelis and Arabs on the conflict and one another.

WIZO’s Wednesday function takes the form of a dinner (at the HOD in Orchards, Johannesburg), at 19:30. The cost is R275 per person. The next morning she speaks at a tea at the same venue, at R100 per head. That evening she speaks in Cape Town at the Albrow Centre at 19:45 and the next morning at the same venue, at 09:30. The cost is R50.

• For the Johannesburg functions, RSVP Sandy (011) 645-2548, or e-mail her on Sandy@beyachad.co.za. For the Cape Town functions, contact (021) 464-6729 or e-mail bnothz@ctjc.co.za

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# Mouth-watering milchik treats for Shavuot

*Sharon Lurie’s passion for food lies solely in the fact that “time out” is time spent in the kitchen! As a kosher butcher’s wife with easy access to a “limited supply” of meat, she has enjoyed many years of experimenting with every cut on the forequarter.*

Kosher entertaining changes in style and flair depending on the city, country and continent. For a glimpse into the kosher world in South Africa, pick up the two cookbooks of Sharon Lurie, aka The Butcher’s Wife: her original, *Cooking with the Kosher Butcher’s Wife*, and her just released *Celebrating with the Kosher Butcher’s Wife*.

Although Lurie is best known for her mouth-watering meat recipes, she is as adept in putting forth a milchik recipe for Shavuot, as her lokshen pudding recipe and her sister-in-law’s cheesecake recipe, shows.

### EASY PAREV\* LOKSHEN PUDDING

*Serves 8 - 10*

- 500 g dry tagliatelle pasta
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 6 Tbsp non-dairy margarine
- 4 whole eggs plus 2 extra yolks
- 1 cup non-dairy creamer
- 1 cup soya milk
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup raisins
- 4 Tbsp brown sugar mixed with 1 Tbsp cinnamon to sprinkle on top

**Method:**

1. Cook the pasta according to the packet instructions.
2. Drain and place into a large greased oven-proof dish. I prefer to use a deeper dish than a larger flatter one so as to keep the pudding moist. If the dish is too large and wide, the moisture evaporates too quickly.
3. Preheat the oven to 180 °C.
4. Melt the sugar and margarine in a saucepan until the sugar dissolves, then remove from the heat and allow to cool.
5. Meanwhile, whisk the eggs, extra yolks, non-dairy creamer, soya milk and water, until well combined. Add to the cooled sugar and margarine and mix well.
6. Sprinkle the raisins over the cooked pasta, followed by the egg and sugar mixture.
7. Finally, sprinkle the brown sugar and cinnamon on top.
8. Bake for 40 - 45 minutes. Remember that



when you take it out of the oven, the pasta will still absorb some of the liquid, so don’t overcook it as it can dry out.

- Traditionally we eat milchiks on Shavuot but as I only make Parev and Fleischik dishes at home, this recipe is Parev and as Shavuot is a Yomtov we still need to eat meat! Should you wish to make a delicious, creamy milchik pudding then substitute butter for margarine, smooth cream cheese for the non-dairy creamer, cream for soya milk and full cream milk for water.

### STEPH’S SENSATIONAL AMERICAN CHEESECAKE

I often wonder who else sits in shul on Shavuot with a “rumbling tummy” just because they were in a hurry to get to shul and forgot to have a slice of cheesecake before they left home.

There’s nothing to beat Steph’s Sensational American Cheesecake. As I don’t do milchiks in our home, maybe a toasted cheese, I rely on my sister-in-law, Steph, to keep my cheesecake cravings to a minimum.

- 2 packets Bakers Tennis Biscuits
- 3/4 cup melted butter
- 4 Extra large eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 x 250g cream cheese
- 125 ml cream (1/2 cup)
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 tsp vanilla essence
- 2 Tbl fresh lemon juice

**Method**

1. Crush tennis biscuits with a rolling pin or in a food processor, add melted butter, mix until well combined.
2. Line a springform tin (sides and bottom) with crushed biscuits and refrigerate until cheesecake filling is made. Paint sides with a little extra melted butter - it helps to keep the crumbs sticking to the sides.
3. Beat eggs and sugar till light and creamy.
4. Combine cream cheese, cream, flour, vanilla essence and lemon juice and beat until smooth.
5. Add egg and sugar mixture to cream cheese mixture.
6. Pour over biscuit base and bake for 1 hour on 120 deg C, then turn oven off and leave in oven for a further hour. (The low temperature is one of the secrets to its success).
7. Remove from oven, allow to cool and cover with either of the following toppings.

**Topping A**

- 125 ml thick fresh cream
- 125 ml sour cream
- 3 Tbl castor sugar

**Method**

Mix all of the above together and pour over cheesecake. Refrigerate - remove from fridge about an hour before serving.

**Topping B**

- 250 ml cream
- 1/2 - 3/4 cup milk



*1 packet Instant Lemon pudding (If you are unable to get kosher lemon pudding then add two tablespoons of fresh lemon juice to an instant vanilla pudding).*

**Method**

Combine all of the above together and beat till smooth. Pour over cheesecake. Refrigerate - remove from fridge about an hour before serving.



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# TA girls stage their own play at Victory Theatre

**OWN CORRESPONDENT**  
**PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE BELLING**

The grade 11s from Torah Academy Girls' High School have written their own script for a production entitled "She's the Mensch", to be staged at the Victory Theatre on Sunday, June 3 at 14:00 and 19:00 and also the following day - Monday, June 4 - at 19:00.

The play tells the story of two girls with different dreams, who are prepared to go

to all ends to translate these dreams into reality. The play has the potential to be a big hit.

The cast from different grades at the dress rehearsal (pictured below), were Shevi Goldstuck; "Boo" Finger; Bracha Singer; Chanala Chaikin; Tali Drutman; Michal Gershuni; and Chani Yachad.

The show is for women and girls only. Please call the school on (011) 485-3871 for further details.



# Sydenham Pre-Primary kids prepare for Shavuot

**MICHELLE HERSON**  
**PHOTOGRAPH:**  
**DANI MERKEL**

The children in Michelle Herson's and Adrienne Rosen's group in Sydenham Pre-Primary School, have been learning about dairy products in preparation for Shavuot. They are very proud of the cow masks they created.



# YC grade Rs celebrate Yom Yerushalayim

**OWN CORRESPONDENT**  
**PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED**

The grade Rs at Yeshiva College celebrated Yom Yerushalayim with enthusiasm

and decorated their classroom windows, displaying a scene of Jerusalem. We are so proud of their work. This will now be a permanent feature for all to see.



Standing: Noa Nerwich and Ella Mechanik. Seated: Simone Heyman, Lila Nossel, Eliya Ossin, Hannah-Sophie Sundelson, Suri Gochin.



Joshua Hogg, plays the bagpipes while Dovid Gabay watches on. (PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSEENDRYVER)

# Jerusalem commemorated with much pizzazz

**SHIRA DRUION**

Yom Yerushalayim is celebrated by Jews worldwide, as they join together to commemorate the miracle of Jerusalem being returned to the Jewish fold, in the 1967 War.

This year The SA Zionist Federation joined forces with Mizrahi SA to host a sensational show of musical talent, including soloists Dovid Gabay from The US and SA's own home-grown Choni G, with a guest performance from King David Sandton pupil Jared Greenstein and the Yom Yerushalayim choir made up of King David Linksfield Primary learners and rhythmic African kiddies from Afrika Tikkun.

Show producers Linda Starkovitz and Gavin Opert, ensured that every aspect of the performance ran smoothly with competency and pizzazz. Their efforts were applauded by SAZF Chairman Avrom Krengel and National Executive Director Isla Feldman.

Krengel welcomed the many who had come to participate in the event and related the momentous day in history when paratrooper commander, Motta Gur exclaimed with jubilation: "The Temple Mount is back in our hands! This privilege evaded us for so long, so it is therefore incumbent on all of us to partake of the jovial celebrations."

Rabbi Binny Friedman of the Isralight Centre in Jerusalem, echoed Krengel's sentiments about Jerusalem, blessing the listeners to be celebrating with the reunification of Jerusalem in the coming months.

Choni G took the stage with palpable oomph and an electric stage presence which invigorated the eager audience, opening his musical repertoire with an original piece of reg-

gae cum pop Jewish music. His "mash up" composition which was directed by musical legend, Bryan Schimmel, included a collection of bo'ee kallah songs which are traditionally sung in the Friday night service and at weddings, as they speak about a groom coming out to meet his bride.

Goldman used this beautiful analogy of Jerusalem being compared to the bride of our people, an appropriate and stirring comparison for this memorable day in Jewish history.

He commented: "Yom Yerushalayim is a very special day in our history and I am so grateful to have been a part of it."

The stage then welcomed popular Jewish singer, Dovid Gabay, who made the trip from Lakewood, New Jersey. Gabay performed original songs with the chein of a born and bred New Yorker. He encouraged the audience to take part in the joy that accompanied the reunification of Jerusalem. When asked about his visit to "our sunny skies", he was full of praise for the overwhelming generosity that is synonymous with the SA Jewish community.

"I have travelled far and wide, but this community steals the show with their exemplary show of chesed!"

Schimmel complimented the stars' performance with a generosity of spirit: "Working with Dovid was a thrill, he has warmth, he has heart and he is a great entertainer. Choni G is an emerging talent in our community and a gifted musician with a unique style. It really was a wonderful show!"

"Let me not forget my Jerusalem..." Theatre on The track in Midrand was indeed a soulful night of moving and magnificent melodies, all in the name of our beloved and holy city.

# A taste of what Limmud 2012 has on offer

**DANIEL HERMAN**  
**PHOTOGRAPH: BIANCA SHULMAN**

Nearly 200 people attended "Taste of Limmud" at King David School in Linksfield on Sunday May 6. Organisers Michal Lipshitz and Warren Goldstuck said this was in line with Limmud's expectations. Registration for Limmud Conference Johannesburg is now open. The organisers urge those interested to attend Limmud Conference 2012, to book their places as soon as possible.

Limmud will be utilising their residential model yet again to create a Shabbos-friendly weekend, which will take place from August 3

- 5 at the Tsogo Sun Lifestyle Resort on the Vaal. There will be a number of top international speakers, including Gershon Baskin, a key negotiator in the deal to release captured soldier Gilad Shalit.

The King David Linksfield event featured a variety of engaging sessions on a diverse array of topics. The presenters represented the broad spectrum of the Jewish community, including top community minds such as David Bilchitz; Chuck Volpe; Joy Margolis; David Lubinsky; and Dennis Davis, as well as up-and-coming stars like Claudine Ullman; Yochanan Ress; Shaun Woolf; and Amy Price.

• Register now for the full weekend or as a Sunday day visitor at [limmud.org.za](http://limmud.org.za).



A mixed group of volunteers and attendees to the Taste of Limmud event at King David School in Linksfield.



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What's On

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

Today, Friday (May 25)

• **UZLC** hosts Les Markowitz, president of Bnei Brit, who will talk on "Holiday USA". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact Gloria (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.

Saturday (May 26)

• **Beit Emanuel Progressive Synagogue** serves a light Torah breakfast at 08:30 (and every Shabbat morning). Rabbi Ash will continue "Exploring the Prayers of Mishkan Tefilah." Venue: 38 Oxford Road, Parktown (entrance in Third Avenue). For more information visit www.beitemanuel.co.za or call (011) 646-6170.

Sunday (May 27)

• **Greenside Shul** hosts a special Shavuot Brunch, with guest speaker Larry Benjamin, on "Chimera or Brave New World? The Middle East & the Arab Spring", following the Shavuot service. Time: 10:30. Cost per person: Adults R60, children under 13 R40, children under 6 free. Bookings are essential. Call Nadine Lazarus, (011) 788-5036.

Tuesday (May 29)

• **UJW** hosts musicologist Estelle Sher on "Beethoven's First Symphony. New Ideas". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30 - 11:30. Donation: R25. Tel: (011) 648-1053.

Wednesday (May 30)

• **UJW CT adult education division** is hosting Ina Paarman who will talk on "You Are What You Eat". 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** meets at 10:00 in the boardroom, Randjes Estate, Randjeslaagte Road, Highlands North. Johannesburg City Councillor Steven Kruger will speak on the role of the councillor and the problems encountered. Anyone with Parkinson's Disease, their families, friends and caregivers, are welcome. For further information contact Rosemary Burke on (011) 640-3919.

• **UJW adult education division** hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer Dept English Wits, on "Poetry's Pleasures". Venue: 1 Oak Street Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R25. Information: Tel: (011) 648-1053.

Thursday (May 31)

• **UJW Histadrut Ivrit** hosts Shulamit Kagan who will speak on "40 Years of Jewish Settlement in Gaza". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 10:30 for 11:00. Tel: (011) 648-1053. Donation: R25.

Friday (June 1)

• **Sydenham Shul** is hosting a Shabbat dinner with Darren (Wackhead) Simpson, for ages 16 - 21. Bookings: Lee 072-909-707 or Shirley at the office (011) 640-5021.

Sunday (June 3)

• **Jaffa Old Age Home** in Pretoria, has its "Morning Market" from 09:00 - 12:00. Arts and crafts, books, jewellery, a raffle, bric-a-brac, second-hand clothing and tea room Venue: 42 Mackie Street, Baileys Muckleneuk, Pretoria.

Sunday (June 3)

• **Chevrah Kadisha Community Services** is offering an ongoing single mother's support group, starting today. It will be run as a monthly support group on Sundays between 10:00 - 11:30. Single moms come together for a chat, a cup of tea, support, information and some much needed time out. We will also provide entertainment for your children at the same time. Venue: Beit Chesed. Sandringham Gardens. Bookings or more info, call Tania on (011) 532-9719.

• **Torah Academy Girls' High School** is staging "She's the Mensch" (for women and girls) at the Victory Theatre. Time: 14:00 and 19:00. Cost: R120 per ticket. Please call the school on (011) 485-3871 for further details.

Monday (June 4)

• **Torah Academy Girls' High School** is staging "She's the Mensch", (for women and girls) at the Victory Theatre. Time: 19:00. Cost: R120 per ticket. Please call the school on (011) 485-3871 for further details.

• **UJW adult education division** hosts Joanne Yawitch, CEO of National Business Initiative, who will talk on "Shaping a Sustainable Future - The Role of Business in Society". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time 09:30. Tel: (011) 648-1053. Donation: R25.

Wednesday (June 6)

• **RCHCC** is re-screening, due to popular demand, the Oscar-nominated, Emmy Award-winning documentary, "Promises". Venue: The Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378 or e-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za

• **UJW CT adult education division** is hosting Rahla Xenopoulos who will talk on her latest book, "Bubbles". Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).



# Running Elaine shows age is just a number

JACK MILNER

Armchair viewers often wonder why people actually want to torture themselves and run the Comrades Marathon. I suppose everybody has their own reason for doing it, whether it is because they actually enjoy it, or just “because it’s there”, or maybe just to be seen on television.

Elaine Greenblatt has her reason. In 1990, after getting tired of worrying about husband Mike at the Comrades - remember there were no cell-phones in those days - she decided that the next year, she would “do the journey”.

To date she has completed the race six times, winning her age group last year and finishing third in 2007 in the 50 to 59 age group.

Mike will not be in this year’s line-up on June 3, as a fractured hip brought his running season to a premature end. He will have to wait until next year to earn his 20th medal.

For Elaine, though, her win at age 62 in the 60 to 69 age group last year, was one of many milestones she has achieved. Just five weeks earlier she won her age group at the



Elaine Greenblatt world champion runner in her age group – 60 to 69.

Two Oceans 56 km event in Cape Town - a rare double.

A week later she represented Central Gauteng at the SA Masters Championships in Durban where she clinched silver in the 21,1 km half-marathon and a gold medal in the 8 km cross-country.

Between January 2011 and the Comrades, Elaine won the Wits Kudus 15km, Dischem 21,1 PDAG 25km, Springs Striders 32km, Pick n Pay 42,2km, Deloitte 42,2km, Valla Marathon 42,2km, Om Die Dam 50km, Jackie Gibson 21,1km, Bruce Fordyce 50km, Wally Haywood 42,2km, Randburg Harriers 21,1km - and they were just some of her successes in 2011. Since then there have been numerous other successes at various distances.

Elaine was born in Liverpool to an English mother and South African father, who had joined the British Army and fought in the Second World War. When Elaine was five years old the family moved to South Africa, settling in Durban where most of her father’s family lived.

Elaine attended Carmel School where she was in the year that was to be the first matric

class. She then moved to Johannesburg to study physiotherapy.

She started running in 1978, thanks to the influence of husband Mike, and joined Rockies in 1980 when she was doing the walk/run thing with Martin Menachemson. She first represented South Africa at Master Athletics in Finland in 2009 where she finished second in the 8km cross-country event (60 - 69) and third in the 5 000m on the track. That year she broke her South African age-group record in the Cape Town Marathon in a time of 3hrs 28 min.

Elaine has also been awarded SA Masters National colours at 5 000m and 10 000m on the track.

Other international experiences include

third place at the London Marathon in a time of 3hrs 24 min. This, at the age of 60, placed her seventh fastest in the world in her age group. She finished fifth at the Berlin Marathon in 2011 (which she ran to experience the city) and at the Jerusalem Half Marathon in March this year, where she won her age group by 24 minutes.

Since 2006 she has represented Central Gauteng over various distances - 10km, 21km, 42,2km and cross-country. This year she came second in the SA Marathon Championships in George (in her age group).

Petite Elaine - around 1,49m (4ft 11in in the old parlance) is a lady with a big heart, motivated to live life as only she knows how. Her aim in athletics is to improve on her times, especially her marathon, but most importantly, to have fun - wherever or whenever she goes running.

## Stransky to talk at Maccabi Stag

JACK MILNER

Whenever you talk to people about their memories of the 1995 Rugby World Cup in South Africa, generally two incidents come to mind. The first is President Nelson Mandela walking on to the field wearing a Springbok jersey bearing the No 6 of captain Francois Pienaar. The second - and probably the most memorable moment for SA rugby supporters - was Joel Stransky’s drop goal in the dying moments of extra time, that won the World Cup for the Boks.



That winning moment. Joel Stransky kicks the winning drop goal at the 1995 Rugby World Cup, ensuring that the Springboks were world champions.

Stransky will be the guest speaker at Maccabi Stag on Thursday June 7. It will be an opportune moment as the first rugby Test between South Africa and England will be played two days later at Kings Park in Durban.

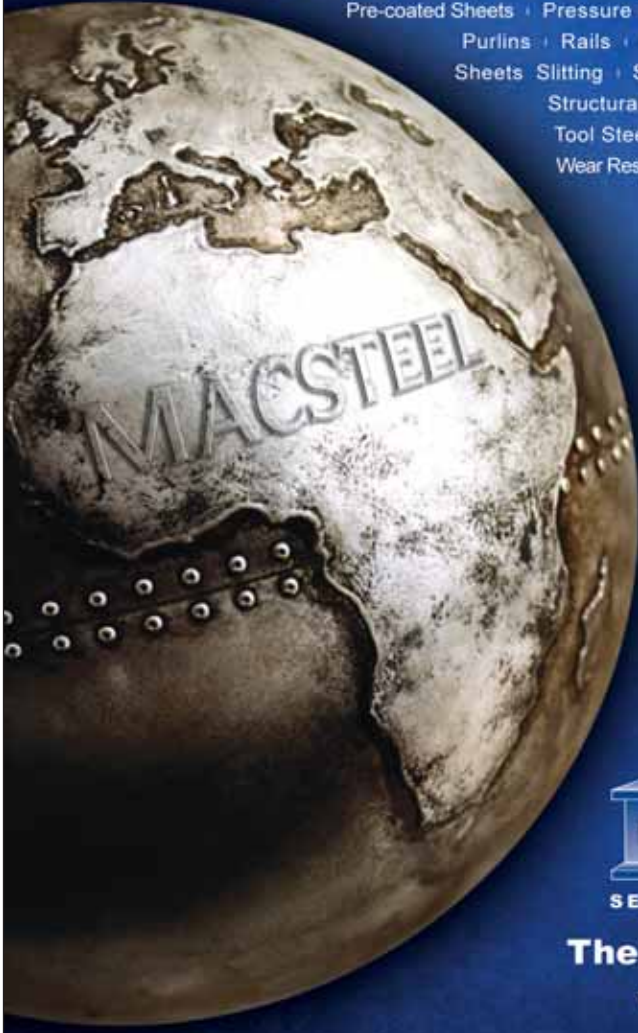
Stransky is a regular commentator for Supersport and is therefore still very close to the game of rugby.


The talk will be held at Beyachad in Raedene. For catering purposes please confirm your attendance. The office can be contacted on tel: (011) 645-2557; fax: (011) 458-1011; e-mail: maccabisa@beyachad.co.za

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**Date** Thursday 14 June 2012 **Time** 18h30 for 19h00  
**Venue** Maroela Room, Sandton Sun, Sandton  
**Cost** R12 000 per table of 10 (Incl. VAT)

*For further information*  
Tel 011 646 7340 or E-mail info@mscsports.co.za





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