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Volume 15 Number 43

‘Secrecy Bill’: a ‘Jewish issue’?

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THE STUFF DREAMS ARE MADE OF...

Rabbi Dovid Masinter of Chabad House in Johannesburg, hosted about 300 children, including orphans from the Fountain of Love Aids Orphanage in Kathlehong near Germiston, to a concert of Ethan Bortnick at the Lyric Theatre at Gold Reef City, last week. He is seen here with Helen Fraser of the Nashua Children's Charity Foundation. During the performance 12-year-old Beatrice Renata, one of the guests, told Ethan that her dream was to become a dancer. Ethan, not realising that Beatrice does not have parents, said her parents should give her all the support. After being called up to dance on the stage, at the end of the concert, Ethan called her in for a private meeting where she was told that the Umoja Foundation would sponsor her with dance lessons, making her dream come true. **SEE PAGE 4**

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November 25/ 28 Cheshvan
November 26 /29 Cheshvan

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18:09	20:16	Cape Town
18:15	19:14	Durban
18:20	19:31	Bloemfontein
17:40	19:47	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:35	East London



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PARSHA OF THE WEEK



PARSHAT TOLDOT

Rabbi Matthew Liebenberg
Claremont Wynberg Hebrew Congregation

Dwell in the land

FAMINE AND hunger is an unfortunate reality of the 21st century, but it is by no means a new phenomenon. Our Sages record 10 biblical famines that debilitated the ancient world, starting in the times of the first man, Adam.

Included in this list are the famines experienced by our forefathers Abraham and later by his son, Isaac.

When Isaac was confronted with famine, he went to Avimelech, King of the Philistines in Gerar. Isaac’s original intention was to follow the example of his father and move further south to Egypt, but he was stopped by G-d, who said to him: “Do not descend to Egypt! Rather you shall dwell in the land that I shall speak to you about. Sojourn in this land and I shall be with you and I shall bless you, for to you and your seed shall I give these lands and I shall affirm with you the covenant that I swore to your father Abraham.”

Why did G-d use the conflicting verbs “dwell” (sh’chon) and “sojourn” (gur), the former implying permanence and the latter implying temporary residence?

The Midrash provides two possibilities: (i) When G-d told him to “dwell in the land”, His intention was that Isaac should settle in Israel and work it, thereby creating a habitable place.

He therefore told him to “plant trees, sow seeds and set up beautiful orchards”. However, when in the province of the Philistines, Isaac was only to sojourn temporarily and not make it a permanent residence.

(ii) The word “dwell’ (sh’chon) is the root of the term Shechinah, G-d’s Presence. When G-d told Isaac to “dwell” in the land, He was asking him to create a country worthy of the Divine Presence.

These two explanations illustrate the two varieties of enterprise that are required in the Land of Israel - the agricultural, economic and cultural aspects of the country and the spiritual aspects of the country.

Both of these tasks are incumbent upon the Jewish inhabitants of the land. However, in the modern era, these two vital avenues of settling the land were often split between two very different types of Jews.

The agricultural, economic and cultural infrastructure of the country was to a large extent set up by the early “chalutzim”, pioneers, who were generally irreligious and unconcerned with the new state’s religious character.

The spiritual infrastructure of the land was to a large extent set up by the religious immigrants who settled in Israel decades and even centuries before modern Zionism.

These included the students and followers of both the Ba’al Shem Tov, the founder of the Chassidic movement and the Vilna Gaon, the leader of Lithuanian Jewry, who moved to Israel in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

These groups formed the community that later came to be known as the yishuv hayashan, the Old Settlement, in Jerusalem, Zefat and several other locations. There they built shuls, yeshivot and other institutions of Torah study.

There were, and there continue to be, groups that fused these two responsibilities together, including Bnei Akiva, whose motto “Torah v’Avodah” (Torah combined with labour), succinctly describes their philosophy of building a country based on the principles of physical work and toil and intense commitment to the Torah and its mitzvoth.

But despite the efforts of this organisation and others like it, Israeli society continues to be fragmented and splintered into those who “work the land” and those who study in yeshiva.

Unfortunately, these two sides seldom see eye to eye and many arguments have broken out between them, often leading to hatred, harsh words and discord.

The challenges presented to Isaac so many thousands of years ago, continue to confound the Jewish people till today. Our job, and that of all Jews, is to achieve what Isaac was commanded by G-d - to create a beautiful country both physically and spiritually, one that is worthy of the Divine Presence.

Hatzolah wins award from RCSA

ROBYN SASSEN

TRAINING CENTRE co-ordinator Alon Crouse, in the name of medical rescue operation, Hatzolah, recently received a prestigious award from the Resuscitation Council of SA: the Chain of Survival Award for their Resuscitation Cabinet and CPR project.

The cabinet, installed in 44 shuls and other communal facilities in Gauteng, consists of a blue cabinet containing a one-way facemask and a bag valve mask, both for the emergency alleviation of breathing problems; an automatic external defibrillator (AED) for use in cardiac arrest; an oxygen cylinder and mask and a cell phone pre-programmed with Hatzolah’s number.

When CPR is initiated immediately on a patient who is not conscious and not breathing, it greatly increases their chances of survival; particularly when there is early defibrillation.



Alon Crouse with the Resuscitation Council of SA award, received on behalf of Hatzolah. PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON CROUSE.

According to the American Heart Association, the chain of survival has three steps which are up to the bystander in a time of cardiac crisis: early access (recognition of the symptoms); early CPR (chest compressions and assisted breathing); early defibrillation – through the use of AED.

Hatzolah has trained over 300 people in the use of this equipment over the last three months. Crouse may be contacted on cpr@hatzolah.co.za or 086100101.

Gardens Shul turns 170 in style

MOIRA SCHNEIDER

CAPE TOWN

PHOTOGRAPH: SUSAN SHERMAN

WELL OVER 1 000 shul-goers attended the fourth anniversary of Friday Night Live at the Gardens Synagogue (Cape Town Hebrew Congregation) last week – a double celebration, as it coincided with the oldest congregation in South Africa’s 170 years of existence.

In his sermon, Rabbi Osher Feldman, spiritual leader of the congregation, referred to founder Benjamin Norden (who organised the first minyan in sub-Saharan Africa in the year 1841) and how proud he would be to walk into the shul now and see the thriving community.

After the synagogue service, congregants and visitors gathered in the historic Company Gardens to enjoy a “Sushi & Blue Label”-themed brocha in a marquee with the lit-up historic synagogue form-



The historic Gardens Synagogue, built in 1905.

ing a backdrop.

The “endless flow” of people making their way down the shul steps into the Gardens was a really inspiring sight, according to shul chairman, Philip Kawalsky. The Friday Night Live anniversaries have become known as “the most magical” evenings and this one was no exception, he added.

Rounding off the festivities was a sold-out dinner for 320 people, at which comedian Nik Rabinowitz brought the house down.

KASHRUT ALERT

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The kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox’s Beth Din, has announced that a number of Jungle products are now kosher and parev, with or without the Beth Din logo: Jungle Energy Crunch Muesli (Granola, Lifestyle, Nuts & Raisins, Raisin, Tropical Fruit & Nut) (Mehadrin).

The following “Weighless” products are now kosher and parev, with or without the Beth Din logo: Weighless Biscuits (Choc Chip, Oat Crunch, Short Bread). WeighlessMuesli (Plain, Fruit, High Fibre Bran & Raisin) (Mehadrin).


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Is the right to know a ‘Jewish Issue’?

STEVEN GRUZD

ON NOVEMBER 22, - dubbed “Black Tuesday” by the media, evoking “Black Wednesday” in October 1977 when the apartheid government banned several newspapers - members of the National Assembly voted 229 to 107, with two abstentions, to pass the controversial Protection of State Information Bill (POSIB).

But not without a fight. Around the country, thousands rallied to express their opposition to this closing of political space. People donned black clothing, blacked out their profile pictures on Facebook and Twitter, and phoned parliamentary chief whips to raise their objections.

I felt the anger and resilience in the 200-person picket outside of Luthuli House in Sauer Street in the Johannesburg CBD. Pickets were staged outside Parliament in Cape Town, and in Durban, Pretoria, Soweto and Vereeniging. Opposition parties made dramatic pleas from the National Assembly floor. The story dominated headlines and airwaves.

This three-year struggle now moves to the National Council of Provinces, then the President’s desk and almost inexorably to the Constitutional Court. But why should the South African Jewish community care? Is this a “Jewish issue”?

Many think it is, including Mary Kluk, chairman of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies.

“As Jewish South Africans, the prospect that the freedom of the press that we celebrate could be infringed is untenable,” she says. “I firmly believe this is our fight. We are part of the fabric of this country.

“This affects us - we enjoy freedom to practise our religion, and we demand fair treatment, transparency, honesty. We must treasure and defend those rights, for us, and for everyone.”

Rabbi Aharon Rose, chairman of the SA Rabbinical Association, qualifies to an extent what kind of information should be in the public domain, but agrees that censorship should not extend to issues that are clearly of public concern.

“It is a question of what is and what is not in the public interest”, he says, “Jewish law - the Halacha - is clear in its prohibition against the dissemination of lashon hara, that is, malicious gossip.

“Consequently, it would regard salacious gossip as not being in the public interest. However, information relating to how the country is being run, for example on alleged corruption in government, certainly is in the public interest and should not be withheld.”

According to Professor Anton Harber from the University of Witwatersrand’s School of Journalism: “A lack of information, a loss of transparency affects all individuals and groups, because it disempowers them in relation to the state. And when we have to defend

ourselves, we may not have access to the information we need to do so.”

He adds: “Like many communities, the issues we are concerned with are all tied up with what we do and do not know.” Some examples he gives include who funds SA political parties, particularly from the Arab world, or the campaigns mounted against Israel in this country.

Dr Ivor Blumenthal, station manager of 101.9 Chai FM, says: “This Bill, if law, would severely restrict our ability to investigate issues of concern to the Jewish community. It could, for example, prevent us from asking tough questions, like how foreign policy decisions are taken, or about anti-Semitism. Questions about how much South Africa does with Muslim states could potentially be classified as state secrets.”

“We are an integral part of South African society,” comments Rabbi Robert Jacobs, acting chairman of the South African Centre for Religious Equality and Diversity (SACRED), “This rather confusing Bill seems antithetical to society’s best interest.

“Through SACRED, we actively encouraged our community to embrace ‘Black Tuesday’ - it was a valid, non-violent, apparent and personal choice in line with our religious values.”

Jayshree Pather, a member of the R2K National Working Group says that everyone, including minorities, should be worried about the Bill.

“If it becomes law, it will affect

cerned South Africans across the spectrum - which just shows how seriously so many different constituencies take the issue, and that we can build consensus, and build a nation.”

As the battle moves into the next trench, there are many reasons for Jewish South Africans to take note and take part. Hillel put it best: “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?”

Steven Gruzd is the senior researcher and diplomatic liaison at the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. He represents the Board on the Gauteng Working Group of the Right to Know Campaign, www.r2k.org.za

Ground broken in JHGC construction

ROBYN SASSEN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEWIS LEVIN

LAST TUESDAY morning, ground was finally broken in the construction of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre in Forest Town, on Jan Smuts Avenue, opposite the Westcliff Hotel.

An ebullient Tali Nates, director of the centre, explained to the Jewish Report that after its official establishment in 2008, it is estimated earthworks will be completed by February next year, for this “very 21st century museum. It is innovative on so many levels, and knowing that ground has finally been broken is intimidating and wonderful at the same time.”

She added that the forthcoming exhibition of the Rwandan genocide is the first of its kind in the world.

“There is a basement to be constructed for 55 cars and the ground needs to be levelled, before building can begin.”

With architect Lewis Levin as project



manager, Gerald Leissner who is handling the fundraising, a construction team led by Andrew Murray of Murray and Dixon Construction, who also worked on Circa Gallery and the Wits Art Museum, the project is further complemented with the expertise of Western Cape designer Linda Bester, and a team of local and international exhibition designers.

... and the construction begins,
Tali Nates at the site.





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UJW celebrates its glorious 80th with verve and flair

ROBYN SASSEN
PHOTOGRAPH BY JOFFIE BERKOWITZ

A FORTNIGHT ago, arguably this country’s most community-focused organisation celebrated a milestone. The Union of Jewish Women, established by social worker Toni Saphra in 1931, celebrated 80 years with a concert at the Victory Theatre, memorable not only artistically, but also for the moving footage of UJW’s ongoing projects.

Comprising songs from Broadway musicals, the show, choreographed by Vicky Friedman and directed by Sandy Dyer and Jonathan Birin, was cast from the cream of South African singers: 12 performers, including Talia Kodesh, Sivan Raphaely, Shelley Meskin, Lorri Strauss, Thando Nkosi and Tamzyn van Rooyen, collectively reflecting a diversity of femininity, and not only the young, slim and tall.

This was no shrinking violet affair, with saccharine love songs. Drawing from the gutsier Broadway shows, like Fame; Rent; Chicago; Evita, the show reflected the kernel of UJW’s strength. Its membership doesn’t comprise cringing kugels: historically, they are not afraid to roll up their sleeves or open their purses. UJW’s core mission is to engage not only the Jewish community, but the broader community as well.

Its flagship project is Kosher Mobile Meals, supplying cooked meals to elderly, indigent, often lonely Jews. The Friendship Club also offers a means for elderly Jews to interact.

In 1960, soup kitchens were established by UJW. They cater for people not able to cook for themselves: the poor, rape victims,

women in labour wards and HIV/Aids and tuberculosis patients. These kitchens are a part of a broader feeding scheme taking into consideration the challenges granny- and child-headed households face.

Furthermore UJW supplies “comfort packs” to Rape Crisis Clinics, including fluffy toys when children are involved; Christmas cakes for the police; and birthday cakes for residents of Arcadia, Selwyn Segal and Johannesburg Children’s Home.

UJW has adopted three crèches in Alexandra township, one of which recently qualified for government assistance, because of a new “wendy house” UJW donated as a sick bay.

The organisation’s trajectory is long and rich, with the often unsung deeds of women who, over generations, have got their (sometimes proverbial) hands dirty in making a positive difference to the lives of ordinary South Africans – be it in keeping children off the streets during the long World Cup school holidays, donating snugly pyjamas to kids going into foster care, building school libraries at cash-strapped schools, or teaching English or maths during educational crises.

UJW raises money for the CSO, taking care of community safety and Hatzolah, the medical response service which functions entirely on donations.

In addition to hosting talks on topics of interest, and a House and Garden Circle, UJW spearheads Leora, a project which caters for the loan of rehabilitative medical equipment.



The full cast of Divas do Broadway: (back) Tarryn Sudding; Dena Kopenhager Bloch; Sivan Raphaely; Shelley Meskin; Natasha Millar; and Debbie Fleminger. (Front) Tamzyn van Rooyen; Lorri Strauss; Talia Kodesh; Bruce Millar; Michael Richard; Luciano Zuppa; Thando Nkosi; Sharon Spiegel-Wagner and Andy Cohen.

One of the culminating events of each UJW year is the Bobba/Zaida competition, in which, with the focused assistance of a social worker, a fortunate grandparent gets to fly anywhere in the world to visit family they would not otherwise be able to. Last year for the first time, a bobba and a zaida - Phil and Hannah Horwitz - got to visit their children in Toronto. This year, the winner was a surprised Ray Meyers (84), who leaves for Houston at the end of this month.

This event was also an opportunity to announce the birth of a new project. The

Panic Button Project, several months in development, gives a person, at the push of a button, immediate contact with a central control room and links to Hatzolah.

As a membership drive, the footage spoke for itself. UJW National President Margot Segal, added that men had begun joining; this year, they launched corporate memberships.

The evening concluded quoting Elie Wiesel’s 1968 Nobel Peace Prize speech: “Our lives no longer belong to us alone. They belong to those who need us desperately.”

Ethan helps make a young girl fulfil her dream

SHIRA DRUION

FITTINGLY, in line with Chabad’s Miracle Drive, Rabbi Dovid Masinter was the main mover in bringing to South Africa from the United States, a “miracle boy”, musical prodigy Ethan Bortnick, who wowed a packed Lyric Theatre at Gold Reef City last week. And a miracle dream came true for an underprivileged South African girl.

Ten-year-old Ethan, a pianist, composer and singer of stunning talent, left the audience of well over 300 shaking their heads in disbelief in his one-man show.

The concert was an endeavour of Rabbi Masinter’s outreach project: “Grow Your Life”. The project has as its aim the upliftment of thousands of young South Africans who are in need of inspiration and guidance to fulfil their dreams.

Masinter ensured that over 300 underprivileged children were able to attend the concert, many of whom were orphans. The children were allocated front rows seats and treated to a performance from Bortnick that was fit for the stars.

Young Ethan dished out words of encouragement and hope to the many that looked to him for motivation. He also handled several questions from the audience, one of which was from 12-year-old Beatrice

Renata, an orphan from Katlehong. Ethan asked her what her dream was and she told him it was to be a dancer. “I want to be dancer. It’s my dream, but I just don’t know if it’s possible.”

Bortnick would hear of no impossibilities and was emphatic that she do everything in her power to realise her dancing dream. He invited her onto the stage to showcase her dancing talent, while accompanying her on piano.

Beatrice was invited backstage at the end of the concert for a private chat with Ethan. “She walked out of her chat, tears streaming down her face, visibly moved,” says Eric Ithikowitz from the Umoja Foundation. Umoja helps promote skills in underprivileged communities. It is sponsoring six months of dancing classes for Beatrice.

An ecstatic Beatrice was extremely grateful to Ethan and her jubilation at being afforded the opportunity to dance was evident to all.

Bortnick has also agreed to be the official ambassador for the “Grow Your Life” programme.

Rabbi Masinter has also created a series of “Grow Your Life” books, aiming to empower young South Africans to take the steps to a brighter tomorrow.



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Harold Rudolph - truly a gentleman and a scholar

OBITUARY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE BELLING

DESCRIBED as the epitome of a “mensch” by political, legal and community colleagues and the original “Mr Nice Guy” by family and friends, Professor of Law Harold Rudolph (pictured) died in Johannesburg last week Wednesday (November 16) after a tragic fall. He had been in poor health for a long time. He was 64.

The accident occurred only two weeks prior to the Rudolphs – Harold and Reva - settling in Israel.

At 38 he was the youngest-ever mayor of Johannesburg in the city’s centenary year in 1986, when he was fond of recalling he and Reva attended approximately 1 400 functions and he delivered some 800 speeches.

On completion of his mayoral term, he turned down the offer of a diplomatic post in the United States from the Department of Foreign Affairs with terms allowing him, as a member of an opposition party, complete freedom of speech and the right to criticise apartheid.

Essentially a family man, he called one of his famous “conferences” with his wife and children and declined the offer as his boys disagreed and “they are a top priority in my life”, he said at the time.

Rudolph was first elected to the Johannesburg City Council in March 1972, coinciding with his admission as an attorney and his upcoming marriage to Reva – which was postponed because of the timing and his bride-to-be became his election agent in the interim.

Rudolph was elected for several terms, serving a total of 22 years and nine months on the Council. He was awarded the title of Alderman in 1987.

Born in Johannesburg, he matriculated from Roosevelt High and received BA, LLB and LLM degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand.

In 1984 he was appointed associate professor at Wits Law School, following his previous year’s sabbatical with his family in Israel, where he did research for his thesis, published as a book, “Security, Terrorism and Torture”. It was a comparative legal analysis of the rights of political detainees in South Africa, Northern Ireland and Israel.

Rudolph was also well-known in Jewish communal affairs, having served on the SA Jewish Board of Deputies for 12 years, including chairmanship of the then Transvaal Council, as a national vice-chairman and country communities chairman. He was on the editorial boards of Jewish Affairs and the former Jewish Voice.

He lived for many years in the suburb of Emmarentia, where he served on the council of the Hebrew Congregation, including a term as chairman. He was also presented with an award for writing the first legislation for the control of smoking in the former Bophuthatswana.

At the invitation of the Israeli organisers,



Harold led the first South African delegation to participate in the March of the Living in Poland and the Rudolphs subsequently went to Lithuania to research their roots.

In his mid-fifties he survived a heart attack and said at the time he realised the fragility of life, resolving to live it to the full in spite of suffering from Parkinson’s disease in later years. He ran a small legal practice from his home in Athol and had business interests in Fochville, North West Province.

Last Friday he was buried in Ra’anana, Israel, where he was to have made his home.

Rudolph leaves his wife, sons, Ryan (Australia), Wayne and Ari (Israel) and Joshua (Johannesburg), eight grandchildren and a sister, Suzanne Glasenberg.

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AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

DANCE GROUP CANCELS OVER REMOVAL OF ISRAEL REFERENCES

MELBOURNE - A Melbourne-based Israeli dance group has refused to perform at a folk festival to protest the organisers' decision to remove references to their being Israeli.

The Machol Israeli Dancing Club was scheduled to appear at the Multicultural Folk Dance Festival in Mansfield, north-east of Melbourne, last Sunday. The festival included Aboriginal, Chinese, Irish, English, Lebanese, Armenian, Ukrainian and Hungarian folk dances.

But organisers removed the word “Israeli” and instead named the dancers as the Machol Group and described them as a Jewish dance group, the local Jewish website J Wire reported.(JTA)

SOCIAL SCENE

JJMC lives up to its full deserved reputation

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

THE JOHANNESBURG Jewish Male Choir's 26th Annual Concert in the Linder Auditorium in Parktown recently, was - again - a big hit with the audience.

Its complement of just under 30 singers started off with a rousing Shalom Aleichem medley of songs which are generally sung before the meal on Friday nights.

The arrangement was done by the choir's musical director and accompanist Evelyn Green and choir chairman Russel Lurie.

This year's guest artist was South African-born Steven Leas, who flew into South Africa especially for the event.

Leas, who has been based in London for quite a number of years, has made a name for himself in musical circles - including having sung in the presence of Queen Elizabeth.

Evelyn Green was joined by a five piece musical ensemble, soloists chazzanim Ezra Sher and Chilly Chrysler, as well as Lurie and Mark Shapiro.



Chaim Menachem and Selma Bakst with Sheila and Selwyn Leas, with their son, guest artist, Steven.

tremendous void in the Jewish musical world – especially in South Africa.

Since then the choir has featured in concerts both locally and abroad, singing with many renowned chazzanim who are household names in the world of Jewish music.

Recently, the choir was invited to Germany to participate in the Louis Lewandowski Festival Choral Festival in Berlin, where the "Grand Concert" takes place in December in the precincts of the newly-rebuilt Rykestrasse Synagogue, which can seat 1 200 people.

The shul was destroyed by the Nazis during the Second World War, but was restored in the early 2000s.



Roni Lea and members of the choir with Rabbi Ari Kievman and Aubrey Gamsu, who prepare to blow the shofar.



Choir Chairman Russel Lurie; accompanist Evelyn Green; narrator Helen Heldenmuth; and guest artist Steven Leas (behind).



Dr Tzipra Budnitski and Maureen Kramer.



Pine Street Shul's chazzan and soloist, Ezra Sher, with his daughter.



Adele Rogoff with Geraldine Klaff.



Cecily Isaacson with Hymie and Ethne Altman.

COMMUNITY BUZZ

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JOHANNESBURG

From Bennie Puterman:

“This is a true story! About 30 years ago, I was a chorister at the Jeppe Shul. I never travelled on Yom Kippur, so I found a hotel nearby to sleep over.

“There was this middle-aged gentleman just out from Europe who was the ‘Baal Koreah’ and ‘Baal Shachris’. I told him about the hotel where I was sleeping over and he went to make arrangements to stay there.

“The rates there were very reasonable. He told the booking clerk that he did not want breakfast as it was to be a day of fasting. The clerk was adamant that that was the price and it was not negotiable. The gentleman was very upset and asked me what he should do. I told him not to worry about the breakfast!

“Later, I found out that he had got out of bed very early in the morning (05:00) and had quietly slipped out through the back door. He was scared that the hotel staff would catch him and force him to have the breakfast - after all he was paying for bed and breakfast!”

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

David Sandler is a former Arcadian now living in Perth, Western Australia. He has collected stories and published three books on the children of Arcadia Orphanage in Johannesburg and Orangia Orphanage in Cape Town.

They consisted of memories and anecdotes sent in by people who had lived there and also from descendants of former children there. The books were all very successful and well received.

From David Sandler:

“I am now working on two further projects, from Lithuania and Latvia to South Africa and beyond

“I am collecting the family histories for a book I will PG compile. The family histories should include details of their history in Lithuania or Latvia and include photos.

“It should relate what the family (the ancestors) did and where they lived in Lithuania, the journey to South Africa and where they settled and what they did in their early days in South Africa.

“I am interested mainly in the older history, with a very brief summary of the family’s current history and whereabouts.

“Please write in if you have this family information and want it to be included in the proposed book. Email: sedsand@iinet.net.za”

BRANDFORT

From Betty Levin (cont):

“C R Swart was State President of South Africa from 1961 to 1967. He had a farm, De Aap, in the Brandfort district, where his daughter Dalena Visser and her husband farmed.

“One day Dalena came into Alma’s Jewellers and said that she was looking to buy a menorah. I was very surprised and asked her why. She replied that she had made a study of the Jewish Festival of Light... She wanted a menorah that was at least four feet high. I told her that the only place where she could get such a menorah was in Israel.

“A few weeks later she appeared in the shop again and told me that she was going to Israel for two months. On her return she came into the shop and informed me that she had purchased two menorahs which she had brought along to show me.

“She had also bought a record of Hebrew songs and could speak some Hebrew as she had spent time on an ulpan.

“I was so impressed that I asked her whether she would be prepared to give a talk at the Bloemfontein Women’s Zionist League. She did so and a most agreeable success it was, with people of all denominations attending.

“Dalena ended with a recording of Hava Negila and asked everyone to join her in dancing the hora.”

From: Naomi Bloch:

“I read Betty Levin’s reminiscences on Brandfort with interest. I was wondering if Betty has any photographs of the Brandfort cemetery - the shul and perhaps even of Reverend Batlan and his wife? Did she perhaps know Rev Batlan personally?

“She can e-mail me at nbloch2@gmail.com”

Magnificent sectional title retirement opportunity in Cape Town, backed by specialised care

The first two apartment blocks at Oasis Retirement Resort at Century City, Cape Town, are almost sold out and the developers have launched Palm Royale, an iconic addition to the sectional title offering at this luxury resort.



An artist's impression of Palm Royale, the iconic and luxurious third apartment block at Oasis Retirement Resort. 58 beautifully appointed apartments with magnificent views are being offered for sale under sectional title.

Palm Royale offers choices ranging from garden apartments to spacious “houses in the sky” that measure up to 237 m², excluding balconies. R60m in sales have already been signed up or are at “document stage”.

Owen Futeran, the developers’ executive director, confirms that prices of existing apartments will be raised soon as demand for the remaining two-bedroom apartments in Palm Grove begins to outstrip availability in that size and price range.

“The market appreciates what Century City offers, having been voted one of the most desirable residential precincts in South Africa. Furthermore, Oasis itself is an established, well-

run secure resort that encourages retirees to live their lives to the full.”

Oasis is set in a luxury environment of gardens and ponds. The world class Club features a 25 metre heated indoor pool, sauna, steam room, aerobics and gym areas, library, bridge room, restaurant and coffee bar, big screen TV room, beautifully appointed pool/snooker room and lounges - all built around the palms and fountains at the core of this true oasis.

In the next development phase a spacious new venue to cater for larger functions, as well as a new outside covered deck area with views over ponds and gardens, will be added to the Club.

A major attraction is the sense of community,

support and friendship that has evolved. Residents are privileged to host private functions of five star quality at the most affordable prices.

“What amazes people is that the costs of all these facilities and the beautiful environment are covered by such affordable levies,” says Cindy Sheard, who heads the team of dedicated sales agents.

“The monthly newsletter Oasis Nexus reflects the varied and busy life of the Oasis community”.

Retirees are advised to buy into a resort with the best possible medical back-up and facilities. Oasis Care Centre is a modern, sophisticated facility within the resort. The Care Centre offers Assisted Living Life Rights packages for purchase with fixed living levies as well as rental care packages.

The long-term Frail Care section provides more dedicated care while the Alzheimer’s & Dementia wing affords patients a bright, modern environment. A further specialist service is the provision of sub-acute step-down care licenced by the Department of Health and with a Board of Health Funders of SA PR Number.

“Patients receive quality, outcome-based care provided by a multi-disciplinary team and enjoy single en-suite rooms with DSTV,” says Lizzie Brill, the energetic Care Centre Manager.

Kosher food may be arranged for sub-acute patients on short-term stays in the Care Centre and Oasis is not far from the Milnerton Shul.

Oasis Retirement Resort offers the most comprehensive and attractive retirement options... plus all the care you need.

For apartment enquiries, call Cindy Sheard (021) 528-7310 or 082-495-7168 and for Care Centre enquiries call Lizzie Brill (021) 528-7301 or 084-952-5394.



All photos are an actual representation of Oasis Luxury Retirement Resort and all persons are actual residents.

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Where do we stand?

JEWES SHOULD be concerned about the Protection of State Information Bill, both as Jews and South Africans. The Bill on Tuesday afternoon, passed, as expected, the vote in the National Assembly where the ANC with its huge majority instructed its MPs to vote according to the party line.

After going through the parliamentary motions, it is expected that the Bill will be signed into law by President Zuma - and then it is bound to head for the Constitutional Court, where it will face the real litmus test.

Jews don't have to go far back in our history to remember living in repressive societies where civil liberties, including the right of appropriate access to state information, were absent - the USSR and Germany, for example, where not only the general populace was repressed, but Jews were specific targets. We live today in the incredible achievement our South African democracy is, based on our progressive Constitution.

We understand that in any society certain information, such as on genuine state security, must be kept out of the public domain. But in a true democracy, the mechanism for guarding this secrecy cannot be exploited.

The public's right to receive information that might be hidden for nefarious reasons - such as political and short-term gain or to cover up fraud and corruption - is fundamental. And the more so in our country, which spawned the secretive, censorious system of apartheid, where so much was hidden.

Jews, along with other South Africans, breathed a sigh of relief in 1994 when apartheid officially ended and our democracy was born. Are we now going backwards to an apartheid-era mindset? The same kind of repression just in a different guise?

People in the political opposition, media and civil society agree that most of the Bill is well-crafted and sensible. The draft submitted to the National Assembly incorporates many changes suggested by these groups. But the lack of protection for those who obtain and reveal state information in the public interest, puts it in the category of laws more suited to a repressive society than one intent on protecting and nourishing its democracy.

It seems puzzling that the ANC is pushing this legislation through with such crude muscle. Corruption has become so endemic in our country that top ANC cadres are raising alarm bells. Where are the voices of protest within the party about this Bill, who must see that it is taking us backwards, rather than forwards? We should all be concerned and prepared to speak out. Former Minister of Intelligence Ronnie Kasrils, who in his time mooted such a Bill, opposes the present Bill, as does Nobel Laureate in literature Nadine Gordimer. Even Cosatu - a member of the governing alliance - opposes the Bill.

And does the ANC not understand that in this Internet age, Facebook, Twitter and WikiLeaks, to name but a few, make a mockery of attempts to control information which should be public? This Bill could also have the result of driving the information flow underground. Once it goes there, it is more likely that truly harmful information which is not in the public interest may also be revealed.

Along with other South Africans, if Jews don't join their protest with those who are opposing the Bill, we can't squeal later. Ultimately, this Bill is about intimidation - in our democratic South Africa, we are not supposed to be subject to that.

What about our communal Jewish leadership and Jewish institutions? Do they have a mandate to take a public position on this national issue? Some would say "yes", that this is a democratic issue which affects them and everyone else. Others will say "no" - that their role is to focus inwards, on the Jewish community and its needs.

We can comfortably say that the overwhelming majority of South African Jews would be vehemently opposed to this legislation in its current form.

Can Jewish institutions afford to remain silent? During apartheid, major Jewish institutions refrained from publicly criticising the system, and they even today still have to defend themselves about the implications of that silence.

Today there is no danger like then, when government-inspired anti-Semitism made many Jews who reviled the system fearful of speaking out.

So, are we willing to speak out? Or afraid of irritating the government of the day?

Irish political philosopher Edmund Burke, who lived in the 1700s, is credited with saying: "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Protection of Information Bill: A Torah perspective

CHIEF RABBI WARREN GOLDSTEIN

SOUTH AFRICA HAS been consumed with acrimonious debates surrounding the Protection of Information Bill. As the Jewish community, we need to look to the Torah's approach to these debates.

Judaism is not only about religious services, it is also G-d's blueprint for every aspect of life and society, and is relevant for all times and all places, as Rabbi Mordechai Pinchas Teitz of Elizabeth New Jersey once said: "The Torah speaks in the language of tomorrow."

Let us look at this from a different perspective. "Do not commit adultery" is one of the famous Ten Commandments. What is less known is how Judaism protects this commandment; the Halacha says that not only is the actual act of adultery prohibited, but so is anything which may lead to it.

The commandments need protection, or, more accurately, we human beings need protection from ourselves. Thus, Jewish law prohibits a man and woman other than immediate next of kin (eg spouse, siblings and parents) from being alone together in a room to which nobody else has access.

In Hebrew this is called the law of yichud, meaning "seclusion". A practical application of this is if a man and a woman are staying late at the office and everyone else has gone home, it is regarded as a temptation to commit adultery and must be avoided.

Adultery is the betrayal of shared intimacy; Jewish law recognises that this can manifest in or result from even flirtatious speech or actions, and therefore instituted safeguards. Thus, Judaism also requires modesty in dress as well as in the way men and women speak to one another.

What is the rationale behind these protective measures? G-d created human beings with free will; we have within us the desire to do good as well as the desire to do bad. There is a constant struggle within each of us between walking the path of goodness, morality and decency, and betraying these values.

There are many temptations that have the power to lure us away from the right path. Judaism teaches that we need to create a morally safe environment; this is achieved by taking precautions to prevent situations of temptation from arising.

There are many other examples in Halacha. The Talmud and Code of Jewish

Law give a number of instructions when it comes to charity collections. Two motivations are given for these laws: one is to prevent corruption, and the other is to prevent the appearance of corruption, as the verse states: "You shall be clean before G-d and Israel" (Numbers 32:22).

For example, the managers of a soup kitchen which has surplus food, must sell the food and use the money for the benefit of the poor. They may only sell it to other people and not to themselves so as to prevent the abuse of power.

The Code of Jewish Law requires that after money is collected for public use, a full account of how much money was raised and how it was used, must be made available to the public. This is based on the Talmud which points to the precedent Moses set, as recorded in the Book of Exodus:

Moses collected gold, silver and other valuable items for the purpose of constructing the Tabernacle. Upon completion of the project, he gave the people a full account as to how much was collected and how exactly it was used.

In Temple times, the priests who handled donated money were not allowed to wear clothing with pockets, or even shoes, in order to prevent theft, or even the suspicion of it.

What does all this have to do with South Africa today? We have a duty to create a morally safe society which protects against corruption and wrongdoing, not because we are more corrupt than other countries, but rather because we, like all other human beings, are prone to the temptation of doing wrong.

Therefore, on the issue of the Protection of Information Bill, we should err on the side of caution: it must be written in a way that protects against corruption, and against the appearance of it. This means that the power to uncover corruption must be strengthened as much as possible. For example, the debates around the "public interest" clause can easily be resolved by including it in the proposed legislation so that journalists and whistle-blowers can be protected when uncovering corruption, creating a greater deterrence against corruption and making for a morally safer society.

This is not different from applying safety measures to protect against physical dangers. "You shall build a railing on the roof



of your house and do not place blood in your house," says the Torah (Deuteronomy, 22:8).

The purpose of a railing is to prevent accidents from happening; a modern-day application is a pool fence. If we have precautions and safety measures to prevent physical accidents - such as the many traffic laws - surely we need precautions and safety measures to prevent moral accidents.

Consequently, we should build our South African society with the view of making it as safe as possible, physically and morally.

All of the institutions of our country which guard against abuse of power, need to be strengthened: the independence of the judiciary, the oversight capacity of Parliament, the freedom of the media and the vibrancy of multi-party democracy, because these institutions create a safer society for us all. The more checks and balances, the more safe guards, the safer and more ethical will our society be.

Corruption destroys the capacity of the State to deliver basic services to the most vulnerable members of society. Only upon sound, ethical foundations will we be able to build a truly great country.

Only by ensuring the proper governance of South Africa will all its citizens live in a prosperous, equitable society in which human suffering is alleviated and in which all have the opportunity to fulfil their dreams.

The debate around the Protection of Information Bill is, therefore, crucial to the question of who we are and what kind of society we want to build: ethically safer or more dangerous? The answer is obvious.

A national museum of the Jewish people afoot



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY DANIEL LIBESKIND STUDIO

FOR MORE than five years, Jewish movers and shakers in Washington have been pushing for a national museum of the Jewish people, focusing on religion, tradition and culture.

Led by Ori Soltes, former curator of Washington's B'nai B'rith Klutznick Museum, one of the primary groups submitting proposals for the museum comprises Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, violinist Itzhak Perlman and members of the Snyder family of Potomac, among others.

Soltes, Goldman professorial lecturer in theology and fine arts at Georgetown University, is excited by the fact that Daniel Libeskind - whose work includes the Jewish Museum in Berlin, the Danish Jewish Museum in Copenhagen and the Wohl Centre at Bar-Ilan University in Israel - has designed the project.

"His enthusiasm for this project is boundless, both because of his interest in the museum and because it is his first Washington-based project", Soltes says. "I'm thrilled with the design" - pictured here as a rendering - "because it will be not only be an architectural marvel, enhancing that area of Pennsylvania Avenue, but will also work well as a museum and as a Jewish museum."

Maybe the glass is half full after all

AFTER DECADES of anxiously looking out for a possible resurgence of anti-Semitism from the white far-right, world Jewry has belatedly recognised that the most serious threat it now faces emanates from a broad leftist-Islamist-Third World alliance.

That alliance may be an informal one, but is not less real for that. Indeed, its very amorphous, unofficial nature makes it all the harder to effectively confront.

The target of the alliance is not the Jewish religion, nor the individual Jew singled out by virtue of his race/ethnicity, but the Jewish national collective as represented by the State of Israel.

The aim is not to oppose specific Israeli policies like settlements or security barriers but to render Israel's very existence untenable through isolating it on the international stage.

On the macro level, the campaign is largely pursued through the UN, whose structures are continually subverted for purposes of undermining Israel. Notorious examples include the 2001 World Conference Against Racism in Durban, the International Court of Justice ruling against the West Bank security barrier and the attempted judicial lynching by the grotesquely named UN Human Rights Council following the 2008-9 Gaza incursion (ie the Goldstone Commission).

At the micro level, the demonisation and delegitimisation process is in its way even more menacing because of its being waged along so broad and diverse a front. One sees it surfacing more or less continually in the universities, trade unions, in the trade, cultural, sporting, environmental and interfaith spheres – actually, no area is off limits. Every initiative that involves Israel, now risks being targeted by those denouncing any kind of engagement with the racist Zionist entity.

All this is happening as much in South Africa as elsewhere. Recent examples include the anti-Ben-Gurion University agitation at the University of Johannesburg (academic); campaigns against the sale of Israeli products, especially those made in the West Bank (economic); attempts to prevent Cape Town Opera from performing in Israel and opposition to including three Israeli plays on this year's Hilton Arts Festival programme (cultural); and post-Gaza calls by the Muslim Judicial Council for the Chief Rabbi to be expelled from the National Religious Leaders Forum (interfaith).

So organised, focused, numerous and well-funded are the other side, that it is easy to feel sometimes that fighting it is futile. The image that comes to mind is of poor Chaim Yankel frantically plugging as many holes in the dyke with his fingers and toes while all around him more and more leaks are appearing. And yet, events of the past year in particular make me wonder if there is not more cause for optimism than we realise.

I suggest this because a closer look at how things end up playing out as opposed to the bluster and fanfare that announces their arrival, one finds that the delegitimisers have not been having things all their own way.

Over time, quite a number of their more ambitious campaigns have ended up going nowhere, sometimes failing altogether. It is also evident that world Jewry and Israel, after their abject "rabbit caught in the headlights" behaviour of the earlier years of this century, are beginning to hit back far more effectively on the diplomatic and PR front. At last, the denouncers are finding themselves denounced - and they don't like it.

What have some of these setbacks been? One has certainly been the petering out of the campaign to criminalise Israel for Operation Cast Lead. Here, Richard Goldstone's unprecedented about-face regarding key aspects of his commission's report, was a critical blow to the latter's credibility, but even prior to this the Jewish counter-campaign had been sufficiently



BARBARIC YAWP
David Saks

effective as to at least raise serious questions about the fairness of the whole process.

Then there was the embarrassing collapse of the case that Israel's naval blockade of Gaza was illegal, together with the accusation that it had, without provocation, brutally attacked a peaceful humanitarian flotilla.

It was a UN commission that later found not only that the blockade was legal under international law, but that the lion's share of that bloody confrontation should be borne by the flotilla's organisers.

This international backlash further explains why a follow-up flotilla initiative turned out to be an expensive and embarrassing fiasco, fizzling out with none of the ships even being allowed to leave the European mainland.

At the time of writing, it would now seem that the Palestinian bid to receive formal UN recognition as a state without concluding with Israel, is running aground. Here, Israeli and Diaspora diplomatic efforts have undoubtedly played a critical part.

Locally, boycottists also have less to show for their efforts than the noise they have made would lead one to expect. In the Ben-Gurion matter, they gained a symbolic victory, but in practice, the collaborative scientific project they were trying to jettison, was not only salvaged, but expanded upon.

Cape Town Opera performed in Israel as scheduled, and the three Israeli plays were performed, to packed houses, at the Hilton Festival. Most recently, the Russell Tribunal on Palestine was put on the back foot and kept there by a well-conceived and executed media campaign.

All this suggests that world Jewry does have the capacity to fight back. It would be well to take heart from this because, notwithstanding the setbacks suffered, the campaign to expel the Jewish State from the community of nations, is sure to continue unabated.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

BIDEN MEETS WITH JEWISH LEADERS ON POLLARD

WASHINGTON -- Vice President Joseph Biden has met with several Jewish American leaders to discuss the case of convicted spy for Israel, Jonathan Pollard.

During Monday evening's meeting, Biden reportedly listened to the seven American Jewish leaders, who made a case for the severity of the sentence and the support of US political leaders for clemency, Ynet reported.

The newspaper did not name the participants. Biden promised last month that he would meet with Jewish leaders on the Pollard case after telling rabbis at a political meeting in Florida: "President

(Barack) Obama was considering clemency, but I told him, 'Over my dead body are we going to let him out before his time'."

Jewish organisational leaders from across the political and religious spectrum have called on successive presidents to grant clemency to Pollard, a US Navy civilian analyst who was sentenced to life in prison in 1987 for spying for Israel.

In recent months, Obama has received a flood of clemency appeals on behalf of Pollard from members of Congress, former US government officials and Israeli officials.

On Monday, Pollard entered his 27th year in prison in the United States. (JTA)

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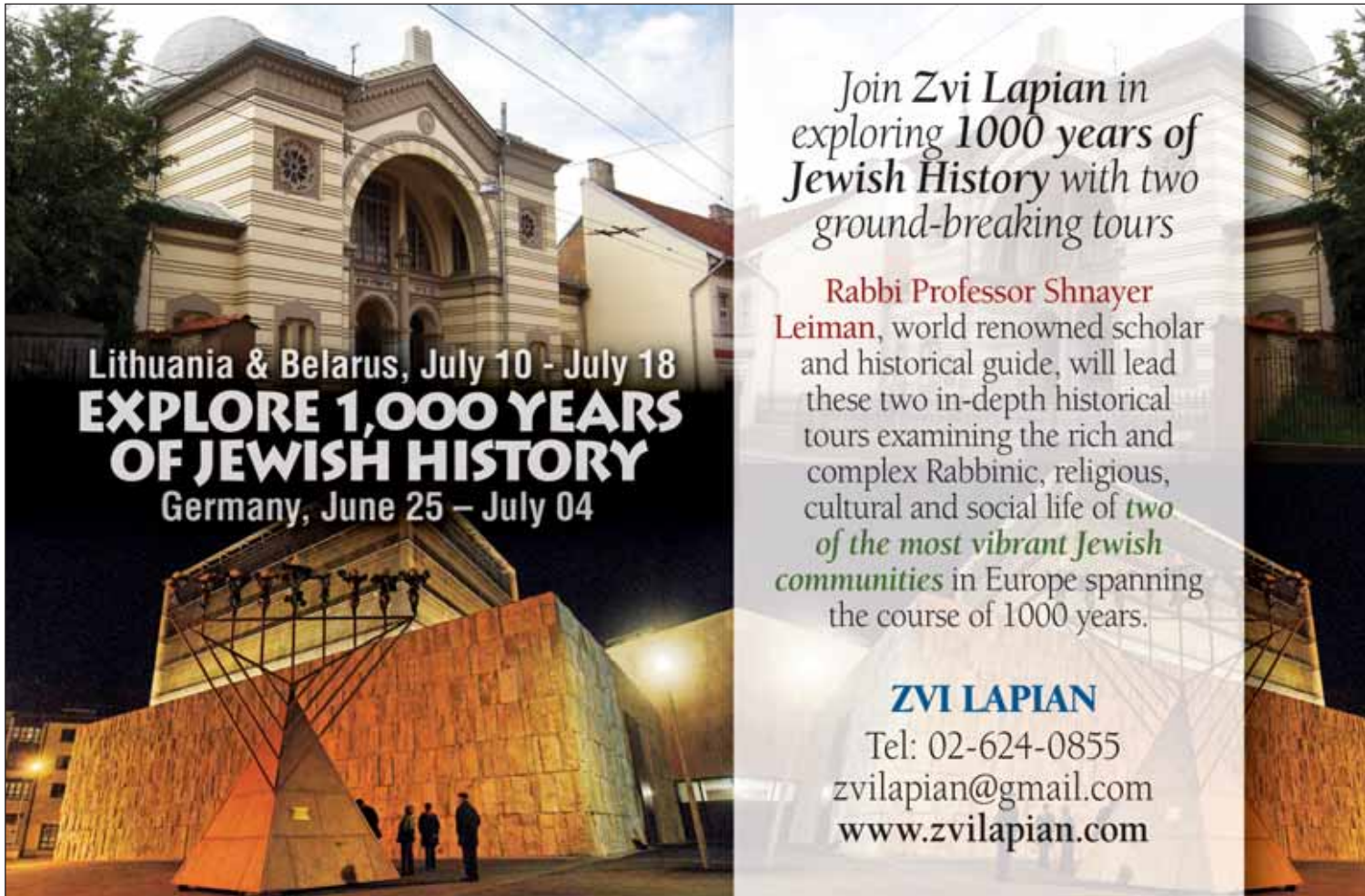
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ARTS MATTERS

COMPILED BY
ROBYN SASSEN
Call 084-319-7844 or
info@frodo.co.za at least one
week prior to publication

Artisan Contemporary
Gallery, Durban:
“Memories”, curated by Sue
Greenberg celebrating 29
gallery years, until December
24, (031) 312-4364.

David Krut Projects,
Central Johannesburg:
“Pretty World”, paintings by
Robyn Penn, until February,
(011) 447-0627.

Fugard Theatre, District
Six: “London Road”, with
Robyn Scott and Ntombi
Makhutshi, until December
17, (021) 461-4554.

Foxwood House Theatre,
Houghton: On November 26,
“An Evening with Michael de
Pinna”; on November 27,
December 4 and 11, “Yanagi”,
a shadow puppetry show,
(011) 486-0935.

Goodman Gallery: In
Parkwood, William
Kentridge’s “Other Faces”
ends December 23, (011) 788-
1113. In Woodstock, David
Goldblatt’s “Portraits”, ends
December 10, (021) 462-7579.

Joburg Theatre,
Braamfontein: In the Nelson
Mandela, “Cinderella”, until
December 30. In the Fringe,
“Monkey Nuts” until
December 4. In the People’s
Theatre, “Beauty and the
Beast”, until December 24,
(011) 877-6800.

Market Theatre, Newtown:
In the Laager, Higginson’s
“Girl in the Yellow Dress”
until December 18. In the
Barney Simon, “Smiles and
Cries” by Siyabonga Radebe,
until December 4, (011) 832-
1641.

Montecasino, Fourways: In
the Studio, “My Mother’s
Italian, My Father’s Jewish
and I’m in Therapy” until
January 8. In the Pieter
Toerien, “Menopause the
Musical”, until January 8 and
“Beautiful Creatures” until
December 17, (011) 511-1988.

National Children’s
Theatre, Parktown:
“Aladdin”, until December 23,
(011) 484-1584.

Old Mutual Theatre on the
Square, Sandton: “Deeply
Fried”, with Daniel Friedman,
until December 3. Friday
lunchtime concerts on
November 25 features Trio
Venato; on December 2, Miro
Chakaryan (violin), Susan
Mouton (cello) and Anneline
Ball (piano), (011) 883-8606.

Rabbi Cyril Harris
Community Centre,
Oaklands: Annual group
exhibition, curated by René
Sidley, including work by Regi
Bar David, Sheila Jarzin,
Rhona Gorvy and others, until
December 11, (011) 728-8088.

Sydenham-Highlands North
Shul Hall: “Powerbrain: the
Mentalist” by Michael
Abrahamson, on November
30, 072-913-7262.

Victory Theatre, Orange
Grove: “Relive the 50s: Kwela
Bafana”, directed by Phyllis
Klotz and Smal Ndaba, until
December 10, (011) 728-9603.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Wald’s angel
flew and quietly
landed in
Sandringham
Gardens

ROBYN SASSEN

IN 1967, renowned sculp-
tor Herman Wald designed
a massive pair of wings,
out of sheet copper, for
Berea Shul, in Johan-
nesburg. They flanked a
plaque depicting the Ten
Commandments, installed
above the ark.

“It took four months to
complete,” said artificier
Abe Shnaier, who made
the wings. “We, the techni-
cians behind the project,
signed our names on the
back in koki.”

Wald (1906 - 1970) created
many iconic works in
South Africa, including the Memorial to the
Six Million, in West Park Cemetery. On a web-
site dedicated to his work, he is quoted: “It is
no simple matter to reconstruct a conception
derived from Biblical days, when the
Covenant was carried in the desert.



The angel’s wings around the
Aron Kodesh in the Berea
Shul, in their heyday. PHOTO-
GRAPH COURTESY WWW.HERMAN-
WALD.COM



Artificier Abe Shnaier with his assistant Shane Frometsun, posing
between the restored angel’s wings designed by Herman Wald, which
Shnaier made for the Berea Synagogue in 1967. PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

“One of the greatest artists of
them all from antiquity, Bezalel,
was approached to make a cari-
age for the Covenant, and he
did the carving of the Cherubim
in which the Covenant was car-
ried. I attempted to reinterpret
the concept Bezalel used.” He
explains the use of wings only as
a means of respecting the Bib-
lical injunction not to use the
human form in art.

“They were huge,” Shnaier
adds of the wings. “When they
were installed, it was a time
when the community was led by
giants: Rabbi Yirmiyahu Alloy,
Chazzan Shlomo Mandel and choir-
master Gus Levy. “

He chuckles: “I remember a moment when a
snippet of a conversation between Levy and
Chazzan Mandel was overhead: ‘I can’t see
you, the angel’s wings are in my way’, one said

A worthy tribute to memory of Percy Baneshik

Concert: The Percy Baneshik Memorial
Concert 2011 (Linder)
Artists: Peter Bruns (‘cello) and Annagret
Kuttner (piano)
Programme: Music by Mendelssohn, Schubert
and Brahms

REVIEWED BY PAUL BOEKKOOI

ONE COULD confidently say that
Mendelssohn’s music has a great expressive
range and can make a strongly Romantic impres-
sion, but somehow performances of his work
which are able to convey a brightness and elation
of spirit, reflect a very important part of the
composer’s musical character as well.

This duo, performing in the JMS’s final con-
cert for the year last Saturday evening, fully cap-
tured the bright, lyrical and spirited side.

Mendelssohn’s ‘Cello Sonata No 2 in D major,
Opus 58, opens Allegro assai vivace - a nearly
lightning tempo. Peter Bruns and Annagret
Kuttner, his wife, gave us a sense of a swift, never
interrupted or delayed flow, the piano semiqua-
vers flashing past, played with a light, precise
touch. In the second movement, Allegretto

scherzando a narrative quality was added to this.
In the Adagio we find a memorable juxtaposi-
tion of Lutheran chorale and impassioned recita-
tive. Here an expansive approach with a darker
intensity created a strong, deeply felt effect, after
which the finale, Molto allegro e vivace, was
energetic to the hilt.

Schubert’s Arpeggione Sonata in A minor, D
821 received a more romantic approach, with
freer rhythms and the ‘cello vibrato more promi-
nence. This duo strongly interprets the overall
character of a movement or section, but never to
the detriment of the music’s emotional effect. In
the Adagio, for example, the stark, unadorned
conclusion held a deep melancholy, which a more
outgoing, expressive approach would have
obscured.

The pianist could dynamically have been more
involved in the opening movement (things soon
turned for the better), but it was the ‘cellist who
took the limelight with his sound quality - a bur-
nished tone, grainy and irresistibly plangent up
at the top - combined with supple, sensitive
phrasing.

Of the two ‘cello sonatas Brahms composed,
Bruns and Kuttner presented us with the No 1 in

E minor, Opus 38. Already here, the earliest
among his duo sonatas, the composer’s sensitive-
ly worked-out keyboard sonorities as well as
changes of register in the ‘cello (although most is
scored for the instrument’s “safe” lower range),
made its mark. The pianist sounded a bit too duti-
ful and monochromatic and one wondered if she
has both the strength and temperament for
Brahms.

While this impression lasted during the open-
ing Allegro non troppo, one could wallow in
Bruns’ lean, searing, and intense rather than
dirge-like approach to it. The duo respected the
classical connotations in the Allegretto quasi
minuetto - especially in the nostalgic trio which
was performed in a graciously flowing manner.

This formed an admirable launching pad for
the fiery, rapidly paced fugue, resembling the
mirror fugues of Bach’s Art of Fugue. It can easi-
ly sound pedantic or dryly literal. It did not.

The encore was one of Mendelssohn’s “Songs
Without Words”. Here the interplay between
‘cello and piano was intense. Through Bruns’
wonderfully vocal way of modulating his tone,
one did not miss the human voice, neither the
text.



FELDMAN
ON FILM
Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

Moneyball

Cast: Brad Pitt; Jonah Hill; Philip Seymour
Hoffman
Director: Bennett Miller

SOUTH AFRICANS in general are not great fol-
lowers of American baseball. To make it worse,
statistical analysis is not a subject to hold you riv-
eted to the screen. Yet both feature in “Moneyball”.

Bennett Miller’s production is a sharply
observed, engaging, thoughtful and highly
amusing escapade into the world of professional
baseball.

A huge slice of its success, apart from having
an excellent director, and employing crackling
dialogue, is due to Brad Pitt, a screen megastar
with chameleon-like qualities.

He can slip in and out of a role at the blink of

an eyelid and in this production he surpasses
himself as Billy Beane, general manager of the
2002 Oakland Athletics, who is blessed with an
acute analytical mind which he puts to good
use.

Director Miller, drawing inspiration from a
true story, explores an essential issue of base-
ball and of life: How do you measure human
value? And what he comes up with in this sur-
prisingly poignant study is a lesson worth not-
ing.

Pitt thrives in the pivotal role of the shrewd
Billy Beane, a man who has to assemble a win-
ning team on a tight budget. He is a man who
has an epiphany; all of baseball’s conventional
wisdom is wrong. So he puts into action a plan
to reinvent his team and outsmart the richer
clubs in acquiring fresh talent.

Helping him in his quest is chubby, bespecta-
cled Peter Brand (a commanding Jonah Hill),
an Ivy League graduate with an intense interest
in baseball and a computer-like mathematical
brain. He can spot the potential in even the
most broken down player.

This unlikely partnership has the unenviable
task of recruiting bargain players whom base-
ball scouts have deemed “flawed”, but who still
have the ability to score runs and win games.

In this way, the sport develops into more than
just a game, it becomes a revolution where old
school traditions are challenged.

The turmoil that unfolds places Beane in the
crosshairs of those who believe he is ripping the
heart and soul out of the game. But he persists
with his scheme - even in the face of condemna-
tion from his own bosses - to prove the cynics
wrong.

Veteran actor Philip Seymour Hoffman plays
the disillusioned coach who is diametrically
opposed to Beane’s scheme.

“Moneyball” is a remarkable film hybrid. It
lives the game, and you can feel your pulse rise
during its more heady moments, but there is also
the added dash of old-fashioned romanticism to
it. Intrinsic aspects of the film, too, are self-
worth and being given a second chance in life
and these are handled with style.

In the end, money serves neither as the meas-
ure of a man nor as the ultimate assessment of
quality; it’s a short-sighted metric based on past
accomplishment rather than on future potential.
Success isn’t always about scoring a home run.
It’s about delivering again and again. And many
of the overpaid, ego-driven footballers plying
their trade today, could take note from this
rewarding slice of cinematic magic.

The Golden Years

How to feel young and live life to the fullest

AS WE grow older, we experience an increasing number of major life changes, including retirement, the loss of loved ones, and the physical changes of ageing. How we handle these changes, as well as regular day-to-day stresses, is the key to ageing well.

Healthy ageing is about much more than staying physically healthy - it's about maintaining your sense of purpose and your zest for life. While the specific ingredients of healthy ageing are different for everyone, the common factors are good mental health and the ability to manage stress, knowing the basic formula for healthy ageing will help you live with meaning and joy throughout your senior years.

Coping with change is difficult, no matter how old you are. The particular challenge for older adults is the sheer number of changes and transitions - in-

cluding the loss of friends, family, your career, your health, and even your independence. It's natural to feel those losses. But if that sense of loss is balanced with positive ingredients, you have a formula for ageing well.

Healthy ageing means continually reinventing yourself, finding new things you enjoy, learning to adapt to change, staying physically and socially active, and feeling connected to your community and loved ones.

Unfortunately, for many, ageing brings anxiety and fear instead. How will I take care of myself? What if I lose my spouse? What is going to happen to my mind?

However, many of these fears stem from myths about ageing that are exaggerated or simply untrue. The truth is that you are stronger and more resilient than you may think.

Myth: Old age means poor health and disability.
Fact: There are some diseases that are more common in older adults. However, getting old does not automatically mean poor health or that you will be confined to a walker or wheelchair. Plenty of older adults enjoy vigorous health. Preventive measures like healthy eating, exercising and managing stress can help reduce the risk of chronic disease and fall risk later in life.

Myth: Memory loss is an inevitable part of ageing.
Fact: You may eventually notice you don't remember experiences as easily as in the past, and memories may take longer to retrieve. However, significant memory loss is not an inevitable result of ageing. Brain training and new learning can occur at any age. And there are many things you can do to keep your memory sharp.

Myth: You can't teach an old dog new tricks.


Fact: One of the more damaging myths of ageing is that after a certain age, you just won't be able to try anything new or contribute things anymore. Quite the contrary. Older adults are just as capable of learning new things, thriving in new environments, and sharing their wisdom and experience with many generations. If you believe in yourself and have confidence in yourself, you are setting up a positive environment for change no matter what your age.

Tips for coping with change
As you age, there will be periods of both joy and stress. It's important to build your resilience and find healthy ways to cope with challenges. This ability will help you make the most of the good times and keep your perspective when times are tough.

Continued on page 13

Step on Royal Caribbean International for your world of choice

Believe everything you've read about Dubai, and more – it truly is that incredible.



BUILDING ON Royal Caribbean International's reputation for introducing revolutionary cruise experiences, and the combination of their signature style of cruising, Brilliance of the Seas will continue for the third consecutive season with her seven-night itineraries from the compelling homeport of Dubai in November this year.

Royal Caribbean International's "Brilliance of the Seas" will offer 18 sailings, departing every Monday on seven-night United Arab Emirates and Oman itineraries from November this year through to March 2012, as well as two sailings to India in March and April 2012.

From the moment you step on board any of Royal Caribbean International's 22 magnificent ships, you'll find a world of choices you could only have imagined. With so many exciting activities onboard, choosing can be an activity in itself!

Play basketball, speed around the in-line skating track, play a round of golf in the golf simulator or work up a sweat in the gym. The best part of all is these activities won't dent your wallet as they are virtually all included in the price.

With the ships being mini-destinations in themselves, it is almost a bonus to discover different destinations each day while only having to unpack once. All meals are included with casual dining,

restaurant and buffet-style options and for the in-between nibbles there are pizza-bars and ice-cream parlours.

Twenty four-hour room service adds to the pampering and you may just need that breakfast in bed after taking in a West End-style show and then boogying down in one of the discos until the early hours!

For kids, there can be no greater adventure than sailing the high seas. And to make it even more special, Royal Caribbean International created the "Adventure Ocean Programme", specifically designed to entertain children from ages three to 17, with an exciting range of fun and educational supervised activities.

There's even the added excitement of "Adventure Beach" onboard - an area especially for families to enjoy together, with swimming pool, water slides and loads of fun water activities.

And if you want to go ashore or just enjoy some free time without the children, you can relax in the knowledge that the fully qualified staff ensure your children are always in safe hands and with friends their own age.

- For more information contact Marvin at Cruise Corner on (011) 453-2660 or e-mail them at marvin@sandowntravel.co.za





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KIDS FREE!

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BOOKINGS
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home sweet home



THE GOLDEN YEARS

Nurturing, nursing and caring... Healthcare in your home

Rhona Solomon started the company two years ago after she had to look after her mother when the latter was ill. Solomon realised that there was an urgent need for carers.

ALTHOUGH SHE had a basic knowledge of nursing, a diploma in training and was a former nurse, as the company grew, she realised there was a clear need for assistance and qualified medical personnel to be involved. That was when she approached Sarah Manney, a qualified nurse, with general nursing and experience in Alzheimer's, psychiatry and skills in midwifery, to join her.

The two then formed Complete Nursing Care...

The Nursing Care plan

Rhona and Sarah consult the family to determine the patient's requirements and environment, to ensure that the necessary safety and precautions are taken into consideration, as well as the patient's particular needs.

Any recommendations are made and based on the patient's requirements and even his or

her personality, to enable them to provide suitable carers, able to cope with any circumstances.

The two are in constant contact with the patient's family, doctors and carers and adjust the patient's care as required. Complete records are kept by the carers and a registered nursing sister is available at all times. Rhona and Sarah ensure that the highest standards of service are provided at all times.

Carers/nurses

Complete Nursing provides dedicated, knowledgeable, well-trained carers, some of whom are qualified nurses, on a short- or long-term basis. Every carer/nurse undergoes an in-depth interview, a thorough screening process, background and criminal checks, to ensure reliability, good communication skills and the highest level of commitment.

Carers constantly undergo refresher training from Sarah and other experts in their specific fields.

What type of services are available?

Post-surgery: Patients who have been discharged from hospital, needing to recuperate in the comfort of their own homes, such as post-surgery of any kind.

The elderly: Whether short- or long-term, or just for the period when the family is away over the holiday period or have emigrated.

Terminally ill: Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or oncology patients, so that family members can spend precious time with their loved ones in the comfort of their own home.

Baby care: For moms who have just delivered (inclusive of triplets) and need time to get their strength back and enjoy their bundles of joy, qualified nurses (short- or long-term).

Other services

Medical co-ordination with doctors and health care providers, light housework, shopping and meal preparation, including specialised diets in collaboration with dieticians, assistance with daily activities and errands.

"Family is there to love and support a person in a time of illness or post-surgery," say Rhona and Sarah. "That is where Complete Nursing comes in, providing the family with peace of mind that their loved ones are being well looked after.

"We have a passion for ensuring that we can provide loving and knowledgeable carers who can keep your loved ones in their own comfortable environment."

Complete Nursing - we will manage your healthcare in the home for you!
Tel: (011) 656-2206/2254.

Laughter is the best medicine

The needs of our senior citizens - physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual - are primary.

WITH 720 RESIDENTS in two facilities - Sandringham Gardens and Our Parents Home - it is no wonder that enormous effort is invested in ensuring that, for those who are well enough to enjoy it, a full and stimulating programme of entertainment, outings and activities is provided. This is in addition to essential healthcare and other vital services.

The social and therapeutic benefits of exercise classes, arts and crafts, concerts, quizzes and much, much more, are immeasurable.

Special occasions, such as birthdays, are celebrated monthly with tea and cake. Visits from the Jewish and general community are a welcome part of commemorating Youth Day, Mandela Day and Spring Day, to mention only a few.

Honour the Aged month provides the ideal opportunity for a full-scale party complete with band,



Residents of Sandringham Gardens and Our Parents Home on an outing to Silverstar Casino.

dinner and dancing. So much fun!

At Sandringham Gardens' Lifestyle Centre, there are a wide range of amenities on offer, including a beauty salon, movie room, library, mini-mart and games area. Many special events are designed to appeal to the residents and these serve to minimise isolation and promote community integration.

There is an important spiritual dimension too with shiurim and lectures by visiting rabbanim and teachers, as well as shul services in both facilities.

But perhaps the most exciting of all are the regular outings to places of interest, when residents from the two homes join together to ride the Gautrain, spend the day at the zoo, visit Silverstar Casino, or even, through the kindness of a benevolent donor, attend the ballet, Sleeping Beauty.

Care of older people has become the Chevrah Kadisha's largest cost area and forms half of its total annual budget.



Members of SAUJS (SA Union of Jewish Students) visit Our Parents Home on Youth Day.

Complete

Nursing Agency

Our Passion... Nursing, Caring and Nurturing

Need your loved one looked after in the comfort of their own home or in an institution? Look no further...

We offer care from specialised, experienced, trained and regularly updated care nurses.

OUR SERVICES OFFERED:

- Medical co-ordinated with doctors and healthcare providers
- Help in house/ assistance with light house work
- Companionship
- Assistance with daily activities
- Provide transport and assist with shopping, etc
- Care of mother and baby post delivery and care of children at home

Very competitive rates offered

Rhona Solomon (Dipl IPM, Dipl PRISA) | Sarah Manney (RGN. RPN. RMW) | Telephone: (011) 656-2206/2254 Fax: (011) 656-2254 a/h: 079-810-8400 completenursingagency@telkomsa.net

holistic and wholesome care since 1912

THE GOLDEN YEARS

Willowbrook Retirement Village - a home from home

SITUATED IN the beautiful suburb of Sandown, near Village Walk Shopping Centre, Willowbrook is a home from home for the selective senior citizen.

Willowbrook offers residential living in homely bachelor and 1-bedroom en-suite apartments, most of them overlooking the beautiful gardens. Mid-care and frail-care are also available with qualified and caring staff.

Willowbrook has a podiatrist and physiotherapist that visit regularly and there is a GP on call (or you can use your own) and easy access to hospitals.

Residents have a choice of enjoying the sweet fragrances of the rose garden, which is at its spectacular best from November, or enjoying the shade from the massive trees in the well-manicured garden. Poppies, lilies, hydrangeas and many other plants, also give a magnificent show. The rose garden is a favourite venue for afternoon tea.

It's like being on a permanent holiday! All delicious meals and laundry are done for you and there is plenty of entertainment and activities. The Activities Department are on the go the whole day long, providing interest and fun.

Whether you like daily walks or stretching exercises, trips to shops or special outings to the theatre, you'll be spoilt for choice at Willowbrook. We also have various card games, arts and crafts, guest speakers and parties are planned regularly, especially over the December period when



the garden and weather are at their best.

Only need a temporary holiday while your carer or family are away? Willowbrook offers holiday care especially for you. Book for a week or a month and enjoy all that Willowbrook offers, along with the care and hospitality of all staff. Also on offer is a respite facility, which is useful after an operation.

Willowbrook is proud to be managed by and a part of the Flower Foundation family. Established in 1963, we have 10 villages around Johannesburg offering independent living for the active person in 1- 2- and 3-bedroom cottages, and in apartments in residential living.

For future care needs, Flower Foundation offers mid-care accommodation in spacious bedsitters, where meals and laundry are catered for, and nursing staff

assist with daily living activities. We are also proud to have a specialised Alzheimer's and dementia care centre.

The advantage of living in our villages is that there is always someone around to respond to an emergency call. Nursing staff are always on site or on call. Activities and entertainment are arranged to keep residents active, healthy and interested in loving life.

• For further information on respite or holiday care, please contact Matron Pauline or Penny on (011) 884-7305. For permanent accommodation, please contact the Flower Foundation marketing department at tel (011) 781-4920 or e-mail info@flower.org.za

Managed by Flower Foundation Retirement Homes NPO 000-836, since 1963 www.flower.org.za / info@flower.org.za

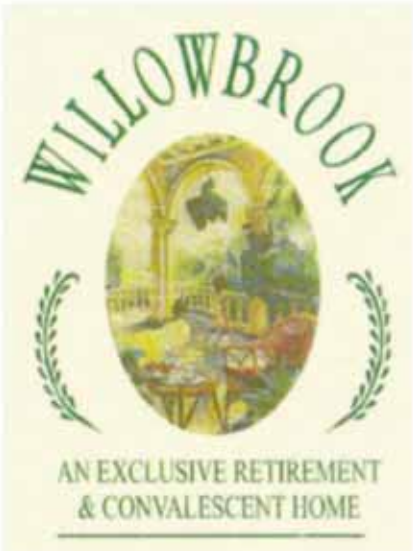
How to feel young and live life to the fullest

Continued from page 1

- Focus on the things you're grateful for. The longer you live, the more you lose. But as you lose people and things, life becomes even more precious. When you stop taking things for granted, you appreciate and enjoy what you have even more.
- Acknowledge and express your feelings. You may have a hard time showing strong emotions, perhaps feeling that such a display is inappropriate and weak. But burying your feelings can lead to anger, resentment, and depression. Don't deny what you're going through. Find healthy ways to process your feelings, perhaps by talking with a close friend or writing in a journal.
- Accept the things you can't change. Many things in life are beyond our control. Rather than stressing out over them, focus on the things you can control such as the way you choose to react to problems. Face your limitations with dignity and a healthy dose of humour.
- Look for the silver lining. As the saying goes: "What doesn't kill us makes us stronger." When facing major challenges, try to look at them as opportunities for personal growth. If your own poor choices contributed to a stressful situation, reflect on them and learn from your mistakes.
- Take daily action to deal with life's challenges. When challenges seem too big to handle, sweeping them under the carpet often appears easier. But ignoring the problem doesn't make it go away; it allows both the problem and your anxiety to build. Instead, take things one small step at a time. Even a small step can go a long way to boosting your confidence and reminding you that you are not powerless.

Depression is not a normal part of ageing

The difficult changes that older individuals often face - such as the death of a spouse, retirement, or medical problems - can lead to depression, especially if you don't have a strong support system. But depression is not a normal or necessary part of ageing, and with treatment and support, you can get back to enjoying your golden years.



Willowbrook Retirement Village Sandown

Care now available for your beloved family member during the festive season.

One week to one month or longer, lovely en suite rooms with all meals, laundry , domestic service and daily activities are provided in Residential living.



Loving care is provided for those requiring a little more assistance in mid or frail care.

Have peace of mind knowing your loved one is well looked after in a home away from home.

Contact Matron Pauline for more info or to set up a viewing.

Tel : 011 884-7305 Email : matron@mweb.co.za

Managed by Flower Foundation Retirement Homes

Tel : 011 781-4920 Web : www.flower.org.za



THE GOLDEN YEARS

Madison Gardens Residential Lodge – for carefree living

MARLENE BILEWITZ

Mission statement

TO ENRICH the lives of our residents through the delivery of quality care and cost-effective services.

The philosophy of Madison Gardens management is that they and the residents are a family who share a communal home where respect for each other is primary.

There are certain basic require-

ments for retired people to live a happy life: freedom, independence, security, convenience, an easily accessible location for family and friends to visit, with parking facilities.

Also: Comfortable accommodation with sufficient space to create one's own "home-from-home", yet have all the conveniences of not needing to cook, clean, organise, or worry about security or repairs.

Everything is taken out of the residents' hands and the only thing they need to do is indulge and enjoy themselves and be sure to go to the very good restaurant three times a day where the service, food and companionship of other residents, are reliably there for the taking.

Conveniently situated in the quiet leafy suburb of Gresswold near Balfour Park Shopping Centre and only minutes away from several hospitals and clinics, Madison Gardens offers space, comfort and style.

The large airy rooms, all have generous built-in cupboards, en-suite bathrooms, M-Net, separate SuperSport channel and telephones as a standard feature included in the price.

All rooms are fully serviced, including laundry facilities for the residents' own linen. Personal laundry, however, needs to be organised between residents and staff.

There are three meals per day available: a hearty breakfast, a light lunch and a sumptuous four course dinner, as well as morning and afternoon teas. Special meals are served during Jewish festivals.

Luxurious amenities include a hair-dressing salon, library and big screen DSTv in the comfortable lounges.

Film and bingo evenings are held each week and aerobics is conducted by a professional instructor. One can use the free shuttle service to nearby shopping centres, or simply enjoy a game of bridge or relax in the tranquil gardens.

Security

The property is surrounded by an electric fence and monitored by CCTV cameras with a switchboard operator



and security guards on duty 24 hours a day. Plus, there is enclosed protected parking for residents and guests available.

Specialised care-giving

The health and well-being of the residents is of utmost concern to Madison Gardens. There is a qualified live-in nursing sister and nurse aid care-givers onsite, 24 hours a day.

As one ages, a need for assistance in everyday tasks may become necessary – like dressing, bathing, eating, or using the bathroom.

For those residents, we encourage as much independence as possible but when and where fulltime assistance and nursing is required, it is available.

Despite the superb facilities and



catering, Madison Gardens offers very reasonable tariffs. This value for money and caring attitude is what makes them such a special place.

Contact Gerry or Tammy for an appointment. They will gladly show you around and answer any questions on your or your loved one's future. Tel: (011) 440-4777.



Madison Gardens

Residential hotel / retirement lodge



Exceptional value for money

- Lovely spacious rooms with built-in cupboards and en-suite bathrooms, serviced daily.
- Three delicious and nutritious meals per day, plus morning and afternoon tea.
- 24 hour security and reception – secure covered parking for residents and guests.
- Shuttle service to local shopping centres and entertainment venues.
- Lovely air-conditioned big screen TV room and two separate comfortable lounges.
- M-Net in all rooms and full DSTv in TV room and lounge.
- Skype facilities for residents in the boardroom.
- Assisted living and mid-care available, including 24-hour qualified nursing sister on duty.
- Lovely gardens and spacious patio where you can relax and enjoy tea and company.
- Weekly social events including bingo, bridge, chair aerobics, musical items, movies, etc.
- Hairdresser and manicurist available.
- Well-stocked library run by the residents.
- Friendly, efficient and helpful staff including "hands-on" managers who live on the premises.



Please contact Gerry or Tammy: (011) 440-4777

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Exposing the bad odour surrounding Chanel No 5

Sleeping With the Enemy: Coco Chanel, Nazi Agent by Hal Vaughan (Random House Struik, R220)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

BORN OUT of wedlock in 1883 to a laundrywoman mother and a street hawker father, Gabrielle Chanel’s childhood was one of penury. Her mother died when she was 12, whereupon she and her sisters were shipped off to a convent-cum-orphanage.

The harshness and indoctrination of the nuns instilled in the young girl a deep anger at her lot, an invincible belief that she was born for better things and all the bigotry (including vicious anti-Semitism) of the Cistercian order.

“Chanel’s anti-Semitism was not only verbal, but passionate, demoded and often embarrassing. Like all the children of her age, she had studied the catechism: hadn’t the Jews crucified Jesus?” recalled Marcel Haedrich, editor of Marie Claire magazine, years later.

She emerged at 18 as a skilled seamstress with dark good looks. Working as a nightclub chanteuse, she hooked up with a succession of men, notably English playboy Arthur “Boy” Capel, who installed her in a Paris apartment and set her up in business as a milliner.

But the sleazy life of a demimondaine was simply a stepping stone. With a natural instinct for networking, and a near-preternatural ambitious drive, Chanel inveigled herself into the city’s glamorous and aristocratic circles by flattery, fawning and flair.

Her coterie came to include the likes of Jean Cocteau, Igor Stravinsky, Pablo Picasso, Serge Diaghilev (for whose ballets she began designing costumes), exiled Russian Grand Duke Dmitri and the Duke of Westminster (who, like Baron Hans Gunther Von Dincklage, would become a long-time lover). She also befriended Winston Churchill, a contact which would later prove most fortuitous.

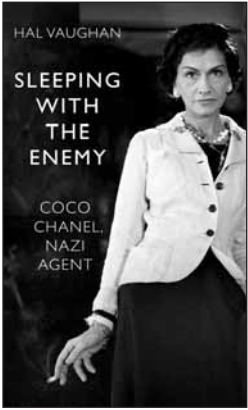
Before long, she had opened the House of Chanel and, in addition to couture, had also launched the great perfume classic, Chanel No 5.

Chanel’s distaste for Jews did not prevent her using them as business partners. In 1923, she sold the manufacturing rights to her perfumes to the Alsatian Jews Pierre Wertheimer and his younger brother. For this she received 10 per cent of their company’s paid-up capital (an arrangement she later curtailed, during the war).

And in 1930, she accepted an offer of a million dollars - unheard of at the time - from Hollywood mogul Samuel Goldwyn to spend a few weeks at his studio designing costumes for his films. The little convent seamstress had well and truly arrived.

Upon returning to Paris, her torrid private sexual liaisons - and charmed public persona - continued to co-exist until her death in 1971. It was only a year later that a series of publications provided incontrovertible proof of her treasonable conduct during the war. The exposure caused an uproar in France and finally tarnished the legend.

Among other things, the evidence revealed



that she and Abwehr agent Baron Louis de Vaufreland Piscatry had travelled together in 1941 on an espionage mission for German intelligence.

In 1943, she had travelled with Von Dincklage (who, it emerged, was also a German spy) to Berlin to offer her services as an agent to SS Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler. She had then travelled to Madrid on a secret mission for SS General Walter Schellenberg. In addition, she had been involved in cloak-and-dagger

missions in Switzerland.

Then there were numerous pieces of evidence revealing her close collaboration with the Nazis in occupied Paris, which had entitled her to a string of privileges (such as dining at the city’s finest restaurant every night, while the rest of the city’s starving population rummaged in garbage cans for scraps).

She had befriended both Reichsmarschall Hermann Goring and Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels, and their wives. She had also established a close - and unsurprising - friendship with the virulently anti-Semitic Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

How had Chanel escaped retribution after the liberation of Paris - when collaborators were summarily rounded up, and either had their heads shaven and branded, or were summarily shot?

She managed this through the intervention of her old friend Winston Churchill, who hurriedly pulled strings to protect her very well-dressed derriere.

Admittedly, Vaughan’s book is not intended as a biography, but as an exploration of the sordid, untold side of Gabrielle Chanel. As such, it is intensively researched and resoundingly damning.

However, as a key to her personality, it unlocks very little. It is left to us to reconstruct her motives, which were probably very straightforward: for all her wealth, fame and sophistication, Chanel never outgrew her hunger for the good life.

The overwhelming themes of her life are predation, manipulation and survival - things for which her genius rivalled, and indeed surpassed, her genius for design. If Chanel’s reading of women and their strengths, was shrewd (unerringly depicted in her couture), then her reading of men and their weaknesses was spectacular.

She could, and did, literally charm the pants off whoever stood between her and the next good meal, or grand home, or big cheque, or media accolade. Who or what the man was, and whether his values clashed with patriotic (or simply decent) ideals, was entirely secondary.

Having learnt at a young age that waiting for destiny to dole out favours was unreliable, she became adept at creating her own luck. By stealth, sexuality, subterfuge and street-savvy, she managed to escape either detection or retribution all her life.

She emerges from these pages as a despicable and duplicitous character: a woman who, behind her glamorous façade, remained a crude, conniving peasant at heart. One shuts the book with a shudder.

But, then again, seeing that irresistible LBD in a shop window...

AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

PROTESTERS CHALLENGE LIBEL LAW BILL

TEL AVIV - Hundreds of Israelis on Tuesday protested against a libel law that passed its first reading in the Knesset.

The protesters gathered on Tuesday evening in Tel Aviv, a day after the Knesset approved on first reading an amendment that would relax the criteria for slander and libel, and increase by six times the maximum damages for such infractions.


Peace Now and the left-wing Meretz

Party organised the protest, which included chants such as "Bibi, Bibi, you've gone too far - Israel is not Iran" and "The right is running wild", Ynet reported.

Amendment opponents say the measure will limit freedom of the press and stifle investigative journalism, and that the fines are excessive.


Approximately 100 counter-demonstrators protested nearby. (JTA)

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Proudly South African runners complete the NYC marathon

Back row: Robyn Goldstein, Mandy Farber, Michael Azaraf, Wayne Avnit, Elton Bondi, Greg Taurog
Front row: Leana Shlesinger, Nicci Raz, Tanya Josselowsky, Ben Swartz, Rowan Swartz
Absent: Robert Katz, Jan Van Niekirk

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sunday, 6th November - all 13 runners successfully crossed the finish line! They joined 47,000 runners from across the globe in one of the biggest fundraising events worldwide. The support from the community was overwhelming with many corporate and individuals pledging their support for their runner - the money raised from this Campaign will go towards ORT JET, an organisation that is focussed on the growth and empowerment of the SA Jewish business community.

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LETTERS

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

Guidelines for letters: Letters up to 400 words will get preference. Please provide your full first name and surname, place of residence, and a daytime contact telephone or cell number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.	Disclaimer: The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report
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IF YOU DON’T REPORT IT, IT NEVER HAPPENED!

I HAVE seldom read a letter as inane as the one published in the SAJR of November 18 (attacking journalist Paul Slier). Does Shelly Rosenberg know what a journalist must report on? I doubt it. She wants Slier to "say something nice about Israel for a change".

As it happened, Slier interviewed Ari Avnery who is a well-known commentator in Israel and he has his own agenda which is well to the left of centre. That he expresses these views are anathema to Rosenberg (and many others) who only wants good news stories from Israel and only about people who agree with her that everything in Israel is hunky-dory with looking after the Bedouins, purification of water, cancer cures and so on.

Rosenberg does not believe that anyone with a contrary view of the Israeli government should be heard. When, I wonder, was

DUCHEN’S REMARKABLE NAIVETÉ ABOUT ISRAEL IS ASTOUNDING

I AM appalled at Bernard Duchen’s unashamed display of anti-Israel bias in his letter, “Israel is not ‘a light unto the nations’” (SAJR November 18). Either that, or he displays a remarkable level of naiveté about Israel in general and the nature of the Israeli-Arab conflict in particular.

He draws on a few isolated incidents of parochial strife here in Israel to damn the country and by definition Jews everywhere. The SA Jewish community is certainly not immune from this type of problem either.

That he has fallen hook, line and sinker for Arab propaganda is most distressing. Whether the Mossad was or was not involved in the assassination of a Hamas operative in Dubai, is a matter for debate.

The release of countless hotel videos by an Arab police department, bent on protecting its tarnished image, is hardly “evidence” of Israel’s “misdeeds”. Eliminating an enemy is not wrong either - it is simply the nature of war. Is Duchen aware that with the exception of Egypt and Jordan, we are still formally at war with the rest of the Arab world, a war declared, not by us, but on us?

The reference to 1 800 years has me

MK HANEEN ZOABI JUSTIFIES BEING SANCTIONED

YOUR REPORT on the findings of the Russell Tribunal (Jewish Report November 11), mentions the verdict of a juror, Michael Mansfield, QC, who cites Haneen Zoabi’s testimony that she has been “categorised as a ‘threat to security’”. She’s been physically assaulted in the Knesset and they want to withdraw her citizenship.”

The following appeared in the International Jerusalem Post of July 22: “MK Haneen Zoabi (Balad) received sanctions from the Knesset Ethics Committee for participating in last year’s flotilla to the Gaza Strip, but she apparently won’t be punished for shoving a Knesset usher on July 13.

“The Knesset House Committee convened last week to consider recommending sanctions for the incident when Zoabi resisted a female usher who was trying to remove her from the Knesset plenum for going too far in heckling the prime minister.

“A majority of the MKs in the House

DWELLING IN THE PAST DOESN’T SERVE ANY PURPOSE

The self-flagellating “political correctness” of it all, taken together with the lack of balance on the part of those pushing a worn-out “far-leftist” agenda who apparently have either forgotten, or choose to ignore, or are unaware of the broader national and international context of the times and the complex issues involved as they impacted on South African Jewry, could well have resulted in a weekend of severe intestinal irritation on the part of those who did not share the convictions of many of the panelists at the SAJBD (Cape Council) conference in Cape Town.

What I don’t understand is why specifically Jewish organisations have to “publically and symbolically” apologise when South African society as a whole (black, white - including the Jewish community) comprised of individuals of diverse ethical and cultural standards of behaviour, political and religious persuasions, as well as varying degrees of social responsibility and philanthropic endeavour.

How white and black people behaved personally within the country’s political and

she last in Israel and when did she read the Israeli press, which I can inform her are the strictest critics of the its government?

It was irritating to hear Avnery referring to "apartheid Israel" which is actually meaningless mumbo-jumbo, but a lot of what he said of a possible Israeli attack on Iran, made perfect sense - views are generally held in many military circles and not only in Israel.

Finally, why is Rosenberg sheltering in Parkwood, Johannesburg? Why is she not in Israel if she is so concerned about it? After all, her daughter and cousins live there. Strange.

As for Rosenberg no longer listening to Russia Today TV, that is her democratic right and I am sure that the station in Moscow is in shock about her decision.

Michael Kaplan
Pretoria

stumped! The Exile began with the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE (1 941 years ago) though it should be remembered that a Jewish presence has been continuous here till the present time.

Muhammad lived and died in 622 CE in what is today Saudi Arabia (1 389 years ago), and the Arab “Palestinians” only invented themselves after 1967. So, what happened then in the year 2011?

There are countless examples of Israel as a light unto the nations, far too numerous to mention here. However, one example is pertinent: If Israel is so appalling a place, how come it is the sought-after destination for thousands of black Muslim refugees fleeing from strife in the Sudan and other neighbouring countries? Once “caught” they are given food and the bus fare to Tel Aviv. No arrests, no internment! What other country would treat infiltrators this way? No, Mr Duchen, Israel is the one country on the face of this planet that knows right from wrong and is not afraid to display it.

Sharon-Anne Epstein
Modi’in

Committee said they were satisfied with Zoabi’s repeated apologies, which she delivered personally to the usher in the Knesset, in multiple media interviews and in a letter she wrote to the usher and the committee.”

If participating in the Mavi Marmara incident is not worth of “sanctions”, then what is? In a letter I wrote to the local daily newspaper, which had printed three reports about the Tribunal - all unfavourable - I pointed out the fallaciousness of her fears of being “persecuted”.

The editor printed a photograph of the lady next to my letter. This, presumably, shows that “The PE Herald” had reporters on the scene or at least had access to details of the Tribunal. Letters refuting untrue statements about, or justifying Israel made by contributors or journalists, are seldom published in our daily press.

Bryan Lewis
Port Elizabeth

legal system, was certainly a matter of individual conviction, choice and circumstance. Indeed, blacks were not all extreme revolutionaries and whites were not all extreme reactionaries. In fact, the overwhelming majority in either racial group were neither.

Any apology and acts of reconciliation today, surely should be reflected in our individual and communal daily interaction with others as, together, we build up, consolidate and maintain the new democratic, multifaceted South Africa.

In fact, Rhoda Kadalie’s letter in last week’s SAJR summed it up succinctly: “It is time to move on, and that is what I as a black person desire.”

The conference has been lauded as a success by the organisers who, one is certain, have only the community’s best interests at heart. It would be appreciated if the SAJBD were to explain to the community what were the positive results achieved going forward.

David Abel
George

MOVE ON PEACE, OR ONE-STATE SOLUTION WILL BE FORCED

IT IS necessary to respond to some letters written over the past few weeks.

I do not represent any organisation and write only in my own capacity, because I care about the future of Israelis and Palestinians. I write because it is a Jewish value to raise one’s voice at injustice.

Unlike religious Zionists who support the settlements and the occupation, I see it as the antithesis of what it means to be Jewish, not its expression.

David Abel incorrectly suggested in his letter (October 17) that I support a one-state solution. I argued that if Israel does not act quickly to create a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, the Palestinians will soon call for a single, democratic state.

The international consensus will shift towards a one-state solution because the world will conclude that it is impossible to separate illegal Israeli settlements from Palestinian towns. People who do not support the current Palestinian UN bid for statehood are fast-tracking a single state.

The international legal definition of the term “apartheid”, according to the Rome Statute, refers to acts “committed in the context of an institutionalised regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime”.

Justice Richard Goldstone, in his New York Times op-ed piece, said: In “Israel, there is no apartheid”, but (he added) that in the West Bank “the situation is more complex... even if Israel acts oppressively toward Palestinians there”.

ME: SETTING GEFFEN STRAIGHT WITH SOME HISTORICAL FACTS

NATHAN GEFFEN is either confused or ignorant of his facts (SA Jewish Report November 11). Please permit me to state some facts for him:

1. The borders of the Jewish State were set by the UN resolution of November 29, 1947. Ben-Gurion had much more urgent problems to solve at the time. One of them was whether to declare independence altogether. America advised him against it. It was only on May 12 that he is reputed to have said: "It is now or never!"

2. According to the resolution the Jewish State was to have 51 per cent of the territory and the Arabs 43 per cent, the rest was to be international. The Jewish State was favoured because a very great part of its territory was the Negev, semi-desert at the time.

3. Although it is called the 1948 War, the war started a day after the resolution with a Jewish bus ambushed on the way to Jerusalem.

4. At the time there were 660 000 Jews in what was to be the Jewish State - so much for the Jews’ numerical superiority. In the

ZAPIRO CARTOON ON NETANYAHU STICKS IN THE CRAW

IT IS with utter amazement that I see that the latest edition of the Jewish Report (November 18) did not carry any comment or news report or editorial about the recent disgusting cartoon by Jonathan Shapiro (Zapiro) in The Times of London..

The cartoon showed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sitting on top of a house with a Magen David on one wall (obviously the State of Israel). The caption read "Fibber on the Roof", a reference to the overheard conversation between President Nicolas Sarkozy of France and Barack Obama.

It shows Netanyahu singing the words: "Singing our own praises as the Middle East’s only democracy, while persecuting and dispossessing Palestinians just as others have done to us Jews."

Below these words the cartoon shows Israeli soldiers, at gunpoint forcing people to move along, reminiscent of what the Nazis did to Jews, but in Zapiro's seemingly convoluted mind, the people are Palestinians.

FOR THE RECORD

IT SHOULD BE ROZOWSKY AND NOT LOZOWSKY

IN A story in last week’s paper, with the headline ”Sixty three years on, the Machalniks remember...” we mentioned “Dave Lozowsky”. It should’ve read “Dave Rozowsky”. We regret the error.

I agree that “apartheid” does not correctly describe Israel proper, although the state-led discrimination of the country’s Palestinian citizens is systematic.

My disagreement with Goldstone is that he misunderstands the purpose of the occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. It is not about security; if Israel were worried about security, it would not create massive settlements deep inside the West Bank, or demolish Palestinian houses, or build a barrier that divides Palestinian towns, or maintain 600 settlers in the middle of Hebron, forcing its Palestinian residents to live under regular curfew.

The occupation’s chief goal is to make life so miserable for the Palestinians that they are forced to leave.

Anyone who has seen maps of new Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem or the West Bank, can see that they are often designed to cut Palestinian towns and cities off from one another and deny them capacity to expand.

This cannot be seen as anything but an “institutionalised regime of systematic oppression by one racial group over another” – it is Israeli apartheid.

Everyone, including Jews who see the current path as immoral and unsustainable, must support positive peaceful diplomatic measures, including supporting a sovereign Palestinian state alongside a sovereign Israel. A diplomatic answer, based on international law, is the only way forward.

Daniel Mackintosh
Observatory
Cape Town

15 - 18 month war, 6 000 young men and women fell – one per cent of the entire population!

5. By the end of the war, between 550 000 to 710 000 fled Israel. At the same time 850 000 refugees from Arab countries arrived in Israel. The Jewish refugees were completely absorbed and integrated into Israel, while the Arab refugees have been left to this day as a chronic festering sore. That this is deliberate, is evident by the Arab League resolution 1457 stating: "The Arab countries will not grant citizenship to applicants of Palestinian origin in order to prevent their assimilation into the host countries."

6. There was a time that labourers from the West Bank came in to work in Israel without much difficulty but then some of them blew themselves up in crowded Israeli centre, the rest is painful history.

7. Finally, it seems that the Palestinian bid to become member of the UN has petered out.

Shulamit Kagan
Johannesburg

Will the Jewish Report obtain a copy of this cartoon and show it to their readers? The next edition will show.

As far as that cartoon character Jonathan Shapiro is concerned, his professional name should not be Zapiro but "Oswald Pirow" with reference, and deference, to another Jew basher of 1930s vintage. Here's hoping Zapiro reads the column by Michael Freund on page 9 of the latest Jewish Report, "Open microphone and sealed minds".

Zapiro is in good company with Sarkozy and Obama as far as a sealed mind is concerned.

Bennie Katzman
Bnei Dror
Israel

As a matter of policy we don’t comment on something that’s appeared in another publication. And then there’s the “small matter” of copyright. Even if we wanted to, we would not be able to reprint the cartoon without permission. - Editor

YOUTH TALK

Alison Goldberg youthsajr@global.co.za

Planning for an unforgettable Habonim campsite this year

GEMMA COWAN
PHOTOGRAPH: JUSTIN VAN ZYL

THE PAST few weeks have been filled with excitement for Machaneh Bonim Atid. With just one month to go, Habonim madrichim and channichim alike are preparing for what will undoubtedly be another unforgettable summer at the Habonim campsite.

The Va'ad Poel (camp steering committee) has been planning the ins and outs of camp since March. With them, the Va'ad Machaneh (camp organising committee) has been ensuring that everything goes according to plan. This amazing team of just over 20 individuals will be taking camp this year to new heights.

The participants of the Habonim gap-year programme in Israel are also set to return to South Africa at the end of the month. Having learnt invaluable leadership skills and grappled with Israeli history and culture throughout the year,



there's no doubt that they will contribute greatly towards the machaneh.

In addition to this, a team of 20 Israeli madrichim will be flown down for the full three weeks of machaneh. This team is essential in connecting the channichim to Israel through their own experiences and stories.

Together with over 100 other madrichim, these are the people ensuring that the perfect combination of education, fun and Habonim magic, will be experienced on camp this year.

The campsite has had several

improvements over the past year and even more new tents will be available to our campers this year, ensuring a safe and warm sleep every night.

With places filling up quickly and just over a month until the channichim board the buses for Onrus, the members of Habonim are buzzing with excitement.

Whether this is a channich's first machaneh or last, it promises to be an experience like no other. To register for Machaneh Bonim Atid visit www.habo.org.za/signup. Places are filling up quickly, so make sure you don't miss out!

King David Sandton scoops poster prizes

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH: VIVienne WEINER
KDS ART TEACHER

KING DAVID Sandton has scooped top prizes once again at the annual Kosher Poster competition.

The Federation of Synagogues Women's Guilds of SA organises this annual art competition for grade 6 learners at Jewish day schools. The brief is to create a poster with a slogan and image to complement it.

The award ceremony was held at the HOD Centre in Johannesburg, recently.



Amanda Swirsky received first prize. Keeley-Shaye Boon, Gila Dove and Gabriella Monty were awarded joint second place. Alex Cohen and Benjamin Dorfan won third prize and Tali Kadish, fourth.

Great joy as Children's Sefer Torah is completed

RABBI DANIEL SACKSTEIN
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THE CHILDREN'S Sefer Torah of South Africa was an exciting initiative thought of and executed by Jaron and Shelley Tobias. Rabbi Daniel Sackstein assisted in the running of the project. It is the first Sefer Torah by the children for the children of South Africa.

Parents were given the opportunity to sponsor a word, a pasuk or a sedra in the name of their child.

The Jewish day schools eagerly participated and the response was very positive. The Sefer Torah was sponsored by the Tobias and Hackner families and was written in Israel. Recently, the final letters were completed in the home of Stan and Shardi Matthews.



Leon Tobias; Jonathan Hackner; Rabbi Daniel Sackstein; Stan Matthews; and Shimmy Perez, standing behind Jaron Tobias and Rabbi Ryan Goldstein who oversaw the completion of the final letters of the Children's Sefer Torah.

Amidst great joy and celebrations, the Sefer Torah was danced through the streets to the Linksfield Shul on the King David Links-

field campus. The Children's Sefer Torah will please G-d be used by Jewish children for many generations to come!



MANDI DEFRIES
PHOTOGRAPH: MICHELLE VINOKUR

THROUGHOUT THE year the grade Rs at Minnie Bersohn Pre-Primary School in Johannesburg, have been learning the sounds of the alphabet.

To celebrate the completion of all 26 letters, a party was held and the children ran through the sprinklers. It was a most appropriate celebration for a hot summer's day!

MazeltoV to KDVPP 2012 Mini Councillors

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY STACY FLEISHMAN

MAZELTOV TO Alexa Novick and Jordan Heyes (pictured) who were chosen to represent King David Victory Park Primary on the Johannesburg Mini Council for 2012.



Ensuring that maths isn't Greek to young ones

SCHOOLS IN Soweto supported by the ORT Math programme and sponsored by Peregrine, were recently visited by Peregrine's human development officer and ORT SA staff.

According to an ORT SA media release, Marina Knox of Peregrine, commented on the visit: "What an absolute privilege to be part of a project that brings light and life into eyes of little ones - it was amazing to see grade two learners with such enthusiasm and pride do calculations and maths.

"ORT SA has given teachers confidence, guidance and a practical solution to bring maths to young learners. We always hear the stories of how poor the education system is and the degradation in schools - I was absolutely blown away at the neatness and the pride the teachers and children of the schools we visited, have in their school grounds.

"This pride was also visible in the children's workbooks. Peregrine is proud to be associated with ORT SA and the Soweto Maths project."

The project entails the ORT



Tsidi Mamabolo; Peregrine human resources head Marina Knox; ORT head of educator empowerment division, Ariella Rosenberg (foreground).

Singapore Maths project with foundation phase in nine schools in Soweto. Training, classroom-based support of grade two teachers, provision of grade two books and mentoring of grade 1 teachers, are included.

The first school that was visited, was Zibambe Primary in Emdeni. The grade twos impressed the visitors with a demonstration of their oral addition skills. Another grade two class did an addition of numbers using the Singaporean method.

Head of department at Mochochonono Primary School in Jabulani, Tsidi Mamabolo, proudly showed how she is implementing what is taught in training, and took visitors to the hopscotch she encourages learners to play during their break, "learning maths while having fun".

Mamabolo says of the ORT Maths programme: "Singapore maths is practical. It gives learners the chance to practise concepts with a concrete object. It also leaves room for educators to be innovative by adapting lessons to suit their learners' needs, provide resources that are relevant to learners' workbooks and re-teach workbooks for learners experiencing learning barriers... Number concept is easily developed because the programme is designed in such a way that it progresses from one level to the other."

ADVERTORIAL



Existing business category winners : Amanda Rabinowitz (Jelly Bean Events), Donald Mghonyama, Jake Willis, Jarred Myers and Errol Freeman(Luluway Job Centre)



Dr Avron Urison (ORT JET senior consultant) and Robert Brozin (Founder Nandos)

Winning Jewish entrepreneurs shine in the limelight

The definition of a business plan is a formal statement of a set of business goals, the reasons why they are believed to be attainable, and the plan for reaching those goals.

NICCI RAZ

THE BUSINESS plan is a vital first step in making your great idea a reality. “Stimulating new business development is such an important aspect of the financial stability and growth of not only our community, but for the broader South African community,” says ORT JET CEO, Paul Bacher

It is with this thought in mind that ORT JET and Project Natan conceptualised and launched the first Jewish business plan competition two years ago. The idea behind the competition is to help those who have great business ideas put their plans into action with prizes that offer a solid springboard to make their idea a reality.

The first competition launched in 2010, saw over 25 successful applications, all viable business ideas that lacked the necessary resources to get going. A year later the four winners have grown “leaps and bounds” with the support of their allocated mentors and the use of their prizes.

When the time came to launch the 2011 campaign, it was decided that a second category should be added in order to accommodate existing businesses still considered new (less than 18 months in operation). The response was amazing and the 10 finalists were chosen in October by a panel of judges that saw each business presentation and spent time discussing the merits of each business case .

With Nandos being the headline sponsor, the marketing material was cleverly structured around the theme of “passion”. As most entrepreneurs concur, without the passion to make your idea a reality, it is very difficult to get through the hurdles along the way. This message was reinforced in the interview with Robbie Brozin, founder of Nandos, on the eve of the prize-giving.

The winners were announced at a special prize-giving event hosted by the JSE and sponsored by Nandos on November 1. The evening was a huge success with over 200 business people arriving to a delicious spread of Kosher Nandos food and an interesting interview with Brozin.

The winner of the start-up category was The Ice Coffee company. Owners Michael Wingrin and Ryan Hollander plan to bring the concept of ice coffee “on tap” to South Africa. Runner-up was Anita Kramer Geoffrey’s company called Handy Man Assist, bringing well-priced, convenient handyman services to the market .

Existing business winner Errol Freeman of Luluway Job Centres, will be expanding his internet cafes to include an onsite recruitment service and job portal. The runner-up in this category, is a school teacher from Cape Town , Amanda Rabinowitz, who has created her company, Jelly Bean Even, around a combination of education and entertainment that will delight and stimulate children of all ages .

Those who attended had the opportunity to mingle and network after the prize-giving. ORT JET and Project Natan plan to run this competition annually as a way of stoking the flames of the entrepreneurial spirit that exists within our community.



ORT JET TEAM: Cindy Silberg(Operations manager),Robyn Smookler(Women’s Empowerment),Paul Bacher (CEO),Dina Cramer (Mentors),Nicci Raz(Marketing and Fundraising),Tracy Rosin (client liaison manager)



2011 JUDGING PANEL

Top Row: Rowan Swartz (ORT JET trustee), Joel Kesler (Director Anooraq Resources), Daniel Roy (Chairman Project Natan).

Front Row: Paul Bacher (CEO), Eldon Beinart (CEO Main Street Holdings), Daphna Horowitz (Director Peac Solutions).

What an asset Sharise Weiner is to the Bench!

LESLIE HARRIS
PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN
OSSENDRYVER

GROWING UP in a Jewish home, with a mother passionate about the scourge of inequality, one inevitably becomes aware of the need to fight oppression and injustice, Justice Sharise Weiner (pictured), who was recently appointed to the Bench of the South Gauteng High Court, says. That awareness kindled a passion for justice, which led her to a career in law. When Weiner qualified as an advocate more than 30 years ago, it wasn't easy for a woman to follow a legal career. "I couldn't find a legal firm willing to offer me articles. All they wanted to know was

whether I planned to marry and have children. It was a natural assumption that I wouldn't take my career seriously." That's hard to believe when one considers that today Weiner is an internationally respected jurist who was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1998 and is called on regularly to train practitioners in England. Unable to find articles when she qualified, Weiner followed the only course open to her and she became an advocate. Even at the Bar there were difficulties. The legal profession was very chauvinistic. It has improved over the years, but even today there is a perception that women are unable to handle complex commercial litigation, she says. Despite this perception, Weiner

chose to defy the odds and practise commercial law. Before ascending to the Bench she was one of very few female silks at the Johannesburg Bar who did predominantly commercial work. She successfully juggled the demands of family life and her career with the help of her fully supportive husband, Darryl and her parents, on whom she relied to help with her son Daniel when the need arose. Weiner is passionate about education, and considers her 10-year tenure as chairman of the National Advocacy Training Committee of the General Council of the Bar, to be a highlight of her career. Since 1998, she has been invited by Grays Inn London to participate as both a teacher trainer and trainer at junior practitioner workshops in England. She has also trained barristers and judges at the Hong Kong Bar and participated in training workshops in Australia. Being involved in the training of pupils and juniors, made Weiner more aware of the racial imbalance in education. Although it has improved, for many years pupils who applied to the Bar had obtained their degrees from historically disadvantaged universities and thus started off with a distinct disadvantage. She says the government must take some responsibility for the racial imbalance at the Bar. One cannot blame the organised professions if people who have been educated in inferior institutions do not succeed. The powers that be then made an enormous error, she says. Now you can get an LLB without any undergraduate degree. In some universities, the LLB is one of the few degrees in which English is not a



requirement. This makes no sense in a profession where success depends on the ability to articulately present written or oral legal argument and, at the moment, the language of the courts and commerce is predominantly English. In an attempt to alleviate this disparity, the Bar has extended the pupillage period to a year and runs an advocacy training programme for pupils and junior counsel. Weiner is equally forthright on the physical state of the South Gauteng High Court. She caused a stir at her Judicial Service Commission interview when she described areas of the court as uninhabitable. She said the air-conditioners and lifts didn't work, there were no doors on the toilets and security was non-existent. Files regularly went missing at the registrar's office. There have been improvements as the court is presently undergoing extensive renovations. However, the public areas, such as the toilets, remain in a shocking state. Conditions at the court need to be improved, especially for the public. Part of the problem is that any repairs fall under the Public Works Department and there is little that the judiciary can do to address this problem. Hopefully, legislation which provides for the courts to be administered by the judiciary, will improve this situation. Given her commitment to improv-

ing the skills of practitioners and her passion for a just society, it comes as no surprise that Weiner is highly regarded by her peers. Justice Edwin Cameron of the Constitutional Court, says her appointment as a judge adds not only great professional proficiency and experience to the Bench, but also a deep commitment to justice. She thought hard about accepting nomination as a judge. Cameron recalls that years ago, when he worked at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies (Wits' pro bono law unit), Weiner enquired about a job there, despite having a flourishing commercial practice. He described the role she plays in education and advocacy training within the profession as indispensable, and has no doubt that she will be as successful on the Bench as she was in private practice. Weiner learned about commitment to community as a child. Her grandfather founded the Cyrildene Shul and her mother taught ballet in disadvantaged communities long before it became popular to do so. As an adult she put that lesson into practice through her volunteer work with the Waverley Crisis Centre, ORT and the Tomorrow Trust, of which she is a trustee. When she is not working she enjoys relaxing with her family, reading, and enthusiastically watching cricket, rugby and football.

Women who claim Torah as their own

SHIRA DRUION

TRADITIONALLY TORAH reading is done by the men of the Jewish community. But, on Simchat Torah every year, a group of passionate women gather at the home of Sarah and Clive Evian in Johannesburg, to read and dance with the Torah scroll. It is not an everyday occurrence, especially in the very traditional circles of Johannesburg Jewry. Evian speaks about her experience of reading from the Torah with fervour and how very meaningful this has become for her as well as for many other women. "Torah is essentially the central nervous system of our relationship with G-d. I have been learning Torah for 40 years, and being able to experience a physical interaction with it, closes the circle of the experience." The Torah reading takes place on the porch of the Evian home, and between 15 and 40 women, depending on circumstances, gather each year to participate in the festivities. "We hold the scroll and dance with it, and being able to participate in

this initiative is a very wholesome experience for me," says Evian. The group first started in 1995, encountering a barrage of criticism and disapproval. Adina Roth, Limmud lecturer and participant, casts her mind back to that first Torah reading, and tells how a group of men surrounded the flat and confiscated the Torah, preventing the reading from taking place. But this had not deterred the women and the following year, they kept the reading under wraps to avoid a repeat of the previous year. Roth is currently completing her clinical psychology internship and explains: "For me the Torah is not a masculine object, but because of history it has been locked into the male domain. I, however, view the Torah as a gentle object and cannot see any reason why women should be forbidden from physical contact with it." The Torah that the group uses was donated to the (now defunct) Wolmarans Street Shul many years ago by a young girl and her family to celebrate the occasion of her batmitzvah.

Says Roth: "I think that the fact that we are using a Torah that was donated for a young girl to mark the occasion of her batmitzvah, is very significant. To me, this is karma." Rabbi Avi Weiss from New York, as well as a South African rabbi, were responsible for advising the women on the correct halachic protocol to be followed. Rabbi Weiss advised them on how best to carry out this activity and he also encouraged the women "not to cause division in the community in the process". He told them that they were not allowed to constitute a minyan (group of 10 men) and were not allowed to say "barechu" or "kedusha". Leanne Stillerman, a clinical psychologist and group participant, says: "Today, women are searching for a voice in Judaism, and being afforded the opportunity to read from the text in the correct way, with the right 'trop' (intonation) was intensely powerful for me. "I also found the experience of dancing and singing alongside other women, profoundly moving."

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CANTOR, EHUD BARAK TO ADDRESS REFORM BIENNIAL

WASHINGTON - House Majority Leader Eric Cantor and Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak are to address the Union for Reform Judaism's biennial. The URJ announced plans for Cantor (Republican Virginia), the highest-ranking Jewish member of Congress in history, and Barak, a former prime minister, on Tuesday. President Barack Obama already is slated to speak during the biennial taking place from December 14-18 in the Washington suburbs. (JTA)

WHAT’S ON

Sharon Akum sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

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

Today, Friday (November 25)

• **JNF Choir** is looking for members - sopranos, tenors and basses. Venue: Lifestyle Centre, Sandringham Gardens, every Wednesday evening at 18:45 for 19:00. Contact Tzippi (011) 640-4287 or 082-320-1555.

• **UZLC** has as its speaker Shirley Zar, on "Doornfontein - the Crucible of Activism".

Sunday (November 27)

• **Our Parents Home Market**, cnr Spring & High Road, Gardens. Time: 11:00 – 15:00. Fab food, books, bric-a-brac and fun for kids. Tel (011) 489-7000.

• **WIZO Johannesburg’s** “Collectable Market” at the Norwood Mall. Napery, silver, plateware, art pieces,

jewellery, tableware, quality linen, gloves, leather wear, etc. Time: 09:00 – 14:30. More information: Sandy (011) 645-2548.

• **Second Innings’** end-of-year function has the topic “Key and Strings... and Beautiful Things”. Performers: Betsie Schaap on piano, Evert van Niekerk on violin. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, at 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R60 for members, R80 for non-members.

Monday (November 28)

• **UJW** adult education programme hosts political analyst and research officer of the Helen Suzman Foundation, Aubrey Matshiqi, who will talk on “A Bridge Too Far: Memory and Identity in South Africa”. Time 09:30.

Tuesday (November 29)

• **Great Park** invites you to “Preparing Your Child for Jewish Adulthood” parenting workshops with Trevor Friedman. Explore effective strategies for guiding and supporting children during the pre-adolescent and adolescent years. Time: 19:45. Cost R30 per session. Booking essential. Contact Goldie, 072-832-2001; goldiesimpson@gmail.com

Wednesday (November 30)

• **Balfour Park** Parkinson's Disease Support Group holds its last meeting of the year in the boardroom of Randjes Estate, Randjeslaagte Road, Highlands North. Time: 10:00. The meeting will be followed by a special tea. Ashleigh Smaller, of a security organisation, will speak on keeping oneself and one's family safe at

home and outside. For information, contact Rosemary Burke on (011) 640-3919.

• **UJW** CT adult education division hosts Alyson Kessel who will talk on “Birkenhead Blooms”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

• **Second Innings** has a guided tour: “Outing to Maropeng in the Cradle of Humankind”. Meet the bus at the Oxford Shul parking at 08:30. Cost: R150 per person, includes the bus, entrance fee to Maropeng, and the tour. Lunch for your own account. Contact Grecia on (011) 532-9178 before 14:30.

• **UJW** adult education programme hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the department of English at Wits, on contemporary poetry, at 09:30.

Sudoku Puzzle 27

(Medium, difficulty rating 0.53)

	7	2	4					
6		4			8	5		
			6	9				8
2			1		6		5	
		1				6		
	4		8		3			2
4				6	7			
		8	5			7		6
					1	9	4	

Note to readers:
Our bridge column and our Sudoku puzzle alternate week by week.

Answer - Puzzle 26

6	2	7	4	8	3	5	9	1
4	9	3	6	5	1	8	2	7
8	1	5	9	7	2	4	3	6
9	7	8	3	1	4	2	6	5
3	4	1	5	2	6	9	7	8
5	6	2	8	9	7	3	1	4
1	5	4	2	6	9	7	8	3
2	8	6	7	3	5	1	4	9
7	3	9	1	4	8	6	5	2

* Answer to follow with next puzzle

CROSSWORD NO 234

BY LEAH SIMON

ACROSS:

- 1. He stands to inherit the tune, we hear (4)
- 3. Having confused date, mule is copied (8)
- 8. Sent around to bird’s home (4)
- 9. Attendance at the gifts, we hear (8)
- 11. It’s been told to swing low (5, 7)
- 13. Being badly named, Penny will derange us (6)
- 14. Aim for a steeple (6)
- 17. Sweet marks on colourful clothing? (5, 7)
- 20. The way an artist would approach it? (4, 4)
- 21. Either way, it’s midday (4)
- 22. Find her with Saudi citizen and another girl (8)
- 23. Still, I find the monster (4)

DOWN:

- 1. Good-looking limb gets a bit (8)
- 2. Rather sainted, somehow (7)
- 4. Ruin spilt ash for the girl (6)
- 5. If nothing else works, go to final holiday destination (4, 6)
- 6. Flavour adds nothing to the dance (5)
- 7. Any way you look at it, that’s what has to be done (4)
- 10. At 22h00, waltz into presence (10)
- 12. Like shin broken in Finnish capital (8)
- 15. Beg one politician for mythology (7)
- 16. Raise learner awkwardly to Jewish state (6)
- 18. Give animal an apple, hiding girl (5)
- 19. Go east and return to girl (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 233

ACROSS:

- 1. Heat; 3. Monastic; 8. Lost; 9. Headline; 11. Birthday cake; 13. Canopy; 14. Stoned; 17. Sharp shooter; 20. Luminous; 21. Drab; 22. Resisted; 23. Else.

DOWN:

- 1. Hold back; 2. Also ran; 4. Operas; 5. Abdication; 6. Thick; 7. Chef; 10. Chaperones; 12. Adorable; 15. Natural; 16. Assume; 18. Homes; 19. Slur.

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
8					9							
					10							
11												
												12
13							14			15		
							16					
	17	18										
19												
20										21		
22										23		

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‘My, you haven’t aged at all!’



COLIN LEVIN
CLASS OF ‘63 - ‘74

THE KING David Victory Park group of learners of the years 1963 to 1974, have a very strong Facebook page that has gathered and reunited 65 members of that group, scattered all over the world.

Eleanor Perlin came in from Brazil and we decided to get the Johannesburg contingent together.

This group was always a very close-knit special crowd at school and this was evidenced by the enthusiasm shown and the full turnout.

We are planning our 40th

reunion for Israel in 2014, where we hope to have the majority present.

This picture of the 1963 - 1974 group, was taken on Monday night November 14 in Norwood, where we had 19 happy people together.

Front: Adana Rose Klass; and Stephen Davimes. Second row: Deana Bomhof; Eleanor Perlin; Colin Levin; Arlene Scalzullo; Shaun Meyerson; Adele Meyer; and Arlene Berry. Third row: Hilary Joffe; Shoshana Stern; Anna Louise Shapiro; Sharron Wolder; Melinda Silverman; and Lynton Lurie. Back: Cecil Wulfsohn; Daniel Metter; Russel Rottanberg; and Colin Fisher.

Myriad prizes for top succahs and posters

Recently, the Federation of Synagogues Women’s Guilds of South Africa hosted their annual awards ceremony, celebrating good deeds and creativity in the community.

ROBYN SASSEN
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

COMMUNAL SUCCAHS were judged by president of the organisation, Devorah Nates, who, with her co-judges, travelled the length and breadth of Jewish Johannesburg during chol ha moed Succot. “It’s an initiative which has been in place for years and years,” she explained.

There were two joint winners in the shul category: Oxford and Linksfield; “and I couldn’t stop there,” said Nates, commenting on the beauty of communal creativity. Second prize was shared by Cyrildene and Northcliff Shuls; third prize went to Sandton Shul.

In the category for Jewish institutions, the first prize was shared by Sandringham Gardens and Selwyn Segal; second prize went to Our Parents Home; third to Arcadia; and fourth was shared by Hatikvah House and Sandringham Lodge.

Celebrating the creativity of the youth, is the kosher poster competition, which developed in the mid-1980s from the curriculum taught to grade 6s at Yeshiva College. It was the suggestion of one of the Federation of Synagogues former presidents,



the late Rebbetzen Doreen Bender, that the school project be developed into an inter-school competition.

This year, it had three- and two-dimensional sections. “How wonderful it is,” said Nates, “in this technologically sophisticated era, to see young people still using their creative juices.”

Of the 15 prize-winners, first place was shared by King David Victory Park’s Jonathan Sidi and Rachel Asoulin for their three-dimensional work, and Gila Odes from Hirsch Lyons and Amanda Swirsky from King David Sandton, for their two-dimensional work.

Chairman of the Pine Street Shul Women’s Guild, Sheila Musnitzky, passed away close to a decade ago. In her honour, her family donated a trophy to the Federation of Synagogues, to be awarded to a guild or a person who makes an outstanding communal contribution.

The recipient of the Sheila Musnitzky Award for 2011 went to the Emmarentia Shul Ladies’ Guild, “one of the last ladies’ guilds which still functions as such”, according to Nates. The guild comprises nine women; the prize was received by Reva Rudolph, a former mayoress of Johannesburg.



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NOTICES

BARMITZVAH

Mazeltov to Benjamin Morris Parshat Toldot November 26, 2011. With special love, your proud parents Steve & Sue, sisters, Shir, Rashaeli and Leah, grandparents, aunts, uncles & cousins.

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BIRTHS

UNVEILING
The unveiling for the late Freda & Derek Weinberg will take place on Sunday morning December 4, at 11:30 at West Park Jewish Cemetery. Grave numbers U9562A and U9561A Friends and family please take note.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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To Yossi and Sigalle
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Aba and Mommy

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To work within a team, to assist with general office administration, typing of confidential reports and documents, data capturing, minute taking, reception duties, a good command of the English language for correspondence.

The incumbent must have strong interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to handle all calls in a diplomatic and professional manner. Must be able to work well under pressure and have knowledge of Jewish religion, practices and culture

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SPORT

Avi Barit meets chess grandmaster Kasparov



JACK MILNER

IT HAS to be every youngster's dream to meet one of his or her idols, but for most that desire turns into nothing more than a pipe dream.

However, for Avi Barit it came true as the young chess player not only was able to meet six-times world chess champion Garry Kasparov, but also had the opportunity to play a match against him. Barit is Jewish and Kasparov has a Jewish father.

Kasparov came to South Africa earlier this month to form a joint venture with Pretoria-based chess educational project Moves for Life (MFL), of which President Jacob Zuma is patron.

During his stay, Johannesburg played host to a "simultaneous match", in which Kasparov took on 28 South African chess players. A large crowd packed the auditorium to get a glimpse of the former world champion, and they were not disappointed.

The format was for the chess grandmaster to play the first move and then the opponent to continue with his or her move.

Avi, a former King David Linksfield scholar, who is currently studying at the University of Pretoria, was one of those 28 competitors. The game lasted 36 moves before Avi found himself in a losing position and resigned. Kasparov did not lose one match. He drew two.

After the event Kasparov announced that he wished to link his Kasparov Chess Foundation to MFL to take the successful MFL formula to other African countries and that he planned to work with MFL to make Johannesburg the chess capital of Africa.

"I was greatly inspired by the words of President Zuma last October, when he spoke so movingly on the many benefits of chess for children and of his remarkable connection to my beloved game.

"I am happy to join him and the South African Moves for Life programme in a commitment to bringing chess to schools across the country and for turning Johannesburg into the continental capital for chess."

Kasparov was born Garry Kimovich Weinstein in Baku, Azerbaijan, which was at the time part of the Soviet Union, to an Armenian mother and Jewish father. He first began the serious study of chess after he came across a chess problem set up by his parents and proposed a solution.

His father, Kim Moiseyevich Weinstein, died of leukaemia when Garry was seven years old. At the age of 12, he adopted his mother's Armenian surname, Gasparyan, modifying it to a more Russian version, Kasparov.

Avi Barit plots his course in his match against one of the greatest chess champions of all time, Garry Kasparov.

Kasparov became world champion in 1984 in a second challenge to Anatoly Karpov. They had met earlier that year, but after 42 games without a result, Florencio Campomanes, president of Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE), called off the challenge and a new match was announced to start a few months later. The termination was controversial, as both players stated that they preferred the match to continue.

Announcing his decision at a media conference, Campomanes cited the health of the players, which had been strained by the length of the match.

The second Karpov-Kasparov match in 1985, was organised in Moscow as the best of 24 games where the first player to win 12 points would claim the World Champion title. The scores from the terminated match would not carry over. But in the event of a 12-12 draw, the title would remain with Karpov.

On November 9, 1985, Kasparov secured the title by a score of 13-11, winning the 24th game with Black, using a Sicilian defence.

He was 22 years old at the time, making him the youngest ever world champion, and breaking the record held by Mikhail Tal for over 20 years. Kasparov's win as Black in the 16th game has been recognised as one of the all-time masterpieces in chess history.

Kasparov went on to defend the title five more times and it was not until 2000 that he lost to Vladimir Kramnik. He remained the No 1 ranked player until 2005.

In another South African connection, it transpires that Kasparov is currently managed by former tennis impresario Owen Williams. Williams promoted the SA Open in its heyday in the 1970s and brought players like Bjorn Borg, Arthur Ashe Guillermo Vilas and Jimmy Connors to play in South Africa.

Later he emigrated to the US and after four years of retirement living in New York City, Williams moved to Florida to become executive chairman of Masters International, a start-up sports marketing company.

Nick Price was the major client as was Ernie Els for a short period. Other golfing clients included Robert Allenby, Michael Campbell and David Leadbetter.

Kasparov joined Masters in December 1995 and a couple of years later Williams and Kasparov left Masters and started SMSI, Inc (Sports Management Strategies International).

The conversion from tennis globe-trotting to the chess tour, brought about a new set of destinations for Williams. The world of chess includes the old Yugoslavia, places like Reykjavik, Linares, Bled, Wijk-aan-Zee, Jerusalem and parts of the old USSR.

Jewish owners hope for a sunny Summer Cup

JACK MILNER

A NUMBER of Jewish owners will be hoping their horses can lead the way home in this weekend's prestigious Sansui Summer Cup to be run over 2000m at Turffontein.

Larry Nestadt and Bernard Kantor will be hoping Perana can put his best foot forward and capture the R1,2-million first prize. He is conditioned by champion trainer Mike de Kock who has always believed the Australian-bred runner is capable of a Grade 1 win, but somehow Perana has let them down badly over the last year.



Owners Larry Nestadt and Bernard Kantor will hope that Perana will finally fulfil his tremendous potential.

The decision was taken to geld the horse in May, and after a long rest, he came out to run third in a Pinnacle Stakes over 1800m at Turffontein. That gave many pundits the optimistic belief that he would repeat his win of last year in the Grade 2 Victory Moon Handicap.

A year ago Perana ducked out sharply, looked well beaten but fought back well to win the race, but this year he dug his toes in shortly after the start and took no interest, dropping out to trail by 34 lengths behind the winner, Jet Jamboree.

Despite that shocker, money came for the horse and he is currently trading at 8-1, not a very attractive price based on his current form. Nevertheless, he is a talented individual - if in the mood - and could win. He will be ridden by Anthony Delpech who has been the winning rider in the last two Durban Julys.

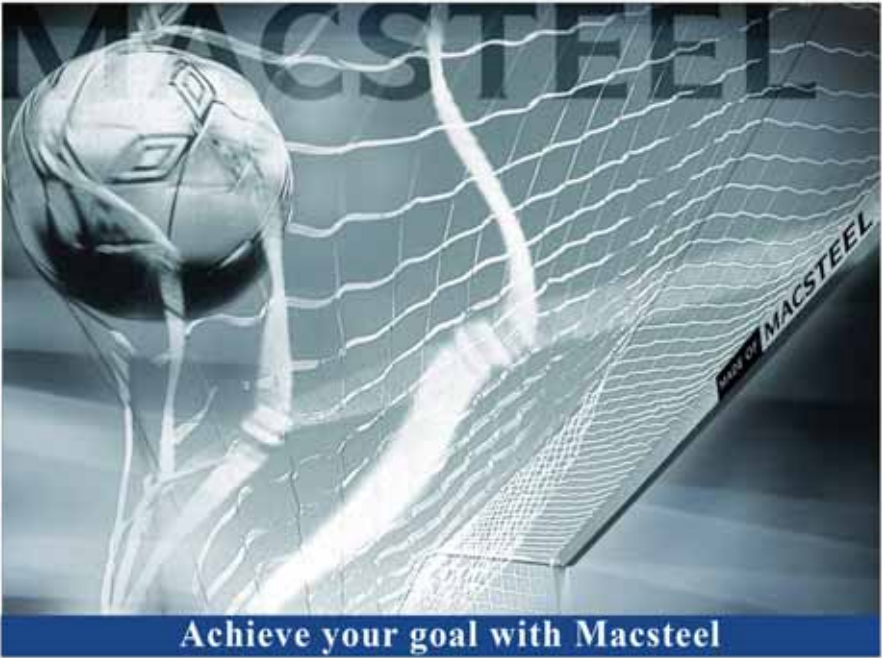
Right at the bottom of the betting are two

horses in which Greg Blank has an interest - Regal Ransom at 66-1 and Power Park at 100-1. However, at his best, Regal Ransom would be a big runner and one would have to go back quite a while to find the last time he carried just 52,5kg. He loves the wet going and any further rain would enhance his chances.

The Tote is paying out on the first six places and it would come as no surprise to find Regal Ransom in one of those positions.

It is also rare these days to find Anton Marcus on a 33-1 shot in a feature race, but this year he rides Rudra for De Kock. The seven-year-old won this race in 2008 and is also partial to soft going. In fact, he has not finished out of the placings in eight starts in the wet, so he too could be a decent place bet.

For my money I see it as a race between Pierre Jourdan, The Apache, Ilsanpietro and Black Wing. My best outsider is Magical, trained by Ormond Ferraris who is in partnership with another Jewish owner, Harry Izikowitz.



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