



Jon McGregor's
brilliance
prevails
page 8

south african

jewish report

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Remembering those who have fallen for Israel's freedom

The Yom Hazikaron commemoration on Tuesday evening at Yeshiva College in Johannesburg, was a poignant, sombre occasion, to remember those who have fallen in a series of wars and in terrorist attacks in Israel. A trumpet call sounded the Last Post as the Israeli flag was lowered. A siren called for a minute's silence. Many young people attended, vowing never to forget. Pictured are Liora Fox; Riki Nichols; Gilana Assness; and Gila Chenick, lighting commemorative candles. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

SEE PAGE 5

Yom Hashoah marked across the country

David Simpson, president of the CKNJ: "Wallenberg stood up for justice, not in words but in actions. We must commit ourselves to standing up to injustice too."

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Nominations for Jewish Achiever Awards closes May 7

Last year a record number of 140 entries were received for the awards and the organisers are confident that they will do even better this year.

4

SAKS: Counter Israel-bashing by minimising faults

The considerable resources of the global anti-Israel lobby are being expended on campaigns aiming to make the apartheid label stick. Getting post-liberation South Africa's official blessing would be a mega boost. But there are signs for optimism for Israel.

6



Kahans look to find the right 'Alchemy'

The Alchemy, a stud farm owned by George Kahan and his son Phillip, will head into this year's National Yearling Sales.

12

Ann Bernstein of the Centre for Development and Enterprise, wins coveted Fisher Award for her 2010 book



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Shabbat Times

April 27/5 Iyar
April 28 / 6 Iyar

Parshat Tazria/Metzora

17:23	18:12	Johannesburg
17:51	18:42	Cape Town
17:07	17:56	Durban
17:27	18:16	Bloemfontein
17:22	18:14	Port Elizabeth
17:15	18:06	East London

Parshah in Twitter

PARSHOT TAZRIA AND METZORA

These two parshot deal with the laws of human impurity (tumah), starting with impurity resulting from childbirth. Seven forms of tzara’as, a physical illness resulting from a number of sins, most famously lashon harah, are detailed. These are: tzara’as on skin, in scar tissue of a burn, in a boil, on one’s head among hair, on a bald head, on clothing, on the walls of a house.

The elaborate eight day purification process for tzar’as is detailed. The final topic is the laws of impurity resulting from discharges from the male and female reproductive organs and their purification processes.

Community Briefs

GOLDBERG GETS FIVE YEARS JAIL FOR R32 MILLION IVORY

Sea Point curio shop owner, Marc Goldberg, has been sentenced in Cape Town to seven years in jail for possession of R21 million worth of ivory. Two years of the sentence has been suspended and he will effectively spend five years in jail.

Goldberg was granted leave to appeal and his bail of R50 000 has been extended. He had previously tried to reach a plea bargain with the state, but it fell through. If his appeal does not succeed, he will also have to forfeit the ivory to the state.

His lawyer maintains that a fine would be more appropriate than the “excessive” jail sentence.

GAN EDEN LAUNCHES AT KIBBUTZ LUBNER

The Gan Eden Project held its official launch last month, at Selwyn Segal’s Kibbutz Lubner, attended by 100 guests who went on a guided tour of the 8 ha farm, in Midrand.

In a media release, the Chev relates how Gan Eden was mooted in July 2011 by Chev donors, Norman and Michael Stein, who were excited to explore further potential for the farm. They committed to funding the start-up and its initial running expenses.

They approached Prof Mike Rudolph from Wits, for assistance, as much of his work is focused on promoting health and sustainability among vulnerable community groups.

ARRIVAL OF NEW SEFER TORAH AT GREAT PARK SHUL

Recently, the Great Park Synagogue in Oaklands, Johannesburg, celebrated the addition of a new Sefer Torah presented by Brian and Shelly Crook. Family and community members filled in the Torah’s last letters, with sofer Rabbi Chaim Klein. A motorcade through Oaklands was led by a truck bearing the new Torah under a chuppah and a miniature train brimming with children. At the shul, Chairman Clive Blechman led a procession of all the existing Torahs, some of which are over 100 years old, to greet the new one. After Hakafot, the new Torah found its home in the shul’s Aron Hakodesh. *RABBI DOVID HAZDAN*

Customs of pregnancy

Dear Rabbi, should I have a baby after 35? No, 35 children is enough.

Our parsha begins: “When a woman conceives and gives birth to a son.” Last week’s parsha concluded with a list of kosher and non-kosher animals: what is the connection between them?

The Torah is teaching us that the parents’ obligation to a child does not begin when it is born, but even in the mother’s womb. Specifically, the pregnant mother must be careful that the food she eats is kosher, because of its effect on the child. The Talmud speaks about a pregnant woman who overcame her desire to eat on Yom Kippur and later gave birth to the great sage Rabbi Yochanan.

We know that the attitude, actions and nutritional choices of the mother during pregnancy have a profound impact on the health and future development of the foetus. The pregnant woman should be surrounded by a positive and calm atmosphere. She should also create a pure spiritual environment for her child, learning Torah and doing mitzvot whenever possible.

The three main mitzvot of a woman; separating challah, mikvah, and lighting candles, and giving charity are particularly important.

The Talmud advises that it is not good for anyone, especially a pregnant woman, to step on nails after they have been cut; they should



Parshat Tazria Metzora
Rabbi Aharon Rose, Waverley Shul

be burnt, flushed down the toilet, washed down a sink or otherwise carefully disposed of.

There are also many Jewish customs related to pregnancy - note that these are customs, not laws:

There is a custom not to attend a cemetery to avoid negative emotions. If necessary, she could attend the cemetery but remain outside the ohel and at least two metres from the grave or coffin.

There are a number of customs primarily associated with Ayin Horah: (1) Not to publicise the pregnancy until the fifth month, except for close relatives. (2) Not to know the gender of the foetus. (3) Avoid preparing anything before the birth, such as buying baby clothes, pram etc. (4) Not act as Kvater at a Bris Milah or walk down the aisle at a wedding, if she is “showing”.

During the last month of pregnancy, the husband opens the ark before the Torah reading, when the Heavenly Gates of Mercy are opened.

Throughout the pregnancy, both mother

and father should say extra Psalms. Before going to bed, the husband says Psalm 20; then repeats the second verse.

Mezuzahs should be inspected. If you don’t have mezuzahs on all doorways, it is a great time to buy them.

A pregnant woman should endeavour to be exposed to holy sights and sounds. She should avoid gazing at non-kosher animals (trips to the zoo can wait until after birth...), and listening to gossip, slander, or other inappropriate talk.

To avoid a miscarriage: say the Hamapil blessing before going to sleep at night. For an easy labour: eat Melava Malka every Saturday night.

There is an ancient custom for the pregnant woman to sew a sash (‘gartel’) for a Sefer Torah. If the newborn is a son, the sash is used on the Torah from which he receives his aliyah on his Barmitzvah and on the Shabbat before his wedding.

The naming of a child should not cause any type of argument, because it is a danger to the child.

It is customary to have a copy of Psalm 121 on hand during birth. If possible, during the final stages of labour and delivery, the husband should recite Psalms: 1- 4, 20-24, 33, 47, 72, 86, 90-93, 104, 112-150.

Wishing you a very good Shabbos (and lots of nachas)!

The vandalising of Jewish cemeteries a serious problem

STAFF REPORTER

If Bloemfontein Jewry is now the dowager of the South African Jewish community, she remains a feisty old lady. Fewer than 100 souls now remain in the Free State capital, down from over 400 families at the community’s height, and most of them are elderly.

Despite this, communal activities continue on a regular basis, and what the community lacks in numbers, it makes up for in solidarity and high levels of involvement.

In the middle of March, Rabbi Moshe

Silberhaft, spiritual leader to the country communities, SAJBD Associate Director David Saks and a representative of the Community Security Organisation, spent a day in Bloemfontein, meeting with the community and also following up on the recent vandalising of the old Jewish cemetery.

They first met at the cemetery with local Jewish community members, including United Hebrew Institutions of Bloemfontein President Solly Kroll, and the police officers responsible for following up the case.



Nolan Pincus (third from left) viewing the vandalised grave of his great-uncle Aaron Pincus. With him are David Saks, Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, and Solly Kroll.

Nearly 80 tombstones had been toppled, of which many were badly damaged. One such grave was that of Anglo-Boer War veteran Aaron Pincus, who fought in the commando of the legendary General Christiaan de Wet. The interior of the ohel was also defaced with graffiti of an obscene, and occasionally overtly anti-Semitic nature.

In a statement to the local media, subsequently published in Die Volksblad, Rabbi Silberhaft deplored what he called an act of racially motivated hooliganism.

“A cemetery is a place of sanctity, where the earthly remains of those who rendered honourable dedicated service during their lives find their final resting place. We owe it to their memory, to those who knew and loved them, to their descendants and to posterity as a whole, to allow them to rest in dignity and peace,” he said.

Rabbi Silberhaft officiated at the ceremonial burial of Jewish religious texts (sheimos) at the new Jewish cemetery, for which occasion a minyan was present. This was followed by a luncheon with the local Jewish leadership at the premises of the United Hebrew Institutions in Danhof.

In the evening, immediately after Mincha-Maariv, more than half of the Bloemfontein Jewish community attended an address by Saks, which was preceded by introductory remarks by Rabbi Silberhaft and an overview of the security situation by the CSO representative.

Saks commended Bloemfontein Jewry on their commitment to keeping their community active, saying that every gathering for a minyan and every communal function held continued to add to the honourable saga of Jewish life in the city.



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jewish achiever awards

2012

‘Hand torch of remembrance to generations to come’

DAVID SAKS

With 2012 being the centenary year of the birth of Holocaust hero Raoul Wallenberg, it was fitting that the keynote speaker at last week’s Yom Hashoah ceremony in Johannesburg, was one of those whose life was saved by him.

In a moving and dignified address, Holocaust survivor John Dobai recounted the experiences of himself and his family during the desperate final months of the Nazi occupation of their native Hungary and of how, along with some 100 000 others, they were rescued from the fate suffered by many more of their fellow Jews during that time. Dobai also spoke at the Durban ceremony held the previous day.

The Holocaust came comparatively late to Hungary, which for a long time was allied to Nazi Germany. It was only in the latter half of 1944 that the German forces occupied the country and began rounding up its Jewish population.

Ten years old at the time, Dobai was twice sent away by his mother to what she hoped would be a place of safety, but he was unable to remain there, and both were crammed with many other Jews awaiting deportation into an apartment building in Budapest.

The Red Army invasion of Hungary saw the closure of the labour camp where Dobai’s father had been held for the previous two years and he rejoined his family, only to discover the deadly danger they were all in.

Even with the Red Army advancing, the Nazis only stepped up their efforts to destroy the Jewish population. Dobai’s father, however, was able to obtain documents from the Swedish Embassy giving the family protection, as well as space in a building designated as Swedish diplomatic territory. These efforts were organised and inspired by diplomat Raoul Wallenberg.

“When he heard of the events in Hungary, he obtained a diplomatic posting there to save as many as he could. He protested, argued and threatened Nazi and Hungarian officers and officials to save people from certain death. He handed out papers at railway stations even as the train of deportees was about to leave!”

Dobai said.

In the end, not even being under Swedish protection was enough to keep the Nazis at bay. Even as their forces were being driven back street by street by the advancing Russians, detachments were sent to round up Jews living in the so called protected houses and shoot them into the Danube River. However, they were unable to get round to the building where the Dobai family was sheltering before it was liberated by the Red Army on January 13, 1945.

It was at this time that Wallenberg approached the Soviet headquarters to ask for food for the inhabitants of Budapest, only to be arrested on arrival and to disappear into the vast Soviet prison population. His fate remained unknown to the present day.

Dobai concluded by appealing to those present to hand the torch of remembrance to the generations to come and to encourage everyone to oppose all forms of racial, religious and colour discrimination.

SAJBD Gauteng Chairman Jeff Katz presided over the event and delivered the introductory remarks. The proceedings featured the traditional readings of names of victims and of “To Everyone There is a Name”, the lighting by survivors of the six memorial lamps, poetry readings in Hebrew, English and Ladino and the singing of Shiviti and the Partisan Song by the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir, led by Dr Nachie Levin and accompanied by Evelyn Green.

Israeli Ambassador Dov Segev-Steinberg delivered a message on behalf of the State of Israel. The various readings were conducted by learners from King David (Linksfeld and Victory Park), Yeshiva College and Torah Academy.

Rabbi Dovid Hazdan led the concluding communal kaddish. Unfortunately, the proceedings were brought to a premature end by an unseasonal cloudburst, which resulted in the two school learners’ account of their visit to Auschwitz and the SA Jewish Ex-Servicemen’s League tribute, being omitted.

Community Briefs

‘WHAT WOULD YOU DO?’ – AN UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTION

“What would you do?” Rabbi Shmuel Bloch of the PE Hebrew Congregation asked on Yom Hashoah at Theodor Herzl School in Port Elizabeth. “During the Second World War six million Jews, including 1,5 million children were murdered. Imagine a family you’ve known for years, asks you to hide them.

“Morally, you know what to do. You know if you say no, they will be killed. You know if you hide them, your family will be in mortal danger.

“Genocide is happening in so many countries. A few blocks away, people are poverty-stricken. Do we care? The lesson is to do something.”

IN DURBAN YOUNG AND OLD UNITE IN SHOAH REMEMBRANCE

“Oppose all forms of racial, religious and colour discrimination in the world.” Thus, guest speaker John Dobai, a Wallenberg Holocaust survivor, captured the spirit of the Council of KwaZulu-Natal Jewry’s Yom Hashoah commemoration, at the Durban Jewish Centre.

David Simpson, president of the CKNJ, added: “[Wallenberg] stood up for justice, not in words but in actions. We must commit ourselves to standing up to injustice too.”

Rabbi Sam Thurgood stressed that for learners today, the Holocaust was a historical fact. But the inclusion of so many youngsters and the incorporation of technology into the ceremony, added a unique touch. *ALANA BARANOV*

DESPITE THE ODDS, JEWISH NATION ALIVE AND KICKING

Pretoria’s Yom Hashoah ceremony was opened by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies’ Chairman of the Pretoria Council, Adv Lawrence Nowosenetz and featured several powerful speeches.

Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Andries Nel, on behalf of the government, quoted former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan: “Our time has shown us man’s capacity for evil knows no limits.” Ambassador, Dov Segev-Steinberg’s speech referred to his discovering a document in the concentration camps recording his grandfather’s presence there. A survivor who fought in the Second World War, Ivan Sive said: “Jews violated the rules of history by staying alive.” *DIANE WOLFSON.*

MAROUBRA SYNAGOGUE (SYDNEY AUSTRALIA) RABBI POSITION



Maroubra Synagogue, a traditional Modern Orthodox synagogue in Sydney Australia, seeks a full-time Modern Orthodox Religious Zionist Rabbi. The ideal candidate will be a pulpit Rabbi with a minimum 3 years experience in a leadership capacity with a synagogue. He must excel in the areas of leadership, people skills, and youth development having the ability to relate to people of all ages, varied backgrounds and differing observance levels. The Rabbi will need to have a warm and welcoming manner and engaging personality. The ability to Lein and Daven is essential, as well as officiating at all life cycle events, teaching varied shiurim, managing youth programs, delivering dynamic sermons and providing pastoral care and halachik guidance. It is expected that the Rabbi’s wife will fully welcome her role as Rebbetzin. In addition, the Rabbi will also have the opportunity to hold the position of College Rabbi at Mount Sinai College; where his role would be to uphold the Jewish ethos of the College and to maintain the close relationship between the school and synagogue.

For more information or to submit your C.V. in strict confidence please email the Rabbi Search Committee at msrabbisearch@gmail.com

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jewish achiever awards

2012

NOMINATION CURTAIN CALL
Its time to celebrate excellence at the Jewish Achiever Awards

Send your nominations for the categories of Absa Business Achiever (Listed) Award, Absa Business Achiever (Unlisted) Award, Entrepreneur Award, Lifetime Achiever Award, Arts, Science, Sports & Culture Awards, Community Service Award and Chivas Humanitarian Awards.

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Come on, bring on the Achiever nominations!

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Once again the annual Jewish Achiever Awards – which take place at a gala banquet to be held in the Maroela Room of the Sandton Sun on June 20 – celebrate the remarkable achievements of members of the South African Jewish community in all spheres of life.

Entries are now open for these prestigious awards which encompass business, entrepreneurship, arts, culture, humanitarian work and community service. Last year a record number of 140 entries were received for the awards and the organisers are confident that they will do even better this year.

To date more than 100 entries

have been received with nominations being made daily. Entries close on May 7.

Last year’s winners included some of this country’s most prominent leaders in their fields – both here and abroad.

The Helen Suzman Lifetime Achiever Award went jointly to human rights activists Jules and Selma Browde. The Award for Arts, Science, Culture and Sport went to internationally-acclaimed artist William Kentridge, while the Community Service Award went to Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft (aka the “Travelling Rabbi”) who became the first rabbi to receive a Jewish Achiever Award.

The Cyril Harris Humanitarian Award went jointly to Marc Lubner, CEO of outreach organi-

sation Afrika Tikkun, and to Danny K and kwaito musician Kabelo Mabalane, for their involvement in Shout.

The Entrepreneurial Award went to Steven Herring of Heriot Properties. The Absa Unlisted Company Award went to brothers Wayne and Renney Plit of the Affordable Housing Company, while the Absa Listed Company Award went to Herschel Mayers of Discovery Life, Discovery Invest and PruProtect.

Awards this year will be made in the following seven categories:

Businessperson Award - Absa Listed Company Award: To a Jewish person in a senior leadership position within a listed company and who has achieved enormous success worthy of

recognition.

Businessperson Award - Absa Unlisted Company Award: To a Jewish person who is in a senior leadership position in an unlisted company and who has achieved enormous success worthy of recognition.

Business Person – Entrepreneur Award: To a Jewish person who has shown enormous entrepreneurial flair and business innovation.

The Helen Suzman Lifetime Achievement Award: To a Jewish person who has contributed in an extraordinary manner, in their specific field, over a lengthy period of time.

The Community Service Award: To a Jewish person who has served the Jewish communi-

ty with remarkable distinction.

The Arts Science, Sports & Culture Award: To a Jewish person who has excelled in any of the aforementioned spheres.

The Chivas Humanitarian Award in honour of the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris: To either a Jewish or non-Jewish person who has contributed substantially to the betterment of the lives of the people of South Africa.

Make your nominations on www.sajewishreport.co.za and diarise the gala awards ceremony on June 20. Last year the event - the highlight on the Jewish social calendar - was sold-out and people had to be turned away from the glittering function attended by the Who’s Who of the Jewish community.

Chivas Corporate Leadership Programme wins marketing award

The prestigious Jewish Achiever Awards, are proud to welcome to its fold as a sponsor, the top blended Scotch whisky, Chivas Regal. It is a fortuitous, symbiotic relationship as Wayne Merris, marketing manager of Chivas Regal in South Africa and his team, are great supporters of the Jewish community and the Jewish Report.

The South African Chivas Corporate Leadership Programme (CCLP) recently won the Pernod Ricard European Premier Marketing Award for the category of “Influencer Marketing”, and was short-listed as one of the six finalists for the group’s Global Marketing Campaign of the Year Award, according to a media release from Pernod Ricard.

The programme, in collaboration with Absa, Cell C and FNB, incorporates a professionally-run series of monthly power-speaking seminars aimed at current and future South African business leaders.

The programme incorporates monthly power-speaking seminars.

Conceived by the SA Chivas marketing team, it identified that while the brand’s primary target market is being fast-tracked into corporate leadership roles, there is an area vital to effective leadership that they need more up-skilling in,

namely that of powerful public speaking.

The CCLP, launched in 2011, is presented monthly at the Hyatt Rosebank Hotel by the “The Voice Clinic”, a leading professional public speaking consultancy. Each of the three corporate partners sends eight middle-management employees that they have identified as future leaders to these monthly one-day seminars.

The Pernod Ricard Europe Premier Marketing Awards ceremony took place in Paris in February. Merris, who received the award, commented: “Our faith in this programme has been endorsed by the ongoing enthusiastic and positive response from our corporate partners and their delegates, and being honoured with this accolade at the Pernod Ricard Premier Marketing Awards and subsequently being short-listed as one of the top six marketing campaigns across the global Pernod Ricard community, is an incredible achievement that we are extremely proud of.”

Pernod Ricard is the world’s co-leader in premium spirits and

wines. The company’s leading brands include Chivas Regal Scotch Whisky among a host of others.

Pernod Ricard is the world’s co-leader in premium spirits and wines.

Chivas Regal is a blended Scotch whisky, produced by Chivas Brothers, owned by Pernod Ricard. Chivas Brothers was first established in 1801 in Aberdeen, Scotland. However, the distillery was actually founded in 1968. The brand gained popular appeal in the early 1990s.

It is the market-leading Scotch whisky aged 12 years and above in Europe and Asia Pacific. Chivas Regal sales have grown by 61 per cent between 2002 and 2008.

The House of Schivas, a large mansion, was built at Schivas in Aberdeenshire in 1640. The name is derived from the Gaelic “seamhas”, meaning narrow place.

Chivas Brothers traces its roots to the opening of a grocery store in



Wayne Merris, marketing manager of Chivas Regal in South Africa (right) receiving the Pernod Ricard Premier Marketing Award for the Chivas Corporate Leadership Programme in South Africa, from Martin Riley, Pernod Ricard group marketing director.

Aberdeen in 1801. In 1843, they were granted a Royal Warrant to supply goods to Queen Victoria.

During the 1850s, James Chivas decided to respond to his affluent customers’ demands for a smoother whisky, by beginning to

blend whiskies to create a proprietary blend to Chivas Brothers. In the early 1900s, Chivas Brothers decided to create their most aged blended Scotch whisky to export to the US. The whisky was named Chivas Regal.

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They died so that we may live in freedom

ALISON GOLDBERG
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN
OSSENDYRVER

Of all the tributes South Africans paid to the fallen of Israel on Tuesday night's commemoration of Yom Hazikaron, perhaps none achieved the same "oneness" with them and their families than the Kaddish, led by Rabbi Dovid Hazdan.

Organisers of the commemoration at Yeshiva College in Johannesburg, were the Embassy of Israel, the South African Zionist Federation, the Israel Centre SA, the IUA-UCF, and Zionist youth movements.

A trumpet call sounded the Last Post as the Israeli flag was lowered. A siren called for a minute's silence. A rollcall of names appeared on screen of some of those who died and for whom candles were lit. These marked the 1948 War of Independence; the 1956 Sinai Campaign; the 1967 Six Day War; the 1969-'70 War and subsequent wars.

MC, David Isakow, rosh Hanigra Betar, set the tone for the evening. "I want to read you a quote that for me holds the essence of Yom Hazikaron, by a Jewish soldier Hannah Senesh:

"There are stars whose radiance is visible on earth though they have long been extinct. There are people whose brilliance continues



Former Israeli Police spokesman Marc Kahlberg, warned that though we extend our hand in friendship, there are those who reject it, "who really do want to destroy us. We can never afford to be complacent."

to light the world even though they are no longer among the living. These lights are particularly bright when the night is dark. They light the way for human kind."

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein dissected the question of how do we hold on to their memory. "Our Talmudic sages teach us that G-d does not forget anything; no single act of heroism; no single mitzvah; not the mitzvah of these brave soldiers who gave their lives to perform them to defend Israel and Jewry.

"Hashem has made a special place for them close to Him in Heaven; their good deeds will last forever. In their merit we ask

Hashem to bless the people of Israel with real peace and with it, bring our final redemption."

Ambassador Dov Segev-Steinberg said some commemorations brought joy, such as Yom Ha'atzmaut, when 64 years ago the creation of the State of Israel redeemed Jews after thousands of years of dispersal and persecution, when our survival and almost complete annihilation depended on the whim of leaders of nations.

"On this day, though, we reflect on the high cost of that realisation and our indebtedness forever to those who died for us."

Since 1860, when Jews left the walls of Jerusalem to settle other parts of the land, "over 22 000 soldiers have been killed, 75 000 wounded, and over 100 000 disabled in wars and terrorist attacks. To add to the grief of those left behind is the indifference of many and even sympathy for the perpetrators; their inverting of the truth by depicting the good as evil and the evil as good." SAZF Chairman Avrom Krengel reminded the audience that not since King David have Jews grown and flourished in freedom (like today), thanks to those who fell and dreamt of peace."

Former Israeli Police spokesman Marc Kahlberg warned: "We can never afford to be complacent."

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STAN & PETE

Achieving closure on genocide

Holocaust deniers are like a red flag to Jews, illustrated by the instant outrage following revelations in the Mail & Guardian that a director of an august body like the SA Reserve Bank, Stephen Goodson, is one of them.

It is of overwhelming importance to Jews that Germany, the country which produced the Nazis, has fully acknowledged its culpability for the Holocaust, continuing to pay reparations, teaching it in schools, making it a crime to deny the Holocaust, and so on.

Jews have largely achieved closure on the

Holocaust, with healthy German-Jewish dialogue being key in the process. While determined never to forget, Jews are comfortable visiting and even living in Germany, which now has the fastest growing Jewish community in the world.

Armenians have something in common with Jews on this topic. On Tuesday - April 24 - they commemorated the beginning of their genocide at Turkish hands 97 years ago, during the First World War.

Over a million were killed as the Ottoman

Empire collapsed. The Armenians, however, remain with an open wound because of Turkey's consistent and vehement denial of the genocide. Many believe the Turks will never recognise the genocide unless forced to and that Turkey hopes that with the passing of time, it will be forgotten, buried in history.

In South Africa, we have had no genocide or holocaust in our history, even though we have had many localised racial atrocities. In general, we have fairly good relations between the various race groups, despite some hot-heads on all sides.

However, we have had nearly half a century of apartheid. We celebrate Freedom Day today (Friday 27), the date in 1994 when we held our first truly democratic elections, when South Africans of all races patiently queued together for kilometres to cast their votes.

It has given enormous freedom and succour to this country that whites have openly acknowledged the horrors of apartheid and many are trying to build the country together with their fellow black citizens.

With all its flaws - and many cynical detractors - the Truth and Reconciliation Commission helped this process, an attempt to achieve justice through the symbolic act of recognition between perpetrators and victims.

As they mark the anniversary of their genocide, Armenians have yet to be allowed closure through Turkey acknowledging the atrocity. It is understandably difficult for modern-day Turks who were born long after the event - to accept responsibility for something so historically remote. But the lack of closure is dangerous.

Eva Hoffman, the acclaimed Polish-born author of the seminal work on the post-Holocaust generation, *After Such Knowledge*, says: "...Great crimes and wrongs cannot be left unaddressed... unless some acknowledgement and recognition of what happened takes place, the suppressed past will rankle and return."

In fact, Jews have an ironic connection to Armenian history. Hoffman says the world's early indifference to the Armenian genocide gave Hitler "perverse comfort". When cautioned that his project of exterminating the Jews might give him a bad name in history, he reportedly said: "Who now remembers the Armenians?"

The Holocaust must not remain a purely "Jewish" issue, but should make us active in ensuring that no genocides remain unrecognised, or can ever occur again.

Minimising fault-finding in Israel

Judging by the strident, triumphalist tones of their rhetoric, Israel's enemies believe - really believe - that they have hit on the key strategy to bring about Israel's dissolution. This is to get the international community to endorse the notion that Israel is an apartheid state, thereby paving the way to its existence being progressively rendered untenable through boycotts and isolation.

The SA example is the primary inspiration for this campaign. The Apartheidists, to coin a term, see the demise of white minority rule here as largely coming about through the relentless international pressure exerted on multiple levels, not just in the political arena, but in the sporting, academic, cultural and obviously economic spheres as well.

Today, therefore, the considerable resources of the global anti-Israel lobby are being expended on campaigns aimed at making the apartheid label stick. Since getting post-liberation SA's official endorsement for this would be a mega-boost for the strategy, much of it has been taking place within this country.

An obvious example was last year's Russell Tribunal on Palestine, with a budget well in excess of R2 million and a central platform aiming at getting Israel formally declared to be guilty of apartheid practices by those who themselves suffered under apartheid.

This year's Israel Apartheid Week, with activities in 13 major centres countrywide, was the most ambitious yet.

What, in real terms, have been the outcomes of this strategy to date? Will it ultimately be successful in getting off the ground an international campaign against Israel comparable to that conducted against apartheid South Africa? Here, there is room for cautious optimism.

The Apartheidists may well be badly off the mark in assuming that they will be able to get history to repeat itself through generating sufficient international outrage against Israel.

Firstly, the context has changed. Much of the international opprobrium against apartheid had its roots in post-colonial black anger and white guilt, but the times have moved on since then. Much more pertinently, the objective realities of apartheid-era South Africa and modern-day Israel are demonstrably very different.

At the end of the day, apartheid apologists were confronted with having to defend a system that was fundamentally unjust, no matter how much they railed against double standards and selective morality. In Israel's case, there are cogent defences for why it has adopted the policies it has, and while these are certainly not beyond criticism, their shortcomings can in no way match the gravity of how basic human rights were trampled upon in SA.

Related to this is the vastly different nature of the respective forces campaigning against



BARBARIC YAWP
David Saks

apartheid SA and against Israel. The one was fundamentally democratic, inclusive, human-rights focused and peaceful, while the other remains chauvinistic, totalitarian, ethnically and religiously exclusive and wedded to violence.

Millions of people abroad were won over by the former cause because it was so obviously the right one when confronted with the racially discriminatory, authoritarian regime it was up against. It is proving a much harder sell to get the rank and file to buy, on moralistic, human rights grounds, into what the Palestinian cause objectively represents.

The SA liberation movements had the Freedom Charter, which envisaged a genuinely democratic, non-racist society based on fundamental democratic liberties. The Palestinian equivalents are the Palestine National Covenant and the Hamas Charter, the one espousing a neo-fascistic Arab nationalism and the other bug-eyed Islamist religious fanaticism.

In the latter, aside from passages that would not be out of place in *Mein Kampf*, alleging intrinsic Jewish culpability in subverting the world order for their own wicked purposes, there is an emotive evocation of a future time when Muslims everywhere will rise up and slaughter every Jew they can find.

As those engaged in countering the ingrained prejudices have discovered, trying to shift the ingrained perceptions of those who have bought into the anti-Israel agenda is to run into a concrete wall of mulish prejudice. The real battle is to win over the uncommitted middle, those who even if they have been influenced by anti-Israel notions, are open to changing them when shown persuasive evidence to the contrary.

Here, Israel needs to do its part, not just in finding better ways to put forward its case but also in subjecting its own actions to continual critical scrutiny. It needs to make a sustained effort to eliminate unfair discrimination against minorities within its own borders and with regard to the semi-occupied West Bank to seize every opportunity to minimise hardship against the Arab population when implementing its policies.

Faced with an enemy that dishonestly seeks to seize on its every fault and exaggerate it, the most effective, as well as the most moral, solution for Israel is to strive to as much as possible ensure that such grounds for fault-finding are removed altogether.

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Letters

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

SAJR’s new layout doesn’t appeal

I don’t like the new format of the Jewish Report at all. Community Buzz was one of my favourite columns; the new way of printing makes it difficult to read.
As for What’s On, the headings of each function need to be bold, not wishy-washy, so you can’t distinguish the one from the other.

The front page has been devoted only to religious activities. Everyone I speak to agrees with me.
Marcia Parness, Johannesburg

Kids show no respect at Shoah remembrance

I had the honour of being invited to represent my organisation at the Yom Hashoah commemoration at West Park Cemetery on April 19. I had not been before, but found the experience moving and informative.

I was disturbed, however, at the appearance of the children from the Jewish day schools. They looked slovenly with shirts hanging out, ties skew and skirts that barely covered their pupiks. The girls’ hair was everywhere and the boys were generally shaggy.

I mentioned to Rabbi (Avraham) Tanzer, who was sitting next to me, that my children went to government schools and there was no way they would be allowed to go out in public looking like the Jewish kids did – least of all to an event as profound as this.

Rabbi Tanzer agreed that the appearance of the kids showed no respect whatsoever.

The MC welcomed the large attendance by schoolchildren and expressed the hope that they would carry the memory of the Holocaust forward. Wouldn’t it be appropriate to invite to this commemoration each year, Jewish children from some government schools, together with their prefect body?

It would serve to remind the community that Jewish children do exist outside of the Jewish school system.

It will also be an extraordinary learning experience for the future leaders of South Africa, who are not Jewish. After all, the persecution and genocide of the Jews wasn’t perpetrated on Jews by Jews. The obligation to remember is not ours alone.

Sara Weiss, Parktown North, Johannesburg

For the Record

It’s Kitty Goldstone, not Goldstein

In an article in last week’s paper on Kitty Goldstone turning 100, she is referred to in the headline as Kitty Goldstein. We apologise to Mrs Goldstone.

Skutelsky wrote Rene Heitner’s book

Jennifer Skutelsy points out that in the obituary for paediatrician Rene Heitner, published in February this year in the Jewish Report, it was incorrectly stated that Madeleine Heitner, Rene’s mother, wrote a book called “Breathing Through Buttonholes” on her experiences in Auschwitz. “While the book is indeed Madeleine’s story,” Skutelsky comments, “I was the author and wrote it on her behalf.” We regret the error.

Please bring back the puzzle page!

What a disappointment your new-look Jewish Report is! It gets thinner by the week, because of fewer articles and also fewer advertisements, which in turn means less money. You took the trouble to do a survey to find out what the people want. I have yet to see the results of that survey and also how you are using it to please the readership.

A little while ago a reader complained about the alternation of the three puzzles. You previously had the crossword on a weekly basis and alternated the bridge column and Sudoku. I, for one enjoyed all three. You then had just one puzzle per week and none in the past two editions.

Most people, with whom I am in contact, enjoyed the crossword and we would often discuss the clues that we were unable to answer. As for me, I could not wait for Thursday evening and before reading any of the articles - which I do enjoy - it was first to the puzzle page that I turned. This week’s paper has no puzzle; the anticipation has now turned to a total let-down.

Please bring back the puzzles and if it means adding another page, I am sure that extra advertisers could be found to cover the cost.
Peggy Cohen, Linksfield West, Johannesburg

Underwhelmed by the new-look Jewish Report

I would like to give you my comments on the new layout of the Jewish Report. I understand that part of the new layout is to try to accommodate the widest readership possible.

I am also sure that you have done a survey to determine the age profile of your current readers (as you cannot be everything to everybody).

I assume that your most avid and loyal readers are in the age group 20 - 70.

I have read almost every JR ever published. However this past week I only glanced and briefly paged through it, as it had the look of a high-school teenage magazine.

To my surprise, this was a similar comment which I got from the social friends (35 - 55). I thus urge you to reconsider your new layout, as it does not appeal to the older age group.

My teenage kids only ever read a few pages of any magazine, and thus a concise teenage supplement would be better than trying to convert the whole JR to appeal to a younger age group (which anyway mainly only reads articles which are online on a digital screen). Maybe an online interactive teenager supplement is the way to go.

In addition, the younger age group is more comfortable with a different language style to that of a formal newspaper. As an example: the official formal comprehension textbooks used by my kids in school contain (to my horror) about 50 per cent of its contents in slang and mixed jargon. So, to capture the younger audience, the JR will need to use a completely different style of English vernacular.

Please accept my comments in the good faith that it is intended.
Justin Shulman, Lyndhurst, Johannesburg

In new Jewish Report, where’s Community Buzz?

I picked up a copy of your new-look SA Jewish Report and noticed one glaring omission: the Community Buzz column by Lionel Slier.

I have read this column religiously for several years now and each week looked forward to getting the paper - only because of it.

It was well written and always gave me a chuckle. With a dwindling community like ours, what can be more important than keeping alive our vibrant history?

I hope this was just an omission (although I noticed it was missing in the last few editions as well) and will soon return.

Geoff Rabinowitz, Johannesburg

THE JEWISH WORLD

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Canadian Jewish News, Toronto and Montreal:
www.cjnews.com

“NEW DEFENCE ATTACHÉ EAGER TO BUILD BRIDGES”

Another layer has been added to the ever-deepening bilateral relationship between Canada and Israel.

The Jewish Chronicle, London:
www.thejc.com

“COUNCIL ALLOWS ISRAELI FLAG TO FLY IN BURY”

Bury Council has agreed to allow the flying of the Israeli flag on Yom Ha’atzmaut, following a review of its flag protocol, sparked by its refusal to fly the blue star and stripes last year.

Haaretz, Israel:
www.haaretz.com

“ISRAEL SEEKS IDF OKAY TO CONSTRUCT TEMPORARY HOMES IN WEST BANK SETTLEMENT”

Government officials have instructed GOC Central Command Maj Gen Nitzan Alon to sign an order to allow the placement of temporary structures near Migron in the West Bank, without going through the legally mandated planning procedures.

The Jewish Week, New York:
www.thejewishweek.com

“‘VOICES’ DIVIDED OVER ISRAEL”

Blocks away from a food co-op’s BDS battles, a quirky, progressive and not exactly pro-Israel shul grows in Brooklyn.

Jewish Journal, Los Angeles:
www.jewishjournal.com

“OBAMA: I’LL BE THERE FOR ISRAEL”

President Obama in an address at a Holocaust remembrance event said he would “always be there for Israel” and defended his administration’s record on preventing atrocities.

The Algemeiner, Brooklyn:
www.algemeiner.com

“SENATOR LIEBERMAN WILL NOT ENDORSE OBAMA OR ROMNEY”

Former Democratic vice presidential candidate and US Sen Joe Lieberman says he’s not endorsing anyone - Republican or Democrat - for president in November.

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, international:
www.jta.org

“SARKOZY FALLS IN FIRST ROUND OF FRENCH VOTE, BUT NOT IN JEWISH EYES”

Jewish voters couldn't put incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy over the top in the first round of presidential elections in France.

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Lara Lipschitz is on the up-and-up

Audrey Hepburn lookalike Lara Lipschitz (24) (pictured), “it’s because of the eyebrows,” she giggles, is an actress of extreme competence, as she proved in “My Uncle Oswald”, a monodrama she staged last year. Right now, she can be seen in the role of “Rosie” in the local soapie, *Isidingo*.



**ROBYN SASSEN
PHOTOGRAPH BY
PATRICK TOSELLI**

A drama graduate from Wits in 2010, she was quickly brought down to earth with a threat of being sued for “Oswald”. It derived from Roald Dahl’s eponymous novel. “I developed the work as my fourth year piece. Not one of my lecturers advised me about copyright. By the time it was in its third season, I was really proud of it, but then I was told to can it altogether.”

Being brought back to earth has been part of Lipschitz’s career so far.

Being brought back to earth has been part of Lipschitz’s career so far. You might remember her as one of the YoTv presenters in the 1990s. “I started my career as a 10-year-old and I loved it.” It was not all plain sailing though. “While it was great for my self-esteem, peers shunned me at King David Linksfield, where I matriculated. People resented me for my exposure, and many wanted to see me fail.

“I’ve always been drawn to the arts. I was taken to the theatre from when I was tiny. I did art for matric and did ballet and dance while I was growing up. In this field, you’ve got to be as versatile as possible. Jobs are not that plentiful.”

Lipschitz has had a role on *Isidingo* in

her sights for a while. “I’ve been called back and short-listed on many occasions. They introduce a new young girl character, with a new story thread every year. But at the end of last year, I bagged the role. It’s a short contract of about four weeks, but I’m hoping there will be a chance that they will bring my character back.

‘I’m wary of being on a soapie.’

“Rosie’ is a 17-year-old, very much in love with Ntando, youngest son of prominent businessman Jefferson Sibeko, played by Loyiso MacDonald. The character is not as candyflossy, down the line, as you might believe at the outset. There are lots of layers,” she chuckles, revealing no more.

“I’m wary of being on a soapie. While it has been very exciting I don’t want to get stuck in the same role, but the stability of a ‘real’ job with a real income is very attractive.

“Acting for TV and acting on stage differ massively. On TV, there is not a lot of attention to detail. But the more I see myself on camera, the more I learn. I am my own worst critic.

“But on TV, all I can play is a young woman! Onstage, I can be anything I want. In ‘Oswald’, I was everything, from a young Victorian fop to an old sexually starved dowager! Theatre gives me a platform to distance myself from myself.”

Isidingo is screened on SABC 3, week-days at 19:30.

‘Sort of thing’ that can happen to all of us

Jon McGregor’s brilliance prevails in tales of the treacherous, the unexpected and often the unthinkable.

This Isn’t the Sort of Thing That Happens to Someone Like You by Jon McGregor (Bloomsbury, R302)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

No matter how meticulously we follow the scripts we have crafted for ourselves, there are always moments when we lose the plot and career headlong down causeways we thought we could avoid. These are the unanticipated, calamitous journeys from which returning intact is seldom possible.

Jon McGregor’s tales explore this experience, using the grim, implacable landscape of England’s fen counties as a backdrop. The location of each story is indicated alongside its title, a cartographic conceit which orientates both author and reader in what is to follow.

Many of the pieces are not stories at all, but brief, startling monologues: McGregor turns up the volume of the ongoing conversations individuals conduct with themselves, just long enough for us to grasp the extent to which they have misread a relationship or situation, and the scale of the impending disaster.

The heartless, and hopeless, spaces into which we fall.

The pieces pinpoint the heartless, and hopeless, spaces into which we fall when we weren’t listening, or weren’t believing, or simply weren’t looking. In “We Were Just Driving Around” (North Ormsby), for example, a teenager recounts a jaunt in a car with his friends. Using the lilting, new-age American-ese in which statements are framed as questions, he vividly evokes the good-natured banter of boisterous, drunk youngsters sharing a joke.

“That set us off laughing again. The state we were in, it didn’t take much? Plus Josh had this very high-pitched laugh that was pretty infectious, and once he’d got us all going it was just about impossible to stop?.... and then Amanda said Josh will you slow down a bit and he turned round to ask her what she’d said so that must have been how come he never saw the corner?”

McGregor’s skill lies not in his language, but in his ability to mimic - to perfection - the patois and rhythm of his countrymen and -women, and in the brevity and accuracy of the few phrases with which he ushers them onto, and then off, the pages.

Sometimes vignettes, at other times simply abbreviated stage directions, the portraits are both tragic and telling, depicting individuals grappling with their neediness. In “French Tea” (Sutton-on-Sea), a bag lady laments the poor quality of tea (read: love) served up in modern establishments. It is her habitual rant, recited hundreds of times before.

“Keeping Watch Over the Sheep” (Alford), thrusts us into the mindset of a paedophilic father who defies a restraining order, arriving at his young daughter’s primary school in order to see her act in its annual nativity play. For once, his



instincts are genuinely paternal and tender, rather than venal, but the man who appears and throws him off the premises “wasn’t even the headteacher or anything, but the other teachers were obviously all women so he must have been sent out to deal with the situation. That’s what he was now. A situation.” Few writers can present the vulnerable within the vile this compellingly.

He tells himself: There is nothing to worry about...

In “We Wave and Call” (Wainfleet), we eavesdrop on the inner dialogue of a young man on holiday taking a lone swim in the sea, while his friends lunch on the shore. Preoccupied with the memory of the previous night’s party, he drifts further out than he realised. A lot further. Still, he tells himself, there is nothing to worry about.

“A rest is all you need. It’s been a while since you swam in open water like this, that’s all. A few moments’ rest and you’ll be able to swim to the rocks, to the steps, and climb out... It won’t take long now. It’s not too far. You look up, past the headland and into the next bay along, and you swim and you rest a little more. Sometimes it happens like this.”

The finest piece (one of two were shortlisted for a BBC National Short Story Award), entitled “If it Keeps on Raining” (Susworth), introduces us to a displaced, deranged hermit living in a shack on the river bank who plans to build a treehouse where children can take shelter once the continual rain causes the area to flood.

With its apocalyptic, menacing undertones, the story is reminiscent of both Holden Caulfield longing to be the catcher in the rye and Noah, contemplating the Ark. Dark and dizzyingly beautiful, the story knits together insanity and idealism so skilfully that they become indistinguishable. But, then, haven’t they always been?

Not all the stories are successful. McGregor occasionally resorts to wholly unnecessary gimmickry (such as creating diagrams out of words, simply listing names of places for pages or repeating one sentence hundreds of times – devices which diminish, rather than enhance, the text). “In Winter the Sky”, for instance, might be a magnificent prose-poem in which a floundering marriage is reflected in the pallid Upwell clouds, and deflected by the unyielding earth of the fenland. However, the author’s contraction and expansion of the lines and typeface make one swear in frustration.

Ultimately, though, McGregor’s brilliance prevails. As the book’s title indicates, these are tales of the treacherous, the unexpected and – often – the unthinkable. They describe events that only ever happen to other people.

It is an illusion of which the stories mercilessly disabuse us, showing us – again and again - that this is indeed “the sort of thing that happens to someone like you”, and to me, and to her, and to him, and to anyone fated to be human, and alive, and stuck with it.

Arts Briefs

DUO GALAY PRESENTS ‘FACES OF ISRAELI MUSIC’
This Sunday evening only, internationally touted Duo Galay from Israel presents “Faces of Israeli Music” at the Old Mutual Theatre on the Square in Sandton. It’s an event of Jewish stories with original music by Daniel Galay, performed by Galay (piano) and his daughter Racheli Galay (cello). The duo has been collaborating since 1988 with a repertoire that includes works by contemporary Israeli composers as well as klezmer and classical music. If you missed them at the RCHCC in Oaklands and at the Musaion Auditorium, Pretoria University, during the week, now’s your chance: April 29, 17:00. Call (011) 883-8606.

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

A week of commemoration

Three noteworthy commemorative days are taking place this week, all of great significance to our community. They are, in order of occurrence, Yom Hazikaron, Yom Ha'atzmaut and Freedom Day.

In the first, we join with the Israeli people in remembering those soldiers who have fallen in defence of the State of Israel. Before celebrating Israel's creation, it is incumbent upon us to first remember the enormous sacrifices that have had to be made to make it possible.

Next, we celebrate Israel's Day of Independence, remembering with gratitude and pride the miracle of Jewish national rebirth in the land of our ancestors 64 years ago and everything that it has achieved since then.

Finally, as South Africans, we commemorate what was this country's true day of independence, when the first fully democratic, non-racial elections ushered in a hopeful new era of freedom and equality for all.

In August last year the Board, in partnership with the Umoja Foundation, was proud to bring out a prestigious illustrated history of the part Jewish community members have played in the life and career of Nelson Mandela, and by extension in the South African freedom struggle as a whole.

Entitled Jewish Memories of Mandela, this has since received wide acclaim from readers and reviewers alike. Recently, we sent complimentary copies of the book to some 30 of the most important public and university libraries around the country, where they will be preserved as a lasting record of our community's involvement in




Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

bringing about a post-apartheid South Africa. Last week, the Board held the annual Yom Hashoah ceremonies around the country, and this week, our sister organisation, the SA Zionist Federation, is as always taking responsibility for organising Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut.

While not directly involved in these events, we fully support and identify with them, as indeed do the great majority of our Jewish community, and have no doubt that they will be as successful and well-supported as they have been in the past.

University exams, Shabbat and Yomtov
As has frequently been reported on in previous columns, the Board is the organisation mandated to assist Jewish university students whenever cases of their exams being scheduled on Shabbat or Yomtov arise.

The most recent case dealt with concerned exams being set on Shabbat by the University of Johannesburg. In the course of a meeting with the registrar, it was agreed that suitable arrangements would be made to accommodate those Jewish students affected.

We have also been assured by Unisa that the students concerned will be likewise accommodated regarding exams that have been set on Shavuot.

Once again, I must stress how vital it is that any problems be brought timeously to our attention, so that we can in turn advise the university well in advance.

I therefore urge students to advise us without delay, should our intervention be required. All communications in this regard can be sent to sajbd@beyachad.co.za

Listen to "Jewish Board Talk" every Tuesday evening on 101.9 Chai FM with Steven Gruzd from 20:00 – 21:00. On Tuesday May 1, Steve chats to Johnny Copelyn about Jewish involvement in unions, then and now. He interviews Prof Barry Schoub, recipient of the Order of Mapungubwe: Silver for achievements in medical science and virology, and talks to Grant Maserow in Durban about their Living KZN project. Finally, he speaks to Daniel Herman about "Taste of Limmud". Also streaming on www.chaifm.com

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KDVP High remembers the six million who died

HANNA BEN-MOSHE
PHOTOGRAPH: YAEL GORDON

Last Thursday, King David High School Victory Park commemorated the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust. Grade 11 learners conducted the ceremony with distinction. They recited poems and lit candles in memory of the victims - a touching and emotional ceremony. Don Krausz, a Holocaust survivor, was the guest speaker. He shared his memories and enriched us with first-hand information that moved us all. He was born in Holland and at the age of 12 was taken with his family to Westerbork. He survived three camps, one of them Auschwitz, and also survived

the notorious “Death March”. He dedicated his speech to the six million, as he feels it is his duty to tell the story of the Holocaust and the lesson we should learn from it to the younger generation. After the special assembly, the entire school went to West Park Cemetery, to the community memorial ceremony. Three of our matrices, Saul Maserow, Sarah Katzew and Kerri-Lee Gluch, took part in the ceremony. The school conducted themselves exceptionally well and gave us lots of nachas and pride during both ceremonies. It is important to know, remember and honour our past and hopefully we will continue to be involved in the community’s activities and services in the future as well.

KDL High poignantly remembers the fallen

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Last week Thursday, April 19, King David Linksfield High School held a poignant, moving Yom Hashoah ceremony, with learners lighting candles and reciting poems in remembrance of the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust. We were privileged to be addressed by

Holocaust survivor Lionel Fliss who spoke about the importance of never forgetting the events of the Holocaust and how pertinent it is to be cognisant of our heritage. He left us with a message of valuing and appreciating the State of Israel and all that it represents for the worldwide Jewish community.



Engaging with Danish kids via Skype

JOS HORWITZ
PRINCIPAL HERZLIA CONSTANTIA
PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE SHERMAN

Grade R children at Herzlia Constantia were fascinated as they engage with children from Denmark via Skype using their class-

room smart board. Steve Sherman our Living Maths instructor guides the children through getting to talk about school lunches and the differences that exist between the children from Cape Town in South Africa and Denmark.

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

WIZO has much to celebrate

WIZO, an integral part of the Zionist Federation, congratulates Israel on her 64th birthday and joined in the Yom Ha’atzmaut festivities on Wednesday (April 25). Ever mindful of the high price paid by her soldiers and citizens, we mourned with her at the Yom Hazikaron ceremony the night before.

We look with pride on this young country’s achievements, her ethos and her celebration of life despite the tensions that surround her. We at WIZO also have much to be proud of:

One of WIZO South Africa’s beneficiaries - Neve Amiel - is a youth village in Israel which provides education and counselling in a warm, nurturing and safe home to many Israeli youths at risk.

Recently, Neve Amiel’s culinary students rose to the challenge alongside the IDF’s finest cooks to find out who was the ultimate Master Chef. These youngsters are given the chance to fulfil their potential and dreams and to become functioning and contributing members of Israeli society.

Another proud moment was when Professor Stanley Fischer, governor of the Bank of Israel, recently visited WIZO’s Nachlat Yehuda, another youth village in Israel.

In his letter of thanks after the visit he wrote how impressed he was with the stu-



WIZO South Africa
Yvonne Jawitz

dents in the economics class that he conducted. He said: “I have no doubt that this interest and the questions they asked, are testimony to the high level of your students and an expression of the good education they are receiving from the staff led by yourself. Of course, ultimately this contributes towards the strengthening of the students and the human assets in the Israeli society.” We are familiar with “Nakba Day,” inaugurated by Yasser Arafat in 1998, and meant to counter Israel’s

Independence Day celebrations, commemorating losses suffered by Arabs who fled their homes during the War of Independence. What we are less familiar with is the loss suffered by nearly 1 000 000 Jews who were expelled from 10 Arab countries and whose story remains largely untold. In June, WIZO will be bringing Linda Menuhin, an Israeli of Iraqi descent, to this country. She embodies the untold story and her deep knowledge of both the Arab and Jewish cultures makes her an expert commentator in Middle East affairs. She will be addressing audiences countrywide and we look forward to welcoming her to our beautiful South Africa. There is much to celebrate, much to be proud of and much to look forward to in the near future.



All the schools leading onto the field for the closing ceremony.

Making sporting memories to last a lifetime and more

SHIRA DRUION
PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

Recently, 438 participants from Jewish schools marched onto the field at Kind David Sandton. The crowd joined the float of talented sportsmen who had come to participate in the week-long challenge which came into being last year and has already become a Jewish-driven sporting highlight.

Hayley Nathan, the tournament organiser who is passionate about the concept, says: “This year, our opening ceremony beat to the rhythm of the homeboy drumming group iGrooves, as they riled up the crowd with a turbo charged performance. The group of impassioned sportsmen, Springbok vets and Maccabi representatives, were a conglomeration of all the right ingredients to create a canvas of past, present and future sporting heroes. “We were honoured to have Adam Bacher, Mandy Yachad, Basil Kletz and Eda Greenway to lead the parade, and we took the opportunity to pay tribute to them for the phenomenal contribution they have made to the world of sport.”

In January 2010, the vision for this event was born when Nathan, together with the principal of King David Sandton, Gillian Horwitz, had a dream to model the Montrose Cricket Tournament - but for Jewish learners, allowing them the opportunity to excel.



Tournament organisers Hayley Nathan and Fiona Cahn at King David Sandton.

They proceeded to not only create an opportunity for cricketers to compete in a day/night challenge, but to allow for a more inclusive competition, adding soccer and netball into the mix. This year, Nathan together with Fiona Cahn, invested tenacity and drive, and their dream has now mushroomed into a sporting challenge which is as competitive as it is rewarding, and is filled with the glamour that sporting fests have always been about.

The tournament attracted a diverse group of participants from King David Sandton, Linksfield, Victory Park, Hirsch Lyons, Torah Academy, Yeshiva College, Bellavista, Crossroads and a developmental team. The participants relished in the good, healthy competition and at the closing ceremony, the crowd broke into applause as skydivers dropped onto the field to pick the prize-winners. Nathan is delighted at the incredible success of the event and admits: “The camaraderie and enthusiasm of our players was utterly infectious, and our sponsors should be applauded for helping to facilitate the biggest Jewish sporting competition in South Africa; an event that is an inspiring phenomenon, as it creates bonds that cross the boundaries of race and religion, making memories to last a lifetime.”

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Bernstein wins coveted Fisher Award for 2010 book

ALISON GOLDBERG

Ann Bernstein, executive director of the Centre for Development and Enterprise, has won the 2012 Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Award for her book, *The Case for Business in Developing Economies*, published in 2010.

Conferred by the Atlas Economic Research Foundation of Washington, DC, the award recognises the publication “that best improves the public understanding of the free society” and notably, Bernstein’s “penetrating analysis of the role of business in supporting development by an authentic voice from the developing world”.

Bernstein was in the US this month to receive the award and address the Fisher Memorial Awards Dinner. The \$10 000 prize will go to the CDE.

Bernstein debunks the myths propagated by the Corporate Social Responsibility movement. This consists largely of NGOs in well-to-do countries dictating to developing countries and the very small numbers of international corporations operating in them, relative to domestic businesses.

She avoids the narrow concept of “the business of business is business”, showing companies have social responsibilities but exercise these best if they are able to carry out their core functions of competing and making profits.

In the process they provide employment directly and indirectly; as well as taxes to host countries, which if well-run, use these monies to address social needs, alongside shaping markets and economic prospects - government roles mainly ignored by CSR. Companies are the drivers of economic growth, without which poverty cannot be addressed.

“One of the most potent and pernicious myths”, writes Bernstein, “is that big companies control democratically elected governments, thereby undermining democracy across the world. This is simplistic and greatly exaggerated. Contrary to the essentially Marxist idea that the power of money controls



the world, big businesses have influence but not control, and ideas are frequently more important than interest groups.

“Part of this myth is that businesses inevitably collude with one another to advance their collective world domination. On the contrary, large companies generally compete ruthlessly with one another.”

Many CSR activists, whose world view is based on faulty ideas about business, profits, markets and globalism, bemoan the level of world poverty and assert it is getting worse and worse. This amounts to a denial of the history of the past 50 years in the developing world, during which more people have been lifted out of poverty more rapidly than ever before. She demonstrates these with case studies, among others, in China and Botswana.

Bernstein also tackles proponents of a mandatory global minimum wage for export workers as called for by the International Labour Organisation, which would hit poorest countries the hardest by depriving them of the opportunity to use their cheaper labour as a comparative advantage.

South Africa’s recent history is an instructive example of a developing country that prematurely adopted First World standards of worker conditions. This is a consequence of the apartheid battle and the complex politics of business and unions in an undemocratic state.

There could be little doubt that SA’s high unemployment rate (just under 40 per cent in 2009) was due in no small consequence to these inappropriate standards which encouraged companies to mechanise.

What’s On

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

Today, Friday (April 27)

- *RCHCC* hosts an exhibition of works by Philippa Graff; Hannah Katz; Ingrid Keizan; Avril Kentridge; Charmaine Levy; and Greta Sadur. Exhibition closes on Wednesday, May 16. Information: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours: (011) 728-8378. E-mail: hazelc@great-park.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za
- Art exhibition of works by *Dina Wolovitz*, entitled “Bereishet”, is on until Sunday (April 29). Venue: Beyachad. Hours: Today, Friday, 10:00 to 14:00 and Sunday 09:00 to 19:00.

Sunday (April 29)

- *Second Innings* hosts Dr Adrian Tiplady, head of SA’s bid to host the Square Kilometre Array Telescope. He’ll talk on “The Square Kilometre Array: Searching for the Origins of the Universe” Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, Time:10:00 for 10:30. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members.

Wednesday (May 2)

- *Chevrach Kadisha Community Services* hosts an evening with an exciting panel of expert speakers working with adolescents to “Step Into the Mind of an Adolescent. Adolescents and Addiction: What Parents, Educators and Community Leaders Need to Know.” Panellists: Luke Lamprecht, child and youth care worker; Michael Niss, psychologist; and Meryl Malkin, school social worker. Venue: Sandringham Gardens Auditorium. Time: 19:30 - 21:00. Donation

- appreciated. Bookings or more info: (011) 532-9793 / (011) 532-9719.
- *UJW CT adult education division* hosts attorney Paul Hoffman, who will talk on “Ways of Combating Corruption in South Africa Today”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).
 - *JWBS* presents “Through the Generations: An Evening of Hope & Inspiration”. Three generations will talk on what the Holocaust meant to them: Irene Klass, a survivor of the Warsaw ghetto; Tali Nates whose father was a Holocaust survivor; and Gina Fainman whose grandmother survived the Nazi death camps. Venue: Investec, 100 Grayston Drive, Sandton. Tickets: R200 each, R360 for 2, R500 for 3. Lucky draws. Time: 19:30 for 20:00. Call: 083-777-1621/083-441-7287/(011) 485-5232 to book.

Thursday (May 3)

- *RCHCC* presents a panel discussion on the recently released book, “One Law One Nation” in honour of the 15th anniversary of the Constitution. Panelists include authors Lauren Segal and Sharon Cort, Arthur Chaskalson (former Chief Justice) Leon Wessels (former Deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Assembly), Lwando Xaso (former Clerk of the Constitutional Court). Facilitator: Sello Hatang (Deputy Director of the Nelson Mandela Foundation). Time: 19:30. Cost: R70. Information: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours: (011) 728-8378. E-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za

Kahans look to find the right Alchemy at yearling sales

JACK MILNER

The Emperors Palace National Yearling Sales take place this weekend and breeders could be in for a tough time. There are a number of reasons for the concern. The obvious problem is the current state of the world economy in which a number of people do not have R500 000 to spend on a horse.

The international inflow of buyers, especially from places such as Hong Kong and Singapore, is not as strong as it has been in the past, with one of the main reasons being the difficulty to get a horse out of the country.

While African horse sickness has been given as the chief excuse by many countries, there is a far stronger school of thought that believes countries like Australia are attempting to cut out the opposition.

With the rand at competitive levels against most international currencies, South Africa has become a most attractive market. In addition, trainers such as Mike de Kock and Herman Brown, have shown that horses bred in this country are more than capable of winning some of the most lucrative races overseas.

Jay Peg, trained in South Africa by Basil Marcus, went off to Dubai to run in the Dubai Duty Free which carried prize money of \$5 million. Ridden by Anton Marcus, Jay Peg went on to win the race and then travelled to Singapore to win the Singapore Airlines International Cup.

Lizard's Desire, a "cheapie" bred in Port Elizabeth, was bought by De Kock and went down by a hair-breadth in the world's richest race, the \$10-million Dubai World Cup and he too won the big race in Singapore.

De Kock, however, was unable to get his top horses out of South Africa for this year's Dubai Carnival and without the likes of Vodacom Durban July and J&B Met champion Igugu, had a quiet time by his standards.

But, there appears to be some light on the horizon and there is much hope in racing circles that the export protocols will change as early as May and we could soon be seeing South African horses making their names on the international stage again.

It is with this background that The Alchemy, a stud farm owned by George Kahan and his son Phillip, will be heading into this year's National Yearling Sales. There are some huge stud farms around, such as Klawervlei - in which Markus Jooste has a share - Summerhill Stud - owned by Mick Goss - and Drakenstein

owned by Johan and Gaynor Rupert, but the Kahans are quite aware that they cannot compete with that level of opposition.

The Alchemy is based at Robertson in the Cape and while the top farms have some of the country's top sires, the Kahans only have one - Toreador. He has, however, done them proud. The Irish-bred son of top sire Danehill, has produced some wonderful offspring, the best recently being Link Man, who won last year's R1-million Gauteng Guineas. He is owned by Greg Blank, Larry Nestadt and Gary Burg.

This weekend another Toreador runner, Deliver The Power, will contest the R1 million Computaform Sprint.

Phillip Kahan points out that there is still room for the smaller breeder. "Breeders have to start looking at what they breed. There are two ways to go: You can keep the best mares and breed for the top end of the market with top sires, but you will still be swamped by the likes of Klawervlei and Summerhill.

"The alternative is to try and keep the best mares we are able to, but to look at the R100 000 to R300 000 level.

"To do that you obviously can't afford to go to the top sires. The best way is to look at new sires as well and the ones we like are Seventh Rock, Argonaut and Rebel King.

"However, I believe the next boom sire in this country will be Trippi. I think he is going to fly and will be the next Jet Master."

Trippi stands at Drakenstein Stud and has already had loads of success with his first crop of two-year-olds.

The concept of "alchemy" in the Middle Ages, was to turn base metal into gold. "That's what we do here. We turn base metal into gold," explained Phillip.

"We go and buy a mare who is a one-time winner but from a champion sire. That makes the breeding game a lot harder but when it works, we turn base metal into gold."

The other concern is that owners are unable to get rid of their mares at a decent price once they stop racing and then they try to breed with them. "We need to discourage owners from becoming breeders and leave the breeding to the breeders.

"At the moment there is no market for the owner to get rid of his mares unless they are related to a top horse. The cost involved to breed with a mare has the owner losing money where he could have got rid of the mare and bought a runner for less."

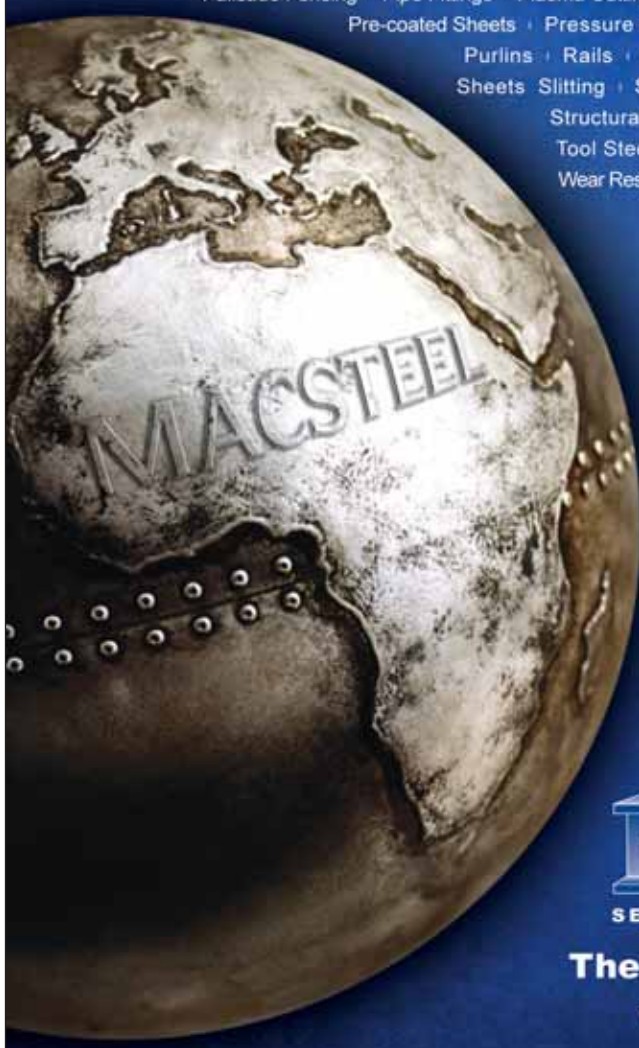



Phillip Kahan with one of his mares on their stud farm just outside Paarl.

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KDL's Gabriella Hyman is on the ball

JACK MILNER

Gabriella Hyman, a matric learner at King David High School Linksfield in Johannesburg, has been selected to repre-

sent the Eastern Gauteng under-19 provincial netball team. She and her team will be playing in the South African Spar National Netball Championships in East London from this weekend.

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