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SOUTH AFRICAN

# Jewish Report

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Friday, 27 January 2012 / 3 Shevat, 5772

Volume 16 Number 2

## ‘I thought I was going to die’

Page 7



### GUESS WHO VISITED HABONIM’S MACHANEH?

At the end of last year, Habonim’s biggest machaneh in 20 years featured many highlights, including a visit of Western Cape Premier Helen Zille who addressed channichim and madrichim about her vision for the future of South Africa, considering the role of former Habonim channichim in the anti-apartheid struggle. Pictured is Zille engaging with some boys from Shtilim (grades 5 and 6): Zac Berman; Benji Neuburger and Greg Diamond. (PHOTOGRAPH BY NATHAN BURSTEIN) **PAGE 12**

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January 27/3 Shevat

January 28 / 4 Shevat

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18:29	20:31	Cape Town
18:15	19:31	Durban
18:20	19:49	Bloemfontein
18:00	20:03	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:51	East London

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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Taking control  
of one’s life



PARSHAT BO

Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani  
Cape Town Progressive Jewish  
Congregation

THIS WEEK’S parsha includes a description of the first Pesach. Before G-d enacts the last plague against the Egyptians - the slaying of the firstborn of Egypt - every Israelite household is commanded to choose an unblemished lamb on the tenth of the month of Nissan.

This lamb was to be slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the month between sunset and nightfall and was to be roasted and eaten in haste and its blood was to be painted on the doorposts and lintels of the Israelites’ houses. According to the Torah this ritual was a prophylactic rite to prevent the death of the Israelite firstborn.

The blood on the doorposts and lintels enabled the Destroyer to distinguish the Israelite homes from the Egyptian homes. The sages, however, were troubled by this notion, because surely the Omniscient G-d did not need the Israelites to mark their houses in order to determine which homes were Israelite and which were Egyptian.

What then was the purpose of smearing the blood of the Pesach lamb on the doorposts? According to the Torah the blood was a symbol for the inhabitants of the houses, not for G-d:

“And the blood on the houses where you are staying shall be a sign for you: when I see the blood I will pass over you, so that no plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.” (Ex 12:13)

Rashi interprets this to mean that G-d will verify whether the Israelites were occupying themselves with G-d’s precepts before sparing them. Although G-d did not need the Israelites’ assistance to distinguish between the abodes of the Israelites and those of the Egyptians, G-d did require the Israelites to be proactive and take their destiny into their own hands.

While they relied on G-d to free them from Egyptian bondage, the Israelites also contributed to their own redemption by following G-d’s instructions.

This is one of the basic ideas of Judaism. Our tradition does not teach blind faith and total reliance on G-d, but that we should take action ourselves and not wait passively for divine intervention.

It is for this reason that Judaism demands obedience to G-d’s commandments and not adherence to doctrine. Judaism requires belief “in” G-d, and not belief “that” certain statements are true.

Belief “in” G-d means trust in G-d. By sacrificing the Pesach lamb and thereby risking religious persecution, the Israelites demonstrated their trust that G-d will redeem them from their enslavement. This commitment to the Covenant was what G-d required, and still demands.

A corollary of Judaism’s emphasis on action and trust in G-d, rather than unquestioning acceptance of dogma, is the concept that we take full responsibility for what happens to us. Because G-d gives us freedom of choice, we have a say in our fate.

Thus it was incumbent upon the Israelites to free themselves from intellectual and spiritual slavery. Once they showed trust in G-d’s redemption by following his orders, G-d freed them from physical bondage by unleashing death among the firstborn of Egypt.

This proactive attitude was summed by the great Jewish thinker and rabbi, Abraham Joshua Heschel: “Prayer cannot bring water to parched fields, nor mend a broken bridge, nor rebuild a ruined city; but prayer can water an arid soul, mend a broken heart, and rebuild a weakened will.”

More  
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2011  
shining  
stars

Although we received  
some results late, the  
stars still shine  
bright, as can be seen  
from the results



Jason Mechali:  
LO, Maths, Maths paper  
3, Physical Science, Life  
Sciences, Geography

Theodor Herzl High School (PE)



Lauren Kahn:  
English, Afrikaans Add  
Lang, LO, Maths, Maths 3,  
Physical Science,  
Accounting, Business  
Studies, French



Romy Cohen:  
English Home  
Language, Afrikaans  
Add Lang, LO, Mathes,  
Life Sciences, CAT,  
History



Jason Mechali:  
LO, Maths, Maths paper  
3, Physical Science, Life  
Sciences, Geography

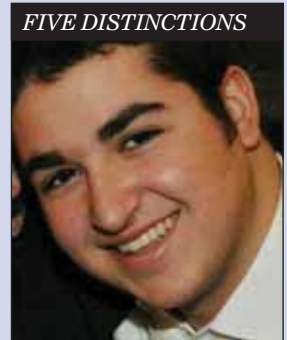


Ryan Miltz:  
LO, Maths, Maths paper 3,  
Physical Science, Life  
Sciences



Sonja Woolff:  
LO, Maths Literacy,  
Business Studies,  
Dramatic Arts

Sha’arei Torah



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KASHRUT ALERT

SOME BOKOMO PRODUCTS ARE KOSHER CERTIFIED

The kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues advises that the following Bokomo products are kosher certified as parev with or without the Beth Din logo: Sunny Bisk; Sunny Bisk Lite; Weet-Bix; Weet-Bix Lite; Weet-Bix with Bran; Weet-Bix with Muesli; Weet-Bix Bites; Weet-Bix Bites Chocolate; Weet-Bix Bites Forest Berry; Weet-Bix Bites Honey.

Pick n Pay tuna (shredded and chunks in salt water) is parev, kosher for Passover and Bishul Yisrael when bearing the Beth Din logo (not the OU) and the production date 01/2011.

The updated packaging of Robertsons’ spices, although not bearing the Beth Din logo, and certified to date, are still kosher certified. In the near future the packaging will bear the Beth Din Logo once more.

Danone Toppers range of yoghurts erroneously bears the Beth Din logo. These products are not kosher certified. Danone apologises for the error.

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SOUTH AFRICAN

Jewish Report

# The Jewish Report – looking to the future

THE JEWISH Report is not closing down. We are aware of rumours going around about the paper’s impending demise. They are not true.

What is true is that we are not immune to the pressures of the difficult financial times we live in. Nor are we immune to the particularly difficult times all newspapers - ranging from giants like the New York Times to smaller local papers - are experiencing. Print media in general has become vulnerable in the Internet age. Newspapers face the test of how to integrate - financially and journalistically - with the new electronic reality.

The Jewish Report has to cut its coat according to its cloth. Our readers will have noticed that we have been a “leaner” paper of late. Articles are shorter and crisper and space constraints mean we cannot cover as much as we would like to. But we still mirror the Jewish world’s diversity well.

We will, in the coming months, be restructuring the paper and refining our content even more, to appeal to a greater extent to our younger readers - without neglecting our loyal older readers.

The outcome, which we are excited about, will be a re-energised, dynamic paper well integrated with the Internet, adding to our existing, popular e-paper and website. This will particularly appeal to overseas readers and to those living far away from our home base, Johannesburg. It also reinforces our role as a national - indeed, international - paper for South African Jewry in all its different aspects.

2011 was our barmitzvah year. We look back with pride at the 13 years of building a product of quality and integrity. Our readers include many outside the Jewish community, including decision-makers in government and members of other faiths. Beyond our role in the Jewish world, we are a bridge to broader society.

SA Jewry needs and deserves a good newspaper which connects its parts, is thought-provoking and helps to build healthy Jewish community. Growing a newspaper hinges on solid journalistic principles and jealously guarding its credibility and its independence. The Jewish Report is not dictated to by anyone, nor is it the “mouthpiece” of, or beholden to any individual or organisation. Our concern is the well-being of South African Jewry as a whole in all

its diversity. We stand very firmly on this.

We eagerly take on the fascinating task of being both a Jewish and a South African newspaper in a turbulent, confusing era – a rich mixture indeed! This means facing up to the difficult questions that come with such an era, always with fairness and balance. Community members have come to respect - and expect - this.

Any good newspaper sometimes ruffles feathers, especially with such a varied readership. This is as it should be, when critical thinking and vibrant community is the aim. We cannot please everyone, nor should we try to. Aside from a plethora of news, features and information, we provide an open forum for robust debate on our opinion pages, letters pages and elsewhere. We also enthusiastically espouse the well-being of Israel and the Zionist cause.

We have a board of directors which includes eminent members of South African Jewry who are fully committed to the paper’s viability, future growth and relevance, and willingly give of their time, energy and insights.

The irony is that because the Jewish Report has become such an integral part of the fabric of South African Jewish life, many people accept it as a “given”, without realising what producing a good paper week after week entails. It requires skilled, hard-working staff passionate about maintaining high standards, operating under the unforgiving deadlines any newspaper environment imposes. And it needs the money to pay printers, distributors, website designers, the taxman and other elements.

A paper can only be as good as its readers allow it to be and are willing to sustain. The Jewish Report is distributed free and depends entirely on advertising for its revenue - in other words, for its existence. We therefore appeal to our readers and advertisers to support “their newspaper”. We, in turn, assure them of a quality product.

Challenges can bring out the best in people and institutions. We at the Jewish Report look to the future with confidence and excitement. The paper belongs to all of South African Jewry, and we intend to continue serving it.

**Geoff Sifrin**  
Editor

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Marc Kopman continues:

“Hoedspruit: Having already arrived at the Ekhuleni Lodge, which is an amazing destination, we were advised that the closest entertainment, dining, game viewing would be via either Hoedspruit (closest to Ekhuleni) or alternatively Phalaborwa (somewhat further in the opposite direction) and we then ventured into Hoedspruit.

“I remember that when I was in National Service and Citizen Force in the ‘70s/’80s, a major Air Force base existed there and, yes, it still operates for sure.

“Also quite a developed town with all the main amenities one would look for, however, the usual questioning revealed absolutely no signs of any Jewish presence there either.

“The Beth Hatefutsoth’s volume on this area (perfect to use as a guide for Jewish life in outlying areas) does mention a Susser family who own a game farm in the area, but we unfortunately did not manage to make contact with them.

“As it happens, there was a Susser family in my current medina of Krugersdorp and one of them married a Kopman! An excellent animal rehabilitation centre is open there, truly a worthwhile experience and when we were there a number of student rangers were on duty and I picked up the odd American accent and immediately wondered if any were Jews. However, the opportunity did not present itself to enquire.

“Phalaborwa: We headed in this direction to enter the Kruger Park (65 km from Ekhuleni). The last time we had been in the town was for a Jewish wedding at the Country Golf Club there in 1992 when a friend (ex-Queenstown) arranged a chuppah, chazzan; rov and all the amenities that go with it!

“In all probability it was the first and last Jewish wedding there (no mention of this in the fine volume).

“Again local Jews used the facilities of the Pietersburg (now Polokwane) community for their needs. No Jews lived there when we enquired last in 1992 and the current situation, I’m afraid, is no different.

“White River/Nelspruit: Well, all good things come to an end and

it was finally time to be homeward bound and we decided to head home via White River/Nelspruit. On arrival and through White River, one notices a fair amount of bustling developments; we decided not to stop here, though.

“The trusty Beth Hatefutsoth volume does indicate one Sue Hart, being a Jewish individual still resident in White River.”

To be continued.

**PORT ELIZABETH**

Brian Shear (1936 - 2011) remembered by Rollo Berman:

“Brian Shear was born in Port Elizabeth in 1936 and passed away last month. He matriculated at Grey High School in 1952. Shaer achieved some sort of fame because he resembled and could impersonate the film comedian, Jerry Lewis. He performed in many shows as Jerry Lewis with another Port Elizabeth star, Hylton Isaacson.

“If there was nothing going on in PE, he would say: ‘Let’s go for a beer and a paw-paw’ at the Marine Hotel. Who can forget the sight of Brian, at the start of the summer season, hanging from the Promenade and then jumping down onto the sand? This feat was always applauded by visitors.

“However, his great love and talent was for painting and he did a fine arts degree at the University of Cape Town. He became well known for his portraits of religious personalities.

“He had an art gallery at the top of Donkin Reserve which was a very steep road. One day he parked his car outside his shop but forgot to pull up the handbrake, with the result that the car began to career downwards towards the main street. Through a miracle the car suffered no damage, nor was anyone hurt.

“These fond memories of Brian Shear will never be forgotten. As the saying goes: ‘Once a PE oke, always a PE oke.’

“Shear lived in Johannesburg for the last 17 years and at one time had an art shop in Bree Street. He painted many African scenes. He also did some excellent portraits of Nelson Mandela which will certainly become his legacy.”

**JOHANNESBURG**

Rufke Mann was sitting in the famous and popular Florian Restaurant in Hillbrow, now sadly gone but fondly remembered. A girl walked in and said to him in a state of shock: “Rufke, you are wearing one brown shoe and one black shoe!” Quick as a flash, Rufke answered: “Yes, and I have another pair like that at home.”

# Visit to Baltics may be ‘just for you’

**MOIRA SCHNEIDER**  
**CAPE TOWN**

FANCY EXPLORING centuries of Jewish life in the Baltics while experiencing its renewal through interaction with the local community? If so, the South African Young Jewish Executives Mission to the Baltics might be just the ticket.

Led by former South African educator Solly Kaplinski, executive director of Overseas Joint Ventures of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in Jerusalem, this comes in the wake of the Lithuanian delegation he brought to this country early last year that saw students from the Vilnius Jewish Day School as well as a young leader from the Jewish community addressing audiences around the country.

The JDC is the world’s largest Jewish humanitarian and welfare organisation, dedicated to helping Jews in Israel and elsewhere. It also assists other victims of disasters in distressed regions like Haiti, Japan and Rwanda.

To further develop the bond between the two communities, as well as investigate the deep connections between South African Jewry and the Baltics, the JDC is



**Youngsters at the Olameinu Jewish summer camp held in Lithuania in July 2011, part of the JDC’s Jewish renewal activities in the Baltics. (PHOTO: SUPPLIED)**

taking a group of young executives to Latvia and Lithuania from March 18-22. The first of a number of similar initiatives, it will showcase the investment that has gone into reviving these Jewish communities, as well as the extensive welfare programmes in place to assist the elderly and children at risk.

Participants will visit the old towns of Riga, Kaunas (Kovno) and Vilnius (Vilna). They will see the Ponar forest, site of mass executions of Jews during the Second World War, accompanied by one of

the few locals to escape the Ghetto and join the Jewish partisans.

There will also be opportunities to network with local Jewish businessmen and foreign diplomats, as well as a private briefing with a legal expert on Lithuanian citizenship. On the agenda is a visit to the Shalom Aleichem Jewish Day School.

The mission will be limited to 15 participants and spouses are welcome to apply.

For further information, you may email Solly Kaplinski on sollyk@jdc.org.il

## Two Leaders in forefront of Parkinson’s research

**STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY**  
**RITA LEWIS**

THE SOUTH African medical fraternity was honoured this week with the visit of Dr Geoffrey Leader and his South African-born wife Lucille.

Some 44 years ago, Leader – a graduate of the University of Cape Town - was a houseman of Dr Chris Barnard, the acclaimed surgeon whose medical team undertook the world’s first heart transplant at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town.

Although still in the medical pro-

fession, the Leaders left South Africa for London where their medical focus shifted in another field and they are now both involved in the multi-disciplinary management of the debilitating Parkinson’s disease.

Leader is medical director of the London Pain Relief and Nutritional Support Clinic at Highgate Hospital, which has become internationally recognised for its Parkinson’s disease management department.

His wife is the nutrition director at the clinic and the two work in association with their multi-disciplinary team, collaborating with patients’



**Geoffrey and Lucille Leader, award winners for their pioneering, comprehensive approach to the treatment of Parkinson’s disease.**

own referring GPs and neurologists.

The Leaders’ pioneering approach to the management of the illness and their unique investigative work into their patients’ cellular conditions (underpinned by specialised laboratory tests) has earned them highly prized awards, both in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Lucille Leader was a speaker at the last Second World Parkinson’s Congress in Scotland, where she presented four papers.

The couple, who have written five books on Parkinson’s disease, recalled their lives in South Africa at the time of the first heart transplant and the heartache felt by everyone when, although the actual heart transplant operation itself – into Louis Washkansky – was a resounding success and created worldwide fame and acknowledgement for those involved.

Regrettably, Washkansky died, not of the operation but of an infection, some days later.

The Leaders, in South Africa to visit friends and families, in Cape Town visited the museum which is (now) the “old hospital”.

After completing a tour of the grounds, Leader said it was mind boggling to see how the hospital and its environs had expanded since the time he had qualified there in 1957.

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# Three women, passionate about Israeli folk dancing

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

BRENDA MARAIS, Tillie Wust and Celia le Roux are so passionate about Israeli dancing that Marais, accompanied by her friends, has been giving weekly classes for the past 10 years. Early last year, they brought out 29-year-old Marcelo Marianoff, an internationally renowned South American Israeli folk dance instructor, to run a two-day workshop here at their own expense.

They have invited him on a return visit in March and hope to make Machol Cape Town an annual occurrence.

Marais explains: “The moment I started going (to classes) with Tillie, I just knew this is what I wanted to do – I love it. It’s far better than going to the gym and the music also just grows on you.”

Says Wust: “It’s something different - it’s the dance form that includes the most other dance forms.”

Marais teaches on a Thursday night at the Hatfield Campus or at Herzlia School, offering beginners’ and advanced classes, as well as on a Friday to non-Jewish women in Durbanville. She says they would “love it” if more Jewish people, “men and women, young and old”, joined in.

“It is for everybody,” she says. “If you can put one foot in front of the other, you can dance.”

Since 2001, the trio has been attending Israeli Folk Dance teachers’ workshops in London, at their own expense, to learn new dances. “You know, it is such an uplifting



Celia le Roux; Brenda Marais; and Tillie Wust, who have a passion for Israeli dancing.

week,” Marais says of the event held under the auspices of the London-based Israeli Dance Institute.

The fact that, as non-Jews, they are in the distinct minority is “part of the attraction” for Marais, who relishes meeting people from other cultures as well as Jews from all over the world. “It broadens your horizons,” she says.

Referring to the choice of Marianoff to lead the two-day programme, Marais says he’s “a brilliant dancer and a brilliant teacher - plus he’s nice to look at! We really want to attract more young people.”

They plan to include an absolute beginners’ class, “easy dances” for those who know “a little bit” and advanced classes catering to former ballet dancers, as well as for praise dancers. A novelty this year will be a session on folk dance choreography.

Israeli folk dancing is presently experiencing unprecedented growth worldwide, she notes. “I think it’s the first time that such a workshop has been held at this level in South Africa.”

Wust’s domestic worker, who was

assisting with the tea at last year’s workshop, asked if she could join in. Since then, Wust has been teaching a group of her friends regularly.

Aside from R10 for refreshments, the women don’t charge for the two-hour weekly class. Proceeds from the sale of their CDs goes “back into the kitty” to support the dancing.

Israeli dancing comprises partner dances as well as circle dances, but singles should not be put off attending. “We have made a decision to just do the circle dances here because we don’t have enough men dancing,” says Marais.

While the three are not card-carrying Christian Zionists, they share the movement’s philosophy. Marais says she contributes to Christian Zionist organisation Bridges for Peace “because I feel so strongly about Israel”.

Machol Cape Town will take place on March 17 and 18. For further information see Facebook page Machol C.T. 2012, e-mail machol.ct@gmail.com or phone Brenda Marais during office hours at 083-292-5437.

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AROUND  
THE WORLD  
NEWS IN BRIEF

ISRAEL TO OPEN CRIMINAL  
PROBE OF JERUSALEM  
MUFTI

JERUSALEM - Israel's attorney general has ordered police to launch an investigation of Jerusalem's top Muslim cleric after the mufti quoted a traditional text that called for killing Jews.

Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein on Tuesday asked the Israel police in a letter to open a criminal investigation into a speech last week by Mohammed Hussein at an event celebrating the 47th anniversary of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement. The mufti will be investigated on suspicion of incitement to violence and racism.

In his speech, the mufti cited a traditional text attributed to the Prophet Muhammad that says: "The hour of judgment will not come until you fight the Jews. The Jew will hide behind the stone and behind the tree. The stone and the tree will cry, 'Oh Muslim, Oh Servant of G-d, this is a Jew behind me, come and kill him'."

A video of the mufti's speech was posted on YouTube by Palestinian Media Watch; the group's account was frozen for several days over the content. The video also shows a man introducing the mufti saying: "Our war with the descendants of the apes and pigs is a war of religion and faith. Long live Fatah!"

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday called on the attorney general to order the opening of an investigation, saying: "These are grave words that the world needs to condemn."

Hussein told Israel Radio on Sunday that he had just been quoting the religious text, not calling for the murder of Jews.

Americans for Peace Now blasted what it called incitement.

"We are appalled by these comments, coming from the most senior Muslim cleric on the Palestinian Authority's payroll," said Debra DeLee, APN's president.

"What we find particularly disturbing is that these vile comments were broadcast on the Palestinian Authority's official television channel, amplifying their inciting affect."

No Palestinian leader has condemned his words. (JTA)

ISRAELI PLANES ATTACK  
GAZA SITES

JERUSALEM - Israel's Air Force has attacked terrorist sites in the Gaza Strip.

The targets hit on Monday night after midnight, included a weapons manufacturing site in central Gaza, two tunnels in northern Gaza, and a third tunnel in southern Gaza, according to the Israel Defence Forces.

The attacks were in response to several rockets fired at southern Israeli communities in recent days, the IDF said. Six rockets have been fired into southern Israel from Gaza in the last week.

Two Palestinians were injured in the attacks, the Ma'an Palestinian news agency reported. (JTA)

OPINION AND ANALYSIS – FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Your brand: Innovate, don't stagnate!

WHEN HOPING to either retain existing consumers or capture new ones, business owners need to be conscious of what their brand represents. The challenge is immense, with multi-million rand contracts up for grabs annually to the agency that best pitches "the way forward" to a nervous boardroom.

Is coffee really just coffee?

Slogans and logos – inherently critical to brand-shaping - drive an awareness as to what "traits" the brand takes on. Whether a brand, for instance Apple, is considered innovative, informal, or smart is dependent not only on product performance and capacity, but also on the slogan and how the product/service is commercially marketed.

According to Harsha Prag, a strategic planner at JWT, the more compelling a brand's story, the more desirable the brand. Prag argues that before Starbucks, coffee was just coffee, but then came along Starbucks and "offered not only coffee but a fascinating story as well".

Locally, Robbie Brozin's Nandos was born from a single grilled chicken outlet (named at the time Chickenland) in the south of Johannesburg, that provided a healthier (some might add tastier) alternative to the dominant fried chicken takeaway restaurants in SA.

The genius of Brozin's brand strategy was to associate the brand with a story - the evolution of peri peri from its Portuguese roots, together with its subsequent cultural influence in Mozambique. With the growing Portuguese community having established itself in South Africa around the time of the brand's birth in



Bryan Silke's  
BusinessBrief  
Know your business

1987, the impetus had been provided to tell the story from a collective Southern-African/European perspective - something South Africans would clearly identify with.

Marketing the brand in recessionary times

Once you have established your brand, the next critical step is marketing and distribution - it is of paramount importance to market to the correct audience as opposed to blind advertising.

Prior to the advent of social networking media (in business terms this translates to an entirely free platform to market your product/service), the buzzword among creative teams/agencies was "return on investment". ROI, says Richard Lord, Associate Media Director at The MediaShop, is very much prevalent today, but with one caveat...

When trying to assess the effectiveness of an advertising campaign, says Lord, one needs to take into account: the strength of the offer, the media used to convey the message and the actual campaign objectives - to drive sales or increase brand awareness (two entirely different goals)?

Each of these criteria will in some way have an impact on ROI. The reality facing marketing staff from expectant executives is how to gauge the effectiveness of our campaign. The answer is

Trying to escape an all-pervasive impurity

LONG HERALDED as an enthralling time of cultural innovation, free thinking and individual self-actualisation, the 1960s can now be seen as ushering in an unprecedented breakdown in traditional sexual mores throughout the Western world.

One sees this manifesting particularly strongly in Europe and the United States, where most Jews outside of Israel now live. In retrospect, the decade also marked the birth of post-Christian society.

The two phenomena were, of course, closely linked. When Judeo-Christian values were broadly assumed to be the bedrock principles on which the relevant countries based themselves, it was axiomatic that modes of behaviour contrary to such values would be rejected by the majority of the population.

Once Christianity had been relegated to the status of, at best, just another lifestyle choice, and even more so when it came to be scorned within the prevailing artistic and intellectual currents of the day as a benighted, outdated and repressive system of social control, it was inevitable that accepted restraints would fall by the wayside.

No longer could overt deviations from traditional standards of sexual behaviour be condemned as intrinsically wrong. Rather, this too was accorded the legitimacy of a lifestyle choice that was no less valid than once marked by a degree of abstinence and denial.

Indeed, the intelligentsia went further than that, asserting that deviancy and promiscuity should be regarded as a healthy expression of individual autonomy, while scorning the latter approach as a relic of repressiveness that was both psychologically unhealthy and an affront to human rights.

It is hard to overstate the extent of the degradation that has resulted from all of this. Parents are no longer able to tell their children why promiscuous behaviour is in fact damaging and demeaning since they no longer have a yardstick of accepted Judeo-Christian values on which to base this.

On the contrary, educators and popular cul-



BARBARIC  
YAWP  
David Saks

ture continually reinforces the notion that no restraints should be placed on gratifying one's sexual desires. Pornography of the most loathsome kind, once a clandestine phenomenon confined to the more unsavoury fringes of society, has entered the mainstream and those who disseminate it are depicted as championing freedom of expression.

Not surprisingly the institution of marriage, that most solemn and idealistic of human partnerships, is now in profound crisis and it is today almost the norm for children to be deprived of a traditional two-parent upbringing.

In part, the feminist movement has become a victim of its own success in helping to bring all this about. It has for some time been completely taboo to consider men and women to differ from one another in anything but the physical realm, resulting in the demise of what had been a culture of respect for womanly modesty.

Women-degrading pornography and an unwillingness of men to commit themselves in relationships now that sexual gratification is so easily obtained, are just two of the own goals that feminism has brought upon those it sought to liberate.

From the very beginning, the Jewish religion has been distinguished by its emphasis on maintaining the highest standards of modesty and restraint in sexual matters. This came to be spread widely to humanity as a whole through the teachings of its daughter religions, Christianity and Islam.

The act of bringing a new neshama into the world, in which Hashem Himself, as it were, participates, is redolent with the most intense

invariably no! In the '90s and even the noughties, if I was to run the same ad campaign on two different radio or television stations, I would patiently wait and calculate the respective call responses, tabulate them, and compare them.

Problematically, without research focus groups, I would be unable to assess whether the response was based on an ad from the past five days, five weeks, or even five months!

Branding to specific target audiences can be most rewarding and cost-effective, in particular the niche, but illusive LSM14+ category (the wealthiest segment of society). Research by Freshly Ground Insights on four or five star golf courses profiles this individual: 53 per cent are between ages 35-49, 42 per cent earn in excess of R60 000pm, 86 per cent own a vehicle of over R200 000 and 63 per cent are private bank clients - a lucrative marketing opportunity.

According to Pieter Groenewald, MD of marketing agency Golf Unlimited, gaining access to this "severely time strapped and selective" audience is based on "striking the right chord" during their leisure time when they are most receptive to information.

Groenewald's team was successful in initiating the digital advertising sector on GPS screens in golf carts - a strategy that has proven to be very successful for the brands he represents. During a relaxing round, top business decision-makers can be alerted to products and services most suitable to them, that they might immediately brush off were they to be exposed to them in a more traditional medium.

For more information, and to read more from the above authors, visit [www.bbrief.co.za](http://www.bbrief.co.za)

holiness. It is that very holiness, however, that creates a corresponding potential for it to become a source of the utmost degradation, in which human beings created B'tzelem Elokim - in the "Image of G-d", meaning pure and spiritually elevated in their very essence - bring themselves down to well below the level of animals. The latter may be driven by little more than an instinctive desire to gratify their procreative urges, but they do not engage in the kind of obscene acts that human beings are capable of, acts that are now effectively endorsed by assorted intellectual psychologists, sexologists and other "experts" as being perfectly healthy explorations of human sexuality.

I remark on all this not to excuse the appalling behaviour by certain haredi elements in Israel towards those adjudged to be maintaining an insufficient standard of modesty, but to at least put in some sort of context why religiously observant Jews feel the way they do about the rampant permissiveness of their host societies. The physical dangers to which our ancestors were exposed under hostile Christian and Muslim rule is negligible when compared with the spiritual perils that face us and our children today. The impurity is all-pervasive and all but impossible to escape, given the extraordinary advances in communications technology that are now inextricably part of everyday life for all but the most cloistered of Jews.

The answer, I believe, lies not in seeking to impose added stringencies like segregated busing, nor ultimately in introducing such safe-guards as Internet filters to counter the worst manifestations of the scourge. There rather has to be a whole-hearted embrace of the lofty purity of what it means to live as a true "Am Kadosh" - a Holy Nation. Perhaps it is only through committing oneself to Torah, not with resigned dutifulness but with joy and gratitude, will the foul degeneracy of Western society come to be regarded not as a temptation but as a sickness to be avoided at all costs.



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COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Mary Kluk,  
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Help needed to grow our bursary fund

OVER THE decades, the Board’s Cape Town and Durban branches and the national office in Johannesburg have been entrusted with administering sizable bursary portfolios on behalf of needy and/or academically deserving Jewish students.

Several of the bursaries are also open to similarly qualified students from the broader community. The various branches have now all finalised the bursary allocations for the current academic year.

Most of the funding has come from far-sighted and generous members of our community who, either during their lifetimes or as bequests, made significant donations in support of higher education. Specific funds within the larger portfolios bear the names of these benefactors.

Through this crucial support, innumerable young members of our community have been able to realise their professional and academic dreams, and in turn they have contributed in no small measure to the community and to society in general.

One of the key reasons for the success of the Jewish people over the ages has been the emphasis we have traditionally placed on education. To this end, we have always been prepared to make considerable sacrifices, whether as individuals or as communities.

South African Jewry has certainly distinguished itself when it comes to educating their youth, both in terms of Jewish and secular education, but it has not been achieved without a considerable struggle. As every Jewish parent knows, as does anyone involved in the arduous task of fundraising, the costs of private and post-matric education are enormous, particularly during these difficult economic times.

For a great many people, it would simply be unachievable without assistance. It is a testimony to the generosity of the broader Jewish community that such assistance has largely been forthcoming up until now, but such support needs to be ongoing and cannot simply be taken for granted.

While we were glad to be in a position to extend at least some much-needed assistance to this year’s applicants, we were also all too aware of the limitations of what we could do. Inevitably, not every application was successful, and even with those that were, the assistance provided could go only part of the way towards meeting the applicants’ needs.

We clearly need to grow our current bursary funds to meet the ever-rising costs of higher education. Among other things, what were once very substantial grants provided by certain funds when they were first established, have since become exceedingly modest as a result of inflation.

Here, I would like to appeal to our community to assist, in particular those who have received financial assistance from the Board in the past. Any donation to the Board’s bursary fund, however small, will be of lasting benefit since it will be added to the capital base and thereby help provide a permanent source of funding.

All those interested in making a contribution are invited to contact one of the relevant branches: jenni@beyachad.co.za (national), cknj@djic.co.za (Durban) and davidj@ctjc.co.za (Cape Town).

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

The victim of haredi attack thought she was going to die

JERUSALEM – Three haredi Orthodox men have been arrested for assaulting a woman in Beit Shemesh.

On Tuesday, Beit Shemesh resident Natalie Mashiah (27), was assaulted by haredim while hanging posters of Mifal Hapayis (Israel’s national lottery) in a synagogue. The posters did not contain any photos of women. She says she begged her assailants to leave her alone, but they wouldn’t. “Some 50 people stood by and watched. Nobody said or did anything,” she recounts.

The men reportedly surrounded her car, slashed her tyres and took her car keys. A stone thrown at the car hit her in the head.

Police helped her and arrested three suspects. Other attackers reportedly fled the scene and are being sought by police.

Mashiah has filed a complaint with the police.

Beit Shemesh has been the scene of tension between haredi Orthodox and city residents as well as visitors, over the exclusion of women in the public sphere.

“I didn’t even have time to pull down the hand brake, and they already surrounded me,” Mashiah recalled. “They shattered all the windshields and threw stones at me. I begged them to stop, I promised to leave, but they wouldn’t let me go.

“Meanwhile, some 50 people stood by and did nothing - men, women and children. No one said anything or did anything. I thought they would set my car on fire.”

She added: “I saw death right in front of me. I thought I was going to die. I saw dozens of haredim appearing from all corners with

rocks and bottles and I didn’t know what was in them.”

She only later found out the bottles contained bleach.

“I was sure that they were going to set the car on fire while I am in it. I thought I was going to die. I slipped out of the car and hid behind the door while crouching with my hands over my head, but it still didn’t stop.”

Mashiah said a man came near her and threw a stone on her legs. She then escaped to a nearby building, but one of the assailants was inside. “He called me a ‘whore’ and a ‘shikse’, while I stood there shaking and crying.”

Minutes later, police arrived and the haredim began to disperse.

Mashiah said she had come to the neighbourhood modestly dressed. “I am an observant woman, and I respect them. But I won’t come near Ramat Beit Shemesh again. Something has to change. It’s inconceivable that I will be afraid to walk on the streets of my own city.”

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**Fugard Theatre, District Six:** “Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act”, by Athol Fugard, with Bo Peterson and Malefane Mosuhli, January 27 - February 11, (021) 461-4554.

**Johannesburg Art Gallery, Joubert Park:** “A Fragile Archive”, work by pioneer painter Gladys Mgudlandlu, curated by Nontobeko Ntombela, until April 8, (011) 725-3130.

**Linder Auditorium, Parktown:** The 4th

Johannesburg International Mozart Festival, directed by Florian Uhlig, at this and related venues, January 27 - February 19. See <http://www.join-mozart-festival.org/> for details, (011) 447-9264.

**Market Theatre, Newtown:** In the Laager, “Yellow Man” with Mwenya Kabwe and David Johnson until February 5; in the Main Theatre, Anthony Akerman’s “Somewhere on the Border” until February 12; in the Barney Simon, “Woza Albert”, with

Mncedisi Shabangu and Hamilton Dlamini, written by Barney Simon, Percy Mtwa and Mbongeni Ngema, until February 5, (011) 832-1641.

**Maynardville Theatre, Cape Town:** Shakespeare’s “Comedy of Errors”, directed by Matthew Wild, until February 18, (021) 421-7595.

**Montecasino, Fourways:** In the Pieter Toerien Theatre, Agatha Christie’s who-

dunnit, “The Mousetrap” directed by Alan Swerdlow, until February 26, (011) 511-1988.

**Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton:** “Body Language”, with Gaëtan Schmidt until February 4, (011) 883-8606.

**Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town:** “The Unspoken” by Nandipha Mntambo and “Parasomnia” by Viviane Sassen, until February 25, (021) 462-1500.

Chamber music remains Marian’s great love

MARIAN LEWIN, ‘cellist extraordinaire, will be performing at the Darling Music Experience, in the small, Western Cape Town of Darling, from February 3. **Paul Boekkooi** interviewed her on her dedication to her art.

**Boekkooi:** *Did you know from an early age that the ‘cello would be your musical voice by which you would reach the ear, heart and soul of your listeners?*

**Lewin:** Not at all. I was brought up in a home of four musicians, the famous Pack sisters. The dominant sister was Betty who initiated

ed the first chamber music classes in the country in 1947 as well as being one of the founders of the National Youth Orchestra. She was a ‘cellist of repute and decided that the ‘cello was what I would study. No arguments.

As a very young child I remember crying and saying I didn’t want to play the ‘cello, I want to be a mommy or a nursery school teacher. Over the years I came to love the ‘cello, and playing became my life. I can honestly say I have never “worked” a day in my life - only “played”!

**Boekkooi:** *You’ve been a section*

*leader in many orchestras, but also an inspiring explorer of chamber music. Which do you prefer?*

**Lewin:** I enjoy the orchestral playing very much, but my passion and first love is chamber music, having played in the Alma Musica Piano Trio for 34 years, Rosamunde String Quartet for 14 years and Trio Hemanay for 12 years. A friend described chamber music as the most intimate thing you can do without actually becoming intimate.

**Boekkooi:** *How do you see the future of classical music in South Africa?*


**Lewin:** I am optimistic as we still have a number of excellent music teachers, with many children learning music, symphony orchestras still going strong, many music societies, the National Youth

Orchestra, plus music festivals with overseas tutors. Encouragingly there are also a lot of excellent outreach projects.

Marian Lewin, with pianist Tertia



‘Cellist Marian Lewin (left), known also for her 12-year collaboration in Trio Hemenay, pictured here alongside pianist Malcolm Nay and flautist Helene Vosloo. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.SANYO.ORG.ZA)



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After all these years it still gets you in the guts

**Show:** *Somewhere on the Border*  
**Where:** *Market Theatre, Newtown,* (011) 832-1641  
**When:** *until February 12*

**REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN**

BE WARNED: if you had war expe-

riences of any kind, *Somewhere on the Border* may resurrect your ghosts. This uncompromising play, written by Anthony Akerman in 1983 and banned at its stage debut three years later, focusing on the 1980s Angolan wars, is riveting.

It’s not only about South African border wars, however; it’s a scary portrayal of the flaws in the idea of war that promote it as macho and necessary.

Pivotal is Jewish character, David Levitt, played ably by Glen Biderman-Pam, in his professional debut. He’s the one youngster of the five white troopies, who comes of a nurturing background; he is the one historically capable of offering insight into a secondary echo of hatred espoused by army dynamics, lending the work balance.

Poetically evolved, his character offers a sensitive and fatally brutal prism into the dynamics of South African racism.

The crushingly direct racist and sexually crass language is designed to offend. This starkly constructed piece of theatre, with a denouement that is brilliant and bruisingly unpredictable, is difficult to watch, but even more difficult to look away from.



Breaking down the troopies: the bombardier (Charles Bouguenon ) gets to grips with Doug Campbell (Dylan Horley) (PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZY BERNSTEIN)



**FELDMAN ON FILM**

Peter Feldman

**J Edgar**

*Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio; Armie Hammer; Judi Dench; Naomi Watts*  
*Director: Clint Eastwood*

Celebrated director Clint Eastwood has a style and texture all his own and he brings this to bear on another potent subject – J Edgar Hoover. He does a sterling job, even though I harbour reservations.

J Edgar Hoover was without a doubt one of the most powerful, controversial and enigmatic figures of the 20th century. He was the face of law enforcement in America for almost half a century and was reviled and revered throughout his

career. But, behind closed doors, he held secrets that would have destroyed his career and life, had they emerged.

Eastwood’s production puts all these aspects under the microscope and reveals, to a degree, the “scared, heartless and horrible little man” (to loosely quote his close man friend Clyde Tolson) the world never knew.

In essence, there was nothing spectacular about Hoover’s life and tedious moments do arise during the telling. Counterbalancing this, however, are the striking performances from a stellar cast, impeccable period detail, and a number of genuinely compelling scenes.

The script, by Dustin Lance Black, chronicles the life of the FBI’s first director who rose rapidly from toiling in the field during the Hoover administration to his final year when he crossed swords with

Richard Nixon. The story seems to be a combination of established facts blended with gossip and rumour.

It deals with Hoover’s early days, his attacks on “Communist radicals”, destruction of Prohibition era outlaws, and investigation of the Lindbergh baby kidnapping.

This is all told through flashbacks as Hoover recounts his story to an official biographer. The “present” timeline encapsulates the 10-year period from 1962 to 1972, with Hoover using his “secret files” to blackmail the Kennedys and then pursuing a vendetta against Martin Luther King.

Leonardo DiCaprio is superb in the title role; and his good looks disappear behind layers of make-up. This makes his resemblance to the real person positively spooky.

Though the film is extremely well-made, it doesn’t allow one to become passionately involved with the subject matter.



# Despite flaws, extraordinary achievement

*The History of History* by Ida Hattemer-Higgins (Faber and Faber, R160)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODDBREY

EARLY ON a September morning in 2002, Margaret Taub - a young, American-born tour guide who has lived in Germany for years - wakes up in a forest outside Berlin. She has no idea how or why she arrived there; she recalls her name, her address and what she does, but nothing of her past.

Instead, her mind is filled with near-delirious visions, presentiments and echoes: not of her own history, but of the city's. Of a sudden, it has undergone an ominous - indeed, malevolent - transformation. Its streets seem to bristle with an unnamed menace; its sounds are sibilant, its colours otherworldly.

By the following morning, all of Berlin has transformed into human flesh and bone. Instead of plaster, its walls are covered in skin. Buildings and bridges are connected not by steel and brick, but by sinews, veins and muscle.

"She put out her hand to touch the wall of Number 88 and found the house soft, like a woman's cheek."

Thus begins Margaret's descent into a prolonged delusional state. Yet, while it is undoubtedly a form of madness (induced by personal tragedy), its insights are eminently sane.

Hallucinations follow: first, the ghost of Magda Goebbels (trophy wife of Nazi Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels, who poisoned her six children before committing suicide in Hitler's bunker as the Russian army entered Berlin in May 1945).

Now a wraith, still bearing the features that made her a society beauty, now a grotesque, heavily feathered bird, the phantom maintains a vigil outside Margaret's window, occasionally chatting to her and requesting understanding.

Then there is the ghost of Regina Strauss, a

Jewish woman who, with her husband, gassed themselves and their three little daughters in a Berlin apartment rather than face deportation in 1943. This spectre, while elusive, makes visitations to Margaret's home long enough to play cards with her. And it, too, requests understanding.

But what understanding can there be for filicide, even in extremis? Magda Goebbels, stepdaughter of a Jewish businessman, who had had a passionate affair with Haim Arlosoroff, a prominent Zionist leader, during her youth, did a complete volte-face, prostrating herself at Hitler's altar.

Her children, she wrote just before her suicide, were "too good for the world". Strauss, for her part, chose not to entrust her children to her non-Jewish husband's family, but to end their lives with her own, expressing eerily similar sentiments to those of Goebbels.

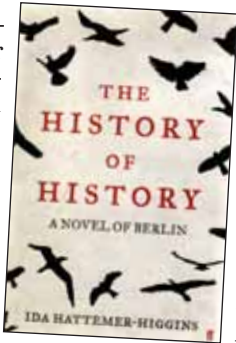
These ghosts, Margaret realises, are imbedded in the DNA of the city. They are persistent because they have a right to be.

"A ghost is the resonance of a life," she tells herself. "A ghost is the intense and prolonged sympathetic vibration for the dead in the world of the living. A ghost is something in which everyone can and must believe."

Obsessed by the details of both women's final moments, Margaret begins seeking out surviving witnesses (including a former bodyguard of Hitler's who was present in the bunker during the final days of the Reich). Meanwhile, her deranged mind - heightening her receptivity and her desperation - continues seeking a point of gravity: any meaning at all that might exculpate, if not exorcise, the city's blood-drenched history.

What she finds, instead, are patterns and synergies which offer metaphysical clarity, but blur - rather than reveal - a way back to normal living.

"In each thing, she thought, all things are to be found, and this is innocence - the world



bundled into the head of a pin, in the brain of a human, in the sun and in its microcosmic imitation of the universe... Design flows into design, every thing perceives and mirrors every other thing, and becomes more like it."

Ultimately, there can be no post-script to the monstrous outrages of Berlin's past. The only recourse is acceptance and submission to a history which offers no explanations or apologies, but simply flows on, indifferent to the need for retribution.

"One of the unstillable horrors of the Holocaust is that no vengeance is to be had. Millions killed by millions more - there is no justice there. There will be no restitution. The victims are too many; the perpetrators are legion... The dagger of revenge lies unused in the drawer. There is no body into which to plunge it."

Hattemer-Higgins' sprawling work is not so much a novel as an epistemological enquiry. Although Margaret Taub's unhinged state is eventually linked back to events in her real-time life, one gets the feeling that these are merely appendages, devised to give the book a chronological anchor. Her interludes of lucidity are neither as tenderly related, nor as well constructed, as her lengthy surreal adventures.

Where the book fails is in its intensity: there is only so much one can take at one sitting of Margaret Taub's vice-like, febrile grip on one's throat: her demands on one's attention and energies are almost insatiable, and one longs for a diluent to relieve the tension she generates. Also, the tortuous twists and turns of her journeys, which take her through all manner of heavily symbolic detours

(ladders, avian flights, clouds), become contrived and irritating.

Still, as a debut novel, the work is undeniably an extraordinary achievement. Hattemer-Higgins' reach is vast and her gaze almost preternaturally detailed. More than this, her writing is often lyrical - almost melodic - and capable of scintillating beauty. Best of all, it is retentive, leaving a groundbed of truth long after its imagery has ebbed and darkened.

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CROSSWORD NO 2

BY LEAH SIMON

- ACROSS:  
1. Oh, return to good man – and entertain guests (4)  
3. In favour of folders, find outlines (8)  
8. Regrets the trick, we hear (4)  
9. Capone gives neck covering to champion (8)  
11. They all do, according to Mozart (4, 3, 5)  
13. Breaks lines in east, having dementia of the elderly (6)  
14. French capital is hot – and has administrative branch of church (6)  
17. Make witch pack her around – and exert authority (5, 3, 4)  
20. Dine around road – it’s decreed (8)  
21. French go east again, being at liberty (4)  
22. Aristocrat bears son, somehow (8)  
23. Breeding horse kicks up dust (4)
- DOWN:  
1. But you might use it to pay for the soft sell! (4, 4)  
2. Offspring, by degrees (7)  
4. It’s about money – and not long ago (6)  
5. Devised badly after mould (7, 3)  
6. Get smallest amount in order to prevent article (5)  
7. Close embassy, but appear to be hiding inside it (4)  
10. A loud piece of literature causes ailment (10)  
12. Shed her quietly, somehow,
- for sheep-minder (8)  
15. Hidden in her itinerary, get money from will (7)  
16. Somehow hasten to capital (6)  
18. Equestrian breaks drier (6)  
19. Crypt given to medical degree (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 1  
ACROSS: 1. Soda; 3. Red Bulls; 8. Oust; 9. Abdullah; 11. A narrow shave; 13. Arrive; 14. Oddity; 17. Kettle of fish; 20. Over time; 21. Talc; 22. Praising; 23. Yell.  
DOWN: 1. Stowaway; 2. Despair; 4. Elbows; 5. Brushed off; 6. Lulav; 7. Soho; 10. Gravitates; 12. Mythical; 15. Imitate; 16. German; 18. Elena; 19. Soup.

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

Sudoku Puzzle 28

(Easy, difficulty rating 0.44)

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

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

Answer - Puzzle 27

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

\* Answer to follow with  
next puzzle

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 (January 27)

- **UZLC** hosts Advocate Mannie Zar who will talk on “Stories from the Courts”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Contact: Gloria on (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.

Sunday January 29)

- **Second Innings** hosts Bonita de Klerk senior member of Dept of Palaeontology, Wits, who will speak on “Australopethicus Sediba: Pushing the Boundaries of Human Evolution”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

- **JH&G Centre**, in honour of UN Day to remember the victims of the Holocaust , is screening “Against the Tide”, written and produced by Rabbi Marvin Hier and Richard Trank and narrated by Dustin Hoffman. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium, RCHCC. Time 19:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments) Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378.After hours: (011) 728 8378.

Monday (January 30)

- **UJW House & Garden Circle** meets at 09:30 for 10:00. Phone (011) 648-1053 for further information
- **UJW adult education division** hosts freelance journalist and writer Heidi Holland on “100 Years of the ANC”. Time: 09:30. Cost R25.

Tuesday (January 31)

- **UJW adult education division** hosts Estelle Sher, who will speak on “Mozart’s Symphony no 38 - One of His Greatest”. Time: 09:30. Cost R25.
- **Torah Academy Nursery School** is hosting a talk, “Sole to Soul” - Healthy Mind, Body and Spirit”, by reflexologist and teacher Liz Graham. Venue: TA Nursery School. Time: 19:30. Entrance R20. Contact: (011) 640-7561 or cell 083-555-5100.

Wednesday (February 1)

- **UJW adult education division** hosts Arlene Bernstein, former head of LifeLine, who will head a discussion group. Time: 09:30. Cost R25.
- **UJW CT adult education division** hosts Dr Len Anstey, forensic pathologist, who will be talking on “Living with the Dead” Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434 9555 (mornings only).

Friday (February 3)

- **UZLC** hosts journalist and TV personality Paula Slier, who will talk on “Everything & Anything”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Contact: Gloria on (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.

Sunday (February 5)

- **Second Innings** hosts Clem Sunter, future scenario presenter, on “The World and South Africa in 2012 and Beyond”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Monday (February 6)

- **UJW adult education division** hosts Denis Beckett,

journalist, editor, TV personality and author, who will speak on “Seatbelts & Skidmarks - Where is Africa Going?” Time: 09:30. Cost R25.

Tuesday (February 7)

- **The Morris Rutstein-SAZF evening Hebrew ulpan course** starts. It terminates on Tuesday, May 29. Times: Every Tuesday night from 19:00 to 21:15. Venue: Yeshiva College (in the classrooms) cnr Long Ave & Ridge Road, Glenhazel. Secure parking. Registration: Monday February 6, at 18:30. Enquiries: SAZF, tel (011) 645-2531 (office hours).

- **ORT JET** in conjunction with Sasfin Bank introduces the breakfast launch of the “Sasfin Financial Independence Course for Women”, with Natasja Hart and David Shapiro, where an outline of the course will be given. Time 08:00 – 10:00. Venue: Sasfin Bank, Scott Street Waverley. No charge – place is limited. RSVP: robyn@ortjet.org.za

Wednesday (February 8)

- **UJW CT adult education division** hosts Adi Phillips who will talk on “The Sunflower Fund”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434 9555 (mornings only).

Sunday (February 12)

- **Second Innings** hosts Mandy Ramsden (who has climbed all the highest mountain peaks on all continents) as guest speaker on “Feeding the Rat”. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Venue: Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Cost 20 for members, R40 for non-members. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Monday (February 13)

- **UJW** hosts Naomi Dinur who will talk on “Dura Europe’s Ancient Synagogue – a Jewish Pompeii in Syria”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost: R20. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday, (February 14)

- **Second Innings Men’s Group** hosts Menachem Kaye who will speak on “The Economy in 2012”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 14:15 for 14:30. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Wednesday (February 15)

- **UJW CT adult education division** hosts Riaan Manse who will talk on “Leadership”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434 9555 (mornings only).

Tuesday (February 21)

- **UJW CT** hosts a “Card Afternoon” at The Forum, V & A Waterfront at 13:00 for 13:30. Entrance: R75. Great prizes. Enquiries: F Davis: 082-426-7749 or N Baruch: 083-298-6849.

Wednesday (February 22)

- **Second Innings** hosts Gerald Zwirn (known as “Mr Opera”), who will talk on “Be My Love - A Tribute to Mario Lanza”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

AROUND THE WORLD  
NEWS IN BRIEF

LAUDER OUTRAGED AT ITALIAN  
DEPUTY FINED FOR BLASTING ANTI-  
JEWISH CARTOON

ROME - Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, has expressed “outrage” that an Italian parliament deputy and journalist was fined for writing an article sharply criticising a satirical cartoon that featured stereotypically Jewish depictions of a parliament colleague.

Giuseppe Caldarola was fined 25 000 euro by an Italian judge for the article, which ripped the 2008 cartoon by Vauro Senesi appearing in the left-wing newspaper Manifesto. The cartoon, titled “Fiamma Frankenstein”, showed Jewish parliament member Fiamma Nirenstein with an exaggerated hooked nose, and contained the symbol of fascist Italy and the Star of David.

Lauder called the ruling “a travesty and an insult”. Vauro, whose cartoon had triggered anger and protest when it was published, was acquitted by the same court on anti-Semitism charges.

In a blog post Caldarola, who belongs to the centre-left politically, said his article criticising the cartoon had “been ironic about the radical left and used a phrase critical of Vauro’s cartoon, saying that it was as if he had written ‘dirty Jew’.”

Nirenstein belongs politically to the centre-right. (JTA)



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NOTICES

BIRTHS

**IT'S A GIRL!  
ANGEL  
JAYE**

Gavin and Jocelyn are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their precious daughter Alexia Jade Angel on January 9, 2012. Sister to Danni and Jesse. Grandparents Vivienne, Serwyn, Judy and Melvyn are ecstatic. Grateful thanks to Hakadosh Baruch Hu, and to Doctors Apostoleris, Hay and staff at Morningside Clinic.

Baruch Hashem

IT'S A GIRL!  
LEVY  
JAYE

Cecil, Tamara and Rachel are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their precious daughter and sister Rebecca Mia Levy on December 7, 2011. Grandparents Rene, Leon, Judy and Melvyn are ecstatic. Grateful thanks to Hakadosh Baruch Hu, and to Doctors Moore, Davies and staff at Parklane Clinic.

Baruch Hashem

MOWSZOWSKI

Nathan and Terry of Ra'anana, Israel, are delighted to announce the recent birth of their first two grandchildren in Israel:

To Jaqui and Marc Lawrence, a beautiful baby girl, born on December 16, 2011

jaqui@mowfam.com

To Russell and Anna Mowszowski, a beautiful baby boy, born on January 19, 2012 (which was also his great-grandmother's 85th birthday)

gruzzmo@gmail.com

All are well and delighted.

Baruch Hashem.

nathan@mowfam.com

terry@mowfam.com

DEATHS

**HASSIA**

friend and confidante, so precious to find and loved by us, passed away so suddenly. She was an inspirational woman, a teacher, a true ambassador of Judaism, she restored wholeness in everyone.

She was a blessing. Mourned and sadly missed by Audrey, Max Nowitz and family.

CONDOLENCE  
Janice  
Paiker-Rubin

We extend our deepest sympathies to the Paiker, Rubin and McCurdie families on the untimely loss of their darling Janice, devoted wife to David Rubin, adoring mother to Michael and Daniel. She will be greatly missed by her loving family and devoted friends.

Our thoughts are with you all. Peter, Corinne and Jessica Alter

PAIKER-RUBIN JANICE

We mourn the untimely passing of our loving and beloved Janice, wife to David and mother to Michael and Daniel and beloved daughter of Sharon Paiker. We extend our deepest sympathy to David, Michael and Daniel Rubin, Sharon Paiker, Hillel, Alan, Edana and Mark and their spouses and families.

We are heartbroken. From Janice's loving father and mother-in-law, Henri and Sonia Rubin, her brother and sister-in-law, Barry and Melissa McCurdie and her niece and nephews Danielle, Mark and Adam and great nephew Benjamin.

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AROUND  
THE WORLD  
NEWS IN BRIEF

**POLL SHOWS  
STRONG ISRAELI  
SUPPORT FOR  
DIASPORA VOICE  
ON SOME LAWS**

JERUSALEM - A substantial majority of Israelis want the country's law-makers to consider Diaspora Jewry when devising new legislation on Jewish identity issues, according to a poll.

Seventy-seven per cent of respondents to a survey carried out last week by the Ruderman Family Foundation, agreed that it was extremely important for members of the Knesset to consider Diaspora views, The Jerusalem Post reported.

The 509 Israeli adults were answering the question: "How important do you believe it is for Israeli law-makers to consider the views of Jews in the Diaspora when creating legislation such as 'Who is a Jew?'"

According to The Jerusalem Post, the poll was administered ahead of an event sponsored by the Israeli-American Jewish Knesset caucus in order to raise awareness on the important relationship between Israel and world Jewry. (JTA)

**ISRAELI  
EMBASSIES ON  
HIGH ALERT  
FOLLOWING  
ANTHRAX SCARE**

JERUSALEM - Israeli embassies and consulates have raised their alert levels after several missions in the United States and Europe received envelopes containing white powder.

The missions received white envelopes with the word "anthrax" written on them, according to reports; the powder inside was found to be flour.

Among the embassies and consulates that received the envelopes on Monday were The Hague, Brussels and London in Europe, and New York, Boston and Houston in the United States.

Hazardous materials crews arrived on Monday at the Boston consulate and ordered it closed for the rest of the day. The powder was tested on site and found to be harmless, the Boston Globe reported.

The powder was to be further tested and before being disposed, the newspaper reported. (JTA)



# How the Nazis manipulated athletes of Jewish descent

JACK MILNER

HOW FAR does an athlete have to bend his morality in order to achieve a dream?

This was a question some Jewish athletes - or those of Jewish heritage - had to answer at the 1936 Olympic Games held in Berlin.

These Games were to be the pride and joy of Adolf Hitler, in which he was going to show the outside world the “brilliance” of his Nazi machine. However, the Germans excluded all athletes of “non-Aryan” descent and even requested of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that Jews, blacks and mixed-race athletes be excluded from visiting teams.

That, however, resulted in a threat of a boycott and, in order to avert it, the IOC extracted promises from the German authorities that there would be no restrictions on the participation of Jewish athletes. To showcase German-Jewish athletes, the Nazis manipulated three athletes with Jewish ancestry - Gretel Bergmann, Rudi Ball and Helene Mayer.

They firstly ordered Bergmann, who had moved to London, to return home to train, threatening that her family in Germany would suffer if she did not comply.

Bergmann was born in the small town of Laupheim,

Germany. A gifted athlete, she competed in local track and field competitions from the age of 10. She excelled in the high jump, and was sent to a special sports school in southern Germany in 1931. However, when the Nazis took power, Bergmann was expelled from her sports club and school. She left Germany for the United Kingdom.

Forced to return to Germany, Bergmann tied the German women’s national high jump record in 1936. As soon as German Olympic officials were confident that the Americans would participate in the Olympics, they sent Bergmann a letter stating that her “poor performance” meant that she could not be a member of the German Olympic team.

The Nazis offered Bergmann a standing-room ticket to view the track and field events. Both devastated and defiant, Bergmann refused the ticket and left Germany in 1937.

Born to a middle class family in Berlin, Rudi Ball’s father and paternal ancestors were Jewish, and his mother was from a Lutheran family. Considered a “half-Jew” according to Aryan laws, Ball was initially not allowed to compete for the German hockey team at the 1936 Winter Olympic Games. However, his friend and star teammate Gustav Jaenecke refused to compete without him.



Helene Mayer gives the Nazi salute during the medal ceremony at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.



Was fencer Helene Mayer coerced into representing Germany at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, or was she a willing participant?

One can make a case for her being compelled to compete, but to actually give the Nazi salute on the podium was probably crossing the line, even though she was not brought up as Jewish.

Athletes of colour and Jewish athletes on visiting teams, experienced both welcome and rejection. “Non-Aryans” also elicited mixed responses when they demonstrated their athletic prowess, especially the African-American track stars Jesse Owens obviously being the main protagonist in this regard.

Despite Nazi assurances that racism would play no part in the Olympics, the Nazis demonstrated overt racism in the choice of German Olympic ath-

letes. Jews, Roma and Sinti, who had been active and successful members of German sports culture before 1933, were barred from participation.

Athletes considered “half-Jewish” according to the Nazi state’s Nuremberg Laws of 1935, were manipulated by a regime striving to temper its racism for international audiences.

Germany won more medals in the 1936 Summer Olympics than any other country and Nazi leadership considered the Games a domestic and international success. According to Hitler’s favourite architect, Albert Speer, “Hitler exulted over the harmonious atmosphere that prevailed during the Olympic Games. International animosity toward National Socialist Germany was plainly a thing of the past, he thought.”

Even evil can look most enticing when wrapped in cotton wool.

## Junior Maccabi netball trials coming up

THE 19th Maccabi Games will take place in Israel from July 18 to 30 next year and Maccabi Netball South Africa officially now begins the search for 12 juniors around the country to make the step-up and represent South Africa at the Maccabiah.

Junior Maccabi trials for Johannesburg will take place on Sunday, February 12 at King David High School Linksfield. Registration will start at 07:30 and the cost is R180 per person. This includes Maccabi membership for the year 2012 as well as a netball T-shirt. Trials begin at 08:00 and

will run until 12:30.

To qualify for the junior netball team players need to have been born in the year of 1995, 1996 or 1997.

The next set of junior trials will take place in Cape Town on March 11. More details for those trials will be released shortly.

The Maccabiah is an unforgettable experience which every Jewish athlete should strive for.

• For further information contact Lisa Hack on cell: 082-778-8991 or on lisahack01@gmail.com

## Habonim hosts another hugely successful machaneh

GEMMA COWAN

AFTER MONTHS of anticipation, the biggest machaneh that Habonim has seen in two decades, came to a close. With over 1 100 people on site, including 800 channichim, Machaneh Bonim Atid proved to be a truly special one.

Chaverim from as far as England, Australia, Zimbabwe, India and of course Israel, flew in to join us in Onrus for the December holidays.

Our team of 15 Israelis made up a dynamic and energetic group and contributed hugely to the machaneh.

They were essential in providing a connection to Israeli culture for both madrichim and channichim and have undoubtedly formed long-lasting connections with Habonim chaverim.

The channichim arrived on Thursday December 8 and the excitement carried on non-stop for three weeks.

As always, Shabbat was a special experience on the campsite with a range of services offered to channichim. For the past few years we have also run a Limmud programme for channichim in which guests are invited to present on a topic related to Jewish learning.

These sessions give channichim a chance to explore their Jewish identity and to learn, engage and debate issues relevant to young

South African Jews.


Havdallah on machaneh is always a highlight and this year was no different. Some 1 100 chaverim stood in a circle and brought out Shabbat together underneath the Onrus stars, following which channichim danced the night away at the famous Habo Havdallah parties.

One of the major highlights of Machaneh Bonim Atid was the visit of Western Cape Premier Helen Zille. On December 15, Habonim Dror channichim were addressed by her. Zille spoke to the channichim and madrichim about her vision for the future of South Africa.

She answered a range of questions from the channichim and even stayed afterwards for some one-on-one conversations. She acknowledged the role of past Habonim chaverim in the struggle against apartheid and the role of current members in the pursuit of social justice in South Africa. She was introduced to the camp steering committee and given a tour of the campsite after which she joined the grade 8s for a Habonim lunch.

Many other exciting events took place over the course of machaneh.

The national executive for 2012 has been elected and will host their first biannual meeting in February. The team will be led by Gabi Altamirano, chairman of Habonim.



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