



Three glimpses
of quality
Jewish art
and plays -
page 8

• south african • jewish report

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Walk the Talk draws them in their thousands

Everyone and their dog was there, last Sunday, from babes in prams to octogenarians, walking in the surrounds of Emmarentia in Johannesburg, at this, the 12th 702-mooted Walk The Talk, now under the sponsorship of Discovery. It's the biggest event of its kind in the world, bringing together ordinary people from across the Johannesburg community, and with a bouquet of route lengths from 5km to 30km, it appealed to a range of differently experienced walkers. Teams wearing distinctive uniforms in bright colours - like electric green for those supporting Yad Aharon, and purple for the Chevrah Kadisha supporters - filled the Johannesburg streets, accompanied by a sense of community spirit and fun. The walk this year attracted a record 55 000 walkers. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

GOLDSTUCK: A new web vision



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Dr Donna Wyckoff-Wheeler on Jewish identity politics

"Identity is created partly through involvement in a collective, partly through individual choice. 'I am who I am because of who we are.'"

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NELSON MANDELA DAY

Worries go down better with soup than without - "Jewish Proverb"

Shabbat Times

July 27 / 8 Av		
July 28 / 9 Av		
Parshat Devarim Chazon		
17:22	18:13	Johannesburg
17:46	18:40	Cape Town
17:04	17:56	Durban
17:24	18:16	Bloemfontein
17:17	18:11	Port Elizabeth
17:10	18:03	East London

Tisha B'Av
July 28 / 9 Av Fast begins
July 29 / 10 Av Fast ends

17:37	18:05	Johannesburg
18:02	18:29	Cape Town
17:19	17:47	Durban
17:40	18:07	Bloemfontein
17:33	18:01	Port Elizabeth
17:26	17:53	East London

SA Jewry will commemorate Munich Olympic deaths

While the London Olympics will not officially be observing a minute of silence to commemorate the massacre of Jewish athletes at the Munich Olympics of 1972, SA Jewry will.

Says Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein in a media release: “The South African Jewish community will be participating in this noble international initiative to pay tribute to the memory of the victims of the Munich Olympic killings.

“I have sent the names of the murdered athletes to the rabbis of our shuls across South Africa with the request that a Hazkara be recited this coming Shabbat morning. This is our sacred responsibility as an active and proud part of Klal Yisrael - world Jewry.”

Tisha B'Av fast starts Saturday evening

OWN CORRESPONDENT

This Saturday evening, July 28, sees the start of one of the two 24-hour fasts in Jewish observance: Tisha B'Av (the other 24-hour fast is Yom Kippur). It is deferred to Sunday because of Shabbat, but starts before Shabbat ends. It commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, which effectively forced the Jews into exile. It also ends the three weeks of mourning in the Jewish calendar.

The First Temple was built by King Solomon and was destroyed by Babylonians in 586BCE. Built on the site of the First Temple, the Second Temple, completed in 516BCE, was destroyed by the Romans in 70CE.

Tisha B'Av is a full fast day; no food or drink may be consumed from nightfall to nightfall. Pregnant women and people who are very ill may not fast. Some refrain from bathing, wearing make-up or leather shoes, or having intercourse on this day, even though it is permitted to work.

In shul, people do not greet one another in the customary manner, because they are considered to be in mourning, and they sometimes sit on the floor or on wooden benches. The shul service features a reading of the book of Lamentations or Eicha.

Fast times nationally appear on this page.

Show off!

In Moses’ record-breaking 36 day sermon prior to his demise, the aged leader revises the travails and successes of the nation in the wilderness. He tells the people that G-d communicated to him a directive after they had “circled the Mountain of Seir for many days”.

Mt Seir was the ancestral home of Edom, the nation descended from Esau who later became the Roman Empire.

G-d said to Moses: “Enough of you circling this mountain, turn yourselves northward.”

The simple meaning is that Hashem was providing directions to reach their destination, but there is a much deeper message. The word for “northward” in Hebrew is “tzafona”, which has as its root “tzafun”, meaning that which is concealed or hidden.

Thus we can translate the directive as follows: “Enough of you circling this mountain, turn yourselves inward” or: “Conceal yourselves.”

G-d is commanding the Chosen People to be a nation of inner depth, a nation that does not show off its wealth and power, but remains modest and unassuming.

Rabbi Shlomo Ephraim Luntschitz, in his classic Torah commentary, elaborates on this theme: “The concealment referred to in this verse implies that if a Jewish person achieves some degree of financial or other success, he should conceal it in the presence of [the descendants of] Esau (the European nations), for there is no group that envies the Jews more than [the offspring of] Esau.

In their mind, everything the Jew owns is a result of the fact that Jacob “stole” the bless-



PARSHAT DEVARIM
Rabbi Matthew Liebenberg
Claremont Wynberg
Hebrew Congregation

ings from their ancestor... This is why G-d gives the directive specifically in reference to Mt Seir, telling the Jews to travel “inwards” so that Esau will not envy them.

“Unfortunately, this is exactly the opposite of how Jews behave in this generation, in the very presence of their enemies. If a Jew has a hundred [pieces of currency] he prances around in fancy clothes and lives in palatial homes as if he had thousands and thereby provokes the rage of his gentile neighbours.

“He thus transgresses the command to ‘turn inwards’. It is this terrible illness among our people that has brought about all the travails we currently suffer.”

Rabbi Luntschitz penned these words in 16th century Poland, when Jews were considerably less affluent than they are today. What would he have said today when so many Jews live a considerably more “showy” lifestyle than at any other time in history?

Rabbi Paysach Krohn tells the story of a religious Jewish child in America who was born extremely small and did not grow much in his early years. He became the butt of many jokes and the recipient of nicknames like “shorty”.

His loving parents assured him that “dynamite comes in small packages” and that the

great Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, who lived then in America, had become a leading sage despite his diminutive size. Nevertheless, they always prayed for a medical solution.

Close to his barmitzvah, the boy’s parents heard of a revolutionary growth hormone treatment. They consulted several doctors and were directed to a specialist in the upper New York area. They finally met with the doctor, a non-Jewish lady from one of the most upmarket suburbs in New York.

After a lengthy conversation about the pros and cons of the treatment, the father asked if the doctor would give such a treatment to her own child. He was surprised at her reaction - she began to cry.

When she had composed herself, the specialist said: “Rabbi (he was dressed in very Jewish clothes), if it were my child, I would have no choice but to give him the treatment, because I live in an exclusive suburb and I move in circles that put great value on the exterior.

“But you, Rabbi, are from a people who value inner qualities and, therefore, I would advise you not to give the treatment to your son.”

The father left that meeting elated. He later confided to a friend that he had never received such a great ethical teaching, even from his teachers in yeshiva!

The Torah does not expect us to live a life of poverty or to deprive ourselves of beautiful things. But it does call upon us to realise that external trappings are just that – external - and that we should possess an inner depth that is far more valuable than gold and diamonds.

Shabbat Shalom

50 years after winning Wimbledon plate, Bethlehem returns

ROBYN SASSEN

Fifty years ago on July 4, community stalwart Marlene Bethlehem, won the doubles plate at The Championships, at Wimbledon. Earlier this week, she interrupted watching the cricket between South Africa and England, admitting: “I’m a sports fan through and through!” to tell the Jewish Report how she celebrated the jubilee anniversary of this big win.

She explained how as vice president of the Memorial Foundation of Jewish Culture this year, she was scheduled to attend the organisation’s annual meeting in Warsaw, and decided to detour to Wimbledon on the way there.

“You can’t buy tickets for Wimbledon. The public is allocated tickets by public ballot. I decided to see if I could celebrate my jubilee year of winning the plate, by going to Wimbledon. I wrote them a letter in January, explaining my situation. My daughter, Lael did, too.

“I eventually received a response which invited me to be an honorary member of the Last Eight Club for Wimbledon 2012.”

This club admits as members only those who reached the quarterfinals (or, for doubles players, the semifinals) of Wimbledon. “And being proper as the British are, they added, ‘for this year only’, in case I got ideas!

“I met players like Frew McMillan who was a doubles winner with Bob Hewitt years ago; he looked fantastic. And Pat Pretorius (née Walkden) from Zimbabwe. Everyone was so friendly

to me,” this former chairman of the Board of Deputies, and member of the board of directors of the SA Jewish Report, adds.

She got to see six matches. “I burst out crying when I learnt that in addition to being part of the Last Eight Club, I had tickets to the women’s singles finals - a letter to this effect arrived three days before I left for London. In the Last Eight Club, members get tickets for matches as they become available. I felt like a million dollars, er pounds!

“I was right there! You don’t get a sense of how quickly the ball passes between players when you watch it on TV. The first match I got to watch was the women’s doubles in Court Two, with Venus and Serena Williams playing against Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka. The Williams sisters won. It was beautiful. It was heaven and earth for me. I could not have wished for anything more.”

The trip was a great leveller: “The meeting of the Memorial Foundation was in Warsaw this year. In the past, our meetings have been in Moscow and Istanbul; for the last several years, they’ve been in Israel.

“But in Warsaw, a museum is being built celebrating 1 000 years of Jewish life in Poland. It’s no Holocaust museum. It opens next year, and is in the square where the Warsaw Ghetto fighters are memorialised, where the Jews were rounded up for Treblinka.

“My father’s sister was murdered in Auschwitz. Being there for just those few days was very difficult for me. That 12-day trip was filled with ultimate highs and ultimate lows for me.”



Marlene Bethlehem watching the women's doubles match between Serena and Venus Williams and Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka in Court 2, Wimbledon.

Right: Marlene Bethlehem (then Gerson), the 22-year-old winner of the Wimbledon plate, outside the centre court of Wimbledon, July 1962.



• south african

jewish report

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The Cosatu ‘blood libel’

Cosatu has yet again eschewed political correctness in favour of showing its true colours; it is apparent that Cosatu is not only anti-Zionist, but clearly anti-Semitic as well.

**BEV GOLDMAN AND
BEN SWARTZ
SAZF**

The recent slanderous and defamatory statement released by the union, contained a slew of accusations including that the “South African Zionist Federation abuses blacks under religious guise to legitimise apartheid in Israel” and that the “SAZF’s hands are dripping with blood”.

This libel goes beyond the usual anti-Israel vilification into the realm of anti-Semitism, where they claim “Zionism is nothing but a legalisation of Jewish supremacy to further dehumanise everyone outside their scope of Zionist purity” and that “the SAZF and their associates want to use you to further their racist supremacist ideology of Zionism”.

By exposing its sentiments so publicly, Cosatu has made known its objective: to promote a one-state solution which will inevitably lead to the destruction of Israel as a Jewish state.

There is no room in the statement or in any of Cosatu’s earlier statements for negotiation: in its eyes, it is an all-or-nothing scenario. The relabelling issue is merely the first prong of its strong support for a universal BDS campaign, the others being the eventual and total boycott of anything Israeli which will inevitably lead, in Cosatu’s eyes, to the demonisation of Israel and the undermining of the country’s very right to exist.

Like many other detractors of Israel, so Cosatu conflates Israel with apartheid South Africa, ignoring the fundamental differences between the two scenarios.

Apartheid was a criminal act legis-

lated by the government, the end result of which was SA’s total isolation in the international arena and its eventual capitulation as a result of the very damaging effects of the boycott against it.

Israel, however, is not an apartheid state. Where discrimination exists against minorities, it echoes that in most democratic countries around the globe, but it is not apartheid.

Unlike apartheid SA, Israel has many friends in the international community, in fact it has hundreds of millions of supporters around the world who will see it survive and continue to flourish.

The success of the boycott campaign against South Africa thus has no equivalent vis-à-vis Israel, but Cosatu is banging this drum among its supporters, most of whom either have no knowledge of Israel nor any interest in it, but as members of the union are coerced into taking its policies on as their own.

For decades the Arab world has used the Palestinians only as a pawn in their war with Israel. The statistics concerning their educational levels, poverty and employment levels, housing and health levels, are all indicative of this.

The billions of dollars swelling the Arab coffers have not been used to uplift their “brothers”, that being done instead by the US. And just as the Arabs have failed to uplift the Palestinians, so Cosatu is following the self-same path: focusing on them not to improve their lives and create a state for them, but rather to revile and malign Israel with the aim of destroying it.

In effect this campaign, rather than assisting the Palestinians, is disempowering and constraining them instead.

In the same statement, Cosatu slammed the ACDP, the IFP and the Shembe Church, for taking part in the “Africans for Israel” march last month, and accusing them of being incapable of deciding for themselves on participation.

Insulting, condescending and racist, Cosatu hit the bottom of the barrel in its desperate attempts to prevent its black compatriots from showing support for Israel.

The only solution to this impasse is for the leadership of Israel and the Palestinians and with no preconditions, to work out a negotiated solution.

Empty promises will achieve nothing for the Palestinians, as they continue to labour under the delusion that they, with organisations like Cosatu, will achieve their goal of destroying Israel.

History has proven it’s only through discussion and deliberation that effective solutions can be found and in this instance, only those methods will guarantee a just solution: two states living side by side with secure borders and safety for the citizens of both.

Auction Alliance: NCT overturns NCC findings

ROBYN SASSEN

Earlier this month, the National Consumer Tribunal overturned the ruling of National Consumer Commissioner Mamodupi Mohlalala-Mulaudzi, that Auction Alliance was guilty of misconduct in the sale of a R55 million wine farm, Quoin Rock Winery and Manor Estate, near Stellenbosch.

This decision effectively absolves CEO and founder of Auction Alliance, Rael Levitt of penalties,

unless an appeal or review of the decision is upheld by either the courts or the Tribunal.

The reason for the overturned ruling is a breach of due process on the part of the National Consumer Council. The reprieve for Levitt is, however, not final. The NCC is currently probing new complaints linked to Levitt and Auction Alliance. Further to this, Auction Alliance lawyers have threatened legal action if Mohlalala-Mulaudzi persists in “targeting” their clients. But Mohlalala-Mulaudzi has vowed

to fight the tribunal’s decision in the high court.

Said Tirhani Mabunda, chairman of the SA Institute of Auctioneers, “... most auctions, particularly with sheriffs and insolvent estate auctions, are illegal because they are not conducted in terms of the Consumer Protection Act.”

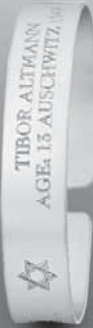
Contacted by the Jewish Report, Levitt declined to comment, claiming that the facts surrounding the original story published in the press were sensationalist and false.

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The school reserves the right not to make an appointment.
Only shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.

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Limmud 2012 offers soul food for the discerning Jew

GEOFF SIFRIN

“For many years one of the most distressing topics regularly discussed at Jewish dinner tables, was how and whether Gilad Shalit, the Israeli soldier taken hostage by Hamas in Gaza, would be released. We will hear first-hand from one of the chief negotiators behind the scenes who made Shalit’s release possible after five years,” says Wayne Sussman (pictured), national co-chair of Limmud SA. Limmud is scheduled for next weekend at a Vaal River resort.

Gershon Baskin, an academic who, through a personal friendship he struck up at a conference in Cairo with a professor at the Islamic University of Gaza, a member of Hamas, ended up playing a crucial role in the ultimate release of Shalit.

In the days after the young soldier’s abduction, when Israel launched Operation Summer Rains in Gaza, the professor phoned Baskin and, according to the New York Times, yelled: “Do something! Your government is bombing us nonstop. There’s no water and no power.”

Through the professor, Baskin was put in contact with Ghazi Hamad, Hamas’ deputy foreign minister, and it was this relationship, which developed largely through computer chats over a number of years, that ultimately led to the Shalit deal.

Baskin was an American-Israeli peace activist, who moved to Israel in 1978 to form an NGO devoted to coexistence between Jews and Arabs and who had been a vehement critic of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s for the past 15 years. But it was ultimately Netanyahu who gave him a chance to do something, when the Israelis were at a dead-end and did not know what to do next.

“The saga shows how important dialogue is among ordinary people, how not only ‘machers’ can make the difference. Ironically, the previous Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert who is closer in ideology to Baskin, fobbed him off when he offered to help, whereas the next prime minister, Netanyahu, who is far to the right of him, listened and gave him a chance.

“Personal friendships and grassroots dialogue can make a difference - it is essential that we always continue cultivating personal relationships between ordinary people across the political divide.”



FILE PHOTO

Another top speaker at Limmud will be Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, one of the world’s most well-known rabbis through his books - particularly the famous “Kosher Sex” and more recently, “Kosher Jesus”.

“Boteach is running for Congress as a Republican,” says Sussman, “and he has made it clear that he will make support for Israel a top priority. The Jerusalem Post has referred to him as among the 50 most influential Jews in the world.”

Some people have accused Boteach of “trivialisation” of Judaism with his books. Even the title of the book “Kosher Jesus” riles some people.

Sussman disputes this view, and says that anyway, whatever people think about

any particular speaker, what he says is not necessarily a statement about Limmud. “Limmud is broadbased in its approach,” Sussman stressed.

“Religious Zionists see him as very important. He has an emphasis on family values, but is more accommodating to the issue of gay people and certain other contentious issues in the religious Jewish world.”

An off-beat highlight of Limmud will be Vanessa Hidary, a Sephardic Jewess from the United States. Sussman says this “slam poet” deals with fascinating aspects of Jewish identity.

There has been criticism of Limmud for holding its conference in a “residential” mode as a weekend at the Vaal River, since it makes it difficult for people who cannot travel so far, or do not have the time, to attend, thus limiting the influence of the movement among SA Jewry. Sussman acknowledges this and says Limmud will re-examine the issue for next year’s event.

Generally, he is upbeat about Limmud’s influence on SA Jewry at large. “Limmud’s strength is that it is for Jews everywhere, not just in areas with specifically Jewish concentrations, such as the religious areas in Johannesburg. Limmud is also attracting significantly more young people - about 27 per cent of Limmudniks are between 16 - 35.

“This excludes the many kids who come to the conference. Also, regarding religious observance, 36 per cent of last year’s Limmudniks could be classified as shomer shabbat dati Jews. We see this proportion increasing. This year, senior Bnei Akiva members are coming.”

Passing of a Torah giant

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Last the week the Jewish world lost its greatest Torah leader and halachic authority.

Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv (pictured), 102, passed away after having been hospitalised for the last six months at Sha’arei Tzedek Medical Centre in Jerusalem. According to most records, Rav Elyashiv was born on April 10, 1910, a maternal grandson of the great kabbalist, Rav Shlomo Elyashiv, known as the Leshem.

His father was Rav Avraham Elyashiv, chief rabbi of Homel, and his mother was Chaya Musha. He was an only child, born to his parents after 17 years of marriage.

As the leading Torah personality of our generation, the Rav served as a dayan on the Chief Rabbinate Supreme Court of Israel, resigning in 1972. That was his last position connected to a state institution, after which he assumed the unofficial mantle of leadership of world Ashkenazi Jewry.

Rav Elyashiv was known in the secular



PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

world for his controversial stance on the proposed draft of Yeshiva students into the Israeli army. His stance was unwavering and until his hospitalisation, he remained acutely aware of the political developments throughout Israel.

Two hundred and fifty thousand mourners from all walks of Israeli life - observant and secular - attended the funeral in Jerusalem. Both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Shimon Peres attended the shiva house in Jerusalem, marking their respect for the legacy of Elyashiv.

Jewish community takes Mandela Day to heart

SUZANNE BELLING

There was an overwhelming response to Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein's call to the Jewish community to make Mandela Day – marking former President Nelson Mandela's 94th birthday – "bigger and better" this year.

In this, the fourth year of Rabbi Goldstein joining forces with Afrika Tikkun, schools and Jewish organisations, who came to the fore in droves, bringing books, blankets and non-perishable foods to the Great Park Synagogue in Johannesburg and the Claremont Synagogue in Cape Town on July 18, Madiba's birthday.

Some organisations had independent initiatives, others performed their 67 minutes – and more – throughout the month.

Rabbi Goldstein, president of Afrika Tikkun, exhorted SA Jewry: "As Nelson Mandela is Afrika Tikkun's patron-in-chief, it is fitting the Jewish community honour him by supporting a cause so close to his heart.

"One of the most important teachings of Judaism is to live with compassion and to act with energy to help all people in need."

The items collected at the Great Park Synagogue were distributed through Afrika Tikkun to communities in Alexandra township, Diepsloot, Braampark, Hillbrow and Orange Farm in Gauteng and Delft and Mfuleni in the Western Cape.

Jewish day schools, including King David High Linksfield, contributed to the Chief Rabbi's effort, as well as Torah Academy Boys' High,

which formed a team with its Cycalve 2012 outreach partners, Pace College and Moltesane, both from Soweto, gathering together at Great Park to hand over their donation

Sandton Shul had a mammoth undertaking - the task of feeding 700 children at the Phutaditjaba Community Centre in Alexandra - and setting aside the day to interact with children, as well as donating non-perishable foods and blankets.

According to Harelle Isaacs of Sandton Shul, participants all travelled to the township in traditional taxis, identifying with the beneficiaries at grassroots level. There was a lunch, cake and birthday tributes to Madiba at the centre, in addition to a dental hygiene demonstration by Dr Avron Alter. The day's programme concluded with a drumming activity.

Habonim Dror joined the SA Union of Jewish Students in collecting household products for an orphanage, while the Union of Jewish Women, Johannesburg, fed 500 people at the Alexandra Clinic.

"There was enough food for 1 000 people and the rest was kept for the next day.

"After the church service, with the help of our young Jewish volunteers, we are organising a special nutritious meal for the congregants, pensioners and schoolchildren. Our sponsors have also donated 150 food parcels for the most needy of our recipients."

On their own campuses, the Jewish day schools went all out to mark Mandela's birthday.

The proximity of the Orchards

Municipal Clinic to Torah Academy School spurred on the learners of the primary school to their 67-minute campaign of providing bread and soup to patients, many of whom had been standing in long queues from 06:30.

Torah Academy Girls High's fundraiser for Purim benefited Mandela Day; the girls collected wrapping paper, pencil cases, bags, files, book covers and labels from mishloach manot, which were handed to the Johannesburg Children's Home.

King David Linksfield Primary School collected money and made sandwiches for its celebration with its sister school in Alexandra, Ithute Higher Primary.

Learners from King David Victory Park made sandwiches for their sister school Sekolo Sa Berokgo, Blairgowrie.

The high school had a special assembly, while the MitzvahSchool organised an olive tree-planting ceremony with 100 learners from Pholosh Primary from Alexandra.

The Yeshiva College Campus - from nursery school to high school - entered into Mandela Day with actions to match their enthusiasm. The entire pre-primary school designed T-shirts dedicated to Mandela and each child brought clothing for the needy.

The boys' and girls' high schools paid tribute to Madiba in song, while the boys' high raised the South African flag. Both schools discussed the significance of Nelson Mandela's birthday in Jewish terms.

Selwyn Segal honours Madiba on his birthday

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY CELESTE EVERITT

Selwyn Segal recognised Mandela Day last week Wednesday – Madiba's 94th birthday - by getting the residents and staff involved. This included singing happy birthday to Madiba and making beautiful "hand-print" birthday cards, which they took turns hanging up on the tree outside the dining room.

Mike Baum, Selwyn Segal's co-ordinator, spoke about the meaning behind Mandela Day, and the residents had 67 minutes of togetherness, filled with fun, games and exciting activities.

Kibbutz Lubner also paid tribute to Madiba last week Wednesday by doing 67 minutes of community service.



Selwyn Segal hanging handprints on Mandela Day.



KING DAVID JUNIOR SCHOOL LINKSFIELD
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Closing date for applications: 3rd August 2012

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67 minutes is just not enough

This issue of the Jewish Report carries a host of stories about the numerous events held by South African Jewry - alongside those in broader society - to celebrate former President Nelson Mandela’s 94th birthday by devoting 67 minutes to doing something for less privileged members of society.

The magical number “67” is that of the years he was involved in the struggle for freedom in South Africa.

Sadly, in the 18 years since our first democratic elections in 1994, poverty in this country has increased, with over 25 per cent unemployment, meaning that a huge chunk of South African society lacks the opportunity to lift themselves out of their desperate condition.

South Africa today has one of the highest gaps in the world between the haves and have-nots. The Centre for Development and Enterprise says South Africa and Brazil are the two most unequal societies in the world. In recent years Brazil has improved, yet South Africa has not.

The grimy beggars with their cardboard signs - “Hungry! Please give me job! I don’t do crime!” - standing forlornly at the windows of cars at intersections all over our cities, break one’s heart. Even if they want to work, there are just no jobs.

But all is not doom and gloom. We can be proud of how many Jews have taken on the principle of 67 minutes of giving, ranging from Jewish schools to women’s organisations, synagogues, businesses, private individuals and so on. The articles on pages 5 and 18 give a glimpse of some of these. Admirable as it is, however, it is, alas, not enough.

In many ways, we have turned Mandela into something like a saint - a person so filled with goodness that he is raised above ordinary people. He, of course, has always objected to being regarded as such.

He is indeed very human. Yet the more he withdraws from public visibility due to his age and retiring to his home town of Qunu, the more his “saintliness” becomes exaggerated and the less we can identify the human example he set for us.

The 67 minutes of giving is beautiful symbolism. But what about tomorrow? It is not enough to do something for this amount of time, then carry on pretending the country can do without ongoing involvement in making it a place providing opportunities for everyone.

Although no saint, Mandela was a great leader, whose standing led us to think we were creating a great country - a rainbow nation - that would happen of its own momentum. Looking at South Africa today, it is true we have made strides in many areas he would take pride in. But the crisis in too many other critical areas would leave him sorely disappointed.

These latter aspects are raised often in our public discourse: corruption and bribery in so many government departments that it will be hard to fix (and make no mistake, the one who gives a bribe to a traffic officer to let him off a fine is as guilty as the cop himself); an education system in so much trouble, one cringes at how we are failing our children – the recent scandal of non-delivery of textbooks to schools in Limpopo halfway through the school year, is merely one example. It is incredible that well-known public figures have openly lamented that, appalling as the apartheid-era Bantu Education System was, the education they received then was better than the one South African kids receive today. What an indictment!

Graft of every hue seems to have become endemic in our society. Many bear the moniker “tenderpreneur” with false pride. The public have become so injured with corruption that they seem to merely shrug their shoulders and accept it as a fact of life.

If Mandela’s legacy is to mean anything, we must extend it and build on it. All citizens must play a role, but people need leaders. Without them, the country will flounder.

Especially in desperate times, people look for role models and fairytales. Sadly, we have no role models today who can even come close to inspiring such high goals as Mandela did. Hence the cry: “Where is a new Mandela to lead us out of this quagmire?”

Mandela gave us a dream. At our peril do we slip into accepting ills like corruption, unemployment and poor education. If we don’t fix them, they will come back to haunt us.

Identity politics: adjective or noun

DR DONNA WYCKOFF-WHEELER



One session I attended at the recent Israeli Presidential Conference on “Facing Tomorrow” in Jerusalem, was a panel, “New Interpretations of an Ancient Identity: The Next Jewish Generation”.

While this focused on internal politics of Jewish identity, the discussion raised questions about the politics of identity in general. Are our group-based identities sources of pride or hammers of power? Identity is created partly through involvement in a collective, partly through individual choice. “I am who I am because of who we are.”

No community is homogenous, however. Each person combines socio-cultural teachings, persuasions and pressures of childhood with later personal experiences and discoveries to create a unique self.

Every person within a community is a distinctive combination of adherence and resistance to the norms, values, expectations and demands of the community. In addition, few people live in isolated communities. Most live in multiple, overlapping, sometimes contradictory and conflicting communities of affiliation.

The programme referred to changing “focal points” in the creation of Jewish identity: “from religious to secular, from ethnic to cultural, from collective to individualist, and from local to global.” One discussant likened the increasing tendency for people to reshape their identities along individualistic lines to the change from old LP records where songs were pre-selected and imposed on the buyer, to the self-selected “play list” of modern technology.

Such individuality quickly became apparent amongst panelists. Jewish “identity” meant different things depending on where the speaker “was coming from” - geographically, existentially, religiously, politically and communally.

Sha’an an Streett, a singer, lyricist, screenwriter and founder of the HaDag Nahash band, lives in Israel. He is experiencing, in daily life, all three basic elements of Jewish identity: ethnicity, religion and land. Another panelist, anthropologist Jonathan Benthall, explained during an interview that Jewish identity is unique because of this “triple grounding”.

For Streett, Jewishness means being “part of the dominant collective, part of the majority”. A majority which, he said

“mistreat our minorities”.

Streett was able to articulate both an inside and outside vision of Israel. He knows Jews outside Israel’s borders are minority populations and sometimes still mistreated, because they are Jews. For them, Israel, and in particular Jerusalem, is the “object of yearning”. This Diaspora, Streett said, kept a

close eye on those in charge in Israel.

But Jerusalem is home for Streett, and his Jewishness also means being part of the regional Arab world. Jerusalem, he said, was the “icon” of issues both inside and outside the region. “Now what do we do with it?” he asked. “It is not just ours. It is not only [the object] of our desiring. All the players brush shoulders here.”

Dr Jay Michaelson (US), associate editor of Religion Dispatches and author of G-d vs. Gay? The Religious Case of Equality (2011) represented what might be the opposite end of Jewish identity. He likened contemporary identity formation to restaurant versus food court rather than LP versus playlist. The restaurant is the primary community; the food court the wider range of secondary communities individuals have contact with or can discover.

This diversity was empowering for those seeking an authentic, personal sense of spirituality. Many find this in “virtual communities”, which Michaelson described as both post-denominational and trans-denominational. The first allows disaffiliated Jews to “escape the rigid confines of too narrow” traditional communities while remaining in contact with other Jews. The second allows both the unaffiliated and curious from other religions to learn more about Judaism and alternative ways of being spiritual.

When I interviewed Dr Michaelson, he told me these on-line communities often became resources for members to find social projects, retreats, and other opportunities for putting their virtual-community spirituality into action in the real world.

Dr Yehuda Kurtzer, president of Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, said the move to innovation and seeking like-minded others carried the risk that a “sense of core” might be lost. More innovation meant less replication of what came before. Still, he cautioned: “We don’t need more Jewish institutions, programmes, etc; we need more Jewish humans.”

He believes the “core” of Jewish identity is Jewish values, which must now be

localised around personal interest and needs.

Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg (US), author of Surprised By G-d: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Religion (2008) sees many ways traditional Judaism describes the divine. Education into the depth and power of tradition, he says, is good if it leads to a transformative process of how to encounter the world. It is not good if it is used to control the outcome.

People must be let go after education, and be trusted to find their own way, whether inside or outside a traditional community or particular definition of Jewish identity.

David Hatchwell, CEO of EXCHEM Grupo and president of the Jewish community in Madrid, experiences Jewishness in another way. His European Diaspora identity is grounded in discrimination and resistance. He finds the “core” value of Judaism to be Jewishness itself and sees globalisation working in favour of this. He promotes a Jewish identity based on solidarity with Israel, not on emotion or philosophy. He suggested American Jews had lost their way through assimilation.

In contrast, Americans on the panel tended to think of themselves as a “success story”. They are an integral and influential part of the majority population, not a disempowered minority. They see the core value of Judaism as understanding that they are all both human and spiritual beings - not in who is the “better Jew”.

Implicit in this exchange seemed to be whether “Jew” had to be a noun or could be an adjective. The “Spanish Jew” argued one way; the “Jewish American” another.

Also embedded in this discussion were differences over uses of identity. Is identity a source of pride, out of which - because of the deep-rooted values of that identity - one acts for the good of all?

Is one’s identity a source of power which one calls upon for group (or personal) advantage: “WE want that, and because of who WE are, WE deserve it or will take it”?

In SA, we are all too familiar with the abuses of identity politics. It seems to me, that peace and justice, locally and globally, might be best served by limiting all our particulars of race, ethnicity, religion and so on to adjectives of pride, and - as Dr Kurtzer suggests - limiting the noun to “human”.

Dr Wyckoff-Wheeler is an independent academic, educator and editor in Johannesburg.

The Jewish World

in seven seconds

PJ Tatler, Los Angeles, USA: www.pjmedia.com

“BBC refuses to recognise Jerusalem as capital of Israel on Olympic site”

On its Olympic Games site, the BBC has listed under Israel “no capital but seat of government: Jerusalem; most foreign embassies are in Tel Aviv”. The page for Palestine says, instead of capital “Intended seat of government: East Jerusalem. Ramallah serves as administrative capital”.

Arutz Sheva, West Bank, Israel: www.israelnationalnews.com

“Chief of Staff: We thwarted 15 attacks before Burgas”

Chief of General Staff, Lt Gen Benny Gantz, appeared before the Knesset’s Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee last week, sending a warning to the perpetrators of the attack on Israeli civilians in Burgas, Bulgaria.

Haaretz, Tel Aviv, Israel: www.haaretz.com

“Israel continues weekly flights of deportees to S Sudan”

Keeping a low media profile, Israel continues deporting South Sudanese migrants. The number of deportees, which started in June at 130, has increased with each passing week.

The New York Times, New York, USA: www.globalpost.com

“Israel: Self-immolation protest occurs a second time”

An Israeli war veteran in a wheelchair set himself on fire at a Tel Aviv bus stop last week, according to Reuters. Witnesses put out the flames, and the man has survived with serious burns on most of his body. The man is the second person to set himself on fire in Israel recently.

The Canadian Jewish News, Toronto, Canada: www.cjnews.com

“Blog prompts camp to reverse decision about blind camper”

Last week, Rabbi David Krishef, a parent, blogged about Ontario’s camp Ramah’s decision to send his blind son, Solomon, home early, because it couldn’t accommodate him. The decision was reversed the day the blog was shared on Facebook and Twitter.

The Australian Jewish News, Sydney, Australia: www.jewishnews.net.au

“Will ‘Clean Up’ be dumped?”

Clean Up Israel founder Phillip Foxman, will shut down the organisation’s Australian operation unless somebody comes forward to take it over, because of his legal battle with Wollondilly Shire Council over the use of recycled waste on his rural property.

New Jersey Jewish News, New Jersey, USA: www.njjewishnews.com

“Rabbi declares himself ‘The Pro-Arab Candidate’”

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach took his campaign against Republican Bill Pascrell to the heart of his opponent’s district, appealing for votes in Pater-son’s Arab-American community.

Israel - ‘that’s where the Jews are...’

Steve Apfel. *Hadrian's Echo: The Whys and Wherefores of Israel's Critics*. SB-PRA, 186 pp., \$28.50

REVIEWED BY LEON REICH

A writer with the perception to break the Palestinian-Israeli conflict into three parts - physical, diplomatic and propaganda - then worry the guts out of the third, may hit a rich unexplored vein. In those terms the market would judge Steve Apfel's new book.

His preface, a gem of an essay on its own, relates that the book's title might well have been "How the West was Won". The Palestinian camp, it argues, has won the contest of "words, images and manipulation" hands down. But even in victory they have an image to sustain.

To be "caught trumping Israel in manipulating opinion would deal a blow to the Palestinian camp - even a fatal blow. It would ruin the narrative. The Palestinian camp must play the underdog in this as in every other battle, or risk the whole war."

Hadrian's Echo is a long way from being a Dershowitz-type book. In *The Case for Israel* Dershowitz tackles the prosecution's case. Apfel tackles the prosecutors.

He does this (and it accounts for the spark of originality sustained throughout the book) through models. Into these he fits the propaganda mongers: journalists, NGOs, political and civil activists, legal fraternity, UN agencies, anti-Zionist Jews - all foot soldiers in the anti-Israel brigade.

The overall model - I would say the book's constant theme - comes from

the unlikely mouth of Willy Sutton. When asked why he robbed banks, Sutton, tongue in cheek, shot back: "That's where the money is."

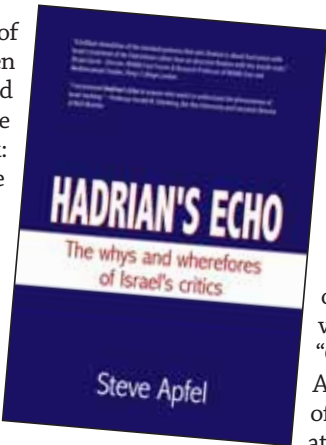
Apfel takes this homily to formulate a "Sutton principle". Why do people and whole nations obsess over Israel? Because, he argues, that's where the Jews are. And the book goes on to demonstrate that.

Apfel's model to understand anti-Zionist Jews like Kasrils or Zapiro, or Finkelstein, relies on that seminal work by Jean-Paul Sartre: *Anti-Semite and Jew*. Israel was not born when the French playwright wrote the book, but Apfel adapts it to the conflict of words, images and manipulation:

"Media types who have their eyes fixed severely upon Israel have not much in common with Jews who have their eyes similarly fixed. For their part Jews find themselves in that camp out of feelings partly conditioned by the media."

"Applying the insight of Sartre, these Jews have allowed themselves to be poisoned by the stereotype of Israel'. Another thing, Jews against Israel have taken a circuitous and tortuous route by way of the desert, a route not taken by other groups. They had to over-adjust in order (applying Sartre) to be distinguished radically from acts catalogued as Israeli."

The book contains many original



insights. Take the difference between critics of Israel and activists against Israel. "They are alike in being concerned with Israel's behaviour, and unlike in the behaviour that concerns them."

Perhaps the most original and thought-provoking chapter would be "Games the media play". As an op-ed in the *Times* of Israel, it attracted global attention. I would have to agree with at least one comment, out of the scores posted, that of Maurice Ostroff:

"This cogent essay should be on the recommended reading list for all who wish to avoid being misinformed by the media. You ably confirm Mark Twain's quip 'If you don't read the newspaper, you are uninformed; if you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed'."

For me the compelling chapter of the book is titled "The Lawman of Leiden". Apfel takes on a UN edifice and its Special Rapporteur, John Dugard. After acknowledging Dugard's credentials, he rips into his facade as an expert on International Law who throws the law book at Israel.

The cover promises that Hadrian's Echo is a "book that will entertain while it enlightens". It's worth reading, again and again.

Alderman Leon Reich is national chairman of Likud, SA, a former hotelier and Councillor of Rhodes University. Grahamstown's only Jewish mayor.



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Arrival in Durban: Thursday, August 9, 2012

Parade led by the Durban Field Band 15:30







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Glaser’s works are so conventional, they’re actually unconventional

Exhibition: *The Dream of Rosita: Prints by Marc Glaser (1936 - 2007)*
Where: Art on Paper Gallery, Milpark (011) 726-2234
When: until August 4

REVIEWED BY
ROBYN SASSEN

When first you enter the gallery, you might be forgiven for believing work by a lesser European modernist is showing. Notoriously reticent and maligned as a “copy cat” locally born artist Marc Glaser spent his life in virtual isolation.

Supported by his mother until her death, Glaser made over 2 000 works; this astonishingly fine tribute to him attests to his hunger to make prints which mostly side-step editioning, signing and dating conventions.

In one work, an insect struggles before a group of men, a la Kafka. In another, a man chats with a creature with a bird’s head. Giant blow-fish being eased into the sea by tiny people and three-eyed babies, are symbolism of this gently wild artist.

Portraits conjure up artists from Rembrandt to Picasso in their economy of line, malleability of darkness and coy eroticism. Some etchings are dull; others, supremely crisp. Glaser plays with drypoint like one would with a violin of great age.



Marc Glaser’s The Doll Shop, lithograph, 1970 447x338mm. (PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY ART ON PAPER GALLERY)

He is bold with lithographic ink, not afraid to allow it to splurge.

Glaser is a curious omission in local fine art. You realise why he was bypassed, however: His work teeters between stylistic brackets, ideologies and conventions.

There’s unquietness in the work of this man who must have led an immensely quiet life; it’s greatly satisfying in these works, so conventional, they are unconventional.

• This exhibition’s final week culminates in a collaboration between artist Kathryn Smith, author Rahla Xenopoulos and forensic pathologist Alan Morris, Bloody Book Week, in examining forensics and the failure of the truth. July 31 - August 7.

Xenophobic horror the catalyst for Shmukler’s ‘The Line’

Show: *The Line*
Where: Barney Simon Theatre, Market, Newtown (011) 832-1641
When: until August 12

REVIEWED BY
ROBYN SASSEN

On the day South Africa caught fire in May 2008, many things, including rainbows, shattered. The xenophobic crisis that revealed horrors unimaginable in terms of perception, bias and the spark of violence toward foreign refugees, was a catalyst for this extraordinarily fine piece of theatre, written and directed by Gina Shmukler.

Premised on engaging with trauma in theatre, the piece is constructed loosely around interviews with journalists, victims and perpetrators.

It’s the premise for Shmukler’s masters degree; but skillfully crafted for stage and in the hands of exceptional newcomers Khutjo Green and



Accounting trauma: Khutjo Green and Gabi Harris. (PHOTOGRAPH BY RUPHIN COUDYZER)

Gabi Harris, and in a devastatingly fine set comprising photographs by contemporary photojournalist Nadine Hutton in a haemorrhage of bottles suspended from the ceiling by Niall Griffin, this play is far from academic.

Self-consciously, it plays the issue’s sides, with an unaffected use of South African jargon, from white liberal to black tsotsi, but not flinching

from bruises and scars the crisis brought on so many levels.

Surreally interpreting Hutton herself, who was swept into the maelstrom at the time, the work explores how bravado crumbles in the face of something as huge as the collapse of belief in one’s own people’s moral fibre.

This play debuted earlier this year, under the auspices of Drama For Life in Wits University’s WALE Festival. It’s up there in theatrical significance with the TRC project “Truth in Translation” spearheaded by Andrew Buckland, which travelled globally some years ago, and the initiative steering Claude Lanzmann’s Shoah (1985), skirting as it does between documentary and theatre.

Stark and astute use of sound and lighting add to the sensitive polish of this work of maturity, yet freshness; one that should be unavoidable in this society.

Richard father and son shine in Red

Show: *Red*
Where: Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton (011) 883-8606
When: until August 11

REVIEWED BY
ROBYN SASSEN

Father and son Michael and Jeremy Richard team up in this John Logan play about what makes the struggle of Jewish Russian-born, American émigré modernist painter Mark Rothko (1903 - 1970)

touch chords for so many, in what is arguably the finest performance so far for both of them.

Loosely ensnathed in the facts of Rothko’s latter years, including the suggestion of his suicide, the play astutely reflects what art means, and what, the struggle for truth. Beautiful writing and suggestive quotations in a work refined into 90 minutes is one thing. Directorial wisdom, another.

Under Steven Stead’s hand, the production is nuanced, yet relent-

lessly compassionate. The performer could stumble into hamming up Rothko’s self-deprecation; he doesn’t: Michael Richard’s dignified, empathetic Rothko reflects how difficult it is to hold on to one’s integrity in a world bowed under the tyranny of mediocrity and money.

Jeremy Richard embraces Rothko’s assistant beautifully. He is devastatingly young, yet he is not innocent of defining holocausts, nor of his position in the art hierarchy.

The play twists and snaps back on itself with immensely satisfying alacrity, touching nerves. Repartee between metaphoric (and actual) father and son is electric. But it is how the young man spurs a turnabout in the older man that gives this very fine work’s denouement fire, leaving you wordlessly exhilarated.

One downside is the set. The play is framed in one of the most important defining moments in Rothko’s work. The works onstage trivialise the originals’ raw torsion and immensity. It’s a flaw we forgive: Red is about art, but it is a play after all; it is the words and performances that grab you and make you cry, rendering the crass onstage paintings real in your mind.



“The child must banish the father. Respect him, but kill him,” says Mark Rothko (Michael Richard) to his assistant (Jeremy Richard). (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OLD MUTUAL THEATRE ON THE SQUARE.)

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ORT Art Exhibition

July 31, Sandton Shul Hall, 18:00 - 19:00

ORT JET, a division of ORT SA, has assisted over 600 businesses to date with mentorship, training and support programmes designed to assist in a variety of industries.

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Arts in Brief

‘BITE OUT WITH THE HEBREW MAMITA’

Eat Your Heart Out presents a Bite Out with the Hebrew Mamita: a performance by New York-based slam poet Vanessa Hidary, who has been on Russell Simmons’ defining “Def Poetry Jam.” It takes place on August 2 at POPArts Centre in central Johannesburg. Hidary is one of the international speakers headlining this year’s Limmud, which runs in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town during select weekends in August. She recently published her first anthology of poems, “The Last Kaiser Roll in the Bodega”. Booking and contact details: www.popartcentre.co.za

A TOPSY TURVY MEDLEY OF CLASSICAL COMIC SONGS

Until August 5, Alan Swerdlow directs Jonathan Roxmouth in a one-man musical “Topsy Turvy”. It’s a revisiting of the comic songs of British duo Gilbert and Sullivan and includes witty classics from productions like HMS Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance and The Mikado.

There’s nothing traditional in this recital, a media statement warns: “In Topsy Turvy, Roxmouth takes the audience on a laugh-out-loud ride... These classic songs are dusted off and given a modern twist for a brand new audience. This is a must-see for fans of musical schizophrenia. One man. Over 15 characters. Eight operettas.” Studio Theatre, Montecasino. (011) 511-1818.

SAJR JUNIOR

JUNE 2012

It's a green thing...

'Take care of the Earth and she will take care of you.' ~ Author unknown



AMY SHENKER
GRADE 11

Say goodbye to plastic bottles lying on the school grounds and paper thrown unconsciously into a black wastepaper basket - and say hello to a new era, the Green Era. The Generation Earth (GE) Committee is well into its second year at King David Linksfield and things are looking good.

At the beginning of the year a new board was elected and the number of "Generation Earthlings" (as we members like to call ourselves) are growing rapidly. Meetings are being held at breaks where all of us tree huggers sit and brainstorm ways to spread awareness and make a lasting impression on the schools and communities around us.

We kicked off the year with a green civvies



day and assembly - which was attended by the Generation Earth founder, Ella Bella. The school was exposed to our ideas and aims for the year and invited to join us on our first project, planting a vegetable garden for Earth Day, April 22.

The project took place on the Sunday morning where our committee went to plant a vegetable garden in Lanseria at the Youth for Christ Centre. Not only did we get our hands gloriously dirty, but we were given the opportunity to interact with and meet new people from the Centre. We returned home feeling proud and accomplished.

One of our many goals for this year was to raise awareness in our school of the importance of our place in the battle against global warming. We have done this by setting up a green notice board that is constantly updated with articles relating to issues concerning the youth of

today. There is also a stand set up in the library with magazines and books on environmental issues.

We have also set up colour-coded recycling bins in convenient places around the school to encourage learners to recycle and help us make a difference; along with an anti-litter campaign that strives to make pupils conscious of the environment around them.

On May 20 we hosted the highly successful "GE Big Walk". The walk and picnic took place at King David Linksfield from 10:00 until 13:00.

Entrance was R25 and all proceeds went into a GE rhino fund. We look forward to hosting other GE committees from schools around Johannesburg, as well as families and friends that are interested in supporting our cause.

This is just the beginning of our Green Era, because if we don't save our Earth, who will?



Message from KDL Headmaster Marc Falconer

I think it was Winston Churchill who said something like "my learning was only interrupted by having to get back into the classroom" - and while I don't entirely agree with him, it is true that some of the most memorable times most of us can remember at school, are the times we spent learning outside the classroom.

The opportunities offered by the Junior Jewish Report have, as it happens, made our school aware of the necessity of creating a publications committee - involving our pupils in photography, desktop publishing and writing; all components of the creative and stimulating world of communications and also allowing pupils to explore the world around them and articulating their impressions.

While this is certainly an opportunity to express insights to the outside world, just as importantly, it is through their articulation of ideas and opinions that our pupils shape and form their own opinions, owning their impressions of this world which is soon to be theirs.



Good luck to these young adults. They inherit a complex and endangered world. They need to have thoughts about issues, to have articulated their ideas - getting practice in marshalling vague and random thoughts and owning them by ordering them, expressing them and submitting them to rigorous analysis.

I am proud of the work our pupils have contributed and grateful for the help, enthusiasm and expertise of the staff who have facilitated this process.

Opinion

Help prevent a Big Five becoming a Big Four

DANIEL KLOMPAS
GRADE 8R

Two hundred are too many, even one is too much. In only a short five months 200 rhinos have been killed for their horns. The horn is made up of keratin, a substance also found in human nails and hair.

The horn is believed to have medicinal uses, but zoologists have done research proving that rhino horn keratin has no effect on humans. Yet the demand for the horn is exceptionally high, and the price for a kilogram of rhino horn is some \$25 000 - \$40 000 on the black market.

There are organisations out there that help curb this menace, one of which, "Rhino Youth Force", was founded by learners at King David Linksfield.

Rhino Youth Force has raised and continues to raise thousands of rands for the preservation of the rhinos.

I recommend and plead for people living in the Johannesburg area to come to the monthly

pastry sales, outside Dowerglen Shopping Centre. The pastries cost only R5 each, and they also sell Save the Rhino bracelets for R15. The bracelets must be pre-ordered.



Imagine you are a rhino, and your father, mother, or even you are hunted and killed for your horn. Or imagine that if these poachers started hunting us for our nails and hair. Imagine a future when you take a trip to the Kruger National Park and instead of there being a Big Five, there is only a Big Four.

If we do not decrease demand for rhino horn and the need to poach, then we will lose something priceless; we will lose a species. Without the public, I, along with many others, believe the rhinos' fate will be sealed.

Poachers still defy the law, because the money they can make is viewed as worth the risk. If the business is lucrative, people will turn to it. Law enforcement needs to have exceptionally severe punishments at their disposal and be able to bring justice faster in order to be a deterrent to the shameless killers.

Despite all the shocking statistics, not enough is done to save these precious creatures that once numbered hundreds of thousands. All that was left between 2007 - 2011 were approximately 17 480 white, 4 180 black, 2 575 Greater One Horned, 200 - 275 Sumatran and 40 - 60 Javan rhino. There are only five species, two in Asia and three in Africa.

"The world remains an evil place, not because people do evil, but because onlookers do nothing," Albert Einstein said.

Liberty Life

"We at Liberty are delighted to be involved with the JNR Jewish Report. At Liberty we believe passionately in the value of education and have been supporting education initiatives for over 40 years."

Steven Braudo
Chief Executive: Liberty Retail SA



LIBERTY
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Opinion

Taking anti-Semitism too far



Broken tombstone with scratched out letters.



A tombstone smashed beyond recognition.

EMMA PORTER
GRADE 9

The vandalism of Bloemfontein Cemetery was mentioned in The Jewish Report on April 27 and it struck a nerve with me. To add to my horror, my grandfather informed me that his mother and stepfather are buried in this very cemetery. Naturally, I wanted to know more and with the help of my grandfather, I gained an insight into these extreme acts of anti-Semitism.

Bloemfontein Cemetery has been around for many years in a small and ever diminishing Jewish community. The cemetery is completely filled and contains the remains of many Boer War soldiers.

According to my grandfather, there has always been vandalism in this and many other Jewish cemeteries in small towns across South Africa, but never this severe. The vandalism used to consist of a few tombstones being pushed over; now hundreds of tombstones are being destroyed and curses and satanic drawings are being scrawled on the walls.

It is hard to prevent this destruction as there is not much you can alter in a cemetery. In the past they tried to stop the grave-stones being pushed over by laying them flat to begin with, but a problem occurred with the rain and mud starting to damage the lettering.

So far not much can be done by the police as there is not much personal evidence from the culprits. Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft (spiritual leaders of the country communities) has brought in independent parties to try to investigate and hopefully put a stop to the vandalism.

It is worrying that the criminals could still return, as it means any gravestone could be destroyed next. My great-grandmother or her second husband's could be next. My heart goes out to the families who have had to deal with the vandalisms as I can only imagine what it would do to my family.

I agree with my grandfather when he says that if they catch these people, they should not be thrown in jail, but they should be made to help clean and fix the destruction they have caused, paint over the walls and do other community services.

They must understand that their actions have consequences, that the tombstones they destroy belong to someone's deceased loved ones, someone who was once a living person and that what they are doing is disgusting, disrespectful and immoral.

Taking out whatever prejudice they have on people who are not even alive to react to it, and distressing a Jewish community (in Bloemfontein) that is so small they do not even have a rabbi, is cowardly and pathetic.

What is baffling, is why anyone in their right mind would actually want to vandalise grave sites. Forget about religion or race. Do they not understand that these are graves of deceased humans?

Surely there is always a belief in any religion that bad deeds are punished and surely they cannot believe this is good? I suppose we will never know what goes on inside people's minds, and we can only hope that these vandals are brought to justice and our deceased can remain as they should be until Moshiach.

Tapestry

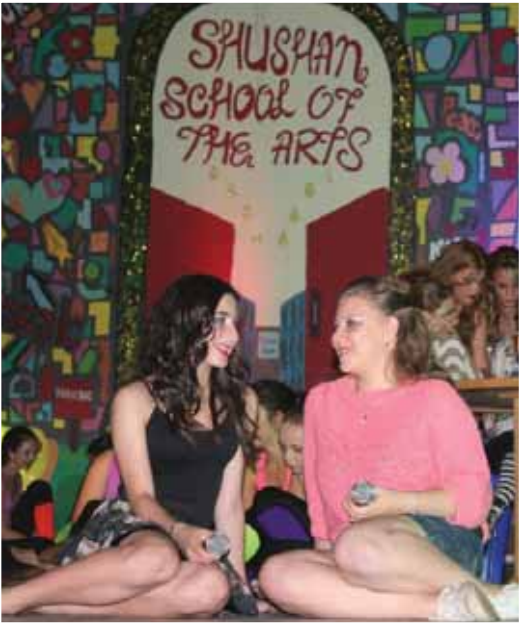
KDL Purim Play a tribute to Gary Block

YAKIRA AMOILS
GRADE 11

Over 200 learners took part in King David's annual Purim Play. An "Infamous Purim" hit the stage on March 12 and 13.

Directed and written by Cayla Solomon; Dani Mann; Taryn Stein; Natasha Meyerowit; and Yakira Amoils and choreographed by Gabi Ferera; Megan Brooke; Talya Carno; Tal Zakon; Liat Friedland; Jody Kaplan; Tammi Lutz; and Shannon Kelvin, as well as immeasurable help and assistance from Miss Sutherland; Morah Spector; and Mathew Vlok.

"I'm going to live forever", proved to be the perfect theme as a tribute play for our late teacher. Gary Block. He gave us all so much and we hope that the play we put on made him proud. Through all of his learners and his initiatives such as the Purim Play, his legacy will live on forever.



Education

What my school means to me

TALYA HARRIS
GRADE 12 - KDL HEAD GIRL

Upon walking through the school gates every morning, I am surrounded by special moments, special moments which have occurred and special moments which are yet to come.

I remember my first day of high school, nervously walking in, not knowing that I was embarking on a journey of a lifetime. I see the laughter, friendship, Judaism, Chagim, Purim plays, sports and cultural activities that I have experienced.

I see the ups and downs I have encountered only to emerge as a stronger person. I see a bright future. I feel the presence of my teachers and friends. I feel comfortable. I feel a sense of pride and inspiration and that is when I know that I have entered King David High School Linksfield - my home.

One feeling can sum all this up. This is the



unique King David spirit which exists nowhere else. These two pictures illustrate this feeling.

The matric learners of this year took the initiative of organising a flash mob - an organised choreographed dance, which occurs "spontaneously" and in which anyone can join in. The purpose was to encourage everyone to participate and join together as a single united group, united in the pursuit of a common purpose to tune into a common rhythm and move as one.

The intense atmosphere felt by all the participants and even those who only gathered to watch, was powerful. During that break, nothing else mattered. The whole school, younger grades and older grades alike, had gathered together and created a space which exuded vibrancy and joyfulness.

It was an overwhelming experience. It is this King David spirit of unity which is so unique and presents itself in joyful times and gives us strength in hard times. It represents a sense of belonging and pride.

As we all stood together, I realised that less can be accomplished when done alone, with the power of unity, a group acting together far exceeds the power of individual activity. This being one of the many lessons I have learned at King David. When I think about King David, I think about 12 years full of opportunity. I think about a school which has shaped me into who I am and in turn has defined my morals and values. A school which has watched me grow, overcome obstacles and given me the best times of my life.



King David enhances each and every pupil's abilities and embraces their potential. It is our home and a place in which we all feel safe. I was therefore overcome with emotion and was honoured upon being made the head girl of such a special school. I am grateful that I was given an opportunity to give back where so much was given to me.



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Tapestry



Watch out for KDL’s ‘Footloose’ in August!

KDHL proudly presents the hit musical, “Footloose” on August 5, 6 and 7. Learners are hard at work honing their singing, dancing and acting skills for what promises to be an exciting and uplifting production.

Tickets will be on sale at the front office or call (011) 480 4500.

Education

KDL High School pilots e-learning

MELISSA GOBETZ
GRADE 10

Championed by innovator and headmaster, Marc Falconer and a team of talented and dedicated teachers, King David High School Linksfield has begun a programme to pilot e-learning at the school. The programme aims to integrate digital content into the grade 9 curriculum, optimising the learning experience and taking advantage of the way that learners today intuitively access information.

With the help of a welcome sponsorship from Standard Bank, the school was able to purchase Top Dog vouchers for all of the learners and teachers, affording them access to online tutorials, summaries and mock exams that match the grade 9 curriculum.

The school has installed Airwatch to manage the use of tablets, lockers with charging stations to keep devices safe and improved WiFi to improve accessibility. Relevant apps, tools and learning resources, are sent to the pupils through Google Groups and a Sharepoint

site provides a central portal for all content and communication.

Teachers are being trained on integrating content and blended learning throughout the year with tips and tricks to use in their “flipped” classrooms.

Headmaster Falconer is pragmatic about the challenging road ahead for both pupils and teachers:

“In the next five years, our school will undergo significant transformation and our pupils will need to develop increased discrimination, self-regulation and responsibility,” he reasons. “Teachers will be required not so much to integrate IT into their teaching, as transform their pedagogical models.”

Despite its challenges, Falconer and his team of teachers see a bigger purpose at play in South Africa at large: “Being part of this learning revolution has the potential to transform the access to information of the weakest and most needy pupils in our country,” he says.

“There has never been a greater need for parents, pupils and teachers to responsibly and in an informed way mediate our educational passage to the future.”

Education

Five years at King David Linksfield

TYLER FOUCHÉ
HEAD STUDENT LEADER
KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL LINKSFIELD

High school for me is a journey of continual discovery. You discover who you really are, what other people are about, where you want to fit in, but more importantly - you develop a credo for your life.

What was important to me in grade 8 or 9 does not fit into my sphere of reference right now. Parents often try and protect their kids from scary stuff - scary stuff happens to us anyway - we have to face disappointments, sometimes striving for a goal and not achieving it, not always making the team we wish to be part of, not being invited to the party we wish to be invited to, learning how friendships themselves are a pendulum of different experiences, who to count on and what really counts.

We develop a set of morals and principles from what we see around us that we really like, but also what we don't really like. King David for me is a microcosm of the big world and I am grateful for my experience here.

You sense the true essence of King David Linksfield on the sports field, in the debating arena, backstage at a Purim play, on a bus heading for a Shabbaton, or just in random everyday events. You sense the true camaraderie and community of King David Linksfield when

we encounter setbacks, deaths of dear ones, illness of teachers or learners or parents - this is when the true grandeur of King David Linksfield comes to the fore.

In an ideal world there would be unity and cohesion every step of every way, but we can only strive towards an ideal world... Again, it's the journey and not the destination. Along the winding roads we are encouraged to be *menschen*.

This microcosm that is King David Linksfield is a melting pot of personalities. Some are academic and some sporty, some worldly, some party people and some just happy to sit on the sidelines. It is challenging to integrate the aspirations and yearnings of all these different types of people with school initiatives and values but challenges force us to question more, reflect more and engage more.

What I value most about my school years is that each term and each year shapes a time for change. You can reflect back but look ahead, dismiss disappointments but learn from them to create a new platform for growth.

At the beginning of this leadership year I wrote that my personal mission is the pursuit of fairness and friendship within the context of a Jewish value system. These are the values I hold close to me: fairness, friendship and a deep sense of *Derech Eretz*. These are the values I will take forward in the next stage of my life journey.

Outreach

Interacting: an important aspect of our KDL ethos

JAYDE MOSS
GRADE 9W

People often think that by making someone else smile, they are lighting up a life. It's not just that person's life that is being made better by a small action, but their own life too. Outreach is something very close to my heart. I am so privileged to have the chance to make someone else just a little bit happy - but the truth is, my life is changing as well.

I come from King David Linksfield High School, a school with so many opportunities to change someone's life and make their world a happier place to live in. Our school is full of learners who strive to help others, but at the same time, bring some joy to their life too.



Two girls from the Khayelitsha Shelter at our end-of-year party with our interacters, Gabriella Jacobs; Nicole Pantanowitz; Lori Jacobson; Tali Smith; Nicky Dimant; and Alexa Tuch, talking to them and having fun

We organise as many events as we possibly can to ensure that we see that at least those children had fun and that at least they had one meal that will keep them going for just a short while longer.

Not many people realise how many children in this world are abused, come from difficult backgrounds, and maybe only eat one proper meal in seven days. All we want for those children is to get the chance of having a healthy life, just as we are privileged to have.

Every child has the right to an education, a roof over their heads, not to be abused, and to be healthy. When us King Davidians take these children out of their shattered homes and bring them into our world, words cannot begin to describe the looks on their faces when they see a soccer ball around, a piece of food lying on the floor, people just looking at them and smiling. Many people take advantage of what they have in life; nobody realises what it's like to live in the real world.

Small groups of interacters at our school visit many places to ensure that every living person has a chance of a decent life. We visit Impilo, a home for abandoned babies to provide stimulation for the babies and to make them laugh like every baby deserves to do.

We visit Sandringham Gardens once a week to distribute food parcels to the elderly and listen as they tell us stories about their lives. Fundraising is something we like to do as often as possible, so that we can give money or the general necessities to those who need it.

I want to make people realise by writing about our outreach, what is really important in life. People don't know what a *mitzvah* it is to make someone's life a happier one and trust me, it definitely has a huge impact on your own life.

A little girl from the Khayelitsha Shelter is loving every minute of being pampered by our interacters at our end-of-year party.



A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Terrorism in Bulgaria

July 18, 2012 marked the 18th anniversary of the worst post-war anti-Semitic atrocity, the bombing of the AMIA Jewish centre in Buenos Aires. Nearly 100 people were killed in this terrorist attack, subsequently revealed to have been planned and carried out by Iranian operatives.

It was on that same day that a deadly terrorist attack was carried out against Israeli tourists in Burgas, Bulgaria, and again it seems likely that Iran, quite possibly through its Lebanon-based surrogate Hezbollah, was behind it. Moreover, the attack was not an isolated incident.

Iran and Hezbollah are believed to have been responsible for orchestrating similar plots, some successful, against Jewish and/or Israeli targets in 24 countries over the past two years.

The Burgas tragedy once again shows that no matter where in the world they are, Jews can never relax their vigilance. In the South African context, this would very much involve our community fully supporting and co-operating with the CSO. Both in securing our communal installations and in gathering information that might prove vital in preventing possible attacks, the CSO strives to fulfil its mandate to protect Jewish life. For this crucial work, it needs the full support of all of us.

Limmud: Celebrating the depth and diversity of our heritage

During the first two weeks of August, Limmud will



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

be holding its now eagerly awaited annual programme, starting in Gauteng on the weekend of August 4 - 5, moving on to Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, for the public holiday on the 9th and concluding in Cape Town on the following weekend.

Since its establishment in this country six years ago, Limmud has more than lived up to its mandate “to allow each Jew to take one step further on their Jewish journey”, creating a diverse and inclusive forum through which its participants can “experience the full gamut of Jewish opinion and belief”.

For a substantial section of our community, it has come to fulfil an important role in maintaining and enriching their connection to their Jewish heritage. Limmud caters for the broadest range of interests. Indeed, the only real regret one has is in being unable to attend every event that one would like to, given that these often will occur simultaneously.

Once again, participants in this year’s programmes will include many members of the SAJBD, both its professional staff and lay leadership. In addition to the many renowned international speakers, including Rabbi Shmuley Boteach and Professor Barry Rubin, it will showcase the truly extraordinary depth of talent - intellectual, creative, organisational or other - that exists within our own community.

We are all very much looking forward to being part of it all, and hope that as many of you as possible will join us for the occasion.

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

All in a day’s work

The Chev has a large, and growing, Protected Employment Services division, currently catering to more than 200 workers across the Group.

Even before Kadimah Occupational Services was incorporated into the Chev in 2008, the Chev was running the World of Work programme, offering welfare recipients - some with disabilities - employment within the organisation.

This model is marvellous for many reasons. The therapeutic advantages are great and nurture self-respect, purpose and dignity. Workers feel a sense of pride in their achievements, knowing that in some small way they are making a contribution. They have an opportunity to offer their skills to different departments in various roles and to further develop their abilities. We all feel good when we are busy and productive.

Residents from allied Chev facilities - Selwyn Segal, Sandringham Gardens and our mental health residences - are transported daily to Kadimah in Berea in Johannesburg, where they do contract work or create, and sell jewellery, greeting cards, candles, flyswatters, key-rings, etc.

There is room, if they are so inclined, for small entrepreneurial dreams to be realised through skills development.

Through SETA-accredited training, a few Kadimah workers have even made it into the open labour market, though social workers continually monitor and support them. If you have room in your company for an apprentice, or are willing to share your expertise with workers by visiting to talk to them, Kadimah would be very grateful.

I don’t have to explain how much support people with disabilities need in the workplace and that this can often be challenging. But, as a community, we want to have a positive effect on their lives. It’s the Chev’s mandate and all in a day’s work.

May our partnership continue to thrive!

• Please feel free to communicate with me on feedback@thechev.org.za



ChevrahKadisha
AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY WELFARE

Partners in Chessed
Michael Sieff
Group CEO

For the record

‘EVERY DAY IS MANDELA MITZVAH DAY’

Unfortunately due to a proofing error in the week of July 13, a sentence from the UJW’s column was inadvertently dropped. The sentence should have read: “Most days are special days for the Union of Jewish Women because we don’t wait to just give our 67 minutes on Mandela Day... every day is Mandela-Mitzvah Day for us!” We regret the error.

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Brenner’s terror comparison is a degradation of Pinchas

In response to John Brenner’s letter comparing the “vigilante action” of Pinchas - I find this mildly disturbing, to say the least.

When contemplating the actions of great biblical personalities, one should tremble at the mere possibility that one may, G-d forbid, detract from their greatness by thinking that we can bring them to our level by judging them.

Although in isolating the actions of Pinchas, it would seem that he “took the law into his own hands”, one must perhaps study the subject deeper and more broadly to appreciate the situation.

If one gives credit to those specific verses about Pinchas’ actions, one must give validity to all the verses of the same author - namely G-d’s Torah transmitted by his prophet, Moshe. In light of the verses that clearly state that Pinchas’ actions stopped a divine plague that had already killed 24 000 people, a plague attributed to the despicable action of Kozbi and Zimri - who yes, Pinchas killed them - this was a matter of life and death and instead of Mr Brenner comparing him to the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups, perhaps we must look to the verse that clearly states that Hashem rewarded Pinchas with his covenant of peace.

In light of G-d’s blessing, it is incumbent upon us to understand that Pinchas’ motivation was for peace. For if it would not have been motivated by a deep desire for peace, G-d would not have protected Pinchas - measure for measure as G-d does - with a covenant of peace as is explicitly stated in the verses that follow.

Furthermore, I do not believe that Rabbi Hecht’s approach in any way detracts from what Rabbi Goldman has said. What Pinchas did was specific to those circumstances and was a life-saving necessity at the time.

In general the Rambam’s approach of Divrei Sholom ve’ahavoh - words of love and peace - are the approach to take but when morality is flagrantly, contemptuously and publicly belittled and degraded to the extent that the moral fibre of society is crumbling and threatened, one must stand up and protect. That is what Pinchas did.

For us to read in the same letter that “vigilante action is best left to other fringe groups such as the Taliban, Hamas, Al-Qaida, etc...” is a degradation to Pinchas and we dare not degrade those who saved lives and whom Hashem sees fit to bless with his covenant of peace.

Isaak Woolf, Glenhazel, Johannesburg

Growing support for Israel among some Afrikaans and English churches

The Pretoria march two weeks ago in support of Israel by mainly black Christians among others the Shembe Church, the ACDP and other groupings, was courageous and commendable.

This was more so considering Cosatu’s opposition and vicious stance against Israel, the 2012 ANC policy conference reaffirming its intention to increase support for the Palestinians and the boycott of Israeli products amidst what many people think is the reappearance of demonisation of Jews and lately Israel worldwide.

Although the failure by Afrikaans and English Christians to support the demonstration is disappointing, many groups within these two sections circulated information beforehand, requesting prayers to A-mighty G-d to protect Israel against the hostile Palestinian campaigns supported by Cosatu and the ANC. The prayer for the peace of Jerusalem in Psalm

122:6 is remembered.

It is unfortunate that the traditional Afrikaans reformed churches have in the past been influenced by anti-Semitic ideas from Europe, but it is slowly dying out in SA. Fortunately there is growing support from English and Afrikaans Christians in apostolic and charismatic churches for Israel and the Jews in accordance with the everlasting Word of G-d.

The active support of organisations such as Bridges for Peace and the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem with branches in Cape Town, are good examples.

In a time in which the Afrikaners are searching for a cause, support for Israel and the Jews and the development of friendship and appreciation founded on biblical principles, will fill a need and serve a G-d-willed purpose.

Dr Barry Botha, Blackheath, Johannesburg

UCT has many student mentoring programmes in place

An article was published in the SA Jewish Report in June, titled “The Peer Mentorship Programme, shaping the future”, which refers to the failure of black students at the University of Cape Town and the support they require.

There are, however, some elements which need addressing.

Firstly, the writer states that the number of black students who drop out of UCT is 41 per cent, which is not true. In fact, 65 per cent of black students have entered the university and gone on to graduate over the last five years.

Of the 35 per cent that dropped out, six per cent did so in good academic standing, meaning only 29 per cent have been refused admission on academic grounds.

Secondly, the writer states that the reason why black students drop out is because of a “lack of institutional and social support”, which is not always the case.

UCT has an extensive Academic Development Programme (ADP). We know that the programme is very effective and it has proven positive impact. Unfortunately some students still fail and the reasons for these failures

are often complex.

We agree that support is an essential element in academic success, particularly for underprepared students and expanding, improving our support system is constantly on our agenda.

In the case of science students, they are being assisted through the General Entry Programme for Science (GEPS) which is run in association with the ADP. Students in GEPS register for a year of intensive half-courses in mathematics and choose three courses from chemistry, computer science, life/earth sciences and physics.

This offers them an opportunity to establish a sound educational foundation before proceeding in their second year to their chosen major.

Lastly, we could not agree more on the need for mentorship programmes. UCT has many such programmes across the faculties and residences and we applaud initiatives such as that of the Peer Mentorship Programme that the writer referred to, which are assisting and supporting young adults.

Gerda Kruger, Executive Director: Communications and Marketing, UCT

Director of Jewish Studies (Primary School)



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A new Web vision

“Best practice” in web design has resulted in “standard practice” and fading attention spans. Now make way for “best experience”, writes ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK.

Ever wonder why every second website you visit looks the same? You’d think that, after almost two decades of the building of the web, designers would have become so skilled, savvy and creative, no two sites would look the same.

Ironically, you can lay the blame on the quest for the ideal website. In the business world, that is referred to as best practice.

The past five years have seen a major shift in the design and quality of websites. Especially in the media environment, the understanding of best practice has evolved in clicks and bounds. The result is that most media sites are slick and user-friendly. But also, that most media sites tend to have the same general structure.

The unforeseen consequence of a general embrace of best practice in online design is that it has also evolved into “standard practice”. This results in a rash of “me-too” sites.

It comes as no surprise then - except to the site owners - when a site redesign is followed by a drop in time spent on the site.

A lack of a co-ordinated strategy means that it is difficult to refine these sites unless a complete redesign is commissioned.

In the process of benchmarking and auditing South African websites for more than a decade, my company has often found the design process to be a wrestling match between marketing teams and IT administrators.

Each believes they should have the final word. And, because best practice is now so well-established and accessible, each believes they can do it by themselves.

The truth is, they need each other. But even more important, they need the user as part of the process. Some have misunderstood this requirement to mean focus groups and “crowd-sourced” recommendations.

This seldom works, as focus groups cannot tell you what they don’t know. They cannot tell you why they experience a site in a certain way, and certainly cannot advise you on potential



GOLDSTUCK ON GADGETS Arthur Goldstuck

strategies of which they are not even aware.

This needs a combination of best practice - ie expert knowledge and skills - and of what one can call “best experience”.

It is taking a subjective experience and giving it an objective interpretation. This is the exact opposite of the focus group approach, which allows the user to give a subjective interpretation of a subjective experience.

How do you put yourself in a user’s head? Enter the eye-tracker.

A new generation of tools measures precisely how users experience websites or mobile apps by tracking the movement of their eyes.

The Webagility Vision system designed by World Wide Worx is just one example of this kind of approach. It is a suite of analysis tools that reveals all areas where users’ eyes focus.

These tools provide a representation of what is seen and what is “invisible”, ranks the strength of focus on site elements, and establishes the overall sequence in which visitors explore a page. It includes video animation of this sequence and of eye-movement on screen.

Based on the resultant analysis, sites or apps can be optimised on the basis of best practice and best experience. Not only is it in-depth, it also effective for both websites and apps.

It’s not the only tool of its kind, but it underlines the power of the options that have become available even as differentiation of websites becomes a greater challenge.

• Arthur Goldstuck is managing director of World Wide Worx and editor-in-chief of Gadget. Follow him on Twitter at @art2gee

Motoring Feature

Compiled by the SA Jewish Report. Tel: (011) 274-1400 e-mail: advertising@sajewishreport.co.za or visit www.sajewishreport.co.za

Recession in Europe, but SA automotive industry still in good shape

South Africa's automotive industry is a global, turbo-charged engine for the manufacture and export of vehicles and components. The sector accounts for about 10 per cent of South Africa's manufacturing exports, making it a crucial cog in the economy.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA), commenting on the first quarter of this year, predicted a significant increase in vehicle manufacturers' capital expenditure. The aggregate industry employment levels "reflect impressive uptick, rising by over 500 jobs" in this quarter.

New vehicle sales during 2012 would remain a function of the performance of the domestic economy. On the assumption that the South African economy would grow, in real terms, by about 2,9 per cent and taking account of the prevailing historic low interest rates, improved vehicle affordability, new model introductions and easier access for consumers to vehicle financing, as well as continued strong demand by the car rental Industry - NAAMSA's projection for

2012 translated into an expected improvement of about 7,5 per cent in domestic sales volumes for the year.

Domestically, sales of commercial vehicles over the balance of the year could surprise on the upside supported by the roll-out of infrastructural development projects.

Export sales would remain a function of the performance and direction of global markets. Vehicle exports into Europe were likely to soften as a result of the recession and debt crisis in the Eurozone, however, projected higher exports to African countries and factoring in the contribution of Ford global compact vehicle new programme and the BMW new 3-series export programme over the balance of the year - should enable the Industry to achieve export numbers similar to or slightly below those recorded in 2011. Light commercial vehicle export sales in particular should regis-

ter strong growth.

At the end of 2011 the industry employed 28 147 workers and this number rose in the first quarter of this year, to 28 656.

On an annualised basis, industry average capacity utilisation levels showed an improvement in 2011, relative to previous years.

At the end of February this year, the Automotive Investment Scheme, which forms part of the Automotive Production and Development Programme, had resulted in planned investments by automotive assemblers and component supplier companies of R12 billion - R8,7 billion by assemblers and R3,3 billion by component companies.

First quarter aggregate industry new car sales for 2012, at 110 719 units, recorded an improvement of 10 109 units, or 10 per cent, compared to the 100 610 new cars sold

during the corresponding quarter of 2011. Aggregate industry commercial vehicle sales during the first quarter of 2012 at 46 024 units recorded an increase of 347 units or a gain of 0,8 per cent to the 45 677 units sold during the corresponding quarter of 2011.

All sectors registered significantly slower growth during the first quarter of 2012 compared to the corresponding quarter in 2011.

The automotive industry's contribution to South Africa's Gross Domestic Product during 2011 was estimated at 6,8 per cent versus the figure for 2010 of 6,2 per cent.

In 2006, the industry's contribution of South Africa's Gross Domestic Product peaked at 7,35 per cent. Global new motor vehicle production in 2011 reached a record of 80 092 840 units (2010: 77 629 127 units).

Continued on page 16

How to choose an insurance company

When choosing an insurer to cover your vehicle or home contents, there are various factors to consider depending on your unique profile. Regardless of who you are and what you drive, there are certain standard tell-tale signs to look out for when choosing a quality, dependable insurer.

Sometimes cheaper monthly premiums could mean a very unpleasant and costly claims experience.

Shopping around for insurance could mean significant monthly savings. To help you pick a reliable insurer that meets your needs AND budget, here are a few basic things to consider next time you choose an insurance partner:

- Excesses: Insurers typically offer either a fixed excess or percentage excess linked to the value of your claim. The excess amount you choose will affect your monthly premium, but make sure that you can afford this cash lump sum before agreeing an amount with your insurer.
- Claims process: What is the attitude and reputation of the prospective insurer towards paying claims? The claims turnaround time of the insurer is also an important factor to consider.
- Online capabilities: Online quoting, policy updates and an online claims process are becoming the industry norm rather than a nice to have.
- Pricing: When choosing an insurance option take

care to compare apples with apples. Look closely at the detail of the quoted policy terms as well as type of cover and security requirements for the proposed cover.

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Recession in Europe, but SA automotive industry in good shape

Continued from page 15

This represents an increase of 2,5 million vehicles produced or 3,2 per cent compared to the 77,6 million new vehicles produced during 2010. In contrast, South African vehicle production rose to 532 545 vehicles in 2011 from 472 049 units produced in 2010 – an improvement of 60 496 vehicles or 12,8 per cent. The current global vehicle population exceeds one billion vehicles.

During calendar 2011, the South African automotive industry exported 272 457 vehicles to 80 countries internationally. On a continental basis, Europe and Africa represented the major destinations with 97 882 vehicles or 35,9 per cent of total vehicles going into the Eurozone and 67 442 vehicles or 24,8 per cent of total exports destined for African countries.

The year-on-year growth in 2011 vehicle exports into Africa was 58,6 per cent, versus

7,9 per cent growth for Europe.

Despite intense competition in African markets from Chinese and Indian vehicle exporters as well as second-hand vehicles supplied from Japan – the anticipated relatively high economic growth projections for Africa should support further growth in SA vehicle exports to African countries, while the recession in Europe is likely to impact negatively on export sales into that region.

All of the major vehicle makers are represented in South Africa, as well as eight of the world's top 10 auto component manufacturers and three of the four largest tyre manufacturers.

Many of the major multinational companies use South Africa to source components and assemble vehicles for both the local and overseas markets.

All of the large manufacturers in the country have launched major export programmes in recent years.

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Five often asked legal questions

We have outlined five of the most frequently asked legal questions we deal with through our Customer Service Call Centre at the AA.

1. Are reduced speed limits on a public road recommended speeds for that area or are they compulsory?

Reduced speed limits signs are regulatory signs meaning that they must be obeyed. The typical yellow background of the sign indicates that it is a temporary sign only and the reduction of speed is often due to unusual circumstances such as construction/improvement of roads. Traffic authorities can therefore legally prosecute speeding violations in zones where the speed has been temporarily reduced.

2. What are my obligations once I have sold my vehicle?

Regulation 53 of the National Road Traffic Act places a duty on a vehicle owner ("person who has the right to use and enjoyment of the vehicle") or titleholder ("person who has the right to alienate a specific vehicle") to notify the authorities if there has been a change of titleholder ownership of their vehicle. You will be required (whether you are the titleholder or owner) to submit your details as well as the details of the new owner/titleholder on a prescribed form called a "Notification of change of Ownership" form available at any registering authority. A vehicle may not be disposed of without the registration certificate being given to the relevant party concerned.

3. Do I have a legal right to demand a loan car from a dealership where my car is being serviced or repaired?

A vehicle owner does not have the automatic right to claim a courtesy/ loan car from a dealership. There is no legislated or common law provision for this. It has become practice for

some vehicle dealerships to offer this service as a form of good customer service.

4. My car was damaged in an accident that was caused by a third party. Does he have the right to insist on having my car repaired at his chosen repairer?

In terms of the law of delict you have the right to claim the necessary costs of repairs to your vehicle. The negligent party does not have the right to choose where your vehicle should be repaired, nor do you have the right to insist that he/she undertake to repair your vehicle at a specified repairer. The law allows you to recover the cost of vehicle repairs from the negligent party by proving what amount will be necessary to put you back into the position existing prior to the occurrence of the accident.

5. Is there an automatic 'cooling off period' in law that applies to the purchase and sale of a vehicle?

Until recently a 'cooling off period' was only provided for by law where a consumer purchased the vehicle under a credit agreement with a financial institution. In terms of the National Credit Act a cooling-off period will apply to the sale on condition that the agreement was concluded at a location other than the registered business premises of the credit provider. Under these conditions the consumer has the right to terminate the credit agreement within five business days after the date on which he/she signed the agreement. The Consumer Protection Act makes provision for a cooling off period to apply to all consumer transactions, except those specifically governed by the National Credit Act and those transactions over which industry an exemption has been granted. The Act provides that a consumer may rescind a transaction within five business days after concluding the agreement.

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Exploring ways to continue Nelson Mandela’s legacy

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

Last week Wednesday, July 18, was Mandela Day. We at Yeshiva College Primary School spent a very meaningful day honouring the values that Madiba has brought into our South African society.

We held an assembly where our principal, Joseph Beer, addressed the children on what it is that we can do to continue his legacy.

A blanket/food/money for blankets drive, was launched to assist outreach organisation Afrika Tikkun to help provide underprivileged communities in Alexandra, Orange Farm, Diepsloot and Hillbrow, with blankets and food.

Each class then dedicated one hour to do a piece of art that depicts an aspect that Nelson Mandela stood for.

In conjunction with Mandela Day, the grade 2 Chesed Club and grade 2 learners, were asked to bring plastic bottles and a treat for the men who clear out the dustbins.

These men take the plastic bottles out of the dustbins, then weigh them and sell them to earn a living.

On Mandela Day, the grade 2 Chesed Club handed over a whole array of plastic goods and treats for these men. It was truly a great act of goodness and kindness that brought smiles to the learners’ and workers’ faces.

A great Yashar Koach to Mrs Keizan and the grade 2 Chesed Club.



Grade 4 learners having fun with art in honour of Mandela Day. Front: Gilad Hazi; Noah Friedman; and Isabella Bar David. Back: Dean Chaitowitz; Savyon Kwasnik.; Amira Cohen; Yonit Herring; and Ella Chachi.



Lessons in giving emanate from Mandela Day

JENNY MILLER
PHOTOGRAPH: SUE BENJAMIN

Warm smiles on a cold day were a regular occurrence as the children of Sydenham Hebrew Pre-Primary School celebrated Mandela Day last week Wednesday.

Once again, they learnt about the importance of giving to the less fortunate by making donations of blankets and packets of soup.

The spirit of appreciation was further expressed in decorating the municipal dustbins to bring cheer to the PikitUp teams.

Balloons carry good wishes to Madiba

Yael Rabin
PHOTOGRAPH: SHERRI ULLMAN

The children at Chabad Fourways Jewish Montessori, celebrated Mandela Day with enthusiasm.

They baked cupcakes, collected food and blankets which were dropped off at the local fire station, to be given to underprivileged schools.

The children took on different mitzvot to do in honour of Madiba’s birthday last week Wednesday. These mitzvot were written on balloons and the kids then let them fly away. Loads of fun was had by all.

Pictured are children getting ready to let their balloons go. Yoni Schewitz; Jordyn Carreira; Ashton Carreira; Gabi Goldberg; Mendel Rabin; and Izzy Rabin.



67 Minutes of parcel packing for Mandela Day

MERLE COHEN
PHOTOGRAPH: ARNALDO MANDEL

The learners at King David Sandton

spent their 67 minutes on Mandela Day packing parcels for the Hillbrow Community Health Centre.

The parcels contained sweets, chocolates, chips, tins of food and packets of

soup. An overwhelming amount of clothing was also collected.

We are extremely proud of the generosity of the parents and learners of our school.

Mandela Day at Mina Lopato Nursery School



HILARY FRANKLIN
PHOTOGRAPH: WENDY RICHARD

The children of Mina Lopato in Greenside, Johannesburg, very much enjoyed celebrating Mandela Day, last week Wednesday. The children loved the colourful Madiba shirts they created.

Each group, from the two year olds to the six year olds, enjoyed the activity.

The parents of Mina Lopato are always very generous with any contributions requested for anyone or organisation in need. As a result, a newly created school for orphans was beautifully equipped. In addition, Mandela Day brought in wonderful donations of warm clothing for the homeless.

Mina Lopato Nursery School is a very warm, nurturing environment, where children flourish. It is situated in the grounds of Greenside Shul and enjoys a very close relationship with the shul.

Pretoria Jewish children celebrate Mandela Day

DIANE WOLFSON
PRETORIA
PHOTOGRAPH: RABBI MOSHE SILBERHAFT

The staff and children at Ganeinu

Nursery School celebrated Mandela Day in style with a party in Madiba’s honour. All the children excitedly sang happy birthday to Tata. A special South African flag cake was enjoyed by all.



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What's On

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

Today, Friday (July 27)

• UZLC has as its speaker David Saks on “Jews of South West Africa/Namibia”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria at 072-127-90421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (July 29)

• RCHCC in association with the JHGC screens the acclaimed documentary, “Shoah”, by Claude Lanzman. 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. E-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net.

Monday (July 30)

• UJW hosts Makhudu Sefara, editor of The Star, on “The Road to Mangaung”. Time: 09:30. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost: R20. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (July 31)

• WIZO Women Inspired hosts Kate Emmerson talking on “Spring Clean Your Life” Time 09:30 for 10:00. Venue: Beyachad. Cost R100. Contact: Lorraine 083-268-8016, Leslie 083-456-3911, Maureen 082-445-1515 or Ilana 082-601-2519. E-mail: isarae@seeff.org

• Morris Rutstein - SAZF Evening Hebrew Ulpan course's second semester starts today and terminates on Tuesday, November 27. It runs every Tuesday night from 19:00 to 21:15. Venue: Yeshiva College (in the classrooms). Registration takes place on Monday, July 30 at 18:30. Enquiries: SAZF, tel: (011) 645-2531 (office hours).

Wednesday (August 1)

• RCHCC shows the award-winning documentary, “Waiting for ‘Superman’”. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378. E-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net

• UJW hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Department of English at Wits, who today starts a series of five lectures on “English Metaphysical Poetry”. She will discuss the poetry of two 17th century poets, John Donne and George Herbert. Time 09:30. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost: R20. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

• UJW CT adult education division hosts Erica Cohen who will talk on a “Taste of China”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (August 2)

• WIZO PE invites you to an evening with comedian Nik Rabinowitz. Cost: R150. Time: 20:00. Venue: Savoy Theatre. Contact: (041) 373-4086 or 082-805-7774.

• 101.9 Chai FM presents stand-up comedy “Feel the Luv” on Tu B’Av. Line-up: John Vlismas; Ariel Kagan; Richelieu Beau-noir; Tats Nkonzo; and Martin Jonas, Mark Banks. Venue: Kil-larney Mall Cinecentre. Cost: R60 pp. Time: 19:30 for 20:00. Dress code: white, funky and fabulous. To pre-book, SMS “love” and your name to 34519, visit www.chaifm.com or call Pat on (011) 532-9300.

Friday (August 3)

• Limmud Johannesburg Conference 2012 starts today and ends on Sunday, August 5. Venue: Tsogo Sun Lifestyle Resort on the Vaal. Booking now open for the Sunday. Visit www.limmud.org.za or call 076-324-0888 to register.

Sunday (August 5)

• Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at 14:15 in the Jeffrey Auditorium at St John’s Colleges in Lower Houghton. Audio and video material lined up, featuring the great Big Bands of yesteryear. Tea break is included. Contact: Dave (011) 885-3525 or Barney (011) 440-1996.

• WIZO Pretoria holds a “Love-Lovely-Life Women’s Brunch”. Time: 09:30 - 13:00. Venue: Wingate Park Country Club. Cost: R200. Contact: Chantelle 072-733-5639, Marie 082-559-8245, Diane (012) 346-8712 or chantellebenami@yahoo.com

• Bikkur Cholim has its AGM at Athol House, 128 Athol Street, Highlands North. Time: 10:30. RSVP Joy on (011) 440-3606 (mornings).

• WoW Annual National Women’s Day Brunch will explore “Brain and Nutrition” by educationist Gavin Keller, psychologist Dr Sandy Gluckman and applied nutritional scientist Mary-Anne Lindenberg. Venue: Sandton Sun Hotel. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R500. Call Mandy 083-380-5268 or womenoftheworld.org.za

Monday (August 6)

• UJW hosts Prof Sheila Meintjes on “The Role of Women in SA Politics”. Time 09:30. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost: R20. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (August 7)

• WIZO Forum hosts a “Don’t Worry Be Happy” morning at Beyachad, with Rabbi Michael Katz, who will explore “Origins of Happiness From the Torah and Why It’s Still Essential For Us Today”, “Practical Tools to Develop an Attitude of Happiness in Your Life”, by Wendy Hendler; and “Workshop Filled With Laughter and Song”, by Shareen Richter (laughter coach). Time: 09:30. Cost R40. Contact: Sandy (011) 645-2548.

• HOD’s Lodge Negev, is hosting a “Charity Bingo Evening”. Time: 19:30 for 20:00. Five big games, big prizes, refreshments, at R150 per person. Contact Mark Meltzer mark@carteragencies.co.za or (082) 053-2856.

Organisers try to quell the anger over Munich tribute

JACK MILNER

The decision to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Israeli athletes killed in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games was always going to be controversial, which ever way it went.

In the end, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge led a surprise tribute in the athletes' village in London on Monday, but that low-key event failed to satisfy relatives of the victims or Israeli officials.

Israeli officials and members of the families of the killed athletes, wanted the tribute to be a minute's silence at the opening ceremony, something which the IOC had refused to do. London Organising Committee Chairman Seb Coe, told Reuters he felt that the tribute had been appropriate and played down calls for the 40th anniversary of the massacre to be marked with a higher profile commemoration.

"We marked it yesterday in the Olympic Park, in the village with the signing of the truce wall and the president's very poignant words about those Israeli athletes who lost their lives in 1972," Coe said in a television interview.

US presidential candidate Mitt Romney, has said he backs an official minute of silence at the opening ceremony which will be held in front of a crowd of 60 000 in the Olympic stadium tonight, and is expected to be watched by more than a billion people on television.

Coe was present at the tribute on Monday which included a minute's silence and said it had been a fitting one. "That was absolutely appropriate," said Coe, a double Olympic gold medallist who is the public face of the Games for many Britons.

"It was in the athletes village, which is exactly where that act of barbarity took place. I think that balance yesterday was struck perfectly."

Rogge said in his tribute: "I would like to start today's ceremony by honouring the memory of the 11 Israeli Olympians who shared the ideals that have brought us together in this beautiful Olympic Village. The 11 victims of the Munich tragedy believed in that vision.

"They came to Munich in the spirit of peace and soli-

darity. We owe it to them to keep the spirit alive and to remember them."

Rogge bowed his head as a crowd of about 100 - IOC executive board members, dignitaries and Olympic athletes and officials - stood in silence for a minute.

"As the events of 40 years ago remind us, sport is not immune from and cannot cure all the ills of the world," Rogge said.

The Jerusalem Post said Israeli officials were "underwhelmed" by Rogge's response. It quoted a diplomatic official who called it a ceremony that nobody knew about or paid attention to.

Ankie Spitzer, wife of murdered Olympic fencing coach Andrei Spitzer, will be in London this week to press her campaign for a moment of silence after gathering 100 000 signatures in a petition. Palestinian terrorists from the Black September group, attacked the Israeli team and took hostages in Munich after scaling a perimeter fence with their weapons concealed in sports bags.

Within 24 hours, 11 Israelis, five Palestinians and a German policeman were dead, after a standoff and subsequent botched rescue effort.

Jewish lobby group, the Anti-Defamation League, condemned the IOC for refusing to incorporate a commemoration into the opening ceremony. "This four-decade refusal to mark one of the most infamous terrorist attacks in history, and an attack on the Olympic Games themselves, represents a continuing stubborn insensitivity and callousness to the memory of the murdered Israeli athletes," ADL National Director Abraham Foxman said in a statement.

Meanwhile NBC Sports anchor Bob Costas says he plans his own on-air commemoration this week. Costas, who called the International Olympic Committee's decision baffling, told the Hollywood Reporter that he intended to note that denial when Israeli athletes entered the Olympic Stadium. Costas has been the lead host of NBC's Olympics coverage for 20 years.

"Many people find that denial more than puzzling but insensitive," Costas said.

It will be interesting to know what he has planned.



Sebastian Coe (left), chairman of the London Olympic organising committee and other Olympic and British government officials, stand in a minute's silence at a ceremony at the Athletes Village in London on Monday, where IOC President Jacques Rogge paid tribute to the Israeli team members who were killed at the 1972 Munich Games.

Karate success for KD Linksfield pupils

JACK MILNER

A trio of youngsters from King David Linksfield in Johannesburg, made a successful trip to Moscow during the winter holidays to participate in the World Karate Games.

The three - Nikki Silverman, Shai Lipman and Keegan Cohen - were all awarded their junior Protea colours and were members of the South African team at the event. All three train under Sensei Malcolm and Shane Dorfman.

Nikki and Keegan came away with seven medals. Nikki claimed one gold, two silver and a bronze while Keegan earned two silver and one bronze medal.



Keegan Cohen and Nikki Silverman with their medals won at the World Karate Championships in Moscow.



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A moment young Daniel will cherish forever

It's the dream of every young boy or girl who is a soccer lover, to walk on to the pitch, hand-in-hand with one of their superheroes. Young Daniel Gratch of King David Linksfield Primary School, was selected by Aon SA to be the mascot accompanying Manchester United great and England player, Michael Carrick, at United's game against Ajax Cape Town last week. Aon is the major Manchester United sponsor.

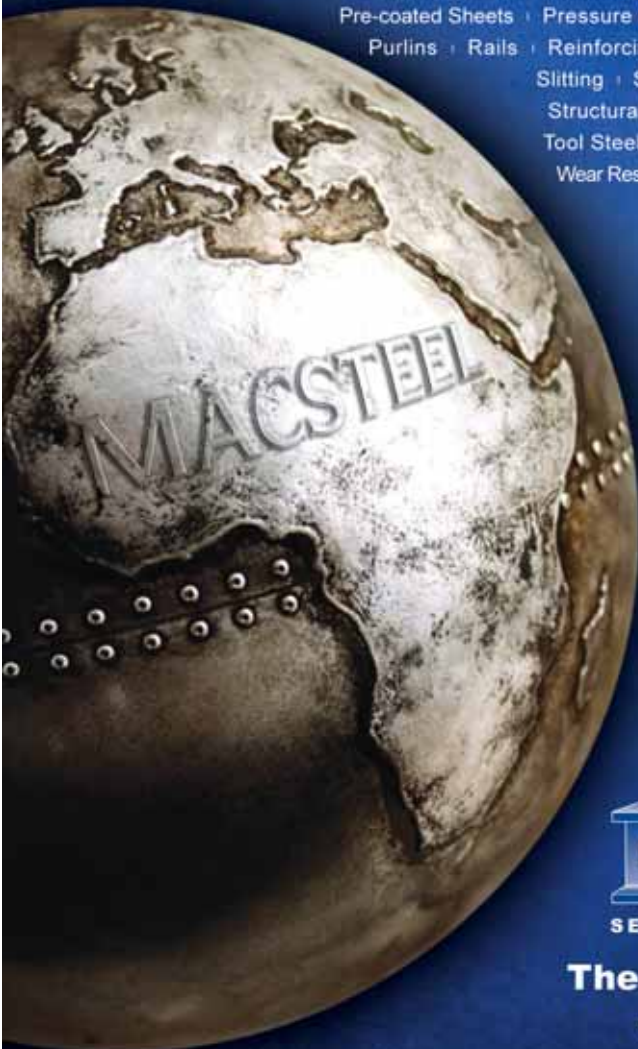
Manchester United, owned by the Jewish Glazer family from the US, is the most widely supported sports club in the world.




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