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# Jewish Report



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Friday, 27 May 2011 / 16 Iyar, 5771

Volume 15 Number 19

## Obama-Netanyahu tensions down; US Pres faces political problems

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### BASKING IN THE WARMTH OF A LAG B'OMER BONFIRE

Lag B'Omer is the 33rd day of the Omer, counted since the second night of Pesach. The most popular custom is lighting bonfires, to commemorate the yahrzeit of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, who gave great spiritual light to the world. At the Great Park Shul "forest" in Johannesburg, the turnout was exceptional. The young – and young at heart – toasted marshmallows and enjoyed themselves. As it has become customary, the occasion again served as a rallying point to collect blankets for the less fortunate. (PHOTOGRAPH: JEREMY FELDMAN) **PAGE 6**

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SHABBAT TIMES

May 27/23 Iyar  
May 28/24 Iyar

Bamidbar

Starts	Ends	
17:07	17:58	Johannesburg
17:29	18:23	Cape Town
16:48	17:40	Durban
17:09	18:00	Bloemfontein
17:01	17:54	Port Elizabeth
16:54	17:47	East London

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EDITOR - Geoff Sifrin  
geoff@sajewishreport.co.za  
Sub-Editor - Paul Maree  
Ed Co-ordinator - Barry Bilewitz  
barry@sajewishreport.co.za  
Senior Reporter - Rita Lewis  
rita@sajewishreport.co.za  
Sports Editor - Jack Milner  
jackmilner@telkomsa.net  
Books Editor - Gwen Podbrey  
Arts Editor - Robyn Sassen  
robyn@sajewishreport.co.za  
Youth Editor - Alison Goldberg  
alison@sajewishreport.co.za  
Cape Town correspondent  
Moiria Schneider: 021-794-4206  
Pretoria correspondent  
Diane Wolfson: 082-707-9471  
Manager: Distribution  
Britt Landsman  
britt@sajewishreport.co.za  
Sales Executives - (011) 023-8160  
Britt Landsman: 082-292-9520  
Manuela Bernstein: 082-951-3838  
Murray Schoeman: 083-627-6670  
Freelance Sales Executive  
Marlene Bilewitz: 083-475-0288  
Classified Sales  
jrclassified@global.co.za  
Design and layout  
Frankie Matthysen  
Nicole Cook  
Website  
www.sajewishreport.co.za  
Ilan Ossendryver  
IC-Creations  
ilan@ic-creations.com  
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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Living up to expectations



PARSHAT BAMIDBAR

Rabbi Alex Carlebach  
Chabad of Lyndhurst

MY FRIENDS, this week we commence reading the Fourth Book of Chumash, Bamidbar - The Book of Numbers. The literal English translation is “Desert” as the Jewish people were travelling at the time.

However, the common name for this chumash is “Numbers” as it is comprised of different censuses. In today’s society, being a number is seen negatively. There is a sense that a person is reduced to a statistic.

In a Torah sense, it means that each and every one of us has an equal value in the eyes of our Heavenly Father. Each of us is precious and beloved.

This is one of the reasons we read the parsha of Numbers before Shavuot, the anniversary of the giving of the Holy Torah. Here, we are taught the equality and value of each and every Jew. For our Holy Sages teach that if even one of our nation was missing, Hashem would not have given our people His Holy Torah.

In contrast, we hear today of how many of our young people we are losing to intermarriage - how many simply disregard their heritage. The essence of the problem seems to be that there is little feeling of being part of a chain of Judaism. There is little fostering of pride in our history and traditions.

Instead of lamenting the situation, perhaps we need to show each individual how important and valuable they are to us - how each plays a unique part in contributing to our people as a whole. Perhaps then, the same young people would feel differently. Perhaps then, they would feel that their decisions have more serious consequences.

There is an old adage that you get what you expect. The same may be said of people. Our perceptions and belief in people can have a significant effect on the way they behave.

This is even more pertinent when parents, teachers, peers and friends interact. A teacher may decide that a particular student is incapable of being educated. In turn, they may write him/her off as being unworthy of attention. As a result, these children begin to live up to those expectations and create self-fulfilling prophecies.

I met an individual who, throughout his school years, was considered a nebbish. He had learning difficulties and was often either told so, or just ignored. As an adult he became a successful businessman.

It would have seemed that his outcome would have been the opposite. He told me that it took a grade 7 teacher to make him believe in himself. That teacher kept reminding him that he was created in G-d’s image. As a result he was special. He learnt to believe that he was valuable. He learnt to believe that he had something to contribute - and so he did.

We need to take to heart this lesson and understand that G-d believes in each individual - that we each have a part to play. May we all achieve our potential and thereby know brocha and blessing. Amen.

The Western Wall and Piazza with the Dome of the Rock behind it.

Yerushalayim celebrations by way of a breakfast

RITA LEWIS

JUNE 1 will herald Yom Yerushalayim, the anniversary of the reunification of Israel’s capital city, Jerusalem, 44 years ago on June 7, 1967 after the Six Day War and the establishment of Israeli control over the area known as the Old City including the Western Wall of the Temple.

At the time, the Chief Rabbi of Israel declared the day Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) and instructed it to be a minor religious holiday - as a way of thanking G-d for the repossession of the city and for answering the 2 000-year-old prayer of “Next Year in Jerusalem” – words which are still sung at certain celebrations and festivals.

The City of Jerusalem was divided after Israel had declared its independence in 1948, when it was attacked by five neighbouring Arab countries, resulting in what was known as the Arab-Israeli War.

At the end of this war, Israeli forces controlled most of the city, but East Jerusalem, including the Old City, was controlled by Jordanian forces.

The Old City was important for strategic and religious reasons, as many sites of religious importance are in this part of the city, including the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque; the Temple Mount, (Kotel or Western Wall) of the Temple; and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre – catering for Jews, Muslims as well as Christians.

On June 7, 1967, corresponding to the 28th day of Iyar, 5727 of the Hebrew calendar, Israeli forces captured the Old City of Jerusalem. This resulted in the reunification of the City of Jerusalem.

Zionist Jews all over the world will celebrate the day with music, dancing, carnivals, etc.

In Israel Yom Yerushalayim is a national holiday marked by state ceremonies, parades throughout the cities and memorial services for soldiers who died in the battle to retake the city from enemy occupation.

The original destruction of Jerusalem was a watershed event in Jewish history that began thousands of years of mourning - therefore it follows that its reunification should be a joyous event for Zionist Jews and Israelis to be celebrated the world over.

In South Africa too, Jews will celebrate throughout the country.

At Beyachad in Johannesburg, WIZO has organised a fundraiser as part of their Fortnightly Forum, comprising an “Israeli Breakfast” and a morning’s entertainment.

Rabbi Dovid Hazdan of Great Park Shul, will speak on Jerusalem, while the Salon Soiree Girls, Patricia Flaum, Helen Heldenmuth and Ros Bassarabie, will give their particular take on “Stones of Jerusalem”.

Appearing will also be singers Mark Samowitz and Lindi Brest.

KASHRUT NOTICE

‘RETAIL SIZE’ MRS BALLS NOW KOSHER

Mrs Balls Chutney in retail size containers is now Kosher.

In an “important note” to the community, the Johannesburg Beth Din says that “as this product has a long shelf life, there is still stock of the previous non-kosher product on store shelves”.

Unilever will be printing the Beth Din logo on the labels of the new kosher stock, but only after their existing supply of labels has run out, which is approximately in four months’ time.

“In the interim, the new kosher stock of Mrs Balls Chutney may be identified by the ‘best before date’ appearing on the container. The “best before date” on kosher Mrs Balls Chutney must be: On glass bottles from February 2013 and later and on plastic jars from July 2012 and later.

Kosher Mrs Balls Chutney in catering size containers already bears the Beth Din logo.

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• Mrs Balls Peach Chutney

• Mrs Balls Tomato Chutney

The Beth Din’s kashrut department says other varieties may be added in due course.

“The above applies only to the South African market. Mrs Balls Chutney made for export is not included in the above.

“Kosher Certification of Mrs Balls Chutney has taken many months of hard work and we wish to thank Unilever for their willingness to meet our requirements and also the Beth Din technical and rabbinic team for their efforts.”

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ROUXVILLE: 2 bed, 2 bath, simplex apartment. From R700 000.



# Na’eem Jeenah deemed a security risk by Israel

ALISON GOLDBERG

ISRAEL’S REFUSAL to allow Na’eem Jeenah, director of the Afro-Middle East Centre, (pictured) to enter the country last Tuesday, has raised questions.



Procedurally he was treated no differently to anyone “not allowed into the country for security reasons”, Israeli Deputy Chief of Mission Ya’acov Finkelstein said.

On air twice since he arrived back in South Africa – on SAFm and on Cape Talk - Jeenah said he had been treated civilly by Israeli airport security officials in 2009 when he had been allowed into the country.

Finkelstein said an Israel Foreign Ministry official during the questioning last Tuesday, ensured the rights and honour were also respected of the SA diplomatic official sent to fetch Jeenah from the airport. Jeenah says this was not the case; that he was humiliated in front of a few people.

The only statement the Department of International Relations and Co-operation made according to the Minister’s spokesman, Clayton Monyela, was that the SA Embassy in Tel Aviv had provided Jeenah with consular support. The ticket change was arranged by Israeli authorities for his return.

Jeenah’s history in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign against Israel is a long one, so too his equation in his writings of Israel with apartheid South Africa.

Given Israel’s concern over the spread of the Arab Spring - the subject of Jeenah’s intended research in the country - Israel has reason to exercise vigilance.

It also views as a provocation the planned aid convoy through Africa and a flotilla by South African Muslims to Gaza in conjunction with another Turkish “peace flotilla”, to arrive at the same time in August.

These flotillas and convoy are to commemorate the first anniversary of the last Turkish flotilla, which ended in bloodshed with nine Turks dead.

Jeenah’s own words reveal his own various positions: He said the questioning at the airport entailed a 10-hour ordeal, a body and bag search, as well as being locked up in a cell.

The purpose of his trip, he said, was to research the impact of Arab uprisings on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Jeenah was going to interview Nabil

Shaath, senior member of the PA and Fatah, also Dr Joel Fishman of the Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs and Fishman’s son Shamai, who, like Jeenah, is doing research for his own PhD on jurisprudence in Muslim minorities in different countries.

He also was to meet Orna Kohn of an Israeli human rights organisation in Haifa called Adalah, which includes Arabs and Jews.

Apart from these interviews, South African Ambassador to Israel Ismail Coovadia, who was to provide accommodation for Jeenah, had arranged meetings for him.

Jeenah explained to Jewish Report that he was not in favour of boycotting individual Israeli academics. He said he had been a supporter of the BDS campaign against Israeli academic institutions.

His articles, equating Israel with apartheid South Africa, date back to 2002. He did not sign the recent petition circulated by the University of Johannesburg’s Petition Committee which sought to institute a complete academic boycott of Ben-Gurion University.

Asked if the Israeli Embassy had received any complaints from the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the Jeenah incident, Finkelstein said the embassy had “open channels” with it.

Jeenah said his position “is the support of the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, not any particular Palestinian organisation, neither Hamas or Fatah”. He added that he had never supported the idea that civilians were legitimate targets, neither in the SA anti-apartheid struggle, nor in the Palestinian one.

Asked what song he sang in the eighties about “beating up whites”, mentioned in a UJ seminar last week, he said “Shaya Mabunu”. He denied the intention of this song was to incite the physical beating up of whites, but rather to end white privilege and the apartheid system. He said that today that song would have an entirely different meaning.

Finkelstein said contrary to reports that Jeenah had been stripped of his passport and belongings when the Israeli government refused him entry into the country last week, Jeenah’s belongings and passport had accompanied him on his return to South Africa via Turkey, though they had been held separately, as per security procedures. They were returned to Jeenah on his arrival in Johannesburg. (See page 8)

# Arrest of Strauss-Kahn shakes France’s Jews

DEVORAH LAUTER  
PARIS

SHOCK WAVES continue to ripple throughout France as Dominique Strauss-Kahn, considered the likely Socialist Party candidate to challenge President Nicolas Sarkozy in French presidential elections next year, is out on \$1 million bail and \$5 million surety under house arrest in New York. He is charged with sexual assault.

Last Saturday’s arrest of Strauss-Kahn appears to significantly change the political playing field in France, as some recent polls had showed that the 62-year-old head of the International Monetary Fund - he has since relinquished that position - was the most popular among those considered to be possible presidential contenders.

It also represents a particularly harsh blow for many in France’s Jewish community.

Strauss-Kahn - popularly known by his

initials, DSK - has been outspoken about his Jewish identity in a country where politicians typically are mum about their religion. He also has expressed feelings of attachment to Israel in the past, all the while maintaining a measured distance from actively participating in Jewish institutions, according to Jewish leaders.

While some are concerned that the incident could unleash anti-Semitic sentiment in France, Marc Knobel, a researcher at the French Jewish umbrella group CRIF, said he had not found any significant reference to Strauss-Kahn’s religion.

On the contrary, “everybody knew he was Jewish, and that didn’t prevent him from being the most popular candidate in France,” said Richard Prasquier, the president of CRIF. “And that says something about France. Today we find it completely normal that a Jew can become president.” (JTA)

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# Chaiyanu children enjoy Shabbos of a lifetime in Sandton

There were two 11-year-old Chaiyanu children who had never prayed before; they asked me for a

Chaiyanu will not allow cancer to prevent these children from experiencing a Shabbos like this, and the Sandton Shul family made our dream, their reality! Shabbos of May 14 ensured that in 24 hours the Sandton Shul family and the Chaiyanu family became “mish-pocha”! It was remarkable to witness a relationship form literally overnight.

# Young Adults Lag B'Omer bash pulls them in

SYDENHAM SHUL'S Friday Night Club for Young Adults, hosted a Lag B'Omer bash at the

Corporate Cafe premises in Illovo, with more than 200 young adults from all over Johannesburg participating. Everyone enjoyed a delicious braai while keeping warm



**Danit Herr; Bat Sheva Hadar;  
Devora Miller; David  
Abramowitz; and Rebbetzen  
Estee Stern from Sydenham  
Shul, at the Friday Night Club.**

# Hypnotist and bonfire raise Pretoria's temperature

**The choir, Dov Kazilsky; Dean Witz; Dovi Wolfson; Rabbi Levi Medalie; and Joshua Goodman, keeping an eye on the fire.**



# Sandringham Gardens honours Israel

FOR THE first time ever, Sandringham Gardens hosted an outdoor event in honour of Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim. A temporary amphitheatre was created to accommodate the 300 residents who attended the flag-raising event.

Sandringham Gardens' general manager, Ingrid Olmesdahl, raised the South African flag to



**Saul Tomson and Simon Chilchik raising the flags to the singing of Hatikvah.**



**Sandringham Gardens' residents enjoying the Israeli dancing.**



# Jewish presence in Johannesburg City Council

DAVID SAKS

EIGHT JEWISH councillors are among the 260 elected to the Johannesburg City Council in last week's local government elections. Of these, seven represent the Democratic Alliance and one the ANC. Several Jewish candidates from both parties narrowly failed to be appointed through the Proportional Representation List, that is councillors elected according to the percentage of the total vote received by their party.

Jewish DA councillors who successfully contested specific wards were John Mendelsohn (Ward 94: Lonehill, Kyalami, Beverley Gardens and Fourways), Marcelle Ravid (Ward 73: Killarney, Riviera, Norwood and Oaklands), Darren Bergman (Ward 32: Linbro Park, Lombardy East, Modderfontein

AH and parts of Alexandra), Steven Kruger (Ward 72: Fairmount and Glenhazel) and Jack Cooper (Ward 74: Savoy Estate, Waverley, Highlands North and Raedene). Mervyn Ciota and Alan Fuchs were elected through the Proportional Representation List, as was the sole ANC Jewish councillor, Sol Cowan.

Most of the councillors have served at least two terms. Taking office for the first time are Jack Cooper and Steven Kruger, who replace two previous Jewish DA councillors, Ray Wolder and Shirley Ancer.

Ciota rejoins the DA after a spell with the Independent Democrats. He has now merged with the DA, contributing to the party's run-away success in the Western Cape.

Kruger hopes to relaunch regular community forums to discuss and address specific problems arising in his ward. In his election

manifesto, Cooper likewise cited problems like electricity failure, potholes and Pikitup (waste removal) as issues that ward councillors would better be able to influence.

A hard-working, hands-on local politician, Cowan has represented the ANC on the Council since 1995.

Bergman's achievement was especially noteworthy for the DA because of the large number of poorer black voters in that constituency.

Bergman became active within what was then the Democratic Party in 1999 and two years later, aged only 23, was elected as a DA City Councillor.

Probably the most senior ranked Jewish politician in South Africa today is Jack Bloom, who was re-appointed as Democratic Alliance leader in the Gauteng Legislature in March this year. Being a provincial representative, he

was not personally involved in last week's elections.

In Bloom's view, the modest but significant inroads the party made into the black electorate, as well as the gains made within the white, coloured and Indian communities, shows that it has become the most genuinely non-racial party in South Africa.

He says that the ANC, having lost the argument on service delivery, the main plank of the DA's platform in the elections fell back on playing the race card, and in the process came across as speaking for the interests primarily of the black population.

Despite this, the DA was able to boost its support among black voters from one per cent to around five to six per cent, with particularly encouraging showings in the inner city and Soweto regions.

## The Chief Rabbi does his duty

RITA LEWIS

CHIEF RABBI Warren Goldstein places his voting papers into the collection boxes at the Orchards Primary School in Johannesburg.

He said it was everyone's moral responsibility to go out and cast their vote. "Through your vote you affect the lives of so many people by participating in choosing the government authorities who are responsible for the welfare of all South Africans."

## 2 Jewish faces in CT metropole

MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

ERROL ANSTEY and Stuart Diamond have been elected to the City of Cape Town Council, the first Jewish candidates to be elected in the metropole in 12 years.

Anstey, who has occupied communal leadership positions for over 20 years, says his decision to stand in the local government elections was motivated partly because he felt that "the discourse was changing, making it more difficult for the centre to be part of the community" and partly because he needed a new challenge.

Describing his election as "a dream come true", 31-year-old Diamond regards it as "a great honour to be playing a role in shaping Cape Town's local politics" and an opportunity to set an example of civic involvement, particularly to "young Jewish guys" who have chosen to restrict their involvement to communal structures.

Anstey has always been a political animal, cutting his teeth at the age of 14 when he worked for retired veteran politician Colin Eglin's 1974 election campaign, putting up posters after school every afternoon. He graduated to being Eglin's campaign manager and then campaign chairman for a number of elections.

"Like most whites, I felt marginalised in the last 15 years," he explains. "Then, last year, I participated in two by-elections in black areas that we won, which was quite thrilling."

Diamond's interest was sparked in 2009 when he started the Grass Boots Football Club in Vredehoek and

recognised a "need to understand who ran the city and how it works". Within six months, he found himself chairman of the Democratic Alliance in the area.

Anstey's particular interest is housing, which he feels is one of the city's most pressing problems.

As a councillor, Diamond hopes to contribute "fresh energy and new ideas. One of my big passions is sport and amenities, upgrading them and giving communities places to play and meet each other."

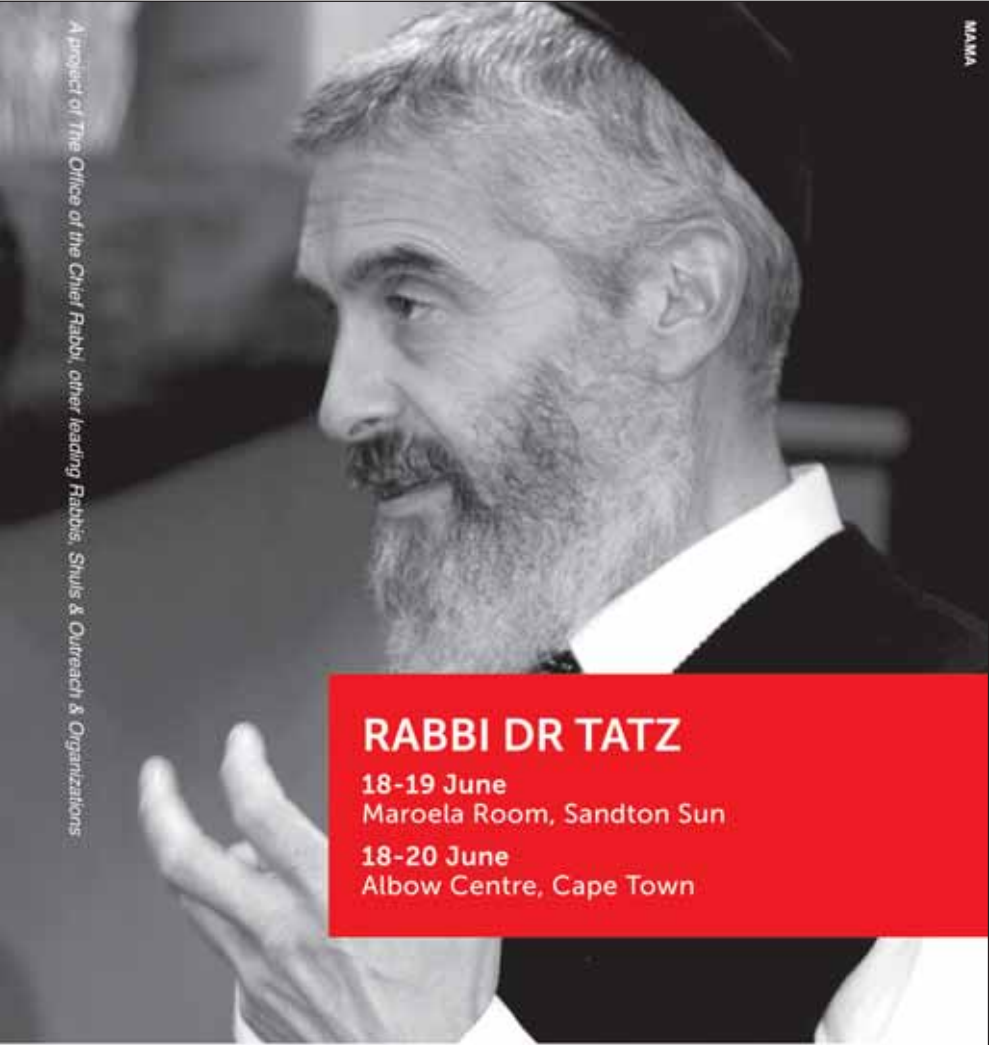


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SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis [jont@global.co.za](mailto:jont@global.co.za)



One of the many groups of people having fun at the Great Park “forest”.



Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein stands with Rabbi Dovid Hazdan as he briefly talks about the importance of Lag B’Omer.



“Shooby Doob Shloimy” entertains the crowd with boys from Torah Academy.

Needy not forgotten in Lag B’Omer celebrations

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

LAG B’OMER celebrations in Johannesburg seem to increase annually in both number and quality - and this year has been no exception. Street carnivals, community parades, functions for the young at old aged homes, private celebrations and braais, were the order of the day, organised by the various shuls and community organisations and held in private homes, communal grounds and gardens. Perhaps the largest and most popular of these is the one held in the Great Park Shul’s “forest” on the border of Houghton and Oaklands. Over 15 companies and just under 40 shuls generously sponsored the event which was

organised by Rabbi Dovid Hazdan and his staff. It was attended by more than 1 000 people who packed the “forest”, enjoying the heat from the many blazing braziers – although the night was fortunately not overly cold. There were prizes, give-aways, snacks, drinks and food - including free hot soup. Some 200 blankets were sold to raise money for charity. The most amazing free entertainment was laid on for the children, including “elasticised” springs which allowed children to “jump” some 10 metres or more into the air. There were four-sided climbing walls which only the really fearless attempted, a “forest” train for the young ones - and their dads - jumping castles, blow-up slides and an assortment of fun equipment. Some of the boys of the cast of Shooby Doob Shloimy under the leadership of Mark Samowitz sang songs written for the show by Helen Heldenmuth – including songs with messages for everyone like “how to do mitzvot”. Rabbi Hazdan welcomed everyone and thanked all those involved in what he called “the creation and organisation of this wonderful event”. Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein spoke on the wisdom, light and energy of the Torah which could be compared to the fires burning around them, which gave off light and warmth by which we could learn and attain wisdom.



Celebrating his birthday on Lag B’Omer is Rabbi Shimon Ben Haim and his wife Sara visiting from Israel with Eitan Jacobs.



Driver Prince Khukha takes Lawrence Gilbey and his children Rachel, Leah and Devorah for a ride in “his” train.



The four “blanket sellers” Sandy Budin; Sandy Zacharowitz; Cyril Budin; and Tandi Kuper.

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BETH HATEFUTSOTH’S VOLUMES

From Marc Kopman:

“I see that in a previous issue of The South African Jewish Report, Michael Ziman mentions the excellent use he made of the (so far) three volumes published by Beth Hatefutsoth on ‘Life in the South African Jewish Country Communities’, as a guide when travelling in the north-eastern Cape. “Reported by myself previously, accompanied by fellow Krugersdorp congregant and friend, Martin Elsas, we had used the same publication as a guide on an exploratory trip which included Vryburg, Kuruman, Calvinia, Clanwilliam, Klaver, Vanrhynsdorp, Upington, Springbok, Lambert’s Bay, Nieuwoudtsville and Kenhardt, to great success, having among other discoveries ‘cracked’ the ‘mystery’ of the Kenhardt Shul! “I also mentioned the value of these fine publications when I was interviewed on Radio ChaiFM last December. “Yasher koach, Michael, glad to read that there is someone else as interested as I am!”

JOHANNESBURG/DOORNFONTEIN

From Jack Chernin (England):

“I have very fond memories of Mrs Hack’s greengrocer shop on the corner of Beit Street and Page Street, Doornfontein. I don’t think that there was anyone who lived in Doornfontein and Bertrams during the 1940s who did not know of the shop. “The only shop sign that I can remember was above the door and it simply said ‘Hacks’. “The inside of the shop seemed to be a permanent shambles. Boxes and bags of fruit and vegetables were placed and stacked all over the floor. There was only a narrow pathway for customers between all the produce. Along the walls there were troughs for vegetables, which were mainly filled with potatoes and onions. “My mother always sent me or my sisters to buy vegetables at Mrs Hacks. You never knew what to expect from this little old lady with hair parted in the middle, wearing a long dress almost down to her ankles, flat shoes with rolled down stockings. “She spoke mostly Yiddish. One eye nearly always seemed to be closed and she held anything small close to her face. I often wondered how much she could actually see. “She shouted and often cursed the black customers who simply laughed about it. All she seemed to say to any customer, white or black, was ‘yes’. “Then she would walk between the obstacles and fetch what you asked for, weigh it on a crude set of scales, often tipping the scales in the customer’s favour. Payment was either placed into an apron pocket or thrown into a bucket near the back door. “When my mother went into the shop, they bargained and spoke to each other in Yiddish. She seemed to know my family circumstances, especially after my father had left us. Whenever I was sent alone to buy potatoes, no matter what mood she was in, she always said to me in Yiddish: ‘Now what has your mama sent you for?’ “My lasting and endearing memories of Mrs Hack is of this little lady who had endless energy, often sweeping the floor, who lifted bags and boxes of fruit, shouted at customers, but in the end treated everybody fairly.”

JOHANNESBURG

Sam Gluckman, a pharmacist in Hillbrow,

by Honey Gluckman:

“At school, Sam was called Stanley, as his mother was concerned that he might be teased by children calling him ‘Sam, Sam, the dirty man’. It wasn’t until he left Germiston that he found out that his name was Samuel. “In 1937 the centenary of the Great Trek was celebrated and a procession of ox wagons came down the street where they lived. To mark the occasion, Willow Road was renamed Voortrekkerstraat. “The following year he and his family moved to Kensington in Johannesburg, where he went into standard 4 at Leicester Road School. The headmaster was Frank Braun who was well respected in boxing administration. “Thereafter he went to Jeppe Boys High School, one of the leading schools in Johannesburg, modelled by Lord Milner on the English public school system. “His years there were not very happy - he was young and immature. As a result he achieved only average marks. His sporting prowess was also without distinction. While there, one day, he was summoned to the office of the headmaster who bluntly said: “Gluckman, your father has just died. I think that you better go home.’ “His father who was in hospital, had suffered a sudden aneurysm and was buried the next day. Sam was 16 years old.” • Lord Alfred Milner was British Governor of the Cape Colony and High Commissioner in South Africa from 1897 - 1901. He was governor of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony 1901 - ‘05. He is often castigated as being one of the fomoters of the Anglo-Boer War, 1899 - 1901. • Sir Julius Jeppe and his brother Carl, were landowners who developed the township, Jeppetown, on the eastern side of central Johannesburg.

ALF JAMES THE BOXER

Alf James died in London in 1993 at the age of 81. He was a South African boxing legend. Alfie was born in Pretoria and raised in Arcadia Jewish Orphanage. He was one of the cleverest and shrewdest tacticians in the pugilistic sport. His first coach was Jim Tuner who gained his experience in the bare-knuckle days. Alfie won his first title as a senior lightweight at 17 in (then) Natal. He worked his way to London after arriving in Edinburgh with less than two pounds in his pocket. In London he had a job as an usher in the Trocadero in Elephant and Castle. He then joined the La Bohemia Club in Mile End Road. He won his first fight at the Black Friars against Alf Hayman on January 30, 1938. In 1939 he joined the Rand Light Infantry and saw service in Egypt. After suffering from malaria, he returned to South Africa and transferred to the Royal Air Force. At the end of the Second World War, in the late forties, Alfie fought the well-known Laurie Stevens for the SA welterweight title, conceding weight. He came out with a well-fought draw. He became South African lightweight champion in scoring a 12 points lead against Willie Miller. Near the end of his career he defeated the slick and scientific George Angelo. Sadly to say, he was stopped by Angelo in their next fight in the second round in Salisbury (now Harare) which effectively stopped his career. His record was 67 fights with a loss of 15. Over the years Arcadia produced many great boxers. Alf James was, arguably, the best of this wonderful lot. He was the South African champion in his weight division and a strong contender for the Empire title.

• Alf taught boxing at Arcadia before Donald Goldman and the Arcadians won many of the boxing tournaments at Parktown Boys’ High School in the early 1940s. Reprinted with thanks from David Sandler’s weekly booklet on Arcadia and Orangia memories. He sends the booklet worldwide to all former orphanage alumni.

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בס"ד

SYDENHAM-HIGHLANDS NORTH HEBREW CONGREGATION



# Jewish community helps Rippon Primary’s greening initiative

LAUREN SHAPIRO  
DURBAN

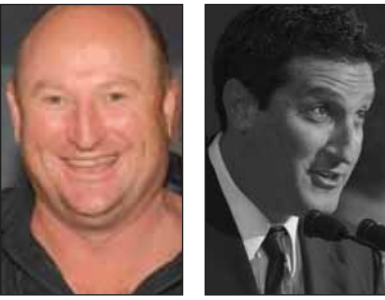
MAY 22 was International Day for Biological Biodiversity. It was also Lag B’Omer, a Jewish festival traditionally associated with picnics and the outdoors. Indeed, there could not have been a more appropriate day for the Jewish National Fund (Durban branch) to partner with Rippon Primary School to “green” the school campus. Members of the JNF joined teachers, parents and learners as they cleared the campus of inva-

sive alien plants, including Mexican Sunflower, Castor Oil Plant, Balloon Vine, Morning Glory and Yellow Bells. These plants smother indigenous plants and consume huge amounts of valuable water. The cuttings will be composted to nourish the school’s food garden. The management of this garden is linked to the academic curriculum and the produce is used to feed indigent learners and their families. The JNF has also planted pawpaw and banana trees to augment the school’s food garden.

Greening is a core value of the Jewish National Fund. Since its inception over 100 years ago, the JNF has planted over 240 million trees. Israel is the only country in the world to have started the 21st century with more trees than it had at the start of the 20th century. JNF Durban is the first outside group to collaborate with the school’s greening initiatives. Under acting Principal Jenny Timol, Rippon Primary earned the Eco-Schools Platinum Award last year for six years of commitment to preserving the environment.

# Chai FM scoops up Graeme Joffe and Kevin Fine

TWO TOP Jewish broadcasting talents will be regularly heard on Johannesburg-based community broadcasting station 101.9 Chai FM. They are well-known personalities Graeme Joffe and Kevin Fine. Joffe, a former CNN presenter, will host Sportsfire, “a straight shooting, no-nonsense sports show that gets to the truth behind all the biggest sporting stories,” Chai FM says in a media release. The first Sportsfire commences on May 31 at 18:00. “Simultaneously, Kevin Fine and Bizcommunity.com have teamed up as the former 5fm DJ takes the



Graeme Joffe. Kevin Fine. biggest marketing platform in the country to the airwaves.” Sportsfire will host Joffe every

Tuesday night between 18:00 and 19:00 and Sunday mornings between 09:00 and 10:00. “Joffe says there’ll be ‘no more sitting on the fence; it’s time for some straight talk in South African sport.’” The show encourages listeners to call in and air their opinions while Graeme scrums down with administrators, coaches and players. On Wednesday, June 1, at 18:00, the Bizcommunity.com and 101.9 FM Media and Marketing show, takes to the air, hosted by Fine. Listeners can tune in on 101.9 FM or stream live on www.chaifm.com. 101.9 Chai FM is an “Adult Contemporary Talk and Music” station that is the collective heartbeat of the Jewish community, the release avers.

# Musical extravaganza that encapsulates SAZF activities

ON MONDAY evening May 9, the South African Zionist Federation’s “Footsteps to the Future 63” musical extravaganza at the Lyric Theatre at Gold Reef City, encapsulated the year’s activities in a superb production featuring four solo singers, eight backing singers, two enchanting youngsters, a full orchestra and a memorable display of visual effects.



Omri Segal-Rosenzweig; Hananel Edri; and Omri Rotbard. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

The show linked together many of the most significant aspects of Israel. It paid tribute to the men and women of the IDF and made an impassioned plea for the release of captured soldier Gilad Shalit. Host Oshy Tugendhaft shared the stage with internationally renowned Israeli superstars, Hananel Edri, Omri Rotbard and Omri Segal-Rosenzweig, all three of whom expressed the vibrant energy and spirit of Israel. The three have all served in the IDF and Rotbard who holds the rank of commander, dedicated the song “Im Ishcacheich” to a fallen comrade. “Footsteps to the Future”, the 2011 theme of the SAZF, was set against a backdrop of richly

textured visuals, conceptualised by producers Gavin Opert and Linda Starkowitz. Musical director Bryan Schimmel put his distinctive imprint on the musical arrangements for the war medley as well as for Tugendhaft’s beautiful rendition of “Avinu Shebashamayim / Bring Him Home”. As a build-up to this triumphant finale, the 47th SAZF “Footsteps to the Future” Conference in March presented three outstanding international speakers, an audiovisual presentation and a superb exhibition of the history of Zionism in South Africa since the turn of the 20th century. Then there was the moving Yom Hazikaron ceremony commemorating the deaths of so many young men and women in the wars to protect and defend the State of Israel. It was attended by almost 2 000 people and guest speaker Cheryl Mandel, whose son Daniel was tragically killed in 2003 during a search for wanted terrorists in Nablus, brought home to the audience the reality of her loss and that of many thousands of Israeli parents.



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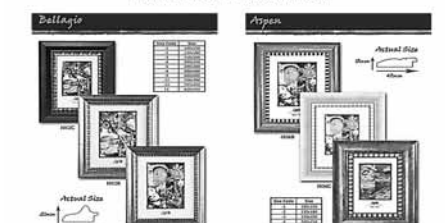
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# Perceptions are as important as facts

INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY adheres to long-established standing rules of political protocol. There is something old-worldly about it, based on concepts of honour and mutual respect. The truism that a country has interests, not friends, applies. Even countries that don't particularly like each other, will behave with mutual "cordiality" and "correctness".

The sense of outrage in the South African government regarding Libya's blatant lies about photographer Anton Hammerl's well-being - they repeatedly told South Africa he was alive when they knew he had been killed by their own forces - reflects the importance attached to proper protocol.

It goes without saying that governments will seldom tell all about any particular incident, but Libya's cynical lie betrays diplomacy's very foundations. The irony in this case is that South Africa has long had good relations with Libya, based on that country's support for the ANC during apartheid and beyond.

The detention last week at Ben-Gurion International Airport of political activist and academic Na'eem Jeenah, and his subsequent deportation back to South Africa, raised a lot of eyebrows, particularly as he had gone to Israel at the invitation of the South African ambassador, who vouched for him. Given Jeenah's profile as a well-known pro-Palestinian campaigner, this immediately evoked more interest than normal in what lay behind it.

Unfortunately, over the years Israel has, perforce, had to introduce very stringent security measures - probably the world's strictest - to protect airline passengers and local citizens from infiltration of potentially dangerous individuals.

Understandably, this may be seen in certain instances as draconian and possibly an invasion of personal privacy, even raising the thorny question of "profiling" - where individuals who look a certain way receive more attention. Israel in fact cryptically cited "security risk" for refusing Jeenah entry.

Israel finds itself between a rock and a hard place. Whichever way it goes - not only pertaining to Jeenah - it is in a no-win situation: too-lax security is dangerous; too-stringent security potentially gives its enemies propaganda ammunition to smear it with.

Out of necessity, its approach has been to err on the side of caution - more stringent security, rather than less.

In this case, the individual involved happened to be South African. The South African government, through its Ministry of International Relations and Co-operation, will likely take it up with the Israeli government - which is the correct diplomatic way to go.

Newspapers here, including some not intrinsically anti-Israel, such as Beeld, reacted critically and negatively towards Israel's action. It is understandable, because the breach of diplomatic protocol sounded very obvious and harsh in the absence of fuller information being available.

At the time of us going to press, Israel had yet to venture beyond the bland quote, "security risk", aside from questions raised by Israeli Deputy Chief of Mission in South Africa, Ya'acov Finkelstein on air on SAfm last Friday, about what Jeenah wanted to do in Israel. Jeenah had said he was there to do "research".

People who understand Israel's safety dilemmas might assume it had good reason for its actions. But there are others who don't understand. It would be in Israel's interests - generally, and in this case regarding its cordial diplomatic relations with South Africa - to provide a more detailed explanation beyond the very terse reason given. Jeenah has stated that in a "10-hour interrogation", he was treated respectfully by the Israelis.

Let's reverse the situation: If a person coming to South Africa at the invitation of the Israeli ambassador was interrogated and turned back at O R Tambo Airport, Israel would be justified in asking for an explanation. From the perspective of the South African media, this demand would be received sympathetically.

Israel would do well to soothe ruffled feathers. Without further explanation, this incident will not do its image any good, especially at a time when the country is being battered constantly by its enemies, including in South Africa.

Unfortunately, in this world, it is often perceptions that call the tune, rather than facts.

## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the AIPAC Policy Conference on Monday. (PHOTOGRAPH: AIPAC)

# For Obama, Netanyahu tensions subside, political problems begin

RON KAMPEAS  
WASHINGTON

THAT ISRAEL problem President Barack Obama had with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu? Old news.

That Israel problem Obama has with Congress? And with his party?

That's just beginning.

In two successive speeches - one to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee on Monday and another to a joint meeting of Congress the following day, Netanyahu had nothing but praise for the US president.

The friendly notes struck by the prime minister were all the more remarkable in light of how Republicans - and even some Democrats - were rushing to emphasize their differences with Obama on Israel policy.

"Congratulations, Mr President: You got bin Laden," Netanyahu said at the outset of his speech to Congress, to thunderous applause. "Good riddance!"

It was just one of the many times over two days that Netanyahu was effusive in his praise for Obama.

In his speech to AIPAC's annual policy conference, the Israeli leader referenced the unprecedentedly close security relationship under Obama between his country and the United States.

"President Obama has spoken about his ironclad commitment to Israel's security," Netanyahu told AIPAC. "He rightly said that our security co-operation is unprecedented. He spoke of that commitment not just in front of AIPAC but in two speeches heard throughout the Arab world. And President Obama has backed those words with deeds."

In his speech to Congress, Netanyahu made it sound as if the difference between the two leaders that erupted last week over 1967 lines, was behind them.

"As President Obama said, the border will be different than the one that existed on June 4, 1967," Netanyahu said, outlining his proposal for talks with the Palestinians.

Although the two leaders are back to speaking fulsomely about one another,

substantive differences remain.

Obama in his speech to AIPAC - in which he elaborated on his May 19 Middle East policy speech that drew a rebuke from Netanyahu - said that the 1967 lines would form a basis for negotiations, but ultimately the border between Israel and a state of Palestine would be different. Obama also said there would be swaps, implying that the Palestinians would end up with the same amount of territory.

Netanyahu was determined to get across that Israel would determine the border.

"Israel will be generous on the size of a Palestinian state but will be very firm on where we put the border with it," he told Congress, suggesting that Israel ultimately would decide the border. "This is an important principle, (that) shouldn't be lost."

Netanyahu also said the issue of Palestinian refugees would be resolved by allowing them to return to a state of Palestine, and said Jerusalem would remain the united capital of Israel and under Israeli rule. Obama wanted to defer negotiation of both issues until after determining the borders.

Republicans have made clear that they are ready to exploit those differences in targeting Jewish voters and donors - and that they expected a clear run given the rapturous reception Netanyahu earned from both parties in his congressional appearance. Netanyahu received more than two dozen standing ovations - reportedly more than Obama did for his most recent State of the Union.

Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican National Committee, told JTA that Obama had created an opportunity by staking out Middle East policy that so clearly differentiated from Netanyahu's.

"It's in our strategic interest as Americans to support Israel, and deviations from that position do not square with voters in our country," Priebus said.

"That's what we're going to be singing from the mountaintops for the next 17 months. We're going to be mak-

ing a strong play for Jewish voters in 2012, I can tell you that. We just did an eight-city tour in Florida, and we're going to go back to Florida - we're not going to leave any stone unturned."

Democrats pushed back. In a joint meeting Netanyahu had with the National Jewish Democratic Council and the Republican Jewish Coalition, Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Democrat Florida), chairman of the Democratic National Committee, asked Republicans not to make Israel a campaign issue.

Matt Brooks, the RJC chairman, countered in an open letter to Wasserman Schultz that her call was tantamount to "stifling debate".

"No one - in either party - whether it's the president of the United States, a candidate for president or a rank-and-file member - should be shielded from criticism if their positions are harmful to Israel's well-being," Brooks said.

Representative Gary Ackerman (Democrat New York), who participated in a meeting featuring Netanyahu and Jewish lawmakers after the Israeli's speech to Congress, said that making Israel a partisan issue would only damage the Jewish State in the end. He credited Netanyahu for "dialing back" the tension in his speeches, noting his praise in his speech to Congress for bipartisan support of Israel.

"He tried to bring it back and get this thing off the table as a football," Ackerman told JTA. "This should not be a wedge issue; there are huge consequences."

Other Democrats seemed to think the better tack toward deflecting the issue was to isolate themselves from Obama when it came to Israel.

Senator Harry Reid (Democrat Nevada), the Senate majority leader, did not mince words in rejecting Obama's prescription for negotiations based on the 1967 lines with swaps.

"No one should set premature parameters about the borders, about building, about anything else," he said in his speech to AIPAC.

The line won a standing ovation. (JTA)



OPINION AND ANALYSIS – FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# Are Jews returning to politics?

AS A historian, next to large numbers of people killing each other in a formal military setting, I've always had a particular interest in elections. No doubt the common denominator of confrontation on a large scale has something to do with that.

Being somewhat literal and linear in my thinking, I prefer dealing with black-and-white certainties - success and failure, winners and losers and lots of juicy statistics. War and elections provide this in abundance.

South Africa's post-1994 elections, even though the overall winner has always been a foregone conclusion, have provided much of interest for compulsive election watchers. The primary issue at stake has been whether the ANC succeeds in becoming an unchallenged and unchallengeable African super-party or whether a tradition of effective political opposition is allowed to develop.

It is always a bad sign when the ruling party receives (apparently) almost unanimous support. At its height, Zimbabwe's Zanu-PF was capturing well over 90 per cent of the vote; only when the country's economy was in free fall did a credible opposition belatedly emerge. By then it was much too late.

With the ignominious disintegration of the New National Party and progressive decline of the Inkatha Freedom Party, it looked at one time very much like the former scenario was developing in South Africa. In 2004, the ANC gained 70 per cent of the vote, to the 12,5 per cent of its closest challenger, the DA. This was nearly eight per cent up from its performance in the inaugural non-racial elections a decade previously.

Moreover, there was a possibility the DA had peaked. It was still very much perceived as the "white" party, and now that around 90 per cent of white voters were supporting it, its growth potential seemed limited to the even smaller coloured and Indian minorities.

Since then, things have changed rather dramatically. In 2009, support for the ANC slipped back to 66 per cent, mainly because of



## BARBARIC YAWP

David Saks

the Congress of the People breakaway, while the DA grew to just under 17 per cent.

In the latest poll, these trends continued. Despite the many votes it picked up at the expense of the apparently moribund IFP and the wretchedly disappointing Cope, the ANC dropped a further two to three percentage points. The DA, by contrast, surged into the big leagues, transforming itself from feisty lightweights to serious long-term challengers.

Once, President Thabo Mbeki could contemptuously dismiss the DA as a "Mickey Mouse party", and even (then) party leader Tony Leon's rejoinder that Mbeki was heading up a "Goofy government" could not altogether remove the sting from that taunt. Now, things are looking quite a bit different.

Over the past 17 years, only the DA has registered consistent growth. In 1994, just one in 50 voters supported it. In the next three national elections - 1999, 2004 and 2009 - it progressively improved this share to one in 10, one in eight and one in six.

Now, according to the latest results, one in four South Africans supports the DA, and if it can build on the modest inroads it has made into the black electorate, who knows what the future may bring?

Something especially interesting about the DA is that it is the only political party in South Africa that can trace its origins all the way back to unification in 1910. It all started with the South African Party, which won the elections of that year.

Over the next 100 years, there would be various breakaways, mergers and name changes. New parties were spawned, were active for a time and then disappeared. In the

early 1930s, the SAP and National Party merged to form the United Party.

In 1959, part of its liberal wing broke away to form the Progressive Party, which against the odds (and with a little help from Helen Suzman), survived and even grew a little.

In 1977, the PP merged with the Reform Party, another recent UP breakaway, to form what in due course became the Progressive Federal Party. This, following more mergers, was renamed the Democratic Party in 1989. Finally, the DA came into being when the DP and NNP went into a short-lived partnership. Thus, one can trace the DA's genesis back a full century, making it in this sense marginally older even than the ANC.

The DA's survival and latter-day growth is surely one of political liberalism's most remarkable triumphs. Time and again, its opponents have scornfully written its epitaph, but it has hung in there while its once all-powerful rivals have successively bitten the dust.

Nothing is inevitable in politics, however. In breaking into the big league, the DA has also made itself more vulnerable to predatory career politicians looking to advance themselves as well as increased internal dissent now the stakes are so much higher. It remains to be seen whether Helen Zille and her team can negotiate these inevitable pitfalls.

The DA and all its post-1910 ancestors - the SAP, UP, PP, PFP, DP - have always attracted the majority of Jewish support. With the exception of the small Labour Party, where

Jews were also heavily involved up until its eventual demise in the late 1950s, Jewish votes were mainly cast for these parties.

This was undoubtedly the case this time round as well. Jewish political involvement has been a bit dormant since 1994, but perhaps the DA's latest surge may help to rekindle it.

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After graduating from Brandeis University, Sara Rigler went to India and spent 15 years living in an ashram before returning to Judaism. Widely published, she is the most popular writer on aish.com

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**Adler Museum of Medicine, Parktown:** “Reflect”, an exhibition by Elaine Hirschowitz, until July 11, (011) 717-2067.

**Fugard Theatre, District Six:** Athol Fugard’s “Birdwatchers”, directed by Fugard, until June 4, (021) 461-4554.

**HOD Centre, Orchards:** In the Banquet Hall, on May 29, the Jewish Guild Orchestra performs under the baton of Prof Brian Buch, (011) 640-3017.

**Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg:** “A fearless vision”, major retrospective of the late Alan Crump, curated by Federico Freschi, until June 12, (011) 726-3130.

**Joburg Theatre Complex, Braamfontein:** In the Nelson Mandela, SA Ballet Theatre, performs “Romeo and Juliet”, May 27 - June 19, (011) 877-6898.

**Linder Auditorium, Parktown:** On June 1 and 2, JPO plays De Falla’s “Three Cornered Hat”, Prokofiev’s Second Violin Concerto and Mozart’s Symphony No 39. Conductor: Bernhard Gueller; soloist Avigail Bushakevitz (violin), (011) 789-2733.

**Market Theatre, Newtown, Johannesburg:** In the Laager, “A Teacher in the Bushveld”, based on the writings of Herman Charles Bosman, performed by David Butler, until June 12. In the Main Theatre, Tshwane Dance Theatre’s “15 Mins of Fame”, until June 5, featuring Leigh Novis, (011) 832-1641.

**Montecasino, Fourways:** In the Studio, “Love, Loss and What I Wore” until June 12, (011) 510-1988.

**Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton:** “Spice and Stuff” by Ashwin Singh, directed by Themí Ventúras, May 31 - June 11. Friday concerts: Philip Coetzee and Morné van Heerden (clarinets) and Tinus Botha (piano), May 27, (011) 883-8606.

**Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre, Oaklands:** An exhibition of recent ceramics by David Schlapobersky and Felicity Potter, May 29 - June 5, (011) 728-8088.

**Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg:** “Listening to Distant Thunder”, a Peter Clarke retrospective, until July 2, (011) 631-1889.

**Theatre on the Bay, Camps Bay:** “Tuesdays with Morrie”, directed by Alan Swerdlow, until June 11, (021) 438-3301.

**Wits University Campus, Braamfontein:** In the Origins Centre, “Life of Bone” an exhibition by Joni Brenner, Gerhard Marx and Karel Nel until May 31, (011) 717-4700.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

About the joy of creating beautiful things

**Exhibition:** “Alan Crump: A Fearless Vision” (Johannesburg Art Gallery, (011) 725-3130)  
**Curator:** Federico Freschi  
**Until:** June 12

**REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN**

THE BID to tread softly in the wake of an absent giant is palpable in this dignified exhibition. Crump was many things: facilitator, teacher, leader, innovator. His identity as a watercolourist has not been prominently celebrated - until now.

In this collection of close to 100 works, drawn from public and private collections, one gets insight into one of South Africa’s most potent, least exposed artists.

Crump came into his own in the early 1970s. He read for a Master’s degree at the University of Cape Town, and another under a Fulbright scholarship at UCLA. Trained in sculpture and as a studio assistant for performance artist Vito Acconci and sculptor Richard Serra, he grew into an exemplary product of the late modernist era that these men were heir to. And his early work was similarly obscure and self-indulgent.

Freschi doesn’t shy away from showing this element of Crump’s work. Witnessing his transformation from a self-concerned young man, playing with the idea of “de-skilled” art, to one indulging with utmost intelligence, in watercolours belying the nature of the medium, sometimes even belying the nature of the subject, is like a refreshing long cold glass of water on a hot day.

Crump’s works begin with clear subjects and lose themselves in the utter and simple joy of making marks on a sheet of paper, of making colours balance and flow, be transparent and opaque; the joy of creating beautiful things.

In the show’s catalogue you can read theories pinning Crump’s work to politics; they’re not strictly necessary for full, rich engagement with the finest watercolours you might ever get to see. What’s necessary is a look at the works themselves.

You might think watercolour and think wishy-washy colouration, or small, neat, tight work. Crump’s pieces are large. They’re formidable in their colour saturation. They’re engagingly wild and they’ll knock the wind from you in their sense of fearless engagement with the beauty of the world - even if it be beauty seen through the wreck of a burned down Grahamstown Foundation monument in 1994, or the horror of amputated trees.

Crump’s markmaking is an unequivocal indicator of his skill in this unforgiving medium. His Eroded Mine Dump (1993) is monumental, frighteningly potent. Come closer: the image is fresh. Each mark breathes with unsoiled white paper around it. Crump also knew how to layer watercolour without scumming the colours, attaining gentle robustness.

You can visit this exhibition again and again, without it becoming tired. Each mature work grabs you with its luscious sense of self-belief. The works are not shown chronologically, but flow through six majestic rooms of the gallery. A beautifully fitting celebration of a true giant whose absence - he passed away on May 1, 2009 - remains indelible.

• “Alan Crump: A Fearless Vision” is one of the cornerstone exhibitions of this year’s National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. It will be shown in the city’s Standard Bank Gallery, Albany History Museum, June 30 - July 14.



**Alan Crump’s The Mine (1997), watercolour on paper. Collection: Johannesburg Art Gallery. (PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN HODGKISS)**

Jodi Bieber’s glimpses into ‘other worlds’

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZY BERNSTEIN

BUBBLING WITH the joy of her success, Jodi Bieber, winner of the prestigious World Press photo award, spoke to the SA Jewish Report, after receiving the coveted prize in Amsterdam earlier this month and before jetting off to Russia - one of the numerous countries she will travel to as the recipient of the award.

“It’s an amazing acknowledgement of one’s work,” she reflects on the award. “I am also using it as a platform for the benefit of people who are very much a part of my life. I highlighted the fact that South African photo-journalist Anton Hammerl was missing in Libya, since April 5, which got the international media to write about it. (It has since tragically come to light that he was in fact, killed on April 5).

“We have also made a limited edition set of Bibi Aisha prints, and hopefully when people buy these prints the money will help Women for Afghan Women, as well as Bibi Aisha directly.

“There have only ever been four women to win this award.” She is proud to be a South African, as well as one of this select group of women.

Bieber enjoys inspiring other people. “When you see people energised by you having given a talk, it’s inspirational. “As photographers we are very blessed. We get the opportunity to move in different worlds, and I think that through my work I can speak a lot about our society and bring an insight by showing other communities, and exposing people to a world that they might otherwise not see. I think people whose lives are often very contained, are curious and interested in seeing glimpses into other worlds.”

She sees one of her roles as a photographer as breaking stereotypes. At the same time as being patriotic, she wants to use her work to show that “what you see is not always what you get”.

Where the media can only accommodate a certain amount of information on each country, and therefore for example, in the worldwide media, South Africa was always lumbered with crime, poverty and HIV statistics; very little is shown on the normality that also exists in South Africa. This is what Bieber set out to do in her book, Soweto, (Jacana, 2010).

“It shows Soweto as a home; it is not just a dangerous township with dusty roads. I tried to shift a perspective on a community, on a place where so many people live. It was in a response to the way people were seeing South Africa. I am not taking away that all the other things exist, but this also exists.”

Bieber’s wish for herself is to be able to continue to work on her own projects. “I want to do projects where I grow. I also learn from what I am photographing. I have the camera and me, and that’s what I need.”



**Jodi Bieber with her award-winning photograph of young mutilated Afghan woman, Bibi Aisha**



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**PICK OF THE WEEK**

**Hanna**

**Cast:** Cate Blanchett; Eric Bana; Saoirse Ronan  
**Director:** Joe Wright

Young Saoirse Ronan, the palest looking imp you ever saw, was one of the best things about “Atonement”, which was her breakout film.

Now she raises her profile even further with an exceptionally strong performance in Joe Wright’s thriller about a young girl named Hanna (Ronan) who is trained by her widowed former CIA father (Eric Bana) to become a deadly assassin.

The film opens in a bleak, snowy forest in Finland where this thin, pale-faced urchin-like girl is shown killing a massive deer with a bow and arrow.

There is no emotion from her, but she does apologise to the suffering animal that she missed its heart and then dispatches it with a bullet.

She begins cutting up the animal and is suddenly attacked by a man coming out of nowhere. This sets the scene for an action thriller with art-house sensibilities, beautifully filmed and well acted by its strong cast.

Hanna is raised by her father, a former CIA man, in total isolation. He teaches her to read and write and ignites in her a passion for knowledge. Hanna’s upbringing and training have been one and the same, all geared to making her the perfect killing machine.

The turning point in her adolescence is a sharp one; sent into the world by her father on a mission, Hanna journeys stealthily across Europe while eluding cunning agents who have been instructed to kill her by a ruthless intelligence operative, Marissa (Cate Blanchett) with secrets of her own.

As she nears her ultimate target, Hanna faces startling revelations about her own existence and unexpected questions arise about her humanity.

Ronan excels and makes a sympathetic character throughout, even when she is wreaking havoc. Also firing on all cylinders, is the ever-reliable Blanchett who sets a new benchmark in icy malice.

Blanchett is an enigmatic actress and she has a way of carving her characters with style and with an element of grave menace which she again brings to bear in her interpretation here.

Her job is to find Hanna and she executes it with a steely determination that makes you wince.

It’s an edgy film that knows when to turn up the pace and, despite a few illogical hiccups in the telling, director Joe Wright knows how to spin an engrossing yarn. This production certainly marks a significant departure for Wright, who is best known for the period dramas “Pride & Prejudice” and “Atonement”.



TAPESTRY - ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

# Story of memory, mutation and 2 countries shadow-boxing

*Little Liberia: An African Odyssey in New York* by Jonny Steinberg (Jonathan Ball, R200)

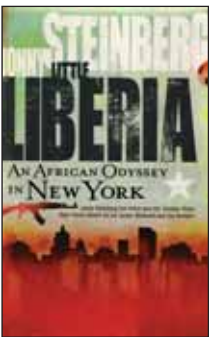
REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

LIBERIA WAS created in 1822 because the American Colonisation Society deemed it better for emancipated black slaves to relocate to west Africa to found a new country, rather than spread dissension within its borders.

Consequently, the republic has never enjoyed an authentic historical claim to the power struggles of the rest of our continent, due to its links with the USA, rather than colonial Europe.

Shortly after its establishment, it became evident that Liberia - far from being the envisaged democracy of farmers - was instead a warped imitation of America's Deep South and King Cotton: its leaders, shunning agriculture as an unpleasant reminder of slavery, aspired towards trading instead, but fashioned themselves as governors residing in grand mansions, wearing white fashions, following white Southern lifestyles and presiding over hirelings like white masses and madams.

Before long, Liberia had been effectively taken over by European (primarily German) interests, with its resources being mined and



exported by foreign companies, for foreign benefit, and the Liberian government and social elite living handsomely in Monrovia, off a share of the profits, as well as taxes levied on indigent rural villagers.

Clearly, something had to give. But the "civil war" which broke out in 1989 is something of a misnomer, for it was not one conflict, but a protracted series of them between would-be liberators, dominant tyrants, ambitious insurgents and frenzied militias trying to topple a regime in which citizens were increasingly disempowered.

One in 14 Liberians lost their lives in these vicious, ongoing conflicts, from Charles Taylor's attempts to oust President Samuel Doe (Liberia's first head of state) using the gunmen of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), to the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL, which was later renamed the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL)).

It further mutated into the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO), to the intervention of Nigeria's Ecomog peacekeeping forces: at some point, the acronyms, and the warlords who exhorted them, blur and lose meaning.

All they are is a series of vacuous, makeshift movements com-

prised of human beings ready to butcher each other in an orgy of bloodlust, through which decades of poverty and frustration are finally vented.

So it is not surprising that the Liberian emigrants living in rundown Park Hill Avenue, New York City, have brought with them the displacements of their homeland, and continue to act these out in an inchoate and inconclusive saga.

Their community is a diseased organ, transplanted from a necrotic body into the resistant flesh of an unwilling host and floundering for lack of nutrients.

The experience of any exile is necessarily one of cultural and political schizophrenia, but when this is compounded by the trauma of war, interspersed by ethnic rivalries and century-old political grievances, the effect verges on catastrophic. Surreal in their often anachronistic rivalries, almost wholly insulated from the American milieu and unable to integrate with the USA or resurrect a functional Liberian identity, these emigrants live suspended in a tragic time warp.

Using his customary blend of reportage and biography, Steinberg masterfully and sensitively traces the backgrounds of this community's two most prominent individuals. There is Jacob Massaquoi, who emerged from the civil war obsessed with "not disappearing" - searching for a sense of personal control over circumstances where

"everyone was armed, but nobody ruled" and a voice with which to articulate the unspeakable.

Aspiring towards a university education, his life has been disrupted and scarred by war since early childhood. Along the way, he has endured betrayals and witnessed atrocities that chill the reader's spine (for example, the sight of teenage soldiers tearing out the heart of a victim and sucking it).

Having survived largely by dint of his manipulative and bargaining skills, he has also suffered a gunshot wound which has left him semi-crippled.

Then there is Rufus Arkoi, the nominal leader of "Little Liberia" in New York. A gifted tailor who was also intensely involved in football in his homeland as a social empowerment tool, he achieved a timeous escape from his country and sat out the civil war in America.

Now, in Park Hill Avenue, Massaquoi - the ambitious social activist - and Arkoi perceive each other as traitors and renegades in a diaspora which neatly mimics the tensions of their homeland.

Here they spar politically, ideologically and often vindictively, just

as powerbrokers do in Liberia. And, again, it is the ordinary members of the community who suffer most from this internecine power struggle. The replication is complete.

The depth of his interviewees' pain is apparent when Steinberg invites the men to read what he has written before publishing it. Massaquoi, alarmed at how much of his long-repressed war horror has been revealed, objects angrily "My feelings about these things are... they are mine. They are for my use, not yours."

In a broader historical sense, one is struck by the fascinating ironies in the troubled relationship between the USA and Liberia, its Teflon, token state: first there was America, exporting both its fears of abolitionism and the witnesses of its human rights abuses to Liberia, a world away in Africa. Then there is Liberia, in turn outsourcing its post-war agony and fears back to the USA.

One of Steinberg's finest works, this is a story of memory, mutation and two countries furiously shadow-boxing, both averting their eyes to the real injuries being inflicted by their fists behind the lamp.



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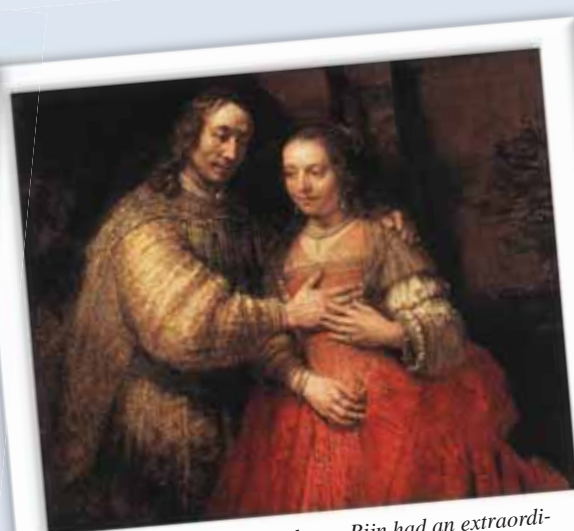
## The Netherlands – rich in Jewish culture



Tulips as far as the eye can see, one of Amsterdam's most beautiful clichés. PHOTOGRAPH BY SHANNON MCALLISTER, COURTESY WWW.GOAMSTERDAM.ABOUT.COM



Anne Frank. The Netherlands' most famous diarist. PHOTOGRAPH: WWW.JONAHPROBELL.COM



The Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn had an extraordinarily strong affinity with the Jewish community of the Netherlands. This is his "The Jewish Bride" (1667). PHOTOGRAPH: WWW.ARTMIGHT.COM

*In popular Jewish awareness, the thought of the Netherlands – and Holland in particular – conjures up Anne Frank, the 13-year-old Dutch Holocaust victim who quietly and over two years, while hiding from the Nazis with her family, wrote the world's most read Holocaust diary.*

ROBYN SASSEN

JEWISH IDENTITY in the Netherlands is coloured largely by the ghoul of communal destruction, but it is a place replete with incredible beauty, fascinating history and the same kind of discursive problems as any other Jewish community in the contemporary Diaspora.

Once a part of the Spanish Empire, the area now known as the Netherlands became independent in 1581. This was achieved for primarily religious reasons - the practice of Protestant Christianity was expressly forbidden under Spanish rule - and religious tolerance became an important cornerstone of the newly-established country, making it especially attractive to Jews who were persecuted almost everywhere else.

The Spanish Jews, also known as Sephardim, expelled from Spain and Portugal during the Spanish Inquisition had practised Judaism in secret; the newly independent Dutch provinces provided an ideal opportunity for them to re-establish themselves openly.

Amsterdam became an important destination of choice, and a city to which Jews brought trading value, enhancing commercial relations and political role playing.

But the Jewish heritage of the Netherlands is not only Sephardic. Many Ashkenazi Jews were also attracted to the newly independent land, by the end of the 17th century. They were mostly displaced

migrants escaping persecution in other parts of northern Europe.

Because most of them were poor, they were less welcome than the members of the Sephardic community. Their arrival threatened the economic status of Amsterdam; many were turned away, others subsisted typically as hawkers.

The year 1795 brought the results of the French Revolution to Holland, including emancipation for the Jews. The National Convention, on September 2, 1796, proclaimed: "No Jew shall be excluded from rights or advantages... associated with citizenship in the Batavian Republic, and which he may desire to enjoy."

Dutch Jews prospered during the 19th century. By the turn of the century, there were 51 000 in Amsterdam; Jews represented two per cent of the population. As Amsterdam Jewry grew, its Jews mooted the city "Jerusalem of the West".

Between 1830 and 1930, Jews in the Netherlands increased, according to Dutch census, by 250 per cent, peaking at 154 000 when the Nazis invaded in 1941. Four years later, some 35 000 were left.

In contrast to many other countries where all aspects of Jewry were eradicated by the Shoah, a large proportion of records survived, making Dutch Jewry's history unusually well documented.

After the Second World War, the Jewish Dutch community underwent significant changes: emigration; low birth rate; high rate of intermarriage.

Critics of contemporary Dutch Jewry, including prominent rabbis have condemned these elements as being more powerful to the decline of Dutch Jewry, as the Holocaust itself.

During the last few decades, Dutch Jewry has become increasingly internationalised. Approximately one in three Dutch Jews today does not have a Dutch background. The current Jewish population in Amsterdam is close to 35 000. It is largely a young community; a decade ago, it was estimated that 20 per cent was 65 years old or older.

Present-day Netherlands has over 150 synagogues, 50 of which are functional. The community caters for a broad palette of practices, from the Ashkenazi-affiliated Nederlands Israëlitisch Kerkgenootschap, to the Union of Liberal Synagogues and the Sephardic Portuguese Israelite Religious Community, all of which are Orthodox.

There are five kosher hotels near shuls in Amsterdam. In the city's suburb of Buitenveldert, kosher food is widely available in kosher restaurants, bakeries, Jewish-Israeli shops, a pizzeria and supermarkets with kosher departments.

The 1978-founded Amstelland Hospital boasts a facility unique in Western Europe: Jewish patients are cared for according to Orthodox Jewish law in a purpose-built wing of the hospital; kosher food is the only type of food available there.

The Sinai Centre, Amersfoort is a Jewish psychiatric hospital, primarily for Holocaust survivors. Nowadays, it also provides care for non-Jewish

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Windmills in Amsterdam, beautiful and pragmatic, given the fact that most of the country is below sea level. PHOTOGRAPH: WWW.PLANETWARE.COM

The majestic façade of the Joods Historisch Museum, located in Amsterdam's city centre. PHOTOGRAPH: WWW.FREEMSTERDAM.NL

survivors of genocide.

Amsterdam has three Jewish schools, one of which is haredi in practice. The Chabad community in the country comprises 11 rabbis and serves about 2 500 Jews.

The fastest growing sector of Dutch Jewry is the Progressive movement. Introduced by German-Jewish refugees in the early 1930s, nowadays some 3 500 Jews in the Netherlands are linked to one of several Liberal Jewish synagogues throughout the country, which also includes the 1995-founded Beit Ha'Chidush.

A new Liberal synagogue was recently built, neighbouring the old one, in order to accommodate community overflow.

There are eight youth movements in the Netherlands today, engaging youth from a full ideological range: from Netzer to Bne Akiwa Holland to Gan Israel Holland, which is affiliated with Chabad, to CIJO and Habonim-Drora which have political focuses, not forgetting independent movements like Moos; Ijar, a Jewish student organisation, and Next Step, the youth organisation of Een Ander Joods Geluid

Jews are represented in Dutch media on television and the radio. In addition to several bi-monthly Jewish magazines, in the Netherlands, there are two Jewish weekly newspapers, the Nieuw Israëlitisch Weekblad, with 6 000 subscribers and the Joods Journaal, founded in 1997, which has the Israeli Palestinian conflict as its primary focus.

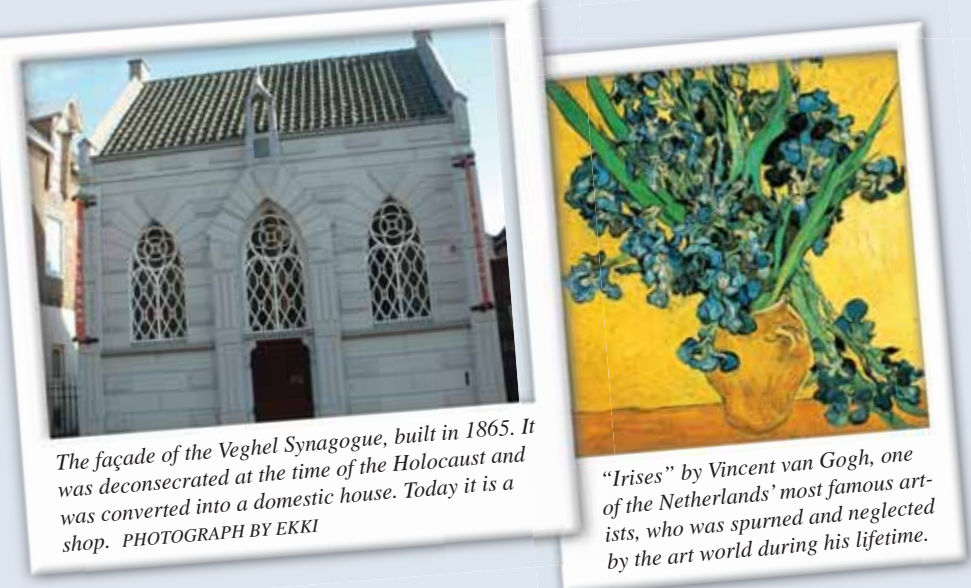
And so we observe an attrition in Dutch Jewry, which historian and columnist Jaap Meijer (1912 - 1993) anticipated. He argued shortly after the Holocaust "there was little to preserve; unless the survivors firmed up, little that could be preserved".

In a blog on Dutch Jewry, entitled "At the Back of the Hill", Meijer's opinions are supported by an anonymous California-based blogger, with roots in the Netherlands. "It is not anti-Semitism that threatens Dutch Jewry, it is a combination of factors. Integration on the one hand, emigration on the other. Today's Dutch Jew is not a provincial 'platteland Jood', but an urban, trans-national type, capable of functioning as well in New York, Tel Aviv, or Paris. The modern Dutch Jew is Dutch by accident, rather than intent."

# Ten essential tips when visiting the Netherlands

## When you go to the Netherlands:

- You need a Schengen visa to visit the Netherlands. The Dutch Embassy is in Pretoria: (012) 425-4500 and the Consulate General is based in Cape Town: (021) 421-5660; a Schengen visa currently costs R577.
- There are no special medical precautions to be taken for travel to the Netherlands, but the Dutch National Health service does not cover visitors to the country.
- Characterised by cool winters and mild summers, climate in the Netherlands is generally uniform, thanks to its flat terrain and low elevation, as well as predominately damp, although it's frequently punctuated with extreme changes even during the summer season. Changes in the waters of the North Sea are apt to affect weather in the whole country. The coolest months of the year are January and February; July and August are the warmest.
- Dutch is spoken throughout the Netherlands; close to 90 per cent of people in the country are fluent in English as well.
- The euro is currency in the Netherlands: at the time of going to press, one euro will cost you R9,87.
- There is no limit on the amount of money one can bring in to the Netherlands, though it is advised that you bring travellers' cheques in euros, as this will save on the cost of changing currencies.
- Traffic in the Netherlands is on the right hand side of the road.
- Electricity in the Netherlands is 230 volts. Two types of plugs are used: two flat-pronged-style plugs and two flat-pronged style plugs with earth connectors on the sides.
- You can drink tap water in the Netherlands.
- The Netherlands is situated in the Central European Time zone, which is the same as the time zone in South Africa; the Netherlands does, however, apply daylight saving at the end of March, which is shifted back to CET at the end of October.



The façade of the Veghel Synagogue, built in 1865. It was deconsecrated at the time of the Holocaust and was converted into a domestic house. Today it is a shop. PHOTOGRAPH BY EKKI

"Irises" by Vincent van Gogh, one of the Netherlands' most famous artists, who was spurned and neglected by the art world during his lifetime.

# Thumbnail knowledge on the Netherlands

## Ten facts about the Netherlands:

- The Netherlands covers just over 41 000 square kilometres.
- According to its most recent census, the Netherlands is the most densely populated country in Europe, with a population of 16,5 million.
- While the government and parliament are based at The Hague, the capital is Amsterdam.
- According to the most recent census, the majority of people living in the Netherlands do not subscribe to an organised religion. Close to 30 per cent is associated with the Roman Catholic Church.
- With the North Sea to the West, the Netherlands is neighboured by Germany in the east and Belgium in the south.
- Because much of the Netherlands is actually below sea level - dikes were built in 1602 to address this problem pragmatically - its landscape is characterised by river deltas, sea walls and dunes.
- The highest terrain in the Netherlands, rising to the foot of the Ardennes mountains, is at 322,7m above sea level.
- A founding member of the European Union, the OECD and the World Trade Organisation, the Netherlands' economy is the 16th largest in the world.

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LETTERS

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

<b>Guidelines for letters:</b> Letters up to 400 words will get preference. Please provide your full first name and surname, place of residence, and a daytime contact telephone or cell number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.	<b>Disclaimer:</b> The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report
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ILAN BARUCH HAS JOINED ISRAEL’S ENEMIES

IT IS customary in certain circles, for sure in diplomatic ones, to refrain from commenting on affairs your successor is dealing with. That is simple etiquette, and much more than that - if only because one is an ambassador for life, for sure when using the “title” of “former ambassador”, like Baruch does.

His principles suddenly force him to join Israel’s enemies in expressing the opinion that Israel should give up all land taken in 1967. I wonder why he served Israel, became ambassador, while keeping his mouth shut during those 44 years, if he feels so strongly about 1967?

Was he merely milking out his career? It is my opinion that Baruch misuses his status as former ambassador to South Africa to say things he

should have had the courage to express while in office.

He now only encourages the ANC government, already anti-Israel, to join all the other enemies of the Jewish State, to force Israel’s hand. He only resigned “in protest” mere weeks before he was to retire anyway.

He hands the ANC government ammunition to confront and isolate Israel further.

Since Baruch wants to continue to play a role, I would like to suggest to him to apply for the position of the near-future ambassador in SA... for Palestine. They should be the only ones grateful for his input.

Tom Jessurun Lobo  
Camps Bay  
Cape Town

IT’S OFF TO WAR IN AN ARAB SPRING

HOW MANY “Arab Springs” was the democratic State of Israel offered, only to have to go to war to defend itself from

these lies.

Mario Rocha Pires  
Bedfordview

PROGRAMME ON POLLARD GOES BACK 15 YEARS

IN A march issue of the Jewish Report, it was stated that the play “Pollard” (on the capture and incarceration of Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, still in an American jail) had recently been produced in Pretoria.

I attach a programme showing that (in Jewish Report’s possession - Ed) I produced this play, in Pretoria as well as in Johannesburg, about 15 years ago.

I have dedicated my life to telling the Jewish story in dramatic form through my WIZO group called Sadna (Hebrew for workshop). This I have been doing since the 1940s, but

now having just turned 92, I have been unable to continue producing and directing plays.

In the past, my plays were taken to many suburbs and towns outside of Johannesburg, including Pretoria, Krugersdorp, Benoni and Vereeniging. Proceeds were donated to fundraising for Israel.

For this work, on my retirement I was awarded a golden book certificate by WIZO for over 60 years of service.

Matla Sarkin  
Bramley

ALAS, THE ‘CELLPHONE DRIVERS’ WITH THEIR SHEITELS, WERE JEWISH

IN REPLY to Zelda J Katz from Petach Tikvah (on how she knew the women talking on cellphones while driving were Jewish): I would never make a statement like this if I wasn’t sure the ladies in question weren’t Jewish.

It would appear more than evident that, if one is wearing a sheitel or a tichel, (more particularly driving

around the Sandringham Strip and Freshfellas area) they are Jewish.

One need not be a rocket scientist or brain surgeon to figure that out.

Unfortunately, it is not an outrageous statement, it is the truth!

Ashne Beinart Segal  
Milnerton  
Cape Town

HAVE THE INITIAL DEFENDERS OF GOLDSTONE APOLOGISED YET?

THE ISSUANCE of the Goldstone Report last year created quite a furore in the press, leading to particularly a frenzy in the Jewish press, with a considerable number of furious detractors of the report. However, a fair number of well known Jews in our community defended the report. (Justice Arthur Chaskalson, Dr Selma Browde, Justice Dennis Davis, Nathan Gefen, Doron Isaacs, Daniel Mackintosh and others of their ilk.

We were visiting family in Toronto when Goldstone recanted a fair por-

tion of his report. We are thus unaware of the responses in the Jewish Report while we were away. However, we were wondering if any of the protagonists of the Goldstone Report who wrote in defending him, have since had the guts (or temerity) to submit another letter to your readers, apologising for their error in defending him so strongly, again using their influential names.

Jack Miller  
Gresswold  
Johannesburg

MORE ABOUT ‘DISRESPECT’ TO JULIA RAJAK

I AGREE 100 per cent with Andrew Levy regarding the use of surnames in the article about Mrs Julia Rajak. Even though the writer may not have intended any disrespect, one has to be sensitive to the fact that feelings can be hurt.

A simple “sorry” or “we apologise” by the SAJR would have sufficed, before the actual reply.

Cecil Miller  
Orange Grove  
Johannesburg

AROUND THE WORLD  
NEWS IN BRIEF

TEXAS STATE SENATE PASSES MEZUZAH BILL

DALLAS - The Texas state Senate has passed a bill that would require homeowner associations to permit religious displays on their doors, including mezuzot.

Under the bill passed late last week, the religious item must be

under 25 inches and remain in the doorway, according to the Dallas Morning News.

The bill will return to the state House of Representatives for a wording amendment.

In 2008, Florida's state Legislature passed a similar bill. (JTA)

DEBATE AT UJ ON ACADEMIC BOYCOTTS: FACTUAL ERRORS IN GOLDBERG’S REPORT

IT IS unfortunate that Alison Goldberg’s account of the debate at UJ ([http://www.sajewishreport.co.za/pdf/latest\\_issue/NJTUE00417.pdf](http://www.sajewishreport.co.za/pdf/latest_issue/NJTUE00417.pdf)) is full of misrepresentations. Allow me to correct a few of these:

1. I did not call Israel “Greater Israel” or “Greater Palestine”. Rather, I argued that after 44 years of occupation, the only meaningful unit of political analysis is that of the Israeli regime exercising domination over both sides of the Green Line. Any claims about democracy and human rights in Israel must refer to that geographical reality (not only to pre-1967 Israel, which no longer exists as a distinct entity). I further argued that the Palestinian Diaspora (refugees excluded from rights in their homeland) is an essential part of the picture, without which no statement about Israel is meaningful.
2. I did not say that I favoured the 1948 borders or any others. I argued rather that the pre-1948 territory is the overall framework within which a solution must be found, based on principles of individual and collective equality. Whether that would be in the form of one state, a binational state, two binational states, and so on, is far less important.
3. I did not say that military ties are a reason in itself for academic boycotts, nor did I call universities an elite. Rather, I argued that when universities play an important role in entrenching oppressive relations in society, and when they are linked to military forces deeply implicated in human rights

Alison Goldberg responds:

HAVING CHECKED my notes and listened to a recording of Prof Greenstein’s address at the seminar, I have the following comments:

1. Professor Greenstein did refer to Israel as a “Greater Israel” and a “Greater Palestine”. His elucidation of this reference is not a case of “rather” but he said further...
2. There is no difference between my reference to his favouring the 1948 borders and his sentence “the pre-1948 territory is the overall framework within which a solution must be found...”
3. I did not say “military ties are a reason in itself for academic boycotts”. I quoted Greenstein citing three or four conditions when boycotts are called for. Military ties and universities belonging to elites as per my article, were two of them. Prof Greenstein elaborates on this point. It is not a question again of “rather” but that he does and is welcome to elaborate.
4. The paragraph in my article is specifically pref-

KADALIE’S CRITICISM OF TAC IS ‘ILL-CONSIDERED’

THANK YOU for reporting on Rhoda Kadalie’s attack on Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, South African democracy, the Treatment Action Campaign, Mr Justice Dennis Davis and many other organisations and individuals, including me.

I have never had the pleasure of meeting Mrs Kadalie, although she claims to know me rather intimately. She recently wrote, as was reported on the front page of the Cape Times, that I and others “get a hard-on when Israel does anything wrong because Israel gives you a platform for your dwindling struggle reputations”.

For the record, I don’t have a struggle reputation, dwindling or otherwise. I was 10 years old when Nelson Mandela was released from prison and probably playing cricket at the time.

Over the past three years, though, I’ve been working for an organisation called Equal Education, which concerns itself with South Africa’s poor quality and unequal education system, often needing to protest against the same ANC government that Kadalie criticises. In the same Cape Times report Kadalie urged me to “get a life”, and all I can say is that I’m working on it.

But her attack on the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) is most ill-considered. This organisation, more than any other, has educated ordinary people to hold our democratic government accountable.

When TAC took the South African government all the way to the Constitutional Court, there were just 18 clinics in the country where anti-retroviral medicines were made available to pregnant women. Today

GOOD IDEA THAT ANC COULD BE MIDEAST PEACE CONDUIT

I SAW the article on page 11 of your May 20 edition by Ilan Baruch, former ambassador of Israel to South Africa, “South Africa has an urgent role to play” (in a Middle East peace process).

I think you should focus on the ambassador’s

abuses and political oppression, academic institutions become complicit in such practices. I further said that the global links of universities in Israel serve to shield the state from justified international criticism, and therefore they become a legitimate target for sanctions

4. Worst distortion of all: I never said that “anything we do” to undermine Israeli complacency is justified. I explicitly excluded armed attacks against civilians, and any actions that constitute war crimes or violations of international law. Omission of these qualifications borders on libel and calls for retraction from Ms Goldberg and the Jewish Report.
5. Goldberg’s claim that boycotts are not peaceful because Hamas fires rockets at Israeli targets, is incomprehensible. What does UJ or boycott supporters have to do with rocket attacks from Gaza or, for that matter, Israeli artillery barrages on Gaza?
6. This kind of reporting not only distorts the debate but potentially constitutes incitement against participants in it and a cause for legal action

Ran Greenstein  
University of the Witwatersrand

*If there are any misrepresentations in the article, the Jewish Report will apologise. We are investigating the matter further. Attached below are some comments by our reporter who covered the event - Editor*

- aced in relation to this statement: “Calling the boycott one of peace,” he said “Anything we do to undermine that complacency is justified.” According to my notes and the recording, Prof Greenstein made such a statement, more specifically, “anything we do to undermine that complacency is legitimate in my view”. His exclusion of what does not constitute peaceful means, given elsewhere, is welcomed and should be made.
5. I said in two of my articles, accompanying this UJ-BGU debate that there have been rocket attacks on the south of Israel by Hamas. The first reference was to those on Beersheva, home of Ben-Gurion University. Another series during the debate in South Africa on the south of Israel, resulted in the killing of a 16-year-old boy. My point is that more responsibility should be taken by those singling out Israel for boycotts, sanctions and divestment, for the possible incitement of Israel’s enemies on the ground.
  6. There is no reason or intent to distort the debate.

South Africa has the largest anti-retroviral treatment programme in the world, with a lot of work still needing to be done.

The genius of TAC lay in the fact that uneducated people were workshoped so persistently on the science of HIV, that they became citizen-experts, able to stand up to, and defeat, a denialist president and minister of health. It is rightly celebrated globally as a profound example of democratic citizenship.

The principle of internationalism has seen TAC organise solidarity protests in regards to the disintegration of Zimbabwe and the arrest of activists in China, among other examples. It is presently mobilising support for Dr Houtan Kiyan, the Iranian lawyer who represented Sakineh Ashtiani, the woman sentenced to death by stoning. Dr Kiyan is being held incommunicado by the Iranian authorities.

All serious human rights organisation organise solidarity actions, while keeping 95 per cent of their energy focused on their core business, in TAC’s case, the right to health in South Africa. Kadalie should know better than to label the exceptional TAC activists as mere “anti-Israel foot soldiers”.

Kadalie’s own comments in regard to Israel, as reported by the Jewish Report, are deeply troubling. She says that the settlers and settlements must be “reigned in”, but not that the military occupation of the West Bank must be ended. If she cannot say that, she cannot be considered to seriously support peace.

Doron Isaacs  
Woodstock, Cape Town

idea with the ANC as a conduit for peace in Israel. As American President Barack Obama said: “Yes we can.”

Steven Fisher  
Johannesburg

FOR THE RECORD

THE WOMEN ARE BERYL TOCKER AND CYNTHIA LEVIN

THE CAPTION on the bottom middle photo of the Social Scene in last week’s paper was incorrect. It

should have read Beryl Tocker and Cynthia Levin. We regret the error.



COMMUNITY COLUMNS



**ABOVE BOARD**

**Zev Kregel,**  
*National Chairman*

*A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies*

WHILE THE voiceless citizens of countries throughout Africa and the Middle East continued to agitate for their democratic rights, South Africans everywhere came together to cast their votes for the fourth local government elections and for the eighth time overall since 1994.

Once again, the elections were free, fair and, above all, peaceful. It was also most encouraging to see a voter turnout of close to 60 per cent, despite this being only a local election. This percentage poll compares favourably with even the world's most established democracies.

Without even referring to the overall outcome, the mere fact that they took place, has firmed up democracy in South Africa. Every time the people cast their votes, it serves to strengthen this country's

Another successful election bolsters SA democracy

democratic legacy.

It makes regular, open elections part of the established political culture and comes to be regarded as the inalienable right of every citizen. The more this culture is nurtured, the harder it becomes for authoritarian tendencies to take root.

The Jewish community was no less involved in the process than their fellow South Africans, with a number of its members in Johannesburg and Cape Town successfully standing for office.

There was a high voter turnout in all the areas where Jews are concentrated, and in this regard Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein's call on the community to go and vote is much to be welcomed. We congratulate all the new Jewish councillors and wish them all success in their forthcoming term of office.

**An esteemed colleague moves on**  
Alana Baranov leaves us this week after three years of distinguished

service to the SAJBD. We knew we had found something special when we took Alana on, and she more than fulfilled those expectations.

She has added enormous value to the Board, whether in the diplomatic, NGO, interfaith or research fields, and represented our community at innumerable public events and seminars.

Apart from the consistently excellent quality of her work, Alana's whole attitude to her position has been inspirational. As her colleagues will testify, she has been a loyal, committed member of the team, and in devoting much time and effort to after-hours and weekend functions, has truly gone beyond the call of duty.

We wish Alana continued success in everything she does. She will be taking time off to travel overseas, and we hope that on her return we will have further opportunities of working with her.

*This column is paid for by the SAJBD*

AROUND THE WORLD  
NEWS IN BRIEF

JOPLIN TORNADO HITS TOWN'S SMALL JEWISH COMMUNITY

JOPLIN - At least two Jewish brothers are among the missing in the wake of a deadly tornado that tore through Joplin, Oklahoma.

Other members of the small Jewish community there are in need of basic supplies, Chabad.org reported late on Monday.

Rabbi Yehuda Weg, the Tulsa-based director of Chabad-Lubavitch of Oklahoma, drove to

Joplin on Monday night with a list of Jewish community members in need or missing and a car full of supplies, joining volunteers from the American Red Cross and local disaster agencies, according to Chabad.org.

Weg travels to Joplin twice a month to supervise kosher production lines at several food manufacturers and to meet with the 15 to 20 Jews living there. He said that those missing following the

tornado, included two brothers active in the Jewish community.

Some 116 people are confirmed dead and dozens are missing following what is being called the second-deadliest tornado in US history. The tornado cut through Joplin last Sunday evening, one of several tornadoes that hit the Midwest over the weekend due to a system of severe thunderstorms that also have caused massive flooding. (JTA)

SAN FRANCISCO TO PUT CIRCUMCISION BAN ON THE BALLOT

SAN FRANCISCO - A measure seeking to ban male circumcision will appear on the November ballot in San Francisco.

More than 7 700 signatures from city residents on a petition in support of the measure were approved as valid by city officials on May 18. At least 7168 signatures were required, and more than 12 000 were submitted.

The measure, which would apply only in the city of San Francisco, would make it a misdemeanour crime to circumcise a boy before he

is 18 years old. The maximum penalty would be a year in jail and a \$1 000 fine. Circumcisions would be permitted only for medical reasons, with no religious exemptions.

Even if the measure passes in November, it likely would be challenged as a constitutional violation of freedom of religion.

"This is a tradition not only practised by Jews, but by Muslims and members of secular society," Rabbi Yosef Langer, director of Chabad-Lubavitch of San Francisco, said.

"The Jewish people and spiritually conscious people all over the world, will certainly - and have always - risen to the occasion so that justice, and the will of the A-mighty, will prevail."

The Anti-Defamation League and the San Francisco Jewish Community Relations Council have come out against the proposal.

Jewish boys traditionally are circumcised at eight days of age and Muslims at some time during boyhood. (JTA)



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Learners, teachers and parents of Yeshiva College parading the streets of Glenhazel for Yom Ha'atzmaut.

## Yeshiva College celebrates Israel's 63rd with love and joy

OWN CORRESPONDENT  
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THE ENTIRE Yeshiva College campus, from playschool through to matric, celebrated Israel's 63rd birthday on Tuesday May 10.

It was an incredible day for all learners - a real Kiddush Hashem, and a tribute to Yeshiva College and Eretz Yisrael.

The day began with a wonderful Yom Ha'atzmaut davening celebration for learners from grade R to matric, followed by special programmes unique to the learners of each school.

All learners, parents and teachers then assembled in the parking lot where they were addressed by Avrom Krenzel, chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, Shimon Shamilla, head of the Israel Centre, Rabbi Avraham Tanzer, rosh

yeshiva and Rabbi Laurence Perez, managing director of Yeshiva College.

The day culminated in a street parade through the streets of Glenhazel. The entire Yeshiva College campus displayed their love for and commitment to Eretz Yisrael.

The Yeshiva College learners looked amazing, dressed in blue and white, sporting their new Israeli flags and caps, branded with the Yeshiva College logo, Israel Centre logo and Israeli flag.

Leading the parade was a truck playing Israeli-Jewish music, which set the tone for simcha.

The sight of all these learners was heart-warming and provoked a great deal of emotion. The energy and spirit that emanated from the school, reinforced one of Yeshiva's main core values: the love for and appreciation of Eretz Yisrael.



Camp Kesher Kidz at the Johannesburg Zoo.

## Camp Kesher Kidz strike Zoo in the moonlight

OWN CORRESPONDENT  
PHOTO BY ZOO TOUR GUIDE, KATE

“THE ANIMALS went in two by two, hoorah, hoorah...”

No, it wasn't Noah's Ark, although it could well have been. Johannesburg was having really strange weather for April - rain, cold and wind. The campers and madrichim were determined and eager to suss out the nocturnal animals, and came in hordes to the Johannesburg Zoo for a “Moonlight Tour”.

The expedition began with everyone climbing onto the camouflaged vehicles with their friends, chatting excitedly and catching up since the last reunion at Sydenham pool - a much sunnier and warmer time!

This did not dampen the spirits of Camp Kesher Kidz as the warmth of the cama-

raderie and camp ruach was re-established at the Zoo, this time with drums, guitars and lots of singing.

Between verses, the campers jumped off at the different stops to have a look at the various cages and new enclosures, while also learning about the history of the Johannesburg Zoo and the incredible animals.

We watched the tour guides feed the elephants and bears apples, but had to be very quiet and only shine torches on the animal's body so as not to frighten them.

After two hours we reached the education centre where a bonfire awaited us and then we went into the hall for a kosher le'Pesach supper. There was a brief drosh and photo session before everyone reluctantly climbed back on to the transport to return to the pickup point after an awesome camp reunion!

## YOUTH TALK Alison Goldberg youthsajr@global.co.za

# Teaching the young how to defend themselves

LAINE WALLDORF  
PHOTOGRAPHS: ROBBIE COHEN

ON THURSDAY, May 19, Jewish youth gathered for a Krav Maga self-defence class, at the Scouts hall on George Avenue, Sandringham.

The Israel Centre Hagshama Department and YAD, worked together with CSO Krav Maga instructors, Jeff Miller and Anthony Segal, to make the community aware of these training sessions and encourage more youth to attend such classes.

Approximately 22 youngsters filled up the hall for a fun-filled evening. To begin the training a fitness session was held. Participants had to do push-ups, sit-ups, running on the spot and much more, in order to warm up for their intensive training.

The evening was a great success as indi-

viduals practised various self-defence techniques with plastic knives and learnt a number of punching techniques, which they practised on punching bags. Trainees partnered up to practise what they were taught.

The CSO ensured that participants had a most enjoyable evening, but at the same time stressed the importance of this Krav Maga class.

They discussed the necessity of being aware of what is going on around one at all times and how important it is to be able to defend oneself, as well as what to do in order to prevent being in those situations.

Participants had a wonderful evening and as expected could feel the after-effects of a great workout. These classes will be a regular weekly event.

• For more information contact Hagshama Co-ordinator Robbie Cohen on (011) 645-2538 or robbie@israelcentre.co.za.



The Krav Maga group.

## Sound fireman's advice for TA tots

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
SUZANNE BELLING

“IF YOUR clothes catch fire, don't run, lie down and roll,” Edwin Maskile, station commander (Northcliff) of the Johannesburg Fire Department, told the tots at Torah Academy Nursery School, during a demonstration on Friday (May 20) to coincide with Lag B'Omer, when, traditionally, bonfires are lit during festivities.

There was much excitement among the children - and the teachers - when an authentic fire engine pulled on to the sports field of the school.

The children had to practise a fire drill, learn the emergency numbers of the Fire Department - and were allowed to play with the hoses from the fire truck.

In the picture Levi von Zwiklitz is dressed in

genuine fireman's gear, Ella Miriam Salkinder holds up the emergency numbers, while Shaya Unterslak shows off his own firefighter's outfit.

Behind are members of the Johannesburg Fire Department (from left) Rhulani Ramaloko, Shakespeare Jele and Commander Maskile.



## A bookish venture for KDVPP learners

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
SHIRA TOLLMAN

THE GRADE 4s of King David Victory Park

Primary School have been collecting books as a drive to create a school library for the Rashomile Primary School in Diepsloot. The pupils brought in a grand total of 350 storybooks for this school.

We are very proud to have been part of this special book drive, in order to help other pupils have the opportunity to read and enjoy a wide range of children's storybooks.

Proudly displaying some of the books collected, are Ravi Master; Gabriella Bogolubov; Jessi Wainer; Tamar Moross; Gabriel Shapiro; and Chad Rayd.





# Vandalised ohelim had to be demolished

RITA LEWIS

FURTHER TO a recent article in the SA Jewish Report on sad state of the Brixton Jewish Cemetery, especially the ohel, Sarah Welham of the Parktown and Westcliff Heritage Trust contacted the SAJR to say that both the ohelim (funeral halls) at the Braamfontein Cemetery as well as the one at Brixton have been demolished.

Welham said her organisation - which is situated in Parktown and has been running for some 25 years – aims to preserve heritage buildings and sites.

She, as well as many of her staff and various interested members of the public, were “devastated” when they discovered the ohelim had been demolished.

A spokesman for the Chevrah Kadisha confirmed that the badly vandalised ohelim had indeed been demolished.

The spokesman said that regrettably, very little had been left in a condition to salvage.

On the positive side, now that the building

was no longer there, it was believed the vagrants would not be returning.

He said that suggestions had been made to put up “unmovable” monuments where the ohelim had stood and perhaps also to place the headstones flat on the ground - as they do in European Jewish cemeteries and already in many Jewish cemeteries in SA.

He added that they would be prepared to meet with Welham to see if there was a way forward for them, as they were both basically working towards the same aim.

The earliest records of the Braamfontein Cemetery go back to 1888 but Welham’s organisation has no photos of the actual ohel at Braamfontein in their archives.

She is therefore appealing to any member of the general public who might have such photos or information, to come forward.

The photos will be well cared for and can be either donated, or loaned for while for copies to be made for their archives.

- Welham can be contacted on 082-904-4549 or e-mail welham@icon.co.za

# Oasis in Time - in-depth six-part look at Shabbat

DAVID SAKS

ON MAY 16, the Great Park Synagogue in Johannesburg held the first of a six-part course entitled Oasis in Time: “The Gift of Shabbat in a 24/7 World”.

The course is being given by Rabbi Shmuel Simpson, assistant rabbi at the Great Park Shul, and is held under the auspices of the Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), of which the congregation is an official affiliate.

An international adult learning organisation, the JLI has some 300 affiliates and 16 000 students worldwide, including various locations around South Africa.

Rather than focusing on the technical do’s and do not’s of Shabbat observance,

Oasis in Time is conceived as being “an in-depth look at its mystical, psychological, social, and cultural dimensions; what Shabbat has to offer in terms of finding serenity and transcendence in today’s ever-changing world”.

It uses traditional and kabbalistic sources to reveal profound insights into the inner meaning and timeless truths of Shabbat, their relevance to the modern world and how these principles can be applied in achieving a life of inner peace and fulfilment.

The Oasis in Time course is being held every Monday evening at 19:45 in the Clive M Beck Auditorium, Great Park Synagogue.

- Visit [www.greatpark.co.za](http://www.greatpark.co.za).

# JWBS Morning Market and Book Fair coming up

RITA LEWIS

WITH THE onset of winter, the end of the Highveld rainy season is in sight and the women of the Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society are starting to anxiously watch the skies with the approach of their major fundraiser, the JWBS Morning Market and Book Fair on Sunday, May 29.

This highlight event is held at the Jabula Recreation Centre, Sandringham from around 09:00 until just after lunchtime.

It is renowned for its wonderful selection of bric-a-brac, as well as offering kosher cakes, biscuits and deli foods and new and second-hand clothes and toys.

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ROYAL 10 CROWN 20 YEAR STANDARD	R1,883	R1,952	R2,440	R2,661
ROYAL 10 CROWN 20 YEAR HEAVY DUTY	R2,142	R2,200	R2,727	R2,946
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The programme starts at **11h00**.  
**Parents** are invited to join us at **18h00** for a short information session and tea.



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In aid of the Selwyn Segal Society for the handicapped

Date Thursday 30 June 2011 Time 19h00 for 19h30  
Venue Maroela Room, Sandton Sun, Sandton  
Dress Smart Casual Cost R12 000 per table (incl. VAT)  
Contact Danny Blumberg  
Tel 011 646 7340/1 Fax 086 632 4903  
E-mail [danny@mscsports.co.za](mailto:danny@mscsports.co.za)



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# Maccabi Stag to host Dan Retief’s ‘Holy Grail’

JACK MILNER

WHEN IT comes to the low-down on South African rugby, very few people are more in the know than Dan Retief, doyen of South African rugby writers.

In a time when many journalists are capitulating to the power of the rand, Dan remains prepared to search for the truth and express his opinion with no fear. His opinion is not just based on subjective speculation, but is an objective assessment, taking into account facts, figures and many years’ experience.

In a career spanning 40 years, he has established himself as one of South Africa’s pre-eminent sports journalists. A multiple award winner, he has covered numerous Test matches in South Africa and on tours, reported on all four Rugby World Cups in which the country has competed, and was in touch with the team virtually every day as they marched to victory in 1995 and 2007.



**Doyen of South African sports writers, Dan Retief.**

He is the author of former Springbok captain Wynand Claassen’s controversial - and authoritative - autobiography and record of the notorious 1981 “Flour Bomb Tour” of New Zealand, “More Than Just Rugby”, and is the appointed editor of the large-scale “Springbok Opus”.

Now Retief has written yet another book and it delves into what happened behind the scenes at four Rugby World Cups.

“The Springboks and the Holy Grail” is described as “the epic story of South Africa’s amazing quests for the Rugby World Cup,

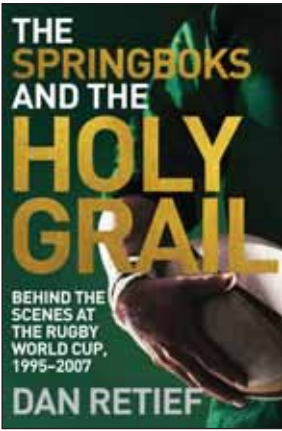
which resulted in triumph at Ellis Park in 1995 and in Paris in 2007, while there was heartbreak in 1999 and shame in 2003”.

Retief was closely involved in all four RWC campaigns while working for the Sunday Times and SuperSport, and he provides “behind-the-scenes reportage on the great cast and incredible incidents that made for such riveting drama”.

The book is due to be released next

month and Maccabi Stag has announced that Retief will have a special launch at Maccabi Stag on Thursday June 28. Not only will he be looking back at the history of South Africa’s Rugby World Cup campaigns, but with this year’s event just around the corner, Retief will be taking a look ahead at what could be in store for coach Peter de Villiers and the Springbok team.

Further details of the Maccabi Stag will be carried in a later edition.



**The cover of Dan Retief’s new book, “The Springboks and the Holy Grail”.**

## Official says match fixing probe is going nowhere

SOURCES CLOSE to an investigation into suspected misconduct at Hapoel Petah Tikva, believe that nothing will come of the allegations of match fixing at the club.

“There was no match fixing. It’s garbage,” said one official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorised to discuss the case, this week.

Last Sunday, investigators from the Central District fraud squad called in Effi Zafirir, the team’s CEO, and Yuval Naim, the team’s former coach, for questioning. The police said they suspected that Zafirir had entreated players to throw matches

based on a complaint they had received a few weeks earlier.

Naim is suspected of using Ben Cohen, an underworld figure, to intimidate team officials into giving him an advantageous severance package.

The official said the case was more a matter for the budget control authority, which operates independently of the Israel Football Association, and the tax authorities.

“There is no criminal matter here, and after all the noise it will end up with the IFA,” he added. - Ha’aretz

## Peer blown out of Roland Garros in opening round

IT IS now official: Israel’s brightest tennis star, Shahar Peer, is in the midst of a crisis.

Alas, first round losses have become something of a habit for the 24-year-old in recent months, but none was as disappointing as last Sunday’s 7-6 (4), 6-1 defeat to Maria Jose Sanchez Martinez of Spain in the opening round at Roland Garros.

What seemed like coincidental slipups a few months ago have unfortunately become the norm recently, with Peer not only struggling to beat the world’s top players - a reoccurring theme throughout her career - but also falling to inferior players with unprecedented regularity.

Last Sunday’s loss displayed many of the failings that have dogged Peer’s game for years, bringing on the periodic slumps.

In the last couple of years, Peer has steadily improved her first serve percentage, but it has come at a cost. The Israeli may not be gifting her opponents as many second serves as she used to in the past, but her new cautious first serve is far less effective than her old one, which could be erratic, but if she got it in, it had the bite of a mamba.

Last Sunday, Peer hit 69 per cent of her first serves in, but she only won 44 per cent of the subsequent points. On her second serve, matters are even worse, with the Israeli losing 16 of 23 points to Martinez Sanchez after faulting.

The accumulating defeats have understandably also taken their toll on Peer’s confidence, which is perhaps the only real way of explaining her 36 unforced errors against the Spaniard.

Just as worrying was Peer’s inability to adjust to her opponent’s game-plan on clay. Sanchez Martinez harried the Israeli with numerous drop shots and killed off points at the net time and again, winning 27 of 32 approaches.

Since splitting with coach Pablo Giacomelli last July, Peer has seemed to slowly lose her way, and she is still looking for someone who can provide the same inspiration and focus both on and off the court.

Craig Kardon, who coached Martina Navratilova and South Africa’s Mariaan de Swardt, lasted just seven months, with the sides parting ways in March, and current interim replacement Harold Solomon is



**Frustration seems to be getting to Israel’s foremost women’s tennis player Shahar Peer, who lost in the first round of the French Open last Sunday.**

clearly not doing much good for her results.

Peer has fallen in the first round in three of her last four tournaments - including a particularly embarrassing defeat to then world number 429 Casey Dellacqua in the first round of the Brussels Open last week - and overall this year she has won just a single match or less in seven of 11 events.

It was not that long ago that Peer was at a record No 11 in the world, a mere five ranking points from becoming the first Israeli to break into the top 10. But even then, her results were far from impressive and it was clear for all to see that Peer had gone into free fall.

The question is: Did Peer hit rock bottom with last Sunday’s performance, or was that humbling defeat a sign of things to come? Initial answers will be given when the Israeli next plays in Eastbourne in three weeks’ time and at Wimbledon the following week.

At the moment, it is difficult not to be pessimistic. - Jerusalem Post



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