



**Gill Katz's
Goggas turning
local kids'
theatre around.
(page 8)**

• south african • jewish report

www.sajewishreport.co.za

GOLDSTUCK: BlackBerry boss thanks South Africa

"SA is a priority one market for us; we'll acknowledge that with the launch of BlackBerry 10 when it is launched."

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Jewish communal bodies tell Parliament about re-labelling concerns

Last Friday, the SAZF, with the SAJBD and Open Shuhada Street, made oral presentations to Parliament's Trade and Industry Portfolio Committee.

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Selwyn Segal benefits from Chai FM's radiothon

Johannesburg witnesses what Chai FM and the community could achieve in fundraising in one day of collaborating for a good cause. This year's radiothon raised some R2 million.

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Recalling agreement for German restitution – 60 years ago



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**Wishing all our
readers and
advertisers Chag
Sameach. Owing to
Succot, our next
issue will be on
October 12.**

Barack Obama



Benjamin Netanyahu



Mitt Romney



Vying for the Jewish vote



Photo: Courtesy RJC

As the American presidential election, due in November hits the straight, the Jewish vote has become a very sought-after commodity. Both President Barack Obama and Republican hopeful Mitt Romney, go out of their way to emphasise what good friends of Israel they are. Pictured in this photograph, taken towards the beginning of September, are Republican Jewish Coalition (RJC) members at West Palm Beach, Florida, with "messages" for President Obama.

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Shabbat & YomTov Times

Parshat Haazinu

Sept 28/ 12 Tishrei

Sept 29/ 13 Tishrei

17:48	18:38	Johannesburg
18:15	19:22	Cape Town
17:38	18:28	Durban
17:57	18:47	Bloemfontein
18:01	18:53	Port Elizabeth
17:51	18:43	East London

Sept 30/14 Tishrei

Erev Succot

17:49	Johannesburg
18:15	Cape Town
17:39	Durban
17:58	Bloemfontein
18:02	Port Elizabeth
17:52	East London

Oct 1 / 15 Tishrei

1st Day Succot

Candle-lighting (from a pre-existing flame)

18:39	Johannesburg
19:23	Cape Town
18:30	Durban
18:48	Bloemfontein
18:54	Port Elizabeth
18:44	East London

2nd Day Succot

Oct 2 / 16 Tishrei

Yomtov ends

18:39	Johannesburg
19:24	Cape Town
18:30	Durban
18:49	Bloemfontein
18:55	Port Elizabeth
18:45	East London

Oct 7/ 21 Tishrei

Shmini Atzeret

Candle-lighting

17:53	Johannesburg
18:15	Cape Town
17:43	Durban
18:02	Bloemfontein
18:05	Port Elizabeth
17:57	East London

Oct 8/ 22 Tishrei

Simchat Torah

Candle-lighting (from a pre-existing flame)

18:43	Johannesburg
19:29	Cape Town
18:34	Durban
18:52	Bloemfontein
19:00	Port Elizabeth
18:50	East London

Oct 9/23 Tishrei

Yomtov ends

18:42	Johannesburg
19:29	Cape Town
18:35	Durban
18:53	Bloemfontein
19:01	Port Elizabeth
18:50	East London

Past, present and future

A woman in a supermarket is following a grandfather and his badly behaved three-year-old grandson.

It's obvious to her that he has his hands full with the child screaming for sweets in the sweet aisle, biscuits in the biscuit aisle and for fruit, cereal and pop in the other aisles.

Meanwhile, Granddad is working his way around, saying in a controlled voice, "Easy, William, we won't be long... Easy, boy."

Another outburst and she hears the granddad calmly say, "its okay, William, just a couple more minutes and we'll be out of here. Hang in there, boy."

At the checkout, the little terror is throwing items out of the cart, and Granddad says again in a controlled voice: "William, William, relax buddy, don't get upset. We'll be home in five minutes; stay cool, William."

Very impressed, the woman goes outside where the grandfather is loading his groceries and the boy

into the car.

She said to the elderly gentleman: "It's none of my business, but you were amazing in there. I don't know how you did it. That whole time, you kept your composure and no matter how loud and disruptive he got, you just calmly kept saying things would be okay. William is very lucky to have you as his grandpa."

"Thanks," said the grandfather. "But I'm William... The little brat's name is Kevin."

Life is compared to the trolley going through the aisles in a supermarket. The aisles are full of attractive things and one wants to put them into one's trolley.

Things we do not need and articles which are harmful - the delicacies, the reading of material, the luxuries which cause a person to stray from the correct path in life.

One has to keep talking to oneself that this is not necessary



PARSHAT HAAZINU
YOM KIPPUR 5773

Rabbi Siggy Suchard
Beit Hamidrash Hagadol
(Sandton Shul)

and other inviting articles are dangerous.

Truth be told, life is a challenge, there are obstacles and tests. Hashem wants us to overcome the challenges and He provides us with a Torah which directs us through life, and enables us to make the correct choices.

Moshe Rabeinu's last message to the Bnei Yisrael is called a shirah - a song - "and he spoke all the words of this song in the ears of the people and Hoshea bin nun".

Moshe added: "This is not an empty thing for you, it is your life and through this you will have length of days..." (Devarim 32: 44, 47).

A person sings for joy when

accomplishing a goal, and when overcoming a challenge. Perhaps this is the reason that the Torah is called "a song" as in Devarim Chapter 31 verse 19, "and now write for yourselves this song and teach it to the Bnei Yisrael".

We sing for joy when we adhere to the words of the Torah and not fall prey to temptation, as we manoeuvre our carts through the aisles and corridors of this world.

This year parshat Ha'azinu falls after Yom Kippur and before Succoth, a befitting time to sing shira as we enter the days of Simcha after a successful Yom Kippur, "those who are righteous deserve happiness".

Cricket and the power of Yizkor

RABBI SHMUEL BLOCH
PORT ELIZABETH HEBREW
CONGREGATION

Cricket, is a sport that we have all grown up with and a game that is never far from the hearts and minds of most South Africans.

The majority of us have all been to a cricket match at some stage or another; we have all experienced the sights, the excitement and the emotion of watching our national team.

Cricket is a fascinating game from many different aspects. However, the facet of cricket that is really intriguing is that cricket is a team game, a team effort.

Every player on the team gets to go to the crease. Every player has his innings, his chance to achieve a high score and put his team in a winning position. But what happens if that player doesn't get to score the number of runs that he wished? Sometimes it was his fault - he was too impulsive and he swung too early.

Sometimes it is not his fault - he cannot control the bounce of the ball or the nature of the pitch. Whatever the reason may be, this member of the team is out. He is consigned to the stands to reflect on what he did or should have done.

Yet, from a team perspective, this player's lack of success, painful though it is, is not a total catastrophe, since the next player who is part of the same team, will get an opportunity using his innings to score and thus create a winning situation for the entire team.

Cricket is a perfect analogy for us, because the entire Jewish people are one team, one family. Since the creation of the world, a generation comes and a generation goes. Each generation has its



own innings, its own chance to build, to create and to grow.

At Yizkor we remember the previous generation's innings. We remember all the good they did, how they "scored" in building proud, knowledgeable Jewish families.

We remember how they achieved "runs" in building up our fantastic and vibrant Jewish community and how they served as inspirational role models in leading from the front.

However, their innings finished. It is now our innings. We are at the crease. We have unlimited opportunities to score. Hashem has provided us with unlimited possibilities to transform, to grow and to achieve in this world.

Just as later players in the team build on earlier players' achievements, so too we now have the chance to expand previous generations' accomplishments to unlimited heights.

How are we going to increase our Jewish

knowledge? How are we going to make our children more spiritual, ethical people? How involved are we going to be in community affairs?

What tools are we going to use to solidify our commitment to Torah, the Jewish people and the Land of Israel?

It is our innings now; how are we going to play it?

As one stands before Yizkor, we must realise we have a tremendous opportunity. All previous generations are standing in the spiritual crowds cheering us on for every "run" that we make.

Let us decide now bli neder (without vowing) to take on to do another mitzvah - something small, something manageable but something tangible to be able to make our team, the Jewish people triumph in every possible way.

Community Briefs

NEW GRADUATES IN MARRIAGE COUNSELLING

The Chevrah Kadisha's latest group of volunteer marriage preparation counsellors, graduated at a ceremony on August 30. In addition to the new graduates, existing counsellors also received certificates of acknowledgement, the Chev said in a media release. Pictured are: (Back) Nadine Bricker; Josie Lutrin; Louise Temkin; Pam Lissoos; Gayle Burbaitzky; Etta Goldman (co-ordinator of Chevrah Kadisha Marriage Preparation Programme); Rochie Demby; Batya Narunsky; and Ziva Taitz. (Front) Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, patron of the programme; with Rebbetzen Gina Goldstein; and Nicki Mirkin. Absent: Janine Sarkin.



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE

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AND

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OF THE

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TO BE FOLLOWED BY BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

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OUR PARENTS HOME; ARCADIA JEWISH CHILDREN'S HOME; THE
SOCIETY FOR THE JEWISH HANDICAPPED (SELWYN SEGAL);
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SAJBD and the SAZF tell Parliament about their re-labelling concerns

CAPE TOWN - The re-labelling of goods from the West Bank would strain relations between the government and the Jewish community, the SA Zionist Federation said last Friday. The SAZF, with the SAJBD and Open Shuhada Street, made oral presentations to Parliament’s Trade and Industry Portfolio Committee.

The SAJBD in its briefing accused Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies of being “hostile and dismissive” when first approached on the subject.

SAZF Chairman Avrom Krengel said Jewish groups remained opposed to general notice 379 published in the Government Gazette in May. Davies gave notice at the time that that the government intended to re-label all products coming from the West Bank from “made in Israel” to “from Israeli Occupied Territories”.

Krengel told MPs that if the re-labelling went ahead, it would greatly trouble Jews. He said they lodged papers with the High Court in Pretoria in July in an attempt to have the minister’s decision overturned.

“We intend to make an application for an order declaring the notice unlawful, interdicting the minister from taking decisions pursuant to the notice, reviewing and setting aside the notice,” he said.

Krengel said the federation was happy to participate in a re-labelling process, but objected to the new wording because it was “inflammatory”. His sentiments were echoed by SAJBD’s national director Wendy Kahn who also made an oral submission to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee. She said Davies had met Jewish bodies, but had appeared dismissive and hostile at the meeting.

The SAJBD, she told the committee, was the representative body of SA Jewry “it is our responsibility to engage with government on behalf of our community. In the majority of our interaction with government, we deal with South African issues in the context of the needs and concerns of the Jewish community and the role it can play as an constructive part of the greater society.

“At times, however, we consider it necessary to also speak out on matters relating to the State of Israel. This is in light of the strong emotional, religious and ethnic bonds that most South African Jews have with Israel and the widespread distress that result from perceived threats to its relationship with South Africa.

“We are not opposed in principle to the accurate and correct labelling of products...What we do object to is the manner in which this process has been politicised.

She took Davies to task for his “dismissive attitude” when communal bodies approached him. “The minister’s dismissive attitude towards the mainstream Jewish leadership and the overtly biased, politicised wording of his notice, has fostered a suspicion that the ultimate goal is to not resolve a consumer protection matter through more accurate product labelling, but rather a punitive action against Israel... Declining to engage or debate the points raised, Davies simply brushed them aside with the dismissive comment that if we objected we were welcome to put in a written submission.”

In his presentation, Open Shuhada Street activist Zackie Achmat said products entering SA ought to be labelled to allow consumers to make an informed choice.

The African Christian Democratic Party in a statement said it applauded the Portfolio Committee “on their fair and constructive handling of hearings on the labelling issue...” Cheryllyn Dudley ACDP MP said: “The General Notice on the labelling... is contentious. The notice originated from a pro Palestinian lobby group; organisations representing Jewish people in SA were excluded from the decision making process.”

Trade and industry department chief director Macdonald Netshitenzhe, told MPs one of two things would happen following Davies’ notice of intention. “Either we come with notice that is not yet final or with regulations. There won’t be a final notice without speaking to the public,” he said.

Read the South African Jewish Report online
www.sajewishreport.co.za

TRACY KLASS IN KCLASS STRUGGLE

Directed by RIAAD MOOSA

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New pieces constantly fitted to the jigsaw of Shoah horror



Photo: alphabeticalfilm.blogspot.com
The Polish traintdriver, Grabowski, who lived near Treblinka, in one of Claude Lanzmann’s Shoah’s most famous stills.

ROBYN SASSEN

Culminating in its recent serialised showing of Claude Lanzmann’s mammoth Shoah’, (1985) the ground-breaking nine-and-a-half hour documentary on the Holocaust, the RCHCC in Oaklands, Johannesburg, hosted a discussion between Holocaust experts Ronnie Mink, a veteran Jewish studies teacher and Tali Nates, director of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre.

Introducing them, Hazel Cohen, director of the RCHCC, said: “Both are steeped in Holocaust studies; both have taken many ‘Marches of the Living’.”

Mink and Nates were speaking of how Holocaust studies have developed since Lanzmann’s piece and also, how Shoah

shaped understanding of the Holocaust.

Mink introduced the story of Patrick De Bois – a partner in the JHGC – a French Catholic priest and grandson of a former prisoner of war in Europe. While still a child, he had been told by his grandfather of the war’s horrors, always acknowledging that the Jews suffered more. This inspired De Bois to search for Jewish graves in the area his grandfather had been imprisoned; he spent years finding hundreds of mass graves all over Europe.

Mink reflected on how the period in which Shoah was made by default limited it. “Lanzmann concentrated on one aspect of the Shoah: the gassings. In fact, current research has revealed to us that more people were killed by bullets than

were gassed.”

Turning his focus toward Lanzmann’s representation of the Poles, Mink drew the audience’s collective mind’s eye to famous scenes in the film, explaining: “Several scenes in Shoah deal with Poles. After watching those scenes, you hate them. The greatest catalyst for change was Pope John Paul II. His contribution forced Polish historians to relook at the history, rewrite it and admit to their wrongdoing.”

Nates continued: “For 20 years after the Holocaust, the world was philosophising about it. Was it intentionalist? Was it functionalist? Then comes the mid-1980s and Lanzmann portrays a world before genocides like Darfur, Bosnia, Rwanda.

“After the fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, archives were opened; tons of Holocaust documents became accessible.” She commented on statistical discrepancies about the number of people who died in different camps.

“The numbers of bodies in mass

graves weren’t spoken of. While Lanzmann focuses on the main concentration camps, he doesn’t reveal, or didn’t know, that there were, in fact, thousands. Moreover, there were over 6 000 Polish Catholics who proactively saved Jewish lives – another fact only revealed in the 1990s.

“In the 1990s, Christopher Browning’s Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland, revealed how many regular people were involved in killing Jews, in areas where there was no SS presence. Hitler was less powerful than we have been led to believe.

“Also in the last 20 years, it has been debated when the ‘final solution’ began. For so long, it was understood to have been decided at the Wannsee Conference, on January 20, 1942. But research questions this: while Wannsee may have been the ‘hechsher’ formalising what was going on, it was too late. Already in 1941, millions were dead.”

Selwyn Segal benefits hugely from Chai FM’s radiothon



Photo: Ilan Ossendryver
Rebbetzen Aidel Kazilsky; Kathy Kaler; Thabo Scotch; and Niki Sebrini.

SHIRA DRUION

In 2009, the Johannesburg community witnessed what Chai FM and the Jewish community could achieve in fundraising in just one day of collaborating in generosity for a good cause. This year’s effort raised some R2 million.

The annual Chai FM radiothon has become an event that is synonymous with big smiles and a warm team spirit that filters through to the hearts of the hundreds of donors and listeners participating in the grandeur that giving is all about.

This year, Chai FM CEO Kathy Kaler and marketing manager Ronel Zeff and their team, offered the community the chance to vote for what they believe is the most worthy charity. The three top charities voted were The Selwyn Segal, Bnei Akiva and The Union of Jewish Women.

Selwyn Segal won with a landslide majority, as an institution that upholds with great care and sensitivity, the dignity of the mentally and physically handicapped.

Kaler was delighted by the response of the community. “I think that the radiothon is a platform to reflect how very unique, united, generous and empathetic our community is. I love that we took direction from the community members by allowing them to vote for the cause that they felt would be most worthy.

“Selwyn Segal is a dynamic and caring

organisation with a legacy of excellence, so evident by how well the community responded. It was an overwhelming experience.”

Singer Danny K participated as one of Chai FM’s guests. “From my earliest recollection of social responsibility, I have so many memories of going to visit the Selwyn Segal as a King David learner. They do wonderful work and I was astounded by the generosity of the community. “

Saul Tomsom, Chief Revenue Officer of the Chevrah, was elated by the philanthropic response from the community. “When the residents of the Selwyn Segal were told that they had been selected, they broke out in elation and gumboot dancing. I think that the radiothon sends them a wonderful message that they are supported and loved by the community.

“My sincere hope is that the radiothon has been successful in breaking down boundaries between the Selwyn Segal and the community and that more people will visit, have them for Shabbos and engaged with them on a more regular basis.”

Dancer and performer Talia Kodesh participated as one of the guests in the studio and commented: Selwyn Segal is one the great pillars of our community. It represents what the community is all about - true charity. It is inspiring to think that there’s a radiothon platform for people to express who they truly are, which is good and charitable.”

Chag Sameach

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France gives highest honour to Simone Veil, ex-politician who survived Auschwitz



PARIS - Simone Veil, a French politician and Holocaust survivor, has been awarded France's highest honour.

French President Francois Hollande presented Veil, 85, with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour at the Elysee Palace on September 10.

Veil, a lawyer, served as minister of health under the centre-right government of Valery Giscard d'Estaing and later as president of the European Parliament, as well as a member of the Constitutional Council of France.

She was imprisoned at Auschwitz but managed to escape the Nazi death camp.

Fewer than 70 people have received the Grand Cross since Napoleon Bonaparte established it in 1802. Earlier this year Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress, received the lesser title of Knight of the Legion of Honour.

An announcement by CRIF, the umbrella organisation representing French Jewish communities, described Veil as "one of France's most cherished personalities and someone who plays an important role in keeping her camp from succumbing to the temptation of allying with the Front National" nationalist party.

"Her name is associated with women's equality, the memory of the Shoah and the European community," CRIF added. (JTA)

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El Al ending flights to Cairo

JERUSALEM - El Al has said it is discontinuing its weekly flights to Cairo.

In a letter published last week Sunday in the daily Maariv, El Al Airlines CEO Eliezer Shkedi said Israel's official airline could not afford the high security and operating costs for the nearly empty flights, according to news reports.

The airline declined comment. Irena Etinger, spokesman for Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, confirmed the letter.

The letter, addressed to Lieberman, did not say when the flights would end.

Under the 1979 peace accord, the two countries agreed to provide flights. Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said if El Al cancelled its service, another airline must provide Cairo flights, according to The Associated Press. (JTA)



The Jewish World *in seven seconds*

Arutz Sheva, West Bank, Israel:
www.israelnationalnews.com
"Arab youth use Jewish cemetery as playground"
A video taken at Jerusalem's Mount of Olives cemetery shows Arab youngsters jumping on graves. The behaviour was thought to be a new development, but Dr Dotan Green, an expert, reveals it dates back 90 years.

The Australian Jewish News, Sydney, Australia:
www.jewishnews.net.au
"Q&A's Rosh Hashanah shame"
Israel was accused of "ethnic cleansing of Palestine" and compared to apartheid SA during a debate on ABC's programme Q&A. Israeli historian Ilan Pappé claimed the "Jewish establishment" continues its ethnic cleansing.

Baltimore Jewish Times, Maryland, USA:
www.jewishtimes.com
"Rabbis for Obama"
Rabbi Susan Grossman, of Columbia, said President Barack Obama provided "clear vision to many of the key issues important to Jewish values, including assisting the poor and elderly, supporting women's rights and expanding healthcare access to the masses".

New Jersey Jewish News, New Jersey, USA:
www.njewishnews.com
"Community mourns pair killed"
Jews mourned a couple killed walking from shul at Young Israel, East Brunswick before Rosh Hashanah. Ari and Sari Horowitz, both 51, died; three others were critically injured when a car struck them.

Alliance, Le Premier Magazine Juif sur le net, Paris, France:
www1.alliancefr.com
"Four graves in the Jewish cem-

etry desecrated at Uccle"
Shortly before Rosh Hashanah, bones were discovered on the ground at the Jewish cemetery in Uccle. Four coffins were taken from their niches in a vault dating to the WW2.

The Algemeiner, Brooklyn, NY, USA:
www.algemeiner.com
"Romney clarifies red lines on Iran"
Shortly after Rosh Hashanah, in a conference call for American rabbis, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney called for Iranian President Ahmadinejad to be indicted, and the US to treat Iran as it did apartheid SA.

Canadian Jewish News, Ontario, Canada:
www.cjnews.com
"New Consul General BDS expert"
Israel's new consul general to Toronto and Western Canada, DJ Schneeweiss (47), wants to pick up where his predecessor, Amir Gissin, left off in helping Canadians connect with Israel. Schneeweiss' background is in hasbarah on the BDS file.



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Year past and year beginning

The Jewish New Year of 5773 brings optimism as well as anxiety. In our own backyard, SA Jewry remains vibrant and diverse, despite shrinking from its 1970s peak of 130 000 to some 70 000 today, with Jews involved in a myriad areas. Involvement in national politics has diminished, though.

As a minority in multicultural SA, with its history of racial and ethnic division, Jews feel general acceptance, although all minorities, particularly whites, still feel nervous criticising the ANC and government lest they be accused of racism. Relationships with other faiths - including Muslims - remain relatively healthy.

An area which worsened in recent years - including 5772 and looking to continue in 5773 - is public perceptions of Israel. Older Jews remember its positive image in the '60s and '70s. Today, as a consequence of many factors, including South African political shifts, developments on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and radical Islam's growth, this has changed.

Shifts in government attitude are becoming more apparent, though formal policy still supports a two-state solution and "correct" ties with Israel. For example, calls by Dep Minister of International Co-operation and Development Ebrahim Ebrahim, for South Africans not to visit Israel in official capacities; attempts to garner Muslim political support in the W Cape by the other deputy minister in the Dep of International Co-operation and Development Marius Fransman, by showing clear pro-Palestinian ANC sentiments and attempts by Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies, to require relabelling of goods from Israel manufactured fully or partially in the West Bank.

Presentations on this issue were made last week to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry by the SAZF, SAJBD and Open Shuhada Street. The SAZF and SAJBD ask why Israel is being targeted specifically, when other situations of "disputed territories" are ignored, raising suspicions of a political agenda rather than fair implementation of regulations. Open Shuhada Street aligns with the BDS movement - "relabelling" is part of a broad agenda to isolate Israel.

Internationally, similar suspicions exist. NGO monitor reports that Oxfam International has released only three statements and petitions condemning Syrian violence, in which some 20 000 civilians have been killed.

In the same time-frame, Oxfam condemned Israel in at least nine statements. And by comparison during the three-week 2008 - 2009 Gaza war, with far fewer casualties, 10 condemnatory statements were released. NGO monitor says: "Oxfam's double, systematic bias and obsession with Israel is inconsistent with its humanitarian mission, and has turned this organisation into a political actor in the conflict by participating in BDS campaigns and similar activities. As a result of this skewed agenda, Oxfam has failed other victims around the world - most glaringly, in Syria."

On a positive note, Israel continues thriving despite internal problems and external threats - anyone who goes there feels its robust energy. Its economy weathered the global economic meltdown from 2008 very well, and continues growing.

In South Africa, the traditionally cordial relationship between Muslims and Jews continues; a kind of truce exists between them and they work well together in interreligious forums. Noticeably, no anti-Jewish or anti-American protests occurred here over the anti-Islam film posted on YouTube recently, which provoked outrage and street protests worldwide - although all SA Muslims will have been offended by it.

So what can we ask of 5773? The biggest prize would be progress in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Locally, let's hope for continuing SA political stability to flow from the Mangaung conference in December, despite alarming signs of a dangerous split in the ANC, and that we not lose sight of Nelson Mandela's "rainbow nation" ideal we aspired to a decade ago.

Condolences to the Palestinians

An engaging personality often invited to Israeli embassy gatherings was Palestinian Ambassador Ali Halimeh, who has passed away. We express condolences to his family and President Mahmoud Abbas, and hope his replacement will display equally peace-seeking attitudes.



Obama defends his relationship with Netanyahu in an interview

JTA STAFF

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama has defended his handling of tensions with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a "60 Minutes" segment that contrasted his style with Mitt Romney's.

The segment on Sunday featuring separate interviews played like a prelude to the debates next month between the two candidates for the presidency.

Romney, the Republican candidate, targeted Obama for turning down Netanyahu's request for a meeting with both leaders in New York this week to address the UN General Assembly.

"I think we also have to

communicate that Israel is our ally - our close ally," said Romney, the former Massachusetts governor. "The president's decision not to meet with Bibi Netanyahu, prime minister of Israel, when the prime minister is here for the United Nations session, I think, is a mistake and it sends a message throughout the Middle East that somehow we distance ourselves from our friends and I think the exact opposite approach is what's necessary."

Netanyahu pressed for a meeting because of accelerating tensions with Iran over its suspected nuclear weapons programme.

Obama's aides noted that the president leaves New York before Yom Kippur, on

Wednesday, and that Netanyahu arrives afterward. They also pointed out that Obama has not scheduled any one-on-one meetings with foreign leaders during the General Assembly.

Obama told the CBS news-magazine he did not regard as pressure Netanyahu's public complaints about the Obama administration's failure to draw red lines for Iran.

"Well, look, I have conversations with Prime Minister Netanyahu all the time," Obama said. "And I understand and share Prime Minister Netanyahu's insistence that Iran should not obtain a nuclear weapon because it would threaten us, it would threaten Israel and it would threaten the world and kick

off a nuclear arms race."

Pressed on whether Netanyahu's statements constituted pressure, Obama said: "When it comes to our national security decisions, any pressure that I feel is simply to do what's right for the American people. And I am going to block out any noise that's out there. Now I feel an obligation, not pressure but obligation, to make sure that we're in close consultation with the Israelis on these issues because it affects them deeply. They're one of our closest allies in the region. And we've got an Iranian regime that has said horrible things that directly threaten Israel's existence." (JTA)

Ahmadinejad maintains that Israel has 'no roots' in the history of the Middle East

JTA STAFF

NEW YORK - Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says Israel has "no roots" in the history of the Middle East.

Ahmadinejad made his comments on Sunday to reporters at the United Nations before speaking at a UN General Assembly high-level meeting on the rule of law.

"Iran has been around for the last seven, 10 thousand years. They (Israel) have been occupying those territories for the last 60 to 70 years, with the support and force of the Westerners. They have no roots there in history," the Iranian leader said of Israel.

Ahmadinejad made his comments a day after UN

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned him to tone down his rhetoric, according to reports.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Ron Prosor, walked out of the meeting along with the rest of the Israeli delegation.

"The leader of a lawless country that repeatedly violates the basic principles of rule of law has no place in this hall," Prosor said.

Ahmadinejad also told reporters on Monday that Iranian leaders "do not take seriously the threats of the Zionists."

"We have all the defensive means at our disposal and we are ready to defend ourselves," he said. (JTA)



German Rabbinic ordination shows contrasts



TOBY AXELROD
COLOGNE

For four men in Germany, this Jewish New Year was like no other. It was their first year as ordained rabbis, working to help build Jewish life in the very country that nearly succeeded in wiping out European Jewry.

In ceremonies two weeks ago at the Roonstrasse Synagogue in Cologne (pictured), Daniel Fabian; Jonathan Konits; Reuven Konnik; and Naftoly Surovtsev - graduates of the traditional Orthodox Rabbinerseminar zu Berlin - were ordained, with Rabbi Chanoch Ehrentreu of England officiating. In all, eight graduates of the three-year-old seminary - the successor to Berlin's original Hildesheimer Rabbinical Seminary - have now received their ordination, or smicha, including two in 2009 in Munich and two in 2010 in Leipzig.

The event, two weeks ago, which drew religious and political leaders and much media attention, highlighted contrasts in life for Jews in Germany today. While new rabbis are being educated to serve a growing Jewish population, the nation has seen a rise in theoretical and corporal attacks on Jewish life, exemplified by the ongoing legal assault on the Jewish and Muslim tradition of circumcision and the recent brutal anti-Semitic beating of a rabbi in Berlin.

"To all those who now question Jewish life in Germany, I say this: Jewish life here is safe and must be safeguarded," said Dieter Graumann, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, which co-hosted the ceremony with the Rabbinerseminar.

The massive media attention to Germany's latest rabbinical ordination is important especially now, "when our tradition is under attack", said Rabbi Josh Spinner, executive vice president and CEO of the Ronald S Lauder Foundation and founding director of the Lauder Yeshurun, the collection of Jewish educational programmes in Berlin under the Lauder Foundation umbrella.

And "it is a celebration of the future leadership of the Jewish communities of Germany", he added. "These four guys mirror the Jewish demographic: All four live in Germany and got married in Germany. Two are from the former Soviet Union, one is American, one was born in Israel but raised in Germany."

For the four new rabbis, the swirl of public attention underscored that their private identity as students was about to change dramatically. Perhaps most remarkable is that for them, traditional Jewish life in Germany is not only possible but practically taken for granted.

"If you are in the middle of it, you don't think about it," Fabian told JTA a few days before the ceremony. "Sometimes when I go to Switzerland people tell me it's so amazing



Photo: Uri Strauss

Dayan Chanoch Ehrentreu and newly-ordained Rabbis Dani Fabian; Reuven Konnik; Naftoly Surovtsev; and Jonathan Konits, following their ordination ceremony at the Synagogue Community Centre in Cologne, Germany.

that Jews are living in Germany again. And then I think to myself: 'Yeah, you are actually right'."

Fabian, who has just turned 38, was born in Ramat Gan, Israel, to parents born in Romania. The family moved to Germany when he was six months old.

Konits, 30, has taken a position in Frankfurt with Jewish Experience, a new programme for young Jewish professionals. With original plans to combine his interests in psychology and teaching, the Swarthmore College graduate came to Germany from Baltimore on a Fulbright grant a few years ago. Konits' parents were hesitant initially about his decision to remain in Germany, "but those thoughts were taken away entirely when I got married and when their grandchildren came along", he said.

As for Jewish life in his adopted home, he is optimistic. "You would never believe how many secular Jews are just dying to get in" to the Lauder kindergarten and primary school, he said. "This would never occur in America."

The demand reflects the tremendous growth of the Jewish population in Germany since 1990. Some 200 000 people with Jewish backgrounds arrived in the past two decades from the former Soviet Union, pushing the number in Germany to about 240 000. (Some 105 000 of those with Jewish backgrounds are officially registered as Jewish, according to the Central Council of Jews in Germany).

Jewish education has been slow to catch up, particularly at the elementary and high school levels. But rabbinical training took off, at both the Liberal Abraham Geiger College in Potsdam and the Orthodox Rabbinerseminar. Chabad in Berlin also offers supplemental training to rabbinical students at its Yeshiva Gedola. The Rabbinerseminar chose to hold its third ordination in Cologne, where the seminary has close ties. One of the new rabbis - the Belarus-born Surovtsev - will remain in Cologne for the next year as an associate to Rabbi Yaron Engelmayer.

"We have a good and intensive relationship with the Beit Midrash," the original name of the yeshiva, Ebi Lehrer, 58, head of the board of the Cologne Jewish Community, told JTA.

Prior to the influx of former Soviet Jews, about 1 300 Jews lived in Cologne and there weren't enough youngsters to establish a school, Lehrer said. Now the Jewish

community exceeds 4 000.

"We have a pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and primary school, and a youth centre," said Lehrer, who dreams of educating a new generation of cantors. (Konnik, another newly-ordained rabbi, already works as cantor in Magdeburg.) Surovtsev, 25, had dreamed of being a lawyer or social worker, but his summer camp counsellors and teachers in Pinsk predicted that "one day I will become a rabbi". He started studying at the Lauder yeshiva immediately after his family moved to Germany six years ago and eventually transitioned to rabbinical studies.

His family is proud, "especially my

grandmother; her grandfather was also a rabbi", Surovtsev said.

When Surovtsev is asked how Jews can live in Germany today, he answers with his own question: "How can Jews live in Ukraine or Spain?"

For him, the biggest challenge is not combating anti-Semitism or defending religious freedoms, but rather encouraging pride in Jewish identity.

"I am trying to answer this challenge with my own example," Surovtsev said, "and hoping that my work as rabbi will show to the people that to be a Jew is very unique and wonderful thing." (JTA)

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Miriam Perkel stretches the reach of her comfort zone

Show: Miriam Perkel
Where: Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre, Oaklands (011)728-8088.
Until: October 7
REVIEWED BY
ROBYN SASSEN

It is not every day that you see an artist who has grown comfortable in one stylistic metaphor, have the courage to sweep beyond it with gestures outrageous as well as experimental. In an exhibition, held open over Yomtov by popular demand, the RCHCC hosts the work of Miriam Perkel.

In a body of 16 works, Perkel stretches the reach of her comfort zones in creating work that forces you to think. She shows some of her established work, engaging the genre of Jewish art that touches the trajectory stretching back to Chagall, and thence to the art made in European shtetls and the like. It's about allegory and metaphor as well as palatable images, easy on the eye. But then, this gentle body of work is juxtaposed with something much more volatile, and the more commendable for it. Choosing the mediums of mono-

print and fired glass, in which the image being made is never predictable or controllable, Perkel confronts head on the brutal massacre of the Marikana miners. She draws from newspaper analysis, published photojournalism and the like, allowing her body of references about with the horror of loss at the hands of a corrupt leadership to splay all the way to Picasso's Weeping Woman, which she quotes. Further, her glass pieces, which contain portrait and landscape gestures sealed into the body of the glass with heat, are about pearlescent texture and shattered mediums which



Miriam Perkel's "Outrage", enamel on glass and "Hen and Eggs", monoprint and watercolour on paper.



Photos: Robyn Sassen
Perkel's studio with an exciting sense of the unknown.

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THE PALACE ON BREAKA

A dance of local hospitality with Lolah the Ladybird (Pulane Sekepe); Twigg (Marike Smith) and Stinky the Stinkbug (Henck Conrey).

Photo: Supplied

Impeccable Goggas turns the world right on its head

Show: Goggas! National Children's Theatre, Parktown (011) 484-1584
Until: October 7

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

It's not every day you see a director pulling threads of a production together, from disparate places, yielding an utterly magical vision; not every day is the sum of a production equivalent to its parts. Francois Theron's direction of this play written by former South African Gill Katz (pictured, inset) sees its professional debut this season. And it's impeccable. It's a tale of a British Monarch butterfly (Abby Bryson) who, by dint of a convincing fake bloom on a hat, finds herself mistakenly in Africa. And thus begins her voyage of discovery, of Africa, of the spirit of giving endemic to its six-legged inhabitants, and of its music. The play has lovely developments which seldom turn syrupy; it offers beautiful insights into character, and embraces the whole catastrophe of problems one faces in the eye of immigration with witty succinctness. Beautifully arranged into the

compact space of the theatre, with a nifty set and a wardrobe of costumes that vie from cutesy animal-coveralls into a more contemporary reflection of character, Goggas will enthrall even your toddler who might not catch the story, but who will adore the bright colours. Primarily, though, constructed with a love intrigue and lots of side-stepping adventure and humour, it's geared for kids between 4 and 13. Led by Andre Lotter as (Antic the Ant), in army fatigues and with an antish sense of Afrikaner bravado, the show will take you from "sokkie" to boom-box to gumboot, without stepping on anyone's toes. It cites music from Johnny Clegg and Mango Groove and more that reaches all the way back to Chris Andrews' 1969 hit "Pretty Belinda", and maintains a buoyant, contagious levity throughout. There are moments of such physical deliciousness that will make you, the adult accompanying the child smile with abandon, and there are moments of cultural intersection, bringing Lolah the Ladybird (Pulane Sekepe) out as a busy, busy Indian mum, full of hospitality.

This theatre's audiences last saw Devon Flemmer and Nomonde Matiwane in Charlotte's Web. They glow with even more characterisation and polish here, as Conrad the Chameleon who believes in his ability to pretend, not unlike Freddie Mercury, and has a heart as soft as his costume is pretty; and Bafana the Bumble Bee who anachronistically suffers from honey allergy. Both come close to stealing the show in their almost tart vignettes; one replete with eating a potential friend; another revolving around a tribunal of beeish sorts. The more seasoned Dolly Louw is Queen Bee, who's not only astutely cast, but like even ensemble performers, Henck Conrey and Marike Smith, carries her role with the internal commitment you recognise in big-headlined shows. Goggas quite simply turns the world appropriately on its head, like kiddies' theatre should, but further, it's all home grown. Not only does it make you think kindly of the creatures you stamp on when you see them in your home, it offers palpable hope in its storyline, and moreso, for the industry.

BlackBerry boss thanks South Africa

Research in Motion boss Thorsten Heins was in South Africa last week to brief mobile networks on the new BlackBerry phones. And, he told ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK in an exclusive interview, to thank South African customers for their loyalty.

South Africa will be a vital cog in the machine that Research In Motion (RIM) is building now to restore BlackBerry’s global image early in 2013.

The country’s importance to RIM was acknowledged in the most direct fashion by its CEO, Thorsten Heins, when he made a quiet arrival in Johannesburg last week.

He was here to brief local networks on plans for the launch of the new Blackberry 10 range of phones but, in doing so, also paid tribute to one of RIM’s most loyal markets.

“I want to say thank you to the South African customers of BlackBerry – they have created a tremendous success story, and they deserve our thanks and respect,” he said in an exclusive interview.

“South Africa is a priority one market for us, and we will acknowledge that with the launch of BlackBerry 10. There will be three waves in taking it to global markets, and South Africa and Nigeria are in the top range of Wave 1 launches.

“We will pay tribute to our customers here by delivering BlackBerry 10 in South Africa when it is launched.”

Despite a formal and – when he was first appointed – almost forbidding image during appearances on stage at events, Heins in person is engaging, amiable, honest and open to any questions about RIM.

The most difficult of these is how he expects to turn around the key American market, that is all but lost to BlackBerry. He does not shy away from it.

“In the US, we are clearly a turnaround case. In the rest of the world we are still growing our overall global subscriber base. Other regions in the world are more than compensating for losses in the USA”

“The market in the USA was driven by a tectonic shift to full touch screens and to LTE (4G connectivity) in a very short time frame in the enterprise space.

“All the money from the carriers is going to 4G. That is why we have lost and are still losing market share.

“There are two routes to recapturing that market. Firstly, we are working on our installed user base. So far the upgrade ratio has increased from eight per cent to 22 per cent in the last two quarters.

“The second thing is to get Blackberry 10 into the market and make sure it fulfils all users’ requirements, such as the full LTE experience.”

LTE, the next generation of high-speed mobile connectivity, is only expected to be

available in South Africa in 2013. Most developing markets are still moving from the basic telephony of 2G to 3G, and discovering the high cost of using data. As a result, the BlackBerry Internet Service, which puts a cap on that cost but not on usage, has been key to the brand’s success in these markets.


“In the US, we are clearly a turnaround case. In the rest of the world we are still growing our overall global subscriber base. Other regions in the world are more than compensating for losses in the USA.”

Last week Heins delivered a keynote address at the BlackBerry 10 Jam Americas conference in San Jose, where he announced further details of the new devices BlackBerry will launch at the beginning of next year.

Carlo Chiarello, RIM’s Executive Vice President, Smartphone Business, who travelled to South Africa with Heins, demonstrated two of the devices that are almost ready for launch to this writer.

One is a touchscreen phone using a new virtual keyboard developed by BlackBerry to learn a user’s writing style and predict likely words as the first letter of a word is typed. The other has a full QWERTY keyboard and, at first glance, will look familiar to users of BlackBerry’s Bold and Curve phones.

Heins confirmed that a total of six BlackBerry 10 devices will be launched during the



GOLDSTUCK ON GADGETS
Arthur Goldstuck

first quarter of next year.

While he would not be drawn on pricing and specifications of the devices, this appears to mirror the current strategy of offering a range of formats at price points that will cover a wide range of smartphone users. The strategy has been the key to BlackBerry’s success outside the US, and RIM hopes to replicate that success in the market that is regarded as key to its survival.

“It’s a new experience, but it is also a BlackBerry experience, and it is built to appeal to new users as well as people who know BlackBerry today.”

In the coming months, these promises will be unwrapped as Blackberry prepares to launch not only its new devices, but also a new lease on life.

- *The full interview with Thorsten Heins is available online at gadget.co.za. Follow Arthur Goldstuck on Twitter via @art-2gee to be kept up to date on the device releases.*





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ABOUT ZAPIRO, THE JEWS AND INTOLERANCE IN ARAB WORLD

Moira Schneider’s article in SAJR was a refreshing piece of reporting; the portion relating to Jonathan Shapiro (Zapiro) concerned me to the extent that I feel compelled to mention a few facts.

Although I hold no brief for Zapiro, he is accepted as one of the best and most widely published cartoonists today in South Africa.

One does not necessarily have to agree with his views and some may even question his motives: Is he a self-hating Jew? Who cares.

The answer lies in Schneider’s article where she quotes (Western Cape Premier) Helen Zille at the Cape conference as saying: “...the self-confidence of Jews turns the intended insult into a term of praise”.

We as Jews need to be tolerant and not allow propaganda or insults to upset our composure. A case in point is the violence perpetrated across the Muslim world in recent times, clearly showing lack of tolerance and discipline by a large proportion of Muslims.

A report in the same issue of the SAJR quotes a terrorist turned Shin Bet informant, describing how he witnessed the brutality of Hamas prisoners towards their own. If we look at the Arab world, we see this is the rule rather than the exception.

We need to believe in Jewish exceptionalism and not allow diversionary statements to pollute our ingrained ingenuity.

There will always be differing opinions and as long as we can agree to disagree, we will have shown ourselves to be tolerant and secure in ourselves as Jews.

Nathan Cheiman
Northcliff, Johannesburg

SAJR CAN PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN BRINGING CULTURES TOGETHER

In his latest editorial the editor refers to the necessity for more integration into the indigenous cultures.

A positive response to this thought could be the for SAJR to help organise classes for all ages to learn at least one the more dominant local African languages. This would be a big and important step for your readers to gain a greater understanding of the culture and traditions of the majority of South Africans.

Dr Jack Chernin
Hampshire, England

MUSICALLY FLOATING DOWN MEMORY LANE

It is always very interesting and nostalgic reading the intriguing, absorbing, meaningful and interesting articles on a musical theme in your columns, going back in time, when we stop to reminisce about the great musical moments of a bygone era.

Yes indeed we had the privilege of listening to and dancing to the likes of the top bands like Roy and Bez Martin, the evergreen Benny Michel and the Dockey Masterkeys groups, who were very popular at weddings.

Very entertaining too was the Dan Hill band and singer Artemis, well known to the crowds who frequented the Orange Grove Hotel. Another notable highlight was played out at the OK Tea Lounge in Johannesburg on a Saturday morning, where the all-ladies band of Fay Kleams did us proud with romantic hit tunes of yesteryear.

We also fondly remember the musical and variety shows held at Joubert Park on the weekends, ably compèred by the charismatic Monie Blake; the Plaza Theatre was also the venue for variety and talent shows on a regular basis.

Such was the vibe from the great past of song, music and laughter. As we fondly depart the scene, we realise that the song is ended, but the melodies will forever linger on, G-d willing.

Barney Segal
Johannesburg

FOR THE RECORD

Cyrildene Shul is only 70 years old!

In our Rosh Hashanah issue, we reported that Cyrildene Shul would be celebrating its 75th birthday this year. It will, in fact, be celebrating 70 years since its inception. The shul’s secretary, Rhona Flink explained that the shul’s community is currently working on a publication and will be hosting a party on November 25 to celebrate this milestone. She appeals to anyone who may have in the past been associated with the shul, to consider advertising in the publication, or attending the party. She may be contacted on (011) 616-3312 or cyrildeneskul@telkomsa.net

ROOM FOR DIFFERING VIEWS ON JEWISH COMMUNAL BODIES

We often read in the letters pages of the media how certain members of the Jewish community distance themselves from the fact that the South African Zionist Federation or the South African Jewish Board of Deputies represents them. That, of course, is their right and a reflection of the beauty of our democratic rights as citizens of South Africa.

In the same way, it could be argued that the Muslim Judicial Council does not speak for all Muslims, nor does the Anglican Archbishop speak for all Anglicans. In fact the government of South Africa does not speak for all its citizens.

It is impossible for one body or party to represent all its constituents. We humans are diverse and complicated peoples, with diverse and differing viewpoints. We form minorities and majorities and we differ in political and personal stances.

However, there is one body that prides itself for speaking for most of the Zionists in South Africa, namely the South African Zionist Federation, which has been around for nearly 115 years.

Because we live in a democracy and because the Jewish community upholds the freedom of choice that characterises it, it provides a safe space for differing opinions. Consequently there is no reason why those opposed to the SA Zionist Federation agenda should not stand for election on to the various committees within the formal structures of the community.

Every two years these organisations hold elections which are advertised widely in the community. Elected officials serve voluntarily and make huge personal sacrifices to serve their community.

It is on these committees that their voices will be heard in a democratic manner, and it is there where they can lobby to make the changes they deem necessary. All of this is possible if they are democratically elected, after which their opinions and their viewpoints will be given the requisite hearing commensurate with a true democratic process.

Being an armchair critic has never achieved anything for anyone.

Julie Berman
Director, SAZF Cape Council

CAN ANYONE HELP SCHAEFFER BUILD HIS FAMILY TREE?

Moshe Schaeffer of Jerusalem, says he found in one of my deceased grandparents’ photo albums a wedding invitation for Lynette (Geffen) and Stanley (Berelowitz).

Lynette is the daughter of Oscar and Hilda Geffen. she lived at 9th Road, Kew, Johannesburg. Stanley is the son of Issy and Sarah Berelowitz. He lived at 16 Metcalf Avenue, Highlands North. They were married on Sunday 17 August, 1980 in the Oxford Synagogue.

Schaefer writes: “My grandfather was Myron Hirschowitz. My mother says they are somehow related to the Hirschowitz family. I am trying to find them or more about them, to build that side of my family tree.

“If you know how I maybe able to find them or where I might be able to find more information about them, it would be a big help to me . Thank you for your help in this matter.”

Schaeffer may be contacted at schaefferfamilytree@gmail.com

FOR THE RECORD

Not all Anti-Fascist Committee members executed

In the article on the book which the late Joseph Sherman edited and translated in part, in the Rosh Hashanah issue on page 29, there is an error of fact. Ross Bradshaw, publisher of the publication elucidates that in 1948 the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee – which in its heyday comprised some 70 prominent Jews – was closed; 14 of its leading activists were arrested. After a long imprisonment, 13 members were executed on August 12, 1952, not all 70, as the article implies. We regret the error.



BRINGING HOPE TO CANCER SUFFERERS

Last week, Prof Jonathan Lewis (pictured), a King David Victory Park alumnus from 1975, a world-renowned oncologist and CEO of Ziopharm, a biomedical company listed on Nasdaq, which has recently produced a cancer drug that has been FDA approved, spoke at a King David Alumni Foundation breakfast. Introduced by Adrian Gore, of Discovery, chairman of the King David Alumni Foundation, Lewis spoke of his personal journey from oncologist to developing new cancer drugs for the 21st century.

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A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Jewish Affairs – Recording the South African Jewish Story

The Rosh Hashanah issue of the Board’s prestigious journal Jewish Affairs, has just come out. Now into its eighth decade, having first appeared in 1941, the journal is now widely recognised as being the Jewish community’s leading historical and cultural publication.

Today, it is available in both print and electronic form. It has been edited since 1999 by our Associate Director David Saks, whose writings will be familiar to Jewish Report readers.

Those wanting to subscribe to the latter version, can do so free of charge, and in addition each new issue is immediately uploaded onto the Board’s website (www.jewishsa.co.za). Many people still prefer to pay an annual subscription to receive the hard copy version, however, and in addition a subscription makes an ideal Yomtov gift.

I invite anyone who is not a subscriber to please consider becoming one, ideally by signing up for the printed version or at least to the electronic one. In addition to providing you with a host of new insights into our community, your participation will help ensure the continued viability of this important publication. For more information, write to the editor at david@beyachad.co.za.

Ambassador Ali Halimeh

The sudden passing of Ali Halimeh, the long-serving Palestinian Ambassador in South Africa, was regretted by all who knew and worked with him. This very much includes those of us at the SAJBD who interacted with him on frequent occasions over the years.

Despite our essentially coming from opposite sides in the Middle East debate, this interaction was always respectful and constructive. Mr Halimeh never failed to show us courtesy and consideration and



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

(unlike certain public figures in this country, who themselves are not even Palestinian), was always open to hearing our point of view.

He will be much missed, and we can only hope that the example he set will be followed not just by his successor, but by all those responsible for negotiating a just and lasting peace agreement between Israel and its Palestinian neighbours.

Unisa exams

We were fortunately able to negotiate an arrangement with Unisa whereby exams set just before the onset of Yom Kippur were brought forward by an hour for Jewish students to enable them to return home in good time.

Once again, I thank the university administration for their willingness to accommodate our students’ religious needs. This year has otherwise seen relatively few

Yomtov exam clashes for us to deal with. However, addressing this perennial issue has to be done on a year- by-year basis, with each new situation requiring a new solution to be negotiated.

I therefore urge all students, regardless of what institution they are studying at, to inform us in good time in all cases of exams being set on a Jewish holiday. The sooner we have all the facts to hand, the easier it will be for us to engage with the relevant institution in resolving the problem.

We are now into the second half of this month’s festivities, a time of joy and togetherness after the solemnity of the Yamim Noraim. I wish all of our community Chag Succot Sameach.

• Listen to Steven Gruzd on Jewish Board Talk on 101.9 Chai FM every Friday 12:00-13:00. Repeats Sundays, 11:00-12:00.



Dean of Jewish Life and Learning

Moriah College is an independent, co-educational, Jewish school based in Sydney, Australia. The College was founded in 1943 and is considered one of the leading Jewish day schools in the world with an enrolment of approximately 1760 students from Preschool to Year 12.

The Primary, Middle and High Schools of the College are located at a modern, purpose-built campus in Sydney’s Eastern Suburbs. Moriah has a history of developing students with a strong Jewish identity and consistently ranks academically amongst the top schools in New South Wales. The College is proud and protective of its Modern Orthodox Zionist ethos.

The College is seeking to appoint a Dean of Jewish Life and Learning (Dean) to promote an environment of excellence in formal and informal Jewish education, by enhancing and implementing a strategic and holistic plan, from Preschool to Year 12. As a senior member of the College Executive, the Dean will lead the College on all matters pertaining to its ethos. He or she will also lead the Jewish Life and Learning Management Team, as well as approximately 55 staff that provide those programs.

The ideal candidate will be an accomplished and dynamic Jewish educator with a strong intellect, who will command the respect of the Moriah community. He or she will display unquestionable commitment to the ethos of the College, and an ability to apply it in an inclusive manner.

To obtain a role specification, applicants should contact Darren Challis, the consultant advising the Board. Email: darren@challis.com.au or on +61 408 623 312. Applications close 19 October 2012.



KDHS Linksfield leads the digital charge with e-learning project

If you’re a ChaiFM listener, you may have tuned in for some of the fascinating interview by Niki Seberini (In Your Element, weekdays, 09h00-12h00) with Marc Falconer and Suzanne Sackstein earlier this month.

Marc, headmaster of King David High School Linksfield, and Suzanne, of the Information Systems Division at the Wits School of Economics and Business Sciences, chatted about e-learning (electronic) and m-learning (mobile). They looked at how these trends are changing lesson planning, teaching, learning, and the classroom dynamic, as well as the critical factors that lead to both electronic and mobile learning success.

KDL’s innovative pilot project

Marc has championed this year’s ground-breaking pilot project to turn two of the school’s Grade 9 classrooms into interactive e-learning spaces. He admits, “There is nothing more exciting right now than being a teacher.”

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Standard Bank Private Clients, facilitation by The Walnut Office and contributions by other donors, 50 randomly selected Grade 9s enjoy access to apps, tutorials, videos and mock exams on 50 iPads. The entire grade has also benefited from e-content, e-summaries and monthly “Financial Literacy Challenges” that Standard Bank Private Clients has facilitated.

The pilot bears testament to the world going wireless and to the powerful educational changes that accompany electronic and mobile learning.

Teaching is rapidly evolving

To start with, says Suzanne (who is researching tech trends with a focus on education), “digital learning changes the emphasis from teaching to learning”. And it’s no longer just about content, because learners can find out anything they need to know. It’s about context, complemented by the experience teachers bring to the table.

The challenge, however, is two-fold:

First, by its nature, e-learning requires that much of the learning takes place outside of the classroom. Moreover, students are likely to be accessing digital content using tablets or laptops in the classroom. This requires a considerable amount of accountability and self-discipline on the part of the learners.



Secondly, the change management component of driving e-learning in schools is often underestimated. Teachers are expected to radically change the way they teach. Not only do they have to introduce technology into the classroom, but they also have to transform themselves from educators to learning facilitators; from ‘Sage on the Stage’ to ‘Guide on the Side’.

Inter-school collaboration

KDL has emerged as a front-runner – even hosting a symposium in August for 23 fellow schools that are currently navigating e-learning and its classroom implementation.

It’s a case of ‘the more, the merrier’, as collaboration empowers schools to share digital knowledge, experience, tips, apps and advice. Marc says, “Our children are digital... Digital requires different methodologies. They are learning new skills, like evaluation, synthesis, collaboration...” and these should be shared.

Marc is also very positive about how e-learning can be used in less fortunate schools: lowering the costs of learning and textbooks and raising the standard of teaching.

This appears to be a case of KDL succeeding in meeting pupils where they are: online. As a school that has led the charge to embrace e-learning, KDL is on track to make the most of what Time magazine has called “a tool our parents could not have imagined [and] a lifeline we can’t do without”.

The SRC to lead KDHSVP this year



KDHSVP has announced its SRC for this year. Saul Maserow is Head Boy and Sarah Katzew is Head Girl. Pictured are: Jake Pencharz; Romy Joseph; Zoë Wein; Sarah Katzew (Head Girl); Adam Dison; Saul Maserow (Head Boy); Kayla-Jade Butkow; Shani Cohen; Jaimie Day; Alexa Schmidt; and Ricci-Lee Rogalsky. Saul Musker was absent.

Tzedakkah vase is a manifestation of YC grade R goodwill



Mike Baum, Selwyn Segal fundraising co-ordinator, with the Tzedakkah vase.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Yeshiva College grade R unit, for the fourth year in succession, supported Selwyn Segal during their Elul Tzedakkah Drive. The learners brought money for Selwyn Segal and made and pasted paper flowers which they coloured in and then pasted in the Tzedakkah vase. In conjunction with our flower vase project, the Selwyn Segal residents and the Grade R learners painted terracotta planters. To round off this wonderful initiative the Selwyn Segal residents visited the grade Rs for a morning of song and dance, biscuit icing and apples dipped in honey. The funds raised were handed over to Mike Baum, Selwyn Segal fundraising co-ordinator and the painted terracotta pots were swopped.

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Photo: Karen Sandler

One act festival of sheer delight

JENNA ECHAKOWITZ, GRADE 11

King David High Linksfield’s annual One Act Play Festival took place from Monday September 3, to Thursday September 6, with a diverse range of plays, from Athol Fugard’s Master Harold and the Boys to a learner rendition of How I met Your Mother. The actors were something to behold on their own, Ari Emmanuel’s cross-dressing character being a prime example, in a “very woody sort of way”. Other plays such as 2 Broke Girls had the crowd in stitches and a monologue by Natalia Blumenthal made more than a few pause for thought. It was a festival showcasing our school’s excellent directing and acting talent. Well done to all those involved.



Photo: Rory Rubin, Grade 9
Nicole Pantanowitz strutting her stuff as an over-zealous drama queen.

TA young create some snazzy handcraft for festivals



Photo: Suzanne Belling

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Children from Torah Academy Primary School have been busy making handcraft for the Jewish festivals, including miniature succahs for the upcoming festival of Succoth. Grade 5 girls are seen displaying their craft: Elki Sarchi; Nechama Dina Zwick; Menucha Fox; Shevi Sarchi; Hindy Feinblum; and Kayla Henen.

If the sheitel fits...

JOY COMAROFF

The grade one learners at King David Victory Park Primary School, were besides themselves with excitement as they tried on Morah Kareen’s sheitels. They were fascinated and enthralled, as to why a sheitel is worn by a married woman. Pictured are Vivienne Levitz; and Kate Lange; and at the back: Tamar Zimmerman; and Denica Stoltz.

Coming to grips with the history of our time



Photo: Jenna Echakowitz

CASSI-LEE GEWER AND JENNA ECHAKOWITZ, GRADE 11

An outing to Soweto is not something many people get to experience. The grade 11 history and drama learners of King David Linksfield, were privileged to have had such an opportunity. “Welcome to Soweto,” our tour guide begins by asking us if we are afraid of the crime in Soweto; the majority answer yes. Morena says he will not comment but rather make one statement, namely that any place in the world can be dangerous. This comes to life when we look out of our bus window onto faces smiling, citizens trying to signal for a taxi and ordinary men and women getting on with their daily lives. We arrive at where the Freedom Charter was written. “All national groups shall have equal rights... All people shall have equal rights to use their own languages, and to develop their own folk, culture and customs...” Our next site is former President Nelson Mandela’s house during apartheid. The red brick house, on Vilakazi Street, is quite shocking to see, when considering that one of the world’s most treasured men having lived there. Such a simple house for such a great man. We arrived at the site where Hector Pieterse was shot at the June 16 March in 1976.

Recalling agreement for German restitution – 60 years ago

Photo: Courtesy Claims Conference



It is 60 years after the historic agreement for German restitution. This photo captures the sombre mood at the time. Saul Kagan, founding executive director of the Claims Conference, right, is talking to Nahum Goldmann, founder and long-time president of the World Jewish Congress, 1958.



West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer signs the agreement that would provide individual compensation to Holocaust survivors, Luxembourg, September 1952.

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Ehud Olmert fined and sentenced for graft



JERUSALEM: Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has received a fine and a suspended jail sentence in a graft case. A Jerusalem court on Monday ordered him to pay a fine of about \$18 000 and gave him a one-year suspended sentence for a breach of trust conviction. He was convicted in

July of breach of trust for helping to allocate government contracts to a friend's associate. Having avoided stiffer penalties, Olmert has now become eligible again to run for parliament, though he remains barred from serving in a Cabinet post while he faces another corruption trial. (JTA)

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The enzyme that sharpens memory

**KARIN KLOOSTERMAN
REHOVOT**

Rats in an Israeli lab were able to form stronger memories after receiving a certain enzyme. In the future, this may have applications for humans.

Imagine never forgetting a single detail of your life... what you got for your 14th birthday, or the phone numbers of every one of your romantic interests. New science from Israel shows that this might be in the realm of possibility. The big question is: Would it be good for us?

The breakthrough Israeli-US research project, for the first time anywhere, has found a compound in the brain to enhance memory. Whether the enzyme responsible could ever be made into a “super pill” (like the one imagined in the science-fiction flick “Limitless” to boost brainpower) is quite speculative, says Reut Shema from Israel’s Weizmann Institute of Science.

As a doctoral student, she looked for a way to enhance rats’ memories by altering a naturally occurring protein. Her surprising research findings, published in the prestigious journal Science, may pave the way for memory-enhancement drugs for people suffering from conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease, or to modulate

the effects of traumatic memories. But perhaps most significant are the invaluable clues her research provides on how the memory mechanism really works.

Discovering that rats’ memories could be augmented by the enzyme protein kinase M zeta (PKMzeta) was pretty much a surprise, she tells Israel21c. No other lab in the world had been able to demonstrate similar results in animal models.

The researchers conditioned rats to connect the taste of sweet water to a feeling of nausea by adding lithium to the water, creating a weak memory and a negative association to that memory.

After a week of training - the equivalent of about 20 months on a human time scale - the researchers injected the rats with a virus, causing an increase in PKMzeta. That’s when the rats’ negative association to sweetness increased.

Previously, inhibiting PKMzeta in the brain has been shown to wipe out the long-term memory of rats. Shema’s project in collaboration with Dr Todd Sacktor, a neurology professor at SUNY Downstate Medical Centre in New York, explored what would happen if the levels of PKMzeta were instead increased. They guessed that memory would also be wiped



out, but the opposite occurred.

PKMzeta, which shows up between synapses of the brain, seems to boost the signals between neurons by improving their connectivity. This points to a channel in the brain that could strengthen memories that fade over time.

“There is a lot that needs to be done before it becomes a drug,” Shema tells Israel21c. “We are definitely hoping that it will lead in that direction. But we need to make clear that there is no activator for PKMzeta. We increased the level of the protein [in animal models] but that cannot yet be done in humans,” she explains. “You would need gene therapy, and there is a lot of research that

would need to be done first to increase the enzyme activity.”

Whether or not such a memory-enhancing drug should be used on normal, healthy populations is a controversial issue, Shema cautions. There would likely be undesirable side effects, both biochemical and psychological.

“There is good reason why we don’t remember everything that we do,” she says. “And this is why we were surprised that we could show that we could increase memory on healthy rats.”

Memories help us think about the past - not so much to remind us about the fun we had in first grade but to help us adapt to our current environment so we can handle it better, she adds.

“Memory is more about the future than the past. And for that we don’t need a super memory... Instead, memory needs to be very dynamic and react to the environment. Every time you retrieve a memory it changes it a little. It adapts to the situation.”

More study is needed on how this enzyme works. The next step will be to test it on rats with induced Alzheimer’s symptoms, Shema says. But this avenue of research will be pursued by other scientists, since Shema has finished her PhD in Israel and will be moving to the Broad Institute in the United States to work on neurodegenerative diseases as part of her post-doctoral experience. (Israel21c).

New solar device warms homes even in cold climates



**KARIN KLOOSTERMAN
PETAH TIKVAH**

Israel is the land of milk and honey - and solar water heaters. Practically every roof in Israel is fitted with a solar thermal collector to warm water for endless hot showers and hot water for the kitchen sink.

Taking the idea of solar thermal hot water heaters to the next level is Tigi Solar, a new Israeli company that was inspired by the busy bee.

The inside of Tigi’s solar energy collector looks like a honeycomb. This unique shape helps collect more sun power more efficiently than regular solar collectors - so efficiently that boiling hot water made from the sun can even be piped in to heat

homes. Tigi’s “Honeycomb Collector” is based on a “transparent insulation mechanism” developed by founder Shimon Klier, an Israeli industrialist. This approach increases the efficiency of the collector with minimal heat loss.

The result is a free and endless source of heat, even during the winter months in cold countries like Germany.

Historically, warm countries like Israel have led the way in developing and using solar thermal energy for heating water in rooftop tanks, but Tigi’s breakthrough technology aims to reduce national energy loads in cold countries, says Tigi’s CEO Zvika Klier, who is running the com-

pany based on his father Shimon’s patents dating back to the 1980s.

So great is the potential for Tigi to change the domestic energy landscape in Europe that it was awarded an Intersolar Europe prize in June.

“We minimise losses and create a situation where there is a meaningful difference in performance - this is huge, especially if you need water heated to a temperature much higher than the ambient temperature,” Klier tells Israel21c.

He explains: “If you take Canada, where over 40 per cent of the entire energy bill goes to heating, while at the same time you look at renewable energy solutions of solar thermal collectors - there are 16 million square metres of solar ther-

mal collectors installed for heating worldwide - almost all of them are installed in climates similar to Israel, and almost all go to domestic hot water.

“And why is this? Because this is where the current solution for heating water works well. Space heating, however, is 10 times the cost on the energy bill versus heating hot water. We want to take solar domestic hot water to cooler climates, to provide applications that supply more heat,” Klier explains.

Currently only one per cent of the 15 per cent of energy that goes to heating in Europe, comes from renewable sources, he says. “We are looking at the potential for dramatic growth and this is where we want to be. This is why we won the solar award recently.”

Tigi’s solar energy collector looks a lot like a photovoltaic PV panel or a solar thermal panel. But the inside is made from honeycomb-shaped collectors, a technology that creates hot water efficiently and rapidly, even in northern latitudes. The panels can be put on a roof or the wall of a building.

“The honeycomb holds air from circulating. It reduces losses to convection,” says Klier.

This twist was thought up by Klier’s father, who invented the honeycombs in the early 1980s oil crisis in Israel. One of the leaders in the textile business, Shimon Klier figured it made no sense to pay more money for hot water in his factories than for the salaries of his 12 000

employees. “That was a big red light for my father, who is a very technical person, and an innovator and entrepreneur,” says Klier.

His father went on to invent transparent insulation, the basis of the “Honeycomb Collector”. However, the idea got put on hold as energy prices plummeted in the early 1990s and was resurrected about five years ago when Klier was looking for the next big thing in hi-tech. He was formerly the CEO of 3DV Systems, which was sold to Microsoft, and president of Arel Communications, a distance learning company.

After doing due diligence on about 15 companies, he revisited his father’s idea and found himself intrigued.

“I thought this was more interesting by far than the opportunities out there in hi-tech,” he tells Israel21c.

Founded in 2007, Tigi is based in Petah Tikvah, Israel. The company employs 10 people and is funded privately by the Klier family and by private angel industrialists. (Israel21c)



Tigi’s “Honeycomb Collector” keeps more heat inside

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- UZLC hosts Mannie Zar, who will speak on “Aspects in the Life of Isaac Ochberg”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria, 0782-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (September 30)

- Second Innings hosts Hedy Davis, historian, researcher and editor of the Muizenberg Exhibition, on “Muizenberg - the Early Hotels and the Balabostes who Made the Village Strong”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Information: Grecia (011) 532-9718.

- Hospice Flea Boot Market at the Checkers Car Park on Barry Hertzog Avenue in Emmarentia. Every first, and last, Sunday of each month from 08:00 until 13:00. An assortment of goods, new and second hand. Bric-a-brac, honey, plants, hardware, furniture, antiques and special presents. Information: Madeline (011) 794-5464 or Amanda at Hospice (011) 728-1052.

Wednesday (October 3)

- WIZO Forum invites you

to “Come Celebrate in the Succah!” Nicole Landau will speak on “Making Meaningful Changes in Your Life - New Year’s Resolutions that Last Longer than a Good Night’s sleep”. As well as presentation of Rebecca Sieff Awards. No charge. All welcome. Refreshments served. Oxford Shul Succah. Contact Sandy: (011) 645-2515.

- UJW CT adult education division hosts Sedick Isaacs, who will talk on “Education in a Seriously Hostile Environment” Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (October 4)

- Histadrut Ivrit will be celebrating Succot at the Oxford Shul succah. Time: 10:30. Rabbi Yossi Chaikin will be the guest speaker. Refreshments will be served. Hebrew speakers most welcome. Contact: Shulamit (011) 882-9221.

Sunday (October 7)

- Second Innings hosts Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft on the presentation and launching of his book,

- Israeli folkdance - health and fun, every Wednesday at 20:00 at King David Sandton. Beginners at 18:30. Contact Anat 083-326-7095, Miri 082-773-8248 or Ora 083-288-7202.

- Join WIZO every Thursday for a “Lunch & Learn” shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz, 13:00 - 14:00 at Beyachad. Information: Joyce, (011) 640-2416.

- Stellenbosch Hebrew Congregation has a weekly Friday evening service in shul, at 18:45. Contact (021) 886-5257.

- The Yiddish Academy offers weekly basic, intermediate and advanced classes on Monday evenings at 19:30, Tuesday mornings at 10:30 and Thursday evenings at 19:30 at the RCHCC, Glenhove Road, Houghton. Conversational groups. E-mail yiddishacademy@gmail.com or call Hazel Cohen on (011) 728-8088.

- Supervised bridge with Jeff Sapire Tuesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (intermediary) and Wednesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (advanced), at the Clive M Beck Auditorium. Booking:

- Orchid Florist, a project of WIZO Johannesburg, offers beautiful arrangements of flowers and fruit for every occasion. No occasion too large or too small. Contact Annette (011) 728-4513.

- JWBS Johannesburg, urgently requires second-hand clothing, kitchenware, household goods, books and bric-a-brac for its secondhand shop. Contact (011) 485-5232.

- Celebrating a bar-/batmitzvah? Why not give a donation to WIZO’s bar-/

“The Travelling Rabbi - My African Tribe”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

- Hospice Flea Boot Market at the Checkers Car Park on Barry Hertzog Avenue in Emmarentia. Every first, and last, Sunday of each month from 08:00 until 13:00. An assortment of goods, new and second hand. Bric-a-brac, honey, plants, hardware, furniture, antiques and special presents. Information: Madeline (011) 794-5464 or Amanda at Hospice (011) 728-1052.

Wednesday (October 10)

- UJW CT adult education division hosts Karen Kallman Robins, who will talk about “Travelling With Our 4 Children Through Jewish Iran”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Sunday (October 14)

- Second Innings hosts Scully Levine, retired SA Airways captain currently flying Mango, on “The Role of the Black Box in Aircraft Accident Preven-

tion and as a Tool That Enhances Safety”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

- Batmitzvah project in Israel? You get a beautiful certificate to give to the bar-/batmitzvah child here. Certificates are available from WIZO tel (011) 645-2548.
- Second Innings runs a series courses and activities including scrabble, bridge, discussion groups, play reading groups, women’s and men’s reading groups, symphony concert rehearsals, bowls, pilates, Yogic Pranayama, walking and aerobics, Golden Oldies Cine Club, weekly workshops (by arrangement) on “falls education for the elder adult”, and organises regular activities. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

- Don’t miss the opportunity to do a mitzvah. Visit the Selwyn Segal Shop. Gifts priced from R45. Glassware, pewter, silver, white ceramics and Selwyn Segal products. Phone: (011) 485-1344 or (011) 640-5171.

- The JHGC, The United Nations Information Centre and The Liliesleaf Trust invite you to the opening of the exhibition “Lessons from Rwanda” to be held at Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia. RSVP

tion and as a Tool That Enhances Safety”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

- WIZO Etgar invites you to visit three of Johannesburg’s prettiest gardens. There will be a guest speaker and a sumptuous tea. Cost R190 per person. Bookings: Helen Maisels Trisk, 083-267-2607. Credit card bookings can be made through Sandy on (011) 645-2515.

Sunday (October 21)

- Second Innings hosts Robin Binckes, owner of a tour company, on “Twenty Thousand Years in Sixty Minutes”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Wednesday (October 31)

- Second Innings has arranged a guided tour to the Voortrekker Monument. It’s wheelchair-friendly and wheelchairs are available. Meet the bus at 08:45 in front of Golden Acres. Cost: R120 includes the bus and the tour. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Thuli (011) 640-3100 or thuli@jhbholocaust.co.za. The exhibition runs from 5th – 26th July 2011.

- Benarc Gift Shop - Gift presentations for all occasions, made to order. Call (011) 485-5232, JWBS. All kosher under the Beth Din. Proceeds to support the less fortunate in our community.

- Elise WIZO Gift Shop has an exciting range of gifts now available for the Jewish New Year. Contact (011) 620-2760 or call in at Genesis, Bradfield Drive, Fairmount. Open Sundays.

- Chabad House hosts a series of events throughout the year. Chai Seniors - Holistic & Kabbalistic Nourishment”. Daily programmes: Men’s Kolel Mon-Fri at Chabad House Library, 09:00 -11:00, followed by lunch. Ladies Kolel Tuesdays & Thursdays. Special programmes: Mondays: Brain Worx with occupational therapist, Cynthia Liptz for brain exercises, 09:00 – 13:00. Both men and women welcome. Tuesdays: Guest lectures. For more info contact Rabbi Ari Kievman (011) 440-6600 or e-mail rak@chabad.org.za



Dean Furman appears to have at least put himself on a shortlist of players to represent South Africa in next year’s African Cup Of Nations.

Furman a Bafana Bafana ‘sensation’

JACK MILNER

The dust has settled and Dean Furman is back in the UK, ecstatic to have played his two matches for Bafana Bafana. For the record, Furman is the second Jewish player to line up for Bafana Bafana. The first was Warren Lewis, who played for Orlando Pirates and Moroka Swallows. Lewis earned his first cap for the South African national football team in a 2000 Cosafa Cup semifinal against Zimbabwe. His only other appearance for South Africa came in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Congo in Pointe Noire in September that year.

After a few seasons at Moroka Swallows, Lewis became shomrei shabbat and therefore did not play matches on Saturdays. In 2009, he coached the Maccabi SA side. For Furman life has changed quite dramatically. Plying his trade as the captain of English third-tier side Oldham Athletic, he could have been forgiven for thinking he may never get the chance to represent the land of his birth. Yet the 24-year-old former Chelsea trainee, who is currently playing in League One, has become an overnight sensation after starring for Bafana Bafana in September’s friendlies. He made his debut in a 1-0 defeat by Brazil in Sao Paolo and then gave a man-of-the-match display in the 2-0 win over Mozambique, which has ensured he is firmly in contention for a place in the squad for the 2013 African Nations Cup on home soil.

“Everyone wanted to impress the new management team and hopefully we will get better and better the closer we get to the tournament. “I never gave up hope - I never give up on anything because that’s the type of person I am,” the Cape Town-born player told BBC Sport. “Obviously League One doesn’t get much coverage back in South Africa, but I

just tried to do my best for Oldham in the hope that someone would be watching me and taking notice. “It was an amazing experience to finally play for Bafana Bafana and it was great to get the win in front of the home fans.” He added: “I wouldn’t say I’ve established myself yet, but now I need to go back to Oldham, put in some good performances and hopefully the coach will take notice of me again.” Despite new Bafana Bafana coach Gordon Igesund’s decision to select him without ever seeing him play live, Furman believes he has settled nicely into international football. “I enjoyed the experience a lot; everyone made me feel comfortable and it was great to get out there and show what I could do. The extended time of this trip meant I was able to get to know all the players and the other staff.

“I think we can take a lot of encouragement from the last two games. We were really unlucky to lose the match against Brazil and now we have to build on that.” Igesund has already hinted that he is hoping to take a look at several other European-based players before he names his final Afcon squad, with Norwich City’s Andrew Surman and Ricardo Nunez of Slovaksians MSK Zilina both understood to be in contention for a friendly in Poland in October. For now, the newest recruit to the Bafana Bafana set-up is confident Igesund is building a side capable of challenging for the title they first won in 1996. “The coach put his point across from the get-go,” he said. “He sat us down at the first training session in Brazil and told us exactly what was expected from us as players. We worked really hard because everyone wanted to impress the new management team and hopefully we will get better and better the closer we get to the tournament.”

Israel is back in Davis Cup World Group

JACK MILNER

While South Africa was handed a 4-1 hiding by Canada in Montreal, a heroic performance by Amir Weintraub two weeks ago, booked Israel’s return to the Davis Cup World Group after a two-year absence. Weintraub overcame cramp and a player ranked 170 places above him to give Israel a 3-2 victory over Japan in Tokyo, beating Go Soeda 6-3 7-6 (7-5) 4-6 6-3 in the fifth and decisive rubber. The best-of-five-match tie was locked at 2-2 after Dudi Sela (98 in the world) suffered a heart-breaking 6-3 3-6 4-6 6-4 7-5 loss to Japan No 1 Kei Nishikori (ranked 16) in the first match, which was a four hour and 31 minute classic. That put both Weintraub and Soeda under great pressure in the final rubber of the tie and it was the Israeli who rose to the occasion. Since falling 4-1 to Chile in March 2010 and dropping out of the World Group, Israel had twice just missed out on regaining its place among the world’s top 16 nations, losing at home in the fifth and final rubber to Austria in 2011 and to Canada last year. However, Weintraub took the extra step for the blue-and-white. After claiming a surprise win over Nishikori, Weintraub, ranked 223 in the world, opened a quick two-set lead over Soeda (ranked 53) thanks to a superb start. Soeda fought back to take the third set and had a break point in the first game of the

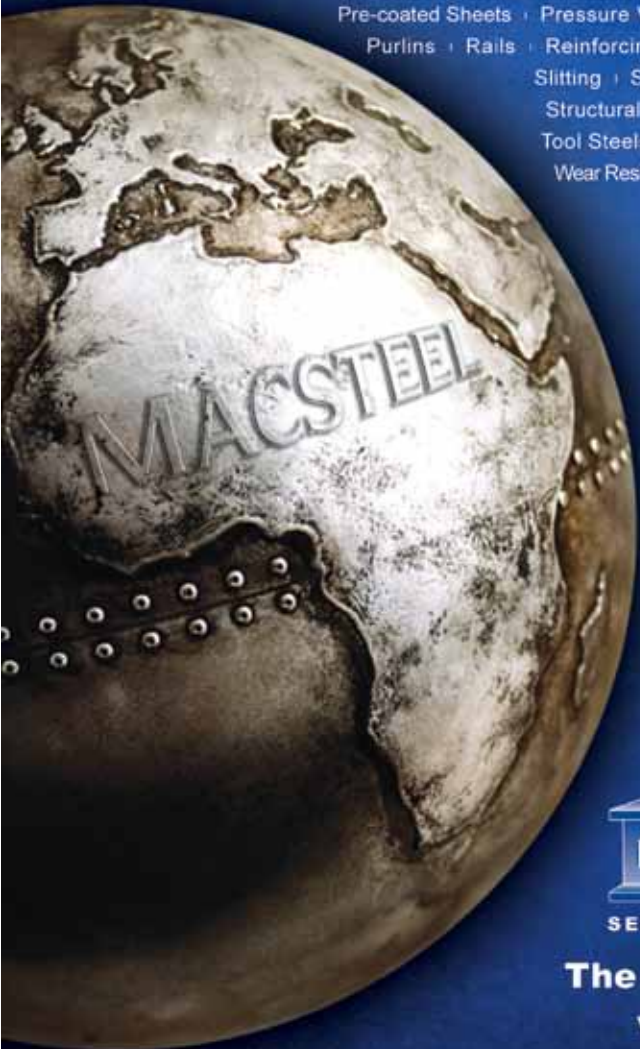



Amir Weintraub is congratulated by his teammates following Israel’s victory over Japan in their Davis Cup tie in Tokyo. fourth set, with Weintraub visibly suffering from cramp in his left leg. However, the weather came to Weintraub’s rescue, with a rain break allowing the Israeli, who celebrated his 26th birthday last week Sunday, to receive treatment in the dressing room. The crucial break in the fourth set arrived in the fourth game and Weintraub held his cool to clinch the most memorable win of his career. “Last year I beat Milos Raonic of Canada in the Davis Cup on my birthday and this year I helped the team to the World Group. Hopefully next year I can celebrate with a win in the semifinals,” an overjoyed Weintraub told the Jerusalem Post . “We may not deserve to be in the World Group when you consider our rankings, but we deserve it because of our heart.”

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World News in Brief

Discussions underway on shortening Israel’s workweek

JERUSALEM - A proposal to make Sunday a day off from work and school, advanced in Israel. A political truce in recent weeks between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who opposed the change, and Vice Premier Silvan Shalom, who has been pushing for a shorter workweek for years, has given new life to the proposal, The Jerusalem Post reported. Representatives of a committee appointed by Netanyahu discussed ways of testing the initiative with

Shalom’s advisers last week Wednesday and are due to meet this week, according to the paper. The committee is headed by Eugene Kandel, the chief of Israel’s National Economic Council. A pilot project giving off one Sunday a month might be implemented as a test. A source close to Kandel told the Post that the committee would publish its findings immediately after the Jewish High Holidays season ends next month. (JTA)