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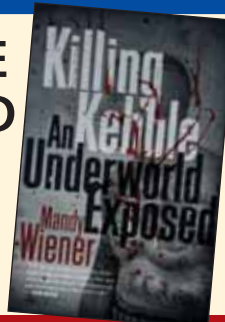


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Friday, 29 April 2011 / 25 Nissan, 5771

Volume 15 Number 15

## Auschwitz barmitzvah for Oscar-winner Lustig

Rabbi Mark Blazer  
drapes a tallis  
around the shoulders  
of Hollywood  
producer Branko  
Lustig, producer of  
'Schindler's List', who  
will celebrate his bar  
mitzvah at Auschwitz  
on May 2.  
(DAVID SPRAGUE /  
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS)

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Kedoshim		
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17:50	18:41	Cape Town
17:06	17:56	Durban
17:26	18:16	Bloemfontein
17:21	18:13	Port Elizabeth
17:14	18:05	East London



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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Serve G-d, not self



PARSHAT KEDOSHIM

Rabbi Gidon Fox  
Pretoria Hebrew Congregation

GROWING UP in Johannesburg, there was one creature that really “gave me the creeps”. It was none other than the “Parktown Prawns”. I haven’t seen them for quite some time, but the thought of them would send an involuntary shiver down my spine.

I receive the same sensation whenever I see lobster, octopus or prawns (clearly related to their Parktown brethren). While I have never partaken of any of these, their look simply churns my stomach.

The rabbis, however, did not view this as the ideal attitude to have when it comes to non-kosher products. The rabbis did not want us to view pork as disgusting, seafood as repulsive and beef with a cheese sauce as stomach churning. Rather, the rabbis, based on a verse in this week’s parsha, advise us that our view of non-kosher products should elicit a sentiment which says that we would love to eat those foods, but, alas, what can we do? G-d has forbidden it for us Jews.

The Kotzker Rebbe, in trying to understand why this should indeed be our attitude, points to something very sage. Yiddishkeit is not, nor should it ever be, simply about what I enjoy. True, one should indeed live Yiddishkeit in a manner that makes it enjoyable for all concerned, but one must never allow one’s Jewish expression to simply be an expression of self, an expression of one’s own likes, dislikes and interests. For, such a Judaism is in fact not a service of G-d, but a service of self.

Were a person to refrain from non-kosher products simply because they didn’t appeal to them, then when their “tastes” change, they would in fact eat non-kosher products. After all, how many of us share the same food aversions as we did when we were children?

Just think of the difficulty of getting children to eat healthy green vegetables. Yet, as they grow up, their tastes mature and develop and products they would not touch as children become staples in their adult life.

The same could be true of any food aversion we may personally have - here today, gone tomorrow. Were that to be our motivation for not eating non-kosher foods, then the time would in fact come when we would be able and willing to partake of such products.

It is for this reason that the rabbis advise us to refrain from non-kosher food, not because it does not appeal to us. Rather, our self-control should emanate from a commitment to G-d’s word which is eternal and which will hopefully see an eternal commitment to G-d’s Divine will.

This message need not relate only to dietary laws but indeed to every sphere of life. It is the will of G-d, as expressed in the Torah, that should shape our value system, morals and principles if we wish to be truthful to our values throughout our lives, for if not, we run the risk of having malleable morals and values which is not only confusing for us, but exceedingly so for our children.

Yom Ha’atzmaut concert is a celebration of joy

ROBYN SASSEN

MUSICAL PRODUCER Linda Starkowitz explained the evolution of this year’s Yom Ha’atzmaut concert. “I first saw Bryan Schimmel over 20 years ago in a show at the Victory. He was in a tight white costume and he jumped right onto the piano.”

Schimmel grins broadly. “It was a very strange Rodgers and Hammerstein show.”

The Bryan Schimmel memories of one of Johannesburg’s best loved tenors, Oshy Tugendhaft, date earlier: “We were neighbours in Klip Street, Observatory, Johannesburg, in the 1970s. Bryan probably used to hear me singing in the bath. I used to hear him on the piano, from over the hedge.”

It was only last year this time that Schimmel and Tugendhaft collaborated for the first time. And this was through Starkowitz - who maintains she is psychic. “From the first time I saw him, I knew we would work together.”

She grabbed an opportunity some years ago, at gym, at the risk of seeming like a crazed fan. The rest is Jewish musical history.

For 25 years, Starkowitz and - now Toronto-based - Gavin Opert, have been producing shows for the Jewish community. “I came into it via genetics,” Linda says. A science graduate, she turned to musical production as a creative outlet.

The overlap of this exciting level of professional skills and acumen with the committed passion of that of the leadership of the SA Zionist Federation last year yielded something extraordinary, which the collaborators are all hard at work to equal.

This year’s show, celebrating Israel’s 63rd birthday, correlates with the theme of this year’s SAZF conference, “Footsteps to the Future”.

With a repertoire that contains a healthy quantity of medleys and several total surprises, including some little trebles and moments, it “will leave everyone completely shattered,” according to Schimmel.

“This is about a celebration of Israel, not a woe-is-us how dreadful things are. It’s about how fabulous we are!”

“Our production team for the last 25 years has always been me, Gavin and Oshy,” Starkowitz adds. “When Bryan joined, it was like he’d always been there.

“Coming into this fold has been extraordinary,” said Schimmel. “While Linda might have tapped on my shoulder at the gym, it was Gavin who initially skyped me and presented me with the whole idea of getting involved. I’ve always been on the periphery of the Jewish community.”

Added Tugendhaft: “When Linda got in touch with me, I was struck by the original dynamics of this concept. It was taking synagogue music and giving it a different dimension and it really whet my appetite.”

“The idea,” Schimmel concurs, “was to clean a Yom Ha’atzmaut celebration of all the mediocre parochial stuff that these kind of productions are heir to. Last year we succeeded in beginning to grow a brand. Last year’s concert softened the most ardent of cynics. The walls of defence were breached.

“This year we continue in the same vein. Supported by backing singers and a 12-piece orchestra, we will once again host Hananel Edri, from Israel, and two of his countrymen, Omri Rotbard and Omri Rosensweig: current performers symbolising of Israeli youth and the future. In the face of the Israel cultural boycotts, we want to show the world we want Israeli talent here.

“The repertoire includes some of the highlights from last year, which were so absolutely fabulous, we simply have to have them again, and some new material, which has been arranged by me and Dan Selsick.”

Starkowitz, who also designed the show’s audiovisual support adds: “There will be a tribute to the Israel Defence Forces, and an emotional appeal for the release of Gilad Shalit, which please G-d, we should be able to cancel, on the night of the concert.”

Schimmel concludes, citing his programme notes: “In this show, we bring together the experienced who have left foot prints, with the young who make new ones.”

• “Footsteps to the Future” is at the Lyric, Ormonde, May 9, (011) 645-2531.



The team:  
(from left)  
**Gavin Opert;**  
**Bryan Schimmel;**  
**Linda Starkowitz;**  
**and Oshy Tugendhaft.**  
(PHOTOGRAPH BY JEREMY FELDMAN)

Linksfield eruv has been repaired

THE UNION of Orthodox Synagogues has announced that the Linksfield eruv (both east and west of Linksfield Shul) has been repaired and is “up”.

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# Pragmatism was behind change of Dershowitz Cape Town venue

ROBYN SASSEN

LATE LAST month, Law Professor Alan Dershowitz, of Harvard University, who has written extensively on Israel-Palestine issues and is broadly recognised as a pro-Israel advocate - one of the SA Zionist Federation conference keynote speakers - was engaged initially to conduct a seminar at the University of Cape Town's Law Faculty. The venue was, however, shifted from campus to another venue.

Mr Justice Dennis Davis, a critical supporter of Israel, has long been in dispute with Dershowitz regarding his Israel stance.

Dershowitz, in a letter to the editor in this week's paper on page 12, claims "(Justice) Davis demands freedom of speech for himself while seeking to deny it to me, by making it impossible for me to speak at UCT", with reference to the changed venue. He adds: "I have been told this by a distinguished member of the community who spoke directly to the dean."

This is disputed by UCT's leadership, on the grounds that the shift in venue was for pragmatic, not political reasons. "We are concerned that the allegation that UCT prevented Prof Dershowitz from speaking, is spreading despite the fact that UCT has consistently pointed out that there is no truth in this," writes Gerda Kruger, executive director, communications for the university in a

media statement.

"Our law faculty was approached by the organisers of (Dershowitz's) trip to South Africa. UCT agreed to a seminar at the law faculty planned for March 29. Some days later we were informed by the organisers that they would like to shift the planned seminar to another venue.

"They were concerned about the low number of responses - the seminar fell in UCT's vacation time - and believed they could better handle security matters surrounding the seminar at the new venue. These were the reasons we were given and we accepted those.

"It has to be said that the planned seminar at UCT by Prof Dershowitz was unpopular with some and eagerly anticipated by others. The faculty and UCT would have proceeded with the planned seminar despite those sentiments.

"Subsequent to the cancellation of the seminar by the organisers, Prof Dershowitz indicated in a Cape Times article (March 28) that the seminar was moved for reasons unrelated to UCT. In later articles, however, he said that he was barred from speaking at UCT; his blog indicates a similar belief.

"UCT has informed Prof Dershowitz that we were not involved in cancelling the seminar or in applying pressure in order for it to



be cancelled. We were committed for the seminar to proceed. The organisers have also assured us that they have on various occasions made it known to Prof Dershowitz that he was not barred by UCT from speaking.

"We hope that the facts above assist in clearing up the matter. UCT strives to uphold the principles of academic freedom, and we strive to have speakers representing the full spectrum of political and academic viewpoints. In fact, it is our constant intention to expand these engagements."

This position is supported by Julie Berman, director of the SA Zionist Federation, Cape Council.

"As co-hosts together with Group 18, of the... Dershowitz visit to Cape Town during March, I confirm that the UCT faculty of law at no point said that Prof Dershowitz was not welcome to address any-

one on their campus. I confirm it was our initiative to change the venue for his talk from the faculty of law to our own venue. UCT most certainly did not initiate this change."

"That is a lame excuse since I always get packed houses whenever I speak at universities..." Dershowitz responds to the letter from UCT.

"The (UCT law) school made it impossible for me to speak without formally cancelling my scheduled talk. That was the tactic

they used to give Davis and his crew a 'victory' without being accused of censorship.

"The bottom line is that if I had been an anti-Israel Harvard professor, they would have gone out of their way to make sure I spoke. Because I am pro-Israel they constructed artificial barriers, such as requiring that students indicate in advance that they would come to hear me. When only a few students responded, they said that there was insufficient interest to justify the security.

"It may be technically true that the Jewish group that sponsored my trip made the ultimate decision to move my talk off campus..." he continues. "Don't be fooled by the cover story. This was censorship of a pro-Israel speaker subtly disguised to avoid conflict with the Jewish community."

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'IRVINE 11' PLEAD NOT GUILTY IN OREN INCIDENT

ORANGE COUNTY - Eleven Muslim students arrested for disrupting a speech by Israeli US Ambassador Michael Oren at the University of California, Irvine have pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor charges.

The students were arraigned on April 15 in Orange County Superior Court on charges of conspiracy to disturb a meeting and misdemeanour disturbance of a meeting.

During Oren's February 8, 2010 speech, the 11 defendants stood one by one and shouted at the ambassador, calling him a "mass murderer" and a "war criminal", among other insults. The disruptions, organised to protest Israeli actions in Gaza, prompted Oren to walk off the stage twice.

Eight of the defendants were students at UC Irvine and were members of the Muslim Student Union, which was suspended by the university for a year. The others attended the University of California, Riverside.

If convicted, the students could face a sentence up to a year in jail or lesser punishments including probation with community service and fines.

The trial is scheduled to start on August 15. (JTA)

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## Zille is to receive Geiger Award 2011

PREMIER OF the Western Cape Helen Zille, is the recipient of the Abraham Geiger Award 2011. The ceremony will be held on September 26 in Berlin.

The Abraham Geiger College at the University of Potsdam in Germany, says in a media release that the award “recognises persons who have made outstanding contributions with regard to pluralism and who have shown great commitment towards openness, courage, tolerance, and freedom of thought.”

The South African Union for Progressive Judaism says it “proudly shares” this announcement from the Abraham Geiger College.

The Abraham Geiger College is the first rabbinical seminary in Germany after the Holocaust. Its prize is in remembrance of the great thinker of liberal Judaism, Abraham Geiger (1810 – 1874).

Three principles were especially important to Geiger: the freedom of conscience and belief, academic freedom, and the freedom of expression for all human beings.

The jury based its decision on the recipient’s great courage and determination in transforming South Africa into a democracy of many voices. Past recipients of the award include Hans Küng, Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, Karl Cardinal Lehmann, Alfred Grosser, Emil Fackenheim, and Susannah Heschel.

Zille’s parents were originally from Essen and Dessau in Germany, where they were persecuted by the National Socialists due to their Jewish roots, and they immigrated to South Africa to escape this fate. Helen Zille shares common familial roots with the Berlin genre painter Heinrich Zille.

The release reads: “In rejection of the centuries-old tradition of mutual separation, the former mayor and current premier, has always striven to tear down the old racial barriers in the Cape region. As a young journalist, she was active against apartheid. Today, her iron will with regards to plurality and transparency, has helped stem the trend toward a one-party system in South Africa.

“As mayor of Cape Town, Helen Zille scoured through all contracts approved by the previous administration in order to root out corruption, and resolve the city’s crippling level of bad debt. Later, by winning the elections in the Western Cape by over 51 per cent from the ANC, she achieved something that many had thought impossible.

“Helen Zille requires courage for her success. Nonetheless, she stands firm: ‘If we can prove our ability to govern in (the) Western Cape as we did in Cape Town, then it would be a milestone for our young democracy.’”

The endowment of 10 000 Euros (R97 000) which comes with the award, will be placed in an educational fund to help enable rabbinical students from South Africa to study at the Abraham Geiger College. Two graduates of the College are currently serving as rabbis in Cape Town.

# Community stalwart Marcia Parness gets SAZF service award

ALISON GOLDBERG  
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

A LIFE TIME of service to Zionism in South Africa by South African Jewish community stalwart Marcia Parness, was recognised by the South African Zionist Federation at its 47th conference last month.

An emotional Parness, on receiving the Life Time Achiever Award, told the audience she had never expected it. Parness, elected an honorary life president of the organisation, has served as senior vice-chairman of the SAZF since 1994; was chairman of the Yom Ha’atzmaut and Yom Hazikaron committees since 1998; chairman of the Zionist Quiz from 2004 to 2005; and is currently chairman of the Israel Quiz, which position she has held since 2006.

She is also chairman of the Johannesburg Jewish Resource Centre. She holds three honorary positions. She is honorary life vice-president of WIZO SA; honorary life vice-chairman of WZO Johannesburg; and has been an honorary life member of World WIZO Executive in Israel since 1996.

In addition to these positions, Parness was on the editorial committee of “News and Views” - the magazine of WIZO SA; she is a member of the Co-ordinating Council of National Jewish Women’s Organisations; and a founder member of the Shalom Bayit Committee, whose mandate is to educate Jewish women to identify



family abuse and ways in which to prevent it happening.

Interviewed by the SAJR on her views about the community, Parness’ first observation was its rallying around SA Associates of Ben-Gurion University Executive Director Brenda Stern “who is doing an incredible job” in the fight against a boycott of BGU.

Commenting on youth affairs, Parness said: “The objective of the Israel Quiz is to involve as many high school learners as possible and arm our youth not only in their personal knowledge of Israel but against its critics.

“They are given a whole syllabus, from our rights to the land of Israel from Biblical times right up to its modern developments and contributions to the world. This year we had over 100 learners from seven day schools participating in the first round.”

Noting that the Jewish community in South Africa has become much more religious, one of the challenges of the SAZF she said was to engage the secular community, including many Israelis, who remained apart - with the exception of their presence at Yom Ha’atzmaut celebrations - and bring them into the general community and educate them on what’s going on.

The Zionist movement, she says, is as strong as ever. The SAZF has many outreach programmes, including a youth advo-

## Fight poverty in ME, or its back to mullahs and mosques

ALISON GOLDBERG

WITH THE exception of Bahrain, whose uprising against the Sunni royal family is being led by religious Shiites, the Arab spring consists principally of revolts by young, secular, middle-class elites, says former South African diplomat Malcolm Ferguson. Their demands are to be treated with greater dignity, democratic participation and economic opportunities.

All of these uprisings against autocracies in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Syria, Jordan, Bahrain and Yemen, have caught the more radical leadership of the Islamist movements off-guard; though they have tried to exploit them.

While the outcomes of these revolts are difficult to predict, it is unlikely in the case of Egypt that the army will allow a takeover by the Muslim Brotherhood.

Assisting the revolts has been the use of modern technology: Twitter, Facebook and the presence of Al Jazeera TV, providing inspiration for their drama.

Typical of the ruling elites in these countries is a pyramid of patronage centred on powerful, single leaders. However, entrenched tribal and clan support has proved an obstacle to quick transitions (such as happened in Tunisia and Egypt) in Libya, Syria and Yemen. The latter is of particular concern as a hotbed for al Qaida.

In Libya, Muammar Gaddafi is not likely to be removed from power for some time. President Saleh of Yemen has committed to leave office at the end of the year.

This is the analysis of Ferguson who addressed a Taste of Limmud conference two weeks ago at King David Linksfield High School on ‘Democracies or Danger: A Personal Analysis of the Current Uprisings in the Middle East and their Possible Effects on Israel’.

Ferguson is a former South African ambassador to Israel and served as South Africa’s first representative to the Palestinian Authority.

He believes most of the leaders of the



Malcolm Ferguson.



Dr Shirli Gilbert.

street uprisings are looking to the successful example of a post-secular Turkey, where seven years ago the election of a moderate Islamist government resulted in the broadening of Turkish democracy, but with retention of Islamic religious values.

The uprising in Syria, though contained, may have some short-term beneficial consequences for Israel by weakening the government and diminishing Iran’s religious influence in the region.

Notable is the lack of protest activity in Saudi Arabia and other states in the Gulf region with the exception of Bahrain. This is thanks to excellent social programmes and good education systems.

For Israel, there are some concerns about a similar development among the Palestinians, who have a group of young, urban, secular leaders involved in organisations such as the Seeds of Peace Movement, with links to the leaders of the Egyptian uprising.

There appears to be no direct links between these groups and Hamas or Fatah. They are calling for a revival of the Palestinian National Council and envisage a one-state solution with Israel playing a part in this outcome.

Unless something is done about the plight of the poor in countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Syria and North Africa, Ferguson fears the uprisings will fail and revert back to the mullahs and the mosques, the traditional opposition parties in the region.

The big problem facing Israel is how to make peace and whether the circumstances are right at present for that country to have partners for peace. Ferguson doubts these exist, not least because he thinks, rightly or wrongly, that the Israeli government is committed to the continuation of settlements in the Palestinian territories.

The other question is that PA President Mahmoud Abbas has been criticised by his own people who thought he was weak when he offered concessions.

Dr Shirli Gilbert, Karten Lecturer in

cacy programme run by SAZF’s Bev Goldman and her team, which has ties with Stand With Us and has been a rip-roaring success and attracted top speakers.

On the role of women’s organisations in the Jewish community, Parness says the Zionist movement would never exist without them and which have, like WIZO, an “accountable membership”, in other words, paying members who can be tracked.

With the exception of Mizrachi, this does not exist in all the other Zionist, political parties. Parness believes the Jewish community tends to be chauvinistic in that a woman has never been elected to chair the SAZF.

On her perception of the future of the community in South Africa, given it is half its size of what it was in the seventies, Parness believes there will always be a strong Jewish and Zionist community in the country.

“Much will depend on politics here as to how many young people leave. Hopefully aliyah will continue at the rate it has been, not for reasons of fear, but because people want to go and live in Israel.”

Her current passion is the survival of the library at Beyachad and she will shortly start to do fundraising for it. Plans are afoot to build a new media centre, which will include the library. Awaited are draft designs and its public benefit organisation status.

Parness is strident in her view that the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign “will be prevented from going any further in South Africa”. The SAZF has set up a committee specifically to deal with the BDS campaign.

• Another recipient of a Life Time Achiever’s Award from the SAZF was Jeanne Futeran, president of the World Maccabi Union, for her commitment to Maccabi worldwide.

Futeran, has been president of MWU for 10 years.

Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations at the University of Southampton, with a D Phil. in modern history from Oxford another of Taste of Limmud’s speakers on the night, is currently researching the impact of the Holocaust in apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa.

Gilbert presented “Forgotten Letters of a Refugee from Nazism in South Africa”. The talk was based on a collection of 2 500 letters - being translated from German - of Ralph Schwab (1911-1971) to and from his relatives and friends in Hanau, Germany from the 1930s to 1971. It was unearthed in his son Norman’s garage in 2009.

It traces the increasing difficulty of Ralph’s parents and younger brother Hans, to leave Germany following Ralph’s emigration to South Africa in 1936; their initial persistent belief that Nazism would be a passing phase; to their ultimate murders - Max’s (Ralph’s father) in Sachsenhausen near Berlin in 1942; his mother’s and brother’s in Auschwitz apparently later that year.

These struggles to leave Germany, not least owing to the refusal by the South African government to grant the Schwab family an entry visa in July 1939, following the passing of the Aliens Act, which prevented German and other Jews to enter the country; the attempts by the family to secure money from Ralph and the Refugee Office in New York to go to the US; earlier for Hans to go to Australia; the twists and turns were neither plain to Jews or Nazis through the thirties.

Kristallnacht eventually made plain that emigration was the only alternative. The pain of separation from his family; Ralph’s attempts after the war with the assistance of a childhood friend and later a Nazi, Karl, to claim restitution; all this and more is contained in the letters, half of which are still to be translated.

The collection is rare and invaluable, thanks to the fact that Ralph made carbon copies of his own letters, and as a project, in need of further funding. So far it has received a grant from the Kaplan Foundation. Gilbert is a guest of the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation.

Taste of Limmud is a teaser for the annual Limmud SA conference, which this year will take place at the Southern Sun Riverside Lifestyle Resort on the Vaal from August 19-21 and will host among other international presenters David Newman of Ben-Gurion University.



# Preparing your child for Jewish adulthood

**RABBI DOVID HAZDAN**  
**PHOTOGRAPH: GOLDIE SIMPSON**

MOST ADULTS will agree that one needs to be trained and skilled for the work place, but many deal with their precious children without enough forethought and skill. Some employ the attitude that they can rely on the school to ensure the best for their child and they may abrogate the role and responsibility of the home. There is therefore a vital need for ongoing parenting workshops for the entire community.

With this in mind, parents of teenagers and pre-teenagers, participated in a parenting workshop with Trevor Friedman on two consecutive Tuesdays - March 29 and April 5.

The course was entitled “Preparing your Child for Jewish Adulthood” and it explored strategies and attitudes for guiding and supporting a child during the post-barmitzvah and batmitzvah years.

Participants took part in the interactive discussions about parental authority, methods of parenting and crucial ingredients for parenting teenagers.

A highlight of the course was when parents had the opportunity to pose questions to a 16-year-old teenager who shared his personal experiences and thoughts about key issues in parental support.

The course was booked out with over 40 parents attending and more on a waiting list hoping to participate in the workshop when



**Trevor Friedman explores parenting techniques with a captive and involved audience.**

it is offered again.

This course is the second programme in a series of workshops initiated by Dr Ronel Duchen and Shmuel and Goldie Simpson aimed at providing support for the Jewish community in various areas of family life.

“Preparing for Jewish Parenthood” is a two-part workshop for expecting parents and parents of young children which has been repeatedly presented by Dr Ronel Duchen and which will be presented again in the upcoming months.

Other workshops are currently being planned to provide a wide spectrum of family support. For more information contact Goldie at goldisimpson@gmail.com or 072-832-2001.

# Beyachad staffer brutally murdered

**DAVID SAKS**

BEYACHAD staff are devastated by the brutal murder of one of their longest-serving colleagues, Lucky Dlamini, in what appears to have been a politically motivated attack last Sunday night.

While asleep in his Diepkloof hostel home, Dlamini, a hostel induna and IFP member, was first shot and then suffered 90 per cent burns when the house was petrol-bombed. He died the following day in the Chris Hani-Baragwanath Academic Hospital.

His partner, who suffered multiple gunshot wounds to her body, survived but remains critical.

Unconfirmed reports suggest that the attack was linked to tensions between the IFP and the recently formed breakaway National Freedom Party faction.

Dlamini worked for the Jewish community for 37 years, commencing with his employment by the SA Zionist Federation in 1972. A quiet, reserved man, he carried out his duties reliably and unobtrusively, and was respected by all his colleagues.

Elizabeth Tshabalala, who worked with him after the establishment of the Beyachad centre in mid-2000, remembers him as being “kind, helpful and obliging”, and as one who in the event of a disagreement always listened respectfully to the other person’s point of view.

A collection for Dlamini’s family is being organised to assist with funeral and other expenses. For those wishing to contribute, the Beyachad account details are Standard Bank Killarney, branch no 007205, account no 200299921, Ref: Lucky.

# Giving golden olim a welcome and comfortable stay in Israel

**MOIRA SCHNEIDER**  
**CAPE TOWN**  
**PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED**

THE FACT that the three initial letters of Karen Levine’s names match those of the organisation she has established is, she says, “just a coincidence”. It is a very happy one then, for one who has conceptualised an undertaking like Lev Karov must indeed have “a heart that is near”.

“The name reflects our commitment to being a source of warmth and support during your golden years in Israel,” she said, pointing out that the word “karov” can also mean “a relative”.

“We are also committed to being there when family cannot, and to minimise the distance between you and your loved ones abroad.”

Johannesburg-born Levine, a

great-granddaughter of legendary Cape communal figure MH Goldschmidt, went on aliyah from the US with her husband in 2006. Together with her partner Adina Raff, whose husband Yoni is also a former South African, she has been assisting retirees since 2008.

“Making aliyah can be stressful and overwhelming.” Adina has been living in Israel for 20 years and understands the complexities of the systems there and understands that they can be very daunting for somebody who is not familiar with the language, culture and the bureaucracy in particular.

“Our goal is to make this transition as smooth as possible for retirees wishing to spend their golden years in Israel.”

Lev Karov offers free pre-aliyah counselling to answer general

questions about the “golden” aspects of aliyah. Should a family undertake a pilot trip, the team will spend the day showing them different residence options based on their needs and discuss the various aspects of coming on aliyah with them.

The organisation charges private fees with tailored packages to suit individual needs. Levine says that as far as she is aware, Lev Karov is unique in the services it provides.

It currently assists English-speaking retirees, including South Africans, North Americans, Australians, and British olim. In future it plans to extend its services to include French and South American olim.

See [www.levkarov.com](http://www.levkarov.com); e-mail: [contactus@levkarov.com](mailto:contactus@levkarov.com) or call 00972 - 8-975-8740.

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SOCIAL SCENE

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



The Cohen family who donated the new Torah. Chaim Cohen with his wife Angie; Sons Maximillian (left) and Sebastian and daughter Camilla in front.



Waiting for the Hakafot to start are Rabbi Alex Carlebach; Chaim Cohen; Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein; Rabbi Shloimie Raitport; and Rabbi Mendel Lipskar.



Chaim Cohen proudly displays the beautiful silver casing protecting the Torah which he and his family donated to Rabbi Mendel Lipskar's shul.



Solly Krok holds up a miniature but authentic Torah and he walks around during the Hakafot.



Mashie Lipskar talks to Gina Goldstein while Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein looks on.

# Sefer Torah written on Masada for Rabbi Lipskar's shul

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

THE SEFER Torah presented recently by Chaim Cohen and his family, to Rabbi Mendel Lipskar's shul, The Shul @ Hyde Park in Sandton, is unique.

Its birth and creation on Masada was watched by almost a million people.

The father of Israeli-born Chaim Cohen, Shalom ben Yosef, died in Israel a month before the Cohen's son Maximillian's barmitzvah, which was held on Masada.

Cohen decided to create and dedicate a Sefer Torah in honour of his father.

At the barmitzvah, rabbis, friends and family members, were asked to participate in the writing of the first part of the Torah.

The sofer, Rabbi Shai Abromovitz, who was commissioned to write the Torah, relocated from Sfad in the north to Arad in the south to be closer to Masada.

Eleven months later, the completion of the writing ceremony took place on Masada on the first yartzeit of Cohen's father.

It was attended by family members, rabbis and friends who had participated in the initial writing of the Torah.

The Torah scroll was written in the "Ari", Ashkenazi Chabad format and is housed in an ancient pure silver Sephardic Torah housing produced in

Israel by a family who have been making Torah housings for generations.

In his acceptance of the completed Torah, Rabbi Lipskar said that "between 800 000 and a million people had heard of the happening and had come to Masada to see for themselves.

"That changed the whole dynamic of the Torah as many lives were turned around because of this Torah."

Rabbi Lipskar recalled how one visitor had seen her European sofer father killed by the Nazis.

When she saw the Torah being written on Masada, her faith in G-d was suddenly restored and she returned to her belief and became a Shomeret Shabbat again.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein paid tribute to the Lipskars who had "laid the foundation of Judaism" in our country.

Since time immemorial, every single Torah has been written with the exact same wording - each one containing the spoken word of G-d to Moses.

It is a major undertaking. There may be no mistakes, no flaws. Just one minute error will render the entire Torah scroll posul, tainted.

The Torah comprises between 62 and 84 sheets of parchment, prepared according to exact halachic specifications, which are sewn together to form one long scroll. Every one contains exactly 304 805 letters.



The Cohen's older son Sebastian holds the magnificent Torah in its solid silver casing, with the honour it deserves.



Rabbi and Rebbetzen Mendel and Mashie Lipskar during the celebrations.



The men and boys circle the shul during the Hakafot, following the rabbis and men holding the new and older Torahs.



The shul's "Vodka Club", Anita Kramer, Hilary Kramer and Jean Kruger.



Yochi Ress keeps up the atmosphere with his vibrant and rhythmical keyboard playing.







## Malema shows how far we have come

THE JULIUS Malema hate speech case is unnerving for some South Africans, particularly those in minority civil rights group AfriForum and the Transvaal Agricultural Union, who asked the court to forbid him singing the struggle song Dubul’ ibhunu (Shoot the Boer), which it says could lead to violence against farmers.

TAU’s legal team’s performance had unpleasant undertones of our racial past. Whatever the outcome, however, after this country’s tortured history, there is reason for pride that the case is being heard in the way it is, with proper legal process strictly according to our Constitution, testing the safeguards for everyone’s civil rights.

Malema’s eloquence about the freedom of speech question in court, particularly in the face of the belligerent stance of TAU’s lawyer, Roelof du Plessis, surprised many who regarded him until recently as a dangerous clown, albeit one possessing bucketfuls of charisma and leadership talent.

The human rights topic - freedom of speech and the others - receives vast airtime in public discourse these days worldwide. But, sadly, it is sometimes just background noise riddled with slogans, hypocrisy and posturing, rather than actual commitment to safeguarding these rights.

It is gripping watching current events in the Arab countries, where violent suppression of pro-democracy uprisings has exposed the lie of the international “respect” given to governments with appalling records of tyranny against their people.

Syria, for example: By this week, some 400 protesters had reportedly been killed in President Bashar al-Assad’s crackdown since last month on citizens demanding democratic rights that people in the West take for granted - including us in South Africa. Syrians have lived under draconian emergency law since 1962.

It beggars belief that until very recently, Syria looked like a shoe-in for election to the UN’s top human rights body, the 47-member Human Rights Council (HRC). Syria was one of four such candidates - the others include India, Indonesia and the Philippines - chosen by the 53-member Asian Group in January to fill four Asian seats.

The HRC itself reeks of hypocrisy for containing member countries guilty of major human rights violations and for focusing on criticising Israel more than any other country.

Human rights groups and a growing number of governments are now trying to prevent Syria’s election - France, Britain, Germany and Portugal are urging the UN Security Council to condemn the violence against peaceful demonstrators; the United States is backing this.

A top Human Rights Watch official said that Syria’s candidacy “should be an embarrassment to its backers, the Asia Group”. Thirteen Arab human rights groups issued a statement saying support for Syria’s candidacy is “an insult to the UN body and its mission”.

One can’t help wondering, though, why it took so long for these things to be said, when Syria under the Assad family has been a brutal dictatorship for decades. The human rights community knew this, yet just a few weeks ago Syria was happily cruising towards a seat in the UN body purporting to be the world’s guardian of human rights everywhere.

We must cherish our South African human rights culture today - achieved through the sacrifices of legions of anti-apartheid fighters. Of course, not everything is rosy here: government corruption, for one thing, has become so rife that one wonders how it will ever be dealt with; and the recent killing by over-zealous police in Ficksburg in the Free State of Andries Tatane, a peaceful demonstrator demanding better service delivery to his township of Meqheleng, is a bad sign.

But the freedom of speech court case of Malema, despite its unpleasant odour, is an important mark of how far we have come, that we take such things for granted now. Older South Africans still have vivid memories of the bad old days of apartheid, when government functionaries routinely banned anything they considered a threat – even books by globally acclaimed authors which were celebrated elsewhere.

## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# An Auschwitz barmitzvah for Oscar-winner Branko Lustig (78)

TOM TUGEND  
LOS ANGELES

BRANKO LUSTIG, 78, two-time Oscar winner for “Schindler’s List” and “Gladiator”, will celebrate his barmitzvah on May 2 at Auschwitz, in front of barrack No 24.

Lustig missed his rite of passage as a 13-year-old because at the time he was a prisoner in the very same barrack, having been deported from his Croatian hometown to the death camp when he was 10.

To mark the belated barmitzvah, Lustig will be accompanied by some 10 000 participants in the March of the Living, nearly all teenagers.

Lustig’s life story from child prisoner to successful Hollywood producer, seems so implausible that even he and his good friend Steven Spielberg might hesitate to put it in front of an audience.

Sitting in his home in West Los Angeles, Lustig recounted the story to JTA.

When the Nazis and their Croatian puppet regime started to round up Jews, his father joined a partisan unit while Branko and his mother were arrested and sent to Auschwitz.

Upon arrival at the concentration camp, mother and son were separated. Although Branko was only 10, he was quite tall and escaped immediate death by passing himself off as a 16-year-old and therefore fit for labour.

He was sent to a nearby coalmine and got lucky again to be assigned the job of ladling out water to other prisoners, leading a white horse pulling a cart with the water tank.

In the closing months of the war, the boy was transferred to Bergen-Belsen where, miraculously, he was reunited with his mother. His father did not survive the war.

Lustig was lying on a camp bunk, emaciated, ravaged by typhus and covered with lice, when he suddenly heard some strange musical notes.

“I thought I had died and was in heaven,” Lustig recalled. Actually, the music

came from a Scottish bagpiper, heralding the arrival of a company of British liberators.

After recovering, Lustig returned to Croatia and eventually joined a local film production company. When the ABC TV miniseries “The Winds of War” did some filming work in Croatia, Lustig signed on as associate producer. He moved to the United States in 1988 to work on the sequel, “War and Remembrance”.

Shortly after his arrival in the US, Lustig was introduced to Spielberg. Three years later, the famed director, then planning the production of “Schindler’s List”, invited Lustig to a short meeting. The two men talked for a while before Spielberg got to the point.

“You are my producer,” he told Lustig. The moment marked the beginning of an enduring professional and personal relationship.

“Schindler’s List” won the Best Picture Oscar in 1993, along with six other Oscars. During the ceremony, Lustig joined Spielberg and associate producer Gerald Molen on the stage. Few who watched are likely to forget the first line of Lustig’s acceptance speech.

“My number was A3317. I am a Holocaust survivor.”

Besides his Hollywood credits on such films as “Sophie’s Choice”, “Black Hawk Down”, and “American Gangster”, Lustig also organises an annual festival of films on Holocaust and Israel themes in Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

A few months ago, Lustig was approached by Phil Blazer, Lustig’s partner in their Six Point Films production company and president of the Blazer Media Group, which includes the Jewish Life Television (JLTV) network.

Last year, JLTV broadcast live highlights of the March of the Living - the annual event that brings some 10 000 participants, predominantly high school juniors and seniors from 40 countries, to Poland and Israel - and is doing so again this year. Blazer suggested that Lustig

participate in the march and, at the same time, celebrate the barmitzvah he had missed 65 years earlier. Lustig thought it was a great idea.

This year, March of the Living participants will visit Auschwitz on Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, on May 1, to commemorate the Nazi murder of six million Jews and to pledge to fight intolerance and prejudice in the future.

On the following morning, May 2, Lustig will celebrate his barmitzvah outside barrack No 24, wearing a tallis presented to him at an April 4 tribute reception at Universal Studios. Lustig announced that day that he’d donate scholarship money to cover the cost of 10 participants in future marches.

In the afternoon, the massive phalanx of teenagers, accompanied by survivors and Israeli, Polish and other dignitaries, will walk the three kilometres, from Auschwitz to Birkenau, the extermination centre of the Auschwitz complex and site of the gas chambers and crematoria.

There, Lustig and other survivors will speak of their experiences, light memorial candles, and recite prayers. Both the May 1 and 2 ceremonies will be broadcast by JLTV (see jltv.tv).

In the meantime, like any barmitzvah boy, Lustig has been working on his speech. He plans to recall his pledge, as the youngest prisoner in his Auschwitz barrack, to tell the world about the fate of his elders who did not survive.

Lustig says he will conclude with these words: “The message I want to share today is the most important one I learned from my years in the concentration camps. It is the message of tolerance. We must all get along.

“We must strive to respect and love one another, so that the horrific days of the Holocaust will never visit us again. Tolerance is my bar mitzvah wish today, and ‘Never Again’ is my hope and my dream for always.” (JTA)

(see photograph page 1)

# ‘Google Exodus’ tells the Passover tale via tweets and Facebook

SUE FISHKOFF  
SAN FRANCISCO

WHAT WOULD the Exodus have looked like online?

That’s the premise behind “Google Exodus”, a two-minute video that tells the Passover story using social media.

In the video, which has gone viral with over a million page views since being uploaded on March 31 onto YouTube, G-d Skypes Moses, Moses finds Pharaoh’s palace using Google maps. He and Pharaoh engage in a heated e-mail exchange about letting the Jewish people go.

Moses orders live frogs and other plagues on Amazon.com, and he tweets his success to the Israelites via Twitter.

“We view this film as a natural extension of what we do, which is to reach out to Jews of every background using modern tools,” said Nechemia Coopersmith, the Jerusalem-based chief editor of Aish.com, part of the three-man team that produced the video.

“We wanted to take all the social media tools - Google, Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo.answers, Google street view, Skype - and weave them into the story of the Exodus.”

Aish.com is the website of Aish HaTorah, a Jerusalem-based Jewish educational and outreach organisation with branches around the world.

The video opens with a CNN news

alert: “Pharaoh Enslaves Jews”. As Pharaoh and Moses trade messages via gmail and iPhones - Moses’ “Let my people go!” is met with Pharaoh’s “No way!” - the lead-up to the plagues begins.

“My staff just turned into a snake! Cool,” writes Moses, updating his status on Facebook. Later, a YouTube video shows a plague of locusts descending.

When the Jews leave Egypt and reach the Red Sea, viewers get up close and personal as the waves part when Google maps zooms in for a “street view”. The scene is of Charlton Heston in “The Ten Commandments”.

“Google Exodus” is proving a huge hit, steering a tremendous amount of web traffic to Aish’s Hebrew and English websites. The video also was released in Spanish on the organisation’s Spanish-language website. Last week, the video ranked fourth on the UK Guardian’s Viral Video Chart.

“With Passover coming up, this film is a fun way to reach people who might otherwise not be interested,” Shraga Simmons, senior editor of Aish.com and a member of the production team, told JTA. ““Google Exodus” enables us to communicate Jewish values in a language everyone can understand. And the cool thing is that it is spreading via the same web tools featured in the video.”

If Christianity evolved out of Judaism, this Exodus video was inspired by the



birth of Jesus - specifically a Christian video released last December called “Digital Story of the Nativity”, which narrates the baby-in-the-manger tale using the same social media tools employed by the Aish.com team.

The big difference? “Google Exodus” uses a jazzy orchestral version of the Passover seder song “Dayenu”, while Digital Jesus rocks to “Jingle Bells”.

Coopersmith says the Nativity video was itself inspired by a popular Google ad that aired during the 2010 Super Bowl telling the story of a Parisian-American love affair conducted via Google tools.

That ad only used Google, he said, whereas “we wanted to expand and use every social media tool possible”.

The Aish team is now busy on its next project: a social media-rich video for Yom Ha’atzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day. It should be up on Aish.com a week before the May 9 holiday, Aish officials said. (JTA)



# Goldstone’s about-turn has his apologists in a quandary

THE REACTIONS to Richard Goldstone’s Washington Post bombshell in which he significantly watered down his Report’s original accusations against Israel, have made for interesting reading.

Some in the pro-Israel camp have continued to lambast Goldstone, whereas others (Alan Dershowitz included) have given due credit to him for coming at least this far and encouraged him to continue on that path.

On the other side, there has been bewilderment bordering on consternation. Those who have invested so much in the Report’s credibility, are now scrabbling to do damage control, in doing so often displaying all the baffled fury of a lynch mob whose prey has unexpectedly been whisked away.

For those determinedly convinced that Israel’s moral guilt is unchallengeable, it is obviously impossible to accord any validity to what Goldstone is now saying, hence the belief that dirty tricks must have been involved in bringing him over to the dark side.

In its extreme form, this has manifested in a renewed wave of rabidly anti-Semitic propaganda in the Arab media. Among the Nazi-like cartoons that have



**BARBARIC  
YAWP**  
David Saks

since appeared, one shows Goldstone being bribed with gold by an Israeli soldier as he symbolically shovels earth over the bodies of murdered Palestinian innocents.

Others feature the usual diabolical caricatures of hook-nosed, bearded Jews with their malign control over the judge (one such “Jewish” figure gloats gleefully as he brandishes Goldstone’s severed tongue).

The anti-Zionist left, while not taking so obviously crude a line, similarly cannot bring itself to take Goldstone’s latest take at face value and is scrabbling to identify more similar reasons for his apostasy. Primarily, their take has been that the ceaseless bullying and victimisation of the international Zionist lobby eventually became too much for Goldstone, whose capitulation was therefore a result of emotional weakness rather than intellectual conviction.

This approach is typified by

the remarks of our own Steven Friedman who, as quoted in the Mail & Guardian, attributes Goldstone’s actions to “untenable” pressure and “intense bullying” from the Jewish community.

He also refers to his own personal experience of the kind of pressure that the Jewish community brings on dissenting members. (Friedman could have added here that, unlike Mr Justice Goldstone, he has had the moral strength to resist such bullying, but modestly he refrained from doing so).

Actually, whatever their dismay over Goldstone’s turnaround, most of his latest detractors are treading warily when it comes to attacking the man himself. Ironically, having invested so much in the Goldstone Report as a weapon to demonise Israel, they now find themselves caught by the same pseudo-logical trap that for so long frustratingly stymied those who opposed it.

Because Goldstone was not only an internationally esteemed human rights investigator, but an identifying Jew and Zionist, whatever findings he released were automatically imbued with an authority that proved all but impossible to

shake.

No matter how detailed and well-reasoned the arguments against the Report, the mere fact that it bore the endorsement of Goldstone’s illustrious name, was enough to persuade most people to assume it to be essentially correct and look no further.

Now, however, it is the turn of those who supported the Report to be confounded by Goldstone’s reputation for integrity and fair-mindedness. Having made much of his international reputation and played to the hilt how he transcended his ethnic and religious loyalties in the disinterested cause of justice, they can hardly now start dismissing him as a Zionist apologist.

This, of course, begs the question as to how logical it is to now claim that Goldstone was browbeaten into compromising his principles when previously he was depicted as being a man of unswerving, cast-iron integrity.

Aside from unexpectedly thrusting hardline anti-Israelists onto the back foot, Goldstone’s Damascene moment may already have helped avert a renewed round of bloody confrontations between Israel and Gaza.

In the weeks immediately leading up to his “recantation”, Hamas was escalating its missile attacks on Israel to dangerous levels, not far short of what occurred just prior to Operation Cast Lead back in December 2008. Shortly thereafter, it announced that it was willing to

consider a ceasefire, and since then there has indeed been a significant reduction in missile attacks.

Hamas leaders may be crazy, but it doesn’t necessarily follow that they are stupid. They know very well they will get by far the worst of it should they provoke another major Israeli incursion (even in Israel’s limited retaliation in March, at least 19 of their operatives were killed, without any losses on the Israeli side).

This would be considered worthwhile, however, if they succeed thereby in generating another massive public relations victory. Now, Goldstone has not just taken the sting out of the anti-Israel charge sheet, but has had some pretty harsh things to say about Hamas itself. The latter would seem, as the saying goes, to have “done the math” and concluded that now is not the best time to try to engineer another PR coup.

This in turn illustrates yet another reason why the Goldstone mission was such an ignoble exercise. Ostensibly, it was intended as being an international initiative aimed at furthering justice, human rights and peace.

In reality, it was so conducted as to strengthen the hand of those who carry out acts of terror, and thereby has encouraged them to continue doing so.

Such travesties will always ensue when the course of international justice is subverted by one-sided political agendas.

ADVERTORIAL

## Spectacular multi-family home on auction

*One of the most extraordinary residential properties that has ever been auctioned by Aucor, will fall under the hammer on May 12.*



THE PROPERTY in Victory Park, an elite suburb in Johannesburg, comprises a spectacular main house and five-unit duplex with ample parking.

“The potential for this property is endless. It could be an entertainer’s palace, a multi-family, multi-generational home, or a corporate entertainment venue with accommodation on site. It has features that we seldom see, and if we do, it’s never on one property,” says Aucor director Paul Winterstein.

“The duplex unit also gives excellent rental options - between R6 000 to R9 000 per month per unit. A savvy buyer could make the most of the many opportunities presented by this property.”

The main house is sited on 1 982m<sup>2</sup> with 1 300m under roof, with superb finishes throughout and countless features ranging from under-floor heating; an alarm system and security cameras; sprinkler system; an indoor exotic fish pond; music room; an 88m<sup>2</sup> kitchen with attached breakfast room plus additional full kitchen; a dining room; massive lounge/entertainment area; a gym/exercise room with shower/bathroom; a main bedroom with en-suite bathroom, including Jacuzzi bath, shower and walk in cupboard.

It also features a library or office, outdoor patio and braai area, a huge wooden lapa including entertainment area and pool with wooden deck, a double garage with storeroom, three-bedroom staff quarters and landscaped gardens, featuring magnificent palm trees worth hundreds of thousands of rands alone.

The duplex, on 1 983m<sup>2</sup>, includes three two-bedroom units and two one-bedroom units, with a huge open plan leading onto a well-appointed kitchen with granite counters and fitted with top of the range appliances, a guest toilet with marble basin, bedrooms with built-in cupboards, a patio with braai facilities, huge layered manicured garden and large pool.

Victory Park’s location is excellent and all necessary amenities such as shops, medical and educational can all be found in the vicinity.

“We’re under attorney’s instructions that we must sell, and encourage all buyers, whether they are purchasing for an investment or not, to consider this amazing property,” Winterstein concludes.

The auction takes place on site - 35 Craighall Road, Victory Park, at 18:30 on Thursday May 12, 2011.

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ARTS MATTERS

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week prior to publication

Elizabeth Sneddon  
Theatre, Berea, Durban:  
Geraldine Naidoo and  
Matthew Ribnick's "Chilli  
Boy" until May 1; their  
"Monkey Nuts", May 5 - 15,  
(031) 260-2296.

Foxwood House,  
Houghton: "Slap Koejawel",  
with Vanessa Cooke and  
Annelisa Weiland, directed  
by Robert Whitehead, on  
Sundays, until May 1, (011)  
486-0935.

Goodman Gallery,  
Rosebank, Johannesburg:  
Frances Goodman's "Till  
Death Do Us Part", until May  
7, (011) 788-1113.

Johannesburg Art  
Gallery, Johannesburg: "A  
Fearless Vision", the first  
major retrospective of the  
late Alan Crump, curated by  
Federico Freschi, opens May  
8, (011) 726-3130.

Joburg Theatre,  
Braamfontein: In the  
Fringe, "African Adventure",  
until May 5, (011) 877-6800.

Linder Auditorium,  
Parktown, Johannesburg:  
On May 4 and 5, JPO plays  
works by Elgar, Prokofiev  
and Beethoven. Conductor:  
George Mathew; Soloist:  
Roman Simovic (violin), (011)  
789-2733.

Montecasino, Fourways: In  
the Pieter Toerien, "Perfect  
Wedding" until May 8; in the  
Studio, Moira Blumenthal  
directs "Love, Loss and What  
I Wore" until June 12; in  
Teatro, "Dreamgirls" until  
May 8, (011) 510-7472.

Old Mutual Theatre on  
the Square, Sandton: Ben  
Voss' "Bend it like Beauty",  
May 3 - 21. Friday concerts  
feature Carel Henn (cello)  
and Pieter Jacobs (piano), on  
April 29; and the quintet In  
Cinq on May 6, (011) 883-8606.

Resolution Gallery,  
Rosebank: "Regard", works  
on paper by Kagiso Pat  
Mautloa and Manolo  
Belzunce, until June 11, (011)  
880-4054.

Seabrooke Theatre,  
Musgrave, Durban: Steven  
Stead directs Yasmina Reza's  
"G-d of Carnage", May 10 -  
29, (031) 277-1500.

Standard Bank Gallery,  
Central Johannesburg:  
"Listening to Distant  
Thunder", a retrospective of  
the work of Peter Clarke,  
curated by Philippa Hobbs  
and Elizabeth Rankin, May 3  
- July 2, (011) 631-1889.

Stevenson, Woodstock,  
Cape Town: Three solo  
exhibitions: Penny Siopis'  
"Who's Afraid of the  
Crowd?"; Paul Edmunds'  
"Tone"; and Lerato Shadi's  
"50 G and Tlhogo", until May  
21, (021) 462-1500.

Wits Complex, Braamfon-  
tein: The Devised Play sea-  
son sees the opening of  
"Planet B", directed by Helen  
Iskander, on May 4, in the  
Nunnery, (011) 717-1380.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Beautiful  
Creatures  
juggernaut  
just rolls on...

CHRISTINA KENNEDY

FRESH FROM the stage production's victory at this year's Naledi Theatre Awards, the Beautiful Creatures juggernaut is not slowing down - but, like Mafutha the hungry elephant, keeps getting bigger and bigger.

Ed Jordan, Alan Glass and Paul Choritz are the talented trio behind the Beautiful Creatures concept that started out in 2004 as a CD of kiddies' songs, themed around African animals and blending pop melodies with indigenous inflections - and has since grown into a South African sensation.

To date, it has spawned six follow-up albums (one translated into Afrikaans), as well as children's books, a stage musical and a range of educational toys. The CDs alone have shifted tens of thousands of copies, despite an initial uphill struggle to get them into record stores.

The first book in the series, Mafutha the Elephant, was recently followed by a second, Imvubu the Happiest Hippo - and a third, Roddy the Rhino, is currently in development with illustrations by Sandy Lightley.

The Beautiful Creatures stage show enchanted



Paul Choritz; Ed Jordan; and Alan Glass, with their Naledi awards. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ZOOM PHOTOGRAPHY)

about 17 000 big and not so big kids at Montecasino's Teatro last year, winning the Naledi for best children's play, and should be back in town in time for the winter school holidays.

And that's not all: There's a television show in development with an international partner, as well as Beautiful Creatures-themed children's parties. Oh, and they're looking at launching an iPad application as well!

The three men behind the Beautiful Creatures brand - which originated as a response to the glaring lack of music that South African children can relate to - are still somewhat bemused by its success. They suspect a large part of its allure is simply the "parent-friendly" nature of the songs.

"The music came first," says Jordan, who recently also won acclaim for his score and soundtrack for the hit movie Spud.

"We started writing the songs for fun - and everything I've done for fun has repaid me tenfold. But the more we've gone into the other mediums, the more we've realised there's a scarcity of material targeted at young people."

Choritz, who comes from a music

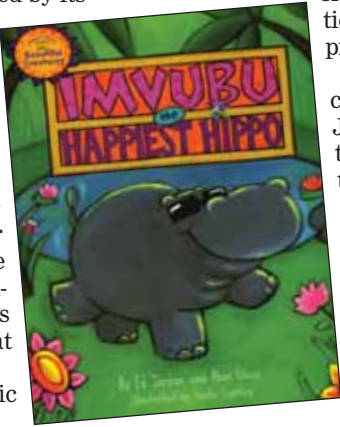
industry background, was initially roped in to run the business side of things. But he has found himself helping pioneer a new model in South African music publishing whereby the artists and the record label are one and the same thing, giving the artists not only creative control, but also a direct vested interest in how the business is run.

Glass reveals that they still test the Beautiful Creatures creations on their children and others - their toughest critics. "Kids will be honest with you," he says. "If it's terrible, they'll tell you!"

Says Glass: "The (products) are made with passion and love, not business intention. We have no intention of stopping, until we stop having fun!"

"It's rare to have such a good creative partnership," agrees Jordan. "The combined energy of the three of us has created all this."

Locals and homesick expats can listen to and order the Beautiful Creatures songs via the website [www.beautifulmusic.co.za](http://www.beautifulmusic.co.za) and the CDs are available on iTunes too. Imvubu the Happiest Hippo is not the only one dancing for joy!



# JPO's second season content lacks imagination

PAUL BOEKKOOI

NOT AN ideal mixture of programming in the broader sense, no piano soloist at all and two exclusively orchestral concerts without the appearance of a soloist. Two earlier and weaker Tchaikovsky symphonies performed a fortnight apart and a programme given in October 2003 repeated in its entirety: it's not a very positive scenario regarding the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra's second symphony season for 2011.

The artistic committee lack the kind of inventiveness and vision it had under Gary Roberts' leadership up to approximately three years ago.

The concert season runs from May 4 to June 9 on Wednesday and Thursday evenings in the Linder Auditorium, Parktown, while the first, third and fifth concerts will be repeated on Sunday afternoons in the ZK Matthews Hall, Unisa, Pretoria.

Three conductors will lead: George Mathew, the Singapore-born Indian-American will make his JPO debut. The Polish-born Michal Dworzynski is welcomed back after many years to conduct concerts 2 and 3, while Bernhard Gueller is in charge during the remaining three programmes.

Soloists include Roman Simovic, the Montenegrin violinist and current concert master of the London Symphony Orchestra, Russian Dmitry Kouzov (cello), JPO horn players Shannon Armer and Peter Griffiths, as well as the Jerusalem-born Avigail Bushakevitz (violin) who grew up in South

Africa and is completing her B Mus studies at Juilliard, New York.

Apart from Tchaikovsky's Symphonies nos 1 and 3, we'll hear another Scheherazade by Rimski-Korsakov - the hackneyed piece the JPO performs over and over.

Six of 16 compositions are performed by the JPO for the first time. The final concert on June 8 and 9 with Bach's Suite No 1 and Mahler's Fifth Symphony, is an exact repeat of the concerts of October 22 and 23, 2003. Isn't there a choice of another three Bach Suites, his six Brandenburg Concertos, or perhaps Handel's Water Music - or Royal Fireworks Suites?

Full details: May 4 and 5 (Jhb) and 8 (Pta) - Conductor: Mathew. Soloist: Simovic, violin. Programme: Introduction and Allegro (Elgar); Classical Symphony (Prokofiev); Violin Concerto (Beethoven).

May 11 and 12 (Jhb) - Conductor: Dworzynski. Programme: Symphony No 3 - Polish (Tchaikovsky); Scheherazade (Rimsky-Korsakov).

May 18 and 19 (Jhb) and 22 (Pta) - Conductor: Dworzynski. Soloist: Kouzov, 'cello. Programme: Dances of Galanta (Kodály); 'Cello Concerto & Symphony No 2 (Schumann).



George Mathew. PHOTOGRAPH BY GENE DRISKELL (BLOG.TED.COM)



Michal Dworzynski. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.KAM-MERORCHESTER.COM)




Bernhard Gueller. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.COLBERTARTISTS.COM)

May 25 and 26 (Jhb) - Conductor: Gueller. Soloists: Armer & Griffiths, French horns. Programme: Pelléas et Mélisande Suite (Fauré); Double Horn Concerto (Haydn); Symphony No 1 - Winter Daydreams (Tchaikovsky).

June 1 and 2 (Jhb) and 5 (Pta) - Conductor: Gueller. Soloist: Bushakevitz, violin. Programme: Three-Cornered Hat, Suite 1 (Falla); Violin Concerto No 2 (Prokofiev); Symphony No 39 (Mozart).

June 8 and 9 (Jhb) - Conductor: Gueller. Programme: Suite No 1 (JS Bach); Symphony No 5 (Mahler).

• For subscriptions, phone Neville Pritchard at (011) 789-2733. Single tickets: Computicket.



FELDMAN  
ON FILM  
Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

Get Low

Cast: Robert Duvall, Bill Murray, Sissy Spacek  
Director: Aaron Schneider

Robert Duvall is one of the truly great actors of our time and we rarely get to see his magic unwind on screen nowadays.

But this has changed dramatically with "Get Low", a brilliantly executed production, witty and deeply-felt, which spins out as part folk tale, part fable and part real-life legend. It's the perfect vehicle for him.

"Get Low" opens with a man fleeing from a burning house and as the story unfolds we get closer to what really happened on that fateful

day.

Set in the backwoods of Tennessee in the 1930s, Duvall portrays Felix Bush, a hermit who sets about organising his own rollicking funeral party - even though he is very much alive.

He has something important to say to those ignorant, small-town folk who for many years had built up this scary image of him. He desperately wants to bid his own goodbye, maybe have a band, and leave one departing impression.

The film has a message woven into its intricate tapestry, but it's of the subtle kind, moments of whispered wisdoms, and all neatly tied up in tale of mystery, love, regret, repentance and redemption.

Cinematographer-turned-director Aaron Schneider has elicited magnificent performances from his celebrated cast that includes Sissy Spacek, Bill Murray and Lucas Black.

The film, which moves at a leisurely pace, resonates with sardonic wit and warmth, a touching and acutely observed slice of film-making.

Sissy Spacek and Bill Murray are another two Hollywood names who have disappeared from cinema screens, but observing their styles again reminds one of how much depth and understanding their contributions meant.

Murray plays Frank Quinn, the undertaker who is given this strange request while Lucas Black is his young apprentice who has to deal with the execution of Felix's plan.

Spacek is Felix's long lost love, Mattie Darrow, and their scenes together, despite their vast age differences, are right on the button. It's difficult to believe that these two have never acted together before, so pitch perfect are they.

Another important facet of this stylish production is the skilful use made of the natural surroundings, and how the cinematographer vigorously embraces the eerie loneliness of the forest in which Felix lives a solitary life in a ramshackle abode.

It is handsomely and vividly mounted, awash on a palette of period chocolate and gold where each image is like an old photograph.

"Get Low" is a striking first-time offering from a new director.



TAPESTRY – ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

# Kebble: a tale of the sordid underbelly of SA’s crime world

*Killing Kebble: An Underworld Exposed* by Mandy Wiener (Pan Macmillan, R200)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

THIS BEST-SELLING book fully lives up to its title, exposing far more than just the sordid details of mining magnate Brett Kebble’s murder in 2005.

Wiener skilfully leads readers through the intricate and hair-raising set of circumstances behind what would become one of the most infamous hits in South African criminal history. Much of the narrative is related by Wiener’s interviewees, who offer telling insights into their own motivations and make the book compulsively readable.

The story begins with background on its key role-players: these range from nightclub bouncers to the Israeli Mafia, leading corporate executives, police agents, politicians and detectives. Even the butler appears (though he didn’t do it).

Kebble himself, the son of a wealthy family, was a somewhat insecure, but highly manipulative individual (both in and out of the boardroom), battling to live up to the expectations of his burlier father and brother.

By the time he rose to prominence (in mining group) JCI, he had established an extensive network of useful political contacts (notably the ANC Youth League, which he was generously bankrolling), as well as any number of scurrilous advisors (such as the elderly John Stratton).

Then there was the smooth-talking, immaculately tailored druglord Glenn Agliotti, a factotum who found a profitable niche, brokering deals for the Kebbles.

To ensure their security, the Kebbles (via Stratton and Agliotti) had also hired one Clinton Nassif, who in turn enlisted the services of his old buddies, Mikey Schultz, Nigel McGurk and Fiazal “Kappie” Smith, to do any of the actual dirty work required.

By mid-2005, Kebble was in serious financial trouble, owing multimillions to any number of angry creditors and shareholders, surrounded by vindictive enemies and

stealing from Peter to pay Paul.

He had created, and been sucked into, a “dark vortex” from which there was no longer any way out other than declaring himself insolvent and facing the (very loud) music, skipping the country or committing suicide.

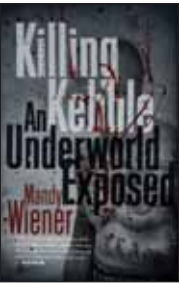
One of the most fascinating aspects of the book is the light it sheds on Kebble’s mindset: determined to be remembered not as a crook, but as a hero with noble political ideals, he duly instructed Stratton to organise his own murder. Of all the options available to him, only the honest one was unthinkable.

Thus it came to pass that in September of that year, Schultz, McGurk and Smith - having bungled the job a few times, thanks to engine trouble, a jammed gun, wrong directions and other mishaps - finally met Kebble’s car, as arranged, on a quiet Melrose street and pulled alongside him, where Kebble meekly awaited the hail of bullets which Schultz pumped into him.

In the aftermath of his death, South Africa learned, through one ugly revelation after another, of the corrupt relationship between Agliotti and former Police Commissioner and Interpol president, Jackie Selebi, the rivalry between the SAPS, the security agencies moonlighting for them and the National Prosecuting Authority’s Scorpions, the enmity between former President Thabo Mbeki’s entourage and those they perceived as threats, the morass of infighting behind the removal of Vusi Pikoli and Bulelani Ngcuka, and the extent to which bribery, greed and ambition were (and are) underpinning this country’s politico-judicial structures.

What Wiener lays bare makes Tammany look tame - in fact, she could be describing Argentina or Colombia, rather than South Africa.

For this reviewer, the most intriguing interviews in the book come from Mikey Schultz, who relates quite candidly his own complicity in the murder which blew the lid off South Africa’s underworld. His words are entirely unpretentious and believable



– and they chill to the marrow.

He insists that he had initial reservations about accepting the assignment to shoot Kebble: “On maybe four occasions, Clint and me had arguments about it. Then I eventually said to him: ‘Listen, tell that c - -t he must shoot himself. Tell him I’m not going to do it... If he wants to die so badly, let the motherf---er shoot himself.’”

But these objections were apparently swiftly overcome by the prospect of the payout. Schultz was allegedly also involved in the killing of socialite Hazel Crane, following the murder of Israeli Mafia kingpin Shai Avissar.

Wiener admits her own semi-affection for the man, averring that he “may have a conscience” (he is a doting husband and father, and swears he has a “good heart”), but most would be more inclined to shudder than to empathise. Having been granted indemnity by the NPA in return for their evidence, Schultz, McGurk and Smith literally got away with murder.

Wiener portrays them as almost comedic characters, naive assassins who neither knew nor cared about the bigger picture unfolding behind them. However, as one interviewee observes, in this lamentable story, “there are no good guys”. Whether they are besuited, briefcase-carrying, top-echelon businessmen, uniform-clad officials or tattooed enforcers in T-shirts and jeans, they are all the same amoral species.

The fact that those who orchestrated and carried out the Kebble murder will never be punished, thanks to the machinations of warring interest groups behind the scene, is almost as frightening as the realisation of just how far duplicity, money and brutality can take one. The Kebble case not only rocked the foundations of South Africa’s fledgling democracy, but exposed the sleaze on which those foundations teeter.

Wiener’s book will have you glued to its pages, but it will also keep you up in anxiety at night. Cry the beloved country, indeed.

# Concourt basalt bells will toll in bronze

ROBYN SASSEN

IN OCTOBER 2009, ceramicist Loren Kaplan donated six bells of black basalt clay, to the Constitution Court art collection in Hillbrow, Johannesburg. They were part of a body of work she exhibited to critical acclaim during 2007.

Some months ago, she visited the work, installed in the open courtyard outside the judges’ chambers, and noticed “cracks; the result of being exposed to weather”. Kaplan plans to cast all six bells in bronze to ensure the work’s lifespan.

“They are evocative in the open air; people do ring them, which justifies their presence.

“The problem is casting is costly.” She’s engaging Carlo Gamberini of the Renzo Vignali Foundry, the oldest, most revered of South Africa’s foundries, to do the job.

“The foundry will make moulds from silicon and plaster, from the original bells. It will cost an estimated R50 000 for all six bells to be cast.

“In having them cast, I will be able to create small editions of them, which can mean that the work can have presence in other spaces which resonate with the concept of forgiveness - so many parts of our world have histories of atrocities. This work is about compassion and forgiveness.”



Former Constitutional Court Justice Albie Sachs with ceramicist Loren Kaplan, at the installation of the Bells of Forgiveness, at Constitution Court, in October 2009. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDYVER)

cept of forgiveness - so many parts of our world have histories of atrocities. This work is about compassion and forgiveness.”

Considering this set of idiophonic musical instruments as the most gratifying works she has created to date, Kaplan explained how she was inspired to make them after a visit to the Shanghai Museum in China, which featured an exhibit of ancient Chinese bronze-cast bells strung in a group from a wooden structure.

“I am motivated by vessels that hold something within the boundary of their form, even though they

are physically and literally empty - they are about potential.”

Kaplan regards the notion of forgiveness and safety in a complex way, which makes the bells’ home at Concourt meaningful.

Of course, the “voices” of each of these bells will change, once they are cast in bronze, but their sentiment and beauty won’t. They will become immortal.

Kaplan appeals to members of the public and curators of institutional repositories not necessarily of art, but of issues like forgiveness, to assist her with funding of this project: 083-650-5037.

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LETTERS

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<b>Guidelines for letters:</b> Letters up to 400 words will get preference. Please provide your full first name and surname, place of residence, and a daytime contact telephone or cell number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.	<b>Disclaimer:</b> The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report
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A 2 000-YEAR CURSE AND A TWO-YEAR STAIN

IT IS widely accepted that people’s opinions are formed, firstly by the environment, that is the media (mainly the press and TV) and by the educational institutions, especially university academics.

Most of these opinion manipulations - I’d guess 70 to 80 per cent of them - propagate negative images of Israel. The other source of the formation of opinion is the home.

You and I and Richard Goldstone and the majority of Jews, are subject to negativity about Israel, especially if one reads the Mail & Guardian or The Star, etc.

I have always been of the opinion that people firstly have an opinion, then subsequently, seek selective evidence to substantiate that opinion. This type of

manoeuvre has been used against Jews for centuries - it is now against Zionists in particular and Israel in general.

So, that’s where the Goldstone Report originated from - from the negative images of Israel imparted to him (and you and me) by the environment.

To Richard Goldstone’s credit, it has taken him just over one year to retract his report of allegations against Israel; it has taken the Roman Catholic Church about 2 000 years to retract that the Jews killed Jesus. How do we remove a 2 000 year curse, never mind a two year stain?

The next big debate: For how long will white South African be tarnished with the apartheid stigma?

John Brenner  
Cyrildene, Johannesburg

GOLDSTONE CAN’T NOW CLAIM INNOCENCE

JUSTICE RICHARD Goldstone in rescinding the accusation that the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) deliberately targeted civilians in the Gaza operation, now laments: “If I had known then what I know now, the Goldstone Report would have been a different document.”

But of course, he did know then what he now knows.

Finding Israel guilty of deliberately targeting civilians, is undoubtedly the most damaging finding of the Goldstone Report. What is so tragically unfortunate is that a great deal of evidence contradicting that finding was available then and required no special investigations. Nor did it require Israel’s co-operation.

It was common knowledge then that the IDF dropped thousands of leaflets in Arabic warning civilians of impending attacks and that thousands of cell-phone calls were made with the same purpose.

The international media reported then on the IDF’s cessation of hostilities for several hours a day, in order to provide and allow for the transfer of humanitarian and food aid to civilians.

It also reported on the abortion of several air strikes by the Israeli Air Force against enemy targets and militants for fear that civilians were being

used as human shields.

All of these actions necessarily compromised the safety of Israeli soldiers and the effectiveness of military operations. Yet, in order to protect civilians, these measures were adopted.

Goldstone knew this then.

He knew then of the UN Human Rights Council’s extreme bias against Israel - the very UN body that commissioned him to head the investigation.

He knew then that members of his team had denounced Israel before commencing the investigation. He knew then that the Gaza operation was a defensive response to thousand of rockets aimed at Israeli civilians.

The Goldstone Report would surely have been very different had Goldstone and his team considered without prejudice the evidence that was from the start, freely available.

Although Goldstone has now two years later, “changed his mind”, it will do little to neutralise the extensive damage the Report has inflicted upon the image of Israel. Nor is it likely to contain, in any measurable way, the hatred it unleashed. Blaming Israel for his shortcomings is simply disingenuous.

Felicia Levy  
Glenhazel, Johannesburg

DAVIS ‘A CONFUSED, SELF-CONFESSED LEFT-WING PRAGMATIST’

I’VE FOLLOWED the spat between Mr Justice Dennis Davis and Prof Alan Dershowitz (with analytical comments by Joel Pollak) with both interest and some bemusement.

Suffice to say that it has become yet another unsavoury exhibition that will do little to contribute to any meaningful debate as the issues become lost in the petty scoring of points.

While Dershowitz’s position vis-à-vis Israel is well defined and documented, and has not changed much over the years, Davis, as we know from his regular columns, appears to be a confused, self-confessed left-wing pragmatist who all too often contradicts his own propositions.

Typical of others who sign on to what Davis believes is the ease with which he overlooks Palestinian responsibility in the complex search for so-called “peace”.

Just one example: saying, “Harvard Professor Alan Dershowitz is known internationally for his furious attacks on all those who want effective peaceful measures against Israel (I assume he refers to Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) to compel the ending of its military occupation of the West Bank and the removal of annexationist settlements”, avoids addressing what he

expects (or doesn’t) from the Palestinians in order to make that even remotely possible. (It is Dershowitz who faces it head-on.)

What about a complete cessation of hostilities by Hamas and Fatah as a start, followed by the ending of hateful anti-Semitic instruction and propaganda in schools? Ending the jihad mentality would also be more than helpful.

Davis knows that were Israel given the slightest chance to establish real peace with an Arab neighbour, she would grab it with both hands and for a man of his obvious intellect to believe that this can come via campaigns of BDS, displays a naïveté that is stupefying.

I would suggest that Davis expose himself to the writings of Palestinian journalist Khaled Toameh and the book, The Start Up Nation to get some idea of how to approach this problem with some sort of rationality.

I would also suggest that he counts to ten before signing on to any further leftist letters and petitions as they do the judge no justice.

Victor Gordon  
Brooklyn  
Pretoria

APPEAL TO DAVIS AND DERSHOWITZ TO COOL IT

THIS IS AN appeal to two very erudite and learned gentlemen, Mr Justice Dennis and Harvard law professor, Alan Dershowitz.

Each one of you has made his position clear for all to see. The resultant effect on the community is that it is divided in two camps and the longer this theatre of the absurd continues,

the more harm it does to us ordinary members of the Jewish community.

No good purpose is being served with this ongoing exchange thus the appeal is for common sense and sanity to prevail in the interest of us all.

Albert Glass  
Cape Town

PROF ALAN DERSHOWITZ REPLIES TO JUSTICE DENNIS DAVIS

JUSTICE DAVIS persists in mendacious attack on my record with regard to Israel. He has also threatened to bring “litigation” against an American website that published an article by me critical of his attempt to censor me. And he has said he, “would consider approaching Nobel Prize Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu to join the action.”

In the United States, my writings on torture have stimulated an academic debate on the best way to constrain a practice that is widespread, even in South Africa.

My suggestion for a warrant has been validated by former President Bill Clinton who has said that if he had been confronted with a ticking bomb threat of mass casualties, he would have sought approval for the use of torture.

Reasonable people could disagree with Clinton, though polls show that the vast majority of Americans (and I suspect South Africans) would approve torture if necessary to save multiple lives.

This is a serious issue, yet Davis demonises me for even beginning the debate. Does anyone believe that Davis and others who signed his op-ed would so mischaracterise my views if I were anti-Israel?

Did they condemn the use of torture by the ANC during apartheid - or by the Palestinian Authority? I challenge anyone to read my writings and decide whether I can honestly be characterised as an “apologist for torture”.

The same is true about my writings on collective accountability. Some of the people who wrote against me support divestment, boycotts and other sanctions that are collective in nature. Their hypocrisy is patent.

As to my view on the occupation, anyone who reads my book, The Case For Peace, will see that I have long opposed Israel settlements and favoured the two-state solution. I do believe Israel should retain control of the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem and the Western Wall, though these were captured from Jordan in a defensive war.

Does Davis think that Israel is illegally occupying the Jewish Quarter and Western Wall, and should be forced to return them to Palestinian control? I am sure some of the other signatories do.

As to Bishop Tutu, I have always let his words speak for themselves. He has called Jews “arrogant”, “peculiar”, and too “powerful” and has said that “the Jews thought they had a monopoly of G-d: Jesus was angry that they could shut out other human beings”.

He has said that Jews have been “fighting against” and being “opposed to” his G-d. He

Another interesting case is that of Olga Building in President Street. This properties’ deed of transfer specified that no church services are to be held on the premises. After some investigation I discovered that it was the site of one of Johannesburg’s first shuls.

The shul was demolished and Olga Building - where Kosseff Furs traded from - was built in its place. Today Olga Building no longer exists - it has been replaced by a parking lot.

The builders of the parking lot were not interested in holding church services so there is no problem. I believe that should the future owners of this property wish to hold church/mosque services ever, the Constitutional Court will uphold such a decision.

Coming to the Baal Shem Tov Shul: I suggest that someone who has a copy of the title deed read it to confirm that church services are indeed allowed to be held on the property. If this is the case it would render the application for consent use as a shul superfluous and of no consequence.

If nobody has the deed of transfer of this property, then get one from the Deeds Office from the stand number. The advice that the shul should make application for consent use, was wrong.

The right to hold church services must as a consequence establish the right to hold shul services in terms of Act 200 of 1993 as amended. QED.

Arnold Levy  
Glenhazel  
Johannesburg



COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Zev Krengel,  
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

THANKS TO a generous response from the Jewish community to its emergency appeal, the SAJBD has collected close on R100 000 for Japan earthquake-tsunami relief. These have been distributed between the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and Rescue SA to assist them in carrying out their respective relief work.

There are so many purely local causes requiring our support. Meeting the budgets of our Jewish institutions alone imposes significant demands on donors, and it is truly to our community’s credit that it has always answered the call.

Then there are all the important charitable causes aimed at improving the lot of the greater South African population. Despite this, many community members came forward to assist people who are neither Jewish nor South African in a country very far from these shores. To all of them, thanks and Yasher Koach.

Yom Hashoah 2011

Last week proved to be rather stressful as we learned that this year, various new regulations relating to parking, security and health and safety must be complied with if Yom Hashoah was to take place, as normal at West Park Cemetery.

We worked closely with the various municipal departments concerned, to address these requirements and made a formal presentation to the Joint Operational Committee (JOC) of the Johannesburg City Council.

Japan Earthquake Appeal

Permission for the ceremony to go ahead as normal has now been obtained.

Within the grounds of the cemetery itself, additional parking has been arranged. I would in addition urge that all those attending, please try to arrive a little earlier than the official starting time of 11:30. This will greatly assist us in ensuring that things run smoothly.

At a later stage, we intend bringing together the various Jewish organisations in Gauteng to advise them regarding what the requirements are for major functions taking place in public areas.

Media Matters (and it does)

Articles either written or co-written by our staff, have appeared in the Sunday Times, Saturday Star and New Age. In response to a previous guest who had made many scurrilous accusations against Israel on Radio 702, we arranged for Tel Aviv University Professor Asher Susser to be interviewed on the same show to refute them (something he did very effectively).

We have also been much involved in organising radio and TV debates over the University of Johannesburg’s decision to sever its ties with Ben-Gurion University. Here, the SA Associates of Ben-Gurion Director Brenda Stern, has done a superb job in forthrightly and unapologetically putting forward that university’s case.

Currently, our communications department is providing the media with information on Yom Hashoah. Much interest has already been expressed over this year’s keynote speaker, Ben Helfgott, whose inspiring story can now become more widely known.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

LETTERS

WHY I WON’T SIGN THE UJ PETITION TO BOYCOTT BGU

I AM an academic in the University of Johannesburg. I write this letter in my private capacity. I consider myself a human rights proponent and activist.

I joined the ANC in exile in the ‘80s, while studying for my Masters degree in the USA. I was active in the anti-apartheid struggle and the Universities Divestment Movement against South Africa.

I returned to South Africa in 1991 after Mandela was released and have dedicated my life to fighting injustice, racism, economic and gender inequality through arts education and activism.

I do not support the current rightwing Israeli government, its prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu or the occupation.

I believe in equitable human rights and a peaceful negotiated settlement. I believe in engagement, reconciliation and dialogue as tools to effect change.

On the University of Johannesburg’s boycott of Israel’s Ben-Gurion University: Although the vice chancellor of UJ claims that the decision to end its relationship with BGU is not a boycott, the resolution of UJ’s senate not to extend the memorandum of understanding with BGU, is equivalent to a boycott action.

(UJ’s stance) on the water research project (with BGU) is, in my opinion, outrageous. I do not think that academic boycotts are a useful or constructive form of resistance. To me, it looks as if a group of former anti-apartheid activists are searching for a cause to reinvent the spirit of organising and activism that characterised what was probably a more meaningful period in their lives.

In order to do so, it is necessary to generate moral outrage; or perhaps such outrage is being felt, but cannot be directed at what should be its rightful target, namely disappointment generated by corruption and misguided leadership on the part of our own government.

Furthermore, this boycott campaign is characterised by an annoying self-righteousness that papers over moral and intellectual laziness. Harder, more complex questions should be asked by people who consider themselves intellectuals.

Some such questions include: Does the continuing occupation and the refusal by both Israelis and Palestinians to make peace, bring the Jewish State to a point where boycotting is the most appropriate measure?

Can South African human rights activists help to end the social isolation and political disaffection in Gaza

through leading a process of dialogue for negotiated co-operation?

Why do the Ben-Gurion University academics who are engaged in international water research deserve to be boycotted as opposed to other academics doing other research when sub-Saharan Africa has a great deal to gain from important water research?

Specifically, are academic boycotts effective? Who benefits through such an action? Who loses?

These are questions that concern principles of academic freedom that should be debated and engaged with.

The University of Johannesburg prides itself on being an engaged university upholding values of integrity, respect for diversity and human dignity, academic freedom and accountability. How do we, as an academic institution, use our individual and collective efforts in defending human rights and fighting injustice and the right for self-determination and freedom of Palestinians and other politically oppressed people?

The occupation will not end by signing petitions boycotting water research.

I challenge academics to direct their energies towards a more holistic analysis of the implications of the fundamental issues of the academic boycott and also to apply their moral standards equally to all candidates for censure.

Why do we as South Africans not engage with dissident thinkers, both Jewish and Arab, in Israel? Universities are incubators of progressive thinkers and dissident movements.

Surely that is where the University of Johannesburg and South Africa could play a meaningful role in the politics and culture of active engagement to effect meaningful change for Israel and Palestine.

Given the better parts of our recent history, South African intellectuals, public scholars, activists and leaders, should play a role in sharing lessons of negotiated settlement, dialogue and exchange.

This boycott in my personal opinion is nothing but empty moral posturing, and it makes me ashamed of the decision taken by my University.

Associate Professor Kim Berman  
Department of Visual Art, University  
of Johannesburg  
Johannesburg

AROUND THE WORLD  
NEWS IN BRIEF

US SENATE UNANIMOUSLY CALLS ON UN TO RESCIND GOLDSTONE

WASHINGTON - The US Senate has unanimously approved a resolution calling on the United Nations to rescind the Goldstone Report.

Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (Democrat New York) and James Risch (Republican Idaho) initiated the resolution two weeks after Richard Goldstone, a former South African judge, retracted a key conclusion of the UN report he helped author on the 2009 Gaza war - that Israel had targeted civilians as a policy.

The resolution, passed on April 14, "calls on the United Nations Human Rights Council members to reflect the author’s repudiation of the Goldstone

Report’s central findings, rescind the report, and reconsider further Council actions with respect to the Report’s findings".

Similar legislation is now circulating in the US House of Representatives. Unlike the non-binding Senate resolution, the House bills would tie UN funding to rescinding the Goldstone Report.

Goldstone has also said that much of the remainder of the report still stands, such as Israel’s alleged slowness in prosecuting individuals accused of war crimes. His three fellow committee members said they stood by the report in its entirety (JTA)

SUNDAY 1 MAY

PARKING  
YOM HASHOAH

Additional parking has been arranged at West Park Cemetery this year but attendees are advised to arrive early in order to access it.

The ceremony starts at 11h30

SAJBD: Info: 011 645 2583/23

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The Torah Academy boys “pat” a subdued rhino.



# TA boys experience simcha at Mpumalanga Shabbaton

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
RABBI MOTTI HADAR  
PRINCIPAL, TORAH ACADEMY BOYS’  
HIGH SCHOOL

THE THEME of a Torah Academy Boys’ High School five-day Shabbaton last month, held in Swadini, Mpumalanga, was “Simcha”. The learners were told how “simcha” can break all boundaries. There was a great spirit of “achus” (unity) among the boys and between them and their teachers. Activities included an intense volleyball tournament (the matrices won), late nights in the heated pool, a “kumtitz”, skit night and TABHS “Who Wants to be a

Millionaire?”, “Fear Factor” and “Catch the Matrics”. They hiked to a waterfall and jumped off the rock face, visiting some of South Africa’s most famous and beautiful sights, including Three Rondawels, Bourke’s Luck Potholes, G-d’s Window and Wonder View. They had a trip to the Khamai Reptile Centre, learning about snakes and other reptiles and the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, which rehabilitates animals that have been injured in the wild. Learners were able to feed vultures and pat a rhino, as well as see many of Africa’s game up close. Rabbi Noam Wagner was the Shabbos guest of honour and speaker.



# Pine Street Playschool enjoys a Pesach seder

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
HAILEY FOX

SIENNA RABBIE and Lola Leigh of Pine Street Playschool enjoy a Pesach seder complete with the special handmade Haggadot they have been working on depicting all the Passover plagues.

# In spirit of ubuntu, KDVP learners reach out

SANDRA GREY  
PHOTOGRAPH Yael Gordon

ON WEDNESDAYS, 90 learners from the Pholosho Primary School in Alexandra township north of Johannesburg, come to enjoy a “Learning Through Fun” afternoon at King David High School Victory Park. This programme is run by the grade 10 and 11 learners. The school aims “to make a difference in our new democratic South Africa by sharing some of the privileges our learners take for granted. “To come into contact with different cultural groups - to learn and understand and bring into our school the values of respect

and tolerance. “To impart both social and life skills relevant to those who, because of their circumstances, have not had the opportunity to acquire these skills in their environment. “To motivate these learners so that they develop self-confidence, dignity, a feeling of worth and an awareness of their potential. “To further develop their academic skills, such as reading, language, fine and gross motor co-ordination. “To allow these underprivileged children to experience and enjoy a safe, warm and pleasurable environment so different from their often bleak lives.”



The world is built on kindness (Psalm 89:3).

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

# Time marches on... And for Gilad?

JESSICA GOTLIEB  
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

Gilad Shalit Lehava Peulah. At the time, it was four years, five months and 24 days since Gilad Shalit, member of Am Yisrael and Bnei Akiva, had been held in captivity. But did Lehava channichim (current grade 10s) on Bnei Akiva Machaneh “Briyat Machar” (“Creating Tomorrow”) understand the value of time? Who understood what it meant to be isolated from the world with no-one to talk to, to ask for advice or to ask for help? Channichim were placed in individually demarcated areas around a darkened room amidst the sound of a ticking stop-watch. They were given monotonous tasks to complete and told, most importantly, to remain silent. From the darkness, individual madrichim stood up and began reading a poem about realising the value of time, starting from one millisecond and ending with the words: “To realise the value of four years, five months and 24 days without those you love... ask Gilad Shalit.” Channichim were then presented with a news bulletin reporting Gilad’s capture and his parents’ speaking about their feelings. The next part of the presentation focused on the support offered from people situated around the world. Images showed the yearning of hundreds and thousands of people wishing and campaigning for Gilad’s safe and speedy return to Israel. Channichim were then given Torah source sheets discussing the “Redeeming of Captives”, asking them the importance of returning a soldier home and how we, as Lehava Bnei Akiva, could offer support. Channichim were then given the opportunity to write letters to Gilad’s parents, Noam

and Aviva Shalit. These letters were bound into a book and personally presented to Gilad’s parents, who were sitting in their protest tent outside the Prime Minister’s residence in Jerusalem. Aviva Shalit appeared surprised and grateful to be presented with our book, but her unhappiness and frustration were also evident. She is tired of waiting for her son to return home. This past month marked the 1 700th day of Gilad’s captivity. In solidarity, the whole of Israel observed five minutes of total silence - one minute for every year of his captivity. Our peulah’s aim was to allow our Lehava channichim exposure to a fraction of the isolation and desperation felt by Gilad on a daily basis in addition to the continued support for his safe release and return back to Eretz Yisrael. As channichim left, they were each given a prayer written for Gilad - they left in silence and united for a cause. May we please G-d have Gilad among us once again very soon.



Aviva Shalit and Naomi Kahn.

# Workshop highlights bullying scourge

GITA LIPSCHITZ AND DALIT SEGAL, KDHSVP  
SCHOOL COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT  
PHOTOGRAPH: Yael Gordon

THE GRADE 8s of King David High School Victory Park, participated in an anti-bullying workshop recently. The learners saw a very powerful film clip highlighting the devastating effect of bullying on young lives. In small groups they then explored the different types of bullying and why people bully. They were empowered with skills and knowledge to be able to report bullying, should they be a victim or a bystander witnessing an incident. The grade 8s made posters highlighting an anti-bullying slogan and encouraging young people to get help by telling someone they trust. The programme was developed by the counselling department of King David High School Linksfield.



Shiron Friedman; Carlie Joselowitz; and Tamar Segal.

# KDLP grade 7s remember Gilad Shalit

YONIT WEIL  
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

KING DAVID Linksfield Primary conducted a very moving grade 7 Freedom Seder dedicated to the release of Gilad ben Aviva Shalit, the young Israeli soldier abducted by Hamas five years ago. Divrei Torah were said by the children

and there was not a dry eye in the hall when the children sang “One Day” dedicated to Shalit’s release. The hall was decorated in yellow and blue with Israeli flags. A donation was made of bags, bracelets and t-shirts and yellow ribbons were wrapped around the chairs. Pictured are Yaron Kark; Greg Abraham; Sam Cohen; and Chad Shankman.





# Herero Genocide should not be lost in pages of history

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

THE QUESTION of reparations for colonial-era genocides, would continue to dominate the consciousness of those who had suffered the genocides, Professor Jeremy Sarkin said at the launch of his new book, “Germany’s Genocide of the Herero”, at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre.

Explaining the choice of venue, Richard Freedman, director of the South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation, said the Centre was “a place of learning and prompting people to confront their histories”.

Introducing the author, historian Dr David Scher noted that the 20th century had been “one of the bloodiest in humankind, ushered in by the Herero Genocide of 1904”. He questioned whether there was a “historical continuity” between the German practices in then-South-West Africa and those of Second World War Europe.

“As the 19th century drew to a close, more and more of the Herero land was appropriated for the use of German farmer settlers (in SWA),” he told the gathering. “Life for the Herero became intolerable and they rose in revolt.”

In 1904, Lieutenant-General Lothar von Trotha arrived to take charge of the war for the Germans and was “determined to solve the Herero problem”. He drove them into a single location and surrounded them on three sides.

His men had instructions to poison the waterholes and shoot the Herero on sight. The Extermination Order of 1904 stated that the Herero people would “have to leave the country, otherwise I shall force them to do so by means of guns.

“This is one of the first historically-documented orders for genocide,” Scher commented.

Von Trotha had not been “totally successful”, he added, with the Herero population being reduced from around 80 000 to just under 20 000. In 1905, he had set up concentration camps, herding the remaining Herero into those camps and using them as slave labour.

Scher said it was fitting that those events should be commemorated in “our own” Holocaust Centre, as this had been the first time that genocide had been espoused as official policy. “Some also believe that it provides a direct precursor to subsequent policy towards the Jews,” he said.

In his book, Sarkin investigates the link between this genocide and the Holocaust. “He eschews overstatement and speculation,” Scher said of the author, adding that he “relates and documents in the finest academic tradition the tragic, heartbreaking genocide of the Herero people just over a century ago”.

Sarkin, who is chairman-rapporteur of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and serves as the legal adviser to the paramount chief of the Herero, commented that the book had been a long-term project, starting in 2001 when the Herero community had decided to launch a case for reparations against Germany.

Commenting on the first genocide of the century, he said that it had been “unique” in that it had been communicated in their own language to those who were going to suffer the genocide.

Sarkin said the link between the Herero genocide and the Holocaust was “clear to me in terms of the events, but certainly in terms of the ideologies and the personalities, some of whom were involved in both”.

And the role of Kaiser Wilhelm 11 in the genocide? “I think he had a key role to play,” he maintained.

“He personally designed the medal to give to Von Trotha for what he had done.”

Sarkin builds up evidence of the Kaiser’s personality, based on his “record of brutality” including anti-Semitism - in a 1919 statement, he referred to Jews as “the poisonous mush-

room on the German oak tree” - and argues that Von Trotha was given a “specific genocide order” by the Kaiser.

After 2004, the Von Trotha family visited Namibia several times to apologise to the Herero and to try to make amends, he noted.


Sarkin pointed out that the question of reparations was still a “key issue”. Although the Germans had offered 25 million euros in 2006, the Herero say that this is reconciliation, not reparations for the land and cattle that were lost.

“They want something more than a pay-out - it’s about land restitution as well, which is a very complex issue.”



Professor Jeremy Sarkin (right) talks to members of the audience at the launch of his book, “Germany’s Genocide of the Herero”, at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre.

## WAS YOUR FAMILY’S PROPERTY TAKEN DURING THE HOLOCAUST?



If you or your family owned movable, immovable, or intangible property that was confiscated, looted or forcibly sold in countries governed or occupied by the Nazi forces or Axis powers during the Holocaust era and you or your relatives received no restitution for that property after the Holocaust era, you may be eligible to participate in the Holocaust Era Asset Restitution Taskforce project (Project HEART).

Project HEART is a nonprofit initiative of the Jewish Agency for Israel, funded by and in cooperation with the Government of Israel.

For more information or to download the Questionnaire, visit  
**<http://www.heartwebsite.org>**  
or call toll free 0-800-981-889 or direct line +1-414-967-2581  
between 11:00 and 16:00, Sunday through Thursday, except Jewish Holidays, and the Questionnaire will be mailed to you.

If you do not wish to be included in Project HEART, you must send a signed written request for exclusion postmarked no later than June 15, 2011, to  
**PROJECT HEART, PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR, EXCLUSIONS, c/o A.B. DATA, LTD., PO BOX 170700, MILWAUKEE, WI 53217-8091, U.S.A.**

Photographs: Gift of Ruth Mermelstein, Yaffa Eliach Collection donated by the Center for Holocaust Studies, Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York, U.S.A. Gift of Eric S. Morley, Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York, U.S.A. Gift of Ronnie Hamburger Burrows, Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York, U.S.A.







# Sabbath offers serenity in a fast-paced world

RABBI ARI KIEVMAN

“FOR A period of six days, work may be done, but the seventh day shall be holy to you, a day of complete rest for G-d.” Exodus 35:2-3

Once upon a time, the workday ended when we left the workplace and returned home; now, however, thanks to voice mail, e-mail, smart phones, laptop computers, a myriad other PDAs, and hundreds of cable television and radio channels that provide 24-hour access, our work follows us wherever we go.

And because information technology plays an ever-increasing role in our lives, the desire to utilise its many features can often cause us to focus on what is urgent, rather than what’s truly important, experts say.

In addition, finding a sense of inner peace in a world that doesn’t let us rest, has become an important consideration that, if ignored, can lead to a chaotic life full of stress and anxiety, they add.

But the ancient institution of Shabbat can bring balance to the equation. Oasis in Time: The Gift of Shabbat in a 24/7 World, the Spring 2011 course presented by The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), will offer ways to achieve a life of rest, relaxation, inspiration, and fulfilment among all the distractions and circumstances that breed stress and anxiety.

JLI is an organisation that was started in 1998. Chabad House has introduced the Rohr JLI courses to South Africa several years ago. Since its inception here, thousands of people participated and have truly enriched their lives. The most recent courses were facilitated by Rabbi Ari Kievman and had a record attendance of more than 300 at several venues in Johannesburg including the flagship location at Chabad House in Savoy as well as Chabad in the Mall at Village Walk and at Torah Academy.

There were also private sessions at business offices for weekly sessions of “lunch and learn”. Rabbi Kievman will also con-

duct the coming six course sessions starting in the beginning of May at Chabad House, Chabad in the Mall and other locations in Johannesburg and Pretoria. The courses are also available in Durban and Cape Town.

Another beauty of JLI courses is that if you must travel during the six weeks of the series, you can catch the class in one of more than 300 cities worldwide, so chances are if there’s a Chabad in the place that you’re visiting, the same class may be taking place there simultaneously.

“I see this course as Judaism’s secrets to serenity,” said Rabbi Kievman. “Amidst the many distractions in our age of information technology, it will empower individuals of all persuasions to find respite from perpetual urgencies and focus on what’s truly important in life.”

“We explore the mystical, psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of Shabbat to unlock a model for how to find serenity and a transcendent frame of mind throughout life’s experiences,” said course author, Rabbi Zalman Abraham who hails from Johannesburg.

“From traditional and kabbalistic sources, we uncover insights that shed light on tranquility and the meaning of Shabbat, as well as timeless principles for how to achieve a life of inner peace while making each workday more productive and fulfilling.”

Like all previous JLI programmes, Oasis in Time is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning.

All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular shul or organisation.

Interested students may call (011) 440-6600 or visit [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com) for registration and other course-related information.

JLI courses are presented in Johannesburg in conjunction with Chabad House. Contact Rabbi Kievman at 079-434-1293 or e-mail [rak@chabad.org.za](mailto:rak@chabad.org.za) for more information.

# Delegation visits Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH: BENJI SHULMAN

A DELEGATION recently visited the JNF’s Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre in Mamelodi, near Pretoria, to look at innovative projects that could be done in the field of environmental education.

The group consisted of members of the basic education department and NGOs and was headed by Deputy Minister of Higher Education Hlengiwe Mkhize.

The delegation discussed current issues in the green sector as well as important upcoming events that will be focusing on this agenda. They then made a tour of the centre while interacting with the teaching staff. They also saw the various “green themed” teaching rooms, demonstration permaculture garden and pensioners’ food production plots.

Since its creation, the centre has become an important education hub in the community and provides environmental education for nearly 4 000 children in the surrounding district.



Niney two-year-old pensioner Elizabeth Kutmela shows Elizabeth Mokotong, who is involved in various NGO projects and Deputy Minister Hlengiwe Mkhize, her food plot. At the back is Adam Marcus, treasurer of the JNF.

# ORT JET support network contributes to success

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY NICCI RAZ

AUCTION ALLIANCE Johannesburg, sponsored and hosted the first business networking event of the year, facilitated by ORT JET.

Devorah Kur who is a wellness consultant, welcomed the 70 attendees and gave a real and honest account of the trials and tribulations she had experienced while trying to grow her own business.

She spoke of the amazing encouragement and valuable advice given to her by her ORT JET mentors and how she had proactively used the tools made available to her through the ORT JET process, resulting in the financial growth and sustainability of her health and wellness consultancy.

“Networking was one of the major keys to my success but it is not always easy,” said Devorah, who encouraged those present to use every opportunity presented to them to make connections and expand their net-



Carl Bates (Sirdar) and Dvorah Kur (ORT JET-assisted business-owner).

work.

Inspirational speaker Carl Bates from Sirdar captured the audience with his charismatic talk. Bates established Sirdar, a unique business support organisation, which aims to inspire growth and governance within SMEs across the globe.

The evening ended with a 30 minute networking window where the guests mingled and used the time to discuss their businesses among each other.

“Evenings like these are vital for SMEs to boost their confidence and allow them to practise the tools we teach on our skills development programmes,” says Cindy Silberg, ORT JET operations manager.

ORT JET offers a number of services to Jewish business people in Johannesburg and Cape Town, with the vision of creating a support network that facilitates financial stability and growth within the Jewish business environment.

• For more information you may visit [www.ortjet.org.za](http://www.ortjet.org.za) or call (011) 728-7154.

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# MaAfrika Tikkun, Miss SA and loveLife, tackle teen pregnancy

WITH RATES of teenage pregnancy unacceptably high in South Africa, MaAfrika Tikkun is partnering with Miss SA 2010, Bokang Montjane and loveLife to educate, engage and empower youth to take control of their reproductive health and futures, MaAfrika Tikkun said in a media release.  
“MaAfrika Tikkun, an NGO working towards the transformation of

South African communities by empowering vulnerable children and orphans in townships, will be tackling the problem of teen pregnancy with the support of Miss South Africa.  
“Having seen the detrimental, disempowering effects of pregnancy on young women’s lives, Montjane has become a passionate campaigner about teen pregnancy, and will be

spreading the message in several schools and community centres in Gauteng.”  
Rita Mkwanzazi, MaAfrika Tikkun project manager at the Arekopenang Centre in Orange Farm, says: “If teen pregnancy is not discussed, girls will get pregnant, and say nobody told them it was a bad idea. The reason teens are getting pregnant is because their parents were teenage

mothers themselves, and did not know how to explain sex to them. It is therefore our responsibility as an NGO focused on empowering children in deprived communities, to reach their full potential, to do so.”  
MaAfrika Tikkun plans to reach hundreds of youth through this initiative, providing them with not only a powerful role model to look up to in the form of Miss SA 2010, but also interactive platforms and material to help them prevent early unplanned pregnancy.  
The organisation is therefore partnering with loveLife, South Africa’s largest HIV prevention programme for youth.



## Jewish Job Junction just grows

**STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY NICCI RAZ**  
ORT JET’s online job platform which was launched in November last year, reached a peak recently with over 80 listings. Our feedback from employers and professional recruiters indicates that the Jewish Job Junction is responsible for at least one Jewish candidate being

placed every day.  
This free community service, developed and built by ORT JET and MyShtetl, is gaining further momentum with every week that passes - it just gets bigger and bigger.  
Professional recruiters and employers report that they have never experienced the quality of applicants from any other source and the best part is that it costs nothing to post a position.  
The system allows jobseekers to create their resume online and look through the list of positions offered. Certain businesses are even looking for more than one

candidate.  
It’s quick and easy for the applicant to click apply and send their resumes to the potential employers, who will then respond directly should their application be successful.  
ORT JET also offers free job-seeker workshops monthly for the community, conducted by recruitment experts. ORT’s aim is to empower job-seekers to find positions in the right industries as quickly as possible.  
• For more information, visit [www.ortjet.org.za](http://www.ortjet.org.za) or call ORT SA on (011) 728-7154, to book.

## Working well together to develop senior management

**LINDA PEPLAR-CHAMBERS**  
DIEPSLOOT COMBINED School, which is characterised by unemployed parents, extreme poverty and a high mortality rate, appealed for assistance in developing the school’s senior management team (SMT) and ORT SA and Absa Capital, together with the Gauteng Department of Education, rose to the challenge.  
They decided to uplift the state of Diepsloot Combined by providing Whole School Development (WSD) for the SMT and teaching staff of the school, as well as providing them with

mentorship and coaching skills.  
The MEC for education in Gauteng has declared the provincial strategic goals for the province and among them is a goal to strengthen partnerships with stakeholders, so that education becomes a societal priority.  
The quality of teaching and learning improves through capacity building of the school’s management body... WSD is a planned and sustained effort at school self study and improvement, focusing explicitly on change in both formal and informal norms, structures and procedures.  
The WSD roll-out will develop the

SMT and the teaching staff to ultimately improve the quality of teaching and learning at the school.  
The first WSD workshop was held on February 19 at St Peter’s Preparatory School in Sandton. The SMT was trained in management and leadership skills, which included team building, strategic planning and change management.  
When one of the participants was asked what they thought of the workshop, he said: “I will be a leader and a manager who is very focused and goal-orientated.”  
ORT SA Chairman Irwin Lipworth is excited to have on board Absa Capital, a new partner, and he’s looking forward to hearing further success stories from Diepsloot Combined School, its principal, teachers and learners.



## AROUND THE WORLD

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### HOLLYWOOD SYNAGOGUE FIRE MAY BE ARSON

LOS ANGELES - Police are searching for a suspect in a fire in a prominent Hollywood synagogue that has been classified as arson.  
The fire, which the Los Angeles Fire Department has called arson, was set in a classroom on the second floor of Temple Israel of Hollywood early on April 14. The suspect was caught on a security camera and is believed to be a transient known in the area, according to The Los Angeles Times.  
Police reportedly are not investigating the incident as a hate crime, though Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge called it a hate crime, the Los Angeles Jewish Journal reported.  
The incident came a week after a Santa Monica Chabad centre and synagogue was targeted with a pipe bomb. A suspect in that incident was arrested in suburban Cleveland. (JTA)

## EMPLOYMENT X EXCHANGE

Seeking a reception position or nursery school assistant, urgently, please contact Ingrid Milner 072-226-1276.

Energetic, 64-year-old male sober habits seeks employment in retail as manager. Have 40 years experience. Owned own business successfully. Theo Isaacson 082-419-3210

Mature, presentable, well-spoken lady. Experienced with switchboard, reception, admin, data capture and computer literate. 076-738-1936 Hilary

Ambitious Jewish male seeking employment, for in-house sales and/or clerical in hardware or ironmongery. Have had experience in local buying as well. References available, contact Stanley 082-648-5320 or (011) 882-1587

Do you need help caring for your loved ones? I am looking for part-time (either morning, afternoon or babysitting ) au pair & care giving work. I have Montessori infant & nursery school teaching & a year of nursing. Car & driver’s licence. Nicole Heiman 084-284-6452 [ian.h@telkomsa.net](mailto:ian.h@telkomsa.net)

My name is Margaret and I have just matriculated. I would like a live-in job looking after children. My cell no is 074-904-3945.

Bookkeeper /any administration position 40 years’ experience. Seeking employment. Call 082-464-5133

28 year old male seeking any work preferably in sales. Brian 082-558-0154

Very competent, efficient young man seeking employment - Admin, data capturing (database), reception, IT and office support. Willing to help with e-mailing, typing and typing of CVs or wherever I can. Gavin Meltz: 072-232-7569. E-mail: [meltzfamilly@mweb.co.za](mailto:meltzfamilly@mweb.co.za)

Lady looking for an admin receptionist position. Fully computer-literate, can do all general office work. Exp in all Microsoft Office Programs. Please call me on 084-904-8328 or e-mail [pj.nath@hotmail.com](mailto:pj.nath@hotmail.com)

Young Jewish lady is seeking a professional assistant position in the legal fraternity, with an interest in gaining experience in civil litigation. CV and references available on request. Contact 083-951-4089.





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# Olympic hero Helfgott to speak at Yom Hashoah

JACK MILNER

THERE ARE many stories of triumph over despair and Ben Helfgott falls into that category. Helfgott is the only known survivor of a Nazi concentration camp to compete in the Olympic Games. He captained the British Olympic weightlifting teams of 1956 and 1960.

Helfgott will relate his inspirational story to South Africa as a guest at Yom Hashoah to be held this year on Sunday, May 1, at West Park Cemetery.

Polish-born Helfgott was just nine years old when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939. He spent much of the war in concentration camps and was the only member of his family to survive Buchenwald.

Before the war the Helfgott family led a happy life in a small Polish border town, Piotrkow. But the family's feelings of security collapsed, however, when in September 1939, the Nazis stormed into the country. Helfgott, not yet 10 years old, saw the full horrors of the occupation firsthand as the Nazi brutality accelerated with murder, violence and terror.

In August 1942, aged 12, Helfgott registered to work at the glass factory in his hometown. It was at the height of the deportation and, as he later recalled, there were rumours that if one had a job assisting the war effort of the Third Reich, one would not be sent away.

But he was eventually sent to a labour camp, where he miraculously survived. He was weak and emaciated when he was liberated from Theresienstadt at the end of the war in 1945, when he was 15 years old.

"We have shown that the misery, cruelty,



**Ben Helfgott, the only known survivor of a Nazi concentration camp to compete in the Olympic Games, will be a guest at Yom Hashoah on May 1.**

despair and injustices that were inflicted on us did not break our indomitable will. It did not consume us with hatred to the point of destroying our own and other peoples' lives. Instead we set out to create a new life," said Helfgott.

He settled in England in August 1945 as one of "The Boys" and in 1947 was reunited with his younger sister, Mala.

He became a successful businessman and champion weightlifter. In 1956 and 1960 he captained the British Olympic weightlifting teams. He was British Lightweight Champion for seven years and a gold medallist at the 1950, 1953 and 1957 World Maccabi Games.

In 1963 Helfgott helped launch the '45 Aid Society for Holocaust Survivors and has been chairman ever since.

He is also president of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and of the Yad Vashem Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. He was awarded an MBE for services to the community, and the Polish Knights Cross, Order of Merit, and Commanders Cross, Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for his work of reconciliation between Poles and Jews.

In 1995 he was elected to the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. Helfgott and his wife Arza have three children and eight grandchildren.

Helfgott made this statement: "Beware! Do not repeat the mistakes of the 20th century. Be tolerant and work in harmony with people of all races and creeds; reject hatred and revenge. Reach out with tolerance: live with integrity and give of yourself to society. Endeavour to enhance human dignity."

# Shatilov grabs silver in Euro Artistic Gymnastics

ALEX SHATILOV claimed his second career medal at the European Artistic Gymnastics Championships two weeks ago, taking the silver in the floor exercise final in Berlin.

The 24-year-old won Israel's first-ever medal at the Europeans two years ago, taking the bronze in the floor final, and also claimed the country's first medal at the World Championships, coming third in 2009.

A serious knee injury saw Shatilov miss last year's Europeans, but he proved in Berlin that he is back to top form and will be one of Israel's best medal hopes in next year's Olympic Games in London.

"This is my best finish in the Europeans," said Shatilov, who recorded a result of 15,400, second only to the 15,500 achieved by Romania's gold medal winner Flavius Koczi.

"I'm making constant progress and this medal gives me a lot of confidence. My next target is the World Championships in October in Tokyo and of course my main goal is the Olympics



**Israeli gymnast Alexander Shatilov reacts after completing his floor exercise in Berlin two weeks ago.**

where I am aiming for the gold."

In other Olympics news, Sergy Rikhter became the first Israeli to officially book his place for the London Games after finishing the 10m Air Rifle World Cup competition in Changwon, South Korea in second place two weeks ago. – Jerusalem Post.

# Gauteng Maccabi Champs 2011

WINNERS OF the Maccabi SA Golf Championships played at the Houghton and King David Golf courses.

## LADIES SECTION

*Gross winner:* Bonne Isaacson-Bamber; *Gross runner-up,* Lisa Kowen.

*Nett winner:* Barbara Vilensky; *Nett runner-up,* Debbie Cloud.

*Gross winner day 3:* - Elaine Rubens; *Gross winner day 2:* Michelle Solomon; *Gross winner day 1:* Bonne Isaacson-Bamber.

## MEN'S SECTION

### A Division

*Gross winner:* Brandon Joffe (play off); *Gross runner-up,* Jarred Miltz.

*Nett winner:* Milton Maloon; *Nett runner-up,* Evan Musikanth.

### B Division

*Gross winner:* David Sheinbar; *Gross runner-up,* Paul Slater (count out).

*Nett winner:* Clive Bernstein; *Nett runner-up,* Daniel Nathan.

### C Division

*Winner:* Jay Brodtkin; *Runner-up,* Rubin Pogir.

### Super Seniors

*Winner:* Stan Allison; *Runner-up,* Basil Elk.

### Masters

*Winner:* Ian Smith; *Runner-up,* Alan Rudnick.

### Juniors

*Winner:* Brandon Joffe; *Runner-up,* Daniel Veretnik.

### Final prize-giving list

Score, description, player

### Men's section

*A Division:* *Gross winner day 3:* Ryan Nestadt; *Day 2:* Jarred Miltz; *Day 1:* Brandon Joffe.

*B Division:* *Gross winner day 3:* David Sheinbar; *Winner day 2:* Clive Bernstein; *Winner day 1:* David Sheinbar.

*C Division:* *Winner day 3:* Rubin Pogir; *Day 2:* Jay Brodtkin; *Day 1:* Owen Futeran.

*Super Seniors:* *Winner days 1, 2, and 3:* Stan Allison.



**Junior Maccabi golf champion Brandon Joffe with Maccabi Golf Chairman Les Cohen.**



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