



Adele Blank
choreographs
Dance for a
Cure 2012 -
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• south african •
jewish report

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Triumphing over adversity in Olympic spirit

With a smile of defiant jubilation, Leslie Lyndon (68) former cantor of the Masorti North London Synagogue who was diagnosed with dementia five years ago, was one of the 8 000 selected Olympic torchbearers who carried the lit torch through North London suburbs last week. He was chosen for this particular honour because of the good work he has accomplished during his career. A deeply moved colleague commented that perhaps the blessing for a gesture of this nature should be “lehadlik ner shel humanity”:

to light the candle of humanity. (PHOTOGRAPH: NEW NORTH LONDON SYNAGOGUE)

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Five of the seven JDA Halala awards go to Jewish developers
Jewish entrepreneurs, Renney and Wayne Plit; Leigh Nudelman; Jonathan Liebman; and Yael Horowitz, scooped the majority of awards at the Johannesburg Development Agency's Halala awards for improvements in the inner city of Johannesburg.

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SAKS: 'Jewish artists more tenaciously Jewish than musical counterparts'
“Is there any reason why European modernism's first major Jewish fine artists tended to be far more comfortable about being Jewish than their fellow musicians and composers?”

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Jewish Travel: Avignon, mediaeval city of popes


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Art, music, economics and camaraderie celebrating ORT SA
“We must realise when change comes we have a role to play. The future will be what we make it,” says Reserve Bank Governor Gill Marcus, keynote speaker at ORT SA's gala banquet.

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SAJBD urges community to report anti-Semitic graffiti


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Shabbat Times

Aug 3/15 Av Tu B'Av
Aug 4/ 16 Av

Parshat Va'etchanan

17:25	18:16	Johannesburg
17:51	18:44	Cape Town
17:08	17:59	Durban
17:28	18:20	Bloemfontein
17:22	18:16	Port Elizabeth
17:15	18:08	East London

Kashrut department
revamps its old logo

Looks familiar? A subtle yet significant change, from a few seemingly meaningless letters to proudly making our mark.



Says the kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues: “Our Jewish community’s most trusted and familiar symbol has had a facelift.

“If you’ve ever stopped to ponder the meaning behind the letters at the heart of the Beth Din kashrut diamond, here is the explanation:

“You will notice four seemingly arbitrary letters: FSUC, The Federation of Synagogues United Council. In 1983, the Federation changed its name to the Union of Orthodox Synagogues (UOS), as we are still known today.

“However, the FSUC trademark remained registered, until now, and 29 years later we have finally re-registered the trademark.

“For us, this is a tremendous milestone. At the very epicentre of our most recognised symbol, UOS SA is now proudly displayed. And that’s exactly where the UOS fits in - at the heart of kashrut, and at the heart of fostering and maintaining the infrastructure necessary for Jewish life in South Africa.

“It is because of our dedicated kashrut division that this symbol appears on over 13 000 unique products, with 70 000 unique ingredients constantly being monitored through over 4 000 annual inspections both locally and abroad.

“We have distributed the new logo to all our manufacturers and you may start to notice it slowly making its appearance. However, it will take some time before it is fully phased in nationwide. Please note that the old logo remains completely valid.”

Chalav Yisrael cheeses
are now available

The kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues says in a media release that further to a recent notice on the availability of certain cheeses, “we can now confirm that over the next few days, supervised Chalav Yisrael Mozarella, Feta and Haloumi will be delivered to various stores including KosherWorld, Checkers Balfour Park, selected Pick n Pays, Spar Savoy, Spar Sandringham, Spar Norwood and Corner Cafe .

The department says these cheeses should now be available on an ongoing basis. In the next few days production of hard yellow cheese (such as cheddar) will commence, “but these will take approximately six weeks to age and mature.

These cheeses will be branded with the “Harryson’s” label. It should be noted that “Harryson’s” also manufactures regular kosher cheese bearing the Beth Din Milchik logo, therefore, those who require supervised Chalav Yisrael cheese, must ensure that the cheese bears a Beth Din Chalav Yisrael sticker.

Something borrowed

Mystics teach us that the name of the month of “Av” - written “Aleph-Bet” in Hebrew - is an acronym for the words Arur and Baruch. Arur, or cursed, represents the first half of the month, which thank G-d is now behind us - those terrible days leading up to Tisha b'Av which we marked last weekend. Days of mourning, days of sadness, days of Divine severity.

The first half of Av contains the saddest day of the year, but the second half of the month, the one that is Baruch, blessed, begins with gladness. Friday is the 15th day of Av - Tu b'Av - is one of the happiest days in the calendar, so joyous in fact, that the Sages of the Talmud compared its joy to the one we experience of Yom Kippur, the day when we are granted Hashem’s forgiveness.

We all know how to celebrate Yom Kippur. We fast, we dress in white, we spend the day in prayer. How do we celebrate 15th Av?

The Talmud describes the ancient practices of that festival. On that day the maidens would go out in to the vineyards, wearing borrowed white dresses, to dance and rejoice.

The obvious reason for borrowing dresses was that this would ease the embarrassment of the poor girls, who did not own appropri-



PARSHAT
VA'ETCHANAN
Rabbi Yossi Chaikin
Oxford Shul

ate garments. Since everyone was wearing a borrowed dress anyway, they would not be ashamed.

But Kabbalists teach us something profound about the concept of “something borrowed”.

There are accomplishments that are our own. The inspiration and drive to achieve, came from within us. It was our own energy that made us complete the task. Thus it is ours.

At other times the inspiration comes from elsewhere. It was not our own initiative. Somewhere outside of us there was a trigger, which lit up our enthusiasm and made us get on with a task. Such an accomplishment is “borrowed”.

15 Av is such an event. Suddenly we wake up to the realisation that the Day of Judgment is a mere six weeks away. In another

couple of weeks the shofar will come out of the cupboard and it will be sounded every day of Elul.

Before we know it, the Days of Awe will be upon us. All mankind will be judged and their future destiny decided.

This awakening comes to us from above. It is a spirit which the A-mighty bestows upon us. This is why the maidens - symbolic of the souls of Israel - dance in borrowed clothes, instead of wearing their own. For this Tu b'Av dance is about answering the G-dly call to action. Hashem is the musician, who plays the tune to which all the dancers fall in step.

On this day, this G-dly tune begins to play. We need to open our ears and hear the melody. We must allow the sounds to penetrate our core, our neshoma. When a song resonates within us, our feet begin to tap, the entire body begins to move, and we join with everyone else around us who hears the same tune.

Around and around we dance, united, joined by the common sense of purpose and of destiny, albeit in borrowed garments, but pure and white, the colour of forgiveness, the colour of the High Holidays.

A whopping 560 wheelchairs,
thanks to barmitzvah boy, Harrison

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

Thanks to the generosity of an American barmitzvah boy, Jewish and other causes in this country have scored 560 much-needed wheelchairs. Harrison Hochman and his family were honoured with a traditional Cape luncheon at Coffee Time, hosted by Jewish Care Cape.

Those gathered wondered if the Hochmans were former South Africans or perhaps had family living here, but the truth was less obvious and in keeping with the simple solutions of childhood.

In a brief address, Harrison explained: “When I was in third grade, I read a book called Journey to Johannesburg, which dealt with the hardships and poverty here. When it came to my barmitzvah, I researched all about the poverty that people faced and I thought: ‘How about South Africa?’ and we’re here.”

Harrison was following in older brother Tyler’s footsteps. As part of his barmitzvah project, Tyler had in 2010 delivered 280 wheelchairs to Israel.

Not to be outdone, Harrison set about emulating his sibling’s achievement, raising \$84 000 for the purpose. Of the 560 wheelchairs, 280 were allocated to Cape Town and 50 to Jewish charities here. Each would sell for \$500, but because they are purchased in bulk from the factory, cost \$150.



Nathan, Tyler, Harrison, Brynn and Vivienne Hochman of Los Angeles. Barmitzvah boy Harrison raised funds for 560 wheelchairs for Jewish and other charities in South Africa.

Harrison’s father, Nathan, said the undertaking offered the opportunity to show Judaism at its best and what it had to offer the world in the form of Tikkun Olam. “Harrison’s project is a small effort in a large mission that we have to do just that, in this case, giving the gift of mobility to those that don’t have it.”

Harrison was accompanied by his immediate family, including grandmother Harriet. He explains that the personal touch makes all the difference to the giving experience.

Referring to the family’s similar trip to Israel two years ago, he said: “When I

went into somebody’s home, it made me feel much more connected to the person as opposed to just delivering wheelchairs to a hospital where you don’t actually get to meet the recipient.”

At the event, Harrison shared his modus operandi with Jewish Report: “I made a video and went to private organisations and investors who sponsored the wheelchairs. It’s fun and rewarding for me and I hope to carry on the good work.”

The donation was organised through Rotary in South Africa, in conjunction with the Wheelchair Foundation of Great Britain, who were contacted by Nathan.

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Five of seven JDA Halala awards go to Jewish developers

STAFF REPORTER

Jewish businessmen have once again made their mark in the redevelopment of Johannesburg's inner city. They scooped five of the seven awards at the Johannesburg Development Agency's (JDA) Halala awards for improvements in the inner city.

The awards recognise people, projects and places that strive to improve the quality of life in the inner city.

Thanduxolo Mendrew, the agency's acting CEO, said none of this would have been possible without the widespread commitment of the stakeholders. The Halala Joburg Awards recognise and celebrated those who strive for the betterment of the inner city and who ensured that the vibrant heart of Johannesburg continued to beat a steady rhythm of growth and development," he said.

Between 2001 and 2008, total private sector investment in key areas where the JDA worked, measured by property transactions, was R7,5 billion, against total JDA investment

of R393 million.

Renney and Wayne Plit of Afhco received two awards, the first for the renovation of 120 End Street Apartments for "Living Joburg: not houses but homes". This is the largest conversion from commercial to residential space in the southern hemisphere.

The other award was the "Believing in Joburg - the Stan Nkosi Achievement", awarded to those who champion the regeneration of the inner city.

The "Working and Buying Joburg: Creating a Business Destination" went to Jonathan Liebman of The Main Change. This is a mixed-use building that encourages an integrated lifestyle.

"Caring Joburg - Supporting Joburg's Citizens" went to the Urban Arts Platform run by Leigh Nudelman. This is a multi-disciplinary arts organisation run from the historic Ansteys Building where people are exposed to arts and culture and where artists can showcase their work at no cost.

The Colosseum Award for "Con-

serving Joburg: Past, Present and Future", went to the Shandukani Health Centre. Yael Horowitz is the programme manager who oversaw the refurbishment.

The former Van Niekerk Operating Theatre on the grounds of the old Hillbrow Hospital in Johannesburg, has been transformed into a state-of-the-art facility for maternal and child health care, now known as the Shandukani Maternal and Child Health Centre.

When the first 12 babies were born there a few weeks ago, Horowitz said she wept.

"The project epitomises the objectives of the Hillbrow Health Precinct that seeks to create a visionary, world-first health precinct, not only addressing HIV/Aids and TB, but also poverty and urban renewal in the Johannesburg's inner city," said Horowitz.

Shandukani is a flagship public/private partnership between the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (WRHI), Vodacom, Altron and Altech.

The award was for the preservation of one of the city's architectural assets combined with the recycling of function and form to create a contemporary clinic.

Olitzki has new approach to get innercity squatters out

Gerald Olitzki has decided that he doesn't want the unpleasantness of evicting people from run-down buildings he is renovating in Johannesburg's inner city.

Instead, he chooses to negotiate with them and offer them money so they can start again and find a place to live in dignity.

Last week about 300 people living in a derelict building with no water or electricity, which Olitzki has purchased, left the premises peacefully.

They were happy that they, as groups occupying rooms, were to get R5 000 per room.

Olitzki, who owns many buildings in the inner city, said he had learned that getting police and Red Ants in was not the way to get people out.

"One has to negotiate. Mostly people want to move out, they get tired of living in squalid conditions. It was not easy - it took years to get to the stage where they have moved out voluntarily, but we got there and everyone is happy," he said.

Plit brothers sign huge deal on innercity development

The Plit brothers (Renney and Wayne) recently gave the inner city another huge boost with the signing of an agreement worth R150 million with Agence Française de Développement (AFD), a development aid body of the French government, to finance housing for the lowest income earners - those getting below R3 750 a month.

An agreement was signed with the Affordable Housing Company (Afcho) to build 1 300 housing units for about 3 000 residents in the inner city.

Five buildings will be convert-

ed into units which will offer private kitchens, stoves, telephones, DSTV aerials, 24-hour security, but shared ablution facilities.

The iconic, historic 1936 CBD building, the old Chrysler, now called Atkinson House, is to be revamped to into 500 such affordable housing units.

Chrysler House, as it was then called, was a motor showroom and servicing centre and was considered a skyscraper in the early 1930s, at 11 storeys.

Other buildings Afhco will be developing include Platinum Place in New Doornfontein, Con-

naught Mansions in Bree Street and Rodi Bose near Nugget Street.

The Plit brothers have also rescued the historic, but mothballed Stuttafords Building on the corner of Pritchard and Rissik Streets. It is to be fully restored and converted into a 120-room hotel.

The Stuttafords Building was one of the first skyscrapers in the Johannesburg CBD, built in 1893 and it was a major landmark of the city at the time.

The hotel is expected to receive its first guests towards the end of the year.

Community Briefs

SELWYN SEGAL HOLDS A FUNCTION TO THANK ITS DONORS

Last month the Selwyn Segal held a function to thank donors who had assisted in the rebuilding and refurbishing of the facility's Jerusalem Unit, and revamped its hairdressing salon.

The function, in the residents' lounge at Selwyn Segal, was attended by some 100 people including Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, who, in installing mezuzot, commented how Jewish people add beauty to their performance of chesed. Michelle Grek, a Selwyn Segal resident, spoke of how the wonderful changes had made so much difference to her and her co-residents.

On behalf of the donors, Norman Stein expressed appreciation for the opportunity to assist.-CELESTE EVERITT

CAP OFFERS FREE PROACTIVE TRAINING FOR DOMESTICS

In an effort to increase community crime prevention awareness, CAP offers free proactive behaviour training for domestics in the Glenhazel, Savoy and Waverley areas. According to a media statement, "it is imperative that this community's domestics (including gardeners and security guards) can proactively prevent crime, not only in the neighbourhood but also in their own lives."

The training takes place on August 15, from 12:00 - 13:00 in the Japanese Gardens, Glenhazel; August 16, 12:00 - 13:00 at the Jabula Recreation Centre, Sandringham, and August 30, 12:30 - 13:30 at Savoy Park, Savoy. No booking is necessary; Candice may be contacted on 0860-332-332 or communications@capgroup.org.za for further information.

STEVEN HURWITZ GETS CHANCELLOR'S GOLD MEDAL

During July, Steven Hurwitz, in graduating with honours in his accounting science degree at Wits, was awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal, given to the most distinguished graduate in human sciences in a bachelors or honours degree.



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New pioneers in a pioneering town

Anyone who grew up or lived in Johannesburg in the 1970s or before, will remember the inner city as a vibrant place of beautiful architecture, tall buildings, restaurants, movie theatres, department stores, busy roads and crowds of people out walking in smart clothes - the city's hub.

Meeting friends at Anstey's tearoom, shopping at Stuttafords and the OK, dining at the Lorenzo Marques restaurant, watching movies at His Majesty's etc, were routine events to look forward to.

During the city's decay through the following three decades, once-immaculate buildings were taken over by squatters, gangs and slumlords, water, sanitation and electricity systems collapsed and smashed windows were never repaired.

Multi-storey blocks - the pride of yesteryear - fell into ruin, abandoned by owners who could neither sell them nor pay utility bills running into hundreds of thousands of rands. Jo'burgers living elsewhere retained nostalgic memories of a place into which they now feared venturing.

Urban decay is not unique to Johannesburg. It has engulfed inner cities worldwide as residents moved to outlying suburbs and commuted by car or public transport, to jobs. But Johannesburg's situation was also affected by political change in the country in the late '80s and early '90s, when the apartheid government couldn't continue blocking the inflow of desperate black people looking for work, with nowhere else to go.

This was compounded by the influx of immigrants - both legal and illegal - from neighbouring countries. Initially, as "influx control" laws fell away, places like Hill-brow became multiracial and the government gave up on preserving it as a white area.

The inner city followed suit, bringing overcrowding, poverty and infrastructural decline with it. Fearful white businesses relocated northwards to Sandton and elsewhere, taking workers and customers with them. The money followed. City authorities were overwhelmed by the situation, compounded by political imperatives of the newly democratic country. (A few brave companies, however, refused to move, like Standard Bank and Absa.)

Johannesburg was never properly planned as a city, nor was it located near a river, mountain or other natural feature like most big cities. When it was founded in 1886, it was a "happening" on a triangular piece of government land (uitskotgrond, in Afrikaans) belonging to the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, which nobody wanted. It was a tent city for the mines exploiting an underground resource - gold. It was dominated by taverns and houses of ill repute. The ZAR thought it would be a flash in the pan, but Johannesburg defied those predictions and grew into a thriving city.

Things are now looking up again in the inner city. Opportunities abound for people prepared to roll up their sleeves, take risks and get involved. An increasing number are doing this and it is bearing fruit. The place is rising like a phoenix.

The "doom and gloom" talk in the country has caused many SA Jews to "pack for Perth" or similar places, but others are staying and pouring energy, talents and money into places like the inner city in fascinating, inspiring ways. As our story on page 4 describes, activists, artists and businessmen have gone in - often against the advice of colleagues who said they were throwing good money after bad - and are making an impact.

They follow a dream, not only financially, but also morally in the rebirth of healthy community life.

Their perseverance is paying off, as the inner city shows clear signs of healthy regeneration. Private entrepreneurs are combining with government and city agencies with investments, and businesses are returning.

The Johannesburg Development Agency gives annual "Halala" awards to people making significant contributions to raising the quality of life in the inner city. Of seven awards this year, remarkably, five went to Jewish entrepreneurs and activists who have identified the gaps and plunged in.

One day, we can dare to hope, residents of the broader Johannesburg metropolis might again flock to its inner city - to restaurants, theatres and shops, businesses and hotels in beautiful buildings, and mingle with people living in apartments there who call the place home.

Johannesburg was born as a pioneering town. If a monument is built there in the future, it will be to these new pioneers changing the course of its history. We pay tribute to them.

Sports and the many sides of silence

AVI WEISS AND AARON FRANK
NEW YORK

Over the past few days, we find ourselves grappling with the concept of silence in two contrasting ways. First, a silence of indifference, acquiescence and complicity, and second, a silence of strength, principle and memory.

In the case of the Penn State tragedy, Coach Joe Paterno and others committed the sin of silence. Their silence of indifference, acquiescence and complicity led to the perpetuation of a vicious and destructive pattern of behaviour that destroyed the lives of many young boys.

But somehow lost in the headlines this week is the grappling with the need for the silence of strength, principle and memory.

As we look toward the Summer Olympics, the families of the 11 Israeli athletes and coaches slain in the 1972 Munich Olympics, have asked for a moment of silence in London. What a moment of unity it would be to express the infinite value of human life and abhorrence of terrorists who target the innocent and mercilessly maim and murder in, of all places, the Olympic Village!

The more we grapple with the unfathomable resistance to this proposal, the more it is feeling like the silence of indifference, acquiescence and complicity.

But sadly, the more we grapple with the unfathomable resistance to this proposal, the more it is feeling like the silence of indifference, acquiescence and complicity. It is because we fear that many of the countries represented do not share the belief that targeting innocents, in this case Israelis, should be met with strength. For them, there are causes that justify terrorism.

This type of silence is nothing new. It is the silence of those who say nothing as terrorists are venerated as honourable martyrs all over the world - in Tokyo, Moscow, London, Madrid, Tel Aviv and New York. Until the world recognises that there is no such thing as good terrorists and bad terrorists - that nothing, nothing justifies focused attacks against innocents - terrorism will thrive.

Let it be said clearly: Rejecting the moment of silence at the 2012 Olympics sends the message that you can kill and massacre and the world will go on as usual. Responding to the request for the moment of silence with silence itself, is unacceptable. It is legitimising the horror.

Even if the International Olympic Committee rejects the request, athletes of good will should not. The games are not about the IOC and its members,



whose names few people know. It's about the athletes, the role models, who set the example.

There have been moments in the Olympics that transcended athletics. Some were glorious, like when Tommie Smith and John Carlos in the '68 Olympics raised their clenched fists in solidarity against the discrimination of blacks.

Some were infamous, like when two Jews, Marty Glickman and Sam Stoller, were removed under Nazi pressure from the American 400-metre relay team in the '36 Olympics.

Some were infamous, like when two Jews, Marty Glickman and Sam Stoller, were removed under Nazi pressure from the American 400-metre relay team in the '36 Olympics. What will happen in London this year has the potential to be one of those moments when athletes will be judged not by athletic prowess, but by ethical integrity and the courage to stand up for what is right.

Imagine, just imagine, if during

the Games, LeBron James and Michael Phelps and the whole American team would declare their own moment of silence of strength, principle and memory for the Israeli 11. Others would follow and the world would hear clearly that terrorism is beyond the pale.

In so many ways, sports is associated with a call to make more noise and get louder. But in other ways it teaches the challenge of silence.

Penn State has shown us that silence can reflect the greatest abuse of the power of sport. But there is hope. It's up to these great Olympians to make the ultimate dunk, the ultimate record-setting race, to show that athletes can be true examples of a different type of silence - a silence of strength, principle and memory - one that can raise a voice of moral conscience.

To paraphrase the Book of Ethics: "In the place where is there is no person, stand up and be a person."

Rabbi Avi Weiss is the senior rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale and founder of YCT Rabbinical School, both in New York. Rabbi Aaron Frank is the principal of the Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community High School in Baltimore.

THE 11 MUNICH OLYMPIC VICTIMS, SEPTEMBER 5-6, 1972



(from left) David Berger (28) weightlifter; Ze'ev Friedman (28) weightlifter; Eliezer Halfin (24) wrestler; Amitzur Shapira (40) track coach; Kahat Shot (53) shooting coach; and Mark Slavin (18) wrestler



(from left) Andre Spitzer (27) fencing referee; Yaakov Springer (51) weightlifting coach; Yossef Romano (31) weightlifter; Yossef Gutfreund (40) wrestling referee; and Moshe Weinberg (33) wrestling referee

With special prayers and kosher food, Jewish London embraces Olympic spirit

MIRIAM SHAVIV
LONDON

For Leslie Lyndon and the London Jewish community, it was a minor miracle. When Lyndon carried the Olympic torch through a north London neighbourhood last week, it was more than representative of how Jewish Londoners have embraced the Olympic spirit.

This was five years since Lyndon, at the age of 63, was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. No longer able to recall instructions, he needed his stepson Matthew, to help him through the day.

But like most of the 8 000 torch bearers chosen to carry the Olympic flame in the run-up to the Games, he was being recognised for good works - in his case, as the former cantor of the Masorti New North London Synagogue. And his community came out by the hundreds to support him.

“Never have I felt so confident of an early minyan,” quipped Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg in an e-mail to his members. “To see you, Leslie, with your typical beaming smile, holding the torch high in both hands, running up the hill: I wonder how many of us cried for joy and love of you and all your family.

“Then you stopped, and lit the torch for the subsequent runner - I’m not sure what the [blessing] ought to be, ‘lehadlik ner shel humanity?’” To light the candle of humanity?

This outpouring of pride - replicated across the Jewish suburbs for a couple dozen other Jewish activists also honoured as torch bearers - was typical of how members of London’s Jewish community seem to have welcomed the Olympics into their lives. Since the opening ceremony last Friday, Jews have shown enormous involvement, both personally and communally.

In the Olympic venues there are, anecdotally, hundreds of Jewish volunteers, from Phil Ravitz, a retired journalist who is responsible for getting archers from their competitions to the press zone, to Anne Iarchy, a personal trainer who is marshalling the road cycling events.

The most visible Jewish presence is the dozen or so Jewish chaplains of all denominations, part of a 190-strong team of religious leaders providing pastoral services to the athletes, media, volunteers and Olympic workers.

“I’ve been quite busy,” said Alex Goldberg, one of the Orthodox chaplains. “You see people who are away from home, others who are recovering from illnesses, who are quite happy to have made it here. Some people can get isolated in big buildings. Others just need to take a break.”

While he is there to minister to people of all religions, “I’ve probably met around 100 Jewish people, mostly from the media,” he said. “Even when they are not religious, they are pleased to see a Jewish chaplain on the team; they come up and introduce themselves.

“I’ve been here for the past two Shabbatot and a lot of Jewish people came for some coffee and cake after the prayers.”

The supply of kosher food to the Olympic Park, however, has been a complicated operation.

David Colman, director at Hermolis, the kosher food supplier, said the company was delivering meals to 25 non-Israeli athletes who wish to keep kosher, as well as a stock of 1 000 meals meant for journalists, 1 000 for volunteers and workers, and 500 for corporate events.

In addition, kosher sandwiches and hot meals for visitors are available from some vendors in the Olympic Park.

However, due to Olympic sponsorship rules, shops are not allowed to advertise that they are selling kosher food and the packaging has had to be minimalist, without the company’s normal logos (but with a kosher and halaal stamp).

“We don’t know where our own meals are being sold,” Colman said. “It’s a bit of a crazy situation. If visitors go to a cafe and ask for ko-



Leslie Lyndon, former cantor of the Masorti New North London Synagogue, carrying the Olympic torch in London, last week Wednesday. (PHOTOGRAPH: DEMENTIAUK.WORDPRESS.COM)

sher, hopefully they will either be offered it or told where else it is sold.”

Across the city, there seems to be a rise in the number of tourists visiting Jewish attractions.

“We certainly have had a more international audience coming through the doors, which is fantastic,” said Janice Lopatkin, external relations executive at London’s Jewish Museum.

“Many people are coming in with Olympic passes, and we have had journalists from Singapore and Hong Kong doing a report about what else to do in London during the Olympics.”

The museum has been listed in several Olympic guides to London, and many visitors, she added, may have been attracted to the museum’s display about Sir Ludwig Guttman, a German Jewish refugee to London who inspired and founded the Paralympic Games.

In the last month, some 3 000 people have visited a website set up by the Jewish Committee for the London Games, which lists the Jewish community’s main attractions and facilities, as well as a timetable of Olympic-related events of Jewish interest.

“We have been inundated with hundreds of inquiries through the website, mostly about kosher food in the Olympic Park”, said Peter Mason, director of the London Jewish Forum, a partner in the JCLG.

Many congregations have had events to celebrate the opening of the Olympics. Just a few kilometres from the Olympic Stadium, for example, the Woodford Liberal Synagogue held a special Olympics kiddush last Shabbat.

Like at several other Liberal shuls, congregants recited a prayer for the Games to be peaceful and healthy, which was written by their rabbi, Richard Jacobi.

Orthodox Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, composed his own prayer in memory of the 11 Israeli athletes murdered at the Munich Olympics 40 years ago.

Others synagogues have had to contend with disruptions caused by the Olympics. Westminster Synagogue, an independent Progressive congregation that is associated with the Reform movement, found that access to its central London building became difficult when Olympic organisers started using Hyde Park across the way to screen Olympic events on large screens and hold concerts. As a result, since mid-July the community has been visiting various Reform and Liberal shuls across the city every Shabbat.

“We’ve been making friends as well as learning how others run their services. We’ve picked up a few ideas along the way,” said Westminster Synagogue’s rabbi, Thomas Salamon. “I’ve been asked to preach in several synagogues and called up to the Torah. It’s not unsettling at all; it’s a really different experience. Everyone has been very welcoming.” (JTA)

‘Jewish fine artists more tenaciously Jewish than musical counterparts’

Is there any specific reason why the first major Jewish fine artists tended to be far more comfortable about being Jewish than their fellow creative artists, the classical musicians and composers?

To pose the same question from the opposite angle: Why was it that the first post-Enlightenment wave of Jewish composers (along with performers and conductors), tended to be so cowed and apologetic about their Jewish origins as opposed to Jewish painters, who at least never overtly distanced themselves from them?

This may come across as an overly-ambitious generalisation, and perhaps it is. Nevertheless, the contrast between Chagall, Modigliani, Soutine and (to a necessarily limited extent) Pissarro on the one hand as opposed to Mendelssohn, Offenbach and Mahler, to say nothing of the important Jewish performers and interpreters of that time, seems to be sufficiently striking to justify the question.

The emergence of Jewish creative artists good enough to be ranked among the better (although seldom the best) non-Jewish ones, is quite a recent phenomenon in Western culture. Essentially, it dates back to the early 19th century, in the wake of the Enlightenment, French Revolution and Napoleonic shake-up of traditional European society.

It was a mixed blessing for Jews, who were grudgingly accorded a measure of participation in the broader cultural and intellectual milieu, but who all too often laboured under a crushing inferiority complex vis-à-vis their origins.

Predictably, many were only too glad to jettison their Jewish heritage in order to gain acceptance into society, which was why the 19th century in Western and Central Europe, saw a flight to the baptismal font not equalled since the days of enforced conversion (this time essentially by choice).

As Samuel Stahl expressed it, German Jews in particular “believed that Judaism, with its history of torment, persecution, and abuse, was an antiquated and self-defeating form of religion, an obstacle to their integration into the wider community”.

Even for those who remained in the fold, the observance of Judaism became a half-hearted, compromised affair. It was left to the communities of Poland, Lithuania and other parts of the Russian empire, where Jews remained an oppressed, marginalised minority, to uphold the traditional faith.

Felix Mendelssohn was the first great Jewish composer. Baptised as a child, he was quite happy to identify throughout his life as a practising Christian (Lutheran), with his interest in Jewish matters never going much beyond the occasional comment about anti-Semitism.

Interestingly, he refused to drop his surname in favour of the “Bartholdy” chosen by his father, calling himself “Mendelssohn-Bartholdy”. Christian or not, he is always remembered by the first part of his adopted surname.



BARBARIC YAWP
David Saks

In France, Jacques Offenbach changed both his name (from Levy) and religion (to Roman Catholic, for marriage purposes). Gustav Mahler adopted Catholicism primarily to advance his career, and encouraged fellow Jewish musicians to do likewise.

Despite this, and much as he would have abhorred the notion, a definite Hebraic strain can be detected in his music, certainly in his earlier works.

Arnold Schoenberg, an important name in pioneering new forms of musical expression in the 20th century, became a Protestant of some variety. After fleeing to the US to escape the Nazis, he renounced his conversion and reverted to Judaism, something made easier by the more tolerant New World environment.

One noteworthy exception was Giacomo Meyerbeer, who remained a loyal Jew despite enduring some vicious anti-Semitic attacks (most notoriously by Wagner). Regarded as one of the musical giants of the day for his enormously popular operas, his works have long since disappeared from the repertoire.

Against this dismal record, Jewish painters seemed to have held firm. Chagall, of course, was famously assertive in portraying his Jewish heritage in his work, and his reputation did not suffer for it.

Modigliani, albeit not often, painted on Jewish themes. He was noted for often declaring: “I am Modigliani, the Jew” and to have “vociferously attacked anyone who made an anti-Semitic remark”. In Germany, Moritz Oppenheim was renowned for his memorable, affecting portrayals of traditional Jewish life, while in France the great Impressionist Camille Pissarro (whose father was Jewish) spoke out against French anti-Semitism during the Dreyfuss affair.

Chaim Soutine, while rejecting his strictly Orthodox Jewish heritage, never formally abandoned his faith and further retained his obviously Jewish first name.

From my admittedly piecemeal knowledge of 20th century artists and musicians, I have a definite sense that this pattern of Jewish fine artists being far more tenacious in their connection to their Jewish roots than their musical counterparts. Of course, the environment today is very different to how it was a century and more ago, when venomous theories of malign Judaising influences undermining the Western musical tradition were so much in vogue. There does not seem to have been as pronounced an animus against Jewish participation in the visual arts.

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Cosatu’s vicious anti-Semitic letter provokes strong reaction from communal leadership

The SA Jewish Board of Deputies, SA Zionist Federation and Office of the Chief Rabbi, have in an official letter to the Confederation of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu), strongly objected to a letter Cosatu’s spokesman, Patrick Craven, wrote to the Rev Inkosi, Phakama Shembe, spiritual leader of the Shembe Church, trying to dissuade him from taking part in a pro-Israel march in Pretoria on June 28.

The co-writers say the letter “far exceeded the boundaries of what can reasonably regarded as fair and decent political discourse”. It further called this letter “an affront to civilised discourse”. It urges Cosatu to distance itself from the letter.

The letter states: We are writing to you in our joint capacity as the three main representative communal bodies of the SA Jewish community: the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, SA Zionist Federation and Office of the Chief Rabbi of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues.

The purpose of this letter is to object in the strongest terms to statements made by Mr Craven, national spokesman for the Congress of SA Trade Unions, in a communication to Reverend Inkosi, Phakama Shembe, spiritual leader of the Shembe Church on June 27, 2012.

This letter was subsequently released to the general media in the form of an official statement by Cosatu. Its purpose was to dissuade the Shembe Church from participating in a march in support of the State of Israel, scheduled to take place in Pretoria. It must be unequivocally stressed at this point that it is not the fact of Cosatu’s having taken this course of action that we object to. In a democratic society such as ours, everyone is entitled to express an opinion, even if this means robustly disagreeing with the standpoint of others.

However, this right should not be seen as a licence to demonise, abuse and incite hatred against those who hold such contrary viewpoints, nor does it make blatant misrepresentations of objective facts permissible.

In this regard, in terms of both tone and content, Mr Craven’s letter far exceeded the boundaries of what can reasonably regarded as fair and decent political discourse. Indeed, a court of law might well find that certain sections, and perhaps the letter as a whole, constitute constitutionally prohibited hate speech.

Furthermore, Mr Craven’s letter is replete with many distortions of the truth and factual inaccuracies, used to defame the State of Israel and the South African Jewish community.

In moving on to note the actual contents of the letter, we will of necessity confine ourselves to those we consider to be particularly objectionable. First and perhaps foremost is his characterisation of the SA Zionist Federation as a group “whose hands are dripping with the blood of our sisters and brothers in Palestine”.

There can surely be no excuse for such inflammatory, and indeed libelous, rhetoric, regardless of what Cosatu’s stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict might be. It is relevant to add that the SAZF is among South Africa’s oldest, as well as most broadly representative, Jewish organisations in the country. For this reason, false and overheated accusations of direct complicity in crimes against humanity, inevitably constitutes incitement to hatred against the Jewish community as a whole.

On several occasions, Mr Craven falsely characterises the Zionist ideology as being an expression of Jewish racial superiority exercised at the expense of the non-Jewish world in general and the Palestinian population in particular. He does not confine his vitriol to Zionism as a national-political movement, but also makes overt and very ugly inferences about the Jewish religion as well.

Denying by omission the historic and religious connection of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel, Craven writes that “...Their occupation and the theft of the land and natural resource of the indigenous people is nothing

but a legalisation of Jewish supremacy to further dehumanise everyone outside their scope of Zionist purity...”

Further on, he declares that “Zionism refers to those that believe in a state exclusively for the ruling supremacists at the expense of the indigenous Palestinian people because they view themselves as ordained by G-d to do all it takes to defend their privileged position”.

All of this serves to propagate, ostensibly under the guise of anti-Zionism, one of the vilest anti-Semitic canards: that Jews regard non-Jews with contempt and will stop at nothing to advance themselves at their expense.

Such venomous rhetoric has characterised anti-Jewish propaganda throughout history, frequently with lethal results. In addition to distorting the theological concept of Jewish “chosen-ness”, falsely characterising it as an expression of Jewish racial superiority in clear contradistinction to the way Jewish theologians have always understood it, Craven even seeks to stir up anti-Jewish feeling within the Christian community.

Specifically, he writes the Israeli town of Nazareth is “part of historic Palestine”, that the majority of its inhabitants are descended from the very people who lived there during the time Jesus did and that these “descendants of Jesus” were now being harassed by the Israelis.

What this does is not only to brazenly deny the well-established facts of Jewish history, which is inextricably bound up with the Land of Israel, but also ironically to contradict Christian theological tradition as well.

No believing Christian denies that Jesus was a Jew who lived and preached among fellow Jews. Such outrageous theological and historical revisionism has, unfortunately, become part and parcel of official Palestinian propaganda in the contemporary era. The question is why Cosatu should choose to endorse it.

There is a great deal more in Patrick Craven’s letter that breaches civilised debate. This certainly is true of how black South African Christians, who of their own free will are among the most committed and sincere supporters of Israel, are portrayed as having been hoodwinked and manipulated by white Zionist Jews, just as certain blacks were persuaded to collaborate with the apartheid regime.

In addition to depicting SA Jews as a manipulative, untrustworthy force, this appeals to anti-white resentment and grossly insults the intelligence of pro-Zionist black Christians.

Taken as a whole, this letter issued in the name of Cosatu, is an affront to civilised discourse. It is an inflammatory, hate-filled attack on the integrity of the Jewish community leadership as well as on the deeply-held convictions of the great majority of its members.

This, surely, is not the way South Africans talk to one another. Indeed, Mr Craven’s letter is so vulgar and aggressive in its tone and content, that it is far beyond the pale of ethical behaviour and constitutes a violation of the most basic values of our Constitution, such as dignity and equality.

Therefore, we call upon Cosatu to distance itself from such an aberration and to commit itself to a dialogue and discourse with its fellow South Africans that is in keeping with our South African dream of a society based on human dignity and respect for all.

**Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, UOS SA
Mrs Mary Kluk, Chairman SAJBD
Mr Avrom Krengel, Chairman SAZF**

NO INTENTION AT ALL LINKING PINCHAS TO TALIBAN, HAMAS, ETC

I would like to respond to Isaak Woolf’s letter in last week’s Jewish Report, in which he criticises me for seemingly linking Pinchas with vigilantes such as the Taliban, Hezbollah and Hamas.

This was not my intention at all; to those who saw such a connection, I apologise. I accept that Pinchas was a great man (a “hashuv”) and this is the point I’m trying to make, namely that it is for great men to take the law into their own hands, but not for the hoi-polloi.

I get the impression from Rabbi Hecht’s article that he is encouraging common men to take the law into their own hands. I quote from the parsha: “In times of such moral relativism we too are called on to make a choice between moral tolerance or vigilance and the courage to take a stand and make a difference.”

This statement appears in the same article as Rabbi Hecht’s commentary on Pinchas (who as is know, stabbed a wayward immoral wanton sinner to death).

A better option than Isaak Woolf and my-

Despite being a rapidly shrinking community, this week the East London Jewish community celebrated the bris of its newest member, Avi Lev Nassimov and the third second barmitzvah this year.

In February, April and July, Theo Berkowitz, Matt Ettinger and Josh Baskir celebrated their second barmitzvahs!

It is therefore so sad to think that

While I agree with some of the points in Darren Bergman’s letter (SAJR July 27). I feel he does not come across in any way resembling a “centralist approach”. His analogy of the current Jewish situation in Lithuania to the post-apartheid period in South Africa, is ridiculous. This comparison makes no sense.

Bergman’s letter focuses on rescuing Litvak culture in Lithuania. I quote: “The positive aspect is that there is a younger [Jewish] generation that has the possibility of rescuing the Litvak culture and keeping it alive for generations to come... Imagine we never get to hear Yiddish again or taste authentic tzimmis?”

What Bergman does not seem to realise is that the small younger Jewish generation in Lithuania will diminish even further through intermarriage and emigration. Nonetheless, he suggests that the “emancipated generations” of Litvaks give back to our real community and heritage. In other words, South African Jews should invest time and money to help revive Litvak traditions within Lithuania.

There is only one thing to save in the country that killed Litvak culture, and that is Litvak memory. To phantasise that in years to come new generations of Lithuanian-born Litvaks will walk in their ancestral country and talk in their ancestral tongue, is a pipe dream fed to naïve minds.

If we are to keep Yiddish alive and taste authentic tzimmis, I fear those cultural traditions will not be hosted in Lithuania. At best

REFUSAL FOR A MINUTE’S SILENCE AT OLYMPICS, STICKS IN THE CRAW

The article which appeared on the sports page of last week’s issue refers.

It is more than sickening that in order not to antagonise the Arab world and the anti Israeli lobby, the IOC has repeatedly refused to hold even a moment’s silence in an official ceremony in honour of the Israeli athletes who were murdered. The attitude would be different if the athletes weren’t Israelis or Jews.

That the Lord Mayor of London paid a tribute is significant, but over and above the sham reported in last week’s SAJR, no official action has been taken.

For the sake of the integrity of the Games, there should have been an official tribute to the murdered sportsmen, whether in the form of a minute’s silence or in another official way, even if some par-

For the record

FOR SHAWCO FELLOWSHIP, READ ASHOKA FELLOWSHIP

In the July 6 issue, the Building SA story about Andy Bolnick, mention was made that she received a Shawco Fellowship. In fact the award she received was an Ashoka Fellowship. We regret the error.

self having a slanging match, would be for the editor to invite Rabbi Hecht to explain what his intentions are.

To reinforce my argument I would like to quote Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (of the UK) on the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans. “The zealots within besieged Jerusalem in the last days of the Second Temple played a significant part in the city’s destruction. They were more intent on fighting one another than the Romans” (from Covenant and Conversation, Pinchas, July 14, 2012.)

Presently we are facing grave threats: in Israel from Hezbollah, Hamas, and Iran and here in South Africa from Cosatu (see “The Cosatu Blood Libel” in SAJR 27/7/12). We have sufficient problems without internal vigilantism.

In 1948 the Israelis repulsed the invading Arab armies. The Israelis were not religious but they were united. In fact, to this day Israel is not a predominantly religious country, but we pray for it in shul every Shabbat morning, as well as for South Africa.

John Brenner, Johannesburg

EAST LONDON JEWISH COMMUNITY IS STILL ALIVE AND KICKING

this once vibrant community will in a few short years become another statistic when it will cease to exist.

People intending to retire to the coast should seriously consider moving to East London, as well as young couples wanting a healthy lifestyle for their children.

Ellen Ettinger, East London

TRY AND MAKE THINGS RIGHT IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITIES FIRST

perhaps in a museum...

A national education programme that teaches the true history of Lithuania during the Second World War, is the only sincere way for the country to preserve its Litvak memory. While I agree that many projects are best accomplished without government involvement, in a democratic nation the government is integral in its system of education.

The test of a democracy is how those elected by the majority treat the rights of their minorities. Lithuania has failed miserably in how she treats the rights of her minorities.

As long as major Nazi collaborators continue to be honoured as national heroes, as long as neo-Nazi parades decorate the centre city on the nation’s Independence Days, as long as so-called Jewish institutions in Vilnius continue to remain Jew-less, and - most important of all - as long as Lithuania continues to promote its Double Genocide notion, the effort toward a revival of Litvak culture is nothing more than a deceptive PR manoeuvre.

SA Litvak money would be better spent starting at home. If you want to express respect for the values inherent in our Jewish traditions, why not initiate cleanups and restorations of Brixton (1921 - 1942) and Braamfontein (1887 - 1921) cemeteries, which I’m told have deteriorated terribly. Why not try to make things right in your own community first?

Olga Zabludoff, Washington, DC

REFUSAL FOR A MINUTE’S SILENCE AT OLYMPICS, STICKS IN THE CRAW

Participants in their hearts cannot empathise with Israel.

Unfortunately once again the IOC chose to appease the naysayers as opposed to doing the right thing.

It would not be prudent for Israel to boycott the Games as that would be counterproductive. What I would suggest is that if an Israeli athlete is fortunate enough to win a medal (there are several contenders) that that athlete refuse to either accept the medal and/or shake the hand of the IOC official who is called upon to present the medal and/or both.

When the reason for that refusal becomes known, the whole world will be alerted to the 1972 massacre. Whether this happens, remains to be seen.

Myron Robinson, East London

Dance for a Cure is dancing for a good cause

ROBYN SASSEN

“When I was growing up and ‘improvisation’ was mentioned in class, I’d run out the door!” laughs one of SA choreography’s doyennes, Cape Town-based Adele Blank (70), in Johannesburg briefly to work on Dance for a Cure.

It’s local dance’s biggest voluntary annual fundraising event, aimed to support the prevention of cervical and oral cancer, and devised by non-profit organisation, Revelation - Dance for a Cure, which was established in 2007. It has to date raised nearly R2 million.

“I will always do it,” Blank spoke of the voluntary focus she’s given Dance for a Cure, for three or four years. “I’ve lost too many. We’ve all lost too many,” she knits on a circular needle while she speaks. She praises Angela Ferguson, founding director of Dance for a Cure: “Angela by name; angel by nature.”

The trajectory of Blank’s dance career stretches to when she started classical ballet as a six-year-old in Johannesburg under Faith de Villiers and Denise Schultz. “Sheila Wartski taught me performance.” Blank taught the Cecchetti tech-

nique for years before she leapt into her own stride.

In 1984 she was appointed principal of the dance department at the Performing Arts Workshop. Three years later, when PAW funding dried up, she formed the Free Flight Dance Company with Christopher Kindo.

When Kindo returned to Cape Town, her daughter Natalie Fisher, in partnership with Russell Cummings, replaced him. Under Blank’s direction Free Flight travelled all over the world.

“My first contemporary dance initiative was supported by Sylvia Glasser, in 1987,” she tosses down her knitting and leaps off her chair to point to a poster from that very project.

“At the time I was collaborating with Sylvia, Wendy de la Harpe, Robyn Orlin...” Her first professional piece was ‘Cacophony’, which toured Israel in 1979. It featured black and white dancers on the same stage. The group was named 8+1. “And it was banned in South Africa!” Blank shrieks. “I went straight to the press and got front page coverage. It was ‘unbanned’.

“My greatest inspiration is my

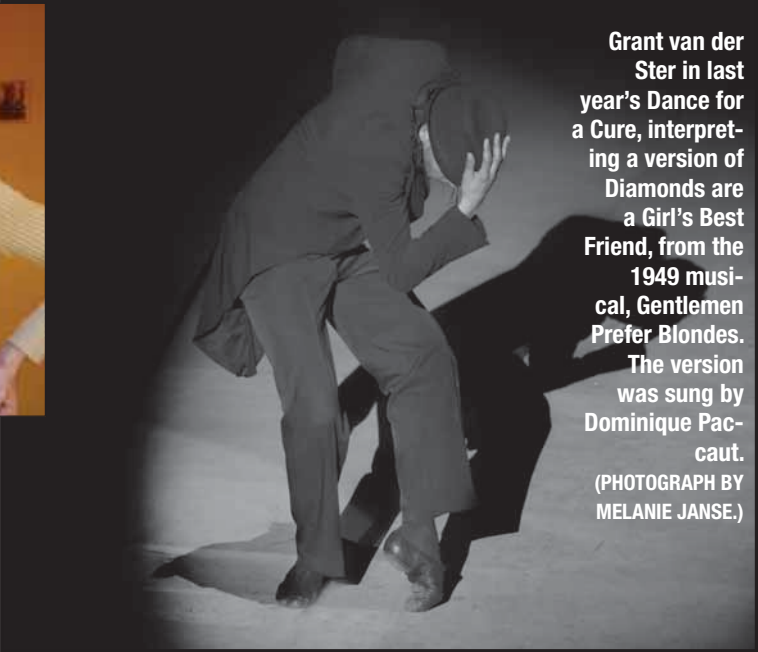


Iconic choreographers both: Sylvia Glasser (founder of Moving Into Dance Mophatong) and Adele Blank (founder of Free Flight Dance), arm in arm in MIDM’s brightly coloured foyer. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBYN SASSEN)

daughter, Natalie. My family has always been on my side,” she explains how she started taking dance seriously after Natalie’s birth: the second of four children.

“I’m also inspired by the youth. They will tackle anything. It’s their naïveté that makes them so wonderful to work with.”

In Dance for a Cure, Blank’s choreographed the cream of SA danc-



Grant van der Ster in last year’s Dance for a Cure, interpreting a version of Diamonds are a Girl’s Best Friend, from the 1949 musical, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. The version was sung by Dominique Paccaut. (PHOTOGRAPH BY MELANIE JANSE.)

ers and companies. “Former local performer Fem Belling, who now lives in Australia - a breast cancer survivor, is on the bill, too,” she adds.

The show’s Cape Town version features dancers from La Rosa and JazzArt, to name a few companies. “It’s the same programme in Cape Town; just different dancers.

“In choreography you’re as good as your tools,” she skirts egotistical honour, praising dancers she’s been blessed to work with.

Dance for a Cure is on August 9 and 10 at Artscape Theatre, Cape Town; August 17 at the Lyric Theatre, Gold Reef City. Visit www.danceforacure.co.za

Arts in Brief

GRAHAMSTOWN FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS AT WITS 969 FESTIVAL

The ninth Wits 969 Festival offers highlights which have travelled 969km from the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown to Johannesburg, between August 8 and 11. The programme features eight events, four of which received Standard Bank Ovation Awards this year, including Signatures by Moving Into Dance Mophatong; The Epicene Butcher and other Stories for Consenting Adults performed by Jemma Kahn; Pitterpat the Crazee Caterpillar written and directed by Lynn Joffe and Adam Howard; and Sie Weiss Alles written by James Cairns and set in Berlin in 1945, to name a few. Visit <http://www.strictlytickets.com/strictlytickets/> for programme details and bookings.

SHER, MATHEWS AND LIPNER IN BEYACHAD GROUP EXHIBITION

Work by three Johannesburg artists Eric Sher, Tony Mathews and Ray Lipner will be showcased in a group exhibition at Beyachad from August 9.

Sher has group and solo exhibition credentials. He had work on the Mandela@94_za exhibition curated by Natalie Knight and is a regular illustrator for Jewish Affairs.

Mathews is a portrait and wildlife artist who studied under Cecil Skotnes and George Boys. Lipner is currently associated with the Assemblage Studios in Newtown and has taken part in various group exhibitions.

The exhibition closes on August 14. Call Eric 082-330-9784 or Tony 082-783-8701 for further information.

FIVE SA WORKS SHOWCASE AT EDINBURGH THEATRE FESTIVAL

Through August, five SA works showcase at the Edinburgh Theatre Festival: Yael Farber’s adaptation of the Strindberg classic, Miss Julie, heads the list. Farber’s Mies Julie wowed Grahamstown audiences and plays at Pretoria’s State Theatre during September. Other works are Athol Fugard’s Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act; The Sewing Machine, with Sandra Prinsloo; Woza Albert! a seminal piece of SA drama, written by Barney Simon in collaboration with the original cast and starring Mncedisi Shabangu and Peter Mashigo; and And the Girls in their Sunday Dresses, a Zakes Mda classic starring Hlengiwe Lushaba and Lesego Motsepe.

Another delightful offering by Alexander McCall Smith

The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection by Alexander McCall Smith (Penguin, R246)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

Alexander McCall Smith is one of the few authors of our time who is not just the creator of a stream of tales to satisfy his many millions of avid readers, but also the custodian of characters the world has taken to its heart - and from whom it imbibes wisdom dispensed with his customary spoon of jam. Probably the only other living writer with such a responsibility is JK Rowling.

In this latest work, Mma Precious Ramotswe - that indefatigable, gentle, cunning Motswana matriarch - and her fellow sleuth, Mma Grace Makutsi (she of the oversized glasses, opinionated behaviour and the unheard-of achievement of 97 per cent at the Botswana Secretarial College) find themselves in unexpectedly dramatic circumstances.

For one thing, Clovis Andersen - the master sleuth whose seminal work, “Principles of Private Detection”, has long been used by the agency as a volume of infallible truth - arrives in Gaborone in person for personal reasons.

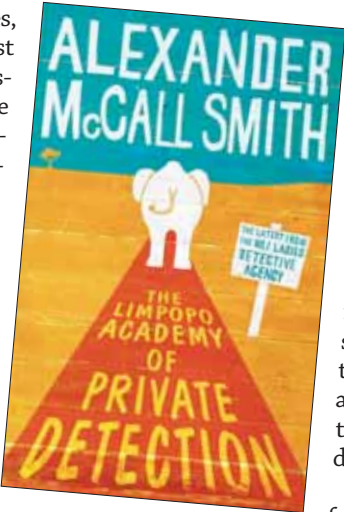
However, marrying the excitement of the occasion are two events which threaten to overthrow not just the

peace of their lives, but also their most basic notions of justice: Fanwell, the well-meaning, hapless mechanic employed by Mr JLB Matekoni’s Tlokweng Road Speedy Motors, having unwittingly become an accomplice in the theft of a stolen car, is arrested.

Even worse, Mma Silvia Potokwani, the redoubtable matron of the local orphanage and one of the stalwarts of the community, has had her institution taken over by a board of mercenary businessmen. When she protests their plans to rationalise costs by centralising the kitchen (thus depleting the individual units of their homely, loving atmosphere), she is unceremoniously dismissed.

It is a calamity - for her, for her orphans and, no less, for the staff of the Ladies’ No 1 Detective Agency, who hold her in estimable esteem.

These events - attacking the very fibre of decent, ordered life for Mma Ramotswe and offending both her values and her sense of justice - are not to be accepted. But how to reverse them? Easy: enlist the help of Andersen (however reluctant he



might be), ask a few chutzpadik questions, employ the skill of reading upside down (very useful when confidential documents are facing away from you at someone’s desk) and, above all, bring errant individuals to their senses by telling them to behave themselves and remember what they were taught as children.

Everything else will follow, because people have consciences (even if one must dig deeply to relocate them), so greed will eventually give way to guilt, and right will prevail.

The evergreen appeal of Smith’s books lies in various things, including his own profound sense of compassion, his reverence for Botswana’s peoples and culture, his genius for names (for example, the This Way Up Construction Company), his wonderful, restrained humour (the recently-married Mma Makutsi declares to Mma Ramotswe that she has found the secret of keeping her husband happy: demand feeding, rather than heartlessly limiting meals to strict times). This instalment of the world of the Ladies’ No 1 Detective Agency does not disappoint.

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A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Changing of guard for KZN Jewry

Last week, along with many fellow Durbanites, I participated in the 81st AGM of the Council of KwaZulu-Natal Jewry at the Durban Jewish Centre. Congratulations to newly-elected President Linda Nathan and Vice Presidents Ronnie Herr and Clive Bernstein, as well as to Honorary Life President John Moshal and the other members of the new executive committee for 2012/ 2013.

I have had the privilege of working closely with all of them over many years, and can wholeheartedly attest to the wisdom, dedication and experience they bring to these important leadership roles. The evening also paid tribute to outgoing President David Simpson for his many accomplishments during his term of office. David continues to serve as a national vice-chairman of the Board, as well as on the CKNJ.

Guest speaker for the occasion was Lindiwe Mazibuko, Parliamentary leader of the Democratic Alliance. She spoke about her childhood as a pupil of the Carmel College Jewish Day School in Durban, and pointed to the importance of education in changing the lives of our children.

In this regard, she called for the CKNJ to continue to play a strategic role in nurturing and building a spirit of reconciliation and upliftment in South Africa.

Visit of Denis MacShane

As reported two weeks ago, the renowned UK MP and human rights activis, Denis MacShane, will shortly be visiting South Africa under the auspices of the SAJBD.

In addition to being the keynote speaker at the Board's Gauteng Council conference on September 2, he will also be addressing the Cape Town Jewish community and meeting with a range of other leaders and opinion makers. Dr MacShane has emerged as one of the most vociferous and



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

Kimberley Synagogue - 110 years

Next week, I hope to be joining Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, along with present and past members of the Kimberley Jewish community, in celebrating the 110th anniversary of the historic Kimberley Synagogue.

An exciting weekend of activities, from August 9 – 12, has been organised by the African Jewish Congress in conjunction with the SAJBD's Country Communities Department and the Kimberly Hebrew Congregation.

In addition to the commemorative events and services in the shul itself, there will be guided tours to various historical sites, both relating to the Jewish community and the greater history of the area.

Jewish roots in Kimberley go right back to the founding of the town itself. While the Jewish presence there is now very small, its members are justly proud of the community's heritage and it will be a privilege to join them in celebrating it.

News in Brief

Lebanese judo team refuses to practise next to Israelis

LONDON - The Lebanese judo team at the 2012 London Olympics has refused to practise next to the Israeli team.

The Jordanians even erected a make-shift barrier to split their gym into two halves, according to the Times of Israel.

The two teams were scheduled to train inside London's ExCel centre, but the delegation from Lebanon would not train in view of the Israeli team and insisted a barrier be placed between them, the report said.

The two teams were scheduled to use the same gym and mats at London's new ExCel centre for their final preparations, but International Olympic Committee officials were forced to erect a special screen following demands by the Lebanese's coach to separate the teams, according to the Times of Israel, citing several Hebrew

websites.

Also, last week Iranian judo athlete Javad Mahjoob withdrew from the games citing "critical digestive system infection", according to the Washington Post.

The paper reported that this had led to speculation that Iran was maintaining a long-standing policy of not allowing its athletes to compete against Israelis.

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge, according to the Post, said: "If Nation A does not appear at the competition against Nation B, we will ask for explanations. If the explanation is not satisfactory and valid at the end of it and is not credible, then we will go into cross-examination by an independent medical board. And if the medical board says it is not a genuine reason, then sanctions will be taken." (JTA)

White House press secretary: US stance unchanged on Israeli capital

WASHINGTON - White House Press Secretary Jay Carney, responding to a reporter's question on the capital of Israel, said the Obama's administration "has not changed".

The question - "What city does this administration consider to be the capital of Israel, Jerusalem or Tel Aviv?" - came during a news briefing on July 26.

"I haven't got that question in a while," Carney responded. "Our position has not changed."

Pressed for an answer, Carney responded: "You know our position." He then took another question.

The transcript of the briefing later released to reporters, included a statement outlining the White House's official policy.

"The status of Jerusalem is an issue

that should be resolved in final status negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians," the statement said. "We continue to work with the parties to resolve this issue and others in a way that is just and fair, and respects the rights and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians."

Mitt Romney's campaign circulated a statement from House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (Republican Virginia) the next day criticizing Carney's answers.

"For thousands of years, Jerusalem has been the eternal capital of the Jewish people, but this administration refuses to say if Jerusalem is the true capital," Cantor said. "At a moment when Israel is facing so many perils, the United States should be standing by our ally, not quibbling or quarreling about its capital city." (JTA)

Community Briefs

ALI BACHER SHARES CRICKET INSIGHTS WITH PE CONGREGANTS

Two weeks ago, the Port Elizabeth Hebrew Congregation hosted Dr Ali Bacher, a previous captain of the national cricket team, a Jewish Achievers award winner and well-known cricket administrator.

He shared insights into SA's historic win against England at the Oval in the first Test, when the Proteas beat the English team by an innings and 12 runs, with an audience of over 100 PEHC congregants.

He recalled his own experiences touring England many years ago. He also discussed the future of SA cricket and suggested what SA must do to become the world's leading cricket-playing country.

A question and answer session followed, as well as a draw for two autographed cricket bats.



PEHC community members, Arnie Katz; Rabbi Shmuel Bloch; Perry Hurwitz; and Ronnie Kaplan, with Dr Ali Bacher (centre). (PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)

LEWIS AND BERESFORD JOIN THE YAD AHARON TEAM



Melanie Beresford, fundraiser; Alice Friedman, MD of Yad Aharon & Michael; and Lori Lewis, marketing and events co-ordinator

Yad Aharon & Michael Tzedakah Food Fund, recently welcomed two new additions: marketing and events co-ordinator Lori Lewis, and fundraiser Melanie Beresford. Lewis started at Yad Aharon in June. In a media statement, Yad Aharon said Lewis "is very excited to be part of such a special and vital organisation and looks forward to many successful events hosted by them in the future."

Beresford, who started at the beginning of July, as the new fundraiser, is also very passionate about Yad Aharon's mission. Previously associated with Hospice Wits for the past seven years, Beresford brings with her a wealth of experience.

SA-BORN ESSAKOW NOW PORTUGAL'S HONORARY CONSUL IN HAIFA

Israel's new honorary consul of Portugal in Haifa, Jonathan (Jonnie) Essakow has strong South African ties.

The Essakow family, originally from Krugersdorp, made aliyah in 1976. Jonathan and his two sisters, Sandra and Susan, had some of their primary school education at King David Victory Park in the mid-1970s. Vic and Dolores, Jonathan's parents, together with their three children and eight grandchildren, all live in Israel.



Jonathan Essakow with Portuguese Ambassador to Israel Miguel De Almeida E Sousa.

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Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein’s JWBS Appeal message

I am honoured to be able to continue the long-standing tradition, going back to Chief Rabbi Casper and Chief Rabbi Harris, both of blessed memory, of paying tribute to the important work of the Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society in assisting the needy of our community.

They are dedicated to the noblest of our Jewish values, that of tzedakah and chesed - charity and loving-kindness. The importance of tzedakah is manifest in the reward promised for its fulfilment. The Code of Jewish Law (YD 247: 2,3,4), based on the Talmud, has this to say:

“No one ever becomes poor from [giving] tzedakah, and no bad thing or damage comes as result of it, as it states: “The product of tzedakah



shall be peace.’ (Isaiah 32:17). Whoever has compassion on the poor, the Holy One Blessed be He has compassion on him.

“Note: A person should recognise that he requests sustenance from the Holy One Blessed be He, and in the same way that he requests from the Holy One Blessed be He to take heed of his plea, so should he take heed of the pleas of the

poor... Tzedakah sets aside all harsh decrees, and in a famine it saves from death... and it brings wealth. And it is forbidden to test G-d except in this matter [that is, that it brings wealth]...”

In the merit of our tzedakah, may Hashem bless us all with a good year.

JWBS Chairman’s Rosh Hashanah Appeal message

While preparing this appeal for Rosh Hashanah, one of our new volunteers approached me with a short résumé of how she felt working within our organisation.

“As a fairly new volunteer, I offered to assist in the clothing depot once a week. To preserve the confidentiality of the recipients, I had very little idea of what went on there.

“Everyone has ups and downs in life, be they physical, emotional or financial. Most of us are fortunate enough to get through these rough patches with the love and support of family and friends.

“The clients who come to the clothing depot are not that lucky, but thanks to the Jewish Women’s Benevolent, they are assisted and have a place to come to and can rely on. The work done there is invaluable.

“By the time I returned home that first day, I was reduced to tears, thinking of the



many needy people in our community. The clothing depot for me personally, is a reality check to attest to the times we are living in.

“Let me say that it is an honour and privilege to work within our organisation.”

The Benevolent is just that, from the French - “Ben e vol - caring and giving”.

Our very own people need us now more than ever, and we, the Benevolent, need you, our generous donors, more than ever to help us to reach our goals.

So, I appeal to you all to be most generous this Yomtov.

Chesed is kindness, literally meaning “energy that moves you out of yourself”. L’Shanah Tova Umetukah.

Maureen Disler
Chairman, Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society

Message from JWBS Rosh Hashanah Appeal convener

With the advent of early spring buds in our gardens and longer days of foretelling of the summer to come, we look forward with anticipation to Rosh Hashanah, spending days and nights with family, the spiritual upliftment of attending shul and the opportunity to reflect on the year gone by.

However, for many Johannesburg Jewish families, there is little to look forward to. Illness, emigration of children, retrenchment, and consequent financial disaster, result in these families having to do without adequate food, shelter and many of the basic necessities of life.

The Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society has for decades - and continues to - provide these families with support and sustenance comprising: financial assistance, regular visits to the sick, the lonely and the destitute, social and financial support, including education, the provision of clothing and many other services.



Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur provide all of us the opportunity of acquiring sufficient merit so as to justify our fervent pleas for forgiveness and another year of life. Our sages teach that a central pillar in ensuring this is tzedakah - charity.

What better way to prepare for these sacred days than to give, and give generously, to the Jewish Women’s Benevolent, so as to enable

this tireless band of women to bring some light, hope and warmth, to those who face a bleak and sad Rosh Hashanah.

We are taught that “the fragrance of giving lingers on the hand of the giver for a long time”.

• Donations may be made to: JWBS Nedbank Siemert Rd, Branch 195203, Account 1923005359, Ref-name + RHA

Telephone: (011) 485-5232, e-mail: jwbs@icon.co.za

Elaine Bobroff
Rosh Hashanah Appeal Convener

King David High School Linksfield goes digital

King David High School Linksfield has begun a ground-breaking e-learning programme for Grade 9 learners, due to generous sponsorship from Standard Bank Private Clients, facilitation by The Walnut Office and contributions by other donors. As part of the iPad-based project, pupils have the opportunity to learn in an interactive space that fits into the normal school environment.



Peter Szewach, a history teacher, finds it beneficial to integrate e-learning with traditional classroom methods.

STUDENTS DIVE INTO E-LEARNING PILOT

Fifty randomly selected Grade 9 learners have access to apps, tutorials, mock exams and Financial Literacy challenges, as well as Top Dog and iTunes accounts, on brand new iPads. This allows for base learning to take place at home, while practical explanations and applications happen at school.

Learners have already capitalised on the pilot programme, proving that the system has legs. One, Danya Lipshitz, has turned her network into an e-book and uses popular game, The Sims, to create summary video clips for studying.

Another example of how learners have taken the project to heart is Daniel Kartun, who says, “I’ve downloaded many apps (from the Khan Academy) that help to solve tricky maths problems. My friend and I are also working on creating an Afrikaans app, using another app that helps with coding.”

The school has installed Airwatch (a mobile device management system) to manage the use of tablets, lockers with charging stations to keep devices safe and improved WIFI. Gidon Boolkin, an ex-Davidian, has also been available to train teachers on their iPads and to create new e-learning content for them.

FINANCIAL KNOW-HOW IS A PRIORITY TOO

Part of the generous contribution by Standard Bank Private Clients has also been allocated to the facilitation of Financial Literacy challenges. The challenges create and reward dialogue around key money management tools and skills from investments, to tax, bond calculators and repayments, car finance, buying on credit, share trading and general financial know-how.

So far, Jordan Ross and Lauren Heller have won cash prizes for correct submissions, with the prize money deposited into their new Standard Bank (Sum)1 savings accounts. Tyler Epstein and Sigalia Levy were awarded Kosher Nando’s as a break-time treat after their victories in spot Financial Literacy challenges during Friday assemblies. And the enthusiasm is mounting.

THE FUTURE OF PRESENT-DAY LEARNING

Marc Falconer, headmaster at King David High School Linksfield, says, “There has never been a greater need to mediate South Africa’s educational passage into the future and to transform access to information for our country’s weakest and most needy pupils.” Recognising the challenges of marrying traditional schooling with digital methods, he says, “In the next five years, our school will undergo significant change and our pupils will need to develop increased online discrimination, self-regulation and responsibility.”

Daniel Kurtun puts it simply, “E-learning makes learning easier.” If anything, he and his peers in Grade 9 have set an impressive example of how to take e-resources, apply their own creativity to the mix and achieve great things.

Sigalia Levy and her friends (Riley Freeman, Elizabeth Gutkin and Jeremy Emanuel) enjoy a Kosher Nando’s treat as her reward for being financially savvy in an on-the-spot challenge.



Lauren Heller poses with her prize for winning the Financial Literacy challenge in May, courtesy of Standard Bank Private Clients.



Jewish Travel

Visiting places of Jewish interest

Experience the French glory of yesteryear in a visit to historic Avignon

The history of Avignon, in south-eastern France, is steeped in blood and corruption, but today it is the jewel of France. In the 14th century, known in Hebrew as Ir ha-Gefanim (city of grapes) it was Christendom’s capital with a capricious relationship to its Jews.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ROBYN SASSEN

Comprising a city surrounded by five kilometres of ramparts, and much hikeable landscape, Avignon boasts the world’s oldest arts festival, established by Jean Vilar in 1947.

This festival, considered the best globally, in its performance venues, is carnivalesque on the streets. A man chews blades while he tells French tales. Buskers dance with a crystal ball belying its fragility. Pierrots and accordionist-wielding men are ubiquitous.

Avignon is a festival city each July. The rest of the time it’s home for the wealthy. Flats built in the 1920s international style, fill tiny lanes. The whole is dominated by the Palace of the Popes, the largest Gothic complex in the world.

In Avignon, you’re accosted by a different mood at each corner. Alleyways criss-cross one another frenetically. One main road, Rue de la Republique, broad enough for cars, leads to the Palace, built into living limestone in 1305. It was here that nine consecutive popes resided for 70 years. Here, a tour guide with a bloody sense of history explains, 400 witches were burned at the stake, on one day.

Jews first settled in Avignon in the second century. At that time a Jewish quarter was established, on the banks of the Rhône. In 1221, having become too crowded, it was demolished by Louis VIII.

Jews were moved to the city’s heart, near Place de Jerusalem, an area of tall buildings, bound by

gates. Until the 15th century, Avignon Jewry was uninterrupted. The popes, magistrates and university employed them in positions of trust and authority.

But things changed. The mid-15th century, saw anti-Jewish violence lasting until the French Revolution (1789 - 1799). It was triggered inter alia by a depression in France started by the departure of the popes from Avignon. Jews were blamed.

Avignon Jews’ only defenders had been the popes, who were now capricious. Jews had been a source of papal income and a means of expiating political mistakes. The next 100 years saw anti-Jewish edicts, including the wearing of a distinguishing rosette and the paying of myriads of illogical taxes.

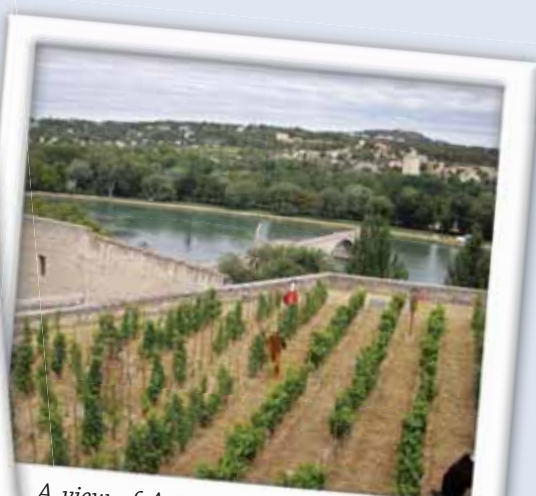
Avignon Jewry dwindled. Today, it comprises only 40 families. The shul, built in 1221 and rebuilt after a fire in 1845, is briefly featured in a tour of Jewish France.

According to historian Edward Mullins, Avignon’s brief reign ended “with a whimper”, but it deserves a glowing epitaph: in giving Christendom cohesion, it lent possibility to the relationship between Church and art, which over time enabled artists like Michelangelo and Raphael to gain patronage, and establish themselves. The Festival d’Avignon comes of this history, massively supported as it is by government.

Avignon is surrounded by quasi-industrial villages, with dirt-cheap accommodation; it’s more sensible to stay in the walled city. Waking up to the quiet cacophony of the city of grapes is priceless.



The Avignon Synagogue, amid a scattering of festival posters. Burnt to the ground in 1845, it was rebuilt in a neo-classical style soon after. It is no longer functional, but serves as a historical monument.



A view of Avignon’s bridge, on the Rhône River, for which the children’s nursery rhyme is sung. In the foreground, Avignon vineyards and scarecrows.

TIPS FOR WHEN YOU VISIT FRANCE

- If you’re holidaying in France and hold a SA passport, you need a Schengen visa, which costs about R600.
- There are no medical precautions for visiting France.
- I visited Avignon, in the south of France, during July. The weather is beautiful, often bordering on the sweltering; the sun sets after 22:00. If you’re visiting this region not for the festival, but to hike in the surrounds of Avignon, it is recommended you visit before or after the intense heat, that is in April or August.
- French is spoken in Avignon, and while most French speakers studied English in high school, there is hostility to speaking it on the streets. A courtesy measure is to ask people if they speak English before assuming.
- The French currency is the euro, which at the time of going to press, costs R10,04
- Traffic in France is on the right hand side.
- Electricity in France is at 230v, at a frequency of 50Hz. Standard French plugs have two dual round pins.
- Tap water is safe to drink in France, though it is treated differently to South African water and tastes slightly sourer.
- There is no time difference between Johannesburg and France.



Old and new: banks, theatres, hotels and festival dynamics against the background of the age-old Palais des Papes.

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Munich '72 fallen athletes remembered at KDHSL

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPHS: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

Following the initiative of London-based Barry Shaw, a noted Israeli author, to honour the 11 slain Israeli athletes at Munich in 1972, with a minute's silence, South African activist Brenda Stern wrote to shuls, temples and churches in South Africa and abroad to light yizkor candles erev Shabbat and offer a memorial prayer on Shabbat or a special Kaddish.

Last Friday, Jewish learners all over the world, at a yizkor remembered the murdered athletes. At King David Linksfield's assembly, likewise the athletes murdered by Black September terrorists were remembered.

Some 750 King David Linksfield children rose spontaneously as the names of the murdered Olympians were read out in the deeply moving assembly. At least 120 services were conducted by Orthodox and Progressive synagogues and schools across the country.



Shannon Kelvin and Candice Bonner light the memorial candle, remembering the fallen Israeli athletes and coaches.



King David Linksfield High School learners remember the Israeli victims of the '72 Munich Olympics terror attack.



TA Primary School extends Madiba's legacy

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH BY CHANI ZWICK

Torah Academy Primary School has extended its Mandela Day commemorations on a permanent basis every Wednesday morning.

The learners provide soup and bread for

patients in the Orchards Municipal Clinic, as well as hot chocolate at the crack of dawn for those standing in long queues in the bitter cold to receive treatment. The clinic is adjacent to the school.

Handing out the hot chocolate are Tehilla Menachemi; Talya Fine; Kayla Hene; and Elki Sarchi.

Cycling to Durban through a Winter Wonderland

OREN BLASS AND JOSEPH MARCUS, GRADE 9 AND JONATHAN BLUMENTHAL, GRADE 11
PHOTOGRAPH: MILAN LEVY

During the July school holidays, a group of 40 King David Linksfield staff members, learners and parents, went on the annual cycle ride down to Durban.

This is a 560km cycle event, where every child does the entire trip; it's not a relay.

Oren Blass and Joseph Marcus write: Europcar were our main sponsor. On the first day we were able to ride with the Europcar pros from South Africa. They pushed us to our limits and it was a great experience to ride with them.

This year was more challenging mentally and physically than last year because of the cold. It really gets to your head when you wake up in the morning to find that some ice has devoured your bike and your bottle resembles a brick.

First day was, besides the cold, uneventful. Second day was challenging as we ascended into the Drakensberg, but much warmer.

Third day was awe-inspiringly beautiful and we climbed more than 3 100 metres which included the infamous Griffin's Hill climb. Later we raced down the 36km descent into St Ives, near Midmar. The fourth day involved riding from St Ives to a sign next to the town hall in Pietermaritzburg.



Oren Blass and Joseph Marcus.

Jonathan Blumenthal writes: On the coldest day of the year, at 05:00 on June 24, we began our cycle tour

We set out in groups, with followers in the support vehicles ready for the action to begin. A few hours later we made our first stop for a "quick" breakfast surrounded by nothing but cold weather.

When the weather reached a freezing, -2 degrees, we were forced to spend the rest of the day on the tour bus.

We spoke about the day's events over a meal, while we mentally and physically prepared ourselves for the days to follow.

We made our way to our next starting destination only to find that the weather had not improved. However, we had a very successful day.

Downhill cycles, forest green scenery and a filling lunch, was not nearly enough to prepare us for the Griffin Hill climb. After a tiring and gruelling day, we eventually went downhill for some 30 kms, approaching St Yves Resort.

Our tour was coming to an end. We cycled through the Thousand Hills, followed by a delightful lunch in Durban.

We captured the memories of the tour with a group photo before packing the bus to make our way into Umhlanga for a well-deserved rest before returning to Johannesburg by bus.

We all had a great time, bonding both on the road and off.

KDVPPS Interhouse a resounding success

DARREN JORDAAN
DIRECTOR SPORT KDSVP
PHOTOGRAPH: SHIRA TOLLMAN

The annual King David Victory Park Primary School Interhouse Athletics was filled with excitement. Our athletes showed a good standard of running and the participation was excellent.

Congratulations to the Victrix and Victor Ludorums in the senior and junior competitions.

Thanks to all the staff as well as the parents who attended the event and for making the day such a success.



Johannes Mouton; Dean Promnick; and Daniel Fleishman, who shared the Senior Victor Ludorum.



KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL VICTORY PARK

SA Board of Jewish Education

King David High School Victory Park is an Independent Jewish Day school from Grade 8 – 12.

The school invites applicants for the following position:

JEWISH STUDIES TEACHER

(for appointment: January 2013)

CRITERIA

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- Professional Qualification
- Competent and experienced in teaching traditional Jewish texts and Jewish History.
 - Maintain and uphold the ethos of the SABJE
 - Passion for education
 - Excellent communication skills
 - Excellent classroom management
 - Ability to work co-operatively, as part of a team
 - Computer literacy
- An ability to contribute to the extra-curricular activities

A Curriculum Vitae and contact information with two referees should be emailed to: hudson@sabje.co.za

Closing date for applications: Monday 13 August 2012

The school reserves the right not to make an appointment.

Only shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.



On the way for a record long Aids ribbon

The project to create the world’s longest HIV ribbon prior to World Aids Day on December 1, kicked off last Friday, July 27, at Crawford College in Sandton, where 600 learner and 20 preschool children from the Afrika Tikkun Phutaditjaba centre, put together 700 red T-shirts, collected by Crawford College staff members and learners, into the shape of an AIDS ribbon on their field.

NANCY CHIMHANDAMBA COMMUNICATIONS MAN-AGER, AFRIKA TIKKUN PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

They joined the clothes with safe-

ty pins, class by class, and then came together to join them up into one long ribbon. The result was a ribbon 260 metres long and 100cm wide.

Sasfin partnered with Afrika Tikkun by funding the launch

and providing 1 000 T-shirts for the day.

Afrika Tikkun is appealing to the public, corporate organisa-tions, schools and other groups, to get their teams involved in collecting the 2 000 red T-shirts

needed for a ribbon that is over one kilometre long.

Members of the public are urged to participate by collect-ing and donating red T-shirts to quadruple the achievement of last Friday, in order to attempt to

break the Guinness World Record for the longest AIDS ribbon.

The organisers are looking for more sponsors to benefit from the marketing in the lead up to and at the World Aids Day event.

Bnei Akiva helps to restore Jewish cemetery in Poland

Last week, Bnei Akiva members from South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand - who are on their Hachshara year in Israel - visited Poland on a Jewish heritage trip.

The group, who are on the MTA programme, wanted to do something that would help pre-serve Jewish memory in Poland, in addition to touring sites such as Auschwitz, Majdanek and Treblinka, Bnei Akiva said in a media release.

The group visited the Jewish cemetery in Kalisz, which was abandoned and neglected after the Holocaust, and dedicated a few hours there to help restore part of the cemetery. They cleared away the overgrown shrubbery, unearthed broken gravestones, lifted them back to their upright position, and painted in the faded inscriptions.

Rabbi Rafi Ostroff, who led the trip, explained why they chose to volunteer in Kalisz: “We went to Kalisz to respect one of the lead-ing rabbinical figures from there, Rabbi Chaim Elazar Wax, who was

especially known for his responsa work, Nefesh Chaya. Rabbi Wax was an avid Zionist, and did much to spread the idea of settling the Holy Land.”

With financial support from Sir Moses Montefiore, Rabbi Wax advocated the establishment of etrog agriculture in Israel, at a time when the etrog was an im-portant symbol in Jewish culture.

He travelled to Israel in 1886, with his father-in-law, Rabbi Trunk, to supervise etrog planta-tions and establish housing and jobs for members of the Warsaw Jewish community who had come to Israel.

The Bnei Akiva group received a warm welcome and support from Halina Marcinkowska, who is responsible for the cemetery - one of ten Jews living in Kalisz today - and from the Kalisz Mun-icipality, which sent workers to assist in cleaning up the cemetery.

Jonny Lipczer, programme di-rector, said: “It was a humbling ex-perience to work in the cemetery in Kalisz, and to read the inscrip-

tions on the newly restored tomb-stones of those who were buried there. In a small way, we were able to tell the dead: ‘We have not for-gotten you’.”

Justin Gillman, from Johan-nesburg, said: “After a week of seeing the destruction of count-less Jewish communities, we were able to spend some time helping to preserve the memories of those who once lived there.

“During our journey through Poland, Bnei Akiva taught us that



Yonatan Rubin-stein, from Melbourne, painting in the letters that had faded on a tombstone



Justin Gillman, from Johannesburg, unearthing an over-turned tombstone.

while we must remem-ber what happened, it is no less important to respond and take posi-tive action to keep the memory of the Holo-caust alive.”

Yonatan Rubin-stein, from Melbourne, added: “Working in the Kalisz cemetery was a really nice way to contribute to the lo-

cal community, once home to thousands of Jews. We felt that we were truly making a difference.

“While I was repainting the faded tombstones in the cem-etery, I felt as if I was bringing back the pride and joy which once shone so brightly from the Kalisz Jews. Now with a readable head-stone can they be remembered and recognised as they deserve to be.”

News in Brief

NY MACCABI GAMES' MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR MUNICH 11 TO BE LIVESTREAMED

WASHINGTON - A moment of silence to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the massacre at the Munich Olympics in 1972, will be livestreamed from a sub-rban New York JCC on August 12.

Ankie Spitzer, widow of an Israeli coach who was killed at the Munich Games, will join the JCC Maccabi Games at the JCC Rockland in New York for the moment of silence to be streamed at 18:00 on <http://www.ooVoo.com>.

The JCC Rockland had initiated a petition drive, which turned into an international campaign, to hold a mo-ment of silence at the London Olympics in memory of the 11 Israeli athletes and coaches killed by Palestinians terrorists at the Munich Olympics. The Interna-tional Olympic Committee turned down the request.

Spitzer and other Munich victims' families and the JCC Rockland say they will lobby the IOC for a moment of silence at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro. (JTA)

ARAB-ISRAELI MK BLAMES ISRAELI POLICY FOR TERROR AT-TACK IN BULGARIA

JERUSALEM - An Israeli Arab Knesset member has said that Israeli policy led to the deadly recent terrorist attack against Israeli tourists in Bulgaria.

“Israel is not a victim, and even when civilians are killed, the occupying Israeli policy is to blame,” Channel 10 quoted Haneen Zoabi as saying, The Jerusalem Post reported.

“If there was no occupation, no repression and no blockade, then this wouldn’t have happened,” she said during an interview at Haifa’s Gordon College.

The terrorist attack, which American and Israeli officials blame on a Hezbol-lah operative, killed five Israelis and wounded another 36 on vacation in Burgas, Bulgaria.

Zoabi also came out against efforts to have the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics remembered with a moment of silence during the opening ceremonies of this year’s London Olympics. She is member of the National Democratic Assembly, a secular party that says a democratic, secular stay is the only that Israel’s Arab citizens can “achieve full, cultural, national and minority rights”.

“Why don’t they commemorate the Palestinians that Israel murdered?” Channel 2 quoted Zoabi as saying. “If Israel would say that it recognises the injustice it has done to Palestinians, then it would also be logical to ask the world to remember all the sides. But it is hypocritical to continue to bring up the victims of 40 years ago, while Israel wants to hide the victims of recent years.”

Zoabi last Friday denied the reports, saying that the media had ignored her con-demnation of the murder of Jewish civilians in Burgas and her participation in a minute of silence in their memory in the Knesset, according to The Jerusalem Post.

The media, she said, also ignored her central contention: that the occupation was the central act of terrorism, the centre of conflict and suffering in the region, the paper reported. (JTA)

AUSTRIAN RELIGIOUS GROUPS ASK GOVT TO CLARIFY CIR-CUMCISION POSITION

VIENNA - Religious groups in Austria have called on the government to reaffirm its commitment to religious freedom and the legality of male circumcision.

The Austrian Jewish Community, the Islamic Community of Austria, and Cath-olic and Lutheran bishops in a July 27 statement called on Vienna to “issue a clear commitment to religious freedom and to the legality of male circumcision”.

The call came days after Governor Markus Wallner of the Vorarlberg province in Austria ordered doctors to stop performing infant circumcision for religious reasons until the legal status of the procedure is clarified.

“This is a subject that has to be regulated countrywide,” Wallner said.

Wallner was acting in reaction to a ruling by a court last month in Cologne, Germany, that ruled against non-medical circumcision on the grounds that cir-cumcision causes grievous bodily harm. Germany’s lawmakers passed a pro-circumcision resolution this month that protects the right to religious-based cir-cumcision of boys as long as it is done by a medically qualified practitioner who avoids inflicting pain.

Governor Gerhard Doerfler of the Austrian state of Carinthia called for a na-tionwide legal prohibition against male circumcision, according to The Associated Press.

Two hospitals in Switzerland also announced that they would stop male cir-cumcision following the decision.

“I see no need to act,” Austrian Justice Minister Beatrix Karl said last week Friday, according to the South African Press Association. “In Austria, circumci-sion is not an illegal act. There also exists the fundamental right to religious freedom.”

The Conference of European Rabbis said it would lobby against recent cir-cumcision bans by advocating legislation supporting the practice. (JTA)

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What's On

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

Today, Friday (August 3)

- **UZLC** has as its guest speaker at the United Zionist Luncheon, Shirley Zar Her topic is "Letters From Der Heim to South Africa". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

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

Sunday (August 5)

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

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

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

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

Monday (August 6)

- **UJW** hosts Prof Sheila Meintjes on "The role of Women in SA Politics". Time 09:30. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost: R25. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (August 7)

- **RCHCC** will be showing "Sarah's Key", a film by Gilles Paquet-Brenner (English and French with English subtitles). Time 19:30. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments) Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378. E-mail: hazel.rchcc@telkomsa.net or Rene: rene.s@telkomsa.net.

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

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

Wednesday (August 8)

- **UJW** hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Department of English at Wits, who today delivers the second of a five-part series on "English Metaphysical Poetry". She will discuss the poetry of two 17th century poets, John Donne and George Herbert. Time 09:30. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost: R25. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

- **UJW CT** hosts Dr Rodger Meyer who will talk on "Addiction A 'Badness' or an 'Illness'". Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30 . Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (August 9)

- **UJW CT** Simcha branch conducts a "Township Tour". Cost: R300, (incl a fish lunch). Time: 09:30 - 15:00. Contact: Hermoine Sternberg, tel: (021) 434-9555 or info@ujwcape.co.za.

Sunday (August 19)

- **Second Innings** hosts Prof Angela Itzikowitz, director at Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs, who will speak on "The Consumer Protection Act – A Bill of Rights for Consumers". Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Contact: Grecia Gabriel, tel (011) 532-9718 or 082-561-3228. E-mail: www.jhbchev.co.za:

Friday (August 10)

- **UZLC** has as its guest speaker Marlene Bethlehem, on "The Big 'W' Trip - Wimbledon & Warsaw". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

- **The Lewandowski Chorale** is giving their debut concert at the Old Mutual Theatre on the Square in Sandton at 13:00. The choir is conducted by Adam Golding and features Len Kay as soloist and Avi Kanar as accompanist. Cost: R30 (incl coffee and a programme). No advance booking. Seats purchased at the door. Contact: 082-338-4462.

Monday (August 13)

- **UJW** hosts Marlene Bethlehem, former deputy chairman of the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Cultural and Religious Rights, on: "Are the Democratic Rights Organisations of the Constitution Still Relevant?" Time 09:30. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost: R25. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Wednesday (August 15)

- **UJW** hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Department of English at Wits, who today delivers the third of a five-part series on "English Metaphysical Poetry". She will discuss the poetry of two 17th century poets, John Donne and George Herbert. Time 09:30. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost: R25. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

- **Chevrah Kadisha's** annual "Share the Load" draw takes place in the Gerald Horwitz Lounge 18:16 to 21:15. Contact: (011) 532-9799 or 072-634-0075.

Sunday (August 19)

- **B'nai B'rith Barak Unit** presents a "Charity Fundraising Evening". Venue: Barnyard Theatre, Cresta Centre, Blackheath, with Ian von Memerty and his family, in a combination of their "Circle of Life" and "Celebration". Admission: R180 pp. Doors Open 18:30 for 20:00 sharp. You may bring your own food but strictly no drinks. Full cash bar available. beneficiaries of this event: CAP Home Community Services and Oxford Jewish Remedial School.

Tuesday (August 21)

- **WIZO** Forum shows the movie "Inside Israel", with an analysis by Victor Gordon. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 09:30. Cost R40. Contact: Andrea 083-677-8999.

Anton Marcus - again - wins Jockeys’ Championship

After last year’s battle for the National Champion Jockey title that came down to the final week, winner Anton Marcus declared he would not go through it all again. He came from 30 winners behind Anthony Delpech, to clinch the title. Both jockeys had ridden daily at meetings around the country and that involved travelling from Johannesburg to Kimberley to Port Elizabeth to Durban and to Cape Town.

JACK MILNER

This year Gavin Lerena had built up a decent lead with three months to go, but suffered a setback when he broke his leg. He was off for a month, but by the time he came back, Anthony Delpech and Marcus had both passed him. Lerena travelled all over the country and coming into the final 10 days, he held a six-win lead over Marcus. It was at that point Marcus vowed he was not going to give up his title without a fight

In the closest race ever seen in a South Africa jockeys’ championship, it all came down to the final race of the final meeting of the final day of the 2011/12 season at Kenilworth in Cape Town on Tuesday. Lerena started the meeting one win ahead of Marcus, but after Marcus won Race 2 aboard Scaky Phane and Race 4 on Pirate Flag, he moved one ahead and looked set to retain his title. However, Lerena came exceedingly close to squaring it all when Rivatoria came out of the pack to chase Bella

Nero, but jockey MJ Byleveld kept the Mike Bass-trained runner in front to hold off Lerena by 0,40 lengths. It all came down to Race 10, with Marcus one ahead and Lerena needing to win, in order to share the championship. However, neither jockey managed to place and the title went to Marcus for the third successive year. The difference is that this year Klawervlei Stud have put up a prize of R250 000 to the winning jockey. One has to sympathise with Lerena who looked to have the title under his belt a few months back but had to give up his 16-win lead. To come back and get so close, is a remarkable performance.



Anton Marcus comes into the winner’s enclosure at Kenilworth last week Tuesday, after winning Race 4 aboard Pirate Flag. It was this horse’s victory which gave him a one-win lead and secured him the SA Jockeys’ Championship for the third successive year. (PICTURE: GOLD CIRCLE)

Three Jewish athletes tracked at Olympic Games

JACK MILNER

I am always asked if - other than the Israeli team - there are any other Jewish athletes in action at the Olympic Games. So far I have been able to track three: one American, one Canadian and an Australian with South African roots. Unfortunately South Africa does not have any Jewish team members this time but the Americans usually do. This time they have another Jewish female gymnast in the team - Aly Raisman. At the Atlanta Games in 1996, the American team included Jewish gymnast Kerri Strug. She was a member of the “Magnificent Seven”, the victorious all-around women’s gymnastics team. Raisman repeated that feat this week and helped propel her team to gold. The 18-year-old from Massachusetts, who performed her floor routine to Hava Nagila, appeared last in the US line-up in the team competition. As she left the floor, bringing her team its first win outside US soil, she held back tears of joy. Aly, who scored 15,3 for her routine, is one of the most high-profile Jewish athletes competing at London 2012. Her team scored 183,596, five points more than those in second place. The team finished five marks ahead of Russia, with Romania in third place. Raisman will now go for gold later this week in the individual allround artistic gymnastic

final. Josh Binstock, who helped his team beat Great Britain at last Saturday’s first round match, is one of Canada’s top beach volleyball players. The 31-year-old, who has been playing the sport since he was 16, is competing in his first Olympic Games. Initially a hockey player, the 1,96m sportsman, once coached a volleyball team at a Jewish community centre in his home area of Ontario. He also competed in volleyball in the 2009 Maccabiah Games. Binstock now faces Norway, Italy and Brazil in its group matches. Finally we have Steven Solomon, an athlete from Australia. His father, Michael, is a South African-born orthopaedic surgeon. Just three weeks ago, Solomon won bronze at the World Junior Championships in Barcelona in a personal best of 45,52 seconds. He also posted a blistering sub-45-second relay leg that helped the Australians qualify for London. Solomon has a large cheering squad in Australia, led by Maccabi officials. Michael Vasin, the chief executive of Maccabi in Sydney, said Solomon - who won the Maccabi New South Wales junior Sportsman of the Year in 2009 and the Sportsman of the Year trophy in 2011 - was a “celebrity within our midst. It’s unbelievable, he’s blown everybody away.”

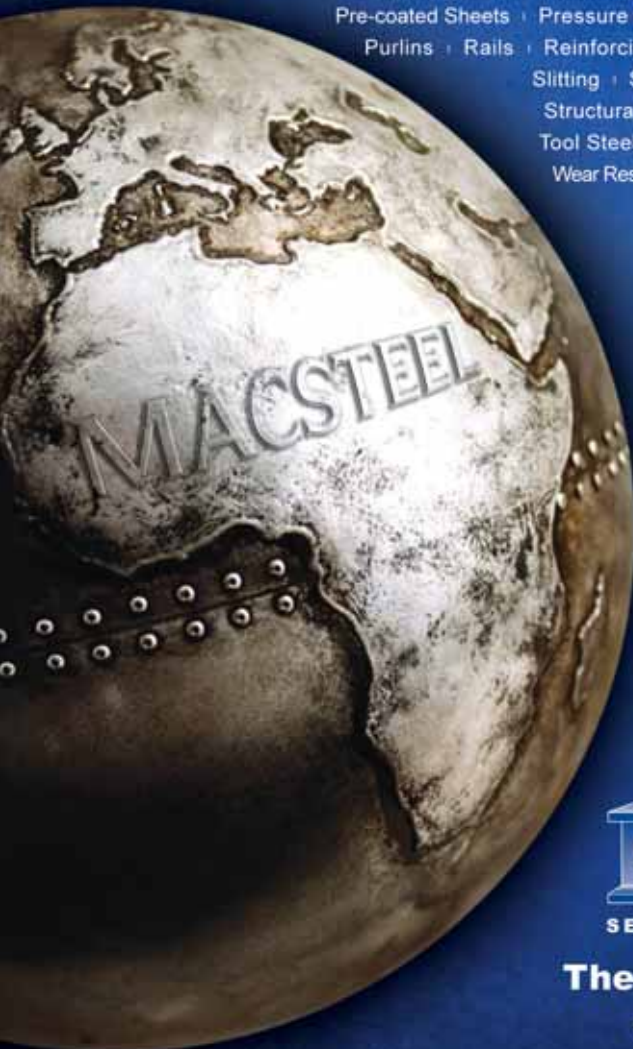



Steve Solomon, a top Australian athlete, has South African roots - his father, Michael, is a South African orthopaedic surgeon.

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