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Jewish Report

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Volume 16 Number 3

- IN THIS EDITION -



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Coming together to give Israel a fair shake

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Roxan Zeemani and Abel Zeemani (Friends of Christ Ministries) talk to Ben Swartz, chairman of Fairplay SA, at last Sunday's day-long Israel Advocacy Seminar at Beyachad in Johannesburg. Representatives of more than 50 organisations, including a number of Christian Zionist bodies, took part in the seminar under the joint auspices of the SA Zionist Federation and Maccabi Israel. A theme running through the seminar was to ensure that Israel "at least be accorded fair and even-handed treatment" and to turn South Africa into a real friend of Israel. (PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER)



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EDITOR - Geoff Sifrin
geoff@sajewishreport.co.za

COMMERCIAL MANAGER
Sue Morris - sue@sajewishreport.co.za

Sub-Editor - Paul Maree

Ed Co-ordinator - Sharon Akum
carro@global.co.za

Sports Editor - Jack Milner
jackmilner@telkomsa.net

Books Editor - Gwen Podbrey

Arts Editor - Robyn Sassen
robyn@sajewishreport.co.za

Cape Town correspondent
Molira Schneider: 021-794-4206

Pretoria correspondent
Diane Wolfson: 082-707-9471

Advertising - (011) 023-8160
advertising@sajewishreport.co.za

Adi Lew: 083-407-8034
adi@sajewishreport.co.za

Britt Landsman: 082-292-9520
britt@sajewishreport.co.za

Manuela Bernstein: 082-951-3838
manuela@sajewishreport.co.za

Freelance Advertising Executives

Marlene Bilewitz: 083-475-0288
marlene@sajewishreport.co.za

Classified Sales
Charissa Newman - jrclassified@global.co.za

Manager: Distribution
Britt Landsman

Design and layout
Frankie Matthysen | Nicole Cook

Website
www.sajewishreport.co.za
llan Ossendryver - ilan@ic-creations.com

Subscription enquiries
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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

One small step,
one giant leap!



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Rabbi Sholem Bacher
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“THAT’S ONE small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”. This is the famous line that Neil Armstrong said when placing his foot on the lunar surface in July 1969. Man had landed on the moon.

A small step by one man heralded a giant leap of progress for all mankind. At times progress is achieved on a step-by-step basis. Hence the popularity of the step-by-step guides. They claim to turn us into overnight experts in many disciplines.

Our Sages teach us that the Exodus from Egypt was likened to a giant leap; it was not a structured programme.

There was a deliberate programme of specific plagues pointed at weakening the material and spiritual stronghold of the oppressors.

However, the great jump from one state of being to another, was the predominant character of Ge-ulas Mitzrayim. (The Exodus from Egypt)

This process is called “leaping” symbolising the way we leapt to freedom and became a nation by jumping miraculously over vast limitations.

Our forebears, the Jewish nation, had sunk to immensely low spiritual levels as a result of the harshness of the Egyptian exile. To redeem people who had regressed so severely, required an unprecedented miracle.

The Egyptians had mastered the physical sciences of their day. They also had extensive reach into some of the harmful spiritual powers of the natural and cosmic worlds.

They entrenched their rule through brute force and vast understanding of the innate nature of the physical world.

Yet they did not see or recognise Hashem. They did not want to confront the supernatural on the greatest level. To understand that the world ultimately has, as we say a, Baal-Ha-Bayit, a creator above and beyond all.

It became humanely impossible to liberate the nation of Jewish slaves that were in bondage in such a civilisation.

The process that Hashem used to redeem us is called “Dilug”. Literally this means leaping, jumping over all obstacles and limitations. Hashem leapt over our obstacles and caused us all to jump over boundaries to achieve our liberation from slavery.

This message is eternally relevant to us because it teaches us that we are not trapped by boundaries and limitations. When we are confronted with challenges, we can leap through to progress by changing our mindset.

We can unleash the inner potential that Hashem has given us to accomplish things. To achieve things we could never have dreamed possible.

So, next time we get flustered with the details, we need to move forward, to take a leap in the right direction. One small step for all of us can turn into a giant leap forward for all of mankind.



Making bracelets to remember Holocaust children by: Khayelitsha’s Masakhane Senior Club members Hazel Ngqokelani and Lulama Ngindana with Kingsley Holgate, SA explorer. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBIN MALHERBE/NIKON AFRICA TRUST)

SA bracelets stretch from
CT to Atlanta and to Jhb

ROBYN SASSEN

“IT WAS like a light bulb going on,” says Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society’s Glynne Wolman, explaining a brand new Benevolent project. Last November, at a batmitzvah in Port Elizabeth, she saw someone wearing a beautiful beaded bracelet. “After I found out about the project, I couldn’t wait to bring it to the Benevolent.”

The bracelets, made by unemployed people in Khayelitsha in the Western Cape, are black and yellow. “The six yellow beads represent the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust. Yellow represents the star Jews had to wear,” Wolman, a recruitment specialist from Sandton, who five years ago founded the Pivotal Branch of the Benevolent with Leigh Brouze, explains: “Each has a pewter bead: On one side a daffodil is engraved; on the other, a Magen Dovid with the word Chai.”

The advocacy bracelets were conceived of in 2008 by Cape Town non-profit organisation Relate Trust, founded by Lauren Gillis and her brother-in-law Glenn Gillis. Grounded in a philosophy of job creation, respect, recognition and responsibility, the trust embraces initiatives like Ikamva Labantu and Reach for a Dream. Relate has designed many bracelets, supporting everything from orphaned and vulnerable children to malaria awareness.

“The idea of bracelets in memory of the 1,5 million child Holocaust victims was begun by Atlanta-based Am Yisrael Chai Daffodil project. They commissioned Relate Trust to create the bracelets: these humble strings of beads stretch from Cape Town, to Atlanta, back to Johannesburg.” Wolman adds, speaking of how the daffodil’s symbolism is about the promise of



The Benevolent advocacy bracelet, showing both sides of the pewter bead. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBYN SASSEN)



Phumla Ntliziywana, from Masakhane Senior Club, in Khayelitsha, one of Relate Trust’s beaders, at work. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBIN MALHERBE/NIKON AFRICA TRUST)

new life. “It’s not just a string of beads,” she cites the project’s slogan. “It’s a life line.”

The bracelets are bought for R25 and sold for R40; a breakdown of monies gives everyone, from the Receiver of Revenue, the beaders and the people in Atlanta, a cut, including funds for raw material, marketing and skills development. The Benevolent seeks not only individual bracelet buyers, but broad-based sponsorship, which will enable the cut everyone gets to be larger.

It’s an unusual project for the Benevolent but doesn’t contradict its ethos. Founded in 1893, the Benevolent, a volunteer-run charity, supports Jews affected by indigence. Contributions they receive finance drug rehabilitation and help victims of abuse.

Wolman adds: “Recently the Benevolent made a recipe book costing R250; R40 is far easier to take out of your pocket.”

The Benevolent is doing a roadshow of Jewish schools later this year; bracelets are also available from its Sandringham Gardens offices: (011) 485-5232 or directly from Glynne: 083-777-1621.



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Cheryllyn and Demetri Dudley of The African Christian Democratic Party is welcomed by Ben Swartz.

Putting heads together to give Israel a fair shake

DAVID SAKS
PHOTOS BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER

REPRESENTATIVES OF over 50 organisations, including a number of prominent Christian Zionist bodies, took part in an intensive, day-long Israel advocacy seminar at Beyachad last Sunda, under the joint auspices of the SA Zionist Federation and Maccabi Israel.

Participating organisations included SAUJS, Maccabi, the African Christian Democratic Party, Fairplay SA, the SA-Israel Forum and Bridges for Peace.

In his introductory remarks, SAZF national vice-chairman and chairman of Fairplay SA, Ben Swartz described the event as “unprecedented” in the history of Israel advocacy in South Africa in terms of the degree of collaboration achieved.

He saw this as an important step forward in, at a minimum, changing perceptions to the point that Israel would at least be accorded fair and even-handed treatment. The best-case scenario, however, which was something that should be aimed at in the long term, was to turn South Africa into a genuine friend of Israel.

The seminar was very much geared towards achieving practical outcomes. After the opening messages by Swartz, SAZF Chairman Avrom Krengel and Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, and representatives of nine of the main participating organisations, gave a brief overview of their work, followed by questions from the floor.

After lunch, the gathering broke up into seven focus groups, which dealt with defending and promoting Israel’s case in academia, arts and culture, business, the legal arena, the general media, online media, the religious field and sport.

The respective facilitators, who reported back on the discussions afterwards, were Steven Gruzd, Reeve Forman, Greg Kinross, Harold Jacobs, Bev Goldman, Benji Shulman, Rabbi Ramon Widmonte and Clifford Garrun.

Amidst the host of practical suggestions put forward during the day, a number of common themes emerged. These included better preparing the Jewish senior learners



Avrom Krengel and Ben Swartz talk to Bishop Phakama Shembe.

at the day schools for what they could expect to confront in the universities, a greater focus on bringing mixed groups both to and from Israel to show at first-hand what Israel was really about and involving Christian Zionist groups to a much greater extent in all Israel-related activities.

Also stressed was the importance of being more proactive, including always being prepared to go onto the offensive against those who singled Israel out for special opprobrium, regardless of what their standing might be in society.

The central message that had to be conveyed was that Israel was a multi-cultural democracy committed to peace. It was through bringing home these truths in every available forum, that pernicious actions to the effect that Israel was a war-mongering, apartheid state, would best be discredited.

In the realm of Israel advocacy, the international Maccabi movement has become increasingly involved in recent years. Rabbi Carlos Tapeiro, deputy director general of the Maccabi World Union, was one of the seminar participants.

He was one of the speakers during the lunch session, along with Ronen Plot, director general in the Ministry of Public Diplomacy and the Diaspora in Israel.

Both also spoke at a luncheon for the Jewish communal leadership held at Beyachad the following day.

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Rene Heitner's passing a sad loss for SA Jewry



Heitner loved philately, fishing and wild life photography. He leaves his wife Yvonne; daughter Nikki Heyman and two sons, Ryan and Stephen; six grandchildren, and his 93-year-old mother, Madeleine. Heitner's daughter is compiling a book of memories and anecdotes celebrating her father's life. She appeals to former patients, colleagues and friends to e-mail her: marnik@icon.co.za

GN's Mark Cohen passes on in Israel



He is mourned by his wife, Julie, to whom he was married for 50 years, children Joseph, Adi and Barry, daughters-in-law Helene and Shely and all his grandchildren and great granddaughter.

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Melton Mini School is coming to Johannesburg

OWN CORRESPONDENT

AFTER FIVE years of The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School's huge success in Cape Town, the Jewish community in Johannesburg will now be able to take part in this enriching and world-renowned programme.

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School is a curriculum- and text-based programme designed by Jerusalem's Hebrew University

and teaches Judaism to adults who aim to increase their connection with their Jewish roots and their Jewish knowledge.

On February 5, Johannesburgers will be treated to "a delicious "Taste" of Melton, said Ariella Milner.

There will be two "Taste" sessions: One at 11:00 and the other one at 16:00. Each session will last an hour and a half. There is no charge.

The Mini-School has adopted the literacy

Don't let hate poison you, Holocaust survivor stresses

ALISON GOLDBERG

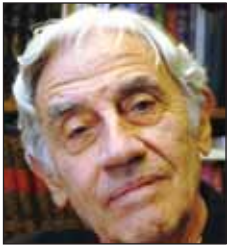
DACHAU SURVIVOR Elly Gotz (pictured), prompted by a question about forgiveness at the end of his narrative: A return to Dachau after 65 years, said he had obviously given it a lot of thought. Gotz was delivering the keynote address in Johannesburg last Thursday night at Liliesleaf Farm. This was for the United Nations International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27; the day the Russians freed Auschwitz.

"I was full of hate and thoughts of revenge. After liberation by the Americans in 1945, I stole a bicycle from a German farmer, but gave it back. I realised my thoughts would destroy me - not my enemies.

"I couldn't accuse a whole nation, though there were many bystanders who could have done more. I gave up hating and was able to move forward and fulfil my dreams. Some nations are teaching their children to hate, but it destroys the people who hate. Let us stop hating."

The United Nations this year focuses on the one and a half million Jewish children, children of the Roma and other races deemed by the Nazis to be inferior, who were murdered in the Holocaust. The local event was organised by the United Nations Information Centre, the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre, and the Liliesleaf Trust. Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia was where six of the 10 Rivonia trialists were arrested in 1963.

Eighty-three-year-old Gotz's life, is the story of a sturdy weed defying destruction. At each juncture of this Kaunas, Lithuanian-



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROB BEINTEMA/WWW.DURHAMREGION.COM

born's life, he is saved by his determination to better himself: acquire another language, learn a new skill.

Gotz was 13 when the Germans invaded the Soviet Union in 1941 and occupied Lithuania. Denied high-school, he attended a trade school in the then-created Kaunas ghetto and concentration camp, learning locksmithing and general metalwork, becoming an instructor at 15.

In October 1941, on one single day, 10 000 Kaunas Jews were marched up a hill and shot down into mass pits. The commander of that Einsatzgruppe, Helmut Rauca, settled in Toronto after the war, practically Gotz's neighbour, but was only extradited to Germany 25 years later to stand trial for war crimes. He died beforehand.

In 1944, Elly and his father were transferred to Dachau, outside Munich, separated en-route from his mother in Northern Germany. She was a nurse who before the Germans sent trains to take the unknowing away, was ready, if discovered in their hiding place, to inject the entire family with a solution to induce heart-attacks.

In cattle cars, stacked upon each other, Gotz, an only child, and his father, were part of the remaining Kaunas Jews of an original 28 000: 3 000 men to Dachau, 3 000 women to Stutthof.

"How did I ever get here?" he asked himself on arriving in Dachau. His mechanical skills saved both his life and his father's, whom he managed to get to work in his workshop. At another point, he saved his father's life again, pulling him into a toilet, at the beginning of a selection.

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AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

CANADA'S FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSES SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

JERUSALEM – Canada's foreign minister emphasised his country's staunch support of Israel.

"Israel has no greater friend in the world than Canada," John Baird said on Monday at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial museum.

Baird, on his third visit to Israel, also said: "Canada does not stand behind Israel; Canada stands shoulder to shoulder with Israel." He repeated the sentiments later in the day at a meeting with Israeli President Shimon Peres.

At the 12th annual Herzliya Conference Monday night, Baird called the delegitimisation and demonisation of Israel the "new anti-Semitism". He also voiced Canada's support for a two-state solution for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, (JTA)

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ב״ה

Jewish Report

Erasing caricatures

WITH ALL the rhetoric against Israel bandied about these days in South Africa and also worldwide, it is easy to believe the country has no friends, that it is totally isolated and surrounded by enemies.

In our local South African context, for example, even our major trade union federation Cosatu has adopted openly hostile stances towards Israel. Much of the hostility derives from historical struggle perceptions forged during apartheid. And the present government is no friend of Israel, although it does maintain a “correct” diplomatic relationship with the country, albeit without real warmth in it and little apparent desire from South Africa’s side to enhance the relationship.

A remarkable exception to this was during the period in office of former President Nelson Mandela, who made a very public visit to Israel in 1999, accompanied by the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris - who Mandela affectionately referred to as “my rabbi”. During the governments of Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma, however, that openness has unfortunately changed.

Israel still has many good friends, however, though they are often under the radar. Last Sunday’s Israel Advocacy Seminar at Beyachad in Johannesburg (see page 3) illustrated this. Participants included the African Christian Democratic Party, Fairplay SA, the SA-Israel Forum and Bridges for Peace.

Among the South African general population there is no deep-rooted historical anti-Semitism or anti-Israel sentiments. There is great ignorance about the country and the ties of South African Jewry to it, and a significant proportion would be hard-pressed to even find the country on the map.

A corollary is that these people are vulnerable to being influenced by anti-Israel activists towards a hostile position. The vehemently anti-Israel groups in South Africa look for every opportunity to create or bolster such-feelings.

It is too easy for supporters of Israel to mouth platitudes without actually doing anything. Thus it is all the more encouraging that such organisations and individuals would take the time and trouble last Sunday to come together as they did to learn about more effective Israel advocacy. They are not simply “apologists” for Israel; they do not take an Israel-is-always-right stance, but are real friends who accept Israel warts and all and want to ensure it gets a fair hearing.

We hope these initiatives will grow and reach out to broader sections of the population - even to some who are hostile through ignorance rather than knowledge about the country and what is happening there, and might be shown there are two sides to the story and any fair hearing must also present Israel’s side.

Other excellent initiatives take non-Jewish South Africans - journalists, politicians, government officials, businessmen, artists, academics and so on - on visits to Israel, where they meet with a wide range of Israelis, from leaders and decision-makers to the man-in-the-street. They see the thriving democracy Israel is - albeit with flaws, as occur in all countries - where issues are hotly and seriously debated as is the case in any open democracy.

The country is a hub of culture and enterprise, with its people living and laughing - and agonising - not just a beleaguered war zone, as so many who are ignorant of the real Israel, believe.

Walking down the bustling Tel Aviv beach promenade, for example, from north Tel Aviv all the way down past the old city of Jaffa in the south, packed with people from all over the world, is a remarkable and inspiring experience.

The objective must be to erase the negative caricature perceptions of Israel which antagonists hold on to, and let them feel the texture and warmth of its people.

The goodwill among Israel’s friends needs to be brought out and embraced. We live in tough times and the threats against Israel are real. The country needs all the friends it can get. Seminars such as Israel Advocacy are an important step.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS – FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Sinai today: Divided we fall

CHIEF RABBI WARREN GOLDSTEIN

THE PAST few weeks have seen old, painful divisions and animosities erupt anew within Israel. Particularly tragic is that the catalyst for re-opening these wounds was the actions of a small group of criminals. That they were dressed in religious garb should not deceive us: their acts of verbal abuse and other degrading behaviour constitute a gross violation of Torah law and values.

In an ethical will to his children, Rabbi Pinchas, known as the Maggid of Polachak, one of the eminent Torah sages of the past few hundred years and a disciple of the Vilna Gaon, warned about false piety.

The example he gives is from the Book of Esther, when King Achashverosh hosted a grand banquet to celebrate the defeat of the Jewish people, the destruction of the First Temple and the fact that it had not been rebuilt.

At the banquet, King Achashverosh used the holy utensils of the First Temple, which he had received from his wife’s grandfather, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon who

had destroyed the Temple. He also wore the clothing of the high priest.

The Maggid of Polachak says that a person who appears religious and pious on the outside but does not act so on the inside, is like King Achashverosh wearing the clothing of the high priest. King Achashverosh was an enemy of the Jewish people and wearing the garments of the high priest certainly did not make him the high priest.

So, too, says the Maggid of Polachak, a person who presents an outer image of religious faith and commitment yet does not live by those values, causes enormous damage. People who dress as religious Jews yet defy the Halacha’s standards of interpersonal, ethical behaviour by assaulting, verbally abusing or degrading other people, or causing grievous emotional pain through the disgraceful misuse of Holocaust symbolism, are like Achashverosh dressing up in the clothes of the high priest.

A modern-day analogy: If a band of robbers were to dress up as



policemen and rob a bank, would you say that the bank had been robbed by the police? Obviously not; the bank has been robbed by criminals dressed up as policemen.

People who violate Halacha, which prohibits any form of verbal abuse or conduct which causes another person pain, are merely dressing the part of being religious. To call such people “religious extremists” would be like calling bank robbers “capitalist extremists” because they are trying to make money through extreme methods.

They are not religions extremists; they are criminal vigilantes, because they do not operate under the auspices or instructions of any recognised rabbinic authority.

Torah Judaism comprises two categories of mitzvot: bein adam laMakom - our responsibilities toward Hashem - and bein adam lachavero - responsibilities toward our fellow man. Torah Judaism cannot be compartmentalised.

Continued on page 7

Shalit visits family of slain tank commander



JERUSALEM - Former captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, has visited the family of his tank commander, who was killed in the same incident in which Shalit was captured. Shalit visited the family of Hanan Barak at their home in Arad last Sunday, Ynet reported on Tuesday. He told the family that he loved Barak. The family told Ynet that the visit gave them "closure". Shalit's parents regularly attend the annual memorial service held for Barak. (JTA)

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

BRAZIL REMEMBERS JEWISH AND AFRO-DESCENDANT SHOAH VICTIMS

RIO DE JANEIRO - Remembering the Holocaust was one way to prevent it from recurring, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said at a memorial ceremony in Salvador on January 29.

Rousseff joined Jewish and non-Jewish officials at a ceremony remembering Jewish and Afro-descendants.

"We are here to express ourselves about a stain in the history of humankind," she said. "Remembering is a way to build the mechanisms to prevent it from happening again. The Holocaust, which some deny, will always stand as a paradigm against intolerance. Democratic societies have the power to fight crimes like the Holocaust so that they will not happen ever again."

She added that Brazil supported the creation of a "democratic and non-segregating" Palestinian state.

Claudio Lottenberg, president of the Brazilian Israelite Confederation, the Jewish umbrella organisation, recalled the 20 000 Afro descendants killed during the Holocaust. They had lived in Germany when the Nazis came to power in 1933. Salvador, with a population of more than 3,5 million, has the largest population of Afro-descendants outside of Africa.

Earlier this month, Rousseff approved an agreement to include Jewish themes such as the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and intolerance in the educational curricula in Brazil. (JTA)



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OPINION AND ANALYSIS – FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Sinai today...

Continued from page 6

The Telzer rosh yeshiva, Rav Mordechai Katz, was once asked how he explains a religious person who lies and cheats in business. He responded: “How do you explain a religious person who eats on Yom Kippur?” The questioner responded that such a person is not religious. Rav Katz said that neither was the one who was dishonest. A person who verbally or emotionally abuses or degraded another person could not be called religious. The severity of the sin of publicly humiliating someone can be seen in the Gemara’s (Bava Metzia 58b) likening it to murder.

The perpetrators of these criminal deeds bear responsibility for their actions; the rest of society is responsible for the reaction to these events, which, tragically, have been allowed to poison the atmosphere and the relationships within the Jewish world, sparking a wildfire of dispute, suspicion and hatred in Jewish society, particularly in Israel.

The divisive rhetoric following these events has caused enormous damage to the fabric of Israeli society, pitting religious and secular - as well as different religious communities - against each other.

These recent events merely reignited old divisions and animosities. It is these divisions and the accompanying aggressive and hateful words which we need to remedy with kindness, respect and derech eretz. All Jewish communities - however ideologically diverse, religious or secular - need to reach out to each other in friendship.

This is not a utopian dream. It has, as one example, been achieved to a large degree in the South African Jewish community, where, generally, Jews from across the spectrum engage with each other with respect and even friendship, albeit with all the natural human weaknesses and imperfections.

One of the great rabbinic leaders of the 20th century, Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan, known as the Chafetz Chaim, cried out about dispute and dissension - machloket - in many public letters and in his books.

He writes that machloket, together with its ancillary sins of lashon hara (verbal abuse) and the like, causes death, destruction and disintegration. He cites many Talmudic sources that show that the fire of machloket destroys marriages and families, synagogues and communities, and, ultimately, the whole of society.

The Chafetz Chaim cites the Talmud which says G-d will forgive the treachery of idol worship more easily than the sin of machloket.

The classic example of this is when G-d forgave the Jewish people for the sin of the Golden Calf but did not forgive those who were involved in igniting the fires of machloket in the sin of Korach’s dispute; they were destroyed entirely.

The Jewish people are facing many challenges and threats at this time. It is a time to return to Hashem sincerely, and the first step toward this teshuva is to improve our relationships, to speak to one another with kindness and gentleness and open our hearts to each other.

As the Chafetz Chaim wrote in one of his letters addressed to the public, he was “very distressed that even in our Holy Land the deeds of the evil inclination have been successful and it too has fallen into the trap of machloket”.

He concludes his letter with a heart-felt plea: “And therefore, my brothers and friends, have mercy on yourselves and Klal Yisrael, and let everyone in his place extinguish the fire of machloket so that His great Name should not be desecrated anymore and in this merit we will merit to hear the voice announcing peace in the world.”

The Chafetz Chaim’s metaphor of fire is poignant: When a dispute rages, it consumes everything in its path; its

destructive consequences cannot be predicted, as the Chafetz Chaim writes in that letter: “Who knows what can come from this? May G-d have mercy!” At the conclusion of this letter, he signed his name, “who writes with a broken heart”.


How broken hearted would he be were he to see what is going on today? And what of G-d Himself? One great Jewish commonwealth was destroyed, says the Talmud (Yoma 9b), because of the sins of hatred, lashon hara and machloket. We dare not let that happen again.

We cannot allow the fires of

machloket, of these long-standing divisions and animosities, to continue burning. We need to find a better way for the future, a way of talking to each other - especially when we disagree - with kindness and respect, with simple derech eretz.

From all sides of the divide we must bring to the public discourse the values presented in the verse (Mishlei 3:17) which describes the quintessential character of the Torah: “Her ways are ways of pleasantness and her paths are those of peace.”

• This article was first published in the Jerusalem Post.




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LETTERS

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

HIGHLIGHTING BRASCH’S ROLE IN SYNAGOGUE MUSIC

YOUR ARTICLE in your January 20 edition on the passing away of Doris Brasch, omitted to mention her work in the music of the synagogue.

Annually, when the Reform Movement had its special service to which the State President was invited, the honour of accompanying Doris’ exquisite voice at the organ, often fell to me, in my capacity as organist-choirmaster to the various Reform shuls.

On those occasions, Doris would be engaged to join the relevant shul’s choir and

to sing a number of the solo items as well.

Incidentally, it was these very State President services which occasioned the bombing of Temple Israel in Paul Nel Street, Hillbrow (the mother synagogue of the Reform Movement in South Africa), as came to light many years later at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Michael S Levy
Northcliff
Johannesburg

Looking for...

LOOKING FOR FILM FOOTAGE OF WALD’S ‘SHECHINAH WINGS’

DO YOU have any wedding footage taken in Berea Shul between the 1950s and the 1980s? Filmmakers of a documentary on the life and work of late Johannesburg-based artist Herman Wald, are keen to feature your footage if it shows Wald’s 6m copper sculp-

ture “The Wings of the Shechinah” – the two wings that flank the Aron Kodesh - in the background. Please contact Lisa Chait: 072-377-6211 or e-mail lisachait@gmail.com. All transfer or copy costs will be covered by the filmmakers.

WHO CAN HELP WITH DUBOVSKY INFORMATION?

STANTON DUBO from Florida in the US, is looking for information on his Dubovsky family - Miriam (also known as Mary or Ester) Dubovsky, Isaac Dubovsky and Zelig Dubovsky.

“I am searching for information about these relatives who were born in Lithuania between 1875 and 1920 and came to South Africa. Stanton Dubow’s e-mail address is szbow32@gmail.co

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Mary Kluk,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

IN ORDER to safeguard our democratic institutions, civil society needs to be constantly vigilant against anything that might undermine them. Such has been the case regarding the controversial Protection of State Information Bill. As an organisation that is committed to doing its part on behalf of the Jewish community, in safeguarding this country’s democratic tradition, the Board has involved itself from the outset in the national debate over this.

We were among the civil society organisations that made an official submission to Parliament in which we pointed out the Bill’s flaws and suggested ways in which this could be remedied.

Since then, our senior researcher, Steven Gruz, has represented us on the Right to Know Campaign Gauteng Working Group, as well as on the Gauteng branch of the recently established Press Freedom Commission (PFC).

On Tuesday, he made a presentation on our behalf at the PFC’s hearings in Johannesburg. This was extremely well received and has since attracted considerable favourable comment, including in the Twittersphere.

Standing up for our ‘Right to Know’

It has been gratifying for us not only to be playing a constructive part in the ongoing debate, but also that our contribution, as the Jewish community’s representative body, is being so widely recognised.

As things stand, the Bill, having been passed in Parliament on so-called “Black Tuesday” last year, is now being considered at provincial level. Hopefully, sufficient pressure will be maintained to ensure that the Bill is appropriately amended so as to remove the serious objections that civil libertarians have identified in the original legislation.

We will continue to remain actively involved, where necessary drawing on legal advice to ensure that our contribution to the process is reliable, well-considered and expertly formulated.

The YouTube-sphere welcomes our ‘Travelling Rabbi’

The multifaceted work carried out on behalf of our far-flung Jewish brethren throughout southern Africa by Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader to the SA country communities and CEO of the African Jewish Congress, was the subject of an enthralling documentary – “Shalom the Beloved Country” - that was shown on SABC2’s Issues of Faith programme last year.

Rabbi Silberhaft has now launched a YouTube channel - www.youtube.com/user/TravelingRabbi - which among other things, features all five parts of the documentary.

It is already proving to be extremely popular, not just locally but worldwide, and I thoroughly recommend having a look yourselves to learn about the kind of inspirational work our esteemed “Travelling Rabbi” is doing.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

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Be my valentine

Compiled by Marlene Bilewitz. Contact (011) 023-8160, Cell 082-475-0288 or e-mail: marlene@sajewishreport.co.za

Rediscover love with Valentine specials

BY MARLENE BILEWITZ

LYNNE BACKOS, CEO and travel expert par excellence, can always be relied on to select the right destination for the right occasion.

She has chosen four out of many fabulous weekend “get-aways” for you to ensure a truly romantic Valentine experience. Lynne’s philosophy is: “Never miss an opportunity to celebrate or say I love you.”

The following destinations are offering bonus packages which could include discount vouchers for restaurants or sight-seeing attractions, Avis car hire and airline levies.

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Valid until February 29. Weekends only.

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BE MYVALENTINE

Princess Tam Tam - rooted in vision of chic luxury



A “PETIT” slice of Paris located in the trendy Blubird Shopping Centre in Birnam, the shop echoes the French boutiques by making a clean, contemporary statement of uncluttered space, softly draped hangings, rich furniture and wonderful crystal chandeliers.

It is within this feminine space that the lingerie and swimwear collections are beautifully displayed.

In 2001 Leona perceived a gap in the South African market for stylish, elegant but affordable French lingerie. Trips to Paris followed to source

the right products. The team at Tam Tam Collection is made up of highly trained staff: Leona Calder, the owner, her daughter Elzia and Jabu who have been together for the past nine years. They are passionate about the collection and making sure that the client receives the best possible service and product. Because of the relationships that they have built up with their clients, they now have a loyal and devoted following who truly enjoy the attention they receive - which makes Tam Tam Collection the designated store of choice.

The French brands

Princesse Tam Tam, the sought-after lingerie and swimwear brand, is available straight from the French catwalk. Princesse Tam Tam is the best-selling lingerie brand in France. The success of this brand, created by women and designed for women, is rooted in their unequalled vision of chic luxury and femininity at affordable prices. The collection is lacy, practical and colourful and barely does the gorgeous range justice.

Pain de Sucre, established in the south

of France, is the number one haute couture swimwear designer in Europe, with over a quarter-century of experience, bringing together the best talent in Europe, with bikinis as their specialty. The most recent fashion season includes some of the best quality swimwear available.

Suggest collection by Pain de Sucre, is a unique hybrid collection that bridges the gap between the beach and the bedroom. When you live in the south of France, your swimsuit tends to double duty as lingerie and vice versa.

Well-known designer André Hattingh changes direction



DURING THE past 25 years, André Hattingh established herself as one of South Africa's top clothing designers. She started her business with one sewing machine and no capital. Due to a financial crisis in the household, she decided to spread her wings from the stage and bring out a collection of clothes from a suitcase of bedspreads. She made an instant splash, but it was an upward struggle as she could not afford a shop. She spent the first 15 years of her business selling her garments at the Rooftop Market in Rosebank and the Organic Market in Bryanston. Her ethnic designs were spotted by the Department of Trade and Industry and she was invited to show her “Images of Africa” collection in Paris in 1998. It was a sell-out and a turning point for her. She started her own studio in a wonderful home in Parktown North, where you will have the ultimate shopping experience. If all the women she has dressed in the last

25 years came together, they would fill Ellis Park rugby stadium and the unique handmade natural fabric she has used, would extend for some 75 kilometres! André has decided to follow a new road and an old dream and focus on her song-writing talent. “I have always wanted to just write music. I had to start my business out of necessity and now I feel is the right time that I can start a new career that I had always dreamed of.” She invites you to now come and visit her, before the doors close, and to experience these unique timeless garments for yourself. See you on Valentine's Day!

VALENTINE TIME @

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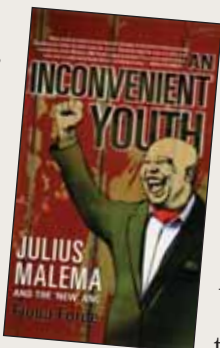
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A threadbare, poorly conceived offering

An Inconvenient Youth by Fiona Forde (Jacana, R150)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY



ONE OF the drawbacks of rushing into print with a flavour-of-the-month biography, is that one sacrifices both depth and style in order to be first on the shelf - as Forde's threadbare, poorly conceived and distinctly amateur little sketch proves.

Those who hoped for a probing, thoughtful analysis of the factors which propelled suspended ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema into – and then out of – power, will be sorely disappointed.

Certainly, she has presented him at his most human and vulnerable, and admits in her opening chapter that she battled to reconcile her personal affection for him with the increasingly unsavoury facts she unearthed in the course of researching the book. In fairness, Malema's background of abject poverty and emotional deprivation have undoubtedly contributed to his deeply ingrained bitterness.

Forde describes an enormous household (comprising both nuclear and extended family) living in a squalid shack in one of the poorest, meanest and most dangerous townships in the country: Seshego, outside Polokwane. On numerous occasions, Malema was left to forage for food on the streets or inveigh on kindly neighbours for a meal.

His mother Florah - who died young of a condition brought on by severe (and unattended) epilepsy - had lived as a semi-invalid for most of his life. Consequently, his only real nurturing came from his grandmother Sarah, and their bond has continued.

Indeed, she remains the only voice of authority he respects and she does not hesitate to berate him soundly when she believes he has been disrespectful towards his elders, insisting he apologise. ("When she talks to me like that, I listen," Malema tells Forde.)

Forde also addresses the rickety ANC framework, which engendered the seemingly implacable rage of the man, though the most trenchant insights on these issues come not from the author, but from commentators like Wits professor Achille Mbembe.

The interregnum between the old apartheid order and the new dispensation, in which Malema came of age, failed to either quell the outrages of the past or deliver anything tangible for the future. Former President Nelson Mandela's courageous decision to forgo revenge for the sake of a viable future, to elevate the new South Africa directly into an era of reconciliation - employing restorative, rather than retributive justice in the Truth and Reconciliation hearings (the only forum which directly addressed the 40 years of material and emotional devastation which had been endured by black South Africans) - left families like the Malemas no better off, and no more optimistic, than they had been. It is a sentiment many (particularly Jews) can understand.

Add greed, theft, thuggery of the most venal and vituperative

kind, a megalomaniac bent, rank ignorance of state affairs (either within or beyond South Africa's borders), a lack of restraint, a need for instant gratification and diplomatic illiteracy to the mix and the result - as Malema keeps reminding us - can be terrifying.

Forde correctly stresses the divisiveness within the ruling party which facilitated, and - until recently - sustained, his power.

With factionalisation, rivalry and intrigues diverting more and more of the ANC's energies away from its function of governance, the incubation conditions for an opportunist of Malema's stripe are ideal.

However, the psychopathology of the suspended ANCYL leader encompasses more than the sum of these parts.

The Malema who has dominated headlines and dinner table topics for the past several years, cannot be dismissed as a temporary aberration, for his resilience is extraordinary.

No amount of ridicule, threats of disciplinary action or appeals for reason, have swayed him, or his loyal enclave. Not even his recent suspension can be assumed to be final. (As this review goes to print, the success of his appeal against that ruling had not yet been announced.)

While far from the "young political genius" Forde ludicrously calls him, he is undoubtedly a genius in opportunism, populist rhetoric, racial agitation and melodrama. Of such attributes do phoenixes rise again.

Whether or not the ANC relents on its suspension ruling, it is clearly reluctant to have him back on his own terms. Malema's defiant outspokenness and repeated diplomatic blunders (notably his rallying cry to invade Botswana and stage a coup there) have been embarrassing, expensive and exhausting for the Zuma administration.

Continued revelations of his tenderpreneurship in a bankrupt Limpopo Province, have added to his already grave rap sheet.

Short of being an apologist, Forde has tried very hard indeed to be sympathetic towards the man with whom she formed a friendship in the course of researching this book.

However, the paucity of her investigative instinct and her cumbersome, inane writing (eg "One day he wasn't there and the next, there he was, ploughing the socio-political landscape like an unguided missile, with little or no let-up ever since") reduce what could have been an important, timeous portrait into the most cringeworthy tabloid-ese.

There is also a certain arrogance in the reasons this Irish-born journalist proffers in her preface for writing he book in the first place: "Being an outsider enabled me sometimes to see things that were invisible to South Africans, and to ask questions that might not have occurred to some. You might not like all the answers, but what can I do?" (Some suggestions come to mind...).

A little before that, Forde confides timorously: "I fear Julius won't like this book."

Er, no, dear, we dare say he doesn't. And truth be told, neither do we.

'Statements', a journey into South Africa's dark past

MOIRA SCHNEIDER CAPE TOWN

A JOURNEY into this country's dark past is being afforded with the production of Athol Fugard's *Statements After an Arrest under the Immorality Act*, at The Fugard Theatre, extended by popular demand until February 18. The first professional staging of this work in 40 years, it is set in apartheid South Africa where relationships across the colour bar were a criminal offence.

Two lovers - a black man and a white woman - meet secretly, while an observant neighbour reports them to the police, leading to their arrest.

Founding producer of The Fugard, Eric Abraham, was banned and placed under house-arrest in 1976 for his reporting on human rights abuses and black politics in the international media, so it is apt that he be associated with a work of this nature.

In an e-mail interview with the SAJR, he recalled receiving "regular, credible" death threats during that time. "As it happened, the same group that targeted me claimed responsibility for the assassination of academic Dr Rick Turner a year after I escaped."

Recalling the "intolerable" restrictions he was placed under as a 22-year-old, he said he had been "completely isolated, had no family or community support, was constantly harassed by the Security Police and had little chance of



Jeroen Kranenburg looks on as Bo Petersen (left) and Malefane Mosuhli embrace. (PHOTOGRAPH: JESSE KRAMER)

earning a living.

"My application for an exit visa was refused; I was left little option but to escape," he said. He was granted political asylum in the UK and spent 15 years in exile there.

Abraham has produced several award-winning films and plays, including *Kolya* (1996), which won an Oscar for best foreign language film and *Impempe Yomlingo*, the South African production of *The Magic Flute*, under the auspices of Isango Portobello (2007) which won the Olivier Award.

In 2010, Abraham established and underwrote The Fugard Theatre in District Six - an area of forced removals under apartheid - and has produced a number of what he describes as "West End-quality" productions there, from *Broken Glass* starring Sir Antony Sher to Fugard's *The Train Driver*.

He says he intended The Fugard to be "a beacon of remembrance and crucible of cultural connection" in the city where "some of Athol's most powerful anti-apartheid plays were performed at great personal risk".

Would *Statements* still have the impact that it had during apartheid, I wonder. "The power of good theatre is to transport us back and inform the present," he begins.

"Of course its impact when it was performed under apartheid and held up a mirror to one of its vilest aspects, was different, but its impact now is no less of a gut punch to the audience.

"The humanity in the writing and performances is timeless. *Statements* is about personal freedom and love across a line."

As to whether today's audiences would identify with the subject-matter, he says that is "all the more reason for them to see it. To see how easy it is for people to be so cruel and inhuman to each other; how lies are so easily perpetuated and accepted by the broader community; and so that they can see what they don't have to live through and how great a triumph the downfall of apartheid really was.

"Audiences are pretty savvy in extrapolating what they see on the stage with their life today. Freedom has to be fiercely protected," the former Struggle activist warns, referring to the Protection of State Information Bill and the attempts to undermine the judiciary as "part of an erosion of such freedom".

Though Fugard had no directorial input, Abraham says he was "overwhelmed" by the production and felt it gave him fresh insights into his own work.

Do you call it a mental illusion?

ROBYN SASSEN

"I KNOW what you're thinking," seems an ordinary enough ice-breaker, but what happens when this line is used by two mentalists and an illusionist? Do you run screaming into the night, do you giggle coyly, or do you bring out your inner skeptic? Johannesburg boasts three top magicians: Michael Abrahamson, Gilan Gork and Ilan Smith, each promising to mess with your head and turn your thinking.

Each reveals that the concept of "magic" is more nuanced than common-or-garden-party tricks. Each presents a skill premised on how the mind works; each boasts a different level of specialisation.

Former lecturer in Stats and Actuarial Sciences at Wits, Michael Abrahamson (43) switched tack 20 years ago, swopping the lectern for the stage.

Although still a stats lecturer in his "spare time," he is today a full-time mentalist. His show is about being interactive. Abrahamson claims to never using "plants" in the audience. His work includes high velocity maths, memorising numbers, and literally, reading minds. He also moves objects around the room with his mind.

"All the time, I get hecklers and sceptics. I love it because it gives me opportunities to teach my skills."

Mind bending is not Abrahamson's only bag of tricks. He has tailored his mentalist skills into study skills programmes enabling any level of learner to conquer the basic thing that's



Mentalist Gilan Gork. (PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN MARK PASS)



Mentalist Michael Abrahamson. (PHOTOGRAPH BY TONY GARLAND)



Illusionist Ilan Smith. (PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON CROUSE/THE PHOTO PLACE)

never taught at school: how to learn.

Illusionist Ilan Smith (31) from Pretoria, has been doing magic since he was 16. Eighteen months in a yeshiva in Israel encouraged him to unpack magic strategically, to examine where it becomes "real".

"My rabbis told me my challenge is never to have people really believe what I do is real. It's my disclaimer.

"But real magic is when someone comes to a show and forgets his or her stresses," he says. He performs for Jews and non-Jews alike, from the patrons of scummy bars to the CEOs of major companies.

Something completely different is the shtick of 27-year-old Johannesburger Gilan Gork, who started "messing with people's minds" as a five-year-old. His parents owned an educational toy centre. These days, he bends metal with his mind. "I switched from sleight of hand magic to mentalism as a teenager.

"The people who inspire me

most are not mentalists; they're playwrights, composers, dancers... people who can take their audiences through a journey of emotions... it is not about a 'look what I can do' mentality."

As a tot performing in public, Gork began to note patterns of behaviour in his audiences, foundational for his development as a mentalist. Indeed, all three of these professionals agree that the most important skill is watching audience reaction carefully. It's only magic if it takes you by surprise.

- Gilan Gork's completely interactive "Beyond the Mind", is at Old Mutual Theatre on the Square in Sandton, February 7 - 11, (011) 883-8606.
- Ilan Smith's "Imagine", directed by Greg Homann is at the Fringe, Joburg Theatre, in Braamfontein, February 22 - March 4, 0861-670-670.
- Michael Abrahamson's next gig is at Northcliff High School on March 21; he is currently assessing interest on the part of learners in Johannesburg Jewish day schools: info@powerbrain.co.za

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King David Victory Park first X1 in cricket final

THERE HAS been another sporting highlight for King David High School Victory Park after their 1st cricket team won their semifinal against St Stithian's in the Johnny Waite Cricket Tournament on Wednesday January 25. The King David boys scored 166 for 6 wickets

in the allotted 20 overs. The top scorers were Shandon Weinstein with 54 and the captain, Lee Gruskin, with 37. After that King David proceeded to bowl out their opposition for 137. King David will meet St David's in a home final.



The victorious King David Victory Park cricket team, following their win against St Stithian's. Back: Yusuf Fredericks (coach); Justin Breger; Stefan Morris; Shaun Bolnick; Erin Berman-Levy; Michael Chilvers (coach); Joshua Reichman; and Leor Seligmann. Front: Brandon Bolnick (vice-captain); Justin Sher; Shandon Weinstein (vice-captain); Jordan Grill; Lee Gruskin (captain); Marc Redfern; and Jarryd Buchalter.

Maccabi Golf nationals in Swaziland

IT IS that time of the year again when one of the most exciting events on the Maccabi SA calendar takes place and that is the Maccabi SA Golf Nationals. The 52nd Maccabi SA Golf Association National Championships will be taking place in Swaziland from March 11 to 13. As is always the case, this event is about far more than golf and there will be functions every day.

The tournament will conclude with a prize-giving dinner on the Tuesday evening. This particular tournament has extra relevance as it is the penultimate Nationals before the 2013 Maccabi Games in Israel and is a stepping stone for those golfers who wish to qualify for the South African team. All relevant details can be found on the website www.maccabigolf.co.za under tournament



Dale Novis has been selected to represent the Western Province Under-13 A cricket team's Nations Cup Cricket Tournament in the United Arab Emirates from March 9 to 20.

Dale Novis is invited to UAE cricket tournament

JACK MILNER

DALE NOVIS has proved that one does not have to live in a particular province to fulfil a dream. Dale, a 12-year-old grade 7 learner at King David Linksfield Primary School in Johannesburg, has been selected as an invitation player to represent the Western Cape Under-13 A cricket team at the Nations Cup Cricket Tournament in the United Arab Emirates from March 9 to 20.

Convener of selectors and general secretary of Western Cape Schools Cricket, Shafiek Jacobs, said: "We view the game of cricket as the ideal vehicle for expressing personal character, testing one's physical and mental talents, and courageously facing moment to moment challenges. "Our role as administrators is to create opportunities for promising youngsters who naturally reflect these qualities. "Dale Novis displayed impressive all-round cricket skills when he represented South East Gauteng at the Regional Provincial Cricket Tournament held in Worcester from last year. He impressed us with his outstanding personal character, sportsmanship and dedication towards the spirit of the game. "It was therefore the selection panels' unanimous decision and pleasure to extend an invitation to Dale to represent the

Western Cape Under-13 A cricket team in Dubai as an invitation player. "He will play an important role alongside other talented young cricketers, who will be proud ambassadors for South Africa as they too express themselves against highly skilled teams and players from the UAE, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, England and Namibia." The Western Cape touring team also has a proud record to defend because this is the fourth year that they have been invited to participate and they have always excelled. In fact, they are current title holders. Dale says he is very excited and grateful for the opportunity of his selection. "This is a dream come true. I am quite nervous but I am feeling fit, training and practising harder than ever before and must just back myself to perform for the team." The Nations Cup Cricket Tournament is organised by Shahzad Altaf Hussain a former international cricketer of the UAE who is a director of the Dubai-based private organisation, Young Talents Cricket Academy. The Academy organises junior cricket tournaments throughout the year, in line with their worldwide development initiative aimed at providing a platform for talented young cricket players to display their skills on an international stage and to prepare them for possible higher honours.

WHAT'S ON

Sharon Akum sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

DEADLINE PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for all entries is 12:00 on the Friday prior to publication, without exception.

Today, Friday (February 3)

- UZLC hosts journalist and TV personality Paula Slier, who will talk on "Everything & Anything". Venue: Our Parents Home. Contact: Gloria on (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.
- A new shiur by Rav Yoni Lipschitz has started at the home of Cathy Simon, 87 Avon Rd, Glenhazel. Time: 20:15 - 21:00. The shiur will take place every Wednesday and will address pertinent practical halachic and Hashkafic topics. For more information contact yonit@trilogic.co.za or call him/SMS him on 082-8014072

Sunday (February 5)

- Second Innings hosts Clem Sunter, future scenario presenter, on "The World and South Africa in 2012 and Beyond". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.
- RCHCC will show the acclaimed documentary "No Direction Home" on Bob Dylan. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378), after hours (011) 728-8378.
- The launch of the Melton Adult Mini School project of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, takes place in Johannesburg, with a free "Taste of Melton" function. RSVP: Ariella Milner 082-804-6113 or milner-ariella@gmail.com as space is limited.

Monday (February 6)

- UJW adult education division hosts Denis Beckett, journalist, editor, TV personality and author, who will speak on "Seatbelts & Skidmarks - Where is Africa Going?" Time: 09:30. Cost R25.

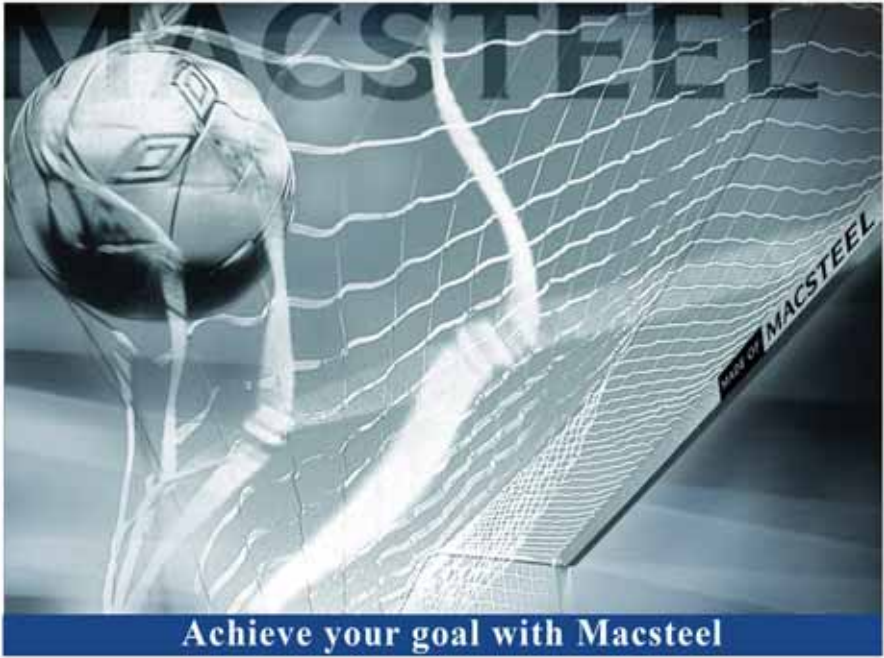
Tuesday (February 7)

- The Morris Rutstein-SAZF evening Hebrew ulpan course starts. It terminates on Tuesday, May 29. Times: Every Tuesday night from 19:00 to 21:15. Venue: Yeshiva College (in the classrooms) cnr Long Ave & Ridge Road, Glenhazel. Secure parking. Registration: Monday February 6, at 18:30. Enquiries: SAZF, tel (011) 645-2531 (office hours).
- ORT JET in conjunction with Sasfin Bank introduces the breakfast launch of the "Sasfin Financial

- Independence Course for Women", with Natasja Hart and David Shapiro, where an outline of the course will be given. Time 08:00 – 10:00. Venue: Sasfin Bank, Scott Street Waverley. No charge - place is limited. RSVP: robyn@ortjet.org.za
- Bnoth Zion Association WIZO AGM. Venue: IA Hall, Albou Centre, Cape Town. Time 09:30. Guest speaker is Mary Kluk, national chairman SAJBD.
- Wednesday (February 8)**
- JNF Choir invites community members to come and sing with them – from basses to sopranos. Venue: Lifestyle Centre, Sandringham Gardens. Every Wednesday evening at 18:45 for 19:00. Contact Tzippi (011) 640-4287 or 082-320-1555.
 - Greenside Shul Tu B'Shvat tea at 7a Chester Road Greenside at 15:00. Celebrate with the shul and plant trees to observe Tu B'Shvat. Tel and fax: (011) 788-5036, e-mail: info@greensideshul.co.za
 - UJW adult education division hosts an "Outing to Kentridge Gardens" at 72 Houghton Drive Houghton. Time: 09:30. Booking essential. Visitors limited to 14 only. Reservations: (011) 648-1053.
 - Chevrah Kadisha Social Services hosts a focus evening, facilitated by a social worker, on "When Gambling Becomes a Problem for Friends and Loved Ones". Two guest speakers, experts in the field, include a rabbi and member of the National Gambling Board. Venue: Sandringham Gardens auditorium. Time: 19:30 - 21:00. Donations appreciated. Refreshments will be served. Bookings or more info: (011) 532-9793 / (011) 532-9719.
 - UJW CT adult education division hosts Adi Phillips who will talk on "The Sunflower Fund". Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (February 9)

- RCHCC hosts an audiovisual presentation by Lyonell Fliss – "Jewish Berlin", the relationship between the German Jews and Germans during the last most traumatic 100 years, followed by the acclaimed film "The Harmonists" Time: 19:30. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378), after hours (011) 728-8378. E-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za.



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