

Abnormal Loads, best play on Joburg stages this year
page 12



south african

jewish report

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A president pays his last respects to leading Jew

Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba shovelling the traditional three scoops of earth on the grave of Harold Pupkewitz watched by Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft. The iconic Pupkewitz, who died in Windhoek at age 96, was laid to rest last week. He was a man who built up an extensive business empire, but remained proud of his Jewish roots. A humble man - a man of the people. The large number of non-Jews who attended his funeral, was testimony to the stature of the man.

SEE PAGE 4

Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut in song and dance

SAZF Executive Director Isla Feldman: "South African Jews have believed in the importance of a Jewish homeland for over 100 years. The community is extremely proud of Israel's achievements. We are one people with one destiny."

2, 6, 14

Deep Fried Man is MC at Jewish Achiever Awards



Daniel Friedman started out as an alternative Jewish folk musician who made audiences laugh so much at him, he changed SA comic history. He's writing new material especially for the Achievers.

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Clegg, Levin, Schoub, receive SA's highest honours

In SA, National Orders are given to ordinary people for extraordinary achievements and contributions to our country's democracy. The awards were conferred on Johnny Clegg, Scully Levin and Prof Barry Schoub by President Jacob Zuma on April 27.

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GOLDSTUCK: The game's the next best thing

The old classic arcade games are back, this time in the form of apps for phones.

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FREUND: Yamit – the original sin of expulsion

With no Israeli forces stationed in Sinai, there is little Israel can do about the terrorist threat.

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MOTHER'S DAY
SUPPLEMENT
(INSIDE)

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Shabbat Times

May 4 / 12 Iyar
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Parshat Acharei Mot / Kedoshim

17:18	18:07	Johannesburg
17:44	18:36	Cape Town
17:01	17:51	Durban
17:21	18:11	Bloemfontein
17:15	18:07	Port Elizabeth
17:08	17:59	East London

Kashrut Alert

SOME WOOLIES PUDDINGS NOT KOSHER

The kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox synagogues advises that Woolworths puddings and DIY jelly erroneously bear the Beth Din logo. These products are not kosher; Woolworths have removed stock from store shelves and covered up the logo. Apple Liquifruit is the only Liquifruit certified kosher, in all tetrapak, casks and cans, with or without the Beth Din logo. Barney Liquifruit Apple is not certified. Bokomo Oatees Bars bears an unauthorised Beth Din logo. These products are not certified kosher.

Community Briefs

JEWISH OUTREACH IN KZN

A Jewish delegation, including Israeli deputy ambassador Ya'akov Finkelstein and SAZF's national director, Isla Feldman, recently visited Nongoma, KwaZulu-Natal, to meet with King Goodwill Zwelithini. Suzanne Edmunds, honorary life vice-president of the SAZF and CEO at Project Build Trust explained SA Jewry's aim to bring expertise to further quality of life in the Zulu community. The Israeli Embassy and Durban Jewry will assist with agricultural advice, a clinic at the Africa Centre in Matubatuba, and a male circumcision clinic supported by Operation Abraham Collaborative, a Jerusalem initiative selected by the SA National Department of Health as a male circumcision "best practice". GRANT MASEROW

DAVID LOPATIE CONFERENCE CENTRE

Rehovot's Weizmann Institute on Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's campus, recently opened the David Lopatie Conference Centre, honouring its SA-born donor. In a media release the Centre was heralded "a future venue for international scientific conferences to shine a spotlight on the Institute and its research". Lopatie, born in the 1920s and educated in Johannesburg, spent his childhood in the (former) Northern Transvaal, where his father ran a hotel. He retired in 1984 to London, returning to SA in 2010. "In this era, global networking is as essential in academia as in business," said Weizmann's President Prof Daniel Zajfman.

The sixth love language

Gary Chapman's "Five Love Languages" is an international bestseller for good reason. He's right. His premise is that love isn't expressed by what you feel or need. True love expresses the other person's needs. Whether it's "words of affirmation", "quality time", "gifts", "acts of service", or "physical touch", everyone needs all five, but with different priority.

But Gary misses a sixth love language - arguably the most important: the language of "space" or "silence".

Sometimes what your beloved needs from you most is the space to be themselves. Not a compliment or a date, or even a hug, just space. However passionate you love, it's not about you - or even your love for them. Right now it's all about them and their own space.

As a rabbi I hear about relationship breakdowns, and while many shattered family dynamics were because of a lack of love, it's often because of too much "love" - love misconstrued as selfish fulfilment for the lover, when it should be selfless expression for the beloved.

And it's not only about spouses, parents, siblings, or friends. There are also love languages, even the sixth, in the G-d/Man



Parshat Acharei Mot/Kedoshim
Rabbi Asher Deren
Chabad of the West Coast

dynamic.

"After the two sons of Aharon died, when they came close to Hashem..."

That's how the parsha opens up this week - the death of two holy souls. Why? Because "they came close".

They brought a fire of incense into the Holy of Holies, although they were not commanded to do so. And their expression of love, or too much expression of love, had tragic results.

And to prevent a recurrence of this tragedy, Hashem tells Moshe to tell Aharon to "do not come close at all times for my cloud is there" and since it is always there, Rashi explains, your visit there must not become a regular experience.

So, what was the mistake of Aharon's sons? They came too close.

Too close?

Israel's 64th joyously celebrated in 'Mama Africa'

SHIRA DRUION

Yom Ha'aatzmaut is a day of jovial celebration world over. This year, Once again, the Zionist Federation ensured that the 64th celebration was filled with all the palpable emotions of victory and pride that were felt all those years ago, as Israel claimed her place in history as the first Jewish state.

Balfour Park Shopping Centre rooftop turned into a show of delight, with a carnival of rides that kept the hundreds of participants enthralled. The evening which was directed by David Fleminger, and hosted by veteran performer Sharon Spiegel-Wagner, was a conglomeration of live dance and song performances, which were co-ordinated by Nir Etzboni.

Etzboni ensured that the evening kicked off with a world-class performance to enter-

tain the packed marquee. A magical marimba band took to the stage accompanying four outstanding vocalists who ranged from the likes of traditional greats to young, up-and-coming stars.

Vocalists featured well-known entertainers Ronen Bar and Roni Lea who kicked off the proceedings with a traditional and vibrant Israeli tune to ignite the Israeli torch of victory. The stage then welcomed music sensation Choni G who wowed the masses with his original hip-singing style.

Etzboni ensured a varied and exciting programme of choir and dance performances showcasing a variety of talent from the community at large. King David Victory Park Primary School choir led by Rina Vissoker, brought a group of talented and pure voices to the stage - a true tribute to what Jewish

schools can produce.

The show then picked up rhythm with a grand drumming presentation from the Afrika Tikkun Alexandra Ensemble and Drumming Project, led by Etzboni. The African beats pulsed through the audience as African children sang Hebrew words to the enthusiastic ensemble.

The programme also included outstanding performances from Yaron Pilcer, who led The "Zimriya" Israeli Singing Group and The Machol Jozi Dancers, led by Miri Jacob

Isla Feldman, executive director of The Zionist Federation is steadfast in her belief that Jewish South Africans should pledge their solidarity to Israel. "The SA Jewish communities members are generally strong supporters of Israel and have been since before the establishment of the State.

"South African Jews have believed in the importance of a Jewish homeland for over 100 years. The community is extremely proud of Israel's achievements. We are one people with one destiny.

"We celebrate the miracle of Israel every year with our brethren throughout the Jewish world. Next year Israel will be 65 and we will celebrate with greater festivities. We must never forget the importance of Israel ensuring its security for generations to come."

The phenomenal showcase of talent, combined with the recreated Israeli shuk of different stalls of fragrant smelling traditional Israeli shwarma, chip-and-dip and falafel, made for juicy and flavoursome Israeli event. The Fed ensured that Israel's 64th birthday was a magnificent and joyous celebration, even all the way down in 'Mama Africa'!



Nir Etzboni from Drumming Experience and the band from Afrika Tikkun, entertain the Yom Ha'atzmaut crowd.

south african jewish report

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jewish achiever awards

2012

Clegg, Levin and Schoub honoured with SA’s highest awards

National Orders are the highest honour that a country can confer on its citizens or eminent foreign nationals. In South Africa, these awards are given to ordinary people who have achieved extraordinary feats and made invaluable contributions to our country’s democracy. The awards were conferred by President Jacob Zuma on April 27.

ALANA BARANOV AND OWN CORRESPONDENT

Recognised for their acts of bravery, for their contribution in education among others and for their role during the struggle for freedom, the recipients, which included three members of the South African Jewish community, were celebrated with due aplomb. Government made the decision to hold the National Orders Awards Ceremony on Freedom Day to properly honour all those who have made sacrifices and a meaningful contribution to the country’s freedom, at national as well as on the international level.

Musician Johnny Clegg, popularly mooted the Jewish Zulu, was among the recipients of the Order of Ikhamanga. The award was given to him in Silver for his contribution to bridging African traditional music with other music forms and promoting racial understanding among racially divided groups under apartheid.

The SA Jewish Board of Deputies nominated two distinguished Jewish men for these awards and both - Prof Barry Schoub and Captain Selwyn “Scully” Levin - were recipients of National Orders for 2012.

The Order of Mapungubwe, awarded to South African citizens for excellence and exceptional achievement, was given to Prof Schoub in Silver for his achievement in virology and his contribution to medical science and the people of South Africa and internationally. Schoub who is



Prof Barry Schoub, who was not present at the award ceremony, owing to Shabbat. (FILE PHOTOGRAPH)

shomer Shabbat, is still to receive his award.

“I am deeply gratified by this extraordinary honour and I am humbled to be in the presence of such illustrious companions who have received the Order before me,” he said.

Schoub has dedicated his life to the public health service of South Africa. His major contribution to the welfare of South Africans and the region has been the development of a public health institution which provides a world-class centre of excellence to guide the management of outbreaks of communicable diseases.

Schoub was the founding president of the African Virology Association in 1995; appointed to the Advisory Committee for Polio Eradication of WHO in 2001 and awarded by the Task Force on

Immunisation of WHO AFRO for “outstanding support to the polio eradication programme in Africa” in 2005.

Schoub played a significant role in the introduction of the important new vaccines into the country’s vaccination programmes.

“I have had a long but truly rewarding career in public health and what I have personally achieved has really been as part of an outstanding team of health professionals at the Institute. Even more so I have been blessed by having an incomparable support base of an exceptional wife, Barbara, and a wonderful family of three children, Wendy, Richard and Peter.”

The Order of the Baobab is awarded to South African citizens for distinguished service well above and beyond the call of duty. Captain Scully Levin received it in Bronze for his achievement in the aviation field, and for being an excellent ambassador for South Africa as a top pilot and internationally recognised trainer of up-and-coming pilots.

He is a three time South African National Aerobatic champion; recipient of the “Don Tilley Award” for significant contribution to air safety in 1984 and the recipient of the SA Flyer “Lifetime Aviation Achievement Award” in 2009.

Levin is one of our most famous pilots. He joined SA Airways in 1971 and retired in 2009 after 38 years of service. He flew as part of the SAA’s air displays for numerous state functions.

In 2000 Levin founded the “Flying Lions Aerobatic Team” with which he performed the now world famous act of “water-skiing” four aircraft in close formation on a dam west of Johannesburg.

“I am both humbled and honoured to have received this award. I have had more than my fair share

of thrilling and exciting times as a pilot. However, what has been most gratifying is working on the training and development of young pilots,” said Levin.

“Throughout my career I have been surrounded by colleagues who have both inspired and encouraged me.”



Johnny Clegg receives his award from President Jacob Zuma. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY GCIS)



Captain Scully Levin receives his award from President Zuma. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY GCIS)



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Top class entertainment for Jewish Achiever Awards

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Hilarious award-winning comedian and singer Deep Fried Man (aka Daniel Friedman) (pictured) will be the MC and headline entertainer at this year's prestigious Jewish Achiever Awards which will be hosted by the SA Jewish Report at the Sandton Sun Hotel on June 20.

The highlight on the Jewish social calendar and attended by the Who's Who of the Jewish community, last year's glamorous event was a sell-out affair with people having to be turned away. Those wishing to attend this year, are urged to make their table bookings early.

Friedman - named Best Newcomer at the 2011 Comics' Choice Awards and winner at the 2010 Parkers Comedy Showdown - started out as an alternative Jewish folk musician who had audiences laugh at him so much that he became a singing comedian and the rest, as they say, is history.

Friedman will be writing material especially for the Jewish Achiever Awards and the award winners.

Also appearing at the award ceremony is Ensemble Borsalino, who plays a wide repertoire from gypsy manouche to klezmer (Jewish jazz) and swing to boeremusiek.

Says band leader (and author) Rian

Malan of this popular gypsy jazz outfit: "This is music composed by people who had nothing to lose. They were always outsiders. Pariahs. It's music that will take you to the roots and alleyways of Eastern Europe."

The melding of Afrikaner and Jewish rhythms produces something fresh and also audacious.

Featuring violinists Wynand Davel, Timon Wapenaar and percussionist Michael Canfield. Ensemble Borsalino plays what Malan calls "the music of people who feel they're doomed but don't give a damn anymore" - darkly romantic tangos, vastrappe from the poor white era and ravaging gypsy music from the sad side of the old Iron Curtain.

Violinist/accordionist

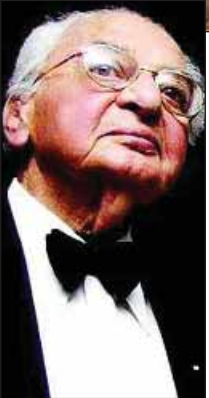
Wapenaar is a classical music conductor who also writes hip-hop with Die Antwoord's Ninja. Percussionist Canfield is a session player from New York, and Wynand Davel is well known for his work with Radio Kalahari Orkes and Die Kaalkop Waarheid.

Bookings for this year's Jewish Achiever Awards can be made with Colleen Forrester on (011) 612-3068 or at colleen@ninesquared.co.za. Seats can be purchased individually at the cost of R2 000 exl VAT or R20 000 (VAT exl) for tables of 10.



Mourners at Harold Pupkewitz's funeral in Windhoek, led by Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft.

The end of an era in Namibia, as Harold Pupkewitz dies



DAVID SAKS PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

Tributes from all over Namibia and further afield have been pouring in for the late Harold Pupkewitz (pictured, inset), business leader and philanthropist, who became a legend in his own lifetime long before his passing last Friday at the age of 96.

Among those who attended his funeral, held on Sunday at Windhoek's New Jewish Cemetery, were Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba, Prime Minister Nahas Angula, Cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and business personalities.

The funeral received extensive coverage on the front pages of all the major Namibian dailies, as well as a 10-minute slot on national television. Some of the headlines were: "Shalom Uncle Harold" (The Namibian); "Hamba Kahle, Great One" (Daily Graphic) and "Einde van 'n era" (Die Republikein). Further articles detailing Pupkewitz's extraordinary range of achievements featured elsewhere in the same newspapers.

Although most of those present were not Jewish, the funeral, organised by the Jewish community's lay leader Zvi Gorelick, was run along strictly halachic lines. On arrival, President Pohamba was escorted to the ohel by Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader to the African Jewish Congress, who explained to him and other government members the various rituals of the day and their meaning.

Pohamba was one of the first to shovel the traditional three scoops of earth onto the coffin, after which he thanked the rabbi for making him and his colleagues feel so welcome and involved.

Many were surprised that someone of Pupkewitz's stature was being laid to rest in a plain pine box, and that the burial ceremony itself was so modest and understated. Rabbi Silberhaft explained how this represented the Jewish view that just as people came into the world with nothing, so did they leave it, taking with them only the good deeds they had done.

This message came through with particular force in the case of Harold Pupkewitz, who despite accumulating such enormous wealth during his lifetime, nevertheless left the world empty-handed save for his many meritorious actions.

Born in Vilna in 1915, Pupkewitz was nine years old when he arrived in Windhoek. Excelling at school, he obtained bursaries to study at the University of Cape Town, after which he joined the family general dealer business. In July 1946, he co-founded M Pupkewitz and Sons, a group which under his chairmanship steadily expanded until it had outlets throughout the country. In 1981, the different companies were brought together under the umbrella organisation Pupkewitz Holdings, which in 2005 employed 848 people nationally.

Deeply patriotic, Pupkewitz committed himself wholeheartedly to building up Namibia, both before and after independence. His multiple philanthropic activities include endowing what is now named the Harold Pupkewitz Graduate School of Business at the Polytechnic of Namibia.

He served and held high office in various public welfare, economic and educational bodies, including for 50 years on the Windhoek Chamber of Commerce and, after 1997, on the President's Economic Advisory Council. He received numerous awards, and in May 2007, one of Windhoek's most important thoroughfares was renamed "Harold Pupkewitz Street" in recognition of his multiple contributions to the city.

Pupkewitz was an active member of the Jewish community, serving almost continually on the committee of the Windhoek Hebrew Congregation from 1938 onwards, including long periods as president. He became a founder and vice-president of the African Jewish Congress in 1993, and remained actively involved on it right up until the end.

Pupkewitz leaves his wife Ethel, née Meyerovitz, whom he married in 1952, children Tony and Meryl and grandchildren, Andrea and Claire.

News in brief

TEL AVIV MAN ARRESTED FOR FIREBOMBING AFRICAN MIGRANTS' HOMES

JERUSALEM - Police have arrested a 20-year-old resident of south Tel Aviv for firebombing the homes of African asylum seekers living in his neighbourhood.

The man will soon appear in court. It is not known if he had any accomplices.

The attacks, which occurred last Friday morning, were directed at four houses of migrants from Sudan and Eritrea, as well as at a public park where some

migrants sleep. No one was injured in the incident, but some of the structures were damaged. One of the apartments also was used as a daycare centre.

Some 40 000 African migrants looking for work and another 20 000 asylum seekers are estimated to live in south Tel Aviv, according to Haaretz, citing city officials. Tensions between Israeli residents and the African migrants have been on the rise in recent months. (JTA)

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www.jpost.com
“IRAN SAYS IT IS ‘HOPEFUL’ OVER UPCOMING IAEA NUKE TALKS”
Ali Soltanieh, Iran’s ambassador to the UN’s nuclear watchdog, says purpose of upcoming meeting is to create “framework” for future co-operation; declines to comment on IAEA allegations of high grade uranium enrichment.

The Jewish Telegraph, Manchester:
www.jewishtelegraph.com
“‘BAD GUY’ GERALD TURNS INTO HERO”
MP for Manchester Gorton, Sir Gerald Kaufman, an outspoken critic of Israel, whose views have often angered the Jewish community, went from villain to hero this week, when Kaufman championed shechita in the Commons.

Lubavitch network, international:
www.chabad.org
“JEWISH COMMUNITY SAFE IN WAKE OF UKRAINE BLASTS”
With Ukrainian authorities investigating a series of blasts that rocked the Dnepropetrovsk’s downtown district last Friday and injured upwards of 27 people, Jewish officials have reported that by all indications, their institutions did not appear to be targeted.

Yedioth Media Group, Ynetnews, Israel:
www.ynetnews.com
“PM’S FATHER BENZION NETANYAHU’S DIES AT 102”
Renowned historian, Revisionist activist dies in Jerusalem at age 102. Netanyahu senior was born in Warsaw and came to Israel in 1920.

Alliance, le premier magazine Juif, France:
www1.alliancefr.com
“FRANCE’S AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL ATTACKED BY PALESTINIAN”
While taking a trip to a region controlled by the Palestinian Authority, near Jericho, Christophe Bigot, France’s ambassador to Israel, was attacked by two masked men who robbed him his wallet and his cell phone.

European Jewish Press, Western Europe:
www.ejpress.org
“ROME MAYOR CAUGHT IN NEO-NAZI BLUNDER”
Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno, last week was forced to cancel a book presentation in the city hall after it emerged that it was to be given by a convicted neo-Nazi militant, Franco Freda who served time in prison for subversive attacks in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Jewish Press, Brooklyn, USA:
www.jewishpress.com
“MASS RALLY OF ‘JEWS AGAINST THE INTERNET’ TO PACK CITI FIELD IN MAY”
Tens of thousands of Ultra-Orthodox Jews will participate in a huge rally on May 20, in Queens, New York, to combat what they see as the evils of the Internet and the damages caused by advanced electronic devices. The rabbis behind it say the Internet creates “many serious family-related problems”.

Exploring the triumph of the human spirit

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
RITA LEWIS

The debut screening of prize-winning filmmaker Wayne Kopping’s, “Israel Inside” at a packed Hyde Park cinema in Johannesburg last week, proved that in many Israeli minds there are no such words as “can’t” or “won’t” and that with time, effort and willpower, everything under the sun is possible.

A myriad examples of the veracity of the two opposite words, “can” and “will”, were depicted which explores the triumph of the human spirit and the rewards of back-breaking effort, determination and application of the mind and body. Addressing the gathering which included Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and which was introduced by SAZF Chairman Avrom Krengel, among other dignitaries, Kopping said this audience was the first to actually see the production with him and this was very exciting.

The documentary which was shown under the auspices of the Zionist Federation, he said, was a celebration of Israel’s achievements.

“We are here to make a difference to the whole world,” he said. “Our small nation can, and has, made that difference.”

In contrast to his other films that he has made with producer Raphael Shore, namely Obsession: Radical Islam’s War against the West and The Third Jihad, this film underlines the many roles taken on by Israel and brings to life its peoples’ incredible achievements, technological abilities and depth of caring – not only for its own people but also for others.

Screened at over 100 locations around the world on Yom Ha’atzmaut, the film is an hour of visuals and commentaries hosted by former Harvard lecturer, Dr Tal Ben-Shahar.



Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein with filmmaker Wayne Kopping.

Examples of “Man’s humanity to Man” are everywhere in the film, such as Israelis (despite being in great danger themselves) being among the first to arrive to give humanitarian assistance and aid to earthquake and tsunami victims in Haiti and Japan. Technological achievements are too many to mention but include a viable electric car and the ability for wheelchair-bound patients to be able to stand up and walk with the aid of revolutionary technology.

The film twists and turns with comments from one international expert after another, each one describing in detail the many feats achieved by Israelis since the creation of the State – despite all odds - and which are totally out of proportion to the size of its population.

During the question and answer time after the screening, Kopping said the film had been made for “as wide an audience as possible”.

Nevertheless, it was difficult not to come away without a feeling of awe, pride and the visual realisation that despite all the negative publicity, politics and positioning of Israel, every Jew should be proud to belong to this achieving, caring and sharing nation.



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Can anthems unite a country?

The South African national anthem is sung frequently at this time of public holidays, marking important national events - such as Freedom Day last week, commemorating our first non-racial democratic elections in 1994. Despite South Africa's enormous challenge in strengthening the "togetherness" of its diverse citizenry, our anthem is a remarkable expression of reconciliation: it incorporates lines from both the African liberation movements' defiance song - Nkosi Sikelel'iAfrika - and the anthem of the previous white regime which ruled the country during apartheid: Die Stem van Suid-Afrika.

It contains words from the five most widely spoken of the nation's 11 official languages - isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho, Afrikaans and English.

Of course, not all South Africans sing all parts with equal enthusiasm - or even know the words for all parts. That is understandable, given our history. We have come a long way, but the divides between different racial and ethnic groups are still present. Nevertheless, as a national symbol, the anthem - as is the case with our rainbow flag - provides each citizen with something to identify with.

National anthems are not simple things, particularly in places with diverse populations. Different ways have been attempted to make them bind and unify people.

A debate frequently erupts in Israel around the national anthem, Hatikvah. For Jews, it is more than a patriotic song. Its melody and words express solidarity and hope for Jews throughout the Diaspora and connect them - ranging from South Africa to America, Europe, Australia, Argentina, Mexico and almost anywhere else where there exists a Jewish community. It is sung with great feeling in synagogues, at communal events and other occasions, most recently, of course, at Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom Hazikaron which occurred last month.

Israel, of course, is essentially still at war, lacking security and acceptance from its neighbours and Muslim countries around the world. Its Jewish population, in concert with Jews elsewhere, still look to a time when they will be secure and at peace with others who presently want to destroy them. The words of Hatikvah are a haunting expression of this.

Yet there are voices in Israel asking how national symbols of the country, such as the anthem, can be broadened so that Arab Israelis - comprising one-fifth of the population - can also identify with them.

The question came to the fore again recently when Israeli Supreme Court Justice Salim Joubran stood silently at a public ceremony when the anthem was sung. Many other Arab Israelis do so.

Jewish Israelis accept this, including officials as high as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who, according to one Israeli daily, communicated his support to Joubran personally via an aide. The language columnist of that daily wrote afterward: "How, really, can one expect an Israeli Arab to sing about a Jew's soul stirring for his country?"

In the army, Druze and Bedouin soldiers are not expected to participate when the anthem is sung. The position of the military is that they are not required to sing, but should be "respectful". Certain Jewish groups also don't sing the anthem. The Haredim, who constitute some 10 per cent of Israel's population, don't sing Hatikvah because they reject Zionism.

Former Knesset member Naomi Chazan, a well known political figure on the left, says Hatikvah is significant for her, but believes it should be supplemented by an Arabic-language anthem based on values of "citizenship and equality". Israel, she says, should look to the Canadian example, which has two official versions of its national anthem in two languages, each with different wording.

Noam Sheriff, composer and music director of the New Haifa Symphony Orchestra and winner of the Israel Prize - the state's highest honour - says Hatikvah should not be tampered with. Its broad theme of hope - "tikvah" in Hebrew - is universal.

South Africans, who often tend to be negative about their own country, need to recognise what we really have achieved. Yes, we have problems, but almost no South African would refuse to sing our five-language national anthem. It is remarkable in a country with our particular history. We should be proud of how far reconciliation has actually gone.

Yamit: the original sin of expulsion

In April 1982 Jews were removed from the Yamit settlement in the Sinai. It will likely prove to be a colossal mistake. Despite giving up the Sinai for the sake of peace, we might end up with neither. Never again must Israel uproot Jews from their homes.

Last month marked a heartrending anniversary, one with ruinous consequences that continue to plague the Jewish State.

It was 30 years ago, in April 1982, that uniformed soldiers pledged to defend the State of Israel and its citizens were given the order to uproot and destroy the Jewish community of Yamit in northern Sinai.

The move came in the wake of the peace treaty with Egypt, when Menachem Begin agreed to a complete withdrawal from all 23 000 sq mi of Sinai, which necessitated the forced evacuation of over 7 000 Israelis, including those in Yamit.

Years of toil and sweat, of pioneering spirit and determination, were mercilessly swept away by bulldozers, and by April 25, 1982, Yamit was no more.

Indeed, if you open Google Earth, the popular online mapping programme, you can still see the barren site where a thriving community of 2 500 Jews had made Yamit bloom.

It looks as if a giant eraser had rubbed away the terrain, leaving behind scars where homes, schools and synagogues had once stood.

It may have brought us three decades of a cold peace with Egypt.

This act of destruction was overseen by then-Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, and the agonising scenes of Jewish soldiers dragging Jews from their homes in Yamit were seared into the nation's consciousness.

The traumatic significance and symbolism of the expulsion from Sinai cannot be overstated. After more than 100 years of Zionism and settlement, Israel was vividly turning its back on some of its key core principles, all for the sake of a dubious peace with a dictatorial neighbour.

Many fail to realise just how important Sinai was. It constituted over 90



Fundamentally Freund
MICHAEL FREUND

per cent of the territory that Israel had liberated during the 1967 Six Day War. Israel had more than 170 military installations and dozens of early-warning stations scattered throughout its vast deserts, which were also home to the Alma oil fields.

Sinai provided Israel with strategic depth, the potential for petroleum independence, and new frontiers to explore. But all that was torn away by the withdrawal.

And while it may have brought us three decades of a cold peace with Egypt, conceding the Sinai will likely prove to have been a colossal mistake.

Consider recent events in the region, which underline the perils inherent in turning territory over to our neighbours.

With the fall of the Mubarak regime, there is no telling who will be running Egypt a year from now, or whether they will feel bound to preserve bilateral relations with Jerusalem.

The sweeping victory of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt's parliamentary elections certainly doesn't bode well for the future.

So, despite giving up the Sinai for the sake of peace, we might end up with neither, which is the worst of all possible scenarios.

Moreover, look at how the territory that we gave to Egypt has been transformed into a staging area for anti-Israel smuggling and terrorism, as the Grad rockets fired at Eilat from Sinai last month clearly demonstrated.

And most of the weapons that Hamas has succeeded in stockpiling in Gaza were smuggled in through the infamous tunnels connecting the strip with Sinai. Needless to say, an Israeli civilian and military presence in Sinai

would have prevented this from occurring.

And with no Israeli forces stationed in the area, there is little that Israel can do about the terrorist threat other than to plead with Cairo to act.

In retrospect, the pullout from Sinai also had still another catastrophic effect on the Jewish State: it set the stage for later expulsions and launched a three-decade long period rife with Israeli retreat. The domino that fell in Sinai would later topple Bethlehem, Hebron and Jenin, and ultimately Gush Katif and Amona.

And now the world wishes to see Judea and Samaria, and Jerusalem too, fall as well.

With no Israeli forces stationed in Sinai, there is little Israel can do about the terrorist threat.

But this is not a child's game. It is about the very existence of the State of Israel and the Jewish people. Our future is at stake, and we must resolutely turn back the clock and forestall any more withdrawals.

The steady march of capitulation that began in Yamit and continued on through the Oslo process, has brought this nation to the brink of disaster, resulting in increasing violence and bloodshed. We must put an end to this headlong rush towards calamity.

Let us use the anniversary of the original sin of the Yamit withdrawal to draw a line in the sand, literally and figuratively, and declare once and for all: never again will Israel uproot Jews from their homes. Period.

We cannot allow the mistakes of the past to dictate future events. Yamit's legacy is one of desolation and despair. Let's make ours one of destiny and hope.

The writer is chairman of Shavei Israel (www.shavei.org) which assists lost tribes and hidden Jewish communities to return to Israel and the Jewish people.

‘Obama’s Jewish support has risen over past six months’



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Barack Obama, shown at a September 2011 meeting at the United Nations in New York. (PHOTOGRAPH: AVI OHAYON/GPO/FLASH90)

RON KAMPEAS WASHINGTON

President Obama enjoys the support of three-fifths of American Jews, according to the latest American Jewish Committee survey, a significant improvement over where he stood half a year ago in the organisation's polling.

The poll, released on Monday, shows Obama with 61 per cent of the Jewish vote, as opposed to 28 per cent for Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor who is the likely Republican nominee.

That's an improvement for the president over an AJC survey in September, when Obama scored 50 per cent and

Romney 32 per cent.

But it's still substantially lower than the 78 per cent Obama scored among Jews in exit polls in 2008 and an improvement for Romney over the 22 per cent garnered by the previous GOP nominee, John McCain. It does, however, track the AJC poll in September of 2008, which showed 57 per cent support for Obama and 30 per cent support for McCain.

The AJC's new findings are similar to those of the Public Religion Research Institute in March. That poll showed Obama scoring 62 per cent of the Jewish vote, as opposed to 30 per cent for a GOP candidate.

In the AJC poll, respondents identified the economy and healthcare as by far the two most important election issues. Among respondents who attend synagogue at least once a week, only 52 per cent said they would vote for Obama, a likely reflective of the more conservative leanings of Orthodox voters.

The 11 per cent of respondents who were undecided in the AJC poll, said they leaned toward Romney and Obama in roughly equal numbers.

Focus on: Mother's Day

A feature compiled by Marlene Bilewitz

Contact: (011) 023 8160, Cell: 083-475-0288 or e-mail marlene@sajewishreport.co.za



Mom deserves to be spoilt rotten on her day

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Many people say Mother's Day should be 365 days a year. But it is appropriate, in our rushed lives, to have a special day set aside that we should "stop the world" and pay tribute to that very special person – our mother – by spoiling her silly with loads of love and beautiful gifts.

It is an annual event but is held at different dates in the calendar, depending on the country. In South Africa it is officially celebrated on Sunday, May 13.

Celebrations of mothers and motherhood occur throughout the world; many of these can be traced back to ancient festivals, like the Greek cult to Cybele, the Roman festival of Hilaria or the Christian Mothering Sunday celebration in Britain.

In most countries, Mother's Day is a recent observance derived from the holiday as it has evolved in America. When it was adopted by other countries and cultures, it was given different meanings, associated to different events (religious, historical or legendary), and celebrated on a different date or dates.

Some countries already had existing celebrations honouring motherhood, and their celebrations have adopted several external characteristics from the US holiday, like giving

ing carnations and other presents to your own mother.

The extent of the celebrations varies greatly. In some countries, it is potentially offensive to one's mother not to mark Mother's Day. In others, it is a little-known festival celebrated mainly by immigrants, or covered by the media as a taste of foreign culture.

In Israel it is celebrated on Shevat 30, which falls anywhere between January 30 and March 1. It was set to the same day as the day Henrietta Szold died.

Henrietta had no biological children, but her organisation Youth Aliyah, rescued many Jewish children from Nazi Germany and took care of them, and she also fought for several rights of Jewish children.

She is considered the "mother" of all those children, and that is why her birthday was set as Mother's Day. It has evolved over time, becoming a celebration of mutual love inside the family.

The first attempts to establish a "Mother's Day" in the US were mostly marked by women's peace groups. A common early activity was the meeting of groups of mothers whose sons had fought or died on opposite sides of the American Civil War.

Continued on page 9

For fabulous stoneware, the address is Le Creuset

GILLIAN MACGREGOR, ASSISTANT MARKETING MANAGER
LE CREUSET SOUTH AFRICA

A colourful range of new stoneware products has arrived in all Le Creuset Boutique Stores nationwide. From bake-ware to serve-ware and a gorgeous range of exclusive new espresso cups, Le Creuset has something stylish for your mom this Mother's Day.

From fiery reds to enchanting blues and whites, our stoneware range stylishly compliments your every taste with a little added French flair. Enjoy coffee, espresso and cappuccino in colour with Le Creuset's new Cafe Collection.



cater for all tastes and culinary needs, from everyday family meals to entertaining for special occasions. Promising not to let you down in the kitchen, Le Creuset's bake-ware range helps you achieve the best cooking results every time. It performs well in the oven and microwave, as well as under the grill.

The bake-ware range is also freezer safe for when you want to save a dish for a rainy day!

The new range of products includes varying sizes of fluted flan dishes, pie dishes and deep bakers, as well as the set of rectangular dishes and batter bowl.

Le Creuset serve-ware pieces are the perfect choice for bringing food to the table. From spacious serving platters and French onion soup bowls, to lion-headed soup bowls, oil and vinegar sets and large-styled butter dishes.

Our 16th store has recently opened in The Nicolway Mall, Bryanston. For more information visit www.lecreuset.co.za or call our national customer helpline 0861 77 33 21.

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PALE ROSE STONEWARE HEART DISH WITH LID R483

R394 COASTAL BLUE RECTANGULAR BAKER

PALE ROSE CREAM & SUGAR SET R380

24CM DEEP STAINLESS STEEL CASSEROLE R1542

MUG R95

CAPPUCCINO MUG R84

ESPRESSO MUG R78

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Say it with flowers on Mother's Day

MARLENE BILEWITZ

Leave the street level on Jan Smuts Avenue in Dunkeld Square in Johannesburg and descend the stairs to a paradise of the freshest and largest array of flowers that carry you away into a world of beauty.

Just a few steps deeper into the shop and you enter a world of fruits, vegetables and delicacies that will set the stomach juices in motion. The fruits look as if they have been individually washed and polished.

For over 20 years, from Monday to Sunday, Dunkeld Fruit & Flowers has been supplying fresh flowers and superb fruit and vegetables daily to the northern suburbs. Danny de Aveiro, a quiet unassuming man who is passionate about his business, has surrounded himself with family members, Carlos and Filipe and a devoted staff who share his care and concern for their clients.

On any given day you will find Danny among the trucks making sure that the best and only the best, enters the shop.

Dunkeld Fruit & Flowers is the place to go to personally select each and every bloom and then have it made up for you by the well-trained staff, into an attractive

presentation of your choice.

Over the years, the staff members have played their substantial part in this success story: Maria, so popular in Dunkeld, now manages the Illovo branch in Post Office Centre, Rudd Road, Illovo. Joe, Filipe and Carlos have built up fond and trusted relationships with their clients too and have remained at the Dunkeld branch.

It is not unusual for customers to phone from anywhere in the Diaspora and say: "My dad is having a birthday, what do you suggest?" or: "Please send a Mother's Day gift to my mom - you know what she likes." And voila, mom or dad will receive exactly what they enjoy.

You can request that one of them make up a "special" gift for mother, friend or business colleague, knowing that the arrangement of whatever choice is discussed, will be timeously delivered, will be of high quality and beautifully packaged.

Choose from the wide range of flora on display in the courtyard at the front of the shop. The staff will cheerfully bunch and wrap your purchase in an attractive presentation.

Dunkeld Fruit & Flowers makes up gift baskets of fruit, nuts and any other delicacies in the shop, such as olives and dried fruit. If requested, biltong, wine, champagne or anything else, will be brought in especially for your gifts, which can be delivered to the central and northern Johannesburg areas.

In addition to flowers, fresh fruit and vegetables, there is a wide range of local and imported delicacies.

• Contact: Dunkeld at tel (011) 341-0101/0167/0343 or fax (011) 325-2032. Illovo tel (011) 268-2208.



Joe and Carlos, well-known faces in the flower department at Dunkeld.



Manager of Illovo branch, Maria, taking an order for Mother's Day.

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Mother's Day – the one day in the year that we should “stop-the-world” and devote all our attention to that very special person – our mother – by spoiling her silly with loads of love and beautiful gifts.

Mom deserves to be spoilt rotten on her day



Continued from page 7

In 1868 Ann Jarvis created a committee to establish a "Mother's Friendship Day" whose purpose was "to reunite families that had been divided during the Civil War".

She wanted to expand it into an annual memorial for mothers, but she died in 1905 before the celebration became popular. Her daughter Anna Jarvis continued her mother's efforts.

The Mother's Day International

Association came into being on December 12, 1912, to promote and encourage meaningful observances of the event. Starting from 1912, Mother's Day began to be officially declared a holiday by some states. Anna's dream came true when in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day, as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honour of those mothers whose sons had died in war.

The House of Representatives in May 1913 unanimously adopted a

resolution requesting the President, his Cabinet, the members of both Houses and all officials of the federal government, to wear a white carnation on Mother's Day. On May 7, 1914, a resolution providing that the second Sunday in May be designated Mother's Day, was introduced.

In 1934 US Postmaster General James A Farley announced a stamp to commemorate Mother's Day.

Mother's Day continues to this day to be one of the most commercially successful US occasions.



Whet your Mother's Day appetite the day before



The Bryanston Organic & Natural Market is a haven of calm where you can enjoy leisurely shopping in a peaceful and scenic outdoor environment. Our quality artisanal products are locally produced from organic and natural sources, and the artists and crafters are in attendance to assist you with your shopping choices

On Saturday May 12, the day before Mother's Day, we are setting out an array of gift ideas that will make buying a Mother's Day gift, or succumbing to a little self-indulgence, easy and pleasurable.

Meet our jewellery designers and see them at work on their exclusive classical and modern designs. Our gold and silversmiths, dealers in precious and semi-precious stones, pearl specialists and costume jewellery makers, are on hand to assist you.

At 11:00 some prized pieces will be modelled in the main tea garden area, alongside a magnificent exhibition of the full ranges,

including collectors pieces. The exhibition also includes a variety of gentlemen's rings, pendants, armbands and cufflinks.

Indulge your senses in the beauty of the gems and precious metals on display that spring from our bountiful Earth. Pause and indulge other senses as you refresh yourself with delicious light meals or snacks from our five coffee shops.

The market offers a wide variety of shopping options, including clothing and accessories, décor, homeware and pottery, crafts in wood, leather, glass and metal, art, photography and sculpture, a wide variety of health and wellness products, as well as fresh produce, delicatessen and bakery foods that cater for food allergies and special dietary needs.

Bryanston Organic Market, Michael Mount Waldorf School
Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston
Tel: (011) 706-3671.

Bryanston Organic & Natural Market

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Saturday May 12, 2012



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"a choice of Mother's Day gifts or a little self-indulgence has never been easier"

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Meet the jewellery designers and see them at work on their exclusive designs

Johannesburg's original outdoor market



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Culross Road, (off Main Road) Bryanston.

Tel: (011) 706-3671

Market hours: Thursday & Saturday 09:00 - 15:00

www.bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za

The game’s the next big thing

The classic arcade games are making a comeback – on smartphones. ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK unpacks the new era in gaming.

Who remembers playing Space Invaders, Asteroids, Pac-man, or Galaxian at games arcades and in the back of corner cafes? That would be a sign of a misspent youth somewhere between the late 1970s and early 1990s, before the Internet began its own great invasion.

I blame those games for the extra year or two it took to finish my university degree, but also for guiding me down the path to a fascination with computers. And they were a pointer to what social networking would become a few decades later: immersive, interactive and addictive.

Decades later ‘Chief Gamer’ Wayne Irving has found closure.

And now, even as new games arrive to offer just that terrible trio of attractions, the old games are back, this time in the form of mini-applications, or apps, for phones.

You can blame Wayne Irving II, who labels himself “Chief Gamer and Pinball Wizard” at an app developer called Iconosys.

He still bears the scars of his own misspent childhood: “My first real



Goldstuck on Gadgets
Arthur Goldstuck

date was at an arcade in the bowling alley in Kissimmee, Florida. I guess my plan to impress my date with my arcade gaming skills backfired; I was so nervous that all I could do was play Centepede and Galaxian to show off my stuff, and the girl I was with ended feeling ignored and left out.”

Decades later, Irving has found closure. His company has created versions of Galaxian, Space Invaders and Asteroids for the mobile phone. The versions of the latter two created for Android phones and tablets are called Android Invaders and Anderoids (See gameplay samples at <http://www.youtube.com/iconosys-games>). However, the games have also been repurposed for the iPhone and iPad.

The significance of these three games lies in the fact that they sparked the global video game

industry when they were launched in 1978 and 1979 by Atari and Namco.

While pinball machines survived the onslaught, they were never able to match the popularity of those games. In Japan, they caused a shortage of 100-yen coins. In my university residence, you could sell 20c coins at a rate of four for a rand.

‘Angry Birds’ is played by an estimated 30 million people a day.

We may not see that kind of frenzy physically today, as the gaming model has moved from per-play to per-download and to buying virtual goods inside games. But that means far more people playing the games and a far larger population of gamers than at any time in history.

Angry Birds, possibly the most popular game in history, is played by an estimated 30 million people a day. The latest episode in the tale of the annoyed avians, Angry Birds Space, was downloaded 10 million times in the three days following its release last month. In total, the franchise has had more than 700 million down-



loads.

That dwarfs the popularity of Farmville, the Facebook game that at its height probably destroyed more productivity than real-world traffic. Farmville’s creator, Zynga, raised \$1 billion when it went public late last year, valuing the company at \$9 billion. It makes four of the five most popular games on Facebook, including CityVille and Texas HoldEm Poker. Around 200 million people play their games a month.

So, when they saw a new gaming app called Draw Something catch fire in the Apple App Store, with 35 million downloads in its first six weeks – not to mention a billion drawings made with the app in one week – they were quick on the draw. They bought the game’s creator, OMGPOP, for \$200 million.

Facebook doesn’t buy games, but took Zynga’s lead barely two weeks later. They bought the photo-sharing app, Instagram, for \$1 billion. There is little doubt they were spurred on by the fact that Instagram had 30 million users at a

time when it was only available for iPhones, and that it had just been released for Android phones.

Facebook took Zynga’s lead barely two weeks later.

That made it a potential threat on Facebook’s home turf, photo sharing. For them, gaming is more of an add-on, to keep the anti-social coming back to the social network.

Last year, in South Africa, 59 per cent of cellphone users said they played games on their phone, a figure expected to grow to 71 per cent this year. Those were mostly basic, free games, and they were hardly as addictive as the new generation making its way onto phones. So we can expect the figure to rise, especially when the newcomers are also the games that started it all a generation ago.

• *Arthur Goldstuck heads up the World Wide Worx market research organisation. Follow him on Twitter on @art2gee*

Letters

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

Beware of the ‘code’ to destroy Israel’s Jewish identity

I commend Eshed Cohen (writing in Herzlia’s Junior Jewish Report) for his passion and commitment to the continued existence of Israel as a Jewish state and to the peace process. I also commend him for being open and wanting to hear all sides of the issue.

In his innocence, however, he has chosen the arguments put forward by Karma Nabulsi, and is perhaps blinded by her position as a lecturer at Oxford University. Listening carefully to her speeches on YouTube, she calls for a right of return for all Palestinians in the “Shatat” or Diaspora, including hundreds of thousands without documentary proof of their origins, to Israel. Conservatively, the numbers would be close to six million.

Eshed in his naivety supports this call on the basis that it is a universal human right. I do not wish to argue whether it is, or is not a “right” but I wish to understand how he reconciles the granting of this “right” with his belief “that the State of Israel should exist as a Jewish state”, when the Jewish majority in Israel will immediately be nullified. Being a democracy, this would be an existential threat to Israel’s identity as a Jewish state.

What Eshed needs to understand, is that behind this seemingly justified demand, is a “code to destroy Israel’s Jewish identity.

The propaganda war against Israel uses the language of human rights to make it appear that of all the states in the world, Israel is the worst human rights abuser and consequently the greatest threat to world peace.

A further look at Nabulsi reveals that she does not seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict: “This seemingly endless and ugly game of the peace process is now finally over. The peace process is a sham. Palestinians must reject their officials and rebuild their movement.”

She sees the creation of Israel, and the day it happened “Nakba day”, as the problem. The Arabs’ inability to reconcile themselves to accepting a Jewish state in a region they consider as Arab soil, is the fundamental problem.

Israel accepted two partition plans;-the Arabs rejected both plans and chose war.

Of all countries in the ME, a founding principle of Israeli society is a free and independent judiciary and the Supreme Court of Israel is in many respects the freest in the world.

Clearly Eshed takes the word “advocate” literally and out of context. We want Eshed to be an advocate for the truth, and unless he knows the truth, he could end up unwittingly advocating for lofty-sounding human rights principles which undermine the values he holds dear.

Ben Levitas, SAZF (Cape Council) Chairman

This letter has been slightly shortened - Editor

We need a massive entrepreneurial base

I see Ann Bernstein has won an award for her efforts to prove that business is critical as a source of income for government which in terms uses these fares for education, hospitals and roads (albeit inefficiently). In the article “Bernstein wins coveted Fisher Award for 2010” (SAJR 27/4/12) she writes about SA’s high unemployment rate at about 40 per cent (of which about half are in the 20 – 30-year group and are rather volatile).

Sir Richard Branson (of Virgin fame) on a visit here, suggested we teach the elements of entrepreneurship at school. The success rate among potential entrepreneurs is infamously low so we need a massive base of potential entrepreneurs. Funding entrepreneurs, who have no collateral, needs also to be faced.

Generally, a country such as South Africa, with powerful trade unions, cannot compete with a country with no trade unions, such as China.

John Brenner, Cyrildene, Johannesburg

Atrocities in Sudan, Nigeria, but focus is on Israel

I was reading a speech compiled by Sudanese activist Simon Deng which stated that for over 50 years, 82 per cent of the UN General Assembly emergency meetings had been about condemning one state - Israel.

“Hitler couldn’t have been made happier.” He also states: “In South Sudan, about four million innocent men, women and children were slaughtered from 1955 to 2005, yet everybody at the UN is concerned about the so-called Palestinian refugees. They dedicated a separate agency to provide for them; this agency, UNWRA, treats them with a special privilege.”

His words are exact and shows the bias views of the world when it comes to war.

Recently in Northern Nigeria, there have been deadly attacks by the radical Islamist terrorist group, Boko Haram, that have killed 40 people on Eater Sunday, both Christians and Muslims. These terrorists want to make Nigeria an Islamic state and introduce strict sharia law.

Yet all I see in a major Johannesburg paper is a little snippet with very few details. Yet when Palestinians are killed, it is all over the media. What makes me sick is that I have not heard one word from the UN, AU or our government on the attacks in Nigeria and as usual, the Media Review Network and the Palestinian Solidarity Committee say nothing.

I do not see organisations like the UN do something about the situation in Sudan and Nigeria. These are our African brothers we are talking about and we as a country and a continent are doing nothing to help them. It’s like 100s of our African brothers have to die just to make the news but only several Palestinians have to be injured to get the front page as well as get a full condemnation of Israel and a UN Security Council resolution

If we don’t eliminate the threat of Boko Haram, it will continue to wreak havoc on our fellow Africans. I challenge pro-Palestinian activists in SA to challenge my views. As I write this letter, 100s of activists are heading to “Palestine” to protest against the “occupation”, yet not one of these people have spoken out about the increasing deadly attacks on Christians and Muslims in Nigeria.

As a country and a continent, we should focus less on Palestine and more on real issues like Nigeria and Sudan.

Russell Cowan, Johannesburg

Hypocrisy of the Left sticks in the craw

It is quite mind-blowing that the international Left who claim to be so against racism, have never taken any notice of the plight of the people of Southern Sudan and Darfur, and have indeed tried to sweep it under the carpet, because it does not fit into their anti-Western/anti-Israel hate agenda, and because it displays a reality which does not fit in with their propaganda of Arabs as always being the poor oppressed, persecuted “other”.

Atrocities by Arabs against black Africans or Kurds or Berbers or Maronites or Copts, or against fellow Arabs in Syria, are simply too unsettling to the propaganda of the international Left and their media and academic institutions.

These people are politically incorrect and therefore not to be regarded as human, and certainly not to be put on an equal footing with the hyper-politically correct cause célèbre heroes such as the Palestinians of Gaza or the terrorists interned by US forces in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay.

What a fraud it is by leftwing academics to accuse everyone else of callousness towards the “other”.

Alan Dershowitz in his book “The Case for Israel”, deals with the fallacy that people support the Palestinians against Israel because the Palestinians are perceived as the underdog. “Viewed from a global perspective, Israel is clearly the underdog. The Palestinians have the widespread support of a billion Muslims.

“Add to that the United Nations, the European community, the Third World, the Vatican, many influential academics, the international Left, the far-Right and many Protestant churches. The Palestinians have far more support than the Tibetans, the Kurds, the Armenians, the Chechens and many real underdogs.

“Moreover the nations that are oppressing these other underdog groups - China, Turkey and Russia - are far more powerful than tiny Israel, with the population of approximately 5,37 million Jews and 1,26 million Arabs. Yet these other ‘underdogs’ receive little support from those who champion the Palestinians.”

Gary Selikow, Johannesburg

Looking for Loteryman and Lakier family members

Tanya Richardson is looking for information on the Loteryman family and/or relatives of the Lakier family. She writes: “I am looking for Loteryman (aka Loterijman) family members originally from Utrecht and Amsterdam, namely Betje and Marcus Loterijman (Betje née Haas) regarding the construction of a friend’s family tree.

“They, (the Loteryman family) came to SA in the late 1800s; their children were, Ada, Esther, Jacob (born 1871), Joseph, Jeanette, Elias, Julia, and (they) used the spelling Loteryman. The daughter, Julia, married a ‘Michaels’, while I think Ada (another daughter) married a Swarts/z.

“Another of the sisters married a Cohen and yet another married a Levy. “(Also), could the relatives of Lottie Lakier (née Shaw) and/or relatives of Gerson Lakier, Frank Lakier and Evalyn Dreier (née Lakier) please contact me as well.

“My address is: Tanya Richards on cell 079-098-1016 or also tantacat110671@yahoo.com

House prices still under tremendous pressure

Latest house price data from Absa Bank and volumes of sales from Lightstone - the latter tracks deeds office activity nationwide - suggest a certain recovery in prices and sales activity since the economic recession of late 2008 to mid-2009. But these are nowhere near their levels before the recession.

ALISON GOLDBERG

While a consolidation can be noted, and some areas are even bucking the trend as reported by agents in Greater Johannesburg, Absa property analyst Jacques du Toit and property economist Erwin Rode point to house price growth in the R500 000 - R3,6 million range having moved sideways over the past year, that is in negative territory in real terms –below the inflation rate of 6,1 per cent.

Absa's latest house price indices (April 18) show prices of small houses (80 - 140 sq muare metres) have been hardest hit, - declining in value by 21,1 per cent in real terms (after inflation). Rode suspects this is because owners are indebted to the hilt in this segment of the market - witness the amazing growth in unsecured debt of the past year.

Neither Du Toit, Rode, or Lightstone's property analyst Sam Viljoen, are at present optimistic about where the market is going in value terms.

Based on the state of household finances – income growth (or the lack of); debt levels; and consumer credit records – Du Toit foresees further deflation in both nominal and real terms in house prices until 2013.

Rode's prognosis is that a turn-around in the housing market may only be likely in five

years' time. He expects interest rates to be hiked eventually, as they are currently at a 30-year low; a correction still to take place owing to homes still over-valued by 25 per cent; and taxpayers, meaning the middle class, to be further negatively impacted upon by higher tariffs (electricity and water) and costs (including fuel).

"Someone is also going to have to pay for government's infrastructure and national health insurance programmes. That someone will be the taxpayer."

While Absa tracks house prices up to the R13,4 million mark based on its mortgage advances, few buyers at this level and above depend on mortgages. This may explain why Vered Estates' agents Nina Obel and Stephen Brick in Sandhurst – where house prices are among the highest in the country (R10 - R60 million) – and in Hyde Park, were able to turn over R250 million in sales last year.

Interestingly, Obel, who has been responsible for 70 per cent of sales in these two areas in her 33 year career, reports new buyers include Chinese businessmen.

While the super-rich, as Rode calls them, may be somewhat immune from market conditions, these agents say there is still pressure on them by buyers to seek lower asking prices.

Rode says excluding this segment, the rest, and that includes the rich as opposed to the super-rich (a very small percentage of the population), will be feeling the squeeze for some time to come, just like their counterparts in half of the world's countries.

Against his scenario of rising costs and a correction in valuations, Rode does not think it is a good time to buy.buy. As to be expected, agents disagree.

Lew Geffen Sotheby's International Realty chairman, who operates nationally, says since 1990, based on his own data on house prices and interest rate fluctuations, which he has been tracking over a 22 year period, house prices in the South African market have grown nominally by 9 per cent per annum in spite of all the peaks and troughs impacting on the market, such as global and local political and economic crises. Therefore people have made 9 per cent capital growth per annum on geared money, typically 80 per cent of the purchase price. "So what's is wrong with this investment? I disagree vociferously with Erwin Rode. With prices at an all-time low, having already been discounted by 40 per cent since 2007, when the market was at its peak, this is the best time to buy and we've just had the best quarter in years. Astute buyers are getting into the market."

Community Briefs

ESME EUVRARD INSPIRES NEW CHAI FM SHOW

From May 6, Chai Cholim, a new show on 101.9 Chai FM, inspired by former Springbok Radio's Esme Euvrard's Hospital Hour, broadcast during the 1970s, launches. Hosted by Isaac Reznik Sundays between 15:00 - 16:00, it invites listeners to call or SMS names of family and friends currently in hospital for a "refuah

shleimah" or "mishaberach". Callers can also request songs to comfort the sick by wishing them well on air. Song requests must reach Isaac via e-mail at Isaac@chaifm.com by the Thursday preceding Sunday's show. Calls can be made live during the show: 0861-242-436; or SMS 34519 RONEL ZEFF

CALL TO QUALIFIED JEWISH WOMEN TO ATTEND WZO CONFERENCE

The department for Diaspora activities of the World Zionist Organisation in Jerusalem calls for all Jewish women between ages 25 and 35 who are professionals or activists within their community and have a BA degree or similar qualification, to consider attending the WZO annual conference and the Presidential Conference, focusing on women and

Zionism, to be hosted in Jerusalem this year, from June 18 - 21. Participation fee is US\$500 and applications close on April 30. Call the Israel Centre, Hagshama Department either in Johannesburg: (011) 645-2561 or robbie@israelcentre.co.za or in Cape Town: (021) 464-6718 or aliyah@ctjc.co.za or visit their website: www.israelcentre.org/sa

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Dance is in every fibre of Shelley Sheer’s being

Forty eight years in Israel hasn’t affected the South African accent of internationally celebrated choreographer/dancer Shelley Sheer (pictured, inset) formerly of Israel’s Batsheva Dance Company, in SA during April to choreograph a work on the Tshwane Dance Theatre Company.

ROBYN SASSEN

“I was part of the first group that did ballet for matric, in Johannesburg.” At 15, she was accepted by the Royal Ballet; her parents wouldn’t allow it. Two years later, “I spread

my wings”. All of 17, she was accepted by the world’s top ballet companies, but “Brussels struck me as too dingy; after being accepted at Stuttgart I explored a bit of Europe before my contract started, and visited Dachau. I realised I could

not work in Europe. “I decided to take whatever plane left Europe first. It was an Israeli plane. “Armed with not even the language, I found myself among the pushy Israelis,” she laughs. She was accepted at Israel Opera, moving to Tel Aviv’s company Bat D’Or and then deaf/hearing dance company Kol Demama before gravitating toward the relatively new Batsheva Dance Company, founded in 1964, still one of the world’s critical best.

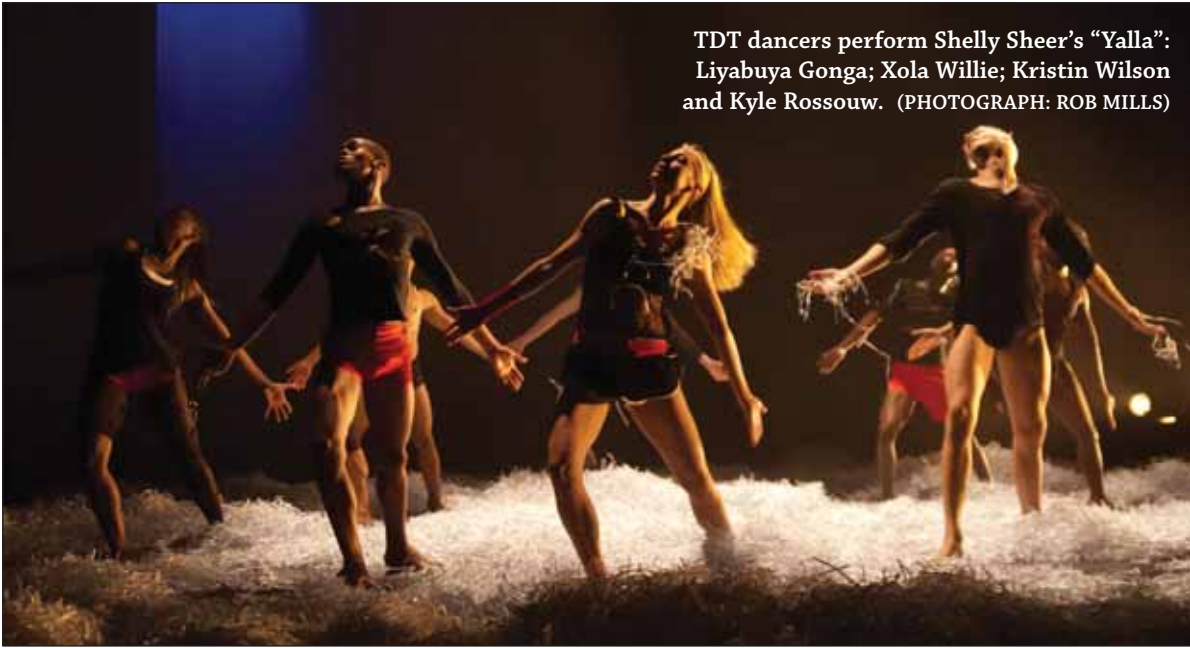
“I moved, career-wise from principal dancer to rehearsal director, to artistic director, a position I shared with Ohad Naharin before I moved to Eilat. “After 15 years with Batsheva, I decided enough is enough of all the travelling which is only glamorous briefly. I retired. But that idea lasted two and a half weeks; now I’m principal of the Matnas Kullier Dance School, Eilat’s biggest. Once you have been a dancer, you just can’t stop that discipline of nine hours work a day. There is no such thing as good enough. I want more,” she adds. “Big!” she shouts. “Big!” she gestures, as TDT’s seven dancers rehearse her work, “Yalla” (It is what it is). “I was approached by friend



Shelly Sheer. (PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)

and collaborator Esther Nasser, artistic director of TDT. As I come to SA each year to be with my daughter, son-in-law and grandchild, it was a chance to work with TDT’s dancers. I kill them with work; they respond well. They’re unusual: their distinct personalities don’t get overshadowed in the dance. “Dance in SA is accomplished, but outdated. But then in Israel, culture is top of the list.”

TDT, like many art concerns, is in a difficult position, reliant as it is on funding to survive. “If funding does not come through, most of the dancers will leave the country or leave dance altogether. It’s a great pity that they are forced to confront such big decisions. “We were so fortunate in the past, we really were supported in this country as artists. In Israel the situation is so volatile. Every day something happens. You kind of become immune: you’re forced to carry on.” “The Second Wave: 15 Minutes of Fame 2”, showcasing new 15-minute pieces by Laura Cameron, Kristin Wilson and Liyabuya Gong, is at the Dance Factory until May 6, call: (011) 833-1347. Thereafter, aspects of it are on Wits’ WALE programme, May 9-12, (011) 717-4091.



TDT dancers perform Shelly Sheer’s “Yalla”: Liyabuya Gong, Xola Willie, Kristin Wilson and Kyle Rossouw. (PHOTOGRAPH: ROB MILLS)

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Theatre Reviews in Brief

‘FAT PIG’ MORE SUITABLE FOR SCHOOL STAGE
“Helen” (Chanelle de Jager) in Neil LaBute’s “Fat Pig” skilfully holds your focus and single-handedly is this play’s drawcard. The emotions she spills onstage and into your heart are contagious. The play is, however, so riddled with juvenile dialogue and weak supporting characters, it would be better served on a school stage, pre-empting difference-awareness workshops. The message is blunt; the play, paralytically predictable, its denouement knocks its shallow handling into relief. It legitimises audience laughter at the odd girl out, leaving no food for thought in reflecting fickle society. Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton, until May 5, (011) 883-8606. - Robyn Sassen

‘RED SHOES’ SUPPORTED BY A SUPERB CAST
“Red Shoes” is a sinister, witty adaptation of the eponymous Hans Christian Anderson fairytale, featuring fatally seductive shoes. Woven with a fine blend of magic realism, teen discourse and religious cynicism, it’s a collaboration between Wits students and their peers from New York University and Oberlin College, Ohio. Directed by Leila Henriques, it allows leg room for improvisation and features brilliant costumes. Your focus is stolen not only by the tale’s brutality, but also by mesmerising Zanele Madiba as “Gladys” and Chelsea Harrison as the third “Red”, cream of a splinteringly fine cast. Until May 10, Wits University, Braamfontein, (011) 717-1376. - Robyn Sassen



A scene depicting the Battle of Blood River, in Abnormal Loads. (PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZY BERNSTEIN)

‘ABNORMAL LOADS’ IS JOBURG’S BEST PLAY SO FAR
Easily the best play this year so far is the utterly compelling ‘Abnormal Loads’ by Durbanite and 2011’s Standard Bank Young Artist for Drama, Neil Coppen. We haven’t seen this calibre of creative theatre since the 1990s, sparked as it is by sublime innovation, an original story contorted by horror, sadness and beauty enmeshed in lies, secrets and a need to hold onto local history. With a flawless cast, including a battleaxe dowager played by Allison Cassels, this work is faultlessly lit and choreographed. Be warned, however: it features smoke and burning imphapho. Market Theatre, Newtown, until May 13, (011) 832-1641. - Robyn Sassen

Arts Briefs

‘WAITING FOR GODOT’ ON IN SANDTON NEXT WEEK

One English network for matric for all IEB and GDE schools this year, is Samuel Beckett’s “Waiting for Godot”, originally written in French in 1948, at the aftermath of the Second World War and subsequently translated into English by Beckett. Hot from success at Crawford College’s Festival of Excellence in Dramatic Arts, this classic existentialist, absurdist work, performed by learners of Crawford College, Sandton and presented by Janet Baylis, will be showcased at Old Mutual Theatre on the Square in Sandton between May 6 and 15, followed by Q&A sessions. Call Daphne or Mika for further details: (011) 883-8606.

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

Harold Pupkewitz - giant of Namibian Jewry

Last week, southern African Jewry suffered a sad loss with the passing of Harold Pupkewitz in Windhoek. Harold was a business leader second to none, pioneering some of Namibia's most important industries, a giant in the philanthropic field, a leader within civil society and a stalwart member of the Namibian Jewish community. It is a measure of the tremendous stature he enjoyed that the Namibian president and prime minister were among those attending his funeral.

Space does not permit detailing Harold's many extraordinary accomplishments. Suffice it to say that, in the words of Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, who as spiritual leader to the African Jewish Congress (AJC) was closely associated with him, he epitomised the very best of Jewish citizenship, having "wholeheartedly devoted his life to contributing to his society, without this in any way diminishing his admirable commitment to building and maintaining Jewish life and Zionism in his country".

He was fully involved in Jewish communal affairs until the end and as the foremost representative of Namibian Jewry to the wider society, brought honour and credit to the Jewish people. With the establishment of the AJC in 1993 and his election as one of its vice-presidents, his influence came to encompass southern African Jewry as a whole.

I was privileged to meet this formidable Jewish leader on a number of occasions, including at the




Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

Judaism,

Order of the Baobab (Bronze).

While Prof Schoub has accepted his award, the actual ceremonial handing over of it has been postponed, at his request, until next year as this year the ceremony took place on Shabbat. This, I feel, shows how in South Africa today, Jewish religious observance is consistently respected, even if it is not always logistically possible to accommodate those needs.

Once again, I commend the awardees on their achievements and for the credit they have brought to our Jewish community.

United Nations Holocaust Memorial Day function in Windhoek on January 27, 2010. It was through Harold's influence that this important occasion was hosted by Namibia and attended by an impressive range of distinguished human rights activists, educationalists and political leaders.

His example will indeed be a continued source of inspiration for all who knew him.

Presidential Awards, 2012

As reported previously, we were very pleased that two community members nominated by us for the Presidential Awards were among those honoured this year. They are world-renowned virologist Prof Barry Schoub, who received the Order of Mapungubwe (Silver) and aviation pioneer Scully Levin, who received the

In equal measure?

Picture the scene: It's a week before Rosh Hashanah and a man settles down at his desk to distribute his charity. He has collected all the letters of appeal he received from various Jewish organisations and institutions - each one a very worthy and deserving cause - and these he spreads out before him. He calculates the amount of money he must distribute and divides the amount by the number of requests, ensuring that each receives an equal portion.

That seems fair. Doesn't it?

I would like to suggest that if the Chevrah Kadisha is among those appeals, a different standard should be applied. And I say this not only because it's my responsibility to do so, or because it's my favourite charity. I say it because the Chev is not a single organisation, but rather a Group of organisations.

We do not limit our efforts to any specific sector of the community or to any single provision, like food, accommodation, education, counselling, clothing or healthcare. The Chev provides all of that and, when necessary, much more.

Our budget is bigger and our responsibilities extend further than any one single organisation with which we are too often expected to share in equal measure.

Of course, everyone has preferred charities and complete freedom of choice to give their tzedokah wherever they wish. The point I make, however, is that the Chev is providing, conservatively, 85 per cent of the wel-




ChevrahKadisha
AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY WELFARE
Partners in Chesed
Michael Sieff
Group CEO

fare needs of this community. It deserves, and needs, to receive proportional support. That fact should certainly inform distribution.

At the very least our mythical donor should separate Sandringham Gardens, Our Parents Home, Arcadia, Selwyn Segal and the Chevrah Kadisha on his desk and treat each as a different cause. Oh, and did I mention mental health services, the cemeteries, protected employment and Kadimah, bridal services, student loans?

May our partnership continue to thrive.

Please feel free to communicate with me on feedback@thechev.org.za

Listen to "Jewish Board Talk" every Tuesday evening on 101.9 Chai FM with Steven Gruzd from 20:00 - 21:00, repeated Sundays 11:00-12:00. On Tuesday May 8, Steve chats to SAJBD President Zev Krengel in Washington on the American Jewish Committee Conference, academic Jonah Agus on his research on obstacles to Middle East Peace, Tracey Farber, a participant in this year's March of the Living trip to Poland, and Janna Kretzmar of the Earthchild Project in Cape Town. Also streaming on www.chaifm.com



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KDL schools celebrate Israel’s birthday in grand style

TALYA HARRIS
PHOTOGRAPH: RORY RUBIN

The celebrations of Yom Ha’atzmaut at King David Linksfield left all those who attended feeling joyous and proud of their beloved homeland, Israel. The atmosphere was fitting for celebrating the momentous occasion of Israel’s 64th birthday.

The celebrations, however, could not commence without remembering the fallen soldiers who made Israel’s Independence a reality. A moving Yom Hazikaron ceremony took place in the morning honouring all those who had given their lives for the creation of the State of Israel.

Learners and staff were then invited to the rugby field, which was beautifully decorated with blue and white balloons, where they could enjoy Israeli food and music. The high school was joined by the nursery school, junior school and the primary school.

A sense of unity was felt, while all enjoyed the various performances taking place on the stage set up on the field.

The Yom Ha’atzmaut ceremony began by paying tribute to Israel, saluting her existence and highlighting all that she has accomplished in her short 64 years of independence. This was followed by impressive Israeli dancing, singing and drumming performed by various talented learners.

A special performance by pupils from the nursery school enhanced the ceremony and brought smiles to the audience’s faces. One could not help but sing and dance along to the modern, upbeat Israeli music. Everyone was invited to get up and dance while the King David School band played Hebrew songs, creating an even more festive vibe.

On the whole, the day was an enjoyable one and was representative of the spirit which was surely felt in Israel on this day.



King David Linksfield High girls perform on the stage during the Yom Ha’atzmaut celebrations.



Jemma Sundelson; Lia Herring; Micaela Dermeik; Alexa Novick; and on her lap, Denica Stoltz.

KDVPPS young blends gum boot dancing with Yom Ha’atzmaut

STACY FLEISHMAN
PHOTOGRAPH: KAREEN SANDLER

Yom Ha’atzmaut commemorated Israel’s declaration of independence, 64 years ago.

King David Victory Park Primary School celebrated the joyous occasion by holding a special assembly, followed by gum boot dancing, which incorporated the spirit of South Africa’s Freedom Day. A wonderful day was had by all.

KDLPPS kids have a glorious Yom Ha’atzmaut time

VAL ARONSON
PHOTOGRAPH: LIANNE SHUAN

King David Linksfield Pre-Primary School children formed “a human Magen David” as

part of the Yom Ha’atzmaut celebration. Dressed in white and blue and waving their hand-made flags, and all sporting their kovas, they sang and danced and had great fun before eating the delicious Israeli food.



King David Linksfield Pre-Primary kids formed a magnificent Magen David as part of their Yom Ha’atzmaut celebrations.

Helicopters lend lustre to an amazing YC Yom Ha’atzmaut

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

The day of Yom Ha’atzmaut began with an emotional and uplifting festive davening of Hallel, attended by Yeshiva College learners from grade R to grade 12. We experienced the true neshama of our school when we watched how the Boys High School learners took the younger learners on their shoulders and danced with joy.

The different schools on the campus then held their own celebrations until 11:00 when we all assembled on the sports field, where the real fun began.

We had an amazing helicopter display, with four helicopters flying to Yeshiva College, performing a routine before landing on the

field. Twelve lucky learners won a prize each of a ride on a helicopter and boarded them at Rand International Airport and landed on the school field.

As an addition to this amazing display, a raffle was held whereby learners purchased paper plates for them to lay on the field. Three skydivers boarded one of the helicopters, which took off to allow the learners to place their plates on the field and the skydivers on landing collected 50 plates for the lucky winners.

A percentage of the profits from this raffle are going to the organisation “Friends of the Defenders”.

The morning ended with the school singing Hatikva, while waving their Israeli flags. This was a wonderful day enjoyed by everyone.



Rabbi Laurence Perez addresses the learners while waiting for the helicopters to land.

Oh, doctor, I’m in trouble!

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
SUZANNE BELLING

The current month of Iyar on the Jewish calendar is a Hebrew acronym for “I Am Hashem Your Healer”.

Children of Torah Academy Primary School demonstrated this on Rosh Chodesh by having a morning line-up dedicated to sick people and davening for them. They also took it literally by becoming “doctors”, with red jelly-filled syringes

and round sweets to symbolise pills, making them sensitive to the concept of “refuah”.

Pictured are the grade 2 girls enacting the doctor-patient roles.



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‘The Palestinians and not Iran is the issue,’ says Galia Albin

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN
PHOTO SUPPLIED

Israel was “a tiny drop in a very unfriendly neighbourhood – we have to find allies all the time”, said leading Israeli business-woman, philanthropist, talk show host and author, Galia Albin in launching the BZA-WIZO 2012 – 13 biennial campaign.

The Tel Aviv University law graduate’s mission is to influence and empower women throughout the world and to strengthen Jewish-Zionist identity, particularly with regard to the younger generation. In this regard, she was the driving force behind Live Hatikvah, an annual broadcast in which Jews around the world sing the song in real time on Yom Ha’atzmaut, a feat she pronounced a “huge success” and which in its inaugural year, 2008, made the Guinness Book of World Records for the most people singing a national anthem simultaneously across the globe.

“I’m worried about the next generation,” Albin told the audience at the launch. “We’ve been given the State of Israel on a silver platter – it’s time to polish the silver.

“We have started to feel insecure about our right to exist as a Jewish



Galia Albin (left) and BZA-WIZO Chairman Tessa Scher, at the group’s 2012 – ‘13 campaign launch.

state,” she explained. “It is our generation’s mission to strengthen and cement Jewish identity.

“If we believe in ourselves, we’ll have no problem, not with ourselves, not with the rest of the world.”

When Albin was widowed in 1985, she inherited a “ballegan” of companies. She had small children and no idea of the “men’s club” way of doing business.

“I did it my way, I didn’t become a man,” she recalled. Five years later she became chairman of the group. “Everything is possible if you do it with a good spirit,” she stated.

Albin is involved in an initiative that supports leaders with potential. “We have to do something about the leadership issue in Israel and support those we believe can make a change in the country and make sure they’ll be

heard.”

She said she was not worried about the Iranian threat, labelling it a “very good invention of our prime minister. Our issue is really the Palestinians.

“If there are issues of anti-Semitism, let’s go to the source of it. The most important thing is not to be afraid,” she added, promising that “(a Holocaust) will never happen to the Jewish people again”.

Responding to a questioner on the “very contentious” issue of the settlements, Albin noted that the West Bank never belonged to the Palestinians, but was acquired after negotiations with Jordan following Israel’s victory in the Six Day War. “The West Bank was the original Holy Land of Israel - biblical-wise, we don’t have to justify it,” she asserted.

“I have a lot of respect for the settlers,” she added, praising their passion. “They are the true Zionists. I am not worried about the settlements because we did everything international law permits us to do.”

On the two-state solution, Albin said: “We need to worry whether it’s a first step to getting the whole of Israel.” She maintained that it would take another generation to establish the trust necessary to reach a solution to the conflict.

Rabbi Pogrund joins Chief Rabbi’s team

SHIRA DRUION

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein has appointed Rabbi Gideon Pogrund as his director of education and political affairs. Rabbi Pogrund will assist the Chief Rabbi with educational and social outreach projects, communal affairs, interfaith work, and representing the Jewish community in government, media and academic forums.

Initially, Rabbi Pogrund’s primary focus will be on working with the Chief Rabbi on Sinai Indaba 2, which takes place in mid-June and promises to be even more astounding than last year’s inaugural event which drew an audience of over 3 000.

“The Sinai Indaba will take place in four cities and will act as a unifying force to bring together South African Jews from all backgrounds and walks of life to be inspired by Torah. We have invited a phenomenal group of international speakers from a diverse range of disciplines - rabbinic as well as academic, from the field of psychology and military, all living examples of the exciting relevance of Torah thinking to all issues in the modern world.”

The very approachable Rabbi Pogrund was born in Johannesburg, but moved to the UK with his parents

in his early teens. The son of well-known journalist Benjamin Pogrund, he was schooled in London and graduated from Cambridge University with an MA in Social and Political Sciences. He worked for five years in business, including as a commodity trader, and later moved to Jerusalem to dedicate the next eight years to fulltime Torah study at various yeshivot.

During the past two years, since returning to South Africa, he has devoted himself to learning at the Toras Chaim Community Kollel and has become a well-known educator and speaker, assuming rabbinic roles at Ohr Somayach in Glenhazel and as rabbi of SAUJS.

He has translated into English a book on prayer by renowned contemporary Jewish thinker, Rabbi Reuven Leuchter. They are currently co-authoring a book on how to make Jewish teachings more relevant in our lives.

Last year, he presented a paper at the University of the Free State on “Social Justice, Race and Reconciliation



in South Africa” that it is to be published in a book that will be presented to Government.

Rabbi Pogrund says of his political role: “My job is to assist the Chief Rabbi to further and defend the interests of the Jewish community, to promote good relations with other groups in South Africa, and to enhance our contribution to broader society.”

He is enthusiastic about his new position: “Chief Rabbi Goldstein has made enormous contributions to the Jewish community and to South Africa and ceaselessly strives to build and grow and initiates valuable projects. He is an exceptionally dynamic and creative person and I am looking forward working with him.”

Said the Chief Rabbi: “I am delighted to have Rabbi Pogrund on the team. His diverse and exceptional talents, combined with his outstanding education and broad life experience, is sure to be of great benefit to the community.”

Rabbi Pogrund is married to American-born Tzipora and they have four children.

Community Briefs

‘FOOTSTEPS’ TOUR TO POLAND AND ISRAEL

Following two highly successful tours of Israel, Pretoria Hebrew Congregation’s Rabbi Gidon Fox and his wife Aviva, will lead the shul’s most exciting and challenging tour to date, to Eastern Europe and Israel, this June. The tours endeavour to go beyond exposing participants to the conventional “touristy” things, they’ve been mooted “Footsteps”, as they aim to trace the footsteps of historical Jewry. Accordingly, this year’s tour will trace the footsteps of Polish Jewry before doing the same in Israel. It takes place from June 2-18. The rates are said to be “very competitive” For further information, contact Aviva Fox: 082-412-8877 or gandafox@gmail.com. *DIANE WOLFSON*

ORT SA KEEPS UP WITH CHANGING TIMES

ORT SA’s fundraising department has undergone an overhaul; Nicci Raz, with ORT SA since 2008, is the new department head: “ORT’s continued achievements in improving SA education are only possible because of donors and fundraisers who tirelessly ensure ORT SA remains functional and funded. We celebrate those who for 40 years ran ORT SA’s annual Lucky Draw, but times have changed.” ORT SA’s annual Classic Golf Day will, however, continue. As part of the new fundraising strategy this year, a group of women take on the challenge to summit Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for ORT JET’s Women’s Empowerment Division. *MARCELLE RAVID*

‘Over the hill’ Ze’evi strikes judo gold

One would imagine that at the age of 35, Arik Ze’evi’s days at the top of the judo world would be coming to an end. The Israeli proved over the weekend that he was far from done, as he came out to win the European Championship for a fourth time in Chelyabinsk, Russia.

JACK MILNER

Ze’evi capped a memorable weekend for Israeli judo as a day earlier Yarden Gerbi, Alice Schlesinger and Soso Palelashvili all won medals at the championships. Ironically Ze’evi almost called it quits following a disappointing showing in the Beijing Olympics, but he will now be entering the London Games brimming with confidence. This European title is his first since 2004 and it could be an omen, as after that win, he went on to take a bronze medal at the Athens Olympics.

“I can’t believe I have won the gold for a fourth time,” Ze’evi told the Jerusalem Post. “These were my last European Championships and I can’t believe they ended this way. I always hoped that this would happen, but never dared to dream about it out loud.

“This medal doesn’t give me any advantage ahead of the Olympics, but it does give me some confidence and I hope that I continue to succeed in London.”

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Ze’evi to congratulate him. “You have given us a lot of honour and hope,” said Netanyahu.

“I wish that after the tears of disappointment in Beijing, you will cry tears of joy in London.”

Ze’evi’s victory over Georgia’s Levan Zhorzholiani in the final of the under-100kg competition, came a day after Gerbi,

Schlesinger and Palelashvili all won medals of their own in the Europeans.

Gerbi recorded the greatest accomplishment of her career by claiming silver in the women’s under-63kg competition, making up slightly for the disappointment of losing out to Schlesinger in the battle to represent Israel in the London Olympics.

Each country can only send one judoka to London in each weight category and Schlesinger had secured her berth even before taking the bronze in the under-63kg event last week Friday.

Gerbi and Schlesinger very nearly met in an all-Israeli final, but France’s Gevrise Emame spoiled the party, beating Schlesinger in the semis and Gerbi in the final to clinch her fourth European title.

Palelashvili looks set to join Ze’evi and Schlesinger in the Olympics after winning his first major medal last week Friday, finishing third in the men’s under-73kg event.

The 25-year-old stunned two-time defending European champion Joao Pina of Portugal in the second round and beating Giovanni Di Cristo in the repechage to clinch a bronze.

As a result, Palelashvili climbed to No 21 in the world rankings, meeting the International Olympic Committee’s criteria for the London Games.

He is still just short of the Olympic Committee of Israel’s requirements of being placed in the top-20, but nevertheless is expected to be part of the blue-and-white’s



An emotional Arik Ze’evi after his victory over Georgia’s Levan Zhorzholiani in the final of the under-100kg competition at the European Judo Championships in Chelyabinsk, Russia.

delegation.

Two months back Palelashvili landed in hot water when he was arrested on suspicion of stealing toothpaste.

However, Ze’evi has been the stalwart of judo in Israel for a number of years and retirement is likely to come after the Olympics. He was born and raised in Bnei Brak and while growing up, he trained at the local Judo club in his neighbourhood, together with his older brother, Roni. Roni was the club’s first local gold medal pioneer after having finished first in the national Israeli Judo Championships. Ze’evi, heavily

influenced by his brother and his accomplishments, began training intensively, and at the age of 14 won his first national competition in the adult class, becoming the country’s youngest champion ever.

Despite the lack of advanced training facilities, Ze’evi continued training in his local club and steadily closed the gap to world class level, and began competing abroad.

Ze’evi, who obtained an LL B degree from the Interdisciplinary Centre college, in Herzliya, hosted a sports television show for the Israeli Broadcasting Authority.

What’s On

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

- TODAY, FRIDAY (MAY 4)**
- *UZLC* hosts Hayley Slier who will talk on “Stories of a British Airways Flight Stewardess”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact Gloria at (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.
- SUNDAY (MAY 6)**
- *RCHCC* shows the acclaimed documentary, “Why We Fight”, by Eugene Jareck. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium, Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre. Time: 19:30. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378; after hours (011) 728 8378; or e-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za renes@greatpark.co.za
 - *Limmud* provides details of its upcoming conference: Venue: King David Linksfeld. Time: 14:30 - 17:30. The Johannesburg conference takes place at the Southern Sun, Riverside Lifestyle Resort, Vaal River, from August 3 - 5; Durban August 8 - 9; at the Durban Jewish Centre; and Cape Town, August 10 - 12, at the Protea Technopark, Stellenbosch.
 - *SA Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth* is launching volume 4 (KwaZulu-Natal) and volume 5 (Free State) of “Jewish Life in the South African Country Communities”. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 10:30. Contact for catering purposes: e-mail museum@beyachad.co.za or tel: (011)-645-2598.
- TUESDAY (MAY 8)**
- *WIZO Forum* shows the Machal movie “804”. Co-producer Jason Hoff will speak. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 09:30. Cost: R40. Contact: Yvonne 082-574-4176.
 - Second Innings Men’s Group hosts journalist Claudia Braude, who will speak on “Jewish Contribution to South Africa by Lithuanian Jewry”. Venue: Our Parents Home, Time: 14:00 for 14:30.

- WEDNESDAY (MAY 9)**
- *UJW CT adult education division* hosts Lauren Snitcher and Vivienne Anstey who will talk on “An Overview of the Melton Programme”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

- THURSDAY (MAY 10)**
- *WIZO Etgar Branch* hosts the “Tango Amor Show – International Tango Show”. Venue: Theatre on the Square. Time: 20:00. Cost: R200. Contact: Lee 082-441-2953 or Zee 083-377-5644.
 - *Pretoria Hebrew Congregation* is having its annual Lag B’Omer celebration evening. Time: 17:00. Venue: PHC. Programme includes comedian Nik Rabinowitz, fire walking, bonfire, live music, etc. An iPad will be raffled. R100 a raffle ticket. Tasty food. Cost Adults R80, kids R50. Booking essential (at shul office by Monday May 7). Tel: (012) 460-7991.
- FRIDAY (MAY 11)**
- *UZLC* hosts Shirley Zar, who will speak on “Tikkun Olam - Changing Peoples Lives” in the squatter camps of Alexandra, Diepsloot and Orange Farm. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.

- SUNDAY (MAY 13)**
- *Second Innings* hosts Hila Stern, spokesman for the Israeli Embassy, on “Israel Today”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members.

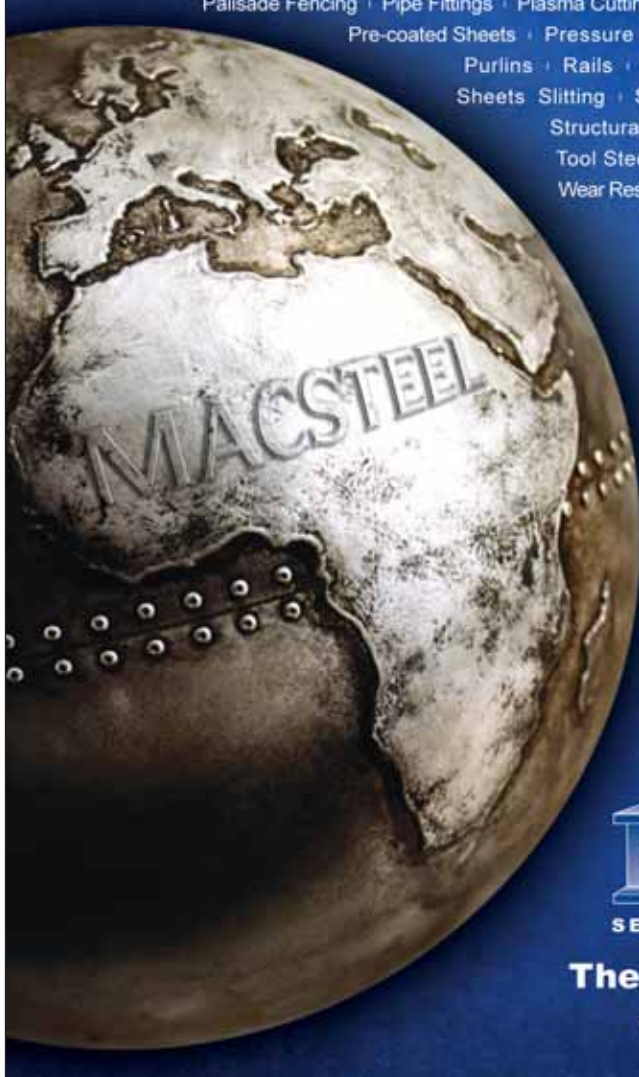
- MONDAY (MAY 14)**
- *UJW* hosts Tom Wheeler, research assistant of SA Institute of International Affairs, on “Experiences in the Mediterranean: Crete, Rhodes and Turkey”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time 09:30. Tel: (011) 648-1053. Donation: R20.
 - *UJW AGM*. Guest speaker: Johan Redelinghuys, international leadership consultant on “An Afrikaner Looks at His Jewish Roots”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Information: (011) 648-1053.


- TUESDAY (MAY 15)**
- *WIZO Women Inspired* hosts a talk by clinical psychologist Serenne Kaplan on “Mothers-In-Law, Daughters-In-Law - A Match Made In Heaven Or Hell”. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Cost R80. Contact: Jocelyn 082-441-4375 or Lorraine 083-268-8016.

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