



**Zaidel-Rudolph
brings Africa
to Israel
(page 10)**

South African Jewish Report

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And still Karabus isn't free

On February 11 a large protest was held outside the Cape Town International Convention Centre, where an Emirati medical delegation was attending the World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, in the name of freeing Prof Cyril Karabus. Protestors came from across the spectrum of the SA community, but still Karabus has not yet been freed. See story on page 3.

Wits promises strong action against Reshef protesters

The university's focus pertains to the violation of rights of the musician, concertgoers, patrons and guests, as well as on honouring the rights of individuals rather than the country of origin or ethnicity of anybody concerned.



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DAVIS: Distance lends perspective to Jewish view

The SA community, smaller than ever and gutted by emigration, does not reflect the growing diversity in the Jewish world and the possibility of returning to days of old when Judaism stood as a major force for good.



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ANC stance on Israel shouldn't impact business: Jon Medved

The reason for Israeli success started with culture, not just brains. It began with risk. Jews had always lived with risk throughout their history. Israel has faced greater risks than business risks.

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Standard Bank, Plits reaffirm commitment to Joburg inner city

"We are seeing a lot of demand for affordably-priced accommodation. We wanted to provide units which not only meet this requirement, but will provide tenants with a sense of belonging."

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KASHRUT ALERT

JELLY TOTS ARE MILCHIK

Beacon Chocolate Coated Jelly Tots are certified kosher, milchik. The kashrut department of the UOS reports that unfortunately one batch has been labelled with the Parev logo. Beacon has issued the following statement: “We have checked our Pkg and indeed the Pkg incorrectly states Parev. Of course it should have been Milchik, as per Beth Din instruction, due to the chocolate coating.

ONE VERSE IS ENOUGH

In ParshatTzav (SAJR March 22), an editing error occurs in paragraph two, where “the verse” is repeated. We apologise for the error.

Be the change

Jews have a fascination, with numbers and this week’s Torah portion, Shemini, takes our numeric-interest to another level. This is the only Torah portion named for a number. Shemini literally means “the eighth” and the story opens after a seven day period during which the Jews had dedicated G-d’s Sanctuary in the desert.

Seven is a popular number in Judaism. G-d created His world in seven days, which is why we have a seven-day week. He commanded us to let leave all fields in Israel untouched every seven years, as well as at the end of seven cycles of seven years.

We mourn for seven days and celebrate weddings with seven blessings. Kabbalah teaches that our souls comprise seven “emotional” traits, which mirror the seven energies that G-d invested into existence.

We are currently in the midst of the seven weeks of counting the Omer, which recall the seven weeks that the early Jews had spent preparing to receive the Torah at Sinai. We believe that the gentile population should follow the Noahide Code, which has seven laws. Seven is the number of natural systems-physical or spiritual. Seven represents all that is familiar to us.

Eight, on the other hand, is a mystical number, one that represents the supernatural. We host a bris on the eighth day because it illustrates our indelible, supernatural connection to G-d and Judaism.

As a mystical number, eight is well-suited to represent the completion of G-d’s Sanctuary, as described in this week’s Torah portion. Our sages also teach that eight is the number that represents the Messianic Age. Seven signifies the current framework of our world;

eight carries the promise of the ideal world that G-d will unveil in the future.

That Messianic world will bring a total paradigm shift. It will be a time when the human eye will perceive G-d - something totally unimaginable for us today (we battle to conceptualise G-d, let alone see Him).

Everything will change - we will be spiritually attuned and mentally advanced and our world will become a place of harmony, goodness and abundance.

Moshiach’s times sound far-fetched to many of us. Even if we accept that Moshiach will come, we expect that only G-d Himself could engineer such dramatic changes to the world. We would most likely be the fortunate passengers on this epic journey.

The beauty of Judaism is that it teaches that we each carry infinite



PARSHAT SHEMINI

Rabbi Ari Shishler

Chabad of Strathavon

power. To reach the “eighth day” of the Messianic Age takes “seven days” of human endeavour.

Building a structure that would become G-d’s home is an impossible idea, yet the Jews of the desert achieved it. They invested their natural resources (over seven days) and G-d gave them a supernatural return (on the eighth day).

“Shemini” (the eighth day) teaches us that every step of human input, every good deed or Torah study or prayer that we invest, helps to generate the quantum leap from a defective world to Utopia. G-d won’t bring Moshiach, human actions will.

Wits promises strong action against Reshef protesters

In response to the coverage of the disrupted musical recital (of Israeli-born, Berlin-based pianist Yossi Reshef) on March 12, by anti-Israel protesters at Wits University, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Loyiso Nongxa, has issued an updated statement:

“The University views the disruption of the concert in a very serious manner and is addressing this violation of its Code of Conduct through a thorough, formal investigation within the confines of its regulatory framework. The university requests that all parties allow the law to take its course.

“Wits issued a public apology within 24 hours of the incident occurring. This was circulated to the organisers of the conference, the media (including media serving the Jewish community), alumni, concerned individuals and was published on the university’s website,” the statement said, advising that the Vice-Chancellor and Principal and the Vice-Chancellor-Designate contacted Reshef directly to apologise to him.

“The university would like to emphasise that it is not only the rights of Mr Reshef that were violated. The university’s focus on the issue pertains also to the violation of the rights of the concertgoers, patrons and guests, among whom were members of the Wits community (students and staff), a representative of the German govern-

ment, Wits alumni and regular guests to our institution.”

It also commented on honouring the rights of the musicians and individuals attending the concert rather than the country of origin or ethnicity of anybody concerned.

“There has been a great deal of pressure heaped on and blame apportioned to Wits as an institution. We believe that this is neither fair nor reasonable to tarnish the hard-earned reputation of a venerable African institution because protesters succeeded in breaching security measures that had been put in place.

“Wits has a proud history and tradition of being a vibrant platform and space for diverse individuals and groups to access and engage with its multiplicity of stakeholders, in a convivial environment. It has always and will continue to advocate for academic freedom and institutional autonomy, the foundation of knowledge and intellectual engagement of any great university.

“We value the concerns and comments of all communities on this matter, which we will deal with appropriately. The university will ensure that those responsible for perpetrating this act will be subject to its disciplinary procedures. This process is already underway and we will keep all stakeholders abreast of the outcomes thereof.”



Students on the steps of Wits Great Hall

jewish report

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Worldwide action needed on Karabus

ROBYN SASSEN

A welcoming feast was in the final stages of preparation for Cape Town-based retired paediatric oncologist Professor Cyril Karabus (pictured), after he had been found not guilty by an Abu Dhabi court for manslaughter and fraud in the death of a three-year-old patient more than 10 years ago, when the shocking news came: the United Arab Emirates is to appeal the court’s decision.

Instead of celebrating his 78th birthday on Sunday with family and friends in Cape Town, Prof Karabus, who has been under house arrest in Abu Dhabi since August last year, again faces an uncertain future.

On a stopover in Abu Dhabi last August, on his way to South Africa, having attended the wedding of his son, Michael in Canada, Karabus, who had been blissfully unaware of his conviction in that country, was arrested. In absentia he had been given a four-year prison sentence.

Earlier this week, Michael Bagraim, the South African lawyer representing Karabus, confirmed the devastating news that Karabus is not yet free to go home, after all, as South Africans had been led to believe.

The court’s prosecution will appeal. Just over two weeks ago, Karabus was found not guilty on the charges against him. “They have given April 9 for the appeal,” Bagraim said. “But we don’t really know if this is the date of a confirmed appeal or yet another postponement.

“It has come as a shock to us all. There is nothing to appeal against. The judge had requested a report by a medical committee appointed by the state and the committee found

him not guilty. The judge accepted its report and when he read it out in court, he asked the prosecution if they had anything to say. They said they didn’t...”

He added: “It seems as if they announce that they are appealing and then look for reasons later.

“In Abu Dhabi law the prosecution may automatically appeal,” he added. “In our law, people must ask for leave to appeal from the judge before it is granted. In their law, we have been told, it is an automatic right, but they must give reasons. So Karabus is not free to go home until the prosecution has found him not guilty.

“Our attorney will be contacting the prosecution for their reasons for appealing.

“When I spoke to Prof Karabus - whose health is failing - he was despondent and he was monosyllabic. Prof Karabus has a feisty, salt-of-the-earth character, but the dramatic ups and downs and his birthday on April 1, which he anticipated spending with his loved ones at home in Cape Town, is telling on him. His daughter Sarah has told us that he’s still regularly having angina attacks. She puts it down to stress. I think he is feeling very caged.

“But the news is not all bad: Yesterday there was an indication that the prosecution wants to meet with Prof Karabus. We don’t know why. We think it’s a good sign. It is not the norm for the prosecution to meet with the accused.”

In Cape Town, a table had been booked at Kirstenbosch for Karabus’ birthday last Sunday, with his children and grandchildren hav-



ing arrived from overseas for the celebration. But the guest of honour, alas, was absent.

His wife, Jenifer, told a Cape Town paper: “I’ve always been pessimistic about this. Unfortunately I’ve always been right. The last few weeks he has suffered. It has been pretty rough.

“Part of the problem with this legal to-ing and fro-ing is our ignorance,” Bagraim said. “There are communication and language barriers between Abu Dhabi lawyers and ourselves. We have not been told what is due process in Abu Dhabi law. All those postponements put the prosecution out as much as the defence. They have been playing by the

rules and have in this regard been reasonable with us.

“The worst case scenario will be another eight months of postponements in trying to get a date for the appeal. It will be more than devastating for Prof Karabus.

“It seems that authorities in the United Arab Emirates are aware of this case, but I have a feeling that this is just one of many cases.”

Perhaps it is up to the supporters of the Free Karabus initiative to make the UAE aware of this case, then.

“Many South Africans use Air Emirates,” added Bagraim. “It’s advertised a lot here and Dubai is the hub, marketed as a shopping mecca. It’s not only South Africans who use this route. We need to call on the world to boycott Dubai.”

This is a farce with no justice

In a media statement issued late last month, the SA Medical Association (SAMA), under the chairmanship of Dr Mzukisi Grootboom, expressed shock and disappointment at the United Arab Emirates decision to appeal the not guilty finding against Karabus, and called for an international boycott of doctors and health personnel of the UAE.

Referring to the decision as a move from “a travesty of justice to cruel and extreme punishment”, Grootboom stated: “The UAE has now finally exposed its true intentions with this (almost nine month long) farce which are clearly not to let justice prevail.

“Prof Karabus was found not guilty and absolved of all charges less than 10 days ago; what possibly could be the basis of any appeal other than just to inflict further suffering on an elderly and respected colleague?”

SAMA, a non-statutory, professional association that acts as a trade union for its public sector members and as a champion for doctors and patients, in the statement, calls upon the International Relations Department to intensify diplomatic efforts to resolve the situation.

“The association will also take advantage of an opportunity to lead and reiterate its call for a global boycott of doctors and health personnel of the UAE and other countries violating the human rights of healthcare workers, when it represents South Africa at the World Medical Association Council meeting in Bali, Indonesia, this week.”

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Standard Bank and Plits reaffirm their commitment to Johannesburg’s inner city

STAFF REPORTER

The regeneration of Johannesburg’s inner city continues with Renney and Wayne Plit of the Affordable Housing Company (Afhco), in the forefront, despite continued problems, mainly related to billing and illegal cut-offs by the City of Johannesburg.

The two brothers have been instrumental in upgrading many inner city buildings, despite challenges with the council, but their faith in the inner city regeneration has never floundered.

Another problem the inner city is facing, is “bad buildings,” invaded by squatters, but which take years to clear because of the bureaucratic procedures that have to be followed.

Afhco has now partnered with Standard Bank through Lael Bethlehem, former chief executive of the City of Johannesburg’s Development Agency.

Bethlehem is now head of Real Estate Investments at Standard Bank. She is familiar with the inner city as she

was instrumental in many upgrading projects there.

The building in which Afhco partnered with the bank is Newgate, in Bree Street, near Newtown, opposite the Bree Street taxi rank, a very busy, high traffic area.

Refurbishment work is complete and about 500 residents are set to take occupation.

It was an office building for many years, owned by Standard Bank, but was largely unoccupied. It had a retail component and a cinema complex which had closed down.

The 11-storey, 25 000m² has now been completely refurbished in this R80 million partnership.

Cambridge supermarket has opened a 255m² store on the lower level, below the residential apartments.

Renney Plit, chairman and chief operating officer, said they were excited about “the opportunity that comes with developments of this nature. There is a lot of demand for secure and reasonably-priced rental housing in the market. Newgate is a prime example



Renney Plit, and Lael Bethlehem

of where this can be successfully implemented,” he said.

All the units have metered water and a hot water supply which is heated by economical energy-efficient heat pumps. Prepaid electricity meters have been fitted into every unit and tenants can plug into pre-fitted DSTv aerials, can log into wireless Internet and make use of the private telephones provided in each unit.

Low ambient lights have been fitted in the apartments and common areas, and light sensors have been installed in the passages to reduce building costs. Energy-efficient lifts have also been installed.

Bethlehem said security is



An aerial view of the Johannesburg inner city

taken very seriously. “The success of such projects depends heavily on their ability to keep tenants safe and prevent overcrowding.

“Tenants will have access to their units throughout guarded, biometric access areas located on the first floor.”

Rentals start from R1 750 for the smaller bachelor units to about R3 000 for a one-bedroom apartment.

Standard Bank has its head office in the Johannesburg CBD and has been a long-time champion of the inner city and its immediate surrounding areas and been involved in a number of restoration projects in the inner city, she said.

“We are seeing a lot of demand for affordably-priced accommodation of this nature in the city centre. As such, we wanted to provide units which not only meet this requirement, but will provide tenants with a sense

of belonging and dignity. We expect the entire residential component to be fully let by the end of April.”

Afhco was founded in 1996 to provide affordable housing and commercial property in the inner city.

It has delivered over 5 500 affordable housing units and been instrumental in upgrading and converting many derelict, high-rise buildings.

At the same time, the company does community regeneration projects through the establishment of improvement districts in the inner city, addressing both social and schooling issues and lobbying the city to assist with public space upgrade and service delivery.

On the down-side, the city continue to experience problems with its billing system, but Plit says things are “slowly improving”.

Afhco was at the forefront of getting an interdict against

the city forcing it to adhere to its own bylaws which state that it cannot disconnect services if there is a registered objection. This is now being challenged by the city.

Plit said he had experienced numerous illegal water and electricity cuts in his inner city buildings by the city because of the shambles in the accounts department.

“We have had numerous cut-offs inconveniencing many of our tenants, but since we obtained the court order, it has been easier to get immediate reconnections, so we will have to pursue this matter,” he said.

He has also issued court papers against the Banco de Mocambique and the city to clean out a building in Jeppe Street, next door to one of his refurbished buildings. The conditions at that building are so bad that tenants move out because of the stench, rats and filth.

south african

Jewish Report

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ANC stance on Israel shouldn't impact business, says Medved

MICHAEL BELLING

Israeli hi-tech entrepreneurs should become far more involved in South Africa than they had been in the past, for the benefit of both countries, Jon Medved, one of Israel's leading hi-tech venture capitalists, said at the Mizrachi Shul in Johannesburg recently.

Speaking on the economic miracle of Israel, he said the impact of Israeli technology was felt worldwide.

Referring to recent stances adopted by the ANC against Israel, he said that was unlikely to get in the way of business.

"Business is business, politics is politics," he said.

Israeli business people could bring opportunities to this country, creating both significant economic activity, wealth and thousands of jobs.

"You don't refuse a good deal because it is politically incorrect."

People were not going to say: "No, we don't want the jobs, we don't want the investors. It is good for South Africa and good for Israel.

"The potential we can unlock by putting these two countries together is incredible, not only to make money, but to change the world for the better."

Rather than arguing the conflict, the story of what Israel was should be told. Israel was more than a conflict. "Start talking about business."

He added: "When you are faced with anti-Israel rhetoric, talking about Israel helps."

Medved is a big man with a big vision of what Israeli technology could do for Israel and the world. His vision goes far beyond just technology, to Israel as a happy country, a developing country in every sense, with remarkable constructive and entrepreneurial spirit in all aspects of society.

There was an incredible outpouring of innovation in Israel. Over the past 12 years the Jewish State's economic growth rate was twice that of many developed countries, more like the BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The knowledge-based and technologically-oriented economy combined fast growth with economic stability. Job creation was the highest in the world. The economy, in the words of the Economist, had the power to astonish, in spite of the wars and terrorism.

"Venture capital is an engine that has been driving the innovation in Israel." The country was the second biggest source of innovation in the world, after Silicon Valley in the United States.

Around two billion dollars were invested in start-ups in Israel every year, in 600 different companies. This was one-fifth of the number in the United States, which had 50 times the population of Israel.

"Most start-ups fail - probably around 40 or 50 per cent. Twenty to 30 per cent do okay. The remaining 20 per cent are the home runs, who do very well."

Many Israeli start-ups had been bought by multinationals. Around half of the hi-tech workforce in Israel worked for multinationals, such as Apple and Microsoft.

Israeli hi tech was becoming appreciated throughout the world. "It is basically a duopoly - Silicon Valley and Israel."

Israeli technology was used in a vast array of areas and products, from computer chips, such as Pentium; to telephony, for example, Skype; software, including anti-virus programs and flash drives; and in the life sciences.

Teva was the world's largest generic drug company and many other innovations in the medical field were used throughout the world.

Green technologies also featured strongly. Israel recycled 85 per cent of its waste water - Spain was second, with around 20 per cent.

"South Africa needs this water technology," Medved said.

The reason for this Israeli success started with culture. It was not just brains. Brains were spread evenly worldwide. It began with risk. Jews had always lived with risk throughout their history.

"That attitude towards risk drives Israeli entrepreneurship." Israel faced far greater risks than business risk.

When Israelis suffered adversity, for example, through terrorism, this was a way of overcoming it. "When these things happen, we don't stop, we get started."

Israel was also a diverse society, with people from many countries.

"We are a rainbow nation. This is important not only politically but also in terms of our ability to create."

Another advantage was that Israeli companies went global from day one, because of the small domestic market.

Finally, there was the army, where young people learned technical and management skills. It was no longer only about defence and combating terror, but increasingly about economics and even international business co-operation.

SA Jewish Board of Deputies President Zev Krengel, welcomed Medved, who was warmly thanked by SA Zionist Federation vice-chairman, Harold Jacobs.



Jon Medved with National President of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, Zev Krengel.

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Raise your voice of protest about Karabus

It was with incredulity that we heard a week ago about the appeal by prosecutors in the Abu Dhabi court against the acquittal of Prof Cyril Karabus. The 78-year-old UCT emeritus professor and retired paediatric oncologist, is still being held in the UAE, after nearly nine months of repeated postponements of his trial there on charges of manslaughter and falsifying documents.

South Africa’s Jewish community and this newspaper are concerned about Karabus’ plight, firstly because he is a South African who appears to have been treated appallingly by the UAE. Secondly, he is also a member of South African Jewry, although his Jewishness has not been mentioned as a factor in his detention.

A committee recently appointed by the judge in the case examined the medical files and found him not responsible for the death of a three-year-old Yemeni girl who suffered from acute leukaemia while he was doing a locum at a hospital in Abu Dhabi.

Based on this, Karabus was acquitted and it was widely expected he would be given back his passport and allowed to return to South Africa in time to join his family in Cape Town for Passover, as well as celebrate his 78th birthday on April 1. Sadly, this was not to be.

We accept that the law must take its course and anyone charged with a crime must have their day in court. But perversions of the law in his case - including being charged and found guilty in absentia a decade ago, without being informed or able to defend himself, repeated postponements of his current trial, the mysterious “disappearance” of medical files - and now the prosecutor’s appeal, are all too obvious.

Karabus’ arrest while in transit through Dubai on August 18, last year, was bizarre enough, given that he had been told nothing of the trial in which he was found guilty of manslaughter 10 years previously. But his treatment since then has been not only bizarre, but sinister.

We have heard that according to UAE legal procedure, an appeal is automatic in cases like these. However, that does not explain the disgusting and seemingly malicious behaviour meted out to Karabus throughout his ordeal by that country’s judiciary.

Numerous attempts by outraged former patients and colleagues of various ethnic and religious groups to achieve his release - including the visit to Abu Dhabi of Muslim businessman and years ago a medical student of Karabus, Iqbal Servé for this purpose - illustrate the high degree of respect and affection in which he is held.

Initiatives to pressurise the UAE include the SA Medical Association advising doctors already working in the UAE to withdraw their services and proposing a global boycott of all doctors and health workers from the UAE; demands for travellers to stop flying on Emirates Airline; publication of the address for writing letters of protest to the ambassador of the UAE in South Africa at uae@mweb.co.za ; and petitions started by, among others, the Cape Jewish Board of Deputies, through Avaaz (an organisation for community petitions), requesting that Karabus be allowed a fair hearing and trial because “a patient’s death, although regrettable, cannot always be manslaughter”. The petition is to be handed to the Minister of Justice of the UAE.

An account has been opened for donations to support Karabus’ family with legal costs. They need all the assistance they can get. The details are: Account name: Bagraim’s Attorneys Trust Account, Absa, branch code 506 009, account number 407 103 4654, SWIFT code ABSAZAJJ, reference: Cyril Karabus.

What else can be done? The Jewish Report shares the outrage of his many supporters and desires to see an end to this sorry saga. We wish to play a role in raising voices of protest. We urge our readers to send messages (including your e-mail addresses) to us at: sharon@sajewishreport.co.za with the word KARABUS in the subject line. We will publish selected messages week by week until Karabus’ case is resolved.

The UAE deserves to be ostracised internationally for its abominable behaviour.

Distance lends perspective to one’s Jewish view

Visiting the US, as I am at present during my long leave, affording serious opportunity for reflection prompted by the diversity of this society. Three events have caused me to ponder the implications of chadesh yameinu ke kedem - renew our days as of old, the prayer we say on returning the Torah to the Ark.

I am a great enthusiast of chazzanut - the serious stuff of which I was inducted at a very early age at the old Schoonder Street Shul in Cape Town where the great Simcha Kus-seivitsky was the chazzan.

Hence, when one of my closest friends told me that Cantor Helf-gott was davening at the Park Street Synagogue in New York, I was very excited to attend the Shabbat service. Needless to say the musaf was superb, but I write of something that occurred shortly before the conclusion.

Once the amidah was completed, the rabbi announced that we were to hear a dvar Torah from a young girl, probably about 15 years old, who studied at the school organised by the shul. She spoke with eloquence, insight and knowledge and was warmly received by the entire congregation.

There was a time before the darkness when a similar event could have taken place in a similar Orthodox congregation in South Africa; indeed in my own shul in Sea Point, this happened during Shavuot with bat-mitzvah girls. No longer!

A few days later, I attended another wonderful event - Daniel Barenboim conducting the Divan Orchestra in a performance of Beethoven’s 9th symphony. Anyone who reads the words of Schiller’s Ode to Joy which forms the core of the stirring great final movement, could have only be moved by young Israeli and Palestinian musicians playing music together which so majestically proclaims of the brother- and sisterhood of all

humanity.

While, arguably symbolic, their musical collaboration under the baton of one of the greatest musicians of the post-Second World War period, remains an assertion of unity through diversity, of how both groups can co-operate to do great things.

If our organised community still has a grasp of imagination, it should invite Barenboim and the orchestra to South Africa. Not only is their music far superior to any South African ensemble, but the symbolism would be a huge boost to the image of a community which needs to increasingly embrace diversity.

Last week, I went to a screening of the Gatekeepers. To absorb the arguments of these leaders of the Shin Bet, whose role spans a period of more than 30 years, is to enter a dialogue with a sustained critique of current Israeli politics as it pertains to any settlement with the Palestinians.

When these leaders of the secret service, each who has given a lifetime of service to Israel, independently contend that, other than Yitzhak Rabin z’l, all other Israeli leaders have missed the opportunity to push ahead with a peace process.

Devastatingly, one of these former Shin Bet leaders warns that it is likely that there will be another assassination of a prime minister if he or she repeats the Rabin type initiative of pursuing peace!

Further, the film shows the way in which right-wing religious fervour created the climate for the killing of an Israeli prime minister, the connection being made between the overlapping objectives of the these religious fundamentalists and Hamas, both of which do not want peace, save in terms of a one state, controlled by themselves.

In summary, this documentary represents a disturbing assess-



THE JURY IS OUT
Dennis Davis

ment on current Israeli policy, warning as did President Barack Obama recently, that the current status quo can only jeopardise the long-term future of Israel, which in turn, can do far more than it has at present to negotiate around the political impasse.

And lest it is forgotten, this assessment comes, not from a group of left-wing activists, but from those better informed about Israeli security than almost anyone else.

Watching this documentary, it is clear that, whatever murky activity these men inevitably were involved in by virtue of their role in security, they all held to a view of Israel as a democracy which embraced diversity and could and should live in peace with the Palestinians.

Indeed when asked about Yish-ayahu Leibowitz’s warning in 1967 of the awful consequences of Israel occupying the West Bank, one of the Shin Bet chiefs agreed that Prof Leibowitz’s prediction had come true.

The common thread in all these experiences is the representation of a different vision of Judaism and Zionism than appears to be hegemonic today; a vision of tolerance, and of a serious attempt to reconcile the particular with the universal which was taught to me more than 40 years ago.

Perhaps, the South African community, smaller than ever and gutted by so much emigration, does not reflect the growing diversity in the Jewish world and thus the possibility of returning to our days of old when Judaism stood as a major force for good in the world.



Photo by Monika Rittershaus; www.librodeoro.com

Daniel Barenboim conducting the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which he founded in 1999 with Edward Said. It brings together young musicians from different Arab countries, Israel and Spain.

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Johannesburg and Cape Town offer kosher facilities of note

MICHAEL BELLING

Johannesburg is one of the leading kosher food centres in the world, and Cape Town is making significant kosher strides as well.

With 22 such eating places, Johannesburg has more kosher dining and snack facilities than many cities with far larger Jewish populations. These kosher facilities are concentrated largely within a kilometre or two of the Jewish “ghetto”, with Glenhazel, Fairmount, Sandringham and Sydenham as its centre.

In addition, more kosher food is on offer in eating places further afield, ranging from Gallo Manor and Sandton, to Melrose Arch, Norwood, Savoy, Killarney and even downtown Johannesburg.

They cater for every style and taste, providing a huge variety of meat, milk and parev meals.

The names and contact details of these eating places are available in the 2013 - 2014 SA Jewish Board of Deputies’ The Guide to Jewish Johannesburg, available from the Board.

The impressive list does not stop at eating places. It extends to no less than 27 delicatessens, bakeries and stores spread over much of northern Johannesburg and Sandton.

Pick n Pay alone, which offers possibly the largest range of kosher products in the country, has more than six stores offering kosher goods, in Killarney Mall, Norwood Mall, Morning Glen Shopping Centre in Gallo Manor, the Genesis Shopping Centre

in Fairmount and in Louis Botha Avenue, Orange Grove and elsewhere.

Some smaller outlets, such as Dee Jays Deli, with shops in Glenhazel, Highlands North and Lyndhurst, also offer meat, milk (chalav yisrael) and parev food, apart from catering for functions.

Then there is KosherWorld in Glenhazel, with its array of kosher products. KosherWorld is the only grocery shop in Johannesburg which supplies only kosher products, allowing the Jewish community to rest assured every product on their shelves is 100 per cent kosher. Much of KosherWorld’s stock is unique to the shop. With hours extending until 22:00 Mondays to Thursdays, they open half an hour after motzei Shabbat, and all day Sundays. KosherWorld neighbours the kosher Mi Vami and Seattle Coffee Company.

There is more that has to be added to the list, including 10 kosher butcheries, some in the major supermarkets and the Pick n Pay Hypermarket.

To round off the list, three outlets offer kosher confectionery, sweets, dried foods or health foods.

Many observant overseas visitors are incredulous when exposed to the vast array of kosher foods and services on offer, expecting to hear that Johannesburg has five or 10 times its actual Jewish population to sustain these kosher offerings. Some have commented that it is a testament to the vibrancy of Jewish life in South Africa, and in Johannesburg in particular, as well as the depth of the yid-

dishkeit in the city. They leave with an impression that South Africa, so far removed from the other major religious locations throughout the world, is a major Jewish centre, in spite of the distance and relatively small Jewish population.

The huge variety of religious life thrumming in the community, is also a source of wonderment to them.

Moving to Cape Town, the visitors are, of course, more impressed by the stunning scenery and sheer beauty of the city than anything else. Table Mountain, the sea, the Twelve Apostles all grab their attention, until the time comes to eat.

They quickly realise that while Cape Town, with its smaller Jewish community, does not have the amount or variety of kosher outlets in Johannesburg, it still has a fair number.

It boasts seven eating places, spread out over the city, from Sea Point and Gardens to Rondebosch, five bakeries and seven delicatessens and a couple of butcheries.

Not surprisingly in a city where fresh fish is always a major delicacy, there are nine dedicated fish counters and shops from Sea Point through to the southern suburbs, including Pick n Pay stores in Sea Point, Claremont and Plumstead. In contrast, Johannesburg has only one, although fish, both cooked and fresh, is readily available in several stores.

Both Johannesburg and Cape Town are significant kosher centres offering a huge selection for every diner, palate and consumer.

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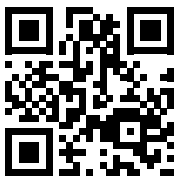
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Zaidel-Rudolph brings a touch of Africa to Israel

ROBYN SASSEN

“The thought of being involved musically in Israel is most attractive,” internationally celebrated composer Prof Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph told SA Jewish Report. Head of music at Wits, she was celebrated on a large scale in Israel last December.

It began with a concert at the Theatre on the Square last April by the Duo Galay: Argentine-born Israeli pianist Daniel Galay and his daughter, ‘cellist Racheli. Mooted “Faces of Israeli Music”, the concert was repeated in a number of venues.

Composer, educator and champion of Yiddish poetry, Galay is immensely important in Israel. “They were so excited with South Africa,”

Zaidel-Rudolph remembers.

“We met. He said: ‘You must come to Israel.’ It snowballed; expat Barry Swersky, an Israeli businessman who has a finger in many cultural pies and who I knew some 40 years ago when he visited South Africa with the Bat D’Or Dance Company, assisted in putting together a gala concert in my honour in Ra’anana.” He also set up lecture seminars for Zaidel-Rudolph at the universities in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

The concert, organised by the Israel South Africa Chamber of Commerce (SAICC), Telfed (the SA Zionist Federation in Israel), and the Ra’anana Music Centre, featured a performance of Zaidel-Rudolph’s Suite Afrique for ‘cello and piano, her Virtuoso for piano and her Vo-

Photo supplied



Professor Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph, being taught the single-stringed African instrument, the uhadi bow, by Tsolwana Mpayipheli, in Ngqoko cultural village in the Eastern Cape, where she is doing on-going research.

calise for Soprano and Flute.

While she was very impressed at the skill with which young Israelis - including an astonishing 16-year-old Yuval Chen - performed her work, this celebration of her work was not only about performance, but also gave Zaidel-Rudolph, who was commissioned to re-work the SA national anthem in 1995, a platform to talk about her current research.

This celebration of her work was not only about performance, but also gave Zaidel-Rudolph a platform to talk about her current research.

She started researching the deep-throated overtone singing of the Eastern Cape Ngqoko Women’s Cultural Group “after Robert Brooks, executive director of the music-bridging-culture initiative MIAGI (then ICMF), asked me, nearly 10 years ago, if I wanted to compose with these women. The logistics of such an interaction fascinated me.

“The village where they live is



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between Queenstown and Lady Frere. It was very primitive when first I visited. The women are the most dignified, elegant human beings I have met.

“Their music was corrupted by missionaries from the 1880s. They were told they could not indulge in their own music, so they took it underground. This means the women who practise these musical skills are mostly old.

“The women are the strength of their 150-strong community, but their music is not notated; they don’t speak English,” she praised her Xhosa interpreter Tsolwana Mpayipheli.

Her work is as similarly important as research conducted by father and son Hugh

and Andrew Tracey in the 1940s, recording African music, a collection housed today in the International Library of African Music (ILAM), at Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

The opportunity to showcase her music and her research, was wonderful for Zaidel-Rudolph “The response was enormous. People flock to culture in Israel.”

She shrugs smilingly in response to whether she may consider aliyah: four of her five daughters live in South Africa. She smiles mysteriously when questioned as to whether Israel’s celebration of her work will “have babies”; Barry Davis, in Jerusalem Post is more certain. He wrote: “We can look forward to more of her input in 2013.”



Nowayilethi, Nokhaya, NoSomething and NoFirst (the prefix “No” indicating a married woman); four women split tone singers associated with the Ngqoko Cultural Village in the Eastern Cape with whom Professor Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph is currently composing new music.

Arts Briefs

Auction to aid artist Diane Victor’s kidney transplant

The Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, in a fortnight hosts an auction to benefit artist Diane Victor, 49, urgently in need of a kidney transplant. Suffering from polycystic kidneys, Victor, an immensely intelligent and energetic artist, known for her dark detailed etchings, poignant smoke drawings and political activism, has been celebrated the world over. The country’s top artists including William Kentridge, Wilma Cruise, Penny Siopis, Norman Catherine, David Goldblatt, Walter Oltmann and more, are rallying to the cause and have donated work. The auction is on April 20 at the Goodman at 15:00; works may be viewed from April 18. Call (011) 788-1113.

Fender Guitars endorses blues artist Dan Patlansky

In little more than a decade on the music scene, Dan Patlansky has become one of the busiest and most respected blues artists to ever come out of South Africa. In 2006, Fender Guitars recognised his playing and offered him an endorsement deal to promote Fender Guitars and amps, making him one of only six Fender endorsed guitarists in SA. Currently on a national tour promoting his latest album, 20 Stones, Patlansky performs on April 13 at Centurion Theatre; April 20 at Ou Pastorie, Hartebeespoort; April 21 at The Venue, Melrose Arch; and April 22 at Barneyard Gateway, Durban. www.danpatlansky.com

Top photographic award for David Goldblatt

The International Centre of Photography will award and recognise David Goldblatt, 83, with the Lifetime Achievement award at the Annual Infinity Awards on May 1, in New York. Born in Randfontein in 1930 to Eastern European emigrants, Goldblatt effectively made his own career, as magazine photography was virtually unknown as a career in the late 1940s when he matriculated. According to a media statement, Goldblatt, who in 1989 founded the Market Photo Workshop for people disadvantaged by apartheid, regards himself as an unlicensed, self-appointed observer and critic of South African society, which he continues to explore with the camera.

Three artistic masters will meet at Baxter Theatre on April 6

William Kentridge, Wole Soyinka and Peter Sellars will take to the Baxter Concert Hall stage for one night only on April 6. Local theatre audiences and lovers of the arts can expect a rare treat when these artistic masters get together. Mooted “Turning the world into material: William Kentridge, Peter Sellars and Wole Soyinka”, the evening will discuss impulses behind the idea and the materialisation of an impulse: how does the world come into your work? Each iconic artist will respond to this question with reference to his own experience. Tickets are R180 and R60 for students. Book at Computicket.

The messy look belies some real Yeoville gems

Hotel Yeoville by Terry Kurgan (Fourthwall Books: 2013) R480

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

“I am the only person in a family of 64 who survived Rwanda,” says an anonymous entry in Hotel Yeoville, a social-cum-art project premised on the suburb, east of Johannesburg. Spearheaded by artist Terry Kurgan, the book is beautiful and tragic in turns, but what were the designers thinking?

Hotel Yeoville, begun before 2010, dovetails technical expertise and input of Yeoville residents. This anthology explains the project’s modus operandi, presence, results, Internet architecture and value poetically. But it is so exhaustively detailed it is something of a textbook.

It’s hampered visually with a fine sans serif font in dark grey on off-white paper. A double page spread in red ink on dark green paper is not only ugly, it’s unreadable.

Further, a conversation between Kurgan and art academic Zen Marie, explains the book’s identity, but text tracking is published as is, leaving the material directionless.

Hotel Yeoville operated from the new Yeoville Library premises. A mix between a real community centre and an internet café, it offered platforms for uncensored expression.

Drawing on community needs for everything from love to English lessons, the project touched all values from sociological and documentary to pragmatic. With a beautiful introductory essay by Alex Dodd, followed by a delicious text by Kurgan, the book flows into its own, whether you are a theorist or just love Yeoville.

Input from residents, past and present, give it flesh; it’s the peculiar design decisions and a tendency to publish what seems like every little bit of evidence supporting it that blots its clarity.

Without research into Yeoville’s history, the book is cast unapologetically into the present. In glowing pink - echoing neon lights in Hotel Yeoville’s physical installation - it tells you it’s an artist’s book but feels like a treatise. If you are repelled by its design, you miss its gems and a celebration of the cultural mishmash that is still Yeoville.



A photograph from the frontispiece of Hotel Yeoville.

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Energy independence day: Israel’s Tamar gas field begins production

JERUSALEM - In advance of this year’s Israel Independence Day on April 16, Israeli officials are celebrating news that they hope will mean long-term energy independence for the Jewish State.

The Tamar offshore gas field has started production after four years of exploration and drilling by Israel, Israel Hayom reported.

Israel’s Energy and Water Resources Ministry confirmed last Saturday that natural gas “is now moving from the Tamar reservoir to a new naval production rig across from Ashdod”. Israel has invested \$3,5 billion in the Tamar project in order to reduce its dependency on gas imports.

“This is Israel’s energy independence day,” Energy and Water Resources Minister Silvan Shalom said. “It is truly a historic event - Israel has received energy freedom.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement that Saturday was “an important day for Israel’s economy” due to the news surrounding the Tamar field. The field, which was discovered in 2009 about 130 kilometres west of Haifa, reportedly has gas reserves of up to 238 billion cubic metres.

US-based Noble Energy as well as Israeli firms, Delek, Isramco and Dor Alon, own the field.

“This is a very proud day for all of us. Our vision has become a reality,” Delek owner Yitzhak Tshuva told Agence France-Presse. “This is a tremendous achievement for the Israeli energy market and the beginning of a new era.”

The Tamar field’s progress is also welcome news for Israel because Egypt cancelled its gas supply agreement with the Jewish State in April 2012, citing that the agreement was undermining Egyptian interests. In August 2011, terrorists bombed the gas pipeline connecting Israel and Egypt. (JNS.org)

Canada’s largest student group joins BDS movement as vote’s validity questioned

TORONTO - Canada’s largest student union, the York Federation of Students (YFS) University, passed a resolution last week to join the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, the Canadian Jewish News reported. The student union, representing more than 52 000 undergraduates at York University, overwhelmingly passed the motion after a hearing with Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA).

The resolution calls on York University to “abide by the BDS call; specifically urging the university to withdraw its investments from Northrop Grumman, BAE Systems, Amphenol and other companies that are selling weapons and military equipment to Israel,” SAIA said.

YFS is the third student union at York to pass a BDS resolution. Last autumn, the Graduate Student Union and York’s Graduate Students Association both voted in favour of the resolution. Jewish leaders condemned the vote in a joint statement, saying it was “fundamentally racist, and a possible violation of the university’s anti-discrimination codes”.

Pro-Israel supporters questioned the vote’s validity, claiming they were surprised that YFS allowed the vote to take place without checking the authenticity of the 5 000 signatures.

“Those signatures have not been verified for authenticity or duplication,” Howard English, senior vice-president of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, told the Canadian Jewish News. “We don’t really know whether these are 5 000 genuine students.”

“While we may have lost the vote, we do feel like we do have the support of the majority of students on campus who don’t want to see their student government, to which they owe money, radicalised or politicised,” Chaim Lax, president of York’s Hasbara, a pro-Israel group, told the Canadian Jewish News.

The York University BDS campaign is the latest effort by anti-Israel activists in a global campaign to challenge Israel on college campuses. Similar divestment votes have taken place at a number of campuses in the University of California system. Meanwhile, in the United Kingdom, Oxford University students recently overwhelmingly rejected a motion to divest from Israel. (JNS.org)

Israel, Turkey divided over restitution for Gaza flotilla raid

JERUSALEM - Following Israel’s apology to Turkey over the May 2010 raid of the Mavi Marmara, the process of negotiating the restitution payments is underway.

Israel is reportedly willing to pay \$100 000 to each family of the nine Turkish activists killed on board on the Mavi Marmara, while Turkey is reportedly demanding \$1 million for each family.

The two countries agreed to establish a joint committee to deal with the restitution issue, according to Israel Hayom. Israel’s negotiating team will be led by National Security Adviser Yaakov Amidror and Dr Joseph Ciechanover, and Turkey’s will be led by Deputy Foreign Minister Feridun Sinirlioglu.

Israel prefers that the restitution payments be transferred via a humanitarian fund, rather than paid directly to the families.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç confirmed on Tuesday that formal negotiations regarding financial restitution had begun, according to the agreement reached between Netanyahu and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Additionally, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu told reporters in Ankara that he discussed the restitution payments with Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni as part of the restoration of ties between the two countries.

Erdoğan on Tuesday briefed the Turkish parliament on the Israeli apology over the raid, which ended a three-year diplomatic crisis between the once-close allies, and reiterated his intention to visit Gaza Strip to “further inspect the issue of the blockade.” (JNS.org)

Gazans, pro-Palestinian activists plan to breach Israel’s naval blockade from within

RAMALLAH - While the aftermath of Israel’s apology to Turkey for the Mavi Marmara incident continues to unfold, a pro-Palestinian group says its activists will soon stage a provocation aimed at ending the Israeli naval blockade on the Gaza Strip.

But unlike past attempts in which activists, including the May 2010 Turkish flotilla militants, tried to enter the Gaza Strip from international waters, this time activists will try to draw attention to the Palestinian cause by defying Israeli restrictions which prevent Gazans from fishing more than three nautical miles off the Gazan shore.

The Gaza’s Ark Flotilla Freedom Coalition’s effort will include both Palestinians and internationals.

“Gaza’s Ark is the evolution of the flotilla movement. We’ve moved away from sailing into Gaza with aid. We now focus on sailing trade out, because it’s quite clear that if the Palestinians were able to trade, their dependence on aid would be diminished quite significantly,” Michael Coleman, a member of Free Gaza Australia and the steering committee for Gaza’s Ark, told the Inter Press Service on Wednesday.

Israel implemented a naval blockade over the Gaza Strip after the area was taken over by the Islamist terrorist group Hamas in the year 2007 (although it officially announced the measure only in 2009). Israel says that it is acting in self-defence to prevent Hamas from acquiring weapons, and the United Nations has deemed the blockade legal. (JNS.org)

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A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

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Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

As I write, Jews the world over are making final preparations for celebrating Pesach, the millennia-old festival of freedom marking the birth of the Jewish nation. By the time the relevant issue of this paper appears, of course, the festival will have come to an end, but the feeling of intense unity and chavershaft that marked the preceding eight days, will have left us feeling particularly energised and inspired.

Now, we are preparing to mark another, more sombre anniversary, the annual memorial for the six million martyrs of the Shoah. Under the auspices of the

various regional branches of the SAJBD, Yom Hashoah commemorative ceremonies will once again be held in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and East London.

Shortly before Pesach, I was in Israel to participate in the World Jewish Congress executive meeting.

As always on such occasions, it was inspiring to interact with fellow Jewish leaders who, whether from Budapest or Buenos Aires, had come together in the Jewish homeland in a common cause.

Whether Hebrew, English, French, Spanish or Russian-speaking, we are all one people. The WJC meeting also took place just before the visit of US President Barack Obama, who subsequently delivered such a resounding message of solidarity with the Israeli people.

At a time when hostile forces are persistently seeking to isolate the Jewish State and its supporters, it is important to be reminded not only of how vital it is for

the Jewish people to be united, but of how many good friends we have.

While in Israel, I had the opportunity of meeting with Rena Quint, who is to be our guest speaker at Yom Hashoah in Johannesburg and Durban and afterwards will be speaking to the community in Cape Town.

She is a most impressive individual, who has been able to transform her horrific early experience as a survivor of Bergen-Belsen into a lifetime’s stirring activism against anti-Semitism and racism. We hope once again to see all Yom Hashoah events being well-supported by our community.

Just as Pesach is observed in some way or other virtually across the board by our community at large, so is Holocaust remembrance something that touches us all.

‘Guide to Jewish South Africa’ now available

As a means of bringing the greater Jewish community together in a practical way, the SAJBD has for the past 15 years brought

out a biennial “Guide to Jewish South Africa”, a comprehensive listing of every Jewish organisation countrywide.

Whether you are looking for a shul, Jewish day school, kosher restaurant, Zionist body, welfare organisation, bookshop or any other establishment with a Jewish focus, you are all but certain to find it here.

The latest issue of this popular resource book has been expanded to also include details for all known Jewish organisations in the sub-Saharan countries affiliated to the African Jewish Congress, including Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius and Zambia.

I commend Shirley Beagle for again doing such a thorough and conscientious job in producing the Guide and ensuring that it is as accurate and inclusive as possible.

For information on obtaining a copy, either hard-copy or electronic, she can be contacted on (011) 645-2583/ beagle@beyachad.co.za

This column is paid for by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

World News in Brief

Capriles rails against acting president’s ‘heirs of Hitler’ statement

CARACAS - Venezuelan opposition leader Henrique Capriles, grandson of Holocaust survivors, has criticised the country’s acting president for describing his supporters as “heirs of Hitler”.

Capriles and acting President Nicolas Maduro are both expected to officially announce their candidacy for Venezuela’s president this week. Maduro on Sunday compared complaints by the opposition against Cuban doctors working in Venezuela with Nazi persecution of Jews.

“The heirs of Hitler are leading a campaign in Venezuela against the Cuban people,” Maduro said.


“Does he know who Hitler was? If he does, then what he said was atrocious, because he’s saying that those who do not think like him are killers,” said Capriles.

Capriles said earlier this month that he would run for president of Venezuela. Last October in national elections Capriles won 44 percent of the vote but lost to Chavez by 11 percentage points.

During the 2012 presidential campaign, state-run media urged Venezuelans to reject “international Zionism” and vote against Capriles, describing him as having “a platform opposed to our national and independent interests”.

Chavez also said the Mossad, Israel’s secret service, was out to kill him and accused Israel of financing Venezuela’s opposition. Government media described Capriles as “Jewish-Zionist bourgeoisie”. (JTA)

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03/13 J.R.

Disclaimer
The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report.

Guidelines for letters
Letters up to 400 words get preference. Provide your full name, place of residence, and daytime contact phone number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened. *The Editor, PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034 email: sharon@sajewishreport.co.za*

ANYBODY KNOWS ADA LAZARUS’ MAIDEN NAME?

Phillip Cohen writes that for a number of years he has been trying to learn the maiden name of his late maternal grandmother Ada Lazarus, who died in Johannesburg in 1977.

Cohen says he has lived in Australia for a number of years and he’s not sure if Lazarus still has any living relatives in South Africa.

He writes: “Ada Lazarus was the widow of George Lazarus and they had three children (all deceased) Roze Cohen, Jack Lazarus and Millcie Egnos.

“I have no record of her maiden name and wonder if any of your readers might have this information.”

Cohen can be contacted at phillip.cohen@me.com

MUSEUM AT BRAKPAN SHUL

The Brakpan Shul will be opening a small museum on its premises. If any of the readers are in possession of any kind of memorabilia with a Brakpan connection, we would be very happy to put it on display in the museum, with an acknowledgement of the donor. I can be contacted at waners@telkomsa.net.

**Ernest Waner
Brakpan**

VIOLENCE HAS BECOME STAPLE FARE FOR TV, MOVIES

Watching TV nowadays makes one realise that violence, murder and mayhem are the main ingredients that hold sway for the TV audiences, and movie viewers.

Wouldn’t it be nice for a change if the programme co-ordinators would back away from the cycle of violence to accommodate the vast majority of senior citizens who would dearly love to view those great movies of yesteryear, that included the likes of “Singing in the Rain” “ Magnificent Obsession”, “Random Harvest”, “Blood and Sand”, “An Affair to Remember”, “Cat On a Hot Tin Roof”, “Stage Door Canteen”, “Desire in the Dust”, “The Picture of Dorian Gray”, “Rose Marie”, “Uninterrupted Melody”, “Bathing Beauty” and the “The Jolson Story”, to name but a few of those immortal shows.

Indeed, they were most memorable and nostalgic in the realm of music, drama, and intrigue - magical and golden moments that would revitalise and rekindle the lives of our golden oldies.

Here’s hoping that SABC and the cinema houses will revive part of that priceless age and era for us.

**Barney Segal
Johannesburg**

WHATEVER GOES WRONG - BLAME IT ON THE JEWS!

Blaming the Jews has become a national sport in South Africa. Instead of taking the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to the next level and prosecuting perpetrators of crimes against humanity it has become convenient to simply blame the Jews for apartheid.

The latest incident in which ANC Western Cape leader, Deputy Minister Marius Fransman blamed Jews for taking business away from Muslims, in a racist slur on a local radio station where he justified sectarian slander by pointing to war crimes in Israel, is but one example.

The unintended consequence of Israel Apartheid Week is that now apartheid never happened the way it did in South Africa, and it’s all

the fault of the Jews.

This is not surprising since South Africa’s myopic judicial system insists that all Jews must be Orthodox and therefore Zionists. The Labour Court of South Africa’s steadfast refusal to admit expert evidence from a progressive female rabbi is a case in point.

My ongoing litigation following a complaint against an apartheid media company which refused to participate in the TRC, is ample proof. It is thus interesting to witness the following incident in which 400 rabbis from around the world penned a letter asking Jerusalem police to protect women at the Western Wall who want to pray and read the Torah together.

The issue of women’s rights in a largely Orthodox world, has increasingly become a heated topic of debate in Israel, in which ultra-Orthodox communities still practise religious segregation where the women are separated from the men.

Islam also practises religious segregation, invoking apartheid according to the widely used second definition given by dictionaries. In Saudi Arabia, women are not allowed to drive cars, however one does not see Muslims in South Africa battling to get into Jewish day schools and calling this apartheid.

The idea of separating people according to gender and religion, is not a new one. What is new, is the strange demand by Palestinians to

Ur-like exclusive rights to the entire land formerly known as the British Mandate of Palestine, as if Palestinians are now the Chosen People of the Bible.

Nevertheless, and in spite of this, I continue to support the rights of Palestinians to self-determination, but this solidarity comes at a price.

A leading UK physicist, professor Lawrence Krauss, walked out of a debate earlier this week, held by an Islamic group at the University College of London, in protest against gender segregation - a controversial move supported by well-known atheist, Richard Dawkins.

**David Robert Lewis
Cape Town**

THIS CARAVAN IS MOVING ON AT A PACE!

Nachamu, Nachamu Ami! “Be Comforted My People”

- China recently concluded a multi-billion US dollar hydro-electric water deal with Israe.;
- Russia is presently courting Israel to become involved in her new massive offshore gas finds.
- India remains one of Israel’s biggest armaments clients.
- During the global financial crisis period (2009 - 2012), Israel had the highest economic growth rate in the world (over 30 per cent); it has created more jobs than any other country (360 000); its unemployment is only 6,5 per cent.

So, within that context, what real value can be placed on the BDS memorandum submitted to the Brics summit via SA Deputy Minister Marius Fransman?

As the old saying goes: “The dogs bark, but the caravan moves on!”

**David Abel
National Vice Chairman
Likud South Africa**

‘WORLD SERIES’ EXCLUSIVE TO AMERICA!

With reference to his “Rocking the Boat” column in a recent Jewish Report, sports editor writes on baseball in the United States.

The World Series of baseball is called the World Series, even though the series only includes American teams This is because it is sponsored by the World newspaper in Chicago.

**Ben Shlomo
Glenhazel, Johannesburg**

INFORMATION NEEDED ON SCHLOSS (OR CASTLE) FAMILY IN SA

Ninon Schloss from Denmark is searching for information about her family in South Africa.

She writes: “My family went from Germany in 1939 to Johannesburg. My grandfather, Emil Schloss (1876 – 1946, West Park Cemetery, grave 52), my grandmother Else Schloss (1875 – 1954) went back to Frankfurt in Germany.

“My uncle, Werner Schloss, (1913 - ?) remained in Johannesburg.

My father, Manfred Schloss, went to Denmark, where I live. He died in 1973. Have I still got relatives in Johannesburg? I have heard that my uncle Werner changed his name to Werner Castle. He got married in Johannesburg and had a son. I would be happy if you could help me, somehow.”

Her address is Ninon Schloss, Møllergyden 5, 5683 Hårby, Denmark orninon@schloss.dk

RESHEF PROTEST REMINISCENT OF ACTIONS IN NAZI GERMANY

I am outraged and disgusted at the recent violent anti-Israel protest at the piano recital of Yossi Reshef at Wits (which from the description of events sounds like an out of control riot: the performer and some attendees were threatened and possibly even manhandled and evidently in fear of bodily injury or even their lives).

I graduated from Wits in 1950 and as a post-graduate and while in practice in Johannesburg served for many years on the teaching staff of the anatomy department there.

For 50 or more years Jewish students and staff members were always at the forefront in opposing apartheid and government race policies, which even landed some in prison.

I mention a handful of names: Arthur Goldreich, Harold Wolpe, Helen Suzman, Phillip Tobias, from among thousands.

Whichever way you try to present recent events, there can be no doubt that the so-called pro-Palestine movement reeks of anti-Semitism and to deny or minimise this is to be removed from reality. It is in a way reminiscent of the Nazis in Germany, during the 1930s, turning on those Jewish citizens who had made sacrifices for their fatherland in the First World War.

I am well informed about the Muslim worldwide movement to delegitimise the State of Israel. I am aware of the recent resolution among Wits students (was it the SRC?) to join the anti-Israel BDS movement.

While I recognise the political objectives, to deny the anti-Semitic undertones is not only ridiculous but sickening. The Wits I knew, my alma mater, is no more and in time will pay a heavy price for what it has become.

I have read the vice chancellor’s apology, which though appropriate and necessary is nowhere near enough. What I want to see is: expulsion of the ringleaders from the university, never to be allowed to return; arrest of the participants, especially the ringleaders, and their appearance in court; prison sentences where indicated and appropriate; an immediate public statement from the university vice chancellor that this will NEVER ever be allowed to happen again, that the university will immediately act to provide proper security on campus around the clock, without regard to cost.

Mere denials and analysis of motives are meaningless. Anything less than these suggestions, or recurrence of recent events, will demand the immediate resignation of the principal and relevant authorities.

It goes without saying that I will not respond to any appeals, financial or otherwise, from Wits. I have also informed a wide cadre of former Witsies, currently here in America, about the recent events and the information is now spreading like wildfire.

**Norman A Blumberg MB BCh (1950) FRCS
FACS, Houston Texas USA**

‘PALESTINE’ HAS BECOME A SICK OBSESSION TO THE DETRIMENT OF MANY WORTHY CAUSES

It not just the Israelis who suffer as a result of all this anti-Israel/pro-Palestinian hype. Hundreds of millions of people who are genuinely oppressed and subjected to atrocities and genocide, are ignored and left to die due to the left’s exclusive fascination with the Palestinians.

Does no-one ever spare a thought for the Kurds, Tibetans, Berbers, Copts, Karens, Tamils, Maronites, Inner Mongolians, Uighurs, Christians in Muslim countries, women and girls in Muslim countries, the people of Darfur, Zimbabwe, North Korea and Syria?

Here in South Africa, massive poverty and unemployment are ignored due to the Palestinian obsession. Gaza is the most aided place on earth and has the eighth highest rate of childhood obesity in the world; yes, millions of tons of food are transported through the most famine-stricken parts of Africa to Gaza through the Cape to Gaza Al Quds Foundation.

The ANC/SACP regime has donated millions to the Hamas affiliated UNRWA.

**Gary Selikow
Johannesburg**

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During the Yom Kippur War I worked out a plan. Israel used the plan and the tide turned. I wrote with General Arik Sharon's pen and Rabbi Avraham Tanzer was an eye-witness. The pen is beige in colour and has a felt tip which writes black. My documents are in the Israeli Defence Forces archives.
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What's On

Today, Friday (April 5)

- UZLC hosts Israel-based journalist and TV personality Paula Slier, who will talk on “An Update”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.
- United Sisterhood’s “Book Sale” takes place at Benmore Gardens Shopping Centre. Unwanted books and magazines donations are gladly accepted. Contact: Phone (011) 646-2409, fax (011) 646-4654.

Tuesday (April 9)

- Beit Emanuel hosts visiting Rabbi Sa’ar Shaked who will talk on “Peace Activism in Israel: Roots, Challenges and Possibilities”. Venue: Slome Auditorium, 38 Oxford Road (entrance in 3rd Avenue). Time: 19:30. For catering and information call (011) 646-6170/1/2.
- RCHCC in association with JHGC, to mark Yom Hashoah, is screening the documentary “Number A26188 - Henia Bryer: The Story of a Survivor”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R70 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, or e-mail: rhc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net.
- Second Innings Men’s Group hosts Isaac Resnick who will talk on “The Golden Era of Chazzones in South Africa”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 14:00 for 14:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.
- WIZO Forum’s “Yom Hashoah Commemoration” takes place at Beyachad. Time: 09:30. Candle-lighting. Haskarah by Chazan Chilly Chrysler. Also showing

a Holocaust film about Felix Zandman, a Polish Jew, who escaped and hid from the Nazis. Cost: R40 (incl tea and refreshments). Contact: Sandy (011) 645-2515.

Wednesday (April 10)

- UJW CT adult education programme hosts author Rosamund Handler who will talk on “Us & Them”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).
- RCHCC invites all parents, teachers, and grandparents, to listen to a talk by Pam Ziman on “Bullying”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R80 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, or e-mail: rhc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net, or www.greatpark.co.za
- UJW CT adult education programme hosts attorney Michael Bagraim who will talk on “The Risks of Working Abroad”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (April 11)

- Join WIZO every Thursday for a “Lunch & Learn” shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 13:00. Contact: Joyce, 082-446-0480.
- JHGC and Bet David hosts a talk by Professor Atina Grossmann of New York, on “Jews, Germans, and Allies in Occupied Germany: Entangled Histories and Lost Memories”. Venue: The Middleton, 3 Middle Road, Morningside, Sandton. Time: 19:30. RSVP: Sharon (011) 783-7117 or admin2@betdavid.org.za

- RCHCC hosts former DA leader and SA ambassador, Tony Leon, on his latest book “The Accidental Ambassador”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R80 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rhc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net, or www.greatpark.co.za
- UJW CT’s Simcha Group will be holding a “Quiz Evening”. Venue: Marais Road Synagogue Hall. Time: 19:30 for 20:00. Entrance: R40. Enquiries: Hermoine Sternberg 082-439-8006/(021) 433-2415.

Sunday (April 14)

- Big Band Society meets in the Jeffrey Auditorium at St Johns College, St John’s Road, Lower Houghton. A selection of audio and video material, featuring the great Big Bands of yesterday. Starting at 14:15. Contact: Barney, (011) 400-1996 or Jack, (011) 782-7111.
- Second Innings hosts Prof Marcia Leveson, former professor of English at Wits, who will talk on “Please Sir, I Want Some More - Charles Dickens and his Children”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Thursday (April 18)

- JWBS’ “Business Breakfast”, hosted by Investec, has as its keynote speakers Marc Wainer, CEO of Redefine Properties and Justice Malala, well-known political commentator. Venue: Investec, 100 Grayston Drive, Sandton. Parking available. Time: 07:00 for 07:30 - 09:00. Cost: R500 per person (R5 000 per table of 10). RSVP: gloria@jwbs.co.za or call (011) 485-5232.

- Chabad Chai Seniors Club meets Monday to Friday every week, 09:00 to 13:00. Venue: Chabad House. Refreshments and lunch provided. Mondays: Brain exercises with occupational therapist and computers and Internet (16:15). Tuesdays: Exploring the myths and mysteries of Judaism. Ladies learning with Aviva Goldman. Wednesdays: Torah studies and computer and Internet training (16:30). Thursdays: Living with the times with Rabbi Shlomo Raitport and ladies shiur with Rebbetzen Chaya Haller. Fridays: Living Torah with Rabbi Shlomo Raitport. Distribution of take-home food. Information: Chabad House (011) 440-6600, e-mail rak@chabad.org.za www.ChabadJoburg.org/seniors.
- Orchid WIZO Florist, for chuppahs in shuls or gardens; canopy, drapes and floral arrangements our specialty. Daily deliveries of floral and fruit arrangements as well. Contact: (011) 728-4513, after hours: (011) 728-2769.
- Broth Zion Association WIZO is collecting anything of value for its store. Contact (021) 464-6729 or Linda Saban 072-245-3225 or Cherna Kreda 084-589-8588.
- Johannesburg Children’s Home is appealing for shoes and takkies for children and teenagers. Contact Edna or Hytton Segal (011) 970-4266.
- The Selwyn Segal Shop has a huge selection of gifts ranging in price from R30 upwards. Visit them from Monday to Friday, 08:30 to 14:00. Phone (011) 640-6413 or (011) 640-5171. All proceeds to The Selwyn Segal Foundation for the Mentally Handicapped.
- Join WIZO every Thursday for a “Lunch & Learn” shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz, 13:00 - 14:00 at Beyachad. Information: Joyce, (011) 640-2416.
- Stellenbosch Hebrew Congregation has a Friday evening service every week in shul, starting at 18:45. Contact (021) 886-5257.
- The Yiddish Academy offers weekly basic, intermediate and advanced classes on Monday evenings at 19:30, Tuesday mornings at 10:30 and Thursday evenings at 19:30 at the RCHCC, Glenhove Road, Houghton. Conversational groups. Details: e-mail yiddishacademy@gmail.com or call Hazel Cohen on (011) 728-8088.
- Supervised bridge with Jeff Sapire Tuesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (intermediary) and Wednesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (advanced), at the Clive M Beck Auditorium. Booking: Hazel or René, (011) 728-8088/8378. E-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za
- Beis Midrash Chofetz Chaim is offering a second ma’ariv minyan every weekday evening (Monday - Friday) at 21:00, cnr Elray and Michel Streets, Raedene. Open to broader community. Don’t fret if you need a later minyan. Secure parking provided.
- Sunday Scrabble Club meets every Sunday at 10:00 at Zahava’s, Grant Avenue, Norwood, off 9th Street. Cost R5. Players of all strengths welcome. Larry 082-888-5355.

It’s a tough path for middle-of-the-road Jewish sportsmen



ROCKING THE BOAT
Jack Milner

If one follows the history of the Jews in sport, it is evident that it was never considered particularly relevant. It was actually seen as Hellenistic, and more pagan than anything else.

As time has gone by, Jews have become more accepting of sport and more tolerant of people who participate in sport. However, sport at the highest level will always pose a problem for people who are shomrei Shabbat.

Sport is traditionally played on Saturdays and also on other Jewish holidays and it is up to individuals to make his or her respective choice. For some it is clear cut - both ways. If you are observant the decision is obvious and if you are not, the options are easy.

It is for the middle-of-the-road sportsman that life gets more taxing. Consider a talented youngster who comes from an observant family: While he is attending a Jewish school, everything goes well. There are no tournaments on a Saturday or the holidays.

Now he gets out of school and takes up his

sport at university. The lines are not as clear. He is selected for the university’s soccer or cricket team where they do play on Shabbat - and then he has to make that difficult decision.

The decision on some sports are easier than others. Right now there are two Jewish boxers of note - Dmitry Salita and Yuri Foreman. Both were born in Eastern Europe and immigrated to Israel and then to the US.

One can avoid training or fighting on Saturdays or holidays. Even if there is a fight on a Saturday night, they tend to start late, when the Shabbat is over.

Foreman lost a little of his glamour with a defeat in March 2011, but came back to form last month with a six-round win over Brandon Baue at BB King’s Restaurant and Blues Club in Midtown Manhattan. His win came by unanimous decision from the judges, with a final score of 60 - 54.

Since his peak as WBA super-welterweight champion, Foreman has fought and lost two matches, one against Miguel Cotto in June 2010, and the other against Pawel Wolak in March 2011.

As an observant Jew, Foreman studies the Talmud and Jewish mysticism. Rabbi DovBer Pinson, his teacher, describes him as “a very good student”.

His mentor says that most people in his classes who find out that Foreman is a boxer, are very surprised. “He doesn’t have that boxing personality, at least in the perception

of what a boxer is. He’s not the rough kid on the block. He’s a sweet, easy-going kid,” Pinson remarks.

Salita discovered recently that his observance was used against him and recently found himself having to counter claims made by Hector Camacho that a match between the two scheduled for late April had been definitively cancelled because of Passover.

A story appeared on ESPN.com last week saying that the fight was off for good because Camacho contacted ESPN, contending that he had been told Salita pulled out of the contest because of Passover.

Salita released a statement in which he said: “Either by mistake, or by design, contradictory stories have emerged to cancel our fight.”

However, boxers might be able to manipulate their schedules to some degree, but the line for people involved in other sports, is not so clear. They know that if they don’t play, they will lose their places in the team. For some it is their living and they cannot afford to give up their places.

The question is: Just how far are they prepared to go? Some people will play on Shabbat and some holidays, but will draw the line at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Others will play second day Rosh Hashanah.

Recently we had the incident of a Jewish cricketer from Australia, Michael Klinger, playing in the IPL in South Africa and cap-



Australian cricketer Michael Klinger was slammed for captaining his side on Kol Nidre night.

taining his side on Yom Kippur. It was seen by many South African Jews as the ultimate sin.

In the end all sportsmen will have to make a decision with which they are comfortable. It may change as we get older as was the case with cricketer Mandy Yachad and soccer star Warren Lewis.

It is easy to criticise from the sidelines, but when you are on the field, those lines can become somewhat blurred.

\$1 million win for Joffe and Berzack’s Shea Shea



Brian Joffe (right) and Myron Berzack with the South African flag after Shea Shea won the \$1 million Al Quoz Sprint in Dubai last Saturday night.

JACK MILNER

Some weeks back I wrote about the excitement experienced by Bidvest CEO Brian Joffe when he watched his horse, Shea Shea, win a feature race in Dubai.

Last Saturday night proved yet another highlight for Joffe and his partner, Myron Berzack, as Shea Shea pulled off the “big one” on Dubai World Cup night.

Shea Shea broke his own course record in taking the \$1 million (R9,2-million) Al Quoz Sprint over 1000m under a textbook ride by Belgian jockey Christophe Soumillon.

The winner was trained by South African trainer Mike de Kock, his second on the night.

Joffe jumped into De Kock’s arms in sheer joy as he waited for his sprinting star to return to the parade ring.

Two South African flags from were draped over Joffe and Berzack, one of which was grabbed by Soumillon who waved it as he took Shea Shea into the winner’s enclosure.

Shea Shea will now move to De Kock’s yard in England and will be aimed at the King Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot where he could take on brilliant Australian mare Black Caviar, who is unbeaten in 24 starts.

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