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With protests, Israelis are seeking  
 the revival of the welfare state

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Israeli students, holding a sign reading “Welfare state now!”, protest outside the Israeli Parliament in Jerusalem against the high cost of living, on August 1. (MIRIAM ALSTER/FLASH90)

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**Commemorating National Women’s Day IN BLACK AND WHITE**





National Women's Day commemorates South African women's courage and strength when they marched to petition against Pass Laws on 9 August 1956. They sang a protest song that was composed for the occasion, “Wathint’Abafazi Wathint’imbokodo! - Now you have touched the women, you have struck a rock!”

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# Jewish Report

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PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034  
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**EDITOR** - Geoff Sifrin  
geoff@sajewishreport.co.za

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

**Sub-Editor** - Paul Maree

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

**Senior Reporter** - Rita Lewis  
rita@sajewishreport.co.za

**Sports Editor** - Jack Milner  
jackmilner@telkomsa.net

**Books Editor** - Gwen Podbrey

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

**Youth Editor** - Alison Goldberg  
alison@sajewishreport.co.za

**Cape Town correspondent**  
Moira Schneider: 021-794-4206

**Pretoria correspondent**  
Diane Wolfson: 082-707-9471

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Manager: Distribution**  
Britt Landsman

**Design and layout**  
Frankie Matthysen  
Nicole Cook

**Website**  
www.sajewishreport.co.za  
Ilan Ossendryver  
IC-Creations  
ilan@ic-creations.com

**Subscription enquiries**  
Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd  
Tel: 0860-13-2652

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## PARSHA OF THE WEEK

### To blame or to bless...



**PARSHAT DEVARIM**  
**Rabbi Moshe Kazilsky**  
*Johannesburg Sephardi Hebrew Congregation*

WE BEGIN this Shabbat the final book of the Torah, the book of Devarim. This book contains a review by Moses of the challenges and mistakes made by the Israelites during their 40 year journey through the wilderness.

A story: One morning as little Hannah was sitting at the kitchen sink watching her mother wash and dry the breakfast plates, she noticed that her mother had several strands of grey in her long black hair.

Hannah looked at her mother and said: “Mommy, why do you have some grey hairs?”

Her mother replied, “Well darling, every time a daughter upsets her mother, one of her mother’s hairs turns grey.” Hannah thought about this for a few moments then said, “Mommy, so how come all of granny’s hair is grey?”

In the final book of the Torah we read about the “grey hair” that Moses got from the Israelites. In fact, it’s because of his grey hairs, that Moses is given a title at the end of the book. Moses is mentioned in the Torah countless times, but only at the end of his life, when he takes leave of his beloved nation as they enter the Promised Land without him, he is referred to as a “Man of G-d”.

“Moses, the man of G-d, blessed the Children of Israel before his death” (Deut. 33).

A few verses earlier, G-d tells Moses that he will soon die as he cannot enter the Promised Land because of his transgression of hitting the rock instead of speaking to it. Moses clearly held the Israelites responsible for causing this incident.

“G-d was angry with me because of you and He swore that I could not cross the Jordan and that I could not come to the good land” (Deut 4).

Although he felt that they were the cause for him being denied his most fervent wish, Moses didn’t harbour resentment towards the Israelites. At the very moment that G-d told him he must leave this world and could not join the Israelites in entering the Promised Land, Moses gave them his sincere blessing.

Think about it for a second: You work your whole life for a single goal - blood, sweat and tears... and right at the end, moments before succeeding, you can’t achieve your goal because a bunch of people derail your project... never mind the project, they derail your whole existence... How would you feel towards them?

Moses stood at the shores of the Jordan River, within a few metres of the land of his dreams, he begged and prayed 515 separate prayers before G-d, begging for Divine mercy and for G-d to revoke the decree prohibiting his entrance to the land.

He was told that the decree must stand, and was again reminded that this was because of his hitting the rock, which happened because the Israelites provoked him. At this precise moment of intense anguish, Moses turned to the Israelites and blessed them with his whole heart. This is indeed a “Man of G-d.”

One of the life-lessons in the final book of the Torah is to realise how often we blame our stresses and failures on others, with justified reasoning. Moses had every reason to blame the Israelites for his shattered dream and inner anguish but instead of blaming them, he blessed them - and was therefore called a “Man of G-d”.

By choosing to bless instead of blame, we too will be worthy of being called a “Man of G-d”.

## SHABBAT AND FAST TIMES

**August 5/5 Av**  
**August 6/6 Av**

**Devarim**

Starts	Ends	
17:26	18:16	Johannesburg
17:52	18:45	Cape Town
17:08	18:00	Durban
17:29	18:20	Bloemfontein
17:23	18:16	Port Elizabeth
17:15	18:08	East London

**Tisha B’Av**

**August 8/8 Av**  
**August 9/9 Av**

Starts	Ends	
17:42	18:10	Johannesburg
18:09	18:36	Cape Town
17:25	17:53	Durban
17:45	18:13	Bloemfontein
17:40	18:08	Port Elizabeth
17:32	18:00	East London

## KASHRUT ALERT

### ORDER A FISH MEAL ON THE PLANE

THE CUSTOM is to refrain from eating meat during the Nine Days of Av (except Shabbat), which begins this Sunday night.

The kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues says those who do not wish to eat meat in their kosher

airline meals, must specifically request a kosher fish meal.

The kashrut department has arranged with El Al airlines that those wishing to eat a fish meal during the “Nine Days” must request “Special Kosher” when ordering their meals.

### FOOD ON 1TIME NOT BETH DIN-SUPERVISED

THE KASHRUT department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues advises that the food served as “kosher” on 1time Airline, is not supervised by the Beth Din.

“We have been advised that non-

kosher items are served in their so-called ‘Kosher Platter’. We have offered our services to 1Time in an effort to rectify this problem, but have not received a response as yet,” the kashrut department says in a media release.

## Tisha B’Av – it’s the saddest day in Jewish history

**RITA LEWIS**

THIS YEAR the fast day of Tisha B’Av, (the 9th of Av) which coincidentally falls on Tuesday, the 9th day of August is known as the “saddest day in Jewish history”.

As with all Jewish festivals and fasts, it starts on the previous night, in this case on Monday night and continues on to Tuesday evening. (See the schedule of fasting times above).

On this day the Book of Lamentations is traditionally read, followed by the kinnot, a series of liturgical lamentations.

In some Sephardi communities, it is also customary to read the Book of Job.

The fast primarily commemorates several events focusing on the destruction of both the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem which although occurring 656 years apart, happened on the same day.

The day also recalls other tragedies which have befallen the Jewish people: the sin of 10 of the 12 spies sent by Moses who spoke disparagingly about the Land of Canaan - the Promised Land.

The Torah relates how only two of the spies - Joshua and Caleb - brought a positive report back, while the others spoke disparagingly about the Land. This caused the Children of Israel to despair of ever entering the “Promised Land”.

For this lack of trust and faith in G-d’s promise that they would inherit the Land, they were punished by G-d: their generation would not be allowed to enter it.

Another tragedy was when the Romans crushed Bar Kochbar’s revolt and

destroyed the city of Betar, in the process killing over 100 000 Jews in 132 AD.

During Jewish history there have been other calamities which are also associated with the pain suffered on Tisha B’Av.

The First Crusade was declared by Pope Urban in 1095, killing 10 000 Jews in the first month and destroying Jewish communities

Other dreadful occurrences were when Jews were expelled from England in 1290 and later from Spain in 1492.

The First World War broke out, causing unprecedented devastation across Europe and set the stage for the Second World War and the killing of six million Jews (and many other people as well).

During the Holocaust, it was also on the day of Tisha B’Av 1942, that the mass deportation began of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto.

The fast basically follows the rules of those kept on Yom Kippur: the prohibition against eating or drinking, bathing, applying creams or oils, wearing leather shoes and having physical relations.

These are some of the same mourning customs which are observed in the shiva period immediately following the death of a close relative. These include sitting on low stools, refraining from work and not greeting others in a loud manner.

According to the Orthodox-Mizrachi establishment, combat soldiers are absolved of fasting on Tisha B’Av on the basis that it can endanger their lives. The latest of such decrees were issued during the Second Lebanon War by leading rabbinical authorities in Israel.

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# Bulawayo library named for Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft

DAVID SAKS  
PHOTOGRAPH: ANN HARRIS

IN ADDITION to the economic plight of the country as a whole, HIV/Aids and illness in general has greatly added to the daily hardship of life in Zimbabwe. Particularly poignant is the plight of countless children who as a result have no-one to care for them.

For several hundred such children, last month's opening of a small library in Bulawayo provided a much-needed educational and recreational facility. Perhaps even more importantly, however, it demonstrated that there are people, not just across the border but across the ocean as well and of different races and creeds, who still care about them.

The opening of the Rabbi Moshe Library at Bulawayo's Vulindledla Youth Centre, took place on July 25, in the presence of Bulawayo Mayor Councillor T P Moyo and other dignitaries. Named after Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader and CEO of the African Jewish Congress (AJC), it brought to fruition a trans-continental partnership involving the AJC, Australian Books for Children in Africa (ABCA) and the Support Group of Families of Terminally Ill (Sgofoti).

The latter was founded and is co-headed by Ruth Bolnick-Feigenbaum, a prominent member of the local Jewish community of many years' standing.

The origins of the project go back several years, when Sheryl Furman, formerly of Marquard in



Rabbi Silberhaft, David Grieves and Sgofoti children inside the library in Bulawayo.

the Free State, sent Rabbi Silberhaft several hundred books on behalf of ABCA for distribution in Zimbabwe.

After discussing the matter with Feigenbaum, it was decided to give half to Sgofoti and the remainder to primary schools in Bulawayo. An approach was then made to ABCA to donate a larger consignment of books to Sgofoti, with the aim of establishing a library for primary school learners.

In Australia, David Grieves duly undertook to provide this on behalf of ABCA. As part of his fundraising effort, he sold bookmarks made out of original Zimbabwean currency notes from the hyper-inflation years.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee also chipped in by contributing towards the transport of the books, over 3 000 of which were ultimately sent, and shelving for the library.

Grieves, Rabbi Silberhaft and AJC executive member Ann Harris, travelled to Bulawayo to take

part in the opening function. The latter commenced with prayers from representatives of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities, delivered by Hylton Solomon, president of the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation; Father Day; and Sheikh Ishmail Jassat.

Afterwards, short addresses were given by the mayor, Grieves, Feigenbaum and Rabbi Silberhaft, and the 300 children then sang traditional songs. A film crew from the SABC was also present to record the occasion, with a view to its inclusion in a documentary, scheduled to be shown in November.

In her closing remarks Patricia Tshabalala, who co-heads the running of Sgofoti with Feigenbaum, spoke with particular warmth about "her rabbi", Rabbi Silberhaft.

She stressed how much the library meant to the children in her care, since they now had a sanctuary in which to "hide from the evils of this world", increase their knowledge and no longer be lonely.



An employee at the cemetery in Ermelo, next to some of the vandalised graves. (PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)

## Are Jewish graves singled out for desecration?

DAVID SAKS

ATTACKS ON Jewish installations in South Africa happen very seldom in comparison with most other Diaspora countries. It is seldom that shuls or communal centres are targeted for so-called hate crimes, which can range from arson attacks to the mere daubing of offensive graffiti.

Unfortunately, while the Jewish living tend on the whole to be left in peace, the same is not true for the Jewish departed. Cemetery vandalism impacts on all faith communities in South Africa, but the evidence suggests that Jewish graves tend to be especially singled out for wanton destruction.

The most recent act of mass desecration has occurred in the Ermelo Jewish cemetery. In what an unnamed municipal official described as a "planned act" by unknown perpetrators, some 35 of the cemetery's 85 tombstones were toppled, and three of those have reportedly gone missing.

The attack is believed to have been carried out on the night of

July 21. According to the source, the perpetrators had been well equipped, since it was clear that a lot of force had been used.


There was no direct evidence, such as in the form of offensive graffiti, that the attack was motivated by anti-Semitism. However, the fact that only Jewish graves were targeted, strongly suggests an anti-Semitic motivation.

Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, whose country communities department within the SAJBD is responsible for maintaining some 220 country Jewish cemeteries, said that a photographic assessment of the extent of the damage was currently being conducted.

Afterwards, as has already been done in many Jewish cemeteries around the country, all the tombstones, whether damaged or not, would be laid flat in a bed of concrete to prevent future vandalism.

He added that any contributions towards this from former members of the Ermelo Jewish community or their descendants, would be greatly welcomed. He can be contacted in this regard at moshe@beyachad.co.za.

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# ‘Convoy to Gaza’ seems to splutter along through Africa

ALISON GOLDBERG

IN THE battle to win the hearts and minds of Africans, an anti-Israel aid convoy is crossing Africa to the Gaza Strip, to highlight a perceived humanitarian crisis there.

Al Quds and the Muslim Judicial Council of South Africa, who are steering the expedition, are not taking account of the daily conveyance of some 5 000 tons of food, fuel and aid from Israel into Gaza. In addition, say those who dispute the “facts” behind the convoy’s rationale, Israel provides 60 per cent of Gaza’s electricity and thousand of Gazans regularly receive medical treatment in the

Jewish State.

According to the Muslim Judicial Council, eight vehicles left Cape Town last Friday and were on their way to Johannesburg from Port Elizabeth and from there will leave for Malawi. They plan to arrive in Gaza towards the end of August.

The Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Centre, on June 12 estimated 75 participants in the convoy. This could be less, according to the MJC. It was suggested by the organisers that some of the participants and cargo would be flown from Durban to Alexandria on August 20.

A cargo ship with aid left on July 14 from Durban and is sched-

uled to arrive at the same time as the land convoy.

The overland convoy was initially routed to pass through Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Egypt. Because of unrest in Sudan and Kenya, the number of convoy vehicles has apparently been limited and they will now pass through fewer countries on their way to Egypt.

Another convoy has been arranged by an NGO called the South African Relief Agency (SARA). The date of departure of this convoy is unknown and has apparently been delayed due to difficulties in co-ordinating entrance into the Gaza Strip with the Egyptian authorities.

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### HOLOCAUST-ERA PROPERTY DATABASE BECOMES LARGEST

NEW YORK - A database of Holocaust-era property records has become the largest publicly available, single-source database of lost Jewish property assets from that era.

Project HEART-Holocaust Era Asset Restitution Taskforce, an initiative of the Jewish Agency for Israel, in co-operation with the government of Israel, announced last week that the database hit the 1,5 million mark in the number of available records.

The online database was unveiled on May 1 with 500 000 records. The records have been made available to help Jewish families identify personal property confiscated by the Nazis

and to help victims seek restitution, according to the project.

The records include property addresses, lists of homeowners, professions, lists of known confiscated properties, business directories, insurance policies and other archival information.

"This is the first worldwide list of property confiscated, looted or forcibly sold during the Holocaust era to be made available to survivors and their heirs," Anya Verkhovskaya, HEART project director, said, adding: "The response to the database has been overwhelming, with approximately 100 000 hits happening each week." (JTA)

# David Zidel wins at WBS ‘by the numbers’

ALISON GOLDBERG  
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

DAVID ZIDEL (pictured) of the Wits Business School has just been given the best “part-time lecturer” award for 2010 by the school.

The award, one of a few given by WBS every year to best part-time and fulltime lecturers, along with a



David Zidel.

couple of others, was for Zidel’s ability to convey difficult concepts and make them seem easy.

Zidel has been lecturing on an ad hoc basis at the school for 13 years. He specialises in making business calculations easy. He currently teaches “Business Calculations Simplified” and “The Principles of Finance and Accounts” in three courses at WBS: the Post-Graduate Diploma, the Management Advancement and the MBA.

After completing his MBA at WBS in 1993, Zidel was approached by the school in 1996 to assist in presenting the “Numeracy for Managers” module of WBS’s certificate programme in management development.

It was here that he realised that “business calculation skills in companies in South Africa are very weak. Many employees have an irrational fear of numbers.”

Zidel launched his first book on the subject in 2001: “Basic Business Calculations”. It was listed in fourth position of the top selling business books at Exclusive Books.

So far it has sold over 16 000 copies in South Africa.

His objective was to illustrate how easy most business calculations are and that with minimum skills, one can perform essential business calculations.

Both in his writing and lecturing, he aims to rid people of their fear of numbers. He wants to show that “people can change their approach to numbers and business calculations from foe to friend”.

Besides lecturing for WBS, he lectures directly to companies.

“Anyone who wants their staff to understand the basics of business calculations, income statements and balance sheets. I usually take them through a two-day course.”

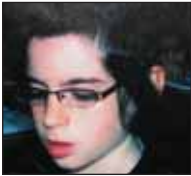
Zidel also recently completed a “Business Coaching” course through WBS.

In about two months’ time Zidel plans to release another book, this time on motivation generally, called “Life on the Run”. The book focuses on 18 steps to success.

After his MBA, he joined a consulting company, specialising in value creation. He developed financial models that reflected the operations of the company. This enabled the company to do “what if” analysis to measure the effect certain decisions would have on value created in the business.

# Worldwide Talmud study launch for Leiby Kletzky

MENDY RIMLER  
CHABAD LUBAVITCH  
HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK  
PHOTOGRAPH: WWW.IBTIMES.COM



Eight-year-old Leiby Kletzky.

CHABAD REPRESENTATIVES in communities around the world have launched a worldwide Talmud study programme in memory of Leiby Kletzky.

The eight-year-old Brooklyn boy was brutally murdered on July 13 after he was kidnapped when he asked someone to help him find his way home.

The tragedy left the local Jewish and broader community devastated, with many reaching out to do something to offset the darkness of this tragedy.

The Leiby Kletzky Memorial Foundation, established by Leiby’s parents, which has succeeded in raising \$247,983 in the two weeks since its establishment in Leiby’s memory, is one example of the prevalent goodwill by anyone who has learned of this tragedy. And now, thousands are expected to dedicate Talmud study in his memory as well.

Chabad representative in Cape Town, Rabbi Asher Deren, first floated the idea on an internal forum for Chabad shluchim.

“While studying the entire Mishna in memory of the deceased is widespread, rarely is the entire Talmud covered in the individual’s memory,” explained Rabbi Deren.

“But rarely was the international Jewish

community united in this way, when Leiby’s shining face captured the hearts of every Jewish person.”

The idea was developed by representatives of Shluchim Exchange – the Chabad shluchim’s intranet - and will be implemented in cities around the world At the site, [www.LeibyMemorial.com](http://www.LeibyMemorial.com) participants will have the option to study a page, a section or an entire tractate of the Talmud.

The site will serve as a 24-hour online support system for an international base of Talmud learners. Without necessitating an account or log-in, visitors can choose a portion of the Talmud, access links to Talmud lessons and record their achievements. Periodic e-mails will remind participants about their commitments.

For the uninitiated, the site offers the option to learn just one page. In this manner, “anyone can be a part of this programme”, said Rabbi Simcha Backman, a key co-ordinator in this project.

“This programme will unify all segments of communities all around the world, in memory of Leiby Kletzky,” said Backman, director of Chabad in Glendale, California.

A full cycle of Talmud study will be completed at least once before the “Shloshim” the 30th day of mourning for Leiby is over.

The goal of this project is to complete the entire shas by the 10 Av - August 10.

- To participate, click on <http://www.leibymemorial.com/index.html>



# Cycalive with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, spreads outreach wings

SUZANNE BELLING  
TORAH ACADEMY FILE  
PHOTOGRAPHS

CYCALIVE THE annual relay bicycle ride between Johannesburg and Durban with grade 11 boys from Torah Academy in Orchards, Pace Secondary School and Moletsane High School in Soweto, has expanded to become a massive outreach initiative in conjunction with the Nelson Mandela Foundation (NMF). After last year's ride, when Cycalive became the first event on the Nelson Mandela Day calendar, some of the cyclists have become an integral part in the diary of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, which included launching the 2011 Mandela Day, when they were among selected schools at the launch.

Nelson Mandela Foundation spokesman Sello Hatang, who, with Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, dean of Torah Academy, was instrumental in making Cycalive an official event on

the NM Day calendar, has told the rabbi: "We have a wonderful marriage between NMF and Cycalive."

Hatang offered to assist in involving businesses in the sponsorship of Cycalive, while Rabbi Hazdan pledged to direct 9 000 donated exercise books, to nine underprivileged schools chosen by the NMF.

NMF's chief executive, Achmat Dangor, said it remained the work of the Foundation to effect change within communities, empowering them to change the world around them.

Moshe Moch, one of Torah Academy's cyclists who will take part in the Johannesburg to Durban ride on August 21, has described Madiba as "an international icon for peace. He always looks forward to the future and never looks back in bitterness."

He said Mandela had a proactive approach. "We can learn from that that we all have the power to change the world."

Moshe said Cycalive for grade 11 learners from different cultural

and religious backgrounds, had undertaken a project which built bridges; formed bonds among young South Africans and their respective communities; inspired ubuntu, optimism and a commitment to a common goal for the future in this country.

Acts of goodness and kindness, with a proactive approach, were a challenge to every South African, said Moshe, issuing this challenge.

Torah Academy was also invited to participate in the launch involving university students and to the inauguration of the SAA fleet of aeroplanes bearing the Nelson Mandela logo.

Cycalive has employed a youth development officer, Given Shirinda, based at Torah Academy and operating in the townships, to broaden the scope of Cycalive, generating bursaries for learners, regardless of race or denomination, although preference will be given to Cycalive participants.

"It is amazing that students, who wear yarmulkes and tzitzit and who

are steeped in Torah values, are in the forefront of these outreach projects," said Rabbi Hazdan.

He announced that this year's Cycalive ride will include two learners from Durban, who will fly to Johannesburg and ride back to their hometown, and cyclists from Beit Shemesh in Israel, who are coming to South Africa under the auspices of Partnership 2000, to afford them the opportunity of participating in a bridge-building and "ubuntu" project.

The previously disadvantaged musicians from the Field Band Foundation will give the cyclists a send-off from Torah Academy on Sunday, August 21.

They will be met in Durban by municipal officials and the Durban Field Band after a procession through the streets of that city on Thursday, August 25.

Rabbi Hazdan, TA Boys' High School principal, Rabbi Motti Hadar and Pace principal, Dan Zimba, will accompany the cyclists on the journey.

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### IN WAKE OF NORWAY ATTACK, JEWISH SUMMER CAMPS TO GET BRIEFING

WASHINGTON - The Security Community Network is convening a conference call for organisers of Jewish camps and travel programmes, in the wake of the Norway massacre.

The call, which is set to take place this week, will feature security experts, including SCN director Paul Goldenberg.

"This unprecedented violent and targeted attack against a youth camp sent shock waves around the world," said a flyer sent out by the network, which is funded by the Jewish Federations of North America.

The attacker killed 68 people, including youths as young as 14, in a shooting spree at a camp near Oslo, as well as eight people in a bombing in downtown Oslo.

"The targeting of children, the sheer number of casualties and duration of the attack left many questioning, 'How could this happen?!'" SCN said in its flyer. "While a mass shooting event is a rare occurrence and unlikely event, by their very nature, camps in general remain a vulnerable 'soft target' that have been the target of past terror plots and attacks."

Along with Goldenberg, the call will include commentary from William Ryan, a protective security adviser at the US Department of Homeland Security, and Jeffrey Slotnick, a security adviser to SCN. (JTA)



Cyclists setting off from Torah Academy in last year's Cycalive.



Grade 11 participants in this month's Cycalive: Thando Sithebe (Pace Commercial Secondary School); Stanley Khanye (Moletsane High School); and Moshe Moch (Torah Academy Boys' High School), at the launch of the 2011 Nelson Mandela Day events.

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Topic: Urban Legends Decoded: From the Blood Libel to the Myths of 9/11 and Beyond



### BARBARA SPECTRE

Director of Paideia, the European Institute of Jewish Studies in Sweden

Topic: Lady Luck: Fate, Destiny and the Book of Esther



### DAVID NEWMAN

Dean of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences at Ben Gurion University

Topics: Drawing The Borders of a Two-State Solution & Academic Boycotts



### MERLE WILLIAMS

Professor of English at Wits University

Topic: To The End of the Land: David Grossman and the cost of Israel's Wars



### RENNEY PLIT

Property developer and CEO of the Afhco Group

Topic: Jews for Jo'burg: The Impact of Jews on the Rejuvenation of the Johannesburg Inner City



### KAY ANDREWS

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Salome Moffson, Bess Havar and Laura Sher.



Ivor Davis with Helen Wolfson.



Isaac Reznik recalls a lifetime of radio memories.

# Reznik takes audience on a nostalgic trip

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

THE TRIP down Memory Lane that Isaac Reznik took everyone on at the Zionist Luncheon Club last Friday when he talked about “Radio then and radio today”, bore testimony again not only how phenomenal his memory is, but also how easily we can forget things.

Reznik who used no notes, never showed a single moment of hesitation as he jumped from programme to programme; announcer to announcer; person to person, recalling the names of the different producers, well-known actors, film stars and other personalities who were, in their time, household names.

Reznik started at the very beginning of radio when, in 1935 under Isadore W Schlesinger, the first ever broadcast was made - from what was then Broadcast House in the Johannesburg CBD. (The building has since been turned into a warehouse.)

A year later, the then government took over broadcasting rights and disallowed anything but church services to be aired on Sundays.

As an alternative to the restrictive programming, LM Radio came into being, aired from (then) Lourenco Marques, while Springbok Radio started as the first commercial radio station in South Africa.

With Eric Egan – the first Springbok Radio presenter – radio came alive with the soon added attraction of quizzes, plays, talk shows and soapies, which were imported

from the US and Australia.

Reznik interspersed his talk with questions to his audience, such as: “Who remembers this or that from the Goon Show?; Men from the Ministry; Consider your Verdict; a programme much loved by women, From Crystal with Love”, etc.

Despite there being some 50 or 60 people in the room and all coming from that age group, few people were able to answer any of the questions posed – although everyone eventually recalled the events, programmes and personalities.

Many in the audience nodded their heads in recognition at the mention of what were at the time, household names such as Gordon Mulholland; Sydney James; Spike Milligan; Paul Temple; Marjorie Gordon; Paddy O’Byrne; Muriel Alexander; Percy Baneshik, etc.

Reznik recalled how no tea or coffee was allowed into the studios in case something was spilt and made a noise while broadcasting was in progress.

The year 1982 brought an end to this type of radio, which had been, and until then still was, such a powerful medium.

Television – which had started in 1976 in South Africa – was fast taking over from radio.

Reznik talked about the start of this new medium, which brought – and brings - instantaneous news and views to the entire world, as well as a host of other entities.

He said television had taken over where radio had left off, fighting popular soapies like Dallas, Rich Man Poor Man and World

at War.

He regretted many of the changes which occurred, such as the bad standard of announcers, the lowering of the quality of many previously excellent programmes and the inevitable takeover of the Internet.

In his vote of thanks to Reznik, Ivor Davis said Reznick was a mine of information, “bringing back memories of events, people and entertainment almost long forgotten”.

There’s a belief that an elephant never forgets – seemingly, neither does Isaac Reznik. He is the consummate “knower of what’s going on”.



Dr Simmy Swartz with sisters Leah Light and Matti Halpern.



Hymie Sacks, Benny Jubiler and Gideon Shimoni.



Stella Brouwer and Toubé Sacké.



Benny Jubiler thinks about the films.

Three friends with a total age of 202, Zaggy Zagnoev; Isaac Joffe, South African Over 80s tennis champion in 2005; with renowned gynaecologist, Herbie Kramer.



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## COMMUNITY BUZZ

### LIONEL SLIER

082-444-9832, fax: 011-440-0448,  
lionel.slier@absamail.co.za

### JOHANNESBURG

From Sylvia Shapshak, about her grand-mother’s shop:

“I do not think I ever saw Granny write anything down, but she had a fantastic memory and was an excellent business woman. She was probably dyslexic as it ran in her parents’ family.

“She had been left a widow at an early age - my grandfather Victor Nohr died at the age of 45 in 1921 - and she had six daughters to bring up, the youngest only about four years. “She had come out from Latvia to join my grandfather with the four daughters she then had; two more daughters were born in Johannesburg. She never spoke English properly, but nevertheless coped well.

“When she was left in Riga for several years, she opened a shop to support herself and her children.

“Granny Nohr was a competent woman. She cooked well without ever using a recipe. When asked, she explained you need a ‘bisela’ of this or that. She coped with looking after a small granddaughter (that ‘s me”).

### JOHANNESBURG/MAYFAIR

From Tutsie Wexler:

“Whenever one sees a Mayfairite, it’s like water in the desert. The past immediately comes up and people are discussed, those living as well as those who have passed on.

“Like a kaleidoscope, all these wonderful people wade through my poor fading memory, hence these stories before I forget.

“Them, with all their traditional love of Judaism with its heimische rebbe, catering delights, tzolent, kishke, kreplach, kitke, hamantashen, lokshen, farfel, oneg Shabbat, imbued my generation with all that is good.

“A good deal of this, I am happy to write, has been instilled into our offspring, our congregations and our fellow South African Jews, with whom we come into contact.

“As in the American Pete Smith’s ‘Passing Parade’ supporting programme movie shorts of yesteryear, so I must end my very own ‘Nechticer Yorren’ with respect to those who have passed on and ‘good health’ to those lucky enough to still be around. Finally, to all survivors, what about an exchange of photographs?”

### TO THE PEOPLE OF ROBERTSON

From Marc Kopman: Die Oude Kombuis Restaurant:

“Last December, I visited your lovely town to view one of our client’s wine farms in the area and when I was finished there, I took the opportunity to explore the town for various places of interest including the synagogue as well as the Jewish cemetery.

“For the past 29 years having lived both in the Free State and Eastern Cape Border and having travelled extensively across southern Africa, I developed my hobby of researching/photographing Jewish communities in the ‘platteland’.

“I eventually came across the excellent restaurant (most impressive chef and service including the fine shop) and on my way out noticed above the exit archway the words ‘shalom’ painted there in red.

“Being Jewish, I know this to be a greeting as well as a farewell, but I am intrigued and curious to how it got there.

“Looking forward in anticipation to any explanation on this.”

\* This town is about 180 km north-east of Cape Town in the Breede Rivier Valley. It is named after Dr William Robertson, the first Dutch Reformed minister in Clanwilliam and later Swellendam (1834-71).

### ORPHANS IN THE 2ND WORLD WAR

From Don Krausz:

“In the closing months of the Second World

War, the Swedish Red Cross received permission from Heinrich Himmler to take about 7 000 Jews from the German concentration camps to Sweden. My mother and sister were included among these miraculously saved people.

“Eventually my mother, sister and I were united with each other and joined her family, most of who were living in South Africa.

“My mother tried to remain in contact with those whom she had befriended in the concentration camps. She received a letter from a Rebbetzen Duckash who had also reached Sweden and was involved there with the welfare of Jewish orphans rescued from the camps.

“At that time General Jannie Smuts was prime minister. A group of orphans from Germany had been brought into the country and was absorbed by the local Afrikaans and German communities.

“My mother was then contacted by Mrs

Duckash who requested that my mother make enquiries on behalf of the Jewish orphans for whom she was caring in Sweden. At that time the Aliens Act which limited immigration into South Africa, was still in effect.


“My mother contacted the Jewish Board of Deputies who in turn directed their enquiries to the relevant (government) department at the Union Buildings.


“Eventually an answer was received informing the Board of the decision by the government to allow a number of Jewish orphans from Sweden into South Africa. However, they stipulated that such orphans could not be older than 13 years.

“My mother was only too happy to convey this news of the compassion of the South African government to Mrs Duckash, but within a short while the horrible truth became clear: There were no Jewish orphans below that age among the 7 000 Jewish survivors in Sweden.”

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# The countdown to Jewish Achiever Awards function

### PETER FELDMAN

TENSION IS mounting as the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards reaches its climax next Thursday, August 11, when the winners of the seven awards will be announced.

A “first” this year is that previous winners will hand over the awards to current winners, which makes a wonderful change from previous events.

The judges have made their decisions and the feedback has been tremendous. They said entries - as ever - were of a particularly high standard and they had great difficulty in selecting the winners. They indicated that a Special Award will also be made on the night.

The three business awards were judged by a strong panel which operated independently of the SA Jewish Report. It was also audited by PKS, an independent company.

The judges this year were Steven Blend, a renowned South African and international entrepreneur; Oscar Jacobsohn, relations executive at Absa Bank; Geoff Rothschild, executive director of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange; and Dr (Deenadayalen) Len Konar, a director of several top companies. The convener was financial executive, Norman Lowenthal, who had no voting power.

The other awards were judged by members of the Board of the SA Jewish Report.

The names of the previous award winners - an elite group of people - who will hand over the prizes are:

Mr Justice Arthur Chaskalson, former chief justice and president of the Constitutional Court, who will present the Helen Suzman Lifetime Achiever Award. Business legend Solly Krok will present the Special Award. Dr Ali Bacher will present the Sports/Arts/Science & Culture Award. Adrian Gore, CEO of Discovery, will present the Community Service Award. Ann Harris wife of the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris will present the Cyril Harris Humanitarian Award.

Stephen Koseff, CEO of Investec, will hand over the Johnnie Walker Entrepreneur Award. Eric Samson, chairman of Macsteel, will present the Absa Non-Listed Company



**An attractive violinist duo, consisting of Jean-Louise and Lizzie Rennie, calling themselves Violation, will provide musical diversion during the evening. (PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED)**

Award and Brett Levy of Blue Label Telecoms will present the Absa Listed Company Award.

The guest speaker is Mandy Wiener, the Talk Radio 702 journalist and best-selling author of “Killing Kebble”, who will talk about her book and her work.

Another well-known name to grace the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards is popular entertainer Harry Sideropoulos, who will serve as MC and also do his own musical thing.

A musical diversion will be provided by the attractive duo, Violation, who specialise in melodic jazz-classical sounds. They are Jean-Louise and Lizzie Rennie.

The Absa Jewish Achiever Awards, which is the most prestigious event on the Jewish social and business calendar, has received a record number of 144 entries this year.

The awards presented on the night are:  
Business – Absa Listed Company Award  
Business – Absa Non-listed Company Award

Business – Johnnie Walker Entrepreneur award

The Helen Suzman Lifetime Achiever Award

The Community Service Award

The Arts Science, Sports & Culture Award

The Cyril Harris Humanitarian Award – the recipient of this award could come from either the Jewish or non-Jewish community.

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# David Bullard still unrepentant, still out to lunch...



(PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.BOOKSLIVE.CO.ZA)

LIONEL SLIER

JOURNALIST David Bullard's (pictured) disdain for political correctness – as strong today as ever – got him famously – or infamously – fired as a highly popular columnist of 14 years, on the mass circulation Sunday Times, for perceived racism.

He didn't hide his disdain for the way the paper handled the matter, calling newspapers "the real threat" to media freedom. He called our papers "an insult to our intellectual capital".

Bullard regaled a packed house audience at Second Innings recently about his sacking in his column, "Out To Lunch".

His columns have been collected into three volumes and when the third book

appeared, after he was sacked in 2008, Mondli Makhanya, the then editor of the paper who had sacked him, wrote a recommendation: "David Bullard's weekly 'Out to Lunch' column is the finest example of the benefits of a free and unshackled press. Let's hope it continues to be so."

"I want to speak about the media and local perceptions," he told his audience. "Dominic Strauss Kahn was the head of the International Monetary Fund, who was sitting on a Paris bound plane at the airport in New York on a Friday, when he was hauled off by American police and taken to jail, charged with the rape of a maid at the hotel where he had been staying."

Kahn had been challenging Nicolas Sarkozy for the presidency of France and

he had also been asking European countries to cut back on their expenditure.

"On the Monday (after the Friday arrest), Kahn was shown on American TV, unshaven and wearing the same shirt that he had on when he was arrested and doing what is called the 'perp walk'. The 'perp walk' is when the perpetrator is paraded in front of the world's cameras, when the prosecution feel they have a reasonable case against a person.

"So Kahn was judged by the media there and considered as being guilty, regardless of the evidence still to be led."

Kahn (who resigned his IMF position) will never get his job back, nor his reputation.

"This," said Bullard, "is exactly the same as being called a racist in South Africa. When I was judged by the Sunday Times to be racist, posters were displayed all over town and this was done by the paper, just so they would look good."

Added Bullard: "I had been asked to do a charity auction, but the advertising agency organising the auction, cancelled it as they had been informed that black people objected to being in the same room as a racist.

"I must have been at over 40 meetings to give my side of the story, but innocence does not exist in my case."

Talking about the Public Information Bill before a parliamentary committee at present, Bullard thought it was encouraging that the Bill was actually being debated, because politicians liked to keep their information secret.

"But," he added, "the real threat to press freedom here is coming from the newspapers themselves.

"If I look at some of the stuff that is printed, the sort of drivel and the dumbing down and you mark the interesting things in green, you will find very little green," he asserted.

"The trouble in South Africa is to get the demographics right. As in sports, the government has decreed that 80 per cent of the staff have to be black. There is the complaint that companies on the Stock Exchange are 78 per cent white owned. In 1994 we had a democratic election, so what difference does it make how the wealth in the country is created and what the colour of the skin is?

"I don't mind if the entire JSE was run by competent black management as long as wealth is created."

About the future, Bullard said: "The Internet is going to be here. Potential audiences will get news on Facebook and Twitter and yet the government is planning to punish the media. It is 15 years out of date. It is living in Cloud-Cuckoo Land."

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## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### JONATHAN POLLARD UNDERGOES 'URGENT' SURGERY

BUTNER - Convicted spy for Israel Jonathan Pollard, was taken to a civilian hospital to undergo what was described in reports as "urgent" surgery.

Pollard was removed on Tuesday from the federal prison in Butner, North Carolina, for the surgery, according to Israeli news sites. The prison would not confirm that Pollard had been taken to a hospital.

Pollard has been in poor health, including a deterioration of his kidney problems. His wife, Esther, had come from Israel to North Carolina to visit him before the surgery.

Israel's ambassador to the United States, Michael Oren, visited Pollard in prison last week. Pollard called on Oren to seek his release from President Barack Obama.

Pollard was not allowed to visit his father on his deathbed or to attend his father's funeral earlier this summer, despite appeals from Israeli officials and supporters.

Pollard was a US Navy civilian analyst when he was arrested in 1985 for spying for Israel. He is serving a life sentence. (JTA)





# Symbolic climb of Kilimanjaro ‘to save a child’s heart’

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH  
BY MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN sisters Mikhaela and Erin Levitas plan to summit Mount Kilimanjaro from August 9 – 16, as part of a 20-strong team of climbers from around the world who hope to raise \$1 million for Israeli organisation Save a Child’s Heart (SACH).

SACH brings children from all over the developing world - many from Africa - to Israel to have life-saving heart surgery that they are unable to have in their home countries and creates centres of competence in these countries.

SACH was started by paediatric heart surgeon Ami Cohen who died of altitude sickness on Kilimanjaro 10 years ago. It is as a memorial to him that Climb Your Heart Out: Mount Kilimanjaro 2011, hopes to raise the money to save the lives of 100 African children - the largest fundraiser in the organisation’s 15-year history.

While law student Mikhaela (23) is an experienced climber, having done “Kili” before and having just returned from a three-week expedition ice-climbing in the Himalayas, personal trainer-in-training Erin (22) does regular hikes up Table Mountain but hasn’t tackled the “big names” before. Nevertheless, she is “very excited” at the prospect, particularly at going with a sister who has “been there, done that”.

“Kilimanjaro’s always been on my ‘bucket list’ - so hopefully, I can tick that one off,” she laughs. “Basically, we’re just very excited



**Mikhaela and Erin Levitas plan to summit Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for Israeli organisation Save a Child’s Heart.**

to have an opportunity to bond,” they say in unison.

The girls were taken up Table Mountain in backpacks from a young age, so climbing is second nature to them. “It’s pretty much my passion and what I do every weekend,” says Mikhaela who is chairman of the UCT Mountain and Ski Club.

Erin, who is dyslexic and has written a book about her school experiences and gives motivational talks on children with special needs, agrees that the perseverance she has developed along the way will stand her in good stead for this challenge. “I think I cope best in difficult situations,” she reflects.

The pair will meet the SACH team in Arusha at the base of Kilimanjaro, where they will start the climb. Mikhaela has established an NGO, African Ascent Project, in nearby Moshi that clothes and improves the quality of life of the porters accompanying

climbers up Kilimanjaro and is also providing the equipment for doctors joining the climb.

Porters sometimes die on the mountain due to inadequate clothing and this is what inspired her to become involved. The hut that houses the clothing at the base will bear the name of Ami Cohen and SACH.

As to the particular challenges of ascending Africa’s highest peak (5 895 metres), Mikhaela considers altitude to be the most daunting. “I struggle with (it) - hopefully Erin’s not going to have any issues.

To qualify for selection, each participant had to raise \$10 000 - the cost of saving one child’s life - and be in a fit condition to undertake such an expedition. The girls pay tribute to the generosity of the Cape Town community in this regard and particularly to Eric and Sheila Samson.

Mikhaela has volunteered at the SACH house in Israel on two occasions, helping to provide a loving environment for the children who have come for heart surgery. Both girls plan to offer their services there in the near future and stress that anyone is welcome to visit or volunteer.

SACH runs leadership programmes for young people in Israel and trains doctors from around the world, including from the Palestinian Authority, in cardiac surgery.

If you wish to donate to the ongoing SACH campaign, please contact Esta Levitas at levitas@mweb.co.za, 082-561-1586 or www.saveachildsheart.org

# On a flight full of hope and spirit, to Israel

THE ISRAEL Centre’s second Red Carpet Aliyah Flight departed for Israel on Monday July 25, with 18 eager olim. This was the beginning of their journey home.

In a media release the Israel Centre said that at the farewell held for the olim, Nathanel Gozlan the Netzer shaliach, told the olim: “It is a courageous and hard decision that you have all made, but congratulations and welcome home. I look forward to seeing you in our homeland.”

Our oldest oleh on our Aliyah Summer Flight was Mannie Kotzen who will be turning 90 this year. Mannie left South Africa on his own to join up with his son and the rest of his family in Israel, after 40 years of being apart. What a remarkable feat - only 90 years young and starting a new life in Israel!



**Mannie Kotzen was the oldest oleh on the flight.**

We wish our olim the best of luck in starting their new lives in Eretz Yisrael.

• For more details on our next Aliyah Flight departing on October 24, contact the Israel Centre on (011) 645-2560 or e-mail Aliyah@israelcentre.co.za

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### BLOOMBERG TO MUSLIM LEADERS: 'SHALOM ALAIKUM'

NEW YORK - New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, accidentally addressed Muslim leaders at a Ramadan gathering with a "Shalom".

Bloomberg apparently had intended to say “Salaam aleikum”, a traditional Arabic greeting, to those gathered at the July 27 event at New York’s police headquarters. But instead the

mayor said, "Shalom alaikum".

“Well, it’s common to both religions,” Imam Omar Abunamous of the Islamic Cultural Center of New York told the New York Daily News. "They are the same thing. The same idea."

Like its Arabic counterpart, the Hebrew phrase "Shalom aleichem" is a greeting that means "peace be upon you". (JTA)

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# The Pretoria Hebrew Congregation's 10th Anniversary Gala Evening of Jewish Music

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**7:30 pm - Commencement of entertainment**

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Women's Organizations of S.A. and The Judith Harrisberg Memorial Fund.



# Women: still a long walk to freedom

WOMEN’S DAY in our country, which is next Tuesday, is reason for celebrating women and their achievements, and the progress they have made over centuries to achieve full equality in societies which often relegated them to second class status.

Women’s rights to equality are not something men should confer on them as a “privilege”. They are inherent, and were realised over centuries of struggle. We look with a wry smile today at the bra-burning and other features of the Women’s Lib movement of the ’60s. Like any revolution, it went overboard at times. But it was necessary to make the point, even if it seems quaint history today.

There was also an opposing image of women at that time, against which Women’s Libbers were rebelling, epitomised by ubiquitous posters of a pretty little housewife at home wielding her “precious” Hoover and sporting a smile, as if it fully satisfied her needs of self-expression. That image also seems quaint today.

The older generation of black women in South Africa and Jewish women have much in common - both have an innate strength. The former held their families together in far-flung rural areas while their men were away for months and years in the cities and mines working as migrant labourers; Jewish women did this in “der heim”, in the old countries of Eastern Europe - Lithuania, Belarus, etc - where they raised families and often ran businesses under conditions of poverty and pogroms while their men were out seeking a living.

This quality continues in their descendants here and elsewhere. One doesn’t think of Jewish women as lightweight, but as a force to be reckoned with, both as individuals and in powerful women’s organisations active in South African Jewry over a long period of time.

But sadly, Women’s Day also carries a sombre message - that the rate of rape of women in South Africa is among the highest in the world. It is a reality of which we should be utterly ashamed.

Scholarly studies such as one at Georgetown University in the United States say that “according to studies compiled by Interpol, an international organisation co-ordinating police co-operation in member states, more rapes are committed in South Africa per capita than in any other country in the world”.

The government-funded Medical Research Foundation is reported on the Rape Survivor Journey website as saying in a truly astounding 2010 study that in Gauteng, more than 37 per cent of men said they had raped a woman. Nearly seven per cent of the 487 men surveyed said they had participated in a gang rape.

Rape is not about sex, but power and its achievement through violence. The rape statistics are a sign our society contains alarming underlying violence, which is sometimes latent but which is easily provoked.

Women’s Day is as much about men - or perhaps even more - as about women. As a poster seen on street poles in Johannesburg puts it: “REAL MEN don’t abuse their women!”

We have a great historical example of women’s combined action in this country - in 1956, 20 000 marched together to Pretoria’s Union Buildings to protest the apartheid government’s pass laws. It is difficult today to understand what guts it took to do that under the oppressive regime of the time. They weren’t marching specifically for women’s issues, but they were women. A well-known slogan grew out of that event - “Wathint’ abafazi, wathint’ imbokodo” (“You strike the woman, you strike the rock”).

There is no more meaningful task for women today than to stand together in their hundreds of thousands and demand that the scourge of rape be addressed urgently and vigorously. Men should follow their lead, also in their hundreds of thousands.

Perhaps it could start with a new women’s march, and not stop until the message gets through, and true leadership arises from the government or elsewhere with the courage and determination to do something about the stain on our society rape represents. Women’s Day would be a fitting beginning for such a campaign, and a tribute to the immense power of women when they choose to use it.

## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# With protests, Israelis are seeking the revival of a welfare state

LESLIE SUSSE  
JERUSALEM

THE WAVE of protests sweeping Israel is about much more than the lack of affordable housing: It’s a grass-roots demand for the major redistribution of the nation’s wealth.

In social terms, protesters are calling for a more caring government attuned to the needs of young, middle-class citizens who serve in the army, pay heavy taxes and provide the engine driving the country’s burgeoning economy.

In economic terms, it is a call for the reversal of nearly three decades of fiscal conservatism at the expense of social services such as education, health and welfare, as well as an appeal against eroding salaries and rising prices.

In other words, the protesters are demanding that today’s thriving free-market Israel use its wealth to create conditions for a restoration of at least some elements of the long-defunct Israeli welfare state.

As an estimated 150 000 people demonstrated last Saturday night in 12 locations across the country, the central theme was a demand for “social justice”. To some, it was reminiscent of the student revolt in Paris in the late 1960s: an alliance of students, workers and, in the Israeli case, a large, financially strapped middle class of people mostly in their 20s and 30s, demanding a new economic order.

But there were key differences: In the Israeli case, there was no violence. Instead, there was a veiled, largely unspoken threat: that if the government fails to act and middle-class people continue to struggle to make ends meet, many more of the best and brightest would leave for countries where there is no defence burden and it’s easier to make a living.

As the protests entered their third week, the great Israeli paradox loomed large: Never has the country been economically stronger, yet never have so many of its young people felt so frustrated at their own personal financial status.

The current situation is partly a result of a constitutional lacuna.

In the mid-1990s, a number of basic laws were passed - together they are eventually meant to form the basis of a constitution for Israel. One of the laws, on the dignity and freedom of man, enshrined property rights, but a balancing companion act on social rights continues to be held up. It would deal with issues like the right to housing, education, health and welfare, and set parameters of state responsibility for their provision.

The bill again is on the agenda, promoted by Meretz Knesset member Zahava Gal-On.

But the country’s current socio-economic predicament goes much deeper than any law; it is the result of more than two decades of a virtually consistent small government economic policy.

The turning point came in 1985, with inflation running at over 450 per cent per annum. It became clear that Israel could no longer afford to maintain the old-style, government-subsidised welfare state.

The economic stability plan introduced by then-Prime Minister Shimon Peres and then Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, entailed stringent cuts in government spending. With its dramatic success in saving the economy, the small government approach quickly became economic orthodoxy.

The economic buzzword in the 1990s was privatisation, started by the Likud, taken on board by Labour and then accelerated by Benjamin Netanyahu.



**Housing protests roil Israel as tent cities pop up. Young Israelis seen near tents set up on Rothschild Avenue in Tel Aviv are pressing the Israeli government to find a solution to the soaring cost of housing, July 26, 2011. (LIRON ALMOG/FLASH90/JTA)**

When he first became prime minister in 1996, Netanyahu spoke of a thin man, the private sector, tottering under the weight of a fat man, the public sector, and vowed to turn things around.

Netanyahu had a strong ideological commitment to free market forces, privatising government companies and outsourcing social services.

This meant the accelerated handover of services to the private sector that once were the sole preserve of government. It was accompanied by a weakening of trade unions and an overall erosion of working conditions and salaries.

The result? Owners and a select few mega-salaried executives became richer and the middle class relatively poorer. It also led to the rise of the Israeli tycoons, who controlled a great deal of the country’s wealth and power. Banks, energy companies, supermarket chains and media properties all were concentrated in the hands of a dozen or so billionaire families.

Netanyahu’s economic philosophy also entailed a reduction of corporate taxes. Big companies paid five per cent to 20 per cent income tax, while the middle class saw the prices of everything from food to cars to apartments rise considerably.

The system produced impressive economic growth but left wealth in the hands of the few. The trickle-down effect, middle-class Israelis said, had failed to materialise.

The upshot was that by May 2010, Israel’s economy was robust enough for Israel to be admitted to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - the exclusive club of the world’s strongest economies known as the OECD. But Israel also was the OECD member with the biggest gaps between rich and poor.

Some blame preferential spending on settlements in the West Bank for the lack of funds for social services in Israel. Others focus on welfare for the growing haredi Orthodox population in Israel. Still others point to the limited taxation of the tycoons - tax concessions nationwide are estimated at approximately \$11 billion per year, about 11 per cent of the national budget.

For years, middle-class discontent simmered under the surface, always eclipsed by security concerns or peacemaking moves. For embattled Israel, peace and security inevitably took top priority.

Until now. With terrorism virtually nonexistent and the peace process deadlocked, young Israelis have turned their attention toward generating a mass movement against the socio-economic system.

Their anti-establishment energy took the form of street protests because there is a strong sense that none of the traditional parties represents their interests, and Israel has a long history of street protests, encompassing everything from Ethiopian immigration to the campaign to release captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

For the most part, the protests have not been focused. But now the leaders of the protest movement are formulating a list of concrete demands and general principles for change.

These are expected to include demands for public housing on a large-scale; major tax reforms that would increase taxation of the super-rich and lower indirect taxes on the general public; a shift in budgetary priorities, transferring part of the defence budget and the increased tax money from the rich to fund social services; and demands for Israel to comply with OECD averages when it comes to the numbers of doctors, policemen and firemen per thousand citizens, and the number of children in classrooms.

Netanyahu has set up committees to examine all the relevant economic issues and to negotiate with the protesters, who are likely to be backed by trade union boss Ofer Eini. The prime minister almost certainly will produce a new economic plan, but it may not be enough. What the people are demanding is a new social contract.

The political question is whether this could have an impact on the next election, scheduled for 2013, and the agenda over which it will be fought. That depends on how pressing security issues are around that time and whether these protesters can sustain enough momentum to translate their street movement into real political power. (JTA)



## OPINION AND ANALYSIS – FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# There's a golden Jewish thread running through Mandela's life

IN A few weeks' time, the SAJBD's new book *Jewish Memories of Mandela* (co-produced with the Umoja Foundation) will become available. I was lucky enough to be tasked with drafting the text for this, which to say the least made a happy change from continually having to, Sisyphus-like, deploy my professional skills in confronting the same old anti-Israel propaganda.

While great fun to undertake (being congenitally sentimental, I love happy endings), the project had its fair share of challenges. An especially difficult aspect was maintaining the line between what could be regarded as legitimately taking pride in what Jews, whether individually or as a group, have contributed and inappropriate collective bragging.

The children of anti-apartheid veterans, especially the more radical ones, tend to have an unusual number of psychological hang-ups to deal with. Activists who devoted themselves heart and soul to the greater cause of South African liberation (especially when this was fuelled by the secular messianic fervour of the Marxism) frequently did so at the expense of their parental duties.

All too often, though, they were not only “not there” in a physical sense, but in spirit as well. To this day, descendants of Struggle veterans are nursing emotional scars. They also continue to harbour much resentment over the perception that mainstream Jewry has pushed in to claim the credit for their parents’ sacrifices now that it is fashionable (and safe) to do so.

A flaw in the latter view is that it treats the Jewish leadership of today and that of 50 years ago, as one and the same, as if people can never be allowed to admit they were wrong and try to make amends.

Still, there is enough truth in the above to hurt. It remains a disappointing reality that an overly cautious community leadership pointedly dissociated themselves from Jewish activists, especially after they fell foul of the law. Even Jews who scrupulously worked within legal parameters, such as Helen



# BARBARIC YAWP

**David Saks**

Suzman and Arthur Chaskalson, received no formal nod of recognition from the Jewish mainstream during the apartheid era.

Unfortunately, I now risk lurching to the other extreme by indulging in what has been dismissed as “breast-beating and self-flagellation” by Jews over their collective moral failings under apartheid.

Apart from anything else, it calls to mind what Herbert Tarr characterised as “trying to out-humble Uriah Heep”, the Jewish put-down for which is “Don’t try to make yourself so small - you’re not that big”.

Yidden shouldn't act as if their collective behaviour prior to the democratic transition is somehow one of the great burning questions of Struggle history.

As all this backing-and-forthing suggests, getting the tone in a book on Mandela and the Jews of South Africa exactly right, was formidably difficult, and I am far from confident that I pulled it off.

Tone issues aside, though, the bare facts are striking enough to carry the narrative forward. So remarkably comprehensive has been the extent of Jewish involvement in Mandela's illustrious career that it would seem to go beyond what can be said to have occurred in the normal course of events.

Non-religious people will resist that notion of course, but even they will be hard-put to explain why Jewish South Africans, whose community of origin comprised barely three per cent of the white population, came to play so disproportionate a part in the Mandela saga.

Mandela's first white friends following his arrival in Johannesburg were all Jews. Liberal white Christians of the Trevor Huddle-

ston-Helen Joseph stamp, could as easily have initially befriended him, but it never happened that way.

It was a Jewish law firm that first took him on as an articulated clerk, and two other Jewish firms that engaged him subsequently while he finished his training.

That the ranks of white anti-apartheid activists were dominated by Jews, is already well known. Less so is how many Jewish lawyers helped defend Mandela in politically-related cases. (In a bizarre irony - for me, it only reinforces the conviction that a "Higher Destiny" was shaping events - the state prosecutor in the trial that consigned Mandela et al to life imprisonment, Percy Yutar, was also Jewish).

The Jewish thread continues throughout Mandela's years in jail, most notably in the terrier-like determination of Progressive Party MP Helen Suzman to bring about improvements in prison conditions.

Locally and abroad, Jews were prominent in campaigns to free Mandela and other political prisoners. Even the medical practitioners and lawyers providing their services to Mandela during his incarceration, were Jews (one of whom, Cape Town dentist Maurice Kolevsohn, nearly found himself caught in the middle of a reckless escape bid, called off at the last moment).

After 1990, Jewish involvement in the Mandela story continued, now with such familiar names as Ali Bacher, Raymond Ackerman and Sol Kerzner playing their part. Jewish communal representatives also at last came to the fore, most memorably in the case of Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, ztl.

All in all, it is an amazing story. South African Jews, notwithstanding their tendency to be diffident about their achievements, ended up writing an especially honourable chapter in Diaspora Jewish history.

At a time when our enemies are doing all they can to hang the apartheid labels around our collective necks, and are being allowed to make considerable headway in that regard, it is important to put all of this on the record.

# AROUND THE WORLD

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## LIBERAL US GROUPS BACK ISRAEL PROTESTERS

WASHINGTON - At least three liberal US Jewish groups have expressed support for burgeoning social justice protests in Israel.

The protests, bringing together housing shortage protesters, strikers in various professions and those seeking food subsidies, as well as myriad other groups, saw 150 000 people demonstrating across the country last Saturday night.

The New Israel Fund is helping to fund tent camp protests in major cities.

"What began as a local protest has grown as the Israeli public has stood for its rights and demanded a more equitable division of resources from the government," said Rachel Liel, the group's Israel director.

Ameinu, a progressive Zionist group, wrote an open letter to the protest groups.

## JUDOKU APP - JEWISH VERSION OF SUDOKU - RELEASED FOR IPAD

NEW YORK - Judoku, a Jewish version of Sudoku, has been released as an application for the iPad.

The game uses Jewish symbols such as a Star of David and shofar, or letters of the Hebrew alphabet, in place of numbers. It also includes humorous explanations of the Jewish symbols.

Judoku creator Andrew Charon created a successful mobile Sudoku app before turning to the Jewish version.

"The nationwide protests in which you are engaging are an inspiration to those of us who strive for social justice and freedom of economic opportunity in the United States and around the world," the letter said.

In a front-page blog post on its website, Americans for Peace Now linked the housing protests to government subsidies for West Bank settlements.

"Ultimately, these protests are about priorities," it said. "They are about a government that favours the wealthiest over the neediest. A government that favours the interests of powerful and entrenched groups over the general population. A government that prefers to invest huge sums of money in maintaining and expanding settlements - and granting special benefits to settlers - while short-changing Israelis who live inside the Green Line." (JTA)

opportunity to merge both into one fun user experience," he said.

"I wanted a captivating tool I could use to teach my own children about Judaism. Learning the Torah was competing for their attention against Angry Birds and Justin Bieber tweets. I figured if you can't beat 'em, join 'em! That, and frankly, I really just wanted to create something called Judoku."

Judoku could be released for other mobile devices such as Apple's iPhone and iPod, or for the Android and BlackBerry devices, depending on user demand. (JTA)

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**Art on Paper Gallery, Milpark:** “Giverny of the Midwest”, an exhibition of new work by Nathaniel Stern, until August 13, (011) 726-2234.

**Cinema Nouveau, Rosebank, Johannesburg:** The annual Israeli film festival, hosted by the Israel Embassy and Tararam, opens August 11, with a screening of Avi Nesher’s award-winning “Matchmaker”. The festival is at this venue until August 18, (012) 470-3513.

**Dance Factory, Newtown, Johannesburg:** International dance collaboration, Crossings, culminates in the showcasing of workshopped new dance pieces, on August 6, (011) 727-5107.

**Iziko: SA National Museum, Cape Town:** “Tretchikoff: The People’s Painter”, curated by Andrew Lamprecht, until September 25, (021) 481-3970.

**Joburg Theatre Complex, Braamfontein:** In the Nelson Mandela, Latin and Ballroom dance extravaganza “Burn the Floor”, until August 14, (011) 877-6800.

**Linder Auditorium, Parktown:** On August 10 and 11, JPO performs Takemitsu’s Tree Line, Haydn’s Trumpet Concerto, Schumann’s Carnival and Schubert’s Fourth Symphony. Conductor: Bernhard Gueller, soloist: Donny Bouwer (trumpet), (011) 789-2733.

**Market Theatre, Newtown:** In the Laager, “The Table”, directed by Sylvaine Strike, until September 18. In the Barney Simon, Fatima Dike’s “So What’s New?” until August 14, (011) 832-1641.

**Montecasino, Fourways:** In the Main Theatre, Alan Bennett’s “The History Boys”, directed by Alan Swerdlow, opens August 10, (011) 511-1988.

**Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton:** Conrad Koch’s “My-Pro-Doll and Nuro-Friends” a puppet show for grown-ups until August 27. Friday lunchtime concerts: Miro Chakaryan (violin), Jacobus Swart (piano) and Etienne Malan (clarinet) play Klezmer, August 5; Chakaryan collaborates with Ventura Rosenthal (harp) on August 12, (011) 883-8606.

**Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre, Oaklands:** An exhibition by Dina Wolovitz, until August 7, (011) 728-8088.

**Resolution Gallery, Rosebank:** “Dencity”, by André Clements and Daniel Hirschmann, until August 13, (011) 880-4054.

**SA Jewish Museum, Gardens:** “Jiving with Madiba: Jonathan Shapiro’s Mandela”, until November, (021) 465-1546.

**State Theatre, Pretoria:** In the Arena, Greg Homann’s hilarious potted “Pirates of Penzance”, until August 7, (012) 392-4000.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Ullman and Lipschitz consummately flit between different personae

**Show:** “Double Bill: Curled Up and My Uncle Oswald” (*The Nunnery, Wits Theatre Complex, Braamfontein, (011)717-1376*).  
**Writer:** Claudine Ullman; Roald Dahl  
**Cast:** Claudine Ullman; Lara Lipschitz  
**From:** August 9-13

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

SHOWCASED LAST month at the Pop Arts centre in central Johannesburg, this fresh double bill of monodramas reflects well-honed theatrical skill balancing humour and pathos on a knife’s edge. It’s enjoying another season, from next week at the Nunnery at Wits.

In the first half, Claudine Ullman, her hair a mass of plastic curlers, dressed in a black slip, offers a peek into the private lives of three women: Nicolette, a high achiever, has Ivy League degrees and a business running on greased wheels. Only thing she seems to lack is a man.

Sarah has her life in order: By day she’s a librarian, by night, a Tupperware saleswoman. She’s even bought her boyriend John an engagement ring for him to give her, when he’s ready.

The third woman, we’re only introduced to as “Babes”. The mother of five, all under the age of 10, she’s “married to a bottle of Klippies and Coke”; her succour comes at 18:30 each week day,

with Isidingo.

With the turn of her body, the flick of a nuance, the raising of an eyebrow, Ullman switches between characters; it is her skill in succinctly developing these three tragically hilarious women that enables you to recognise them within the first few minutes of the play. The story each articulates is miserable; you walk away with respect for Ullman’s narrative and performative skills and an overriding sadness for the senseless plight of so many girls, drawn with similar empathy and economy of lines to the work of theatre caricaturist Al Hirschfeld.

Nicolette’s ultimate prince charming, ferreted out on a website, is a bit of a let-down, Sarah’s John’s turns out a philanderer and “Babes” articulates an unrealised dream to be an ANC-supporting lesbian.

The raunchiness doesn’t stop there: it gets more explicit: Lipschitz’s interpretation of an extract from Dahl’s “My Uncle Oswald” (1979), a story bordering in parts on what may be considered soft porn, is utterly lovely. Without giving much away, it’s the tale of a foppish young man in 1919, who discovers a beetle even more potent in its impact on the human drives than Spanish Fly, and he turns it into big business.

Using Dahl’s nimble language and fabulous metaphors, this slight young woman simply



Lara Lipschitz is suave, brylcreemed young Oswald. (PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS SAUNDERS)

becomes enterprising, virile young Oswald, at the tender but none-too-shy age of 17.

Lipschitz flits like lightning between characters: boys, girls, men and women, offering a perfectly legible, interpretation of a quirky, complex tale that cocks a fond snook at the prudery of the early 20th century leadership in ways which you might fight surprisingly delightful.

This double bill is inspired: as a showcase of exciting skilled talent, a celebration of Women’s Day and a bit of jollity, not without fabulous prickles and barbs in society’s side.

Mouthwatering fare awaits at Israel Film Festival

PETER FELDMAN  
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

AVI NESHER, one of Israel’s top film directors, will attend the opening of the 10th annual Israel Film Festival at Cinema Nouveau, Rosebank, Johannesburg on August 12. He directed award-winning The Matchmaker, one of eight productions being showcased at the week-long festival.

The festival, presented by the Embassy of Israel and Tararam, the South Africa-Israel Culture Fund, has become an eagerly awaited event because it gives one an idea of the impressive strides being made in filmmaking.

Over the years, Israeli films have been nominated for Academy Awards, providing the world with potent stories with universal themes of love, friendship, drama and corruption.

Comedy, however, seems to be the most popular genre: Sodom, a wacky comedy in Monty Pythonesque style is about the infamous city of Biblical times. The question is: what will be the fate of the only town in the Bible that knew how to party?

In sharp contrast is Avi Nesher’s The Matchmaker, a must-see coming of age movie about Arik, a Haifa teenager who works for mysterious Holocaust survivor Yankеле, a matchmaker. It has won several awards and has featured at 15 international festivals.



Neta Porat as Tamara, the girl who captures the heart of the young boy, Arik (Tuval Shafir), in The Matchmaker.

Restless reflects human drama through the interaction of a father, whose life has been steadily sliding downwards, and a son who lives on the edge. It was also screened at the Berlin International Film Festival.

In There Were Nights, Goni is a spoilt young child who lives in the glow of her showbiz parents. Her world falls apart after the untimely death of her mother and, at the age of 25, she is about to take her first steps into the real world.

This is a story of a daughter’s love for her father and at the same time, her desire for independence. It stars the acclaimed Israeli actor Moshe Ivgy together with his real-life daughter, Dana.

The powerful crime drama, Ajami, an Academy Award nominee, is a collaborative Israel/Palestinian film set in the Ajami neighbourhood of Jaffa, reflecting a melting pot of cultures and conflict among Jews, Muslims and Christians.

In 1943, Egyptian triplets Rose, Flora and Jasmine were blessed by King Farouk. Today they live in Israel, their lives clouded by secrets and lies from the past.

Three Mothers weaves a poignant tale questioning the meaning of blood ties, marital loyalties, independence and motherhood. It was nominated for nine Israel Film Awards.

In the romantic drama Five Hours from Paris, we meet an Israeli taxi driver and a Russian immigrant. He has no aspirations while she gave up on hers long ago. He is afraid of flying while she is about to fly away.

What are the odds of them ending up together?

Human relations come to the fore in The Human Resources Manager about Jerusalem’s largest bakery. When one of its employees is killed in a suicide bombing, the bakery is accused of indifference; the HR manager is sent to the victim’s hometown in Romania to make amends.

Pre-booking is on [www.sterkinet.com](http://www.sterkinet.com); the festival’s schedule at Cinema Nouveau is: August 12-18 Rosebank Mall, Johannesburg; August 19-25 V&A Waterfront, Cape Town; August 26-September 1 Brooklyn Mall, Pretoria; September 2-8 Gateway, Durban.



FELDMAN  
ON FILM

Peter Feldman

The Conspirator

**Cast:** Robin Wright; James McAvoy; Tom Wilkinson; Kevin Kline  
**Director:** Robert Redford

Robert Redford is a man with a conscience. The actor-turned director derives immense pleasure, it seems, reliving history through the medium of film and bringing to the surface stories that may have gone unnoticed but are well worth telling.

Case in point is “The Conspirator”, a brilliantly executed study of Mary Surratt (Robin Wright) a character who only commanded a small footnote in American history. She was the lone female who was charged as a co-conspirator in the assassination trial of Abraham Lincoln.

As the whole nation turned against her, she was forced to rely on the services of Frederick Aiken (James McAvoy). He was a former Union officer and now had become a reluctant and

inexperienced lawyer sent to uncover the truth and save her life.

He was torn between his hatred for the South and his duty to the law; and she was tried by a military tribunal, thus being denied the civil trial by jury that was her right as an American citizen.

The history books tell us that Lincoln was shot and killed at Ford’s Theatre, Washington, in April 1865 by a single bullet to the head from the gun of assassin John Wilkes Booth.

“The Conspirator” goes to great lengths to graphically recreate the incident, but uses this aspect only as a starting point to delve deeper into the vengeance and political chicanery that engulfed the country in the dark aftermath of the Civil War.

It left the nation divided and angry a mere two years after General Robert E Lee surrendered. It was a time when distrust was everywhere and politicians were crying out for justice in the interests of power and self-promotion – and no one more determined to get a guilty verdict was the cruel, villainous Secretary of War Edwin Stanton (Kevin Kline), one of Lincoln’s closest advisers.

This background serves to illustrate the vicious undercurrent that existed during Mary Surratt’s trial and the forces that were brought

into play to bring her to justice.

Mrs Surratt (meticulously played by a deglamourised Robin Wright) was the only woman rounded up and charged as a co-conspirator in a plot to kill not only Abe Lincoln but Secretary of State William Seward and Vice President Andrew Johnson.

Her trial was a farce and she ended up on the gallows through the flimsiest of circumstantial evidence, which showed her appearing in the background of a photograph taken in her boarding house, depicting the accused rebels.

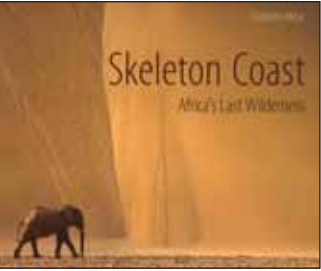
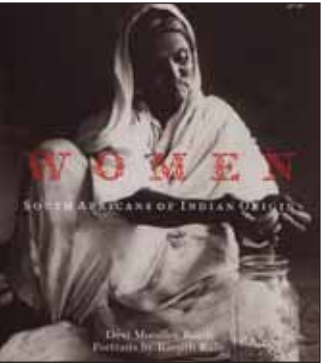
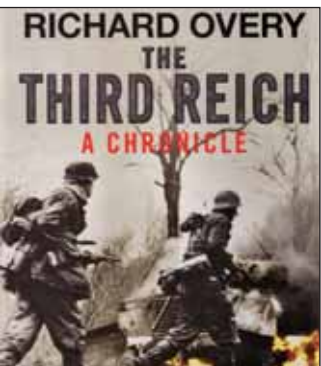
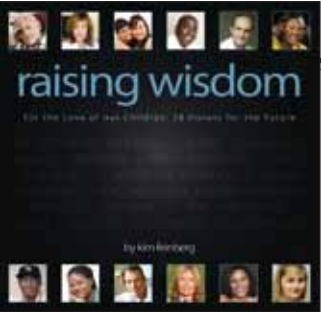
If anything, Robert Redford’s production finds her guilty of nothing more serious than being a Confederate sympathiser and devoted mother, who ran a boarding house in Washington DC.

The conspirators rented rooms and Booth often visited her cowardly son John. John could easily have cleared his mother but instead ran away and eluded a massive manhunt, leaving her to face the noose alone.

“The Conspirator” is a riveting, well-crafted film which has been exhaustively researched, superbly scripted and acted, and careful to avoid any form of preachy propaganda.

It took screenwriter James Solomon 16 years to polish his script to the degree of perfection he wanted and all his hard work can be seen on screen.





TAPESTRY – ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

# Some inspirational coffee table fare

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

*Raising Wisdom* by Kim Feinberg  
(Tomorrow Trust, R378)

Though one might not agree with Feinberg’s choice of interviewees, or the way they define wisdom, one is bound to find plenty to mull over in this collection of candid, compelling comments by 48 people from different generations and different continents. The individuals’ concerns centre on safeguarding the future of the planet’s children and restoring their birthright, despite the myriad ills which face them in the coming decades. The book includes stunning, full-colour photographs of interviewees.

*The Third Reich: A Chronicle* by Richard Overly (Quercus, R130)

Not so much a definitive history as a useful reference, this volume spans the events leading to the rise of Hitlerism in Weimar Germany, the formation and policies of the Nazi Party, the war years and Germany’s eventual defeat. A brief, but incisive account of the Holocaust is included, as well as other Nazi atrocities. Some rare and dramatic photographs help to clarify the whole period, while the text is interspersed with first-hand reminiscences of former soldiers and civilians on both the German and Allied sides. Probably better suited as an introductory volume for younger readers and school libraries, Overly’s chronicle

is nevertheless well structured, thoroughly researched and compelling. *Women: South Africans of Indian Origin* by Devi Moodley Rajab, with portraits by Ranjith Kally (Jacana, R272)

The courage and perseverance of Indian women in South Africa - not only in supporting their households at a time when apartheid legislation (such as indentured labour), as well as their own culture’s gender discrimination, weighed against them, but also for their remarkable academic and professional achievements over the past few decades - have long been overlooked. This volume of 42 short, but telling personal narratives, accompanied by superb photographic portraits, highlights Indian women who have done their families and communities, as well as the entire country, proud. Political activists like Shanti Naidoo, Fatima Meer, Amina Cachalia and Rajes Pillay. Or indomitable social activists like Gadija Christopher (there is a stunning photograph of Christopher and her close friend, Albertina Sisulu, celebrating their 90th birthdays together). Or noted academics like mathematician and UKZN Vice-Chancellor, Prof Renuka Vithal. Or those at the forefront of sports ethics, like Shamila Batohi, senior adviser to the ICC in the Hague (who famously interrogated disgraced cricket captain Hansie Cronje). And a host of parliamentarians, doctors,

jurists, media personalities, etc. The book chronicles a succession of extraordinary females who have risen to the top of their spheres and celebrates their empowerment in a country which they not only helped liberate, but also greatly enriched. Very highly recommended. *Skeleton Coast: Africa’s Last Wilderness* by Thorsten Milse (Random House Struik, R290)

With its perennial storms, dense fog banks and grim promontory of shipwrecks, the Skeleton Coast is one of the most forbidding coastlines in the world. It is also one of

the most beautiful. This superb collection of images from award-winning photographer Thorsten Milse reveals aspects of it at their most haunting, as well as the animals native to this terrain such as the desert elephant and the desert lion. His sensitivity to his subjects, and the balance he achieves between the esoteric, the terrestrial and the primordial, give his work an authenticity seldom achieved by others who have visually chronicled this part of the sub-continent. A volume to whet one’s appetite for travelling to Namibia and experiencing it first-hand.

## Ackerman’s ‘Flowers’ carries a very strong anti-abuse message

MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

AMERICAN-BORN Israeli actress and activist Naomi Ackerman (pictured), has always felt compelled to deal with women’s issues in the theatre work she does. So it is fitting that, in celebration of National Women’s Day, the Israeli Embassy and the South African Zionist Federation are presenting her one-woman play, “Flowers Aren’t Enough”. The 55-minute production has evolved from research Ackerman conducted with a group of victims of domestic violence in an Israeli shelter. Originally written in Hebrew, it has been translated into English, Arabic, Spanish and Tamil and has been performed over 1 200 times globally, including for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. It tells the story of Michal, a high-achieving, middle-class woman who finds herself incapacitated in a violent marriage. Initially the character was an amalgam of four victims that Ackerman had interviewed. “I then added things people told me in the post-show discussions,” she relates in an e-mail interview. “Although abuse was thankfully not part of my life, in college I had a boyfriend who stalked me for a short time and I, as do many other women, confused controlling and overbearing behaviour with caring and love. “Throughout the years I have heard the most profound stories: For instance, a woman came up to me after one show and said: ‘My husband died five years ago and I am still afraid of him - I realised tonight that it is time to stop...’” The piece’s title refers to the remorseful actions of an abusive partner after the event, but also to the fact that nothing - flowers, jewellery or money - is enough if one doesn’t have respect, compassion, tolerance and understanding, Ackerman explains. “One of the women I interviewed had a ring on every finger. She pointed to each and

said: ‘This was when he broke my nose, this was when he broke my arm and this was when he punched me in the eye.’ Literally every piece of jewellery was given to her after some fight and/or broken bones.” Ackerman feels strongly that theatre has the capacity to raise awareness and be life-transforming. “I know first-hand from what people have told me that seeing Flowers saved them or made them realise that they needed to get out of their unhealthy relationship,” she stresses. From performing the show around the world, she has learned that in most communities there is “huge denial” of the existence of the scourge. “No-one wants to believe or admit that domestic abuse happens to them,” she says. “I find that people are very quick to point their fingers and accuse other communities of having domestic violence, instead of self-reflecting and examining where and how it is happening in their community.” Flowers attracts mainly female audiences, but Ackerman maintains that the many men who have attended are “very happy” to have done so. “The show makes them feel uncomfortable and a little attacked, because the perpetrator is male - but at the same time it gives them food for thought and a true understanding that this isn’t just a women’s issue but a social issue that demands their involvement and action. “Domestic violence cannot be stopped only by women - we need men and women to be involved and to advocate change for the victims and perpetrators,” she states. • Ackerman will perform in Cape Town at Theatre in the District on August 7, (021) 464-6714; and in Johannesburg at Beyachad on August 16, (011) 645-2591.



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LETTERS

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

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

SHALOM BAYIT (a subdivision of the Coordinating Council of National Jewish Women) was approached by Victor Gordon from Tararam, (South African-Israeli Culture Fund) to bring Naomi Ackerman, an experienced actress and activist, out from America to South Africa, with her internationally acclaimed monologue drama which she researched, wrote and performs, “Flowers are not Enough”, in August. Shalom Bayit was asked to assist with drawing up a programme/itinerary for her.

After a few meetings we got it together and she will in be in Cape Town for two or three days early in August and in Johannesburg arriving late evening of August 9 and departing on the 17th. (She will speak in Cape Town on August 9 and in Johannesburg on August 16). We have the Chevrah Kadisha’s Social

Services hosting her for professionals and have arranged for her to present to certain schools, both black and white. Shalom Bayit, in association with the Chevrah’s social services, over the years has helped to reveal the incidence of domestic abuse within the Jewish community by presenting seminars and lectures together with specialists in the field. Victims of domestic abuse have since discovered that there are safe havens and help out there. Naomi Ackerman’s presentation (on this subject) has had worldwide exposure and has been performed over 1 000 times in seven countries to date. • For further details and information please contact Barbara at (011) 645-2591.

**Ray Wolder**  
**On behalf of Shalom Bayit**  
**Johannesburg**

AFRICA CAN’T COMPETE EITHER WITH ASIA OR THE WEST

BARNEY SEGAL in the SAJR of July 22, writes in his letter: “We are on a road of destruction in SA” and that “It is the same old story where the rich are getting richer and the poor get poorer.” Jeremy Thomas (Sunday Times 24/7) quotes Immanuel Wallerstein (a research scholar of Yale): “And the governments of Russia, India and South Africa are all facing rumbling discontent from large parts of their populations who seemed to have escaped the benefits of presumed economic growths.”

I would like to present the following explanation: South and North Africa (South Africa, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, etc) cannot compete with China,

Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, etc) in low tech manufacture (such as clothing, shoes, kitchen-ware, etc) nor can they compete with the US, Europe or Japan in hi-tech manufacture (such as computers, aircraft, power turbines, etc) and this in all probability explains our high unemployment rate. Unemployment is not only a physical burden; it leads eventually to depression /frustration which in turn can lead to aggression (as per Viktor Frankl). In summary: The Asians are creating jobs, but the Africans are not. (Julius) Malema and company thrive on this.

**John Brenner**  
**Cyrildene, Johannesburg**

PLEASE TELL WHY YOU’RE SO SELECTIVE IN YOUR CONDEMNATION

I WOULD like to respond in an open letter, to the letter writers who in 2009 took Jewish communal leadership to task for saying it spoke on their behalf regarding Gaza. You will all no doubt recall the wording of your collective letter addressed to this newspaper of January 2009, castigating various Jewish leadership bodies for purporting to speak on your behalf in support of Israel’s actions in Gaza. You all further protested the use of “disproportionate force” by Israel during that incursion.

One cannot take issue with your protest of speaking on your behalf, however the letter referred to was at pains to express your collective dismay at the “disproportionate use of force” and went on to compare casualty figures. We cannot but wonder that if you were all so incensed by those proportions, why you limited your dismay and criticism at Israel and only Israel?

In other theatres of conflict (at that time) where Nato and its allies were and still are engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan, where they had and still have committed hugely disproportionate forces, where Sri Lanka used unimaginable force and brutality to quell the Tamil Tigers uprising, you only chose to criticise Israel.

While comparing casualty figures in that letter, one noticed just how you avoided another area of conflict... no, genocide where reports of wholesale slaughter of up to ONE MILLION people being butchered (and another million

since that time) you all remained mute. You may well argue that the issue you were protesting was Gaza and not Darfur, but (as conscience-driven, self-confessed Jews) where a tragedy of genocidal proportions was and still is perpetrated on our very own continent, you all chose to vent your dismay at only Israel’s “disproportionate” use of force. A not so subtle difference between genocide and self-defence when you all choose to judge and condemn Israel’s actions as the worst of the crimes against humanity! What about the circus being played out on our TV screens disproportionate Nato air raids on Tripoli which have inflicted many civilian deaths, including women and children. While the motive for that particular action against Muammar Gaddafi might well be justified, the principle of proportion or rather disproportion, must kick in regardless of circumstance, yet we don’t hear your concerned protests. If as demonstrated in your collective letter, you were all so incensed at Israel’s response being “an inhumane and disproportionate collective punishment prohibited under international law”, one must wonder if any of you lot had the faintest interest in the inhumane (and worse) treatment of many other innocent people more deserving of such protests.

**Allan Wolman**  
**Norwood, Johannesburg**

AMERICA IS A TRUE FRIEND OF ISRAEL

I RECENTLY returned from a trip to the US and can say with absolute confidence that America is a true friend of Israel. You feel it in the streets. You get a clear sense that it is part of the American DNA. Just last week a group of 5 000 Christians gathered in Washington to be part of a rally for “Christians United for Israel”, headed by well-known Pastor John Hagee. He was joined by Glenn Beck, former Fox News television presenter, who received thunderous applause. Warning against the trend of global anti-Semitism, Beck told the crowd that if it would culminate in another genocide “then count me as a Jew, and come for me first”. Beck said “times have changed” and that Jews would no longer stand alone in any potential confrontation.

Look at what is going on here. In South Africa, we are silenced by the ongoing apprehension to stand up publicly for the truth. As members of the Jewish community it is our responsibility to put a stop to false, fabricated and flawed propaganda that the media and personalities of influence are expressing. Probably the most important statement that Beck made during his address, was when he told the Jewish people: “No one can protect your rights better than you.” As Jews, we need to focus, protect and defend ourselves from the ongoing war that is being waged against our homeland and our security. Israel represents the future for our nation and it secures our defence from any other influence trying to wipe us out.

WHO CARES if some of the staff-members of the University of Johannesburg sever their ties with a university in Israel? It’s their loss. UJ as an institution physically resembled the shape of an “ossewa laager”. I think it still does. It was built by the members of the National Party whose mentality and policy was laager-like. In my opinion, so are the views of some of UJ’s employees.

I will always view that institution as just

LEAVE UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG IN ITS ‘OSSEWA LAAGER’

WHO CARES if some of the staff-members of the University of Johannesburg sever their ties with a university in Israel? It’s their loss. UJ as an institution physically resembled the shape of an “ossewa laager”. I think it still does. It was built by the members of the National Party whose mentality and policy was laager-like. In my opinion, so are the views of some of UJ’s employees.

I will always view that institution as just

MOVING TO A NEW COUNTRY REMAINS A MOST DIFFICULT DECISION

AFTER READING the article a few weeks ago, by your Staff Reporter, I would like to tell my side of our emigration story. This is the first time I have written to a newspaper.

Indeed, it has not been easy moving from South Africa. I felt it to be the wisest move at this time. It took over two years to get our visas for Australia. There were so many documents to be filled in and signed, and information to be collected, and visits to doctors and their reports to be arranged.

As we only have one quarter of our children now living in Australia as permanent residents, we were not able to come on a parent visa. Because we are both over 70 and do not have the required two children as permanent residents, there was only one type of visa for which we qualified.

We have to reapply every four years as we are “temporary residents”. It is a retirement investment visa, and we have to be fully self-supporting. When our second child here in Australia gets her permanent residence status, we can then apply for our permanent residence, and we will be in line for a few privileges here.

There has been so much to do here and in South Africa to get ourselves sorted out, but we made up our minds to handle things as best as we could, and have made our move with very positive minds.

We read the Jewish Report over the Internet and we are still in touch with friends left behind and we are integrating well in our new shul here

While members of Congress in Washington are placing immense energy in forming policy to support Israel, influential members connected to our government are forming tribunals to falsely compare the actions of Israel to that of the apartheid regime.

All this, while Palestinian Arabs are represented in all major facets of Israel’s society, including political parties in the Knesset, significant positions in the judicial system, representation in the educational system.

The last time I was in Israel (three months ago) not once did I see a road sign without Arabic on it, nor did I ever find myself in a public area without seeing many Palestinian Arabs sharing and benefiting from the same environments as Israelis do.

Where are their tribunals for the state-sanctioned murders of thousands of protesters in other Middle East countries?

Where is South Africa’s foreign policy support for the democracy that Israel represents and where is the concern for Israel’s self-defence?

Let us remember and let it be known that Israel and Judaism epitomise the fundamentals of morality, freedom and human rights for all. And Israel, in short, does not practise apartheid. Racism is antithetical to Judaism.

With education, sharing the facts of Israel and Judaism, we can disprove the lies and positively change policy in South Africa towards Israel.

**Daniel Levitt**  
**Director and CEO of Companions of Israel**

RAU. I think that students, if they are smart and if they can - and meaning no offence to those who want to learn - should preferably go to Wits or to an Israeli university. But who says academics, including professors, can’t be dullards?

**Stephen Davimes**  
**Orchards, Johannesburg**

and making new friends where we are living. It has been difficult and heart-warming - not easy, but we are settling in well.

I am grateful to South Africa for the privilege of having lived in such a fantastic and beautiful country, and all the wonderful things we have left behind, which will be missed so much.

I was hoping our daughter, still in South Africa with our two grandchildren, would be following us and her siblings. But no, she is quite comfortable in Johannesburg and not prepared to move.

My big predicament was to go or to stay. We decided to emigrate because one day when she decides to leave South Africa, we will be too old to follow her, and we would be left on our own without any immediate family.

Also, she will not feel she has to stay, because we are holding her back, and we will be here to make it easier for her and our grandchildren to settle down closer to most of their family.

I realise we are missed very much, but we keep in contact by phone and we visit approximately once a year, and when we get Skype set up, we will have better contact.

I realise that is not enough and we miss them so much and they miss us so much as well. Especially our grandchildren who we used to have so much contact with. I hope they will realise why we have done this. We miss them more than they can ever miss us.

**Sylvia Borstein.**  
**Sydney**

FOR THE RECORD

THE WORD SHOULD BE ‘BOYCOTT’ AND NOT ‘SEVER’

IN LAST week’s paper a quote from MyShtetl website contained an error. The words “to boycott BGU” in the origi-

nal article submitted were published as “to sever ties with BGU”. We apologise for the error.

LOOKING FOR...

WHO ARE THE 2 ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO HELPED JULIAN KAMSTRA?

ON SUNDAY, July 24, while cycling with a friend through the Ethel Gray Park, Julian Kamstra was attacked by a Rottweiler. In trying to avoid the attack, he had an accident. The dog’s owners were very concerned and wanted to call an ambulance, but his cycling partner - a medical doctor - organised transport for Kamstra to the Linksfield Clinic.

Writes Kamstra: “In the upheaval of the accident, we did not get the couple’s personal details. According to my cycling partner, they were in their sixties and of Jewish descent. Should the couple have a public liability clause in their household insurance, could you please contact me, Julian Kamstra, at tel (011) 622-0829 or 083-600-0333 or jules@telec.co.za.”

AROUND THE WORLD  
NEWS IN BRIEF

MARY ROTHSTEIN, AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST JEW DIES AT 110

SYDNEY - Mary Rothstein, Australia’s oldest Jew, has died at age 110. Rothstein died on Tuesday afternoon at an aged-care facility run by Jewish Care in Melbourne.

She was the second-oldest Australian and believed to be the second-oldest Jew in the world after Evelyn Kozak of New York City, according to Robert Young, a senior researcher at the US based Gerontology Research Group, which specialises in verifying centenarians and supercentenarians.

Born in Russia, Rothstein and her family escaped the pogroms to England soon after she was born in 1901. She had no birth certificate, so

she was not named in the world’s 89 validated living supercentenarians listed by the Gerontology Research Group. She lived in London for half her life, working as a milliner making hats for the royal family, before immigrating to Australia.

Ruth Cavallaro said her mother only ate in kosher restaurants, and walked to synagogue every Saturday. As for her secret to her long life, Rothstein’s daughter said on her mother’s 110th birthday in March: “The only thing I can honestly say about her is she never drank, never smoked and never swore. And she worked very hard.” (JTA)









Habonim Dror Channichim on fun obstacle course.

# The precious ‘aha’ moment in youth movement work

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY MIA CANDY

WORKING FOR a youth movement is not always easy. Volunteers in a Jewish youth movement have to constantly juggle a dozen different responsibilities and often make personal sacrifices in order to devote their time and energy to running events for their channichim.

There is one thing, however, that keeps us going, and that is the “aha” moment. This moment is the one in which you stop for a second and realise the value of what you do.

The value and reward of youth movement work is entirely intangible and it is during the “aha” moment that one’s passion and excitement is renewed. For me, this moment comes when I see a channich experiencing Habonim for the first time, or when my channichim learn something completely new, or when I see first-time madrichim slipping so naturally into their role as leaders and educators.

Our recent winter camp, Hashemesh Haolah (The Rising Sun) was three days of

“aha” moments - non-stop inspiration and magic for every person who attended. New channichim developed a strong connection to Habo and our returning channichim experienced once again the best of what Habo has to offer.

From exceptional madrichim and educational activities, to outrageously fun obstacle courses, treasure hunts and songs around the campfire, winter camp had it all. Our channichim got to engage with topics such as environmental issues, Jewish identity, role models and our movement’s role during the Holocaust.

The food was delicious, the ruach was powerful and not a moment lacked fun and learning. This year’s winter camp captured the essence of what it means to be part of Habonim Dror, and those who attended are eagerly awaiting our next machaneh.

Luckily, they do not have long to wait - we’ll be back at Magalies Retreat for Mini Machaneh from September 2 - 4. Don’t miss out, sign up at [www.habo.org.za/signup](http://www.habo.org.za/signup)

# KDS grade threes learn a lot about artist Walter Battiss

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY VIVienne WEINER  
KDS ART TEACHER

GRADE THREE art learners at King David Sandton, were recently treated to a visit from Lorraine Deift, a lecturer at the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

Deift spoke to the learners about the gallery and South African art. The discus-

sion focused on the work of the colourful artist, Walter Battiss.

This interactive and informative hour was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. The insights gained, will serve as a springboard for the next art practical project where grade threes will explore shapes and forms that inspired Battiss’ unique and local flavour, such as rock art, nature and more.



Lorraine Deift (centre) a lecturer at the Johannesburg Art Gallery, is flanked by Rotem Barashi and Cameron Solarsh, two art learners.

# ‘Dance Against Drugs’ brings lifestyle message across

GITA LIPSCHITZ, SCHOOL COUNSELLOR  
PHOTOGRAPH: Yael GORDON

THE GRADE 8 learners of King David High School Victory Park participated in an interactive presentation called “Dance Against Drugs”, a campaign designed to reach out to teenagers about the impact of substance

abuse through the medium of dance.

The dance team, all highly regarded hip hop dancers, encouraged the children to make healthy lifestyle choices.

The recent drug-related death of five-time Grammy award-winning singer, Amy Winehouse, made the message of this play even more relevant to the learners.



Hip hopping against substance abuse.

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

# YC is judged top school in National Science Olympiad

OWN CORRESPONDENT  
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THIS YEAR, for the first time, Yeshiva College entered the National Science Olympiad. Fifty-two of Taryn Kagan’s grade 11 and grade 12, life science learners entered. Nationwide, 24 000 learners, including some from Zimbabwe, Namibia and Lesotho, entered this prestigious academic challenge. The majority of entrants are from South Africa and all the top schools in the country were represented.

When the school was contacted by the Olympiad organisers to say that one of our learners, Jethro Polliack, had finished in the top 120, we were enormously proud. Jethro’s success led to his being invited to join the other learners who excelled or demonstrated exceptional potential, to attend the Science Focus Week, a week of amazing educational experiences.

It was only after the results were announced at the award ceremony on the last night of the week’s events, that we



Jethro Polliack finished in the top 120 of the National Science Olympiad.

learned exactly how successful the learners of Yeshiva College had been. Nationally, Yeshiva College was awarded first place and as a result, the school won a prize of R10 000 worth of laboratory equipment.

Although Jethro finished in position 25, and only learners in the top 120 positions were invited to the Science Focus Week, a number of other learners from Yeshiva College finished in the top percentiles of the Olympiad.

Shira Bartkunsky - position 25 (as a result of the fact that many positions were tied Shira narrowly missed being selected for the Science Focus Week); Jonathan Jacobson, position 109; Dale Disler, position 160; Benjamin Berman, position 160; Naomi Shear - position 160; Leah Heilbrunn, position 223; and Shira Gerson, position 223.

We at Yeshiva College are incredibly proud of all our learners who entered the Olympiad and thus contributed to our being judged the top school nationally. We look forward to entering this and other Olympiads in future.

# Fresh for school again after holidays

STACY FLEISHMAN  
PHOTOGRAPH: SHIRA TOLLMAN

IT’S BEEN “back to school” for Term 3 at King David Victory Park Primary School. Pictured are Amy Lowenthal; Isabella Fischer; Joni Sundelson; and Georgia Lewis.



# Gan Israel July winter camp a rip-roaring success

RABBI PINI PINK  
PHOTOGRAPH BY SHMULLY SIMON

A RECORD attendance – more than in the past five years – of 300 boys and girls enjoyed the excitement of the recent Gan Israel winter camp during the July holidays. The camp took place in Johannesburg, with the girls accommodated at Torah Academy and the boys at Yeshiva College.

Run under the auspices of Chabad House, the camp has become a well-known staple within the Johannesburg Jewish community over the last three decades. Its new directors, Rabbi Pini and Rochie Pink, set out to instil an infusion of innovative, fresh ideas into it and they believe this has contributed to the 35 per cent jump in attendance.

The key to the camp, they say, is the non-judgemental atmosphere that is employed by the broad-minded staff. “We are tremendously proud that the children of Camp Gan Israel represent the full spectrum of the Jewish community. We have learners from King David, Yeshiva College, Torah Academy, Maharsha and others, all coming

together to have a fantastic time.”

Camp Gan Israel is part of the largest network of Jewish camps, with hundreds of affiliates worldwide. “We have a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience to draw on from camp directors across the globe who we consult with building our programmes,” says Rabbi Pink. “But we rely heavily on our staff’s appreciation for the needs and flavour of the local community.”

With separate programmes for boys and girls, Camp Gan Israel prides itself on tailor-made programming rather than “one size fits all” activities”, Adds Pink: “Great care and attention is put into every minute of the day to ensure a fun-filled, action-packed schedule.”

While trips to Fourways Avalanche and the Lion Park highlighted the two-week camp, the children were treated to a dizzying array of activities that included arts and crafts, sports, hunts, team-building games and so much more.

• Camp Gan Israel will be running its summer session from December 12 – 23. For more information contact Rabbi Pink on tel (011) 440-6600 or [camp@chabad.org.za](mailto:camp@chabad.org.za)



Children from the Gan Israel Camp “pet” a giraffe on a trip to the Lion Park near Johannesburg.



# Durban warmly welcomes its community newcomers

LAUREN SHAPIRO  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
BEV SELIKOW

ORGANISING A brunch for 90 people is all in a day's work for Grant Maserow, KwaZulu-Natal's newly-appointed community liaison officer.

July saw the hosting of a "Meet and Greet", aimed at welcoming newcomers to the province and providing an opportunity for them to network with others and integrate themselves and their families into the community.

"It's important to make people aware that there is a Jewish community, and a warm and welcoming one," said Maserow. "We want to help people to settle in; at the end of the day, everyone benefits because we strengthen the bonds of the entire community."

At least 20 new families have moved to the Sunshine Coast in the last 18 months. Their impressions have been positive. "It was really nice - a warm welcome indeed!" said Chen Read, who relocated with her young family three months ago.

The Sharkey family have lived in Durban for over a year - long enough to be considered locals - but with the memories of their own move fresh in mind. The function was "a great morning and so successful", said Mandy Sharkey. "Thanks again for making us all feel so welcome and at home!"

In fact, Durban's pull is so strong that Sascha Keates recently moved back after having travelled and lived all over the world. "We all had such a wonderful time meeting new - and old - people," she said of the function.



By the end of the morning of the "Meet and Greet" welcoming to newcomers, it was hard to tell who were newcomers!

Of course, staunch Durbanites are the proudest of their city. "We are a small but vibrant community," said David Simpson, president of the Council of KwaZulu-Natal Jewry (CKNJ). "We strongly encourage you to become a part of our community. Should you require any help, the CKNJ's door is always open."

The CKNJ has established the Living KZN programme to promote the wonderful lifestyle offered in the province and to encourage and assist Jewish families in their relocation.

In addition to the "Meet and Greet" function, the community liaison officer aims to assist potential residents with finding suitable employment and business opportunities.

• For more information, contact Grant Maserow on (031) 332-6702, or 082-4100-222 or projects@djc.co.za and visit us at website: www.livingkzn.org.za

# ORT donates a kitchen 'for Mandela'

JODI DAYAN

MANDELA DAY - July 18 - saw the dreams of Soweto's Mochochochono Primary schools' 270 pupils being fulfilled when ORT SA handed over a fully equipped kitchen. This initiative provided the school with a facility to feed these children, many of whom rely on their daily meal at the school as their only meal of the day.

At the handover ceremony, ORT CEO Yehuda Kay's message to the pupils was: "You can give Madiba two gifts: Never give up on your dreams, and make sure you get a good education."

Also present were ORT staff, NEC members, teachers and representatives of the parent body. The pupils gathered at 08:00 and began the day's proceedings with singing Happy birthday Tata Madiba, together with the rest of the country's schools. After a welcoming speech by the principal, the kitchen was officially handed over. The pupils then had sandwiches and juices.

Mochochonono Primary School has been part of the ORT SA Mathematics project for



Head of Department Tsidi Mamabolo admiring the gas stoves in their new kitchen, donated by Harrow Estates.

the last two years. In this programme ORT SA provides teachers with weekly training and classroom-based support in the area of maths for the foundation phase. The school has also been provided with Singapore math books for the teachers and learners.

ORT SA chose this school as their Mandela Day project as they are dedicated to educating for life, and are cognisant of the fact that these children need to be fed so that they can learn effectively. Their kitchen equipment had been stolen in a burglary.

ORT staff, members and donors were very generous in their contributions of both cash and goods and Mochochonono now has fully equipped kitchen with gas stoves, chest freezer, fridge, microwave and utensils.



Excited Mochochochono Primary youngsters welcome their spanking new kitchen, compliment ORT SA and various generous donors.



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# Anton Marcus takes 2011 jockey’s honours

JACK MILNER

IN ONE of the most exciting races of the year, Anton Marcus came from well off the pace to win the Champion Jockey’s title for the second successive year.

Three months back Anthony Delpech looked to have the race in the bag. He was 22



Anton Marcus weighs in after winning aboard Best In The West at Turffontein last month.

winners clear of Marcus and as he rides for Mike de Kock, the strongest stable in the country, it looked all over bar the shouting. Suddenly Marcus started to close the gap. He admitted early on that he was not going to chase the title and if it happened, so be it.

But as he got closer, that all changed and over the final weeks (the season ended on August 31) both riders started travelling all over the country. It was not until he rode in Kimberley on Monday July 25, that Marcus finally managed to get his nose in front. Until then, every time he moved closer, Delpech would get away again...

Once ahead, Marcus did not relinquish the lead again and the race effectively came to an end last weekend when Marcus moved nine winners clear of his rival. Once he captured Race 3 at Greyville on Sunday, the score became like match-play golf - 10 up with nine to play.

It is interesting how the competition even affected the trainers as Alec Laird, son of Syd Laird who trained seven Durban July winners, pointed out: “You know you’ve got the right horse in the race when the telephone starts ringing and Anton’s calling for the ride and then Ray Curling calls on behalf of Anthony Delpech.

“It’s very hard to decide who to give it to. I’m happy for both guys and I don’t want to be in the middle and choose who to give it to.”

In the end Curling suggested they toss a coin. That is what they did and the ride went to Marcus.

Delpech was quite philosophical about the outcome. “You know, all the attention has been on Anton and myself, but if you look back on my season, it has been outstanding. I have a record for stakes earned in a season and I have won more Group races, especially Group 1s, than I ever have before in my career.

# Malaysia FA apologises to Chelsea’s Yossi Benayoun

THE MALAYSIAN Football Association has apologised after Chelsea complained that Yossi Benayoun had suffered racist abuse during last week’s friendly.

The FA said: “If such an incident did happen, we would like to apologise to the player... and also to Chelsea FC.”

Chelsea issued a response to the Malaysian FA’s apology, saying they are now prepared to draw a line under the incident.

“We appreciate the prompt attention the Malaysian FA (MFA) has given our complaint,” the Blues said in a statement.

“Chelsea Football Club is committed to eradicating all discriminatory behaviour from the game and urges the MFA to take appropriate steps to stamp out this type of behaviour in future. The club and Yossi accept the apology, and the matter is now closed.”

Benayoun is one of the few Israelis to have played in Malaysia, a country which does not recognise Israel.

The 31-year-old Israeli was jeered each



Chelsea Jewish player Yossi Benayoun received an apology from the Malaysian Football association following anti-Semitic chants during Chelsea’s tour of that country.

time he touched the ball in a match against a Malaysian XI on July 21. Agency reports from the match in Kuala Lumpur said the abuse was directed at Benayoun.

The Malaysian FA, however, said the abuse would have “involved a small section of spectators”.

Anti-racism campaigners Kick It Out, have called for Malaysia’s football authorities to look at the issue of anti-Semitic prejudice. A spokesman for the group said: “Kick It Out supports the action taken by Chelsea on this matter.

“After working with the club on the recent ‘Y-Word’ film, aimed squarely at challenging anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish abuse and featuring Frank Lampard (of Chelsea), it’s a strand of discrimination which is front of mind for both organisations.

“In addition, the campaign is keen to engage with Malaysian authorities around the issue and how football can play its part in educating mass audiences to become better versed on issues around faith and religion.” – World Wide Web

# Israel’s road to Brazil 2014 takes shape

ISRAEL WILL only complete their Euro 2012 qualifying campaign in three months’ time, but last weekend they already found out who they will be facing for a place in the 2014 World Cup.

The national team, which is dreaming of reaching its first World Cup since 1970 and its second in history, was placed in Group F along with Portugal, Russia, Northern Ireland, Azerbaijan and Luxembourg at the draw held in Rio de Janeiro last Saturday.

The group winner will progress directly to the finals in Brazil, to be held from June 12 to July 13, 2014, while the eight best runners-up from the nine groups will play off for the remaining four berths over two legs from November 15 to 19, 2013.

Israel will begin their qualifying campaign in September 2012, and will play their final match in October 2013, with the order of the games to be decided at a later date.

Portugal and Russia are the clear favourites to advance from Group F, but Israel will believe it has an outside chance of finishing among the top two after avoiding the likes of Spain, Germany and the Netherlands from the first seeding pot and a strong second seed like France.

Portugal boasts superstar Cristiano Ro-

naldo and currently leads its Euro 2012 group. The Portuguese team, No 7 in the FIFA rankings, has played in each of the last three World Cups and will be expecting to progress to its fourth straight tournament following Saturday’s draw.

Russia has only reached one of the past four World Cups, but was semifinalists in Euro 2008 and is well placed to progress to its third straight European Championship.

Northern Ireland has played in world soccer’s showpiece on three occasions but not since 1986. The team is currently fifth from six others Group C of Euro 2012 qualifying. Any team hoping to finish among the top two in Group F will likely need to beat both Azerbaijan and Luxembourg twice.

Azerbaijan has lost five of their six Euro 2012 qualifiers to date, while Luxembourg is rooted at the bottom of Group C, with one point from seven matches.


Israel plays its next Euro 2012 qualifier on September 2, when its hosts Greece at Bloomfield Stadium.

The team is currently in third position in Group F with 13 points from seven matches and still has an outside chance to reach next summer’s finals in Poland and Ukraine with three more games to play. - Jerusalem Post



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