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DAYS

TO
JEWISH
ACHIEVER
AWARDS!
(page 4)

South african Jewish Report

www.sajewishreport.co.za



Venting rage on Israel and Obama

Demonstrators from BDS SA, Cosatu and its affiliates, and other organisations, protested US President Barack Obama's visit to South Africa, last Friday at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. In a statement, BDS SA's national co-ordinator for the "No-Bama Coalition", Mbuyiseni Ndlozi said: "...the visit of the USA president to South Africa... will be protested... by all justice and peace-loving peoples of this country... (t)he criminal Israeli occupation of Palestine and Israel's apartheid policies has only been made possible by the USA's financial, military, diplomatic and political support for the racist Israeli regime." Protests were also held at the US Embassy in Pretoria and at the University of Johannesburg's Soweto campus.

Prayer for Nelson Mandela

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein has composed a prayer for the wellbeing and comfort of former President Nelson Mandela, who at the time of going to press remains in a critical condition.



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Community Voices: Mandela: Squabbling and denial of dignity, causes concern

Ariela Carno (chairman SAUJS): "Throughout his life Mandela fought for mankind's dignity; by broadcasting his every anatomical update and speculating about his family squabbles, we deny him dignity."

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JDL vigilantes come out of shadows in France

Members of France's Jewish Defence League, set upon Arabs and beat them. The attack last August was one of at least 115 violent incidents in France in 2001.

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'Coovadia's forest' seems to get bigger by the day

"Our agitators must learn that each time they make accusations, we will become stronger and do better," says JNF-SA.

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Rediscovering his Jewish soul in the sound of klezmer

Says clarinetist and klezmerite David Krakauer who performs on July 21 in Cape Town: "When I started to play klezmer, suddenly I thought to myself: 'Wow! This sounds like the voice of my grandmother.'"

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DAVID SAKS

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Despite this, a note of cautious optimism was also in evidence. Kregel noted a shift



Segev-Steinberg likewise felt that recent shifts pointed to a more positive future for the Israel-South Africa relationship. He felt that it was significant that while his term had commenced with his confrontation with Hajaig, he had seen it end with King Goodwill Zwelithini joining the Embassy in celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut.

Nearly one-quarter of survey respondents identified themselves as Orthodox Jews, compared to less than 10 per cent of the US Jewish population as a whole. Three-quarters of respondents said they agreed with the statement that their community leaders were hard-working and conscientious, and only 21 per cent said they should be adversaries of their community leadership. (Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org)

water infrastructure, creating jobs for our residents and economic activity in our neighbourhoods. I strongly support this partnership,” Emanuel said. (JNS.org)

Albert Einstein

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‘Coovadia’s forest’ seems to get bigger by the day



This little figure appeared in a full-page JNF ad on the Coovadia spat, in last week’s Jewish Report.

STAFF REPORTER

The tit-for-tat squabble between the Jewish National Fund of SA (JNF-SA) and the Israeli ministry of foreign affairs (MFA) on the one hand and retired diplomat and previous South African Ambassador to Israel Ismail Coovadia on the other, continues unabated, with JNF-SA now aiming to plant 18 000 trees on Coovadia’s behalf by the end of the month.

The spat started after Coovadia rejected and returned a gift certificate presented to him by the MFA indicating that 18 trees would be planted in his honour and in the name of the South African Ambassador by the JNF. This is the normal honorary procedure followed by Israel for departing diplomats.

The number 18’s significance is that it represents the Hebrew letter for chai - or life.

In a widely-circulated statement on Monday, JNF-SA said: “This thorn in our side can be eased by planting more trees in Israel than ever before in response to (Coovadia’s) actions. “Our agitators must quickly learn that each time they make accusations or reverse acts of goodwill, we will become stronger and do better,” says JNF-SA.

It urges all proud Zionists to assist them in planting “5 000 trees in response to Coovadia’s actions”.

In a provocative act of protest, JNF-SA says: “We will send (Coovadia) a certificate and advertise in the press what he achieved by his disregard for our Holy Land and the Holy Land of the three Abrahamic faiths.”

The Jewish Report has made every effort to contact Coovadia to give him the chance to comment. He has now retired from the Department of International Relations and Co-operation and nobody at Dirco could supply us with his contact number. The SAJR spoke to the chief director of consular services; the chief director for the Middle East; the director of the Levant desk and the deputy director for the Israel, Middle East peace process and Palestine.

The SAJR established that Coovadia does not have a landline phone but was able to obtain an e-mail address for him and has invited him to contact the paper.

“Clearly, in (Coovadia’s) eyes, we, the Jewish people, have no right to the Land of Israel even though he did not serve as the Ambassador to Palestine but to Israel, recognised by South Africa and the United Nations as a sovereign state,” says the JNF’s retort.

In his hard-hitting letter rejecting the Israeli gesture, Coovadia explained the reasoning for his actions as follows: “I have supported the struggle against apartheid South Africa and now I cannot be a proponent of what I have witnessed in Israel, and that is, a replication of apartheid!”

Last week the SAJR reported that the MFA had called Coovadia “uncouth” and claimed that his current views were “diametrically opposed” to those he expressed during his three years of service in Israel.

JNF-SA says that now is the time “to stand up for Israel and put your trees where your mouth is”. To incentivise their bid to plant 5 000 trees this month, JNF-SA says that for every 18 trees donated in July, they will pay for the planting of an additional two.

Trees cost R65 each, or R1 170 for 18. Enquires can be directed to (011) 645-2537.

Chief Rabbi composes prayer for Nelson Mandela

Dear G-d, Master of the Universe,

We, the people of South Africa, and indeed so many around the world, come before You in heartfelt prayer to beseech You to bless our former president, our beloved Madiba, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, at this time when he is so gravely ill and fighting for his life.

We ask You, O King, to protect Madiba from any pain and suffering, both physical and emotional, and to give him the strength, comfort and well-being he so desperately needs at this time.

We come together now, united in our belief in the power of prayer, and in Your compassion. We humbly give thanks to You, O L-rd, for giving us the gift of Nelson Mandela. We are grateful for his heroic and selfless leadership of South Africa in guiding our country to freedom and democracy.

We are grateful for his courage and dignity in adversity, and for his mighty power of forgiveness, which helped create this great nation. We are grateful for how he united us, and served as a dedicated and humble President.

In the merit of our unified prayers across this nation and the world, we also ask You, O L-rd G-d, to bless the people of this great country, of the miracle rainbow nation, and to inspire our hearts to walk in the path of Nelson Mandela, to live up to his majestic legacy.

And let us say Amen.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein

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Community Voices

Mandela: Squabbling and denial of dignity, causes concern

Has South African government reduced itself to a society of the spectacle in its parading around of lies, truths and political tricks regarding the current health of former President Nelson Mandela? The SA Jewish Report asked selected readers their opinion of the country’s handling of news regarding the condition of our greatest icon.



Ariela Carno, chairman of SAUJS, Johannesburg, (writing in her personal capacity): “Mandela, who chose forgiveness over anger, is regarded as father of our rainbow nation. As a nation we love and care for our ‘father’; when our caring becomes harassment we’ve missed the point.

“Throughout his life Mandela fought for mankind’s dignity; by broadcasting his every anatomical update and speculating about his family squabbles, we deny him dignity. Madiba is an incredible human being, but he is unavoidably mortal. If it is Madiba’s fate to stay with us longer, that would be a blessing; if it is not, we should allow him to leave the world as he lived - with dignity.”



Jack Bloom, MPL, DA leader in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature: “The outpouring of love and prayers from ordinary people has been spontaneous and heart-warming. It is truly precious and rare for a political figure to have touched so many in such

a way. Concern about his health has united everyone.

“The balance between family privacy and media coverage is a difficult one. People want truthful information, but it is easy for hurtful rumours to spread. This is not a time for any form of political opportunism. A global icon is fading, and we should all strive in our own individual ways to continue his legacy of reconciliation.”



Ann Harris, chairman, Chief Rabbi Harris Memorial Foundation, Hermanus. “I have just returned from three weeks overseas and have followed the news in the foreign media. The impression given is that this sad situation is being sensitively handled and

there is confidence in the medical team.

“There is a level of concern as there would be for any much loved elderly relative. We all pray for Madiba’s comfort and peace.”



Victor Gordon, director of Tararam, Israel’s culture fund, Pretoria: “We should’ve anticipated that the twilight of the Mandela era would bring forth the best and worst in our society.

“The love our nation exudes for Madiba has been precipitated mainly by ordinary citizens; members

of the Mandela family have shamefully been unable to resist the allure of possibilities for self-aggrandisement coming from sharing his name. If only it ended there; some of our leaders have displayed insensitivity in ensuring they’ve associated themselves with Madiba’s plight to garner maximum publicity with elections in mind. While this is no time for cynicism, it’s darn difficult to distance oneself from it.”

Jewish Achiever nominations have now closed

The closing date last Friday, of nominations for the Jewish Achievers banquet event, yielded an unprecedented high number of nominations - close to 250 - which peaked in the category of unlisted companies. All that now remains is for the nominees to accept their nominations. The prestigious event, a highlight on the Jewish social calendar, is hosted this year on August 15 at the magnificent Maroela Room, Sandton Sun, and by all accounts, promises to be even more spectacular than the years before.



Parents must liberate children from their shadows

SHIRA DRUION

Creating safe havens for our children had become an increasingly challenging task as the world became more chaotic and dangerous, well-known clinical psychologist and columnist Judith Ancer said in her contribution to “The Enrich Your Life” series. Her talk, at Sydenham Shul, centred on “How to Keep our Children Safe”.

Says Ancer: “As human beings, it is of grave concern because to function optimally, we need to feel that sense of security. Many people think that the ‘safe space’ is something tangible, but a feeling of safety is an emotional space, a space where we feel safe and secure within ourselves.

“Parents are charged with the task of creating that safe space for their children.”

Ancer described the difference between fear and anxiety. “Fear is the red flag that mobilises people. Anxiety is that internal, ruminative state that pervades one’s entire being. Fear is a gift and we need to respect it.

“Studies have been done indicating that women who did not listen to their fear signals, allowed themselves to get into compromising and unsafe situations. The studies also suggested that this was a result of women being socialised into being polite and nice, even when it meant overriding their inner fear signals.”

Ancer advised parents to encourage children to listen to their intuition which would help them to build their inner compasses which would navigate the road which may be very trying at times. She also explained that parents needed to distinguish between fears that were their own and fears that were their children’s.

“In order for our children to feel safe, we need to feel safe first. It is very common to find children bearing the burdens of their parents’ stresses and worries, when in fact their little shoulders are in no way strong enough to carry that kind of load.

“Unresolved issues in parents are often projected onto their children who create the kind of scenario that is stressful for children to live through. “Often the fears we have as



parents are echoed by our children and because we are sensitive to the issues, we feel awkward or scared to broach them with our kids. However, when we are afraid to talk things through because of our own fears around the issues, or we think our children are too young, or we think we will damage them by discussing them, what we really do is prevent them from dealing with their own challenges, ultimately preventing them from living in their sanctuaries of safety.”

Ancer advised parents to strive to raise children able to problem solve and engage with challenging situations without falling apart.

“Protecting your children from life is doing them a grave disservice. Parents need to allow their children to live; even when you are afraid they will stumble and fall.”

“Gever Tulley, of the Tinkering School in California recommends five dangerous things that a child should do while growing up: Playing with fire, owning a pocket knife, driving something, skimming stones and taking something apart.”

Through allowing children the chance to explore the glories that life has to offer, parents liberate children from their shadows, and allow them the chance to live in safe havens.



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If NHI goes wrong, “we’ll sue”

MICHAEL BELLING

Brace yourselves, the National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme was going to happen. This was the message delivered by Neil Kirby, a director and head of the health-care and life sciences practice area at Werksmans Attorneys, to a Second Innings meeting at Golden Acres.

Since 1994 the government had been talking about how to move healthcare effectively to more people. Previously the healthcare infrastructure had been phenomenal, but only for whites. It was necessary to move greater resources for everyone, but the infrastructure had failed.

The Bill of Rights laid down that all had a right to access healthcare and to free emergency care. This was already an introduction to the principles of NHI.

The Constitutional Court has ruled that the government must realise these rights progressively. This meant the government could not be forced to give everyone healthcare. It did not have enough resources to do so. But if it had the money, this would have to happen.

“At this point, this does not mean very much,” Kirby said.

Healthcare needs differed from person to person and from place to place.

“But they had to start somewhere with National Health Insurance. It was a promise the government made to the people in South Africa that they will be able to access healthcare.”

This referred to the most common illnesses, from HIV, to malaria and cancer.

Healthcare was an emotive issue and was going to be strongly debated. A green paper had been issued, outlining the broad principles, This would be followed later by a white paper, setting out what the law will look like. The next stage was submitting a Bill to Parliament.

The country would be divided into health districts and the government would determine the needs in each district, as well as public facilities for each of the four levels of healthcare.

World News in Brief

McDonald’s, ‘bringing politics into business’, boycotts Ariel

JERUSALEM - McDonald’s Israel has said it will not open a branch in the city of Ariel, citing its location beyond the Green Line as the reason, Calcalist reported last week Wednesday.

According to Tzahi Nahmias, owner of the Mega Or construction firm, which is marketing space in the Ariel mall that offered to host McDonald’s, other chains have also expressed concern over opening branches in Ariel because of its location, but refrained from naming them because they have yet to finalise their decisions.

“The mediators told us that branches operating abroad and other companies holding rights in Israel for international brand names are worried about the potential negative response toward their businesses [by consumers] abroad if they open shop in the mall,” Nahmias told Calcalist.

Rami Levy, owner of the Rami Levy supermarket chain, which operates beyond the Green Line, told Calcalist that Arabs would be among those hurt by the apparent boycott of the area.

“I don’t agree with bringing politics into business,” Levy said.

Israeli Housing Minister Uri Ariel (Habayit Hayehudi) called on the Israeli public to boycott McDonald’s.

“I urge the public to boycott anyone who boycotts it,” Ariel said. “Only then will they get the message and the boycotts will stop.”

McDonald’s Israel released a statement saying that its decision not to operate beyond the Green Line was “always the policy of the franchise”. (Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org)

A start had already been made in some municipalities and with health services distributed in schools. This was the architecture. The second aspect was funding. The likely funding method was for all employed people to pay a portion of their salary, while the government subsidised the unemployed.

South Africa was looking to other countries that were in a similar situation, which had a system of healthcare that seemed to agree with their populations, such as Mexico, Vietnam, Ghana and Thailand, as well as Malaysia, Indonesia and Brazil. Diseases there were often similar to those here and they had found the money to sort some of them out.

It was necessary to approach NHI cautiously and implement it carefully - “and if it goes wrong, we’ll sue”.



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Jewish Report

Stop the Madiba circus

It is perfectly understandable that former President Nelson Mandela’s failing health has attracted such worldwide attention, ranging from statesmen to little children. The world wants and needs a hero to love and look up to, to use as a touchstone and to cry over. His life, persona and achievements most certainly provide that.

But the danger is that the intense focus around him as he grows weaker and more critically ill, becomes an undignified frenzy, with all and sundry jumping on the bandwagon, wanting to claim a bit of him for a multiplicity of purposes.

The media spotlight on him has been extreme for several weeks since he went into hospital. Newspapers across the spectrum - left to right, religious and secular, folksy and intellectual, community and international - snapping up bits of information on his condition, on the pain of his family and country, and putting it on their front pages.

The desire of all media to be up with the pack, or even to gain more glory by being ahead of it, means that every newspaper, radio and television station, and Internet news site, already has its “Mandela tribute” ready and waiting in the bottom drawer of the editor’s office or a folder on his computer desktop. It will be whipped out and published the moment news of his passing is announced.

There is no shortage of intrigue and gossip for the media. There is so much noise from the bickering and manoeuvring going on in his family circle, as they toss around their demands about the allocation of his money and other possessions, burial sites of him and his family in Qunu and elsewhere, interviews and articles with his children, grandchildren, lawyers and trustees, and on and on.

It is as if the dirty washing of his extended family is being purposely dragged out for everyone to see and have an opinion about. And then there is the cheap politicking, extending as far as claims that the ANC forbade the DA to attend its nationwide prayer meetings for Madiba’s recovery.

Then there are the rumours circulating everywhere about how critical he actually is at any moment, whether he was being kept alive on life support until US President Barack Obama left the country, and the mystery of the role the ANC is playing in controlling how news about him is given out.

It has become unseemly. What a pity for a man like him, who epitomised dignity, discipline and pure class. Even with his ever-present sense of humour, the moments when his broad smile lit up the sky, there was dignity. If he is aware of this circus going on, he must be appalled and saddened.

As has often been said of him, he has become almost larger than life, bigger than the man lying in that hospital bed. The danger is that he becomes everything to everyone, that the core of his humanity and message to the world will be covered in so much razzmatazz that it will be lost. After all he has done for the world, can he not be allowed quiet and decorum as he comes to the end of his life?

Can the circus be prevented or toned down? Probably not. At least for now. Maybe that is the price a man pays for being the hero the world needs so badly.

Eventually the frenzy will indeed die down and the world will move on. Madiba will become a sweet memory and a reference point against which people measure things. Not all will be for the good, of course - cynical use of his memory for nefarious ends cannot be prevented.

For now, we must not let the spectacle surrounding his passing so engulf us that we forget what he actually stood for.

France’s anti-Semitism lures JDL vigilantes out of shadows

CNAAN LIPSHIZ
PARIS

With scooter helmets in hand, a man called Yohan and six buddies stroll around Paris’ 20th arrondissement. The seven look much like a typical group of French students - until they locate a group of Arab men they suspect of perpetrating an anti-Semitic attack the previous day.

Using their helmets as bludgeons, members of France’s Jewish Defence League, or LDJ, set upon the Arabs and beat them. Several of the Arabs attempt to escape in a blue sedan, but the LDJ members pursue the vehicle, causing it to crash into a stone wall.

The attack last August, filmed by a television crew shooting a documentary on LDJ, was one of at least 115 violent incidents that critics attribute to the group since its registration in France in 2001 - a year after the eruption of the second intifada in Israel and the sevenfold increase in anti-Semitic incidents in the 12 years that followed.

“Now they know the price of Jewish blood,” said Yohan, the nom de guerre of Joseph Ayache, one of LDJ’s young bosses.

An offshoot of the American Jewish Defence League, which was founded in New York by the ultranationalist Rabbi Meir Kahane in 1968 and which the FBI considers a domestic terrorist group, LDJ stages violent reprisals to anti-Semitic attacks.

The group, which numbers about 300, is now on a collision course with France’s Jewish establishment, which has condemned its activities and threatened a lawsuit.

French authorities have ignored calls to ban LDJ, though in Israel the Kach movement, also founded by Kahane, has been outlawed.

The French government’s apparent acquiescence may have inspired LDJ to ratchet up its deterrent potential by showcasing its activities following the murder of four Jews in Toulouse last year by a Muslim extremist.

LDJ traditionally had shied away from media attention. But in the weeks after the killings, which was followed by a 58 per cent increase in attacks on Jews in France over the year before, LDJ for the first time allowed a television crew to tag along on a number of guerrilla operations.

In addition to the helmet assault, Ayache was filmed calling for revenge killings in posters he and his group posted around central Paris. When a police car neared, Ayache told officers that he and his friends were working on an art project. The police officers wished him a pleasant evening and drove away.

Ayache also was filmed attempting to storm a performance of the anti-Semitic comedian Dieudonne.

“Since when is it illegal to run?” a brazen Ayache told the police after they detained him.

Another sequence shows Ayache firing a pistol at a shooting range.

“We’ve noticed the Muslim community believes LDJ is some vast machine that operates with impunity and help from Mossad,” said an LDJ spokesman who goes by the alias



French Jewish Defence League activists demonstrating in Paris in 2011.



The aftermath of an attack by French Jewish Defense League activists in 2009 on a pro-Palestinian bookstore in Paris.

Amnon Cohen. “It’s not true, but it’s not a bad thing if they are scared. It’ll make them think twice.”

LDJ’s growing assertiveness has further strained the group’s already tense relationship with the CRIF, the umbrella body of French Jewish communities.

In April, CRIF’s former president, Richard Prasquier, said he would sue LDJ for defamation for posting a photograph on its website depicting him with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. The caption accuses Prasquier of “pardoning [a] killer”.

LDJ, meanwhile, has accused CRIF of being undemocratic, obsolete and ineffective.

“We operate outside and independently, and that creates opposition within the establishment, which is run by men and women who mean well but don’t know the painful reality of the Jewish rank and file in Paris’ suburbs and poor neighbourhoods,” Cohen said.

“There are hundreds of French and Belgian Muslims fighting in the Syrian civil war. When they return, do you think they will be scared of a couple of guards trained by the community?”

CRIF declined to comment.

Earlier this month, LDJ announced

that its “soldiers” had put a young Arab in hospital in a coma, “a rapid and effective response” to the man’s attack on Jews at Saint-Mande, just east of Paris.

The announcement drew calls to ban LDJ. As criticism mounted, LDJ retracted the statement and denied any involvement in the violence.

Cohen told JTA the person who published the “false statement” had been removed from the group and that the violence actually resulted from a drug deal gone sour. A spokesman for the Saint-Mande municipality confirmed that account.

Still, the events at Saint-Mande resulted in a public row between LDJ and CRIF, which on June 4 blamed LDJ for the violence at Saint Mande and for subsequent calls “to take revenge against the Jews”

Cohen said CRIF is looking for a “scapegoat” to distract from its failure to prevent attacks on Jews through outreach and education. He also denied the group engages in violence, despite ample evidence to the contrary.

The group, which numbers about 300, is now on a collision course with France’s Jewish establishment, which has condemned its activities and threatened a lawsuit.

Besides the television footage, a French court last week sentenced LDJ activist David Ben Aroch to six months in prison for an attack he staged with another LDJ member at a Paris bookstore owned by a pro-Palestinian activist.

Aroch’s accomplice, Jason Tibi, was sentenced to four months for the attack at Librairie Resistance that sent the two victims to the hospital for days.

It may have been a real-life demonstration of what one masked LDJ boss recently called “treatment a la Israel” during a speech at a secret training camp in France.

The filmed address was the introduction to a LDJ propaganda clip titled “Five cops for every Jew, 10 Arabs for each rabbi”. (JTA)

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

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

MANY MORE UNHERALDED COURAGEOUS JEWS IN APARTHEID YEARS

Certainly most South African Jews acknowledge the enormous sacrifices made by the recognised Jewish Struggle activists and are proud of their efforts in freeing our country from the old regime. But you ask in your June 28 article, “Mandela: Once in a century” why so few others of our community had the courage to stand up against apartheid.

I believe there were many more Jews, mostly unheralded, who contributed in different ways toward bettering the lives of their local black communities, even in those dark days. Travel back in time to places in our land where Jews then lived and one would no doubt find a number of Jews in the forefront of such activities, regardless of the disdain or even opposition of the powers-that-were.

For instance, my late father Louis Weinberg, was a driving force from the early 1950s to the late 1980s in promoting the work of the SA National Tuberculosis Association on the East Rand and helped establish the Modder B Santa Settlement which was then the largest TB treatment centre in the country, accommodating some 600 patients.

He encouraged the less sick patients to participate in creative workshops and saw to the formalisation of a small school and then a pre-school for the children who spent many months as in-patients.

He then had the vision to partner with the Easter Stamp Fund in building a training centre for outreach community workers to treat TB sufferers in their own communities.

I too was very involved with the black population of Witbank from the mid-1960s onwards, first in encouraging and supporting the staff of the crèche in the township of Lynnville, then in collaboration with the Khonzimfundo Primary School to send 90 standard 5s to experience their first seaside holiday in Durban.

As was government policy during those years, integration of facilities and services was not permitted. As the head of the local organisation for the aged, I promoted the formation of the Emalahleni Society for the Black Aged which developed seven luncheon clubs for the elderly in different sectors of the townships. These eventually amalgamated into the Mthimkulu Centre and Housing for the Aged.

In my earlier days I had good fundraising skills which allowed for the building of the well-utilised Impendulo Health and Welfare Centre to serve the local community of Kwa Guqa.

There are many Jews who, with a real passion, have served the underprivileged by choice voluntarily or in their professional fields.

An in-depth research could reveal just how many gave of themselves in this way. Think of Ina Perlman and Operation Hunger and of the late Rebecca Ostrowiak and her daughter Edna Freinkel to upgrade literacy among the disadvantaged.

As a Jew one didn’t have to be irrelegious, anti-Zionist or a committed Communist to having made a meaningful contribution to the disadvantaged black population of our country during the apartheid years.

Phyllis Phillips
Glenhazel,
Johannesburg

Read the South African Jewish Report online at
www.sajewishreport.co.za

DATE GIVEN FOR TISHA B’AV IS WRONG

On page 2 of last week’s Jewish Report, it was stated that the fast of Tisha B’Av will be this year on July 9. This is incorrect: the Fast is on July 16, corresponding to 9 Av. As it is a 24-hour fast, it begins at sundown on July 15.

Fasting times for the country will appear in next week’s issue.

We regret the error.

JOHN CLEESE HEEDS COMMUNITY’S HOLOCAUST JOKE OBJECTION

As a follow-up to your article in last week’s Jewish Report, regarding an offensive Holocaust joke that was made at the John Cleese show on June 23, I would like to provide an update.

The following day, The SAJBD contacted Mr Cleese’s publicist to share the hurt that this remark has caused to members of the community and to ask that it not be included in future shows.

Shortly thereafter John Cleese tweeted the following comment: “I’m sorry if I caused any offence during my remarks about offensive humour last night”.

We conferred with members of the public who attended the show in Durban last Thursday night and were informed that the specific quip was not included in the show. We appreciate Mr Cleese’s understandings of the hurt that this caused to members of our community and for the manner in which he responded.

Wendy Kahn
National Director, SAJBD

WHAT A SPLENDID SINAI INDABA 2013 IT WAS!

Each year at Sinai Indaba one wonders how it could possibly be as good the next time, and each year the Chief Rabbi surprises us!

Mazeltov and a huge “Yishkoach” to the Chief Rabbi and his team on Sinai Indaba III. It was bigger and dare one say better than last year.

The speakers were stimulating and entertaining and the organisation was world class.

I wish the Chief Rabbi every success on the future projects he undertakes.

Leslie Harris
Johannesburg

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

FROM THE CHEVRAH KADISHA TO THE COMMUNITY


The Chevrah Kadisha is aware of a Jewish man posing as a frum Jew begging outside shuls and schools in the Glenhazel area. This man is well known to us and has been assisted for many years. It is imperative that community members do not give him money directly or bring him into their homes. Even though he will insist that he does not receive help from the Chev, please direct him to us.

There are another two men and two women, often outside Pick n Pay in Norwood and Fairmount, who are also begging. Please do not give these people money, rather direct them to the Chev.

Those troubled individuals, if they are Jewish, are receiving help from the Chev. Giving them cash may only cause them to harm themselves.

PLEASE CONTACT SHIRLEY RESNICK, FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER, SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS: 082 441 7859 OR 011 532 9710

The Chev remains fully committed to assisting all Jews in need.

**ChevrahKadisha**

AMERICA IS IN NO MORAL POSITION TO PREACH TO OTHERS
HOW THEY SHOULD ACT

I would like to respond to two letters, which appeared in the June 21 issue of your paper. One is “Horwitz does not give the complete Holocaust story” by Don Krausz, and the other is “Muslim lawyers’ silly complaints against Obama a stain on our country”, by Nathan Cheiman.

As for the inhabitants of Nazi occupied land during the Second World War: I would like to remind everyone - so that people won’t forget and don’t come to bizarre conclusions - that Nazi occupants were ruthless and brutal, abducted, arrested and murdered masses of men, women and children and raped huge numbers of women.

Therefore, whether the population of those occupied countries knew about what was happening to Jews or not, they could not do much about it. There was a hospital in Warsaw, though, where people with infectious diseases were treated, which was the main base for one of the first units of the Polish Home Army, the Armea Krajowa, since the occupants were afraid to enter the hospital.

This unit supplied the Beitar-orientated Jewish resistance with weapons from the end of 1939 on, which was the reason for the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto to be more successful than uprisings in other ghettos.

As for Muslim lawyers against Obama, I must say, first of all, that I salute them for their rightful demand. Sending drones and other aircraft to kill people indiscriminately, is pure evil, even if it is supposed to “prevent terror”.

Preventing terror is exactly what Syria’s government forces are doing - fighting against cannibals - and as cruel as it may be sometimes, at least they do it on their own soil and don’t do the very same thing thousands of kilometres away.

There are also many indigenous American nations, who were occupied and butchered in what is today the US. I have never heard of any self-determination ever granted to them. So, the question becomes: What gives the US any right to preach to others about things like that?

However, I think it is only logical for South Africa to charge South African citizens with human rights abuses first, before charging foreigners. I am talking about the “alleged” abuse of the human rights of detainees, whether they “allegedly” happened in South Africa or in the Hague (and by now I guess everyone realises who I’m talking about) or elsewhere.

I also think prisoners, such as Phil Kloppers, who “allegedly” were victims of something of this kind, should be immediately released.

Avner Eliyahu Romm
Sea Point, Cape Town

WHEN TRAVELLING, CHECK ON LAWS OF THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

A recent series of e-mails has done the rounds, exhorting Jews to boycott Delta Airlines. Why? The original sender of the e-mails tried to embark on a Delta flight and was questioned: “Are you Jewish?” “Have you been to Israel?” “Are you carrying a Bible?” and if the answer to any of the questions was “yes” they were not allowed on the flight.

Shock and horror! Boycott Delta! Write to your Congressman!

But those of us who read a little

further into the letter, realised that the writer wanted to fly to Saudi Arabia! If Delta had not chased him away, can anyone imagine what would have happened to him on his arrival at a Saudi airport?

Just like the person who was nominally Jewish and flew on a non-El Al flight to Lod and was furious that everything in Israel was closed and he was unable to get any kind of service or food. Is Yom Kippur more important than tourism,

he asked.

I think it is incumbent on anyone travelling, to check on the laws of their country of destination and be aware, really aware, of how those laws will affect them. I think it is necessary for anyone receiving the Delta e-mail to return it to the original sender with a notation: “Don’t be an idiot.”

Colin Plen
Durban

ADDRESSING TOP OF TRIANGLE WHILE BOTTOM CRUMBLES UNDERNEATH

Sinai Indabas, Israel tours, Poland tours, Lithuania tours, international speakers, extravagant Shabbos brochas, kiruv programmes, the many minyanim in our small South African community... What comes to mind?

My initial thoughts were that these initiatives infuse our community with a sense that Torah and Eretz Yisrael are alive and flourishing, giving us the enthusiasm and chizuk to take Judaism in South Africa forward.

What a powerful idea! However, after some consideration I suddenly thought: “Wow! That’s a lot of communal money being used for secondary communal needs!”

In my opinion there are two critical but separate issues that need to be examined here. The first is: Do the interests I have mentioned conflict with the welfare needs facing our community? And secondly, are these and similar needs in fact secondary?

The first is a matter of fact, the second a matter of opinion. Let’s examine the facts. The money raised for these “secondary” needs as well as our welfare needs, all comes from the same pot. This past week, I was asked to donate money to three worthy causes. And while the numbers may be very different, the formula is the same. Just as I have X amount of money to donate, when I give, say 10 per cent of X to one cause, I only have X-10 per cent

to give to another. X will remain finite. As it stands, the Chevrah Kaddisha can only meet 30 per cent of its yearly budget on its own. It must fundraise the remainder. The more that goes elsewhere, the less the Chev receives.

To address the second issue: Are these needs indeed secondary? Our challenge in SA is that our ineffective government can not provide basic welfare services. Therefore the Chevrah Kadisha needs to rise up to the challenge of meeting these needs for the Jewish community.

Abraham Maslow postulated that humans have a hierarchy of needs; only once one’s basic needs are met, can one begin to grow and self-actualise.

Why does our community address the top of the triangle to the degree that it does, while the bottom crumbles underneath it? We would rather facilitate ancillary needs, while for example, not every child is being afforded the basic right to Jewish education. I’m not proposing that we forgo these secondary needs altogether. However, let us first give every South African Jew the right to food, clothing, shelter, Jewish education and adequate medical care in order to facilitate and sustain real growth in the future.

Keren Chazan,
Glenhazel, Johannesburg

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financial planning. Make sure you have left your family enough money to cover outstanding debts, while allowing them enough income-producing capital to live on, taking into account the natural increase in expenditure by a family unit in the natural lifecycle of the family, as well as inflationary increases in the cost of living.

A valid updated "Last Will and Testament" must be in place together with a Book of Life listing all policies, assets and contact people. Make sure all beneficiaries on all policies are correct and relevant.

• *Becoming physically disabled or impaired: A person's most important asset is themselves and most times this asset is always neglected and underinsured. Make sure you have a comprehensive income protection policy that, should you become temporarily or permanently unable to perform your occupation, there is adequate capital to allow you to not only continue with*

Today more than ever, we need to take a closer look at our financial planning and ensure that we not only look after ourselves and our family from the unexpected risks that we face, but also make sure we plan for what lies ahead of us.

When looking at your financial plan you need to look at two main areas:

- 1. Wealth protection*
- 2. Wealth creation*

The first deals with the risk areas that we and our family are exposed to and the second with savings and investments.

Wealth protection.

It's essential to look at some risk areas:

• *Dying too soon: Planning for your premature death is a fundamental area of*



360NE: Two keys to securing your child's future

The cost of raising children has escalated significantly. This is in no small part due to the necessary privatisation of almost all services, medical and education being foremost examples.

Furthermore, the costs of privatised services are growing faster than overall inflation (CPI). Employers like to use CPI as a benchmark for salary increases which means that the income the average employee earns is growing slower than the costs they will need to pay in the future.

There are two keys to financially securing your child's future. Number one is to start investing early. Starting early gives you the advantage of compound returns which is one of the fundamentals of investing. It also gives you time to ride out short-term investment cycles.

Number two is to invest in something that beats inflation, and not just general inflation, but the inflation of the costs you are saving for. Leaving your money in the bank is very unlikely to do this.

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significant growth, we prefer equities which is why the majority of the holdings in our portfolios are equities.

Since January 2008 (which includes the global financial crisis) CPI has averaged around 6,5 per cent per annum while overall education inflation sits closer to 9 per cent. You would have done well to get an average of 7 per cent per annum before tax in a bank.

Over the same time period the JSE All Share Index has returned an average of around 10 per cent per annum and the

360NE MET Flexible Opportunity Fund and the 360NE Hedge Fund returned an average of around 14 per cent and 17 per cent per annum respectively.

It should be noted that past performance is not to be used as an indication of future performance and that caution is always warranted when investing in the stock market. However, in our opinion an investment in equities or with a top performing asset management company, has a good chance of producing significant long-term returns.



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your current standard of living, but that it also takes into account additional medical and lifestyle costs.

- **Critical illness and dread disease:** One of the most important risk areas and one becoming more prevalent today than ever before. While income protection gives you peace of mind should you become disabled or impaired, we often don't think of the lifestyle implications should we suffer a dread disease.

This risk area protects you on the diagnoses of diseases such as cancer, strokes, heart attacks and so on and not only allows for liquid capital to fund shortfalls in your medical costs, but allows you liquidity for a lifestyle adjustment during the period of illness and any changes in your lifestyle because of that.

The two main areas in wealth creation are savings and investments. Savings: shorter term capital protection-focused. Investments: medium to long-term capital growth. Discuss with a qualified financial adviser your investment objectives and time horizon, to do an appropriate risk analysis to bring your portfolio selection in line with your investment objectives.

Three main saving and investment time horizons:

- **Short-term savings** (money that will be needed in a period of less than one year horizon)
- **Medium term investments** (money that will be needed within a 5 - 10 year horizon)
- **Long-term investments** (money that will be needed 10 years and beyond)



Short-term savings:

Make sure you have a nest egg to allow for the funding of unforeseen expenses and events like retrenchment. This money must be easily accessible with little capital risk. The objective is to protect your capital while allowing accessibility of these funds

Medium term savings:

More goal orientated savings, looking at areas like education, overseas family vacations, deposits on motor-vehicle, etc. Cost of private education today will take a large amount away from disposable income and very few people will be able to meet these costs without an additional investment plan.

When looking at how much to invest, first identify at what age you want not to be reliant on your disposable income for funding education. Then, at what the costs today are for the proposed school of choice. Take

education inflation into account (it's very different from the inflation the Reserve Bank talks about.)

You need an investment to give you "real" inflation-beating returns, or your real purchasing power of money will be eroded.

Long-term investments:

With increased medical advancements, people are living longer; one in 10 economically active South Africans are able to retire with 70 per cent of their last income cheque and even fewer with 100 per cent of that cheque. Start investing as much as possible as early as possible for as long as possible.

The biggest problem with retirement savings is that people only wake up to the fact that they need to put money away when retirement is around the corner, when it's too late.

To decide how much you need to, sit with

a qualified professional and look at your portfolio holistically.

- **Begin with the end in mind** - know at what age you want to realistically retire.
- **Determine what amount** in today's terms on a monthly basis you would like as an income at retirement.
- **Take inflation into account** (Be more conservative - build in a healthy buffer into your CPI assumption).
- **Plan to be completely debt-free** at least five years prior to your desired retirement age.
- **Your primary residence is NOT a retirement asset.** Only look at assets that will give you an income at retirement as a retirement vehicle.
- **Take advantage of tax-efficient vehicles;** RAs if used correctly are great retirement vehicles.
- **Diversify your growth assets.**
- **Don't make investment choices based on yesterday's performances.**

Assume you want to retire at age 60 and you live till 90 with a desired income of R20 000 gross in today's terms, look at what approximately you will need to invest, assuming you are debt-free at different ages, assuming a six per cent return above inflation - inflation plus six per cent.

Age 20 you will need to invest R2 009 per month; age 30, R3 834 per month; age 40, R8 052 per month; age 50, R22 016 per month. A detailed financial plan looking at all your areas holistically will dramatically improve your ability to tackle the financial challenges of tomorrow.

- For more information, contact me at (011) 381-5953 or 083-564-9073.



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Sandton Sinai is a Torah school that nurtures its children into impeccably balanced individuals whose academic excellence, and genuine care and respect for others, sets them clearly apart from their peers.

From our parents...

I am so excited to hear that in January 2014 Sandton Sinai will be opening its doors to grade 1s and, hopefully, to my son and many other grade 2s, as well, should enough interest and numbers be raised for a grade 2... It would truly be a blessing if my son and many other children could become a part of the school's vision of providing an exceptional educational environment where outstanding teachers kindle in their children an authentic love of learning and living Torah...

...Sandton Sinai is also the perfect school for the families that may not be keeping Shabbat or kashrut yet, but want their children to embrace Jewish values and have the skills that give them the confidence to flourish in everyday life.

Investing in ETFs and ETNs

An exchange traded fund (ETF) is an easy way to get started on the stock market and is also a useful tool for the experienced investor.

ETFs are funds which use your money and invest it in a collection of assets. For example the Satrix 40 ETF invests in the top 40 biggest companies on the JSE and the NewGold ETF invests in gold.

In this way ETFs are similar to unit trusts. But you can trade ETFs on the stock market just like shares.

If you want to get into the stock market but are not sure which assets to invest in, ETFs allow you to invest in multiple assets at once. This gives you the risk-lowering benefits of diversification without the

expense of buying many assets. You can also invest in ETFs with small amounts of money - as little as R300 a month.

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In addition to ETFs, exchange-traded notes (ETNs) are available on the JSE. ETNs are similar to ETFs - your money is invested to give you the same return as a collection of assets. The only difference is that your money is not invested directly into the assets but an institution holds your money and promises you the return you would have received from those assets.

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Visit the page 'What Makes a Sandton Sinai kid' on our website for clues to the other hidden words going down. All of them relate to what we will be offering children at our school.

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REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN



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lauded for instilling fire into the hearts and bellies of young audiences, with professional polished and well-developed work.

Just when you think it’s impossible for NCT to raise the bar on its own work, there’s Honk!, a jazzed-up version of Hans Christian Andersen’s Ugly Duckling. The cast is young - many debuted on this stage - and they clearly love telling this tale about being different.

Its lines segue the context of Andersen’s 19th century to ours; the effect is never cheap. Costumes and set are innovative and low-tech, which holds the dignity of traditional children’s theatre intact and fuels it with sophisticated and tight choreography by Shelley Adrianzen.

While occasionally the music’s volume fights with the performers’ voices, making casualties of lyrics, all is contained by the theatre’s intimacy.

The work is grounded by Adam Pelkowitz as Drake and his wife Ida (Pulane Palmer). A fabulous cat (Donagh Roberts) teeters between accents but is spot on in evlness; and a bullfrog (Andile Magxaki) is sonorous and philosophical as any self-respecting bullfrog should be.

The unfortunate cygnet who hatches mistakenly in a duck’s nest is interpreted by Ferdinand Botha, with such heart, you will weep, at least twice. And oh! The little ducklings, played when I saw it, by Emma Rogers, India Milne, Julio Mambolo and Malaika Mambolo, are so deliciously adorable, they



Being ugly to Ugly. Pictured: Ferdinand Botha; Pulane Palmer; Julio Mambolo and Emma Rogers.

almost steal the show, but for astute direction, which enables the play to retain its own professional dignity.

Blending musical genres with equanimity, The Aristocats bursts onto the People’s Theatre stage without holding back on purring, hissing, scratching and biting. It’s questionable whether tots in the audience understand the implications of making your cats your beneficiaries; with its flowery language, American accents and French 19th context, this tale of kitty woe might entertain little ones with its full body furry costumes.

These costumes notoriously deplete the represented cats of elegance; gestures to reclaim feline suaveness are in

Rediscovering his Jewish soul in the sound of klezmer

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

Cape Town is in for a treat when leading New York-based klezmer music exponent David Krakauer (pictured) performs with Matthew Reid and his Playing with Fire Klezmer Band in a fundraiser - Klezmer Madness - for Jewish Care Cape at the Baxter Theatre on Sunday July 21.

Clarinetist Krakauer has been credited with taking the genre - that has its origins in the shtetls of Eastern Europe - into the 21st century. “My ancestry is Eastern European Jewish,” he explains of his interest, in a telephone interview from the Aspen (Colorado) Music Festival where he is currently performing.

Krakauer was an established classical musician with a master’s degree from the renowned Juilliard under his belt, when some 25 years ago he began to feel that he “wanted to do something different. I had played jazz as a teenager and I decided that I wanted to come back to ‘off the page’ (non-written) music that involved improvisation and playing from the heart,” he reminisces.

“I kind of gravitated to Klezmer music. For a while I was playing it for fun - more to explore my own Judaism which had been a little bit lost in the shuffle.

“My grandparents and great-grandparents abandoned Yiddish and a lot of the culture because when they came to the United States, it represented a fresh start and a real flight from horrible hardship, discrimination and oppression - they wanted to become Americans.



“For me, really enjoying in America the freedom to be who I was, gave me the opportunity to come back and explore my heritage.”

Through playing the music, Krakauer found that he was meeting Jewish people and learning about Judaism and the culture that had thus far been lost to him. He credits his grandmother from Belarus who spoke with a “very strong” Yiddish accent, with keeping alive the spark of Yiddishkeit in him.

“When I started to play klezmer music, suddenly I thought to myself: ‘Wow! This sounds like the voice of my grandmother.’”

Joining The Klezmatics (the band that revived klezmer music in the United States and worldwide) on a tour of Europe, he found “thousands of partying,

yelling, dancing Europeans who weren’t necessarily Jewish, who were just enjoying the music. We had a real attitude when we played,” he remembers.

“We played super-amplified - kind of a Jewish punk band, but still with a real old-time flavour to it. People really responded to that,” he says.

From there, Krakauer’s solo career took off: For a start, the celebrated Kronos Quartet heard about him and invited him to record The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind with them, something he describes a “a tremendous experience”. He has “become maybe one of the biggest world champions” of the piece and today plays it with string quartets and orchestras across the globe.

Krakauer has given the genre a modern twist by writing his own compositions, working with an electric guitar to give a contemporary sound and bringing in rock, funk, hip-hop and African-American influences.

“The balancing act has always been to retain the essence of the old tradition, but make it sound new and relevant,” he states. Rather than speaking of a klezmer revival, Krakauer feels that he is “making new works of art that relate to the story of my Jewish heritage and my search for my own identity, but that also take it beyond the genre”.

- Booking is through Computicket or the Baxter Theatre. For further information contact the Cape Jewish Seniors’ Association at (021) 434-9691 or e-mail: admin@cjsa.org.za



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

The focus of the SAJBD is now very much on preparing for our national conference, to take place on Sunday, August 25, at the Sandton Sun Hotel.

The Board’s biennial conference is one of the highlights of the Jewish communal calendar, one bringing together delegates from the entire spectrum of communal endeavour to learn about and discuss some of the most pressing issues of the day and enabling us to communicate to our constituents how we have gone about fulfilling its mandate to promote and safeguard the well-being of those we represent.

Over the next six weeks, further details about the conference will be communicated. At this stage, I can write that in place of the traditional opening night, there will be a post-conference gala dinner, which is open to all members of the Jewish community.

The keynote speaker will be Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who served with distinction in the South African Cabinet in the years 1994 - 2012 and is now chairman of the African Union Commission.

Other highlights will be the presentations of the SA-JBD Human Rights Award and the Eric Samson Mendel Kaplan Communal Service Award, a video presentation on the multifaceted work of the Board over the previous two years and entertainment provided by the orchestral ensemble, Buskaid.

What adds an extra dimension to this year’s conference is that it marks the Board’s 110th anniversary. It was established in 1903 to represent the Jewish communities of the Transvaal and Natal, and the following year a Board of Deputies was formed for Cape Jewry. The two bodies amalgamated to form a national SA

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

National conference preview

Jewish Board of Deputies in 1912.

Today’s leaders of the SAJBD are thus heirs to a long and honourable tradition of safeguarding Jewish civil rights, as well as of leading the community in participating in the affairs of the wider society as proud, involved citizens.

It is a great privilege for me to have been entrusted with the leadership of this fine organisation, and I look forward to reporting back on some of the things we have accomplished over the past two years. At this time, I ask you all to note the date and hope that as many of you as possible will join us for what is sure to be an exciting occasion.

Even comedy has its limits

It is understood and accepted that comedians have greater licence to make comments that in other contexts might be regarded as offensive and inappropriate. It is a tradition stretching back to the court jesters of old who, within certain limits, could poke fun even at the king himself.

However, even within the realm of comedy, there are red lines. One of these was crossed by the famous comic actor John Cleese, when he made a tasteless quip about the Holocaust at his recent show in Johannesburg.

It is one thing to mock the foibles and failings of humanity and its institutions, but this surely does not extend to making the victims of tragedy - in particular when that tragedy is man-made - the objects of mirth.

On receiving several complaints, we contacted Mr Cleese’s publicist and conveyed to him our view that it had been gratuitously hurtful and inappropriate. We were glad shortly thereafter to receive a sincere apology from Mr Cleese regarding the “joke”, along with an undertaking to omit it in future shows.

• Listen to Steven Gruzd on Jewish Board Talk on 101.9 ChaiFM every Friday 12:00 - 13:00.

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

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

It’s our problem

Walking through Jerusalem with my 12-year-old son, he was troubled, as we all are, by the number of Jewish beggars on the streets and said: “Dad, they should have Chevrah Kadisha here.”

The truth is that here, in Johannesburg, there should never be any Jewish beggars on the streets because it’s our job to take care of them. And we do.

Every now and then we hear reports of people who are begging and just lately it has been brought to our attention that four people are doing so in the Glenhazel, Fairmount and Norwood areas. These people are well known to us and are receiving assistance from us, provided they are really Jewish and not simply scam artists posing as Jews (we know those people too).

We caution the community not to offer them money, regardless of how convincing they appear and how strenuously they complain that the Chev refuses to help them, or doesn’t help them enough.

There is no limit to the amount of money that a chronic addict needs and these are the situations in which, without a doubt, money is the worst and most dangerous form of help to extend.

Despite the fact that the Chev offers counselling, rehabilitation and hospitalisation, some people remain unmanageable due either to the severity of their addiction; their unwillingness to help themselves, or because they suffer from a mental illness.

When they refuse treatment there are constraints to what the Chev can legally do to contain them.

Our law dictates that when they become a danger to themselves or others, they can be committed into a rehab facility, but although the Chev can facilitate the process, a family member, rabbi, or someone who knows the person well, must advocate for committal. And even that route has a limited lifespan.

People who adamantly resist treatment must not be enabled through money. Give them food, if you want to help, but don’t give them cash, and never invite them into your home. They must be forced to return to the Chev where truly beneficial, holistic help awaits them - again and again.

Keeping our streets free of Jewish beggars is our problem and with your help, we will take care of it.

May our partnership continue to thrive!

Communicate with me on feedback@thechev.org.za



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A bit of old Pietersburg now nestles in Telmond



Yossi Silberhaft; Minister Naftali Bennett; Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft; and Darren Platzky.

DAVID SAKS

A fortnight ago, former members of the Pietersburg Hebrew Congregation, as well as of the Louis Trichardt and Messina communities, joined the Telmond community in Israel for the official opening of their new synagogue.

Keynote speaker for the occasion was Naftali Bennett, Minister of Trade Industry and Labour and leader of the Yisrael Bateinu Party. Other speakers included the Rabbi of Telmond, Rabbi Shlomo Tzadok, head of the Telmond municipality, former Pietersburg committee member Dennis Wiener and Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader to the South African Country Communities.

For former Pietersburgers in particular, it was an emotional evening. Following the closure of the Pietersburg Hebrew Congregation in 2004, the Pietersburg Hebrew Congregation Trust decided to assist the Telmond community by donating a Sefer Torah, together with the interior furniture of the old shul, for its planned new synagogue.

The foundation stone was laid some four and a half years ago, following which the benches (suitably modified), pulpit and bimah, as well as the Holocaust memorial, from the Pietersburg Shul, were shipped over from South Africa. All these have been incorporated into the new structure.

A beautifully wrought timeline giving the history of the Pietersburg congregation and incorporating the original foundation stones of the various buildings used by the community over its more than 100 year history, has been erected in the foyer.

The evening commenced with a Hachnasat Sefer Torah ceremony, in which the Torah from the old Pietersburg congregation was formally ushered into its new home. All the speakers paid

warm tribute to those who had involved themselves with the project, with special mention being made of the part played by former South Africans Darren Platzky and Paul Wineberg.

Rabbi Tzadok commented that the dedication and passion shown in promoting the development of Telmond, epitomised the commitment to Jewish communal life that South African Jewry was famous for.

Denis Wiener, the last treasurer of the Pietersburg Hebrew Congregation (and the father of radio journalist and author, Mandy Wiener) observed that it had been the fate of many of the defunct country congregations in South Africa to have become “a blip on the radar screen”, their shuls abandoned or sold and their furnishings destroyed.

He and another former congregant, Wally Levy had been determined that their beloved Pietersburg congregation would not share the same destiny, hence their decision to assist the Telmond congregation.

The generosity of the latter in hosting the memory of the Pietersburg congregation had enabled it to live on in perpetuity in Eretz Yisrael, he said. Like most of the former South Africans in attendance, Wiener now lives in Israel.

Rabbi Silberhaft, who has likewise been much involved in the process from the outset, commented that the pulpit at which he was speaking had been the very first pulpit from which he had delivered a drosha back in the days when the congregation was still active.

He recalled the emotional valedictory service for the kehilla over which he had subsequently presided, and concluded with the prayer that the communal Neshama that had been so powerfully in evidence in Pietersburg would continue in Telmond.

Youth

TA Nursery School tots show off their school with pride



Jenny Unterslak with seven of her grandchildren - Shaya Zwick; Rivka Zwick; Kovi Unterslak; Toby Denburg (on Jenny's left); Etti Unterslak; Aharon Zwick; and Ari Unterslak.

RACHEL PELS

Grandparents and other family guests were welcomed to Torah Academy Nursery School recently for a special morning.

The school was divided into three groups, giving all guests the opportunity to spend time in each of their child's classrooms. A young child feels such pride when he or she is

able to show their classroom, their locker, their table and their chair.

The kids showed great excitement when introducing their family members to their friends and teachers.

Each grandparent/guest left with a personal piece of artwork by the tots. The younger classes created beaded photo frames together with their grandparent. The middle and older classes sang songs, had a davening ring or poems and then presented their loved ones with their masterpiece - a canvas painting.

Everyone was treated to a delicious breakfast.

The naches was tremendous; the vibe was amazing.

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Today, Friday (July 5)

- UZLC hosts Reeva Forman who will talk on “Israel - the Start-Up Nation - Success in the Face of Challenge”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (July 7)

- Johannesburg Heritage Foundation hosts a walking tour of “Doornfontein – The Great Survivors”. Doornfontein has wonderful highlights which hark back to earlier times. It was especially favoured by Jewish immigrants. Shops became kosher, synagogues sprung up all over and it even boasted the Jewish Workers Club. Meet at 10:00 and park at I H Harris School, 132 End Street. Tour lasts 2,5 hours. Cost R80 for members, R110 non-members. Contact: Eira Bond (011) 482-3349 or e-mail mail@joburgheritage.co.za. All men bring a yarmulke or hat for entering the shul.
- RCHCC is re-screening critically acclaimed documentary on Sholem Aleichem, “Laughing in the Darkness”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R70 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, or e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net, or www.greatpark.co.za

- Second Innings hosts Ambassador Douglas Gibson who will speak on “On Being a South African Ambassador”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members; R40 visitors. Contact: Grecia at grecia@jhbchev.co.za, or (011) 532-9718 or 082-561-3228.

Wednesday (July 10)

- The Chevrah Kadisha hosts Dr Frans Korb, clinical psychologist and psychiatrist/chairman SA Depression & Anxiety Group, on “Don’t Worry; be Happy”. (I’m depressed, I’m anxious: Can I still be happy?) Venue: Sydenham Shul Hall. Time: 19:45. Cost: R30 (incl light refreshments). Information and bookings: Sharon (011) 532-9616/e-mail: sharonp@jhbchev.co.za

- JWBS Johannesburg, urgently requires secondhand clothing, kitchenware, household goods, books and bric-a-brac. Proceeds to support the less fortunate in our community. Contact (011) 485-5232

- Celebrating a bar-/batmitzvah? Why not give a donation to WIZO’s bar-/batmitzvah project in Israel? You get a beautiful certificate to give to the bar-/batmitzvah child here. Certificates are available from WIZO tel (011) 645-2548.

- Second Innings runs a series courses and activities including scrabble, bridge, discussion groups, play reading groups, women’s and men’s reading groups, symphony concert rehearsals, bowls, pilates, Yogic Pranayama, walking and aerobics, Golden Oldies Cine Club, weekly workshops (by arrangement) on “falls education for the elder adult”, and organises regular activities. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

- The Benevolent Gift Shop (formerly Benarc Gift Shop) has gift presentations for all occasions, made to order. Call (011) 485-5232, JWBS. All kosher under the Beth Din. Proceeds to support the less fortunate in our community.

- Elise WIZO Gift Shop has an exciting range of gifts available. Contact (011) 640-2760 or call in at Genesis, bottom level of the Genesis Shopping Centre, 3 Bradfield Drive, Fairmount.

- Chabad House hosts a series of events throughout the year. Chai Seniors - Holistic & Kabbalistic Nourishment”. Daily programmes: Men’s Kotel Mon-Fri at Chabad House Library,

- Chabad House’s Jewish Learning, presents the third and last lecture in a virtual tour of ancient Jerusalem, “Heaven on Earth”, an interactive course that recreates the ancient Temples from the ground up. Venue: Chabad’s Goodness & Kindness Centre. Time: 19:00 - 20:30. Contact: Rabbi Ari Kievman 079-434-1293 or e-mail jli@chabad.org.za

- UJW CT adult education programme hosts Sonja Keschner who will talk on “From Germany to Uruguay - a Refugee’s Tale”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Sunday (July 14)

- Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St John’s College in St John’s Road Houghton at 14:15, with a programme of great Big Bands and artists of yesteryear. Information: Dave, (011) 885-3525 or Barney, (011) 440-1996.

Wednesday (July 17)

- UJW CT adult education programme hosts Janet Perrott Goedgedacht who will talk on “The Biggest Community Development Organisation in SA”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (July 18)

- JWBS’ 120th AGM takes place at the at Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Guest speaker Emilia Potenza, curator at the Apartheid Museum, will talk on “The Life and Times of Nelson Mandela”. To facilitate catering, please advise whether you will be attending by July 10. Contact: (011) 485-5232.

- UJW hosts a “Domestic Workers’ Appreciation Tea”, a fun and informative morning with entertainment for domestic workers, a cookery demonstration, a talk on security etc. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 10:00 - 12:30. Cost: R80. Booking essential. Contact: (011) 648-1053 to book.

- 09:00 -11:00, followed by lunch. Ladies Kotel Tuesdays & Thursdays. Special programmes: Mondays: Brain Worx with occupational therapist, Cynthia Liptz for brain exercises, 09:00 – 13:00. Both men and women welcome. Tuesdays: Guest lectures. For more info contact Rabbi Ari Kievman (011) 440-6600 or e-mail rak@chabad.org.za

- Bnoth Zion Association WIZO is collecting anything of value for its store. Contact (021) 464-6729 or Linda Saban 072-245-3225 or Cherna Kredo 084-589-8588.

- Johannesburg Children’s Home is appealing for shoes and takkies for children and teenagers. Contact Edna or Hylton Segal (011) 970-4266.

- Intimate Antiques Fair held on last Sunday of every month at Cedar Square corner Witkoppen/Cedar Avenue in Fourways, from 09:00 - 16:00. Contact Robyn 083-311-4768.

- The Selwyn Segal Gift Centre has a wonderful selection of well priced gifts for all occasions. Visit them Monday to Thursday from 8.30 to 4.00 and Friday till 2.00 Phone (011) 640-6413 or (011) 640-5171 Web site: www.selwynsegalgifts.co.za

- Join WIZO every Thursday for a “Lunch & Learn” shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz, 13:00 - 14:00 at Beyachad. Information: WIZO office (011) 645-2515. Joyce, (011) 640-2416.

- Stellenbosch Hebrew Congregation has a Friday evening service every week in shul, starting at 18:45. Contact (021) 886-5257.

Controversy rocks Durban July



ROCKING THE BOAT
Jack Milner

The Vodacom Durban July will be run this weekend and once again the final field announced has been caught up in controversy.

In all the years that I have been involved in racing - since 1972, in fact - I have not seen this much furore around the selection.

As with the selection of any sports team, speak to 50 people and you will get 50 different opinions of who should run in the R3,5-million race over 2200m at Greyville. However, with a sport such as tennis in which players have rankings, in horse racing each runner is given a merit rating.

A panel of experienced handicappers sit down and calculate what is called the "line horse" in each race. It is often a horse who

ran second, third or fourth and the performance of other runners are rated against that runner's merit rating. It is far from a perfect system, but has been adopted all over the world.

Of course it all comes down to whether one has chosen the correct line horse because syllogism logic is used to determine the other ratings. If the line horse is wrong, so is everything else. A syllogism is a logical argument based on a major premise, followed by a minor premise and finally a deduction made from the two statements.

For example, my major premise might be: "All men are mortal". The minor premise is: "I am a man" and the deduction is therefore "I am mortal". However, if the major premise is nonsense, any logical deduction is nonsense. "All dogs are named Rover", "My cat's name is Rover" therefore "my cat is a dog" is nonsensical logic.

Coming back to the Durban July. In essence, horses with the highest merit rating are considered to be better horses

by the handicappers. The race is run over 2200m so there are some highly rated runners who will not stay the distance and the handicappers are given the all clear to omit them.

However, Gold Circle, the company that stages the Durban July, has given "the company" the right to determine the final field.

Some runners with lower merit ratings - who are based in KwaZulu-Natal - got into the race while higher rated horses from other centres were ignored.

One of the horses which was omitted was Rock Cocktail, owned in partnership by Bernard Kantor and Larry Nestadt, and trained by champion trainer Mike de Kock. De Kock and Nestadt exploded. "Every year I expect the worst from the Gold Circle panel and I'm rarely disappointed. All they have done is to confirm what everybody already knows - that they're incompetent!" said De Kock.

Nestadt sent an open letter to Gold Circle's Graeme Hawkins questioning

their interference in the selection, what he calls Hawkins' blatant disregard of the handicappers' ratings and he challenged the Grade 1 status of South Africa's premier horse race.

Hawkins responded in a letter, claiming he has every right to challenge the handicapper and that the Durban July is "a Gold Circle racing event and the company pays the prize money and sets the conditions".

His first claim is that the SA Derby is the No 1 race and with Wylie Hall winning, Gothic running second and Wild One finishing third, they deserve their places.

He falls into the trap of using a false syllogism to get the outcome he was looking for. Most experts would not regard the SA Derby as the strongest Grade 1 race for three-year-olds as it contained mainly Johannesburg-based runners and one or two from Durban.

This drama is likely to continue after the race.

Bruce Fordyce joins Unity Challenge Jerusalem 2014 team



Bruce Fordyce, SA running legend, with Nicci Razz (ORT SA).

"Taking on a physical challenge such as a half or full marathon is a big commitment, but joining a team makes the experience fun and memorable. The Unity Challenge Jerusalem 2014 experience is going to be very unique and we are very excited to have Bruce on-board," says Nicci Raz (ORT SA).

MARCELLE RAVID ORT HEAD OF COMMUNICATION

Bruce Fordyce, legendary South African marathon and international ultra-marathon athlete, best known for having won the Comrades Marathon a record nine times, will be joining the SA Jerusalem Marathon 2014 team as the group's official "running guru".

Unity Challenge launched recently by ORT SA, Mizrahi and the SAZF, is a community initiative focused on fitness, charity and a show of solidarity for Israel.

"Elevate the physical into something spiritual," is the motto and the organisers have put together an extraordinary programme for those who join the team. "There is something for everyone - runners and their supporters will be able to enjoy some of the pre-marathon events," says Rabbi Ramon Widmonte of Mizrahi.

The journey, however, will begin long before the race. Each runner will have the opportunity to interact with Bruce, who will offer training and nutritional advice, as well as training runs leading up to the race, which takes place on March 21, 2014.

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