

70
DAYS

Countdown
to Jewish
Achiever
Awards!
(page 9)

South African Jewish Report

www.sajewishreport.co.za



Celebrating Israel's 65th in a fun walk

Shimon Shamila, director of Israel Centre, with his wife Renana and his children (from left) Daniel (1), in his father's arms; Binyamin (8); Itamar (4); and Michael (6), enjoyed the "Walk the Land 65" celebration of Israel's 65th birthday in Huddle Park in Johannesburg, on Sunday. The SAZF and Israel Centre jointly arranged the two-kilometre walk. The walk, also billed a "celebration of life" and a "family fun day", attracted walkers from non-Jewish Israel supporters as well. The walk had six stops along the way, all named after six Israeli cities and places of interest: Eilat, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Be'er Sheva, Haifa and the Golan Heights. At each stop there were various activities organised by the JNF, Betar, Habonim, Netzer, Israel Centre and Bnei Akiva. There was a raffle at the end of the walk and an iPad was donated by Israel Centre as the prize. The walk - and the entertainment - was thoroughly enjoyed by young and old.

Are drugs also a problem in SA Jewry?

Director of Chabad Jhb, Rabbi Masinter: "If even one person in the community is experiencing the dark realms of despair caused by addiction, the knock-on effects... are devastating... one person in our community is one too many."

2

Israel's Chief Rabbinate opposes Women of the Wall

Someone claiming to be affiliated with the Women of the Wall group sent a message to Israel's chief rabbis, saying that if they "do not allow Women of the Wall to pray according to our traditions", their "end is near". The threat also included a picture of a handgun.

6

VICTOR GORDON: Horwitz's hypocritical silence speaks for itself

"My advice to you, Allan, is quite simple: If you feel uncomfortable about donating your hard-earned cash to the JNF, it's your prerogative to direct your charity elsewhere. We can all exercise the same freedom of choice."

7



Rebbetzen Rochel Goldman leads by example

Said Rebbetzen Goldman: "We all have a duty to enrich the world and make a difference. My objective for starting WoW was to inspire women who could in turn inspire their families. Women are so often the catalysts for evoking great change in the world."

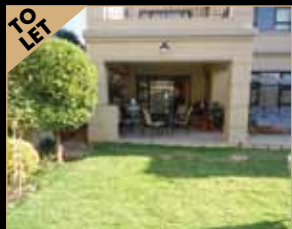
5

Honouring people who 'stretched their comfort zones'

"Knowledge is one thing, but acquiring it, sharing it and using it to change your circumstances, is another. An entrepreneur-friendly environment must be supported," says CEO of Liberty Retail, Steven Braudo.

5

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Shabbat Times

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June 8 / 30 Sivan		
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17:26	18:19	Cape Town
16:45	17:38	Durban
17:06	17:59	Bloemfontein
16:58	17:52	Port Elizabeth
16:50	17:44	East London

KASHRUT ALERT

THESE COATED JELLY TOTS ARE MILCHIK

Beacon Chocolate Coated Jelly Tots are certified kosher, milchik, but unfortunately one batch has been labelled with the parev logo, the kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues advises. Beacon has issued the following statement: “We have checked our packaging and indeed it incorrectly states parev. Of course it should have been milchik, as per Beth Din instruction, due to the chocolate coating. Our sincere apologies - please could you inform your consumers that we did make a mistake and that we will rectify it immediately.”

- The kashrut department also advises that All Gold spaghetti in cheese-flavoured tomato sauce is NOT kosher. The Beth Din parev logo has been used without authorisation and will be removed from future labels.

To be alive means to face challenges

In his famous epistle, Tzipisa Liyeshua, did you anticipate Redemption (one of the questions each person will be asked after 120 years), the Chofetz Chaim (Rabbi Yisroel Meir Kagan of Radin) laments the Galut, the exile, as a “failed experiment”.

After all, the purpose of Galut was to afford the Jew the opportunity to rise up against the challenges of spiritual and religious assimilation and to remain a committed Jew despite its difficulties.

The Jew of the early 19th century, to whom the Chofetz Chaim wrote this thesis, seemed, in the opinion of the great rabbi, to have squandered the opportunity afforded them by the lengthy galut.

Nearly 100 years later, the challenges of spiritual vascular coagulation seems greater than ever before.

If Jews were challenged back then by the world around them, if Torah was competing back then with a developing and wondrous

world, those challenges have simply become greater. Indeed, so challenging are the spiritual times we find ourselves in that I thank G-d that I was not born later, thus avoiding being a developing adult in today’s world.

Sometimes one just wonders if it is not just too difficult; if the cards are not simply stacked against us and the odds are simply not in our favour. Together with this wondering comes a wish, a hope, a yearning that the challenges be removed.

Put differently, and in the words of a great Chassidic master, if the beauty of heaven and mitzvoth was placed before our very eyes and were a tangible reality, while the pleasures of the world and its temptations needed to be studied from a book, instead of the other way round, the world would be a far better place.

However, this week’s parsha has a hidden message, one which suggests that to be alive, means to have challenges, to be conflicted, to have hurdles over which

one has to jump.

Following the failed rebellion of Korach against the leadership of Moshe and the Priesthood of Aharon, the Jewish people lament their fate. Clearly, only a select few may enter the Ohel Mo’ed, the Tent of Meeting. “Kol hakarev hakarev...yumat” - he who comes close to the Tabernacle will die.

They were concerned that perhaps someone will accidentally come too close and pay with his life. “Ha’im tamnu ligvo’a” - are we doomed to die?

In these short lines, however, is the message we mentioned above. When a person considers himself or herself to be so close to Hashem that they cease to have a conflict in their lives, a challenge to observe more and to elevate themselves spiritually, at that point “we are doomed to die”.

The moment we feel that we cannot go higher, that there are no more levels to ascend, no more challenges to overcome and conquer, at that point in time



Parshat Korach
Rabbi Gidon Fox
Pretoria Hebrew
Congregation

something inside of us dies. G-d’s divine will is that man should be faced with spiritual conflict and challenge, for therein, true living is experienced.

In the book of Lamentations, Eicha, we say “Chasdei Hashem ki lo tamnu”. Literally it means the kindness of G-d is that we were destroyed. Homiletically, though, it means that the kindness of Hashem is that we are not Tamim, perfect, for it is within our struggles and our imperfections that life is able to be lived.

It is then that we can truly reach our potential and submit the highest peaks of life. The greatest danger to success is complacency and the greatest inhibitor of growth is the belief there is neither room nor need for further growth.

Community Voices

Are drugs also a problem in SA’s Jewish community?

SA Jewry is small enough to know itself well, but also small enough to keep secrets it regards as stigmas, like the presence of drug addiction, completely hidden. This may prove destructive rather than productive, for the lives of those afflicted. We asked different people who have had experiences with drug addiction, if South African Jewry, like any other local community, has drug problems.



Rabbi Mordechai Abraham: “I met Ian Magnes about 20 years ago. Professionals said he was a psychotic cocaine addict and advised I stay away from him. I took him into my home; he became like a member of my family.

“Recently he died from complications after cancer therapy. His family takes solace in knowing he was ‘clean’ for 17 years. If a victim of drugs is close to you, it’s a major problem. I have helped hundreds of Jewish addicts and their families. I would like to start a fund in Ian’s name to enable me to ameliorate this problem. My contacts: addictsrabbi@gmail.com, 083-288-4568.”



Ray Perkel, EFT Practitioner, More to Life Coach: “As much as we acknowledge the protective structures of Jewish community life, our community isn’t exempt from dysfunctional aspects of broader society. “The causes of substance abuse are primarily psychological, exacerbated

by the distorted values and the culture of unconsciousness prevailing in our social context. Perhaps the most important factor underlying addictions is the desire to escape from emotional pain. This is accompanied by the abdication of personal responsibility.

“Today we are blessed with highly effective energy-based models of therapy (such as Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT)) to address these issues. Such ‘mind-body’ therapies support the individual to renew their life path expressed in healthy choices.”



“Tova”*, a recovering heroin addict, Wits graduate, living in London: “I did drugs from a young age, not because I desired them, but because they just seemed to be around. I hung out with kids that did them. I never ever liked taking them, in fact I hated it; they made me anxious.

“Eventually, I found a drug that relieved my anxiety. Heroin. But then that made me sleepy and so I would use it with ‘speed’, staying awake for five days at a time and working. Once I went to get drugs from Senator Park on Long Street in Cape Town.

“I saw a woman who I had known as a girl.

She was now a prostitute. She asked if I wanted to go upstairs with her. I considered it as I thought it would be interesting, but I said no. I know now that if I hadn’t gone to rehab, I would eventually have ended up where she was. I was so very close to that door.”



Dan Wolf, psychologist specialising in addiction counselling, Houghton House, Johannesburg: “Over the last 20 years there’s been enormous increase in substance abuse; hard drugs are now much more easily available than ever before. Drug dependency does not discriminate - between high-powered executives and adolescents, or between the affluent and indigent.

“One must look, however, at how the Jewish community responds. Involvement in recovery programmes, like the 12-step fellowship, sees support from Jews, disproportionate to the community’s size.

“This does not indicate that Jews are more drug dependent than others. Rather, it indicates that Jews are more responsive: the Jewish family unit often offers a high level of support to the individual, which is critical for recovery

going forward.” Contact: (011) 787-9142, www.houghtonhouse.co.za or www.houghtonhouse.org.za



Rabbi David Masinter, Director, Chabad House, Johannesburg: “If one were to compare the drug problem in the Jewish community in South Africa, to that of another country like America or Australia, I would feel compelled to

say thank G-d we do not have an endemic drug problem within our community.

“This being said, one cannot say there is no drug problem - our youth are constantly experimenting with all sorts of things; this should never be taken lightly. If even one person in the community is experiencing the dark realms of despair caused by addiction, the knock-on effects for this person and their loved ones are devastating, thereby making one person in our community, one too many.”

Narcotics Anonymous: Helpline: 083-900-6962 www.na.org.za

*[*Names have been changed to protect the identity of the people and their families]*

Jewish Report

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Jews in the News

An overview of SA media Correct on June 5

MAIL AND GUARDIAN
www.mg.co.za

“Marcus stresses South Africa’s price stability task as GDP slumps”
“If you have higher inflation, you’re going to have higher prices, and you’re going to have higher wage demands,” Reserve Bank governor, Gill Marcus, said earlier this week. On May 23, she cut this year’s projection to 2,4 per cent, while keeping the benchmark interest rate at 5 per cent, the lowest in more than 30 years.

BUSINESS DAY
www.bdlive.co.za

“Second-best is still good for William Kirsh”
It is inevitable that press attention will focus on anything involving former Primedia CEO William Kirsh, especially when he gets embroiled in a first-class row with the board of listed FoneWorx. What has escaped many is that the Kirsh Trust went off with a profit of almost R50m, earned after just 11 months on an initial investment of about R50m.

CAPE TIMES
www.iol.co.za/capetimes

“Move tournament from Israel, says Tutu”
Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu has joined calls for the Union of European Football Associations (Uefa) to move the Under-21 European (Football) Championship from Israel because of the Jewish state’s treatment of Palestinian sport. The SA Jewish Board of Deputies said Tutu’s call was a missed opportunity for engagement and agreement.

CITY PRESS
www.citypress.co.za
“South Africa lights up Paris”
For the opening of the SA Season in France last week, dignitaries rocked to the beat of Phuzekhemisi. Last year French professionals visited SA. This year close to 1 000 South Africans are visiting France. The opening event featured Beauty by Robyn Orlin, the evening’s choreographer, working with talent from Johannesburg’s Moving Into Dance Mophatong.

THE DAILY MAVERICK
www.thedailymaverick.co.za
“Karabus: no more beard, same fighting spirit”
Some dramatically stormy Cape Town weather was not enough to deter a sizeable crowd at the Gardens Synagogue on Sunday, to hear a newly beardless Cyril Karabus answer questions from the public. Both Karabus and lawyer Michael Bagraim didn’t mince words in criticising the United Arab Emirates.

FINANCIAL MAIL
www.fm.co.za
Historical moves
Since the 1960s the name of Chris Levin has been synonymous with SA haute couture. Besides gracing runway models, Levin’s creations have been worn by a host of international celebrities and several SA first ladies. In an unprecedented move, the auction house Strauss & Co held an auction of some of Levin’s collection, including the drawings of these designs, on Monday.

SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
www.sabc.co.za
“Cape Chamber of Commerce backs Zuma”
The Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry has come out in support of President Jacob Zuma’s recent remarks condemning acts of violence during industrial action. The chairman of the Chamber’s Human Resources Committee, Michael Bagraim, says that although the statement failed to reassure investors, it was necessary as there had been instances where government had condoned illegal acts.

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Big turnout for Karabus fundraiser

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

Close to 800 people – including Muslim leaders – turned out to welcome Professor Cyril Karabus and the team behind the campaign to secure his release from the United Arab Emirates. Karabus addressed them at the Gardens Synagogue on Sunday evening. From the R50 entrance fee, R36 500.00 was raised towards the legal costs of the professor’s defence during his nine months’ captivity, which total some R250 000.

At the moment, there are no plans for a similar fundraising initiative in Johannesburg. “Cyril’s still not fully recovered,” explained Michael Bagraim, his South African lawyer who drove the campaign for his release. “I think it’s all a bit bewildering for him - I believe that it’s going to take a long time for him to recover from this ordeal, but he tends not to agree with me.”

Karabus was arrested in August last year while in transit through Dubai after attending his son’s wedding in Canada. The 78-year-old retired paediatric oncologist had, unbeknown to him, been convicted of fraud and manslaughter over the death of a three-year-old cancer patient he had been treating while doing a locum in Abu Dhabi in 2002 and there was a warrant out for his arrest.

On the positive side, Bagraim feels the whole saga went a long way towards “healing the rift between the Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities. We worked very well together. “I had a weekly slot on the Voice of the Cape (Muslim) radio station and spoke to Radio Islam. I spoke to Islamic prayer groups.

“He was the perfect individual to cross those boundaries,” Bagraim said, referring to Karabus, “because he had dedicated his life to saving kids during apartheid - at Red Cross Hospital, almost 30 per cent of those kids were Muslim.

“The Muslim community know and understand that and came out in full force to support him.”

Bagraim also appeared regularly on Christian radio programmes, discussing the case. “They also had prayer groups going for Cyril’s safe return.”

Bagraim says he will be working with the Cape Board of Deputies to capitalise on the spirit created. “We can make some good out of it,” he says.

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SHIRA DRUION

Simone Hope was the guest speaker for the morning and shared her

“During the process, I also real-



**Diane Levine, new chairman
of the Union of Jewish Women
Johannesburg.**

“The journey also taught me that everybody’s dreams are valuable for them. Often we make judgements on what others should value.”



south african Jewish Report

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jewish achiever awards
2013

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Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2013

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- Business Person - Absa Listed Company Award
- Business Person - Absa Unlisted Company Award
- Business Person - Absa Entrepreneur Award
- The Community Service Award
- The Arts, Science, Sports & Culture Award
- The Chivas Humanitarian Award in honour of Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris.

TO NOMINATE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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The closing date for nominations is 28 June 2013

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Heroes under the radar

To the “born-frees” - youngsters born after democracy in 1994 - June 16 is simply Youth Day. Older South Africans, however, remember the 1976 Soweto Riots which the holiday commemorates, when black students poured into the streets protesting the imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in their “Bantu Education” schools.

Police began shooting, things spun totally out of control and many people died. The next day some 1 500 heavily armed police officers were deployed to quell the unrest. The number of people killed is usually given as 176, with some estimates up to 700. The brutality injected new fuel into the anti-apartheid struggle and ultimately helped seal the apartheid regime’s fate.

The iconic photograph of that day, recognised world-wide, showed a lifeless 13-year old Hector Pieterse being carried in the arms of a stranger after being shot, with his hysterical 16-year-old sister running alongside.

A lesser known hero of that day was sociologist Melville Edelstein, a government welfare officer who had devoted his life to social welfare among blacks, and who found himself in the proverbial wrong place at the wrong time.

He was stoned to death by a mob and left with a sign around his neck proclaiming “Beware Afrikaners”.

He had for years worked at establishing community projects for Soweto’s youth. That morning he had been at a workshop programme for sheltered employment. He was driving out of the area and ran into raging black students who set upon him because he was white, associating him with Afrikaner officialdom.

The irony was that Edelstein was Jewish and not Afrikaners and his political views were very far from what the students were protesting against.

Edelstein epitomised the “unsung hero” who works tirelessly - quietly and without fanfare - at improving society and helping its distressed members, and who never gets - and generally does not want - the glaring public recognition bestowed on big-time politicians. Edelstein never allowed the external political goings-on to prevent him from doing his work.

When the history books are written, the high-profile people are mentioned; history is written around them. The many thousands of Edelsteins working below the radar are invisible. Without them, though, history would be very different.

South Africa has, through the years, had many unsung heroes, including members of Jewish organisations who have worked to better the lives of other South Africans.

Thousands of schoolchildren, for example, get up in the morning in poor homes which cannot afford to feed them, and go to school to find a breakfast waiting for them provided by voluntary organisations.

Police stations to which a raped woman runs to report the crime, have “rape kits” installed to give them immediate medical assistance.

Other communities receive school textbooks, medical assistance from volunteer doctors, and clothes from ordinary South Africans.

The Union of Jewish Women, which had its AGM two weeks ago - see story on page 4 - is one of these organisations with an illustrious history. Its members have been the quintessential unsung heroes, going into black townships during apartheid for all sorts of welfare projects, and involved in many things for the Jewish community, such as Kosher Mobile Meals.

South Africa is a different country since Edelstein’s death 37 years ago.

Today’s black youth did not grow up in apartheid and know nothing of pass laws; it is not uncommon to see black and white kids mixing freely. Mandela’s rainbow nation still eludes us, but we can show some real progress.

Yet we remain a violent, troubled society. Murder and rape statistics chill the spine; the gap between rich and poor is at a worldwide peak, with poverty as high as ever. An explosion based not on racial oppression, but on this gap, is not totally unlikely.

The need – and recognition - for those unsung heroes who carry on working behind the scenes, is as urgent as it always was.

In case you forgot, Israel’s Chief Rabbinate opposes Women of the Wall



Lesley Sachs, director of “Women of the Wall”, is detained by police due to her wearing a tallit (prayer shawl) visible while at morning prayers together with “WoW” at the Western Wall, Judaism’s holiest site, in Jerusalem on April 1.

BEN SALES
JERUSALEM

We’ve got one week to go before the next Women of the Wall service, and the storm of controversy is (predictably) brewing once again. This month, it’s courtesy of Israel’s Chief Rabbinical Council, the Chief Rabbinate’s governing body, which announced on Tuesday that - after deliberating - it has come to a decision regarding Women of the Wall.

The decision? “There should be no change from the status quo, and the Western Wall should be treated with the holiness of an [Orthodox] synagogue,” according to a media release.

Unless I missed something, the council came to this decision 25 years ago, when Women of the Wall first began meeting at the Kotel at the beginning of every Jewish month.

That’s also what the Rabbinate’s spokesman, Ziv Maor, told me.

“It’s nothing new,” he said. “It’s a clarification.”

Maor says that the council is announcing the decision now due to increasing calls for religious pluralism at the Kotel. It’s possible, though, that the timing is a signal from the council that, even as Women of the Wall now have the legal right to pray as they wish at the Kotel, the Chief Rabbinate isn’t going to go down without a fight.

The same message was more than evident at last month’s Women of the Wall service, where thousands of haredi girls packed the plaza, and dozens of haredi men threw stones, coffee, water and a chair at the group. The council’s announcement also included a routine call against “any provocative action and any violent behaviour from any side, and requests that the sides act with restraint”.

In related news, according to a Women of the Wall media release, someone claiming to be affiliated with the group sent a message to Israel’s chief rabbis, saying that if they “do not allow Women of the Wall to pray according to our traditions,” their “end is near.” The threat also included a picture of a handgun, according to the release.

Women of the Wall have condemned the threat and say that its anonymous author isn’t connected to the group. Then, in a statement that would seem bizarre out of context, the group said it wished the chief rabbis “strength and courage during this trying time”.

Further JTA reporting

The rabbi of the Western Wall, Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, said in a statement issued on Monday that he also had received a threatening letter calling for him to allow the Women of the Wall to pray at the Kotel undisturbed. Rabinowitz’s office said a complaint over the letter had been filed with the Israel Police in Jerusalem.

In New York, The Jewish Federations of North America’s board of trustees on Monday passed a resolution supporting Natan Sharansky’s proposed compromise on egalitarian prayer at the Western Wall.

The resolution, according to a JFNA statement, says the compromise “develops a pathway whereby the Kotel will once again become a spiritual centre for all Jews and a symbol of unity for the entire Jewish community worldwide”.

Announced in April, the proposal would expand and raise the area adjacent to the current Western Wall Plaza known as Robinson’s Arch and create a unified entrance for both sections. Robinson’s Arch has been used as a prayer space by non-Orthodox groups for about a decade.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked Sharansky, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, to formulate a plan in December that would satisfy haredi Orthodox leaders who wanted to maintain exclusive control of the site and religious pluralism activists who wanted it opened to egalitarian prayer.

“By issuing this resolution, the Jewish Federations are giving voice to the strong desire across our community to resolve this critical issue and ensure that all Jews can experience the most spiritually powerful place in Judaism,” JFNA President and CEO Jerry Silverman, said in the statement.

Sharansky’s plan, which was greeted at first with some enthusiasm by both sides of the debate, has lost support recently from both sides. (JTA)

Horwitz’s hypocritical silence speaks for itself

VICTOR GORDON

Allan Horwitz of “Stop the JNF” contends that Stop the JNF does not call for the destruction of the State of Israel, but rather a negotiated settlement with Palestinians that respects individual and collective rights “as enshrined in various UN Charters and the South African Bill of Rights.” However, I find it strange that he omits Israel’s own Declaration of Independence and would like to address an open letter to Horwitz.

Israel’s Declaration of Independence clearly states: “...that the State of Israel would ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex, and guaranteed freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture”. Why the need to look further?

In 1994 the Knesset amended two basic laws, human dignity and liberty and freedom of occupation, introducing a statement saying that “the fundamental human rights in Israel will be honoured... in the spirit of the principles included in the declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel”.

You appear to suggest that Israel excludes itself from “a call for a negotiated settlement with the Palestinians” despite its repeated well-documented offers to do just that with both Yasser Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas (never mind the infamous Khartoum Resolution the “3 Numbers” - following the Six Day War which effectively slammed the door on future negotiations with Israel for decades to come). It’s unlikely that you would not be aware of this history.

While you demand that Israel “cease its armed occupation and annexation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem and its siege on Gaza”, you fail to offer any solution to the very real problem of how it could guarantee that withdrawal would not result in an even worse barrage of missiles than experienced from Gaza.

Further, I challenge you to explain what benefit Israel derives from her presence in the West Bank, as the cost of remaining in this enclave is horrendous with miniscule reward. Disingenu-



In November last year, Stop the JNF protesters outside a Johannesburg branch of Reggies toy shop.

ousness.

Your well-worn demand that Israel “cease its current denial of basic human rights to those under occupation” is not only frayed at the edges but irritating in its disingenuousness.

No country having treated 180 000 Palestinian patients in its hospitals during 2012 alone, while allowing essential goods to stream across the border with Gaza, should be accused so falsely and maliciously. It is the usual empty, dishonest rhetoric that organisations such as yours spew forth daily.

Finally, you wish to show “solidarity with those Israelis and Palestinians who share universal concerns for justice and peace and to confront the Zionist movement with the current reality”.

In layman’s terms, what does this mean? I contend that there are thousands of Israelis across the political spectrum from left to right who share these concerns and are far more aware of their implications than you, seated as you are in the comfort of your Cape-based armchair. I also contend that in your mind, “universal concerns for justice and peace” apply to left-wing liberals alone while all “others” must revel in anticipation of ongoing occupation, all-out war and the potential loss of their sons and daughters.

I am also curious to learn what “the Zionist movement” means to you as you refer to it as some suspicious, troublesome, entity lurking in the shadows of Israeli politics with an outdated agenda of its own.

Finally, you are naive to think that “nonviolent protest against Israel’s policies” remains nonviolent. Your organisation is close enough to the BDS campaigners to know what occurred at both the Yossi Reshef concert as well as the Yom Ha’atzmaut celebrations in Johannesburg.

Not all the members of your organisation and your affiliates can be relied upon to behave in a civilised manner and respect the rights of mutual discourse that you claim for yourselves. If, as you say, “the Jewish community should (not) be deprived of freedom of association and assembly”, why have you not publicly condemned those who have tried to stifle this right in the past? Your hypocritical silence speaks for itself.

Finally, the matter of the Bedouins is not a simple one for discussion in a matter of a few lines. It is convoluted and complex, no more so than the issue of land redistribution in our own country.

At best your comments are simplistic and unsubstantiated. I respectfully advise you to examine www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Society_&_Culture/Bedouin.html which provides an extensive overview of the Bedouin and their place in Israeli society.

My advice to you, Allan is quite simple: If you feel uncomfortable about donating your hard-earned cash to the JNF, it’s your prerogative to direct your charity elsewhere. We can all exercise the same freedom of choice.

World News in Brief

Torah scroll may be world’s oldest

BOLOGNA - A university in Italy has discovered what it said might be the oldest complete Torah scroll known to exist, according to a BBC report on Tuesday.

The scroll was found in a library at the University of Bologna. The report said the scroll was previously thought to be at most a few hundred years old, but textual, graphic and paleographic examination of the scroll, confirmed by carbon dating tests, determined that it was written around 800 years ago, between the second half of the 12th century and the beginning of 13th century (1155 - 1225).

A professor at the university was quoted as saying the scroll had been mislabeled by a librarian in 1889. That librarian dated the scroll to the 17th century, even though it was apparently much older. (Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org)



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ROBYN SASSEN

Throughout this project, he has used an app called Brushes, an app made famous by American artist David Hockney. He draws with a finger on a touch screen and has yielded this series entitled Baby Yellow. Evocative of a mix between the classic children's "Ladybird" imprint of publications published from 1915 and the delicate quirkiness of the illustrations in Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *Little Prince* (1943) published in a myriad languages, the works have a darker edge, but remain compelling in their narrative directness and psychological sophistication.

"Baby Yellow is a character who just came about," Arenson explains. "Please know," he writes on his blog marketing Baby Yellow, in language



evoking a mix between childlike simplicity and the directness of a Japanese haiku, “this is not a book for children. The books express feelings of a very big nature.

“The nature is so big that sometimes you cannot see the ends of it and it feels like you are standing in the middle of nothingness.

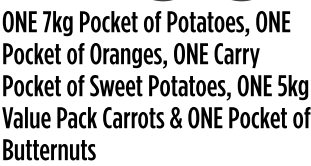
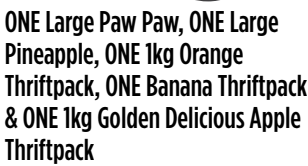
“Sexual, honest, simple, terrifying, beautiful and ordinary, this is Baby Yellow’s guide through that journey. That imaginary journey of a six-year-old boy named Baby Yellow, who loves baby yellow and whose feelings are all real.

“In February 2011,” he adds, “I was funded to travel to New York for a month by the Ampersand Foundation. I was exploring the notion of the artists’ book at the time,

Baby Yellow is available through <http://itunes.apple.com> and is on show at Guru in Parktown North until mid July. Tel (011) 447-5044



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Nominations for Jewish Achievers are gathering steam



File photograph

Former deputy CEO of Absa, Louis von Zeuner and former winner Wayne Plit, present Selwyn Smith of Fore Good Group and One Property Holdings with his award for non-listed companies, at last year's Achievers function.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The main jewel in the crown of events hosted by the SA Jewish community remains the annual Achievers event, to be hosted this year on August 15, in the Maroela Room, Sandton Sun. With just three weeks to go for nominations for winners - which closes on June 28 - things are becoming very exciting.

Thus far, close to 100 nominations have been received for the various awards, with

more of a focus on the lifetime; humanitarian; arts, science, sport and technology; community service; and entrepreneur awards than on the business awards, but this is still relatively early days and nominations are continuing to roll in.

Some of South Africa's most prominent role-players have been honoured over the years at this event, which traditionally brings together the Who's Who of Jewish business and society. Past business winners include Discovery Health's Adrian Gore

(2000); Primedia's William Kirsh (2005); Pick n Pay's Raymond Ackerman (2010); Gill Marcus (2000); Patrice Motsepe (2004); and Brian Joffe (2009).

Past humanitarian award winners include Former President Nelson Mandela (1999); Ina Perlman of Operation Hunger (2002) and joint winners Marc Lubner of Afrika Tikkun and Danny K and Kabelo of Shout (2011).

Other well-known names recognised for their achievements in this award, include paleoanthropologist Professor Phillip Tobias (2002), cricket supremo Dr Ali Bacher; anthropologist/singer Johnny Clegg; satirist Pieter-Dirk Uys (2008), artist William Kentridge (2011) and virologist Prof Barry Schoub (2012).

Readers are invited to nominate who they consider would be worthy winners in any of the prestigious categories.

Please e-mail your nominations to nominations@sajewishreport.co.za. Members of the Board of Directors of the SA Jewish Report or their families are not eligible for nominations.

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DON KRAUSZ’S ARGUMENT ON THE HOLOCAUST IS FLAWED

Responding to my letter to the Jewish Report, Don Krausz has argued on May 24, that the Holocaust “was enabled by the German population which *today* numbers some 78 million, and the populations of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, the Ukraine, Hungary and Romania, totalling millions of people...”

Today’s population figure is not relevant to the number of Germans involved at the time.

It is true that most Germans bought into Hitler’s evil vision of a great Aryan “master race” (Herrenvolk) purified of “troublesome” “subhumans” (Untermensch) such as Jews and Gypsies, who were also blamed for many of Germany’s problems.

Most of them supported the anti-Semitic persecutions. It is nevertheless impossible to tally the number involved in the actual slaughter itself.

In fact, the “Final Solution” was a state secret. The Nazis did not want to horrify the world with these atrocities, nor did they want the Jews to be galvanised into resisting the killings.

The impression was rather created that the Jews were being resettled in the “east” and put to work.

As part of this deception, the slogan “Work Sets you Free” was placed above the gates of Auschwitz. The victims were tricked into believing that the gas chambers were merely showers. Finally, the evidence was then burned in crematoria. Furthermore, as the war was ending, the Nazis destroyed some of the gas chambers to hide the massacres from the world.

Much of the actions were conducted by highly trained and heavily indoctrinated SS men. The mass killings were generally performed in remote locations and the SS were not allowed to mention them, even to fellow Germans. Code words were also employed to disguise these events.

Only towards the end of the war did reports of these activities in the extermination camps begin to filter out.

It is therefore an exaggeration for Krausz to state that the populations of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, the Ukraine, Hungary and Romania enabled these events, since they were so secret.

It would also be a huge exaggeration to believe that everyone in these nations was involved.

For Krausz to write that “those in Eastern Europe witnessed it in all its horror” cannot be literally true, even if all the gassings were performed openly.

It is an exaggeration to believe that every single person in Eastern Europe could have witnessed each and every murder undertaken in this vast territory.

Granted that many of these people eagerly involved themselves in supporting the murderous Nazis. However, many resisted the trend to get caught up in the massive anti-Jewish hysteria of the times; some of them risked their lives to save Jews.

Those who are known, have been honoured as Righteous Gentiles. Since they had to act in secret, avoiding the pervasive Gestapo and their informers, many others will never be discovered.

Martin Zagnoev
Sunningdale, Johannesburg

Looking for descendants of Chana Finkelstein

Brian Gers from St Louis, Missouri, in the US, is trying to locate long-lost family in South Africa. He writes: “I am looking for descendants of Chana (Wiskind) Finkelstein, who emigrated to South Africa originally from Lithuania in the 1920s. I know she had a daughter named Margaret who would be in her 80s most likely, if still alive. “I know that Margaret was living in Johannesburg around 1983. Gers may be contacted at brian.gers@yahoo.com

JEWISH HISTORY RIFE WITH TALES OF MIXED MARRIAGES

With regard to Mike Ploos’ letter [May 31], “Orthodox rabbis, Beth Din partly to blame for declining Jewish figures”, I agree with his ascription of part of the blame for the diminishing Jewish community.

I am an Orthodox Jewish woman and both my parents were from generations of Orthodox descent. I’m still a member of the same Orthodox synagogue they joined when I was a teenager... but my late husband was not Jewish.

Both my children are Orthodox members, my son in the same congregation [among whom he celebrated his barmitzvah more than three decades ago] and my daughter in England. However, after recently listening to a certain drosha vehemently denouncing mixed marriage, he said to me: “It sounds as though we may well be asked to leave the congregation. Where will we go then?” Where indeed.

Cry, the beloved faith!

The irony of it is that almost all of the decisive figures in our history either entered into mixed marriages or were the descendants of such marriages.

Joseph’s wife Asnath was an Egyptian and their sons were embraced into the “family” by the simple expedient of Jacob blessing them... and still today we bless our sons in their names.

Moses was married first to Zipporah, a Midianite and there is no record, to my knowledge, of her having converted, unless the fact that she herself circumcised their second son Eliezer entitles her to be considered so.

His second wife was a Cushite, and when Aaron and Miriam objected, even G-d was incensed and instantly struck Miriam down with leprosy. So, if one were descended of Moses himself, would one not be counted as Jewish?

The Moabite woman, Ruth was accepted by making the simple statement: “Thy people shall be my people and thy G-d my G-d.” Her great-grandson was the much revered King David and his liaison with a Hittite woman [Bathsheba] produced Solomon.

I seem to recall, in the distant past in this country, that Jews who wanted to adopt were advised to take children NOT of Jewish descent because, at that time, there was concern about future possible inadvertent consanguinity since the ancestry of the Jewish birth parents remained undisclosed, [quite apart from the fact that Jewish children were almost never put up for adoption].

But speaking of those concerns, one would think that a little genetic variation would be desired instead of railed against. It is well known in the medical field that a very serious condition known as Transfusion-Related Graft-versus-Host Disease is especially prevalent in the Jewish population due to their ghetto-type preference for in-marriage.

In New York, I’m given to understand, all Jewish teenagers of Ashkenazi descent have their blood tested for genetic profiles. The results are stored in a computer and in later years, when two wish to marry, their profiles are compared and they are informed as to whether or not that union is advisable. Such is the present state of affairs because of the inbreeding of our people.

Yes, I also believe that the Orthodoxy need to have a serious rethink about where their policies are heading instead of ascribing all the blame to the people. Surely what matters is a person’s loyalty to the faith and reverence for the magnificent principles embodied in our Torah!

Ellen van Hoogstraten
Sandton

WHAT IS SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE SHOULD BE SAUCE FOR THE GANDER

I’m pretty sure that most of us have been exposed on video and YouTube to films of Muslims in New York, Bradford et al, spilling out of their mosques, which are unable to contain their numbers and into the streets, blocking those streets and creating diversions and inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians.

And we’ve probably thought: The chutzpah of these people, for their lack of consideration for people who don’t share their religious belief.

At least, that was my opinion. And then I thought: Whoa there! Am I not being a hypocrite and practising double standards?

Don’t misunderstand me and kol hakavod to those who guard those institutions, but aren’t we guilty of the same injustices by blocking off the streets outside Yeshiva College and Sydenham-Highlands North Shul on Shabbos and Yomtov, thereby creating a similar inconvenience to others? Can we really justify this?

Jack Miller
Gresswold, Johannesburg

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**RABBI DOVID HAZDAN
GREAT PARK SYNAGOGUE**

Over 30 boys and girls who are part of this year’s Great Park bar- and batmitzvah programme, recently visited Uthando, Afrika Tikkun’s centre in Hillbrow.

They had the privilege of distributing over 400 blankets that had been collected at the Lag B’Omer “Shmooza” community-wide event a few weeks ago. In addition, hundreds of jackets and coats donated by Benjy and Ronell Duchen and boxes of stationery supplies donated by Treeline products were also presented to the centre.

It was wonderful to see the smiling faces of the hundreds of children who received the blankets and jackets, ahead of the winter. It was equally heart-warming to see the joy on the faces of the givers.



Recipients Tetsembe Dlamini and Sihle Bob, with batmitvah girl Sharoni Novick in the middle.

Mina Lopato tots exposed to myriad professions

HILARY FRANKLIN

There are a host of different and fascinating professions among the parents at Mina Lopato Nursery School. So, with last week’s theme “Professions”, the parents participated, giving the children a real understanding of the various professions out there.

The kids were enthralled when they heard the individual parents speak about what they do. They heard from doctors, filmmakers, architects, chefs, yoga teachers and journalists. Not only was it a wonderful learning experience but it was a great bonding experience between parents and children.

Nina Cohen (pictured), an acclaimed architect whose work includes the Nelson Mandela Museum and Wits Art Museum, captivated the grade R children with her PowerPoint presentation about her work.

Cohen is not only a parent at the school, but a member of the Greenside Shul (on the same



grounds). She is actively promoting the relationship between the two, building up the children’s service at the shul with the school’s pupils

Shari Navra another up-and-coming Jewish horse-rider



**SHIRLEY KAPLAN
PORT ELIZABETH**

The photographs of the young equestrians, Jarred and Laurie Morris in the SA Jewish Report some time ago, brought to mind the achievement of another young Jewish horse-rider.

Shari Navra (daughter of Leigh Kaplan-Navra) was runner-up in the South African Junior Show-jumping championships - 1,30m - held in Gauteng at the end of last year.

Pictured is Shari riding Aristotle during the Championships.

Blue and red in the spirit of sportsmanship

RACHEL PELS

The boys and girls from Torah Academy Nursery School, learned from a young age to enter into the spirit of sportsmanship when they participated in a fun-filled sports day last week. The girls competed in the red team and the boys in the blue team.

Children from classes aged three years and up, marched to the field with crowns on their heads, flags waving in the wind and faces painted with stripes of either red or blue.

All the little ones were winners as the sports

day was not a competitive event, but rather viewed as an adventure.

There were two different courses. An older group took part in bike races, running races, bean bag toss, roll the ball and knock over the bottle, balance the orange on a spade while running and - the favourite - a hoola-hoop and balance beam obstacle course!

The younger group also had bike races, running races, a bean bag toss into buckets and balance the orange in the funnel while walking and over, under and around the obstacle course.



The boys team in the bike races consisted of Yonatan Weiss; Zally Smith; Shaya Unterslak; and Yossi Klass.

Gali’s hair will bring comfort to young cancer sufferers



Gali Shalpid displays the braid she cut from her hair after Zichron Menachem, an Israel-based cancer care organisation, visited Torah Academy Girls’ High School to launch its chesed project in this country by appealing for donations of hair and sponsorships for children suffering from cancer. With her is Devora Kruss, executive director of Zichron Menachem in South Africa.

SUZANNE BELLING

Zichron Menachem - the first and only organisation of its kind in Israel which provides assistance and support to children suffering from cancer, as well as their families - has launched its chesed projects in South African Jewish schools.

Chaim and Miri Ehrenthal, founders of the Jerusalem-based organisation, and Devora Kruss, executive director of the SA arm, based in Cape Town, paid a visit to Torah Academy Girls’ High School last week to explain their round-the-clock dedication and services to all Israeli children.

These include a wide range of educational, recreational and therapeutic treatments from alternative treatment, fun days, camps in both Israel and overseas, birthday parties, custom-made wigs, support groups, home help, complementary studies, a bone marrow donor bank, hospital volunteers, a guest house and even family vacations.

“When cancer strikes, a child’s life is turned upside down,” they said. “Amid the ravages of chemotherapy, hospitals, doctors and uncertainty, the child is often faced with the trauma of losing his or her hair.”

Zichron Menachem’s “Hair Care” project is a worldwide fundraiser, which entails schoolchildren growing their hair, raising money in sponsorship and then having their hair cut to make wigs. The sponsorship money is used for this purpose and also to help finance other activities.

The organisers say the project provides a meaningful way of demonstrating chesed and tzedakah.

Torah Academy joined the project in keeping with other Jewish day schools in the UK, US, The Netherlands and Australia.

Gali Shalpid, a grade 9 Torah Academy learner, immediately made the decision to cut off her hair and donate it to Zichron Menachem. Grade 7 learner Yakira Levitan followed her example the next day.

A column of WIZO South Africa

Passing of Sylvia Berzack



WIZO South Africa
Tamar Lazarus
President

It was with a sense of deep sorrow and sadness that we learnt of the passing of our beloved honorary life president of WIZO SA, Sylvia Berzack.

She was blessed to celebrate her 96th birthday on April 21l at a party, surrounded by family and friends. WIZO Council members visited her at home the following morning where she was overjoyed and very appreciative. With her strong determination and will to live, we all thought that she would reach her goal of living until her 100th birthday, but it was not to be.

Sylvia’s WIZO career commenced on her return from honeymoon and was told by her aunt that she was to attend the next meeting of the Hillbrow branch of the Johannesburg Women’s Zionist League - and she did. She worked through the ranks, became chairman of the branch and after some time was asked to join the executive committee, which was a great honour.

She had the privilege of working with women who were giants in the organisation and led WIZO with distinction. She took the opportunity of learning a great deal from those veterans and used this knowledge to improve her leadership skills. She was appointed chairman of the Johannesburg Women’s Zionist League during the late 1970 and reached the high office of president in 1984. She attended many WIZO conferences in Israel, representing South Africa.

In spite of her soft voice and quiet manner, she had very definite views which became evident in the manner in which she led the organisation - never expecting anything from anyone that she was not prepared to do herself.

During those many years she served WIZO with loyalty, commitment, spending every day at the office from 9 - 5. Her home was always open for functions and parties. Her late husband Morrie (a high-powered businessman of blessed memory) stood by her at all times and was always so proud of her.

At one of the large sacrifice sales which we organised, Netty Davidoff, a doyenne of WIZO, who did not recognise Morrie, handed him a broom and told him to sweep the stage, which he promptly did. Sylvia was flabbergasted.

She was appointed honorary life president of WIZO SA, a well-deserved honour. She held the cause of WIZO close to her heart for a period of 75 years, which is a world record, and continued to give of herself. She will leave a huge void in the lives of her family, friends and colleagues and will always be remembered for her great style and gentle and dignified manner.

Just prior to her passing we shared with her the exciting news that World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov, was elected as one of the vice presidents of the World Jewish Congress at their conference held in Budapest.

WIZO was elected as one of three international Jewish organisations to serve on the WJC executive committee. This prestigious appointment acknowledges World WIZO’s status and ongoing contribution to world Jewry.

WIZO SA has a long and illustrious history and WIZO Port Elizabeth celebrated its 90th birthday with a gala function in May. Later this year WIZO Johannesburg will celebrate 100 years of existence with a bumper function.

While we look forward to a bright future for our organisation, we are ever mindful of the life long contribution made by the past stalwarts like Sylvia Berzack. MHDS RIP.

This column is paid for by WIZO SA

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Worldwide Jewish solidarity is truly inspiring

The recent past has been a busy one for Board lay leaders and professional staff in terms of participating in international Jewish events. Currently, National President Zev Krengel and senior professional staff from Johannesburg and Cape Town are in Washington DC for the American Jewish Committee Global Forum.

Thereafter, Cape Executive Director David Jacobson will be attending the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding’s 3rd Delegation of Muslim and Jewish Leaders from Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand.

Last week a member of our national professional staff, Steve Gruzd, represented us at the Global Forum for Combating Anti-Semitism in Israel. During his stay, he also met with the incoming Israeli Ambassador to South Africa Arthur Lenk and with the World Jewish Congress.

As previously reported, there was a strong South African contingent at the World Jewish Congress Plenary Assembly in Budapest last month, at which a past president of the SAJBD, Mervyn Smith, was elected co-chairman of the WJC Policy Council. A few days prior to that, National Director Wendy Kahn was a panelist in a workshop session at the Anti-Defamation League Centenary Gala in Washington DC.

Gina Flash from our Cape staff will shortly be attending the ROI Summit in Jerusalem, established by the Schusterman Family Foundation, to help Jewish innovators connect and create to transform Jewish life.

All this is not to overlook the ongoing participation of Board members in the activities of the African Jewish Congress, the most recent being the rededication ceremony for the cemetery in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, and the Hachnasat Sefer Torah ceremony in Maputo, Mozambique.

The Board’s participation in so many high-level international forums



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

Through the Board, South African Jewry has involved itself in various global Jewish initiatives, such as the campaign to bring to justice those responsible for the 1994 terror attacks on Argentine Jewry.

By the same token, we feel assured that international Jewry will render whatever support it can to us, should such an occasion arise. Such forthright displays of Jewish solidarity are indeed inspiring, and the SAJBD is proud to be a part of it on behalf of South African Jewry.

- 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



ChevrahKadisha
AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY WELFARE

Partners in Chesed
Michael Sieff
Group CEO

Zero tolerance

In an organisation as large and complex as the Chev, with 600 staff members, 400 outsourced workers and contractors in and out daily, it’s not surprising that we - like the rest of the country - are at risk of theft. I refer, of course, to the unfortunate culture of corruption and entitlement rampant in South Africa - from the highest echelons to the lowest.

When this sad reality is thrust upon us, it

demands that we act quickly and deal firmly and decisively with perpetrators. The resultant potential financial losses are clearly unaffordable to the Chev.

But more than that, we have a moral and ethical responsibility to our donors, welfare recipients and the general Jewish community, to respond with the appropriate levels of strength.

To counteract this scourge, we are both proactively and reactively involved in tightening operational systems for enhanced efficiency and taking measures to minimise our exposure. These can take many shapes:

- Consolidating departments
- Increasing security measures
- Implementing stricter controls
- Amending policies and procedures
- Securing every possible loophole

- Deploying staff disciplinary procedures

By establishing a zero tolerance policy to theft, we hope to prove our determination to deter (if not eliminate) this practice. Each step forward in this painful process is difficult. Consistency and fairness are our bywords. Exceptions are indefensible and would severely undermine our authority; causing us to regress.

All of this naturally has the potential to affect our residents and it is for that reason that they and their families, need to be aware that this is a purposeful course of action; that our ultimate goal is constructive and that we are working hard to drive efficiencies in every area - in their service. It is a comfort to us to know that the community respects, trusts and understands this process and that we have your full backing. May our partnership continue to thrive!

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha



AN OPEN DAY FOR OPEN MINDS

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Parents are invited to join us for a fun-filled morning on Wednesday 12th June 2013.

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Learn how we nurture talent and instil a passion to achieve, whilst ensuring that our children understand the values that grow them into Menschen.



Date: Wednesday 12th June
Time: 9am to 11am
Venue: King David Victory Park Primary, 84-88 Road No. 3, Victory Park. (Entrance in Craighall Road)
For any further information contact us on (011) 446-7870 or email Alanda Van Staden vanstadena@sabje.co.za
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POLISH CITIZENSHIP

Many South African Jews may be eligible for Polish citizenship based on ancestral lineage. Many areas of Greater Lithuania including Vilna, fell within the territorial borders of Poland. If you are interested in obtaining Polish citizenship, please contact me. I specialise in obtaining Polish citizenship for people with a Polish background.
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rael@icon.co.za
083-346-4627

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What's On		7 – 14 June 2013
Today, Friday (June 7)		College in the Jeffrey Auditorium in St John's Road, Lower Houghton. A selection of audio and video material is lined up, as well as the movie "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" Time: 14:15. Contact: Jack, (011) 782-7111 or Barney, (011) 440-1996.
Monday (June 10)		• UJW hosts Derek Wilcox, CEO of Dimension Data, on "The Relations Between Africa and the Middle East". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.
Wednesday (June 12)		• Chevrah Kadisha Social Services, in partnership with CAJE, hosts Judith Ancer, clinical psychologist and parenting columnist, on "Providing Children with Safe Havens in a Turbulent World". Venue: Sydenham Shul Hall. Time: 19:45. Cost: R30 (incl light refreshments). Bookings: Sharon (011) 532-9616 or e-mail, sharonp@jhbchev.co.za
Friday (June 14)		• UJW CT's adult education division hosts Nicola Honey who will talk on "The Ben-
Sunday (June 9)		• DL Link, which offers emotional support to those going through cancer, as well as supporting their caregivers and family members, puts in pink hair extensions as a fundraiser. Venue: 73 Jennifer Lane, Glenhazel. Time: Between 9:30 and 13:30. Cost: R100. Contact: (011) 485-3269 or www.dllink.co.za
Tuesday (June 11)		• RCHCC screens the 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, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net
Thursday (June 13)		• Northcliff Shul is hosting Rabbi Paysach Krohn, one of the speakers at the Sinai Indaba. Venue: The shul hall. Time: 19:45. Cost: R30 (incl refreshments). Contact: Sharon (011) 678-3015 or Sharon@northcliffshul.co.za
Saturday (June 15)		• UZLC hosts Martin Brasg who will talk on "Behind the Scenes on How You Get International Sports on your TV". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria, (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.
Sunday (June 16)		• Second Innings hosts Bill Schroder, retired headmaster of Pretoria Boys' High, on "Education in South Africa – the Good, the Bad and the Ugly". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.
Monday (June 17)		• Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St John's
Tuesday (June 18)		• 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.
Wednesday (June 19)		• Johannesburg Children's Home is appealing for shoes and takkies for children and teenagers. Contact Edna or Hylton Segal (011) 970-4266.
Thursday (June 20)		• 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.
Friday (June 21)		• 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
Saturday (June 22)		• Join WIZO every Thursday for a "Lunch & Learn" shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz, 13:00 - 14:00 at Beyachad. Information: Joyce, (011) 640-2416.
Sunday (June 23)		• Stellenbosch Hebrew Congregation has a Friday evening service every week in shul, starting at 18:45. Contact (021) 886-5257.
Monday (June 24)		• The Yiddish Academy offers weekly basic, intermediate and advanced classes
Tuesday (June 25)		on Monday evenings at 19:30, Tuesday mornings at 10:30 and Thursday evenings at 19:30 at the RCHCC, Glenhove Road, Houghton. Conversational groups. Details: e-mail yiddishacademy@gmail.com or call Hazel Cohen on (011) 728-8088.
Wednesday (June 26)		• Supervised bridge with Jeff Sapire Tuesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (intermediary) and Wednesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (advanced), at the Clive M Beck Auditorium. Booking: Hazel or René, (011) 728-8088/8378. E-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za
Thursday (June 27)		• Beis Midrash Chofetz Chaim is offering a second ma'ariv minyan every weekday evening (Monday - Friday) at 21:00, cnr Elray and Michel Streets, Raedene. Open to broader community. Don't fret if you need a later minyan. Secure parking provided.
Friday (June 28)		• Sunday Scrabble Club meets every Sunday at 10:00 at Zahava's, Grant Avenue, Norwood, off 9th Street. Cost R5. Players of all strengths welcome. Larry 082-888-5355.
Saturday (June 29)		• WIZO's Wize Buys in Raedene, requires nearly-new clothes, shoes, kitchenware (pots and pans, cutlery, crockery) bric-a-brac, etc. Phone Sandy (011) 645-2515 for goods to be collected, or deliver to WIZO office at Beyachad, Raedene.

Sepp Blatter’s heart is where the money is



ROCKING THE BOAT
Jack Milner

By the time this appears in print Israel will have played their first match in the Euro Under-21 Championships. Israel is hosting the football event and as a result, gets automatic entry. But they will find it tough to even advance to the next round.

Eight countries are participating in the championship and, other than Israel, there are England, Italy, Norway - who are in the same group as Israel - Spain, Russia, The Netherlands and Germany. Israel was scheduled to kick off the tournament in a match in Netanya against Norway on Wednesday.

Of course, the minute Israel is involved in anything magical, there are those who see it as a catastrophe. We all have read how Bishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu has called for Fifa and Uefa to move the tournament elsewhere.

Fortunately both organisations have stood firm and the event takes place in Israel as planned. But it fascinates me how, the moment we get closer to the championships, Fifa starts to make all sorts of promises to Israel’s opponents. This could be a way of shutting them up, at least until after the tournament, but does Fifa President Sepp Blatter really care about the plight of the Palestinians, or is he just concerned about the money Fifa will make from the tournament?

According to report, tickets are “flying off the shelves”. The opener between Israel and Norway was sold out. Israel’s other two Group A games - taking place in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem - have also proven to be popular, with more than 18 500 tickets already snapped up for the concluding game against



Fifa President Sepp Blatter (centre) with Palestinian FA chief Jibril Rajoub - chaverim last week and antagonists by next week.

England at the Teddy Stadium.

It is not just the home side’s games that have drawn the attention of locals, with plenty more group contests benefitting from brisk sales. The mouth-watering encounter between Germany and Spain is just one of many games for which ticket sales have been selling well.

Russia matches have also been well received and in total, over 100 000 tickets have been sold.

So, with coffers filling up, Blatter clearly needs to keep shalom in the Fifa camp. Last week Mauritius hosted the Fifa Congress and a day before it started Blatter met delegates of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). In that meeting he promised Palestinians that soccer’s world governing body would help put an end to the long-running problems with Israel that severely restrict sport in the

territories.

Blatter, who went to the region two years ago to try to help improve the relationship between the Palestinians and Israel, was applauded by AFC members. Blatter told them he was aware of what he called “this touchy problem”, adding: “I can confirm I will help; Fifa will help. It’s a problem of football. We will help you and this will be done. It’s not a promise, it’s a will - and where there’s a will there’s a way.”

Last week Uefa General Secretary Gianni Infantino, said after its Congress in London that European soccer’s governing body was within its rights to award the tournament to

Israel and would not consider moving it.

Jibril Rajoub, president of the Palestine FA and Palestine Olympic Committee, however, said the situation had worsened since Blatter and International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief, Jacques Rogge, visited the region on separate occasions in 2011 and 2010.

This from a so-called moderate, who said on Lebanese television that if the Palestinians had a nuclear weapon they would have nuked Israel “this morning”.

Palestinians are angry that Israel’s security forces, who control movement between Gaza and the West Bank, frequently prevent athletes from travelling freely between the two areas.

The situation is not restricted to Palestinians. As a full member of Fifa and the AFC, the Palestine FA has started to hold more regional tournaments but the Israelis are stopping athletes from third countries entering the West Bank.

Recently two teenagers from Myanmar were stuck in Jordan for a week awaiting clearance so they could play in an under-17 tournament before eventually been granted access to the Palestinian territories.

But, as we saw with the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, Blatter rules Fifa with a Mugabe-like fist and one can complain until one is blue in the face, where Blatter has a will, Blatter finds a way.

Once the tournament is history Mr Blatter and Fifa will move on to their next money-making venture and both Israel and the Palestinian question will fade into obscurity.

Let the talk go on. For us it will just be wonderful to sit back in our armchairs and watch the event unfolding at Israeli venues on TV.

Bus tour to pay tribute to Jewish Struggle activists



The Johannesburg Heritage Foundation has arranged a bus tour for later this month in Johannesburg, as a tribute to the role of Jewish men and women in the Struggle for democracy in South Africa, aptly called “Memory against forgetting”.

The tour, scheduled for June 23, is concentrated in the eastern suburbs of Yeoville, Norwood, Oaklands and The Gardens, passing the homes of Jewish activists who as white South Africans were willing to forego their privileged position to join the Struggle to achieve democracy.

In a media release the Heritage Foundation says: “We will be unveiling plaques to some of them as a special tribute, and each year we hope we will be unveiling more plaques because it is so easy to forget the sacrifices made by others, so that we could enjoy the freedom of a constitutional democracy.

“Most of the names we’ll be remembering were Jewish; Hilda and Rusty Bernstein; the Harmels; Weinbergs; Barsels; Wolpes; Heymanns; and Joe Slovo (and his wife Ruth First), but we will also be honouring a great and noble friend they all shared, Bram Fischer. We will be remembering others as we pass their old homes.”

Although it is a bus tour “we will be getting off at ‘Red Square’ given that nickname by the security branch because the Weinbergs lived on one side of the road and the Harmels on the other and before they were banned and later imprisoned, they had lots of visitors”.

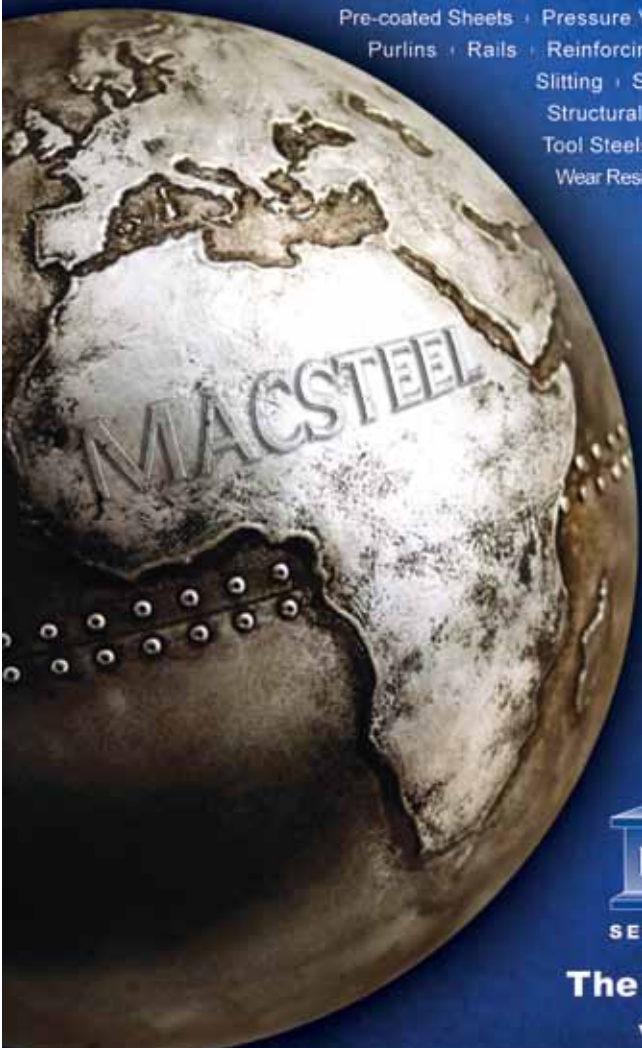
The tour will leave at 14:00 sharp from the Sunnyside Park Hotel in Parktown. The duration of the tour will be approximately two and a half hours at a cost of R120 per person for members and R200 for non-members.


Booking is essential and can be made through Computicket or through the Heritage Foundation office on (011) 482-3349 on any weekday from 09:00 to 13:00.

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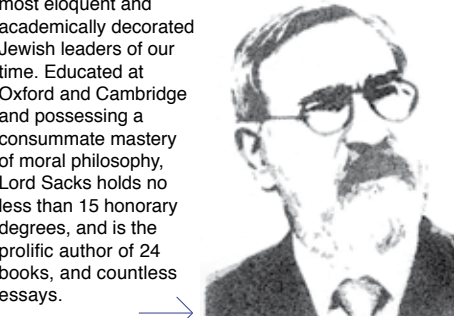


RABBANIT
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Recently voted one of Israel's most influential women, **Rabbanit Yemima Mizrahi** speaks straight to the heart of women. Hundreds flock to her weekly lectures, representing the full gamut of Israeli society – old and young; secular and religious; Ashkenazi and Sephardi; Chassidic Modern Orthodox and Chareidi. As a speaker, she exudes a phenomenal energy. Her words tumble forth almost without pause for breath, a torrent of care and concern, warmth and humour, and all with an Israeli straightforwardness that is immediately engaging.

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Rabbi, Lord, Professor. Universalist, Particularist, Visionary. The United Kingdom's outgoing **Chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sacks**, is one of the most eloquent and academically decorated Jewish leaders of our time. Educated at Oxford and Cambridge and possessing a consummate mastery of moral philosophy, Lord Sacks holds no less than 15 honorary degrees, and is the prolific author of 24 books, and countless essays.

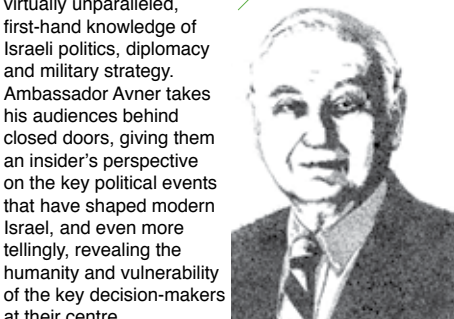


RABBI OZER
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A brilliant Torah scholar with a distinguished background in both merchant banking and academia, **Rabbi Ozer Glickman** is also a recognised expert in risk management, and is the former Global Head of Corporate Treasury at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Rabbi Glickman has a unique ability to intertwine Torah teachings with business insights. He is currently a Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshiva University, where he teaches Talmud and halacha.

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Advisor and speechwriter to five Israeli Prime Ministers, **Ambassador Yehuda Avner** has a virtually unparalleled, first-hand knowledge of Israeli politics, diplomacy and military strategy. Ambassador Avner takes his audiences behind closed doors, giving them an insider's perspective on the key political events that have shaped modern Israel, and even more tellingly, revealing the humanity and vulnerability of the key decision-makers at their centre.

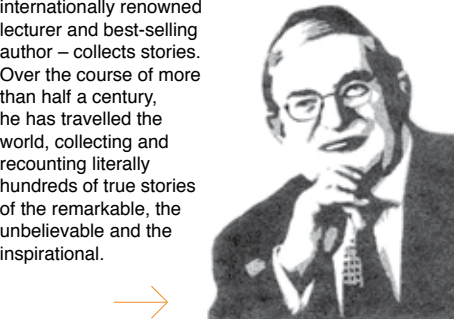


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Rabbi Yossi Chazan is one of the most erudite, powerful and popular Torah speakers in the UK. A deep and penetrating thinker, his expert knowledge of Jewish law and philosophy is the result of many years of immersive Torah study at prestigious institutions such as Torah VoDaas and Tomchei Temimim Lubavitch. Today, Rabbi Chazan is the spiritual leader of one of Manchester's largest congregations, and his weekly classes attract hundreds of people, drawn from across the broad spectrum of the Manchester Jewish community.

RABBI
PAYSACH
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Some people collect stamps, others collect coins or ancient artefacts. **Rabbi Paysach Krohn** – internationally renowned lecturer and best-selling author – collects stories. Over the course of more than half a century, he has travelled the world, collecting and recounting literally hundreds of true stories of the remarkable, the unbelievable and the inspirational.



JOHANNESBURG

SATURDAY NIGHT PROGRAMME* JUNE 15

18:30	Registration opens
20:00	Opening of Sinai Indaba III
Creating a better world together	
Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein	
Ambassador Yehuda Avner	
Rabbi Paysach Krohn	
Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks	
The Heart & The Wellspring	
22:00	Tea, coffee and biscuits

SUNDAY PROGRAMME CTICC* JUNE 16

08:00	Registration	
10:00		
Room 01	Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks	To heal a fractured world
Room 02	Gary Neuman	Five keys to happy children
Room 03	Rabbi Krohn	Prayer A way of connecting
Room 04	Rabbi Chazan	Leisure as a spiritual value
11:00		
Room 01	Ambassador Avner	What it's like to be a Prime Minister of Israel
Room 02	Dayan Abraham	People of the book or book of the people Torah authenticity and rabbinic interpretation
Room 03	Rabbanit Mizrahi	The secret power of the Jewish home (<i>women only</i>)
Room 04	Rabbi Glickman	Globalization and the Gemara
12:00		
Room 01	Gary Neuman	What men want; what women want
Room 02	Rebbetzin Jungreis	Faith after the Holocaust
Room 03	Chief Rabbi Goldstein and Rabbi Wein	Legacy book launch The co-authors discuss their new book
Room 04	Rabbi Chazan	Mysticism - dangers and opportunities

13:00	Lunch	
14:00		
Room 01	Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks	Faith
Room 02	Rabbi Krohn	Enhancing your life with reflective enthusiasm
Room 03	Rabbanit Mizrahi	A woman on a mission <i>(women only)</i>
Room 04	Dayan Abraham	Torah. Liberty or restriction?

15:00		
Room 01	Ambassador Avner	The crumbling Middle East
Room 02	Rebbetzin Jungreis	Life is a test
Room 03	Rabbi Chazan	Near death experiences as a window into the afterlife
Room 04	Rabbi Glickman	Technology, modern finance and the eternity of the Torah

16:00		
Room 01	Gary Neuman	Creating your best relationship
		The major differences between successful and failed marriages
Room 02	Rabbi Krohn	Becoming a cup of blessing
Room 03	Dayan Abraham	Ancient laws in contemporary times Torah in action at the London Beth Din
Room 04	Rabbi Glickman	Economic enterprise as a vehicle for spirituality

17:00	Tea and mincha
Closing of Sinai Indaba III	
Ambassador Yehuda Avner	
Gary Neuman	
Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis	
Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein	
The Heart & The Wellspring	

In a world where divorce rates are escalating, New York Times best-selling author and renowned psychologist, **Gary Neuman**, pierces through the haze of statistics and demonstrates ways to create and maintain flourishing marriages. Described by Oprah "as one of the best psychotherapists in the world", Gary Neuman has long been a regular guest on her show. He has also appeared many times on *The Today Show*, *CNN* and *NBC Dateline*. He is a rabbi, ordained by the renowned Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Yochanan Zweig. Gary is the creator of the *NeumanMethod.com* video series for creating your best marriage.



GARY
NEUMAN

One of Britain's great Torah scholars, and blessed with the oratory skills to bring to life the depths of his learning, **Dayan Yonasan Abraham** serves on the London Beth Din. He is the rabbi of one of London's most dynamic shuls, and works tirelessly on behalf of Britain's wider Jewish community. Noted for his sharp wit and easy charisma, Dayan Abraham is a gifted educator.

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CAPE TOWN

MONDAY PROGRAMME CTICC* JUNE 17

09:30	Registration opens	
11:00		
Room 01	Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks	Faith
Room 02	Rabbi Glickman	Technology, modern finance and the eternity of the Torah
Room 03	Rabbi Chazan	Leisure as a spiritual value

12:00		
Room 01	Rebbetzin Jungreis	Faith after the Holocaust
Room 02	Dayan Abraham	Torah Liberty or restriction?
Room 03	Chief Rabbi Goldstein and Rabbi Wein	Legacy book launch The co-authors discuss their new book

13:00	Lunch	
14:00		
Room 01	Ambassador Avner	What it's like to be a Prime Minister of Israel
Room 02	Rabbi Krohn	Prayer A way of connecting
Room 03	Rabbanit Mizrahi	The secret power of the Jewish home (women only)

15:00		
Room 01	Gary Neuman	Five keys to happy children
Room 02	Dayan Abraham	Ancient laws in contemporary times Torah in action at the London Beth Din
Room 03	Rebbetzin Jungreis	Life is a test

16:00		
Room 01	Ambassador Avner	The crumbling Middle East
Room 02	Rabbanit Mizrahi	A woman on a mission (<i>women only</i>)
Room 03	Rabbi Chazan	Mysticism - dangers and opportunities

17:00		
Room 01	Gary Neuman	What men want; what women want
Room 02	Rabbi Krohn	Becoming a cup of blessing
Room 03	Rabbi Glickman	Economic enterprise as a vehicle for spirituality

18:00	Tea and mincha
18:30	Closing of Sinai Indaba III
Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks	
Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein	
The Heart and the Wellspring	



REBBETZIN
ESTHER JUNGREIS

A child survivor of Bergen-Belsen, **Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis** has dedicated her life to the continuity of the Jewish people. She founded *Hineni*, an education and outreach organisation, which, over the course of 40 years, has had an enormous impact in bringing Jews back to their spiritual roots. She radiates warmth & compassion, reaching out to Jews of every persuasion with her deep humanity & wide appeal.

THE HEART &
THE WELLSPRING

Unlike anything you've ever heard, **The Heart and the Wellspring** have created a new sound and direction for Jewish music. All classically trained virtuoso soloists in their own right, the five diverse members of this extraordinary ensemble come together to create a unique sound that fuses traditional Jewish music and Chassidic niggunim with classical arrangements and flavours of music from around the world.

THE LEGACY
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