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The Jewish Report wishes our readers and advertisers Shana Tovah and well over the Fast

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Volume 15 Number 37



Chief Rabbi rallies S African Jewry in prayer for peace

PAGE 5



Rabbi Yossy Goldman, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and Rabbi Avraham Tanzer at the Unity gathering in the Glenhazel Shul, with the men's section filled to capacity.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDYVER

Israeli Arabs riot after mosque burning / 3, 6

Nik lauds YAD / 5



SAKS: Lithuanian SA Jewish pride / 7

BOOKS: Dossier of a serial sleuth / 9



YOUTH / 12 SPORT / 16 LETTERS / 10 CROSSWORD & SUDOKU / 14 COMMUNITY BUZZ / 4 WHAT'S ON / 14



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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Saying sorry – and
meaning it too



SERMONETTE YOM
KIPPUR

Rabbi Gidon Fox
Pretoria Hebrew Congregation

YOM KIPPUR, 25 hours of idyllic spiritual expression. During this time we refrain from eating and drinking, bathing, intimacy, wearing leather shoes and rubbing creams and oils onto our bodies.

Men wear kittels (long white shirts) and many women have a custom to wear white. All of this to appear free of sin and angel-like.

We spend the entire day in shul, totally detached from anything physical, praying and in close communion with Hashem. Indeed, rarely do we ever reach such an angelic state as Yom Kippur.

Then, as the day draws to a close and the fast is nearly behind us, we commence the Ma’ariv service, the evening prayers that mark the end of Yom Kippur and the beginning of the rest of the year. Virtually no time elapses between the close of Neila and the commencement of the Ma’ariv service.

It is therefore very strange that, as we come out of this spiritual high, the first opening line of Ma’ariv is “Vehu rachum yechaper avon” and He who is merciful will atone for sin (Psalms 88:38). What sin have we committed in that blink of an eye period between the angelic state of Yom Kippur and the weekday Ma’ariv service?

Yet, the answer to this question is key to our Yom Kippur experience. We are all familiar with the principle which states that Yom Kippur is impotent in atoning for our sins unless we have first sought forgiveness and absolution from our fellow human beings whom we have offended or hurt during the year.

At times, this asking for forgiveness feels a little trite. We call our friends and say, almost with a smile on our faces, as we are certain of the response, do you forgive me if I have offended you in any way?

Or perhaps more critically, when we ask our spouses for forgiveness (yes, we have to ask them as well), do we really mean it, are we really committing to change, or are we simply applying the formula dictated by Jewish law, with our lips but without our heart?

Throughout the duration of Yom Kippur we atone and ask for forgiveness for our sins. We commit to a better and more devout future. Yet, we are compelled to ask ourselves the question: Is the entire Yom Kippur simply an exercise in lip service, or is it a true introspection into our past and commitment to our future.

Tragically, all too often it is the former. Indeed, as we look at a preceding verse from Psalms from where the sentence “vehu rachum” originates, we find the reason for asking for forgiveness immediately after Yom Kippur.

Verses 36 states “...and they sought to beguile Him with their mouth and they deceived Him with their tongues”.

King David is saying that all we were doing was paying lip service and it is for this that we ask Hashem for forgiveness right after Yom Kippur. True, we went through all the motions, said all the right things, but it may have been our lips alone that did Teshuva, not our hearts. For this we ask Hashem to forgive us.

Similarly, as we embark upon the process of asking those nearest and dearest to us for forgiveness, let us ensure that this Yom Kippur we speak from our hearts not only our lips and ensure that our actions reflect the words we say.

Wishing you all a G’mar chatima Tova.

It’s time again to
remember the
Jews wandering
in the desert

RITA LEWIS

THE FESTIVAL of Succot (one of the Shalosh Regalim/ three Foot or Pilgrimage Festivals) which will start at sunset on Wednesday, October 12, will continue for seven days until Wednesday, October 19.

It is a remembrance and part re-enactment of the manner in which the Jewish people were obliged to live while wandering in the desert for 40 years after their release from slavery in Pharoah’s Egypt.

After the Jews left Egypt, they, in nomadic fashion, moved from one place to another, during which time they built tents or booths to live in. These were temporary shelters called succot/succahs and gave them some relief from the harsh elements prevalent in the desert.

The festival of Succot commemorates this ancient story of the Jewish peoples’ exile from Egypt and in many homes Jews build their own succahs in their gardens, yards or on balconies - wherever there is space - keeping to the halachic specifications and requirements of the finished succah.

One of these is that the roof must be of vegetation cut from a living tree or bush, must allow the “inhabitants” of the succah sufficient space between the branches and leaves to see the stars above, but should not be too thinly spread, as the case would be if the leaves were to die off while still on the branches.

With this injunction in mind and as most branches normally shed their leaves after being cut, the preferred branches are those which come from palm trees and in many places, people - including in South Africa where there are many palm trees growing - make a good living from the cutting off and selling the branches.

In the past Egypt has supplied around 700 000 of the nearly two million fronds that are imported into Israel each year. This year it has reportedly forbidden the cutting and exporting of palm fronds to Israel.

With very little time left before the holiday, the decision has left Israel in a quandary as to where, and how to go about making up the unexpected shortfall.

According to CNN, Israel’s agricultural ministry is taking action to try and ensure that there will be enough palm fronds sourced and imported in time for the celebrations.

The ministry is quoted as saying: “As a result of the new circumstances, the Minister of Agriculture, Orit Noked, encourages Israeli palm tree growers to significantly increase the number of lulavim to be given (out) for the Succot holiday.

“At the same time, we will advance alternatives to importing palm trees so that everyone can observe the obligations of Succot.”

Israel has said that replacing the fronds traditionally coming from Egypt, will likely be a more expensive exercise than previously anticipated.

As the holiday of Succot serves as a reminder of the rocky relations that existed - and have recently reignited themselves - between the two countries, a negative response from Egypt may not be totally unexpected.



The etrog, one of the four species taken during Succot, the etrog, or citron, represents the heart during Succot.

SHABBAT,
YOMTOV AND
FAST TIMES

October 7/9 Tishrei
Kol Nidrei Night
Candle-lighting and Fast start

17:53	Johannesburg
18:36	Cape Town
17:43	Durban
18:02	Bloemfontein
18:07	Port Elizabeth
17:57	East London

October 8/10 Tishrei
Yom Kippur
Fast ends

18:42	Johannesburg
19:28	Cape Town
18:34	Durban
18:52	Bloemfontein
18:59	Port Elizabeth
18:49	East London

October 12/14 Tishrei
Erev Succot
Candle-lighting

17:55	Johannesburg
18:10	Cape Town
17:46	Durban
18:05	Bloemfontein
18:11	Port Elizabeth
18:01	East London

October 13/15 Tishrei
First Day Succot
Candle-lighting from pre-existing flame

18:45	Johannesburg
19:32	Cape Town
18:37	Durban
18:55	Bloemfontein
19:03	Port Elizabeth
18:53	East London

October 14/16 Tishrei
Second Day Succot and Shabbat
Candle-lighting from a pre-existing flame

17:56	Johannesburg
18:10	Cape Town
17:47	Durban
18:06	Bloemfontein
18:12	Port Elizabeth
18:02	East London

October 15/17 Tishrei
Shabbat ends

18:46	Johannesburg
19:34	Cape Town
18:38	Durban
18:57	Bloemfontein
19:05	Port Elizabeth
18:55	East London

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Chief Rabbi Goldstein not ‘packing for London’

DAVID SAKS

IN THE 1840s, the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation wrote to the Chief Rabbi of the British Empire, Rabbi Marcus Adler, requesting a Jewish minister of religion be sent to head the fledgling community. This practice of looking to the UK to provide Jewish clergymen for SA Jewry, would continue until the next century.

During the decidedly rudimentary early days of organised Jewish life in South Africa, few could have imagined that one day this distant pocket of the Jewish world would become a “net exporter” of global Jewry’s religious leadership. As for the suggestion that a South African-born and trained rabbi might one day seriously be discussed as a possible candidate for the position of Chief Rabbi of the UK and

the Commonwealth, this would undoubtedly have been dismissed as an eccentric fantasy. Unlikely as this once seemed, this scenario has recently emerged as a remarkable reality. With the incumbent Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks being due to retire in 2013, speculation over his possible successor is already well underway, and one of those whose name has been especially touted by the London Jewish Chronicle and other sources for the position, is South Africa’s own Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein. What has helped propel Rabbi Goldstein’s name to the forefront of the list of Rabbi Sacks’ possible successors, is his participation in last month’s annual pre-High Holy Day conference for the UK’s United

Synagogue, as the keynote speaker. According to the report on the conference in the Jewish Chronicle (“South Africa’s Goldstein vows British rabbinate”, September 15), his colleagues were much impressed by him, for his intellectual qualities and his skills as a communicator. All this notwithstanding, Rabbi Goldstein himself has firmly quashed any suggestion either that he has in any way promoted his candidacy as the next UK Chief Rabbi, or that he has any intention of doing so: “Let me make it clear that I have not applied for the position of Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom. Gina and I love this incredible South African Jewish community and have deep roots here - both communal and personal.”

Bedouin Arabs riot after burning of mosque

STAFF WRITER

JERUSALEM - Rioters in a Bedouin Arab town in northern Israel have torched community buildings in the wake of an arson attack on a local mosque. It was mostly youth from the village of Tuba Zangaria who set fire to the council building on Monday night and also seriously damaged the youth cultural centre and village health clinic by breaking doors and windows, and damaging property inside. The rioters who also threw rocks at the police, were dispersed with tear gas. On Sunday night, the community’s mosque was set on fire, destroying holy books and prayer rugs. Graffiti, including the words “price tag” and “Palmer”, were spray-painted on the walls of the mosque, according to reports. Police reportedly have arrested some suspects in the Sunday night arson attack. “Price tag” refers to the strategy that extremist settlers have adopted to exact a price in attacks on Palestinians in retribution for settlement freezes and demolitions or for Palestinian attacks on Jews. Palmer likely refers to Israeli Asher Palmer, who was killed on September 23 along with his infant son,



Israeli President Shimon Peres (centre) with Israeli Chief Rabbis and local Sheikhs in Tuba Zangaria.

after a rock thrown in an apparent terrorist attack crashed through the windshield of his car, causing him to lose control of the vehicle, which then flipped over. Residents of Tuba Zangaria, which has a population of slightly more than 5 000, have blamed extremists from the nearby town of Safed. The village also is near the Golan Heights. Bedouin villages in the north declared a general strike beginning Tuesday. Israeli police had stepped up alerts in the area out of concern that Israeli Arabs would carry out revenge attacks, Haaretz reported. The price tag attack was condemned across Israel’s political and religious spectrum and by Jewish organisations in the United States. (JTA)

New Year message from Ambassador Segev-Steinberg



“THE DAYS of our years are threescore and ten; and if by reason of strength they are fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow.” (Psalm 90:10) I have taken the liberty of paraphrasing and interpreting these words, thought by some to be attributed to Moses himself. However, as the official representative of the Jewish State in South Africa, these lines resonate in recognition of a number of realities - not only Israel’s 63 years of independence, but the unique challenges she faces day by day within a world that appears unwilling or unable to recognise the validity and legitimacy of her struggle. In the words of the Psalm, the very existence of Israel has no determinable end. The “threescore” could well be “fourscore” and that also could be - and will be - an indefinite period of years. However, we also face the reality that in the hostile and unpredictable environment

in which we exist, we are destined to face our challenge for survival in “labour and sorrow”. Undoubtedly, therefore, there will be sacrifices but they are tempered by the reward they bring forth - the reward of having a state for Jews, no matter from where they come or whatever their circumstances. My Yomtov message to you is simply that Israel is there and always will be; symbolising our independence as a proud nation and offering security to all who seek it. I salute the Jewish community of South Africa in their staunch solidarity of our common purpose. I wish you all a peaceful and blessed New Year. *This message was intended to appear in our Rosh Hashanah issue. However, through an oversight this did not happen. We apologise to the ambassador. - Editor*

EL AL
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Now, every time you fly EL AL, you are strengthening Israel with the GlobalY program.

EL AL Launches New Club Program – EL AL GlobalY – for Matmid Members Who Live Outside of Israel. EL AL CEO Elyezer Shkedy: “The EL AL GlobalY Card will give Israel supporters & Jews around the world a feeling of connection to Israel & to its national airline – EL AL.”

As part of the new Program, every Club member will receive a new, specially designed membership card bearing the flag of Israel & the member’s name. EL AL will contribute 5% of the number of points amassed by members in the Plan to organizations that promote & strengthen ties with Israel. The causes are as follows:

1. Bringing young Diaspora Jews to Israel to make their first acquaintance with the land & its people, in conjunction with Birthright.
2. Flying lone IDF soldiers abroad to visit their families, in cooperation with the Association for the Wellbeing of Israel’s Soldiers.
3. Helping fulfill the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses, together with the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

The aim of the Plan is to reinforce ties to Israel among EL AL customers residing overseas. The point contribution will be solely at EL AL’s expense & will be made every quarter. GlobalY members will be updated regarding the number of points EL AL donates to the organizations. To mark the launch, EL AL is offering free registration in the Matmid Club & in EL AL GlobalY – with no registration fee for a limited period. EL AL CEO Elyezer Shkedy said today: “EL AL is proud to be the National Airline of Israel. As the airline that has carried thousands of Jews to Israel, EL AL will continue to do its utmost to strengthen the ties of Jews around the world to Israel.”

Full Details about the program are available on the EL AL website: www.elal.co.il
* Already a Matmid member? Join the GlobalY program via the Matmid internet homepage. To join free GlobalY program www.elal.com/globaly

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Artist Diane Levine with her mosaic “Striving” on Wits West Campus.



Avrom and Michelle Krengel with sons Shmuel and Mordi.



Hilary Green with Batya Bricker and Yael Green.

Natalie Knight, curator of the art collection of the Wits West Campus, with photographer Tammy Lieberman.



Victoria Perlow with her granddaughters Rachael and Chaya Kirsh.

SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis jont@global.co.za

Judaism meets art on Wits campus

RITA LEWIS
PHOTOGRAPHS: TAMMY LIEBERMAN

GUEST LECTURER from the UK, educationist Maureen Kendler, was in South Africa recently as part of the “Judaism meets Art” programme held at the Wits West Campus in Johannesburg.

Kendler, who is the head of education at the London School of Jewish Studies (LSJS) which falls under the auspices of the Chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sacks, lectures and specialises in art, literature and Torah. She was invited to South Africa by Mizrahi to teach Torah.

With Judaism and art being two diverse subjects, Mizrahi’s Rabbi Ramon Widmonte explained: “Mizrahi South Africa represents a Torah philosophy which sees the latent good in many of life’s avenues: thus the terms, ‘Torah v’Avodah’ - Torah and Work; and ‘Torah u’Madah’ - Torah and Worldly Knowledge, encapsulate the Mizrahi world.”

Art is one such area and the lively discussion around “Judaism meets Art” combined some positive elements of Jewish life - good art, great food and more importantly, amazing Torah.

The group, consisting of people holding quite divergent opinions, enjoyed Kendler’s views, after being given an introduction to the topic while sitting in the sun on the steps of the newly renovated FNB Building at Wits.

Kendler explained that she often organised tours to the National Gallery in London and gave food for thought when she posed the question whether religious icons and nudes should be exposed to Jewish scrutiny.

Natalie Knight (Liknaitzky), the art curator of the Wits West Campus, took the group on a tour of the art in the FNB Building. Knight said she had adopted the policy of excluding nudes in public areas to which students had access.

Jewish textual studies followed in the Law Conference Auditorium after the group had viewed some of the artworks in the adjoining Chalsty Foyer.

Kendler canvassed the reasons that had excluded some Jewish participation in the arts, saying that these stemmed from the commandment “not to make graven images”.

She said patronage of the arts had come from the churches and as a result Christian images were required by the trade guilds. This excluded Jews.

However, from the beginning of the 20th century the situation had begun to change.

She quoted the favourable reaction of Rabbi Kook on seeing the works of Rembrandt in the British National Gallery and pointed out that Jewish artists such as Chagall and Mark Rothko had also received much recognition.

Later, Professor Katherine Munro, former dean of the FCLM joined Kendler, Knight and the group in visiting various auspicious and revamped buildings on the campus, highlighting those which were of interest to the Wits alumni in the group.

COMMUNITY BUZZ

LIONEL SLIER

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EARLY GREEK-JEWISH RELATIONS

By Prof. B. Hendrickx

Greek-Jewish relations “present the oldest continuous inter-ethnic relationship in history and constitute the double helix of Western civilization”. It is sometimes stated that the ancient Philistines were related to the Aegean Hellenes; that the latter - hypothetically - settled in Palestine by around 1 000 BCE.

Historically undisputed was Alexander’s conquest of the East and the consequent Greek military supremacy during the Hellenistic times. However, according to Josephus - the Jewish historian - Jews were enlisted in the Hellenistic armies and they were employed extensively by the Greek-Macedonian Ptolemies of Egypt.

Thus began a period of Jewish-Greek symbiosis, during which the translation of the Bible in Greek constituted a very important feature. This Septuagint was, according to tradition, the work of 70 learned scholars, commissioned by King Ptolemaios Philadelphus.

In fact, it was not a work sponsored by the Greek Egyptian state, but was born out of the religious needs of the Hellenised Jews and came almost certainly into being during the 3rd century BCE, the translations having been commenced before 285 BCE.

Other great exponents of this culture were the philosopher Philo of Alexandria (ca 20 BCE - 54 CE) and the historian Flavius Josephus (ca 37 - 100—CE).

The Jewish-Greek relations of the Hellenistic period were often tense as the well-documented history of the Greek Seleucids of Syria, as well as the wars of the Maccabees and the consequent “political renaissance” of the Hasmonians teach us.

(* The relationship further deteriorated after the New Testament appeared and the rise of the Christain Church).

NB: However, my good friend Taki Poulos always told me that the Greeks and the Jews were cousins. For example, the film.”My Big Fat Greek Wedding” clearly could just as well have been a Jewish wedding.

DURBAN

The beach in Durban has, for many years been one of Durban’s favourite sources of entertainment, However, in the early days of the 20th century, the Bayside was Durban’s beach and there was even a bathing enclosure there.

The present (South) beach was rather “sniffily” referred to as the “Back Beach” and was visited by riding parties who wanted to gallop their horses along the sands and by people who wanted to see some of the ships that had been wrecked there. One of the best known was the Minevra and several old Durbanites had pieces of furniture that had been made from the wreck of that ship.

Later, the Esplanade or more correctly, the Victoria Embankment, was built. The beach tram went as far as the Beach Hotel at the end of West Street. Below that and nearer the sea, was the Model Dairy Tea Room, the paddling pool and the Kenilworth Tea Room, with the bathing enclosure opposite it.

This was a semicircular enclosure which supported a pier and along the shore behind it was a row of wooden bathing booths. If you wanted to walk along the pier, the price was four pennies. Beyond the Kenilworth Tea Room was the Beach Swimming Bath. There was a bandstand and beach chairs where people could sit and listen to a military band.

To the south of the road was the Cooee Tea Room and behind that an enclosed area where a lifeboat, all ready to use, was kept in a large shed. .

• Rewritten from “Dear Old Durban” by Barbara Maude-Stone in memory of Yvonne Miller’s original text.

Chabad plans swinging Succot party for seniors

RABBI ARI KIEVMAN

WHILE THE youngsters are off to their Succot events, there is an extravagant party being planned exclusively for senior citizens.

Picture this: Gathering with friends, watching academy award-winner “Ushpizin” in the Succah, live entertainment with acclaimed Tony Bentel and friends, the renowned Helen Heldenmuth and the legendary Magical Marc, a scrumptious feast to enjoy, and prizes to be won...

All this and much more at next

week’s Chabad House’s titanic Succah in Savoy in Johannesburg.

Chai Seniors’ “Annual Succot Party” takes place on Monday, October 17, at the Chabad House Succah, 27 Aintree Avenue in Savoy. From 10:00 onwards there will be the movie screening, followed by the full bash beginning at 12:00, complete with food, entertainment and inspiration.

The party is free of charge, but booking is essential for catering purposes.

RSVP: (011) 440-6600 or email rak@chabad.org.za

PE celebrates a new shul as well as a new rabbi

MICHAEL SIMMONS
PORT ELIZABETH

ON SUNDAY September 18, Elul 19, 5771, a new synagogue designed by Johannesburg architect Lewis Levin was inaugurated and consecrated by Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein in Port Elizabeth.

Visiting guests included Rabbi Desmond Maizels from Cape Town, Rabbi Shalom Myers from Israel and Lewis Levin the architect.

A memorial plaque was unveiled by Rabbi Goldstein, after which the chairman of the shul, Arthur Aires, welcomed the guests and congregation, outside the shul. Then six Torahs were ceremoniously carried inside the shul and placed in the Aron Kodesh by the visiting rabbis and members of the shul council.

Rabbi Myers gave an address, followed by an inauguration address by Rabbi Goldstein. The shul’s honorary president,

Dr Denzil Levy, a 94-year-old revered member of the Port Elizabeth community, presented his address to the packed shul.

The induction of the shul’s new rabbi, Rabbi Shmuel Bloch, was performed by Rabbi Goldstein. This included the presentation of a new tallit which Rabbi Goldstein placed on the shoulders of our new rabbi, in a moving ceremony.

After his induction, Rabbi Bloch gave his induction sermon to a congregation who have been craving a religious leader in a new synagogue which is both modern - with its beechwood finishes, complemented by muted colours and subtle lighting - and highlighted by an inspiring tented ceiling symbolic of ancient biblical times.

Rabbi Bloch and his wife Sandra, together with their two young children, recently arrived from Israel to take up the position in Port Elizabeth. Rabbi Bloch was born and bred in Johannesburg and his wife hails from America.

Port Elizabeth has been without a permanent rabbi for a year and the Blochs’ arrival has been welcomed warmly by the community where they have already settled in comfortably and integrated well.

Immediately after the service in the shul, a crowd of slightly over 200 moved into the shul hall for a picnic in a venue magnificently decorated and specially lit with elegant candelabra.

The entertainment was provided by visiting tenor Yudi Cohen with piano accompaniment by Erika Bothma with a concert recital of chazzonus, Yiddish songs and a mixture of Neapolitan and operatic arias on the stage, which delighted all who attended this historic event.

Among the guests visiting from Johannesburg were Rabbi Bloch’s parents, together with Mrs Frankel, mother of Sandra, who had travelled from America to be present at this celebration.



Newly-inducted Rabbi Shmuel Bloch receives his new tallit from Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein. (PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)

Literally many a true word was spoken in jest

SHIRA DRUION

AN EVENING of wit and humour, with cutting-edge comment hidden behind a façade of levity, was the main fair for an appreciative audience of some 400 who attended YAD's annual fundraising dinner at the Simon Kuper Hall in Johannesburg recently. YAD is the young adults' division of the IUA-UCF.

Uproarious laughter echoed through the room as the barbed wit found a positive response with the audience. The “funny men” included the crème de la crème of the country's comedians who found enough “black humour” in the (wrong)doings of our public figures and in everyday calamities, to keep the guests hunched over from utter hilarity.

The humour was the perfect combination of a South African flavour and good old idiosyncratic Jewish jokes, to keep the audience clamouring for more.

The repertoire included Ndumiso Lindi, Loyiso Gola and our very own inimitable Nik Rabinowitz who was a show-stopper with his piercing wit and outstanding impersonating skills and if you had closed your eyes, you could travel all the way from the Cape Flats to King David High.

Rabinowitz recounted the tales of his



The inimitable Nik Rabinowitz. (PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

recent visit “Down Under” alongside his famous colleague Mark Lottering. He truly took the mickey out of the Aussies as well. He received an uproarious response when he chirped that “Bishop Tutu’s nickname was the ‘Tutuzela’”, because the Archbishop Emeritus has a knack of expressing an opinion on any conceivable subject.

He also created a chuckle when he remarked that Sydney, Melbourne and Perth were the equivalents of Sea Point, Sandton and some part of Bloemfontein.

Cape Town comedian Ndumiso Lindi, is recognised as one of the foremost young black faces on the comedy scene. He has attained fame for his Madiba Jive and is a brilliant impersonator of the everyday lives

of black people in South Africa.

Loyiso Gola has been on the comedy scene for quite some time. He is also known for his satirical news programme every Wednesday on e.tv, Late Night News. His “innocent” big round eyes and “dead-pan” demeanour belies a razor-sharp wit.

Executive director of the IUA/UCF, Naomi Hadar, thanked the guests for their “unbelievable turnout”.

“I think it was a fantastic evening, with a most impressive response. We were aiming to attract 400 people but our final number grew to over 50 more than our target, with a waiting list! I am so proud and am confident that this is a reflection of the passion and loyalty that our Zionist community shares with Israel.

“The evening attracted many young, future leaders and it was evident from the tangible enthusiasm in the room that we are succeeding in striving to achieve our mandate of nurturing young leaders.”

These sentiments were echoed by Avrom Krengel, co-chairman of the IUA/UCF who praised guests for their loyal support for Israel and encouraged them to continue to pledge their loyalty to Israel during this very precarious time.

YAD is chaired by Gary Rothstein, who exudes a palpable passion to help the Jewish people and the State of Israel and emphasised that in this very trying time, it was incumbent on all Jews to step up to the plate and make a meaningful contribution.

Chief Rabbi rallies the community

RITA LEWIS

THE UNITY gathering in the Glenhazel Shul on the Yeshiva Campus was the third one of its kind called by Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein. It was once again, a jam-packed affair with virtually no empty seats for men and just a few in the women’s section.

Rabbi Goldstein in opening the event, said: “In six cities throughout South Africa, Jewish communities had come together in the spirit of unity, prayer and repentance on this Fast of Gedaliah, during this auspicious Ten Days of Repentance.

“We do so to add extra impetus to all our prayers and repentance at this time and to harness the spirit of unity and the power of the tzibur - of the community and the merit that it has before G-d.”

Rabbi Goldstein said prayers were far more meaningful when said as a community.

“When we pray and repent as individuals, it has an influence and an impact on the world, but when we do so as a community, the merit and spiritual power is far greater,” he said quoting the Rambam.

“Let us think about the challenges that the State and the people of Israel are facing, and indeed Jews around the world, at this period of turbulence in the Middle East.

“At this time of year as the books of life and death are opened, we come together as a community to pray, to repent and to plead with Hashem to bless the State and people of Israel, with a new year filled with peace and a resolution to painful conflict.

“We also seek a year filled with blessing for our special South African Jewish community - a year of good health, prosperity and growth in Torah and mitzvahs.”

He said we also prayed for guidance and direction for South Africa, to alleviate pervasive human suffering.

He said we asked all of these things of G-d, not just in the form of prayer, but took upon ourselves repentance. This meant different things to each person, “but our framework remains the same for all, and that is our Torah, the mitzvahs, the commandments and the values of what Hashem expects us to live with...”

Jews, he said, had to “seek out Hashem when He is there to be found. When a community cries out with a total heart, it is then that Hashem will answer them,”

He spoke of the worsening relations between our erstwhile “friends and allies”, Turkey and

Egypt which were becoming “more difficult”.

This was the time for teshuva, repentance. He said we had all done something we were not proud of.

The first was to focus on previously spoken loshan hora and to refrain from repeating it.

The second thing was to pray with more kavonah, meaning and intensity.

The third was in the area of peace. “It is peace: peace in Israel; for our society and in our own lives. It is how we communicate with our children; community dynamics; how the rabbonim interact with each other and with their communities.

“There is nothing greater in the world than peace,” he said.”

He said for that we ask for forgiveness from, and for, everyone - and from G-d.

“We ask G-d to bless this new year, 5772, with His abundant goodness. May we all be sealed for a year of life and blessing.”

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Tolerance and holy books

WITH GOOD justification, we celebrate the richness and diversity of this country’s people as one of our greatest assets. While the unified “rainbow nation” touted as our ideal two decades ago by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu has not fully materialised, we have certainly come a long way.

One thing we can be proud of is the respect and tolerance shown towards the faiths and beliefs of others. Our society has a high degree of religious adherence and disrespect towards a faith group’s religious accoutrements would be abhorrent to South Africans, whether from the government or the ordinary man in the street. Jews, specifically, still carry in their collective memory the sight of their religious books and other items thrown into the street and burned in Europe by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

We are also one of the few countries which succeeded in establishing a unified body representing all its religions - originally the National Religious Leaders’ Forum, established in 1997, now superseded by the National Inter-Faith Leadership Council, which has become a benchmark worldwide.

During the transition from apartheid to democracy, former Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris was central in forging meaningful contacts with other faith groups. This even found expression in the enactment of laws, as when Muslim and Jewish leaders co-operated regarding the legal basis for religious marriage and divorce. At present, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein plays a leading role as a member of NILC.

The news from Israel on Monday that a mosque in the Bedouin Galilee village of Tuba Zangaria had been torched and Muslim religious books burned, shocked Israelis and Jews across the spectrum of opinion. (See story on page 3)

The perpetrators have not yet been identified, but are suspected of being a small, marginal right-wing group of Jews enacting what they call a “price tag” for settlements being demolished in the West Bank. Graffiti in Hebrew was left on the mosque’s wall.

Photographs published in Israeli papers of the burnt Muslim books sent shivers down Jewish spines, evoking memories of smouldering piles of their own religious books seven decades ago in Berlin and elsewhere. Not only does this abominable act do immense damage to Israelis’ and Jews’ image worldwide, but it is wrong and destructive to the moral fibre of our own people.

The Shin Bet - Israeli security service - has recorded several dozen “price tag” incidents over the past year, including attacks against mosques, uprooting Palestinian olive trees, puncturing military vehicles’ tyres, and harassing IDF and Shin Bet officials and left-wing activists.

Israeli President Shimon Peres, accompanied by Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Shlomo Amar and Chief Sephardic Rabbi Yona Metzger and Muslim, Christian and Druze leaders, made a very public visit to Tuba Zangaria to express their outrage and solidarity. Ironically, the village’s male residents serve in high numbers in the Israeli military.

Peres said: “I am appalled by what happened here. Shocked to my core. This isn’t just against the law, it goes against the Jewish religion and against morals... Seeing what happened here fills me with shame.”

Rabbi Metzger said: “We, as Jews, remember what it was like when our books were burnt and we cannot abide such actions against any other religion. For us - a synagogue, a mosque, a church - they are considered embassies of G-d, and you do not harm embassies.” He later also criticised non-Jewish clerics who had remained silent after Arab terrorist attacks on Jews, such as the incidents in southern Israel in August.

Rabbi Amar called the attack on the mosque “blasphemous”, adding: “...it’s an assault on all of our hearts. We urge all leaders to speak against terror - and such acts are acts of terror.” But he later also raised the possibility that the perpetrators might not be Jews, but others seeking to incite hatred against Jews: “As you know, blood libels about Jews killing a Christian child have been common in all generations. Damage was caused to entire communities, killing and loss... because of those false beliefs.”

Ironically, despite our divisive history in this country, respect for different faiths has been deeply embedded in us. We have no doubt all South African Jews will condemn - as Jews and as South Africans - this dastardly act in the clearest, boldest terms.

As German Jewish-born poet Heinrich Heine warned in 1821: “Where they burn books, so too will they in the end burn human beings.”

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS



Exhibit on "The Hitler Letter: A Letter That Changed the World" at the Simon Wiesenthal Centre's Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles shows the original 1919 letter on the left and a timeline of the Fuehrer's rise to power, October 3. (PHOTOGRAPH: BART BARTHOLOMEW/SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTRE)

Hitler letter offers first glimpse of his anti-Semitic passions

TOM TUGEND
LOS ANGELES

TEN MONTHS after the First World War ended, a 30-year-old German army veteran wrote a two-page letter in which he explained the “Jewish question” on a “rational” and “scientific” basis.

“An anti-Semitism based on reason must lead to a systematic combating and elimination of the privileges of the Jews,” he wrote. “The ultimate objective must be the irrevocable removal of Jews in general. “Signed “Respectfully, Adolf Hitler”, the letter received high marks for the author from his superiors in a military propaganda unit bitterly opposed to the newly established Weimar Republic as the perceived handiwork of Bolsheviks, Socialists and Jews.

As the first written political statement of the future Fuehrer, the letter is considered a document of immense historical value.

It was shown to the public for the first time on October 4 by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre at its Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

UCLA historian Saul Friedlander, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of a two-volume analysis of the Nazi regime, observed: “In his very first written statement about the Jews, Hitler shows that (hatred of Jews) was the very core of his political passion.”

At the behest of his superiors, Hitler wrote the letter to a fellow soldier propagandist named Adolf Gemlich, and the document is known as the Gemlich letter. In contrast to his later public rants, Hitler assumes an almost professorial tone in the letter.

For instance, he expounds: “Anti-Semitism is too easily characterised as a mere emotional phenomenon. And yet, this is incorrect. Anti-Semitism as a political

movement may not and cannot be defined by emotional impulses, but by recognition of the facts.”

What are the facts? According to the letter, one is that “Jewry is absolutely a race and not a religious association.”

Hitler features the stereotype of the Jew as a money grubber bent on world domination.

“Everything man strives after as a higher goal, be it religion, socialism, democracy, is to the Jew only means to an end, the way to satisfy his lust for gold and domination,” he wrote.

Hitler’s advocacy in the letter of “the irrevocable removal of Jews” has spurred discussions among scholars on whether it anticipates his later extermination campaign.

The German word for “removal” used by Hitler is “Entfernung”, which is more commonly translated as “distance” or “withdrawal”. Taken in context, most experts believe that Hitler’s thinking at the time focused more on “segregation” or “expulsion” rather than a full-fledged Holocaust.

“Not even Hitler was capable of imagining in 1919 what could be done,” British historian Ian Kershaw told The New York Times.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder and dean of the Wiesenthal Centre, who was instrumental in acquiring the letter and raising \$150 000 for its purchase, draws two key deductions from the letter - one historical, the other applicable to our time.

“Apologists for Hitler and Holocaust deniers always cite the fact that no one has found a document signed by Hitler ordering the destruction of European Jewry,” Hier said. “Perhaps such a document was destroyed or Hitler gave his orders verbally.

“In any case, the Gemlich letter proves his obsessive hatred of Jews more clearly

than in his later book ‘Mein Kampf’. It is fair to assume that when Hitler wrote about ‘the removal of the Jews’ he was not thinking about just throwing a few thousand Jews in jail.”

The second important lesson Hier draws from the letter is that society cannot afford to ignore or ridicule the demagogues of its day, such as Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

“If in 1919, someone had warned that a man like Hitler would become a menace to the world, such a person would have been labelled as crazy,” Hier said.

As part of the permanent exhibit in the museum’s Holocaust section, the letter will be complemented by an interactive timeline tracing the year-by-year spread of Hitler’s power and his ultimate defeat between 1919 and 1945.

The Gemlich letter was found by an American soldier among scattered papers at an apparent Nazi party archive, near Nuremberg. The soldier brought it back to America and decades later the letter came into the hands of a California dealer in historical documents.

When the letter first came on the market in 1988, Hier was sceptical about its authenticity, partly because of numerous instances of forged Nazi documents.

Since then, experts in Germany, Britain and the United States have vetted the letter and have concluded that it is, indeed, the original version, written and signed by Hitler, although 100 per cent certainty might require chemical tests of the age and composition of the stationery.

Hier, for one, has no doubt that he has the real thing. “This is the most significant document ever acquired by the Wiesenthal Centre, with historical significance not only to the Jewish people, but to the entire world,” he said. (JTA)

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

CONSERVATIVE LAWMAKERS IN CANADA TAKE OVER PRO-ISRAEL GROUP

TORONTO - Members of Canada's federal Liberal Party are crying foul after lawmakers from the governing Conservatives wrested control of a pro-Israel friendship group.

Members of Parliament gathered last week in Ottawa to elect a new executive committee for the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group. Between 50 and 60 Conservative members showed up, compared to three Liberals, PostMedia News reported.

Ten Conservatives and two Liberals put their names forward; six Conservatives

were elected to the committee.

Toronto-area Liberal lawmaker Carolyn Bennett, who chaired the friendship group for five years, acknowledged that the low turnout by Liberals contributed to her defeat. But she alleged that Conservative lawmakers were told how to vote by the pro-Israel government so they could take control of what is supposed to be a nonpartisan association

"I was quite surprised by this juggernaut approach to taking over 100 per cent of the executive positions on what

is supposed to be a parliamentary friendship group," Bennett said. "Obviously this is something that was managed centrally."

But the group's new chairman denied that the Prime Minister's Office packed the meeting with Conservatives or told lawmakers how to vote.

"It was a free vote," southern Ontario Conservative lawmaker David Sweet said. "Those who were interested found time to show. You'd have to ask the Liberals why only three of their members did." (JTA)

OPINION AND ANALYSIS - FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

A long journey to find an identity

THE LITHUANIAN contribution to civilisation would make one of the world’s thinner pamphlets. When I was growing up, that really bothered me. Like it or not, Lithuania was where my forebears had come from (seven great-grandparents out of eight - the eighth came from Latvia, which is almost the same thing).

For someone who at the time was unhealthily fixated on how much one’s standing was supposedly predicated on one’s national heritage, this was pretty galling. The honour of being part of the leading civilisations of Europe - British, German, French, Italian - belonged to others.

Even being of Polish or Russian origin would have been something, but Lithuanian? Talk about a non-people of a non-country (at that time, Lithuania was not even independent, but effectively a province of the Soviet Union).

Thwarted in my desire to claim a distinguished European pedigree, I fell back on identifying intensely with being South African. Here, too, disillusionment quickly followed, and that was even before I realised that because of its noxious race policies, my country was one of the most despised on the planet.

I could hardly fail to notice how little impact South Africa made in the greater global culture, nor how seldom it featured in the broader cultural, intellectual and popular discourse beyond its own borders. Only in sport, and then only to any significant degree in rugby, had it seemed to have punched in any way above its weight.

What was more, the anti-apartheid movement was by then progressively closing these already limited avenues for national attainment, until even rugby found itself out in the cold.

Thus thwarted a second time, I resorted to taking an inordinate pride in South Africa’s geographical wonders - were we not constantly told what a beautiful country it was? - and there, too, I came up short.



BARBARIC YAWP
David Saks

Pathetic as it sounds, the fact that the Drakensberge, for all their grandeur, turned out to be no more than of middling height when compared with the world’s major mountain ranges, really got under my skin.

If I’d known then that our mountains are not especially high because of they have been worn down over time, whereas super-ranges like the Himalayas, Alps and Andes are, in geological terms, comparative babies, it would have been of some comfort, but I didn’t. I was reduced to obsessively trawling through atlases and gnashing my youthful molars every time I found yet another country with higher mountains than ours.

Funny how different things look now. The more I have returned to the religious orthodoxy of my forebears, the more I have come to treasure my Lithuanian origins, and that of the greater part of South African Jewry as a whole.

Lithuanian Jewry were an elite group, a hub of piety and scholarship far ahead of Jewish communities in other parts of Europe. All but destroyed in the Holocaust, their legacy continues in the lands where some of their members were able to settle before then, and particularly in South Africa.

While it took some time for the religious seriousness of Lithuanian Jewry to take root here, the intense Jewish commitment of this community since the great East European influx after 1880 has never been in doubt. No sector of world Jewry, for example, identified itself so wholeheartedly with the re-establishment of a sovereign Jewish presence in the Land of Israel.

When Joe Slovo wrote about

growing up in the Lithuanian shtetl of Obelai, he was characteristically scornful of his fellow Jews’ negative attitude towards their gentile neighbours.

This was despite the subsequent enthusiastic participation of ordinary Lithuanians in the massacres that followed the Nazi occupation in 1941 (in which his own family was decimated).

Evidently, the rank and file of Lithuanian Jewry knew something about their charming Lithuanian neighbours that Uncle Joe chose to forget. The point about being the scions of the Jewish community of Lithuania, however, is that the merits or otherwise of that country as a whole really do not matter.

What really counts is how very much the Jews of Lithuania contributed to the enrichment and strengthening of the Jewish world completely out of proportion to their numbers. I also learned over time how Jews in “lesser” countries like Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary and Poland by and large stood firm in their commitment to Torah-true Judaism, whereas those of countries like Britain and Germany that I had once so yearned to be associated with, even when they were not flocking to the baptismal font, were frequently weak, compromised and apologetic in their Judaism.

Within German Jewry, though, there were striking exceptions, particularly in the steadfastness shown by the great Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsch and his “disciples”. During the 1930s, a number of their descendants (literal and/or spiritual) established the Adath Jeshurun Congregation in Yeoville, which among other things, was the first kehilla in South Africa that insisted on all of its members being Shomer Shabbos.

Much of the subsequent upsurge in Jewish religiosity in Johannesburg can be attributed to what this remarkable group of pioneers did. Given how German Jewry prior to the Holocaust were seen as ultra-assimilationist – “Germans of the Mosaic persuasion” as the now infamous expression went - it is somewhat ironic that, in South Africa at least, it took a group of German-Jewish immigrants to demonstrate to the Litvak majority what a rigorous commitment to Judaism was all about.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

CUBA'S JEWISH LEADERS VISIT ALAN GROSS

HAVANAH - Leaders of Cuba's Jewish community met with jailed American contractor Alan Gross on the eve of Rosh Hashanah.

Adele Dworin, president of the Hebrew Community of Cuba, and David Prinstein, vice president of the Patronato of the Jewish Community of Cuba, had a two-hour visit with Gross on September 28, the Miami Herald reported. They ate honey cake with coffee and tea, the visitors told the newspaper.

Gross, who has lost nearly 45 kg due to chronic illness, described his physical condition as "good", Dworin told the newspaper.

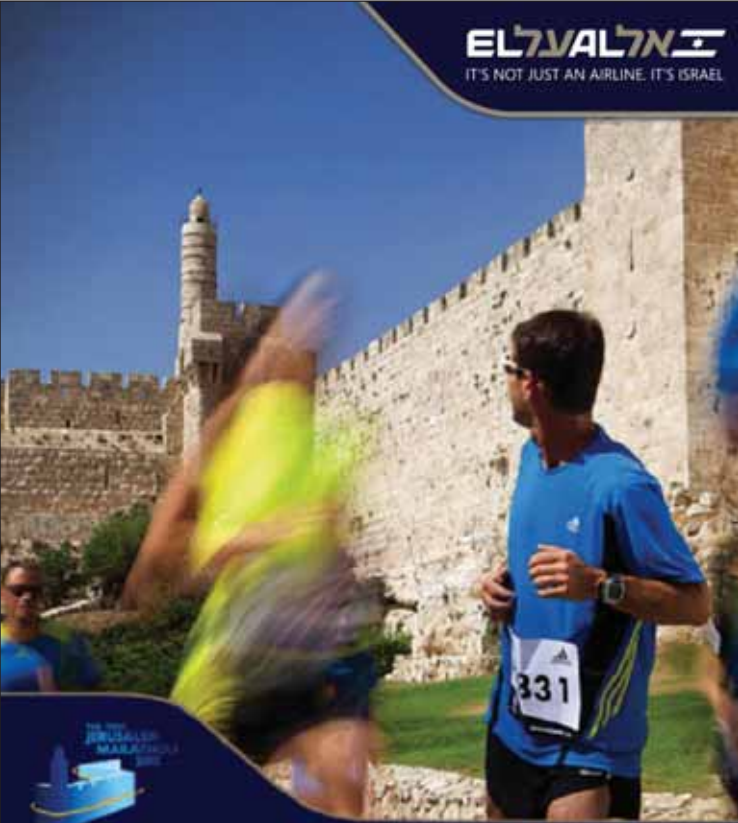
Gross, 62, is serving a 15-year prison sentence in Cuba for “crimes against the state” for distributing laptop computers and connecting Cuban Jews to the Internet. He was arrested in 2009 as he was leaving Cuba and accused of being a spy.

Gross' family and US State Department officials say that Gross was in the country on a US

Agency for International Development contract to help the country's 1 500 Jews communicate with other Jewish communities using the Internet. The main Jewish groups in Cuba have denied any contact with or knowledge of Gross or the programme.

His family had hoped he would be released on humanitarian grounds in time for Rosh Hashanah.

Gross' daughter has breast cancer and his mother was diagnosed with cancer as well. (JTA)



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ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg: “If I told you the truth, I’d be lying”, Stephen Rosin’s first solo exhibition opens October 12, (011) 350-5793.

Black Box Theatre, King David, Victory Park: Jonathan Taylor and Lara Lipschitz in a staged reading of David Mamet’s “Oleanna”, October 10, 083-377-2040.

Everard Read and Circa Gallery, Rosebank: “The Horse”, curated by Ricky Burnett, until October 30, (011)788-4805.

Foxwood Theatre, Houghton: Des and Dawn Lindberg’s “Still Truckin’”, October 8, 9, (011) 486-0935.

Joburg Theatre, Braamfontein: In the Nelson Mandela, SA Ballet Theatre dances “Sleeping Beauty”, until October 16. In the Fringe, “Chilli Boy”, until November 6, (011)877-6800. In the People’s Theatre, “Fun, Magic and Tales from Africa”, until October 9, (011) 403-1563.

Linder Auditorium, Parktown: October 12, 13, JPO performs Haydn’s Clock symphony, Berg’s Violin Concerto and Beethoven’s First Symphony. Conductor: Bernhard Gueller; soloist: Antje Weithaas (violin), (011) 789-2733. October 16, pianist Maxime Zecchini performs for the JMS, (011) 728-5492.

Lyric Theatre, Gold Reef City, Ormonde: Mzansi Productions, dances “Don Quixote”, until October 23, (011) 248-5168.

Market Theatre, Newtown: In the Laager, Craig Higginson’s “Girl in the Yellow Dress” ends December 18. In the Main Theatre, Mark Hawkins’ “Hotel” ends October 9. In the Barney Simon, “Death of a Colonialist”, ends October 16, (011) 832-1641.

Montecasino, Fourways: In the Main Theatre, Alan Committie’s “Happily Ever Laughter”, until October 23. In the Studio, Sonia Esqueiro’s “Porralicious!”, until November 13, (011) 511-1988.

National Children’s Theatre, Parktown: Joyce Levinsohn and Francois Theron’s “Pied Piper”, until October 22, (011) 484-1584.

Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton: “Sailing Somewhere” with Fiona Ramsay, until October 29. On October 10, Mel Miller performs his “Big Fat Comedy Show”, (011) 883-8606.

SA Jewish Museum, Gardens: “Jiving with Madiba”, ends November 27, (021) 465-1546.

State Theatre, Pretoria: In the Opera, Deon Opperman’s border war musical, “Tree Aan”, with Adam Pelkowitz. October 8 - November 6, (021) 392-4000.

TAPESTRY

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A once -in-a-lifetime experience that will leave you breathless

Exhibition: “The Horse” (Everard Read Gallery, and Circa, Rosebank, (011) 788-4805)
Curator: Ricky Burnett
Until: October 30

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

OCCASIONALLY, the combination of elements in an art exhibition sings from the moment you cross the gallery’s threshold and doesn’t stop singing in your heart. This is what happens at The Horse; an exhibition of this calibre we have not seen in this city for years. Its limited run makes you want to drink its energy urgently. Burnett has not been on gallery headlines for a while. He curated the historic 1984 Tributaries, which turned South African art around for good, celebrating artists previously disregarded. Inspired by gallerist Mark Read, The Horse opens politically unexpected doors: contemporary art has become haggard with imperatives associated with theory, not necessarily pretty to see if you’re not an art historian. The Horse outrageously sidestepped these imperatives with a wide brief to artists: they could do whatever they wished as long as it hangs on a horse; while some engage ideology from

“So what?” a mixed media work by Zwelethu Mthethwa and Willie Bester. (PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN HODGKISS)

within their own horses, others don’t. Ultimately the visual experience offers a wild, noble, docile, magnificent glance at the four-legged beast which has been vehicle, sporting device, beast of burden, sexual metaphor and more, to humanity since time began; it will leave you constantly with your heart on fire about what you might find around the next corner. Driving along Jan Smuts Avenue, even at night, you will be moved singularly, at the intersection with Jellicoe Avenue: a horse and rider by Angus Taylor, made of sticks rises hauntingly from the small pond at Circa’s frontage. Similarly, along Keyes Avenue, you will notice a great big horse’s head, made of tyres by the inimitable Andries Botha, and another rearing with abandon, made of coat hangers by Gordon Froud. The exhibition spills between the two spaces, and will leave your head clip-clopping hither and yon. There are clever gestures that will make you smile, like Willem Boshoff’s “Equus”, a piece



playing with blind embossing; and outrageously wonderful ones like the Handspring Puppet Company’s War Horse, in a video and drawings, that will make you weep with delight. There are pieces, like Pippa Skotnes’ three horse skeletons with narrative inscribed on every bone that will leave your jaw hanging; and others, like Kerri Evans’ paintings that will make you fall in love with the place where paint and musculature meet. Walter Oltmann presents a prickly horse and knight in armour; Brendhan Dickerson challenges gravity in his piece, which sits like a fluid drawing in space... the list is long. Works by newish names, including Georgina Gratrix, Mfundo Ketye and Phillemon Hlungwane, sit hoof by withers with big names like Deborah Bell, David Koloane and Mmakgabo Sebidi. Burnett has brought together artists from gallery “stables” nationally; he’s curated this absolute must-see show with a deft hand and a sense of humour.

‘Mute’ Sleeping Beauty is stripped of expressive power

Ballet: “The Sleeping Beauty”, Nelson Mandela Theatre, Joburg Theatre complex, Braamfontein, until October 16, (011)877-6800
Company: South African Ballet Theatre
Staging: Iain MacDonald and Lauren Dixon-Seager
Dancers: Shannon Glover; Lauren Summerley; Humberto Montero; Jonathan Rodrigues; and others
Orchestra: Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra
Conductor: Sonja Bass

REVIEWED BY JONATHAN HURWITZ
PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN HOGG



IN “THE Sleeping Beauty” the music is the drama, the drama is the music, and to disregard this, as in SA Ballet Theatre’s current production, is to strip the ballet of its expressive power and rich symbolism and render it mute. Seconds after the start comes a massive music cut, jarring to the ear and dislocating to the narrative flow, and as the performance unfolds, one brutal musical excision follows another. For the premiere of “The Sleeping Beauty”, Tchaikovsky and choreographer Marius Petipa worked with care and singleness of purpose, weaving together music and choreography, intricately and indivisibly. In itself, the story of “The Sleeping Beauty” - an evil force causes a princess to fall into a deep sleep from which she is awakened 100 years later by a prince’s kiss - is not riveting theatre and what drama there is, is driven by the music. Hacking away at the score makes for a shorter performance but at what price? Over and over, narrative and meaning fall by the wayside. Princess Aurora’s first entrance is a magical moment but in this production the

music heralding her arrival just isn’t there and the princess is left lurking at the top of the stairs, unannounced and seemingly unexpected. But in the long catalogue of music cuts, none are more damaging to character and plot than the gaping hole left by the absence of the pas de deux for the Prince and the vision of Aurora in Act 2, and the overall diluting effect they inflict on the ballet’s motivating force: the triumph of good over evil. Evil here emerges as nothing more sinister than schoolgirl spite. “The Sleeping Beauty” is the ballet that separates the men from the boys, the unequalled embodiment of the principles of classical dance, unchallenged as a test of a dancer and daunting for even the most august institutions. George Balanchine, the 20th century’s supreme choreographer, died without fulfilling his dream of staging it for the New York City Ballet; the legendary Diaghilev Ballets Russes almost met its Waterloo with a 1921 staging, while the centuries-old Paris Opera Ballet only came to grips with the ballet under Nureyev’s guidance in the 1980s. So what chance does our embattled SABT have

when they choose to confront “The Sleeping Beauty”, diminished as the company is by the battle to keep operating? Sadly, very little. In this beleaguered setting, neither company nor individual dancers make an impact. The absence of the corps de ballet in the Vision is a sign of the times for ballet in South Africa, but it does prompt the question: is it not time for us to re-conceptualise some of the classics and reshape them for our time and place, as Mats Ek, Jean-Christophe Maillot and others have done? Of course that may take money we don’t have, but this “Sleeping Beauty” compels SA ballet to consider new paths. Who knows where that may lead, but we cannot, as things stand, attempt to restage “The Sleeping Beauty” in a manner that aspires to recreate the magnificence of 17th and 18th century France, the splendour of its court, the glory of the Sun King, its symbolism and manners, fashion and etiquette. “The Sleeping Beauty” remains after 120 years the supreme statement of dance: academy and ritual, exemplar and reminder, but also precursor and inspiration. How will it inspire us as we move forward into SA ballet’s brave new world?



**FELDMAN
ON FILM**
Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

The Help

Cast: Emma Stone; Octavia Spencer; Viola Davis; Bryce Dallas Howard
Director: Tate Taylor

Kathryn Stockett’s novel, The Help, is one of the most talked about books of recent years and its translation to the big screen is bound to evoke a reaction or two. Director Tate Taylor has done a sterling job in turning the novel into an absorbing film, extracting the book’s essence without diluting it. In its favour is that Taylor’s production avoids focusing totally on the ugliness of the era, visu-

alising instead the optimism and hope that can spring from the hearts of people, even when there is hatred all around. The Help is set in Jackson, Mississippi, during the 1960s when segregation was a cornerstone of Southern society. Eugenia “Skeeter” Phelan (Emma Stone), a Southern society girl, returns home from college, determined to become a writer, but turns her friends’ lives - and a small Mississippi town - upside down when she decides to interview the black women who have spent their lives taking care of prominent Southern families. Aibileen Clark (Viola Davis), Skeeter’s best friend’s housekeeper, is the first to open up - to the dismay of her friends in the tight-knit black community. Despite Skeeter’s life-long friendships hanging in the balance, she and Aibileen continue their collaboration and soon more women come forward, including the gutsy Minny (Octavia Spencer), to tell their stories - and as it turns out, they have a lot to say. Unlikely friendships are forged along the way and a new sisterhood emerges, but not before

everyone in town has a thing or two to say for themselves when they become unwittingly - and unwillingly - caught up in the changing times. One has to accept the premise that a sweet, though educated, 22-year-old courageously questioned the status quo was able to change it to a degree, despite the prevailing racial prejudice. The tale from her perspective is a gently moving one and it will stir the spirit. The Help is stylish and well-crafted and a massive part of its success lies in the performances of the two African-Americans, Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer, who avoid sinking into Steel Magnolia-type caricatures. They are the heart and soul of the narrative, supplying enormous reserves of depth and dignity to the production. Bryce Dallas Howard also shines as Hilly Holbrook, the queen bee of the little community, with her icy air of superiority and her constant talk of “the coloured situation” where building outside toilets for the help is the best solution. The Help will resonate strongly with South Africans and it’s a film I strongly recommend.

Unglamorous exterior belies complex interior

Byleveld: Dossier of a Serial Sleuth by Hanlie Retief (Random House Struik, R220)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

ANYONE WHO has ever sat glued to one of TV’s many crime or legal dramas - exploring the wide gap between the precinct cops, who actually do the dirty work involved in catching offenders, and the comparatively cushy, sheltered world of the advocates, who never have to see the blood and bodies - may have been tempted to dismiss it all as fiction: particularly if they then switch to a local news channel and are regaled with our own soaring crime statistics.

Few could dispute the assertion that our police force - under-skilled, under-equipped, underpaid and plagued by corruption - is not equal to the task of dealing with the violent criminals among us.

But one man among them has done much to elevate the reputation of Johannesburg’s Brixton Murder and Robbery Squad, and bring some reassurance to a public terrified of the killers stalking their communities.

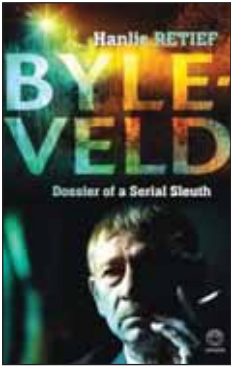
In the course of his 40-year career - spanning the apartheid years, and entering the era of the new, transformed South Africa - Byleveld has achieved international recognition for his near-insuperable ability to catch serial killers: so much so that the International Police Association honoured him with a special award as one of the three best detectives worldwide.

He has worked with Scotland Yard, the FBI and Mossad in apprehending criminals, and has emerged as the rock star of the SAPS’ grisly underworld. Which is eerily appropriate, since serial killers, in their own right, enjoy a reputation as the “superstars” of criminal psychopathology.

He is credited with tracking down some of the most notorious killers in South African history, including Juan Havenga and Tony Wessels, Dougie Scheepers’ “Shotgun Gang”, the Stander gang, serial killers Bongani Mfeka, Lazarus Mazingane, Themba Nkosi, Sipho Dube and Cedric Mauke, who terrorised the Wemmer Pan area of Johannesburg, raping 15 women and murdering 23 people.

More recently, it was Byleveld who tracked down Donovan Moodley, the man responsible for kidnapping and murdering 21-year-old student Leigh Matthews.

His cases have ranged from sensational residential homicides (like that of Johannesburg socialite transvestite Carol



Donaldson and Sibille Streibel, killed by her businessman husband Frank Zanner) to lurid, heartbreaking crimes, like the molestation and murder of seven-year-old Sheldean Human.

He has seen human nature at its worst and most wicked. Formaldehyde, blood, gunpowder and shattered, traumatised families of victims have been his daily fare.

Retief’s biography holds some surprises. First among these is

Byleveld’s almost impenetrable reticence: for all his fame, he is a man of few words who comes across so utterly unpretentiously - and, indeed, unremarkably - that it is difficult to connect him to his achievements. Many of Retief’s most provocative questions elicit only the most cursory responses from him about his career.

What does emerge - and, indeed, takes up a disproportionate amount of the book - is Byleveld’s unhappy marriage to his first wife, his subsequent separation from her and his encounter with the new love of his life.

By his own admission, the super-sleuth who can spot a serial killer’s work at a glance, and who has mastered the art of combining interrogation with friendly banter, so that his suspects readily open up to him, is a strikingly poor judge of character off his beat.

Byleveld’s first marital misalliance was the result of stunning naivety on his part (he was lied to about his wife’s age, background and motives). The son of a deeply religious, Calvinist Afrikaans farmer, he was instilled with an uncompromising morality (his original choice of vocation was theology), an ethic of hard, relentless work and a profound revulsion for anyone who harms innocent people.

“Every fibre in my body shouts out against it. I hate crime – I always will... Don’t f—k with me. If a criminal does someone harm, I’ll get him. I’m not arrogant when I say that.”

However, commendable and poignant such a statement is, it offers very little insight into what really drives the man. After all, this is a detective whose interest in serial killers verges on the compulsive.

His interactions with them extend far beyond routine questioning, evidence-gathering and forensic investigation: Byleveld and the killers he tracks down enter into a very special, private choreography, drawing on an alchemy peculiar to the hunted and the hunter.

What an enormous pity that the book does

no more than flirt with this crucial aspect of Byleveld’s own pathology, or draw out more fully his inner need to specialise in this gruesome, but fascinating field of work.

Byleveld’s simple, unglamorous exterior belies a highly complex interior in which much more is at play than slapping handcuffs on an offender. His relationships with some of the serial killers he has dealt with have lasted well beyond their trials and imprisonment: in fact, the book hints at him assuming an almost pastoral, avuncular role.

Of course, the unbalanced construction of the book is the fault of its author, not its sub-

ject. Retief’s bewildering timeline, which oscillates from one case to another via lengthy diversions into Byleveld’s private life, does not help.

Then, too, her penchant for interjecting her own responses into the text obscures Byleveld’s character and makes it maddeningly hard to experience him as he truly is.

Still, while the book lacks substance, it makes absorbing reading. And though one searches in vain for a portal into the real heart of Piet Byleveld, one does come away with renewed reverence for a man who makes South Africans feel considerably safer in their beds.

SOUTH AFRICAN
BALLET
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Accompanied by
The Johannesburg
Philharmonic Orchestra*

(*recorded music Oct 7th and 13th)

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REVIEWED BY PAUL BOECKKOOI

Frederick Jacobi: Concerto for ‘Cello and Orchestra; Excerpts from “Sabbath Evening Service”; Hagio-grapha; Ahavat Olam; Two Pieces in Sabbath Mood: Kaddish & Oneg shabbat. Alban Gerhardt (‘cello), Patrick Mason (baritone), Cantor Robert Bloch, Samuel Adler (conductor), and other artists. Naxos American Classics / Milken Archive 8.559434. R109. Available through www.loot.co.za

He wrote: “I am a great believer in melody; a believer, too, that music should give pleasure and not try to solve philosophical problems.”

His ‘Cello Concerto (1932), inspired by single verse lines from Psalms 90, 91 and 92, is the absolute opposite of virtuoso display, but does have moments of playfulness,

grace and a serene feeling of contentment. Alban Gerhardt’s playing is absorbingly projected, without ever losing the line or the inner reflections of the concerto’s subtext.

The solo vocal pieces with choir, Sabbath Evening Service and Ahavat Olam, are spine-tinglingly reviting - mainly due to Jacobi’s unusual harmonic language filling the acoustics of the churches in London and New York where they were recorded, with a sense of awe.

Hagiographa for string quartet and piano are three biblical narratives on the lives of Job, Ruth and Joshua - wonderful pieces of characterful writing in which elements of their personalities “speak” directly to the listener.

In the Two Pieces in Sabbath Mood, one feels that Jacobi’s own voice is hidden by tradition. In this orchestral work the majestic elements of the latter is fully explored and reflected.

JEWISH FESTIVALS IN SONG



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in concert with music ensemble

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Narrator: Helen Heldenmuth

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LETTERS

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

Guidelines for letters: Letters up to 400 words will get preference. Please provide your full first name and surname, place of residence, and a daytime contact telephone or cell number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.	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
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‘LACK’ OF COMMUNAL LEADERSHIP IS FRUSTRATING

I AM so frustrated at our lack of leadership that I would like to know how we go about changing the leadership of the SA Zionist Federation and The Jewish Board of Deputies.

It is high time that we had leaders who espoused the strength of Israel and not

ISRAEL HAS MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE TWO-STATE SOLUTION

I REFER to Dave Ossin’s letter in Jewish Report of September 23.

Polls are important in trying to ascertain what people think, but they should not be used to demonise an entire population. For parity sake, here are some polls about how Jewish Israelis see Palestinian citizens of Israel:

In 2010, the Israel Democratic Institute found that more than 62 per cent of Israeli Jewish respondents said that as long as conflict with the Palestinians continued, the state should not take into account Israeli Arab opinions regarding foreign policy.

The same study found that 53 per cent of Israeli Jews believe the state has the right to encourage Arab citizens to emigrate, while 55 per cent said Jewish cities should receive more government resources than Arab communities. All of the above are clear examples of racism.

Further, a study of Israel’s high school learners by Maagar Mochot, an Israeli research institute under the supervision of Prof Yitzchak Katz, found that nearly half of Israel’s high school learners do not believe that Israeli-Arabs are entitled to the same rights as Jews in Israel.

So, there must be something wrong deep in the foundations of the Israeli education system if it produces young people with such racist views.

what a weak situation Israel is in, like Ben Levitas said on national radio last Sunday.

Israel is strong. Israelis are strong. We here are weak.

**Chaim Myerson
Cape Town**

Ossin refers to decreasing support for a two-state solution among Palestinians. Is that surprising? They have been strung along, subjected to a brutal 44 year occupation and a peace process that results in more settlements and further human rights violations.

But, if a two-state solution does not emerge in the current UN vote or very soon thereafter, then the future of the region appears more certain, even if a final political settlement is further off.

The Palestinians, believing that they will never achieve a two-state solution with any semblance of justice under international law, will abandon it altogether. And they will start to campaign for a one state solution, claiming, justly, that they live under an apartheid regime of racist segregation.

The world will agree that since Israel has missed every opportunity to create a just two-state solution, only a democratic one-state solution will guarantee the human rights of all people of the region.

People who do not support the UN bid for Palestinian statehood are not only denying a nation their right to self-determination, but this will undoubtedly cause further tensions as the Palestinian demand for freedom is sold short - yet again.

**Daniel Mackintosh
Observatory, Cape Town**

AROUND THE WORLD
NEWS IN BRIEF

FIRE SERIOUSLY DAMAGES SYDNEY SYNAGOGUE

SYDNEY - A fire severely damaged a synagogue in Sydney on the first night of Rosh Hashanah.

Seven fire trucks were required to extinguish the late-night blaze at Kehillat Masada in northern Sydney on September 28.

Officers from Fire and Rescue New South Wales, rescued the Torah scrolls from the path of the flames and saved the sanctuary after about three hours of firefighting.

The police forensic unit believes the blaze, which began in the kitchen area, was accidental.

Kehillat Masada, which has a membership of 450 families, is located within the campus of Masada College, a large

Jewish school. The high school library also was affected and many members lost prayer books and other religious possessions in the blaze.

School principal Wendy Barel and synagogue president Trevor Lorge said in a joint statement that they were devastated by “so much damage and destruction”.

“The most important thing is that no one was hurt or injured, and that it took place after the premises had been vacated from a very busy first night of Rosh Hashanah services,” they said.

Members dispersed to other nearby synagogues for the remainder of the holiday.

The synagogue board is looking at options for Yom Kippur services, including hiring a local hall. (JTA)

ISRAEL’S DANIEL SHECHTMAN WINS CHEMISTRY NOBEL

JERUSALEM - Israeli scientist Daniel Shechtman, won this year’s Nobel Prize for Chemistry, for his discovery of atom patterns called “quasicrystals”.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said on Wednesday that Shechtman’s discovery, made in 1982, which was “extremely controversial” because it had been thought impossible, had fundamentally changed the way chemists look at solid matter.

“Contrary to the previous belief that atoms were packed inside crystals in symmetrical patterns, Shechtman showed that the atoms in a crystal could be packed in a pattern that could not be repeated,” the RSAS said.

“His discovery was extremely controversial. In the course of defending his findings, he was asked to leave his research group. However, his battle eventually forced scientists to reconsider their conception of the very nature of matter,” it said.

Shechtman, 70, is a distinguished professor at the Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. Technion President Prof Peretz Lavie congratulating Shechtman on his win, called him “a very unique scientist”.

Added Lavie: “On the one hand he has an exceptional international status, but on the other hand he’s one of the most beloved and modest people in the

Technion. We heard of his win just like everyone else. The tension was high and within a few minutes the news of his win spread like wild fire.”

The chemistry award is the third Nobel Prize to be announced this year and carries a grant of 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.45 million).

Yoav Shechtman, Prof Shechtman’s son, told Ynet that the announcement had taken the family by surprise: “You don’t know that you’ve won until the very last moment,” he said. “It’s a great joy, the family feels wonderful. We are delighted about it.” An overwhelmed Shechtman simply said: “It feels wonderful.”

Prof Tzipora Shechtman, the new Nobel laureate’s wife, told Ynet: “Everyone said Dan would win, but he insisted that he wouldn’t. Because he was so modest, I stopped believing it too. He definitely deserves it.”

In 2009, Israeli scientist Ada Yonath was awarded the Nobel Chemistry Prize for showing how ribosomes function, work that has important implications for antibiotics.

Before Yonath eight Israelis won the prestigious prize: Shmuel Yosef Agnon (Literature); Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres (Peace); Avram Hershko, Aaron Ciechanover (Chemistry); Robert Aumann and Daniel Kahneman (Economics). (Ynet)

‘PALESTINIAN STATE’ NOT ABOUT REAL ESTATE

A “PALESTINIAN state”: This is not about real estate; the conflicts that Jews have been embroiled in throughout their history, had nothing to do with real estate.

In 70 AD, the Romans who massacred a million Jews in Jerusalem did not do so because of real estate. The Crusaders who murdered Jews on their way to conquer Palestine, did not do so because of real estate. Hitler did not send six million Jews to the ovens because of real estate.

Muslim Arabs did not massacre the Jews of Hebron in 1929 because of real estate. Haman in Persia did not issue a decree to murder the entire Jewish people because of real estate. The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem did not visit Hitler and send Arab legionnaires to fight alongside Hitler’s SS because of real estate.

Mein Kampf was not written by Hitler

SA JEWS RELUCTANT TO DEFEND ISRAEL PUBLICALLY

I AGREE with Michele Engelberg who in the Jewish Report, two weeks ago, “urged people to be vocal and defend Israel, especially when blatant anti-Semitism and bias is obvious”.

The problem, tragically I believe, is that South African Jews are reluctant to do just that publicly.

Israel and the Jews are constantly criticised and insulted in the mainstream press in this country.

Sometimes this hostility can be found in editorials, but it mostly takes the form of letters written by members of the public with an agenda based on lies, innuendos and often blatant

because he had real estate issues with the Jews.

When Jordan occupied the Old City and Judea and Samaria, the Arabs had no interest in the Temple Mount. Their donkeys and goats used the Old City walls and the Western Wall as urinals. And now (Mahmoud) Abbas, Hamas Hezbollah, (and Iran) etc, do not want to establish a “Palestinian state” because of real estate. Why do you think the fanatical Muslim Arab wants a “Palestinian State”? Answer: To exterminate the Jewish people and wipe them off the map and this is taught to children from an early age.

That has been the goal of the enemies of the Jews for 4000 years. There is already a “Palestinian state”: It is known as Jordan.

**Dion Futerman
Cape Town**

hatred of everything Jewish.

Yet, despite this onslaught, there are only a handful of us who have regularly taken the fight to those that defame us. We continue to do so despite the vitriol that our one-eyed critics normally spew at us.

Where are the rest of South Africa’s Jews? Why are there so few responses from community and business leaders?

Is the defence of Judaism, Israel and Zionism not important enough for them to speak out?

**D Wolpert
Rivonia, Sandton**

KUDOS TO MICHELE ENGELBERG – AND TO LIMMUD

IN REPLY to Michele Engelberg’s letter, I exult in saying “Kol Hakavod!” Thank you Michele, for putting your viewpoint about Limmud so very well. Thank you for having the courage to stand up against criticism, and thank you for coming to Limmud.

It was a pleasure to see that the number of Orthodox attendees is increasing. We South

African Jews certainly are multifaceted and together we could be one big, indestructible family. All we need is acceptance and respect for one another.

I am a confirmed Limmudnik.

**Elaine Glogauer
Lyndhurst, Johannesburg**

OCHBERG ORPHANS: BIG THANK YOU TO BENNIE PENZIK AND DAVID SANDLER

TO CONTINUE with the letter by Lynette Karp of Kfar Saba in Israel in the Jewish Report, I believe it was a wonderful dedication ceremony honouring Isaac Ochberg in Israel on July 20.

To repeat her own words, she praised the years of research, planning and organisation of a dedicated committee under the chairmanship in Israel of Bennie Penzik, whose late parents had both been Ochberg orphans.

He dreamt a dream of a gathering of the descendants of “Isaac Ochberg orphans” in Israel and made it come true. Karp’s description of the ceremony and the scenic beauty of the site, was well received.

Karp writes: “It was very moving to see the crowd at the dedication rise to their feet as one and all give Bennie a standing ovation after his heart-warming tribute to the committees and individuals who all contributed to the success of an amazing occasion. It was a spontaneous honour he richly deserved.”

She then writes: “The article covering this event in your edition... of August 5, did not mention the sterling work of the organisers of the event and I feel strongly that this omission should be rectified.”

Penzik did pay tribute to his committees in his speech at the ceremony. Perhaps the only error made - and I have no doubt it was not intentional - was not to welcome David Sandler, who was at the ceremony.

I am sure that a vast majority of descendants of Ochberg orphans know David and have e-mailed their stories, with photographs, to him. His book, the “Ochberg Orphans” and

the horrors from whence they came, was launched at the same time all over the world.

It is an extremely well-researched book of 640 pages, which has letters and at a guess at least 1 000 photographs. This is Volume 3 of a sequel.

I believe that there are more than 2 000 descendants of the Ochberg orphans all over the world. The rescue in 1921 of 181 Jewish orphans by Ochberg, must also be given a great deal of credit for their generosity and foresight in starting the South African Jewish Orphanage (Arcadia), and the Cape Jewish Orphanage (Oranjia).

These three volumes are on sale at Sandringham Gardens, with all proceeds going to Arcadia, now run by the Chevrah Kadisha at what I believe has been considerable cost to Sandler himself, as well as the many years of time involved in the research and correspondence involved.

I hope my reply is not to be interpreted as making a comparison between Penzik and Sandler. At the end of the book, under the section of “Acknowledgements”, Sandler writes: Much thanks to Bennie Penzik, son of two Ochberg orphans, who like a benevolent older brother was always there to help and guide me and he contributed from the beginning...”

Kol Hakavod to both of you. Your achievements will be forever remembered in the history of the Jews in South Africa and Israel.

**Zummy Isenberg
Old Arcadian
Johannesburg**

LOOKING FOR...

LOOKING FOR INFO AN ARTIST PEARL COHEN

FORMER JOHANNESBURG gallerist, Fernand Haenggi, now based in Switzerland, is looking for any information on the artist Pearl Cohen, who possibly died in 1976.

Haenggi has put up a memorial website: www.art-archives-southafrica.ch/COHEN.htm, but it is missing some information. He is looking for confirmation of when and where she died. He has discovered that a Pearl Cohen was buried in West Park Cemetery

in early 1976, but has no means of verifying this.

He knows that she had a two-person exhibition with Sylvia Freedman at Gallery 101 in 1962 and a solo exhibition at the same gallery in 1970, opened by Jim Stodel.

If anyone has any information on Pearl Cohen, please contact Haenggi either on fernand.f.haenggi@gmail.com or via PO Box 344, CH-4003 BASEL, Switzerland.

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Mary Kluk,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

SHORTLY BEFORE Rosh Hashanah Charisse Zeifert, who heads the Board’s communications department, returned from a five-day fact-finding visit to Israel, where she accompanied eight leading South African media professionals.

This was the third such media tour to Israel that the Board, in partnership with the Israeli Embassy and latterly with the SA-Israel Forum, has organised. Like its predecessors, it proved to be very successful.

It is important to stress that the aim of this initiative is not to serve up a wholly one-sided dose of pro-Israel propaganda. Not only would seasoned professional journalists have no difficulty in seeing through such a strategy, but it would also run counter to what the Board has always fought for when it comes to coverage of the Middle East, namely balance.

We do not ask that journalists adopt a pro-Israel stance; rather, we urge that when covering or commenting on events in the Middle East, they do so from an informed perspective.

The Israeli-Palestinian issue is a complex, highly emotive one, with a host of competing narratives and rival claims and counter-claims muddying the waters and preventing any nuanced, objective perspectives from emerging.

By actually seeing for themselves how

‘Informed perspective’ is all we ask for

Israeli society works and being exposed to different views on the situation by a range of acknowledged experts, the journalists will have returned to South Africa well equipped to formulate their own properly informed opinions on what is happening in the region.

This will hopefully foster the kind of balance and fairness that at the end of the day is all that we are asking for when it comes to how Israel is portrayed in our media.

Around the time of Charisse’s trip, another highly successful Hilton Arts Festival was held at Hilton College in the Natal Midlands. Among the undoubted highlights of the festival were three plays by visiting Israeli theatre groups, organised for the occasion by Tararam.

The latter was initiated by the Embassy of Israel to “facilitate, propagate and promote cultural exchange and awareness between South Africa and Israel”.

Today, hardline anti-Israel lobby groups will seize every conceivable opportunity to undermine existing links between Israel and South Africa, be these cultural, economic, academic, political or other.

It was therefore predictable that the participation of Israeli artists on the festival programme saw a fair amount of pressure being brought to bear on the organisers to “pull” those particular items or, failing that, for audiences to boycott them.

Fortunately, the boycott campaign seems to have no effect whatever. The organisers were steadfast in their refusal to yield to intimidation and as for the events them-

selves, all three Israeli productions were fully booked, despite being hosted in the largest of the festival venues.

Having attended myself, I can attest to their receiving standing ovations and being much admired and talked about afterwards.

All in all, it was a highly successful undertaking, not merely because it was a clear set-

back for the boycott lobby, but because it conveyed something of the vibrancy, diversity and creativity of Israeli society, something all too often overshadowed by an excessive, frequently biased focus on the politics of the region.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

Afrika Tikkun partners with ‘The Joint’ to fight poverty

IN A new effort to further address hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity in many areas of South Africa, especially the traditional black townships, Afrika Tikkun has entered into a partnership with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC, also affectionately known as “The Joint”), the world’s leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organisation.

By combining JDC’s nearly 100 years of experience battling global poverty and Afrika Tikkun’s robust network of “Centres of Excellence” and programmes in several South African townships, the two organisations will seek to address the dire challenges facing the poor.

In a media release, Afrika Tikkun CEO Marc Lubner, says: “With an unemployment rate of more than 45 per cent and rapidly rising food prices, many families living in South African townships struggle to meet their most basic needs for nourishment. Our partnership with JDC will significantly boost our ‘Food Security’ programme and provide hope for those in need.”

Founded in 1994 by former Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris and businessman/philanthropist Bertie Lubner, Afrika Tikkun was established to address the critical developmental needs of the country, emerging from the apartheid era.

Today, the organisation operates “Centres of Excellence” in Diepsloot, Orange Farm, Alexandra township, Hillbrow in Gauteng, and Delft and Mfuleni in the Western Cape.

By nurturing, educating and supporting children and youth in crisis, Afrika Tikkun empowers young people to develop into contributing citizens of South Africa.

“Always at the ready to improve the lives of those facing hunger and hardship, we’re very energised by our collaboration with Afrika Tikkun, especially because of our shared investment in programmes that foster enduring self-sufficiency,” said JDC’s CEO Steven Schwager.

“Jewish tradition teaches that to save one life is to save an entire world - surely this new partnership will help achieve that goal.”

JDC’s support for Afrika Tikkun is part of its historic strategy of working with local communities and NGOs in the more than 70 countries it operates in, to ensure self-reliance and long-term success. William Recant, JDC’s assistant executive vice president and disaster relief expert, will be joining the board of Afrika Tikkun’s US section.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

POPE CALLS FOR BLESSINGS ON JEWISH NEW YEAR

ROME - Pope Benedict XVI has sent out a High Holy Day message auguring peace, justice and friendship in the Jewish New Year.

In a message addressed to Rome’s Chief Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni, the Pope expressed his hope that “these important feasts may be an occasion for many blessings from on high, and a source of infinite grace”.

The Pope added: “May the desire grow in all of us to promote justice and peace in the world, which has great need of authentic witnesses of truth. May G-d in his goodness protect the Jewish community and allow us to deepen our friendship, both here in Rome and all over the world.” (JTA)

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Grade Rs at Kerem Herzlia celebrate Rosh Hashanah

JOS HORWITZ
PRINCIPAL KEREM HERZLIA CONSTANTIA
PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

WE CELEBRATED Rosh Hashanah with the grade R class at

Kerem Herzlia Constantia. The children made their own T-shirts by painting them and performed original songs written for them, teaching them the traditions of Rosh Hashanah.



Grade R children at Kerem Herzlia Constantia: Brooklyn Danilewitz; Leah Randall; and Danielle Gross attempt to blow the shofar, at a special end of Jewish Year Rosh Hashanah party for parent and grandparents.



Grade R children at Kerem Herzlia Constantia, singing their Rosh Hashanah songs at a special end of Jewish Year Rosh Hashanah party for parent and grandparents.



Rabbi Ilan Herrmann blows the shofar while kids from Doornfontein Crèche look on.

The winds of blessing blow in this direction

RABBI ILAN HERRMANN
PHOTOGRAPH:
ILAN OSSENDRYVER

YOUNG AND tender but spirited and full of hope for the future. The sounding of the ram's horn known

by its biblical term as the shofar, signals a call to stir the soul from its complacency and inaugurates the Jewish New Year which fell on Wednesday evening September 28. This inspiring message was brought home to the Lions

Synagogue crèche by Rabbi Ilan Herrmann, spiritual leader of the congregation, to bright and budding young children at the Doornfontein crèche, which has been taken under the wing of this Jewish community centre. "May the winds of positivity and blessing blow in your direction and may the currents of harm and negativity be averted from your path all your days," proclaimed Rabbi Herrmann as he bid the children a happy Jewish New Year.

The TA tree is still growing stronger

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
SUZANNE BELLING

ALUMNI FROM all walks of life, including business people, professionals, teachers and rabbis, attended the launch of the Torah Academy Alumni Fund at a breakfast at HOD recently.

Professor Michael Rudolph, motivator of the event, opened the proceedings by saying alumni were needed to sustain the school system.

In a dvar Torah, alumnus Rodney Richards drew an analogy with a tree, saying its strength depended on having healthy roots for spiritual rejuvenation and regrowth. Thirty-one years ago the tree was planted on Torah Academy's present site and today it was a towering oak.

"We have here a small sample of the fruit from the tree, which grew and developed."

He stressed, however, that alumni had to germinate the seeds of growth, for the word alumnus was derived from the Latin word "alere" - to nourish.

Guest speaker David Williams, foundation director, King Edward



Rabbi Shabsy Chaiton, administrator of Torah Academy, Professor Michael Rudolph and guest speaker David Williams at the Torah Academy alumni breakfast.

VII School and contributing editor of the Financial Mail, said people in South Africa tended to live for today, but emphasised that long-term endowment capital, with the distribution of interest, was needed to keep a school going. He named several schools operating successfully along those lines.

One could tell whether a school made a difference in the confidence

of its past pupils as they went out into the world. Jewish schools were advantageous in this sense, given Judaism's background of literacy.

Williams advocated constant upkeep of a school, keeping the building in good shape and co-operation of fundraisers, possibly the formation of a body, from both public and private schools. "We are not in competition," he said.

His advice was: "Long-term investment – not just donations" and that every alumnus had to be approached on an individual basis as each had a personal, different approach and relationship with the

school.

Thanking the guest speaker and the organisers, Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, dean of TA, said 20 alumni were at present employed at Torah Academy.

Furthering the metaphor of the tree, he said we were sitting on a "goldmine of opportunity for growth in our own forest".

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
LUCY SIMMONDS

AS PART of the King David Victory Park Primary School's community awareness programme, the learners have all been busily collecting in support of the Princess Alice Adoption Home.

The school delivered a car full of new and second hand baby clothes, baby wipes, creams, toys and much more to the home.

Princess Alice is a wonderful organisation which offers a warm and homely environment to babies from birth to the age of two years, whose aim is to place these babies with adoptive families.

Well done to all the children and parents who have made a difference!



Liora Katzew: Leigh Sher: Matthew Sive: and Jenna Seligman. Seated in front is Shayna van Vuren.

KD Sandton's Cassidy Gordon wins art prize

VIVienne WEINER (ART TEACHER)
PHOTOGRAPH: MANDELLE BERNSTEIN

THE STAR "Design an Ad Competition" attracted approximately 18 000 entries this year from Gauteng schools.

Cassidy Gordon, a grade 7 learner at King David Sandton Primary, excelled at fulfilling the requirements of the

brief to design an advert for the "Collect-A-Can" company.

She was awarded third place in the grade 6 - 7 category at a prize-giving evening in Sandton. Her entry was published in The Star supplement.

Prize-winner Cassidy Gordon, a grade 7 learner at King David Sandton Primary.



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PHYLIS JOWELL JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

Saul Mazerow a worthy Israel Quiz winner

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY RITA LEWIS

THE 2011 Israel Quiz, held under the auspices of the Zionist Federation, has once again taken place at the Nedbank Auditorium in Sandton, with King David Victory Park's Saul Mazerow taking the first prize of a trip to Israel, together with R2000 pocket money.

This was the fifth time that KDVP has won the quiz since its inception in 2004, with four of the five finalists also being learners of that school and another from Yeshiva College.

The initial questions making up the two first elimination rounds, were written by 105 contestants several months ago at their schools: the two King David schools - Linksfield and Victory Park - as well as Yeshiva College Girls' and Boys' High Schools and Theodor Herzl in Port Elizabeth.

The final 19 this week faced the questions set by Rebbetzen Marcia Tanzer who was joined at the judges' table by Cedric Ginsberg and Shimon Shamilla.

Prior to the start of the contest, Avrom Krengel, chairman of the SAZF, welcomed the gathering saying that it was important to educate the community as well as our youth "to know and understand what a miracle Israel is.

"The rest of the world want us to believe we are the oppressors and have only brought problems to those around us. Israel has every right to remain proud and staunchly Zionist - as its people have for 63 years."

He said he had been involved in the quiz since its inception and paid tribute to Miriam Garb who held the fort for this quiz in the absence of Sender Lees and Marcia Parness.

He paid tribute to both Parness and Lees both of whom had organised the contest for the past eight years.

Question master Bev Goldman, previously of the SAZF Media Team, announced to much applause, that finalist Saul Mazerow had also been chosen as head boy of King David Victory Park.

All in all, 19 contestants were selected to compete in the finals, with some being eliminated after each round of questions.

Goldman did a good job of reading out the questions and keeping the audience and contestants in the loop as the judges concurred when there was a difficult decision to be made.

During five rounds contestants battled it out to see who could answer the most questions correctly in order to win the coveted first prize.


Different sections included an initial written one with multiple choice and short questions: then a second one with short questions; a "pick-a-pic" which was a choice of a letter chosen by the contestant from the words "Israel Quiz" behind which a question was written; questions asked on video clips which were shown on screen and "rapid fire" - where contestants had to answer as many questions as possible correctly within a short space of time.

Although there was only one winner, all the contestants were actually winners as each one went home with some fantastic prizes made available through the generosity of various sponsors.

These included a laptop, a gold Mandela medallion, an underwater video camera, iPods, DVD players, a mini hi-fi, etc.

They were also each given a book and allocated a tree in the Ilan Ramon Forest.

At this quiz, even members of the audience were winners. Many of them had entered the audience's question time and almost all of them went home with a small prize.



Sender Lees with Ilan Malkin VP (3rd); Jacob Blou, VP (5th); Oren Benguri Karstaedt, VP (2nd); Bev Goldman; Idan Horowitz, YC (4th); Marcia Parness and the quiz winner, Saul Mazerow from VP, in front.

EL Jewish community is alive and kicking

MYRON ROBINSON

JEWISH LIFE in East London does not merely exist - it is actively lived. On September 7 the community - some 20 congregants - attended - an address by Dr Basil Lewis, a cardiologist living in Israel.

Basil Lewis' uncle Dave Lewis (our only kohain) lives in East London.

Lewis spoke about his attendance at Camp David in 1978/'79 as Menachem Begin's personal doctor, when the peace deal was brokered with Egypt's Anwar Sadat. He also related his other experiences travelling with Begin, as well as the current situation in Israel.

He said Begin knew that Israel had to negotiate a peace with Egypt and

if he did so, then the rest of Israel's adversaries would not act alone, thereby ensuring peace in Israel for some time; Begin was hoping for at least a 40-year truce.

Lewis pointed out that the agreement had already lasted for 30 years. Lewis is optimistic that the peace will still endure further as he believes the new regime in Cairo will at the end not want to jeopardise the peace.


Lewis said Begin had known that he had to make meaningful concessions - which he did. Sadat got back all the annexed Egyptian territory. What the solution is on the West Bank is anybody's guess, but he is of the opinion that Israel needs to recognise a Palestinian state.



Standing: Dr Basil Lewis. First row: Dr Claudio Favara; and Dr Nachama Favara. Second row: Dr Roovie Buchalter; Jonathan Schewitz; Dr Alan Koopowitz; and Rudy du Toit.

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SOUTH AFRICAN

Jewish Report



CROSSWORD NO 229

BY LEAH SIMON

- ACROSS:**
- 1. Keep your chin up for a short distance (4)
 - 3. A tendency to write a song (8)
 - 8. Have the right to sue – if you’re certain (4)
 - 9. Moan about dish – and rebuke (8)
 - 11. Sound and motion for mouse in a web (5, 3, 4)
 - 13. Price makes a point about the method of preparing a dish! (6)
 - 14. Put the rent up – that’s better! (6)
 - 17. Anne, is radish about to get up? (4, 3, 5)
 - 20. Became aware about ideals (8)
 - 21. Southern family gets the dermis (4)
 - 22. But saint returns to ideas (8)
 - 23. Not the best gambles! (4)

- DOWN:**
- 1. Curse in east makes one unsafe (8)
 - 2. Vehicle spills acid about heart (7)
 - 4. Amend in good faith, hiding the finale (6)
 - 5. Camp leader voluble, rubs trade leader up the wrong way in rain-storm (10)
 - 6. Explain it again, hiding the girl (5)
 - 7. Thomas O’Hare Architects, initially (4)
 - 10. Southern fish spills gin while guiding the ship (10)
 - 12. Harden nest, concealing Belgian battle site (8)
 - 15. Ruse makes the French flow very weakly (7)
 - 16. Plague in German carnival (6)
 - 18. Said a horrible thing, hiding American state (5)
 - 19. Band leader gets rodent – or an ill-mannered child (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 228

ACROSS: 1. Saw’n; 3. Oddballs; 8. Rail; 9. A boy’s own; 11. Cup and saucer; 13. Esther; 14. Astern; 17. Knife and fork; 20. Cosseted; 21. Limp; 22. Moleskin; 23. Knit.

DOWN: 1. Stricken; 2. Whippet; 4. Debase; 5. By your side; 6. Loose; 7. Sink; 10. Underfeeds; 12. Snake pit; 15. Emotion; 16. Saheti; 18. Nasal; 19. Scam.

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
8					9							
				10								
11												
												12
13							14			15		
					16							
	17	18										
19												
20									21			
22										23		

WHAT’S ON

Sharon Akum sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

DEADLINE

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for all entries is 12:00 on the Friday prior to publication, without exception.

9	3		4	6			1	
				5	1		6	
		7			8			4
						3	8	
		9	8	1	6	4		
	6	8						
4			5			6		
	8		1	9				
	9			7	2		4	8

* Answer to follow with next puzzle

Sunday (October 9)

- **Big Band Music Appreciation Society** meets at St Johns’ College in The Jeffrey Auditorium situated in St John Road, Lower Houghton, at 14:15 sharp, with a selection of audio and video material, featuring great bands of yesteryear and a movie “Sun Valley Serenade”. Information: Dave at (011) 885-3525 or Barney (011) 440-1996.

Monday (October 10)

- **SAZF** presents “Machal movie screening ‘804’”, displaying the heroics of the 804 South African Machalniks who fought in Israel’s 1948 War of Independence. Venue: Hyde Park Nu Metro Cinema. Time: 18: 00 and 20:00. Cost: R50. Bookings: Miriam (011) 645-2531 o/h or miriam@beyachad.co.za

Tuesday (October 11)

- **UJW adult education programme** hosts Estelle Sher who will talk on Dimitri Shostakowitz – Symphony No 9. Time: 09:45 – 12:00. Venue: 301 Eton Place, Kernick Avenue, Melrose North. Cost: R30 per session

Wednesday (October 12)

- **UJW CT adult education division** hosts Phyllis Friedlander and Lauren Snitcher who will talk on their experiences at the recent Ochberg Reunion in Israel. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Sunday (October 16)

- **UJW Cape Town’s Simcha Group** will show a DVD on another of Andre Rieu’s concerts. Enquiries: H Sternberg: 082-439-8006.

Monday (October 17)

- **UJW adult education programme** hosts Prof John Lubbe, former professor of Semitics at Unisa, who will speak on “The Dead Sea Scrolls. Part 4. The Community Rule Who is a Jew?” Time: 09:30.
- **WIZO Ilanit branch** hosts a “Teenage Pamper Day”. Cost per person

Sudoku Puzzle 42

(Hard, difficulty rating 0.68)

1	6	4	9	3	2	5	8	7
3	2	8	6	5	7	1	9	4
7	5	9	4	1	8	3	6	2
5	7	2	1	6	4	8	3	9
6	9	3	8	2	5	4	7	1
8	4	1	7	9	3	2	5	6
4	3	5	2	7	6	9	1	8
2	1	7	5	8	9	6	4	3
9	8	6	3	4	1	7	2	5

Answer - Puzzle 41

Note to readers: Our bridge column and our Sudoku puzzle alternate week by week.

R150. Starting at 09:30. Bookings: Andrea, 083-677-8999.

- **Chabad Succot party for seniors.** A movie, followed by entertainers Tony Bentel, Helen Heldenmuth and Magical Marc, plus good food. Entrance free. Time 10:00 when movie starts, onwards. Booking essential. Phone (011) 440-6600 or rak@chabad.org.za

Tuesday (October 18)

- **Emunah Ladies raffle**, R100, 14:30 at the home of Judy Moritz. Contact (011) 483-1005 Ethne.

- **WIZO’s annual Rebecca Sieff awards and World WIZO Bible Day. Speaker:** Rebbetzen Aidel Kazilsky. Starting time: 09:30 for 10:00. Bookings: Sandy (011) 645-548.

Wednesday (October 19)

- **UJW Cape Town adult education division** hosts Ilana Skolnik, formerly known as Ellen Peters, Miss Africa South, who will talk on “Connection of a Jewish Soul”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries:(021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Wednesday (October 19)

- **UJW adult education department** hosts Arlene Bernstein, former head of LifeLine, who will talk on “How the Mature Woman Can Survive and Cope With Life in Johannesburg”. Time 09:30.

Sunday (October 23)

- **WIZO Etgar branch** “Annual Garden Day”. Three spectacular gardens on show. Cost per person R180. Speaker: “Ludwig - the Rose King”. Bookings: Marion 083-326-3791. Starting time (at the first garden) at 09:45.

Wednesday (October 26)

- **Chevrah Kadisha Social Services** is offering a 6 week budgeting course (starting today) with the focus on budgeting, money management skills and investment plans. Donations appreciated. Bookings or more info, call Lara: (011) 532-9793.
- **WIZO Cyrildene Card morning at Beyachad.** Cost per person R80.To book your morning or afternoon game, phone Crystal, 083-376-5999.

Thursday (October 27)

- **UJW CT Women’s Resource Centre** presents “Voices from Africa” at 09:30. Entrance: R190. Venue: Moyo, Stellenbosch Wine Estate. Enquiries: (021) 434-9555.

Friday (October 28)

- **Chevrah Kadisha Social Services’ Domestic Violence Support Group**, is holding an 8 week support group (starting today) for women who are, or have been in abusive relationships. The group, which will be facilitated by a social worker, offers a safe and confidential space where women can gain information and support. No charge. Bookings or more info, call Jacqui: (011) 532 9732.

Sunday (October 30)

- **WoW** is bringing back renowned educationist Gavin Keller who will speak at various times today and tomorrow at the Sydenham Shul Community Centre, on brain-based education. He will also speak tomorrow. Cost: R50 per session. For information call Mandy 083-380-5268.

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AROUND THE WORLD
NEWS IN BRIEF

US ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS US RISE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE '04

NEW YORK - The number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States has increased for the first time since 2004, according to the Anti-Defamation League's annual audit.

The ADL Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents released on Tuesday, showed that there were 1 239 incidents in 2010, up slightly from the 1 211 reported the previous year. The audit tracks assaults, vandalism and harassment reported during the calendar year in 45 states and the District of Columbia.

The numbers reached a record high in 2004, with 1 821 incidents reported.

Last year, 22 physical assaults, 900 cases of harassment and 317 cases of vandalism were reported.

The majority of incidents were concentrated in the states with the largest Jewish populations. The top three states were California with 297 incidents, New York with 205 and New Jersey with 130.

“The good news is that we have continued to enjoy a period of relative calm, where the overall numbers are mostly unchanged and the incidents isolated,” Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director, said in a statement.

"But the bad news is that for all our efforts to educate, to raise awareness and to legislate, anti-Jewish incidents remain a disturbing part of the American Jewish experience.” (JTA)

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Amateur steeple-chase jockey Sam Waley-Cohen was named Maccabi Great Britain's Sportsman of the Year.

Jockey Sam Waley-Cohen honoured by Maccabi GB

JACK MILNER
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

EARLIER THIS year we ran a story about amateur jockey Sam Waley-Cohen who had made history when he became a member of a select group of amateur jockeys who had won both the King George VI Chase and the Cheltenham Gold Cup. He also finished second in the Grand National this year.

Maccabi Great Britain recognised his achievements last week and named him Maccabi GB Sportsperson of the Year. The amateur jockey held off the challenge of a top-class field to win the main prize at MGB's Sports Awards in Radlett.

"I've had an unbelievable year," Waley-Cohen told the Jewish Chronicle. "It's a really nice award to win and I feel honoured. It's very touching to be included on the shortlist and to win was very special, a very big surprise. It was the cherry on top of the cake."

Looking ahead to next year, he said: "I hope to win the King George and Gold Cup again and go one better in the National.

"All being well, the horse will stay around and I will stay in one piece."

Commenting on the other eight athletes shortlisted, Waley-Cohen said: "It's great to see so much talent coming through from people making their mark in so many different sports. They are putting so much in to what they love doing."

Waley-Cohen was a long-time friend of Kate Middleton and Prince William and he is the man who brought them together again after the pair had split up. He attended their marriage and Kate, now the Duchess of Cambridge, later reciprocated by attending Waley-Cohen's marriage to Annabelle Ballin. The prince was not there as he had a royal

duty at the trooping of the colours.

Immensely proud of his illustrious Jewish family, Sam says: "You stand on the shoulders of those who came before you. Historically, there has been a very strong connection between my family and the British-Jewish community."

He has good reason to be proud. His great-grandfather, Sir Robert Waley-Cohen, was a senior figure in the British Shell oil company, a friend of Winston Churchill, and chairman of the United Synagogue. His grandfather, Sir Bernard, was Lord Mayor of London, and father, Robert, founded Alliance Medical in 1989 and sold it 18 years later for £600-million. He is also a successful owner and breeder of jump racehorses.

Sam says: "I think your heritage is incredibly important and where you come from, to some extent, helps determine where you want to go, so you stand on the shoulders of your ancestors, and I very much feel that. I enormously admire my great-grandfather and all that he achieved, and my grandfather, the Lord Mayor of London.

"I have a lot to live up to. You can only be the best you can, so I wouldn't be so crass as to compare myself to those who have gone before me. That puts you under pressure to be something that Lady Luck may not provide you with, and for all these opportunities you do need a lot of luck.

"But the day I lie down in my grave I'd like to say, I was all that I could be. I took all my opportunities and made the most of what could be done. I give it a go, and have a lot of energy."

Cricketer Daniel Field, the 2010 winner, was runner-up with handball star Daniel Grant coming in third.

Highlands Cricket Club enters its second season

FOLLOWING the success of their first season, the Highlands Cricket Club - the home of Jewish cricket - is expecting that it will get even better this year.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made our first season happen, especially our sponsor, MSC Sports, without whom this season would not be possible," Daniel Lazarus said. "We have formed a partnership with the Ryan Maron Cricket school of Excellence to ensure that our junior players reach new heights."

Looking at this season, practice sessions will be from 16:30 to 18:00 on Sundays until

after Succot, then they will move to Fridays at 15:00 to 16:30.

"This season we will have under-9s, under-11s, under-13s and under-15s, with regular matches. Our under-15 team is playing in the Sunday GCB league. We are currently in the process of recruiting new players for the start of the new season," said Lazarus.

The launch of the junior team will take place this coming Sunday, while senior practices are already under way.

• For more information contact Daniel Lazarus on 082 922 3808.

Thursday the rabbi went walking...

JACK MILNER

THE NOTION of a rabbi completing a marathon on first day Rosh Hashanah, would have most Jews reaching for their pens to write letters of condemnation to the Jewish Report.

But that is exactly what Rabbi Dovid Masinter of Chabad accomplished last Thursday, which was first day Rosh Hashanah.

Well, it wasn't actually an official marathon and it wasn't as if he was competing for a medal or anything. In fact, all the good rabbi was doing was visiting a congregant who had taken ill.

As the Americans would say, here's the thing. Rabbi Masinter lives in River Club and the person he was visiting was a patient in the Donald Gordon Medical Centre in Parktown. The rabbi left home shortly after lunch on Thursday and made the walk all the way up Rivonia Road, through to Oxford Road and then



Rabbi Dovid Masinter.

followed the route through to Parktown.


The trip took some two-and-a-half to three hours and an equal length of time to get back. Now I know all of this as I was fortunate enough to be a guest at the Masinter household for dinner (a very good one indeed, I might add) and we had received the news that Rabbi Masinter's expected time of arrival would be in about an hour. By the time he arrived home it was around 21:00.

While I'm not sure of the exact distance he travelled,

it has to be around 20km each way. So, when one considers the official distance of a marathon is 42,4km, Rabbi Masinter came very close, indeed, to completing the full course!


Of course there was no medal waiting at the end - just a relieved and welcoming family, an excellent meal, a sense of satisfaction - and a pair of very tired legs.

May it be a very good year for all!



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