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Jill Nudelman's debut novel: Literature dished up in light, sweet portions

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WITS SRC ISRAEL BOYCOTT Jewish community reacts



#### Jewish community won't take rising Government anti-Semitism lying down

"Things of an offensive nature are now routinely being said about Jews that would have been considered beyond the pale of decency a couple of decades ago", according to Dr Denis MacShane, British MP.

#### Jewish teens urged to have themselves tested for genetic disease genes

On September 9, Rabbi Yossi Chaikin of Oxford Shul hosts genetic disease screening, under the auspices of the Dor Yeshorim organisation.

Alec Wapnick, a man for all seasons, and this year's Jewish **Achiever** Lifetime Award winner, passes away



#### **Ebrahim denies Government** policy is 'anti-Israel'

"South Africa's strong support for Palestine should not in any way be interpreted as being anti-Israel. What we oppose are policies and actions of occupation, not the existence of Israel, or the right of Israeli citizens to live in peace and security."

#### **BLUMENTHAL: Strong** message of support for over-55s in workplace

Working people over the age of 55 out of the workplace is ridiculous, and suicidal; applying affirmative action as an excuse is criminal.

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| Sept 7 / 20 Elul   Sept 8 / 21 Elul<br>Parshat Ki Tavo |       |              |
|--|-------|--------------|
| 17:40  | 18:29 | Johannesburg |

19:07 Cape Town Durban 17:27 18:17 18:36 Bloem fonte in17:46 17:46 18:38 Port Elizabeth 18:29 East London

#### Yiddishkeit can bring true happiness



18:15

PARSHAT KI TAVO Rabbi Gidon Fox

Pretoria Hebrew Congregation

I recently saw a cartoon saying: "Money won't make you happy Waldron, so instead of a raise, I'm giving you Prozac.' A simple glance at Hollywood verifies that money and

"things" do not bring happiness. People who seemingly have everything, or who could get anything, have not managed to buy the most elusive "thing" of all - happiness. The young death age of some of the most famous musicians and actors both current and in the past, highlight the fact that happiness can certainly not be bought.

At the same time, however, there can be no question that happiness is a very important facet of life, hence the increase in the prescribing of Prozac and other mood lifting drugs for those unable to find happiness in their own lives. It is pretty hard to tell what does bring happiness; poverty and wealth have both failed.

In this week's parsha, the import of happiness is clearly expressed. Following a litany of the worst curses one could ever imagine, G-d informs us that the reason these curses, may G-d forbid, befall the Jewish people, is not because we may abrogate our Jewish responsibilities and identity. Rather, it could occur because we were indeed observant, yet our Yiddishkeit and service of Hashem lacked the joy

It would seem, however, that Yiddishkeit is itself very depressing. When one looks at the demands that Yiddishkeit places upon us, it is almost impossible for a person to accomplish all that is required of a Jew.

To be a "good Jew" (I hate the term - no such thing as a bad Jew exists) like Moshe, will, in all likelihood, never happen. Furthermore, the vast wealth of knowledge that exists in Torah literature is as debilitating as it is ennobling. There is so much to learn that one could never learn everything

How can one try and emulate the great spiritual leaders of our people when success is so beyond the realm of probability? How can one have a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment when there is so much to accomplish?

These kind of sentiments can lead a person to truly become despondent and rather than find happiness in Yiddishkeit, achieve the exact opposite.

Rabbi Simcha Bunim of Pshischa, in explaining the above verse, highlights how Yiddishkeit, unlike anything else in the world, is able to bring true happiness. In general, happiness and accomplishment go hand in hand. When a person has achieved his or her goals, then and only then is happiness achieved.

In today's world, however, that is a virtual impossibility. If the goal is to have the latest "thing", happiness is truly elusive. If the goal is to have the latest iPhone, then as soon as the new model is out one immediately becomes unhappy until the new model has been bought, and the cycle continues. Not so with Yiddishkeit. As King David writes in Psalms "Gladden the heart of those who seek G-d", even the seeking itself brings joy and happiness.

It may be true that Torah is too broad to learn it all, it may be true that doing everything in the most appropriate manner may be a pipe dream, it may be true that we will never ultimately be like Moshe Rabbeinu, but who says that

is our goal and our destiny?

A Jew achieves happiness and greatness not by the destination, but by the journey. Whenever a Jew embraces another mitzvah, studies more Torah, inculcates more Judaism into their lives, they are filled with a sense of accomplishment, with a sense of truly touching the Divine and, in turn, being touched by G-d.

Yiddishkeit and Torah are not a destination we reach, but a journey we savour and enjoy. Like a roller coaster ride, the journey of the Jew in the path of Torah is all about the ride and not the destination. This is true happiness.

## Wits SRC's rash Israel boycott resolution is soundly knocked down

#### **OWN CORRESPONDENT**

Earlier this week, Wits University's SRC issued a statement that it had unanimously adopted a full academic and cultural boycott of Israel, in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Wits Convocation has soundly condemned the statement in a release of its own, supported by the SAJBD and the SA Union of Jewish Students, one of the SRC's constituents.

The SRC's resolution reads: "Throughout the world students joined people of conscience in opposing the [apartheid] regime... Because of our history... we must unite and stand in solidarity with those who face similar oppression... The Wits SRC stands firm in its support of Palestinians and the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions [against Israel] movement...[the SRC] will not participate in any form of cultural or academic collaboration... with Israeli institutions and will not provide any support to Israeli cultural or academic institutions.

The resolution also calls for immediate investigation into any relationships Wits may have with Israeli institutions on academic, financial or cultural levels.

The Executive Committee of Convocation of Wits has formally distanced itself from the opinions of the SRC: "We, as Convocation, value the diverse views of all our members (academic staff and alumni) regardless of their race, religion, gender, culture, language, ideology or otherwise,



**SAUJS National Chairman Daniel Katzew** 

provided that they do not exceed the limitations explicated in our Constitu-

"In our view, the diversity of people, programmes and ideas, is one the greatest strengths that makes studying at Wits an enriching experience."

In support of Wits Convocation's statement, the SAJBD added: "We believe that this statement is a triumph for freedom of expression, which is a cornerstone of academic values. The convocation has endorsed the right for students to hold different views and debate constructively in a learning environment. It is our hope that the SRC will in time understand the values of dialogue and open debate instead of silencing diverse views in the interests of their narrow political

Says SAUJS's National Chairman Daniel Katzew in his official capacity: "SAUJS finds it deplorable that the Wits SRC has adopted a vicious and

one-sided resolution aimed at shutting down all debate and discussion surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This was done without consultation with the SRC's constituents.

"A sensitive issue such as the conflict in the Middle East has the potential to affect a large body of their constituency, and thus should have followed due process whereby input from interest groups could be obtained and considered.

"The brazen pushing through of such a resolution, does a serious disservice to all Wits students wishing to engage in discussion surrounding the conflict as it effectively ends any dialogue on the issue. This is a new attempt to sensor political viewpoints and this stands in direct contrast to the spirit of a liberal academic institution.

"The veiled threat by the SRC to boycott not only Israel, but also to 'promote the BDS campaign in terms of academic and cultural institutions relating to Israel' is a bully-boy tactic to silence those with differing opinions on campus.

"Different and often opposing opinions do exist within the student population and SRC's decision to impose their viewpoint on the entire student body is unjustified and not 'representative' of their students.

"SAUJS will absolutely not budge on our right to express our viewpoint and not be intimidated by manipulation and machination of unscrupulous activist groups." SAUJS will be meeting with the Wits SRC to further discuss this issue.

#### Ebrahim denies Government policy is 'anti-Israel'

#### **HOWARD SACKSTEIN**

Addressing a gathering at the South African Institute of International Affairs this week, Deputy Minister of International Relations, Ebrahim Ebrahim attempted to clarify the government's stance towards

Adopting a slightly more reconciliatory tone, the deputy minister reaffirmed the ANC's stance that "Palestinians have the right to their own state as Israelis already do. South Africa explicitly supports the solution of the Israel-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated agreement between the parties that would result in two states, Israel and a Palestinian state which is viable and contiguous, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

"These states must exist side-by-side in peace and security, within internationally recognised borders".

He contended that the current negotiation format had endured for the past 21 years with no results. It was government's position that a new approach was needed. The settlement policy of Israel undermines the entire peace process and makes the possibility of a Palestinian state unob-

Ebrahim told the gathering of diplomats and foreign policy experts, that

"South Africa's strong support for Palestine should not in any way be interpreted as being anti-Israel. What we oppose are policies and actions of occupation, not the existence of Israel or the right of Israeli citizens to live in peace and security."

During question time, clearly triumphant members of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) lobby requested Ebrahim to ban Israeli visitors to South Africa. The deputy minister reiterated that there was no ban on any South African from going to Israel, but rather SA discourages South Africans from travelling to Israel to "glorify the occupation".

He said South Africa maintained diplomatic relations with Israel and that there was no intention of introducing sanctions and boycotts. There was also no plan to prevent Israelis from travelling to South Africa.

Ebrahim claimed he was under pressure from the ANC, Cosatu, the SACP and civil society, to sever diplomatic relations with Israel, but this was not on the agenda. The ANC chairman had gone to Palestine and described what she saw there as a picnic in comparison to apartheid.

Ebrahim understood that the South African Jewish community has strong relations with Israel and it was not intended to interfere with that relationship. Asked about the consequences of people ignoring the government's discouragement of visits to Israel, the deputy minister was emphatic that there were no consequences and that people were free to do as they

The deputy minister struggled to give coherent answers to a number of questions from the floor, including why government trusted (Syrian President) Bashar al-Assad and ignored other occu-

When asked about South African political parties receiving political donations from Middle Eastern dictatorships, the deputy minister ducked the question.

He went on to say that he had visited udi Arabia and Bahrain, both of which places supported Arab democracy in the region, except in their own countries. In Saudi Arabia the parliament was undemocratically appointed and women were treated as minors and not even allowed

In conclusion, Ebrahim claimed that Syrians had lacked political freedom but had enjoyed "social freedom" prior to the uprising. The uprising, had been hijacked by foreign powers and Al Qaida and it was unlikely that Syrians would ever experience the social freedoms they previously had enjoyed.

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## SA Jewry won't take rising Govt anti-Semitism lying down



#### **DAVID SAKS**

Rising levels of global anti-Semitism and the South African government's increasingly hostile attitude towards both Israel and its local supporters, were the main themes of the SAJBD Gauteng Council conference, held at Investec last Sunday morning.

In his keynote address, Dr Denis MacShane (pictured), British MP, observed that things of an offensive nature were now routinely being said about Jews that would have been considered beyond the pale of decency a couple of decades ago.

Among the forms taken by contemporary anti-Semitism, were state-sponsored hatred by such regimes as Iran, political anti-Semitism as seen in the ideologies of certain rightwing parties in Europe, campaigns to boycott Israel and the gross double standards of international bodies in holding it accountable for things that were in fact happening in many other places in the world.

He had been shocked by Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Ebrahim Ebrahim's recent remarks "discouraging" South Africans from visiting Israel, believing that this call for the world's sole Jewish majority state but not such obviously repressive regimes as China to be boycotted, was classic anti-Semitism.

MacShane concluded with a 10-point programme for combating anti-Semitism, including working with non-Jewish supporters, creating and endowing chairs for the study of anti-Semitism at universities, promoting Holocaust education and taking legal action where necessary.

The main session of the morning was a panel discussion on the South African government's increasingly hostile policy towards Israel and what was being, and what might still be done to counter it. Panellists were SAJBD President Zev Krengel, SA Zionist Federation Chairman

Avrom Krengel, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, Fairplay SA Chairman Ben Swartz and Cheryllin Dudley, chief whip of the African Christian Democratic Party.

The decision by Trade and Industry.

The decision by Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies to re-label products made in West Bank Jewish settlements as emanating from "Occupied Palestinian Territory" was seen as a catalyst in triggering off the current wave of anti-Israel boycott activity. Avrom Krengel said that the SAZF had committed itself to challenging the proposed measures in court.

"Minister Davies may think he's a tsar, but we live in a democracy, not in Tsarist Russia. There will never be business as usual with this government until this discriminatory, boycott-driven legislation against Israel is overturned," he said

Rabbi Goldstein said that while living in a democracy meant sometimes being confronted by the elected government doing things one was unhappy with, it also meant that one had the right to strenuously challenge those actions without feeling threatened. Jews needed to convey to the entire country what Israel meant to them and to do so with confidence and pride.

Zev Krengel believed that hardline anti-Israel elements within government were exploiting the internal tensions within the ruling party to aggressively push their own agendas. President Jacob Zuma himself was not especially hostile to Israel, but had many other pressing issues to deal with.

Dudley said that the government's discriminatory policy on Israel undermined unity and stability in South Africa. The ACDP would continue to oppose this, even if it was not politically popular, not only because of its staunch support for Israel, but because it was the right thing to do.

Swartz gave an overview of the work of Fairplay SA in confronting BDS action, noting how it was increasingly forging relationships and working with Zionist Christian groups.

In his opening address, Gauteng Council Chairman Jeff Katz stressed that every Jewish individual should see him or herself as an ambassador for the Jewish community, and for that reason alone to strive to maintain the highest standards of ethical behaviour in their business, profession and personal lives.

While it might not be fair or reasonable to judge an entire community by the actions of a few of its members, it was a reality that this was to a large extent the case. However, just as negative behaviour at the individual level reflected badly on the community as a whole, the opposite occurred when Jews were seen to do the right thing.

#### **News in Brief**

#### BRUSSELS MAYOR APOLOGISES FOR JEWISH DEPORTATIONS, BUT "WON'T PASS JUDGEMENT"

BRUSSELS - The mayor of Brussels has apologised to the Jewish community for the municipality's Holocaust-era "role" in deporting Jews, but added he would "not pass judgement". Speaking to a crowd of a few hundred last Sunday at a ceremony at Brussels' City Hall, Mayor Freddy Thielemans said: "I want to officially extend apologies in the name of the City of Brussels to the Jewish community.

"It is not my place to pass judgement, but I of course acknowledge the role the municipality and political and administrative authorities in the City of Brussels played in the deportation of Jews," he added.

If not for the registration of Jews by the city, the deportation of Jews from Brussels in 1942 "would have never had the same impact", he said. Complicit municipal authorities were therefore "partially responsible" for the result, he added.

impact", he said. Complicit municipal authorities were therefore "partially responsible" for the result, he added.

Eli Ringer, honorary chairman of Forum of Jewish Organisations - which represents Flemish Belgian Jews - told JTA this was the first formal recognition of complicity by a Brussels mayor.

Last month, Thielemans revised the invitation to the ceremony after Jewish local leaders accused him of "rewriting history".

The invitation spoke of a ceremony in memory of "citizens of Brussels" who had been deported with "the participation of local authorities appointed by the occupying power during the Second World War." The Association for the Memory of the Shoah complained to the media that the deportees had not been "Brussels citizens" but Jews from all over Belgium and that the authorities had been

elected and not appointed by the Nazis, who merely kept the authorities in place after the German army invaded Belgium in 1940. Dr Eric Picard, a spokesman for the association, called the text "revisionist", according to the Belgian news agency Belga. Joel Rubinfeld, co-chairman of the European Jewish Parliament, a new organisation based in Brussels, told JTA the mayor was "rewriting history". (JTA)

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#### **News in Brief**

#### PALESTINIAN MAN ADMITS TO POISONING JEWISH FAMILY

JERUSALEM - A Palestinian man has admitted to poisoning a Jewish family in Raanana, saying he "hates Jews".

The adult Lerners and their toddler son were hospitalised after drinking from a juice bottle in thir home. A police officer who drank the same juice also became ill, according to reports. Pesticides, containers of which were found in 46-year-old Adnan Othman Nasaara's house when he was arrested, were found in other packages of food and drink in the Lerner's home.

Nasaara admitted to putting pesticides in food and drink in the home of the Lerner family during a robbery in October 2011, according to reports in the Israeli media last Sunday, after a gag order was lifted on the case.

Ynet quoted a police investigator as saying that during his interrogation, Nasaara said he "hates Jews because they're Jews"

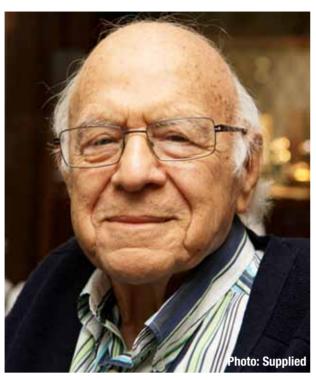
Nasaara, of the West Bank village of Beit Furik, as well as two Arab-Israeli men suspected of involvement in the case, were arraigned last Sunday in Kfar Saba Magistrate's Court. (JTA)

#### VIENNA RABBI ATTACKED BY SOCCER FAN

VIENNA - A Vienna rabbi was verbally attacked on August 30, with anti-Semitic insults by a soccer fan.

The fan shouted "Move, Jew - Jews out, Heil Hitler" and proffered the Nazi salute, according to reports. The incident took place in Vienna's city centre, ahead of the Europa League match between Rapid Vienna and the Greek team PAOK. (JTA)

## Alec Wapnick, a man for all seasons, passes away



#### **ROBYN SASSEN**

Property development mogul of note, a man who virtually single-handedly reinvented the property industry in Pretoria and Johannesburg, Alec Wapnick (pictured), celebrated this year in the Jewish Report's Jewish Achiever function as the Lifetime Achiever for 2012, and loved dearly by family, friends and business associates alike, passed away last week Wednes-

day after a long illness.

A man of passion, integrity, fair and considered work ethic, Wapnick leaves a powerful legacy of contributing toward the dignity and well-being of those less fortunate than himself.

Born in Pretoria on June 27, 1932, he was schooled at Pretoria Boys' High, matriculating

in 1949. He did a B Com degree at Pretoria University, qualifying as a chartered accountant in 1956. He worked as an articled clerk with Pieter de Witt, while developing his interests in the property sector. Fourteen years later, he established City Property Administration.

Standard complexes in Pretoria and Johannesburg's landscapes like Brooklyn Mall, Killarney Mall and Woodmead Value Mart, were among Wapnick's developments and he pioneered the idea of converting derelict and abandoned CBD office space into secure and desirable residential accommodation.

He began this idea tentatively in Pretoria and once he'd proved it, he brought the successful business model to the inner city of Johannesburg and in more recent times to other areas, including Kempton Park. Indeed, Wapnick's focus on the building heritage of a city, contributed significantly to the character of the city that has

been retained.

Conjoined in Wapnick's value system with urban renewal in the physical and social fabric of a city, was his appreciation of things well made and beautiful. Over the years, he developed an impressive private art gallery with a specialisation in the work of contemporary and modern artists with roots in Pretoria, including painters of the calibre of Walter Battiss, Erich Meyer, JH Pierneef and others.

Celebrated as Pretorian of the Year in 2003; an alumni laureate of Pretoria University five years later and an honorary award from the Johannesburg Development Agency in the category "Believing in Johannesburg",

also in 2008, his Jewish Achiever award meant a tremendous amount to him.

In accepting it, he said: "I have received a number of awards, but this one rounds it off. I have spent the last 10 years converting office buildings in Johannesburg and Pretoria into clean and secure housing units for previously disadvantaged people and have accommodated 40 000."

After 55 years in the industry, having listed four property loan stock companies on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, Tomkor Ltd, Richway Retail Ltd, Octodec Investments Ltd - the company which owns Killarney Mall, and Premium Properties Ltd, and having made a significant contribution to property development, Wapnick stepped down as executive chairman of Octodec and Premium at the end of September last year.

A visionary by all accounts, Wapnick also redeveloped Pretoria West into a productive, light industrial and warehouse node where he pioneered the mini-unit factory concept in SA.

In addition, Wapnick made an immeasurable contribution to the Pretoria Jewish community. Apart from managing the community's property investments, for over 30 years, he played an important part in the creation and development of Jaffa Old Age Home and the Pretoria Shul.

Further afield, in 2010 the Wapnick family donated children's playgrounds in the economically distressed Haifa suburb of Kiryat Yam and that of Sha'ar Hanegev which forms an enclave with the city of Sderot, in Israel.

The playgrounds are designed to lay groundwork for the development of the community's children's personal and social skills.

Alec Wapnick leaves his wife, Joan; three children, Sharon, Jeffrey and Lisa and their spouses; and five grandchildren.

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### Mizrachi celebrates a 'young' 80

**ALISON GOLDBERG** 

Founded in 1932 in South Africa, the Mizrachi movement - a modern Orthodox, religious Zi-

onist organisation, dedicated to leadership development and education - was credited by Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein last Monday night, as having spearheaded Torah learning in this country.

Celebrating its 80th anniversary at the Sandton Sun Hotel, Mizrachi had as keynote speakers Rabbi Dr Shlomo Riskin, Chief Rabbi of Efrat, and Rabbi Professor Daniel Herschkowitz,

Israeli Minister of Science and Technology. They paid tribute Chief Rabbi of Efrat.

to the essential but disproportionate role of committed Jews to the founding and maintenance of the Jewish State, not least in the IDF.

The message of religious Zionism, Rabbi Riskin said, is not to rely on G-d, nor wait for the Jewish Messiah, but to try to destroy Amalek [analogous to the element of doubt in our lives], and through tikkun olam to redeem Israel and the entire world.

Rabbi Herschkowitz, saw in Ezekiel's vision of life returning to the dry bones, not only his own conception of the Holocaust and the restoration of the people of Israel, but uncanny reminders of this vision's synchronicity throughout his life and in the story of his father's liberation from Buchenwald. His mother too, was a Holocaust survivor.

In a talk the previous evening at Mizrachi Shul, Rabbi Herschkowitz saw in the Prophet Micah's foretelling of miracles greater than in Exodus, in the time of the Messiah, the occur-

> in seemingly natural ways in the history of the State since its founding. Israel today is the centre

rence of these miracles already

of Torah learning and science and technology worldwide, in absolute terms.

On the sidelines of his trip he met with SA Deputy Minister for Science and Technology, Derek Hanekom in Pretoria.

Rabbi Riskin, also at this earlier talk on Monday night, spoke of the revolutions occurring in Israel: in the 160

women now trained as divorce advocates and more generally in their learning Torah and ascension to positions of communal leadership.

Women's dominance in Torah - at the deepest and highest levels as he learned himself from his grandmother - would bring greater compassion and loving-kindness into the world, he was told by the late Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson, and this would constitute the redemption.

The other major changes taking place, were in the training of rabbis in communal leadership; in the combining of Torah and university studies in their training, with rabbis now emerging with smicha and degrees in world intellectual history. Religious outreach in Israel had grown exponentially.

#### **Community Briefs**

#### KZN launches its first ecological education centre

KwaZulu-Natal's first ecological education centre, aimed at providing environmental education to learners in the greater Durban area, and spreading awareness of sustainable practices in communities, recently opened.

The R560 000 centre in Hammarsdale, is a

groundbreaking initiative of the Jewish National Fund; it's funded by the JNF and the Victor Daitz Foundation, in partnership with the DSW cleansing and solid waste unit of the eThekwini Municipality and the Department of Education. SHEREEN MANN



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## jewish report

## Any platform will do

The apparent ease with which the Students Representative Council at Wits University declared a boycott of Israel on all cultural and academic ties, as reported on page 2, is astounding. Notwithstanding the later statement from the university's convocation, strongly distancing themselves from this position, it is yet another sign that South Africa is fast joining the ranks of the most anti-Israel nations, where almost any platform can be utilised to promote an anti-Israel agenda, including those with little or nothing to do with that country.

Last Sunday, for example, at a literature festival in Johannesburg hosted by the Mail & Guardian, there was a panel discussion on books by anti-apartheid stalwarts. In the final minutes the chairman, Ronnie Kasrils, criticised President Jacob Zuma for his handling of the recent killing by police of 34 miners at Marikana, then randomly injected the comment that the killings were similar to what "Israeli soldiers are doing to Palestinians".

There was nary a murmur from the audience; the remark hung in the air as an uncontested statement of fact.

There were Jews of various stripes in the audience - as there would naturally be at a literature festival - yet none so much as uttered a "Yes, but..."

Government has to be prodded to put out even the most basic refutation of anti-Israel statements by its officials - such as the recent ones by Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Ebrahim Ebrahim. The silence is deafening.

What is driving this process? And what should SA Jewry and its leadership do?

Letters to the Jewish Report on this issue span two poles. The utterly pessimistic on one extreme say the situation is hopeless: the atmosphere against Israel - and South African Jewry, by association - is going to turn nastier and nastier. There is no future for Jews here and they should pack their bags and leave for Israel, or somewhere else.

Jewish leadership is wrong to exhort them to continue trying to be part of this South African nation; if leadership had the guts to be "politically incorrect", it would be telling them to leave.

Some letter-writers even go to the wild extreme of referring to the "pessimistic" Jews who left Germany in the 1930s and who were proven by history to have done the wise thing.

The other pole - the optimistic one - believes the situation can be turned around and call on Jewish leadership to tackle government and other bodies more aggressively on their Israel positions; Jews must demand their constitutional right to be respected as one of South Africa's ethnic/religious minorities, including their attachment to Israel.

That means not having Israel unfairly slurred by government officials, student bodies and other organisations. In the past there have been media campaigns defending Israel; legal action against organisations or individuals who use public platforms to slander it; taking journalists, government officials and others to visit Israel to see for themselves; cultivating ties with Christian groups and politicians who support Israel, and so on.

Complex political situations like this can never be simply defined in stark black and white terms. The broad mass of people lie in the middle, their sentiments swinging from pessimistic to optimistic, based on the most recent Israel-related incident.

Who is right? The pessimists or the optimists?

This paper stands clearly on the side of asserting our rights as full South Africans, including the right to have Israel - our spiritual homeland - treated fairly. This country is ours as much as anyone else's. Jews have played - and continue to play - major roles in its struggle for democracy, its development and prosperity.

The strategy of using any and every South African platform to attack Israel, is an insult to us and must be countered by a corresponding strategy to defend and explain Israel's position wherever and whenever necessary.

This includes pointing out the incredible hypocrisy of our government in being silent on the gross human rights abuses in countries such as Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Sudan, while losing no opportunity to attack

## Strong message of support for over-55s in workplace

Working people over the age of 55 out of the workplace is ridiculous, and suicidal; applying affirmative action as an excuse is criminal, says Dr Ivor Blumenthal.

#### DR IVOR BLUMENTHAL

How often do companies decide to cull employees over the age of 55 so that they can bring younger people into the workplace? Often there is a more sinister objective than simply discriminating against an employee on the basis of age. In this country these people are sacrificed to Affirmative Action, where the result is a lowering of competency levels as a trade for political correctness.

My experiences of this disease in more than 180 000 companies across 37 different industries in this country surely allows me the following observation:

It is not incumbent on companies to sacrifice their competent people for the unknown. It is however easy and opportunistic. Bad, lazy, incompetent and unimaginative managers make convenient decisions all of the time, irrespective of the consequence for the person or their family. If managers were able to manage performance properly, they would not need to hide behind an arbitrary retirement age to weed out those who are dead weight and non-productive.

The reality is that all of the research shows that we are living longer. The new retirement age is 70 and not 65. We are able and capable of continuing to contribute in our jobs for a much longer period of time. The problem arises when companies, which we often literally give our lives to, prematurely, sacrifice us. That is when we see the rapid onset of aging and with it various complications, consigning us to that rubbish heap for which society has no use, and in-fact becoming a financial burden on that society. Our Jewish community, as diminutive as it is, cannot afford for companies, especially Jewish ones, to create this scale of financial burden, which we as the community will inevitably be left with, because those companies choose, for whatever reason to be opportunistic. To take the easy way out.

What I am advocating is not easy. However, in our particular community, it is essential. The fact is that the majority of our competent young and middle-aged workforce is diminishing. Ours is becoming an older community, for very apparent reasons. Our community is today, more job dependent rather than independently wealthy, than it has ever been. We cannot afford as a community to be politically correct and literally sacrifice that community in the process.

A society has lost its soul, its godliness when it treats those who should be revered, respected and cherished, as dispensable commodities. There is no place for the heartless animals that apply principles of ageism in an indiscriminate fashion in the workplace, which are simply "following rules".

This is not good management or HR practice, it is opportunistic weakness. If anything, we as a Jewish community should shun the excuse of simply "following rules" and look for every excuse to be more creative and vital in our reasoning.

I can understand, while not condoning the practice of sacrificing our parents, our teachers and our mentors that occurs in Industry, and at a push even in Jewish companies. However, what is incomprehensible to me is why Jewish community organisations and NGOs choose to apply the same policy of ageism and discrimination?

Why do they then compound their actions by also applying affirmative action when it comes to replacing those people who have reached that arbitrary retirement age who they have mercilessly simply kicked out? Jewish organisations set up for the benefit of the community, licenced as charity organisations can easily justify employing Jewish people. They can also justify employing Jewish people over the age of 65. The age of retirement is set by the organisation and not the Government.

The questions to be asked are who are those in charge of these organisations to be making these decisions? What is their experience, their deep seat of learning? Perhaps, what is their personal interest in so doing? What do they have personally to gain?

In my two previous articles it is apparent that what I am calling for is a strategic focus, as with our youth and our disabled, also on this particular vulnerable group. We need a social compact between Jewish leaders, Jewish businesses, Jewish community NGOs, and these vulnerable groups themselves. We need a plan, and then to systematically implement, measure and adjust the programme on a long-term basis.

What we do not have the luxury of doing, however, is sitting back and doing nothing!

Dr Blumenthal is a former member of the National Skills Authority and previously CEO of the Services SETA.

## Push for recognition of Jewish refugees from Arab lands seeks to counterbalance Palestinian claims

#### BEN SALES

TEL AVIV – More than 800 000 Jews lived in the Arab world at the time of Israel's founding. Virtually all fled or were forced away after Israel's birth. Their once-thriving communities in Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Tunisia shrunk; in some



cases disappeared. Often emigrants were forced to leave much of their property.

In an attempt to have

In an attempt to have those Jews recognised as refugees, the World Jewish Congress hosts a conference in Jerusalem next week on "raising the flag of rights of Jewish refugees from Arab countries," according to WJC Secretary-General Dan Diker. On September 21, a similar conference will be hosted at UN headquarters.

While the campaign for the Jewish refugees ostensibly is aimed at



Meir Kahaolon, second from left, president of the World Organisation of Libyan Jews, with members Doron Shimon, left, Michael Goren and Zuri Doron Dadosh in the group's offices. (Courtesy Meir Kahaolon)

winning recompense for Jews from Arab countries – known in Israel as Mizrahim – Easterners – it's also part of an effort to create a Jewish parallel to Palestinian refugee claims from Israel's 1948 War of Independence. The issue of the rights of Jewish refugees from Arab countries is not new; Diker said it has risen in prominence now because of a parallel effort by Knesset members to celebrate Mizrahi history and culture. Palestinian families annually commemorate losing their homes during Israel's establishment, which they call the Nakba – the "catastrophe.' Diker said creating parity between Palestinian and Israeli refugees could allow the parties to resolve their respective refugee claims separate from negotiations on borders. "We're not adding a claim. We're recognising one." (JTA)

## SAJRXXIUNIOR KING DAVID HIGH **SCHOOL VICTORY PARK**

## Wouldn't it be loverly to have a musical like this again!

DEAN SALANT, sometimes Danny Zuko from Grease and sometimes a grade 11 at KDVP; as well as JULIA CHASKALSON, also a grade 11, who moonlights as Eliza Doolittle from My Fair Lady, when not in the classroom, reminisce the leads in this year's school musical: A Night thrusts, was probably worth it." at the Theatre. The production of A Night audience stomping their feet and waving their arms, as they showcased a medley of famous musicals Miserables, My Fair Lady, High School Musical and

Dean:"Hey, Jules! You're the one that I want... to talk to! I was just reminiscing about the musical."

Jules: "Deano bambino! That's funny, because I dreamed a dream about it last night too. What's on your mind?"

Dean: "I have some really great memories of the play. And of the Saturday night rehearsals. Those were incredible fun times."

Jules: "Yeah. So was keeping up with our day jobs - high school learners with lots of homework."

Dean: "It was pretty time conon their time as two of suming. But seeing the mob of straight-haired protein-shake drinking rugby okes doing pelvic

Jules: "Agreed. Like remember for the dress rehearsals, when we hadn't quite got the make- up at the Theatre, had the right, so they ended up looking like air hostesses?"

> Dean: "Yessss! Ah it was joll! Quite the night to remember, hey?"

Jules: "Absolutely! I felt like I could've danced all night, just because of the rush of it."

Dean: "I know! I just... I don't including Grease, Les know, I just wanted to make mag-

Jules: "Yeah! It really changed my experience of school; like it Chicago. was super life changing, and all

Dean: "Wouldn't it be loverly if we just stopped the puns on song names already?"

Jules: "They are getting a bit much now. But wait, one more, please... The musical, had me a blaaaast. [singing]."

Dean: "The musical, happened so faaaast. [awkwardly singing in response]."

Jules: [Silence longer than what is usually considered to be comfortable.] Good gracious, that was poor. Let's just stop with that now."

Dean: "I totally regret saying that.

Jules: "But in all seriousness, after doing the musical this year, I wish I'd done it since grade 8. The cast was terrific - all the different scenes put us to the test together, and ended up just showing off how much we could do."

Dean: "Wow! Way to get sentimental about it."

Jules: "Yeah. You learn so much, you make so many great friends, and it just makes you feel on top of the world, being on stage..."

Dean: "Yeah, cos at the end of the day, you're another day older. You've just gotta yolo, and get involved!"



Dean Salant aka Danny Zuko, leads the gang in a rendition of Grease Lightning: Back: Justin Sher: Michael Levenstein: Jarred Wood: Richard Heinenberg: and Marc Goldblatt. Front: Gabriel Koski; Chad Favish; Joshua Radomsky; David Wein; and Gabriel Zollman.



nowitz; Jenna Hertz; Jarred Wood; Marc Goldblatt; Aliza Jonker; and Dean Salant.

#### Technology

## How to be very, very polite

iPad notes and textbooks, cellphones, smart boards, BBM study groups, Twitter tales, PowerPoint presentations on projectors, even the odd PC here and there. KDVP High School has become a hub of technology. DEAN HEYMAN, grade 11, navigates this brave new world.

The world we live in is so exciting! Computers are the way of the future. In fact, I can communicate with all my friends and even my family over the internet via Facebook, BBM and Twitter.

The other day I had to go shopping. I remembered seeing on Facebook, that my old school friend. Edward, that I last saw in grade seven. lived in Highlands North. I was driving that way so I decided to visit him and check what he'd "posted" for all those years.

I knocked on the door. He opened "the chat" so I proceeded to poke him. "Edward, it's me! Tim from school. We sat next to each other in maths class at primary school."

He seemed baffled. Did he not know how to be polite? "Do you want to be my friend?" I asked. "What?!" he answered in disbelief. "Do you want to be my friend? Confirm or ignore" I pressed, (this is the polite thing to ask, just to establish where you are at) "Alright I guess," he eventually responded.

According to Facebook rules it is polite to establish the nature of your friendship, so I asked Edward if he was in a relationship. I was flabbergasted when he dismissed me by saying: "I'm sorry I've got to go."

I was devastated, as I did not want to leave, but

he went "offline" so I had no choice. However, I did get his BBM pin. "Goodbye" he said dismissively. "LOL" I replied, but he didn't laugh.

As he was "offline" and couldn't chat to me, I decided that I couldn't just leave after having made the effort to track him down, so I took out the can of spray paint that I had brought with me and wrote a message on his wall.

"Good to catch up after so many years! Hope you are well!" I wrote in big blue letters. Imagine my surprise when despite my attempts at being polite, Edward was furious when he saw me do-

"What are you doing?!" he shouted. "Writing on your wall of course," I responded. "You can't chat now so I'm leaving a message for you for later." Edward was very upset, but I couldn't imagine

I went shopping. In the supermarket I noticed that the tinned tomatoes were over priced. I knew from Twitter that it was polite to voice my opinion in less than 160 characters.

"Anyone know where I can get reasonably priced items? I'm in... and the prices are outrageous!" The shop attendants walked past me and I got quite some evil looks from a few; others just seemed to ignore my existence and I ended up

only buying one item from my list.

While waiting to pay, I stood behind a guy who smelled like he hadn't taken a shower in weeks. "Still in... waiting in the line at the till. The guy in front of me has a crazy stench. Someone get the strongest deodorant here, stat!" He gave me quite a nasty look, as though I had done something terribly wrong, but for the life of me I didn't know what I had done. Didn't he value my opinion?

Eventually I was in the car on the way home when on the radio, Miley Cyrus' 1 have 7 things' came on. I sang it the whole day. "Miley Cyrus is such a talent," I yelled.

That night I went to a club and this amazingly good-looking tall blonde with a model-like figure, in a tight, sexy red dress, was standing next to me. "Standing next to the hottest girl I've ever seen, but I'm too terrified to say anything," I said, and then giving a wink ;-).

She walked away blushingly, saying: "If people winked in life as much as they winked in texts, the world would be a creepy place, so don't wink at

Maybe being polite isn't as easy as I thought it was. Obviously, social networking isn't very social in the real world and doesn't really teach you how to be very, very polite. LOL.

#### **Liberty Life**

"We at Liberty are delighted to be involved with the JNR Jewish Report. At Liberty we believe passionately in the value of education and have been supporting education initiatives for over 40 years."

Steven Braudo Chief Executive: Liberty Retail SA



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#### Judaism

#### Five things we have learned about Judaism

PARIS PEBCHARZ, LAUREN EMMA DAVIS, CARLIE JOSELOWITZ, NICOLE MYERSON GRADE 9

If there are five things we have learn about Judaism at King David Victory Park High School, they would be:

#### 1) Judaism should be part of our everyday lives

We once thought Judaism was limited to Jewish studies a few times a week, but we couldn't have been more wrong. Coming to KDVP has shown us how our Jewish identity is a living and dynamic aspect of life.

The participation of our fellow learners in our lessons and the intellectual and meaningful questions we ask, allow us to extend our knowledge and leave us with something to think about. We remember our very first Jewish philosophy lesson at the beginning of grade 9 when the rabbi explained to us that this lesson was a lot more than just a lesson: We are able to look at the words of the Torah, sages and set works and apply them to our everyday lives.

#### 2) Our Shabbat jams

It's the greatest feeling Friday afternoons, when the school bell rings, not only because the school week is over, but because we know we will be having a relaxing Shabbat with our families.

But if you are really looking for a vibrant ruach session, you'd have to join the DJE for one of the greatest weekends of our year, our Shabbaton.

In our pulot we are taught about the relevance of Judaism and finding ourselves and true friends through these activities.

#### 3) The Torah is better than a 'Magic-8-Ball'

Life can be complicated for a teenager. The world is pretty weird and everyone seems slightly confused about what is going on. Ask your younger siblings the meaning of life and they will probably reply with "lollypops and unicorns".

On the other hand our bobbas and zaides will tell us it's "respecting your elders and having Derech Eretz". After our whole 15 years of living, we've finally come to realise that some of the questions and problems we have are actually pretty similar to those that Jews were experiencing thousands of years ago!

For example, when the 12 spies went into Eretz Yisrael to spy on Israel, 10 of them returned with negative thoughts about the land. However, the other two saw Israel for what it really was with an optimistic perspective. This teaches us to always look at life with a positive point of view.

#### 4) Jews are always there for each other!

Sometimes there are happy things in life. However, there are also sad times we have to go through. We are lucky to have a Jewish community which goes through the cycles of life and chaggim as one. We will never forget the haunting silence and shiver in the darkened hall as nearly 400 candles, one held by each learner, bore testimony that we will never forget on Yom Hashoah.

A few weeks later, dancing and clapping, drumming and whirling Israeli flags, were the order of the day as we celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom Yerushalaim.

"Yes, I did play a girl character, but boy was it fun!" said Asher Klug, a grade 9 learner who played Zeresh in our very entertaining Purim play performed during assembly.

#### 5) Our Jewish education never ends

If there is anything that Judaism teaches us, it is that you are never done learning, So even as we work towards that final, jubilant day of matric - as we walk out of the school gates for the last time - we know and embrace the fact that Judaism will be our lifelong teacher.



#### Technology

#### KDVP HS Library: ready for the future

#### JAYNA GOLDSTUCK GRADE 8

It was once perhaps not the most popular hangout in the school, but now learners and teachers jostle for position in order to stare in wonder through the glass windows at the exciting goings on as the KDVP High School library, as its renovations come to an end.

"It's a new wonderland, hi-tech and hip - and I can't wait to see our learners embracing a 21st century love of reading," says English teacher Kim Pearson, as she tries out the new mezzanine reading nook.

"Let's spare a moment's silence for the old library; it had its day, but it's like Queen Elizabeth - awesome - but we want Prince William and Kate now," exclaimed Lexi Biccard, art teacher, as she perused some of the exciting new offerings on display.

King David Victory Park High School is now the owner of an ultra-modern media centre. It includes traditional library items: comfortable reading couches, desks, magazines and, of course, books. The main level will house non-fiction books, while fiction will be kept on the mezzanine level

However, that is where the similarity with old-style libraries ends. The 21st century will be introduced to the school with new PCs, iPads, and the latest Mac-Book computers. A soundproofed multimedia room will give learners and teachers the chance to work with the latest recording equipment and a full Apple media suite, including a MacBook Pro computer, to create presentations for projects and assemblies.

Most exciting of all is a special classroom in the back of the library which will be used as an iPad lab, where teachers will be able to use the exciting new

technology for lessons where it will enhance the learning experience.

"The aim is for the grade 8s of 2013 to come into a school environment that is completely digital, where they will be able to use tablets and computers for most of their work," says Gavin Budd, principal of KDVPHS.

He hopes that the modern environment of the new library will be more inviting and encourage learners to read more, both electronically and in the traditional way, turning the library into a hub of activity at the school.

es out the new mezzanine reading nook. "Who wants to do homework in front of the TV "Let's spare a moment's silence for the old library; it anymore? The library is the future!" said grade 10 Jonti Strimling, as he sat down to peruse an enticing book.



Jacob Mendelowitz; Jaime Sulman; Maxi Cohen; Hazel Chait (librarian); and Jonti Strimling; all grade 10s, hang out where the cool kids go – the new library's mezzanine reading nook.

#### Israel

#### What Zionism means to me

GILA JANKELOWITZ GRADE 10

Throughout my high school career, my love for Israel has been nurtured in both formal and informal programmes, discussions and ceremonies at school. This year, I decided to explore the state of affairs in the country of my heart.

"You are leading an Israeli army patrol in enemy territory when you hear a woman screaming. You move your men toward her. Then you see that the woman has explosives strapped to her body. What do you do?"

Inon Tagner, a 27-year-old reserve officer, was leading a unit of 35 men in Lebanon, in 2006. The problem he faced was a complex one. Do you approach the woman and try to help her, risking your life and the lives of your men? Or do you retreat slowly to save yourselves?

Lior Prosor, (26), led 25 soldiers in Gaza in 2010. With Tagner he travelled America, telling their stories. He said they were fighting an enemy that used their morality against them.

In three years' time we will all be going our separate way; some will be taking a gap year, travelling the world, others going to university, or getting work experience and some might even be getting married. We have a variety of choices: the decision is ours to make.

In Israel 15-year-olds don't get the opportunities we get; they don't have a say until they are 21. They have to go to the army. But the Israeli Defence Forces is not only made up of Israelis, but thousands of Jews sign up every year to protect our homeland.

I have always been imbued with a deep love for the Land of Israel, which G-d gave to our forefathers. I know many people who go to the army after school, only starting their lives into their twenties, whereas many of their friends are already finishing university or been married.

Is it fair to allow these young (Israeli) adults, with barely any impression of the real world, to go out and risk their lives on a daily basis?

When I was in Israel, I met a soldier named Hadar. She told me about her time in the army that she had just begun. She was enthusiastic about it. She told me how much she had grown up in the past few months and how immature others her age, not having gone to the army, seemed to her.

I asked her how people acted when it was getting closer to the time to start army service: were they scared or excited or did they feel it was part of their day-to-day life, like school?

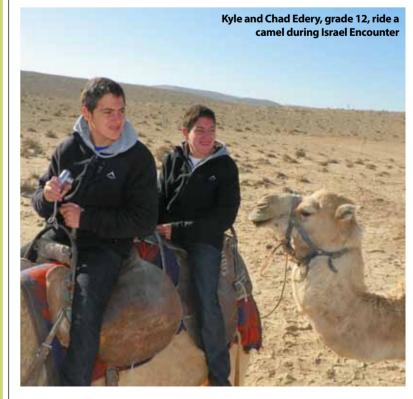
Hadar told how in matric the boys would all spend extra time in the gym. To them, joining the army and protecting their country, is the most honourable thing to do.

But, is it fair to force these teenagers to grow up (so fast)? Is it right to entrust the safety of one of the most targeted countries in the world to them?

There are three main values which Tzahal operate by:

- 1) Defence of the state, its citizens and its resident not only the State, but the people who live in it. Not only the Jews are protected in the Jewish State.
- 2) Love of the homeland and loyalty to the country: The soldiers have to understand that Israel carries their heritage; in order to love the land you have to have a connection with it. Our ties with Israel are thousands of years old.
- 3) Human dignity: "Every human being is of value regardless of his or her origin, religion, nationality, gender, status or position."

Now about the dilemma of hearing a woman, with explosives strapped to her body, scream - what to do: Tagner and his men slowly backed away; what would you do?





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**10** SA JEWISH REPORT 7 – 14 September 2012

#### Academic life

#### KDVP – "What's on the menu?"

#### SIMON WOLFSON **GRADE 9**

Welcome to the inviting, wholesome, family-style environment of KDVP! Take your seat in a warm, friendly classroom and feel your mouth water as you browse through what we have to offer:

For starters, there's a delectable range of languages. These are essential to enjoying the rest of our menu. One of the chef's specialities is a unique English experience. Step inside one of the English classrooms, a living organism, filled with colour and delight. Immerse yourself in enticing discussions and videos. Gobble up a juicy story!

Drool over French pronunciation, or sink your teeth into a succulent croissant!

Savour learning to converse with fellow South Africans, in Zulu or Afrikaans.

Wait! There's more!

For mains we offer a generous selection of brain stimulating algebra or geometry.

Bite into a quartzite rock in the geography classroom,

and to complement that, drop by the biology classroom to make your own yoghurt.

We also thoroughly recommend what we do best ... Jewishness!

We offer fresh and vibrant discussions into Judaism, Zionism, and "The Meaning of Life"!

Delve into the history of Israel while munching on a falafel, or appreciate the beautiful sounds of the Hebrew language.

Bask in the golden glow of our shul with a yarmulke proudly on your head and a siddur in your hands.

#### The desserts!

We present to you, a creative, original, innovative, highly enjoyable arts and culture experience.

Indulge in smooth, thick acrylics or oils as you paint away a tranquil landscape.

Get that chilli kick from our exciting drama teacher. Let the sounds of sweet music fill your ears, or drink the gracefulness of dance.

As you can see, there is no shortage of delectable

delights, from juicy short stories in English to vibrant discussions in Jewish studies.

We've shown you our brilliant range of academics, but that is only secondary, to the "people" at KDVP. You could think of them almost like a shtetl, a family! Everyone knows everyone else; there's that unbelievable, tangible closeness, and there is a genuine caring and supportiveness among everyone, the beating heart of the school.



These grade 10 English learners definitely know the answer! Nicole Sachs; Caitlin Kirkel; and Amy Strous. Back: Yoni Reichlin; Jordan Ochayon; Eve Kollenberg; Sophie Kaplan; Mila Kaplan; and Jesse Weisz.

#### Sport

#### Extolling KDVP sporting prowess in verse

#### **AMY STROUS GRADE 10**

"1, 2, 3, 4! "3, 2, 1, 4!

"Who for?

"What for?

"Who we going to win for?

"K D V P - Victory Park!"

Cheering, shouting, and screaming, Are the proud and vibrant students of VP. Spectating in black blazers, with their blue mascot "Me"

A fundamental pillar of this school. Keeping the learners fit and focused, Whether it be on the sports field, court or in the pool.

Our school may be small, Four-hundred kids about, But our sports spirit and pride is huge, You cannot miss our shout!

At the end of the school day, Slamming lockers is what you hear. Students collecting their heavy tog-bags, For sports training - they've got their gear.

With takkies on their feet and rackets in their

The boys and girls run to the hot courts. Tennis and squash are the sports played

Where KDVP wins prizes of all sorts

Ping-pong balls fly from right to left, across our school hall. With SA champions on our team,

The final scores are never small.

Breast-stroke, crawl, inter-house and inter-

Swimming is always an event of spirit and jiving.

Covered in face-paint,

Our swimmers tighten their caps before we watch them diving.

Athletics and cross-country are events, Where King David Victory Park stands out. Up hills, through trees, around tracks and passing batons,

Laughter, perseverance and school spirit is exhibited without doubt.

Bicycles and wheels are part of VP's sport

As we have an ambitious cycling crew. The four-day ride - "Davidians to Durban", Is what they like to do.

Dedication, commitment and camaraderie, Is what we learn from playing sports in a

We understand team-work involves having, One inspiring, shared dream.

Dressed in white uniforms and standing in

KDVP boys make us proud through their

Our boys aim high, seldom missing a wicket.

Strong, focused, fit and skilled, Are the boys of our first rugby team. Is it their rugby skills or mighty fine looks, That cause all the girls to scream?

From boys to sportsmen to heroes to legends,

Hard work and dedication pushed them up Our cricket boys making history by winning

the Johnny Waite Cup, And our rugby boys hitting the news by winning the Kudu Cup.

Firsts, Seconds, Seniors and Juniors, These are our netball girls dressed in black and white.

Motivated by passion and committed to having fun,

In the school league and indoor league, they play with all their might!

Girls and boys have their own soccer teams, Because at KDVP, soccer is loved by all. Dribbling, training, playing matches and striking goals,

Our supporters encourage us to keep our eyes on the ball.

Integrity, respect and tolerance,

Is how we play our game.

With these values we conduct ourselves on the sportsfield,

Always upholding King David Victory Park's name.

Ko'ach - strength, Ruach - spirit. When it comes to sport,

We are a school that defies the word "limit".





#### **JEWISH SCHOOLS CAN HELP EDUCATE ISRAEL-FRIENDLY BLACK LEARNERS**

Howard Sackstein's analysis of South African-Israel relations is a sobering and disturbing one in his "South African-Israel relations implode". He notes: "Israel has little to gain from its contributions to South Africa.'

The concern for South African Jews is not primarily what Israel has to gain from South Africa but that South Africa remains a safe and constitutionally fair place for Jews to live and express their religion and culture freely. It seems pertinent to address a problematic subtext to Sackstein's analysis.

Some Jews famously supported the Anti-Apartheid Movement, but the "peaceful majority" (in the words of Dr Emanuel Tanya) was cowed into quiet submission and by and large prospered under apartheid.

Sackstein notes that "Israel has been training Africans throughout the continent" for 60 years and a great deal of this training was to the benefit of the National Party. My concern is the past and continuing missed opportunities to create pro-Jewish and pro-Israel sympathies: as we all know, the new face of anti-Semitism is the delegitimisation of Israel.

Twenty years ago, a number of interested parties including Max Price, Warwick Sive and myself were invited to the Board of Jewish Education to debate the possibility of allowing black learners into our Jewish schools - King David School in particular.

The prevailing view was that the schools were community schools which must serve the Jewish community first and must provide the opportunity for a Jewish education to all Jewish children, including those who needed partial or full subsidy. I expect that this view still holds true today.

Yet, imagine if 10 or 15 black learners sympathetic to Jewish issues, had matriculated through our system each year, and had moved into the universities, industry, business and politics for a period of 20 years, how different the face of South African-Israel relations might have been

The Catholic schools began integrating black learners when it was against the law to do so. The Anglican and Greek schools followed suit. Most importantly, the Muslim schools have been proselytising

The Jewish schools remain closed and this begs the question: are we educating our youth to live meaningfully as South Africans or are we educating them for emigration or shtetl thinking? What impact does this ethos have on how our community is perceived by the ANC?

A few years ago, Professor Jonathan Jansen (rector of Free State University), shocked and amused the King David Linksfield family during his visit to the school by complimenting the learners on their marvellous distinctions, particularly in Hebrew.

He stated that he wished he could compliment us on our distinctions in Arabic. He followed this clanger with the statement: "...and guess what I will be saying at the Muslim school tomorrow?"

The Jewish community does an enormous amount of work in Tikkun Olam programmes, responds to crises like the time we sent our medical teams to rescue South Africans in Thailand.

But these efforts are not designed to, nor do they alter, ANC perceptions about our community significantly.

I suggest that the missed opportunities are those that could have had (and perhaps can in the future have) an influence on the sensibilities of the powerful leaders in business, politics and industry; on the role-players who count when national policies are constructed.

Linda Mark **Johannesburg** 

#### ISRAEL DOESN'T NEED ANYTHING FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim has shown the true colours of the government and the ANC, by being partial towards the Palestinians. He and his cronies in government show a lack of understanding of the Palestinian issue. His intention to send a strong message to Israel is not only counterproductive, but will fall on deaf ears.

The reason is that Israel will not be dictated to by the South African government or any other government for that matter.

Ebrahim's counterpart, Marius Fransman, said in Cape town last month, (to the Muslim community), that South Africa wanted to put economic pressure on Israel.

This is an amusing remark from an ignoramus. Israel exports far more than South Africa, and its superiority in technology is sought after all over the world. South Africa produces little, if any, technology.

Israel doesn't need anything from South Africa and the sooner politicians realise this, the better.

Moreover, both Ebrahim and Fransman should apply their minds to the situation in Zimbabwe, Syria, Iran and Libya, where, no doubt, Western countries are waiting with bated breath to hear any form of condemnation from South Africa.

However, it seems unlikely that these two clowns will condemn these pariahs, but will continue with their bigoted invective toward Israel.

#### **Nathan Cheiman** Northcliff

#### **KUDOS TO COMMUNAL LEADERSHIP**

Well done to our communal leaders who spoke at the SABJD Conference. Based on their presentations, I feel that they are taking their tasks seriously and are proudly and actively working towards the equality of our community within the greater South Africa. Thank you.

#### Michele Engelberg **Johannesburg**

@normangoodfello

#### TIME FOR SA JEWRY TO DO SOME **SERIOUS THINKING**

The official SA Govt policies as set out by Ministers Rob Davies, Ebrahim Ebrahim and Marius Fransman, begs the question: Quo vadis, SA Jewry?

A response from the Jewish leadership, namely the SAJBD and the SAZF, would be illuminating, with no sugaring over.

Bennie Katzman Bnei Dror, Israel

#### THERE ARE NO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AT ALL IN ISRAEL

With the recent spate of editorials against Israel, referring to so-called "occupied territories", both from within South Africa as well as abroad, I would like to place the record straight.

On May 22, 1967 Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser in a completely unprovoked move committed an act of war against Israel by closing the Strait of Tiran. Then Syria, followed by Jordan with support of Iraq - all under the leadership of Nasser - subsequently declared war against Israel. With the help of Hashem, all the Arab aggressors were soundly defeated in this Six Day

On June 27, 1967, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's Knesset almost unanimously passed three laws annexing the areas captured by Israel in the Six Day War. This was a valid act of a sovereign nation who was attacked by neighbouring states whose intention was to annihilate it.

On November 22, 1967, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 242 requiring the withdrawal of Israel's forces from occupied territories. Resolution 242 was adopted 148 days too late! All captured territory was and is part of Israel.

Just because Israel was the victor of the Six Day War, does not undermine its sovereignty as a state, or its annexation of all the areas captured in an act of existential defence. Be smart: Stop talking about occupied territories; there are no occupied territories at all in Israel.

#### **Arnold Levy Johannesburg**

#### LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON DR ADOLF GRÜNTHAL

Dr Margret Jäger, from Austria, senior research scientist at the Department of Public Health and Health Technology Assessment at the Private Universität für Gesundheitswissenschaften, Medizinische Informatik und Technik UMIT Wien, is looking for information on Dr Adolf Grünthal who emigrated in 1935 with his wife - her name is not known - from Berlin to South Africa. She says Grünthal did his doctoral degree with Robert Glücksmann from Düsseldorf, who died in Theresienstadt.

"Dr Grünthal published some articles between 1959 and 1962, but we cannot find any further information about him or publications between 1935 and 1959 or after 1962. As he wrote in 1959 until 1965 about tourism trends in South Africa, he probably continued to work on this topic." Dr Jaeger may be contacted at Opernring 5, 2. Stock, A-1010 Wien, Österreich, T +43 (0) 50 8648 – 3954, F + (0) 50 8648 – 6739.

#### ISRAEL IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE A JEW CAN FEEL SAFE AND SECURE

The Editor, PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034 email: sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

I agree 100 per cent with Brian Levenstein's advice regarding the necessity for young Jews to make alivah. His reasons are correct, not only because of the growing animosity of the present government (towards Israel), but more importantly, because Israel is the only place where a Jew can feel safe and secure, and where Hashem wants His people to be after nearly 2 000 years of exile.

It saddens me to say to Brian that right underneath his letter is a "great" "wonderful" advert by Sydenham Shul, inviting and encouraging our future generation to continue to live in this exilic "cemetery".

Who do think young Jews are going to listen to? Apart from all the money being spent on this project to keep our young Jews from making aliyah, Chabad has never promoted aliyah in any form. On the contrary, they have, on the advice of the Rebbe, told South African Jewry to remain where they are.

"It will be good here," he said, "and even better when Mashiach comes."

When this advice was given 21 years ago, the entire community became "Lubavitch" overnight regarding the question of aliyah. To this day SA Jews still adhere to this advice.

Well, I submit 21 years later, that SA Jewry is not at all good. Besides being scorned by an anti-Semitic, and anti-Zionist government, there has been an ever-increasing rate of assimilation and intermarriage. (I believe the figure is almost 40 per cent).

Is that good? No! No! No!

It is also a fact (as Brian pointed out) that even six months before the outbreak of the Second World War, 90 per cent of Torah leaders in Europe, including the 6th Lubavitcher Rebbe, did absolutely nothing in warning Jews to leave. We all know the horrible consequences of their misjudgement.

Chabad seems to live by the slogan of the 3rd Lubavitcher Rebbe, the Tzemech Tzedek, who said to anyone wishing to go to Israel; "Mach doh Eretz Yisrael" (make this place Eretz Yisrael, Poland, etc).

So Brian, I hope and pray that our youth will maybe listen to your sound advice after reading this letter of mine.

Twenty-one years ago I was in the Torah Academy Shul when the Rebbe's advice was read out. We were all euphoric and excited. I for one did not take his advice and made aliyah at the age of 75.

It is not good here, or anywhere else for South African Jews in the Diaspora. Instead of screaming "Mashiach Now", let us rather "make aliyah now".

**Choni Davidowitz Golden Acres** Johannesburg



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## Literature dished up in light, sweet portions

Inheriting the Earth by Jill Nudelman (University of KZN Press, R219)

#### **REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY**

Unpacking one's identity - particularly if one is an orphan with no idea of one's ancestry, or the events which shaped it - is a complex, bewildering and often devastating exercise. In contemporary South Africa, it includes sifting through facts that might have been repressed during the apartheid regime, unlocking long-padlocked doors and irrigating wounds that might still be raw and inflamed.

For Rose Clemens, a middle-class white documentary scriptwriter living in Johannesburg's northern suburbs, the task is informed more by recollection than any tactile evidence.

She has very few friends and no steady relationship. There is no family either. The only mother she has known is Livvie, the woman who was the lifelong companion of her adoptive father, and who took over his parental role after his death. Now that Livvie is dead too, Rose's inheritance is sizeable: the estate includes a big apartment in Killarney, a car, a huge amount of money and other assets.

There is also a box containing a strange assortment of artefacts, including a diary written by a young Englishwoman visiting South Africa in the late 1800s, a beaded thong and a faded photograph of a woman Rose later establishes was her real mother, standing beside an unnamed man.

The only information on the picture is a date - September 1981 - and a place: the tiny, beautiful Drakensberg village of Ober-

on.

The temptation to speculate on their relationship is overpowering: was this her real father? What was his name, where did he come from and what did these two longlost individuals bequeath to the child they conceived, now searching for her place in the world?

The box also contains an art catalogue in which one painting, by Sir Philip Geoffrey, has been circled. Entitled "The Bushmen Pay Homage to the White Goddess", it depicts a group of San bowing reverently to a seated white woman in formal Victorian dress.

Armed with these clues, Rose journeys to Oberon hoping to untap the story of her parentage. It is a small, insulated community, but she quickly befriends many of the locals, gaining a ringside seat to the dramas of their domestic lives. She also encounters a doctor working to combat HIV/Aids in the region, who will in time come to play a bigger role in redefining Rose's identity than any of her forebears.

And, creating a backdrop to the many contemporary issues she must negotiate in that process, the cosmology of the San - depicted in their rock art in caves around Oberon - provides a sub-narrative, reminding readers that real identity is part of a continuous thread, unravelling off a skein held by historic, and prehistoric, hands.

The diary of the white Victorian girl, adventuring in the region over 100 years ago, reinforces this.

Rose's inherent compassion is sharply

contrasted by her fellow white South Africans' attitude to suffering, which is at best, indifference, and at worst, distaste.

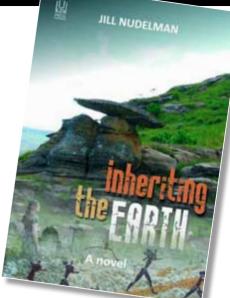
Like the woman whose long-time domestic servant who has been diagnosed as HIV-positive: "I wanted to visit her at the Gen, but it's so disgusting there - cockroaches, rats... nothing works... the lifts, the escalators, everything's been stolen... All I can say is, thank G-d she doesn't have TB, otherwise we'd all have had to go for X-rays. And then what!? I must say, I don't like this Aids thing in my house."

Nudelman's overarching themes - of collective versus individual identity, of belonging versus alienation, and both the costs and rewards of connecting with others at the most authentic human level - are admirably developed.

However, the narrative is marred by excessive, often inane detail (who ordered what for each meal), characters whose authenticity is paper-thin and certain episodes which are so implausible that they verge on the ridiculous.

White, sheltered, none-too-street-savvy Rose, for example, coming upon a group of protesting supermarket workers in the street, does not shy away in panic. No. She is a true daughter of Africa, and morphs inexplicably into a Sister of the Struggle.

Marvellous, really. What is more - like everywhere else she has been - she is instantly and unquestioningly accepted as such by the angry mob: "They toyi-toyied towards her, ululating like banshees. Rose stood stock still, wondering whether to



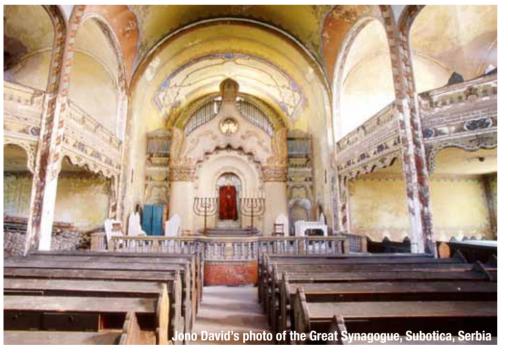
make a run for it.

"They were coming right at her. Before she knew it, she was... swept off her feet, spun around and pulled along by the irresistible current. She found herself toyitoyiing with the workers up the hill, her fist raised, sometimes hopping on one leg, then changing to the other, stridently singing protest songs from the Struggle years; not knowing the words, but joining in anyway."

It takes both time and forbearance to overlook Nudelman's literary weaknesses and warm to her objectives - but passages like the one above quickly erode one's patience. Fairytale idealism, magical coincidence and the Ubuntu Express are all charming elements. However, used immoderately and out of context, they can rob a work of all its credibility.

For those who prefer their literature light, sweet and earnest, this is a good choice. And, at its core, an instructive one too: though its central truths come coated in meringue, they are truths nevertheless.

#### Jono David carries Jewish flame of memory to all corners of the globe



## MOIRA SCHNEIDER CAPE TOWN PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

Jono David, a documentarian of Jewish life worldwide, sees his mission as "safeguarding memories for tomorrow".

He gave a presentation of his photographs at a gathering hosted by the South African Jewish Museum earlier this week; he is in the country to embark on his latest project, that of recording Jewish life on the African continent.

British-born, David grew up in the United States and since 1994 has lived in Osaka, Japan, where he teaches English.

David's journey started in 1988, when he read about a Jewish community in the Amazon. He set off for Cuba and then Brazil, where he found the Manaus Synagogue.

"It inspired me," he recalled. "I had never been that attached to my Jewish identity." In 1997, after moving to Japan, he took a trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway, which turned into a "Jewish cultural quest". En route, he discovered, among others, the Irkutsk Synagogue in Siberia and arrived at a shack in Estonia, actually the local synagogue, in the middle of a batmitzvah ceremony.

Then it was on to the Peitavas Street Synagogue in Riga, the only synagogue in the city to have survived the Nazis.

To David, his journeys also served as a Jewish awakening. "The Holocaust was a very foreign thing to me living in Washington," he explained.

An experience at Warsaw's Nozyk Synagogue brought things into sharp focus. "While I was there, someone set fire to the synagogue," he remembered. "This was the first time I'd seen and could smell anti-Semitism."

So it was that in February 1998, he undertook his first Jewish photographic expedition, taking in "a lot of fabulous

old synagogues" in Prague, the Great Synagogue in Budapest, Hungary - which became a theatre - and Auschwitz concentration camp.

"As I looked at the furnaces and the piles of shoes, I thought about the people who had died there and remarkably, survived there. I realised as Jews, we all carry a flame.

"I felt that I honoured those people by carrying the flame of memory."

A 2007 venture to Suriname, South America, saw him uncovering 35 graves in the Cassipora Jewish Cemetery, a "fabulous, historic" cemetery in the jungle.

Next stop was the Mother Synagogue in Cuba. Though there are not many Jews who are left there, a lot of fabulous synagogues remain as evidence of a glorious past.

David described the Great Synagogue in Subotica, Serbia, as "the finest example of art nouveau architecture in the world." In this country, there was a resurgence of individuals reconnecting with their Jewish backgrounds, he was told.



Jono David, the photographer

#### **Arts in Brief**

#### Encounters at the Edge is on at Erdmann Gallery in CT

Recently, "Encounters at the Edge" an exhibition by photographer David Lurie, was mounted at Erdmann Contemporary Gallery, Cape Town. According to the UN, the majority of the world's population today lives in an urban context; out of 7 billion, 1 billion are slum-dwellers. Lurie explains: "The photos are an attempt to distill

my experience of these fragments of life on the precipice beyond the edge of Cape Town; a study in informal survival where urbanisation has been disconnected from industrialisation and economic growth." The exhibition travels to the Bekris Gallery in San Francisco during November. Contact: (021) 422-2762.

#### Artist Helen Joseph exhibits in Birdhaven

Contemporary Johannesburg-based painter Helen Joseph, who trained at the Johannesburg Art Gallery under Bill Ainslie during the 1980s, shows an exhibition of new work at In Toto Gallery, Birdhaven, which opened last Tuesday. Focused on a very fine understanding of the dynamics of representing the human form, Joseph demonstrates her sophisticated acumen as a colourist. The exhibition is on until October 16. Contact: (011) 447-6543.

------ A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

## Israel and South Africa: There are positive developments in this area

Amidst all the bad news regarding inroads made by the Boycott Israel lobby, we saw two encouraging developments this week showing that the trend is by no means going in one direction only.

The first was a meeting the Board was able to facilitate between Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Derek Hanekom and visiting Israeli Minister of Science and Technology Daniel Hershkowitz. It was gratifying to see this meeting take place so soon after Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim's recent call for South Africans not even to visit Israel, let alone meet with Israelis at an official level.

The second was the issuing of a statement by the Convocation of the University of the Witwatersrand unequivocally distancing itself from the Student Representative Council resolution to boycott Israel.

This forthright declaration reveals that at the leadership level proponents of academic boycotts at this prestigious institution remain no more than a fringe element. We hope that the Wits example will be followed by all our academic institutions countrywide.

#### Gauteng Conference grasps the nettle

Last Sunday's SAJBD Gauteng Council conference focused on two closely related challenges to South African Jewry, namely the rise of global anti-Semitism and the deterioration of the South Africa-Israel relationship in response to pressure from the anti-Israel lobby.

In his keynote address, Dr Denis Mac-Shane gave an enthralling, if sobering, overview of how prevalent anti-Semitic attitudes, ideologies and behaviour have become, particularly in Europe and some of the practical steps that are being taken to confront that menace.

Dr MacShane himself is one of those at the forefront of those non-Jewish leaders worldwide who recognise the seriousness of the problem and are committed in various ways to addressing it.

The Board organised a busy programme for him, which included meetings with political and trade union leaders and academics and being interviewed on SAfm. We are deeply grateful to him for the invaluable contribution he made.

Apart from the insight and expertise he provided, it was heartening indeed to see how the Jewish people are not alone in these troubling times, but have sincere, principled friends in the greater society who are committed to fighting for their rights.

The second half of the conference took the form of a panel discussion on the current Israel-South Africa relationship. This is an issue that is very much at the forefront of current concerns in the Jewish community and the session made for a constructive give-and-take between speakers and delegates.

This is exactly what we aim to achieve through our conferences, but conferences themselves remain just one vehicle through which we communicate with our constituents. We remain committed to maintaining these channels of communication and urge the community, for its own part, to make full use of them.

On Sunday, I will be attending the Cape Council conference. These are deservedly renowned for being lively, inclusive and stimulating events, and judging by its programme, this latest one should be no exception. I congratulate Jeff Katz and Li Boiskin, respectively chairmen of our Gauteng and Cape Councils, on their successful terms of office, and also all newly elected council members. I wish you all success in your terms of office and look forward to working with you.

• Listen to Steven Gruzd on Jewish Board Talk on 101.9 Chai FM every Friday 12:00 - 13:00. Repeats Sundays, 11:00 - 12:00.





#### All Jewish teens need to be tested

#### **ROBYN SASSEN**

One in four SA Jews carries a genetic disease. Tay Sachs and cystic fibrosis are commonest; there are eight others, Oxford Shul's Rabbi Yossi Chaikin, who runs the genetic screening project, explains: "We want to avoid carriers marrying carriers of the same diseases. Halachically, it is difficult to convince couples not to have children. Procreating is a mitzvah."

How it works: Your blood sample is filed on the international database of Brooklyn-based Dor Yeshorim, a committee for the Prevention of Genetic Diseases, and you are given a registration number. When you meet a prospective match, Dor Yeshorim advises whether you can marry

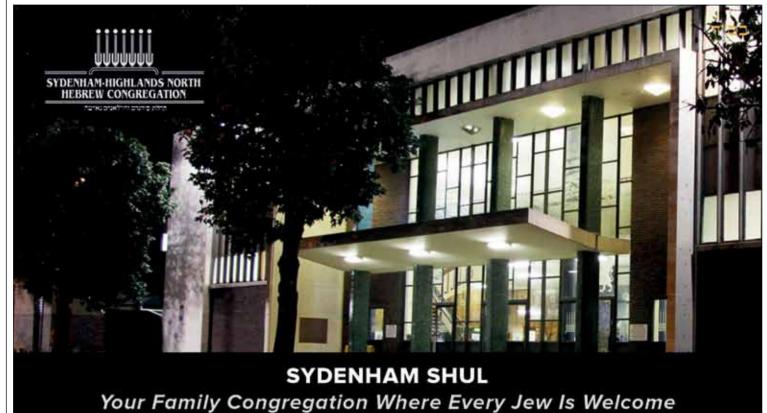
that person.

"People are not told their status," says Rabbi Chaikin who is advised by Prof Amanda Krause, head of human genetics at Wits University. "The knowledge of being a carrier is psychologically difficult."

In this initiative, the test costs R1 400, fully refundable for Discovery Medical Aid members. In a laboratory, it costs R8 000.

"It's best to get this test done early," says Rabbi Chaikin. "Genes don't change. And it's naïve to believe love conquers all."

• On September 9, Rabbi Chaikin hosts screenings for genetic diseases. Oxford Shul, Riviera, 10:00 - 13:00. Call (011) 646-6020 or Dr Reuven Jacks 082-904-7554.



#### PROUDLY ANNOUNCES A BOLD, NEW INITIATIVE

#### A Rare Offer and Fantastic Opportunity

A group of dedicated, forward-thinking, anonymous donors have created a special foundation to enable the next generation, i.e. young Jewish adults and families who are unaffiliated to any Congregation, to get involved in Shul life starting **this Rosh Hashanah**.

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Contact: Jonty Cohen on 011 640 5021 or 082 370 5228



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Sydenham Shul: At the Forefront of Jewish Life in South Africa

#### Elichai a worthy Israel Quiz winner



#### **OWN CORRESPONDENT**

Elichai Feldman, a 14-year-old, grade 8 learner at Yeshiva College in Johannesburg, won the prestigious Israel Quiz this year.

He also participated in last year's Israel Quiz - when he was only in grade 7 - and reached the finals. He was the youngest participant in the Quiz last year. He learnt the entire syllabus on his own.

Elichai is totally committed to all Yeshiva College activities. His mother, Rachel, was a matriculant of Yeshiva College and his grandparents are Rabbi Dr Gerald and Gita Mazabow. Rabbi Gerald Mazabow was a professor of Jewish studies at leading South African universities.

All at Yeshiva College are extremely proud of Elichai's amazing achievement and wish him a "nisiya tova" for his forthcoming trip to Israel - the first prize for winning the Israel Quiz.

Elichai excels in social science, Jewish studies and Hebrew. He loves Eretz Yisrael and plans to make aliyah.

Since he enjoys military history, he would like to serve in the IDF.





#### ISRAELI DAILY MA'ARIV MOVES TO INTERNET ONLY ON WEEKDAYS

JERUSALEM - The Israeli daily newspaper Ma'ariv. which has been in existence since 1948, will cease its daily print edition, and will instead provide only internet news during the week. The weekend Ma'ariv edition will be sold every Friday and on holidays, according to the newspaper's editor. No exact date for the changes has been announced.

The board of Discount Investment Corporation, owned by Nochi Danker, who also owns Ma'ariv, last Sunday agreed to put more than \$3 million into the daily newspaper. The board of Ma'ariv also ordered the liquidation of the newspapers at the printing house in Bat Yam, in a sale expected to take in some \$50 million. (JTA)

#### SET 'CLEAR RED LINES' ON IRAN, NETANYAHU WARNS GLOBAL COMMUNITY

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called on the international community to set a "clear red line" for Iran.

He did not say what the red line should be, in remarks to the Cabinet at its regular Sunday meeting.

"The Iranians are using the talks with the major powers to gain time in order to advance their nuclear project," Netanyahu said. "I believe that the truth must be told - the international community is not setting Iran a clear red line and Iran does not see international determination to stop its nuclear project.

"Until Iran sees a clear red line and such determination, it will not stop the progress of its nuclear project - and Iran must not be allowed to have nuclear weapons."

The New York Times reported on Monday that the Obama administration was moving ahead with actions designed to make Iran take negotiations over its nuclear capabilities more seriously while convincing Israel to hold off on a unilateral strike against Iran's nuclear facilities.

The actions include naval exercises and new anti-missile systems in the Persian Gulf, and a more forceful clamping down on Iranian oil revenue, as well as potentially having President Barack Obama make new declarations about what might bring about American military action, the newspaper reported.

The question of how explicit Obama's warnings to Iran should be, was still a subject of internal debate, closely tied to election-year politics, the Times reported.

It explained that some Obama advisers believed Israel needed "a stronger public assurance that he is willing to take military action" before Iran had an operational nuclear weapon.

Other senior advisors believe "Israel is trying to corner Obama into a military commitment that he does not yet need to make", according to the report.

The United Nations nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, in its quarterly report last week, reported that Iran had more than doubled the number of centrifuges installed in its underground uranium enrichment plant at Fordow, which is located far underground and believed to be impenetrable to Israeli attack. (JTA)

#### YAALON: IRAN DOESN'T SEE A REAL MILITARY THREAT

JERUSALEM – Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Yaalon, fears that mixed messages are leading Iran to believe it does not face a real military threat from the outside world.

"We have an exchange of views, including with our friends in the United States, who in our opinion, are in part responsible for this feeling in Iran," he told Israel's 100FM radio station last week Friday, according to The Jerusalem Post.

"There are many cracks in the ring closing tighter on Iran. We criticise this," he said, also singling out United Nations Secretary-General Ban Kimoon for travelling to Tehran this week.

Ban attended the Non-Aligned Movement Summit held in Tehran. During his talk there, he criticised Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's rejection of the Jewish State's right to exist, as well as his Holocaust denial.

Israel believes that Iran's nuclear installations which are not open to international inspection - are developing a nuclear weapons programme. Tehran insists that the research is meant for domestic power means. Recent weeks have seen increased speculation as to whether Israel would launch a preemptive attack against Iran's nuclear installations, which are scattered around the country. (JTA)

#### PALESTINIAN INJURED BY ROCKS THROWN BY HAREDI NEIGHBOURS

JERUSALEM - A Palestinian from the Shufat refugee camp and three haredi Jews from a nearby Jerusalem neighbourhood were injured in an exchange of rock throwing last Saturday.

Haredi Jews from Ramat Shlomo threw stones at the refugee camp in northeastern Jerusalem, according to reports. Three haredi males, including two minors, were arrested. One had injured a police officer during his arrest.

The Palestinian residents of Shufat threw rocks back at their Jewish assailants, injuring two and damaging three cars. (JTA)

#### HUNDREDS GATHER IN STOCKHOLM IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

STOCKHOLM - Hundreds of people last Sunday demonstrated support for Israel in the centre of Stockholm in Sweden.

The participants gathered with Israeli flags at Sergels Torg, a square which often sees large demonstrations. They sang Israel's national anthem "Hatikva" in the square.

Fredrik Malm, a Swedish lawmaker from the Liberal People's Party, referred to the heavy police protection at the event in speaking to the crowd, according to the Uppsala-based daily Varlden Idag. (JTA)





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#### Today, Friday (September 7)

· UZLC hosts Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, the country communities rabbi, who will talk on his book, "The Travelling Rabbi - My African Tribe". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria at 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

#### Sunday (September 9)

- · Dor Yeshorim Ashkenazi Genetic Testing takes place at Oxford Shul, Riviera from 10:00 - 13:00. Information: Rabbi Yossi Chaikin (011) 646-6020.
- Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St Johns College in St Johns Road, Lower Houghton at 14:15 sharp. Great selection of audio and video material lined up, featuring Big Bands of yesteryear. Information: Dave (011) 885-3525 or Barney (011) 440
- RCHCC presents award-winning true story on WW11, "Lacombe Lucien". Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378. E-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net, or www.greatpark.co.za
- Jewish and Israeli live music with Roni Lea singing/ playing keyboards, songs from the Six Day War, Kasablan, army bands and more. Venue: Kosher Mi Vami, 1st Long Ave, Glenhazel. Time: From 12:30 till 15:45. Contact: Roni Lea, cell 074-157-7111.
- · Second Innings hosts Rebbetzen Adele Kazilsky on "The Modern Family - Are We Surviving?" Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Information: Grecia (011) 532-9718.
- · Jacana Media is hosting the launch of Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft's book, "My African Tribe", as told to Suzanne Belling, with author and journalist Gus Silber, as guest speaker. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 10:30. RSVP: rsvp@jacana.co.za or tel: (011) 628-3200.

#### Monday (September 10)

- · ORT JET is holding a "Power Up" for Job Readiness Seminar from today until Wednesday (September 12), from 09:00 - 13:00. Join us for these lifechanging seminars and be coached by an executive life coach and recruitment experts. Contact Tracy on (011) 728-7154 or tracy@ortjet.org.za
- · UJW hosts Prof Adam Habib of UJ, who will talk on "Between the Right to Protect and National Sovereignty: The Case of Libya and Syria". Venue: 1

Oak Street Houghton. Time: 09:30. Contact: (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044.

#### Tuesday (September 11)

- JWBS "55" Club takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 to 15:00. Opportunity to socialise, meet new friends, enjoy lunch and be entertained. Transport provided. Information: Benevolent office (011) 485-5232.
- · Second Innings Men's Group hosts Rabbi Yossi Chaikin on "Genetic Testing for Jewish Hereditary Disease". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 14:00 for 14:30. Information: Grecia (011) 532-9718.

#### Wednesday (September 12)

- UJW CT adult education division hosts Anthony Aghillino of the Quadpara Association, who will relate his interesting story. The venue is: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (call during mornings only).
- · RCHCC and the UJW host The Travelling Rabbi, Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, on his book, "My African Tribe", as told to Suzanne Belling. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net
- · UJW hosts a visit to the new art museum, WAM (Wits Art Museum) at 10:00. View and appreciate a new African art exhibition presented by senior curator Julia Charlton. Be at UJW House at 09:30 for a lift to WAM. Cost: R30. Entrance at Wits through Station St Gate. Booking is essential: Please phone Lynne at (011) 648-1053 or (011) 717-1363.

#### Thursday (September 13)

- JWBS "55" Club takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 to 15:00. Opportunity to socialise, meet new friends, enjoy lunch and be entertained. Transport provided. Information: Benevolent office (011) 485-5232.
- UJW CT hosts Toni Shaked on the third and last on the series on "Understanding Your Teenager". Contact: (021) 434-9555. E-mail info@ujwcape.co.za.

#### Friday (September 14)

· UZLC has as its guest speaker, David Batzofin, who will talk on "Changing Horses in Midstream". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria at 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.



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#### **Community Briefs**

#### Fedler an inspired choice as Sydenham fundraiser speaker

Recently, the Sydenham Highlands North Community Centre hosted a fundraising breakfast, for working moms, with author Joanne Fedler, guest speaker. It was attended by over 300 women. Sydney-based Fedler grew up in SA and studied law at Yale. She emphasised the sustaining role of friendships in our lives as women and how connections to one another allow us to express our truest selves. She commented on allowing the snide "Get a life, Mom" sentiment expressed by teenagers to be seen a blessing. She urged women to reclaim parts of themselves they relinquish when catering to their small children's needs. TALI FRANKEL.

#### Why Israel is so successful, despite its small size

WIZO Forum hosted a morning recently at Beyachad featuring a screening of the film "Israel Inside", produced by Wayne Kopping, which showcases the factors contributing to Israel's uniqueness.

After the film, Victor Gordon, from the SA Media Team, discussed why Israel is so disproportionately successful in relation to her size. She has the highest number of start-up companies in the world and more companies listed on the Nasdaq Exchange than any European nation. The military influence plays an important role in encouraging innovation and problem-solving at all levels. This is seen in creative business solutions in the economy. TALI FRANKEL

### Furman is called up for Bafana Bafana



#### JACK MILNER

For the second time in his soccer career, Oldham Athletics captain Dean Furman, has been called up to play for Bafana Bafana in their soccer friendlies against Brazil and Mozambique.

Cape Town-born Furman was first called up by former coach Joel Santana in 2008 for a match against Australia but, in football terms, spent the entire match warming the bench.

The match against Brazil will take place in Sao Paulo today (Friday) and then Furman will return to South Africa with the team for the Mozambique friendly four days later.

Interviewed on the Oldham Athletics website, 24-yearold Furman commented: "I am immensely proud to have been called into the squad. It will be an unbelievable experience to be involved, especially against Brazil with all the top players they have. I just hope to do myself justice and show what I can do."

The Brazil squad includes many of their star players including Neymar and Thiago Silva.

Furman – a midfielder - was told of his selection a week ago, but had to keep it secret until the squad was formally announced. He believes a succession of managerial changes had cost him the chance to be involved at senior level for South Africa, but added he had an inkling he might feature in the plans of new manager Gordon Igesund.

"The manager called me a couple of weeks ago to ask about my fitness and also my pre-season. He has also been in touch with the gaffer (Paul Dickov) so

I knew he was monitoring me. It will be great for me to be involved and also for my family who closely follow my career."

Igesund has been quoted as saying that he had viewed video footage of Furman and had been impressed with what he had seen. He added that the door was open to any player who stepped up to the plate.

Furman is one of seven uncapped players named in the squad of 25, which includes Everton's Steven Pienaar who is one four England-based players who are involved.

"There are also a lot of well-known players in the squad and ones who are playing all over the world," said Furman. "As an outsider, it will take me a few days to get settled and to get to know the team, but it will be a great experience."

Furman also discussed his selection with the local magazine Kick Off, where he expressed his hopes for the future.



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"Obviously I'm playing over here (UK) in League One and it doesn't get much coverage back in South Africa, so hopefully I will be able to force my way into the manager's thinking. It's an unbelievable opportunity. I will always remember the first time I was called up and to be back involved is incredible. You can't get much better than going to play a match against Brazil."

Furman is also hoping to book a place in the South African team to play in next year's Africa Nations Cup on home soil.

"It's a real target. My aim over the coming 10 days is to show the manager what I'm all about and make sure I'm in his plans for the future. The African Nations Cup is something to look ahead to but for now I will just put my head down and work hard."

"I never gave up hope - I never give up on anything because that's the type of person I am. I always focused on playing as well as I could for Oldham in the hope that someone would be watching me and taking notice. Hopefully that is starting to pay off.

"It would be a very proud moment for me and my family if I can get on the pitch. South Africa is the country of my birth and although I've been in England for a long time, all my family still live there. There's no greater honour than playing for your country."

Furman started is football career in England as a member of the Chelsea youth squad but then moved to Scotland where he played for Glasgow Celtic.

He later returned to England with League One side Oldham Athletic, joining them on June 29, 2009, on a three-year contract. He won the Football League Goal of the Year 2011 for his effort against Notts County on August 14, 2010. He was appointed captain of Oldham Athletic for the 2011-12 season and in April this year Oldham Athletic signed a new one-year contract with him.

#### SA Maccabi bowls team announced

#### JACK MILNER

Maccabi South Africa have named their team to play at next year's Maccabi Games.

#### Men:

Team Blue: Larry Berman; Michael Brown; Arron (Okey) Fine; Ben Kassel; and Clif-

Team Green: Stan Apple; Stan Friedman; Alan Kantor; Dave Rosin; and Jared

#### Women:

Bernice Berz; Natalie Cumin; Sandra Lurie; Marna Morris; and Barbara Mosselson.

"Congratulations to all the participants who have been selected to represent South Africa at the 2013 Maccabi Games," said convener Julius Chasen.

"I will be attending a conveners' meeting at 18:00 and afterwards would like to meet all of you at the Killarney Bowling Club on Wednesday September 12, to discuss all the relevant formalities."

#### **News in Brief**

#### Palestinian family evicted from room of Eastern Jerusalem home

JERUSALEM - A room and a courtyard of a Palestinian family home in eastern Jerusalem were turned over to Jewish residents.

The room was sealed off from the rest of the

The room was sealed off from the rest of the house with metal sheeting and barbed wire last Sunday, according to reports.

A Palestinian couple and their two-yearold son had lived in the room. Seventeen other members of the family live in the rest of the house.

The home is claimed by American millionaire Irving Moskowitz, who purchased the property from the Chabad Kollel, who bought it in 1886 from the occupying Ottoman. Chabad lost

the land in 1948 when Jordan took over eastern Jerusalem and it was sold to the Hamdallah family, which has lived in the home since 1952.

The Kollel regained its rights to the land after the Six Day War, but the family remained in the home

Moskowitz has been working through the courts to evict the family for nearly two decades. He recently succeeded in getting a court's permission to evict the family from additions made to the property.

It is believed Moskowitz wants to expand the Jewish enclave of Ma'aleh Hazeitim, which he helped to fund, on to the property. (JTA)

#### Flashmob participants don kippot in Berlin

BERLIN - Young Jews, Christians and Muslims, as well as local celebrities and politicians, donned yarmulkes last Saturday and participated in a flashmob in the streets of Berlin.

The gathering came in response to an attack in Berlin last week on a rabbi and his six-year-old daughter. He was identifiable as Jewish because he was wearing a yarmulke.

More than 100 young people took to the streets in Berlin wearing the ritual skullcaps. The flashmob came after the Berliner Zeitung newspaper published a front page article and photo featuring famous Berlin residents wearing yarmulkes, under the headline: "Berlin wears a varmulke"

Berlin's interior minister, Frank Henkel, condemned what he called the "cowardly attack", during Saturday night's "Night of Religions" event at which the flashmob took place.

The evening was also a response to a decision by the Abraham Geiger College in Potsdam, a seminary which trains Reform rabbis, to advise its students not to wear yarmulkes in public.

Germany's federal office for criminal investigation, documented 436 anti-Semitic attacks across the country so far this year, according to Deutsche Welle. Most involved graffiti or verbal abuse. (JTA)

