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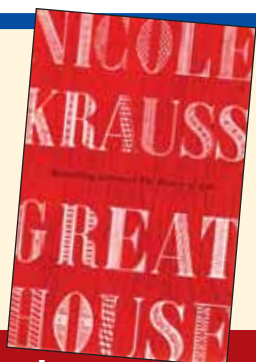


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SOUTH AFRICAN

# Jewish Report



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Friday, 8 April 2011 / 4 Nissan, 5771

Volume 15 Number 13

## Pressure on Goldstone to repair his Report's damage to Israel

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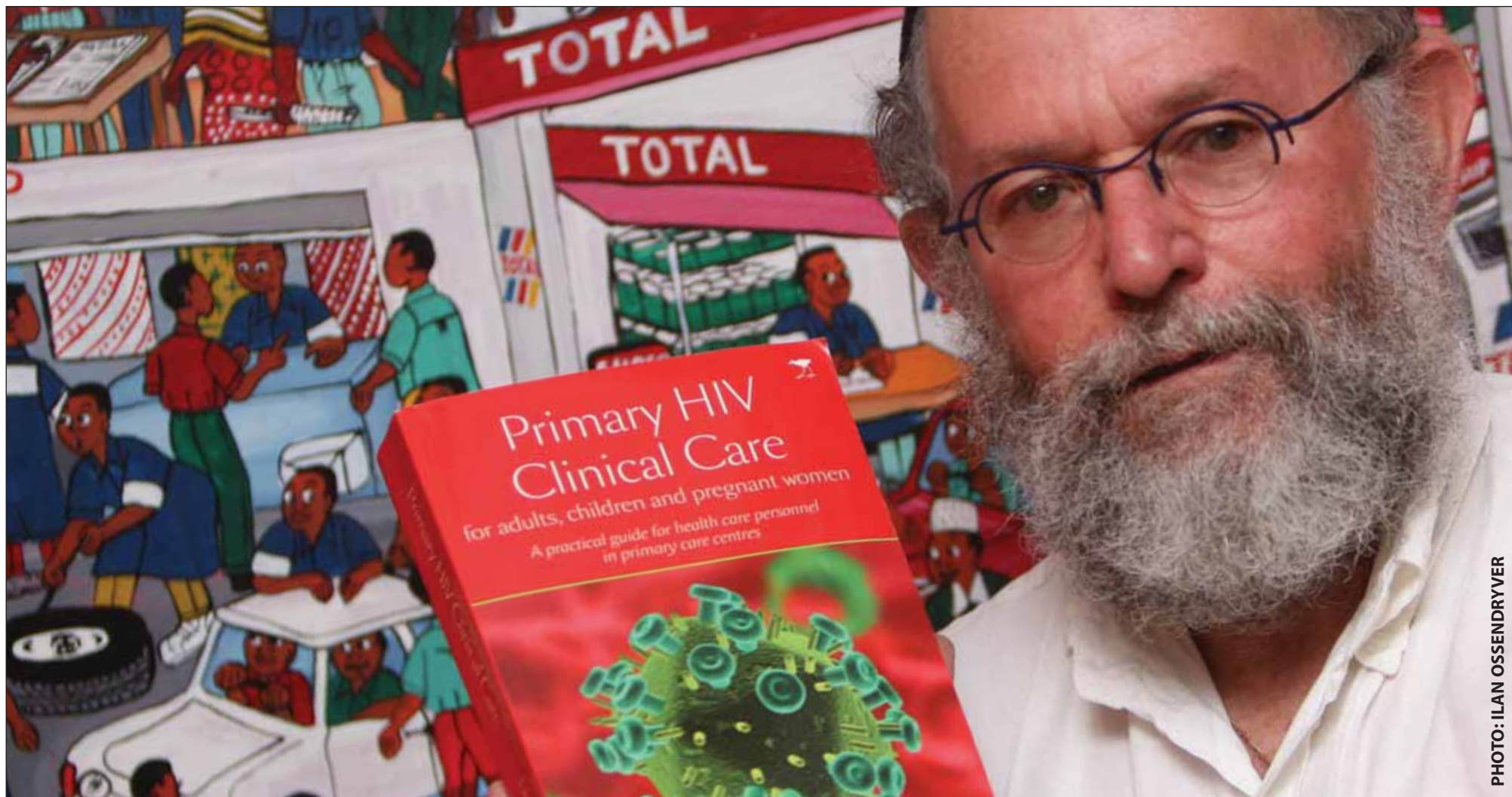


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### IN THE FOREFRONT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FIGHT AGAINST AIDS

Dr Clive Evian is a world expert on Aids and a tireless fighter against this pandemic which is wreaking havoc in South Africa. He is a pioneer in the surveillance, prevention and treatment of the disease. He is a true builder of a better South Africa. **SEE PAGE 11**

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April 8/4 Nissan

April 9/5 Nissan

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18:10	19:05	Cape Town
17:27	18:16	Durban
17:47	18:36	Bloemfontein
17:46	18:36	Port Elizabeth
17:38	18:28	East London

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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Birds of peace

WORDS CREATE reality. The Hebrew word for speech, dibur, is the same word for “thing”, davar. And so we read in this week’s Torah reading that one who slandered would be afflicted with a skin condition that would render him a metzorah.

Our Sages point out that “Metzorah” is composed of two words, “Motzi” “rah”, extracts evil. Because not only did the offender speak negatively about someone, he brought out the negativity from a world of potential into the world of reality. The dibur made it into a davar.

This is what made the Goldstone Report so upsetting. While our enemies kept slinging labels and accusations at us in the hope that something will stick, no-one had the temerity to formally conclude that Israel is pursuing a policy of murdering civilians. That is, until Richard Goldstone.

Historically, evil ideologies were named by their creators. The Nats named apartheid, Hitler named the Final Solution, and American “Slaveholders” approvingly spoke of the “Institution of Slavery”.

But while our enemies accuse Israel of criminal “policies”, they resort to historical evils such as Nazism or apartheid to name them. This is because they cannot find a name for them because there are no such policies.

The Goldstone Report concluded “without a doubt” that Israel had deliberately targeted civilians, that is that she pursued a policy of killing innocent people, just because they were Palestinian.

Except that the Commission couldn’t find a name for such a policy, or who had instituted it - let alone when, or why, it was instituted. It was precisely this departure from reality that succeeded in uniting almost every segment of Israeli society in condemning the Goldstone Report’s central conclusion as a complete falsehood, or worse a blood libel.

Indeed, words create reality. For this reason Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu labelled the Goldstone Report one of Israel’s top three strategic threats, and initiated a vigorous campaign to respond to these malicious “conclusions”.

It was also no surprise that many in the South African Jewish community distanced themselves from their former proud son. I was the associate rabbi of the Sandton Shul at the time of Justice Goldstone’s visit. While I strongly supported his right to attend shul, and the shul’s responsibility to ensure the safety of all worshippers, I also chose to deny him any acknowledgement in that Friday night sermon - an approach that was overwhelmingly supported by the congregation.

“His residence shall be outside the camp,” decrees the Torah of the Metzorah. It is the natural consequence of one who divides others, that he himself becomes isolated.

PARSHAT METZORAH

Rabbi Dovid Wineberg

Green and Sea Point

Hebrew Congregation

And yet this week’s Torah reading begins with the words: “This shall be the process of purifying the Metzorah.”

There is a process of healing, of return, and perhaps Justice Goldstone’s astounding editorial in the Washington Post titled “Reconsidering the Goldstone Report on Israel and War Crimes”, is the beginning of that process.

In the opening paragraph, he asserts: “If I had known then what I know now, the Goldstone Report would have been a different document.”

In a complete about-face of the Report’s conclusions, he accepts “that civilians were not intentionally targeted as a matter of policy” by Israel.

Notwithstanding that Goldstone’s reversal is a case of too little too late, his editorial is important for a number of reasons:

1. A belated retraction is better than no retraction, and in fact helps Israel prepare for any further conflicts.

2. By referring to Hamas action as terrorism, he clarifies the playing field.

3. By clearly affirming Israel’s right to self-defence and holding non-state actors to the same rules as nation states, he levels that field.

A Metzorah on the way to healing was required to bring two birds as an offering. The symbolism of (chirping) birds represents the Metzorah’s obligation to set the record straight and hopefully bring about reconciliation.

While the Goldstone Report will in all likelihood continue to cause harm to Israel, and that is a “regret” that its author has to live with each day, Justice Richard Goldstone has the opportunity now of healing through an ongoing process of reconsideration.

By taking this message to where people are chirping - on the airwaves of Al-Jazeera and CNN, in Geneva at the Human Rights Council and the UN in New York - and at countless universities around the world, Richard Goldstone can preach Israel’s fundamentally just cause in a way that few others can.

Let us all learn the lesson of the awesome power of words and the damage they could cause. Let us be willing to reconsider a sour relationship and take active steps - the “bird offering” - to improve it.

It’s no coincidence that the Hebrew word for bird – tzippor - has the numerical equivalent (gematria) of the Hebrew word for peace, Shalom.

Shabbat Shalom!

Owen Griffith;

Ann Harris;

and Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft.

New cemetery plaques

DAVID SAKS

PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

A SOMBRE past and hopeful new present, came together in Mauritius last month as the island’s youthful Jewish community joined with international guests for remembrance and commemoration; and celebration of the continuance of Jewish life in the here and now.

Seventy years ago, some 1 670 Jewish refugees from Nazi-held Europe were interned on Mauritius by the British colonial authorities after they had been refused permission to remain in Palestine.

During the next five years, 127 of them died and were buried in a section of the St Martin’s cemetery on the island. The cemetery was later handed over by Deed of Grant to the SAJBD, which has overseen its maintenance ever since.

Three new plaques were unveiled at the cemetery. The first was in memory of the late Dr Aaron Zwergbaum, a prominent leader of the Mauritius detainees, who was the liaison between the detainees and the Zionist organisations in Israel and in later years continued to be very active on their behalf.

The second was unveiled by Ann Harris, and paid tribute to her late husband, Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris

The third plaque bore the wording, in Hebrew and English, of the traditional benediction recited by those who have not visited the cemetery for 30 days and more. It was dedicated by Mauritian-born Geff Clency Geffroy, who discovered late in life that he was Jewish by birth (although he had already “converted” prior to that) and has since become one of the local Jewish community’s most active supporters.

Dates for Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut

THE SA Zionist Federation, in a statement, explained the dates set for Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut.

It said “the original published dates of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut... were set at the request of the Beth Din according to certain considerations, but have been amended with agreement from the Beth Din and the Chief Rabbi, to comply with the alternative dates set by Israel.

“Yom Hazikaron will be commemorated on Sunday night May 8 and Yom Ha’atzmaut on Monday night May 9 and Tuesday May 10.”

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The Beth Din also announced that Beacon Fizzers - apple and naartjie flavours, are kosher parev.

Other kosher Fizzers flavours are Blue Buzz, Cola Float, Cream Soda, Grape, Orange Float, and Strawberry.

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# Pressure on Goldstone to help void his flawed Report

**MOIRA SCHNEIDER**  
**CAPE TOWN**

AN OPINION piece authored by Mr Justice Richard Goldstone in The Washington Post last Friday, has cast the media spotlight once again on what has become known as the Goldstone Report, the result of a United Nations Human Rights Council fact-finding mission into the Gaza war of 2008/’09 chaired by the former South African jurist.

The SA Jewish Report managed to speak to Justice Goldstone, but he would not go any further than his comments in the Washington Post last week Friday.

There now is strong pressure on him to take steps to void the flawed Report, but on Monday he indicated that he would not do so. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other senior Israeli politicians, have demanded that the UN rescind the Report. In South Africa, Avrom Krengel, chairman of the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), has also echoed the demand that Goldstone should now go further than this “retraction” by “repudiating” the Report in its entirety.

Justice Goldstone writes, inter alia, that further investigation has shown that Gazan civilians were not intentionally targeted as a matter of Israeli policy, contrary to the Report's findings in a situation where the mission had "no evidence on which to draw any other reasonable conclusion".



**PHOTOGRAPH: UN**

But in the Washington Post op-ed he again took Israel to task for not wanting to co-operate with the fact-finding mission at the time.

The SAZF said it was “encouraged” and felt vindicated by the article. “The SAZF has always been of the opinion that the original Goldstone Report was biased and based on conjecture and speculation rather than on actual evidence.”

It goes on to say that the “falsehoods” in the original report had caused “incalculable and irreparable damage” to Israel’s reputation and that of its armed forces. “While Justice Goldstone’s statement may go some way to limiting the harm caused... the SAZF reiterates its call to him to repudiate the report in its entirety.”

In a further development, the Jerusalem Post online edition on Monday carried a story purport-

edly based on a telephone conversation between Deputy Israeli Prime Minister Eli Yishai and Justice Goldstone. It quotes Yishai as telling Israel Army Radio that the judge had promised to take additional steps to retract the UN report, something Justice Goldstone vigorously denies.

In a statement to Associated Press, the judge says that he was called on Monday by Yishai who informed him that he and the government of Israel were “appreciative” of the article that appeared in The Washington Post.

"I responded by thanking the deputy prime minister for his call and stated that my concern was to work for truth, justice and human rights. He then said that his government would like to invite me to visit Israel to see conditions there with my own eyes.

"I said that I would like to do so. I explained that my present commitments would not make that possible before July. I ended the conversation by expressing my love for Israel.

"The deputy prime minister spoke in Hebrew and that was interpreted for me. There was absolutely no discussion about the Goldstone Report in the call," Justice Goldstone stressed.

In a telephone interview with AP, Justice Goldstone, who is based at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, said that he did not plan to seek nullification of the Report, describing Yishai's claims to the contrary as "false".

## AROUND THE WORLD

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## ROSS: TURMOIL SHARPENS ISRAELI NEEDS FOR SECURITY GUARANTEES

WASHINGTON (JTA) - The recent Middle East turmoil has sharpened Israeli needs for tangible security guarantees in exchange for concessions to the Palestinians, Dennis Ross has said.

Ross, President Obama's top Middle East adviser, told the Anti-Defamation League's annual leadership conference in Washington on Monday that security guarantees sought by Israel toward a peace deal with the Palestinians were critical, "particularly during a time of change".

The Palestinians, in turn, “need to see that they can have an independent state that is viable and contiguous” as well as “signs the occupation is receding”.

Ross outlined the Obama administration's approach to the "Arab Spring", the push for democracy roiling the Middle East: Assist those governments ready to transition to democracy and oppose those that increase oppression in the face of protest, sometimes with military force, as with Libya.

Ross said that the unrest sweeping the region could result in democratic regimes structurally more likely to ensure peace with Israel - but could also prove a bonanza for Islamists hoping to exploit the turmoil.

He implied that progress on the Israeli-Palestinian front would help facilitate the former scenario. Democrats in the region "need to see that negotiations cannot only take place, they can

produce,” he said, and then he cited Israeli-Palestinian talks as an example.

Ross reiterated the Obama administration position opposing Palestinian attempts to obtain recognition of statehood before striking a deal with Israel.

"We have consistently made it clear that the way to produce a Palestinian state is through negotiations, not through unilateral declarations, not through going to the UN," he said.

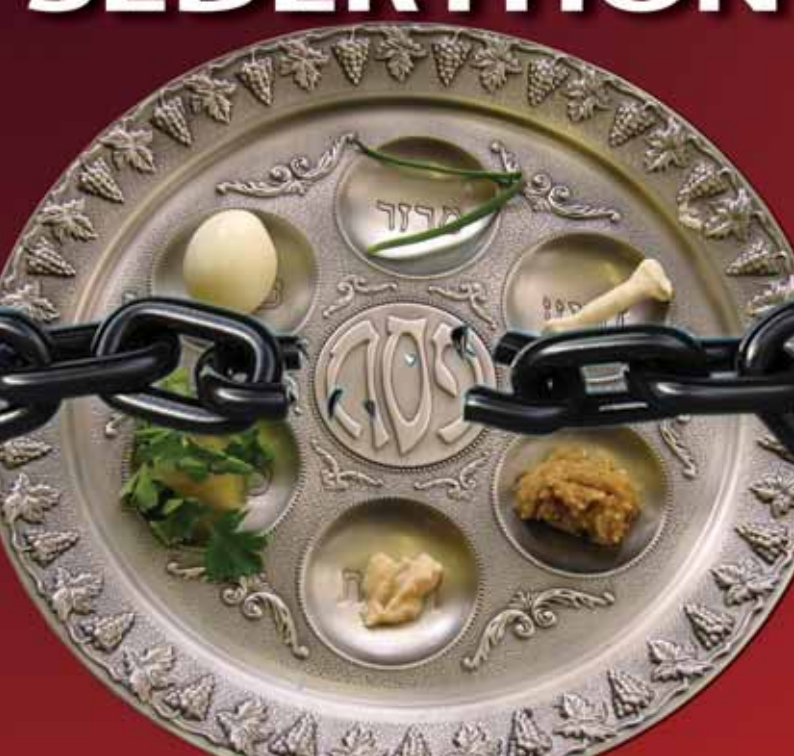
Ross said the US-Israel defence relationship was “better than ever”, with greater depth and substance than under previous administrations.

He quoted from remarks two weeks ago by Robert Gates during the US defence secretary's visit to Israel.

"I cannot recall a time during my public life when our two countries have had a closer defence relationship," Gates had said. "The US and Israel are co-operating closely in areas such as missile defence technology, the Joint Strike Fighter, and in training exercises such as Juniper Stallion – co-operation and support that ensures that Israel will continue to maintain its qualitative military edge."

Separately, Defence News reported on Monday that Israel and the United States are planning a "massive exercise" that would allow both countries to function as a wartime joint task force. (JTA)

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AROUND THE WORLD  
NEWS IN BRIEF

CARTER SAYS HE MET GROSS, PRESSED FOR HIS RELEASE

WASHINGTON - Former President Jimmy Carter on his visit to Cuba met with jailed American contractor Alan Gross and said he believed Gross was "innocent of any serious crime".

Carter met with Gross on March 30 at an undisclosed location, according to reports.

Carter had said a day earlier that he would discuss Gross' case with Cuban officials, but said that was not the reason for his visit.

"We have spoken to some officials about Mr Gross, but I am not here to take him out of the country," Carter said on Tuesday.

Gross, 61, was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison earlier this month for crimes against the state. Cuban authorities detained Gross in late 2009 on his way out of the country, saying he was a spy.

Carter met on Tuesday with President Raul Castro and other Cuban officials. Washington had encouraged Carter to lobby on behalf of Gross.

Carter, who is well known for his activism on behalf of human rights, was on a private visit to the island nation to discuss ways to improve US-Cuba relations, according to reports. On Monday he met with Cuban Jewish leaders and visited the Patronato Jewish Centre and Temple Beth Shalom.

Gross' family and State Department officials, say Gross was in the country on a US Agency for International Development contract to help the country's 1 500 Jews communicate with other Jewish communities using the Internet. The main Jewish groups in Cuba have denied any contact with, or knowledge of, Gross or the programme.

Gross is in ill health. His daughter has breast cancer and his mother was diagnosed recently with cancer, as well.

Cuba and the United States have not had diplomatic relations since the 1960s. The US has economic and financial sanctions in place against the island nation. (JTA)

UJ scampers to limit BGU fallout

ALISON GOLDBERG

THE FALLOUT continues from the University of Johannesburg's Senate vote to sever formal ties with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

South African Associates of Ben-Gurion University Executive Director Brenda Stern (pictured right), reports that worldwide condemnation of UJ is growing for the university's betrayal of academic freedom.

"Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME), which includes 41 Nobel Laureates, has issued a statement that has already been signed by 3 300 academics around the world calling for UJ to reverse its decision. It rejects UJ's boycott action, which it says undermines academic freedom and calls for academics to boycott UJ."

The US-based body has a membership of nearly 55 000 university and college professors, researchers, administrators, teachers, librarians and students on more than 3 500 campuses worldwide.

"Further, Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz, a SPME task force member signatory, is also leading an initiative to call on academics worldwide to isolate UJ," she adds.

Back home, UJ itself has redoubled its efforts to mitigate the fallout. From promising last week to allocate resources to research by BGU and UJ, it now says it will develop and sign legal contracts for it.

UJ deputy vice-chancellor for Research, Innovation and Advancement, Professor Adam Habib (pictured left), issued a statement to the SA Jewish Report this week in the absence of UJ's vice chancellor and principal, Professor Ihron Rensburg.

While denying UJ was taking any further steps, he said: "The senate resolution was clear as was UJ's vice-chancellor and principal, Professor Ihron Rensburg's statement. (This included a denial that UJ



was engaged in an academic boycott of Israel).

"This termination of the MOU will take effect on April 1, 2011. The decision was made because we believe the memorandum of understanding unnecessarily politicised our research engagements.

"The resolution and our subsequent statements have been categoric that academics and researchers are entitled to continue their research engagements with BGU and/or any other colleagues if they so desire. We view this as part of their academic freedom, a constitutional right that we actively support and defend.

"If this research requires a contract to legally define rights and responsibilities of all parties in the research engagement, then UJ's administration would develop and sign such a contract as per our delegation of authority."

But this is not the de jure relationship at issue. Stern says BGU's and SAABGU's position on UJ's decision is very clear. "The UJ administration allowed the boycotters and encouraged them through its actions to create the impression that they were acting with the sanction of the UJ administration.

"At no time prior to the decision being made in Senate did the administration distance itself from the call for an academic boycott. In fact it allowed them to use the UJ logo and name in all their material and correspondence.

"The boycotters themselves have stated that the so-called "UJ-BGU report" was commissioned by members of the UJ administration. Professor Alan Bond, from the University of California Berkeley, detailed in a public meeting hosted by UJ's Sociology and Anthropology Department on April 16, before the Senate vote, how Adam Habib had been personally involved in the BDS campaign that resulted in the

termination of the MOU.

"The UJ administration allowed this matter to become politicised and thereby undermined its own academic integrity in the process.

"As for the willingness of UJ now to allocate resources or draw up contracts for further research, BGU's official response is that UJ has failed to honour an existing contract on the grounds of political expediency.

"Any attempts to salvage that relationship are a smoke screen and are rejected entirely."

Stern reports that UJ Senate members present during the vote, have since contacted SAABGU citing serious concerns with the process including scrutiny of the ballots, the possible voting by Senate members who do not have voting rights, and the failure to table alternative resolutions as required by due process.

Part of SPME's mission statement, aside from striving for peace in the Middle East as its name implies, is for "a world in which Israel exists as a sovereign Jewish State within secure borders and for her neighbours to achieve their legitimate peaceful aspirations.

"Our mission is to inform, motivate and encourage faculty to use their academic skills and disciplines on campus, in classrooms, and in academic publications to develop effective responses to ideological distortions, including anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist, and anti-Muslim slanders, that poison debate and work against peace...

"In a time when faculty members sympathetic to, or merely suspected of being sympathetic to Israel may be subject to hostility and intimidation, we also serve as a network for mutual support.

"SPME welcomes scholars from all disciplines, faith groups and nationalities who share our desire for peace and our commitment to academic freedom, academic integrity, and honest debate."

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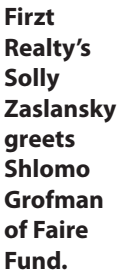


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**ALISON GOLDBERG**  
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“He was one of two economists in a Bloomberg survey of 10 to correctly forecast an increase in the key interest rate of 0,75 per cent in August 2010,” Bloomberg reported.

He is currently collaborating on a book condemning accusations of Israel as an apartheid state (expected on the shelves in 2012).



# YOM HA'ATZMAUT 63

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SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis [jont@global.co.za](mailto:jont@global.co.za)



Barry Braun and Ezra Sher thrill the audience with their musical talents and interaction.



Director of the Cape Jewish Seniors, Diana Sochen with Dinky, Barry and Lester Braun and Ezra Sher.



Sam and Reeva Chait wait for the concert to begin.



Claudine Braun with her husband Barry.

# Cantors Braun and Sher provide top entertainment

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

IF ANYONE wishes to employ a duo to fill up a hall of 250 people with many others willing to pay to sit on the stairs and all of them clapping and singing to a host of well-known songs, Jewish and otherwise, then Cantors Barry Braun and Ezra Sher are definitely the couple to use to entertain everyone.

Both men are popular chazzanim at their respective congregations. Cantor Braun has up to now been with the Milnerton Congregation in Cape Town and Cantor Sher with Pine Street Shul in Johannesburg.

With their warm personalities, unique rapport and well-established musical talents, this week's concert held at the SABC recording Hall on Sea Point's seafront was an absolute pleasure to attend, participate in and to come away with the satisfied feeling of an evening well spent.

The director of the Cape Jewish Seniors, Diana Sochen, to whom the proceeds of the evening were presented, said she was thrilled that the event had been so well attended and so well received.

She thanked the two singers as

well as everyone involved, for their efforts and said the money would go a long way in assisting the organisation to continue to provide added necessities for their members.

The programme was varied, encompassing "songs for all seasons", proving that the audience had been well read by the duo who sang some old time Jewish favourites like "Shehecheyanu", "Halleluca, la Olam", "Der Rebbe Eli Melech" and "Jerusalem of Gold" which were sung in Yiddish and Hebrew with the audience enjoying their participation in the chorus lines and of course clapping to the beat.

There was also a selection of Italian excerpts from the operas, as well as some old favourites like "O Solo Mio" and "Nessun Dorma". With their dark looks and suave manner, it was hard to believe that the two cantors were not Italian!

At the end of the concert, Marcia Raymond presented Dinky Braun with a bouquet of flowers for her dedication to the society and efforts and interest in creating such a successful event - words which were reiterated by her son Barry who thanked his mother for her constant "unconditional support in all his endeavours".



Dinky Braun with a bouquet of flowers from the Cape Jewish Seniors.



Zelda Rabkin and Ruth Goldman.



Accompanist of the event, Jo-Mari Thorne, who is also Barry Braun's musical coach.



Michael Cohen with Ivor Joffe and David Gordon, the chazzan and choirmaster of the Marais Road Shul in Sea Point.

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## COMMUNITY BUZZ

LIONEL SLIER

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

### VOLKSRUST

From Cyril Nathan, Melbourne. Australia.

“I was surfing the web and came across your Volksrust message about the Lazarus and Fine families. I came from the dorp and was born there in 1949 and also had my barmitzvah in the Volksrust Shul. “In fact, I went to school with Sam Lazarus’ sons and with Mosey Fine’s daughter and still keep in contact with them. I remember the Stocks, Zulmans, Rafels, Sedelskys, the sweet factory, Abe Levine who owned the bakery and his son Eli, who as you mentioned, was involved in the Gold Coin Exchange.

“I’m not sure if you knew the Brasch family (Doris the opera singer) and her late brother Jeff who also lived in Melbourne. So, when we got together we spoke a lot about the old Volksrust Jewish community as well as other people that lived in and around the dorp.

“My parents were Jack and Betty Nathan who owned the Volksrust Hotel, which they bought from the family who also owned the Charles-town Hotel. I’m not sure if you knew my family.

“I now live in Melbourne and have been here for 16 years, after having lived in Durban, Empan-geni, Pietermaritzburg and Johan-nesburg.”

nathan@dcinternational.com.au

### JOHANNESBURG

Arcadia Memories: By Michael Perry Kotzen, an octogenarian actor living in Sydney:

“The Jewish-owned shop in Presi-dent Street, "Carnival Novelty", sold indoor games and toys and sports goods. The wife of one of the owners, I cannot remember her name, was a member of the Jewish Orphanage house committee, Her name could be Mrs Levy or Mossmorris; per-haps Mannie or Freda or Alec or Bertha can recall the name.

“Anyway, I remember one Purim that lady brought a box full of 'shop soiled' toys to the Arc. Clippie and Markie and Tommy and I helped to carry the boxes from her car to the shul. As the children went into shul for the Purim service, we were each given a toy by the good lady and Matron Sher; dolls and balls only slightly damaged or slightly soiled, wooden tools and utensils, paper kites and cardboard dollhouses, mechano sets and rattles and teething rings and jigsaw puzzles.

“There were many “gragers”. A grager was a wooden stick attached

to a toothed wooden wheel. It could make a loud rattling noise. During the Purim service we rattled the gragers whenever Haman the Wicked was mentioned in the read-ing of the Book of Esther. The chil-dren would go into impassioned grager twirling and rattling.

“Carnival Novelty was still in Johannesburg in 1978 when I left South Africa and went on aliyah. I wonder if it is still there in Plein Street or Jeppe Street or President Street. Perhaps Bertha or Minnie or Alice Adler or Barney or Selwyn or Claire Rush or Effie or Alec and Benny could enlighten us.”

From David Sandler of Perth who sends out a weekly newsletter around the world about former-child-ren from Orangia Children’s Home in Cape Town and Arcadia in Johannesburg.

### BLOEMFONTEIN

From Leah Chabas United Hebrew Institutions of Bloemfontein:

“The Bloemfontein community was privileged to host Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, country communities rabbi, and Mike Kushner at a Shabbaton this past Shabbos.

“Kushner conducted the Friday evening service assisted by Yaron Perelmu, a local congregant. Rabbi Silberhaft’s drosha relating to the parsha of the week, was most informative.

“The Saturday morning service was conducted by Kushner, followed by a brocha in the communal hall.

“The weekend concluded with Rabbi Silberhaft officiating at the unveiling of the tombstones in memory of the late David Baumann, a stalwart of the Bloemfontein com-munity and Peter Weil, a dedicated member of our community.”

### BULAWAYO

Shulamit Kagan continues:

“I think this is a good place to describe the whole (then) Jewish community of Bulawayo. Admit-tedly a great many members did not observe kashrut or Shabbat.

“On the other hand, there was a kosher butchery, a Hebrew nursery school - into which you had to regis-ter your child when you were expecting him/her - a Hebrew day school and a cheder.

“There were three youth move-ments and a number of charity organisations - the Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society, the Jewish Communal League and the Union of Jewish Women, to mention a few.

“The Chevrah Kadisha (which is just as wonderful as ours here in South Africa) did their sacred work for the dead and living with great efficiency and no fanfare.

“Yom Hashoah and Yom Hazikaron were commemorated and Yom Hamatzmaut were cele-

brated by the entire community.”  
To be continued.

### POTCHESTROOM

This town is in the old Western Transvaal, now the North-West Province. It was named after the Boer leader Andries Potgieter. The “chef” part is from the fact that he was the leader and “stroom” from the nearby Mooi River. It was estab-lished in 1838 and was, in fact, the first municipality in the Transvaal.

### THE ORELOWITZ FAMILY

By Fay Oppenheim (Canada), sent in by her mother, Bertha Orelowitz of Johannesburg:

“Many years have percolated by since I left my childhood home and with each passing decade I have learnt to appreciate the secure and steady background that was my springboard to move into the broad-er world and to change continents.

“I had a slightly unusual parental background compared to some of my peers. My father, Joe Orelowitz, was one of the last Lithuanian immi-grants to succeed in coming to South Africa, which was in 1927. He did not marry until he was well into his mid-dle age and when he did marry, it was to a much younger South African-born Jewish woman, Ber-tha, from Johannesburg.

“By the time of their marriage my father, having missed service in the Allied Forces, had established a busi-ness in rural South Africa. He sold daily provisions and building sup-plies, whatever the farming and fish-ing communities were looking for.

“His building was not supplied with electricity and so provisions had to be carted out on the day they were needed, such as beef.”

To be continued.

### JOHANNESBURG

J J J Juta came from Holland. He sold goods of all kinds and while he did not associate himself with the Jewish community, he maintained good rela-tions with his wife’s Jewish family, whose family name, Marx, was in fact Mordechai.

Juta founded the oldest book-selling and publishing house in this country and was the father of a lead-ing lawyer, Sir Henry Juta. The firm is still prominent today as publish-ers of legal and other textbooks.

• It is believed that Juta’s wife was related to Karl Marx, the founder of Marxism, but no independent proof could be found to authenticate this.

From The Herald Times. October 1989.

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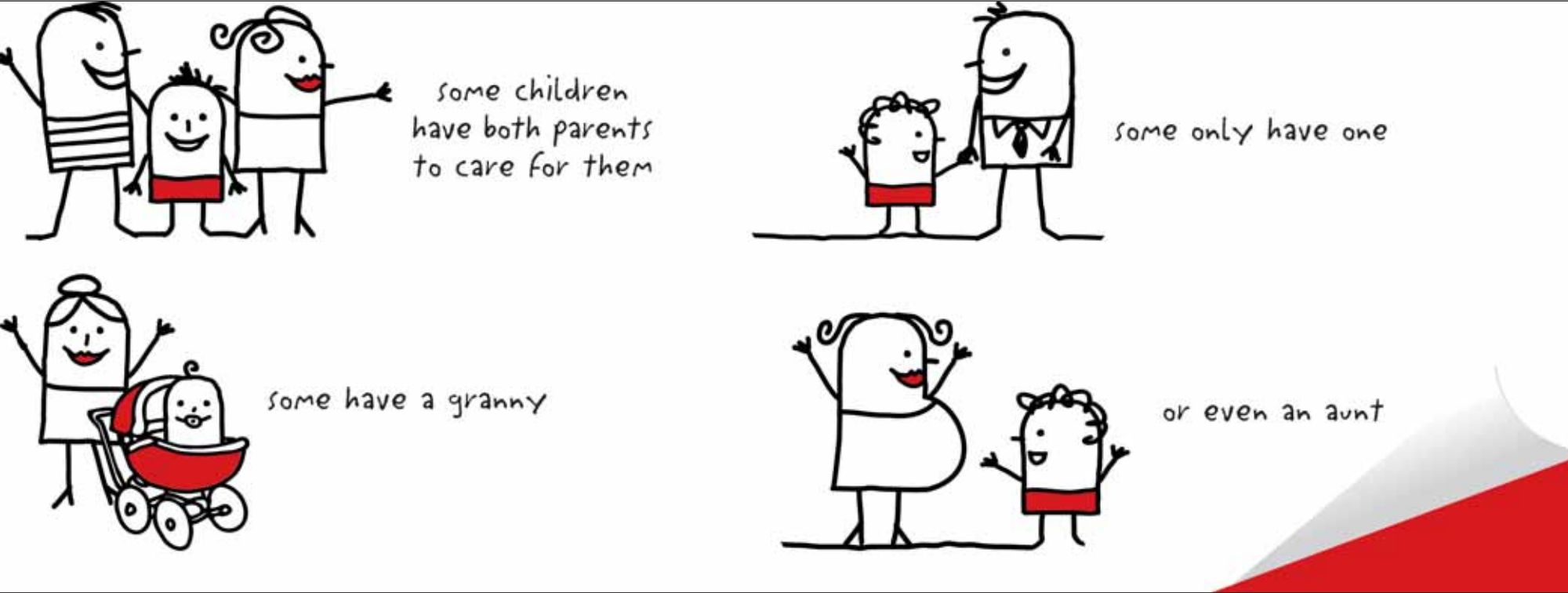


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## A day of fools

IT WAS on April Fool’s Day - April 1, 2011 - that Richard Goldstone’s op-ed appeared in the Washington Post, retracting the accusation his notorious report had made against Israel, of war crimes in operation Cast Lead in Gaza – specifically, the intentional targeting of civilians.

His Washington Post article was so surprising that some must have asked why a serious paper like the Washington Post would do something so outrageous as to publish such a contrived piece.

Did his retraction come from professional integrity - an authentic desire to be true to his calling as a jurist, even when that involved admitting serious error? Or did he buckle under pressure from an outraged Jewish world where ordinary, decent people who would normally not dream of doing such a thing, even threatened to make his attendance at his grandson’s barmitzvah in South Africa so unpleasant with protests, that he initially decided not to come?

After the damage Goldstone’s report did to Israel, the Jewish world now grapples with how to relate to him. Some columnists in Israeli papers say his retraction is too little, too late. Others say his retraction should be acknowledged as a difficult step and he should be welcomed back into the fold.

He was a bright star of South African Jewry, evoking pride as he strode the international stage performing complex tasks for the UN and others, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Like the pride Jan Smuts once evoked in Afrikaners.

But his report brought him plummeting down from those heights to huge criticism among his own people - including SA Jewry - from which angry personal attacks on him provoked high-profile jurists such as former Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson and George Bizos to defend him in a widely published article.

Advocate Gilbert Marcus was also quoted in an article in the Jewish Report last October, saying the community owed Goldstone an apology for their attacks on his integrity. His loneliness over the past year-and-a-half must have been excruciating, including the knowledge that the pain his family was going through resulted from his own actions. When asked once whether he would do the same again, he said only if he didn’t have a wife and family.

Many people have asked how such a clever man - and a long-time supporter of Israel, at that - could have been so naïve as to accept this no-win job in the first place (one angry op-ed in a major Israeli paper called him a “useful idiot” for anti-Israel forces).

People wonder how he could have been so blinded to the devious forces behind the commission. Some people said he aimed at becoming secretary-general of the UN. Whatever the truth, this saga has put paid to his career in the UN and other places. He is now seen as a flawed personality, prone to make wrong judgements.

How will history judge him? Will it cruelly locate him in a one-liner in history books as “the author of a deeply flawed UN report”? Or will Goldstone be viewed as a courageous, principled man who, realising his professional mistake of signing onto such an inept report, was willing to declare the error before the world and take the consequences?

Has he taught a lesson in humility to a society where, for most people, pride and stubbornness foreclose any possibility of admitting error?

His report was no April Fool’s joke. It caused gigantic harm to Israel’s world image, from which that country will probably never completely recover. It provided vast propaganda ammunition to its enemies. Some people have proposed that Israel sue him and the UN for libel.

For now, Israel and the Jewish world should seize the opportunity his retraction presents and work with him to clear Israel’s name, where possible. A start would be for him to use his legal skills to try to get the report annulled by the UN, in the same way its General Assembly resolution of 1975 equating Zionism with racism was eventually annulled in 1991.

## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# This may be end of Goldstone’s international career

I’M SURE I’m not the only one currently wrestling with the implications of Richard Goldstone’s effective repudiation of the UN Report on the 2008-’09 Gaza conflict that bears his name.

For Goldstone watchers, his about-face will have come as less of a surprise, since for some time now, he has been progressively distancing himself from the whole process in his public pronouncements.

Even when issuing the Report, in fact, he was already qualifying its implications, stressing that it was the product of a fact-finding mission and not a judicial investigation, and he would be happy to revise his views should additional information come to the fore.

Well, notwithstanding Israel’s principled refusal to participate in a process so overtly loaded against it from the start, additional information has indeed since “come to the fore”, primarily through Israel itself carrying out thorough investigations into allegations of misconduct by the IDF during Operation Cast Lead.

Based on this, Goldstone has revised his Report’s damning central charge that Israel targeted civilians as a matter of strategy. That conclusion, he insists, was based on what evidence was available at the time. He laments the fact that Israel did not use the opportunity to present its case, the result of which it was effectively adjudged “guilty in absentia”.

Goldstone’s critics will have much to say on that, of course. Why was the testimony of Palestinian “witnesses” so uncritically accepted, for example? Moreover, why were the Report’s find-



BARBARIC  
YAWP  
David Saks

ings limited only to what was formally presented to them? An effort could surely have been made to consult the official Israeli documentation, which was readily available.

It must also be remembered that a considerable part of the Report was devoted to an exhaustive listing of real or alleged human rights violation by Israel, without this being remotely balanced by a critique of Hamas’ vision and strategies of indiscriminate violence.

Goldstone himself is unlikely to have compiled this section himself; that will have been done for him by anti-Israel NGOs like Human Rights Watch, possibly assisted by such overtly biased fellow commissioners like Christine Chinkin - but in signing off the final product, he basically endorsed it.

All that and more is valid, but for the time being at least, it can be allowed to fade into the background. The important thing is that Goldstone has revised his conclusions in light of credible new evidence, as indeed he undertook to do if necessary, even at the time when the Report was issued.

This cannot have been easy to do; he will be accused of being vacillating and indecisive by some, of weakly caving in to Zionist pressure by others. Probably, it spells the end of his illustrious career on the international human rights stage.

Nor is he ever likely to regain the esteem of world Jewry which he once enjoyed, notwithstanding his recantation. The price he is paying and will still pay needs to be factored in when assessing whether, as was widely believed at the time, his acceptance of the UN brief was motivated at bottom by self-aggrandizement.

Why did he do it? According to Gerald Steinberg, president of NGO Monitor, Goldstone “was misled by an orchestrated campaign led by powerful NGOs”, whose supposed evidence was aimed at furthering their political war against Israel. The Anti-Defamation

League’s Abraham Foxman likewise saw the saga in part as being one of “how a renowned jurist and member of the Jewish community allowed himself to be used by enemies of the Jewish state.”

Others are frankly puzzled, both by Goldstone’s acceptance of the poisoned chalice in the first place and now by his unexpected about-face. Whatever the answers are, I would very much like to see our own Jewish community at least making some kind of meaningful gesture of acknowledgment. The criticism of him from within our own ranks was very harsh, necessarily so perhaps, but sometimes it became overly bitter and all too often it sometimes degenerated into wounding personal attacks. I’m not drawing any moral equivalence here, but perhaps a little reciprocal soul searching might be in order.

Overall, the dominant feeling should be one of relief. The Goldstone Report represented a significant step forward for those seeking to criminalise Israel for exercising its legitimate right to self-defense. Locally, we saw it being regularly invoked by anti-Israel radicals, whether in pressing for an arrest warrant to be issued against Tzipi Livni, in agitating successfully for the University of Johannesburg to break its ties with Ben Gurion University, on university campuses and on innumerable occasions in the media. Now, at a stroke, it has been rendered all but useless as a propaganda weapon and we are unlikely to hear much more about it again.

Goldstone’s retraction has also drawn attention in quite a dramatic way to the UN’s institutionalized anti-Israel bias, as well as how Israel’s thoroughness in investigating all accusations against its military contrasted with the obdurate refusal of Hamas to do likewise. For once, it is Israel’s enemies that find themselves unexpectedly thrust onto the back foot. For two years they have been able to get away with the libellous charge that Israelis deliberately kill civilians, but now the very instrument they used to give quasi-legal credence to this has ended up demonstrating quite the opposite. For that, it is not inconceivable that one day, we might end up not merely forgiving Richard Goldstone, but actually thanking him.



Mr Justice Richard Goldstone (UN PHOTO / JEAN-MARC FERRE)



It’s not clear how Richard Goldstone’s “reconsideration” of his Gaza war report will impact on the investigations of Israeli actions during the war, such as the Israeli missiles on Palestinian targets in Gaza seen here, on December 27, 2008. (PHOTOGRAPH: EDI ISRAEL/FLASH90/JTA)



OPINION AND ANALYSIS – FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# Israel launches drive to void Goldstone Report

RON KAMPEAS AND MARCY OSTER  
WASHINGTON

PRIME MINISTER Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would launch an international campaign to cancel the Goldstone Report after its author, former-South African Justice Richard Goldstone, wrote in an op-ed in the Washington Post, that Israel did not intentionally target civilians as a policy during the Gaza War, withdrawing a critical allegation in the report.

Netanyahu said he had asked his security adviser, Ya'akov Amidror, to establish a committee focused on "minimising the damage caused" by the report.

"There are very few instances in which those who disseminate libels retract their libel. This happened in the case of the Goldstone Report," Netanyahu said on Sunday at the start of the weekly Cabinet meeting.

"Goldstone himself said that all of the things that we have been saying all along are correct - that Israel never intentionally fired at civilians and that our inquiries operated according to the highest international standards.

"Of course, this is in complete contrast to Hamas, which intentionally attacked and murdered civilians and, naturally, never carried out any sort of inquiry. This leads us to call for the immediate cancellation of the Goldstone Report."

Goldstone wrote in last week Saturday's Washington Post: "We know a lot more today about what happened in the Gaza War of 2008 - '09 than we did when I chaired the fact-finding mission appointed by the UN Human Rights Council that produced what has come to be known as the Goldstone Report. If I had known then what I know now, the Goldstone Report would have been a different document."

Goldstone withdrew what perhaps was his most damaging conclusion: That there was evidence suggesting Israel had deliberately targeted civilians during its war with Hamas.

Referring to a UN committee's recent independent assessment of his report, Goldstone wrote in his op-ed: "While the investigations published by the Israeli military and recognised in the UN committee's report have established the validity of some incidents that we investigated in cases involving individual soldiers, they also indicate that civilians were not intentionally targeted as a matter of policy."

Goldstone said he might have drawn different conclusions had Israel co-operated with his inquiry; Israel refused to do so, seeing the UN Human Rights Council as irredeemably biased.

He also said that it "goes without saying" that Hamas intentionally targeted civilians and noted that unlike Israel, the

group did not investigate its own actions.

Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said on Saturday that Goldstone's "retreat does not change the fact war crimes had been committed against 1,5 million people in Gaza". Abu Zuhri said that Hamas co-operated with the Goldstone commission.

Senior Fatah Central Committee member Nabil Shaath said on Sunday that Goldstone retracted his committee's report due to pressure.

Netanyahu on Saturday night called on the United Nations to "cancel" the report in light of Goldstone's article, although he did not make clear what this would involve.

The American Jewish Committee said Goldstone should ask the United Nations to "revise and update" the report.

Representative Ted Deutch (Democrat Florida), a member of the US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, called on the UN Human Rights Council to "retract" the report, which it had adopted.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said in a statement: "What is so distressing is the fact that Goldstone rushed to judgment in the first instance as to Israel's alleged intention to target civilians without any convincing evidence."

He added that Goldstone's "specious conclusion caused Israel untold damage in the international community and played a key role in fostering the campaigns of delegitimisation of Israel".

Foxman called Goldstone's renunciation of his own report "a story of the continuing bias of the United Nations against Israel, a story of the unwillingness of the international community to take seriously the extremism and violence of Hamas, and a story of how a renowned jurist and member of the Jewish community allowed himself to be used by enemies of the Jewish state".

Gerald Steinberg, president of NGO Monitor, said Goldstone "was misled by an orchestrated campaign led by powerful NGOs" and that the so-called "evidence" provided by these groups was at the core of the political war against Israel. Goldstone had been taken in by crude manipulation."

World Jewish Congress Chairman Evelyn Sommer, called on the United Nations to recognise Goldstone's retraction and "to revise the report issued by the UN that did immeasurable harm and damage to the State of Israel.

"It is high time that the United Nations, which gives much lip service to the concept of reform of the world body, re-evaluate its methods of reporting and documentation of investigations such as that of Israel's Operation in Gaza of 2009," she said. (JTA)

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OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# Criticism of Israel doesn't make one an enemy

DEBATE AND contrary viewpoints are central to our tradition. It is said that when a Sanhedrin unanimously decided to impose the death penalty, the punishment would not be carried out for want of a contrary opinion.

In other words, a split of 36:34 would suffice for capital punishment but not unanimity. The absence of the contrary position raised serious doubts about whether the decision was correct in that a proper debate had not taken place.

It seems that this principle has far less weight in some of the contemporary Jewish world. Take the example of UIJA leader, Michael Davis who suggested that if current Israeli policy continued and hence Israel continued with the occupation of the West Bank, the possibility existed that, due to constraints of demography, Israel could become an apartheid state.

The point of the comment was that, absent a proper settlement, Israel would govern over a population in which Palestinians exceeded Israelis or, at the very least, Palestinians on the West Bank would have no real vote.

It is a point that even Ehud Olmert made when he was prime minister, but it did not save Mr Davis from, in effect, being classified as an enemy of the Jewish



THE JURY IS OUT  
Dennis Davis

people. In short, criticism of a transient government's policy from a distinguished Jew who is fully committed to Israel as a sovereign state which is central and critical to Jewish life, was equated with treason!

This kind of behaviour represents a denial of the tradition of debate and the right to hold contrary viewpoints. Needless to say, it is permissible and justifiable to disagree with the position adopted by Mr Davis, to contend that he was ill advised to make these remarks, but to classify him as the enemy is a long bridge too far.

That leads to the question: What are key differences between those who argue that no criticism of an Israeli government is permissible, given the fact that Israel is so often singled out with egregious unfairness (for the record, an observation with which I fully agree) and those, also committed to the Zionist dream, but who consider that present Israeli policy is manifestly incongruent with that

dream and hence certain forms of criticism and debate are justified.

Both sides agree that Israel is central to Jewish life that Israel is, must, and will continue to be a sovereign democratic state. Both sides agree that countries like Iran pose an existential threat to Israel and that much of the criticism to which Israel is subjected, is powered by anti-Semitism, selective morality and occasionally ignorance.

Both sides appear to be united in their opposition to an academic boycott of Israel, of the kind presently taking hold at the University of Johannesburg. Such a boycott is a luminous example of selective politics which conveniently forgets that contact with truly repressive countries like Zimbabwe, Iran or China is "fine" but not with Israel which boasts a vibrant academic community of different opinions!

Both sides object to the selective morality which is exemplified by the stunning silence of those who denounce Israel, but say nothing about the atrocities which engulfed the Fogel family.

So, where are the differences? Those who denounce the critics either suggest that in this climate it is manifestly irresponsible to voice public opposition to Israeli policy or go further and argue that Israel is in the right,

Palestinians are at fault, there is nothing wrong with current Israeli policy, or further that the West Bank belongs to us.

Take your pick from the menu. Those like myself who sometimes also err on the side of denunciation rather than reasoned debate (no-one is innocent here) consider that the occupation of the West Bank is a massive mistake, that it jeopardises the attainment of the Israel that is an "or la goyim".

They believe it is politically unsustainable, at the very least, in the medium term to continue with the present policy, in that it places Israel in jeopardy because without a viable state, Palestinians can only turn to increased resistance and Israel become more politically isolated.

The argument is often raised - most of us agree that a two-state solution is the indicated route, but there is no partner for peace, hence do not criticise.

Two responses, at the very least, can be offered. In the first place, like motherhood and apple pie, few serious participants in this debate would deny some form of a two-state solution. The key debate is what two states and further that no settlement can be unilaterally imposed by Israel.

Secondly, there is evidence that Israel was offered a real "deal" in late 2008. Bernard

Avishai (NewYork Times magazine February 13, 2011) reveals that Mahmoud Abbas offered then Prime Minister Olmert a deal that accommodated certain of the West Bank settlements into Israel.

It also included agreement on Jerusalem where it appeared that, save for a holy basin of sites to be ruled jointly, the city would remain under Israel and an acceptance that there would be no right of Palestinian return, save for some 5 000 Palestinians.

Olmert lost office and no agreement was achieved, but the nature of this proposal raises questions as to why the present Israeli government has refused to pursue this offer. In short Avishai's uncontested evidence explodes the myth that it is always the Palestinians who refuse peace.

In summary, it must be possible to debate these questions without it being suggested that the critics I have described are enemies of the Jewish people. We have enough real enemies.

If we could be faithful to our tradition of dissent, we may continue to build community of all who are committed to Israel rather than denouncing those who share more than that about which they disagree. How about some farsighted leadership in our community?

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# Aids trailblazer had to overcome huge odds

**ALISON GOLDBERG**  
**PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER**

COMMUNITY health specialist Dr Clive Evian (pictured), has been at the forefront of the fight against HIV/Aids in Africa since 1989 - a pioneer in the surveillance, prevention and treatment of the disease.

He was one of the architects of the HIV/Aids Plan adopted by the new South African government in 1994 by then Minister of Health Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. Again in 2000 Evian was commissioned by the government to provide them with some guidelines.

His company, Aids Management and Support, founded in 1997, has consulted over 300 corporations and parastatals in 12 African countries. He is also an associate of Public Health Medicine of South Africa.

Evian is a prolific writer whose widely used reference book on Primary HIV Clinical Care for Adults, Children and Pregnant Women; A Practical Guide for Healthcare Personnel in Primary Care Centres, was first published in 1993.

It is now in its fifth edition, having sold over 75 000 copies. Evian also co-published a series on HIV/Aids for secondary schools, as well as a 13 part series on primary clinical care for doctors, nurses, students, etc.

The HIV epidemic, which started in 1989, today affects one in five South Africans. Worldwide there are 35 million cases of HIV infection, 25 million of them in Africa, with the bulk in sub-Saharan Africa.

While Botswana has the highest rate of prevalence in the subcontinent, its numbers are not as great as South Africa's 5 to 6 million.

In 1989 when Evian was working for the Johannesburg City Health Department, he was asked to address the epidemic for the city.

"There were only three other doctors in Johannesburg who had begun working with HIV - all of them Jewish - Ruben Sher, Steve Miller and Dennis Sifris", says Evian.

Evian had just spent eight years working in a rural hospital in the Mala district next to the Kruger National Park in Gazankulu - an outreach programme of the Wits Department of Community Health. He graduated from Wits in 1976.

During his time in the bush he completed a diploma in Child Health and a Higher Diploma in Adult Education.

Somewhat earlier, in 1981, he produced primary care manuals for nurses in under-resourced areas. The Mala district, with a population of 180 000, had only one hospital and 10 clinics, served by a total of only four to six doctors. The bulk of the community's medical care devolved to nurses.

In 1991, two years after returning to Johannesburg to complete his specialisation and for personal reasons, Evian gained his masters in medicine in Community Health.

His job at the Johannesburg City Health Department entailed informing and educating himself about HIV/Aids and setting up a

department doing awareness education, training, counselling, testing and advocacy.

At this time Evian also started working as a volunteer doctor at the HIV Clinic in the (then) Johannesburg General Hospital.

"It was a struggle to get the hospital to take the epidemic seriously. This went on for 10 years (1989 - '99). Those were the bad old days when we tried - often in vain - to get the hospital and organisations to start addressing HIV.

"We were working against huge opposition and terrible attitudes. People thought it was a disease exclusive to gays, drug users or sex workers.

"For me as a doctor, it was bizarre, A clinic we set up in Hillbrow, was refused permission to carry our Aids centre on its signboard because it felt patients would stop coming to the building. We then started a clinic elsewhere in Hillbrow, which became well known.

"But after six or seven years I couldn't afford to live on a municipal salary. This was in the mid-nineties. I then started working as a consultant to the private sector, designing programmes for companies and doing a lot of epidemiological work - tracking, monitoring and sizing up the epidemic in different locations.

"I also worked for international development and Aids agencies and public health authorities. Over the course of the next 10 years (1995 - 2005) I consulted hundreds of organisations.

"In 2000 I also set up Wild4Life at the request of a number of American philanthropists who were putting funds into conservation in Africa and wanted to start working with HIV in that (conservation) environment. I still work for them today and conservation has become a passion of mine."

Evian is a senior technical consultant responsible for quality assurance for Right to Care, an NGO founded in 2001, which is chiefly funded by grants from the US government. It assists governments in providing antiretroviral treatment and in setting up clinics.

In South Africa today it supports over 160 clinics and finances the treatment of over 100 000 HIV positive people.

"The AIDS field today is massive, consuming five per cent of the health budget (about R25 billion). Of the five to six million HIV positive individuals in the country, 1,2 million are receiving antiretroviral care."

Compared to how they started over 20 years ago, when HIV was a killer and those affected were discriminated against, with almost no government support, "today there are large organisations dealing with it and lots of donor and government money is available.

"In the Mbeki era with its dreadful Minister of Health Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, their attitude resulted in 350 000 unnecessary deaths. Now we have a great Minister of Health in Dr Aaron Motsoaledi who is totally supportive. We're in a much more enlightened era."

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Ansteys Building, Central  
Johannesburg: Urban Arts  
Platform presents “Picnic  
and Performance”, April 10,  
call Leigh: 072-124-4111.

Art One Sixty, Parkwood:  
“The Layers that Lie  
Beneath”, paintings and  
drawings by Bevelee Michel  
will be opened by Gordon  
Froud on April 10, (011) 447-  
4967.

Artisan Contemporary  
Gallery, Durban:  
“Indigenice”, work by Carol  
Albertyn Christie, Leanne  
Frisinger and Fahmeedy  
Omar, April 13 - May 15,  
(031) 312-4364.

Foxwood House,  
Houghton: “Slap Koejawel”,  
with Vanessa Cooke and  
Annelisa Weiland, directed  
by Robert Whitehead, opens  
April 10, with shows on  
Sundays only, until May 1,  
(011) 486-0935.

Fugard Theatre, District  
Six: “Broken Glass”, by  
Arthur Miller, until April 16,  
(021) 461-4554.

Goodman Gallery, Cape  
Town: “Between Darkness  
and Light”, by Jodi Bieber,  
until April 30, (021) 462-7573.

Goodman Gallery,  
Rosebank, Johannesburg:  
“Till Death Do Us Part”, by  
Frances Goodman, until  
May 7, (011) 788-1113.

iArt Gallery, Cape Town:  
“The Swimmers”, by Carla  
Liesching, until April 27,  
(021) 424-5150.

Joburg Theatre,  
Braamfontein: In the  
Nelson Mandela,  
Mummenschanz, the Swiss  
team of mime artists per-  
forms, April 12 - 17. In the  
Fringe, “African Adventure”,  
April 15 - May 5, (011) 877-  
6800.

Market, Newtown: In the  
Barney Simon, Shakes-  
peare’s “Richard III”, direct-  
ed by Fred Abrahamse, until  
April 17. In the Main  
Theatre, Rajesh Gopie’s  
“Coolie Odyssey”, until  
May 8, (011) 832-1641.

Montecasino, Fourways: In  
the Pieter Toerien, “Perfect  
Wedding”, directed by Alan  
Swerdlow, opens April 12; in  
the Studio, “Love, Loss and  
What I Wore”, directed by  
Moira Blumenthal, opens  
April 8, (011) 511-1818. In  
Teatro, “Dreamgirls” until  
May 22, (011) 510-7472.

National Children’s  
Theatre, Parktown:  
“Pippi Longstocking”, until  
April 16, (011) 484-1584.

Old Mutual Theatre on  
the Square, Sandton:  
“Page by Page with Judy”  
ends April 9. Steven  
Berkoff’s “Decadence”,  
directed by Christopher  
Weare, opens April 12.  
Friday concerts feature a  
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van Wyk on April 8 and  
Adrian Ignat and the Vienna  
String Quartet on April 15,  
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Ching Yun Hu shows her  
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Programme: Music by Mozart, Schubert/Liszt,  
Ligeti, Scriabin, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov

REVIEWED BY PAUL BOEKKOOI

COMPOSURE IS an ingrained part of informed  
Classical performance practice, but it is not neces-  
sarily always applied in our time. Ching-Yun Hu,  
the young Taiwanese pianist who already has a  
wide following, opened her JMS programme last  
week with Mozart’s Sonata in D major, K 576.  
Although her playing as such was brilliant, one  
could nevertheless have welcomed a slightly more  
pliable, easy-going and acutely responsive  
approach towards every modulation. In the open-  
ing Allegro she focused strongly on mirroring  
right and left hand figurations. The Andante  
reflected Mozart’s cunning way of melodic inven-  
tion.  
Here she did make us aware of modulations in a  
warmly sculpted performance. In the finale,  
Allegretto, Ms Hu at one point lost the composer’s  
thread and had to acutely improvise to find it back  
again.  
In four Liszt transcriptions of Schubert songs -  
Aufenthalt, Auf dem Wasser zu Singen, Ständchen  
and Erlkönig - she combined the latter’s supreme

melodic gifts with the ravishing ear for piano  
sonority of the former. Her palette of tone colours  
could at times have been more restrained, like in  
Ständchen where her playing came close to a trav-  
esty of Schubert’s original, for which Liszt can  
partly be blamed.  
It’s a pity she changed her programme. She only  
performed Ligeti’s sixth etude, Automne á versov-  
vie, from his Book I. With her formidable tech-  
nique she took on the extreme challenges of this  
piece with phenomenal precision and élan.  
An etude by the bewildering genius, Scriabin,  
followed. Ms Hu drew out the piece’s limpidity and  
dramatic build-up, while also capturing the  
music’s particular kind of fiery, rhythmic ecstasy.  
Her playing of two chosen excerpts from  
Tchaikovsky’s 18 Pieces, Opus 72 - Méditation (No  
5) and Valse à cinq temps (no 16) - was marvellous-  
ly responsive and warm. There was sublime chem-  
istry in No 5, with melodies firmly projected, yet  
flexibly arched over the bar-lines, with a febrile  
central climax which stirred the senses. No 16  
sounded feisty with its (at times) unpredictable  
punctuated rhythms.  
Finally, we heard the truncated 1931-revision of  
Rachmaninov’s Sonata no 2 in B flat minor, Opus  
36. It was an illuminating interpretation. Youthful  
play of light and shade as well as an innate fluen-



Taiwanese pianist Ching-Yun Hu (PHOTOGRAPH  
BY HANSHUN WANG/MUZIK, COURTESY WWW.CON-  
CERTARTISTS.ORG)

cy and grace was capped by blossoming fullness  
and individuality.  
Very atmospheric were the many meditative  
passages, while the Non allegro’s opening was  
like a mesmerising dream. In the finale she had  
the power to link the intrinsic dramatic sub-text  
with the agitated flamboyance that dominates  
these magisterial final pages of this sonata salut-  
ing Late-Romanticism death knell.

Vintage Pippi still steals hearts

Show: “Pippi Longstocking” (National Children’s  
Theatre, Parktown, (011) 484-1584)  
Cast: Stephanie Baartman; Courtneigh Cloud;  
Malan le Roux; Lara Lipschitz; Adam Pelkowitz;  
Sarah Richard; Matthew Short; Joe Teffo; Sama  
Yoyo.  
Writer: Astrid Lindgren  
Lyrics: Thomas W Olson  
Directors: Joyce Levinsohn, Francois Theron  
Design: Roberta Carlson (music); Jane Gosnell  
(lighting); Shelley Adriaanzen (choreography)  
Until: April 16

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN  
PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG DA SILVA

THE YARDSTICK as to whether your tot is old  
enough to see theatre is not the fact that you have  
given birth to her. It is her ability to be swept into  
the colourful, joyous world of a story with unbri-  
dled focus.  
Shortly after the play’s opening, a wobbly-headed  
babe in arms and a toddler who spent the play tod-  
dling in the aisles were audience members:  
Bringing such young people to the theatre is  
appallingly selfish to cast, audience and child alike.  
Having said that, a little girl of three or four, her  
hair a mass of yellow curls, restrained slightly by  
an Alice band, was unable to keep her mouth shut  
in wonder at the unfolding of this beautiful tale.  
With Sarah Richard reprising the eponymous  
role with a cherub-like sense of chutzpah, the idio-  
syncrasies of Pippi are offset by the social conven-  
tions all around her, in the 1940s world into which  
she was first written and from which she’s won the

hearts of generations.  
“Pippi” pushes young audiences to a place  
where they might not be completely comfortable:  
empathy for those less fortunate. Pippi is a child  
who, with her mother in heaven and her father a  
pirate, embodies a freedom from rules that might  
on paper be a child’s dream.  
With no one to tell you when to go to bed, or  
when to brush your teeth, you are ostensibly free.  
In truth, every child wants to be not Pippi, but her  
friend; someone who can vicariously grasp life by  
the throat and not let go till you’ve brought your  
pet horse into the kitchen; but also someone who  
gets to keep the other stuff: stability, belonging-





FELDMAN  
ON FILM  
Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

Barney’s Version

Cast: Paul Giamatti; Rosemund Pike; Minnie  
Driver; Dustin Hoffman  
Director: Richard J Lewis

PAUL GIAMATTI has always been an exception-  
al actor.  
He won an Oscar for “Sideways” and this year  
he once again came to the fore with an Oscar  
nomination for the role of the ferociously ener-  
getic Barney Panofsky. He at least managed to  
garner a Golden Globe Award for his efforts.  
Barney is a role from heaven and Giamatti  
makes the most of it, scoring on all levels with  
his deep and touching understanding of a flawed,  
but loveable character.  
“Barney’s Version” is based on Mordechai  
Richler’s novel about a life in irreparable ruin  
and while it may be a tad overlong, and some of  
the plot threads may not hang together very  
well, it remains an absorbing look at the life of  
this man.  
Barney is seemingly an ordinary sort of per-  
son, but who lived an extraordinary life. Fat,  
balding and not the most attractive individual  
on the planet, Barney had spirit and embraced  
life with a passion. He mixed caustic intelli-  
gence with an irascible charm.  
But he was also a vulgar lout. In the opening  
sequence we meet an inebriated Barney, chomp-  
ing a cigar in the early hours of the morning,  
and busy making a nasty crank call to his third  
ex-wife’s new husband.  
It’s easy to see why three women left him, but  
what the film reveals is why they were ever  
attracted to him.  
Richard J Lewis’ debut production is a candid  
confession told from Barney’s point of view. It  
slips back and forth in time and covers three  
decades and two continents, taking us through  
the different “acts” of his unusual history.  
We meet his first wife, Clara (Rachelle

Lefevre), a flame-haired, flagrantly unfaithful  
free spirit with whom Barney briefly lives la vie  
de Boheme in Rome.  
The second Mrs P (Minnie Driver) is a wealthy  
Jewish princess who shops and talks incessantly,  
barely noticing that Barney is not listening.  
Barney meets the lovely, intelligent Miriam  
(Rosamund Pike) at their lavish wedding and  
begins to pursuing her. She eventually becomes  
his third wife, the mother of his two children, and  
his true love.  
With his vulgar father, Izzy (Dustin Hoffman)  
as his sidekick, Barney takes viewers through  
the highs, and many lows, of his long, colourful  
existence.  
We view his life from Bohemian youth to the  
approach of Alzheimer’s and his acts of gal-  
lantry, generosity, and goodness manifest at  
times when one least expects it.  
The supporting cast is excellent and includes  
Scott Speedman as Barney’s best friend who dies  
in a freakish accident in which a hard-nosed  
detective (Mark Addy) is convinced Barney was  
involved.  
All in all, “Barney’s Version” is first-rate cine-  
ma.



# Brilliant writing, but an overpopulated desk

*Great House* by Nicole Krauss  
(Viking, R204)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

IT HAS been some years since Krauss’ last novel - time enough to hone her already formidable novelistic skill into an instrument with surgical sharpness. Yet - for all its keen, gleaming readiness - this instrument remains merely a knife, good for cutting deeply and straight into the flesh of her subjects, but unable to produce more than blood, gore and severed organs. When it comes to actual healing, and breathing new life into dissected tissue, Krauss’ powers wane.

At its most fundamental level, this novel - related by several different characters - is the story of a desk, and all that it comes to represent to its various owners, who exchange it, safeguard it, build ambitions around it, stow secret desires and dreams in its many drawers and use it as a stand on which to prop failed lives, stillborn relationships and unproductive loves.

Our first glimpse of the desk comes when Nadia, a New York-based novelist, is asked to look after the furniture of Daniel Varsky, a young Chilean poet who is about to return to his country.

Nadia develops an almost overpowering attraction to the young man. After he departs, she receives intermittent post-cards from him; then they stop, and Nadia learns that Varsky has been arrested by Pinochet’s state police, tortured and killed as a dissident.

As the years go by, Nadia - increasingly lonely and unproductive - suffers a near-breakdown. Then she receives a letter from Leah Weisz, a young Israeli woman claiming to be Varsky’s daughter. She wants her father’s furniture and arrives to fetch it.

Somehow, the loss of the desk is more than Nadia can bear and - unsure of her own motives - she follows Leah to Jerusalem.

The next voice in the novel is that of an elderly, recently widowed lawyer whose two adult sons, Uri and David, have come home for their mother’s funeral. Addressing David, who - even as a child - was always emotionally inaccessible to him, the old man admits his failings as a father: his gruffness and insensitivity

towards this inturned, delicate younger child.

Behind his habitual crudity and impatience with what he sees as David’s narcissistic self-indulgence, admits the old man, there was never anything but longing for closeness.

Now, with David already middle-aged, that is even less likely. “Who do you think you are - the hero of your own existence?” asks the frustrated father.

Cut to Arthur Bender and his wife Lotte, a German Holocaust survivor whom he fell in love with despite - or because of - her almost complete withdrawal from reality.

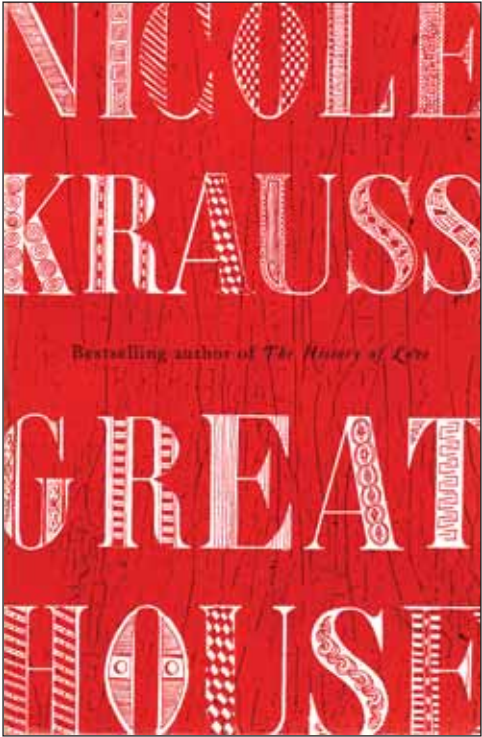
A poet by vocation, Lotte has allowed her husband to create a secluded household and lifestyle for her in rural England. Then, one night, a young man knocks at the door. His name is Daniel Varsky and he wants to talk to Lotte, whose writing he has always admired. Reluctantly, Arthur lets him in - and sees his wife, for the first time, responding with animation to this stranger.

Arthur fears that the two are having an affair, but the interlude passes and as Lotte sinks deeply into Alzheimer’s disease, Arthur discovers that she had an illegitimate child many years before, whom she gave away. Devastated though he is by this secret, Arthur keeps his shock to himself. And when Lotte eventually dies, he goes seeking her son.

Finally, we meet Isabel, an American girl studying literature at Harvard who falls in love with fellow student Yoav Weisz. In due course, she also meets his sister, Leah. The siblings live in filth and disarray with their antiquarian father, George, whose life is committed to reclaiming furniture seized by the Nazis.

These, then, are the cast of a seemingly endlessly layered plot, with characters appearing, reappearing and briefly abducting each other’s lives, while the desk moves from one dysfunctional home to another.

As we realised in her two previous novels, Krauss’ genius is her sensory exploration of relationships. Few writers can match her eloquence, imagery and acuity in divining the secret wells which irrigate the inner human landscape; still fewer can uncover, with one



or two swift metaphors, the fault lines underpinning alliances.

“At times it seemed to me that my wife was built around a Bermuda Triangle,” Arthur tells us. “Send something in and you might never hear from it again.”

Krauss’ writing is powerful, moving and radiant- even resurrectional, particularly in the final declamatory passages. The trouble with the book, though, is that it is overpopulated, labyrinthine and, in the end, immensely taxing, for one is forced to follow thread upon thread, upon clue, upon echo, upon hidden signpost, subplot within subplot, along an alarmingly sinuous trail.

Lengthy thematic skeins of the Holocaust, fascism, remembrance, loss, grief and legacy wind around each other and finally break from the sheer volume of what the author has attached to them.

Another problem is that despite the novel’s different voices, they are really one and the same character: Nadia, Isabel, Leah and Lotte are all the same woman, battling insecurities, seeking vindication and insisting to herself (and us) that, for all its shadows and treacheries, the kunstlerleben is noble.

Like her husband, novelist Jonathan Safran Foer, Krauss is obsessed with cryptic symbolism and a staggering array of literary conceits which ultimately do not support the novel, but - in fact - collapse it.

Krauss is a fine writer: indeed, a potentially great one. If only someone would tell her that less is more.

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LETTERS

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

I WOULD like to comment on The Jewish Report editorial about Itamar from the perspective of a South African who has made aliyah.

Your decision not to publish the pic-tures was your editorial prerogative and one has to respect that even though I don't agree with it.

You describe it as disrespectful, yet it was done with the family's permission all of whom are religiously observant people due to the total lack of empathy and ster-ile reporting by the major media and the world to this atrocity.

Indeed, where is the voice of the UN Security Council, Human Rights Council, etc who are so quick to condemn Israel for the building of Jewish homes and kinder-gartens in Jerusalem, Judea and Sama-ria? Where is Tutu? (Mr Justice Richard) Goldstone? The silence is deafening.

Imagine the world outcry if an Israeli had perpetrated a similar atrocity!

Further, I find your criticism of (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu unwar-ranted and indeed to me it reflects that you are still stuck with the old tired for-mula of a peace process which since Oslo has proved to be delusional.

This atrocity did not happen in a vacu-um, but comes as the world and many left-wing Jews continually criticise and con-demn Israel for so-called settlement activ-ity. It is a blame (of) the victim attitude that is totally unacceptable, as if terror attacks never happened before Jews lived

in Judea and Samaria

What Netanyahu was saying clearly is that if they shoot, we build. In other words: (a) The Jewish people have a natu-ral historic and religious right to live in the whole of Eretz Yisrael, but if it could bring about a GENUINE peace, then Israel is prepared to make territorial com-promises.

However, as the Palestinians refuse to even negotiate with Israel and are now threatening unilateral action backed by recognition of a Palestinian state by much of the world and without a peace agreement, why should normal Jewish life in our homeland be put on hold?

The most important aspect that you have failed to mention is that the Palestinian people are full of hatred for Jews and Israel due to continual incite-ment, dehumanisation Nazi-style car-toons, etc.

(There is a) refusal to recognise any Jewish historical and religious rights to Israel and a refusal to recognise Israel as a Jewish state. Suicide bombers are glori-fied, squares and streets are named after them and in Gaza sweets were handed out to celebrate this atrocity.

In the context of the background, your editorial misses the point and directs crit-icism in the wrong direction.

Ben Friedman  
Israel

'ANTI-ZIONIST BRIGADE' TAKEN TO TASK FOR BASHING DERSHOWITZ

I SINCERELY hope I am not too late to comment on the cowardly attack on Prof Alan Dershowitz written by some so-called intellectuals, (the usual suspects), and published in a Cape Town paper. It is important to clearly state that they have the right to criticise Dershowitz.

However, I would like to make two points: Firstly, much of their vilification of Dershowitz is personal and has no place in any mature and intelligent dis-course.

Secondly, while they are offended by Dershowitz's attack on Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu's views on Israel, they totally ignore the fact that the archbishop has hardly been even-hand-

ed, attacking Arab terrorism with far less venom than he constantly uses against Israel.

Perhaps it would have been far better for this anti-Zionist brigade to debate with the Harvard professor that they love to hate, as opposed to vilifying him in the media.

Maybe they fear that the learned and streetwise Dershowitz would be too wily for them?

Personally, as a Jew, I am ashamed of this lot, despite many of their academic credentials.

D Wolpert  
Rivonia, Johannesburg

CLARIFYING THE FOUNDING OF BNEI AKIVA

I WOULD just like to make a little cor-rection regarding the article by Isaac Reznik on the late Solly Leibgott. The founder of the Bnei Akiva movement was the late Joe Green, but the other co-founders were the late David Wacks, the late Rabbi Oshry and the late Leib Frank.

Shoshana Wolfson  
Glenhazel, Johannesburg

DENNIS DAVIS, BY SIGNING LETTER, GIVES CREDENCE TO ACTIVISTS

ON MARCH 24 a letter appeared in a Cape Town paper decrying Prof Alan Dersho-witz in the most vindictive, maligning man-ner. This letter was simultaneously posted on the Open Shuhada Street blog and on Zackie Achmat's Writing Rights blog.

While most of what was said was taken out of context, I am not here to defend Prof Dershowitz; I have no doubt that he is more than capable of doing that him-self, should he wish to stoop to the level of his detractors.

An equally disconcerting aspect of the letter was for me, the signatories to it. Among others were Mr Justice Dennis Davis, Doron Isaacs, Nathan Geffen and Daniel Mackintosh. The latter three, together with Zackie Achmat, form part

of the steering committee of Open Shuhada Street.

For Dennis Davis to co-sign a letter with such vehemently anti-Israel activists, must be problematic. By align-ing himself with them in this letter he is, by implication, giving credibility to all that they stand for and do, including their acts of thuggery when they removed items from the shelves in the Wellness Warehouse last year and refused to pay for them.

Your readers would do well to read Justice Davis' columns with much cir-cumspection from now on.

Monessa Shapiro  
Glenhazel, Johannesburg

CHEVRAH COULD'VE DONE MORE ABOUT BRIXTON CEMETERY

I WAS shocked to read in your issue of March 25, about the dilapidated condi-tion of the Jewish cemetery in Brixton.

When I first arrived in Johannesburg in 1992, I went there to visit the graves of my grandfather Abe and my great-uncle Lazar (a founder of the Lion's Shul in Doornfontein) and was pleased to note that all was in a good state of repair. Of course there was then a superintendent in place.

I have visited a number of Jewish cemeteries in the country towns where there are no longer any resident Jews

and yet such places are well kept and protected from vandals.

The credit for this must go to Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft. Sadly though, the Johannesburg Chevrah Kadisha could have done much more to protect the cemetery in Brixton. The Chevrah does excellent work throughout the commu-nity, but is not the care of a Jewish ceme-tery one of its prime responsibilities?

Rabbi Hillel Avidan  
Durban Progressive Jewish  
Congregation

EVEN IN RETRACTION GOLDSTONE SHIFTS BLAME ON ISRAEL

THERE ARE some underlying lessons to be learned from Mr Justice Richard Goldstone's admission that he, quite candidly, screwed-up.

One is that even the mighty have feet of clay and cannot always be trusted to perform reliably and with integrity, simply on the basis of their supposed impeccable credentials.

Few at the very height of their professions are immune from making obvious mistakes or arriv-ing at misguided conclusions. Throughout histo-ry it has plagued the very best, despite the nobil-ity of their intent.

What, however, separates the truly great from the mediocre, is the ability and inner strength to face up to their errors and admit to them when they literally stare one in the face.

In the case of the Goldstone Report it would appear that Richard Goldstone's backward flip was not prompted by any deep desire to come clean about his ineptitude. Greater men than he have baulked at the prospect of admitting their faults particularly when the fallout has been cat-astrophic.

President Harry Truman stuck unshakeably to his decision to drop two atom bombs on Japan in the steadfast belief that in doing so he saved mil-lions of lives.

But Goldstone is no Truman; even in apology he finds difficulty in facing up to his responsibil-ity, trying to the last to shift the blame on Israel for not co-operating with a UN Human Rights Council-sponsored investigation that he himself admits to displaying a history of ongoing bias against the Jewish State.

Indeed, one is left with the suspicion that Goldstone's about-turn was prompted more from

DERSHOWITZ APPEAL TO STOP WEST BANK BUILDING IS 'DISTURBING'

I, LIKE most Israelis, admire Prof Alan Dershowitz for his outspoken support for Israel and its right to defend itself. Moreover, he clearly and frequently decries the one-sided attacks on Israel from many different sources in many dif-ferent countries.

It was, therefore, of great interest to read a report on his address at the recent SAZF confer-ence, where he reiterated the support he has given to Israel and its policies for many years.

If your report is accurate, one comment that he made disturbs me greatly, namely that Israel should stop all building in the West Bank. Until this requirement was demanded of Israel by the present American administration, it was never a prerequisite for the previous discussions between Israel and the Palestinians.

As Dershowitz well knows, so-called West Bank

DILAPIDATED STATE OF BRIXTON CEMETERY COMES FROM WAY BACK

I read the Jewish Report on the internet every week and it keeps me in the news of South African Jewry. I was in SA some seven years ago and (even) then the Brixton Cemetery was in a shocking state. My grandmother is buried there.

My brother and I were shocked at the state of the graves, buildings, and the squatters that had inhabit the Ohel, not to mention the garbage lying around, clothes, and just general filth.

SEVERING OF UJ-BGU TIES: UJ THE BIG LOSER

THE DECISION by the University of Johan-nesburg (UJ) to severe ties with Ben-Gurion University (BGU), is unfortunate in that firstly, it is considered a "victory" by those who support the campaign to delegitimize Israel by, amongst other effort, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions initiative; and secondly, because in so doing, it risks the probability of depriving sec-tions of the South African population the basic right to clean, safe drinking water, since BGU was providing UJ with its expertise in this area.

However, what is most disturbing, is that this academic boycott campaign was initiated and driven by the South African academic fraternity. Academics are expected to think rationally, crit-ically analyse and examine evidence, and draw conclusions based on facts and not conjecture.

Professor Steven Friedman, speaking on Safm, clarified that UJ was committed to upholding and protecting human rights. It viewed BGU as being guilty of human rights violations since it offered

the investigation by a UN committee of independ-ent experts chaired by Justice Mary McGowan Davis, which cast new light on Israel's actions in Gaza, placing several embarrassing question marks over conclusions in Goldstone's report.

The second lesson is directed against the media in all its facets, for, if ever this failing is more clearly defined, its been in the case of Israel.

The rush to judge Israel in the harshest, most critical terms is legend, with some organs of the media more guilty than others - however, the overwhelming tendency to portray Israel in the most negative light is an ignominious epitaph that will adorn the media's headstone for years to come.

One has only to recall the accusations of the "Jenin massacre" that wasn't; the hoax of the alleged "shooting by Israel" of Mohamed al Dura, proven in a French high court to be a fabri-cation; the "deliberate killing by an Israeli shell" of a Palestinian family picnicking on a beach; the supposed shelling of a Gazan hospital that never occurred, etc. Each one was accepted without question and never retracted when found to be false. There are dozens of others.

With the enormous publicity surrounding the Goldstone Report, upon which some high-profile anti-Israel pundits have pinned their credibility, we can only hope that, miraculously, this time some sense of honesty and fairness will prevail, for, if this is an attribute in which fair-minded men place any credence, it should.

Indeed, the integrity of the media is at stake.

Victor Gordon  
Brooklyn, Pretoria

settlements include Maale Adumim, Gush Etzion, Givat Ze-ev and Betar Ilit, all of which are fairly large and well-developed towns in which the original residents now have children and grandchildren living, working and studying.

All of these will never be given up by Israel in any peace settlement, so why should building activity cease?

Giving in to this demand by the Palestinian Authority, supported by President Barack Obama and by Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, would signify another victory for the Palestinians and a denial to Israeli citizens of an essential right for normal population growth.

Monty M Zion  
Protea Village 90  
Israel

What a crying shame... the graves have sunken in, the lettering taken off the gravestones, the chain links all gone, gravestones broken and just a total mess.

It really sadden us to think what had become of this resting place of our loved ones.

Beryl Traub  
Australia

some kind of support to Israelis serving in an army responsible for protecting civilians against neighbours who openly declare their intentions to murder and maim as many civilians as possible.

Of course UJ has academic ties with several universities in countries whose human rights records are dismal: Belarus, Swaziland, Brazil and possibly others.

The bigoted, irrational behaviour of these "respected" academics is reflected in their singling out of the democratic State of Israel above other countries that are horrific in their treat-ment of their populations and yet continue to enjoy academic co-operation with UJ.

There has been no campaign or call for boycotts of these universities by these "principled" aca-demics - the defenders and protectors of human rights.

Felicia Levy.  
Glenhazel, Johannesburg

LOOKING FOR...

INFORMATION WANTED ON JACOB FEINSTEIN'S FAMILY

ANNE LAPEDUS Brest is trying to help Barry Stone from the United States, who is planning to visit South Africa, and wishes to research some family roots.

Writes Stone: "My grandfather lived with an uncle named Jacob Feinstein in Johannesburg shortly after the turn of the last century. Jacob

had two sons, Bernie and Julius. We have no other information."

Anyone with any information of this family, could you please contact Anne Lapedus Brest, tel (011) 783-2237, cell 082-452-7166, or e-mail Anne on digitalphoto@icon.co.za and please cc dennis.a.stone@nasa.gov



COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Zev Krengel,  
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Goldstone Report - a welcome breath of sanity

IT IS LATE in the day, quite possibly too late to undo all the damage that has been done, but it is encouraging to see that Mr Justice Richard Goldstone himself has now seriously called into question the reliability of the UN investigation into the 2008-'09 Gaza conflict.

As has been widely reported in the international media, Justice Goldstone has publicly retracted his charge in the UN report that Israel deliberately targeted civilians in the Gaza war.

Now that Israel has instituted credible investigations into more than 400 cases of alleged misconduct by the IDF, he has openly acknowledged that had his investigation team had been aware of such information, their findings would most likely have been very different.

He has further taken Hamas to task for not conducting investigations into its own conduct and stressed the UN Human Rights Council's history of anti-Israel bias.

The SA Zionist Federation, as the organisation mandated to speak out on issues relating to Israel and how it is portrayed in the media, has since issued a statement welcoming Justice Goldstone's latest comments.

Quite correctly, it points out that the judge's retraction has vindicated what the SAZF (along with the SAJBD and Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein among others) insisted from the start, namely that the original UN report was "biased and based on conjecture and speculation rather than on actual evidence".

The Board broadly echoes this view. We regret that such a biased, unbalanced investigation was ever commissioned in the first

place and it was especially unfortunate that Justice Goldstone gave it such credibility by lending his illustrious name to it.

Now, fortunately, he has openly acknowledged the seriously flawed nature of the report that bears his name. As we feared, the Goldstone Report has been continually invoked by the radical anti-Israel lobby in its unceasing efforts to demonise and isolate Israel, not least through threatening to have its leaders arrested should they travel abroad.

Hopefully, Goldstone's honest admission of fault will serve to discredit this particular avenue of anti-Israel propaganda, and maybe even pave the way to a fairer, more balanced approach by the UN when it comes to apportioning due blame in the Middle East conflict.

South Africa's latest 'Jewish Yellow Pages' out

The Board recently brought out the latest issue of its perennially popular Guide to Jewish South Africa. This is the fifth edition of the Guide, which appears biennially and was first brought out by the SAJBD in 2000.

It provides a comprehensive listing of every Jewish organisation countrywide, including in the smaller towns and country areas. Each entry includes the contact details, addresses and current contact persons of over 300 Jewish institutions, grouped under such categories as religious, educational, Zionist, fundraising, welfare, outreach, youth, women's groups and kosher establishments.

The Guide is available freely on request through our offices, as well as in all kosher stores and Jewish bookshops. For further information, contact Shirley Beagle on (011) 645-2500 or beagle@beyachad.co.za.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

AROUND THE WORLD  
NEWS IN BRIEF

ROMNEY, THUNE SLAM OBAMA AS DISTANCING US FROM ISRAEL

LAS VEGAS - Two likely GOP presidential candidates in speeches to Republican Jews, have slammed President Barack Obama as unfair to Israel.

Sen. John Thune (Republican South Dakota) and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, addressing the Republican Jewish Coalition's winter leadership conference last Saturday in Las Vegas, both said Obama had shifted from decades of pro-Israel policy. They joined other Republican luminaries at the confab.

Neither Thune nor Romney has formally declared his candidacy for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination, but both are believed to be seriously considering a run.

Romney said Obama's clumsy attempt to appear even-handed, led him to "castigate Israel while having nothing to say about thousands of rockets being launched into Israel".

The Obama administration has condemned Hamas rocket attacks on Israel, although its tense exchanges with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government over settlement building have received much greater media attention.

Thune said the Obama administration's emphasis on settlements made it appear that they were the reason peace talks were not advancing while ignoring Arab recalcitrance and the Iranian nuclear threat.

"America's ally is now and always will be the State of Israel," he said. "I think the Obama administration sometimes forgets that fundamental fact."

Also speaking in closed-to-media events were Representative Eric Cantor (Republican Virginia), the US House of Representatives majority leader, and Texas Governor Rick Perry. (JTA)

BRITISH JEWISH LAWMAKER APOLOGIZES FOR 'JEWS AGAIN' REMARK

LONDON - A British lawmaker has apologised for insulting a fellow Jewish lawmaker and Labour Party member during a debate in the House of Commons.

During a debate on March 30 on plans to change the law of universal jurisdiction, Gerald Kaufman turned to a lawmaker sitting next to him and said: "Here we are, the Jews again", as pro-Israel lawmaker Louise Ellman rose to refute a claim by the Labour Party's Ann Clwyd that the lawmakers were trying to change the law - making it more difficult to issue an arrest warrant against a suspected international war criminal - to appease the Israeli government.

An arrest warrant was issued in December 2009 for former Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni after she was scheduled to visit the country to speak before a Jewish organisation. Livni did not make the trip.

The comments by Kaufman, who is Jewish but known for strong anti-Israel views, were picked up by a neighbouring lawmaker's microphone.

"I regret if any remarks I made in the chamber caused offence. If they did, I apologise," Kaufman said in a statement released by the Labour Party.

Ellman reportedly has made a formal complaint to the party's leadership. (JTA)

BEN HELFGOTT  
From Victim to Champion



The Holocaust Survivor who went on to compete at the Olympic Games

For more info contact  
011 645 2583/23



Ben Helfgott was only nine years old when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939. He suffered the horrors of three concentration camps and emerged weak and emaciated from Theresienstadt in May 1945. Both his parents and one of his two siblings had not survived. Helfgott was one of 732 young survivors, known as *The Boys*, who were brought to England after the war.

Dr Helfgott will relate some of his experiences during this time.

*“We have shown that the misery, cruelty, despair and injustice that were inflicted on us did not break our indomitable will. It did not consume us with hatred to the point of destroying our own and other peoples’ lives. Instead we set out to create a new life.”*

BEN HELFGOTT, 1976

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# Jewish Travel

## Visiting places of Jewish interest

### Mexico – a friendly haven for Jews

*The travel writer, Paul Theroux includes Mexico in a list of perfect tourist destinations: ‘Pretty big. Not too dirty. Nice food. Courteous people. Sunshine. Lots of masterpieces. Ruins all over the place. Names that ring a bell. Long, vague history.’*

ROBYN SASSEN

WITH A history stretching back over 2 000 years, into Mayan and Aztec civilisations, it also boasts visceral and politically inflammatory contemporary art produced by Frida Kahlo and her husband Diego Rivera - a descendant of Converso Jews.

Travel to Mexico for observant Jews is not complicated, however, by the perception of exoticism. Jews have been living in Mexico for centuries; numbering over 50 000, the community today is considered a haven for Jews.

Fernando Cortes' conquest of the Aztecs in 1521 brought the first wave of Jewish emigration to Mexico. The Jews then were largely Conversos,

forced into Catholicism during the Spanish Inquisition of 1492.

In spite of the hidden nature of their cultural status and the threat of being burned at the stake for being discovered to be “Judaizing”, they persisted in secretly circumcising their sons and keeping kosher.

In the 1860s, Maximilian I of Mexico invited Jewish immigration from Europe, which sparked the second wave of Jewish emigration. From the 1880s, Jews fleeing Russian pogroms settled in Mexico in their thousands, and with the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in the 1920s, Sephardic Jews from Turkey, Morocco and France also fled to Mexico.

Nazi persecution a decade later also forged Jewish immigration. In addition, a small community of American Jews has relocated to Mexico.

Contemporary Jewish Mexico is in the majority Ashkenazi; most live in Mexico City, where there are more than 30 synagogues, most of which are Orthodox. The community's Chevrah Kadisha was established in 1922.

There are 12 Jewish day schools, including ones catering to the haredi community, as well as yeshivas. The community is fed by a range of schooling, including the secular “Yiddische Schule”, in which Yiddish is taught - Ladino is spoken among the older members of the community and those with Spanish forebears. Zionist youth movements such as Bnei Akiva, Habonim and Hashomer Hatzair are active in Mexico City.

The mizrachi community comprises Syrian immigrants, nominally recognised as Arab Jews. The Sephardic sector is descended from Turkish and Spanish immigrants.

In addition to Mexico City, smaller pockets of Jews live in the cities of Jalisco, Guadalajara, Monterrey, Veracruz, Culiacán, Tijuana, Cancún and Cabos.

These small communities are closed to integration: Until recently, marriage between Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews was considered intermarriage, and was avoided.

In Tijuana, Cancún and Cabos, Chabad Centres comprehensively facilitate needs for the community and visitors. On a civil level, the Central Committee for the Jewish Community of Mexico, established in 1938, is an umbrella body for Jews in Mexico.

While some cities have their own kosher plants, others cater for kosher patrons with a more personal touch. In the city of Cabo, Cabo Kosher is the first and only kosher meal service.

Operating like a Mr Delivery, they deliver food ordered online or telephonically. A

feeder from Chabad, Cabo Kosher offers Glatt Kosher meat and chicken, but also has fish on their menu. Their dairy products are all Chabad Yisrael.

In the city of Cancún, there is a similar service, under Chabad, providing kosher food to any hotel in the Cancún and Riviera Maya regions. Chicken and meat products are imported from New York, Guadalajara and Mexico City. The city also boasts a healthy stock of kosher foods in its supermarkets.

Mexico boasts a rich array of exciting tourist venues, including a focus on the Jewish culture. The Tuvia Maizel Museum in Mexico City - also known as the Museo Historico Judío Y del Holocausto - offers insight into the Holocaust roots of Mexican Jewry, as well as the history of Jewish culture in broader Mexico. Founded in 1970, it was remodelled in 1999 and has since accommodated over 150 000 visitors.

More recently, the Memory and Tolerance Museum in Mexico City's CBD, a five-storey glass and concrete building with a floor space of 7 000m<sup>2</sup>, was inaugurated last October.

The dream of Mexican Holocaust survivors and their offspring, the museum was a decade in the making, funded almost entirely by private individuals, many of them Jewish.

“It's important as a nation to be very vigilant about any act of exclusion,” said Mexico's President Felipe Calderón, on opening the venue.

“We have not overcome discrimination, which affects many groups of society.”

The museum focuses on Jewish persecution as well as genocides and atrocities in other parts of the world, including Rwanda, Yugoslavia, Cambodia and South Africa.

Said refugee Vjollca Bajraj who fled to Mexico after the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo: “Mexico is a tolerant place, though there's still a lot to be done here, like in the rest of the world.”

This museum is part of an aggressive marketing campaign for Mexico, mooted two years ago by Calderón, built on the premise that Mexico has everything. One of its primary economic drivers is the tourist industry, and it continues to flourish.

Mexico is today considered a haven for Jews. Anti-Semitism is virtually non-existent; Jews hold high positions in government and business; Jewish artists and writers are considered among the cream of society.

Most Mexican Jews are middle to upper-middle class. In 2003, President Vicente Fox passed a law forbidding discrimination, including anti-Semitism, legislating what has been practised for years.

#### Ten essential tips

*Ten tips for when you go to Mexico:*

- You need a visa to visit Mexico. The Mexican Embassy is in Pretoria: (012) 460-1004, and a tourist visa for South African passport-holders is free of charge.
- Special medical precautions are only necessary for travel to Mexico if you intend travelling to jungles or remote areas, in which case, consult your tour guide.
- Mexico's climate is tropical to temperate, varying according to altitude, winds and Pacific Ocean currents. The Yucatan Peninsula and low-lying areas of the south enjoy a tropical climate; weather in the higher altitudes is temperate. Coastal areas receive plenty of rain; most of the country is dry. Mexico's east and west coast are at risk of hurricanes during summer and autumn.
- Spanish is spoken throughout Mexico; English is spoken in the tourist areas.
- At the time of going to press, one South Af-

rican rand will buy you 1,7 New Mexican Pesos (MXN)

- The “casas de cambio” (exchange houses) are faster, more easily available and operate with longer working hours than the banks, for changing currency.
- Traffic in Mexico is on the right hand side.
- Electricity in Mexico is 127 volts. The majority of plugs are two flat-pronged-style plugs. Some have a third, round, prong for earth.
- Avoid drinking tap water in Mexico. Be wary of drinks that have water added to them, fruit and vegetables that may have been washed in tap water, and ice.

Mexico uses three time zones. Most of the country uses Central Standard Time, which is six hours behind South Africa. Daylight saving begins at 02:00 on the first Sunday in April and falls back to Standard Time on the last Sunday in October at 02:00.

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## KDL Primary puts on human rights play

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH: YONIT WEIL

TO COMMEMORATE Human Rights Day which took place on March 21, King David Linksfield Primary's grade 6 Zulu class presented a meaningful play to emphasise the fundamental rights of being human.

The play highlighted children's rights to education and their responsibility. These rights are important to help make human rights a reality everywhere.

At this assembly the children were presented with the "Bill of Responsibilities".

The grade 6 Zulu class is pictured with teacher Shereen Ngwenyas.

## KDVPP grade 4s rap the serious stuff

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH: SHIRA TOLLMAN

THE GRADE 4 learners of King David Victory Park Primary School, have been learning about Howard Gardner's multiple intelligences.

They have specifically focused on eight intelligences of verbal linguistic, logical mathematical, spatial, body kinesthetic, musical, naturalist, interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligences.

For the Friday assembly grade 4T presented these in the form of a rap song where they were dressed the part and could share their



Joey De Aguiar; Adam Stein; Dean Solomon; Erin Bannier; Nadia Bartal; Megan Kantor; and Mathew Rauff.

learning in a fun way with the rest of the school.

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

# SAUJS makes sure Jewish voice is heard on all campuses

STEPHANIE HODES PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THE SOUTH African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) has kicked off 2011 with a bang. Welcoming hundreds of new members from university campuses nationwide, the newly-elected SAUJS committees are raring to go.

Jewish student communities in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban can look forward to an exciting year filled with enough social, religious, Zionist and community outreach events to ensure a Jewish presence is felt both on and off campuses across South Africa.

SAUJS members are invited to campus braais where they can meet and mingle with other Jewish students away from the stresses associated with their lecture halls, and weekly shiurim with Rabbi Gideon Pogrud, who shares both pizza and deep Torah insights during the lunchtime break, serves as an avenue for students to enhance their spiritual and religious knowledge in their academic environment.

SAUJS hosted Ishmael Khaldi, a high ranking Bedouin-Israeli diplomat, at UJ, UCT and Wits with the aim of combating the misnomer that Israel is an apartheid state, during the politically-charged "Israeli Apartheid Week" that took place on campuses across the world recently.

SAUJS continues to be at the forefront of Israel advocacy, defending both the legitimacy of the State of Israel and its right to exist, on often hostile university campuses.

Jewish student leaders recently participated in a weekend-long hadracha where they identified their goals and challenges, and mapped out their vision and mission

for the year ahead.

A brainstorming and planning session generated new ideas for original events aimed at uniting Jewish students and making their university experiences that much more fulfilling.

With Jewish values at the heart of everything SAUJS does, the group continues to cater to the needs of Jewish students on campus, providing representation and ensuring that the Jewish voice is heard.

SAUJS remains committed to fighting issues of anti-Semitism on campus, and creating a space where no Jewish student should feel unwelcome or unsafe in their learning environment.



Devon Mogg, SAUJS Wits chairman and Stephanie Hodes, SAUJS national chairman at the O-week sign-up table at Wits recently.



# Wachenheimer Foods & Nut House Retail Outlet

*It is with great pleasure that Wachenheimer's wishes to inform all its customers that as from Friday April 8 all our products will be available at the Nut House, Shop 11 Kingswood Centre, Northfield Avenue, Glenhazel. Purchases can be made directly from the shop or via order. Orders from Wachenheimers direct, will continue on a free delivery basis with minimum orders required. All prices are inclusive of VAT and per kg. While stocks last.*

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### LAMB

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To order, call Denise at the Nut House, (011) 887-2222 or Debbie/Nelli at Wachenheimer Foods, (011) 312-7862/(011) 312-9272/(011) 024-3533.



## Yeshiva College selects its two Junior Councillors

YESHIVA COLLEGE is proud of its Junior City Council (JCC) representatives for 2011. One learner from each high school (Boys' and Girls') has been selected to represent the College.

Learners wishing to participate in this organisation were asked to write an essay on "youth and diversity". This was followed by a series of interviews with the school's councillors from 2010, Avigael Cutler, Ariel Sobel and Terry Tennant, head of the English Department.

Thereafter a decision was made, together with the principal of the high schools, Denese Bloch and Rabbi Laurence Perez, the College's managing director. Rivki Bank and Daron Biddle (pictured), both grade 11 learners, have been appointed to represent Yeshiva College as councillors for 2011.

The JCC is an outreach organisation made up from different walks of life. It is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation. The councillors sit on various committees such as welfare, fundraising, culture and sport and recreation.



Heads of committees are appointed by the councillors themselves and the aim of the organisation is to make a difference to Johannesburg on behalf of the youth of the city.

The experience is a wonderful leadership opportunity for our learners and furthermore Rivki and Daron will take the name and reputation of Yeshiva College to all four corners of the city.

We wish both of them much "hatzlacha" for the year.

## Bnei Akiva and SAUJS pay tribute to Human Rights Day

NADIA KRUGER  
PHOTOGRAPH BY  
JULIE ISAACSON

IN HONOUR of South African Human Rights Day, Bnei Akiva and SAUJS hosted veteran anti-apartheid activist Rabbi Ben Isaacson in Johannesburg.

Rabbi Isaacson, who himself was once a chaver of Bnei Akiva, shared his life story, which included studying at the famous Telshe and Chaim Berlin Yeshivot, becoming assistant rabbi to former Chief Rabbi Louis Rabinowitz, presenting outspoken anti-apartheid sermons from the pulpit and having his



Rabbi Ben Isaacson.

home searched by the security police.

Rabbi Isaacson, who was the first rabbi to join the ANC, spoke of how his understanding of human rights according to the Jewish tradition helped to shape his fight against the apartheid regime.

His courage to stand up and fight for what he believed in, even though many people opposed him, inspired us all.

Human Rights Day for all present at this event became an opportunity to heal wounds of the past and accept responsibility for the future, by learning from innovative characters like Rabbi Isaacson.

## KDS Chesed Club packs boxes for Yad Aharon

VIVIEN FOX  
PHOTOGRAPH: ILANA  
DEMBY

THE MEMBERS of the King David Sandton Primary School Chesed Club recently went to Yad Aharon to help pack boxes for Jewish children of school-going age for their school lunches.

The project is called Ohr Natanel in memory of Natanel Feigenbaum, a 15-year-old boy who passed away tragically when knocked down by a motorcar.



Jemma Schapiro; Tyler Parker; Dani Lang; Jamie Treger; Gabi Galaun; Amber Galaun; Kaden Saig; Tyra Berman; and Dean Bacher.

## Hirsch Lyons boys show that they 'can'

RABBI STEVEN KRAWITZ  
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THE LEARNERS from Hirsch Lyons Boys High School have done themselves and their school proud in collecting tins of food for Yad Aharon's Can Can Appeal. Pictured are Yochanan Hoppenstein and Dov Welcher, with Sonia Margolias, next to some of the tins collected.



ADVERTORIAL

# Launch of King David Schools' Foundation's *Dor le Dor* Campaign

Last Thursday evening, Adrian Gore (new chairman of the King David Schools' Foundation - KDSF) launched the *Dor le Dor - Generation to Generation Campaign* - which aims to build an endowment fund to sustain the future of the King David Schools, institutions pivotal to the future of the Jewish community.



Lauren Gore, Raelene Tradonsky, Ronel Zeff, Elliot Wolf and Adrian Gore



Lauren Phillips, Elliot Wolf and Howard Phillips

### RONEL ZEFF

The role of Jewish education is more essential than ever before, serving as a moral compass in today's complex world. In addition, circumstances and realities in South Africa have brought significant change in education, which makes high-quality private schooling in this country increasingly important. As such, more and more Jewish parents have to consider the King David option, whether or not they can afford it.

As community schools, the King David Schools must make provision to assist such learners. Currently just under 10 per cent of school fees from full-fee paying parents is allocated to a subsidy fund that affords over 500 children the opportunity to attend our very special schools.

However, we cannot continue to rely solely on tuition fees from full-fee paying parents to fund the subsidy programme, as well as the educational advancement and infrastructural development required across all five campuses to maintain the high standards synonymous with the name King David.

The King David Schools must therefore secure ongoing financial independence and sustainability and Thursday evening was the first step in a major campaign aimed at parents, alumni and the broader community to achieve exactly this.

The *Dor le Dor* Campaign aims to raise a substantial amount for an endowment fund. Capital growth and income generated from this fund will be applied to the following key strategic initiatives:

1. Continuation of our subsidy programme (financial assistance for Jewish learners in need)
2. Enhanced development of our teaching programme (attracting and retaining quality teachers)
3. Expansion of our learning programme (strengthening academic, religious, cultural and sporting curricula)

4. Improvement of our infrastructure (upgrading our facilities and technology)
5. Support of our outreach programme (enhancing our commitment to previously disadvantaged communities)

Stephen Koseff, one of our newly appointed trustees, in his address at the function, emphasised the essential role of Jewish schools in a community and described how the Jewish community in Benoni began to dwindle once the Jewish day school system there closed.

As such, strategic fundraising initiatives are planned to build the endowment fund and the KDSF has undergone a rebranding exercise to support this new vision for long-term sustainability.

Our new logo strongly identifies itself with the King David Schools and rests in a Magen David, indicative of Jewish heritage as the foundation of the King David Schools.

Our new trustees, Adrian Gore (chairman), Brett Levy, David Frankel, Jonathan Hackner, Michael Mendelowitz, Stephen Koseff, and Steven Joffe, are all prominent businessmen who have endorsed our new way forward, which is headed by fundraising directors, Elliot Wolf and Raelene Tradonsky (née Shapiro).

Together, we ask both the local and overseas community, especially King David alumni, to support the new direction of the KDSF and to embrace this opportunity to help sustain the institution that nurtured them.

In this way, future generations of Jewish children will have access to the wonderful education and heritage from which thousands of alumni have benefited. Ultimately, an excellent education will allow our children to make meaningful contributions to the communities in which they will live, as so many of our alumni have already done.

To make a donation to help build the endowment fund, contact Elliot Wolf on +27 11 480 4730 or wolfe@kdsf.org or Raelene Tradonsky on +27 11 480 4501 or tradonskyr@kdsf.org or make a deposit into:

King David Schools' Foundation | Standard Bank Ellis Park | Acc no: 002101076 | Branch code: 004605  
All donations are eligible for Section 18a tax certificates. Overseas donations are welcome.



WHAT’S ON

Barry Bilewitz [barry@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:barry@sajewishreport.co.za)

CROSSWORD NO 205

BY LEAH SIMON

- ACROSS:**
- 1. South has nothing again, being mediocre (2, 2)
  - 3. Listen again - well said! (4, 4)
  - 8. Article using dry humour goes off course (4)
  - 9. Guns rail about one (8)
  - 11. Hellish place for old French penal colony (6, 6)
  - 13. Jackie ———, former SA Police Chief (6)
  - 14. Narrow water passage isn’t curved, we hear (6)
  - 17. Central heating for the new residence? (5, 7)
  - 20. Puts in broken tins with illnesses (8)
  - 21. Flower in Herero sediment (4)
  - 22. Nose around four directions – what rubbish! (8)
  - 23. Step up for domestic animals (4)

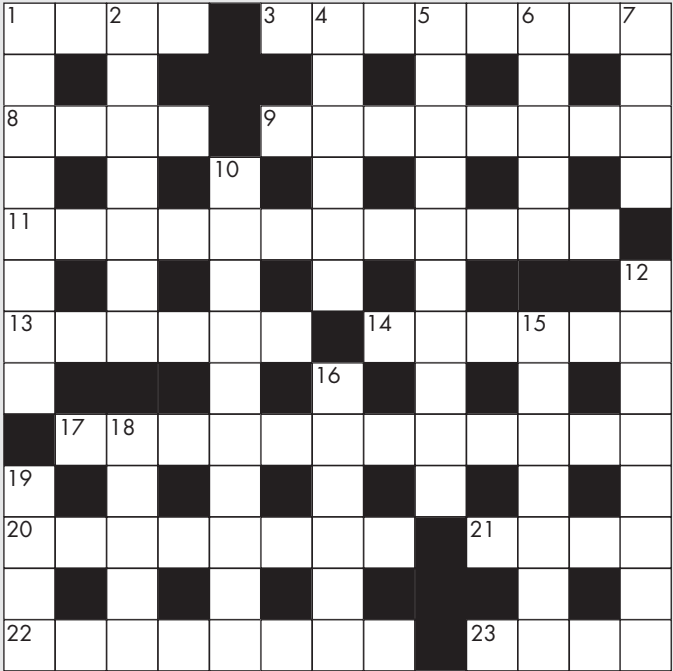
- DOWN:**
- 1. Hit and run in a careless way (4, 4)
  - 2. Hear confession of pupil - and wither away (7)
  - 4. Disturb lice on it - and get out (6)
  - 5. Left your great confusion, according to the law (10)
  - 6. Girl hides in swell enclave (5)
  - 7. He’s found among retro ryegrass (4)
  - 10. Septic bile resulting from direct vote of electorate (10)
  - 12. Gets rags knotted -

- and walks unsteadily (8)
- 15. Poised article about being fat (7)
- 16. Enlarges southern waterholes (6)
- 18. Man gets either male child (5)
- 19. Break link to oven (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 204

**ACROSS:** 1. Warm; 3. Closeted; 8. Lads; 9. Attested; 11. Decimal point; 13. Nellie; 14. Neared; 17. Naval officer; 20. White lie; 21. Drab; 22. Treatise; 23. Isle.

**DOWN:** 1. Well done; 2. Radical; 4. Lately; 5. Sees one out; 6. Titan; 7. Dodo; 10. Ambivalent; 12. Adorable; 15. Records; 16. Copies; 18. Abide; 19. Twit.



**NOTE:** Deadline for all entries is 12:00 on the Friday prior to publication.

Today Friday (April 8)

- **RCHCC** is hosting the “Memories of Muizenberg” exhibition until April 27. Viewing times: Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 16:00, Friday 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Saturdays and Jewish holidays. Open on evening events 18:30 - 21:30.
- **UZLC** presents Estelle Sher on “Can Concert Music Have a Jewish Soul?”

Saturday Night (April 9)

- **Israeli Embassy** is screening the Oscar-winning documentary “Stranger No More” at 20:00 at 1 Osborne Lane, Gillooly’s View, Bedfordview. Cost R50 - beneficiary WIZO. Call Naomi on (011) 496-1111.

Sunday (April 10)

- **UJW** Show house - “Birdsview”, 173 Empire Place, Sandhurst from 10:00 to 12:30. Guest speaker - Stephen Falcke at 11:00. Refreshments will be served. Contact (011) 648-1053/e-mail [ujw@mweb.co.za](mailto:ujw@mweb.co.za)
- **King David High School Victory Park** presents “All Shook Up”, an all singing, all dancing show based on the hits of Elvis Presley at 19:30 daily until April 13. Tickets R80. Contact Eida Schneiderman, (011) 446-7860.
- **Second Innings** presents Ria Milburn - “Under the African Sky”.
- Pesach with **Shooby Doob Shloimy**. Venue: Eden College auditorium, Johannesburg Road, Lyndhurst at 11:00 and 16:30. Tickets available at Chabad Bookshop, Village Walk; Kollel Bookshop, Norwood; House of Judaica; Norwood Mall. Contact 083-272-8541.
- **Big Band Music Appreciation Society** is meeting in the Jeffrey Auditorium, St John’s College, St John’s Road, Lower Houghton at 14:15. Contact Jack on (011) 782-7111 or Barney on 073 438-8799.
- **RCHCC** hosts an audiovisual presentation by Gerald Zwirn, “Prima Donnas and Other Wild Beasts” - a light-hearted look at the fables and foibles of opera’s leading ladies at 19:30. Donation R70.

Monday (April 11)

- **JWBS** Fun Day at Stylish Hair, Johannesburg Road, Lyndhurst, any two - blow dry, manicure or make-up, including snacks, prizes, etc. R200, in aid of the JWBS. Enquiries: (011) 786-1458 or (011) 485-5232.

Tuesday (April 12)

- **WIZO Fortnightly Forum** presents Rhoda Kadalie on “My Trip to Israel – How it Opened My Eyes”, at Beyachad at 09:30. To book phone (011) 645-2515.
- **Second Innings Men’s Group** presents Susan Woolf on “The Implications and Meaning of Taxi Signs” at Our Parents Home at 14:15 for 14:30.

Wednesday (April 13)

- **UJW Cape Town** presents Shirley Gelcer, who’ll be showing a DVD documentary, “The Exodus De-Coded”.

- **RCHCC** and **SAUJS** are screening “Comrade Goldberg” at 19:30 followed by a Q and A session with Dennis Goldberg. Donation R60.

- **Bnei Brith Barak Unit** presents John Berks on his life and times in the media at 19:45 for 20:00. Venue: Ohr Somayach Shul Hall, Aintree Avenue, Savoy. Cost: R50. Contact Les Markowitz on 082-885-4107.

Thursday (April 14)

- **RCHCC** is screening “Unhinged: Surviving Jo’burg” at 19:30. Donation R60.

Friday (April 15)

- **UZLC** presents Digby Ricci, on “Some Current Films”.

Sunday (April 17)

- **Second Innings** presents Joyce Levin on “A Family Trip to Lithuania”.
  - **Second Innings** Outing - “A Perfect Wedding” at Montecasino Theatre. Time: 13:00 for the bus, 14:30 at the theatre. Where: Oxford Shul for the bus; Montecasino Theatre for the show. Cost: R100 per ticket for good seats; R50 for the bus.
- Monday (April 18)**
- **JAFFA** - first night seder R130. R60 for children under 12.

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THE BRIDGE LOUNGE by Jeff Sapire

TRUMP CONTROL is a vital factor in suit play. When missing five cards in a suit, the likely 3-2 break is 68 per cent, but a 4-1 break will occur as often as 28 per cent of the time, which is far from insignificant.

Many an easy contract can become quite difficult to handle, sometimes even proving too much for declarer to cope with. But both sides have techniques available to try to deal with the situation – as can be seen on today’s hand.

North dealer, both vul

NORTH		EAST	
♠	KJ108	♠	5
♥	2	♥	KJ109
♦	A	♦	J10964
♣	AKQ10542	♣	J96
WEST		SOUTH	
♠	A432	♠	Q976
♥	AQ853	♥	764
♦	85	♦	KQ732
♣	87	♣	3

South	North	
1S*	1C	
4S	4H**	Opening lead: D8
	Pass	

Note South’s decision to respond 1S instead of the traditional 1D. Most experts use the Walsh convention, where, with a hand that does not have enough points for game, one skips the diamond suit and responds in the major.

Over 1S, North made a splinter bid of 4H, showing a strong supporting hand in spades with shortage in the heart suit. South wasn’t particularly interested in slam and signed.

Declarer won the lead and quickly went about the play, which looked very straightforward - draw trumps and then run the club suit, making an easy 11 tricks.

So, at trick two he advanced the ten of spades. Had West taken this, it would have been easy.

Say West switches to ace and another heart. This is ruffed in dummy with the eight, and now the remaining trumps are drawn, declarer playing the king next, followed by the jack, overtaken with the queen to draw the last trump with the nine – followed by all the clubs.

But West ducked the first spade, and found the correct defence of ducking the next one too. This is fairly standard procedure with Axxx in trumps. Don’t take the first two, but win the third round.

At the table declarer did continue with a third round of trumps, taken by West, who now switched to hearts, forcing the dummy to ruff with the last trump. Now declarer couldn’t back to hand to draw west’s last trump, so was forced to start running the clubs.

He discarded his two losing hearts on the clubs, as West ruffed the third round. Now another heart forced out declarer’s last trump, leaving him with two diamond losers, for two down.

The winning line is to stop drawing trumps after the second round when the suit is seen to be splitting 4-1, and to get going with the club suit. West is welcome to ruff the third club because both declarer and dummy still have two trumps each.

West can take his ace of spades, but all the defence get are the two aces and the club ruff.

*Every Tuesday (Intermediate) and Wednesday (Advanced) I run bridge workshops from 10 - 12 at the Great Park Shul - alternating play hands one week and a bidding lecture on the other: Corner Glenhove Road and 4th Avenue, Houghton. For more information, e-mail me at [jeffshirl@telkomsa.net](mailto:jeffshirl@telkomsa.net).*

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# In Jerusalem Marathon Ossip went to ‘place of beyond’

DIANE WOLFSON  
PRETORIA

FOLLOWING AN article in the previous issue of SA Jewish Report, Pretorian Elayne Ossip recently took part in the Jerusalem Marathon.

Ossip, a seasoned runner, has also completed 11 Comrades Marathons as well as 26 ultra-marathons over the years, but on March 25, Ossip embarked on a special journey: to run her 50th standard marathon in her 50th year.

On a cold wintery Jerusalem morning, at 07:00, she stood at the starting line next to the Knesset, of the very first standard Jerusalem Marathon of 42,2km.

Her dream had come true, when she joined approximately 1 000 runners from 40 countries of whom about 30 were from South Africa.

Despite the tragic bomb blast at the central bus station which was across the road from the registration of the marathon, Nir Birkat, the mayor of Jerusalem, stated that



Elayne Ossip ran the Jerusalem Marathon.

the marathon would continue as planned.

The marathon route allowed participants to take in 5 000 years of history with phenomenal and breathtaking views.

It passed the centre of town on to the Old City, past the Sultan Pools, Talpiot, Ammunition Hill, through the Hebrew University and finishing in Sacher Park.

“It was one of my harder marathons. As it says in Psalms, Jerusalem is surrounded by hills. I can vouch for that. I had a very spir-

itual and emotional run, met some former South Africans on the way and doing the last two km for (captured soldier) Gilad Shalit as they handed out yellow ribbons to us to remember him by,” says Ossip.

“When running a marathon I always run with humility, thanking Hashem along the way, going out of my restraints and boundaries to a place of beyond. I have been granted the ability, the tenacity and the endurance to complete my 50th standard marathon in 4 hours 11 min.”

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### BLOODY PIG’S FOOT, ANTI-SEMITIC NOTE MAILED TO REP PETER KING

WASHINGTON - A bloody pig’s foot and an anti-Semitic note were sent to US Representative Peter King, chairman of the House of Representatives’ Homeland Security Committee.

Capitol Hill police have opened an investigation into the package to King (Republican New York), Politico reported.

The package’s contents were discovered when it was scanned for

explosives and never made it to King’s office, according to reports. A letter with the package referred to a Homeland Security meeting last month in which King voiced concern about the “radicalisation” of the American Muslim community.

The letter, which reportedly was full of anti-Semitic sentiment, also reportedly referred to King as Jew. King, who has served in Congress since 1993, is not Jewish. (JTA)



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Rehab Manager – Sandringham

Johannesburg Jewish Helping Hand is looking for a junior bookkeeper who will be responsible for the fixed asset register for the group.  
Knowledge of Accpac would be an advantage.  
Computer literacy is a key requirement for this position

Only short-listed applicants will be responded to.

Interested candidates please forward a current c.v. to hr@jhbchev.co.za, fax, 0866327774 or Private Bag X1, Sandringham, 2131.

Administrative Assistant – Chevrah Kadisha

Our Executive Fundraiser is looking for an Administrative Assistant.  
The candidate must be Computer literate and have a thorough knowledge of MS Word, Excel and knowledge of how to work on a database.  
The incumbent must have strong interpersonal skills, and the ability to handle all calls in a diplomatic and professional manner. Must be able to work well under pressure.

Only short-listed applicants will be responded to.

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Social Worker – Arcadia Children’s Home

A Social Worker is required at Arcadia children's Home in Sandringham. The successful applicant will be part of a multi-disciplinary team. Group work is an important aspect of this position. Experience in working with children and their families are an essential requirement. Knowledge of the New Children's Act and experience in court work is a key requirement of this position.  
Registration with SACSSP is essential. Knowledge of Jewish culture and religion would be an added advantage.

Only short-listed applicants will be responded to.

Interested candidates, please forward a current C.V. to hr@jhbchev.co.za or Attention HR Dept, Private Bag x1, Sandringham, 2131, or Fax 0866327774

Physiotherapist – Sandringham

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# sport

## End of an era for Free State Maccabi Stag Club

JACK MILNER

AT THE recent Maccabi Sports dinner in Bloemfontein, Solly Kroll was presented with honorary life membership of Maccabi SA and in a short speech, he entertained his audience with some of the antics over the years at the Maccabi Stag, in Bloemfontein.

There were even times he got into trouble with his rabbi, but last year Maccabi Stag in Bloemfontein finally shut down. It had a colourful history and Vivienne Mofsowitz took us down memory lane.

Thursday, November 18, 2010 was the culmination of a significant era in the history of the Bloemfontein Jewish community. The final Maccabi Stag meeting was held at the Hilton Bowling Club with Cliff Garrun, newly-elected chairman of Maccabi SA and Max Klass, chairman of Johannesburg Maccabi Stag attending.

It was an emotional closing, yet as Chairman Solly Kroll confided, it was certainly timely, considering financial restraints that the ageing and dwindling Bloemfontein community is now facing.

Karlle Rosendorff was the first chairman of Free State Maccabi in the early 1940s. Siggy Tiger, a member of that committee formed the Stag Club after hearing about the very successful club in Springs.

In 1973 Harold Melzer took over Stag with Solly Kroll as vice chairman and in 1980 Solly took over as chairman. Dave Baumann became Solly's loyal, hardworking and supportive vice at this time, with Norman Horwitz as treasurer.

Dave who passed away recently was also the unofficial "catering manager". Norman Horwitz was the treasurer when Solly took over Stag and in the early '90s this position was taken over by Sefton Mofsowitz, to whom Solly often turned to for assistance.

Solly, a sporting legend in Bloemfontein in his own right, became a member of Free State Maccabi at 24 in 1958. In 1959 he cap-

tained the SA Maccabi hockey side against Free State. Solly also represented his province in hockey and badminton.

During this time the club hosted virtually every well-known sports personality that was available. Solly was tireless in enticing them to the Free State to share their experiences and divulge some of their more titillating experiences on and off the field. Many were amazed at how he managed to do this!

Solly recalls the annual Maccabi Sports festivals, where players of all the sporting disciplines came together from all the centres in the country, where they played competitively against each other. This was where the SA Maccabi hockey side was selected.

Talking about the highlights of his involvement, Solly remembers the visit of the 1970 All Blacks Rugby Tour when all the players pitched up at the meeting - consuming over 370 pints of draught beer!

Some names stand out: Eric Rowan, Sam Merwis and Gordon Forbes in 1968; Bob Courtney in 1975, the 1970 All Black team; Tommy Bedford, Chick Henderson and Doug Watson in the same year; "Fiery Fred" Truman in 1976; Morne du Plessis (Solly recalls standing on a chair to present him with a gift - and the ensuing photo being published in the Volksblad); South Africa's great wing, Syd Nomis in 2009; Hugh Bladen attended three times; Jackie McGlew in 1995; in 1991 Roy McClean and Eddie Barlow.

In 2006 Naas Botha, Joel Stransky and Tex Texiera were hosted; a few of the last few speakers including Ollie le Roux, Clive Barker and local resident, Chris Ashman who enthralled members at the last Stag function with a most interesting, talk on The Ghurkas.

Bloemfontein Maccabi Stag will be sorely missed in this Free State city, from the few remaining Jewish members to the many, many gentiles. This was an opportunity for true friendship and camaraderie to flourish.

The 1970 All Blacks rugby team at the Bloemfontein Maccabi Stag.



## Joshua is geared up for big fight

JACK MILNER

MIXED MARTIAL arts exponent Joshua Muller will be up against it at Carnival City next Thursday when he comes up against Francis Kabulu, a Congolese fighter who lives and trains in Cape Town.

Joshua, who turned 22 on March 21, will be having his second professional fight. He ended his amateur career at the end of last year and in February had his first bout as a pro. He came up against Mike de Bruyn from East London and won it by submission.

While Joshua completed his final two years of schooling at Eden College in Johannesburg, he spent most of his time at Yeshiva College. "Actually I spent most of my career at Yeshiva College on the volleyball court," he remarked.

Joshua says he started out in martial arts with things like taekwondo. "I started off wanting to do pro-wrestling but never had an avenue to train for it. I started doing muay thai and following one of our



Joshua Muller will take on Francis Kabulu in a mixed martial arts bout at Carnival City next Thursday night.

classes was a class in submission wrestling, organised by Brad "The Godfather" Bloch.

"After that I found out the difference between WWE and real fighting and threw my WWE ambitions out of the window."

From the age of 19 Joshua started to throw his muscle behind his training and although he teaches part time, he is now a fully professional MMA exponent.

"For me every fight is another step towards the ultimate goal and that is to fight in the US in Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC). They control MMA in the US and the best fighters in the world fight for them.

"This next fight is certainly that. He is a talented kick boxer. He is undefeated and I am undefeated. Whoever wins this fight moves up and whoever loses

moves down. It's very important strategically for both of us."

In terms of preparation for the fight, Joshua has been training five days a week with two rest days.



Holding a signed cricket bat at Torah Academy's "Extreme Makeover" business breakfast, are: Rabbi Shabsy Chaiton, administrator of Torah Academy; former triple Springbok (cricket, hockey and indoor hockey) Mandy Yachad; Menachem Kay, a member of the "Extreme Makeover" project team; and former Springbok cricket captain and cricket administrator Dr Ali Bacher, who was the guest speaker.

## Ali Bacher walks down the 'memory pitch' at breakfast

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE BELLING

BUSINESS PEOPLE at the Torah Academy "Extreme Makeover" breakfast to coincide with the Cricket World Cup now raking place at the Indian subcontinent, experienced the rare opportunity of sharing this occasion with three former Jewish Springbok cricketers - Dr Ali Bacher, the guest speaker; his nephew Adam Bacher and Mandy Yachad, triple Springbok (for cricket, hockey and indoor hockey).

While making no predictions on the outcome of the World Cup, Ali Bacher took the guests down "memory pitches" in his career as a cricketer, captain and administrator, especially since 1991 "when, for the first time ever, we had integrated sport and took part in the 1992 Cricket World Cup".

Bacher said, that while in Australia en route to the World Cup match in Sydney, he stopped off at Adelaide and spent two hours with Sir Donald Bradman, acknowledged as the greatest cricketer of all time.

Bacher discussed some of the South African cricket personalities.

He paid tribute to former President Nelson Mandela to whom South Africa owed its sports integration - "an extraordinary man who will not forget, but who is able to for-

give".

Mandy Yachad, introducing Bacher, said the speaker's real name was Aaron - like the high priest, he loved peace and pursued peace, having trained young cricketers in Soweto and Lenasia during apartheid.

"Had he not participated in the rebel tours, South Africa would not have been able to bridge the gaps created during that time."

Yachad said the cause of Torah Academy was "very close to my heart". With his wife, Pam, being the deputy principal of the Primary School, and all five of his children previously or currently in this school, he urged continued support.

"Extreme Makeover" project manager and convener of the breakfast, Adrienne Kay, stated: "No Jewish child is turned away from Torah Academy because of the financial limitations of the school.

She said in January of last year, the "Extreme Makeover - School Edition" was launched to raise funds for the development of the various TA campuses.

Rabbi Yossy Goldman of Sydenham Shul added in his message on a video, that Torah Academy was known as the school with a neshama, with graduates successful as business people, professionals and rabbis. "If everybody could pay their school fees, we would be on a good wicket!"

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