



jewish achiever awards
2012

12 DAYS
to go for the
*Annual Jewish
Achiever Awards*
on June 20!

• south african •

jewish report

www.sajewishreport.co.za



Great Park congregants bring joy to Diepsloot

Children and parents from Great Park Synagogue recently participated in the handing out of 450 blankets and 300 coats to children and mothers at the Afrika Tikkun Centre in Diepsloot. It was an amazing afternoon filled with learning and sharing and it enriched the lives of the recipients and the givers. The blankets were collected at the community-wide Shmooza Lag B'Omer event and allowed the joy of a Jewish festival to bring smiles to faces of the needy in the broader SA community. | PHOTOGRAPH RABBI DOVID HAZDAN

SA commentators part of Facing To- morrow 2012, the Presidential Con- ference in Israel

SA will for the first time be part of the large international media, at the conference. Reeva Forman will accompany two of SA's foremost opinion-makers as guests of the SAZF: Tom Wheeler and Tim Hughes.

3

BGU expert, Prof Amos Drory from BGU, to help Botswana found new university

"Israel has no natural resources, like gold. Our only resource is brain power; by virtue of Israel's start-up nation success, we have know-how we share with the world."

2

Thumbs-up for Jansen as patron of the SAHGF

As leaders "we bear a responsibility to our youth to teach the lessons of the past in order to develop empathy, understanding and solidarity beyond notions of 'unique pain'".

14

SAKS: Denying Jews their ME Jewish heritage

"Even Israeli left-wingers are dismayed by what the Palestinians are doing."

6

Diverse Jewish in- terest to find Last Man Standing

Israeli boxer Ran Nakash arrives in SA on Monday to participate in the Golden Gloves promoted Super 8 Last Man Standing cruiserweight competition.

16

TALK TO THE PROFESSIONALS

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Shabbat Times

June 8/18 Sivan
June 9 / 19 Sivan

Beha’alotcha

| | | |
|-------|-------|----------------|
| 17:06 | 17:57 | Johannesburg |
| 17:26 | 18:20 | Cape Town |
| 16:46 | 17:38 | Durban |
| 17:06 | 17:59 | Bloemfontein |
| 16:57 | 17:52 | Port Elizabeth |
| 16:51 | 17:45 | East London |

Kashrut Alert

CHECK OUT THESE CRISPS, RICE CAKES AND CREAM

Kavallier Crisps are no longer under Beth Din supervision as from May 31 this year, according to the kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues. Stock purchased up to and including May 31, has been produced under supervision.

Bakali Rice Cakes are no longer under Beth Din supervision as from May 31 this year. Stock purchased up to and including May 31, has been produced under supervision.

Clover Sour Cream has been reformulated with gelatine and is no longer kosher certified.

Our Jewish GPS

“Who knows Five?”

“I know Five! Five are the Books of the Torah.”

We sing this song at the Pesach seder table. The synonym we use for the Torah, “Chumash”, comes from the root “ch-mesh” that means “five”.

Yet strangely, this is a point of discussion among the Sages of the Talmud (Shabbat 116a) where Rebbi Yonatan is of the opinion that there are SEVEN books of the Torah! It is amazing how, in spite of unbearable persecution our Torah remained intact.

This was, in part, thanks to the Herculean efforts of the Messorah. Is it not possible that two entire books were lost?

The Talmud explains that the book we are currently reading, Bemidbar (Numbers), is in fact a trilogy, with the three-way division occurring in this week’s parsha. In Numbers 10, a mere two verses (verses 35 - 36) constitute a second book and separate the third book from the first book: “And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, L-rd, and let your enemies be scattered; and let them



PARSHAT BEHA’ALOTECHA
Rabbi Ilan Raanan
Yeshiva College

who hate you flee before you. And when it rested, he said, Return, O L-rd, to the many thousands of Israel.”

We recite these verses every time we read from the Torah in public. What exactly does Rabbi Yonatan mean and why do we highlight his “Second Book of Bemidbar”?

A brief look at the structure of the Book of Bemidbar may enlighten us. The Book of Shemot details the Exodus and receiving the Torah at Sinai. The Book of Vayikra provides details of the Torah laws.

Bemidbar next describes the journey to the Promised Land. “Bemidbar Book 1” is all about mobilisation of the camp in preparation for the journey. At the heart of the camp of Israel lies the Mishkan (Tabernacle) that housed the Holy Ark containing the Tablets of the Decalogue. This unites us

and calls our nation to order in the barren wastes of the wilderness of Sinai.

The two verses that constitute “Bemidbar Book 2” describe the ideal journey to Israel. The Holy Ark travels ahead of us, our enemies flee and we immediately experience the Messianic Era in Israel. No White Papers on emigration, no wars and no United Nations condemnations. If only we lived in an ideal world!

Alas two verses later “Bemidbar Book 3” awakens us from dream to reality. The actual journey confronts us with setbacks and challenges and eventually leads to the precursor of exile and hardship.

Such is life. We live in an imperfect world. It is not so easy to overcome the obstacles that confront us.

Every time we take out our Holy Torah and read it in public, we recall Rabbi Yonatan’s “Bemidbar Book 2”. It reminds us that though reality confronts us with numerous challenges, we must still aspire to the ideal journey, for as Jews there is only one source that provides us with direction: the Holy Ark and the Tablets of the Decalogue it contains. This is our Jewish GPS!

SAJR welcomes Bryan Silke as publisher

ROBYN SASSEN

The Jewish Report is delighted to announce the appointment of Bryan Silke (pictured) as publisher at the newspaper. Silke earlier this year, wrote a series of columns in our pages called BusinessBrief, which offered insight into trends in business. Silke was born in the Cape and educated at Herzlia, before studying at the University of Cape Town and reading for his honours and masters degrees at Stellenbosch University, where he specialised in media management.



“It’s a culmination of a series of professional passions,” he spoke of his appointment earlier this week. “After completing my masters, which focused on the framing of the coverage of the Gaza withdrawal in the domestic press, I wanted to go into academia.” Various opportunities, including an academic scholarship at the University of Hamburg, Germany, a job in London and another locally, changed his mind. “My passion lies across the spectrum of media, with a primary interest in print,” he says.

Silke was head-hunted by the board of the SA Jewish Report, from his job as editor of the Illovo-based 16 year old publication, BusinessBrief. “It was a tough decision to leave, but the role of publisher gives me the opportunity to expand my skills base and embrace the challenge of new responsibilities.

“The Jewish Report represents a platform for me that reaches such an intuitive, powerful and endearing audience. I see the capacity to build on a strong weekly newspaper founded on quality editorial, which should definitely be commercially viable.”

New York’s annual Israel parade paints Fifth Ave blue and white

NEW YORK - Senator Charles Schumer, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, were among the dignitaries who marched in last Sunday’s annual Celebrate Israel Parade in the Big Apple.

They joined tens of thousands of marchers who paraded up Fifth Avenue under blue, sunny skies amid a sea of blue-and-white Israeli flags. The parade, now in its 48th year, is America’s biggest annual show of support for Israel by the numbers.

Marchers included Jewish day school contingents, the Chai Riders motorcycle club, non-Jewish marching bands, and a contingent from Israel Guide Dogs for the Blind, among some 200 organisations. Israeli consuls and some government officials also marched.

The theme of this year’s parade was “Israel Branches Out”. The parade was preceded by a four-mile Celebrate Israel run through Central Park. (JTA)



Yeshiva University students march up New York’s Fifth Avenue during the Celebrate Israel Parade, on June 4. (PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL TUREK)

BGU expert to help Botswana found a new university

ROBYN SASSEN

Passing through SA en route to Botswana where he will advise the government about setting up a new university, Prof Amos Drory, vice president for external affairs at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (pictured), last week spoke to the JR. Alongside president of SA Associates of the BGU, Bertie Lubner and Herby Rosenberg, SA Associate of BGU, he emphasised the university’s high academic standards and its continuous research, of benefit not only to Israel, but to the world.

Israeli-born Drory, a son of Lithuanians, read for his bachelor’s degree in industrial psychology at Hebrew University and his PhD in organisational psychology in the US, before joining BGU 26 years ago; his professional status has embraced fields from industrial engineering to business management, at leadership levels. “BGU is a place with a future,” he says.

“Gaborone’s University of Botswana is Botswana’s only university; Botswana wants more. In Israel, we have zoomed in on situations unique to us; our expertise will benefit Botswana. Their land is arid, as is Israel’s - 60 per cent of Israel’s land mass is desert.

“Botswana’s minister of education visited Israel recently. She was blown away by BGU’s work. Israel has no natural resources, like gold. Our only resource is brain power; by virtue of Israel’s start-up nation success, we have know-how we share with the world.

“In this visit, I will advise the Botswanans on training graduates, planning the university’s landscape, and examining how they can benefit from our experience with building a campus in the desert.

“BGU aims to excel and reach out,” he spoke of Aids research in Africa conducted by BGU’s medical faculty.

“Our university focuses on advanced and applied science aiming to direct scientific knowledge to practical solutions. Aridity is part of our focus; we also research solar energy and water research, including purification, desalination, management, waste and recycling.

“Four years ago, we brought out two BGU professors: a water purifying specialist researching the integration of nanotechnology and an algae specialist working with the biomass of alternative energy. This expertise, among the top in the world, equipped us to set up a joint research programme with the University of Johannesburg.

“The intervention by Hamas supporters who obtained the support of a section of the university’s academic body, endeavoured to oppose collaboration with Israel. They put huge pressure on BGU’s Senate; the matter was resolved in the interests of the university’s right to have freedom of teaching, research and debate, without po-



PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED BY BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY.

litical interference.”

Said Lubner: “UJ issued a formal statement opposing academic boycotts. It changed the Memoranda of Understanding, which are not legally binding, into contracts, which are. Now the BGU/UJ working relationship is stronger, and includes associations with UCLA and Ghent University.

“This research is not the first: BGU has been collaborating internationally for over 30 years with the best in the

world; it has a strong track record with several SA universities. The SA Associates of BGU has three interests at heart: SA, Israel and humanity.”

BGU, Israel’s university of choice, has grown rapidly. In 15 years, its teaching capacity has grown from 6 000 students to 20 000. “The average student in Israel comes to university after having completed army service. They have a focused idea of what they want to do; our education is about entrepreneurship and attitude as much as it is about skills and academic credentials.” adds Drory.

“It supports the philosophy that you can’t consider yourself successful until you’ve used your experiences to help someone else,” concurs Lubner, explaining BGU’s programme to teach Bedouins self-sufficiency.

“Watch this space,” all three BGU dignitaries tease. “Exciting energies are afoot.”

Community Briefs

NON-ORTHODOX RABBI TO RECEIVE GOVT FUNDING

Last week, it was announced that Rabbi Miri Gold of Kibbutz Gezer, will be the first non-Orthodox rabbi in Israel's history to receive government funding. According to a media statement from the SA Union of Progressive Jewry, "The Israeli Attorney-General committed to equal pay for Rabbi Gold for her work at Congregation Birkat Shalom." This decision will pave the way for other non-Orthodox rabbis in Israel.

"This allows the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism to build on the success achieved so far and deepen our work for the Israeli public." Israel currently supports some 4 000 Orthodox rabbis.

ERIC GREITENS WINS CHARLES BRONFMAN PRIZE FOR 2012

The recipient of the internationally promoted Charles Bronfman Prize for 2012 is US Navy SEAL Eric Greitens, founder and CEO of The Mission Continues, a project challenging post-9/11 veterans to continue to lead through community service at home.

Each year, this prize is awarded to an individual whose work is fuelled by Jewish values and has global life-changing impact.

"Eric provides a vision for hopefulness in an age of diminished expectations. His model and focus on measurable results serves as a template for the rest of the country and for the world," Tom Brokaw, member of Greitens' prize-nominating team, said.

UJW TO HOST A KOSHER CHEF COMPETITION

The Union of Jewish Women is hosting a kosher chef competition in Johannesburg, offering a chance for a product to be produced and marketed professionally, judged by a celebrity culinary judging panel and given access to a kosher kitchen to make the product. Headlining it as "one woman; one recipe; one chance of a lifetime", the organisation asks for homemade recipes, "whether it be for teiglach, jam, mustard, chrain or kichel". They request that readers send their name, contact details (including e-mail) and product (and recipe) of choice to them by fax (011) 648-4307 or e-mail: ujw@mweb.co.za by July 3.

KLASS CELEBRATES TWO ANNIVERSARIES

On June 12 Selwyn Klass celebrates two auspicious but very different anniversary events on Radio Today 1485 AM, also broadcast on DSTv audio channel 169, www.1485.co.za and 1485.mobi at 11:15: the official birthday of Queen Elizabeth II, marking the diamond jubilee of her accession to the British throne; and the anniversary of the first entry Anne Frank made in her diary, on her 13th birthday, on June 12, 1942.

The diary was a treasured birthday gift which remains testament to her courage, as well as the second most read book in Western history. The show re-broadcasts on June 16 at 21:00.



Professor Niall Ferguson, noted Harvard historian, the key note speaker from last year's Presidential Conference. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.PRESIDENT-CONF.ORG.IL

Two SA commentators to be part of Facing Tomorrow 2012

REEVA FORMAN VICE CHAIRMAN SAZF

Facing Tomorrow, the first annual Conference of Israel's Shimon Peres' presidency, took place in Jerusalem in May 2008, marking Israel's milestone 60th anniversary.

South Africa will for the first time be part of the large international media, who attend the Conference. Reeva Forman will be accompanying two of South Africa's foremost opinion-makers as guests of the SAZF - Tom Wheeler and Tim Hughes. A group of SA Jewish lay leaders will be attending as delegates.

Tom Wheeler is columnist on international affairs for The New Age newspaper, Johannesburg. Since 2003 he has served as a research associate at the SA Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). He served as SA Ambassador to Turkey (1997 - 2001).

Tim Hughes has been SAIIA's Middle East researcher since 2002 and has delivered lectures at Bar Ilan University in Jerusalem. He has been the convener of the Middle East public discussion group at SAIIA. A regular contributor to Radio 702, Hughes also covered the Palestinian elections for South Africa's e.tv and is a regular commentator on Middle Eastern issues for the SABC.

The idea of the Facing Tomorrow Conference could only have started with Peres, the man who has witnessed up close and in person more historic events during Israel's first

six decades of statehood than arguably any other person alive today, going back to 1948 when he was one of founding Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion's closest, and youngest advisers.

Peres decided that it was not enough to review the Jewish state's achievements, challenges and milestones reflectively over 60 years. Rather, the emphasis for Israel must be on looking forward.

Thus was conceived the first annual Israel Presidential Conference, a three-day assembly of some of the world's "best and brightest", including equally large representations of presidents and prime ministers, current and past, and Nobel laureates, to name but some who gather in Jerusalem during those days.

Thus was the flagship international event born, with Peres hosting his premiere Facing Tomorrow Conference which welcomed many international leaders, including then-President George Bush. The Conference was initiated by Peres to address the three main "tomorrows": the Israel tomorrow, the global tomorrow and the Jewish tomorrow.

Key luminaries in economics, science, technology, medicine and philosophy took part in the major plenary sessions, as well as in 35 panels that sought no lesser a goal than to help shape the face of tomorrow.

The 2012 conference, like the others before it, was and continues to be focused on exploration, of a synergistic gathering of major

world leaders, Jews and non-Jews, thinkers and doers, poets and physicists, rabbis and entrepreneurs, including the next generation of leadership - young men and women of promise and originality.

Each "tomorrow" was and continues to be examined through a set of four critical lenses: The value systems that are meant to guide our conduct, the leadership necessary to navigate the challenges ahead, the creativity required to embrace the new, and the notion of evolving, mutable, and sometimes multiple identities as we attempt to keep pace with a rapidly changing and digitally interconnected world.

The Presidential Conference has been identified by President Peres as the ideal avenue to communicate Israel's many accomplishments to the international community.

The large and extraordinary list of luminaries and speakers attending this, the fourth Conference taking place in Jerusalem between June 19 and 21, includes Shai Agassi, Professor Peter Beinart, Major General Meir Dagan, Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, Professor Stanley Fischer, Abraham Foxman, Ambassador Dore Gold, Macolm Hoenlein, Dr Henry Kissinger, Dr Emily Landau, Professor Chung Min Lee, Professor Dominique Moisi, Professor Tomaso Poggio, Ambassador Dennis Ross, Dr Raj Reddy, Professor Mona Siddiqui, Professor Hermona Soreq, Mr Ruben Troostwijk, Dr Yossi Vardi, Sir James Wolfensohn AO and Ambassador Lamberto Zannier.

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A file photo showing the massive Maroela Room with the tables laid for an Achiever function.

Jewish Achiever Awards function a sell-out

This year’s annual Jewish Achiever Awards – which take place at a gala banquet in Sandton on June 20 – will, according to all indications, be even bigger and better than ever before.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The sold-out signs for this year’s annual Jewish Achiever Awards, went up an impressive six weeks before the glittering event takes place at the Sandton Sun Hotel in some two weeks’ time.

Says Howard Sackstein, chairman of the Jewish Achiever Awards: “Each year the Jewish Achiever Awards continue to amaze us. Not only have the awards become the most prestigious event in the Jewish social calendar, but the nominations and awards themselves have become increasingly competitive and more and more sought after.”

This year’s awards received the highest number of nominations in its 14 year history. The awards celebrate the remarkable achievements of members of the South African Jewish community in all spheres of life in South Africa, as well as raising money to help fund this newspaper, which is distributed free of charge.

“Competition has been fierce with nearly 200 public nominations, 30 finalists and seven winners. We are awestruck by the depth of talent and skill in our community. Two years ago we took

the decision to open the Jewish Achiever Awards nomination process to the public in order to be as inclusive as possible. Obviously this was the correct decision and has proven enormously successful,” says Sackstein.

This year’s judging panel for the three business awards is made up of Marcel de Klerk (Absa Managing Executive for Business Markets), renowned corporate governance expert, Dr Len Konar, international businessman Steven Blend and the JSE’s Geoff Rothschild.

The entire process is independently audited by accounting firm PKF. The jury has the difficult task of deciding the winners for the three business awards and the judges report that competition is incredibly tight this year.

However, the event is also the place to see and be seen. Entertainment this year will be provided by award-winning comedian and singer Deep Fried Man, who will be writing material especially for the function and the award winners. Also appearing at the award ceremony is Ensemble Borsalino, who plays a wide repertoire from gypsy manouche to klezmer (Jewish jazz) and swing to boeremusiek.

Rebbetzen Eva Sandler to talk at Sinai Indaba

ROBYN SASSEN

On March 19, young Chabad Rebbetzen Eva Sandler (pictured, with her surviving daughter, toddler Liora) was suddenly and devastatingly made a widow, when her husband Rabbi Jonathan Sandler and their two young sons, Aryeh (6) and Gavriel (3) were killed at point blank range in the shocking anti-Semitic attack in Toulouse, France. This month, she will be talking at Sinai Indaba.

Said Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein: “It is an honour for Sinai Indaba, on behalf of the South African Jewish community, to host Rebbetzen Eva Sandler, who carries her pain and loss with great courage, dignity and faith. In so doing, we are also reaching out in solidarity to the French Jewish community and embracing our position as part



of the Jewish world.”

Shortly after the attack, Sandler put out a message on the Chabad website. “My heart is broken,” she wrote. “I am unable to speak. There are no ways for me to be able to express the great and all-consuming pain resulting from the murder of my dear Rabbi Jonathan and our sons, Aryeh and Gavriel, and of Miriam Monsonego, daughter of the dedicated principal of Otzar HaTorah and his wife, Rabbi

Yaakov and Mrs Monsonego.”

Sandler went on to express her faith that regardless of the horrific manner in which her husband and the three little children died, she still knows that “the ways of G-d are good, and He will reveal the path and give us the strength to continue”. She added: “Parents, please kiss your children. Tell them how much you love them, and how dear it is to your heart that they be living examples of our Torah, imbued with the fear of Heaven and with love of their fellow man.”

Sandler will speak on the evening of Saturday June 16 and during the day on Sunday June 17 in Johannesburg and on Monday June 18 in Cape Town. She speaks in French and Hebrew; there will be a translator at her talks. Please see www.Sinai-Indaba.co.za for further information.

David Shapiro back from his Omaha pilgrimage

SHIRA DRUION

David Shapiro, deputy chairman of Sasfin Securities, has never hidden his admiration for Berkshire Hathaway’s Warren Buffett, the group’s chairman and CEO, and with financial gurus from around the world, would every year go on the “pilgrimage” to attend Buffett’s thought-provoking and stimulating AGM in Omaha, Nebraska.

Berkshire Hathaway is a diversified American multinational conglomerate.

When Buffett speaks, the world’s financial experts sit up and take note. This year was no exception and on his return from the AGM where literally thousands of financial journalists and financial experts gathered, Shapiro shared his impressions with an appreciative audience at a Chevrah Kadisha breakfast.

Shapiro entertained the packed Sasfin boardroom with a Powerpoint presentation, fleshing out Buffett’s “pearls of wisdom”. Shapiro is in fact so well versed in “Buffetology”, that he could with good reason be called Sasfin’s “quintessential Buffetologist”!

Shapiro told his audience

that Buffett’s ability to communicate financial jargon in a distilled, palatable way, was precisely the quality that made him so extraordinary. “Listening to Buffett’s annual shareholder’s letter is a priceless experience. It is not necessarily the actual content which is so impressive, but more than that are his outstanding communication skills.

“He is able to get thousands of people to grasp very challenging concepts, and does this by reducing the financial lingo, so that a layman can understand him. I think this is what makes him so exceptional.”

Shapiro also gave his audience a trip to “Planet Buffett”, sharing words of wisdom from Buffett as well as from Berkshire’s MD, Charlie Munger. He recounted with amusement how Buffett stood up and told the thousands who had come from all corners of the globe: “Charlie and I are the perfect pair. I can see and Charlie can hear!”

Shapiro commented that at 81 and 88 years old respectively, Buffett and Munger had travelled a truly epic journey, the proof of which was in Buffett’s commitment to give 85 per cent of his enormous wealth - he is one of

the richest people in the world - to the Bill and Melinda Gates (charitable) Foundation.

He explained: “Buffett believed that children should not rule society because of the luck of the womb. He believes that one should give one’s children enough to be able to do what they want to, but not (so much) that they do nothing!”

Sasfin collaborated with The Chev to offer Helping Hands and Pillars donors the chance to hear Shapiro share his insights from this year’s Buffett AGM.

Hugh Bauer, Sasfin’s Business Development Executive, who introduced Shapiro, told the early morning breakfast crowd that Shapiro’s fund was the top performing fund in its class over three years. “Sasfin has always shared a great partnership with the Chev, and so we were very happy to partner with the Chev team again and provide some useful insights to the Chev supporters.”

Shapiro is an orator par excellence who manages to combine his knowledge of the markets with a down-to-earth manner that makes the complex world of investing accessible to everyone.

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The Jewish World

in seven seconds

Israel News:
www.ynetnews.com :

“Haifa threatens businesses that employ African migrants”

Municipality tells local business owners they must fire illegal workers or risk losing licence, to prevent the city from becoming another south Tel Aviv, even though only a few hundred foreign migrants reside in Haifa. Employers respond: In the end they'll have to roam Israel like gypsies.

The Jewish Chronicle, London:
www.thejc.com

“Shimon Peres congratulates the Queen on her Diamond Jubilee”

Israel's President Shimon Peres, sent warm wishes to Queen Elizabeth II to mark her Diamond Jubilee. He noted the Queen's recent birthday as well as the 60th anniversary of her Coronation, saying it was “a welcome opportunity to extend, on behalf of the people of Israel and myself, sincere congratulations for Your Majesty's wellbeing, the happiness of the Royal House”.

European Jewish Press, western Europe:
www.ejpress.org

“Israel, Jewish community leaders ‘profoundly concerned’ by new anti-Semitic attack in France”

Israel expressed its “profound concern” on Monday following last Saturday's anti-Semitic attack against three youths in Villeurbanne, in southeastern France, stressing it was confident the French authorities would shed light on the facts.

The Canadian Jewish News, Toronto:
www.cjnews.com

“Immigration bill's impact cause for concern”

If the government's proposed new immigration law, Bill C-31, titled Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act, passes, it might turn away legitimate asylum-seekers fleeing persecution, including Jews, immigration experts and community activists say.

Jerusalem Post, Jerusalem:
www.jpost.com :

“Foreign minister condemns arson against migrants”

The Foreign Ministry strongly condemned the arson of an apartment building in Jerusalem housing African migrants on Monday, a sign it is increasingly concerned the wave of anti-migrant feeling is impacting Israel's image abroad and its relations with Africa. “There is no justification for such a heinous crime that puts people's lives in harm's way,” the ministry said.

Global news service of the Jewish people, international:
www.jta.org

“Athens’ Jewish school, the community’s jewel, imperiled by Greek economic crisis”

In the last decade, Athens Jewish Community School, the city's only Jewish school, saw a renaissance. But it is now in peril as Greek Jews struggle through the economic and political turmoil in that country. Community members believe that shutting the school would be ominous for the capital's 3 500-strong Jewish community.

New Jersey Jewish News:
www.njjewishnews.com

“NJ religion-in-adoption bill heads for vote in legislature”

NJ legislators are closer to passing a law that would require agencies to maintain a child's religious upbringing when placing the child in an adoptive or foster home. The bill, authored by Assembly member Gary Schaer of Passaic, was approved by the Assembly Women and Children Committee on May 14. It awaits passage by the full Assembly and State Senate.

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south african

jewish report

The strangers in our midst

Isn't it odd how history has a way of sneaking up behind you and challenging the very things you value about yourself?

There's no point rehashing the "Spear" saga - it has been done to death. But a few words are relevant to illustrate another point. South Africans have huffed and puffed about Brett Murray's painting portraying President Jacob Zuma's private parts. Some reactions have been funny; others, troubling.

Particularly threats were made against the gallery and City Press who first reported on the issue and showed The Spear on its website. Loud proclamations have defended the principle of freedom of expression; equally forceful voices have demanded respect for dignity and privacy.

We have vivid memories of the anti-apartheid struggle (in which Murray was an ANC stalwart), where freedom of speech was a cherished goal. Now, paradoxically, South Africans who fought for it are challenging it and saying the painting's showing must be restricted.

In another ironic incident a few years back, we saw the beautiful ideals of ubuntu and tolerance for which we prided ourselves after defeating apartheid go up in smoke (literally in some instances). In the xenophobic riots in 2008, black South Africans turned on foreigners in their midst - Nigerians, Somalis, Ethiopians, Congolese, Pakistanis and others - looting their shops and attacking them as unwanted "strangers" - looking different and speaking languages South Africans could not understand - taking "food from the locals' mouths". We were shocked. How could South Africans, after everything we fought for, act this way?

For Jews, the issue touches a raw nerve. The "stranger" theme runs through their history. Over centuries they were often treated appallingly as outsiders in host societies, often being discriminated against or even expelled. The Holocaust was a ghastly culmination of this history. Eventually Jews created the State of Israel, where they could control their lives and vowed that such things would not happen to Jews again.

But things are never that simple: they are still seen as "strangers" by some. Author Amos Oz says in his book A Tale of Love and Darkness: "Out there, in the world, all the walls were covered with graffiti: 'Yids, go back to Palestine', so we came back to Palestine and now the world at large shouts at us: 'Yids, get out of Palestine'."

Israel has prospered fantastically and its people are indeed in control of their lives. Now, irony of ironies, they are confronted by this same question of how "strangers" among them are treated. Currently in the news are the roughly 60 000 illegal foreign migrants from Sudan, Eritrea and other war-ravaged north African countries, many of whom are unemployed, poor and live in south Tel Aviv, and whose growing numbers are worrying Israelis across the political spectrum. Israel is a small sliver of land, roughly the size of the Kruger National Park.

Violent attacks occurred recently in Tel Aviv against migrants. Stores were vandalised and car windows smashed, and in Jerusalem an apartment was torched. Politicians - including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - made earnest calls to stop the violence and warned that racism is against Israel's values; Israeli humanitarian organisations have tried to help migrants. Former Kadima Chairman Tzipi Livni said: "The State's duty is to handle the problem that emerged, especially in certain neighbourhoods and cities in Israel, to block its border to labour migrants but not to be dragged to violence and racism."

Other politicians made dangerous, inflammatory statements, prompting Israel's Internal Security Minister to slam the "public figures who can't shut their mouths and ride the wave of hatred and popularity to cover up their feeble performance over the years".

Most citizens believe Israel, like any normal country, should close its borders to illegal migrants. How do you implement it with the porous Sinai border? But the immediate issue is how to relate to those already there. South Africans know better than most just how complex and volatile are the emotions and perceptions of people living close together in a multi-ethnic society, trying to earn a living and solve their problems.

Can blacks be racist? Of course they can; they are human, with all the sensitivities and fears of other humans. Can Jews be racist? Of course they can. They are human.

But Jewish history has ingrained in us the knowledge of what racism can do if it is not checked. Ultimately, Israelis must grapple with this challenge and solve it.

Denying Jews their ME Jewish heritage

Holocaust denial is generally considered to be the worst form of a type of anti-Semitism that seeks to write the Jewish people out of history, or at least those parts of it that might show them in a sympathetic light.

It began as a white right-wing phenomenon, often as much motivated by a desire to rehabilitate Nazism as an attack on Jews (one of the most notorious deniers, David Irving, was at least in the beginning primarily driven by his boyhood admiration for the whole Nazi cult). Later, and inevitably, it was adopted with enthusiasm in much of the Arab and Islamic world.

Far less attention is paid to a second and arguably far more dangerous form of Jewish history denial that has taken root in the Middle East and is now threatening to spread. This seeks to deny the Jewish people of today any connection with their Biblical and immediate post-Biblical heritage in the Middle East.

To understand the almost surreal lengths to which this is being taken, one only has to consult the reports on Palestinian Media Watch (a site, by the way, that left-wing Jews who feel the need to bring their guilty Jewish consciences to the attention of the wider society should be compelled to read on a daily, if not hourly basis).

Palestinian denial goes right to the top.

Palestinian denial of the Jewish legacy in Israel goes right to the top, starting with the supposedly more moderate Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Mahmoud Abbas. Earlier this year, Abbas declared that Israel was stealing the "cultural, human, and Islamic-Christian religious history" by its "Judaisation" policies in Jerusalem.

Shortly before that his adviser for Jerusalem said that Israel was trying "to create an artificial heritage with a Jewish spirit at the expense of its true and authentic (identity) as an Arab, Islamic and Christian city".



BARBARIC YAWP
David Saks

In August 2010, PA Minister of Religion Mahmoud Al-Habbash, stated that throughout history, Jerusalem had been "the capital of the Palestinian state and the capital of the Palestinian people".

According to the PA Mufti Muhammad Hussein (January 2012), on Jerusalem's Temple Mount, there "never was a Temple in any period, nor was there, at any time, any place of worship for the Jews or others at the Al-Aqsa Mosque site".

Just four examples of what has been a flood of Jewish history denialism.

These are just four examples of what has been a veritable flood of wholesale Jewish history denialism on the part of Palestinian political and religious leaders, intellectuals, educators and journalists. Nor are they the most egregious such cases.

Other instances of Palestinian and Muslim appropriation of the Jewish past for themselves, are so brazen as to take one's breath away. In terms of this, King David was a Muslim, Jesus was a Palestinian nationalist leader and all the archaeological data prior to the 7th century Arab Islamic conquest relates to a Palestinian, not a Jewish reality.

Alarming, the Palestinians would seem to be gaining some international support for their revisionist stance. In 2010, Unesco urged Israel "to take Rachel's Tomb off its Heritage Site lists as it was an integral part of the Palestinian territories" and resolved that it was to be regarded as being as much a Muslim as a Jewish holy site. By contrast, in 1830 the (Islamic) Ottoman

authorities legally ruled that it was a Jewish holy site.

This in turn points to how not only Jewish, Christian and sundry pagan sources uphold the Jewish connection to Israel, but even, up until very recently, Arab and Islamic ones. In rewriting the history of the region to exclude the Jews and place themselves in the starring role, the Palestinians are thus going against a substantial body of Arab historiography. How on earth, in the end, do they expect to get away with it?

Even Israeli left-wingers are dismayed by what the Palestinians are doing.

Even Israeli left-wingers are dismayed by what the Palestinians are doing. Knesset member Einat Wolf, for example, deplored how they were "stupidly trying again and again to somehow create an alternate reality in which the Jewish people are strangers in this land" (November 2010).

Those involved in the Camp David talks in 2000 well remember Yasser Arafat's cool denial of there ever being a Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, a stance that had much to do with the disastrous failure of those talks.

As we know too well, when it comes to the Jewish people, there is no such thing as a lie that is so great as to preclude its ever gaining traction. Over the centuries, the most demented theories about Jews have been conceived, believed and propagated by apparently intelligent people.

The time has surely come to devote far greater resources to educating ourselves and our children about the pre-Zionist history of the State of Israel. For too long, in part no doubt because of trendy scepticism over the Biblical heritage, it has been treated as if it was some kind of national myth rather than an objective, well-documented reality.

It may assume an even greater importance before long than demonstrating the truth of the Holocaust.

Ethiopian-Israeli Jews, feel racism pain

EETTA PRINCE-GIBSON
JERUSALEM

When violent riots against African migrant workers erupted in south Tel Aviv recently, a mob attacked Hanania Wanda, a Jew of Ethiopian origin, mistaking him for a Sudanese migrant worker.

"Wanda is my friend," says Elias Inbram, 38 (pictured), a social activist in the Ethiopian community and a former member of the Israeli diplomatic corps who served as spokesman for the embassy in South Africa. "I knew I had to react somehow."

Inbram, who holds a master's degree in law and is interning before applying for the bar, spoke to JTA. He said he realised "that since to white people, all blacks look the same - I, an Israeli Jew who is black, or anyone in my family, or anyone in my community, could be attacked, too."

That moved him to stencil "CAUTION: I am not an infiltrator from Africa" onto a bright yellow T-shirt.

Last week, he posted a picture of himself wearing the shirt - the only one he has printed - on Facebook. It already has gained thousands of "likes". (JTA)

JTA PHOTOS DEPARTMENT



Africa, continent of...

The air in the bus is thick with the body odour of many humans as we sat crammed, three to a seat on the road to Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic.

SASHA BERKOWITZ
GRADE 11

Ordinarily of the Congo; the journey is unbearably uncomfortable, but the man I sat pressed up against was renowned in the area for being a wise man whose advice was never to be taken lightly and whose utterances carried weight.

I decided to make most of my time with him, hoping to be rewarded with some words of inspiration.

Not long after passing a stillborn e-toll structure, we saw half a sign which read: "Africa, Continent Of..." Turning to me, the old man asked: "Is this sign not so apt?"

I started wondering what the missing words on this damaged sign were, words which this old man seemed to already have known. A picture came to my mind of a sign resembling the one we had just passed, only this one had the words "Africa, Continent Of Ancient History", boldly painted across it.

Here in Africa, we have the last of the remaining Seven Wonders of the Ancient World - the Great Pyramid, the tomb of Pharaoh Khufu. Our cntinent is soaked in remarkable history, such as slavery between the 7th and 20th centuries, known as the "Arab Slave Trade" - the slaves on whose back America's economy was built! Could it have read "Africa, Continent of Slavery"?

I thought to myself: What about "Africa, Continent of Colonialism"? In the late 19th century colonial regions were created and there were huge scrambles for land. Many countries were fighting to claim different parts of Africa as their own, leaving only two fully independent states - Ethiopia and Liberia.

Africa was manipulated and taken advantage of. To this day, you will find languages such as Portuguese and Spanish spoken in certain African countries because of those early occupations.

The "Scramble for Africa" was remembered for years because of the way Africa was treated. To this day we see similar things happening to our country through our political parties. Robert Mugabe has led Zimbabwe into turmoil and tragedy. It's been done to ourselves! And he is only one of the examples. The half sign could easily have read "Africa, Continent of Exploitation".

But with all this conflict we get diversity. Here in Africa, we have blacks, whites, coloured, Asians, Indians and just about any other race or nationality you could think of. With all this diversity comes culture.

There is so much a person could learn

from just looking around and opening his/her eyes to all that is happening. It would be safe to say we are living in "Africa, Continent of Cultural Diversity". There is nothing that hasn't been seen.

With one idea leading to another, my mind was branching out like a rosebush on September 1!

And then it hit me: The last words of the sign, much like everything else in Africa, were stolen. How apt it truly was!



Africa: the more it changes, the more it stays the same.

Interview

Two pertinent questions elicit pertinent answers

We asked some TA girls two pertinent questions:

CHANI YACHAD & SASHA BERKOWITZ
GRADE 11

Question 1: If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, fictional or non-fictional, who would it be and why?

Question 2: What is your life motto?

Chani Yachad, - grade 11:
Question 1: Athol Fugard. He was such an essential part of opposing apartheid through his political plays. He is so talented - his plays are so incredibly written but also from the Protest Theatre aspect, he was brave enough to stand out during apartheid and fight through theatre.
Question 2: "It does not do well to dwell in dreams and forget to live." - Albus Dumbledore.

Mushki Uzvolk - grade 11:
Question 1: Rebbetzen Chaya Mushka. She is a true inspiration.
Question 2: What you see in others is a

reflection of yourself.

Michal Gershuni - grade 9:
Question 1: Michael Jackson. Who wouldn't want to have dinner with the King of Pop?
Question 2: Don't just live life, love it!

Bev Isaacs - English teacher:
Question 1: I would like to host a banquet for all the great poets and writers in the English canon. It would give me an opportunity to finally ask F Scott Fitzgerald whether or not he actually created the Great Gatsby as an allegory of the American Dream. My students are always asking what the poet or writer actually meant to say in his or her work. After this dinner I will finally be equipped with the perfect answers.
Question 2: "When people show you who they are, believe them." – Maya Angelou.

Jordan Lorge – grade 11:
Question 1: John Travolta. His acting,

singing, dancing and charity work gives me such inspiration!

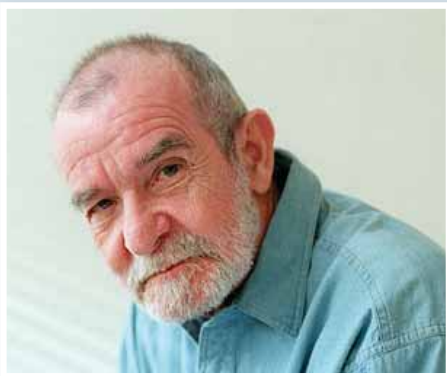
Question 2: A rolling stone gathers no moss

Sasha Berkowitz - grade 11:
Question 1: Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. He lived in and was such an integral part of such a creative, adventurous and culturally revolutionary time, the Bohemian period. There would be so much he could be tell me about the era, answer all of my questions and inspire my creativity.
Question 2: "How conventional all you unconventional people are." - George Bernard Shaw.

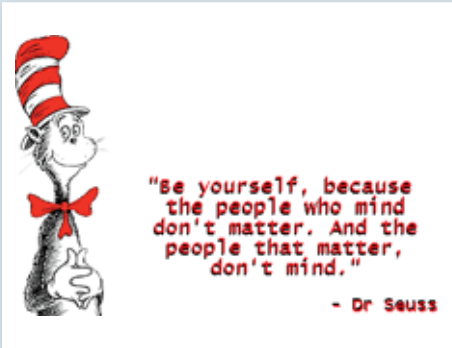
Devorah Finger - grade 11:
Question 1: My dancing teacher who passed away, Desiree Portal. She was my really close friend and I have a lot of unfinished business with her; I wish I could see her again.
Question 2: "Be yourself, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind." - Dr Seuss.



Author F Scott Fitzgerald.



Athol Fugard, South African playwright.



Be yourself, because the people who mind don't matter and the people who matter don't mind.

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International

Kony 2012 exposes tyrant of the LRA

The campaign poster for Kony 2012.



SARA TAUBY
GRADE 12

Abducted as child soldiers and slaves, indoctrinated to torture and mutilate, instructed to murder their own families, 66 000 Ugandan children live this nightmare everyday.

This seemed to be the fate for 13-year-old Jacob Acaye and his brother. But Jacob's brother refused to endure this any longer. He was adamant to change his destiny. He planned his escape. This suffering would finally end!

But, alas, on the designated night of his escape, he was captured, brought back to the settlement and used as an example to all the children abductees of what would happen to them if they tried to escape. And then, in front of young Jacob's eyes, they slit his brother's throat.

"It is better when you kill us... We don't want now to stay." These are the words of Jacob. He should not want to die now, at age 13; he should go to school, like a normal boy his age, to enable him to fulfil his lifelong dream to qualify as a lawyer.

Instead, his childhood reality is too horrendous, too devastating to bear. There is no one more to blame for this crippled mentality than the wicked Joseph Kony, the leader of the revolutionary Ugandan faction, The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Kony considers himself to be the spokesman of G-d and a spiritual intermediary of the Holy Spirit. What had started out as a rebel movement to end the oppression of north Uganda, has now become the source of oppression.

Kony wasn't able to maintain the group's number of soldiers or regional support, and he started stealing food and abducting children to fill the ranks of his army.

His tactics were - and remain - brutal. He often forced children to kill their parents or siblings with machetes or blunt tools. He abducted girls to be slaves for his officers. He brainwashed and indoctrinated the children with his lies and manipulated them with his claim of spiritual powers.

His army spreads widely. It began in northern

Uganda but soon after spread to the DRC and South Sudan. No one has been able to locate his whereabouts since 1986. His actions have made him the most wanted terrorist on the International Criminal Court's list.

Ugandan children live with the constant fear of abduction. At the height of the conflict in Uganda, children "night commuted." This means that every evening they would walk miles from their homes to the city centres. There, hundreds of them would sleep in school houses, churches, or bus stations to avoid abduction by the LRA.

I had no knowledge of Joseph Kony or his schemes, until the organisation, "Invisible Children" uploaded the video "Kony 2012" on YouTube. This 29-minute film went viral and in a matter of days was watched more than 58 million times. As of March 19, the video has had more than 83 063 374 hits on YouTube alone.

Kony 2012 is a campaign film produced by "Invisible Children", aiming to make the world aware of Kony. They want to raise support for his arrest and set a precedent for international justice.

One of the main people featured in the film is Jacob. After hearing Jacob's heart-wrenching story, director and founder of Invisible Children, Jason Russell, "promises Jacob that he will help stop Kony".

"Nothing is more powerful than an idea, whose time has come. Whose time is now!" These are the powerful; opening lines of the video "Kony 2012".

As I watched this documentary, a visual description of the LRA's proceedings, I was overwhelmed with emotion. I felt disgusted and yet at the same time ashamed. Disgusted at the immorality, inhumanity and atrocities that one man and his soldiers can accomplish. But ashamed of the public world and media for being so sheltered from this violence.

I was inspired to do something, yet living in my little bubble in Johannesburg, there is not much that I can do. I can not go out and hang up posters and I cannot join the Invisible Children movements. However, I publicise Kony's name. I encourage everyone to watch Kony 2012 and to educate yourselves. Every person needs to believe that he can help stop Kony

Lag B'Omer

Celebrating Lag B'Omer in boats at Zoo Lake

RIVKY LIBEROW, MUSHKI UZVOLK AND
CLARA EYOVICS
GRADE 11

Lag B'Omer is the day when we commemorate the passing of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai. Before his passing, he requested that the anniversary of his death should be a day of great celebration. In order to adhere to this, the Torah Academy Girls' High School made their way to Zoo Lake.

As each class arrived with their picnic kits, we were received, not too graciously, by a quacking of ducks. After they beat a retreat, due to our shrieks, we made our way to a grassy area overlooking the lake and set up our blankets.

We all relaxed and enjoyed our salads, cakes and other goodies, surrounded by music, of course.

With full stomachs and happy smiles, girls made their way over to the boats. Five girls got into each boat and paddled away into the calm and dirty lake water.

Spontaneously a game started among the 12 boats. Every group soon became aware to stay clear of boat number 24 - 'the pirate boat'. These "pirates of the Zoo Lake" had no mercy and no boat would escape their clutches.

With expert rowers they chased and overtook every boat. When they would reach the other boat, their hands would grab the sides and shake it roughly causing the passengers to scream with delightful fear. Laughing uproariously the pirates would quickly paddle away, leaving the victims shaken up or missing an oar.

One such boat left with only one oar, could not paddle to shore and was very grateful to the rescue party that went to save them. With six oars the pirates made their way ashore as the other boats struggled to keep up.

After cleaning up, all the girls piled into cars and headed back to school after a day of fun.



Torah Academy girls in the boats at Zoo Lake.

Sport

True fans don't blow hot and cold



SASHA BERKOWITZ
GRADE 11

I don't think there's a single Manchester United fan who has not pulled out the "8 - 2" card to any Arsenal fan, and I don't think any of them have not been shown the "1 - 6" reminder by Manchester City in return - the best victory, most would say, the best that City has had.

You see, there are two types of supporters: those who love the results, and those who love the team.

In 2008, Manchester City - who this year won the Premier League by beating arch-rival Manchester United into second place - was taken over by Qatar's Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, making them the wealthiest football club in the world. As a result, they were able to spend £127 million on players in the 2011 pre-season transfer window, such as Samir Nasri and Sergio Aguero who some would also argue, also bought them 127 million new fans.

With their newly-bought team, City entered the season with a 14-match unbeaten streak and quickly moved to first place in the league. The fans seeking glory, were drawn to the club immediately.

The playing style and mindset was irrelevant, as long as they supported a victorious team, such as the astonishing 1 - 6 victory over Manchester United they could boast about to schoolmates, work colleagues or family members.

But to some fans, staying faithful is more important than staying on top.

On August 28, 2011, Arsenal took a massive 8 - 2 beating from Manchester United, making a huge dent in the start of their 2011/12 Premier League season. Being two matches into the league, they had a mere one point and already a minus two goal aggregate from their 0 - 2 defeat against Liverpool the previous week.

Already things were not looking too good for them, and then those eight devastating goals from the ever-challenging Manchester United, sent them tumbling down the league table.

Yet, six goals down, all that could be heard from the stands were the chants of the Arsenal fans, taking up only 3 000 of the 75 811 seats at Old Trafford.

Hope for the crucial victory had been lost, but the faith in their team remained with the fans. All us fans watching from our homes may have been heartbroken, but we were certainly heart warmed, too.

So, of course every football follower wants nothing more than his or her own team to win the league, but being a true fan means loving that team no matter who the manager, what the score, or how many trophies are won.

Being a true fan means cheering on your team through winning and losing, through promotion and relegation.

Three fans were bemoaning the fact that their team kept losing and was facing relegation, "I blame the manager," said the first. "If he would sign new players, we would be a great side."

"I blame the players," said the second. "If they made more of an effort, I'm sure we would score more goals."

"I blame my parents," added the third, and truest, fan. "If I'd been born in another town I'd be supporting a better team."



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Purim Celebrations

Purim celebrated in Candy Land at TA

LISA BLOCH
Grade 11

In the 4th century BCE the mighty Persian Empire reigned over 127 countries. The king of that time, King Ahasuerus and his anti-Semitic prime minister, Haman, decreed that on the 13th of Adar all the Jews should be killed. On that day Hashem performed a huge miracle and every single Jew was saved and so we celebrate this day, the day our nation was saved.

March 7, 2012, Torah Academy Girls’ High School hosted their annual Purim Party organised by the current grade 11s. The theme of the party was “Candy Land”.

Following Megillah reading, the girls headed to the newly-refurbished hall at the Torah Academy main campus. The hall was dressed up in shades of pink, green and cerise and filled with gigantic lollipops and floating sweets.

The board from the children’s game, “Candy Land”

was blown up and printed on canvas which served as the dance floor. All of this coupled with pink and green floor lights created a beautiful ambience.

The entertainment comprised music, dancing, a hypnotist, a photo booth, a popcorn machine and a candyfloss machine. Upon entering, the girls were offered an array of home baked goods such as cakes, cupcakes, biscuits and more. This was followed by music and dancing and started off the evening with a bang.

Supper was served in the form of hot dogs, hamburgers, hot chips and assorted salads. In a break between courses, the hypnotist began his show. What followed, we can only describe as an event of hilarious proportions. With singing, exhibiting musical prowess, and CPR, the hypnotism volunteers were brilliant sports, entertaining the audience who demanded multiple encores. The photo booth as always was a roaring success and we were sad to see it close before the evening was over.

However, dessert was the pièce de résistance. Multiple-flavoured jelly, nougat, Laffy Taffys, Jelly Bellies, Jelly Tots, liquorice, mini cupcakes, dark chocolate, fizz pops, fizzers and much, much more covered an entire square table.

The festivities went on until midnight and the cleanup went on for even longer. All in all it was an incredible successful evening, well worth the immense effort.

A hall of fantasy and fun - Candy Land at Torah Academy Girls’ High.



Israel Quiz

TA Girls savour participation in Israel Quiz 2012

KEREN SWARTZ
Grade 9

The year 2012 was the first year that Torah Academy has participated in the Israel Quiz and has been a wonderful experience.

The Israel Quiz is a project that aims to educate Jewish children in South Africa about the history of our holy land, Israel. Most importantly it arms the youth with facts and it teaches us how to argue with those who oppose Israel and what the country stands for.

The Israel Quiz ensures that we learn about Israel’s history. We learn about Hashem’s covenant with Avraham Avinu when He promises that He would give his descendants the Land of Israel.

It teaches us about the determination of the great people who wanted and succeeded in establishing the State of Israel and it tells us about the wars that took place when Israel was a fledgling state. The Israel Quiz teaches us to be proud to call ourselves Jews and to name Israel as our homeland.

The Israel Centre SA and the SA Zionist Federation, who supply the necessary learning material to the learners, run this exciting project. There was an enthusiastic response from the Torah Academy Girls’ High School learners and a large percentage of them participated.

Morah Stern, the senior Hebrew teacher at Torah Academy High School, obtained the books from the Israel Centre for the learners. Her care and devotion helped many of the learners to achieve outstanding results.

She was always happy to answer any questions and to provide guidance, support and assistance to our enquiring minds. Morah Rebecca, principal of Torah Academy Girls High, ensured that we were in constant contact with the Israel Centre and offered endless encouragement and reassurance.

Finally, all our learning paid off as we can see from the results of the first round which took place on the

March 26, 2012. The top three results were 93 per cent, 92 per cent and 80 per cent respectively. The second round will take place on August 6, 2012. The marks from round one and round two will be combined at the end of the competition and the learners with the top 15 marks will be allowed to enter round three. The winner of the competition will win a trip to Israel and there are many other prizes for learners who have put their time and effort into learning for this prestigious quiz.

I feel privileged to be part of this wonderful project and am proud to call myself a Jew. Best of luck for round two, guys!



Poster for Israel Quiz 2012.

Kodesh Education

Kodesh education - ‘the real jewel’ of TA

YAKIRA FARBER
Grade 11

Although at Torah Academy we are privileged to have an incredible secular education and are offered a wide variety of subjects, the real jewel of the school is our Kodesh education.

The girls’ high school is blessed to be taught by knowledgeable, spiritual and wise rabbis and teachers who are mentors and role-models to us girls.

Chumash, Chassidus, Tanach, Jewish history, “Da Mah Shetashuv” and halacha are the Torah subjects we are taught. These studies do not just develop our understanding and improve our knowledge, but they instil in us life values and a love for Hashem and His Torah.

We feel very fortunate to be learning Limudai Kodesh regularly during our school day. Being a Chabad school, we develop a love of Chassidus. This helps reveal the secrets of the holy Torah, through which we discover the true warmth and beauty of Hashem’s world.

The beauty of the Torah is revealed at Torah Academy Girls’ High.



Every day we are given an inspirational thought before davening. I recall a beautiful lesson that was read to us that goes as follows:

“Imagine that you had won the following prize in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit \$86 400 in your private account for your use. However, this prize has rules, just as any game has certain rules.

“The first set of rules would be: Everything that you didn’t spend during each day would be taken away from you. You may not simply transfer money into some other account. You may only spend it. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86 400 for that day.

“The second set of rules: The bank can end the game without warning. At any time it can say ‘It’s over, the game is over!’ It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

“What would you personally do? You would buy anything and everything you wanted, right? Not only for yourself, but also for all the people you love, right? Even for people you don’t know, because you couldn’t possibly spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every penny, and use it all.

“Actually, this game is reality! Each of us is in possession of such a magical bank. We just can’t seem to see it. The magical bank is time! This is the mitzvah in the Torah of Kidush Hachodesh, to show Klal Yisroel that we are supposed to control our own time (or we are meant to).

“Each morning we awaken to receive 86 400 seconds as a gift of life, and when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us. What we haven’t lived up that day is forever lost. Yesterday is forever gone.

“Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time without warning. What will you do with your 86 400 seconds? Aren’t they worth so much more than the same amount in dollars?

“Always think of this: Enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think, so use your time wisely.”

WHY IS PAKISTAN NOT SUBJECT TO BOYCOTTS?

Unfortunately, the spread of Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) against Israel, is spreading at tremendous pace. Yet, the Pakistani cricket team still plays in international matches.

Why has Pakistan not faced the same boycott, divestment, sanctions being forced on Israel because of some labels showing “Made in Israel” when in fact those goods are from disputed, not occupied areas?

The production of Israeli goods being made in the disputed areas, is providing employment to many Arabs who would otherwise have no income. Those areas have been desert, neglected land, until the Israelis developed it. It is not “occupied” land. Pakistan shielded the world’s worst ter-

FELDER’S WHIRLWIND LITHUANIAN TOUR WAS A PR EXERCISE

A second opinion on Steve Felder’s enthusiastic article “Lithuania - a past not forgotten” (SAJR May 11): As an SA-born Litvak now living in Washington, DC, I share that mystique and the yearning to love Lithuania, the land to which I can trace my ancestors into the early 18th century.

I have visited Lithuania four times between 1992 and 2003. Would I visit Lithuania again? Definitely not!

Felder’s 48-hour hyped-up whirlwind tour was a PR event staged by the Lithuanian government which is energetically courting SA Jews. Clearly the government is looking for SA Litvak investments to help revive their badly suffering economy.

Recently, to the horror of the tiny surviving Lithuanian Jewish community, an elaborate four-day chain of events in Vilnius (Vilna) and Kaunas (Kovno) was orchestrated and financed by the Lithuanian government.

The ceremonies and conferences honoured the memory of the 1941 Nazi-puppet Prime Minister Juozas Abrazevicius (Brazaitis) who had fled to Germany and later to the US after the war. (He had changed his surname to “Brazaitis” to elude arrest for his Nazi-collaboration activities.)

The signature of Abrazevicius appears at the top of documents ordering the formation of the Kovno Ghetto, the withdrawal of all human rights for Jews, and other measures designed to persecute and annihilate Lithuanian Jewry.

Brazaitis died in 1974 in the US. Almost 40 years later the Lithuanian government has had his remains exhumed, flown to Vilnius, and reburied with full honours. While the pomp and ceremony was going on for this “hero” who was responsible for thousands of Jewish deaths, Vilnius’ only functioning synagogue was desecrated with green paint.

A few of the issues that are currently

SELIKOW’S MOROCCAN BOYCOTT EXAMPLE IS NOT APPROPRIATE

I would like to respond to Gary Selikow’s letter, “Vicious vendetta against Israel” (SAJR June 1) in which he suggests “a South African-wide boycott of Moroccan goods made in occupied Western Sahara” and other countries’ goods made in disputable places.

The fact is that Western Sahara has traditionally been part of Morocco, and it might only be due to Algerian propaganda and stirring up disputes (Algeria and Morocco are not friendly with each other), that some people in Western Sahara don’t see them-

ARE ORTHODOX JEWS CUSTODIANS OF JEWISH LAWS, TRADITIONS?

In response to the letters from Gary Blumenthal and Sarah Hertz-Bauer, both having derogatory remarks about Reform Jews, I find it hard to accept why Orthodox Jews feel that they are the “custodians” of Jewish laws, traditions and values.

These fanatics will be the downfall of our fragile religion in that fanaticism in any form is lethal and dangerous but has a short shelf life in our modern world of

DAVIES: MYRON ROBINSON HITS THE NAIL ON THE HEAD

Myron Robinson from East London’s reaction to Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies’ re-labelling issue (Jewish Report,

rorist leader who was responsible not only for many deaths in various countries, but the destruction of the World Trade Centre in New York, with the deaths of more than 3 000 innocent people, buses being blown up by terrorists in London, and trains in Madrid.

Osama bin Laden lived in and was protected by the Pakistani government, as was proven only a few days ago, where Pakistan imprisoned a doctor for 33 years for giving America the whereabouts of Bin Laden, which resulted in his death.

Bin Laden lived in very close proximity to a Pakistani army base at Abbottabad.

Yet, labels are a bigger crime than riding the world of the world’s #1 terrorist. **Markus E Brajtman, Sea Point, Cape Town**

plaguing Lithuanian-Jewish relations:

- Significant increases in anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic incidents. No arrests have been made.
- Annual massive neo-Nazi marches since 2008 in Vilnius and Kaunas on Lithuania’s independence days, fully sanctioned by the government.
- Not one Lithuanian war criminal has been punished. It is documented that a minimum of 15 000 Lithuanians participated actively in murdering Jews.
- Government prosecutors have harassed ageing Jewish survivors in Vilnius and Israel with charges of “war crimes” because they had fought against the Nazis.
- The concept of a double-genocide in Lithuania is marketed ad nauseam. This is one step up the ladder from Holocaust denial. The only genocide in Lithuania was the Holocaust.

The Lithuanian government is engaged in dual-track politics and policies. While it is trying to create the appearance that it is striving for reconciliation with its small Litvak community and the larger world Jewry, it is simultaneously still intent on appeasing its ultra-nationalist faction.

Contrary to what Felder claims, the country has failed to confront its brutal Holocaust past.

Is it any wonder that they would prefer to tune out their past? Yet other nations have managed to overcome their shameful pasts. But that requires sincerity and honesty.

Most certainly Steve Felder did not see the real Lithuania during his visit complete with welcomes from the Prime Minister and other elites. He and others who are similarly taken in must go beyond the PR duplicity and look through a wider lens.

Olga Zabludoff, Washington, DC
The letter has been slightly shortened. - Editor

selves as Moroccan.

In any case, Morocco is a friendly country towards Israel, and I also know that Boer/Afrikaner farmers are more than welcome there if they wish to immigrate there.

So, I don’t see any sense or logic in suggesting some kind of “revenge” on Morocco, for the ANC government in South Africa being “unfriendly” with Israel. On the contrary, friends of Israel should be friends with Morocco too.

Avner Eliyahu Romm, Sea Point, CT

enlightened and educated thoughts and ideas.

The Chevrah Kadisha take our “Reform money” donated to them without a problem, so why can’t these people learn from the Jewish Helping Hand that all Jews should be shown respect and courtesy, no matter what side of the fence they will be buried on one day.

Paul Blumberg, Centurion

June 1) is spot on. Thanks for a brilliant letter – you’ve said it all.

Richard Altschuler, Cheltondale, Jhb

SEE THINGS IN A BROADER CONTEXT OF MODESTY

David Saks’ “yodelling yentas” faux pas has created quite a stir. As a woman, I forgive Mr Saks for his silly headline. As an Orthodox Jewess I don’t believe that any woman should be referred to as a “yodelling yenta”. Indeed, as Mr Solomon has pointed out, we (women in general), are not “yodelling yentas”, but rather we are “divas who delight”.

Many Orthodox women enjoy singing and sing beautifully. Women can sing alone or in women only forums. Orthodox belief does not contradict this, but believes that a woman is a “diva”; but her “diva” is “SA-CRED” and should only be revealed between

BRING IN ‘JOB CREATION’ WHEN CHOOSING JEWISH ACHIEVERS

Your newspaper promotes an annual competition known as the “Absa Achiever Awards” which honours successful entrepreneurs and humanitarian achievers. In the past this has raised some controversy as to whether honouring successful Jewish businessmen is in accordance with Jewish tradition.

In support of your initiative I quote from Ethics of the Fathers” chapter 3 verse 21 pages 563 of the Artscroll Sid-dur. Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah says: “If there is no flour there is no Torah, if there is no Torah there is no flour.”

Moreover, Maimonides (Rambam) was of the opinion that “providing work for a person, so that he may become self-sup-

UNFAIR TO CHALLENGE DAVIS’ ABILITY TO COMMENT ON JEWISH LAW

I refer to the letter which appeared in your paper on June 1, maintaining that “(Mr Justice Dennis) Davis not qualified to talk on Jewish law.”

I certainly do not hold a brief for Justice Davis as he is quite competent and more than ably qualified to speak for himself. While I am not always in agreement with his viewpoints, I think that it is unfair to challenge his ability to pass comment on the basis that he hasn’t spent a day in a yeshiva and he can’t read a page of Talmud, (I assume the author of the letter has proof thereof).

Whether Davis can read and understand Hebrew or not, I have no knowl-

PAYMENT OF TAXES CAN’T DETERMINE WHERE A CAPITAL SHOULD BE

I refer to Allan Minitzer’s letter, “Jerusalem may claim high ground, but Tel Aviv pays the rates”, (SAJR June 1).

The capital of a country is not determined by popular will, or by its affluence or by the dictates of foreign powers. Governments determine where their capitals are. Jerusalem was made the capital of Israel by the government of Israel.

It is the seat of its legislature (the Knesset), its administration (the government) and its judiciary (the Supreme Court) as is the case with any other capital in the world.

Added to this is the historic perspective: Jerusalem was the capital of biblical Israel, 3 000 years ago - and that is not all, either. For the religious, Jerusalem contains the very place where G-d’s spirit resides.

While the ultra-Orthodox may contribute nothing financially, the payment of taxes can never act as a proxy for deter-

REMARKS ON REFORM ARE ALMOST HATE SPEECH

With reference to the letters published in last week’s SAJR, I am absolutely disgusted that anyone can blame Reform Judaism for the rise of Hitler, Nazism and ultimately the

her and her husband. It is relevant to modesty, whether it be modesty in dress or in singing.

It is precisely because a woman is so beautiful and so powerful, that these restrictions apply.

Different restrictions are hard for different people to come to terms with. I can understand why women singing is hard for some to accept but, for me, I gain a better appreciation for this restriction because I understand that it is part of a broader context of modesty.

Michele Engelberg, Johannesburg

REPORTING IS THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF CHARITY

However, according to a report by Adrian Saville of Cannon Asset Managers, writing in Finweek, it is not all businesses that create jobs. The report found that “between the Sasol, Goldfields and SAB (we) have seen jobs reduced over the past quarter century.

“In contrast six small survivors from the class of 1987, Adcorp, Autopage, Bowler Metcalf, Macadams, Sasfin and Spier, have seen their combined workforce grow by a factor of 15 ...”

Should you choose to select your achievers in a “Jewish way”, please consider their job creating potential.

John Brenner, Johannesburg

edge but I am sure that he is quite capable of reading the Talmudic Commentaries in English being a competent justice of the highest court in this country and having written many well reasoned judgments.

Furthermore, the fact that Davis belongs to the Reform community should certainly not be a barrier to his commenting on an issue on which he has strong feelings. Whether one agrees with Davis’ comments or not, is the reader’s prerogative. I am, however, of the opinion that the personal attack on him is unwarranted.

Myron Robinson, East London

MINING WHERE A COUNTRY’S CAPITAL SHOULD BE LOCATED

mining where a country’s capital should be located. Johannesburg is the financial and industrial heart of South Africa, but it has never been suggested that it be made the capital(s) of the country (which is Pretoria and Cape Town).

The same may be said of both New York and Los Angeles in the United States (whose capital is Washington DC) or Sydney in Australia (capital - Canberra).

Ehud Olmert wrote the following about our capital: “Jerusalem represents the purest expression that all Jews have prayed for, dreamed of, cried for and died for in the 2 000 years since the destruction of the Second Temple.”

I am not ultra-Orthodox, but believe that no other city, under any circumstances can ever replace Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, a position it has held for 3 000 years.

Sharon-Anne Epstein, Modi’in, Israel

Holocaust.

I would say that such a statement almost amounts to hate speech.

Monica Solomon, Bramley Park, Jhb

Looking for

LOOKING FOR FAYE FREEDMAN

Penny Hochfeld is looking for Faye Freedman, who lived for a while in Australia (probably Sydney), where she was a friend of Rhoda Frankel’s, before returning to South Africa.

“We think she moved a year or two ago from a flat (where her phone number was

(011) 880-6416) to a Jewish old age home in Johannesburg, but we have not been able to trace her.”

If anyone knows how to contact Faye, please e-mail penny@hochfeld.co.za or phone (011) 788-4589 (evenings).

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

The relatively low level of anti-Semitism in SA compared with elsewhere in the world, is something we are grateful for. That being said, hostile acts aimed at Jews solely on the basis of their being Jewish, still occur.

Sometimes, these take place in the context of a dispute, in which the non-Jewish party makes gratuitous and offensive references to the other's Jewishness. At others, it manifests as unprovoked acts aimed at denigrating the Jewish community, such as hate mail and graffiti.

Some actions, while not explicitly anti-Semitic, are nevertheless offensive to Jews, and would include any public demonstration expressing support for Nazism.

It is part of the core mandate of the board to counter act all acts of this nature. To this end, we have adopted a zero-tolerance policy in which every action we become aware of that we deem to have even an element of anti-Jewish prejudice, is taken up and pursued to whatever extent is necessary to achieve a satisfactory resolution.

In recent weeks, we have taken up a number of cases of anti-Semitic or generally offensive behaviour, and I am pleased to report that all have had a satisfactory outcome.

Several other cases of a more complex and far-reaching nature are still in the process of being dealt with, and will be reported on in due course. It is not necessary to remain passive in the face of anti-Semitism.

Such prejudice is not acceptable in our society. I therefore urge anyone who has a grievance in this regard to contact our offices (011) 645-2521/ david@beyachad.co.za).

Listen to "Jewish Board Talk" every Tuesday evening on 101.9 Chai FM with Steven Gruzd from 20:00 – 21:00, repeated Sundays 11:00 – 12:00. On Tuesday June 12, Steve plans to chat to Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein about the Sinai Indaba, Lynne Raphaely about the Union of Jewish Women, and historian Lauren Segal about the significance of June 16. Also streaming on www.chaifm.com

Standing up against anti-Semitism

Taking part in the national discourse

I congratulate our Cape Council on the very successful public debate they recently hosted on the topic "Should Employment Equity Have a Sunset Clause?"

Panellists included the Western Cape representatives of the ANC and DA youth leagues and representatives of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce and Black Management Forum. Over 200 people attended the debate, which lasted for well over two

hours. See www.capebod.org.za.

University exams on Shavuot and Shabbat

We have again been able to resolve a number of cases of exams set on Yomtov and Shabbat, this time at Unisa and UJ. Once again, we worked closely with these universities to find a workable solution, and I thank them for their co-operation in making alternative arrangements possible.



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman



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Rose tangibly shows her love for animals

ROSE ZELEZNIAK
PHOTOGRAPH: STELLA LAZARUS

Domestic Animal Rescue Group (DARG) is a shelter for cats and dogs that have been rescued over the years.

Rose Zelezniak in grade 5 at Herzlia Constantia, has collected 80 tins and bags of food, treats, toys and blankets for DARG. This was a research project that has been done with Karen Gottschalk, a

teacher at the school. Every morning we have seen at least one child bringing an item or two. It may have taken some time, but in the end a huge number of items was collected for needy dogs and cats.

KDL’s 2012 open day a huge success

KERRY N FEIGENBAUM
PHOTOGRAPH: RORY RUBIN

The 2012 annual open day was held on Tuesday May 29. The day was a resounding success with 213 grade 7 pupils from a number of different schools joining the King David Linksfield High School campus amidst much excitement and anticipation. The buzzing throng of learners were treated to hotdogs and an inspiring address from Headmaster Marc Falconer, after which they joined the rest of the school for an assembly and a viewing of “Glance”, KDs very own video documentary filled with exciting snippets of day-to-day events in our bustling school. The grade 7s then participated in an hour of sporting activities, followed by an hour of cultural activities, sampling much of what King David Linksfield



Grade 7s participating in a rugby activity.

High has to offer. The grade 11s spent the remainder of the afternoon engaging our visitors in discussion groups, followed by a braai, where they were entertained with music and a variety of amusing skits by the older pupils. In the evening, prospective parents joined their children in the hall to view displays by the various school

committees, entertainment by the magnificent school choir and an enlightening presentation by Falconer. The day came to a close with a tea in the classrooms of the newly renovated W-block. Tired but happy pupils and parents trickled slowly out of the school after a warm and wonderful day at KDHL.



Yeshiva College celebrates Madiba’s birthday

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

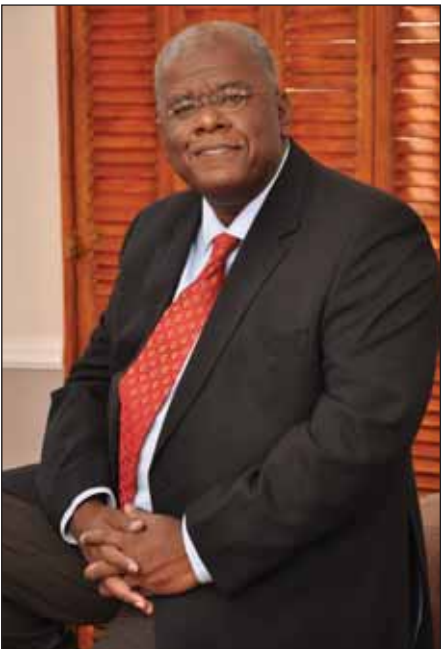
The Grade Rs of Yeshiva College Pre-Primary, worked on a “South Africa” project and are designing a new shirt for Madiba – former President Nelson Mandela - in honour of his birthday. This shirt was designed by Gavriel Sender.

‘P’ is for Pilot Phil

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY MOIRA NOCHUMSOHN

Jaiden Klotnick brought his grandfather - Pilot Phil - to Sydenham Pre-primary School to talk to the children, as we introduced the sound and letter P in our phonics programme. Phil shared his knowledge and passion for flying with the children and answered all their questions.

Pilot Phil talks to Sydenham tots.



Professor Jonathan Jansen, rector of the University of the Free State, who has become a patron of the South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation.

Thumbs-up for Jansen as patron of the SAHGF

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

Newly-appointed patron of the South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation (SAHGF) Professor Jonathan Jansen, has described the enterprise as an “important national project.” The SAHGF is the umbrella body of the Holocaust centres in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. Jansen, the rector and vice-chancellor of the University of the Free State (UFS), is a renowned educator and social commentator who has engaged South African society in an examination of the issues around education and race. Commenting in a statement on his appointment, Jansen said he had for some time been drawn to the SAHGF through “an interest in studying how national and indeed international traumas show up in the memories of the second or after-generation, and with what effects”. He said he believed strongly as a teacher and leader that “we bear a responsibility to our youth to teach the lessons of the past in order to develop empathy, understanding and solidarity beyond notions of ‘unique pain’”. One should, in addition, apply the lessons from historical events to prevent them from happening again. Speaking from a personal perspective, Jansen said: “The more I learn about the struggles and memories of others, the more I find my own transformation being challenged and deepened on this road that I travel in post-apartheid South Africa.” SAHGF Director Richard Freedman, told Jewish Report that Jansen’s appointment would certainly enhance the entity’s reputation. “To be associated with a man of his stature who is a public intellectual, who is at the forefront of thinking around issues across the racial divide, is incredibly important for us because, not only does it serve to support our own mission which is very aligned with the way in which he thinks and speaks, but it also gives us credibility in a much broader public.” Freedman noted that Jansen had “a tremendous regard for the work that we do” and was keen to bring the SAHGF’s programmes to the UFS and to bring senior leadership among both his staff and student body into contact with them. “He has established an institute on campus that looks at issues around transformation and has put us in contact with its director. He has also indicated that there is a possibility that we’ll be working with his education faculty in the training of students.” The SAHGF had already worked “quite extensively” with the Free State Department of Education and this was a natural development of that process. “There are all sorts of opportunities for direct involvement,” he added. Freedman said there had been “an avalanche” of congratulatory messages in response to the appointment, both from within and “way beyond” the Jewish community.

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What's On

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

Today, Friday (June 8)

- **UZLC** hosts journalist and TV presenter Paula Slier on “Some Breaking News Stories”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Information: Gloria (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.
- **WIZO** Campaign Launch in CT with ME commentator and journalist Linda Menuhin Abdul Aziz on “From Baghdad to Jerusalem - Towards an Understanding of the Arab Culture”. Venue: Albow Centre. Time: 09:30. Donation: R50. Refreshments will be served. Information: (021) 464-6729 or e-mail bnothz@ctjc.co.za

Saturday evening (June 9)

- **Oxford Shul** celebrates 65 years of choral music, featuring the Oxford Shul Choir, the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir, the newly-established Johannesburg Jewish Boys’ Choir and the resident choirs of Pine Street, Pretoria, Waverley and Sandton Shuls. Time: 20:00. Information and bookings: Evelyn Green, (011) 728-5570, or call the shul: (011) 646-6020.

Sunday (June 10)

- **RCHCC** is rescreening by popular request, the award-winning documentary, “Frank Lloyd Wright”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za renes@greatpark.co.za

Sunday (June 10)

- **Big Band Music Appreciation Society** offers good music and a movie of yesteryear, “Pin-Up Girl”. Venue: St John’s College in the Jeffrey Auditorium, Lower Houghton. Time: 14:15 sharp. Further information: Dave (011) 885-3525 or Barney (011) 440-1996.
- **Second Innings** hosts Brigadier Helena Ras, section head of the Victim Identification Centre, division of Forensic Services, SAPS, Pretoria, who will talk on “Travelling From a Forensic Perspective”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time 10:00 for 10:30. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members.

- **Chai FM** has adopted a baby giraffe at Lion Park. The young animal was rejected by her mother. Listeners and their families are invited to meet her and welcome her into “our” family. Time: 09:30 onwards. Tickets: R180 per adult and R110 per child. Kosher food will be available on sale. Visit www.chaifm.com to book before June 6 or call Ronel on (011) 532-9309 for more information.

Monday (June 11)

- **UJW CT adult education division** AGM. Venue: Fire & Ice

Hotel. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Contact: Tel: (021) 434-9555, fax: (021) 434-9302 or info@ujwcape.co.za.

- **UJW adult education division** hosts Constitutional Court Justice Edwin Cameron on “Law and the Constitution: Promises and Perils”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time 09:30. Tel: (011) 648-1053. Donation: R25.

Tuesday (June 12)

- **Second Innings Men’s Group** hosts Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, country communities rabbi, on “My Visits to Communities in Africa”. Venue: Our Parents Home, Orchards. Time: 14:00 for 14:30. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

- **Chevrah Kadisha Community Services** is offering a 6-week “Budgeting Group”, starting today, focusing on user-friendly budgeting, money management skills and saving plans, co-facilitated by a social worker and financial consultant. Tuesday evenings from 17:30 - 19:00 in the Sandringham Gardens Auditorium. For bookings or more info, call Hillary on (011) 532-9713.

Wednesday (June 13)

- **RCHCC** hosts a talk by Victor Gordon on “Tchaikovsky’s Women”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R70 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za

- **UJW CT adult education division** hosts Jonathan Bloch on “The Financial World is Living in Interesting Times”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (June 14)

- **Chai FM** hosts the premiere of “Madagascar 3: Europe’s Most Wanted” Venue: Killarney Mall. Time 08:00. We have negotiated a very good ticket deal. To reserve your ticket, SMS “MOVIE” to 34519 or visit www.chaifm.com to book. Contact Ronel on (011) 532-9309 for more information.

- **UJW Histadrut Ivrit** will host lecturer: Cedric Ginsberg on “Yiddish Poetry”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 10:30 for 11:00. Donation: R10. Contact: Shulamit Kagan (011) 882-9221.

Sunday (June 17)

- **The Samantha Amy Brest Endowment Fund**, under the auspices of the KDSF, hosts a fundraiser brunch. Author Joanne Jowell will speak on her book, “On the Other Side of Shame”. Venue: 38b Adrienne Street, Sandown Extension 24. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Donation: R150 per person. Bookings: Felicite Brest 082-333-7961 or e-mail brest@icon.co.za

Diverse Jewish interest to find Last Man Standing

Israeli boxer Ran Nakash will arrive in South Africa on Monday to participate in the Golden Gloves promoted Super 8 Last Man Standing cruiserweight competition which takes place at Emperors Palace on Saturday night, June 16.

JACK MILNER

Based on his record of 27 fights with 26 wins - 18 via the “short route” - and one loss, a unanimous points decision to German Marco Huck in Halle, Germany, last year, the Israeli is likely to be the favourite to win this event.

The 33-year-old Nakash is due to take on a host of South African boxers and he has called on the local Jewish community to come out and support him. Nakash is more than your average boxer. In 2007 he was appointed to head the Israeli Defence Force’s Krav Maga school.

Nakash was also featured on the Discovery Channel’s Fight Quest where he demonstrated the techniques of the Israeli martial art of Krav Maga. In an effort to make Krav Maga available to anyone who is willing to learn regardless of where they are in the world - Nakash launched KravMagaBootCamp.com in 2007.

The online training website was the first to offer self-defence training via on-line video instruction and has since then instructed thousands of students the world over.

There is little doubt that he will get the support of the Johannesburg Jewish community, but those who do arrive at Emperors Palace could well find themselves in a bit of a quandary.

If Nakash reaches the final, he could be facing the other top seeded fighter, Zack Mwekassa. In Zack’s corner will be Colin Nathan, who manages the Hot Box Gym in Glenhazel. With a fine kosher restaurant below his establishment, it could well be Colin who secures the partiality of the local community.

Sit with Colin for just five minutes and one can appreciate his passion for the sport oozing out of every pore.

Cape Town-born Colin was taken by his father to a boxing gym at the age of seven and “I just fell in love with the sport and it’s been part of me ever since. I’m obsessed with boxing.”

He adds: “There is something pure about boxing. There are two people squaring off in a ring. It doesn’t matter whether one has a fancy car and the other one doesn’t. The playing fields are level.

“I find it a big thrill and what amazes me is how one punch can alter a career.”



Israeli boxer Ran Nakash will be in action at the Last Man Standing tournament at Emperors Palace next Saturday evening.

It is no accident that Colin came to be involved so passionately with boxing. After all, he is the third generation involved in the sport.

“My grandfather started it all. He owned a gym in central Johannesburg. When we lived in Cape Town I used to see my father coming back from boxing tournaments at the Good Hope Centre. He was also corner man.”

Although he was a national judo champion, Colin has never fought competitively in a boxing ring, although it was something he would have loved to have done. In 1998 he came up to Johannesburg where he got a job as a continuity announcer on SABC TV 1. He also became a boxing commentator and opened up his gym.

So, Colin, who at age 34 is just one year older than Nakash, could well be in the oth-

er corner, carefully eyeing the Israeli.

There are some decent incentives up for grabs for the eight boxers, with everybody getting a share of the pot. In the first round each contestant will receive R75 000, in the second round the contestants will receive R125 000 each. The semifinalist will split R300 000 and the finalist will split R500 000.

The first and second round bouts will be over eight rounds, the semifinals over 10 rounds and the final will be a 12 rounder.

“It is an interesting tournament when you put everything into perspective,” says Colin. “You have three Jews involved and each of them has a different goal.

“One (Nakash) wants to win it, one (Rodney Berman) wants to promote a successful event, and the third (Colin) wants his fighter to win it.”

Colin Nathan with boxer Zack Mwekassa, who is seeded to meet Ran Nakash in the Last Man Standing final.



Women soccer trials for Maccabiah

JACK MILNER

For the first time, Maccabi South Africa will be entering an Open women’s football team at the Maccabi Games, in Israel next year.

Trials will be held shortly, but any

women 18 years old or older, who may be interested in participating, please contact Ashley Robinson on 082-555-9798 or e-mail: ashley.robinson@bidvestbank.co.za

Details of the trials will be announced soon.

News in Brief

NEW ISRAELI LAW ALLOWS ILLEGAL MIGRANTS TO BE DETAINED FOR UP TO THREE YEARS

JERUSALEM - A new Israeli law that allows illegal migrants to be detained for up to three years, has come into effect.

Israel’s Population and Immigration Authority said on Sunday that it would begin enforcing the law, under which anyone who crosses Israel’s southern border illegally can be detained for up to three years and will be prevented from entering urban areas.

Israel is currently building a long-term detention centre to house such illegal entrants. Until it is ready, the migrants will be held in a detention centre run by

the Israel Prisons Service.

Until now, migrants could be held only for up to 10 days. They then were released and generally headed to Tel Aviv or Eilat.

The new legislation, which amends a 1954 law, also stipulates that anyone helping migrants or providing them with shelter could face prison sentences of between five and 15 years.

About 60 000 migrants are currently living in Israel, with more than 2 000 entering the country every month. (JTA)

JERUSALEM, TEL AVIV ON NEW GOOGLE PROJECT

JERUSALEM - Jerusalem’s Old City and parts of historic Tel Aviv are featured in Google’s new “World Wonders Project”, although Jerusalem is not included under the Israel category.

The project allows visitors to take a virtual tour of the 132 historic and heritage sites from 18 countries and is presented in six languages including English and Hebrew.

The Asia category includes Israel, Japan and Je-

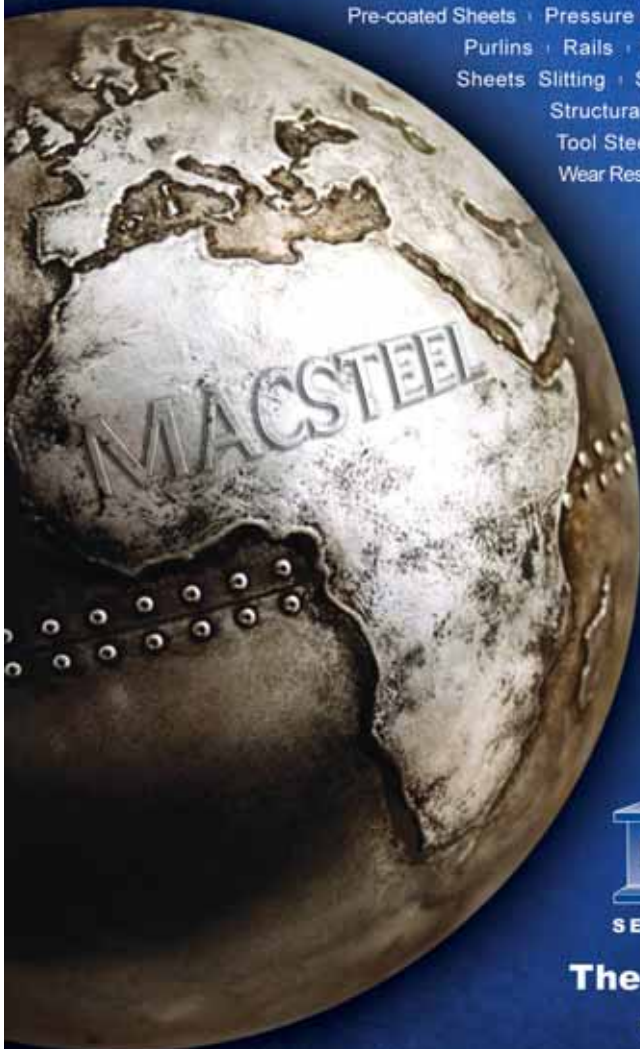
rusalem. “White City of Tel Aviv” is under the Israel category. Jerusalem, in its own category separate from Israel, is made up of views of the Old City, including the Western Wall.


The project was launched on May 31 and uses Street View, 3D modelling and other Google technologies. Partners in the project include Unesco and the World Monuments Fund. (JTA)

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