



Cape Town comes alive with street art (page 12)

# • south african • jewish report

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Yesh Atid party leader Yair Lapid hugging Jewish Home party chief Naftali Bennett following Lapid's first speech at the Knesset on February 11. (Miriam Alster/Flash90/JTA)



## Political horse-trading in Israel – can a government be formed?

**BEN SALES  
TEL AVIV**

When he emerged, bruised but unbeaten, following the January 22 elections, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced some tough choices.

Should he aim for a narrow, right-wing

governing coalition comprising haredi Orthodox, nationalist and religious Zionist parties that would give him a majority of 61 seats in Israel's 120-seat Knesset?

Or should he tack to the centre, building a broader coalition comprising some parties to the left of his Likud-Beiteinu faction and some to his right? Throw in a couple of small

parties and Netanyahu could have a solid majority of 70 seats.

But things quickly got messy.

Beset by a mix of personal feuds and policy differences, the prime minister has had trouble forming a government, and last Saturday evening he had to ask Israeli President Shimon Peres for an extension on

the deadline to assemble his coalition.

If Netanyahu can't figure out the puzzle soon, someone else may get a shot at coalition building - or Israel quickly could return to the polls.

For now, chances remain slim that Netanyahu, a political survivor, will blow his chance at another term as prime minister.

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**Recipes for Pesach**

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Shabbat Times

<b>March 8 / 26Adar</b>		
<b>March 9 / 27Adar</b>		
<b>Parshat Vayakhel/Pekudei</b>		
18:14	19:02	Johannesburg
18:15	19:47	Cape Town
18:04	18:53	Durban
18:20	19:11	Bloemfontein
18:05	19:18	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:08	East London

World News in Brief

BIDEN: BARACK OBAMA ‘NOT BLUFFING’ ON IRAN

WASHINGTON - Vice President Joe Biden says President Barack Obama is “not bluffing” when he says he will stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

The US commitment “is to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon period, end of discussion, period,” Biden told the American Israel Public Affairs Committee’s annual policy conference in Washington on Monday.

“Prevent - not contain, prevent,” Biden said. “President Barack Obama is not bluffing.”

Biden said other options should be exhausted before it comes to military action.

“If, G-d forbid, we have to act, it’s important that the rest of the world is with us,” he said.

AIPAC spokesman Marshall Wittmann said the lobby, which attracted 13 000 activists to its conference, was “very pleased” by Biden’s statement “that the president is not bluffing in his commitment to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.”

Wittman called the vice president’s address “a very strong and eloquent speech.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, following Biden in a satellite broadcast from his Jerusalem office, said Iran had yet to cross the red line Netanyahu set out last September, when he told the United Nations that an Iranian capability to weaponise uranium would constitute a pretext for military action.

Netanyahu dismissed the latest round of talks between the major powers and Iran on its suspected nuclear weapon as Iran “buying time”.

The major powers, including the United States, have said they were encouraged by the talks and have planned new talks for this month.

Netanyahu said that words and sanctions would not stop Iran.

“Sanctions must be coupled with a clear and credible military threat if diplomacy and sanctions fail,” he said. Netanyahu said he and Obama would discuss Iran, the turmoil in Syria and the peace process with the Palestinians when the US president travels to Israel later this month.

The Israeli leader said the “step-by-step” approach to peace with the Palestinians was the “realistic” path, a sign that he would push back against attempts. (JTA)

What to do with bronze bulls and gold calves?

While we were eating the last meal before Yom Kippur five months ago, President Barack Obama was addressing the United Nations. The speech had a messianic dimension: a gathering of representatives of all the nations of the world was being addressed by leader of a great country about the rights of liberty for all people, regardless of gender, race or religion.

It dawned on me that perhaps one day the United Nations would be the perfect forum for Mashiach to address the world. Obama’s speech was so good it got me wondering how it would compare to what the Messiah would say.

Obama then crystalised the difference for me: promoting these liberties was a means of raising millions out of poverty and facilitating a better material life for all. This difference became even more pronounced to me recently when I found myself in the Financial District of Manhattan standing beside the iconic bronze statue of the “Charging Bull”.

Having just taken the Staten Island ferry past the Statue of Liberty, I reflected on how the original American dream she represented has been reduced to a 20th century “golden calf”, where money continues to be the supreme pursuit.

Last week in Parshat Ki Tissa we read about the tragedy of the original Golden Calf. This followed two parshiyot, Terumah and Tetzaveh, which contain in fine detail the building instructions of the Tabernacle and its furnishings.

This week we have a double portion, Vayakhel-Pekudei, which repeats all the details of Terumah and Tetzaveh. The Torah is so particular about avoiding unnecessary words that the question begs: “Why the seemingly unnecessary repetition?”

This week students of Rav Aharon Lichtenstein shlit”a, rosh yeshivat Har Etzion, will be honouring his 80th birthday by sharing his teachings. Joining this international project, I heard from Rav Lichten-

stein a contemporary analogy that answers our question.

A couple decide to get married and in preparation for the wedding they find a small flat and furnish it, attaching to physical objects their dreams of everlasting love and commitment.

Somehow, during their honeymoon, one of them has an affair. With their marriage on the rocks, the guilty party begs for forgiveness and is given a second chance, yet when they return home, no longer does the furniture represent those original dreams.

The Children of Israel were instructed to build an apartment replete with furnishings for our everlasting romance with the Divine yet, somehow, in the midst of their honeymoon after the “wedding” at Sinai, they have an affair with the Golden Calf.

Moses pleads on their behalf for another chance. After 40 days Hashem agrees, yet will the furnishings of their home still have the



PARSHAT VAYAKHEL-PEKUDEI  
Rabbi Ilan Raanan  
Yeshiva College Shul

same symbolism?

It is for a good reason that the Torah repeats all the details of the Tabernacle and its furnishings, even though it is pure repetition. Sometimes mistakes ruin things for good - but here the Torah shares with us the power of repentance.

True “teshuvah” has the capacity to rectify what was wronged 100 per cent! We all have our less-than-perfect “livestock” - some are calves made of gold, while others are bronze bulls.

May the lesson of this week’s parshah inspire us to rectify these mistakes and may we merit soon hearing the message of “perfecting the world with the kingdom of Hashem” echo in the United Nations building!

Singular honour for Justice Davis to head tax commission



MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

Mr Justice Dennis Davis (pictured) has been appointed to head the country’s second major tax commission since the end of apartheid, having served as deputy chairman of the Katz Commission of Enquiry into Taxation, established in 1996.

Davis was appointed to the Cape High Court in 1998 and as president of the Competition

Appeal Court in 2000. At present on long leave in the United States, he shared his thoughts on the broad objectives of his latest mandate in an e-mail interview with Jewish Report.

Casting his mind back to the earlier commission, he noted that it “sat in a different time, trying to help provide a democratic government with expert advice as to how to respond to the challenges posed by apartheid and the imperative of transformation of our society so ravaged by decades of racist rule.

“Arguably, its greatest achievements were to recommend changes to the administration of SARS - now a great success of our democracy - and responding to the opening up of our economy to foreign investment.

“Two decades later is not a bad time to reflect on the tax structure so produced and developed thereafter and further to examine with rigour broader questions of vital importance - how does the present tax system impact on the key developmental goals of the country, in the light, for example, of the National Development Plan?

“In addition, are there aspects of the present system that need change because they breach overriding tax principles of efficiency and equity?”

Davis felt it was “wrong” to infer, as had been done in a weekend newspaper, that his political/tax/economic views might inform the group’s findings. “I am but the chairman of a body that will undertake this work,” he pointed out.

“Firstly, the purpose is to gain evidence and evaluate it dispassionately. Secondly, it is (equal-

ly) unfair to suggest that because Michael Katz was (and is) the leading corporate lawyer in the country, the earlier commission simply reflected corporate interests, which it did not.

“He led a team with great skill trying to elicit views from all interest groups and so shall this initiative try to do the same.”

Davis is in agreement with the view of tax expert Andrew Wellsted that the appointment of the commission indicates a considered approach on the part of the Treasury to changes, including taking into account the tax burden that business has to bear.

“The tax burden on both the corporate sector and individuals, needs to be examined,” he says, adding that all taxes would be “carefully evaluated”.

And what of the seemingly impossible task of reconciling the country’s relatively small tax base with its massive developmental needs? It is precisely because of this problem of balancing that there is a need for such a review, Davis says.

While on sabbatical, he has been “keenly observing” the debates on these very issues, within the context of the world’s biggest economy – that of America.

“How much more so should we be considering questions of financing the hugely pressing developmental needs of this country, the resolution to which manifestly holds a key to the long-term success of our democracy?” he asks.

“This entails the role of tax in the finance thereof and, in turn, what form the tax should take, who should pay it and all within an overall policy of development.”

jewish report

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# Kosher meat in SA is what it says: kosher

DAVID SAKS

The South African media was buzzing last week over a new scandal in the country, for a change not involving corrupt politicians or bent sports administrators, but meat retailers not averse to supplementing their products with such “irregular ingredients” as horse, donkey and even water buffalo and plant ingredients.

According to the recently released findings of a study undertaken by Stellenbosch University, “species which were not declared on the product label” were present in 68 per cent of meat products tested.

The national health department has since announced that it has opened an investigation into the matter, indicating that its investigation would be focused on slaughterhouses and meat processors, rather than on retailers.

Given that for Jews and Muslims, the nature of the meat they eat has religious as well as health implications, it was understandable that the respective kashrut and halaal authorities of the two communities were among those approached for comment by the media.

As this soon revealed, religiously observant Jews and Muslims, along with vegetarians, are probably the only consumers who can regard the

scandal with equanimity.

Darren Sevitz, CEO of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues, said that he had received several enquiries regarding the safety of kosher meat in South Africa given the Stellenbosch findings, and had been able, without hesitation, to allay their anxiety.

“I can guarantee with 100 per cent certainty that kosher certified meat in South Africa, under supervision of the Beth Din, is not subject to these concerns. Shechita takes place at one of two registered abattoirs under the supervision of three shochtim and an external mashgiach.

“The kosher meat is immediately identified with special markings and transported under supervision to the butchers, where it is again under permanent supervision by external mashgichim. At no stage during the kashering, traibering, or processing of kosher meat, is there a lack of supervision,” he said.

Sean Morris, a registered veterinary consultant who works with the cattle prior to slaughter, emphasised that when it came to kosher meat, there was traceability right back to the farm of origin.

The entire system was made essentially fool-proof by the systematic checks and documentation systems followed at every stage. Sevitz further explained that when it came to the retail



Photo supplied

establishments, meat was transported sealed, and only opened in the presence of a mashgiach, and that a system of permanent supervision, pre-numbered seals, access controls, stock taking and logbooks was in place at all establishments under Beth Din supervision.

Hence, there was “no concern whatsoever” of there being non-kosher products in local Beth Din supervised meat.

This, notwithstanding, it would be incorrect to conclude that the scandal has had no negative

impact at all on the Jewish community from a religious point of view. Many Jews who do not keep strictly kosher, nevertheless make a point of not eating pork, and since pork products were among the undeclared ingredients detected by the Stellenbosch study, they will have additional cause for grievance.

South Africa’s meat scandal has emerged at a time when much of Europe is embroiled in a similar furore after traces of horse meat were discovered by authorities in the Czech Republic.

## Another trial postponement in the sorry Karabus saga



Cyril Karabus



Marius Fransman

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Late last week, Deputy Minister of International Affairs and Co-Operation Marius Fransman, visited Prof Cyril Karabus, who continues to await his trial, which is currently set for March 20, in Abu Dhabi.

Michael Bagraim, the attorney representing Professor Karabus, told Jewish Report that after two days back in South Africa, Fransman, who visited the United Arab Emirates following the postponement of Karabus’ trial, “still hasn’t contacted us”.

In various news accounts of his visits, Fransman is reported as “expressing dismay at the delays in the matter”.

“We don’t see the likelihood that Karabus will be released on compassionate grounds,” added Bagraim.

Karabus, 77, a world-renowned paediatric oncologist, was arrested last August in Dubai while in transit to South Africa from Canada, on 10-year-old charges of manslaughter and falsifying medical documents, after a three-year-old Yemeni girl with acute leukaemia he had treated while on a locum in Abu Dhabi in 2002, had died.

Karabus had been tried and found guilty in absentia and without his knowledge. He has strongly denied any wrongdoing. Since his arrest in August last year, his case has been postponed 18 times – and the end is not yet in sight. *(See editorial on page 8)*



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# Community Voices

## At Pesach time, is it becoming too expensive to be Jewish?

*With Pesach on our doorstep, the Jewish Report asked community members, household decisionmakers and professionals, their opinion of high prices of Pesach goods..*



**TZIVIA GRAUMANN**, Head of Group Communications, Chevrah Kadisha: “Honestly, there are costs greater than money. From a spiritual standpoint it’s too expensive NOT to be Jewish, at Pesach or any other time. What’s great about Pesach is the display of kindness we see at the Chev. Because it can be costly, it provides incentive for people to give tzedakah and to help others.

“On the other hand, not everything that’s possible is sensible. We are sometimes our own worst enemies. It’s unnecessary to keep up with others by providing six-course meals and every luxury. We need to celebrate our festivals with moderation. Simple can be beautiful too.”



**HAZEL FRANKEL**, writer and artist, calligrapher, teacher, Yiddishist, wife, mother and grandmother: “Growing up in Johannesburg in a traditional Jewish home, we looked forward to the seder, my father’s maror, Auntie Alice’s egg soup, my mother’s kneidlach. We did without certain foods, those either not permissible or simply not available, and did not miss them.

“After Pesach was over and we’d put the special dishes away, we were delighted to return to our everyday diet, fresh bread and peanut butter. Today, with no limit to what is available, seders are lavish, expensive dinner parties. Perhaps what has been forgotten is the meaning of the difference and the beauty of simplicity?”



**JANICE LEIBOWITZ**, a consultant at the Smile Foundation, wife, mother of four: “Being Jewish is about much more than the cost of keeping kosher. However, at Pesach time, this becomes a predominant factor. It’s expensive to stock our homes with Pesach items, but realistically, how many of these things do we need? We seem to confuse ‘wants’ with ‘needs’, especially at this time of year.

“If we free ourselves from the bondage of panic that prevails over the price of Pesach goods, we’ll realise to ‘go without’ certain items for eight days won’t have a negative impact on our psyches. We can then focus on the essence of the chag.”

## The Jewish World

### in 7 seconds

**The New York Jewish Week, New York, USA:**

[www.thejewishweek.com](http://www.thejewishweek.com)

**‘As New York haredi population grows, battles over city neighbourhood ensues’**

For decades, Bedford-Stuyvesant, New York’s most populous borough, was synonymous with urban decay. Driven by explosive growth in the Satmar population in neighbouring Williamsburg, untold numbers of haredim have moved into the area, now considered part of Jewish Williamsburg.

**Jewish Journal, Los Angeles, USA:**

[www.jewishjournal.com](http://www.jewishjournal.com)

**‘LimmudLA reboots, minus staff - 2013 conference’**

This year, for the first time since 2008, February came and went without a LimmudLA conference. The group decided not to hold its signature event in 2013 in order to stage smaller, in-town events, due to, among other things, a tapering-off of fundraising.

**The Guardian, UK:**

[www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

**‘Gaza marathon cancelled by UN after Hamas bans women from participating’**

An annual Gaza marathon organised by the UN, was cancelled after a Hamas decision to ban women from competing. The UN agency for Palestinian refugees in cancelling the race on April 10, expressed its disappointment at the new and intractable position of the Gaza authorities, which permitted women to run alongside men in the past.

**The Jewish Daily Forward, New York, USA:**

<http://forward.com>

**‘Venezuela Opposition leader offers condolences over Hugo Chavez’s death’**

Opposition leader Henrique Capriles called for unity among Venezuelans and offered condolences to Hugo Chavez’s family and supporters after the president’s death on Tuesday.

Chavez (58) died after a two-year battle with cancer, ending the socialist leader’s 14-year rule of Venezuela. He had been elected for a third term but due to illness could not be inaugurated.

**Arutz Sheva, West Bank, Israel:**

[www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com)

**‘Al Qaida terrorists track Israeli soldiers on northern border’**

Al Qaida terrorists were seen along Israel’s northern border from the Golan Heights, tracking IDF soldiers from the Syrian side of the fence.

The operatives, attempting to oust Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, are members of a 13-faction radical Islamic coalition.

**The Jewish Telegraph, UK:**

[www.jewishtelegraph.com](http://www.jewishtelegraph.com)

**‘Oxford students vote against Israel boycott’**

A motion proposing the university’s student union join the BDS movement was rejected by 69 votes to 10, with 15 abstentions. “It’s encouraging to see a student body willing to discuss complexities in Israel,” Union of Jewish students’ campaigns director Judith Flacks, said.

**Jewish Telegraphic Agency, International:**

[www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org)

**‘Swarm of 1 million locusts hits Israel’**

A cloud of more than 30 million locusts swarmed into Israel this week. Concentrated in areas of southern Israel, the swarm was also seen in Tel Aviv and the Carmel region, causing millions of dollars worth of damage, according to Egyptian Agricultural Minister Salah Abad Almomam.

### World News in Brief



## Ellison is world’s richest Jew, Forbes billionaire list shows

NEW YORK - Oracle’s Larry Ellison (pictured) is the world’s richest Jew, according to Forbes magazine’s annual world billionaires list for 2013.

Ellison was among five Jews in the top 25 on the list released on Monday. Seventeen Israelis were among the record 1 426 billionaires - 200 more than in 2012.

Ellison was No 5 overall with a net worth of \$43 billion. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg was No 13 with \$27 billion, followed among the Jews by casino magnate and philanthropist Sheldon Adelson at No 15 with \$26,5 billion, and Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, at 20 and 21, with \$23 billion and \$22,8 billion.

Four of the Israelis are new to the list: tech investor Shaul Shani, with a net worth of \$3 billion; diamond baron Dan Gertler, \$2,2 billion; and oil prospector Tzadik Bino and pharmaceuticals investor Mori Arkin, both with \$1,05 billion. Businessman Idan Ofer ranked highest of the Israelis,

placing at No 182 with \$6,2 billion. Ofer’s brother Eyal was four spots lower with \$6 billion.

Mexico’s Carlos Slim topped the list as the world’s richest person for the fourth year in a row, followed by Microsoft’s Bill Gates, Spanish clothing retailer Amancio Ortega and investor Warren Buffett. (JTA)

## Netanyahu pledges to ask Obama for Pollard clemency

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to ask President Barack Obama to grant clemency to Jonathan Pollard while Obama was in Israel.

Netanyahu met on Monday with Pollard’s wife, Esther, in advance of Obama’s visit scheduled for later this month.

“The time has long since come for Jonathan to go free,” Netanyahu said, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister’s Office. “This issue will come up during President Obama’s visit. It has already been raised countless times by myself and others, and the time has come for him to go free.

Former US Assistant Secretary of Defence Lawrence Korb and Effie Lahav, head of the Committee to Free Jonathan Pollard, also attended the meeting.

“Jonathan can’t anymore,” Esther Pollard said. “This is a golden opportunity now that the president of the United States is coming. If not now, when?”

Pollard, a civilian US Navy intelligence analyst who spied for Israel, was sentenced to life in prison in 1987, despite a plea bargain in which he admitted his guilt. The calls to release him have intensified in the last year, with pleas from lawmakers and former top officials of both US political parties. (JTA)

## Netanyahu to AIPAC conference: Iran ‘running out the clock’

WASHINGTON - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday previewed his three-pronged agenda for President Barack Obama’s visit to the Jewish state later this month: Iran, Syria, and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

“[The visit] will give me an opportunity, along with the people of Israel, to express our appreciation for what [Obama] has done for Israel,” Netanyahu told the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) conference through a live satellite message.

In Iran, “diplomacy has not worked”, Netanyahu said, providing a contrast to the earlier remarks of US Vice President Joe Biden, who stressed that there remained “time and space” for diplomatic efforts.

“Iran has ignored all these efforts,” Netanyahu said. “It is running out the clock. “Thus far, the sanctions have not stopped the nuclear programme either,” the prime minister said, explaining that amid a struggling economy, Iranian leaders “just grit their teeth and move forward”.

Netanyahu said that to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, “we cannot allow Iran to cross that red line”, referencing his repeated request for a point which, if crossed by Iran, would prompt US military action against the Islamic Republic.

“Words alone will not stop Iran,” he added. On the peace process, Netanyahu said the US and Israel had a “common quest” for “a peace that will end our conflict once and for all”, but he stressed that peace must be “based in reality.

Netanyahu said that when the president visited Israel, he intended to show Obama “a different side” of the country, one that had “become a technological marvel” and was teeming with innovation”. (JNS.org)





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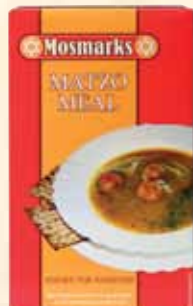
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# Bodies may be broken, but their spirits are not

SHIRA DRUION  
PHOTOGRAPHS: JOE YUDELOWITZ

Holocaust survivors and victims of injuries incurred during combat in the Israeli army, shared the unique and harrowing experiences of them being persecuted by Israel’s enemies.

Tuesday morning was witness to the meeting of generations when Israeli soldiers from the organisation, “Hope for Heroism” who have all suffered physical and/or emotional harm and trauma at the hand of the enemy, shared the podium with distinguished Holocaust survivors, who came under the auspices of Tali Nates and The Holocaust Foundation, to share their stories of triumph over adversity.

The intimate morning was held at the home of Mark and Bendeta Gordon, and moving personal accounts were shared, as the often unsung Jewish heroes told their stories of pain and torment, giving words of hope and encouragement to one another and to their audience, in testimony to the indomitable Jewish spirit and its remarkable ability to find light in the darkest of hours.

“I survived the German concentration camp, Ravensbruck and a death march and was eventually liberated at the age of 19,” says Hungarian-born Holocaust survivor, Veronica Phillips.

Her passion and love of her people, allowed her to inspire the soldiers, maybe bruised physically, but with their indomitable spirit, with words of hope as she told the audience: “I have a great-nephew who is a paratrooper in the Israeli army and when I visit Israel, I am so proud of him and his family, knowing that they are playing a role in helping to save Jewish lives.

“This is especially important to me after having lived through a time when Jewish blood was spilt mercilessly.”

She then faced the group of nine soldiers brought out to South Africa to share their experiences, and praised their efforts to defend their country and its people.

“I was injured in a special mission sent to assassinate a Hamas terrorist who had the blood of 44 Israelis on his hands,”



Holocaust survivor Veronica Phillips, who was liberated from Ravensbruck in Germany at the age of 19, shared her poignant story with the audience.

says 30-year-old Tel Aviv resident Gili Ganonyan, who is a former paratroop commander and director of Hope for Heroism in Israel. Ganonyan who is married and is a practising lawyer, tells of how he nearly lost his life on that fateful day in Beit Lechem, right near the cave of the matriarch Rachel.

“As I turned the corner in the chase to kill him, I felt his 9mm pistol on my neck, and as he pulled the trigger, I pulled the trigger of my M16. He was killed as the bullet from his gun went straight through my neck and out my back, leaving me paralysed for a year.

“I was blessed to recover fully and to return to serve again



Gili Ganoyan, a former Israeli paratroop commander, was shot through the neck by a Hamas terrorist – but he eventually made a full recovery.

in the army for another year. I feel very privileged to be part of this incredible organisation, and am so grateful that we are able to help soldiers who are in pain.”

Other heroic stories were shared and the morning ended with Ganonyan calling up an Auschwitz survivor who has a number tattooed on her arm. He looked her in the eye as he told her: “I noticed the number tattooed on your arm. I would like to present you with my ‘Hope for Heroism’ bracelet. Let the Shield of David lie alongside your number so that you can know that this can never and will never happen again because now, we have Israel. “

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## Support for Israel follows growth of Evangelical Christian movements

WASHINGTON - Amid the growth of Evangelical Christian movements worldwide, the clout of pro-Israel Christian groups is increasing.

Today, Evangelical and Pentecostal Christian groups together number almost 869 million globally, according to the Pew Research Centre. This growth has been exceptional in the developing world such as Latin America, where the percentage of Pentecostals has grown from 4,4 per cent to 28 per cent in 2005, or Africa, from 5 per cent to 17 per cent of the population.

“There is a new dynamic taking place in our world where [Christian supporters] are growing in a dramatic way,” said Jürgen Bühler, executive director of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, the Christian Science Monitor reported.

While the growing number of Evangelical Christian movements in developing countries has not matured enough to wield political influence yet, some argue that in the US they may be stronger than Jewish support for Israel.

“AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) is a great organisation... but there’s no doubt there are more Bible-believing Christians than there are Jews in America,” says Josh Reinstein, director of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus, according to the Christian Science Monitor.

“Already I think the Christian community is more influential [in generating support for Israel] than AIPAC.”

The numbers line up with this assumption. According to the Pew Research Centre, about 26 per cent of US adults belong to Evangelical churches, while only 1,7 per cent are Jewish.

“We have the numbers and geographical reach to reach every member of Congress,” said David Brog, executive director of Christians United for Israel (CUFI), the Christian Science Monitor reported. CUFI has more than 1,2 million supporters. (JNS.org)



Coretta James, an Evangelical Christian, in a 2008 CUFI Parade.



# Zev Krengel briefs a wide range of Israeli leaders on SA happenings

DAVID SAKS

SAJBD President Zev Krengel, who was in Israel last week to participate in the Jerusalem Marathon, took advantage of his presence in the country to meet with a wide range of senior Israeli political leaders, representing all the major political parties. He also met with the new South African ambassador to Israel, Sisa Ngombane, who presented his credentials to President Shimon Peres last Thursday. Those he met with included Ron Dermer, chief advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Naftali Bennet and Rabbi Shai Piron, respectively leader and deputy leader of the new Habayit Hayehudi and Yesh Atid parties, MK and former deputy prime minister, Tzipi Livni, Kadima member and former minister Tzachi Hanegbi and Likud chairman, Ze’ev Elkin. The meetings were in the main set up through Naomi Hadar, IUA-UCF director in South Africa.

Krengel focused on providing an overview of developments within the South African Jewish community, including an update on the labelling of West Bank products saga in which the SAJBD, together with the SAZF, has been extensively involved. As on previous such occasions, he emphasised the unity of South African Jewry community, with its centralised communal institutions such as a single Beth Din and Chief Rabbinate and the generally tolerant environment within which different religious and political factions were able to continue talking to one another and find common ground. He further stressed the strongly Zionist nature of the community, and the commitment of its leadership to promoting Israel’s cause. With regard to anti-Semitism levels in South Africa, Krengel said that they remained relatively low, with hardly any threat being posed any longer by far-right factions. However, strong pockets of



SAJBD President Zev Krengel (pictured right) and Naomi Hadar, with Rabbi Shai Piron, deputy leader of the Yesh Atid party.

anti-Semitism existed within the Muslim community. As a general rule, he said, while being pro-Palestinian did not make one anti-Jewish, all anti-Semites invariably claimed to be pro-Palestinian as well, since this provided a cloak of legitimacy behind which they could express anti-Jewish sentiments legally. In terms of the attitude of the South African government towards Israel, he reiterated that the Board understood and had no problem with its supporting the Palestinian cause. However, being pro-Palestinian did not have to mean being anti-Israel; it was possible to support the one cause without this being at the expense of the other.

# Still resistance to women rabbis in some quarters



Dr Hannah-Reeve Sanders, deputy chairman of the UJW AED (left), with guest speaker Rabbi Lisa Barrett.

MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

The turning point in her decision to become a rabbi was the realisation that it was not necessary to be a superhero, one just had to be passionate, Rabbi Lisa Barrett told a meeting of the Union of Jewish Women’s adult education division. The UK-based rabbi is in South Africa for three months doing a locum for the Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation, while Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani is on sabbatical. Rabbi Barrett spent three years studying at Hebrew College in Boston, a trans-denominational rabbinical school catering for students from across the religious spectrum. After receiving “a very big calling” to work in Britain, she transferred to Leo Baeck College in London and completed her studies. The yarmulke-clad rabbi disabused the audience of the notion that Orthodox rabbinic ordination for women does not exist: an Orthodox woman was ordained in Israel in 2006.

In the United States in 2009, South African-born Sara Hurwitz got “smichah” from Rabbi Avi Weiss, head of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, New York, who Barrett conceded was “on the far left of the Orthodox spectrum”. Though women had been ordained as (non-Orthodox) rabbis in Britain for 40 years and constituted almost half the rabbinate, there was still discrimination towards them, she noted. Rabbi Barrett mentioned that her interaction with the Orthodox rabbis in Cape Town had been “very positive so far. I’m all for good relationships across the denominations.” Back home, she is a part-time rabbi at the Glasgow Reform Synagogue and teaches Jewish education at the “oversubscribed” JCoSS in London, Britain’s only cross-communal Jewish secondary school, where “the single biggest religious affiliation is Orthodox. One family was even asked to leave their ‘shtiebel’ because they were sending their kids to JCoSS, so it’s the same kind of interdenominational politics as here.”

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## Karabus – justice delayed is justice denied

We have watched with incredulity as the court case in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of retired, 77-year-old paediatric oncologist Professor Cyril Karabus, has been postponed repeatedly for what seem the flimsiest of reasons. It is almost seven months since he was detained while in transit returning home through Dubai from his son’s wedding in Canada.

The reason for his arrest was that, unknown to him, he had been tried and convicted in absentia on charges of manslaughter and falsifying documents following the death of a three-year-old child with chronic leukaemia who was under his care at an Abu Dhabi hospital 12 years ago, where he did a locum.

The court had neither informed him nor asked for his extradition from South Africa to face trial. He was sentenced to three years in jail without having had the chance to defend himself.

After his arrest, he was re-charged on August 28, last year. He is currently out on bail, but is not allowed to return to South Africa. His case is due to be heard again on March 20; one wonders whether there will be yet another deferral.

Does the UAE not have a proper justice system? Is it incompetence, or simply not caring? Or is the motive vengeance? Various excuses have been given for the numerous delays: files lost or missing, etc.

It has made international headlines, including in British and South African medical associations. An article on the website of the British Medical Association (BMA) says that after each postponement, Karabus learnt of the next court date from newspaper reports - he was not formally told. The BMA has issued a “serious warning” to doctors about working in places like the UAE where they might face trial in absentia in relation to clinical work.

UAE authorities must urgently intervene to bring the matter to an end. In January, the South African government issued a demarche - a strong protest - to the UAE. Last week, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Marius Fransman, met in Abu Dhabi with the UAE Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs and asked that Karabus be released on humanitarian grounds because of age and poor health.

Being released, however, is his right, not a favour to be begged for from the UAE. Release on humanitarian grounds would bring him much-needed relief, but the legal matter must also be finalised, preferably by the charges being dropped, or he will have an unresolved criminal charge hanging over him. Call it guilt by insinuation.

The case has a broader dimension: If it is allowed to drag on, one must ask what sort of protection South Africans - academics, doctors, engineers, tourists, etc - can expect from their government when travelling and working in other countries.

Why did our government take so long to get involved? The perception is that they only did so when it became news in the international media.

Is the saga enough reason for souring South Africa-UAE relations? Does the desirability of friendly bilateral relations outweigh a country’s obligation to look after its citizens when they are being treated unfairly in the other country?

In this case, it concerns an eminent medical specialist and professor whose distinguished career brings credit to South Africa, especially with testimonials from former patients and colleagues about how he often went beyond the call of duty to serve those in need.

Karabus happens to be Jewish, and some people protesting for his release are Jewish too. But that is not the point here. This is not a Jewish issue, and many who have joined the protests are not Jewish - they are colleagues, former patients, friends, family and others.

This is a travesty of justice. Aside from the legal impasse, his continuing detention in the UAE is costing him and his family a fortune. The emotional stress on him and them is also tremendous.

Justice delayed is justice denied. This is a truism we cannot get away from. Our government must insist he be released immediately and given his day in court, so that this sorry saga can come to an end.

# Political horse-trading

## *Bibi faces tough choices as time is running out to form a government*

Continued from page 1

The 70-seat option - a coalition with the centrist Yesh Atid party led by Yair Lapid (19 seats), the religious Zionist Jewish Home party led by Naftali Bennett (12 seats), the centre-left Hatnua party led by Tzipi Livni (six seats) and the tiny Kadima party (two seats) - might still happen.

The price, however, is a government committed to including haredi Jews in Israel’s mandatory draft, a burning political issue in Israel and the condition of entry into the coalition set by Yesh Atid and Jewish Home.

For Netanyahu, the problem is that that would leave his traditional coalition partners, the haredi parties, in the cold. For the last four years, the haredi parties have kept his government stable and yielded to him on security issues.

Since the January elections, coalition negotiations have played out like a soap opera. Israeli newspapers reported that Netanyahu didn’t much like Jewish Home’s Bennett, who used to be his chief of staff until the two parted on bad terms.

Then, days after the vote, Lapid, a political neophyte whose new Yesh Atid party emerged to become the second-largest party in parliament in its first election contest, told Channel 2 TV: “I assume I’ll be prime minister after the next election.”

Netanyahu shot back by aiming for a broader coalition with the haredi parties, Shas and United Torah Judaism, that would shut out Bennett and dilute the influence of Lapid, who had made clear before the election that he expected to join Netanyahu’s coalition.

But newly emboldened, Lapid and Bennett entered into an alliance, forging an agreement on drafting haredim and declaring that they would either both join the coalition or both stay out. Together, their 31 seats equal those of Netanyahu’s Likud-Beiteinu faction.

When Netanyahu countered with a more lenient haredi draft proposal of his own, they stood their ground. On February 20, Bennett said: “It would be no tragedy if we sit in the opposition.” Lapid echoed the sentiment last weekend in a Facebook post.

“That’s how it is in democracy,” Lapid wrote. “Nobody likes to lose, but everyone accepts the basic principle that sometimes you’re in the coalition and sometimes in the opposition.”

So, Netanyahu turned back to the haredim. But even with Shas (11 seats) and United Torah Judaism (seven seats), Netanyahu still needs more partners to pass the 60-seat



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu at a Cabinet meeting in his Jerusalem office on March 3.

threshold. So far, Netanyahu has signed only one coalition partner - Livni’s Hatnua - and she’s a pretty strange bedfellow.

Livni based her campaign on vehement criticism, from the left, of Netanyahu’s peace negotiation policies. Now she’s in charge of the Netanyahu government’s peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

Even with Livni and the haredi parties, Netanyahu still has just 55 seats - six short of the majority he needs to govern.

With the exception of the Arab parties and the staunchly left-wing Meretz party, Netanyahu has been open to all comers. He even has tried to woo Likud’s traditional rival, Labour. But the centre-left Labour (15 seats) led by Shelly Yachimovich, who is committed to liberal economic

policies, appears determined to lead the opposition. Yachimovich has refused all of Netanyahu’s offers.

On Saturday night, the prime minister blamed “those who have ganged up on me” for the failed negotiations. And at his Cabinet meeting on Sunday, he said that as Israel’s enemies “are coming together and uniting their efforts, we must come together and unite our forces in order to repel these dangers. I regret that this is not happening.”

Time is running out. Racing against a final deadline of March 16, Netanyahu may have to accede to a government without haredi parties and the leeway they have given him. So long as Netanyahu has not threatened haredi priorities - social welfare, funding for yeshivot and draft exemptions - they have given Netanyahu a free hand to deal with the Iranian nuclear threat, the Palestinians and the world as he saw fit.

Yesh Atid and Jewish Home, by contrast, have positions on everything from peace negotiations to housing policy and the haredi draft that differ from Netanyahu’s. If he goes with them, it looks to be a rough ride.

The hawkish Bennett already has expressed strong opposition to the Hatnua coalition deal, and the parties still must haggle over who gets what ministerial position. Lapid reportedly is holding out for foreign minister, a post formerly held by Netanyahu’s No 2, Avigdor Lieberman, until Lieberman was indicted on corruption charges and resigned last year. Now Lieberman is asking Netanyahu to reserve the post for him should he be acquitted.

“I intend to form a strong and stable government in the days ahead,” Netanyahu said this week in a speech delivered via video to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee policy conference.

How he’ll get there remains far from clear. (JTA)

## One million locusts hit Israel

JERUSALEM – A swarm of 1 million locusts has crossed into Israel from Egypt.

The locusts on Tuesday remained concentrated in areas of southern Israel near the border, but sightings were reported throughout the country, including Tel Aviv and the Carmel region of northern Israel.

Residents of the Ramat HaNegev Regional Council, where the first locusts were seen on Monday, have sealed their homes against the locusts in their area.

Aerial and ground pesticides were expected to be sprayed Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. No more swarms are expected to cross the border due to a shift in the wind direction.

A black cloud of more than 30 million locusts swarmed over parts of Egypt beginning on Saturday.

The locust attack comes some three weeks before the start of Passover, which recalls a destructive plague of locusts that the Bible says was sent by God to free the Jewish slaves. (JTA)





# Anti-Semitic oppression not the defining story of Jewish existence



**BARBARIC YAWP**  
*David Saks*

“A Book of Jewish Thoughts” first appeared in May 1917 and was produced primarily for Jewish sailors and soldiers serving in His Majesty’s forces. Selected and arranged by Chief Rabbi J H Hertz, this was an eclectic collection of writings on Jewish history, religion, philosophy and peoplehood, drawn from sources ranging from the Tanach and Talmud to contemporary (and obviously sympathetic) non-Jewish writers, Leo Tolstoy and Olive Schreiner among them.

The idea was essentially to instil some much-needed pride and chizuk for Jewish servicemen caught up in the nightmare of the Great War, as well as to keep them to some extent Jewishly connected.

The book was a big success, not only with the soldiers but throughout Anglo-Jewry, at that time a rather hang-dog component of the Jewish people.

In Eastern Europe, Jews confronted anti-Jewish persecution as a visceral reality, and reacted in proportion to the pressure exerted, whether by intensifying their religious commitment, becoming either verbrende Zionists or socialist revolutionaries or, in more abject cases, succumbing to the lure of the baptismal font.

English Jews had a more genteel anti-Jewish distaste to endure within a society they greatly admired and wished very much to become a respected part of. Their Judaism was lukewarm and self-effacing as a result - “Anglicans of the Mosaic persuasion”, as I (a little unkindly) think of them as being.

As an ethno-religious pep talk, “A Book of Jewish Thoughts” still works. It is heartening to read the stout-hearted assertions of Jewish self-worth made by English Jews living in the shadow of the Fagin and Shylock calumnies.

Yet, an aspect of the book that bothers me is how often allusions are made to historic Jewish persecution and suffering (bearing in mind, moreover, that the collection is pre-Holocaust).

Leopold Zunz commented (1855): “If there are ranks in suffering, Israel takes precedence of all the nations”. Wrote the famed historian Heinrich Graetz: “Combine all the woes that temporal and ecclesiastical tyrannies have ever inflicted on men or nations, and you will not have reached the full measure of suffering which this martyr people were called upon to endure century upon century.”

Certainly, much of Jewish history does make pretty grim reading, but I do wonder sometimes whether the extent to which Jews suffered persecution over and above everyone else, has not been overstated.

Looking at human history as a whole, one

finds that, with the exception of a lucky few who enjoyed wealth and power, most people everywhere have had a pretty rotten time of it.

Under the tyranny of the Tsars, it is true that Jews were barred from most forms of employment, restricted to particular living areas, denied secular educational opportunities and occasionally targeted for pogroms. However, was their lot really any worse than the wretched, illiterate serfs who existed in brutalised conditions of semi-slavery, without even having, as Jews did, a dynamic intellectual culture through which to transcend their miserable circumstances?

As for suffering martyrdom on account of their religious beliefs, Jews were hardly alone in this; countless Christian “heretics”, not to mention “witches”, were likewise horribly done to death over the centuries.

Anti-Jewish pogroms have their counterparts in the periodic massacres of innocents that have always occurred in the course of human history. With the notable exception of the Holocaust, therefore, to what extent can the collective Jewish experience at the hands of their persecutors be said to have been uniquely harrowing?

In addition, were there not lengthy periods of relative tranquillity, such as during the period of Muslim rule in Spain lasting some 600 years?

On his Atlantic magazine blogspot (“A Flawed America in Context”, February

**Ta-Nahisi Coates comments that the Thirty Years War shows that the racist oppression of black people was ‘not a deviation from the human experience, but an expression of it’.**

27), Ta-Nahisi Coates takes a similar line from an Afro-American point of view. He comments that the Thirty Years War, an especially ghastly episode in European history in which millions died, shows that the racist oppression of black people was “not a deviation from the human experience, but an expression of it” and that there was very little that whites had done to blacks that he could not, in light of history, imagine doing to each other.

Coates warns against making a fetish of one’s own suffering. Nobility, he writes, is not “necessarily conveyed by having a boot on your neck”.

To conclude then, the record of anti-Semitic oppression is indeed a depressing one, but it is not the defining story of Jewish existence. The story of the Jewish people is only demeaned when they are reduced to being mere passive victims of gentile cruelty.

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WITH SUCH A NOISE, NOBODY CAN HEAR THE SOUND OF THE MUSIC

Having endured the “music” at a family simcha some time ago, I feel I have to express my feelings about the intensity of noise with which the band or disco believe they have to bombard the occasion, in order to justify their contribution to its success.

They seem to want to show off the expensive equipment they have invested in, and which is designed to play on a soccer field, rather than in a hall.

I guess I am classed as a senior, but, as such, I still have my hearing! The youngsters, however, love the din, probably because they have lost, or are in the process of losing their hearing, but this is no excuse for making the “entertainment” for them the most important part of a simcha. In any case, when they need to talk to their friends, they can just BBM them.

An important part of a simcha celebration to seniors such as me, is meeting family and friends who have

MUSLIMS CANNOT ACCEPT A JEWISH STATE THAT STANDS TALL

For me the “Crisis of Zionism” is that Israel doesn’t seem to be a high priority for many young Jews in the international arena. They seem to be apathetic and are not forthcoming in contributing towards Israel’s wellbeing.

I feel they merely take Israel - as a Jewish state - for granted and have not really thought about what the world was like before, or would be like if we didn’t have Israel (G-d forbid). Therefore, protecting Israel and ensuring she remains a Jewish state, should be the top priority, bar none.

It’s easy for liberal thinkers to blame Israel and the West Bank “settlements” as the reason that there is no peace.

It seems easier to blame Israel for lack of peace, no matter what she does - whether ending the freeze on settlement construction (after the 10 months during which time the Palestinians didn’t come to the table), or building a wall to protect her civilians, or destroying missiles that would be used against her citizens.

Israel still gets blamed by all. It’s just easier to jump onto the bandwagon than it is to step up and swim against the tide.

Furthermore, Mahmoud Abbas’s speech at the United Nations to appeal for non-member status, mentioned nothing about peace with Israel. He concentrated on the difficult plight of the Palestinians.

That was his sole reason as to why they should be

IN OSCARS ARTICLE, SAJR DID NOT KEEP TO ITS USUALLY HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS

The SAJR is always a professional paper, and highly informative at that. It is precisely because of this that I was so shocked to discover in last week’s edition in the opinion column dealing with the Oscar awards, mention of a distasteful song, which was lascivious in the extreme.

It is understandable that the writer wished to discuss the Oscars but could he not merely have referred to the songs and jokes in a clean manner, such as referring to it as a “morally-repugnant song about a state of undress” as opposed to quoting the song and all the other salacious jokes as well, thereby perpetuating this?

Most in our community are traditional and many read the paper over the Sabbath. This sort of vulgar reference is completely unnecessary and an unwelcome addition at the Sabbath table. The Jewish Report is usually well-edited to make it appeal to all right-thinking individuals, whether they be religious or traditional.

Reading Jewish Report this week made me wonder why the usually astute editor did not ensure this issue was completely innocuous; for the sake of not alienating a large proportion of your readership, I would suggest such material is always reported in a morally decent fashion.

Alistair Swaythling Sandton

*There have been quite a number of negative reports in the general press on MacFarlane’s handling of the MC job and some racist and misogynist jokes. Admittedly the article was hard-hitting, but to avoid criticism that it was merely the whinge-fest of a thin-skinned Jew, he felt it necessary to spell out strongly why he objected to it. We note and appreciate our letter writer’s concerns and suggestions. - Editor*

come from near and far to be present, and catching up with their news. After all, the seating is generally carefully arranged in order to cater for such get-togethers.

There was a time when the music stopped when everyone was seated and all were eating, giving us the opportunity to talk to one another. But that is now over, and those responsible for the din simply switch to disco mode, even if no-one is dancing.

Do they really think they are giving the hosts their money’s worth?

For me - and I believe for many others - this sound pollution is causing me to dread attending simchas, and I yearn for the single musician or one-man band so popular in the distant past.

Ian Spitz Johannesburg

recognised. There was no mention of any desire to build a lasting peace with their neighbour, Israel, or of getting back to the “negotiating table”.

Contrast this to Benjamin Netanyahu’s speech (at the UN). He invited Abbas to meet him then and there, in New York, to negotiate a peace agreement. Of course, Netanyahu is still waiting. And, lest we forget, the Israeli concessions at Camp David (by Ehud Barak) which were answered by the second Intifada, and Ehud Olmert’s offer to Abbas, to which Abbas never responded.

Finally, a sad realisation is that there is a strong religious issue that we cannot escape, but is often sidelined, perhaps because it is not politically correct to verbalise it.

Jews and Muslims had lived (more or less) peacefully together in many Middle Eastern countries for many years - as long as the Jews were “dhimmi” - second-class citizens.

They have not been able to accept a Jewish state that stands tall and flourishes in their midst, often highlighting what a poor state their own countries are in.

Finally, if you want to see real apartheid: let’s understand that the Palestinians have already said that no Jew will be allowed to live in any part of Palestine.

Michele Engelberg Johannesburg

SCOURGE OF ENVY THROUGH JEWISH HISTORY

Rabbi Shmuli Kagan writes in his parsha in the SAJR of March 1, “The taller they are the harder they fall”, that “the greater one is at something, the higher the expectation and the more intense the risk and effect of failure”. This is the fate of the Jews.

The Jews, wherever there has been personal freedom, have out of all proportion to their numbers, been prominent in the spheres of law, medicine, science and business. Unfortunately, this has generated much envy and it takes only a handful of bad apples to bring down the wrath of the masses on us.

Israel is a case in point. It is an extremely successful country in a sea of mediocrity. Condemnation of Israel is out of all proportion to the Palestinian fatalities there. Fatalities in the Israel-Palestinian conflict account for less than one per cent of worldwide fatalities due to violent conflict, since 1950. As regards envy, check what happened to Joseph because his own brothers envied him and what Cain did to Abel.

John Brenner Johannesburg

FORMER PONTE RESIDENTS, PLEASE COME TO THE FORE

A local Joburg artist seeks help with a photographic project on Ponte City (near Hillbrow). Mikhael Subotzky is trying to find people who lived in Ponte in its heyday in the 1970s and 1980s, who may have interesting stories about the building and photographs. He’d love to meet and talk about these stories and pictures. Subotzky is a respected artist who shows with Goodman Gallery. Anybody who can help, can write to subotzky.studio@gmail.com or call 072-207-8247.

WE’RE IN CRISIS, BUT WHERE ARE THE LEADERS?

Is it any wonder that this beautiful land of ours has become so detested by the outside world? Rape, murder most foul, police brutality, corruption, mismanagement, incompetence etc, etc, appear to be the order of the day.

Have the inept powers that be really shown their mettle in addressing the malady that has enveloped our country, once so strong and tranquil and yet now so disjointed and wrong in its present state.

The government seems to be at sixes and sevens when attempting to deal with the ravages confronting us. There are no real “firebrands” in parliament who show real gusto, resolve, and emotion when addressing the nation in crisis.

We need spirited and dynamic leaders of the ilk of President Barack Obama, who have the personality and make their presence felt.

Barney Segal Johannesburg

MADELEINE BUNTING IS LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON RUDOLF KONSTAM

Writer and journalist Madeleine Bunting of The Guardian newspaper in London, is researching the life of her great-grandfather Rudolf Khonstamm (Anglicised to Konstam) and is trying to find out more information about the family story that he sponsored a number of German Jewish refugees to settle in South Africa in the 1930s. She writes: “He sponsored some refugees to settle in the UK as well as founding a health clinic for children in London in the 1920s. I can be reached on madeleine.bunting@guardian.co.uk”

YAD VASHEM IS LOOKING FOR DESCENDANTS OF HEINZ AND FRITZ MARKUS

Niv Goldberg, Collection Manager, Art Department Museums Division at Yad Vashem is looking for information on the descendants of the Markus brothers, Heinz and Fritz.

Goldberg writes: “Heinz Jacob Markus, fled from Germany to (then) Rhodesia in 1938, and afterwards apparently settled in Johannesburg. His brother, Fritz Gunther Markus, fled from Germany to South Africa, apparently also at about the same time.

“The two brothers’ parents were Bernhard and Caecilie (nee Lewyn) Markus. Bernhard died in Berlin in 1943. Caecilie remarried and was deported with her new husband, Hermann Bermann (or Beermann) to the Terezin Ghetto in the summer of 1943, and in autumn of 1944 the couple was transported to Auschwitz, where they were murdered.

“We have recently come into possession of a portrait of Caecilie Markus, painted by an important German-Jewish artist.

“We would like to find out if there are any descendents to this family, with whom we can share the fact of the existence of this portrait, and from whom we could perhaps learn more about the family.”

Goldberg may be reached at PO Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034 or tel: +972 2 644 3758, fax: +972 2 644 3599.

‘EVANGELICAL’ HESSEL PARADED AS A BUCHENWALD SURVIVING JEW

When the late human rights activist, Stephane Hessel, visited South Africa in 2010 as a member of the Russell Commission’s “jury of expert witnesses”, all of whom were assured of testifying that Israel was indeed an “apartheid” state, he was touted as being “a Jewish survivor of Buchenwald”.

What better than to have a Jew who had suffered in a notorious concentration camp, condemn the “repressive” policies of the Jewish state!

Why, as a survivor of a concentration camp, one seemingly qualified to judge whether Israel practised a policy of apartheid was, at the time, beyond my understanding.

However, it prompted me to dig a little deeper into Hessel’s interesting history. I e-mailed Yad Vashem to enquire whether they had any record of Hessel’s incarceration at Buchenwald.

Within days I received their reply accompanied by 16 pages of meticulously recorded camp documents confirming that Stephane Hessel, prisoner no 10033, born on November 17, 1917 did in fact enter Buchenwald on August 17, 1944 and died of typhoid, just two months later, on October 20, 1944. These documents originated from the data base of the International Tracing Service Archives in Bad Arolsen, Germany.

Who, then, was this was this old man who had been trundled out as a member of the Russell Tribunal, to vilify Israel?

The answer became apparent in articles on the Internet which explained that soon after his arrival at Buchenwald, Hessel had swapped identities with a dead fellow prisoner who was then assumed to be the real Stephane Hessel and whose death was recorded as such. Following liberation, Hessel obviously reassumed his true identity.

What is of specific interest is this: Among the documents which Yad Vashem provided, was the original entry form, filled in by the Germans on the day of Hessel’s arrival at Buchenwald.

With typical German thoroughness, this form listed everything about the prisoner - his name, address, profession, height, weight, eye colour, hair colour etc... as well as religion.

Stephane Hessel was listed as EVANGELICAL! So much for our long-suffering but propaganda-useful “Jew”.

Victor Gordon Pretoria

ISLA FELDMAN WROTE THE SAZF LETTER

In a letter by the SAZF on the Beyachad Library we published in last week’s issue of the paper, we attributed it to Lisa Peretz, whereas in fact it came from Isla Feldman.



# Sony gets an ‘A’ for the Tablet ‘Z’

*Sony continues to make its comeback with the Tablet Z, a 10.1” device that sets a new benchmark for the category.*



Photo courtesy [www.androidguys.com](http://www.androidguys.com)

In the fantasy world of movies, you can never take for granted the demise of a major character. The heroes and villains alike almost always come back from the dead, or at least from near-death experiences. So it is in the deadly, hyper-competitive arena of smartphones and tablets. For the losers, it is more like a horror movie.

The one-time giants, Nokia and Motorola, are still rattling about in the cellar, threatening to emerge into the light for one final showdown. BlackBerry, which stormed the smartphone bastions before Apple decided to add the “i” to “phone”, has reappeared as a sprightly youngster eager to show what it can do on the field of battle.

But the biggest surprise has been the resurrection of Sony. Left for dead even before it split from its long-time ally, Ericsson, it stunned the world in January with the unveiling of the Xperia Z smartphone. The device came armed with a high-quality build, a sharp 5” screen, intelligent camera, and the iconic Walkman music player reinvented as an app.

At this week’s Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Sony

was merely expected to flesh out its phone offerings. And, while it did use the event to announce immediate availability of the Xperia Z in 60 countries, it pulled a new weapon out of the armoury.

It is worth mentioning, first, that Sony had been viewed by many as a non-combatant in the tablet wars. It had produced both standard tablets running on the ubiquitous Android operating system and a dual-screen device that looked more like a gaming gadget. All had been ignored by the market.

On Monday morning, Kuni Suzuki, president and CEO of Sony Mobile Communications (SMC), unleashed what is potentially a computing weapon of mass destruction.

The Xperia Tablet Z is to tablets what the new handset is to smartphones: adding a new cutting edge to the category, and setting a standard by which equivalent devices will be measured. The specs suggest a big phone: the Z phone and tablet both run on Qualcomm’s quad core 1.5GHz Snapdragon processor.

At first glance, it is just another 10.1” Android tablet. At first touch, however, it is the thinnest, lightest 10.1” tablet yet. And at first tap, when the screen lights up, it looks nothing like any other tablet on the market.

Like the Xperia Z phone, the Tablet Z opens to customised icons, representing movies, photos, an app recommendation service called Sony Select, games through PlayStation Mobile, and music via the Walkman app.

Four speakers subtly hidden in the sides provide what Sony claims is the highest quality sound yet on a tablet - with both surround-sound and sound-mixing options.

A thin rubber edging offers the clue to another unique feature: all components are sealed, making the tablet waterproof. Within reason. And reason does include dropping it in the water if you’re reading on it while having a bath.

All of this doesn’t come cheap.

“We’re very consciously focused on the premium market,” says Sony’s director of Content and Innovation, Dominic Neil-Dwyer, while offering a personal demonstration of the features of the tablet.

“The low end has become incredibly commoditised. There is no differentiation. We wanted to create something aspirational and more iconic.”

How did a forgotten mobile device maker suddenly emerge at the forefront of the two most vibrant categories in gadgetry today?

Credit new CEO Kazuo Hirai’s vision of “One Sony”, which requires the corporation’s diverse units to collaborate across products, instead of pursuing their almost traditional ruinous internal competition.

“We merged the Vaio laptop and tablet team with the smartphone team,” says Dwyer. “The Bravia and TV engineering team contributed, as did the digital imaging team and the audio engineering team.”

Their competition, now, is obviously the Apple iPad. And the Z has a clear edge in one area: Dwyer claims it is “the most connected tablet in the world”; users can exchange and transfer data in more ways than on any other tablet.

This means that, for the first time in a decade, Sony’s mobile fantasies have a chance of coming true again.

(\* The Tablet Z is expected to be available in South Africa in May.)

• *Arthur Goldstuck is founder of World Wide Worx and editor-in-chief of Gadget. Follow him on Twitter on @art2gee*



**GOLDSTUCK ON GADGETS**

# Ethics of Eden

## A STUDY IN JUDAISM’S ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVE

“The L-rd G-d, took the man and placed him in the Garden of Eden, to work it and protect it.”  
– Genesis 2:15

G-d entrusted the earth to humankind. But every gift carries with it a responsibility of care.

Born into this world, humanity has learnt to rule over all other life with almost complete dominance. Nature has served

to enable the pursuits of man, whether as parchment and paper to record his greatest ideas or fuel for rockets carrying his most ambitious dreams. Nature has given and man has achieved. But is this exploitation sustainable or ideal?

Join The Academy as we seek to understand humankind’s relationship to nature, the Earth and G-d. Ilana Stein, environmental conservationist and biblical teacher, will explore the Jewish attitude to our natural environment.

Using the guidance of Rabbi Soloveitchik, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, Maimonides and modern scholars the six part series will explore how we are to relate to nature’s incomprehensible beauty, animal welfare, nature conservation and our metaphysical roots as beings who emerged from the earth.

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# SA flavour in these good reads

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

Simon’s Destiny by David Bloomberg (Ampersand Press, R199)

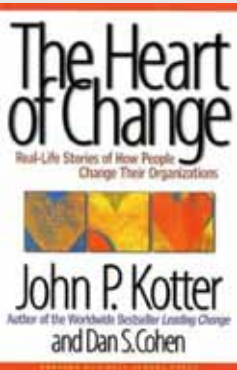


This Cape Town-based work is one of political, corporate and personal adaptation. When he has his first meaningful interaction with a black individual, Simon Kantor - raised as a passive racist in apartheid South Africa - is so exhilarated that he changes his white family business into a multi-racial industrial powerhouse. At home, his relationships with his two sons (one a gay activist, the other a successful executive) and with his wife, who has political ambitions of her own, are no less complex and challenging. The country’s emergence from its oppressive past into a democracy - replete with corruption, crime and power struggles - is echoed by the Kantors’ volatile domestic dynamics, as old rules and values are overthrown by modern demands. A sparkling, humorous and insightful read.

The Imagined Child by Jo-Anne Richards (Picador Africa, R195)

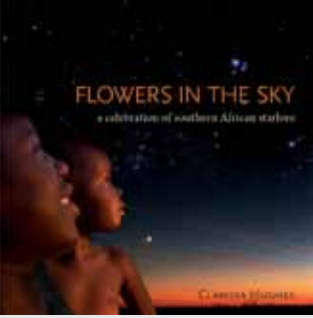
When Johannesburg-based TV scriptwriter Odette decides to start a new life in the small Free State town of Nagelaten, she has not only her own insecurities to deal with, but the bizarre hostility of a community which is in denial about its crime problem. Unable to penetrate its intransigent attitude, she cannot form friendships or trust what she hears from the locals, leaving her lonely and vulnerable. When two murders are committed - one in Britain, where Odette’s own daughter is a suspect, and another on a nearby farm - parental guilt is added to her psychological stress. A skilfully constructed mystery which explores both the unwholesome past and frightening present of South Africans, and the lengths individuals will go to in order to resist transition.

The Heart of Change by John P Kotter and Dan S Cohen (Harvard Business Review Press, R372)



Subtitled “Real-Life Stories of How People Change Their Organisations”, this invaluable business resource explains exactly how to introduce transformation in companies without destabilising (or losing) staff. The key, explain the authors, lies in winning the trust – and therefore the buy-in – of employees. And the way to do that is by connecting not only with people’s rationale, but with their emotions. A sense of belonging, participation and ownership are fundamental to productivity and co-operation, particularly when an organisation is in flux. The case studies may be American, but are equally applicable to the South African corporate environment - and the archetypal characters identified in them will be instantly recognisable to anyone who has ever battled to restructure a company’s culture.

Flowers in the Sky: A Celebration of Southern African Folklore by Clarissa Hughes (Clarissa Hughes, R268)



A beautiful compilation of traditional tales which explain cosmology (and, by extension, cosmogony) in terms of human events. Related simply and movingly, these myths include Xam, Khwe, Sotho, Venda, Karanga, Tswana, Nguni and Xhosa stories about astronomical phenomena such as comets and shooting stars, as well as the creation of mankind. It also explores the relationship between language, consciousness and accountability. With a striking foreword by Credo Mutwa, the book is theoretically for children, but is every bit as instructive and enchanting for adults. Highly recommended.

Photo: Sydelle Willow Smith



Taking the orchestra outdoors: the Cape Philharmonic performs in the streets of Cape Town this week.

# Anderson - a fresh breeze in SA performance art

ROBYN SASSEN

When Leila Anderson (pictured inset) was in her first year at university, she was earmarked by performance artist Pieter van Heerden as someone with interesting potential; he invited her to collaborate with him.

Eight years later, having been, among other things, a staged rape victim, and arguably one of the most powerful local proponents of a contemporary Holocaust work, this 28-year-old has a remarkable career. She’s assistant curator of this year’s Infecting the City Public Art Festival in Cape Town (ITC).

“Jay Pather, this year’s ITC curator, taught me at the University of Cape Town. Through him my dance installation Schloff Soin Mein Kind, confronting the Holocaust, saw light of day in 2007 at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown in a contemporary dance programme, Fresh 2.

“ITC is amazing,” she speaks of this now six-year-old Cape Town-specific festival. “It brings a multiplicity of perspectives to the city. We get lots of ‘accidental audiences’.

“Pather’s approach has been very fresh - a different curator is appointed each year. He has focused on bringing all aspects of the city into the festival; this is where I have come on board. I research routes and locations for works.

“In order to do this strategically, I’ve had to have a strong sense of each project. I’ve walked the city back to front to find spots, while I’ve scouted locations.”

For Anderson, transitioning from artist to curator is natural. “I am interested in public, impromptu gestures.” Maybe most remembered for her role in Van Heerden’s

“Six Minutes” a forthright comment on the prevalence of rape in society, Anderson was a “plant” in the audience, singled out and “raped”.

“It was nerve-wracking to erupt into a violent episode like that; but the unconditional responses which the work incited were beautiful. It debuted at Dance Umbrella, Johannesburg and performed at Dog Dam, a seldom used Grahamstown venue, late one cold night. It was very scary. Taking part in these pieces with Van Heerden, was a baptism of fire for me.”

In 2010 she was in Amsterdam on a residency. “I went to develop the technique for a new piece; there I met Stan Wanner, an artist with whom I am involved and making new work. But live art remains peripheral.”

She acknowledges locally born performance artist Steven Cohen started breaking ground in the discipline in 1989, but the medium is still foreign to local audiences. “There is still a sense locally, that a performance artist is a stranger.”

• *Infecting the City is from March 11 - 16 throughout Cape Town’s CBD. Programme highlights include Mamele Nyamza’s acclaimed “The Meal”; 1 000 paper jets of artworks released into the city skies by Jason Potgieter; a “real-time” performance of daily news headlines by Jazzart; the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra framed by Church Square; the five movement prayer, confession, mantra, manifesto and catharsis of “Country of Grief and Grace” performed by Neo Muyanga and the Siyaya Chorus; and a mask flashmob, a flute mob, gospel singers on bicycles and a mob of skateboarders. Visit [www.infectingthecity.com](http://www.infectingthecity.com) for details.*

## Arts Briefs

### New works on Jhb old and new

An exhibition of new works by Candice Kramer, collectively entitled “Transient Dust” and curated by Kim Lieberman, is on show between March 10 and 26 at NIROXprojects, in Arts in Main, Johannesburg. Kramer, working in a blend of oil paint and rust on steel, expresses her curiosity with degeneration and regeneration, the passing of time and the erosion and transmission of memories. In a previous body of work, she explored Jewish family origins and the transience of roots. This exhibition is focused on Johannesburg, old and new. Contact 072-350-4326 or visit [www.niroxarts.com](http://www.niroxarts.com).

### Pianist Yossi Reshef visits South Africa next week

On March 12, at the Atrium, Wits University, internationally acclaimed Berlin-based pianist Yossi Reshef (pictured) who studied under Prof Pnina Salzman at the Rubin Academy of Music in Tel Aviv and read for his doctorate in piano at the University of Southern California, presents master piano pieces from the Classical and Romantic traditions as well as contemporary Israeli composer Ben Yohanan’s “Impressions”. For this rendition Reshef was awarded the Zilbermann Award for best interpretation of Israeli piano music.

This recital, supported by the Israel Embassy and Tararam, is part of Reshef’s debut tour of South Africa. Contact (011) 717-1376 or visit [www.yossireshef.com](http://www.yossireshef.com)





# Sharon’s Pesach dishes to die for

Well-known food fundi SHARON LURIE, has provided two mouth-watering Pesach recipes – one for fishcakes and one for Scotch fillet. She says: “When you’ve had your fill of gefilte fish and need a little change, try the fishcake recipe.” On the Scotch fillet recipe she commented: “The most important thing to remember here is that when you have received your Scotch fillet, leave it in the fridge for at least 12 days before you freeze or use it. This recipe ensures that you get your meat early!”



## THAI SALMON FISHCAKES

- 1 x 418g can salmon
- 1 onion, peeled and finely grated
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh coriander
- 1 tsp grated fresh ginger
- Juice of 1 lime
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup matzo meal
- 1 Tbsp desiccated coconut (this takes it to a whole new level)
- Oil for frying

### Method:

1. Combine the salmon in its liquid with the rest of the ingredients, except the oil, in a large mixing bowl.
2. Roll into balls and fry in hot oil until golden brown.
3. Serve with sweet and sour sauce. See below.

### Sweet and sour sauce

- 1/3 cup of lemon juice
- 1/3 cup golden syrup
- 1 Tbsp tomato sauce
- 1 tsp potato flour dissolved in 1 cup cold water.
- Salt and pepper to taste

### Method:

1. Blend all the ingredients into a smooth sauce and bring to the boil over medium heat or just until it thickens. Check for sweetness - if too sweet add a little more lemon or vice versa
2. To make it a little fancier, add drained mandarins and crushed pineapple to the sauce. Serve with the fishcakes.

Makes 12 - 15 servings

## SCOTCH FILLET WITH ROSEMARY BABY POTATOES AND HORSERADISH CREAM

- 2 kg vacuum packed Scotch fillet
- 2 Tbsp crushed black peppercorns
- Few sprigs of fresh rosemary
- ½ cup oil
- 1 kg baby potatoes
- Oil for roasting potatoes

### Method:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C
2. Place the meat on a roasting rack in a roasting pan, cover in the oil and rub all over with the crushed peppercorns so that it’s evenly covered.
3. Roast the meat in the oven, uncovered for 1 ¼ hours (for every extra kilogram of meat, increase the cooking time by 30 - 40 minutes.) If you don’t have a roasting rack in your roasting pan, turn the roast over halfway through cooking.
4. Meanwhile, prepare the rosemary baby potatoes. Place the potatoes (skin on or off) in a roasting bag with the rosemary and a few glugs of oil. Place on the side of the roasting pan with the meat when there is 1 hour of cooking time remaining.
5. When done, remove the meat from the oven, cover in foil and leave to stand for 15 minutes while you make the horseradish cream. It can be made the day before and warmed up when needed.



### Horseradish cream

- 1 tsp sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tsp potato flour
- ½ cup cold water
- ½ cup non-dairy creamer
- 1 Tbsp fresh horseradish grated or 1 ½ Tbsp bottled horseradish drained.

### Method:

1. Combine the sugar, potato flour, water, non-dairy creamer and salt in a mixing bowl and whisk well.
2. Pour the mixture into a sauce-pan and heat through, whisking all the while, until it starts to thicken. Remove from the heat, add the horseradish and stir.
3. Serve with the meat and rose-mary potatoes.

Serves 8 - 10.

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# KDVP Primary’s gala goes ‘swimmingly good’

TANYA LISSOOS

On Wednesday, February 27, King David Victory Park Primary School hosted the 2013 Inter-Jewish Primary School Swimming Gala. The schools from King David Sandton, King David Linksfeld, Yeshiva College and King David Victory Park, came together to take part in this annual gala.

There was a great atmosphere and the competition was fierce but friendly.

Each swimmer was given a bottle of refreshing mineral water, some sunscreen, a button badge as well as a slice of watermelon, to help them stay cool.

Well done to all the swimmers and coaches and supporters, for a stunning event, marked by good spirits and camaraderie.



On your marks, get set!  
Under-10 boys on the starting block for the 25m freestyle.

Photo: Ari Buntman

## YC cricketers shine at Maccabi Cricket trials



Yeshiva College boys selected to represent Maccabi Gauteng Junior Cricket in the Maccabi Junior Cricket in Cape Town this month: Back: Doron Mindel; and Yonatan Perez. Front: David Rapp; Levi Jacobson; Daniel Perez; and Doron Romberg.

Yeshiva College have six players chosen to represent Maccabi Gauteng Junior Cricket in the Maccabi Junior Cricket Festival in Cape Town, later this month.

Some 200 boys between the ages of nine and 13 attended the trials, from which three senior and two junior teams were selected. Yeshiva College is obviously very chuffed that six of its boys made the final teams, said Grant Forsman, head of sport.

The six boys are: Doron Mindel; Yonatan Perez; and Daniel Perez (senior age group – under-12 to under-14) and Levi Jacobson; Doron Romberg; and David Rapp (junior age group - under-11).

## Benjamin and Joshua will be off to Maccabiah later this year

KAREN GERSOHN  
PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL GERSOHN

Benjamin Sack (16) from Herzlia High School, representing Western Province and Joshua Gersohn (15) from King David High Linksfeld, representing Gauteng, share a moment before participating in the SA Open Water Championships (3 km race) held at Eikenhof Dam outside Cape Town.

Both of these young swimmers will be participating in the 2013 Maccabi Games in Israel in July.



## First Magen scouts introduced in South Africa



STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY JUDY WINER

Gilad and Shira Spitalnik last Friday visited King David Linksfeld Primary School to introduce the first Magen scouts in South Africa. The children went around the school identifying and learning about the flora on the school grounds.

Pictured are Gilad Spitalnik; Raphael Pollak; Tanya Russo; Savanna Upiter; and Amber Hesselberg.

# KDL’s Purim play wows an enthusiastic audience

KELLY ODES  
PHOTOGRAPHS: RORY RUBIN

Fun, funny and fabulous! This year’s Purim play surpassed all expectations and got rave reviews. It was written and directed by our very own grade 11 learners who managed the entire production from the artwork and props, to the sound and lighting. A remarkable effort.

After many weeks of hard work and commitment by the cast, band and crew, the play was finally ready.

The road to opening night was a long and hard one but definitely worth it. As the confetti exploded in the opening song, “Boogie Wonderland”, the stage was filled with colour, dancers and singers - an incredible start to a great production.

The story of Purim was told through legendary songs such as “Satisfaction” by Elvis, “Cell Block Tango” from the musical Chicago and “Diamonds are a Girl’s Best Friend”, made famous by Marilyn Monroe and, sung and danced to by

our talented cast.

The play fast -forwarded Purim to a modern-day setting, using lines from Twitter and Instagram and clever jokes from our directors’ fantastic sense of humour.

As we, the cast, sat backstage waiting to perform, many different emotions flowed through us: excitement, nervousness and anxiety, but as soon as we set foot on stage, the story of Purim came alive and we gave it our all.

Let’s not forget our preview

charity show for the Selwyn Segal, who were treated to cake, tea and a fun-filled experience.

We owe a great thank you to Miss Sutherland, Mr Szewach and Miss Bukris as well as the amazing band, choreographers and of course the directors Gaby Jacobs, Nicole Pantanowitz, Tali Smith, Tyler Epstein and Alex Felder.

Well done for a truly inspiring and magical production. One of the greatest productions ever staged at King David Linksfeld.



Haman (Jess Dworcan); and Vashti (Jaime Smith), plot against the Jews.





Photo courtesywww.rjstreets.com

# South African contingent features strongly in Jerusalem Marathon

SHIRA DRUION

The popular Jerusalem Marathon took place last Friday, with more than 20 000 participants who took to the streets of the ancient city in full force. This year, Rabbi Ramon Widmonte of Mizrachi, gathered a South African

contingent of eager Jewish beavers who took part in either the 10 km, 21 km or 42 km races. The race culminated in an inspirational Shabbos, spent together in the Old City, where participants were treated to inspiring words Rabbi David Aaron from Yeshivat Orayta, followed by a lively and

vibrant Kabbalat Shabbat service at The Western Wall, and joint Shabbat meals in the Old City. “It was an awesome and beautiful experience to run alongside so many other Jews in Jerusalem, a city so beloved to our people,” remarked Reb-betzen Julie Widmonte.

## Potchefstroom reunion in Israel rekindles sweet memories

DAVID GAFFAN

A reunion, full of sweet memories and long-forgotten tales, of former Potchefstroom residents now living in Israel, took place recently. The event took place at the home of David and Marlene Gaffan in Ra’anana on February 23. It was a tremendous success with people coming from as far a field as Neue Ilan, Modiin and Afula. Some of them had not seen each other for close to 60 years. Everyone brought photos of their lives in Potch, which all viewed with nostalgia. A video was shown of the closing ceremony of the Potchefstroom Shul which brought tears to many eyes, as most of the people had spent their youth there. Food and drinks were served and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Old acquaintances were not forgotten...



Photo supplied  
Back: Robert Jedeiken; Anthony Waks; Mike Gersh; and David Gaffan. Front: Hillel Miller; Sandra Waks; Shirley Frame (nee Navias); Shirley Schwartz (nee Glazer); and Jack Goodman.

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A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

# Enough abuse!



**Partners in Chesed**  
**Michael Sieff**  
Group CEO

It seems the world has had enough! On a global, national and communal level, there are media reports, lectures and discussions, that demonstrate we have reached a tipping point of zero tolerance for abuse - and that’s a good thing!

The sad truth is that our community is not immune to the societal ills that plague others. For a long time we have been in denial, desperate to believe we are better than “that”.

Right now there are 93 open abuse cases on the Chev’s Social Services case-load. Reports reach us from a variety of sources, like neighbours, doctors, teachers, professionals, friends, or the victims themselves.

The most common abuse involves adult-to-adult domestic violence. Unfortunately children are very often caught in the crossfire. The second most commonly reported abuse is that of child neglect and sexual abuse.

Abuse is reprehensible and deeply offensive in every one of its many forms, but we are most outraged when innocent children are the victims.

Because of the trauma to families, we proceed with extreme caution in as confidential a manner as possible. Our investigation process is thorough with a quick turnaround time - risk assessment is immediate, within 24 to 48 hours, and initial investigations are concluded within 3 to 4 weeks.

Being the only Jewish organisation with statutory intervention responsibilities in Gauteng, we are able to step in immediately and remove vulnerable people from harm (adults and children), relocating them to places of safety, while investigations take their course.

An enormous amount of consultation takes place with skilled, professional experts and in some cases we can happily provide conclusive evidence that no

abuse took place.

Abusers who sexually target children, present specific challenges, but being part of ISS - International Social Services - makes it possible to confer with other countries in the case of both immigrants and emigrants.

It is well known that most paedophiles seek employment and volunteer opportunities that allow them access to children. That’s why the law dictates that people who work with children must be checked against the National Sexual Offenders Register.

We know that 80 to 90 per cent of sexual abusers are known to the child victim and are family members, educators or adult friends.

It must also be remembered that those who abuse, are themselves in need of help, which we offer. A challenge in this field is that children have often been “groomed” to fear that harm

will come to a loved one if they speak up.

The context within which our Social Services Department works is the Children’s Act, which is clear in its mandate to protect children. If crimes are uncovered, it is the State that must prosecute.

There was a time when such crimes were swept under the carpet for the sake of the greater Jewish good, to avoid soiling our reputation. But no longer - the gloves are off.

These days accountability is demanded and perpetrators are identified, investigated and sometimes prosecuted. Being complicit in secret cover-ups and emergency travel arrangements, is a disrespected thing of the past. That’s a good thing too.

Feel free to communicate with me on [feedback@thechev.org.za](mailto:feedback@thechev.org.za)

*This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha*

## World News in Brief

### At AIPAC conference, Senate Minority Whip praises Israeli democracy

WASHINGTON - Senate Minority Whip John Cornyn (Republican Texas) recalls a time when Ariel Sharon in 2001 was heckled by Arab legislators in the Knesset upon being elected prime minister of Israel, then heckled at the same venue a year later after a Palestinian suicide bombing killed 30 Israelis on Passover.

Addressing the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference on Sunday, Cornyn asked the audience whether they could imagine Israeli legislators being able to heckle a Palestinian prime minister.

“Me neither,” Cornyn said, answering his own question.

The fact that Israel, as a democracy unlike its Arab neighbours, “remains a country where Arabs can serve in parliament” and heckle the prime minister is at the heart of why an “overwhelming bipartisan consensus” is maintained in Congress in favour of a strong US-Israel relationship, in contrast to the “political football” played with other issues, according to Cornyn. Americans felt a “special kinship” with Israel because of shared values such as liberty and human rights, he said.

Cornyn met with Sharon on his first trip to Israel in 2002, and three years later the prime minister was behind Israel’s decision to unilaterally withdraw from Gaza, offering the Palestinians what Cornyn called a “test” to build political, cultural and civic institutions without Israeli interference.

Instead, Gaza had become a “terrorist haven run by Hamas” where children were “indoctrinated in a culture of death”, Cornyn said. Hamas would “never be reformed by dialogue or concessions”, he maintained.

The biggest obstacle to Israeli-Palestinian peace was not Israeli construction in the West Bank, Cornyn said.

“In reality, the biggest obstacle is the lack of a credible negotiating partner on the Palestinian side,” he said, saying Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas “continues to posture as a moderate, but is he really?” Cornyn noted that Abbas wrote a doctoral dissertation denying the Holocaust.

Regarding the Iranian nuclear threat, Cornyn said the US needed to combine “debilitating sanctions with the credible threat of military action.

“I find it deeply disturbing that the world’s No 1 state sponsor of terrorism is so close to acquiring a nuclear weapon,” he said.

“In short, stopping the Iranian pursuit of nuclear weapons is not optional,” Cornyn added. “To paraphrase Margaret Thatcher, there is no alternative.” (JNS.org)

### Barak: Israel should take ‘unilateral steps’ in absence of interim peace agreement

WASHINGTON - Outgoing Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak, on Sunday suggested that in the absence of “a reasonable and fair interim [peace] agreement”, Israel should consider “unilateral steps” to halt the Palestinians’ “slippery slope” towards a binational state (one-state solution).

Barak, echoing much of the recent pessimistic sentiments about the peace process amid unilateral Palestinian statehood bids in consecutive years at the United Nations, said at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference that “a fully fledged [peace] agreement is probably not feasible today.” Yet he maintained that a “daring peace initiative” for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was needed.

“A two-state solution is the only viable solution,” Barak said, because that is how Israel will preserve its identity as a democratic Jewish state.

“It is not a favour for the Palestinians,” Barak said of the two-state solution. The former prime minister praised current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s “courageous steps” such as an “unprecedented” freeze of construction in West Bank Jewish communities.

Barak said the belief “that the root cause for all of the problems in the Middle East is our inability to solve the conflict with the Palestinians”, was “not true”. Recent developments in the region were “far beyond our control,” he said, explaining that with Israeli-Palestinian peace in place, Egypt would still be ruled by the Muslim

Brotherhood party, Syria would still be engulfed in a civil war, and Iran would still be on its quest for regional domination and nuclear weapons.

Although “diplomatic efforts are unprecedented and sanctions are both unprecedented and hurting” Iran, Barak said he did not believe those strategies “will lead to a moment of truth when the ayatollahs will give up their nuclear aspirations”. He said “all options must remain on the table,” adding: “We expect all those who say it to mean it.”



Israel Defense Minister Ehud Barak, and US Vice President Joe Biden, earlier this year in Munich.



A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

# Playing our part in the wider society

The role of the Board, in addition to its core mission of safeguarding Jewish civil liberties, very much includes leading the Jewish community participation in initiatives aimed at the upliftment of the wider society.

The SAJBD’s Cape Council has become especially active in this sphere. Recently, it participated in a silent interfaith vigil against rape and sexual violence, something so tragically endemic in this country.

It is further engaged in mentorship and training programmes, and in the area of black economic empowerment has run successful joint programmes with the Black Management Forum and SA Black Entrepreneurs Forum.

Last year the Cape Board, as part of its “Transformation Conversations” programme aimed at involving the Jewish community in nation building initiatives and conversations, hosting a resoundingly successful public debate on the hot topic, “Should Employment Equity have a sunset clause?”

The Council for KZN Jewry has traditionally involved itself in broader outreach and upliftment initiatives. One of its flagship projects is to obtain reconditioned computers and to donate and install them in schools and adult education centres that need them.

Most recently, 15 were donated to Queen Kamsweli Primary School, whose principal is Queen Nompumelelo Mchiza. In the national context, we are in the process of finalising our “Jubuntu” project. This documents Jewish involvement in the field of social upliftment and



  
**Above Board**  
**Mary Kluk**  
National Chairman

identifies possible avenues of expansion through working with the relevant government departments.

### The Israel connection

Charisse Zeifert, head of our Communications Department, has just returned from Israel, where she accompanied nine leading journalists on a five-day fact-finding visit. This was the fifth such media tour to Israel that the Board has organised, on this occasion partnering with the American Jewish Committee and again with the SA-Israel Forum.

One of the highlights was attending the event at which the new South African ambassador to Israel, Sisa Ngombane, presented his credentials to President Shimon Peres.

Mr Peres’ inspiring address afterwards, made a deep impression on all those present. As I have stressed in the past, all that we ask for regarding Middle East reporting is that it be balanced. To achieve this, there is no better way of having journalists get a hands-on feel of what is happening there and to be exposed to a representative range of informed opinion.

As detailed elsewhere in this issue, the journalists’ trip coincided with a visit by our National President Zev Krengel. He met with a host of senior political leaders, briefing them on developments in the South African Jewish community.

- Listen to Steven Gruzd on Jewish Board Talk on 101.9 ChaiFM every Friday 12:00 - 13:00.

*This column is paid for by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies*

## New satellite images: Iran is seeking alternative path to nuclear weapons

LONDON - New satellite images of an Iranian nuclear site reveal that Iran may be close to producing weapons-grade plutonium, the Telegraph reported.

The images, taken on February 9, show steam rising from the Arak nuclear plant, an indication of heavy water production.

“The steam indicates that the heavy-water plant is operational and the extent of the air defence emplacements around the site make it suspicious,” said Stuart Ray of McKenzie Intelligence Services, who analysed the photos on behalf of the Telegraph.

The Arak site is broken up into two components; one is the nuclear reactor site, which the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been allowed to inspect, and the other is the heavy water site, from which the IAEA has been barred.

The release of the satellite photos come following nuclear talks in Kazakhstan between Iran and the so-called P5+1 group, comprised of the five permanent members on the UN Security Council - the US, UK, France, Russia and China - plus Germany. According to the New York Times, the two days of talks ended with an agreement for further negotiations sometime in March over a proposal that would “sharply constrain Iran’s stockpile of the most dangerous enriched uranium”. (JNS.org)



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What’s On

Sunday (March 10)

- Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St John’s College, St John’s Road, Lower Houghton, in the Jeffrey Auditorium, commencing at 14:15 sharp. A wonderful programme of audio and video material, featuring the great Big Bands of yesteryear. Information: Dave, (011) 885-3525 or Barney, (011) 440-1996. The address is St John’s Road, in Lower Houghton.
- RCHCC in association with “Hope for Heroism”, one again hosts “Pride of the Nation”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R80 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: [rchcc@telkomsa.net](mailto:rchcc@telkomsa.net) or [rene.s@telkomsa.net](mailto:rene.s@telkomsa.net) or [www.greatpark.co.za](http://www.greatpark.co.za)
- Jewish & Israeli Live Music - “Sing-Along Glenhazel” with Roni Lea singing/playing on keyboards songs from Eretz Israel every Sunday from 13:00 till 16:00, free entrance. Venue: 1 Long Avenue, Glenhazel. Information: Roni, 074-157-7111 or e-mail, [ronilea18@gmail.com](mailto:ronilea18@gmail.com)
- Jewish Genealogical Society SA hosts Lionel Slier, recently returned from Belarus, who will talk on “The Rescue of the Jewish Orphans from Eastern Europe in 1921 to South Africa”. Venue: HOD Centre. Time: 19:30. Donation: R20. Enquiries: Mo (011) 887-7764.

Monday (March 11)

- UJW House & Garden Circle meets at 108 Forest Road, Atholl. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Members R40, visitors R50. Contact: (011) 648-1053.
- UJW hosts Ingrid Sapire, project co-ordinator of Gauteng Primary Literacy & Maths Strategy, of Wits, who will talk on “Maths

Without Tears”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (March 12)

- Second Innings Men’s Group hosts Graeme Joffe, who will speak on “Oscar Pistorius - the Interview on Carte Blanche”. Venue: Our Parents Home, Orchards. Time: 14:00 for 14:30. Contact; Gloria (011) 532-9718.
- RCHCC is re-screening the acclaimed award-winning documentary, in the light of the shocking incidence of rape and women abuse, “Crime after Crime”, by Yoav Potash. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Donation: R70 (incl refreshments). Time: 19:30. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: [rchcc@telkomsa.net](mailto:rchcc@telkomsa.net) or [rene.s@telkomsa.net](mailto:rene.s@telkomsa.net) or [www.greatpark.co.za](http://www.greatpark.co.za)
- Jewish & Israeli Live Music - “Sing-Along Sandton” with Roni Lea singing/playing on keyboards songs of Eretz Israel, every Tuesday from 18:30 till 21:00, free entrance. Venue: 60 Rivonia Road, Sandhurst Centre, Inanda. Information: Roni, 074-157-7111 or e-mail, [ronilea18@gmail.com](mailto:ronilea18@gmail.com)
- WIZO Women Inspired hosts Ya’el Geffen on “A Superhero Emerges: Transforming Tragedy into Miracles”. Venue: 29 Fourth Ave, Houghton. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R80. Contact: Lorraine 083-268-8016; Leslie 083-456-3911.

UJW CT adult education division hosts a “Freda Davis Card Afternoon”. Venue: V & A Waterfront. Cost: R75 (incl tea). Tickets and enquiries: N Baruch, 083-298-6849.

Wednesday (March 13)

UJW CT’s adult education programme hosts Prof Sean Davison will talk on “Eu-

thanasia and the Right to Die with Dignity – Defining our Humanity”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

UJW hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in English at Wits, who will deliver the last in a series of five lectures, “Miracles, Monsters, Musing on Life in Shakespeare’s ‘The Winter’s Tale’”. The venue is: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Wednesday (March 13) to Sunday (March 24)

Elise WIZO Gift Shop is selling its wares at the Pesach Yomtov Market at the Norwood Mall. There will be a large range of Pesach gifts. Time: Contact: (011) 640-2760.

Thursday (March 14)

- RCHCC hosts “Coffee and Conversation” with Sunday Times book columnist Kate Sidley, who will talk about her book, “The Agony Chef”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 10:00. Donation: R80 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: [rchcc@telkomsa.net](mailto:rchcc@telkomsa.net) or [rene.s@telkomsa.net](mailto:rene.s@telkomsa.net) or [www.greatpark.co.za](http://www.greatpark.co.za)

Sunday (March 17)

- WIZO Etgar celebrates WIZO Johannesburg’s 100 year birthday bash. Children’s fashion show (6-16 years). Two shows only: 10:30 and 15:00. Garments will be on sale. The venue is: World of Yamaha, 19 Eastern Service Road, Eastgate, Ext 6. Cost: R180 (incl refreshments).. Contact: Lee 082-441-2953 or Zee 083-377-5644.

- Second Innings hosts Arlene Bernstein who will talk on “Managing Stress - Making Everyday Life Meaningful”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Contact: Grecia, (011) 532-9718. All talks are R20 entrance for Second Innings members and R40 for non-members.

Monday (March 18)

- UJW hosts the screening of “Constantine’s Sword”, a film dealing with the sign of the cross and its significance to Christians and Jews. The film will be preceded by a short introduction by Ronnie Mink, head of Jewish Studies at King David Linksfield. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (March 19)

- UJW hosts Arlene Bernstein, former head of LifeLine, who will head a group discussion. Come along and bring a friend. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Wednesday (March 20)

- Second Innings is hosting an “Outing to Satya Grahya House - The Museum and Home of Gandhi”. Self-drive to 15 Pine Street Orchards; meet promptly at 10:30. Entrance fee R40. Contact: Grecia, (011) 532-9718.

Sunday (March 24)

- Second Innings is hosting Hilary Semple who will talk on “Shakespeare’s Fathers and Daughters”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Contact: Grecia, (011) 532-9718. All talks are R20 entrance for Second Innings members and R40 for non-members.



# Uefa must take responsibility for anti-Semitic soccer acts



ROCKING THE BOAT  
*Jack Milner*

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good men to do nothing. These words of Edmund Burke have often been used when describing how the Holocaust came about.

Anti-Semites have never come up with any sensible argument to augment their hatred of Jews.

Any form of racism is nonsensical and is based on factors such as fear, intolerance and in most cases, stupidity. But history has proven time and time again that in difficult economic times anti-Semitism raises its repulsive head.

It came out once again in the attack on a group of Tottenham Hotspur supporters attending a Uefa Cup match in Lyon, France, last month, the second attack on Spurs fans in the space of three months.

The previous attack took place in Rome and resulted in Tottenham fan Ashley Mills being stabbed before he was due to watch his team face Lazio in the competition’s group stages.

That event in November occurred when a gang of 50 extremists making anti-Semitic chants, attacked a bar in Rome where Spurs fans were known to be congregating.

Of the three men arrested in Lyon, one was

known to belong to a French far-right group, according to Rhone police, while two were known football hooligans.

The fact that Tottenham for years has been known as a Jewish club, clearly exacerbates the problem, but is totally out of line with the truth. The majority of fans are not Jewish as was the case with those attacked in Lyon.

Their fans regularly parade the club’s Jewish credentials, chanting “Yid Army”, “Yids” or “Yiddo”. This has been criticised by the Society of Black Lawyers and others over what they regard as anti-Semitic language. The supporters have now taken to singing: “We’ll sing what we want.”

The irony is that many English clubs today - Chelsea, Arsenal and Manchester United in particular - are Jewish-owned clubs, but they don’t seem to get the same treatment.

The main question is: Where is Uefa in all this? It is “nothing to do with us”, they said. Until those fans step inside one of their stadiums on their match days, they seemingly could not care less - as long as the branding around the pitch is up to scratch.

It was a sickening response, all the more negligent because Tottenham fans need Uefa’s support. Uefa officials are so quick to speak out against racism but not so quick to act when the crunch time comes.

They need to take a leaf out of the International Tennis Federation’s book who forced a Davis Cup in Malmo, Sweden to be played before an empty stadium because of the threats to the Israeli team.

A report published by the Jewish Com-

munity Protection Service (SPCJ) in France, said 22 anti-Semitic acts were reported to the police in Lyon last year, the third worst for a French city after Paris and Marseille.

Neighbouring Villeurbanne, part of the wider Lyon area, also experienced 22 incidents, in what the SPCJ called “a year of unprecedented violence against Jews in France”.

Fans travel to these cities because Uefa puts those matches together. If those cities are not capable of protecting visitors against racists, hooligans, gangsters and hate-mongers, then they should not be allowed to host a home tie. Soccer is almost a religion in parts of Europe and it is important for Uefa to hit them where it hurts most.

I would prefer to see Lyon and Rome struck off the list when it comes to staging an international club match, rather than have to watch another bruised Jew. After all, to misquote Edmund Burke, all it takes for evil to triumph, is for one good organisation to look the other way.



Tottenham Hotspur fans gather together with their “Yid Army” flags.

## Beitar Jerusalem fans walk after Muslim player scores

JERUSALEM - Hundreds of fans of the Beitar Jerusalem soccer team last weekend walked out of the stadium after a Muslim player, Zaur Sadayev, scored his first goal. Sadayev, a Chechen Muslim who recently joined the squad, scored in the second half of Sunday’s game against Maccabi Netanya. Sadayev, a forward, was cheered by the majority of the Beitar Jerusalem fans that remained in the stands. The game ended in a 1-1 tie. Beitar Jerusalem has lost four of its past five games. Sadayev and another player from the Chechen Terek Gorzny team, joined Beitar Jerusalem at the beginning of February amid protests from nationalist fans. In recent weeks, fans have been removed from games for chanting anti-Arab and racist slogans. (JTA)

# To finish first, first you have to finish



STUART GRANT

Pretoria’s Ross Lazarus completed the perfect season in South African historic racing last year, powering his Lazarus Motor Company Ford GT40 to championship victories in various Midas Historic Tour categories, as well as the prestigious ACD Springbok Series in 2012.

Historic racing in South Africa has undergone a resurgence and more often than not fields the largest number of entries in local motorsport, which although brilliant for spectators, makes the competition extremely tight and a championship no walk in the park.

However against stiff competition from a number of other GT40s, Lola T70s, Chevron B19 and a plethora of Porsches, the Lazarus cars’ immaculate preparation, exemplary reliability and sheer pace, saw Ross at the sharp end of the grid and scooping valuable points.

In motor racing, a 100 per cent finishing and points scoring record is almost unheard of but Ross managed this in his V8 powered projectile.

In the Historic Racing South Africa Endur-

ance Championship, Ross managed to secure the overall title, as well as the Class A and overall honours for the Sports and GT Cars category.

The maximum driving time of two hours per driver meant that he teamed up with Peter Lindenberg for the Kyalami 3-Hour and again managed to stick to the plan. With the ever-present threat of a Highveld rainstorm hanging in the air, the strategy was constantly revised and adapted. The result for the pairing was a third placing overall and second in class - behind another GT40.

With the maths done, the third and final round at the iconic East London Grand Prix Circuit became a must win event for Ross if he wanted to lift the overall championship trophy and complete a clean sweep for the year.

It became a door-to-door tussle between a pair of GT40s, which when viewed at Potter’s Pass, South African motorsport’s fastest corner was awe-inspiring. The Lazarus crew’s preparation shone as a glitch saw the other GT40 losing two laps over the two hours and Ross taking the flag first. With it he took the 2012 Springbok Series championship title, as well as first in class.

The 2013 season has got off to a flying start for Ross by winning the South African Tourist Trophy. This International event sees drivers from the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and the United Kingdom come to South Africa to compete against the top local drivers in this two part race series held on consecutive weekends at Zwartkops and Kyalami.

If the opening two races are anything to go by, 2013 promises to be another exciting season for Ross and his team in the South African Historic Racing Championship.

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### FRESNAYE R5 450 000



**THE VERY BEST THAT THE AVENUES HAS TO OFFER**  
Bedrooms 3   Bathrooms 2.5   Garage 1   Parking 1   REF JR51  
Sensational finishes, pristine garden, loads of space in sought-after security estate. Not a single cent to be spent. A must see. 24 hr security, communal pool, tennis court, squash courts, gym & club house.

### THREE ANCHOR BAY R3 325 000



**SPACE & GRACE**  
Bedrooms 3   Bathrooms 2   Garage 1   REF JR52  
Lovely character home with 3 bedrooms plus study, 2 bathrooms, lounge, dining room and entrance hall. Single garage, domestic accommodation, storeroom, and garden space.

### DE WATERKANT R2 200 000



**THE ROCKWELL**  
Bedrooms 2   Bathrooms 2   Parking 1   REF JR53  
A 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment, with a great area for entertaining!

### SEA POINT R1 250 000



**SUNNY + LIGHT!**  
Bedrooms 2   Bathroom 1   Garage 1   REF JR54  
Immaculate condition just move in! This 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment in excellent condition and has an open balcony with a leafy outlook.

### GARDENS R1 100 000



**EASY AND COMFORTABLE LIVING**  
Bedrooms 1   Bathroom 1   REF JR55  
A peaceful apartment situated in the heart of the Gardens area. Rental parking available.

**081 824 7466 or [jewishreport@seeff.com](mailto:jewishreport@seeff.com)**  
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