

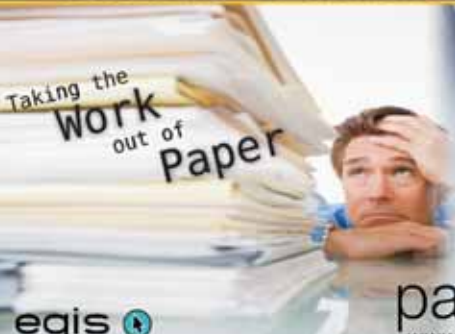
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www.sajewishreport.co.za
 Friday, 09 December 2011 / 13 Kislev, 5772
 Volume 15 Number 45



Collecting 1,5 million
butterflies for kids killed
in the Shoah **SEE PAGE 16**

Sydenham Pre-Primary School is participating in the “Butterfly Project”. The Holocaust Museum in Houston Texas is collecting one and a half million hand-made butterflies - all of a certain size - from around the world to be exhibited in 2014. These butterflies represent the one and a half million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust. Each child in Sydenham Pre-Primary is making a butterfly. Ella Rosmarin, one of the Sydenham learners, holds her butterfly. The theme of butterflies is based on a poem by Pavel Friedman, who wrote it in Terezin. He died in Auschwitz in 1944. (PHOTO: ILAN OSSENDRYVER)



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NOTE TO OUR READERS: This is the last issue of the Jewish Report for 2011. Our next issue will appear on January 20, 2012



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December 10/ 14 Kislev

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18:20	20:29	Cape Town
18:15	19:26	Durban
18:20	19:43	Bloemfontein
17:51	20:00	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:48	East London

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PARSHA OF THE WEEK



PARSHAT
VAYISHLACH

Rabbi Ramon
Widmonte

Bnei Akiva

Jacob
jumps!

OUR FOREFATHER, Ya’akov (Jacob), is a shadow-man. When we read of his naming, it sends shivers up my spine,

“And when Rivkah gave birth, behold, there were twins in her womb. And the first came forth red, all over like a hairy cloak; and they called his name Eisav. And after that came his brother; and his hand had hold on Eisav’s heel (Akev) ; and his name was called Ya’akov... The children grew up and Eisav became a man who knew how to hunt, a man of the field; while Ya’akov was a simple man who lived in tents. Yitzchak loved Eisav - who practised the art of hunting even with his mouth - while Rivkah loved Ya’akov.”

The word Ya’akov means, “he will follow”. What must it have been like to grow up in the shadow of Avraham, Yitzchak and then Eisav and to be told: “You are a follower!” What must have run through his mind those long nights studying in the tents - watching his father adore an older brother and to be told: “You must follow!”

And as the Gemara in B’rachot (7b) teaches us, a name can be a critical element in the formation of one’s self-image. So we’re unsurprised when Ya’akov does not lead, but follows. We are unsurprised when he follows the path of least resistance, a path devoid of direct confrontation, a path which leads him to bargain Eisav’s birthright away from him, to win a blessing from his father through deceit (mirma), to rolling over before a father-in-law who cheats him of his wife, to running away secretly with his family. All of this is expected.

What is astonishing is what happens in this week’s parsha.

“And Ya’akov remained alone and a man wrestled with him till the morning. And when the man saw he couldn’t win, he hit Ya’akov on his thigh and the bone was dislocated. And the man said: ‘Send me away because the sun is rising.’ Ya’akov responded: ‘I will not send you away until you’ve blessed me.’ The man responded: ‘What is your name?’ Ya’akov answered: ‘Ya’akov.’ The man said: ‘Your name will no longer be called “Ya’akov”, but “Yisra’el”, because you’ve struggled with G-dly forces and with people and you have won.”

Ya’akov struggles, for the first time with no guile, with no preparation, a frontal, violent confrontation. And at the end, his name is changed.

As always, our Sages incisively see what has happened here. Rashi comments on the above episode that, “no longer will people say of Ya’akov that he won the blessings from Eisav due to akavah (ankle-tapping) and mirmah (cheating), but rather through majesty and presence.”

Rashi’s vision into Ya’akov’s transformation is profound. Our forefather Ya’akov becomes Yisra’el. He breaks free of the chains of his name and old identity, building a new level on top of the old. He is still the man who dwelled in the tents of study but now he has the confidence to express that Torah with boldness and courage.

We are called Am Yisra’el, the nation of Israel, not Am Ya’akov, the nation of Ya’akov, for this exact reason - for we bear within us that same potential transformation. With Torah as our DNA, we can and will, as individuals and as a nation, reach majesty and presence.

Chabad spreads the light this Chanukah

MICHAEL BELLING

THE SPIRIT of Chanukah this year, from the evening of December 20 to December 28, is reaching across the country, with special events to mark the eight-day celebration of the Maccabi-era miracle.

The high point, literally, will be in Umhlanga.

“We are going to light Africa’s biggest giant menorah, about six metres high, at the Gateway Shopping Centre,” Rabbi Shlomo Wainer, of Chabad of the North Coast, told the Jewish Report.

Different events are planned on each of the eight days of the festival, most of them at Umhlanga’s Chabad House:

- Day 1 - Latke party and arts and crafts
- Day 2 - Ice skating at the Durban Ice Rink
- Day 3 - Open air rickshaw bus touring Durban
- Day 4 - Chanukah Shabbat dinner
- Day 5 - Games night and light dinner
- Day 6 - Kids’ party at the Umhlanga Sands
- Day 7 - Chanukah braai
- Day 8 - Chanukah extravaganza at Gateway Shopping Centre.

Details of all the Durban events are on www.chabadnc.com or phone Wainer at 083-550-0503.

Chabad in Johannesburg also has a packed programme at several venues. According to Rabbi Michael Katz, menorahs will be lit at Village Walk in Sandton and KosherWorld in Glenhazel every night at 18:30, and at 20:30 on Saturday night.

There will also be fixed menorahs, without candle lighting in as many malls as possible, to advertise the festival, according to Rabbi Katz. He said four malls had confirmed that menorahs would be put up: Balfour Park, Killarney, Morning Glen and Norwood, with the possibility of another four doing so.

On Sunday, December 25 at 17:30, cars with menorahs on their roofs will parade through the streets of Glenhazel, while children and adults will have a special programme at KosherWorld.

“If anyone doesn’t have a menorah and wouldn’t otherwise light one, menorahs and candles are available free of charge from Chabad House, tel (011)440-6600.”

Pretoria will also have a parade of cars with menorahs on their roofs from the shul to Brooklyn Bridge

from 17:00 to 19:00 on the first night, with the public lighting of the menorah and dreidel games, music and fun activities for children. Rabbi Gidon Fox of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation said.

Across the country in Cape Town, Chabad House has arranged a public candle lighting in Sea Point on December 25, with a similar ceremony



ny two days later at Dolphin Beach in Blouberg.

The Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation is holding two youth events, an arts and craft morning on December 21 from 16:00, with candle lighting, and drum cafe drumming, and a braai the following day. Seniors will have a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party on December 21 from 10:30, with entertainment by Chazzan Ivor Joffe. The shul will join the public candle lighting on December 25.

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens will see a special candle-lighting ceremony and picnic for members and guests of the Claremont Wynberg Hebrew Congregation and Ohr Somayach, Sea Point, on December 27, from 16:30.

Further up the coast, in Plettenberg Bay on the Garden Route, shul chairman Johnny Amoils confirmed, “We always do something on Chanukah for residents and holidaymakers. We will do it again this year. We will have candle lighting in the shul.”

In Port Elizabeth, the shul’s annual Chanukah service for the entire community at the Raleigh Street Jewish Pioneers Museum will be held on December 21, Rabbi Shmuel Bloch said. The candles will be lit on the 100-year-old menorah there.

On the east coast, The Durban United Hebrew congregation will end the year with a children’s party on December 11, with prizes for achievement awarded, and an adult Chanukah party on December 20.

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Israel can play important role in climate change debate

ALISON GOLDBERG AND
BENJI SHULMAN,
JNF SA REPRESENTATIVE

ISRAEL'S DELEGATION to the COP17 climate change conference in Durban, although not a member of the negotiating group "is a party to the convention, has signed and ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), participates in the negotiating process and is able to make recommendations".

It doesn't, however, expect a "final agreement" to be reached to replace the Kyoto Protocol. There are still many "points of contention".

Israel is still determined to fulfil its pledge to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2020. Israel believes it can make valuable contributions in some important areas.

Dr Orr Karassin, head of the Israeli Forest Service-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) delegation to the COP17 (Conference of the Parties) conference, told Jewish Report that contrary to a report that Israel only had observer status, it was actively participating in the proceedings.

"While Israel is not a member of any of the negotiating groups, it is very interested in negotiations around adaptation to climate change, a negotiating track that has become very important, where previously it was secondary to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

"This shift in emphasis in the talks, is because many countries around the world are feeling the effects of climate change, especially developing countries."

There are two sub-issues, she says: "The first is the formation of a new climate change adaptation committee, which will be responsible for mapping and scrutinising adaptation efforts taken worldwide and will deliberate on how funds will be managed.

"The second, is what kind of funding should be available, who is going to pay for it, and the process for access to this funding.

"Israel is in favour of strong mechanisms to fund adaptation and is also



Scientists say polar ice caps are melting at an alarming rate due to climate change.

looking to become a member of the adaptation committee, if and when it is set up," says Karassin.

On the controversial issue of responsibilities of developed countries to developing countries, she says Israel is in favour of developed countries funding developing countries. Israel is classified as an "undeveloped party" in the Kyoto Protocol and hence, has not thus far been obliged to fund developing countries.

Israel participates in bilateral funding efforts, where one country gives help to another directly, without an international mechanism. This is through its Mashav Programme in the ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Karassin has headed the KKL-JNF delegations to the past three Conferences of Parties that took place in 2007 in Bali, in 2009 in Copenhagen and in 2010 in Cancun in Mexico. She holds a PhD in law and specialises in environmental law and regulation, and in climate change adaptation policy.

Karassin does not expect the Durban Conference to lead to a final agreement that will replace the Kyoto Protocol, but the participants hope that it will pave the way for a binding agreement for 2015-2020. For this to happen, solutions will have to be found for some of the main points of contention.

These are broadly, the future of the Kyoto Protocol and demands for the US to be included in the agreement, and US demands in turn, for China, Brazil, South Africa and India to be

included.

The next issue is the status and legal validity of the commitments it entails. While the European Union is insisting on a legally binding agreement, most of the swiftly developing countries, while demanding the same of developed countries, are baulking at being similarly bound themselves.

The third area is the funding of climate change adaptation and emissions reduction, which requires discussion over who will finance the Green Climate Fund.

Karassin says KKL-JNF fully supports the negotiation process for reducing gas emissions and considers the Israeli government's participation in it as very important. She also hopes Israeli technology will play a pivotal role in critical adaptation and mitigation strategies and actions globally.

Israel pledged at the Copenhagen Conference to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2020. It will fulfil this obligation by increasing the share of natural gas in electricity production, taking various policy and regulatory steps towards energy efficiency in both the municipal and business sectors, and gradual transition to renewable, most notably solar power.

The KKL-JNF's aim at the conference is to share its knowledge and experience in three major areas: afforestation in arid and semi-arid areas in response to climate change and desertification; watershed management; and biological control methods.

It has participated in all side events of the UN conference and last Saturday night held a panel discussion, on "Modifying afforestation practices in response to climate change".

In South Africa, JNF has established community greening and environmental education centres in Mamelodi, northeast of Pretoria; in the Hammarsdale area in KZN during COP; and is about to launch a third in Alexandra township in Johannesburg.

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Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein with fellow faith leaders Anglican Archbishop Dr Thabo Makgoba and Sheik Dr Muhammad Ridwaan Gallant, at the opening ceremony of COP17, marching united for the cause of the universal value of protecting the environment. (PHOTO SUPPLIED)

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Keeping kosher in style in KZN North Coast and St Lucia

ALISON GOLDBERG

PLANNING A kosher holiday is an expedition. "Who are you telling?" said Shlomo Wainer, proprietor of the Chabad Guest House in Umhlanga Rocks. Wainer travels to Johannesburg fortnightly to fetch supplies of Mehadrin meat and kosher milk products.

The guest house is situated almost directly behind Southern Sun's sea-facing, self-catering Cabannas, and a little distance off from its sister, the beachfront Umhlanga Sands. As an entrée into the small Jewish community of Durban of only 2 000, Wainer and his assistant Robyn Lazarow always go the extra mile.

In our week-long holiday at self-catering accommodation on KZN-Natal's north coast, my daughter and myself spent our first two nights at Umhlanga Sands, our priority being to see the sea. Porters bring practical, large, plastic bins to transport all your paraphernalia to your rooms, which have microwave ovens. According to assistant front office manager, Ronnie Padayachee, this hotel is about to undergo a major refurbishment, and will be closed from January 15 to April 7.

On our first and only full day in Umhlanga, we were day guests of the Oyster Box. Voted "one of the hot hotels and spas worldwide" in 2010 by Condé Nast Traveler, we treated ourselves to its spa, also named best Hotel Spa in 2010 in South Africa by Les Nouvelles Esthetiques.

For the next three nights, two and a half hours away, we were off to St Lucia and to a little jewel in this wetlands village, the Seasands Lodge and Conference Centre, nestling in and surrounded by untamed, tropical vegetation. No hotels or developments are allowed on the St Lucia Wetland beaches. The area has been renamed the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and was proclaimed South Africa's first World Heritage site in 1999.

We returned to Umhlanga for Shabbat, to the conveniently-located Chabad guest house and its next-door, brand new shul. Delicious cholent and parev ice-creams were made by Rebbetzen Channie Haller. Their three-course Shabbat meals come reasonably priced at between R120 - R160.

Room rates for our stay worked at roughly R400 per person per night, plus an additional R150 for a separate room requested at Seasands and Chabad. Umhlanga Sands charges similarly at R1 600 per night for its four-sleeper unit.

A two-hour boat excursion on the St Lucia estuary - the largest in Africa - to see its pods of hippos and crocodiles, is a popular choice.

A half-day game viewing and snorkelling visit to Cape Vidal - until eight years ago accessible only by four-by-fours - made pos-



Seasands Lodge and Conference Centre.
PICTURE COURTESY OF SEASANDS.CO.ZA



The iSimangaliso World Heritage Site.
COURTESY: ISIMANGALISO.COM

sible a really, fun swim in the sea. Even more breathtaking is St Lucia's own beach - white sand and sea, all the more alluring for its wildness.

A whistle-stop tour of uShaka Marine World in Durban and the Durban Holocaust Centre was next. Both of them deserve more time to catch the dolphin show for instance at uShaka, and sufficient time to see the museum. The latter is situated next to Durban's only kosher (milk) restaurant, The Circle Café, with a delightful gift-shop.

Restaurant owner, Leemor Berchowitz, a professionally-trained chef, is affiliated to the Edward Hotel in Durban, providing kosher meals and non-returnable crockery and silverware.

As part of the Oyster Box's spa treatment are complimentary bowls of fresh pineapple, strawberries, green melon, pecan nuts and yoghurts. The inclusion of kosher Dannon NutriDay's vanilla yoghurt would make for a wonderful combination. Also offered is a plunge in its spa pool. These same personal touches at the hotel are applied to every area, from welcome offers of home-made lemonade at reception to bowls of apples and tall jars of dried mango. There are jars of sweets in its restaurants and movie theatre, and a surprise at every turn.

A tip for those visiting the spa, is to first ask the prices. Not all treatments are so expensive.

As for accommodation, special packages are available at R2 800 a night for a couple.

We were fortunate to experience seamless service at Seasands - unobtrusive but quick and friendly help on request. One tour operator refused to charge us for a horse ride on the beach because she had mixed up the times. Because of monkeys, windows and doors of its spacious rooms and full kitchens (stove and oven) and bathrooms, have to remain closed when unoccupied.

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The technique is so powerful that when used correctly, it helps to calm people down.

"Slow, deep breathing is the best anti-stress medicine we have," says James Gordon, director of Centre for Mind/Body Medicine in Washington.

When you bring air down into the lower portion of the lungs, where oxygen exchange is most efficient, everything changes. The heart rate slows, blood pressure decreases, muscles relax and the mind calms.

Of course everyone knows how to breathe, otherwise we would not be alive. Breathing is automatic, from the time we are born until we die, we continue to breathe, but what we need, is to make the inspiration down and deep.

What happens is that the lungs (which are just containers) fill with air; the diaphragm descends pushing up the abdomen; few people - other than singers and athletes - are even aware that the abdomen would expand during inhalation.

Watch how a baby breathes and you will see the belly go up and down; even animals breathe like this. Stress comes about when the shift is from abdominal breathing to shallow breathing, where a loss of oxygen occurs. Good breathing is the starting point for a healthy lifestyle and an anti-stress way of living.

When you want to learn how to distress, do the following: Lie on the floor on your back and place a book on your belly. Relax your stomach muscles and inhale deeply into your abdomen and push the book away with the muscles of your belly.

When you breathe out, let the book return to a flat position. Breathe in - push out your belly - breathe out.

This breathing exercise will not only develop the deep push down of the diaphragm, it will also give you a calm and relaxed feeling.

Sit up and place your left hand on your abdomen just above your belly button and your right hand on your chest. Breathe deeply so that your left hand is pushed away with your belly and your right hand stays still.

All the time you should be breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth. Breathe in slowly, filling your abdomen, hold your breath for a count of three, building up to a count of 5, then breathe out slowly, counting to three and then five.

If you perform deep belly breathing throughout the day, particularly just before you go to sleep, you will ease anxiety. Not only do these strategies really work, but something like breathing is an inexpensive intervention.

Breath is the soul, the N'shomer given to us by Hashem. It gives us life and when we pass from this world into the

next, we give it back.

Clara Taub, an experienced voice coach and drama teacher, has worked extensively in schools, corporate organisations and has written four books on drama, acting, teaching and voice.

She has acted in and directed many plays, the last being Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat for Yeshiva Girls High School in September. She also runs an acting school, drama workshops and does presentation and speech writing programmes.

She has an H Dip Ed, B Ed and LTCL and can be contacted on 082-572-0467.

The Voice Makeover Centre opens in January 2012, under the tutelage of Taub and a team of professional trainers.

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COMMUNITY BUZZ

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AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE...

As this is the last Community Buzz for the year, and as Chanukah, the Festival of Lights is approaching, it may be a good idea to “lighten” up a little with some true incidents.

KRUGERSDORP

Some years ago, the Krugersdorp Synagogue had bothersome situation with a roof that leaked after heavy rains, despite many unsuccessful attempts to fix it. One Friday night there was a particularly heavy storm just after the Shabbat service ended.

Shabbat day, itself, dawned bright and sunny and the service was held as usual. However, during the reading of the Torah, a single drop of water fell exactly on the word “mabel” which the officiating rabbi at the time (Rabbi Yoram Hadar) translated as meaning “flood” or “deluge”. Not one more drop fell from the roof.

The portion of the Torah reading that day was “Noach”.

COLESBERG

Dr. Cooper, the local GP, used to make calls to patients regularly, even on Saturdays in an emergency. Then his driver fell and broke his leg and the doctor put the word out that he was looking for a driver to drive him at night.

Dolf du Plessis applied; he was suitable and got the job. On the first night out he visited a patient and parked the car with the driver waiting for the doctor. The horrified patient asked the doctor why the undertaker was sitting in his car. Dr Cooper had not known that his driver’s day job was as the local undertaker.

PORT ELIZABETH

This comes from David Abel:

“I remember a gentleman who ran a very lucrative business, and had a heavy Yiddish accent. He was responding to some simcha: ‘I tenk you from the bottom of my heart and also from my wife’s bottom.’

“Was this perhaps the same Port Elizabeth man who told some friends in the 1950s when the Skymaster was the major passenger plane, that he was flying to Johannesburg in a Mixmaster?”

We wish all our readers a wonderful Chanukah and festive period.

SOCIAL SCENE

Lucky numbers galore at Emunah’s glitzy raffle

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

EMUNAH’S MUCH awaited R100 raffle draw took place recently in the marquee at the home of hostess and chairman, Judy Moritz in Johannesburg, where some spectacular prizes were won by some very happy people.

Prior to the draw, Rabbi Levi Lipskar spoke to the gathering on the relevance and importance of working for charity and other relevant issues.

The event was the culmination of a lot of hard work by the members of the Emunah team who had spent much time and effort organising this event which was certainly worth the R100 cost of each ticket – especially for the winners – the first of whom was Brian Joffe who won a trip to Cape Town with two tickets, accommodation and car hire.

Other prizes were return air tickets to the Victoria Falls, Mauritius, George, Port Elizabeth and Durban.

There was also a set of the latest luggage, two watches and other interesting items.

Chairman Judy Moritz thanked her sterling workers in both Emunah Cape Town and Johannesburg and said it had been a magic afternoon for all those



Mandy Bloch receives her prize from hostess Judy Moritz.

present.

Everyone involved in the event had enjoyed the effort they had put in, in order to raise money for such a worthy cause as the Achusat Sara Children’s Home in Bnei Brak, Israel.

The home was originally created as a refuge for orphaned children from broken homes as well as underprivileged children. Now, it is home to over 130 needy children.

At Achusat Bayit they are given a second home with much love and care from the principal, Shmuel Ron and his dedicated team as a result of the generosity and commitment of the South African Jewish community.



Guest speaker Rabbi Levi Lipskar.

ORT’s 75th in CT



MOIRA SCHNEIDER
PHOTOGRAPH: DEBBIE STANILAND

ORT WESTERN Cape on November 24 celebrated ORT’s 75th anniversary in South Africa.

Pictured are David Ginsberg, ORT

Western Cape committee; Nilly Baruch, vice chairman ORT Western Cape; Robert Singer, director general World ORT; Lydia Abel, executive director ORT-Tech; Simon Susman, chairman ORT-Tech; and Yehuda Kay, national director ORT SA. Singer was out here from London for the occasion.

It’s klez with a new twist

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

KLEZMER MUSIC with a contemporary twist will be featured on Cape Town Shpiel, the Playing with Fire Klezmer Band’s first CD in this genre, due to be launched on December 12.

The band’s leader Matthew Reid, who is not Jewish, says that he did not want to “just regurgitate the same familiar tunes” that have their roots among the strolling shtetl musicians of Eastern Europe, but has rather “put old wine into new bottles”.

“I think you have to do something interesting with it for people to like it (these days),” he explains of his arrangements.

Reid has been the musical director and his band has accompanied performers at the Yiddish Song Festival since its inception here 11 years ago.

The CD, subtitled Klezmer in Africa, includes a wide variety of styles. Some tracks have a “Balkan feeling”, following the group’s venture into this genre, and make use of the darambuka (Turkish drum) and the tuba.

Also incorporated is gypsy jazz and input from Cape jazz pianist Hilton Schilder. Cantor Ivor Joffe sings four numbers in Yiddish, while the rest are instrumental.

“I’ve taken Rozhinkes mit Mandlen and put it into a 5/8 rhythm, which I think is unusual. I took Macheteniste Majne and gave it a Balkan feel.



The cover of Cape Town Shpiel, the Playing with Fire Klezmer Band’s first CD in this genre, due to be launched this month.

“And then I did an African ‘freylech’ (Yiddish: happy, also the name of a klezmer dance and rhythm) - an overture with some African songs. So there should be something in there for everybody,” Reid states.

• The launch, featuring a performance by the Playing with Fire Klezmer Band, will be held on December 12 at 20:00 at the Centre for the Book, Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town. Unreserved seats R100. To book call (021) 434-9691, e-mail admin@cjsa.org.za or phone Myra at 083-449-3974. Proceeds of CD sales will be shared with the Cape Jewish Seniors Association.

New Jewish awakening in The Friendly City



PORT ELIZABETH, initially known as “The Windy City”, is increasingly being known as “The Friendly City”. And now a quiet revolution is taking place that will cause PE to be known as one of the centres of Jewish life in South Africa.

Only two months ago our new shul was inaugurated with Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein attending, with local and international guests. Over 200 guests enjoyed a superbly catered event, in our newly refurbished hall next door to the shul.

We are proud to have Rabbi Shmuel Bloch, himself a native South African, together with his America-born wife, as our new rabbi and rebbetzen. Rabbi Bloch completed the prestigious Ohr Lagolah Rabbinic Training Programme in Jerusalem and together with his wife and family have returned to South Africa to lead our community.

We have daily minyanim and a fantastic Shabbos davening with a superb brocha afterwards. During the week we offer a host of shiurim on many different topics, catering to all levels.

Our mikvah is situated within the same complex as the shul.

A vibrant and dedicated Union of Jewish Women and WIZO ensure that something special is always taking place.

With kosher food easily accessible together with the shul being five minutes away from the beach, PE is the perfect destination for your holiday.

Reb Nosson Tzvi Finkel dies in Jerusalem

SHIRA DRUION



THE ROSH Yeshiva of Mir in Jerusalem, Reb Nosson Tzvi Finkel died recently at the age of 68 after going into cardiac arrest. He suffered from Parkinson’s disease. The funeral took place in the heart of Jerusalem’s Beit Yisrael neighbourhood and was attended by an estimated 100 000 Jews from across the globe.

Reb Nosson Tzvi was born on March 12, 1943, in Chicago, Illinois to Rabbi Eliyahu Meir and Sara Finkel.

During a visit to Israel at the age of 15, Natty as he was known, went to stay with his cousin, Rabbi Eliezer Yehudah Finkel (“Reb Leizer Yudel”), the Mir Rosh yeshiva.

Reb Leizer Yudel recognised his extraordinary ability to grasp Talmudic concepts and to think patiently and clearly. He invited him to stay in Jerusalem for advanced Talmudic studies at the Mir, but Nosson Tzvi’s mother wanted him to return to Chicago to finish high school.

At the age of 18, Finkel returned to Jerusalem to learn at the Mir.

Today the Mir Yeshiva is the second largest yeshiva in the world, with a student body of over 7 500.

When Finkel became rosh yeshiva, the yeshiva had fewer than 1 000 students. Under his leadership, the yeshiva grew in leaps and bounds, enrolling nearly 6 000 undergraduate students and over 1 600 married students, by the time of his death. .

Rabbi Finkel contracted Parkinson’s disease in his 40. This, however, did not to deter him from learning Torah for long hours, delivering regular shiurim and undertaking fundraising for his yeshiva around the world.

Finkel is survived by his wife Rachel Leah, and 11 children. His son Rabbi Yehudah Leib Finkel has been appointed as the new rosh yeshiva.

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Jewish Report

2012 - A better year?

MOST PEOPLE agree that 2011 was a rough year. What can we expect from 2012? A wish list might include the following:

Start with the basics - individuals and families, the building blocks of any society. In these tough economic times - for which a resolution is still far away - they should continue to have the essentials like healthcare, food on the table, good education for their kids, a strong, caring community, and a safe haven from the travails of the world.

The community: The continuing vibrancy, solidarity and warmth of the South African Jewish community, make it special and must be guarded jealously. With its multiplicity of excellent Jewish day schools, welfare and religious institutions, outreach projects, learning programmes and so on, South African Jewry enters 2012 in good shape, despite the problems inherent in any close-knit community, and the challenges posed by being part of the white minority in South Africa.

The country: We hope those in power will come to their senses and stop undermining the freedoms and achievements won through the blood, sweat and tears of idealists and activists over the past decades. In 1994 a bloodbath was averted against all predictions and a liberation movement had to turn itself into a functioning government, living up to arguably the most enlightened Constitution in the world.

Now, 17 years later, there are ominous signs our current leaders - including our president - are losing touch with what makes this country great. The contentious Secrecy Bill passed recently by the National Assembly, exemplifies how far they have strayed from basic principles. Their justifications for the need to exclude a public interest clause in the Bill, have been so ridiculous that it has made us the laughing stock of the world, and poses worrying questions about the direction in which they are taking the country.

Perhaps, in 2012, our government will recommit itself to the ideals and spirit of our Constitution, rather than looking at it as an impediment keeping them from ruling in an unfettered way.

The youth: The old cliché that our future rests with them, is reaffirmed every year. For them to be the shapers of a good future, requires inculcating into them the ideals of building a society on the finest moral principles. For that they need a solid family life, good education, and the possibility that their lives can become better through their own efforts.

Sadly, this is lacking in many places. Dire poverty and unemployment create a culture of no hope - and underpin the high crime rate. A man who is struggling daily just to find food to eat, has no time for lofty moral platitudes.

For our economy to thrive we need investment, and harping on nationalisation - not yet finally denied by the ANC - scares investment away. And with it the jobs new investments could create.

Government constantly comes up with grand-sounding plans to cut unemployment and solve the crises in education, health and service delivery. But political posturing is not enough. We need more on-the-ground implementation. We hope 2012 will be the year for this to happen.

Corruption: Our leaders must show serious intent to tackle the corruption and nepotism becoming endemic in our society - if unchecked, they will soon be impossible to root out. Former police commissioner Jackie Selebi may have gone to jail for corruption - for how long we still have to see - but the culture of corruption he represents has not been dented one iota.

We live in a unique country with warm, generous people. We wish our readers a rejuvenating end-of-year break. And may we all pull together to make it a great 2012!

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Temper optimism with a dollop of realism



BARBARIC YAWP
David Saks

JEWISH RESILIENCE is predicated on an essentially optimistic view of human destiny. Our fundamental convictions point to an ordered universe operating under the guidance of an all-powerful, all-knowing and benign Creator whose very purpose in bringing our world into being is to bestow infinite benefit to His creations.

Judaism certainly does not deny the reality of suffering, the human capacity for evil and the tremendous dangers inherent in living as flawed beings in a deeply imperfect world.

No matter what tragedies occur, however, these are always seen as being ultimately a means to a greater end, a necessary part in the unfolding of a greater plan. Nor do Jews see the human condition as being one of passively enduring the unfathomable whims of an unknowable Higher Being.

On the contrary, they have understood that each individual has been given the tools to fulfil his or her particular, and unique, destiny. As a Shakespearean might see it, it is less a case of “as flies to wanton boys are we to th’ gods, they kill us for their sport” than of “The fault... is not in our stars, But in ourselves, that we are underlings”.

Knowing that whatever suffering they may endure, individually or collectively, has a constructive purpose while at the same time understanding that human failings and not Divine capriciousness is at its root, distinguished the Jews of ancient times from the civilisations that rose and fell around them.

Because Jews saw human beings as uniquely imbued with free will, and with it the capacity to forge their own destinies, they attributed to them the ability to better themselves and their societies.

Perhaps this is why Jews have been at the forefront of so many revolutionary movements over the centuries. In their very DNA, as it were, there is an essentially optimistic belief in human perfectibility, something even non-religious Jews can feel.

Sometimes, this has taken the form of seeking to perfect the world at large, the Jewish invention of and subsequent disproportionate involvement in the Communist dream being the most fateful example. At other times, it is more inner directed, towards creating a new and better world for the Jewish people themselves.

The most striking contemporary example of the latter, of course, is the unfolding Zionist enterprise. I often wonder at how deeply Jews the world over bought into the Zionist vision since on paper, it really looked a hopeless cause.

Jews at the time were largely weak and scattered, in the main living in poverty under oppressive and anti-Semitic regimes. The historic Jewish homeland was still under the hegemony of the Ottoman Empire, which obviously had no intention of relinquishing it to anyone, let alone to the despised Jews.

Moreover, a great many Jews were either sceptical or down-right hostile towards the project. Despite this, a steady stream of

immigrants began returning to the Holy Land, braving incredible hardships as they went about laying the groundwork for a Jewish country that might well never have come into being. Many more Jews elsewhere in the world participated through fundraising. Against all odds, the dream was realised.

The problem with revolutions is, as Danton put it, they can easily end up devouring their own children. What begins as an idealistic reaction against tyranny too often leads to the latter’s replacement with something even worse.

At the commencement of the Arab Spring this year, there was an upsurge of optimism over the growing grass-roots revolt against decades of oppression, misrule and corruption. All this dissipated fairly quickly once it became clear that few of those involved were really interested in establishing liberal democracies along the Western model. In Egypt, for one, it now looks very much like a secular fascist regime is about to be replaced with an Islamist one.

Far from ameliorating traditional religious prejudice against minorities, moreover, the Arab Spring would seem to have intensified them. In a recent article in The Atlantic, Jeffrey Goldberg details how the revolutionary rhetoric of the reformers is permeated through and through by rabid anti-Semitic ideologies.

One example he cites is that of Egyptian presidential candidate Tawfiq Okasha, who on television said: “Not all the Jews in the world are evil. The ratio is 60-40. Sixty per cent are evil to varying degrees, all the way to a level that words cannot describe, while 40 per cent are not evil.”

Even among the 40 per cent of non-evil Jews, he continued, there was only one in a million who was blameless, and with whom it was possible to coexist.

For Jews, in fact, the Arab Spring countries are probably now as dangerous as they were at the time of the orchestrated state persecution that followed Israel’s establishment.

David Gerbi, a Libyan Jewish exile who has earnestly sought to foster reconciliation between Libya and its expelled Jewish population, learned that to his cost recently. During a return trip to Tripoli, he was nearly lynched while visiting the devastated synagogue he was hoping to have restored.

Optimism, and especially Jewish optimism is good, but it must always be tempered with a healthy dose of realism. With the Middle East in turmoil once more, Israel would do well to plan for every worst case scenario while at the same time not ceasing to hope that something positive might yet emerge from it all.

AROUND THE WORLD
NEWS IN BRIEF

BEARDED RABBI ALLOWED TO JOIN ARMY WITHOUT SHAVING

NEW YORK - A Chabad rabbi has won his battle to join the US Army without shaving his beard.

Rabbi Menachem Stern, whose approval to serve as an Army Reserve chaplain in 2009 was rescinded because he refused to shave his beard, will be allowed to serve after settling a lawsuit against the military, Chabad-Lubavitch News reported. Stern expects to be sworn into service next week and begin chaplain training in January.

Though army policy does allow religious waivers for beards on a case-by-case basis, the waivers had previously been granted only after the men entered the service

clean-shaven.

In December, Stern filed a lawsuit against the military after attempts -- aided by US Senators Joe Lieberman (Independent Connecticut), Charles Schumer (Democrat New York) and Kristen Gillibrand (Democrat New York) - to receive a waiver failed.

According to the Aleph Institute, a Chabad organisation that assists Jewish military personnel, there are currently 37 Jewish chaplains in the US military, including nine rabbis on active duty.

The Aleph Institute will be live streaming Stern’s swearing in ceremony on December 9. (JTA)

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OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

New bills - less frills...



Bryan Silke's
BusinessBrief
Know your business

WELCOME TO our first “BusinessBrief - Know your business” column, in association with the SA Jewish Report. BusinessBrief magazine has been a leading thought-leadership resource for the past 16 years to help decision-makers in business. The goal of this column is to alert business owners and managers to critical trends and changes in legislation, strategies behind fiscal planning, labour issues, brand-shaping and other areas affecting business decision-making.

Start sweating: New tax Bill
As members of the media appropriately continue to protest the promulgation of the Protection of State Information Bill, citizens nationwide have taken a jaundiced view of the relationship between state and public. The dominant public discourse has been around the infringement of civic rights, primarily because of the lack of a “public interest” clause in the aforementioned Bill. Small business owners and private taxpayers need to be cognisant however, of other potentially threatening legislation. The New Tax Administration Bill may face constitutional challenges should it be promulgated in its current form. Despite SARS being recognised as perhaps South Africa’s most efficient, world-class state-run institution, the new provisions and powers to be authorised to SARS from the Bill in its present form, need to be assessed. Betsie Strydom, a tax partner at Bowman Gilfillan, warns that the Bill contains provisions that could affect taxpayers’ rights to hold a passport, to travel and to trade. Among areas of greater concern, Strydom highlights that the Bill allows SARS to:

- Search for and seize material which the taxpayer regards as subject to legal professional privilege
- In certain circumstances, conduct a search without a warrant
- Force shareholders and trustees to provide security for the tax due by the company or trust concerned
- Expedite the date of payment of tax

The Bill does not only spell doom and gloom. As Strydom articulates, it does con-

tain provisions which may cut out some of the “red tape” involved with administering tax legislation, for example a single registration for multiple tax types such as income tax, employees’ tax and Value Added Tax.

Entrepreneurial endeavours
Developing a legal, tax and finance framework is critical to the growth and progress of any Small or Medium Enterprise (SME). Often commentators and business owners themselves have declared legislative barriers, together with the inaccessibility of finance, to be the primary hindrance to growth. Professor Boris Urban, chairman in entrepreneurship at Wits Business School, argues on the above, and pronounces “a lack of ideas” as the cause of the present dearth of quality entrepreneurs in South Africa. He says that the conditions of regulatory operation for small business in this country are good. According to a World Economic Forum (WEF) indicator set from 2011, South Africa ranked an impressive 34th out of 183 economies for “ease of doing business”. The ranking is surprising based on another ranking - where South Africa has slipped to 45th of 133 countries in the overall global competitiveness ranking. Entrepreneurship should not only be seen in isolation as a means of personal financial empowerment, but rather as a principal driver of economic growth and tool for social upliftment. Heading into 2012, global economic stability seems distant at best. Domestically, there is reason for optimism. South Africa’s entry into the co-operative BRICS alliance with Brazil, Russia, India and China could herald a greater strategic role as an economic and political power broker. Greg Nott, a director at Werksmans Attorneys, suggests that the alliance will finally galvanise South Africa to be the catalyst as the BRICS nations’ gateway to Africa. The strategic opportunity, says Nott, will be to logistically move goods, commodities and resources through our region. In addition, South Africa (and business owners looking for prospects in particular) ought to see this opportunity as a chance to lend its political and economic expertise in the region to further growth.

For more information, and to read more from the above sources, visit www.bbrief.co.za

AROUND THE WORLD
NEWS IN BRIEF

OBAMA’S PRO-ISRAEL CREDENTIALS

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama said his administration had done more than any other to help Israel. “I try not to pat myself too much on the back, but this administration has done more for the security of the State of Israel than any previous administration,” Obama said on November 30 during a campaign fundraiser at the New York home of Jack Rosen, chairman of the American Council for World Jewry and a former president of the American Jewish Congress. “We don’t compromise when it comes to Israel’s security,” the Democratic president said. “And that will continue.” He referred to Israel as the most important ally of the United States. Obama, who is running for re-election in 2012, has been dogged by criticism of his Middle East diplomacy, especially by pro-Israel activists who believe he erred in pressuring the Netanyahu administration over West Bank settlement-building. (JTA)



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Happy Chanukah



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Artisan Contemporary Gallery, Morningside, Durban: “Memories”, curated by Sue Greenberg, until December 24, (031) 312-4364.

Centre for the Book, Cape Town: CD launch for Cape Town Shpiel’s “Playing with fire”: Klezmer in Africa, on December 12, (021) 423-2669.

David Krut Projects, Arts on Main, Johannesburg: “Pretty World”, by Robyn Penn, until February, (011) 447-0627.

Fugard Theatre, District Six: “London Road”, with Robyn Scott and Ntombi Makhutshi, until December 17, (021) 461-4554.

Foxwood House Theatre, Houghton: On December 11, “Yanagi”, a shadow puppetry show, (011) 486-0935.

Goodman Gallery: In Parkwood, William Kentridge’s “Other Faces” ends December 23, (011) 788-1113. In Woodstock, David Goldblatt’s “Portraits”, ends December 10, (021) 462-7579.

Joburg Theatre, Braamfontein: In the Nelson Mandela, Janice Honeyman’s panto, “Cinderella”, until December 30. In the People’s Theatre, “Beauty and the Beast”, until December 24, (011) 877-6800.

Market Theatre, Newtown: In the Laager, “The Girl in the Yellow Dress”, with Kate Liquorish until December 11; in the Laboratory “Napo Masheane and the Fat Black Women Sing” until December 11; in the main theatre, the Unite to End Women Against Violence film festival, until December 10, (011) 832-1641.

Montecasino, Fourways: In the Studio, “My Mother’s Italian, My Father’s Jewish and I’m in Therapy” until January 8. In the Pieter Toerien, “Menopause the Musical,” until January 8 and “Beautiful Creatures” until December 17, (011) 511-1988.

National Children’s Theatre, Parktown: “Aladdin Jr”, directed by Francois Theron, until December 23, (011) 484-1584.

Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton: “Season in the Sun”, songs by Brel, Coward, Porter and others, with Godfrey Johnson, until December 24. Friday lunchtime concerts on December 9 features Jacobus Swart (piano) and Ivo Ivanov (violin), (011) 883-8606.

Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre, Oaklands: Annual exhibition curated by René Sidley, until December 11, (011) 728-8088.

Victory Theatre, Orange Grove: “Relive the 50s: Kwela Bafana”, directed by Phyllis Klotz, Smal Ndaba, until December 10, (011) 728-9603.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Holiday fare to keep the young happy

Show: “Beauty and the Beast” (People’s Theatre, Joburg Theatre, Braamfontein, (011) 403-1563) Until: December 24

Show: “Disney’s Aladdin Jr” (National Children’s Theatre, Parktown, (011) 484-1584) Until: December 24

Show: “Beautiful Creatures” (Pieter Toerien Theatre, Montecasino, Fourways, (011) 511-1988) Until: December 17

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

CHILDREN’S THEATRE pickings in Gauteng this season are characterised by polish that’ll keep you and your tots thoroughly engaged. Headlined with some of this country’s best talent, the productions showcase singing skills second to none.

With corruptions that push the 18th century fairytale of true love commingled with disloyalty, dishonesty and otherwise beastliness, into an anachronistic contemporary situation, the People’s Theatre version of Beauty and the Beast doesn’t stint on child-friendliness. Staged in a plainly elegant set by Grant Knottenbelt, its embrace of magic means you’re not subject to inexcusable moments in the dark while the lead changes kit.

The baddie, Davina, an evil fairy, is played by Lebogang Mphahlele, whose interpretation doesn’t have the eerie campness Francois Theron lent it seven years ago; the downside is that here, the character lacks “teeth”. Another who lacks “teeth” is Koisani, the good fairy, played by Noni Mkhonto, whose good-little turquoise adorned sprite lacks the



Domestic bliss of a sort: the dad, Mr Brown (Adam Pelkowitz) and the maid, Mrs Bollocks (Lebogang Mphahlele). PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUI WHITE.

authority she needs to convincingly go head to head against forces of evil. Indeed, Koisani’s side kick, Dewdrop, played by a child performer lends a funky gravitas to an otherwise untenable situation.

A tale about the third daughter to a rich merchant being the wisest and fairest; because of which she gets the most daunting challenge, and lands up with the best bloke of all, it shows that horrible behaviour gets come-uppance. Eventually.

Disney’s Aladdin Jr, directed by Francois Theron, features performers you may recognise from Dreamgirls and Evita. It’s the jived up version of Ala al-Din from the Arabian Nights, first written between 750 and 1258. With in-jokes specific to Hollywood, popular culture and everything in between, this tale of poor boy gets good things,



The evil Jafar (Clinton Lesch), the sultan’s right hand man, with his right hand parrot, Iago (Melonie Mazibuko). PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG DA SILVA.

including the daughter of a sultan, is a glittering affair of swing-evocative music, splinteringly quick rejoinders and memorable characters.

Sporting a New York accent, Iago, performed by Melonie Mazibuko, the right-hand parrot of the sultan’s right-hand man steals the show with abandon, not an easy task in such a deftly made and well performed show. Be warned, however: if your tot’s too young, the crisp inflections of the tale, its politics and humour and sinister Jafar (Clint Lesch) might prove too much.

For littler ones, and like Aladdin, under the musical direction of Rowan Bakker, is Beautiful Creatures. If you’re a newcomer or an old fan of Alan Glass and Ed Jordan’s brand, you won’t be disappointed. This niftily constructed hour-long show, featuring Umvubu the happi-

est hippo (Byron Lee Olivato) is of the ilk of Danny Kaye’s 1945 Tubby the Tuba, showing how a child becomes proud of his own idiosyncrasies and thus gains the love of his peers.

This bubblegum coloured show includes such loved characters as Mfuthu the pink elephant (Nom-pumelelo Mayiyane) and Tallula the gold-pump-wearing dancing teacher tortoise (Shelley Adriaanzen) and freshly confronts issues ranging from bullying to shyness to leave you singing “boom boom boom to the left” and wagging your tail in the sunshine.

• Other kids’ plays this season include “Liewe Heksie” at Emperor’s Palace until December 17 (011) 928-1000 and “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”, at the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre, until January 9, (031) 260-2296.

Korber’s annual Art Salon opens next week

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY ROSE KORBER ART SALON

“THE PAST two decades have seen South African art becoming more internationalised,” said Cape Town art consultant, Rose Korber, on the eve of the opening of her 20th annual Art Salon.

A media release mentions that the show features “the usual suspects” in art, like William Kentridge, Sam Nhlengethwa, Zwelethu Mthethwa and Claudette Schreuders, lesser known artists like Pamela Stretton, Wendy Anziska and Richard Smith, and brand new names Georgia Lane and Liane Dutilleux.

This year, for the first time, Cape Town-based curator Andrew Lamprecht will be collaborating with Korber. Having recently attained his Masters degree in curation - the first of its kind in South Africa - Lamprecht is recognised for the sterling quality of work in his curation of the recent Vladimir Tretchikoff



John Kramer’s “Uitspan Kafee, Montagu,” a painting on canvas.

retrospective at the SA National Gallery. Lamprecht is also a respected academic, known to have his thumb firmly on the pulse of contemporary visual art.

Korber adds: “These days, talented art school graduates are being snapped up by curators and major galleries almost before they graduate.



A digital print on paper by Stephen Inngs: “Anysberg 1, Karoo”.

This has led to a newer, fresher, more accessible terrain of art and ever-more visitors to our galleries and art museums.”

• The Art Salon is from December 16 - January 31, at Rose Korber Art, Sedgmoor Road, Camps Bay, (021) 438-9152 or visit www.rosekorberart.com



FELDMAN ON FILM
Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

Drive

Cast: Ryan Gosling; Carey Mulligan; Bryan Cranston; Albert Brooks; Ron Perlman; Christina Hendricks
Director: Nicolas Winding Refn

“DRIVE” IS an amazing exercise in filmmaking, an artfully stylised crime thriller that is heavily influenced by classic film noir. It succeeds in sustaining suspense, even when nothing seems to be happening, but has a tendency to veer towards graphically gruesome violence which may certainly put many viewers off. Director Nicolas Winding Refn has fashioned

a dark, moody film, with hard-edged brilliance, paying tribute to some classic productions of the past through neon-lit nightscape imagery and a brooding dread that overrides the production.

What drives this film is its fundamental appeal of fast cars, dangerous men and the possibility that anything can and will happen during the course of the narrative thrust.

Ryan Gosling, in another super-charged performance, plays a Hollywood stunt driver, a loner by nature, who drives by day, and who moonlights as a top-notch getaway driver-for-hire to the criminal underworld.

He asks no questions and concentrates only on the job at hand, something to which he is ideally suited. He is cool and calculating and can outgun the best in his chosen field.

His world comes apart when he agrees to help a neighbour’s husband by driving the getaway car for a pawn shop robbery. The man is shot dead at the scene by the owner and the driver soon finds himself a target for some of LA’s most dangerous men.

His biggest problem now is to keep his attractive neighbour, Irene (Carey Mulligan), and her son alive and the only way to do this is to drive them out of town. But danger lurks around each corner as the underworld’s tentacles reach out for them.

The formidable Gosling is an ideal choice as the driver. There are few actors today who can transmit an emotional state simply through facial expressions, a skillfully nuanced performance.

Carey Mulligan shines as Irene who reluctantly accepts the return of her husband from prison only to find out that he still has a debt to pay to his criminal benefactors.

Ron Perlman and a fleshy Albert Brooks play two ruthless gangsters, partners in crime, who want their money back from the robbery, but now have to deal with the driver in their negotiations. And he’s a hard nut to crack, as these violent men soon come to realise.

The true beauty of “Drive” is that it manages to provide the visceral pleasure of a pulp movie without forsaking its artistic ambitions.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Light-hearted holiday fare

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

Come Again? by Andrew Donaldson and Mandy Rossouw (Kwela Books, R135)

A COLLECTION of the more memorable utterances of South Africa’s public figures, giving instructive, hilarious and downright terrifying glimpses into those entrusted with leading the beloved country. There are also some salient tweets from ordinary citizens. Examples include: “F—k you. F—k off, OK?” from former ANCYL spokesman Floyd Shivambu, summoning all his eloquence and intelligence in replying to a question from Beeld reporter Jacques Dommisie. “That guy doesn’t have a clue about what he wants to do; he also doesn’t have a plan” - DA mayoral candidate for Cape Town Patricia de Lille, on opposition ANC candidate Tony Ehrenreich. “If you want truth and justice, go to Teazers; if you want to get screwed, go to court” - forensic scientist David Klatzow giving his opinion to Business Day on the country’s justice system. “One woman was reported missing, but I’m sure she’s somewhere” - from Tshwane community safety department spokesman William Baloyi, following heavy rain and flooding in Pretoria.

Lights Out in Wonderland by DBC Pierre (Faber & Faber, R129)

THIS IS a surreal romp with this Booker Prize-winning author through some of the seminal events and most strategic landmarks of our 21st century world, seen through the eyes of Gabriel Brockwell, an aesthete, poet, philosopher, anti-capitalist activist and disaffected intellectual. His experiences include a near-death experience with fugu ovaries, a stint in rehab, an erotic encounter with an octopus and a decadent feast in the bowels of Berlin’s Tempelhof Airport. What he sees, who he meets and how he unwittingly creates (and eludes) situations, are all steps on his journey to his ultimate destination: Wonderland. Essentially a satire, the novel is convoluted and too studiedly clever, with Pierre relying heavily on semantic games and metaphysical conceits, but there is much to ponder. Strictly at your own risk.



Eish, But is it English? by Rajend Mesthrie with Jeanne Hromnik (Zebra Press, R180)

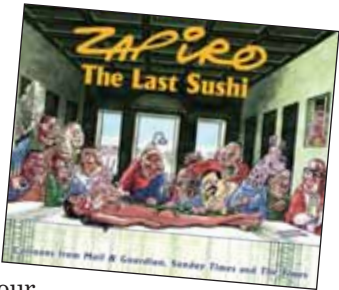
THIS IS an exploration of the influence (and, indeed, invasion) of Afrikaans, isiZulu, isiXhosa, tsotsitaal and even Yiddish, on the English spoken by South Africans. Purists will deplore the contami-




nation of the language (and Professor Higgins would have suffered cardiac arrest), but what it has produced is a unique - and irresistible - patois, used from boardrooms to lecture halls, townships to university campuses and the streets of every city in the country. As the authors point out, it is not just the vocabulary of South Africa which is unmistakable, but the intonation of the words that express a wealth of meaning. Who else, for instance, would ask: “Are you si-ri-yasssssss?” - and who but a fellow South African would understand instantly the implications of the question? While the book is an earnest enquiry, it offers wonderful examples of how we speak, evoking the 1970s work by Robin Malan and Yvonne Bryceland, “Ah Big Yaws?” (Readers may recall Malan’s classic examples of Sow Theffricun pronunciation: “Ah spa wirth mah little ah / Sumthink beginning wirth ah”, “Jute ache thus womb-in toby yawl awful whetted wharf?”, “The scissor freak un-tree, hey!” and “Ahderno wary getsies bettabbits from. Snot from heez for-the-side” A delightful read.

The Last Sushi by Zapiro (Jacana, R149)

ANOTHER GLORIOUS collection of cartoons telling the sorrowful, squirm-worthy stories of South Africa’s socio-political underbelly. The book’s title is taken from one of the most memorable scandals of the year - the Romanesque opening of Kenny Kunene’s nightclub in Green Point, Cape Town, attended by several ANC and ANCYL dignitaries, at which sushi was eaten off the bodies of half-naked, supine models. It is hard picking out favourites, but this reviewer particularly enjoyed the cartoons of President Jacob Zuma – Zapiro’s trademark showerhead in position over the presidential head - telling a press conference on the arms deal: “We’re processing as much evidence as we can”, while behind a screen administrators tip bins of documents and cheque books into shredders; of convicted fraudster Schabir Shaik, having been returned to his cell at Westville Prison after violating his parole conditions, collapsing under the weight of a golf bag with a cigarette dangling from his mouth and telling a warden: “Unhhhhh! Call a doctor - I’m back at death’s door!”; and of prosecutions boss Menzi Simelane (whose appointment to his job by Pres Zuma has last week been found by our courts to have been illegal), about to rush into a courtroom to press charges against a 15-year-old schoolgirl for rape (she had had consensual sex with a fellow learner), being stopped by an aide handing him a human brain and saying: “Mr Simelane, you might be needing this!” However, among the barbs and belly-laughs, there is also poignancy, including moving tributes to both Kader Asmal and Albertina Sisulu. Not for nothing has Zapiro been hailed as one of the world’s foremost - and most fearless - cartoonist.



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Disclaimer: The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report

WHEN YIDDISHKEIT CONSISTS OF GOSSIP AND BAD-MOUTHING

APPARENTLY, THE “new” and improved “Yiddishkeit” of the “real Gedolim of Eretz Yisroel”, which Saul Schlessinger of Jerusalem seemingly represents (“How is the board of the Jewish Report chosen?” Jewish Report, December 2) and claims South Africa is unfortunately lacking, consists of: (1) gossiping; (2) publicly making baseless accusations; and (3) slandering Torah leaders and Torah institutions.

Is this what it means to “follow (the real Gedolim’s) wisdom”? Is this what Schlessinger calls “progress”? Such wisdom and

such progress South Africa (and the rest of the world) can do without. Perhaps Schlessinger should spend less of his time trying to determine who “the real Gedolim” are and what (in his opinion) they have accomplished, and spend more of his time trying to determine what the Torah actually requires of him. It’s just a suggestion, but the Laws of Proper Speech (Hilchos Loshen Horah) would probably be as good a place to start as any.

Samuel Kornblum
Johannesburg

SCHLESSINGER’S DISRESPECTFUL LETTER IS AN UNCALLED FOR ATTACK

HAVING MADE aliyah with the family to Israel in 2009, the SA Jewish Report has become a ritualistic weekly read for me. It is "one of those things" that keeps me informed and up to date with what is happening to and in the Jewish community in South Africa, of which my parents, brother and friends are such an integral part.

I have found the content to be excellent, with unbiased, fair and informative reporting. No, one does not always agree with the viewpoints of some of the articles, nor those expressed in the letters published.

Even more so, living "real life" in Israel, I find many views expressed by some article and letter contributors to be devoid of facts, biased, uninformed, naive and sometimes laughable, but they are their views and as long as they are free of slander and hate, they are perfectly entitled to them - those are the joys of free speech and freedom of the press.

Regarding the letter from Saul Schlessinger of Jerusalem (be he a former South African or not), I find his comments not only disrespectful, but actually an uncalled for attack on the SAJR editorial and

administrative staff, as well as the paper’s board of directors and specifically (on Chief Rabbi) Warren Goldstein. I would challenge him to put fact to his assertions that the Chief Rabbi actually bears the influence over your publication, he suggests.

Yes, I believe there should be more reporting from Israeli based former South Africans, telling about life as it is, not always as perceived, and perhaps that is an avenue you could pursue. However, unfounded attacks on the Chief Rabbi and the directors of the SAJR, are uncalled for and immature.

As someone living in Jerusalem, perhaps he should send in commentary on the situation in Jerusalem (haredim vs secular, Arab vs Jew, etc) and explain the real feelings, emotions and facts; explain how the Israeli people actually view what is happening and why, based on fact not more personal bias.

Thank you for an exceptional and informed publication.

Mark Reichenberg
Kfar Saba
Israel

SHELLEY ROSENBERG HAS NO INKLING HOW JOURNALISM WORKS

I HAVE been following with great interest the attack directed on TV journalist Paula Slier and would now like to give some facts regarding this matter.

It is obvious that Shelley Rosenberg has no idea whatsoever what journalism is all about!

A good journalist will interview an individual, well-known or not, to obtain a story on a certain topic which would be of great interest to the general public. Very often the subject is chosen by the TV station the journalist is working for, and the interviews are done irrespective of the journalists’ personal opinions.

These stories are then handed over to the TV station concerned as would have been

the case with Slier. All the background footage which is then shown at the same time as the story, is decided upon by the individual TV station who buy their coverage usually from Reuters or Associated Press.

The journalist concerned has no say whatsoever in the choice of these visuals. Russia Today, CNN Sky News, Europe News - to name just a few- usually work in this manner.

So it is not Paula Slier who is in "breach of security" but rather Shelley Rosenberg Rosenberg who is in "breach of knowledge" as how journalism works!

Jack Padolsky
Edenvale



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TRUE, NOT ALL WHITES SHOULD BE TARRED WITH SAME BRUSH

I REFER to Rhoda Kadalie’s letter in Jewish Report of November 18, “Why put people on a guilt trip ad infinitum?”

The pre-1994 colonial imperialistic order in South Africa was foundationally, structurally skewed in favour of “white” Caucasians, irrespective of what and how these people define themselves.

Successive Caucasian governments catapulted “whites” materially, socially and in every area of life. A closer, unbiased exami-

nation shows that there where those noble sons and daughters, who although originate from Caucasoid stock, defied the system, such as Dr Albie Sachs, Joe Slovo, Ruth First, to mention but a few.

I agree with your letter writer: surely there were detractors from all angles of (different communities.

Lawrence Zolani Mashinini
Brakpan

LITHUANIA AND LATVIA TO SOUTH AFRICA AND BEYOND

TWICE IN the past the South African Jewish Report has helped me by publishing appeals for family histories: in 2005 an appeal for Arcadia Memories (and I compiled two large volumes, “100 Years of Arc Memories” and “More Arc Memories”) and in 2010, an appeal for Ochberg Orphan family histories. (I compiled a third volume).

This volume contains the histories of 130 of the 181 orphans brought out to South Africa from the horrors of the Pale of Settlement in 1921. It details the horrors and the help given by the various Jewish communities around the world. Half the children were placed in the care of Arcadia and half in Oranjia and the sales proceeds go to Arcadia and Oranjia.

Lionel Slier has undertaken to review the third volume and in July I was invited to the Isaac Ochberg dedication ceremonies in Israel and then later to London to talk about the Ochberg Orphan book.

I now appeal to South Africans to share their Lithuanian/Latvian family histories for a new proposed volume, “From Lithuania and Latvia to South Africa and Beyond”.

The family histories should include what the family (the ancestors) did and where they lived in Lithuania/Latvia, photos, the journey to South Africa and where they settled and what they did in their early days in South Africa. I am interested mainly in the older history with a very brief summary of the family’s current history and whereabouts. Copies of old family histories and family history booklets will be most welcome.

My contact details are: David Solly Sandler sedsand@iinet.net.au or 41 Bebich Drive, Wanneroo, WA 6065. Australia, tel 08 9306 2753.

David Sandler
Wanneroo - Australia

THIS IS WHY MACKINTOSH CONSISTENTLY MISSES THE POINT

I REFER to a letter by Daniel Mackintosh in the November 25 issue, headlined “Move on peace, or one-state solution will be forced”. Allow me to explain to Mackintosh why he, in my opinion, consistently misses the point.

Despite his detailed explanation of why Israel practises apartheid in terms of “the legal definition of the term according to the Rome Statutes”, this is never what is referred to when bodies such as the Russell Tribunal call for expert “evidence” from the likes of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Desmond Tutu or even jurists like John Dugard.

Their “erudite opinions” are based on a system familiar to them as experienced here in South Africa; the cornerstone being discrimination according to colour and nothing less.

I firmly believe that Winnie or even the Arch are no more familiar with the “international legal definition” than 99 per cent of the readers of this or any other periodical, who are thus encouraged to believe that Israel is an apartheid state in terms of their basic understanding of what apartheid means.

For Mackintosh to claim that none of

Israel’s actions have anything to do with her security is simply myopic. No one builds a barrier stretching hundreds of kilometres and costing many millions for reasons other than security. The fact that terrorist attacks have dropped by over 90 per cent is proof sufficient.

The question of the settlements is certainly contentious and strong cases have been made supporting every possible attitude. However, his contention that the occupation’s chief goal is to make life so miserable for the Palestinians that they are forced to leave, is simply ridiculous considering that Israel pulled out of Gaza and the population of the West Bank has grown over the years, not diminished. If it is official policy it is pretty ineffective.

As for his contention that the Palestinians will soon call for “a single, democratic state” if Israel fails to create one in the West Bank and Gaza - every Palestinian child is already taught that Israel does not even exist and that the future Palestinian state will stretch from the Jordan to the Mediterranean.

With no sign of recognition of present-day “Jewish Israel”, the ball is firmly in the court of the Palestinians. How many more times must Israel offer to negotiate the creation of that illusive Palestinian state to which Mackinstosh refers?

Victor Gordon
Brooklyn - Pretoria

IN CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT, PREPARED TO TAKE PART IN TRANSFORMATION DEBATE

EVEN THOUGH I share the well-known black Struggle activist Rhoda Kadalie’s sentiment that “it is time to move on”, if the motivation for a South African Jewish Board of Deputies examination of our past is to clarify and explain to ourselves and to that segment of our young generation who are confused and conflicted, the political and moral issues which informed our lives pre-1994 - not as an unjustified community mass mea culpa - then a more balanced approach than hitherto would be required.

Only then would it be possible for an accurate picture to emerge, revealing the complexity of South African life during that era; as well as the national, continental and international political currents which impacted on the local Jewish community.

It is in that constructive spirit that I accept David Jacobson’s invitation to participate in the SAJBD’s “TransforNation debate” during 2012.

David Abel
George

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Mary Kluk,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Have a restful and a safe holiday

THIS WEEK, Durban is hosting the COP17 conference, a major event in the global campaign to address the environmental challenges that face us all. Many Jewish participants from around the world are here for the occasion, including from Israel. The Council for KZN Jewry and KZN Zionist Council, will be hosting a gala dinner for the Israeli delegation, which includes JNF representatives and the Israeli ambassador.

This week also sees the end of the school year. Many members of our community will be leaving shortly for their end-of-year holiday, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them a very safe journey and to travel with the utmost care. There is no need during this time to rush to one’s destination. Part of the pleasure of going away, after all, is to travel to or through parts of our beautiful country that we otherwise never see.

Why not opt for a leisurely drive, with regular stops, rather than treating the journey as something to be got over with as quickly as possible? At the minor cost of arriving an hour or two later, one can have a stress-free and much safer trip.

For those of us who live in the coastal towns, the holiday season brings us into contact with many of our co-religionists from Johannesburg and elsewhere. This provides a welcome, if temporary boost to Jewish life, particularly in smaller centres such as Umhlanga in KwaZulu-Natal and Plettenberg Bay, George and Hermanus along the Southern Cape coast.

For a good few years now, George has particularly come alive from a Jewish point of view during December, having become a regular holiday destination for scores of religiously observant Jews from Johannesburg.

For several weeks each year, its shul becomes the venue for daily minyanim and constant shiurim and learning programmes, and youngsters wearing yarmulkes and tzitzit are a common sight in the shops and streets. George even has its own mikvah, the maintenance of which is carried out in partnership between the local community and the visiting Johannesburg families.

Another excellent example of a successful working partnership between locals and out-of-towners is in Plettenberg Bay, where there is today an active Jewish community with a fulltime rabbi. Johannesburgers, some of whom have holiday homes in the area, remain very much involved in the congregation’s affairs throughout the year.

I commend all those Jewish holiday-makers who make the effort to connect with local Jewry and help to stimulate Jewish life in the areas they visit. Indeed, it is something I urge all Jewish visitors to do. Coming as you do from strong, vibrant centres of Jewish activity, you have so much to give to the smaller communities. At the same time, you will be much enriching your own vacation time. A necessary holiday from work, after all, should surely not be allowed to become a ‘holiday’ from Judaism as well.

Once again, I wish everyone a restful and safe holiday and look forward to meeting at least some of you in Durban during that time.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

LETTERS

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

HAKOAH GIRLS IN AUSTRIA WON MANY COMPETITIONS

FURTHER TO Jack Milner's article in last week’s paper, “Ron Glickman leads Hakoah revival in the United States”, I would like to draw your attention that during the ‘30s there was in Austria a Hakoah girls' swimming team. They won many competitions and, if I am not mistaken, even one in 1938, after the Nazis invaded Austria.

The story of the team is told in a film (and DVD) called “Water Mark”. Google features a number of reviews both of the team and the film.

I watched the DVD in a private home while on a visit to Toronto. Subsequently I tried to buy it but could neither find it in Canada nor in South Africa.

I’ll be very grateful if any of the readers could help me in this matter. Also, it would be nice to hear from Jack Milner and/or Ron Glikman. My e-mail address can be obtained from the Jewish Report.

PS: Congratulations to Gwen (Podbrey) and Robyn (Sassen) of their being well-deserved Pringle Award shortlisted nominees.

Shulamit Kagan
Johannesburg

SA HASN’T GOT TO LOOK AT ISRAELI GEDOLAH FOR ITS SALVATION

SAUL SCHLESSINGER writes in his letter in last week’s Jewish Report “...it is more incumbent on Jewish leadership to look to the real gedolah (ie religious giants) of our time, who are located in Eretz Yisroel and follow their wisdom”.

I assume the writer is referring to the ultra-frum rabbis, in Israel.

On the one had we have a secular lifestyle burdened by fraud (the 2008 Western economy crisis), divorce, infidelity, violence, etc. On the other hand an ultra-frum system that doesn’t educate its children in technical subjects and will not produce doctors, coroners, pathologists, civil engineers, electrical or electronic engineers, quality control technicians, etc.

Modern-Orthodoxy as practised by about a third to a half of South Africa’s Jewry, may suffer from attrition, such as a loss of members to the secular world, but at least it is an economically viable and sustainable system.

John Brenner
Cyrildene
Johannesburg

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

HITLER'S PERSONAL ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED

STAMFORD - A Connecticut auction house is putting items that belonged to Adolf Hitler, Joseph Goebbels and other senior Nazi officials, on the block.

Among the items to be auctioned at the end of this week by Alexander Autographs in Stamford are Hitler’s personal account book; the desk set used when he signed the Munich Agreement, under which Britain and France ceded Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland to Germany; a photo signed by Hitler and his Putsch co-defendants; and letters that Goebbels, the propaganda minister, received from his Jewish girlfriend.

The account book is expected to go for up to \$7 000, according to Haaretz. It contains records of, among other things, art purchases, payments to his personal doctors and the receipt of blood money.

Some 82 letters between Goebbels and Jewish teacher Else Janke also are expected to fetch \$7 000. Goebbels cut off contact with Janke upon learning that she was Jewish.

In February, the auction house sold the diary of Josef Mengele, the notorious "Angel of Death", to the grandson of an Auschwitz survivor. (JTA)



THE TIKVAH FELLOWSHIP

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MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

A GOOD place to start when exploring Jewish Cape Town, is the Hatfield Campus, a hive of activity incorporating the home of the oldest congregation in the country, the Gardens Shul; the Cape Town Holocaust Centre; the Jacob Gitlin Library; and the South African Jewish Museum, currently hosting an exhibition on Zapiro’s cartoons, until the end of January.

Also on the spot is the milchik Café Riteve, where one can relax after imbibing the abundant culture in its surrounds. In addition to its daily fare, from December 19 until January 5, owner Stanley Norrie will host sushi and salmon bar, fish braai and pizza and pasta buffets on selected evenings.

A significant development for this community of 16 000 was the establishment last year of its first eruv, enabling the city to hold its head high among major Jewish centres worldwide.

The Sea Point eruv covers a 15 kilometre circumference and is bounded by the sea and the mountain, running from Three Anchor Bay to beyond Saunders’ Rocks and incorporating much of Bantry Bay. Included in its ambit are five shuls: Marais Road, Sephardi, Chabad, Ohr Somayach and Beit Midrash Morasha.

The eruv is checked every week. The Mother City’s culinary needs are well catered for by a further selection of kosher restaurants, delis and caterers, as well as dedicated sections in the major supermarkets.

Veteran caterer Naomi Schroder



A section of the Sea Point eruv. PHOTO: ALAN LEVIN



Coffee Time is now open over the December break. PHOTO SUPPLIED



The swimming pool at Go Green kosher self-catering accommodation. PHOTO SUPPLIED



Some of the fare on offer at Avron’s Place. PHOTO SUPPLIED

manages the meat-parev deli at Checkers Sea Point.

Along with the hot and cold fare on offer are mehadrin chickens and hamburgers.

Johannesburgers are bowled over to find everything under one roof, she says, mentioning the pas Yisrael bakery (goods baked with the participation of an Observant Jew), the kosher fish shop and the many kosher items on the shelves.

Avron’s Place in Sea Point has been offering private Friday night dinners for barmitzvahs, 21st birthday celebrations and weddings, since opening 11 years ago. Owner Avron Almeleh has extended these to the public and hopes to make this a monthly feature, with a guest rabbi coming in to give a drosha.

Over the season, he will be holding Shabbat dinners on December 23 and 30 and January 12. Also in the pipeline is a nine-day package deal for Pesach by the restaurant and the President Hotel in Sea Point.

Coffee Time, part of the Astra Centre for the Intellectually Challenged, in Gardens, serves breakfasts, teas and light lunches daily. It is open for breakfast and lunch on selected Sundays.

On Wednesdays, a popular buffet lunch is on offer at R15 per 100 gm, available daily during the season.

In the past the restaurant closed over the December holidays, but it was decided, since it was extended, to remain open last year. Manageress Tarnya Shoobert says this proved to be “an unbelievable success” and that there is “no way” they could contemplate closing again.

Barry Braun’s Go Green kosher self-catering accommodation in Main Road, Sea Point, has been open for just over a year. It provides milk and meat cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils, all kashered under the Cape Town Beth Din, with everything re-kashered and sealed before each let.

Braun says their guests are “just blown away” by this, the first such accommodation in Cape Town. He has recently added a swimming pool and a kids’ Astro Turf play area.

The brand-new milchik restaurant, which will serve in addition as a function venue, will be open daily, including for dinner and motzei Shabbat. As a chazzan, it is not surprising that he plans monthly concerts in the outdoor area which will feature music ranging from Jewish

to Broadway musicals.

The immediate area is undergoing a kosher makeover. Planning to open for the season in the adjacent building, is milchik deli Café Venezia, owned by Carlo Valentini. The establishment will specialise in Italian fare.

Food can either be taken away or enjoyed on the premises in the seating area. Valentini has a few “surprise treats” in store for visitors.

In addition to its mainstay of dried fruit and nuts, next-door Montagu Sea Point stocks local biscuits and an extensive range of sweets, including Turkish delight, Belgian chocolates, Australian liquorice and American jelly beans.

“Everything in my shop is 100 per cent kosher,” says owner Brian Shapiro, who opened his doors in mid-November.

On the high cost of kosher food, Shapiro says the dried fruit and nuts are being sold at factory prices “and the mark-up is less on all the other stuff as well”. The shop will be open on Sundays during the season.

Across the road at the Adelphi Centre, David and Justine Hepple of Bespoke Catering, in a joint venture with Pick n Pay, have re-

launched the kosher delicatessen as a meat parev outlet.

It offers a hot deli and salad bar, with weekly specials. Shabbat orders can be placed and the pair will continue with their catering business from there.

A little further along Main Road, Sea Point, is the established meat-parev Goldies Deli. It will stay open to accommodate holiday-makers, says Carol Wener.

“We’re really looking forward to seeing everybody again,” she says of Johannesburg customers who have become regulars over the years. One can pick up a whole Friday night dinner there as well as platters for functions, which can be delivered. Patrons can have a meal at the in store sit-down deli too.

In addition to pre-prepared foods, the meat-parev Super Spar deli in Regent Road, Sea Point, stocks a wide range of Israeli products, kosher wines and chalav Yisrael products. It also sources meat from some Johannesburg butcheries.

Pick n Pay Claremont’s meat-parev deli offers hot prepared foods, a salad bar and a bakery.

So there’s no reason for any kosher visitor to go hungry!

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Frying high: Keeping known, lesser-known culinary traditions

**SYBIL KAPLAN
JERUSALEM**

LATKES AND sufganiyot, the jelly-filled doughnuts especially popular in Israel, are well-known Chanukah fare made with oil to signify the holiday tale.

Lesser known is the tradition of cheese and the story of Judith.

Like the Chanukah story, which is part of the Apocrypha - books not incorporated in the Bible - the book of Judith tells of a beautiful widow whose town was under siege by the army of the Assyrians and decided to visit the commander in chief of the army to ask him not to overtake the town. As the story goes, she gives him wine, he gets fall-down drunk and falls into a stupour. Judith beheads the king and saves her people and the town.

Legend has it that Judith fed him cheese to make him thirsty, and since she lived in the same period as the Maccabees, Jews of various communities instituted the custom of eating cheese dishes in honour of her heroism.

On my cookbook shelf is a classic written in the 1970s - "A Taste of Tradition" by Ruth Sirkis, the "Julia Child of Israel". Sirkis has written numerous cookbooks and was the food editor for a major Israeli women's magazine; she also had a popular radio show.

Paradise ponchekes

Here is a recipe by Ruth Sirkis for the mini doughnuts called ponchiki in Russian and ponchik in Yiddish that were brought to Israel by Polish immigrants.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup water
- 4 ounces margarine
- 1 cup flour
- 4 eggs
- Oil

Preparation:

1. Bring the water to a boil in a saucepan. Add margarine and continue boiling until it melts. Add the flour and mix with a wooden spoon until the mixture forms a ball and leaves the sides of the pan.
2. Remove from heat. Beat in the eggs, one at a time.
3. Heat oil in a pot for deep frying. When oil is hot, drop in pieces of dough from a teaspoon. Let puff and turn as needed to assure even browning.
4. Remove from oil with slotted spoon. Drain on paper towels. Serve hot with warm sauce.

Vanilla ricotta fritters

This recipe comes from a Chicago chef, Gale Gand, who got it from her mother-in-law.

Ingredients:

- Vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup whole milk ricotta cheese
- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- Confectioners' sugar

Preparation:

1. In a large saucepan, heat 3 tablespoons vegetable oil. Set a large wire rack over a baking sheet, top with paper towels and position near the saucepan.
2. In a large bowl, beat the eggs, sugar and vanilla with a wooden spoon. Add the ricotta and beat until smooth. Add flour and baking powder and beat until just blended.
3. Using a very small ice-cream scoop or 2 teaspoons, slide 8 walnut-size rounds of batter into the hot oil. Fry over moderate heat until deep golden all over and cooked through, 3 to 4 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the fritters to the rack to drain. Continue frying the remaining fritters in batches of 8. Arrange the fritters on a platter and dust well with confectioners' sugar. Makes 8 servings.



Chanukah mini-doughnuts are called ponchiki in Russian and ponchik in Yiddish. PHOTOGRAPH: BARRY KAPLAN/JERUSALEM

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YOUTH TALK

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Butterflies to remember
1,5m school children by



The poignant Butterfly Project at Sydenham Pre-Primary, saw the tots commemorating the children who died in the Holocaust. Pictured are Ella Rosmarin; Gabriel Label; and Shayna Davis.

SUE BENJAMIN
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

SYDENHAM PRE-PRIMARY School is participating in the “Butterfly Project”. The Holocaust Museum in Houston Texas is collecting one and a half million hand-made butterflies - all of a certain size - from around the world. They will be exhibited in 2014.

These butterflies represent the one and a half million children who perished in the Holocaust.

Each child in the school is making a butterfly (we are not focusing on the atrocities of the Holocaust) and they are all on display in our foyer and look very pretty.

The theme of butterflies is based on a poem written by Pavel Friedman. If anyone would like to participate in this project go to butterflyproject@hnh.org. We will make a plan to courier the butterflies to Houston or alternatively send photographs.

The Butterfly
*The last, the very last,
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.
Perhaps if the sun's tears would sing
against a white stone...
Such, such a yellow
Is carried lightly 'way up high.
It went away I'm sure because it wished to
kiss the world goodbye.
For seven weeks I've lived in here,
Pinned up inside this ghetto
But I have found my people here.
The dandelions call to me
And the white chestnut candles in the court.
Only I never saw another butterfly.
That butterfly was the last one.
Butterflies don't live in here,
In the ghetto.*

• Pavel Friedman was born January 7, 1921, in Prague and deported to Terezin on April 26, 1942. He died in Oswiecim (Auschwitz) on September 29, 1944.

YC grade Rs strut their stuff onstage

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THE GRADE Rs of Yeshiva College in Johannesburg, went on a journey through their grade R year, showing their parents all that they have learnt through the year.

They have learnt about numeracy, literacy as well as the alef bet. They have learnt so much about the parsha and the chagim too. What a fun year they have had doing science experiments, ball skills and of course, our famous recipe book! Their wonderful concert was enjoyed by all. Good luck for grade 1.



The grade Rs onstage, performing their concert.

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Ganeinu end-of-year concert
brings the house down

DIANE WOLFSON
PRETORIA

LAST WEEK, the children at Pretoria's Ganeinu Nursery School had great fun performing for their concert titled “My Midot Matter”.

The concert was about good values, so the children not only learnt their lines and songs, but actually learned and practised good values for weeks before the concert, ensuring they were winners all around.

According to Principal Michelle Prager, the children had great fun singing, clapping, playing instruments, dancing and showing their families how exciting nursery school is.

Well done to all the Mitzvah Menschen,



At the year-end concert of Pretoria's Ganeinu Nursery School: Avraham Dovid Fox; Gemma Klagsbrun; Tyler Kotzen; and Noga Finkelstein.

Busy Bees and Torah Tots, for their special performance and amazing effort.

Teddy bear picnic fun at KDLPPS!

VAL ARONSON
PHOTOGRAPH: MELANIE DICK

KING DAVID Pre-Primary School had a most outstanding “Outreach Teddy Bears' Picnic” recently, organised by Andy Berzen, the school's outreach co-ordinator.

The moms and children most generously collected teddies and sweets for our outreach schools. Build-a-bear visited the school and built three “King David” teddies in front of all the children, which were named Kaydee and were given to the schools involved.

Everyone had a picnic together and then all our visiting children were given a teddy and a parcel of sweets. Some tired but very content children went back to their schools on the KD buses.



Ntokosa Fransisco from Thandeka Day Care; Romy Zeifert in grade R; and Yoli Khanyeza from Tshepang Day Care, hold the three miniature “King David” bears which were built by Build-a-bear.

KDL's e-magazine replaces paper version

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY YONIT WEIL

IN THE era of Kindle, iPad and iPod, King David senior and junior schools have created a trend-setting and innovative e-magazine instead of the traditional paper version.

This year our parents and learners will electronically flip through the pages. They will be able to navigate the hyperlinks as well as print any page that they desire.

Dovidl 2011 (the name of our magazine) is a proactive move towards an eco-friendly and futuristic environment, as there are no papers, plastics or dyes involved in its creation.



Jordyn Budd; Erin de Jongh; Shane Bassin; and Ricky Cimring.

Don't take anything for granted, is the lesson learnt

SANDRA GREY, OUTREACH CO-ORDINATOR
PHOTOGRAPH: Yael Gordon

RECENTLY 42 children from the Thuthuzela Orphanage in Marlboro near Johannesburg, were welcomed to King David High School Victory Park by the grade eight learners, for an afternoon of entertainment and treats.

The children ranged in age from 15 months

to six years and each one had his or her own story. The majority were abandoned at birth and were found in dustbins or on the steps of various institutions.

It was a humbling experience and a privilege to host these children. The programme was fun-filled with games, gifts and face painting.

However, the best part was the appreciation, joy and delight these youngsters showed when they saw the fields (at KDHSVP) and the space that was available to them. They have very small premises and as one of the caregivers said: “ Look how free they are.”



Grade 8 KDHSVP learners with orphans from Marlboro.



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*Chag Sameach &
Happy Chanukah*



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SCHAMROTH
Yoni and Aliza (nee Sieff) are delighted with their precious baby girl born in Israel, November 29, 2011 (3 Kislev 5772), sister to Uriel, Aharon, Netanel and Yehuda, granddaughter to very proud grandparents Russell and Louisa Schamroth and Simon and Rochelle Sieff. Baruch Hashem.

MILLER
A precious baby girl to Craig, Jodi nee Margolis and Ethan on 5 December. Proud grandparents Avrielle and Issy Miller and Pam and Alan Margolis. Great grandparents Sarah, Freda and Selma

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We would like to thank the Glenhazel and Mizrahi Shul as well as our family and hundreds of friends who helped us during our time of bereavement for our precious husband, father, brother and sabba Dov. The meals we received, the calls and visits were a huge source of comfort for us, and we as a family are proud to be members of such a wonderful and caring community. People went far beyond the call of duty and we will forever be in your debt. Our sincere thanks to Beit Yisrael for helping with our morning minyan. Last but not least, warm thanks to the customers of Birdhaven Pharmacy who are our friends. With love, Amy, Sonya, Errol, Larry, Devorah, Steve, Elan, Lior, Matan, Gabrielle, Eliya, Seth, Eden.
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Contact Errol Mande (CEA Principal) MANDE PROPERTIES SPECIALISING IN TIMESHARE RE-SALES AND RENTALS Cell: 083-776-6222 E-mail: address: errol@eastcoast.co.za Website: www.timeshareleisure.co.za

CROSSWORD NO 236

BY LEAH SIMON

ACROSS:

1. Chin up – it's not very long! (4)
3. Breeding horse gets proofs of debt, being academically diligent (8)
8. Long for spilt northern pastry (4)
9. Newspaper puts time in for omens (8)
11. Found sea sand spilt, but not in any danger (4, 3, 5)
13. Pablo -----, Chilean poet (6)
14. Give cabins an example, but it's crazy inside (6)
17. Very ordinary bread? (3, 2, 3, 4)
20. Two kinds of drugs for the lunatic! (8)
21. Also honoured by having London district within it (4)
22. Having finished, does badly – and gets too many tablets (8)
23. Give over the pip, we hear (4)

DOWN:

1. I am pretending to be overbearing (8)
2. Dupe fire, somehow, for cone-bearing seed plant (7)
4. Weary of surrounding commercial, have an angry outburst (6)
5. Joe's tin did break, being illogical and rambling (10)
6. Poor gander hides musical instrument (5)
7. A ribbon for our country's hot-head! (4)
10. Touch down with plenty of hair – but no coastline! (4, 6)
12. Congratulations on a nicely browned steak! (4, 4)

15. I soaped anew, tending towards fat (7)
16. Stops at nothing – and bends down (6)
18. We have a long time of employment (5)
19. Sound reverberation in beech off-cut (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 235

ACROSS:

1. Poem; 3. Show boat; 8. Pads; 9. Untidily; 11. Living on edge; 13. Sister; 14. Rotund; 17. Call the shots; 20. Validate; 21. Dire; 22. Deposing; 23. Ends.

DOWN:

1. Populist; 2. Endives; 4. Hang on; 5. White House; 6. Owing; 7. Toys; 10. Interludes; 12. Odysseus; 15. Utopian; 16. Whiten; 18. All up; 19. Avid.

[illegible]

WHAT'S ON

Sharon Akum sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

DEADLINE

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

Today, Friday (December 9)

- **UZLC** hosts Mo Skikne who will speak on "The Skikne Family Robinson". Time 12:45. Venue: Our Parents Home. Information, contact Gloria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (December 11)

- **RHCC** is screening by popular demand a documentary, "The Brothers Warner". Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60 (including refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378. After hours (011) 728 8378. email: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za

Tuesday (December 13)

- **RCHCC** is hosting a presentation by Marcia Leveson: "Koffie with Kruger: The Extraordinary life of Berta Goudvis". Time: 19:30. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378. After hours (011) 728 8378. email: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za

Wednesday (December 14)

- **RHCC** will be screening “American Ballet Theatre Now: Variety and Virtuosity”. Time: 19:30. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378. After hours (011) 728 8378. email: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za

Thursday (December 15)

- **Glendale Home for the Intellectually Disabled** will be hosting comedian Nik Rabinowitz at the Baxter Concert Hall. Cost: R180 pp. Contact the office on (021) 712-0270 as soon as possible for tickets, to avoid disappointment.

Sunday (December 18)

- **Friendship Forum** hosts a two-pronged programme, from 10:00 - 11:30 at the Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres: "Recalling the Eichmann Trial 50 years Later" by Don Krausz, and "A Special Year-End Concert of Musical Variety: English, Hebrew and Yiddish Favourites by Jenny Braun and Rimon Singers Asher and Dean". Tea & refreshments.

- **WIZO Elise Gift Shop** in the Genesis Shopping Centre, Fairmount, entrance from Bradfield Drive opposite Shula's Bakery. Exciting range of baby gifts and gifts for all occasions available at reasonable prices. Hours: Mon - Thurs 09:00 - 17:00, Friday 09:00 - 13:30, Sunday 10:00 - 13:00. (011) 640-2760.

- **WIZO's Wise Buys** in Raedene, requires nearly-new clothes, shoes, kitchenware (pots and pans, cutlery, crockery) bric-a-brac, etc. Phone Sandy (011) 645-2515 for goods to be collected, or deliver to WIZO office at Bevachad, Raedene.

- **Bnoth Zion Association WIZO** is collecting anything of value for its store. Contact (021) 464-6729 or Linda Saban 072-245-3225 or Cherna Kreda 084-589-8588.

- **Johannesburg Children's Home** is appealing for shoes and takkies for children and teenagers. Contact Edna or Hylton Segal (011) 970-4266.

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SJ21787

It's Chanukah time in Israel: Sufganiyot on the streets, burning lights and family fun



A woman on King George Street in Jerusalem appears perplexed picking from the array of sufganiyot choices for Chanukah. PHOTOGRAPH: NATI SHOHAT/FLASH90

**MARCY OSTER
JERUSALEM**

THEY'RE MAKING sufganiyot on the streets of Israel; Chanukah must be near.

Actually it started feeling like Chanukah here about two days after Succot, when the first vendors started frying the delicious and caloric doughnuts in vats of oil in front of bakeries and on the street in towns throughout the country.

As malls in America rush the Christmas season by putting up decorations right after Halloween, some vendors in the heart of Jerusalem were making sufganiyot in the middle of Succot.

I spend the weeks until Chanukah checking out the sufganiyot offerings -- jelly, chocolate, custard, you name it. At a rumoured 1 000 calories each, I can only allow myself one or two throughout the whole season, so they had better be good.

One of the highlights of my family's Chanukah is our annual venture to a fancy coffee shop for sufganiyot and hot cocoa (for the kids, coffee for me). Last year's offerings included sufganiyot filling with flavours such as champagne, taffy and pistachio.

But Chanukah in Israel is not all about sufganiyot. With the kids out of school for a week, family fun rules. Workplaces mostly stay open, but stay-at-home moms and parents who manage to get some end-of-the-year time off, do not want for kid-friendly activities during Chanukah.

Cities throughout Israel offer many cultural extravaganzas during the holiday. There are musicals and plays for children, often starring some of the best known old and new Israeli television and music personalities.

Malls feature children's programmes like arts and crafts stations, or they set up stages with visits from jugglers, singers and often characters from popular Israeli children's shows such as "Yuval Mibubal" ("Yuval the Confused") or "Kofiko" (a monkey with very human traits).

One of our favourite happenings in recent years, featured candle dipping. Others included demonstrations of making

olive oil and pita (and eating).

There are also plenty of Chanukah parties to attend in the evenings, either public or private. Like in America, synagogues, schools and other institutions host parties, and kindergartens put on pre-Chanukah extravaganzas with song-and-dance presentations for parents. Families get together to light candles and fry latkes in celebration of the miracle of the oil.

Our extended family gets together every year for Chanukah, though co-ordinating the event becomes more difficult each year as more of the nieces and nephews marry, move away from the community and have children of their own.

One of the highlights of our party is the family sing-along, which begins with songs for Chanukah, moves on to well-loved national Israeli songs and finally moves into a different realm - Simon and Garfunkel and show tunes.

There are plenty of public lightings of the chanukiyah - in the Knesset, on army bases, at the Western Wall. The president and the prime minister travel to significant spots throughout the country - and sometimes the world - to kindle the Chanukah lights.

Also as in the United States, and throughout the world in fact, Chabad is a palpable presence in Israel during Chanukah, with their chanukiyot sprouting in town squares, public parks and on the backs of cars. In our own community, the local Chabad lights a tall chanukiyah in the middle of our open-air mall, inviting children to come each night to sing the blessings and enjoy sufganiyot.

Perhaps the best part about being in Israel during Chanukah is walking down the streets of many cities and seeing Chanukah lights burning, often in special glass containers, outside next to the front door. With the mezuzah on one side and the Chanukah lights on the other, the home is surrounded by mitzvot, according to tradition. And since everyone lights their own chanukiyot, it is not uncommon to see a home with dozens of lights burning in the window.

It truly makes Chanukah feel like a national celebration. (JTA)

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