

TALK TO THE PROFESSIONALS

MASSIVE SPECIALS!!
On LG washing machines & dishwashers.



Corner Drome and Johannesburg Roads, Lyndhurst Square
Tel 011 089 1700
hntfurn@mweb.co.za | www.hntfurn.co.za

SAJR RELAUNCH

1
WEEK
TO GO

Pointing towards the future
The Jewish Report is launching in 1 week its exciting new look and feel

SOUTH AFRICAN

Jewish Report

www.sajewishreport.co.za

Friday, 9 March 2012 / 15 Adar, 5772

Volume 16 Number 8

- IN THIS EDITION -

SAJR JUNIOR

Rabbi Motti Hadar talks about his vision for TA
Mendel Chaitin and Menachem Gudelesky (grade 11) interviewed the young, dynamic principal of The Torah Academy High School, Rabbi Motti Hadar.

Liberty Life
The Liberty Life program is designed to help you and your family live more healthily and prosperously in the wake of an economic downturn. Liberty Life is a comprehensive, multi-faceted program that includes:

Torah Academy
Message from Rabbi Motti Hadar

- 9-12** Torah Academy's Junior Jewish Report inside
 - 3** Palestinian human rights activist slams 'corrupt' leadership
 - 4** Applications open for Nahum Goldmann fellowship
 - 4** Israelis teach fishing to SA poor
 - 6** Moving tributes pour in for Gary Block
-

Iran: Netanyahu recalls the lesson of Auschwitz

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington on Monday, where he argued against inaction in stopping Iran's nuclear programme and held aloft correspondence from 1944 between the World Jewish Congress and the US War Department, which refused the WJC's request to bomb Auschwitz. (PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT J SAFERSTEIN)

SEE PAGES 8 & 13

WALK TO TORAH ACADEMY

ORCHARDS
Family home close to Shuls & amenities.
R2 799 000
Zipporah Benn 082 302 1017

BAGLEYSTON
Well-loved family home. Move right in.
R1 11452
Joel Harris 082 926 0287
Mike Mosselson 082 942 4242

ORCHARDS
North-facing 4 bedroom duplex cluster.
R2 299 000
Zipporah Benn 082 302 1017

SYDENHAM
4 Bedroom home with Kosher kitchen.
R1 800 000
Lisa Milner 082 362 4870
Lauren Leiboff 084 399 5172

ORCHARDS
Cosy, comfortable family home.
R1 649 000
Zipporah Benn 082 302 1017

011 731 0300 www.firzt.co.za

Purim Saméach
פורים שמח

SHABBAT TIMES SPONSORED BY:

Powerhouse Dictation
Exclusive Importer & Distributor of PHILIPS
Voice Processing Solutions

RECORD EVERY WORD

Conversations | Lectures | Shiurim | Meetings



Whatever your need, there is a Philips Voice Recorder for you!



PHILIPS
Digital Voice Recorders

Notes | Conversations | Lectures | Meetings

011 887 1056
www.speech.co.za

March 9/15 Adar (Sushan Purim)

March 10/ 16 Adar

Parshat Ki Tisa

18:12	19:00	Johannesburg
17:54	19:44	Cape Town
18:02	18:51	Durban
18:20	19:10	Bloemfontein
18:00	19:15	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:05	East London

Jewish Report

Published by S A Jewish Report (Pty) Ltd,
PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034
Tel: (011) 023-8160 | Fax: (086) 634-7935
Printed by Caxton Ltd

EDITOR - Geoff Sifrin
geoff@sajewishreport.co.za

COMMERCIAL MANAGER
Sue Morris - sue@sajewishreport.co.za

Sub-Editor - Paul Maree

Ed Co-ordinator - Sharon Akum
carro@global.co.za

Sports Editor - Jack Milner
jackmilner@telkomsa.net

Books Editor - Gwen Podbrey

Arts Editor - Robyn Sassen
robyn@sajewishreport.co.za

Cape Town correspondent
Moira Schneider: 021-794-4206

Pretoria correspondent
Diane Wolfson: 082-707-9471

Advertising - (011) 023-8160
advertising@sajewishreport.co.za

Adi Lew: 083-407-8034
adi@sajewishreport.co.za

Britt Landsman: 082-292-9520
britt@sajewishreport.co.za

Manuela Bernstein: 082-951-3838
manuela@sajewishreport.co.za

Freelance Advertising Executives

Marlene Bilewitz: 083-475-0288
marlene@sajewishreport.co.za

Classified Sales
Charissa Newman - jrclassified@global.co.za

Manager: Distribution
Britt Landsman

Design and layout
Frankie Matthyssen | Nicole Cook

Website
www.sajewishreport.co.za
llan.ossendryver - ilan@ic-creations.com

Subscription enquiries
Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860-13-2652

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Howard Feldman (Chairman), Issie Kirsh (Deputy Chairman), Marlene Bethlehem, Bertie Lubner, Benjy Porter, Herby Rosenberg, Howard Sackstein, Jason Valkin, Elton Bondi, Michael Sieff, Steven Krawitz and Denese Bloch.



Advertisements and editorial copy from outside sources do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and staff.

PARSHA OF THE WEEK

A dwelling place for G-d



PARSHAT KI TISA
Rabbi Alex Carlebach
Chabad of Lyndhurst

MY FRIENDS, some people I've met lately, asked me how to bolster their faith in G-d A-mighty, as Creator of the Universe, and the Guide to All that takes place on Earth.

There are myriads of replies. One can be found in our Parsha, Ki Tisa. We read the all important mitzvah of Shabbat. In fact the kiddush we recite on Shabbat morning "Vishamru" etc, is found in our Sidrah.

The Torah states: "Sheshes Yamim Yai-a-seh Melacha" - six days shall work be done. A more proper verb would have been "ya-a-she", which would be translated as "you should do" - active; why does it say "shall be done" passive?

One answer offered is for us to consider, is who really runs our lives. Is it G-d, or ourselves? The word "yaaseh" - you should do, connotes that we are in charge of our lives. As they say: If we want something, we have to make it happen, whereas the passive verb "yai-a-she" - it shall be done; connotes, that a higher Authority oversees everything.

While it is true that as we live in a natural world, we have to work, and work hard to make a living, the Torah wants us to realise the ultimate outcome is dependent on G-d's brocha. As it says: "G-d will bless us in everything we do," the outcome is G-d's decision.

A story illustrates this. The Rebbe Rashab, 5th Lubavitcher Rebbe, had a Chassid, who used to be the first to the minyan, and was very involved in the shiurim and study classes. At one point he bought a galoshes business.

As the business prospered it took more and more of his time. He began coming late to shul, his Torah study decreased both in time and enthusiasm. The Rebbe observed it with concern. One day the Rebbe remarked to him: "I have heard of people putting their feet into galoshes, but never heard of people putting their heads into galoshes until now."

The Chassid, appreciated the gentle remonstrance. He realised that while it is true that G-d wants us to be involved with the physical world, work hard to make a living and do all the physical necessities, we should reserve our main energies, our major mindset on how to ensure that G-dliness plays the major role. Our major efforts should be on "making this world a dwelling place for G-d".

I feel that this is a reply to the question raised above. We are being taught how to bolster one's faith, when we expend all our energy and abilities into thinking we chart our own future. Only what we make happen, will ever be achieved; it results in a weakness of our faith in G-d.

When we, however, fulfil the words of The Torah, "Sheshes Yamim Yai-Aseh", six days work shall be done, we recognise the world and all in it, is decided by G-d. We have to do what we can; realise that the ultimate decision is G-d A-mighty's. This realisation helps us to bolster our faith in G-d as Creator and Guide.

I pray we can all implement these words. It will help us and our families and certainly improve our lives for the better.



A jewel of a shul – in Johannesburg's CBD!

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

IN THE centre of Johannesburg, in Main Street, is JewelCity, the hub of the precious stones merchandising.

Because there are many Jewish businessmen in the centre, Motti Bufri of Bufri Diamonds (pictured left) decided some six years ago to establish a shul there, where the traders could take a few minutes of their frenetic day to devote to prayer.

The result: A beautiful shul with a Sefer Torah that Motti and colleague Stan Friedland (pictured right) donated. The quaint synagogue was aesthetically

embellished with attractive adornments, courtesy of Mazal Bufri.

Today you will find a minchah/afternoon service held every midweek day (except Friday) at 13:15. Reverend Ilan Herrmann of the Lions Shul in Doornfontein, overseas the service and convenes the daily minyan.

The centre also has a Beth Din-supervised restaurant with a menu offering a wide variety of cuisine at reasonable prices, which is open to the public.

Visitors are also welcome to attend the daily services. Should you wish to participate and require more details please contact Ilan Herrmann in the centre of the picture on 082-683-4100.

Norwood Mall cheque to Hatzolah



Last week, Norwood Mall presented Hatzolah with a cheque of R10 000. "The mall has a community project where it donates money to community-based organisations, and as we get called to the mall often, to assist people there, we were delighted to receive this donation."

This was said by Maish Bookatz, Hatzolah's customer liaison officer who co-ordinates fundraising for Hatzolah. He is pictured here receiving the cheque from Deborah Bailey of Norwood Mall. (PHOTOGRAPH BY YUDI SINGER)

KASHRUT ALERT

CHECK OUT THESE WOOLWORTHS AND SAFARI PRODUCTS

A series of Woolworths low fat and Prip yoghurt products are milchick and must carry the Beth Din Logo, the kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues says in a notification to the community. The complete list may be viewed at kashrutuos.co.za or on the website www.uos.co.za

Likewise, a series of products under the SAD or Safari labels (listed on the website) are parev and Mehadrin, except for Zingers Banana Milkshake and Zingers Berry Smoothie which are milchik.

Mediterranean Foods sneok pate and salmon pate were incorrectly labelled as parev, whereas they are milchik Mediterranean Foods have undertaken to place milchik Beth Din stickers over the incorrect labelling and have apologised for the error.

SUBSCRIBE to the **FREE** weekly e-mail version of the **Jewish Report** 

Simply log on to www.sajewishreport.co.za and click on 'Subscribe Now'




Israel, with MDA-SA, sends aid to Congolese burn victims

IN THE wake of the devastating explosions in Brazzaville, in the Republic of the Congo, the Israel Agency for International Development Co-operation, in partnership with the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Magen David Adom-South Africa (MDA-SA), on Tuesday arranged for an emergency shipment of humanitarian aid to be sent on from Johannesburg.

MDA-SA said in a media release the process had been initiated by the Israel Embassy in South Africa, through whose offices the relevant funds had subsequently been transferred.

Also involved was Daniel Carmon, Israel Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Madagascar.

Since many of the estimated 4 000 people injured in the blasts (where more than 230 were killed) suffered severe burns, the shipment mainly comprised materials supplied by a Johannesburg-based company that provides emergency burn care products for the immediate primary care of burn injuries. It was handed over to the International Red Cross in the Congolese capital.

Mark Hyman, chairman of MDA-SA, said the initiative formed part of Israel's ongoing humanitarian relief work on behalf of disaster victims worldwide. He was gratified, he added, that his organisation was able to play a meaningful role in bringing crucial aid to fellow Africans on behalf of both Israel and South African Jewry.

'Corrupt' Palestinian leadership slammed by Palestinian activist

ALISON GOLDBERG

"THERE ARE no Palestinian leaders capable of conducting peace talks," says Bassam Eid, founder and director of Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group.

The one-time refugee in a Jericho camp, transplanted by the Jordanians along with 500 other families from East Jerusalem and placed in the camp, says the Palestinian leadership is corrupt and Palestinians are worse off under their administration after Oslo.

Eid also castigated the Palestinian Solidarity Committee around the world, for fomenting a hatred between Palestinians and Jews that does not exist in Israel or in the territories.

In South Africa much attention is paid to the Israeli-Arab conflict and not enough by those people to the five to seven million Congolese who have been decimated in the genocide there.

The SAJBD hosted him and former Yakar director, Benjamin Pogrund, during Israel Apartheid Week. His comments were made at a second talk by the two at Wits, on the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

Eid's charges of corruption against the Palestinian leadership were echoed by a young Muslim woman, Boshra Khalaila, living in Jerusalem, one of the "Faces of Israel" representatives sponsored by SAUJS to engage with South African students. While PA President Mahmoud Abbas and other government officials lived in luxury, 10-year-old boys in Ramallah were being sent to work.

Eid, a former anti-Israel activist turned critic of the violation of Palestinian human rights by his own leaders, says the



Former Yakar director Benjamin Pogrund.
(FILE PHOTO)



Palestinian-Israeli activist Bassam Eid.
(PHOTOGRAPH ALFRED MULLER COURTESY WWW.CHRISTENEN-VOORISRAEL.NL)

Palestinians must give up the right of return in exchange for a viable Palestinian state within the 1967 borders.

Asked about a Truman Institute poll conducted among Palestinians in March last year in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank, finding 67 per cent wanted to live under an Israeli government, Eid said he had not heard of the poll. That would mean Israel annexing the West Bank. No, the Palestinians deserved a state of their own, but despaired that this was achievable.

The situation for Palestinians was terrible, he said. Fatah and Hamas were enemies and the situation seemed hopeless. The three priorities for Palestinians were: having a job to survive; securing healthcare; and education for their children. Settlements paled into significance in this context.

Since 2007 Palestinians had failed to reach any reconciliation among themselves. Hamas was satisfied with having its own country in Gaza; Fatah with the West Bank. Palestinians wanted a three-state solution for two peoples.

The corruption in the Palestinian leadership was evidenced by the fact that since May 1994, no Palestinian university or hospital had been built. Palestinians were better off before Oslo.

Since September 2005 Hamas destroyed what was left of Gaza, and the Palestinian people suffered from it. "Is this the way we are going to build a state?" Eid asked. Despite his discontent, he believed only through dialogue would peace be achieved.

"Leave the dialogue to the Israelis and us," he warned the PSC.



NOW OPEN IN BEDFORDVIEW

- Facial Rejuvenation Packages
- Skin Resurfacing • Pigmentation
- Liquid Face lift • Migraine
- Ageing Face • Neck • Décolleté
- Laser Face Lift • Sagging
- Double Chin • Facial Sagging
- Acne • Acne Scars
- Eye Bags/ Circles
- Unwanted Veins & Hair
- Aesthetic Medical Consultation
- Pearl Fractional • Cosmelan
- Botox® • Fillers • Mesotherapy
- IPL • Chemical Peels • Transdermal Mesotherapy
- 3 D Skin Rejuvenation™ • Titan®
- Lipodissolve • TriPollar™ • Accent™
- PDT/LED • Microdermabrasion • Skin Needling
- Laser Genesis™ • Carboxytherapy
- Laser Vein & Hair Removal • Sclerotherapy

skinrenewal
a non-surgical solution

9 Park Street, Bedfordview

Tel: 011 450 0125

www.skinrenewal.co.za • www.bodyrenewal.co.za

585911

PLEASE HELP THIS MAN



He is a **RABBI**
He is a **TEACHER**
He is a **COUNSELLOR**

With all this, last year he single-handedly put **Tefillin on over 13000** people who would otherwise not have done this essential mitzvah.

Please give Rabbi Haller a hand
Help someone put on Tefillin.

With your help, the Tefillin Campaign will reach **this year's goal of 18000!**

Call Rabbi Haller at Chabad House (011) 440 6600 and find out how you can help!



Rabbi Haller (011) 440 6600
Rabbi Haller (011) 440 6600

KIDNEY NEEDED

A member of the Jewish Community needs a kidney transplant.

Blood Group O

If you would consider this great mitzvah of donating a kidney

Please contact Dr Robert Odes

email: drrodes@gmail.com

or sms 082 391 5062



WE PAY CASH



CALL ARNOLD ORKIN



GUARANTEES CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
542 Main Reef Road, Denver
Call 082-823-7826

Israeli expertise to teach SA poor how to fish

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN
PHOTO SUPPLIED

GIVE A man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime, goes the well-known saying.

Israelis Lior Misgav and Roi Grinbaum are taking this a step further at the Nwamitwa Project in rural Limpopo. Israel is the world's best inland fish breeder and the pair shared their expertise during 10 days spent at the project, situated 40 minutes east of Tzaneen.

The undertaking is modelled on the Nyanga-based Etafeni Day Care Centre Trust, with its holistic community-based care of Aids-affected children and their caregivers, incorporating skills training for the mothers, education for the children and economic empowerment for the surrounding community.

Hosi Nwamitwa, the traditional leader of the 80 000-strong Valoyi people in rural Limpopo with its high HIV-positive prevalence, had asked the Trust to replicate the centre in her area after visiting it in 2008.

Capetonians Patrick and Stephanie Kilroe, development manager, drive the project, spending time on site every few months.

The problem of youth unemployment - rife in the area - was addressed first with the Fit for Life, Fit for Work programme. Twenty-two graduates entered a construction skills learnership and have already built two buildings in what will be a five-building community centre.

Fifteen graduates engaged in an agricultural skills learnership and have planted five hectares of Patrick's Food Security project with vegetables. Some are used to feed Aids-affected families while the rest is sold for funds for the project.

The Food Security Project was started to produce food for people who were on anti-retrovirals and had no access to it. "You can die from anti-retrovirals if you're not eating," Stephanie says.

A second goal of this project addresses the absence of employment for young people in the area. "The country has had huge problems trying to get black people into agriculture," says Patrick, "so the model (includes) training young agriculturalists."

A further five-hectare plot of the Food Security Project is dedicated to ponds for breeding poultry and fresh-water fish



Israelis Lior Misgav and Roi Grinbaum with six learners from the Nwamitwa Food Security Project.

(Integrated Aquaculture Agriculture) and this is where the Israeli expertise comes in.

Following an approach by the Kilroes, Hila Stern of the Israeli Embassy, in conjunction with Mashav, the Israeli Agency for International Development and Co-operation, brought in Misgav and Grinbaum, who helped to design and build the first pond and trained the agricultural skills learners.

"South Africa is very backward in anything to do with aquaculture and Israel's at the forefront in the field," Patrick explains of their involvement. "We didn't want hi-tech, we wanted the basics and the beauty of it was that these two could work at that level."

"They're the best in the world (at inland fish breeding)," adds Stephanie. "They've grown on the kibbutz (Hefziba) from nothing, like we've got (at Nwamitwa) - over the years they've become incredibly hi-tech."

"They came in, they knew everything and they could adapt to the primitive environment - they worked hands-on," she explains. The pair, unintentionally, also promoted the kibbutz spirit of sharing one's labour for a greater purpose, an ethos that the project is trying to develop, Stephanie adds.

"It was a huge contribution and we're just hoping that at some stage they can come back and that the Israelis will stay in partnership with us."

And one of these days, the good folk of Nwamitwa may well be tucking into gefilte fish. One of the varieties they will be breeding is common carp, used in Israel for the traditional delicacy.

ISRAEL CENTRE
SOUTH AFRICA



JHB 12 - 14 March
CT 15 - 18 March
Ages 18 - 35

HIGHER EDUCATION EXPO 2012

ISRAEL OFFERS YOU OPPORTUNITIES
BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION

- STUDY •
- INTERN •
- VOLUNTEER •
- ... IN ISRAEL

ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNIVERSITIES,
INTERNSHIPS, MASA, PRE-ARMY PROGRAMS AND
MORE WILL BE VISITING YOU IN SOUTH AFRICA

To book your one on one meeting contact the
Israel Centre JHB 011 645 2560 / CT 021 464 6718
Visit our website: www.jewishagency.org/sa



TO LET

A good office address in

Greenside

Excellent office space in the heart of Greenside,
in Greenway, close to Woolworths.

Converted house, 160 m²,
full office rights, security
patrolled, well-appointed
with air-conditioning.

Rental only
R14 550
per month

Contact Sue 083 389 7062

Applications are now open for Nahum Goldmann Fellowship

THE MEMORIAL Foundation for Jewish Culture is now accepting applications for the 24th International Nahum Goldmann Fellowship, which will take place in Warsaw on July 3 - 10.

The Nahum Goldmann Fellowship provides an intensive experience in Jewish living, learning and leadership for young men and women from around the world between the ages of 25 - 40 who show serious interest in Jewish culture and demonstrate a potential for individual growth and communal leadership.

The Memorial Foundation has organised 24 Fellowships since 1987 in Western and Eastern Europe, including the former Soviet Union, Australia, Southeast Asia, South Africa, North America, South America and Israel. Following each of the past seminars, Fellows returned to their communities

and took steps to assume leadership positions in their communities.

The programme consists of morning, afternoon and evening sessions. Morning sessions involve lectures by outstanding Jewish academics from around the world. Afternoon sessions include workshops on Jewish texts, Jewish identity, community building and other topics of importance to the Fellows, as well as recreational opportunities. Varied Jewish cultural events and discussion groups will take place in the evening.

• For more information and to obtain an application form, please contact The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture: phone: (212) 425-6606; fax: (212)425-6602; e-mail: office@mffc.org; or by mail: 50 Broadway, 34th floor, New York, NY 10004, USA.

Matza Man needs YOU!



Providing for over 800

Jewish families

Drop off your products in our collection bins at Pick n Pay Norwood and see Matzah Man from the 12th of March to the 5th of April.

 friend chevmatzaman



A colleague and learners remember Gary Block

The untimely death of King David Linksfield deputy headmaster, Gary Block, from a heart attack at the age of 45 just more than a week ago, has sent shockwaves through the Jewish community. Letters of condolence have arrived at Jewish Report. Obviously, through space constraints, only edited versions of a handful of letters can be accommodated. A condolence book was also compiled to be handed to the family yesterday (March 8) at the end of shiva.

Tom Johnson, a King David Linksfield colleague, writes at the time of Gary's death:

Yesterday, we said goodbye to Gary Block, our friend, colleague, and a very special, precious man, whose presence permeated the entire school.

He had such a cheerful and invigorating presence that it was easy to forget what daunting tasks he set himself. He knew his own mind and possessed an inner confidence which guided many firm principles - and I believe right ones. When problems arose, he was not baffled, disoriented, or overwhelmed. He knew almost instinctively what to do.

Gary immersed himself into the work environment with a capacity that few could match. His passion and commitment to the love of his life - King David - saw his appointment to vice-principal within a short period of time.

Gary was not motivated by status or reward and nothing was more typical of him than his large-hearted magnanimity. Therein lies perhaps, the final explanation of his achievements: he carried the students, parents and staff with him because

there was perfect harmony among them.

We cannot know for certain how long we have here. We cannot foresee the trials and misfortunes that will test us but we can take a direction from this professional, young mentor and warrior.

May G-d bless you Gary and may you never be forgotten.

Gabriella Hyman, a KDL learner quotes the Pirkei Avot, in chapter 1:14, which begins with the famous quotation from Hillel: If I am not for myself, who is for me? When I am for myself, what am I? If not now, when?

She writes: This is an ethic that focuses on the importance of self as well as the importance of forging relationships and giving to others. Mr Block endeavoured to integrate every student into our King David community. He epitomised the motto of our school - to be a mensch.

His generosity of spirit was unrivalled as was his selflessness. But it was his dedication to, love of and passion for the school, and more importantly us, the students, that made Mr Block a truly unique, inimitable and inspiring tzadik.



Gary Block (third from left) with his sister Karen Steinberg, mother Rhona Jacobson and brother Martin Block. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

He humbly adapted to a variety of roles in our school and taught me to value the Jewish, holistic King David way of life. I will eternally remember his tenacity, humour, work ethic and value of tikkun olam. More importantly, I will strive to emulate his humility and unconditional work ethic.

Zach Fouché, head student 2010, wrote from New York:

"Your boldness stands alone... "

I shared a relationship with him that so exceeded the teacher-pupil boundary. We had a connection that was built on loyalty.

We shared many a deep conversation and many a good laugh. I am so angry that he has been taken away from us. I always say that there are two types of homo sapiens, namely people and human beings. To me there is a great difference.

I often try to fathom creation and how we were made. I truly believe that Hashem wanted to create human beings. People are devoid of real human emotion. Gary Block lived his life as a human being.

Gary was a mentor to me throughout my high school years. We debated, we argued, we clashed, we built, we conquered and we learnt. He didn't preach philosophy. He lived it.

With his warm spirit and immeasurably generous heart he included us in his story. We always think of the death of a hero. Gary was King David's Nelson Mandela. He was a hero, a spiritual light, a pillar that never ever collapsed.

Hard work for Gary was a labour of love. He embraced our problems and taught us to fight. I remember my time in Australia with Gary so fondly. We ate out together one night. His smile from across the table was radiating. Tolstoy says: "The only knowledge absolutely attainable to man is

that all life is meaningless."

For the average man life is meaningless. People cannot understand the beauty and majesty of life, relationships and religion. Human beings can. Gary Block proved Tolstoy right. He was Tolstoy's flicker of hope that real human beings do exist.

He graced our days with purification and kindness. Every single student at King David used his office as a haven. He lived and breathed for all of us. As an alumni of King David he stills lives with me.

Gary Block, with all I am, thank you.

Tyler Fouché, head student leader at KDL, 2012, writes:

Loss cannot be quantified. To say that I feel lost and empty, is not enough. To say that thousands of learners, colleagues, parents and friends feel lost and empty at the untimely passing of our Mr Block, is not enough.

So, how and where do we find meaning and clarity right now?

The Talmud teaches: "Death is a night between two days." The days before filled with Mr Block's magnitude, generosity and presence - he meant different things to different people but for me just his being around me was rational, comforting and real.

Then we encounter his death - we feel angry, denied of justice, we shake our heads in disbelief and sadness. Then there will be the many days after...

We can think about him and simply smile, or we can consciously perpetuate his commitment and devotion in small acts of kindness, in reflecting on his fairness, in taking the values and moral code by which he lived and exemplifying them in how we act and think and speak and do and be.

At the end of the day, when all is said and done, more is always said than done - but at the end of Mr Block's days, more was always done than said.

accountability

PKF

chartered accountants
& business advisers

right size, right people, right answers.

www.pkf.co.za

Barmitzvah gift helps Biyela's dream come true

MARCELLE RAVID

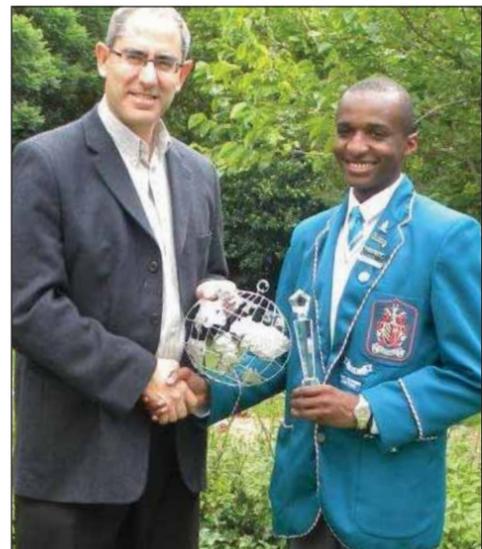
TIMOTHY BIYELA, head boy of Sandringham High School in Johannesburg, is a recipient of a special ORT SA bursary.

"Money was donated by a recently barmitzvahed boy who wants to remain anonymous. He only stipulated that it should go to the person who needed it the most," said Mike King, project manager for ORT's Skills Department.

King applauded what he called the "selfless gesture" and hoped that many would follow this example.

"Biyela was chosen for the award because of his passion. In his motivation letter, Biyela expressed how he wanted to be a teacher and from his leadership abilities we can see his potential breaking through," said King.

An excited Biyela said: "I am overwhelmed. I have had a tough time so it is fantastic to be rewarded by ORT. I feel like I have always served my fellow men and it is great to receive an incentive for my efforts."



Mike King, project manager, ORT Skills, handing a trophy to Timothy Biyela who recently received a special ORT SA bursary for furthering his education.



Ricky Lee Gordon - aka Freddy Sam - in Woodstock in Cape Town. "Removing the greyness from the soul of the city is the job of musicians, artists and poets." PHOTOGRAPH: JONX PILLEMER

Uplifting transformation from Ricky Lee Gordon to Freddy Sam

SHIRA DRUION

RICKY LEE GORDON has fast become the new art sensation to take on the colourful suburb of Woodstock in Cape Town, with interviews by the likes of CNN and other news channels and publications. But what is most impressive about this graffiti guru is how he embraces the many opportunities coming his way, with flair and passion, making it hard to believe that he is just 27.

Gordon grew up in Johannesburg and always displayed a love for the arts. Today, he goes by the art name of Freddy Sam and is the founder of several art-oriented initiatives which aim to enrich and uplift challenged communities through the medium of art.

Write on Africa is the first community art and inspiration project which creates murals and art workshops in underprivileged communities to inspire social change.

"The community is very supportive of the murals and when I'm working in the streets, I am catapulted into a world of dynamic and interesting dialogue with a colourful and über trendy crowd of sorts.

"I painted my first street mural

when I was 16. It was on the outskirts of Alexandra township. This experience exposed me to something that none of my peers had been exposed to before, and it was simply because I was literally interacting with life on the street that I was able to tap into what was going on.

"This changed me forever and from that day on I was hooked! Public space is an essential component of an inspired community. We need to live with colour around us, because it injects a vibrancy and energy that is required to keep a community alive. I once read a quote which moved me profoundly: 'Removing the greyness from the soul of a city is the job of musicians, artists and poets.'"

The second initiative founded and currently directed by Gordon is Word Of Art which seeks to nurture upcoming artists by providing an art space, art projects and an international art residency programme, dedicated to developing new talent.

Gordon's drive to nurture new talent stems from deep within and he tells of how his own talent was cultivated as a young man by his mother, Michelle, an art teacher.

"When I was young, I was a sportsman. I was totally disinterest-

ed in art, but my mom always said there is an artist inside everyone, and it's up to each person to find it and develop it. I think that everybody is born with an innate ability to create and it is each person's responsibility to nurture his/her own unique creative talents and abilities."

The third project is the Woodstock Industrial Centre, a derelict industrial building in the heart of Woodstock, which together with a supportive landlord now houses over 75 creative tenants. The building has a coffee shop, skate park and bookshop and host talks, exhibitions, movie nights, dinners and drawing evenings.

"I was first exposed to graffiti art at the age of 16, when I became more attuned to emotions, and in fact abandoned the world of sport to focus on my art full time. I matriculated with a distinction in art. I loved what art nurtured in me and how it encouraged a depth of self-reflection and self-awareness that ultimately inspired growth. I think that this is really what should be at the core of a true artist."

Gordon has been awarded several prestigious awards and is moving at an unstoppable speed.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

REPORT: IRAN TO ALLOW INSPECTION OF SUSPECTED NUCLEAR SITE

TEHRAN - Iran will allow inspectors from the United Nations' nuclear watchdog group to visit a suspected nuclear site on a military base near Tehran.

The International Atomic Energy Agency will be granted access to the Parchin military complex at a time to be announced, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

The visit cannot be held, however, until an agreement is reached on inspection guidelines, according to the ISNA.

It is believed that Parchin is home to a large chamber to test nuclear explosives.

The IAEA requested to visit the site last month during talks in Tehran, but the request was denied.

The nuclear watchdog last vis-

ited the site in 2005, but did not look in the area where the explosives chamber is believed to be located, Reuters reported.

The site could be taken out in a possible Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear sites. US President Barack Obama met on Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu where they reportedly discussed the Iranian nuclear crisis. (JTA)

Jewish Report

South Africa relinquished its nuclear bomb

AMONG THE things South Africans can be proud of is that our country voluntarily relinquished (in 1991) its capacity for development of a nuclear weapon at Pelindaba, near Pretoria, which had been constructed during the apartheid regime. Former President FW de Klerk initiated the move. South Africa has been the only country to voluntarily give up its nuclear capacity.

There were reports during apartheid's heyday of the testing of two nuclear devices – one at sea and one in the Kalahari. It was never officially confirmed by South Africa, but US intelligence apparently reported two unexplained flashes in those regions, which indicated a major explosion of that type. It was generally accepted at the time that South Africa had the capacity to build a nuclear weapon.

The minority white regime's aim in doing this was to convey to the world that it had the capacity to inflict huge damage on anyone who threatened its way of running the country. Pariah it might be in the world because of its racial policies, but its enemies had better leave it alone.

It was also during the days of the Cold War, when South Africa was seen by the West as a bulwark against the "communist threat" and the USSR, and the West was willing in many ways to turn a blind eye to South Africa's nuclear intentions - or indeed even encourage them as a way of deterring any communist infiltration into this part of the world.

It seems odd to most South Africans today that any country would want to develop nuclear weapons. Our country has no enemies of the sort who might actually invade us, so why would we need such a deterrent? Thus the Iranian regime's attempts to do this are puzzling. It's an indication of the vast difference between the Middle East and our own region. Most South Africans don't really understand the politics of that region - the dangerous neighbourhood in which Israel lives.

In this light, the increasingly loud threats coming from Israel about a possible strike against Iran's nuclear facilities in the very near future - with the prospect that such an action could lead to other terrible consequences - seems extreme and militant to South African ears. Why does Israel behave this way, South Africans ask.

The US is also talking about striking Iran, but with a less urgent tone, saying there is still time for the diplomatic process to take its course - that Iran might relinquish its nuclear intentions if enough diplomatic pressure is applied.

The US believes the time frame before Iran actually acquires a nuclear weapon is about a year; Israeli officials believe a deadline of several months for stopping Iran is more realistic.

Benjamin Netanyahu and Barack Obama met this week at the time of the AIPAC conference in Washington. The Israeli leader reputedly gave Obama a copy of the Book of Esther to give a sense of how Israel views Iran - a not so subtle hint of what Jewish history suggests needs to be done.

The Book of Esther is read during the holiday of Purim starting this week, and describes the attempt in ancient Persia, the forerunner to contemporary Iran, to kill the entire population of Jews in its empire. This aim was thwarted. The story of a nation's leader deciding to kill all its Jews has been told and retold among Jews ever since - a warning that we need to ever be wary.

Netanyahu's view of the situation is along these lines. The Israeli prime minister believes Iran's goal is the destruction of the State of Israel and there is a need for urgent and decisive action on Israel's part to stop the process now before it is too late.

Down here at the bottom of Africa this all seems very remote and bizarre. Sadly, it is all too credible. Israel is a gigantic success story, but the existential threats against it are also gigantic.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS - FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Religious Judaism the foundation for Jewish existence

AS A READER tactfully pointed out in the letters columns last week, my concluding that Norman Finkelstein had undergone a Road to Damascus, or whatever the Hebraic equivalent is, was a little premature. Unfortunately, as things still stand Finkelstein must indeed still be regarded as a visceral enemy of the State of Israel, one whose disagreement with his fellow campaigners should be seen as one of tactics rather than ultimate aims.

In considering why so many secular Jewish intellectuals on the liberal-left have turned on Israel, my initial understanding was that it was precisely because they were secular. Take away the Divine-mandated spiritual mission of the Jewish people, after all, and what is left but an increasingly anachronistic tribal loyalty?

It is certainly true, from what available surveys both here and abroad show, that the more religiously involved you are, the more likely you are to feel strongly supportive of Israel. In this regard, those Neturei Karta wackos who pose, peyers dragging on the ground, with Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad at Holocaust Denial conferences, are no more than a gruesome exception.

However, on looking more closely at those who are at the forefront of defending Israel - in the media and academia in particular - one finds that they are predominantly secular, "cultural" Jews, ones who are very much wedded to standard Western liberal values.

Not believing in any particular Divinely ordained role for the Jewish people, evidently does not lessen their passion for standing up for the Jewish State. Regardless of what their levels of religiosity might be, it seems that the fire of Jewishness burns more deeply in some people than in others.

Into this category would certainly fall UK novelist Howard Jacobson, but the one who would most frequently come to mind when the subject of self-loving



**BARBARIC
YAWP**

David Saks

secular Jews arises, would almost certainly be Alan Dershowitz.

Although raised in an observant Modern Orthodox home, he moved away from formal religious adherence in adulthood, and today is comfortable in describing himself as a Jew by culture, rather than religion.

Dershowitz has become internationally renowned in Jewish circles for his eloquent, trenchant advocacy of Israel's case in at least two influential books and in innumerable articles and lectures.

He has never hesitated to confront what he recognises as a profoundly unjust vendetta against the Jewish State, even though he would have been aware that his own well-merited reputation as one of the world's foremost liberal lawyers and academics, would inevitably suffer.

Indeed, the liberal-left establishment has since largely disowned him, but he has stuck to his guns, knowing full well that it is not he who has betrayed the liberal values his critics purport to espouse.

Prior to throwing himself into the fray on Israel's behalf, Dershowitz had written two best-selling books on American Jewry, *Chutzpah* and *The Vanishing American Jew*. The latter confronts the reality that American Jewry outside the ranks of the Orthodox minority, seems destined to be swallowed up by rampant intermarriage within a few generations.

In it, Dershowitz manfully attempts to find non-religious solutions to the dilemma, through which a Jewry wedded less to firm theological convictions than to an enthusiastic espousal of Jewish thought, ethics, culture and history, can make

itself self-sustaining.

One of the interesting points Dershowitz discusses is how the phenomenally disproportionate contribution of Jews to in virtually every sphere of human endeavour has come about almost entirely through Jews who have been essentially non-observant in the Orthodox religious sense. That is entirely true. What is not often pointed out moreover, is that the extraordinary prominence of Jews in the affairs of the wider society is, from a historical point of view, quite a recent phenomenon.

Prior to 1800, Jewish involvement in the arts, sciences, academia and public affairs, political or otherwise, was minimal, certainly in Christian European countries. What completely changed things was the Napoleonic revolution, which saw Western European Jewry emerge, with fateful consequences, from their ghettos.

This was followed by a startling, unprecedented emergence of Jewish talent in virtually all aspects of those host societies, but this process went hand-in-hand with a massive falling away from traditional Jewish observance, even by those Jews who did not flock to the baptismal font.

In the 20th century, with the decline of the status of Christianity in Europe, conversion has not been required for Jews to get ahead. Even so, it has been very rare that Jews who have achieved notable levels of prominence to have been religiously identifying ones; indeed, even their connections to Judaism in any cultural-ethnic sense has usually been rather tenuous.

One explanation for this phenomenon is that there is a "trickle-down effect" through which the core of religious-based traditional Judaism imbues even those who leave the fold with an intrinsic drive and vision that enables them to achieve success in the wider, secular society.

This is debatable, but it is certainly true that without adherents to religious Judaism, there would have been no Jewish community from whose ranks such individuals could have emerged.

The image that comes to mind is that of a fire burning at night. Occasionally, sparks emerge from the main blaze to briefly light up the dark, and by being independent and individual, they tend to attract one's attention.

However, they soon wink out, leaving no trace, while the main fire that produced them continues to burn unabated.

Is the Israeli home front ready for war?



Haredi Orthodox volunteer paramedics wearing gas masks during a home-front drill in Jerusalem on June 23, 2011. (NATI SHOHAT/FLASH90/JTA)

SAJR JUNIOR

MARCH 2012

Rabbi Motti Hadar talks about his vision for TA

Mendel Chaiton and Menachem Gudelsky (grade 11) interviewed the young, dynamic principal of The Torah Academy High School, Rabbi Motti Hadar.

Q: As head boy of Torah Academy in 2001, you matriculated with honours. What was the school like then?

A: In many ways, the school was very much the same as it is now, with some of the current teachers even being my teachers then, as well as similar timetables, rules, ethos, etc. In other ways, the school has changed tremendously, with different subject, syllabi, staff and obviously an advanced 21st century student body, which demands a different approach. The common denominator between now and then is that TA Boys High is like one big family. It is, was, and hopefully always will be, an intimate school where each matriculant knows the grade 7s personally, vice versa and everyone in-between. The teachers care for each individual learner as a person and not just as a pupil. The school is a happy place, which balances excellence in both Kodesh and secular studies, with a general lifestyle of sport, fun and purpose.

Q: What were your first impressions when you returned to your alma mater?

A: I was very impressed with the open-minded approach of the learners, parents and teachers to new leadership. The students seemed far more independent and innovative than in my day.



Far left: Rabbi Motti Hadar with last year's matric learners at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem

Left: Rabbi Motti Hadar with this year's matrics at bowling in Gateway Mall in Umhlanga on the KwaZulu-Natal north coast.



Coming in as an "outsider", I noticed areas that needed change and have striven to address them over the last two years.

Q: In what way do you feel the school has changed since you arrived?

A: I hope the changes over the last two years have all been for the better. Sometimes, even when change is necessary, it can be difficult. The school has a greater spirit and learners are growing more and more proud of their school. My impression from the public is that we have developed a very positive reputation in the wider community. We have refocused ourselves on our purpose of being a school for all Jewish children, those who strive for an excellent matric and those who wish to pursue a more Limuedi Kodesh-oriented approach, and those who opt for both. Formal sports has taken a turn for the good in

the last few years.

Q: What is your stance on bullying?

A: Unfortunately, bullying is something that exists in every school and in fact in every society. However, it is our challenge, as human beings and as a school, to educate ourselves and others to treat others as we would want to be treated ourselves. Love for a fellow is a pillar of our faith, around which the entire Torah and mitzvot revolve. Through teaching this message sincerely and through living by example of respecting others, we can minimise bullying.

Q: Do you have an inspirational motto by which you live?

A: Not a motto per say, yet I have inspiration. As a Lubavitcher, and particularly as a Chabad shaliach, I draw my inspiration from the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

Torah Academy was founded under the Rebbe's auspices and what gets to me to school each day and keeps me motivated is my ambition to realise the Rebbe's vision for our school. I strive to create a school environment based on the Torah values that the Rebbe promoted.

Q: What is your vision of Torah Academy 20 years from now?

A: If Mashiach has Chas Vesholem not come by then, I hope that TA will still be the incredible school it is today. I anticipate the day when our classrooms will be filled with human beings who, due to the advances of technology, will know a completely different lifestyle and educational system to what we have today, yet will retain our ancient invaluable Jewish traditions and heritage.

Q: We live in a society where a learner's success is measured

in marks. How do you personally measure a learner's success?

A: My high school principal, Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, would commonly tell us: "Success and failure are not determined by circumstances, but by response to circumstances." When a learner whose circumstances would make it difficult for him to achieve a pass, passes - that is greater success than an "A learner" getting a distinction. We just have to try our best!

Q: What would be your message to a prospective learner?

A: TA's doors are open to everyone and anyone. If our school is the right school for you, and you are right for our school, we will do everything in our power to make you feel loved, nurtured and respected and we will give you a first class education in Torah, secular studies and most importantly, in life.

Liberty Life

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

Steven Braudo

Chief Executive: Liberty Retail SA



Torah Academy

Message from Rabbi Motti Hadar

Rabbi Motti Hadar
Principal Torah Academy Boys High School

I WOULD like to thank the Jewish Report for affording our students this wonderful opportunity. I personally consider the Jewish Report a first class publication and eagerly anticipate its arrival each week and so it has been a fantastic experience to be involved in this edition.

It has been very rewarding for our students to participate in this amazing project of the Junior Jewish Report. The experience of real-life reporting is so valuable to our youth and those involved have learned a tremendous amount about journalism and have gained important life skills.

For this we are grateful to the Jewish Report and the sponsors of the Junior Jewish Report.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the grade 11 and 12 students who contributed to this publication and Mrs Beverly Isaacs for guiding them. Torah Academy is a truly special school and this team has done a great job of portraying that. I am proud of their hard work and commitment to the project.

I trust that the readers will enjoy our contribution as much as we enjoyed putting it together and I hope that we will have further opportunities to work together with the Jewish Report.

Wishing the Jewish Report and all its readers future success in all your endeavours,



News

A long trek for unity and ubuntu

DOVI MENDELOW; MENDEL BACHER; YITZCHOK BACHER; AND ITAMAR MENCHEMI GRADE 12

HEARTS ARE pounding, the excitement is kicking in. The deafening roar of the Harley Davidsons, accompanied by the music of the Field Band, blast their ears.

Forty learners from different backgrounds, cultures and even nationalities, anticipate the happenings of the next few days. In the coming week, strangers will become brothers and all racial stereotypes will be broken.

Families, friends and supporters, gathered at the Torah Academy for an unforgettable send-off.

The learners taking part in this iconic annual relay cycle ride from Johannesburg to Durban - driven by Torah Academy dean, Rabbi Dovid Hazdan - were given words of encouragement from several dignitaries including Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, Marlene Bethlehem of the Cultural Rights Commission and Eyewitness News sports presenter Lelo Mzaca. With the traditional snip of the ribbon, the long anticipated journey had started.

The cyclists sped passed Gilooly's Farm and left in their wake the urban forest that is Johannesburg. The learners thought they ruled the road, but they soon became aware of the treacherous trek ahead of them.

In the opening stage of the event, one rider felt the wrath of the tar road upon his brow. Fifteen stitches later, he was back on the road, ready to face the challenges which lay ahead.



The launch of Cycalive: excitement is in the air.

The participants cycled approximately 150 kilometres every day. They started out early each morning after shacharit and breakfast.

Some highlights of the trip included a visit to the Newcastle provincial hospital, where the participants distributed gifts and messages of heart-warming inspiration to the patients in what has become an annual Cycalive tradition.

The riders also visited the Nelson Mandela capture site near Howick in KwaZulu-Natal. The visit inspired them to emulate Madiba, the hero of the nation.

Finally, the long, arduous trek reached its zenith as they cycled triumphantly into Durban, amid a lot of fanfare.

The journey culminated in a parade through Durban's city centre, during which the cyclists were escorted by the Durban Field Band and the local metro police.

The procession arrived at the Durban City Hall where they were addressed by Nomvuzo Tshabalala, the deputy mayor of the city. The group then moved on to the Durban Jewish Club where the city's Jewish community generously hosted a scrumptious dinner at which the cyclists were congratulated on their achievements.

Youth

Torah Academy Mesivta ends year on a high



Above: The Mesivta Group with Rabbis Finkelstein, Wineberg and Hadar after being tested by Rabbi Wineberg.

Right: Shmulie Kesselman, a Mesivta student, hard at work.



SHLOIMY KESSELMAN GRADE 11

UNDER THE leadership of the new rosh Mesivta, Rabbi Reuven Finkelstien and with the guidance and direction of our principal, Rabbi Motti Hadar, the Torah Academy Mesivta has seen some major changes this year.

A new one-on-one yeshiva-style learning programme has been implemented and has already greatly enriched the learners' knowledge and abilities across the board.

Instead of the generic learning-in-classrooms arrangement, the Mesivta programme has switched to a Beit Midrash format, providing a more conducive environment for those truly seeking to advance their own learning skills.

These improvements to the Mesivta, among many others, are designed to help the learners prepare and become accustomed to the yeshiva-style of learning.

Thanks to a dedicated staff, all the learners, who come from diverse backgrounds and standards, receive individualised and undivided attention, in an attempt to improve their standards on all fronts.

The results of the learners' hard work pay off in a tangible manner, as the trips and outings that the boys go on are unparalleled. Their friendship and camaraderie is constantly being strengthened through these trips and get-togethers, and every boy who joins the programme, feels welcome in the warm Mesivta atmosphere.

Academically, last year saw tremendous growth in the learning, with great emphasis and focus placed on the study of Gemora/Talmud, with in-depth analysis shiurim occurring daily for the older learners and shiurim tailor-made for the younger learners also being given daily.

Guest rabbonim have been called in to test the boys on what they have learned this year and they were incredibly impressed with the standard of knowledge and skills.

The highlight of the year is a very rewarding month-long campaign, which demands of the boys to learn extra, longer, and harder across the spectrum of all their Mesivta subjects.

Through the means of a points system, in which the boys are required to score the necessary amount, learners are rewarded by a Shabbaton in Umhlanga Rocks, filled with incredible trips, amazing accommodation, sports, braais, discussions, bonding time and obviously daily learning.

When the learners finish in the Mesivta and are ready to move on into the "yeshiva world", the skills they have developed enable them to fit right into the world's top yeshivas, as some of the older learners have already done.

Overall, the Mesivta is a wonderful programme and is truly the crown jewel of Torah Academy.

I look forward to seeing the Mesivta programme grow from strength to strength in the coming years and for more learners to benefit from this invaluable wholesome education.

■ The Mesivta programme is a division within the Torah Academy Boys' High School for learners who have elected for extra Limudei Kodesh in addition to the regular 2,5 hours of Torah study per day. They learn Talmud, Halacha and Chassidus for up to an added four hours a day, during and after school hours, in a Beis Medrash setting.

Opinion

Africa, a continent of hope

MENDY GRALNIK GRADE 12

THE CONTINENT of Africa has dominated the international news over the past few months, but unfortunately this huge spike in global attention is not due to positive happenings in our beloved continent.

Some of the images that come to the mind of the average foreigner when thinking of Africa, are pictures of brutal fighting between rebel forces and of an egocentric dictator like Muammar Gaddafi.

Other visions that come to mind are of emaciated Somali children starving in the Horn of Africa, and poachers brutally slaughtering rhinos and elephants merely for the so-called "medicinal attributes" of rhino horn and the ivory of elephant tusks, leaving the bloated corpses to fester.

However, not many outside of Africa realise that in fact this is a continent not so dissimilar to theirs - a land abundant with love and joy, limitless in its possibilities. Africa is a vast continent and its potential is immeasurable.

Sure, there are countries on the continent where humans are treated poorly; there are regions where people go hungry; and yes, at one time there actually were people who lived and hunted off the land and there may still even be some of them left today.

However, there are many cities around Africa with world class amenities, thriving economies and citizens who live in such luxury that even Hollywood film stars would approve.

Some critics could disagree, stating that we have removed our roots, of living hand in hand with nature, that we have lost our "africanness", that we are now trying to turn ourselves into a run-down version of First World countries.

The inaccuracy of the portrayal of this view is clear when it is realised that we are not trying unsuccessfully to mimic the West, but rather that we are striving to be our own original, dynamic, continent. We are trying to find the equilibrium between being technologically up-to-date while at the same time acknowledging our heritage and showing it the respect it deserves.

We as Africans may have experienced suffering in our pursuit of success, but we have so far succeeded in many aspects. Examples of our achievements are the many protected game reserves scattered all over the continent such as the Kruger National Park, the Serengeti and the Masai Mara, where animals are still allowed to roam free without being slaughtered, while at the same time proving to the world that we still have that "uncapturable" African spirit within us.

We have also proven with events such as the highly successful World Cup hosted in South Africa in 2010, that we are capable of achieving the highest standards of organisation and execution thereof, in the world.

It is time that the people of the world stopped looking away from us in disgust as downtrodden grimy creatures. The world must acknowledge that with a bit of help from them, Africa may very well be lifted out of its gloomy history.

Perhaps one day Africa might be a place where living life is a pleasure; where thoughts of war and hunger are faint memories; and where we live hand in hand in harmony with our local wildlife.

Nelson Mandela once said that he "dreams of an Africa at peace with itself". With the help of the world, we can hopefully succeed in turning Madiba's dream into a reality.

Have you done the maths for your child's education?

You don't need to be a rocket scientist to understand the importance of a good education.

But we could all do with some help making sure that we understand exactly what's needed to finance our children's education.

Speak to a Liberty Adviser or Broker who'll help you with the facts and figures you need to structure a suitable investment plan. With a Liberty Education Builder you can rest assured that the cost of their education will be covered.

Call 0860 327 327 or visit www.liberty.co.za



LIBERTY

Own your life

News

An encounter to savour forever



Some girls from Israel Encounter together with Morah Rebecca at Ma'arat Hamachpeila.

SARA TAUBY GRADE 12

EVERY DAY at school in Tehillim Chapter 122 verse 6 we pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Since I went on Israel Encounter, this verse has become my mantra, as I have now experienced the beauty of Yerushalayim and our Holy Land.

This past December, I together with 28 other girls, spent 10 phenomenal, educational and awe-inspiring days touring Israel from top to bottom.

We travelled from the Golan Heights to the Negev and everywhere in between. Not only did we stay in comfortable accommodation, enjoy delicious food, and "shopped till we dropped", we also experienced a multi-faceted Eretz Yisrael.

We learned about and toured museums highlighting the history of the State of Israel; we visited Masada, Ma'arat Hamachpeila, Kevar Rachel and other holy sites. We spent time in different seminaries; hiked; rode camels and donkeys and floated in the Yam Hamelach.

The highlight of the tour for me was Yerushalayim. To stand at the Kotel, where throughout the ages countless Jews have come to pour out their hearts to Hashem, brought me to tears.

I ran my hand over the stones of this holy wall - stones that have been rubbed smooth by innumerable palms - and I felt so connected to generations of women who have stood there before me.

Under the Kotel, when winding our way through the tunnels, we noticed people davening at one spot. Our madricha explained to us that this is the closest place that we can come to the Kodosh HaKadoshim - the Holy of Holies. This was when the warm embrace of Hashem made me realise how close I felt to Him and how much I longed for Mashiach. I imagined standing in that very spot and gazing up at the glorious Bet Hamikdash.

Visiting Israel is always exciting, but this trip was particularly unique because of the wonderful group of people on our tour. There were girls from four different schools, many of whom I only met as we boarded the plane, but who will now be my friends forever.

The Israel Centre, together with Partnership 2000, arranged the tour for us and I am indebted to them for making sure that every detail of our stay was perfect.

What made our trip so extraordinary was the superb madrichot that they arranged to be our tour guides. Meiraz Stahl and Tamar Singer were so well versed in biblical, historical and geographical knowledge that made Israel come alive for me. And of course having our caring and beloved Morah Rebecca Sarchi with us, made the trip absolutely perfect.

Israel Encounter highlighted for me the beauty and vulnerability of Eretz Yisrael. Even though I never felt any tension during Israel Encounter, the reality is that Eretz Yisrael is filled with the unavoidable presence of soldiers, metal detectors and security checkpoints.

These are all a constant reminder that we really need to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" every day. May all the Teffilot prayed by Jews throughout the generations be heard and may Hashem send Mashiach immediately so that we can experience Yerushalayim in her true glory!

Opinion

Things aint what they used to be...

SASHA BERKOWITZ GRADE 11

ONE STRIKE, two strikes, three strikes, SNAP! Matches just aren't what they used to be. These days, it seems that Eskom isn't alone in its quest to make South Africa a darker place, seeing as two out of three match sticks would much rather get beheaded than suffer their dreaded fate of illumination.

In fact, it's not only matches. The overall quality of everything has definitely gone down throughout the years.

Over the past few months, my grandmother has packed up her flat in preparation to move to a smaller one and has commanded my father to come and collect all his old stuff if he doesn't want it to be thrown away.

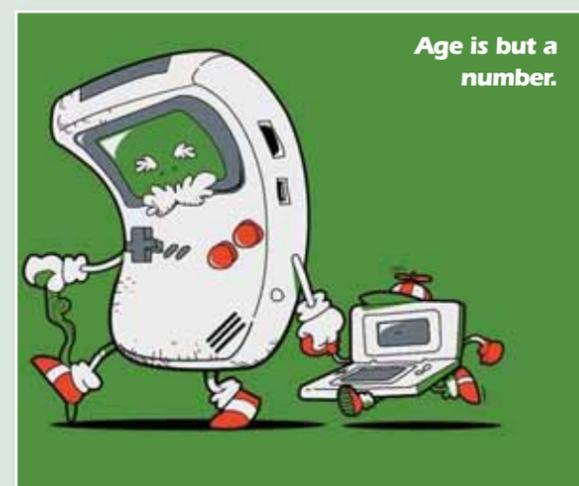
After playing with his fully functional Nintendo GameBoy, solving his gliding Rubik's Cube and admiring his shining toy cars, I couldn't help but try to imagine what I will have to show my children some day.

Sadly, I could not think of anything. Nothing I own has the same solid quality I feel when I hold one of his toys in my hand.

Napoleon Bonaparte once said about China: "Let her sleep, for when she wakes, she will shake the world."

Truthfully, what he should have said was: "Let her sleep, for when she wakes, she will break the world," because as we all know, everything she produces breaks sooner or later.

Centre by centre, China is taking over the South African market. According to China's customs authorities, its total foreign trade value with South Africa hit about R363 billion in 2011 - 77 per cent higher than



the year before.

This is particularly bad news for South African manufacturers, as they don't have much to offer which hasn't already been copied and pasted into shop "C19" in a trading market somewhere off of the highway.

And with the economy in its current low state, people would much rather make short-term purchases for less, as opposed to buying things which would last much longer, but cost much more.

And so, slowly but surely, the manufacturers' quality items are heading in the same direction as the "three-day-last" Chinese products. It seems that you, me and the trade market, know what they say: "If you can't beat them, join them."

So, I guess I will just have to get used to the fact that in 20-something years from now, I will probably be showing off to my children the old GameBoy, Rubik's Cube and toy cars my father showed off to me.

Arts

Meet GO'12-Holyworld



Above: GO'12 theme: Holyworld - Transform your World. Right: The grade 11 class on Shabbaton.



CHANI GLASSMAN AND CHANI YACHAD GRADE 11

IN A democracy you have the ruling party, the subjects and of course the president. The grade 11s of Torah Academy Girls' High, are the general organisers (GO) of the school, planning activities and exciting programmes throughout the course of the year.

The country that is TAGH, is run by the ruling party, GO'12- Holyworld and our joint presidents are teacher Devorah Kay and principal Rebecca Sarchi who assist us in making decisions and instruct us on our duties.

First on the presidential agenda was a grand entrance to introduce the ruling party to the school. On the first day of school this year, each girl received a gift explaining who GO'12 is and our theme, Holyworld, which is a play on "Hollywood", but unlike the glitz and glamour of Los Angeles, our aim this year is to transform mundane doings into holiness and G-d's will.

Our first event was successful. Next on the agenda was organising the school Shabbaton. This proved to be a lot more hectic than any of us expected and our true leadership was tested, but in the end GO'12 prevailed.

From Friday through to Monday, incredible programmes such as "Minute to Win it", "Glow-in-the-

dark-dodge-ball", a "kumzitz" and "learning workshops" were received extremely well by all the girls in the school and all the hard work really paid off.

Everyone came back to Johannesburg absolutely exhausted but totally inspired and excited to see what the ruling party had in store for the rest of the year.

Just as we started to relax and think that we could get back to our grade 11 academic schedule, which we have been told multiple times is the hardest and most stressful year of our school career, our presidents called a meeting to inform us that Purim plans needed to start being put into action and a phenomenal yet top-secret Purim mission was at the time of writing this, underway.

Definitely the most exciting and biggest event of all, is the school play, which is in the midst of being perfected for final performances which will take place on June 3 and 4 at the Victory Theatre

Last year, before being crowned the ruling party, we decided to put our skills to the test and began to start writing the play titled "She's the Mensch".

Running a country is difficult, running a school and organising all the programmes, almost impossible, but Go'12 Holyworld has taken it in its stride and under the guidance of our supportive presidents, has risen to the challenge and look forward to continuing our success throughout the rest of the year.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS – FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Obama-Netanyahu summit: Assurances exchanged, differences remain

**STORY & PHOTOGRAPH BY RON KAMPEAS
WASHINGTON**

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may not have bridged their differences on how to deal with Iran, but each managed to give the other a measure of reassurance.

In his speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Obama held his ground, declining to articulate new American red lines on the Iranian nuclear issue and strongly advising against "loose talk of war".

Yet he earned the praise of the prime minister and the pro-Israel lobby with his acknowledgement that Israel needs to be able to defend itself, and his vow that America has Israel's back.

While Obama stressed diplomacy as a continued option in public and private comments, Netanyahu indicated in the two leaders' private meeting that he believed sanctions had been exhausted.

Yet even if the prime minister does not share the president's patience, he also told Obama that there was not yet any Israeli decision to attack Iran, according to Israeli media reports.

"We do believe there is still a window that allows for a diplomatic resolution to this issue, but ultimately the Iranians regime has to make a decision to move in that direction, a decision that they have not made thus far," Obama said in an Oval Office photo-op on Monday morning.

He added, looking at Netanyahu: "I know that both the prime minister and I prefer to resolve this diplomatically. We understand the costs of any military action."

Netanyahu did not acknowledge the president's plea for diplomacy to play itself out, instead emphasising Israel's sovereign right to act - and noting that Obama had made the same point in his speech the day before to AIPAC's annual policy forum.

"I think that above and beyond that there are two longstanding principles of American policy that you reiterated yesterday in your speech - that Israel must have the ability always to defend itself by itself against any threat; and when it comes to Israel's security, Israel has the right, the sovereign right to make its own decisions," Netanyahu said.

"I believe that's why you appreciate, Mr President, that Israel must reserve the right to defend itself. And after all, that's the very purpose of the Jewish state - to restore to the Jewish people control over our destiny.

"And that's why my supreme responsibility as prime minister of Israel is to ensure that Israel remains the master of its fate."

That acknowledgement - that Israel has the right to strike in its own perceived self-defence - was the element that AIPAC's leaders were seeking, and Obama earned the most extended standing ovation of the day when he told the conference: "Israel must always have the ability to defend itself, by itself, against any threat."

How to deal with Iran dominated much of the meeting between the leaders. As if to underscore Netanyahu's message of his determination to confront the Iranian regime, his gift to Obama was a copy of the Megillah, the tale of the Persian Jews' bloody triumph over Haman.

An Israeli source said the meeting underscored agreement between the Netanyahu and Obama governments in four areas: a determination to prevent an Iranian nuclear weapon; that all options are on the table; that containment is not an option; that Israel is a sovereign state that has a right to defend itself by itself.

In his own address to the conference on Monday morning - delivered as Obama and Netanyahu were meeting - Howard Kohr, AIPAC's executive director, made it clear that the fourth message was the one AIPAC had been seeking.

"This is the context in which Israel must decide her course of action," he said. "If she can put her fate in the hands of anyone - even her closest ally, America - or if she

must conduct a strike to postpone Iran from acquiring a nuclear bomb. Israel was created to ensure that the Jewish people would never have to put their fate in the hands of others."

Kohr also pushed back strongly against those who say that Obama has not done enough to confront Iran.

"President Obama and his administration are to be commended," he said. "They have - more than any

other administration, more than any other country - brought unprecedented pressure to bear on Tehran through the use of biting economic sanctions.

"They have built a broad coalition to isolate the Iranian regime and they have brought the necessary military assets to the Gulf and to Iran's neighbours in order to signal that America has the power to act." (JTA)



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Barack Obama meet on Monday in the White House Oval Office.

THE YAD AHARON

CAN CAN CARNIVAL

Norwood Mall

6th Ave, Highlands North

Sunday 11th March 2012 from 10:30am

Danny K
live performance
at 12:30pm

Parachute Rides, Putt-Putt,
Live Bands, Bumpy Jumpy Castle Zone,
Carnival Games, Kiddies Bungee Jumping
and delicious food stalls

**Entry Fee: Just 2 non-perishable food
or hygiene items for Yad Aharon**

GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON ON THE DAY!!!

If it rains,
we've got
you covered.

Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity! You CAN help Yad Aharon!

NORWOOD MALL
your mall, your moments

Pick n Pay
Inspired by you

jk productions
complete event solutions

ZUMBO JUMPY CASTLE

YAD AHARON
MICHAEL TZEDOKAH
FOOD FUND

JOHANNESBURG MUSICAL SOCIETY

ALEXANDER LUBYANTSEV piano

PRIZE-WINNER TCHAIKOVSKY COMPETITION MOSCOW

LINDER AUDITORIUM * 20.00 * SAT 10 MARCH

HAYDN, BEETHOVEN, RAVEL, LISZT'S MEPHISTO WALTZ

Linder box office opens 10 March at 19.00

* (NO CREDIT CARD FACILITY AT BOX OFFICE)



BOOKING AT COMPUTICKET

WWW.JMS.CO.ZA

'Stand-in' Du Toit does a splendid job

Concert: Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra (Linder)

Conductor: Horia Andreescu

Soloist: Maria du Toit (clarinet)

Programme: Music by Ligeti, Mozart and Tchaikovsky

REVIEWED BY PAUL BOEKKOOI

GYÖRGY LIGETI (1923-2006), a Jewish Hungarian, was a composer of extremes whose music is full of paradoxes. Yet the absurdities and contradictions grew out of a powerful musical intellect and an acute, fastidious ear. Quirky, bizarre and haunting are the prime signatures of his own unmistakable personality.

His Concert Românesc (1951) is based on early childhood recollections of sounds: an alpine horn and its echoes, Romanian gypsy music, wild music played by village bands, etcetera.

This may sound like rampant eclecticism, but the effect is nothing of the kind. These disparate elements are embedded in the music, not superimposed, and are transformed by Ligeti's zany artistry.

The Romanian conductor Horia Andreescu and the JPO gave their very best in this four-movement miniature concerto for orchestra, dating from Ligeti's pre-Western period. The fact that it was banned by the Soviet-brainwashed Hungarian authorities leaves a rather terrifying impression - especially since the work has an undeniable eloquence.

The JPO's winds, French horns and solo strings in particular, gave clout to this work. One doubts if it has never been performed in South Africa. It counts among the most stimulating and accessible 20th century pieces one could introduce to local audiences. Bravo!

Bugged down by a bad bout of bronchitis, British clarinetist Michael Collins was unable to fulfil his commitments to this concert. The Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra kindly released Maria du Toit, their principal clarinet, to stand in. She performed the concerto he was to play: Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A, K.622.

Du Toit gave us an idyllic performance, offering a most alluring liquid tone throughout, shaped by musicianly phrasing into the most beguiling line. The orchestra contributed a stylish, but somewhat romantically infused accompaniment.

The whole was presented in tempos which flowed naturally from the score: the Adagio not too slow, nor the Rondo-finale - a movement difficult indeed to gauge exactly right.

Collins might most likely have performed it on a basset clarinet, relishing the extra downward range and richness of timbre as it was originally written by Mozart. However, Du Toit mesmerised with her subtle ornamentations and, in the Adagio, fining down her tone to the gentlest pianissimo on the main theme's reprise.

Andreescu's Tchaikovsky, as heard in his conducting of the orchestra in the Symphony No 4 in F minor, was not a performance one would like to live with. On a broad scale the maestro indulged in an awkward sequence of speed-changes which have no discernible symphonic logic.

Dynamics were often tweaked for no structural reasons. The second subject of the opening movement, marked con anima, sounded curiously literal, although the wind solos were not without charm.

The dotted rhythms in the following Andantino were listless, the pizzicati in the Scherzo lost some of their balalaika tang, while the Finale partially regained ground by virtue of its steadiness and muscular projection.

Romanian conductor
Horia Andreescu.
(PHOTOGRAPH BY EUGEN
OPRINA, COURTESY
WWW.INFOFASION.RO)



The late György Ligeti. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.BADISCHE.ZEITUNG.DE)

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Orlin's 'Daddy' was Dance Umbrella highlight

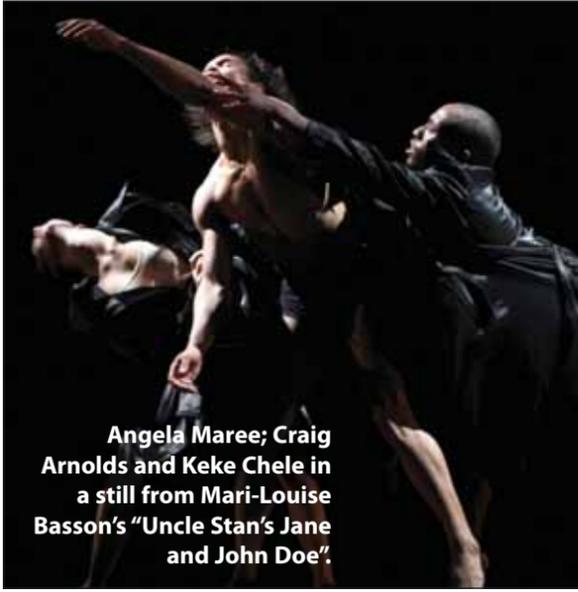
ROBYN SASSEN
PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN HOGG

SUNDAY SAW the end of this year's Dance Umbrella, Johannesburg's biggest festival of contemporary dance. By vote of bums on seats, its unmitigated highlight was Robyn Orlin's "Daddy I've seen this piece six times and I still don't know why they're hurting each other", so popular it warranted another performance, which too was full.

Dada Masilo's "Death and the Maidens", exploiting principles of the eponymous mediaeval concept, but pivotal to the spectacle of beautiful bodies superbly choreographed, in a blunt extrapolation of feminism, also demanded another performance.

Dance Umbrella is always a bit of a lucky packet with sweet and sour surprises. Unlike art, dance is transient. Its casualty can be meaning; choreographers notoriously can get carried away in abstraction that can paralyse the audience with boredom.

People flocked to this year's Dance Umbrella to see work by invited dancer-choreographers with local roots but international acclaim, like Orlin; Brussels-based Moya Michael from Eldorado Park; and Soweto-born Vincent Mantsoe (founder of Association Noa-Cie, in France) and Melody Putu (who dances for Skånes Dansteater, in Malmö, Sweden), to name a few.



Angela Maree; Craig Arnolds and Keke Chele in a still from Mari-Louise Basson's "Uncle Stan's Jane and John Doe".

Shaw's jaundiced look at marriage still entertains today

Shows: *Overruled* and *How He Lied To Her Husband*, by George Bernard Shaw

Where: Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton, (011)883-8606

When: Until March 17

Review: Robyn Sassen

SOMETHING MUST be said for the sheer palatability of classic plays properly performed. This double bill of two of Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw's works on the ludicrousness of marriage make for entertainment which is short, sweet and guiltless.

Set in 1912 and 2012, *Overruled* and after interval, *How He Lied To Her Husband*, feature crisp, beautiful language laid out with cunning around the cleavage between intention and deed when it comes to negotiating rules of marriage. Early in the season, an elegantly saved bit of corpsing warmed audience to performers beautifully.

In *Overruled*, you meet the Junos (Theo Landey and Dianne Simpson) and the Lunnns (Daniel Janks and Bronwyn Leigh Gottwald). Or, rather, you meet them coupled differently.

Heartily sick of being happily married, each couple takes separate cruises to redress the "mild lark" lovemaking within the confines of marriage has become, and given how "domestic felicity was making us perfectly idiotic". They'd, briefly put, made new friends. Things start getting a little tricky back on dry soil, in the face of commitment revelations, issues of honour and what have you.

After interval, director Ingrid Wylde attempts to recast these Shavian values in the 21st century. The sherry is swapped for vodka, gone are the colonial skin rugs; loud scatter cushions adorn retro furniture.

The coyness of early 20th century miens just doesn't

They came with their overseas collaborators and consequently, audiences were largely foreign: consisting of ordinary folk passionate enough about dance to travel to Africa for it.

Stand-out works included Mari-Louise Basson's "Uncle Stan's Jane and John Doe", an essay on child abuse. Violence was a theme reverberating through Dance Umbrella; it's clearly what concerns creative people right now. Works dealt with sexual violence and its spinoffs, from religious hypocrisy to STDs, virginity testing and sexism.

But there was levity as well: Orlin made audiences laugh, questioning what makes dance tick, as did Mark Hawkins in "Dirty Laundry", a bubbly spoof on cabaret values.

Dance Umbrella showcased companies from all over South Africa; arguably Johannesburg's headline company, Moving Into Dance Mophatong, founded in 1978 by Sylvia Glasser, featured prominently.

The professional roots of internationally heralded Vincent Mantsoe, Gregory Maqoma and Moeketsi Koena, it is producing dancers like Fana Tshabalala, Nhlanhla Mahlangu and Muzi Shili, with technical prowess and emotional versatility, proved in works diverse as Hawkins' "Dirty Laundry", Orlin's "Daddy", Sifiso Kweyama's "The More" and Nhlanhla Mahlangu's magical "Chant".

Music ranging from electronic muzak to quotes from Franz Schubert, Nina Simone and Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific, filled venues. From humble and subtle to outrageous, festival pickings weren't devoid of guerrillas: Grahamstonians Alan Parker, Gavin Krastin, Jen Schneebacher and Juanita Finestone-Praeg challenged pre-show foyer dynamics before their piece "Cellardoor"; and it was not devoid of controversy in Alfred Hinkel's powerful indictment of blind faith.

As always, Dance Umbrella teetered between amusing, not patronising; provoking, not alienating. Its unmitigated highlights included the flow of Laura Cameron's red hair in an unforgettable moment choreographed by Dada Masilo; gestures of Moya Michael and Fritz Welch conflating blessing and cursing; the stage presence of Fanny Kivimäki who seems to have mercury in her veins; a rope dance choreographed by Basson that felt impossible... moments which vindicated low-lights utterly.

Next February, Dance Umbrella turns 25; keep your dance-card open.



Clucking cuckolded wives: Mrs Juno (Dianne Simpson) and Mrs Lunn (Bronwyn Leigh Gottwald). (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OLD MUTUAL THEATRE ON THE SQUARE)

gel with 21st century morals, however, with Cockney-accented Aurora Bompas (Simpson), her beau Henry Upjohn (Landey) and her "sordid commercial chump" of a husband, who has eight sisters, six half sisters, and "ever so many brothers".

An incriminating pile of love poems in a red ribbon, addressed to the only girl in the world called Aurora, doesn't do much to alleviate tricky matters; a u-turn for the "chump" makes you grin.

Just when you think the banter might pall, the plays reach denouement, making it a gently frolicsome evening that may be forgettable but is utterly engaging.

LETTERS

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

SOME SUGGESTIONS TO JAZZ UP THE JEWISH REPORT

THANK YOU for doing a survey on what people would like to read on the Jewish Report.

- Have bridge, sudoku crossword and other word games in every edition of your paper. Stop alternating them. We readers love them and they are good for the brain!

- Your paper has become right wing. Let's have articles written about secular Jews, even left-wing Jews. Let's have some controversy.

- Where is Dennis Davis? His articles were always the most sane intelligent ones in your paper. Get him on a weekly basis.

- Where are Peter Feldman's wonderful crits?

- Have book reviews of novels, not necessarily Jewish.

- Your paper is beginning to look like a King David, Yeshiva College, Torah Academy promotion/school magazine. Enough! An occasional article about the schools, achievers, problems etc is ok, but every week?!

- Where is Community Buzz? If you bring it back please write the article in full and not "To be continued". They are charming,

SOME MORE SUGGESTIONS FOR JEWISH REPORT CONTENT

IN A survey you want to know what we want to read in the Jewish Report. I suggest:

- Where can we have a nice Jewish meal. Could you have a feature naming different restaurants?

- Seniors: Are there coffee shops that cater for the elderly, who'd like to meet others?

- Are there any Jewish private hotels, where seniors can live at a moderate rate? Forget Pembury which is far too expensive.

but not to remember till the next week.

- Get a journalist who can write a "funny column". Even a few good jokes would be nice.

- What about a "Social Page" with juicy Jewish events (not necessarily religious) with pictures of our gorgeous community that attend, with articles praising and or criticising?

- Give details in articles. For instance, recently you printed pictures and a write-up of wounded Jewish soldiers. It would have been interesting if some or all of them could have been personally interviewed so we could read their stories over the weeks that follow.

Let's get "with it", it's 2012!

Lorraine Kinross
Sandton

Thanks for your suggestions. Why don't you include it in our online survey? Some of the issues, such as bridge etc we cannot address because of the small size of our paper. There's just not room for everything you ask for. The best compromise is to alternate. - Editor

Are there possibly retirement villages where seniors can perhaps purchase a unit? How about a feature on establishments that cater for younger Jewish people?

We are sick of sushi and Jewish type blintzes and perogen that are crudely made and uneatable.

Solly Smith
Rivonia

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

PERES' NEW FACEBOOK PAGE AT COMPANY HQ

LOS ANGELES - Israeli President Shimon Peres on Tuesday launched a Facebook page with company founder Mark Zuckerberg at Facebook headquarters, California.

At the launch, he held a live chat with web surfers. His page calls on people to be his friend and "speak up" for peace.

In Hollywood, Peres is scheduled to tour the studios of DreamWorks Animation and hold a meeting with company founders Steven Spielberg and Jeffrey Katzenberg. He is also scheduled to have lunch with the heads of film studios, including Warner Bros., Universal and Fox, according to his office. (JTA)

MIRACLE DRIVE WAS A DEDICATED TEAM EFFORT

THANK YOU for the lovely article that was written about Miracle Drive. I was deeply touched by your kind words and acknowledgement. However, I want to point out that there is in fact a cohesive team behind Miracle Drive.

This team consists primarily of Rabbi Michael Katz; Taryn Sochen; Sharon Tshuma;

Rabbi Pini Pink; Marian Ginsberg; and Barbara Lang. In addition to this team, all the other Chabad House rabbis and staff; sponsors and supporters contribute towards making Miracle Drive the success it has become.

Rabbi David Masinter
Director, Chabad House

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO SAJR CROSSWORD?

I WOULD like to know if the weekly crossword will be continued and if so, when will it recommence?

It is something I - and I am sure many others - look forward to every week.

Thank you for an excellent paper.

Lily Favish
Lyndhurst
Johannesburg

SA JEWISH REPORT IS A 'NATIONAL TREASURE'

WHAT? Jewish Report closing down? No, never!

Your publication is a "national treasure" as it keeps all (if not most) of the scattered Jewish community in SA united, letting most of the outlying areas (outside Johannesburg and the Reef and Pretoria) know what is happening in the "other half of the country".

Prior to my "semigrating" to Cape Town seven years ago, I asked about being put on a mailing list - cost to cover postage etc but

was informed it's "out of our delivery area!"

Time to rethink this? I do subscribe to the Cape Jewish Chronicle and Jewish Life, so why not to Jewish Report? Also, I would like more reportage from Moira Schneider, SAJR's Cape Town correspondent, to let us know what's cooking locally.

Keep the Jewish and Israeli flags flying high and be proud.

Pincus Sanzul
Milnerton, Cape Town

BAAL SHEM TOV WINS AGAINST CITY COUNCIL

IN THE run-up to the fracas of The Baal Shem Tov Shul in Orange Grove, you gave much publicity to the fact that the shul was allegedly not conforming to municipal byelaws. Recently the shul won a remarkable court case against the City Council, which now permits it to operate legally.

I think it is incumbent on you to inform your readers that they can now attend the

Baal Shem Tov Shul without fear of intimidation.

Is this case meant to be a well-kept secret?

John Brenner
Cyrildene, Johannesburg

Thank you for alerting us to this. We will definitely follow it up. - Editor

FOR THE RECORD

IT'S NOT MIKE BRAUN, BUT MIKE BAUM

IN A story in last week's paper on the Haftorah Club donating wheelchairs to Selwyn Segal, the name of the home's co-

ordinator is given as Mike Braun, whereas he is in fact Mike Baum. We regret the error.

want prices like these?

we want all your antiques, art, furniture & household goods

Entries
wanted
for next
auction



Sydney Kumalo,
Bronze
SOLD R190 000



Robert Hodgins,
Oil on canvas
SOLD R75 000



Edoardo Villa,
Painted steel
SOLD R80 000



18ct Gold & nephrite
bead necklace, 85.9g
SOLD R26 000



Blue & white
Chinese
ginger jar
SOLD
R8 500

William Kentridge,
Hand coloured etching
SOLD R390 000



Art Deco
two tone cabinet with
cupboard & drawers
SOLD R7 500

Bechstein boudoir
grand piano with stool
SOLD R26 000



Wanted: Alexis Preller, Cecil Skotnes, Nita Spilhaus, Eduardo Villa, Errol Boyley, Parravano, Otto Klar, Vladimir Tretchikoff, Irma Stern, Maggie Laubser, JH Pierneef, Gerard Sekoto, WH Coetzer, Cecil Skotnes, Preller, Gregoire, Rose Innes, de Jongh, Battiss, Norman Catherine, Adriaan Boshoff, Claerhout, Royal Doulton, Royal Albert, Silver, Murano glass, Lalique, Furniture, Clocks, Figurines, Bronzes, Susie Cooper, Display cabinets, Moorcroft, Clarice Cliff, Canteens cutlery, Wedgewood, Pianos, Jewellery, Watches, Carpets, Cut glass, Lenci, Goldscheider, Royal Winton.

russellkaplan
auctioneers



www.rkauctioneers.co.za • 083 675 8468 • rka@global.co.za

Corner Garden and Allan Roads, Bordeaux

YOUTH TALK

Sharon Akum sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

SA Jewish day schools unite for Friendship



Boy volunteers doing a training exercise.



Volunteer Leadership Board. Tali Levy; Mushkie Raitport; Clara Elyovics; Sassie Weinberg; Tashi Shimoni; and Gabriela Mendelsohn.



Boys Programme. Speaker Rivkie Hadar.

IN UNPRECEDENTED unity, over 200 volunteers representing many of the learners of the Jewish day schools in Johannesburg, gathered at two separate events recently to initiate the third year of programming of Friendship Circle.

The Friendship Circle is a non-profit organisation that offers unique assistance to children with special needs and their families. At its core is the Friends @ Home programme which pairs teenage volunteers with a child with special needs or learning difficulties as well as many other support programmes for them and their families, Friendship Circle said in a media release.

Learners from King David Linksfield, Torah Academy, Maharsha, Yeshiva College and King David Victory Park, have joined forces to contribute

after school hours to benefit children with special needs.

They heard from experts in the field of special needs education, and their very own newly-appointed Volunteer Leadership Board, comprising a panel of last year's Volunteers of the Year.

"We are in awe of the eager dedication and enthusiasm for the Friendship Circle," said directors Rabbi Levi and Leah Lipskar. "It is inspirational to see learners from many of the Jewish day schools in Johannesburg joining together in support for their special friends."

• If you are aware of anyone that would benefit from this initiative, please contact: The Friendship Circle, (011) 640-7561, e-mail friendsinsa@gmail.com or www.friendshipsouthafrica.com



Girls Programme. Director Leah Lipskar, announcing the launch of the Volunteer Leadership Board.

KDVP debaters on top of the world

ELIZABETH LEAVER
(ENGLISH TEACHER).

KING DAVID HIGH School Victory Park has long been regarded as an important nursery that has consistently produced a string of high quality debaters. Our fine achievements in the SACEE Debating League and at the annual South African National Debating Championships have positioned us at the very centre of high school debating in Gauteng and indeed in South Africa. However, the outstanding performances of our senior debaters Saul Musker (grade 12), Rowan Lange (grade 11), and Joshua Broomberg (grade 10) at two recent major international debating tournaments, have raised the bar and shown that our debaters can shine with equal lustre on the international debating stage.

In November 2011, Saul, Rowan and Joshua were included in the four member team representing South Africa at the prestigious Prometheus Cup hosted by the Raffles Debating Society in Singapore. Sixteen countries took part, attracting teams and speakers from around the world such as the US, UK, China, Thailand, Sweden, Australia, the Philippines and Hong Kong.

The calibre was extremely high. The challenging motions included: "This House believes

that the concept of nationalism has outlived its purpose"; "This House celebrates the decline of US global influence"; "This House believes that the Chinese Yuan should have wider global use"; and "This House would expand nuclear energy".

The South Africans successfully navigated their way through eight preliminary rounds, the quarter- and semi finals, and then convincingly trounced the Philippines in the final, with the motion "This House celebrates the growing role of social media in our lives". All four South Africans ranked in the top 10 best speakers of the tournament, with Saul ranking first, Joshua third, and Rowan eighth.

Then came the World's Debating Championships, another annual debating tournament, this year held in Cape Town in January. These Championships attracted teams and 300 speakers from 48 countries. Saul Musker was one of the five members of the SA team which won all eight of its preliminary rounds before going down by a whisker to Ireland in the octo (quarter-) finals.

All five SA team members ranked in the top 30 best speakers of the tournament, while the team collectively placed second in speaker points. Debating is alive and well and living at KDVP!

Bandanas in support of Cansa Day

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH:
SUZANNE BELLING

CHILDREN from Torah Academy Primary wore bandanas to school for Cansa Day (Cancer Association of South Africa), in support of cancer patients. They collected funds for Cansa and recited extra tehillim at the morning line-up, when even the dean, Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, sported a bandana in solidarity.

The senior primary learners were addressed by cancer survivor Lin Gamsu.

Pictured are: Back: Yardenah Levin; Chani Zlotnick; Shira Bloch; and Rachel Berkowitz. Front: Ariella Scop; Sara Ress; and Ella Levine.



When 'P' stands for Picasso...

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THE GRADE Rs at Yeshiva College, have been enthusiastically learning about the letters of the alphabet.

While learning the letter "P", the children were introduced to the artist Picasso, we are so proud of our budding "Picasso artists"!



Hannah Bondi; Raphael Cohen; Daniel Nathan; and Grace Jacobson.

COMMUNITY COLUMNS


**ABOVE
BOARD**
Mary Kluk,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Israel 'Apartheid' Week

AS HAS now become an annual event the world over, particularly on university campuses, anti-Israel campaigners have been running a variety of events around the country aimed at depicting Israel as a racist, apartheid state.

In response, Jewish organisations, including the Board, SA Zionist Federation, Fairplay SA and SAUJS, in close co-operation with the Israeli Embassy, are working together in running various counter - initiatives, including bringing out Israeli youth who can testify to Israel's ethnic diversity and multiculturalism.

While I will provide a fuller report-back on how the events of this week evolved in my next column, I can certainly say at this stage that we have had encouraging success in our efforts, both in the media and on campus.

As our Port Elizabeth chairman Chuck Volpe showed in his well-publicised debate with Ronnie Kasrils this week, the best way to counter emotive blustering and sloganising, is through rational argument and dispassionate presentation of the facts.

It is in this way that we can best reach those who occupy the uncommitted middle ground and are open to reasonable persuasion.

Honouring unsung heroes

Last week, the Board attended ceremonies held by the Johannesburg and Durban branches of the Chevrah Kadisha to honour those volunteers who involve themselves in the ritual preparation of the dead for burial.

The ceremony, as is traditional, took place on 7 Adar, the date that marks both the birth and the death of Moshe Rabbeinu. Judaism teaches that the mitzvah relating to burials represent the highest form of kindness, because the recipients cannot return it.

Those who involve themselves in them, and who do so with such dedication and sensitivity, can truly be ranked among the unsung heroes of our community.

On behalf of the Board, I thank and commend them for everything they do.

University exams and Yomtov

We have begun the process of discussion with Unisa on how to facilitate the needs of Jewish students whose exams are set on one or other of the chaggim. Through such prior discussion and forward planning, it has always been possible in the past to find a way to resolve such difficulties.

That being said, it is vital that any problems be brought as timeously as possible to our attention, so that we can in turn advise the university. Once we have reasonable notice of clashes, we are in position to make appropriate arrangements, but not, as sometimes happened, when they are brought to our attention at the eleventh hour.

I therefore strongly urge students to keep in close touch with what is happening and advise us without delay whenever our intervention is required. All communications in this connection should be e-mailed to sajbd@beyachad.co.za.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

Grease pulls in the crowds at Marais Road Shul

KERRY MILLER
PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

AN UNUSUAL revival of Grease, the popular '50s-era film, attracted a capacity crowd of more than 1 000 to Marais Road Shul on February 17.

"It's part of our ongoing 'Shabbat Unplugged' services," explained Rabbi Dovid Wineberg. Congregants were treated to the 'Marais St Diner' prior to the service, and an assortment of adapted Grease tunes throughout the upbeat prayers, which were led by Cantor Ivor Joffe and his choir.



Kerry Miller; Talie Bruce; Anna Miller; Emma Saven; Ruby Blackowitz; Ella Miller; Mina Wineberg; Rebbetzen Sara Wineberg; and Renne Gore.

What do YOU want to read in the SA Jewish Report

"I want to SEE
bigger pictures"

"I want to read
about successful
Jewish-owned
businesses"

"I want to
read more about
youth"

Have your say!

The SA Jewish Report is conducting a survey to establish an understanding of its readers' preferences and to help it chart its way forward.

We invite you to tell us what you want to read.

Please use the following link to complete our online survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JRep>

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 (March 9)

• **UZLC** has as its guest speaker Jack Bloom, from the DA, who will speak on "What's a Good Jewish Boy Doing in Politics?" Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Venue: Our Parents Home. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (March 11)

• **Second Innings** hosts Karl Jensen, retired SA Airways captain who will speak on "The Lighter Side of the Technical Aspects of Airlines". Venue: Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30.

• **RCHCC** presents "Souffire and Fireflies" with two award-winning artists, Samantha Peo and Clifford Cooper. Time: 19:30. Donation: R130 (incl refreshments). Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378 or e-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za

• **Big Band Music Appreciation Society** meets at St John's College in the Jeffrey Auditorium in Lower Houghton, at 14:15 A selection of audio and video material, featuring the Big Bands of yesteryear, has been lined up. Special tribute to Glenn Miller as well as the movie "Orchestra Wives". For further information contact Dave at (011) 885-3525 or Barney at (011) 440-1996.

• **UJW** is holding its "Shalom Bayit Dynamic Workshop" on dating and relating for single women, ages 18 to 35 from 11:00 - 15:00, at Beyachad. Donation of R150 includes lunch. Booking essential. Call Barbara (011) 645-2591.

Monday (March 12)

• **UJW** hosts satirist and social commentator Daniel Friedman who will peruse "The Current South African Scene". Time: 09:30. Donation: R25. Venue: 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086-273-3044.

• **UJW CT** hosts a "General Knowledge Quiz" at Stonehaven. Cost: R30 pp (incl refreshments). Enquiries: Enquiries: H Sternberg: 082-439-8006.

Tuesday (March 13)

• **Second Innings Men's Group** hosts Paul Rodgers, previously principal bassoonist for the National Symphony Orchestra, who will talk on "The Old National Symphony Orchestra". Time: 14:15 for 14:30. Venue: Our Parents Home, Orchards. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members.

Wednesday (March 14)

• Lodge Jerusalem of the **HOD International** is holding a bingo evening at the HOD Centre, Orchards. Time: 19:30 for 20:00. Cost: Tickets at R100 for five games. All prizes in cash. Information: Colin 072-114-6969, Louis 083-457-7827, Joe (011)485-5140 [w] or Allen 082-334-0998.

• **UJW CT adult education division** hosts Dr Maurice Kibel who will talk on "Dietary Habits Around the World" Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only)

• **JNF Choir** needs members - basses to sopranos. They meet every Wednesday evening at 18:45 for 19:00 at Lifestyle Centre, Sandringham Gardens. Contact Tzippi, (011) 640-4287 or 082-320-1555.

• **UJW** hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson former lecturer Dept English at Wits, who will be delivering part 5, the last of five lectures on Exploring George Elliot's "Middlemarch - a Study of Provincial Life". Time: 09:30

Thursday (March 15)

• **UJW Hebrew-speaking group** is hosting its second lecture. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Prof John Lubbe will talk on "The Dead Sea Scrolls". Time: 10:30 for 11:00. Donation: R10. Enquiries: Shulamit (011) 882-9221 or UJW Office: (011) 648-1053.

Friday (March 16)

• **UZLC** hosts Cyril Wides who will speak on "A 1960s Immorality Act Court Case With a Jewish Twist". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact Gloria at 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Monday (March 19)

• **UJW** hosts Hedy Davis, historian and chief editor of "Memories of Muizenberg" on "Muizenberg - The Story of a Shtetl at The Tip of The African Continent". Time: 09:30. Donation: R25. Venue: 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086-273-3044.

Sunday (March 25)

• **Second Innings** hosts The Russel Singers (Choir) in "Across the Footlights". Venue: Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30.

Wednesday (March 28)

• **UJW CT adult education division** hosts author Mike Nicol, who will talk on "Nelson Mandela and the Three Warders". Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434 9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (March 29)

• **UJW CT's Constantia Group** is having "Breakfast Under the Trees" with Jonathan Nkala and Faith in Love. Cost: R120. Enquiries: J Poswell: 083-446-2535.

Friday (April 20)

• **Chevrah Kadisha Social Services** is facilitating a support group for women who are or have been in abusive relationships. It starts today.

The group, which will be facilitated by a social worker, offers a safe and confidential space where women can become empowered with information and support. For bookings or more information, call Jacqui: (011) 532-9732.

• **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 Beyachad, 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 Kredo 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.

• **Intimate Antiques Fair** held on last Sunday of every month at Cedar Square corner Witkoppen/Cedar Avenue in Fourways, from 09:00 - 16:00. Contact Robyn 083-311-4768.

• **The Selwyn Segal Shop** has a huge selection of gifts ranging in price from R30 upwards. Visit them from Monday to Friday, 08:30 to 14:00. Phone (011) 640-6413 or (011) 640-5171. All proceeds to The Selwyn Segal Foundation for the Mentally Handicapped.

• **Israeli folkdance** - health and fun, every Wednesdays at 20:00 at King David Sandton. Beginners at 18:30. Contact Anat 083-326-7095, Miri 082-773-8248 or Ora 083-288-7202.

• Join **WIZO** every Thursday for a "Lunch & Learn" shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz, 13:00 - 14:00 at Beyachad. For more information, contact Joyce on (011) 640-2416.

• **Stellenbosch Hebrew Congregation** has a Friday evening service every week in shul, starting at 18:45. Contact (021) 886-5257.

• The **Yiddish Academy** offers weekly basic, intermediate and advanced classes on Monday evenings at 19:30, Tuesday mornings at 10:30 and Thursday evenings at 19:30 at the RCHCC, Glenhove Road, Houghton. Conversational groups. Details: call Hazel Cohen on (011) 728-8088 or e-mail yiddishacademy@gmail.com or .

• Supervised bridge with **Jeff Sapire** Tuesday mornings 10:00 - 12:00 (intermediary) and Wednesday mornings 10:00 - 12:00 (advanced), at the Clive M Beck Auditorium. Booking: Hazel or René, (011) 728-8088/8378. E-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za

At 65 years of marriage, still going strong

MARLENE WAKS

KLERKSDORP stalwarts Ray and Jack Franks, recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

Ray (85) came from Johannesburg to Klerksdorp and Jack (88) who was born in Johannesburg arrived in Klerksdorp at a young age.

During the Second World War, Jack went up North and was seconded to the RAF where he became a fighter pilot.

On his return the two got married in the Wolmarans Street Shul in Johannesburg.

Jack worked in his father's general dealer business. They have lived in Klerksdorp for all their married life.

Ray is still working as a bookkeeper for a firm of attorneys and says that this is her therapy, because when she gets to work she forgets all her aches and pains.

They have two daughters, two granddaughters and three great-grandchildren.

AROUND THE WORLD
NEWS IN BRIEFMCCONNELL: AUTHORISE FORCE IF IRAN LAUNCHES
NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMME

WASHINGTON - Sen Mitch McConnell (Republican Kentucky), the Senate minority leader, proposed threatening "overwhelming force" against Iran should it enrich uranium to weapons-grade level or launch a weapons programme.

"If Iran at any time begins to enrich uranium to weapons grade levels, or decides to go forward with a weapons programme, then the United States will use overwhelming force to end that programme," McConnell told the annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee annual policy conference on Monday night, to a standing ovation.

McConnell said the policy of making clear that "all options are on the table", used both by President Barack Obama and President George W Bush, had not been explicit enough.

He said that should the intelligence community report to Congress that either trigger had kicked in, he would consult with the president and the congressional leadership to authorise "overwhelming military force".

McConnell's proposal is not attached to any legislation. (JTA)

PA DISAPPOINTED WITH OBAMA'S AIPAC SPEECH,
SAYS EREKAT

JERUSALEM - Palestinian Authority chief negotiator Saeb Erekat, has said the Palestinians are disappointed with President Barack Obama's speech to the AIPAC conference.

"This speech is part of Obama's election campaign," Erekat told the Palestinian Ma'an news agency, speaking of the US leader's address on Sunday to the pro-Israel lobby.

Erekat expressed disappointment that the speech did not call on Israel to accept a two-state solution and stop building in Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

He said the speech showed "unprecedented support" for Israel and he called on Arab countries to do the same for Arab interests in the region, Ma'an reported.

During the speech, which focused on the response to the Iranian nuclear weapons threat by Israel, the United States and the international community, Obama called on the Palestinians to recognise Israel as a Jewish state and to stop its quest to be recognised at the United Nations in place of peace negotiations. (JTA)

PERES, NETANYAHU BRING UP POLLARD RELEASE
WITH OBAMA

WASHINGTON - Israeli President Shimon Peres has asked President BarackObama to release convicted spy-for-Israel, Jonathan Pollard.

Peres told Pollard's wife, Esther, on Monday that he had discussed the possibility of releasing Pollard, who has been jailed for 27 years since being convicted of espionage in 1987 and sentenced to life in prison, during his meeting with Obama last Sunday at the AIPAC policy conference in Washington.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also was set to raise the issue of releasing Pollard with the US president during the meeting, the Prime Minister's Office told Ynet.

American Jewish groups have long sought Pollard's release, arguing that he has received a sentence far harsher than others convicted of similar espionage crimes. Pollard also has expressed remorse and is said to be suffering from medical ailments.

In recent years, a renewed push on his behalf has gained support from a number of members of Congress from both parties as well as former US government officials. (JTA)

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE by Jeff Sapire

THAT BRIDGE is by far the most skilful of card games is not in doubt, but there are occasions when luck does play a part. A misplayed hand, a poor lead, a badly judged bid, sometimes can lead to success.

South dealer, both vul

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A		♠ 86	
♥ AK10865		♥ J	
♦ KQ4		♦ 10982	
♣ 987		♣ AQJ642	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ Q2		♠ KJ1097543	
♥ Q973		♥ 42	
♦ AJ7653		♦ -	
♣ 10		♣ KJ3	

Here's the bidding:-
South North
4S 4NT
6C* 6S Opening lead: ?

Like the character Unlucky Louie, on today's hand I was the victim of a complete misunderstanding by the opponents, the most outrageous I have ever experienced in over 40 years!

NS were playing Keycard Blackwood, with void showing responses. A response of 5NT shows an even number of keycards and a void somewhere, while a jump to the 6 level shows an odd number of key cards and a void in the bid suit. Here, South's 6C bid showed one key card plus a club void!

As there was no point in leading my singleton club, I laid down the ace of diamonds, hoping perhaps to give partner a ruff. Imagine my shock when declarer ruffed the opening lead, played a spade to the ace, and was soon claiming his contract for a score of 1 430.

A club lead, of course, would have sunk the contract without trace; East wins the ace and returns a club, which I would have ruffed, for a fast one down, and 100 to us instead.

What had happened was that South simply made a mistake: he meant to pull out the 6D card from the bidding

box, but accidentally took out 6C, without realising it until it was too late to be corrected.

I should mention that I was playing against an experienced pair, so it just goes to show what can go on at the bridge table. Luckily it was a social game - playing for money this would have really hurt, and in tournament it would have been a real shocker.

Is there anything to be learned from this hand? I guess the most important factor is to somehow not lose one's cool when an absolute travesty of (bridge) justice has occurred and one has suffered a most unfair and terrible result. Bridge is a game of mistakes, and in the long run one has to be philosophical, taking the good with the bad.

Every Tuesday (Intermediate) and Wednesday (Advanced) I run bridge workshops from 10:00 - 12:00 at the Great Park Shul, corner Glenhove Road and 4th Avenue, Houghton - alternating with play hands one week and a bidding lecture on the other. For more information, call me on 082-551-2526 or e-mail me at jeffshir@telkomsa.net.

Jewish Report Classifieds

To book your classified notice or advert contact: Tel (011) 023-8160, Fax 086-634-7935, email: jrclassified@global.co.za

IMPORTANT NOTICE - The Jewish Report runs adverts in the Classified section in good faith, however we cannot be responsible for the quality of services offered and claims made

HOW TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED ADVERT: 1. Only adverts sent via email to jrclassified@global.co.za will be accepted. 2. You will be advised on cost & payment details. 3. Payment is prior to the advert appearing. 4. Our banking details: SA Jewish Report, Nedbank Randburg, Account Number: 1984 514 865, Branch Code: 198405

DEADLINE for BOOKING and PAYMENT is Tuesday 12 pm. (If deadline is missed the advert will appear (when payment is received) in the next edition)

NOTICES

PERSONAL

SOULMATES COUNTRYWIDE ENGAGED - Joe & Ann, Lin & Rod, Di & Ben, Amy & Ron. MAZELTOV!
BIRTHDAY SPECIAL: 1ST 10 CALLS FREE
 Free membership (Ages 18 - 75yrs)
 082-357-3616

SERVICES

HEALTH & BEAUTY

For your ONE-STOP beauty treatments.
 Call Ruth now.
 (011) 616-4305
 House calls done

AUDIOLOGIST

KELLY NATHAN
 Manor Medical Centre
 189 Kelvin Drive
 Morningside Manor
 Tel: 0861-266-563
 (0861-Book Me)
 www.knaudiology.co.za

INDIVIDUALISED SERVICE FOR ALL YOUR HEARING NEEDS

LIFTS

BEST SERVICE
 Modern spacious vehicle, pax 7 + luggage
PIP FRIEDMAN
 083-267-3281
 dialalift@gmail.com

Experienced, reliable driver able to lift you anywhere/ anytime 24 hours. Courier work undertaken.
Please call Paul
 083-542-6480

OR TAMBO

Best efficient service. Also shopping & collections
Bennie 082-992-1443

EX-ISRAELI SERVICEMAN

Offers lifts to airport and appointments etc. Don't drink & drive ALL HOURS!
Neil 072-050-9927

IVAN WANTS TO LIFT YOU!

Punctual, reliable, trustworthy.
 Jhb/Sandton/ OR Tambo/ Lanseria/Pretoria outings for retirees
Cell: 082-962-5007

LIFTS

A-TAXI SERVICE
 Let Warren Pogorelsky chauffeur you to your destination in Jo'burg and back only R100 round trip.
Tel: 082-399-6187

COMING TO CAPE TOWN? I AM AT YOUR BECK 'n CALL

Executive airport transfers and shuttles. In A/C vehicle (24 hrs)
 Reliable - Reasonable - Dependable
Call Henry: 072-252-6989
E-mail: henro@worldonline.co.za

SMILE-LEE'S LIFTS

A reliable lift service. Specialising in lifts to and from airports, shops, appointments, casinos and courier.
Call Charne 083-391-6612

Airport Shuttle G'hazel to Tambo R140

Reasonable rates from all other areas
SAM
 (011) 728-5219
 083-627-8516

CAPE TOWN SHUTTLE

COMING TO CAPE TOWN? AFFORDABLE RATES. AIRPORT TRANSFERS FROM R200 NEW COMFORTABLE VEHICLE
PHONE ANDY 082-336-9780

PRINT

UNIPRINT
 TRENDY INVITATIONS
 Also ELECTRONIC INVITATIONS
HEBREW SETTING BENCHERS
ROCHI / JENNY
011 440-3188
 uniprint@dashonline.co.za

TUITION & EDUCATION

SPEECH THERAPIST/ AUDIOLOGIST

Specialising in child language, articulation, phonology, ADD... Offering FREE hearing check-up and FREE initial consultation.
 Please call **Natalie Plaks 071-319-1956.**

PHYSICS TUTOR NEEDED FOR 1ST-YEAR BSC STUDENT IN GLENHAZEL.
CONTACT DAVID 083-748-5873

KODESH AND GENERAL TUTORING AVAILABLE
 Grades 1-12. Experience with learning difficulties. Successful results with integration into mainstream.
Contact Rabbi Zalman 071-908-5729 zcentner@gmail.com

HOME SERVICES GENERAL

APPLIANCE REPAIRS ON-SITE
 Stoves, washing-machines, tumblers, dishwashers & fridges. Free quotations!
Call Jason 082-401-8239

GENERAL

BOB BEECH
 Painters & Renovators
 Waterproofing
 Building Repairs
072-766-8166
011-486-2236

Silver repair & replating
(011) 334-1102 or 082-473-6040

HANDYMAN NO JOB TOO ODD!

Reasonable rates and reliable.
 Beegone Bee-Removal!
Carl Meyer: 082-337-7237.

ALL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE
 * Water proofing
 * Renovations
 * Plumbing
 * Paving
 * Painting
 * Electric fencing
071 332 5551

PLUMBERS

MLALAZI PLUMBING MAINTENANCE CC
 Prompt & professional service
Call Themba 082-671-1317 (011) 079-7898

PROPERTY TO LET ACCOMMODATION TO LET/SHARE

Royal Linksfield/ Sandringham
 Duplex townhouse on golf course, 3 x beds, 2 full baths, study or 4th bed.
 2 x gardens, + pool. Maids available, double garage.
 R2 350 000 or to let at R18 000 plus deposit of R27 000.
Phone June 083-226-3741

GENESIS - FAIRMONT
 1-bed flat immediately available
 R5 500 + L & W
082-467-2350 (011) 453-9470

1-bedroom garden flat to rent. Immediate occupation.
Contact 073-522-2328

ACCOMMODATION TO LET/SHARE

FLAT HIGHLANDS NORTH
R2 750 rent plus water & lights.
Contact Mr Silverman (011) 788-3686 (after 19:00)

VACANCIES

EMPLOYMENT AVAILABLE

A premier shul in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg seeks to employ an experienced Baal Korah (ability to daven an advanced) commencing immediately
Applicants are invited to submit a CV on a strictly confidential basis to trust@law.co.za
 Only short-listed candidates will be contacted

TEMP / PART-TIME

MATURE MALE / FEMALE. MUST BE COMPUTER-LITERATE AND HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF ACCOUNTS / ACCOUNTING
FAX CV TO 086-648-4568

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT
 Looking for a kind person to do a mitzvah and help a 22yr black lady with a job. She is matriculated. Highly recommended. Honest and always smiling.
Brian 072-280-9144

Energetic male senior citizen seeks vacancy. Expertise general, also catering and food.

Own transport. Bernie 076-397-1990

VEHICLES

WANTED

ADORED CAR
 Volvo XC 90 (4X4) 2005 champagne, 5-seater, one owner, full service record, sunroof, no accident history, extended warranty until June 2012. R159 000.
Dee 083-633-3726

Sound rather than sight can activate 'seeing'



JERUSALEM - Scientists at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have tapped onto the visual cortex of the congenitally blind by using sensory substitution devices (SSDs), enabling the blind in effect to "see" and even describe objects.

SSDs are non-invasive sensory aids that provide visual information to the blind via their existing senses. For example, using a visual-to-auditory SSD in a clinical or everyday setting, users wear a miniature video camera connected to a small computer (or smart phone) and stereo headphones. The images are converted into "soundscapes", using a predictable algorithm, allowing the user to listen to and then interpret the visual information coming from the camera.

Remarkably, proficient users who have had a dedicated (but relatively brief) training as part of a research protocol in the laboratory of Dr Amir Amedi, of the Edmond and Lily Safra Centre for Brain Sciences and the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada at the Hebrew University, are able to use SSDs to identify complex everyday objects, locate people and their postures, and read letters and words.

In addition to SSD's clinical opportunities, using functional magnetic resonance imaging opens a unique window for studying the organisation of the visual cortex without visual experience by studying the brain of congenitally blind individuals.

The results of the study in Amedi's lab, recently published in the journal Cerebral Cortex, are surprising. Not only can the sounds, which represent vision, activate the visual cortex of people who have never seen before, but they do so in a way organised according to the large-scale organisation and segregation of the two visual processing streams.

For three decades, it has been known that visual processing is carried out in two parallel pathways. The ventral occipito-temporal "what" pathway, or the "ventral stream", has been linked with visual processing of form, object identity and colour.

Its counterpart is considered to be the dorsal occipito-parietal "where/how" pathway, or the "dorsal stream", which analyses visuo-spatial information about object location and participates in visuo-motor planning.

Although this double dissociation between the processing of the two streams has been thoroughly validated, what remained unclear was the role of visual experience in shaping this functional architecture of the brain.

Using sensory substitution, the Hebrew University scientists, led by PhD student Ella Striem-Amit and Dr Amedi, discovered that the visual cortex of the blind shows a similar dorsal/ventral visual pathway division-of-labour when perceiving sounds that convey the relevant visual information, for instance when the blind are requested to identify either the location or the shape of an SSD "image", they activate an area in the dorsal or in the ventral streams.

This shows that the most important large-scale organisation of the visual system into the two streams can develop at least to some extent even without any visual experience, suggesting instead that this division-of-labour is not at all visual in its nature.

These findings suggest the blind brain can potentially be "awakened" to processing visual properties, even after lifelong blindness, with the aid of visual rehabilitation, using future medical advances, such as retinal prostheses.

CASH PAID IMMEDIATELY
 For Gold, Jewellery, Coins, Diamonds, Gold Watches Old/Damaged Gold
 For an honest deal
Call Piero 083-675-7069

When last were your Mezuzahs checked?
 We will remove and refit your Mezuzahs.
 A professional scribe with 30 years experience (Rabbi Klein) will inspect all Mezuzahs and Tefillin.
 Supplier of new Scrolls and Tefillin.
Phone Ivor on (011) 615-8738/082-682-3438
 NB! Mezuzahs and Tefillin must be checked twice every seven years.

Mezuzot, Tefillin & Sifrei Torah
 Contact **Rabbi Hynton Herring 072 149 3610** for a door-to-door service.
 • CHECKING BY EXPERT SOFER
 • PURCHASING • AFFIXING

Greg strikes gold with Aussie 100-1 'cheapie'

JACK MILNER
PHOTO SUPPLIED

GREG BLANK has put a lot of money into his horses, but ironically sometimes it is the so-called "cheapies" that give you the best returns. That actually happened to Blank and his partners when Golden Chateau won the R1 million Betting World Gauteng Guineas over 1600m at Turffontein last weekend.

What was even more amazing was that he was available with bookmakers at 100-1. He is trained by SA champion and world-renowned trainer Mike de Kock, and it is rare to ever get 100-1 about one of his runners.

The exciting aspect for Blank and the other owners is that they are now in contention to win the SASCOC Triple Crown. There is a R2 million bonus for any horse that can win the Guineas, The SA Classic over 1800m on March 31 and the SA Derby over 2450m at the end of April.

The bad news is that only one horse in South African history has been able to do that, and that was the great Horse Chestnut in 1999 - also trained by De Kock.

Golden Chateau was bred in Australia and SA owners and trainers have been spending a fortune in that coun-



Co-owner Greg Blank with the trophy, after Golden Chateau won the R1 million Gauteng Guineas over 1600m at Turffontein.

try in their search for a champion. South Africa's current "Queen Of The Turf", Igugu, was bred Down Under and arrived in South Africa as a weanling.

However, Golden Chateau, who is by the somewhat unfashionable sire Chateau Istana, a winner of five races, including stakes events at Royal Ascot and Doncaster in England as a juvenile and then in high prize-money races in Hong Kong as a four-year-old.

Chateau Istana was being prepared for a group 1 sprint in Australia but was injured and retired immediately. He stands at Oaklands Stud in Queensland, although Golden Chateau was bred by Paul Thompson, the manager of Baramul Stud in the Hunter Valley in New South Wales.

Thompson offered the colt at the 2009 Magic Millions National Weanling Sale, where Andy Williams secured the youngster for \$7 500 for World Wide Bloodstock.

"It cost us more to bring him back to South Africa than it did to purchase him," quipped Blank after the race.

Ironically, Golden Chateau apparently ended up at De Kock's yard by accident. He was supposed to be heading to KwaZulu-Natal, but the horse carriers accidentally dropped him at De Kock. Fortunately De Kock opted to keep him. Jockey Derreck David got Golden Chateau well placed on the fence in second and shortly after coming for home Potala Palace hit the front. But David had him in his sights and quickly moved in to challenge.

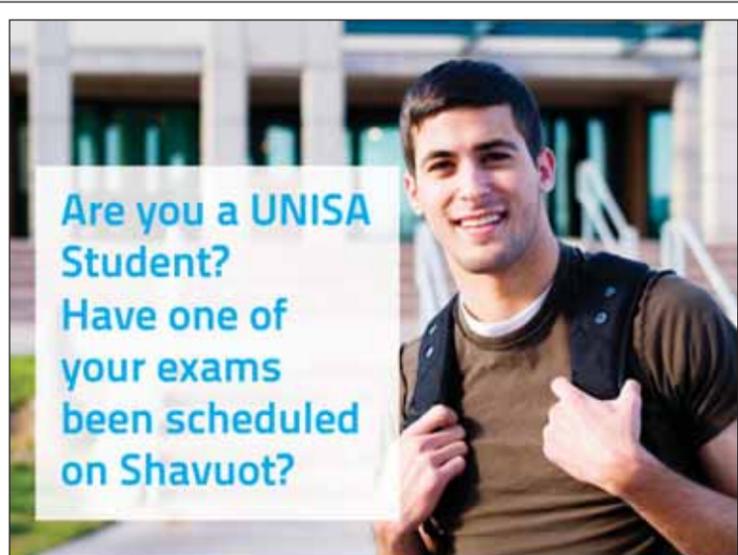
As they came to the final 200m, the race was wide open with a number of competitors in contention. Brooks-Club moved in down the inside, Heavy Metal was challenging and Slumdogmillionaire started to run on strongly down the outside.

However, at the line, Golden Chateau had a 0,50-length advantage over Brooks-Club (40-1) with stablemate Slumdogmillionaire the same distance back in third and Heavy Metal (50-1) a short head behind in fourth. That resulted in a massive Quartet payout of R194 831,80.

"The race went well," said David. "There was just one point when I had to switch him around Potala Palace."

Two years ago David was involved in a race for the Triple Crown when Pierre Jourdan won the Guineas and the SA Classic, but finished second behind Irish Flame in the SA Derby. Having won the first leg, he could have another chance. "I don't want to get my hopes up, but at least we know he stays," said the jockey.

SPORT



If yes, contact sajbod@beyachad.co.za so that we can include you in our representation to UNISA.

The SA Jewish Board of Deputies works closely with the universities to ensure that no Jewish student is disadvantaged by his/her religious commitments.

SAJBD

Maccabi floating trophy found

JACK MILNER

LAST WEEK we ran an appeal from Maccabi Gold SA to find out the whereabouts of their floating trophy for their annual national tournament.

The good news is that the trophy has

turned up - in Cape Town. It was lying in Cape Town for the past 12 months with someone who was supposed to pass it on.

So, at least when the Maccabi national tournament gets under way later this month, there will be a trophy for the winner.

LOOKING FOR...

HELP TRACE BARBERS ON BEHALF OF 107-YEAR-OLD WOMAN

CHANTAL BAKKER, a Dutch journalist for the Dagblad van het Noorden paper, recently interviewed 107-year-old Goosje Spiegelaar-Hoff, who survived the Nazi onslaught on the Jews in the Netherlands.

Bakker writes: "She told me there was one thing she really wanted to know and that is if the family in Amsterdam, where she worked before the Second World War as a maid, survived the war. She told me the family was called Barber."

"A former Second World War museum in Westerbork, Holland, helped me. I found

out that the family survived because they moved to Johannesburg in 1935, before the war. The heads of this family were Jacob Barber and Judith Nikkelsberg.

"One of their children was called Levie Barber (23/5/1903). He married Eva Hoogetoren (11/9/1904) in Amsterdam. Their kids are Gretha Barber (31/7/1928) and Jonas Barber (17/2/1926).

"I would love to bring the grandchildren of Jacob and Judith, if still alive, in contact with Goosje Spiegelaar-Hoff." E-mail: cdbakker@hotmail.com

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

PANETTA: US WILL ACT AGAINST IRAN IF ALL ELSE FAILS

WASHINGTON - The United States would act against Iran if all efforts to end its suspected nuclear weapons programme failed, US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta, said on Tuesday.

"Military action is the last alternative when all else fails," he said on the last day of the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. "But make no mistake, if all else fails, we will act."

Panetta's pledge was the most explicit by an Obama administration official warning of military action.

Panetta spoke after he and President Barack Obama met with Israeli Prime

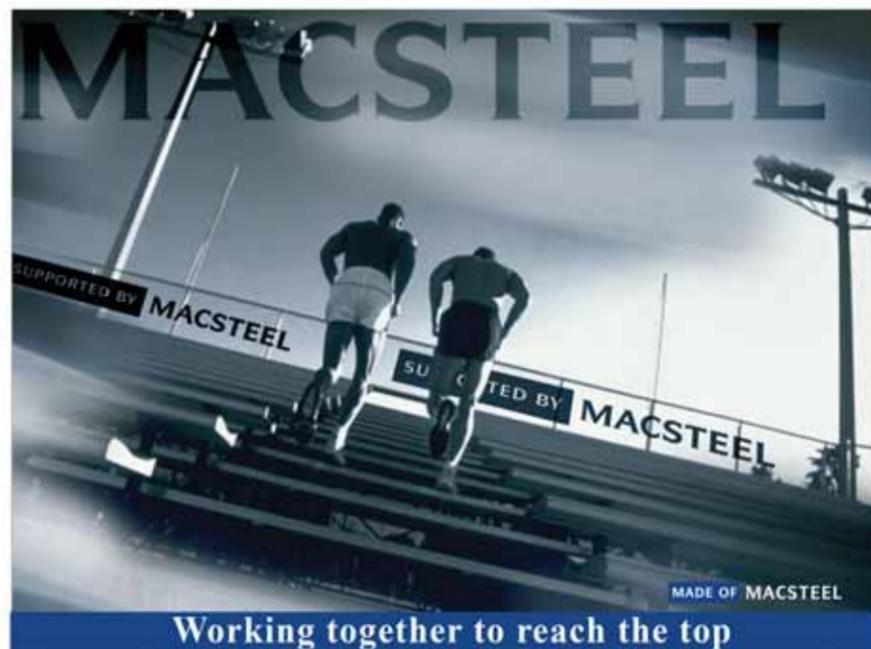
Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a bid to coordinate strategy on Iran.

The talks ended with disagreements still in place over how soon Iran's reported advances would merit a strike.

Panetta pleaded for close cooperation with Israel. "The United States must always have the unshakeable trust of our ally Israel," he said. "We are stronger when we act as one."

He underscored the US's commitment to keeping Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

"No greater threat exists to the security of Israel, to the entire region, and indeed to the United States than a nuclear-armed Iran," he said. (JTA)



Working together to reach the top



SERVICE CENTRES SA

Africa's leading steel supplier

www.macsteel.co.za

THE MACSTEEL GROUP