



Kentridge
exhibits
galore in
Johannesburg
(Page 11)

South African Jewish Report

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Recalling Jewish presence in Mauritius

Rebbetzen Ann Harris cuts the ribbon at the official opening of The Beau Basin Jewish Detainees Memorial and Information Centre in Mauritius on Tuesday. It takes visitors through a series of display panels and some artefacts, tells the story of Jewish detainees on Mauritius during the Holocaust and details the hardships of their internment. It also records their resilience; how they succeeded in creating a sense of community, and how they struggled tirelessly to regain their freedom. Many dignitaries, media and well-wishers were present. Also in the picture is Owen Griffiths, president of the Island Hebrew Congregation; Israeli Deputy Ambassador Michael Freeman; and Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader and CEO of the African Jewish Congress.

Everyone's mentioning pigs

The students missed the point: BDS-SA is the SA arm of the Muslim-led NGO which was equally disgusted by the pig issue.

3, 6, 7, 14

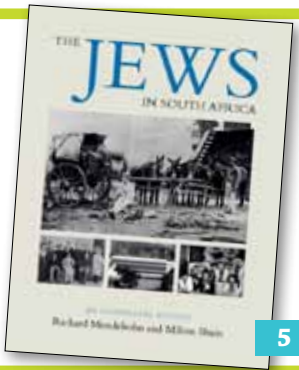
Ronnie Mink - a true scholar and mensch

Ronnie led learners on The March of the Living to the extermination camps of Europe. He will be remembered as an educator par excellence.

4

'The Jews in South Africa' spans SA Jewish life

"The book is not a narrow institutional history. It attempts to encompass a broad swath of Jewish life, from bimah to boardroom to the bowling green."



5

Cape Town remembers Greek-Jewish resistance

Underground activities of Greek-Jewish resistance paved the way for hiding thousands of Jews from Athens in the homes of sympathetic Christians.

2

Haredim spur growth in US Jewish schools

Primary growth drivers are Hasidic learners whose enrolment increased by 110 per cent.

6

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Jewish, Hellenic communities in CT remember Holocaust

TALI FEINBERG

The Holocaust must remain alive in our memories so that it may never be repeated, was the message from the Consul of Greece, Thomas Matsoukas, at an event hosted by the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies, Hellenic community of Cape Town and the Greek Consulate of Cape Town last week Thursday.

“We must never forget this dark page of world history,” he stressed.

“We mourn with you the extinction of Jewish communities who were deeply rooted in Greece. We lost some of our most progressive citizens. We will also not forget how our Jewish compatriots defended our country,” continued the consul.

Over 500 people attended the event, which continued with an address by the Ambassador of Greece, Maria Diamantopoulou, who explained her “very personal connection to this history”.

She told a story of how a Greek consul had hidden a Jewish family in a Romanian town during the Holocaust and that this very consul had been her grandfather. “I’m very proud to be at this commemorative event,” she said.

Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa Arthur Lenk, emphasised how much he valued the friendship between the two communities, adding: “We are both ancient peoples with long memories.” He pointed out that the association had always been positive. He emphasised how the two Diaspora communities could connect in that “while we are



here, our hearts are in the Mediterranean, in Greece and Israel”.

Cape Board Chairman Eric Marx said: “We are so pleased to be with our Greek friends, to build on the already strong bond and warmth that exists between us.” He praised the Greek community’s contribution to South Africa, particularly that of George Bizos, who worked together with Jewish activists and lawyers to fight apartheid crimes.

Introducing the film In the Shadow of the Acropolis, Cape Town Holocaust Centre Director Richard Freedman emphasised how “learning the lessons of history depends on

telling personal stories”. The documentary told the story of one family’s survival during the Holocaust in Greece, directed by a descendent of those who had survived.

Following the film, in a very moving moment, Mano Christelis was called to the podium to be honoured by the two communities. He is the great-grandson of Harklia Sayanou, who hid the family featured in the film during the Nazi occupation of Greece, and is named as Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem.

In her keynote address, Director of the Jewish Museum of Greece (JMG) Zane Battinou, delved into the history, explaining how during the Nazi occupation of Greece, “the heaviest toll was paid by the Greek Jews... About 62 000 of a total 80 000 perished.”

Pictured are (front row): Zane Battinou (director: Jewish Museum of Greece); Ambassador of Greece Maria Diamantopoulou; Kathy Christelis: Richard Freedman (director: CTHC, SAHGF). (Back): Nassos Martalas (president: Hellenic Community of Cape Town); Mano Christelis (great-grandson of rescuer Hariklia Sayanou); Consul of Greece Thomas Matsoukas; Ambassador of Israel to South Africa Arthur Lenk; Archbishop Sergio Kykkotis (Greek Orthodox Church Cape Metropole); and Terry Christelis (Mano’s son).

At the same time, she chose to focus on the many stories of rescue: “The vast majority of rescuers were ordinary people from all walks of life,” she said. Up to now, 320 Greek citizens have been awarded the title of Righteous Among The Nations.

She also spoke about the resistance movement in Greece, “which considered assisting the persecuted Jews as a serious task... These underground activities of Greek-Jewish resistance paved the way for the dispersal and hiding of thousands of Jews from Athens in the homes of sympathetic Christians.”

The event concluded with performances by the Jewish and Hellenic community choirs, who in the spirit of friendship sang songs in each other’s languages (Greek and Yiddish), summing up the spirit of a very special evening.

Time to up the ante, says SAZF’s Ben Swartz

DAVID SAKS

Given the deep-seated Zionist affiliations of South African Jewry, the national conferences of the SA Zionist Federation have always been among the foremost events on the Jewish communal calendar. Whatever form these have taken in the past, however, the SAZF now plans to take them to an altogether higher level, with the aim of involving the greater Jewish community as never before.

On October 28 at Beyachad in Johannesburg, the SAZF held a pre-launch function for its forthcoming conference on March 8 2015, giving communal leaders and others a foretaste of what to expect, as well as an opportunity to consider how they and their particular organisation might participate.

The conference, explained SAZF Vice-

Chairman Ben Swartz (pictured inset), would combine its customary programme of debates and presentations with an ancillary series of exhibitions that would both showcase the variety of Jewish communal activities and provide a traditional, but much-enhanced, Israel Expo with an aliyah-related focus.

A third component would be on South African and Israeli businesses. This was in addition to entertainment and fun activities throughout the day, including wine tasting and a band from Israel.

The exhibitions would be on show throughout the day of the conference until 22:00 that night. Experts in the field of curating and mounting exhibitions to a corporate standard, have been engaged to assist each organisation in planning their displays.

For the communal stands, the idea

was to get 50 Jewish organisations from across the spectrum each to mount a display detailing what they did, thereby giving the Jewish public at large an idea of what was out there and where they themselves could get involved.

This, Swartz stressed, was a central aim of the event. For South African Jewry to meet the challenges confronting it, it was essential to promote greater involvement in Jewish communal activities, whether in the Zionist, religious, welfare, educational or other fields.

“Our message will be: ‘Come and meet the Jewish community and be part of what is going on’, and for South African Jews to be proud of what they stood for and proud supporters of Israel,” he said.



SAZF Director Isla Feldman and Ivana Goldfein, of Tishbi Winery.

Nation of faith



Rev Joseph Matzner
Our Parents Home

The way I define the essence of the Jewish people is simply “A nation of faith”.

“Ba’agala Uvizman Kariv” - “Speedily in our days” - that we say every day in the kadish, shows a sense of urgency of our redemption. We have been saying this for the past 2 000 years. This points to great patience and faith that it will happen sooner or later.

It was Abraham who implanted this faith in us. Abraham had known G-d since childhood. He had noticed that the principle running through all of G-d’s creation was chesed - loving kindness. He wanted to rejoin in this fabric of kindness because this is what G-d wants of His world. This is knowledge of G-d, not faith.

Faith came to Abraham when He appeared to him at the ripe old age of 75. That is when G-d promised Abraham a descendant and a land for that descendant. Both of those promises went against the present reality.

Abraham and Sarah were old and the land was conquered by the Canaanites. He had

to wait another 25 years to see the birth of his son Yitzchak. As far as the land was concerned, Abraham was a stranger in the Land of Promise.

The “international” community at the time began looking for flaws in Abraham’s character. They had a field day when they heard that he had evicted Hagar and a son. They promptly came to him and lectured him on human rights.

They even imposed on him a ban of digging wells for work and further building. Abraham accepted the restrictions on him. He planted a tree and proclaimed the name of The Eternal G-d who has all the time in the world at his disposal.

This was the faith of Abraham and this is the faith of the Jewish people.

This faith is the faith that all of G-d’s promises will come true. “Ba’agala Uvizman Kariv.” Amen.

Shabbat Times		
November 7 / 14 Cheshvan		
November 8 / 15 Cheshvan		
Parshat Vayeira		
18:10	19:02	Johannesburg
18:15	19:57	Cape Town
18:04	18:57	Durban
18:15	19:15	Bloemfontein
18:15	19:28	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:16	East London

Pig’s head: DA condemns Cosas’ action

ANT KATZ

DA MP Darren Bergman, delivered a Member Statement in Parliament on Tuesday on the Cosas pig’s head incident and called on “the ANC and its affiliates to act responsibly and to protect the rights of minority groups to exist in this country as equal South African citizens”.

Bergman, who is the DA’s deputy Shadow Minister of Sports and Recreation, said “the placing of a pig’s head in the halaal section (of a Sea Point Woolworths store) is offensive to both the Muslim and Jewish communities”.

A picture of the incident was widely tweeted by an ANC branch in the Western Cape. Cosas has since threatened to continue placing pigs’ heads in Woolworths branches to protest against the group stocking some Israeli products.

The full text of Bergman’s statement reads: “The DA condemns in the strongest possible terms the senseless act of Cosas to plant a pig’s head in a halaal/kosher section of a store in Sea Point in a misguided attempt at protest.

“The DA supports the right of free expression, however this right must be expressed within the bounds of a constitutional democra-

cy that is based on human dignity and equality, and that will not tolerate advocacy of hatred based on ethnicity and religion.

“The nature of the act was contrary to our fundamental principles of dignity, respect and tolerance of religious beliefs and must be condemned unreservedly.

“The placing of a pig’s head in the halaal section is offensive to both to the Muslim and Jewish communities.

“The DA supports the finding of a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis. However, senseless antics do not help to take the serious cause further.”



Darren Bergman.

Jewish community ‘no to hate speech’

ANT KATZ

South African Jewry decided enough is enough last week and held a protest outside the Sea Point Woolworths store where a pig’s head had been placed in a halaal section by Cosas, the previous week.

The protest was held under the auspices of the SAJBD, who had laid charges of hate speech regarding the incident with the SAHRC earlier in the week.

The pig’s head had been smuggled into the store in a baby’s pram. The Board’s national director, Wendy Kahn, told the protesters that this represented a “vicious and vulgar hatred (that) cannot be tolerated by SA”.

At noon last week Thursday, South African Jewry held a protest which they restricted to 50 people as required for the permit to hold the demonstration. The Jewish community stood shoulder to shoulder, wearing T-shirts with the words by Nelson Mandela “South Africa belongs to all who live in it” emblazoned on them.

Waving South African flags, they held placards that read, inter alia: “Free Speech Not Hate Speech”, “Proudly South African, Proudly Jewish”, and “Say no to anti-Semitism”.

Kahn read a strong message to the crowd and the large contingent of the media, saying: “We gather here as fellow South Africans to express outrage against all forms of hate. What happened here exactly a week ago with a pig’s head being smuggled in a baby’s pram and placed in a fridge that was assumed to contain kosher meat, shows a vicious and

There is a subtle undercurrent of xenophobia and religious and cultural intolerance in this country.

vulgar hatred that cannot be tolerated by South Africans in our country.

“Every South African citizen who cherishes our democracy should be horrified by this incident. In the words of Nelson Mandela, ‘South Africa belongs to all who live in it’. Hatred against any minority group does not end there. It needs to be stamped out now.”

Kahn read her message slowly and poignantly and the crowd chanted “No to hate”, while cars passing by in the main street, hooted in approval.

DA MP Darren Bergman and other members of the party were also present at the SAJBD’s protest. Bergman also delivered a Member Statement in Parliament on the incident on Tuesday afternoon. He told Jewish Report that his message at the protest had been clear and consistent with his statement in Parliament and the DA’s policies.

“There is a subtle undercurrent of xenophobia and religious and cultural intolerance in this country that threatens to gain more tide unless we start taking a stand and saying no to hate speech and hate crimes,” said Bergman.

“There should be zero tolerance and 100 per cent balanced educating of our country. Our country has come from a lively past on this and one would have expected us to have learnt from this and used it as an asset rather than one of our biggest failures of this current Government.”

See pictures of the demo on our website www.sajr.co.za

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Ronald Mink, superb teacher and historian, passes on

ISAAC REZNIK

Yerachmiel Monat ben Dov Eliezer Ronald Mink (pictured) , passed away last week in Johannesburg, after a long illness. Mink was born in Vryheid, Natal to Barney and Cecelia Mink (née Reichenberg, one of six daughters of the late Rabbi Moshe and Rebbetzen Sima Lieba Reichenberg). Rabbi Mink was the rabbi of the Jeppestown Hebrew Congregation. After matriculating at Vryheid High School, Ronnie completed a BA degree at the University of the Witwatersrand, before spending a year at the Johannesburg College of Education where he obtained a higher education diploma. He also obtained a postgraduate B Ed degree and did research into the history of education in Swaziland for his thesis.

In 1974 Mink was appointed vice-principal of the Yeshiva College in Johannesburg and after three years

he joined the staff of King David High School Linksfield, where he served with dedication and loyalty for 34 years as head of the Jewish studies department. He was also a vice-principal of the school, until his retirement, He did his profession proud.

In the words of Barbara Rigden, a close friend, he was a superb teacher to the thousands of learners who had the privilege of sharing in his great knowledge. But not only the young benefited from his knowledge. He was an absolute expert of Holocaust history and knowledge.

Ronnie will be remembered not only as an educator par excellence, but also as a kind and compassionate person who was warmly devoted to his family.

He is survived by his wife Marla, daughters Melissa and Daniella, sons-in-law, grandchildren, his brother Dr Jackie Mink and all his colleagues and friends.

May his memory be for a blessing.



Ronnie Mink - scholar and mensch

DON KRAUSZ

Ronnie Mink’s death on October 28, was a tremendous loss for the South African Jewish community. He left an indelible footprint in Jewish education as well as in communal work.

Ronnie was born in 1946 in Vryheid, Natal. He gained a BA in education and a history honours at Wits.

In 1977 he became a history teacher at King David High School, Linksfield (KDHS). In 1980 he studied Jewish history at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, specialising in the Holocaust and during 1984/85 he studied at Melton College in Israel. Upon his return to South Africa he became head of the Jewish history department and eventually became a vice principal at King David.

From 1988, for eight consecutive years, Ronnie led learners on the March of the Living to the extermination camps in Europe.

He returned to lecture on the final paths trodden by those kadoshim, with deep emotion and empathy. For the children who accompanied him and those who heard him speak upon his return, it was an unforgettable experience.

Ronnie’s lectures on that unbelievable period of Jewish experience and suffering became a part of Shoah narrative. He was a lecturer par excellence, with a vast knowledge of his subject, backed by an enormous library.

He established and chaired a branch of Yad Vashem in Johannesburg and organised regular seminars and lectures. He was also responsible for bringing the renowned scholar of the Holocaust, author and lecturer Yehuda Bauer, to Johannesburg.

Although not a Shoah survivor himself, Ronnie developed a profound empathy for the subject and its victims, as well as a passion for teaching it.

On a personal level he was a warm and loving husband and father, strongly supported by his wife, Marla, his children and their families. Their home was a haven of Jewish culture, Yiddishkeit, menschlikeit and humour.

After retiring from KDHS, Ronnie continued to lecture until a few months before his death.

• *Don Krausz is Chairman of the Association of Holocaust Survivors in Johannesburg.*

Trying to improve the world in some small way



Back: Lynne Raphaely (national president UJW SA). Front: Priscilla Banda; the late Veleminah Mthombeni, Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft and Father Cairns of the Joseph Gerard Old Age Home in Alexandra township. Blankets and gift packs were handed out to all the residents of the home.

LYNNE RAPHAELY

Mitzvah Day in South Africa this year falls on Sunday November 16, but to accommodate participants of other faiths, activities will take place on November 14 and 16. Mitzvah Day activities are planned in various cities in 20 countries including the UK, US, Australia, Germany, Turkey, Brazil, Portugal, Spain, Israel, Slovakia and Ukraine.

International Mitzvah Day, a Jewish-led day of social action, was launched in the United Kingdom in 2005 - born out of the belief that we can all make a positive difference to our world by taking action together. On Mitzvah Day, Jews, as well as people of other religions, inspired by the idea of a “good deed day”, try to improve the world in some small way.

People collect and distribute food, sing to and befriend seniors and those who are socially isolated, clean up parks, prepare food and generally try to make a difference. The aim is to give time rather than money.

Mitzvah Day has been endorsed by many public figures in the United Kingdom, including Prime Minister David Cameron, the Chief Rabbi of the UK and the Archbishop of Canterbury, as well as by Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Joachim Gauck, president of Germany.

This will be the fourth year that all branches of UJW SA will be hosting various Mitzvah Day activities. The Johannesburg branch will be handing out gift packs to the elderly at five retirement homes, including Sandringham Gardens, Randjeslaagte Frail Care, and Queen Alexandra Retirement Home, and has arranged for choirs or individual singers to entertain the residents.

In addition, the residents at the Frida Hartley and Bethany House Shelters for abused women will be treated to lunch and entertainment. Lunch and entertainment will also be provided to a home in Alexandra township for disabled children. Some UJW members will be joining the SAJBD’s Interfaith Group on a Mitzvah Day visit to Leeuwkop Prison, where prisoners involved with a horticulture programme will showcase their vegetable gardens.

The Cape Town branch is appealing for help with their “Comfort Kits” for victims of rape and sexual assault. The kits include toiletries, underwear, a snack and drinks. The East London women will be donating food parcels to needy families at Southernwood Primary School, while UJW Durban plans to entertain the residents of Beth Shalom with a comedian/singer and a special tea, and plans are afoot to treat residents at a children’s home to a performance of Aladdin. Pet food is being collected for the SPCA.

Port Elizabeth will be hosting a function for the Algoa Bay Council for the Aged - a tea party and entertainment for 50 senior citizens from two impoverished townships.

The UJW is hoping that in future more organisations and other faith groups will get involved with International Mitzvah Day, as is the case in many other countries, particularly in the UK. Last Sunday in the London suburb of Hendon, a Hendon synagogue and mosque celebrated Mitzvah Day a little earlier than usual so as to coincide with the Islamic Sadaaqa Day (Charity Day). Volunteers from both faiths collected food, toiletries and cash, in aid of the homeless.



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‘Jews in South Africa’ update

TALI FEINBERG

Professors Richard Mendelsohn and Milton Shain this week launched an updated version of their bestseller “The Jews in South Africa: An Illustrated History”, first published by Jonathan Ball in 2008.

The two are professors in the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Cape Town, with Shain having been the director of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies there for the past 20 years. Both are retiring at the end of this year.

“This book will hopefully contribute to the ongoing rewriting and re-imagining of the South African Jewish past” said Prof Mendelsohn at the launch. “The book, drawing on recent scholarship (much of it conducted under the auspices of the Kaplan Centre), spans the entire Jewish experience in South Africa over the past two centuries.”

He emphasised that “the book’s view is self-consciously national; it is neither a view from the summit of Table Mountain nor from the top of a Johannesburg mine dump!

Mendelsohn added that “quite deliberately, the book is not a narrow institutional history. Rather it attempts to encompass a broad swath of Jewish life”.

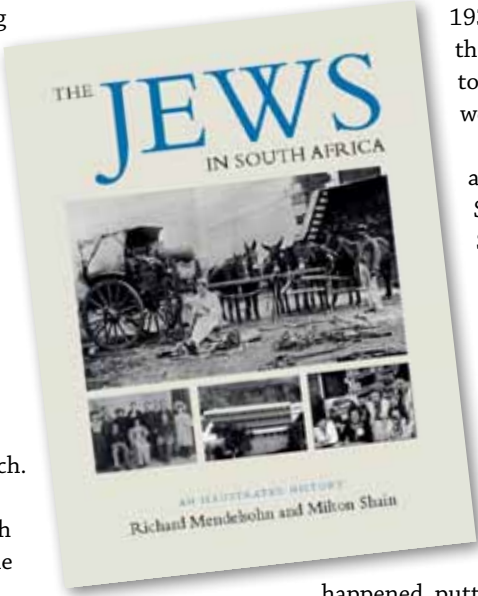
Shain said the biggest issue that had dominated the last few years of South African

Jewry had been the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The new version explored this in-depth, and this had been written “in the shadow of the first Gaza War”.

They looked at how this was “an explosive time in the community, with many prominent Jews and Zionists speaking out against Israel for the first time”. Shain said this era brought the historians “back to the 1930s - not since then has there been such a challenge to the community’s wellbeing”.

During the transition to a democratic South Africa, Shain had surmised that South African Jewry would be fine under black majority rule, “as long as they could express their Jewishness in the way they chose, and that their Zionism was not challenged”. Yet in this updated version of the book, the two explore how this has indeed happened, putting the community under enormous stress.

Describing how most general histories of South Africa have effectively ignored the history of the Jews in South Africa, Mendelsohn said that “hopefully this book, with its attempt at re-writing South African Jewish history for the 21st century, will recover the historical experience of a numerically small but nevertheless highly significant minority, not only for a Jewish audience but for a much broader South African audience”.



OSS Report on Israel so predictable...

ANT KATZ

A South African fact-finding mission to Israel and the occupied territories, facilitated by Open Shuhada Street (OSS) and the Heinrich Boll Foundation, issued a scathing report this week stating: “Occupation must be made economically, politically and morally costly for Israel.”

The 11 delegates visited between October 21 and 29. Last week Jewish Report reported that an executive of the anti-Israel Media Review Network, Iqbal Jassat, published a story “SA fact-finding mission in Israel raises Palestinian hopes” on Politicsweb on October 27.

This week’s report by OSS, “Prominent South Africans express support for international BDS campaign until international law is observed”, was very predictable.

The delegation consisted of Barney Pityana, Vusi Pikoli, Firoz Cachalia; Vuyiseka Dubula, Brad Brockman, Adila Hassim, Mbali Ntuli, Christi van der Westhuizen, Adaiah Lilenstein, Bruce Baigrie and Keren Ben-Zeev.

Their report is at pains to point out that it represents their personal views and not the official positions of any organisations they are attached to. The statement was signed and endorsed by 10 delegates. The

11th, the DA’s Mbali Ntuli, did not sign it.

What follows is a substantially abridged version of the report - the full report is on Jewish Report’s website: www.sajr.co.za

- Israel’s military occupation and expanding settlements is eroding the viability of the two-state solution as proposed in the Oslo Accords.
- The Palestinian Authority (PA) is not in charge of the West Bank, the Israeli government and Defence Force control military and civilian affairs. Palestinians’ movement is restricted through a permit system. “We witnessed Palestinians being herded through checkpoints in a system that is no better than cattle pens.”
- Palestinian civilians rely on Israeli institutions for most services, as the PA has limited powers. Israeli military courts try traffic offences and people resisting the occupation.
- They face random decisions such as “administrative detention”. Interrogation and torture are routinely used. Permits are required to leave the West Bank whereas Israeli settlers enjoy all basic rights.
- Settlers in the occupied territory number over 515 000. They are allocated six times more water than Palestinians for which they pay one third of

the price.

- “Religious zealots physically displaced Palestinians with the support of the military.”
- 517 Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem were demolished between 2004 and 2014.
- Demonstrations are violently suppressed.
- There are currently 6 200 West Bank political prisoners.
- Military courts operate on the presumption of guilt. “They have a conviction rate of 99,7 per cent.”
- 2 500 Palestinian children were arrested between 2010 and 2014. Children are subject to torture.
- Palestinians are willing to live peacefully side by side with Jews, in two states, a bi-national state or one state.

The delegation calls for:

- An end to occupation and removal of all settlements.
- Upholding rule of law and release all political prisoners.
- Support for BDS until international law is observed.
- SA to consistently apply relevant legislation, including the Foreign Military Assistance Act.
- We express solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination.

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self-motivated individual with a professional approach and dynamic leadership skills. The applicant will work closely with the Chief Rabbi, the President of the Board of Management and the Operations Manager to ensure that programmes are effectively communicated and driven within a supportive environment.

The applicant should be a first-language English speaker, have relevant tertiary qualifications and/ or a Yeshiva background, including training in youth leadership, with an emphasis on outreach, education and community work. Applicants must be dati, by modern Orthodox standards, but smicha is neither required nor essential. The position would suit a married couple.

Responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- Proactively developing and driving a full youth program
- Maintaining and implementing the full range of children’s services on

Shabbat and festivals

- Developing and implementing effective Bar and Bat Mitzvah programs and classes
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All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

south african
Jewish Report

What would Rabin and Mandela have said?

Some of the ugly things happening in South Africa today - such as the pigs’ heads placed by Cosas in Woolworths branches, cries of “Shoot the Jew” at an Israeli performer’s concert at Wits University last year and others, provoke people to refer back to our great visionary, Nelson Mandela, pronouncing on what attitude he would have taken. Now that he is gone, it is easy for people to claim him for a variety of agendas.

“He would never have tolerated such a thing as the pigs’ heads and would have denounced Cosas and BDS!” say some. Others say: “Although Mandela visited Israel and was friendly towards the SA Jewish community, Israel’s behaviour in the last few years - the recent Gaza bombing in response to Hamas’ rocket attacks, etc - would have led him to denounce it and recall the South African ambassador!”

And others might say: “Mandela would have supported Palestinian leader (Mahmoud) Abbas at the United Nations in demanding it recognise a Palestinian state!”

While Mandela died a peaceful death surrounded by adulating masses and lovingly cared for by his family and closest friends, others elsewhere who stood for great visions and made great leaps of faith, died violently, but are also claimed for diverse agendas.

In Israel, 19 years ago, on November 4, 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish Israeli who believed that his intention of withdrawing Israel from the West Bank was treasonous - a view shared by other rightwing Israelis who demonstrated against him and created an atmosphere close to civil war.

Over the years, people on all sides of the political divide have tried to exploit Rabin’s legacy for their own political objectives. Some on the left claim to be his authentic torch-bearers, maintaining that broad political concessions should be made in his name and that this way, peace can be attained.

Others claim that the Israeli far left is today so out of touch with reality in their illusionary belief of reconciliation with the Palestinians, that even Rabin would not have identified with them.

Other state leaders who have changed the course of history and have been assassinated, are: John F Kennedy in the United States in 1963; Anwar Sadat of Egypt, assassinated in 1981 after concluding a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 which has lasted three and a half decades - even if it is a rather cold peace; and in our own country, architect of apartheid Hendrik Verwoerd, stabbed to death in Parliament in 1966 by parliamentary messenger Dimitri Tsafendas.

Rabin’s co-operation with Yasser Arafat - who can forget the famous photograph of them shaking hands with US President Bill Clinton standing in the background with a beaming smile on his face? - was the ultimate pragmatic posture which held that over time, the Zionist vision of a democratic and Jewish homeland did not stand a chance of succeeding while Israel continued to control the lives of several million Palestinians.

Sadly, 19 years since Rabin’s assassination, we are no closer, perhaps even further away, from the reconciliation he and Arafat’s co-operation and handshake had pointed to.

The mistrust and hatred between the two peoples and their leaderships is so obvious that one wonders how it will ever be cured. Palestinians still don’t recognise the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish homeland. And Israel’s leadership is still not united on acceptance of a Palestinian state.

It is impossible to know what Mandela would have said about the anti-Israel atmosphere in South Africa today and its dangerous slide into actual anti-Semitism. It is equally impossible to know whether today, Rabin would still believe that reconciliation was possible between Israelis and Palestinians.

Rabin was not the “Mandela” of the Middle East. He failed to carry all Israelis with him in his political vision, as Mandela did with virtually all South Africans.

But he did believe that there could be peace between Israelis and Palestinians – an attitude which is, tragically, in short supply today in the Middle East.

– Geoff Sifrin, Editor

Jewish school enrolment up 12 per cent, fuelled by haredi Orthodox growth



Photo courtesy Torah Day School

A class at Torah Day School, an Orthodox school in Phoenix.

URIEL HEILMAN
NEW YORK

Jewish day school enrolment in the United States is up 12 per cent from five years ago, primarily due to growth in haredi Orthodox schools.

Nearly 255 000 learners are enrolled in 861 Jewish day schools from the pre-K level through 12th grade, according to a new census of the schools conducted by the Avi Chai Foundation.

The day school survey, which has been conducted every five years since 1998 - 99, found 59 more schools and 26 437 more learners since the last study, in 2008–09. Previous surveys found enrolment growth rates of about 11 per cent in each five-year period.

The primary drivers of growth have been Hasidic learners, whose enrolment has increased by 110 per cent since the first census 15 years ago, and yeshivish (haredi non-Hasidic) schools, which have grown by 60 per cent since the 1998 - ‘99 survey.

The challenge is “whether there will be sufficient [financial and infrastructure] resources to provide adequately for the growth in these two sectors”, said Marvin Schick, who conducted the survey for Avi Chai.

Overall, 60 per cent of Jewish day school learners in America are haredi Orthodox.

By contrast, enrolment in non-Orthodox schools is declining. Reform day school enrolment fell 19 per cent from five years ago, to 3 704 learners nationwide; enrolment in the Conservative movement’s Solomon Schechter schools is down 27 per cent from five years ago, to 9 718 learners; and non-denominational community day school enrolment has slipped by two per cent to 20 413 learners, according to the census.

Together, the non-Orthodox schools have just 13 per cent of day school learners. In 1998, the proportion was 20 per cent.

The number of centrist or modern Orthodox learners has stayed flat since 1998 at about 46 000 learners. The survey divided those schools into two groups: modern Orthodox schools, which are generally co-educational and have about 27 000 learners across 83 schools, and centrist Orthodox, which generally are gender segregated and have about 19 000 learners in 77 schools.

Since Avi Chai’s surveys began in 1998, Conservative day schools have taken the largest tumble. The number of Solomon Schechter schools has dropped to 39 from 63, and the number of learners has shrunk 45 per cent to 9 700 learners from 17 700.

Some of the departing learners were lost to community day schools, which since 1998 have grown by 22 schools and increased enrolment by about 5 500 learners (though community day school enrolment has been relatively flat over the last five years).

Marc Kramer, executive director of Ravsak, a network for Jewish community day schools, says the relatively stable enrolment for schools in his sector, is good news for his 100-plus affiliate institutions.

“We see this as a sign of the ongoing commitment of the American Jewish community to community day schools,” Kramer told JTA.

The figures were self-reported by every known Jewish day school in the United States, according to Avi Chai. In all, 37 states and Washington DC, have Jewish day schools. The primary concentration of Jewish schools is in New York and New Jersey, where day school learners number 190 195 - approximately 75 per cent of the nationwide total.

The states with the next largest day school populations are California (15 270 learners), Florida (9 248), Maryland (7 556) and Illinois (5 248). No other state exceeds 3 200 day school learners.

The day school numbers are not a reflection of American Jewry overall. Last year’s Pew Research Centre survey of US Jewry found that only 23 per cent of American Jews said they attended a yeshiva or Jewish day school. Sixty per cent of respondents said they had some kind of formal Jewish education.

For many families, Jewish day school is not a K-12 experience. In the 2013-14 school year, enrolment peaked in kindergarten, the Avi Chai census found, with declining enrolment in each of the subsequent grades. There were about twice as many day school kids in kindergarten (24 077) as in the 12th grade (11 927).

The study ascribed the trend to non-Orthodox dropoff in day school enrolment as learners’ age and to high fertility rates among the Orthodox, which translate into more learners in the younger grades.

The Avi Chai survey counted about 82 000 learners in 137 Hasidic schools; about 76 000 learners in 282 yeshivas; about 46 000 learners in 160 centrist or modern Orthodox day schools; about 20 500 learners in 97 community day schools; about 12 600 learners in 80 Chabad schools; about 9 700 learners in 39 Schechter schools; about 3 700 learners in 13 Reform schools; about 2 400 learners in 19 immigrant/outreach schools; and about 2 100 learners in 34 special education schools.

A few of the schools counted in the survey include non-Jewish learners. The majority of the immigrant/outreach schools and special education schools are under Orthodox auspices. While Chabad is a Hasidic sect, it differs from other sects in that its institutions often serve a diverse population of Jews.

The Avi Chai Foundation, which is spending down its endowment, likely will do one more day school census in another five years before its scheduled closure in 2020. According to the study, the day school population in America is expected to reach 300 000 around that time. (JTA)

Now everyone’s on the pig wagon

ANT KATZ

In the less than two weeks since the Congress of SA Students (Cosas) placed the head of a pig in what they thought was the kosher fridge of Woolworths in Sea Point (it turned out to be the halaal section), the student organisation has not been able to lay the matter to rest.

A picture of the incident was widely tweeted by an ANC branch, leading to an immediate storm of protest. Boycott, Divest and Sanction (BDS-SA) dissociated itself from, and condemned the action on the same day, as did the SAJBD and several Muslim organisations.

The students missed the point in trying to support BDS’ campaign to stop Woolies from carrying products sourced from Israel, that BDS-SA is itself the SA arm of the US NGO which is Muslim-led and which was equally disgusted by the pig issue.

Yet Cosas themselves, despite all the dis-senting feelings, have dug their heels in and continued to exacerbate the story almost daily, so much so, that in the authoritative Politicsweb.com newsletter last Sunday, five of the 25 stories were on the pig’s head and hardly a mainstream newspaper has not covered it.

The DA was also quick to speak out against the incident. Early last week the SA Jewish Board of Deputies laid an “anti-Semitic demonstration and hate-speech” complaint against Cosas and their Western Cape Chairman Siphakamise Ngxowa, with the SA Human Rights Commission. Last week Thursday the Board held a protest outside the Woolworths Sea Point store where the offence had taken place.

Last week the response of Cosas was that they would start putting pigs’ heads in Woolies stores around the Western Cape.

The ACDP issued a press release last week commending Woolworths for refusing to bow to BDS pressure. Party leader Rev Kenneth Meshoe also referred to the pig-protest by Cosas, saying it was “grossly insensitive and intolerant, and should be condemned by all South Africans who believe the rights of all religious groups in our country should be respected”.

Last Saturday, the ANC labelled the “Cosas pigs head campaign misguided and unfortu-



nate”. No friend of Israel’s, the ANC’s deputy secretary general, Jessie Duarte, made clear that “heightened action to boycott and isolate Israel are not a call or a campaign against Judaism nor is it anti-Semitic”, she said. ANC Western Cape Provincial Secretary Songezo Mjongile also castigated the students.

Last weekend Cosas in the Western Cape held a Provincial Executive Committee meeting after which they issued a statement which included:

- Recognising that the ANC has to distance itself from “our important campaign”.
- Condemning Mjongile’s statement as malicious. “How can a former Cosas leader who threw petrol bombs at progressive white people lecture us?” they asked.
- Condemning the “Pig-headed Woolworths bosses” who they said “must come clean and say why they have hidden the other three pigs’ heads”. Cosas said they were “disappointed that Woolworths has not reported (this) to the media or public, or maybe has not located the three pigs’ heads that have been placed”.

Finally, on Tuesday afternoon this week, DA MP Darren Bergman delivered a Member’s Statement in Parliament on the pig head issue. “The DA calls on the ANC and its affiliates to act responsibly and to protect the rights of minority groups to exist in this country as equal South African citizens,” said Bergman.

Read much more on the ongoing pig’s head incidents on our website www.sajr.co.za

On the web this week

See why 23 387 people have visited SAJR.CO.ZA in the past six days. It’s full of unique content, stories, pics, blogs, user-chirps and lots more. And users can sign up for a free weekly newsletter and e-paper.



PUPPET GETS DUARTE TO RESPOND TO CHIEF - is a story about Chester Missing asking the ANC DSG if she will debate the Chief Rabbi, visit Israel to see what’s going on personally, or recall and boot out ambassadors. The VIDEO can also be seen on the home page.

REFORMS OF ULTRA-ORTHODOX - A SHORT HISTORY OF HAREIDIM - Rabbi Gavin Michal’s controversial op-ed suggests that first came Reform, then Orthodox, and finally Hareidim. He inspires lots of comments - some supportive and others angry. Read his short and sharp piece, what users say - and have your own say as well!

WOOLIES RUBBISH RUMOURS OF GOING GAZA ON ISRAEL - With over 18 000 reads and climbing to 200 comments - the most read and commented story ever on SAJR.CO.ZA. Comment display had to be increased from 100 to 150, now it has to be increased again. Story also reported in M&G and attributed to SAJR.

10 000 RALLY IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL - Amazing pictures from the Huddle Park Rally - the biggest in Africa in support of Israel - ever! A September event in Johannesburg expects to attract many more. Watch SAJR for details of that upcoming event.



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Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania, Johannesburg

A Consular Mission from the Embassy will be in Johannesburg from 24 – 28 November 2014.

Applications for citizenship, passports and renewal of expired passports will be processed during this visit.

All submissions are strictly by prior appointment for those with completed applications only.

Limited time slots are still available.

Bookings must be made directly with the Embassy in Israel.

More information is available on <http://il.mfa.lt/index.php?42119345>

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PIG’S HEAD INCIDENT: BDS IMPLICATED BY ASSOCIATION

The ugly face of moral turpitude and anti-Semitism manifested itself recently when the Congress of South African Students placed a pig’s head at a Woolworths store in Cape Town.

BDS quickly released a statement to say “BDS is not involved or implicated at all”. Notwithstanding that, the BDS directors and senior management are all Muslim; their statement distancing their organisation from this repugnant act doesn’t wash with the facts.

Much like the Nazis condemning the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbour, Cosas and BDS are allies - they are in bed together, so to speak.

As partners, BDS failed to act to prevent such an act and therefore are implicated by association. (This is trite law.) It must be clear to all and sundry, that BDS is not against Israel - they are against Jews. They are not for Palestine either. After all, who says that the Palestinians have a franchise on Jerusalem (and Gaza and the West Bank)?

History dictates that although many nations occupied the Land of Israel, they were

never there in terms of Hashem’s promise.

The BDS’ hatred for Jews is based on the premise of their (Muslim) prophecies by their prophet and has nothing to do with the fallacies spewed out regarding Israeli apartheid and occupation.

Many BDS members refuse to recognise that, today, Islamic radicalism results in terror and has become problematic globally.

They refuse to acknowledge that Hamas is an evil terrorist group. It almost seems that the Muslims today, distance themselves from

terror, but in essence they do nothing about it.

Cosas, on the other hand put out a statement, after the “pig’s head” incident to say that Cosas “is an organisation and not a bunch of clowns”.

There is not much to say about Cosas, other than that they are indeed fortunate that breathing is a reflex action.

Nathan Cheiman
Northcliff, Johannesburg

JVJP’S SILENCE ON PALESTINIAN ATROCITIES IS DEAFENING

I’m referring to the letter in Jewish Report two weeks ago by Leonard Shapiro, Rina King and Jessica Sherman of SA Jewish Voices for a Just Peace.

In their plaque which they unveiled together with Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, they made very clear their disdain for Israeli civilian casualties by juxtaposing “2 139 Palestinians were killed in Gaza by the Israeli military - 70 per cent were civilians. Three Israelis and one foreign national were killed in Israel by the Palestinian militia.”

Not any reference to the Hamas terrorists with the romantic appellation of “militia”.

On their Facebook page, when asked if they would condemn atrocities by Hamas in response to the recent terror attack in Jerusalem which killed a three-month-old baby, they replied that “the Palestinians have a right and duty to resist Israeli colonialism and apartheid by any means necessary’.

During the last 14 years thousands of Israeli Jewish men, women and children, have died from bombs, bullets or knife attacks, and thousands of others have been maimed, blinded, orphaned, widowed and terrorised.

Then there are the thousands of suicide bombings perpetrated by Arab terrorists in malls, restaurants, schools, buses and everywhere else where Jewish men, women and children in Israel gathered.

So, since 2000, so far 132 Jewish children have been killed, 11 of them less than a year old; nine pregnant women have been murdered; 886 children have lost one parent and 32 have lost both. The youngest victim of terror was just one day old.

There has been no condemnation of these atrocities by the United Nation or its commissars such as Jimmy Carter, Desmond Tutu and Richard Goldstone.

At the Dolphinarium Disco on June 1, 2001, 21 Israeli teenagers were killed and 132 wounded, many maimed for life, after a suicide bomber blew himself up in their midst. Hamas claimed responsibility and celebrated the attack.

Is this what JVJP supports?

Let us react to them with this in mind. Can we be tolerant of those who condone the killing of Jewish children?

I cannot and will not keep company with those who make common cause with modern-day Arab Nazis who shoot a pregnant Jewish woman at point blank range before executing her four terrified small daughters.

I shall always shun those who show any acceptance of the perpetrators of such atrocities and will continue to condemn those whose twisted ideas suggest any equivocation of Israel’s self-defence with brutal Arab terror.

Their idea of a “just peace” is no doubt the physical elimination of every Jewish man, woman and child in Israel.

Gary Selikow
Johannesburg

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Learners urged to heed the four Ps

GITA LIPSCHITZ
SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

King David Victory Park High and Primary Schools recently hosted the renowned speaker Emma Sadleir, who spoke on the responsible use of social media, its legal implications and the dangers we and our children face when using social media.

Sadleir, an attorney, specialises in social media law. Her talk covered the social media landscape in South Africa, as well as defamation, privacy and hate speech. More importantly, she explored the damage that sexting, cyber bullying and pornography can do to our learners’ personal reputation.

Any inappropriate photos or text that we post on social platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, can compromise potential scholarships, admission to university and future employment.

Parents were urged to tell their children not to post anything online that they would not want the “four Ps” - their parents, their principal, the police or a predator. She cited many cases of people who were expelled of fired as a result of a prank that seemed funny at the time, was actually “deleted” and then surfaced sometime later. Your digital footprint is out there in cyber space, protect it and manage it well, was her warning and message.



Photo: Yael Gordon

Emma Sadleir and Gita Lipschitz.

TA matric boys leave their alma mater in style

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Parents, grandparents, siblings and teachers, attended the Torah Academy Boys’ High School fully catered matric farewell at the Seeff Hall, Sydenham-Highlands North Hebrew Congregation recently.

During an evening of fun and reminiscences, the boys took a quiet break. Pictured are (back): Yedidya Falkson; Aviad Housman; Boruch Wainer; and (front) David Lampert; Eli Kay; and Menachem Mendel Fox.



Photo: Suzanne Belling

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For more information contact
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Sydenham parents answer the Tsephang call



It took one WhatsApp challenge and the rest is history - the Sydenham Parents did it again!

SUE BENJAMIN


A visit to Tsephang Daycare Centre in Alexandra township next to Sandton on Mandela Day, gave us the opportunity to spread some kindness. The crèche cares for some 45 children and it functions with limited resources.

During the weeks before Rosh Hashanah, we launched our own project called Spreading Kindness in Elul. An appeal went out to the parent body to fund some much needed plastic tables and chairs for the crèche. All it took was one WhatsApp challenge and in a short space of time we had raised almost R8 000!

We were not only able to purchase the plastic furniture but we also included stationery, a first aid kit and toys in our contribution. Instead of having the goods delivered to Alex, we decided it would be a wonderful opportunity to visit the crèche ourselves.

During our Succot break a group of us set out for the township. We delivered the goods to Tsephang and after that we were taken on a very interesting tour of Alex by Linda Twala who is known as a son of Alex.

It was a most inspiring morning; we visited the home of Mandela and The Phuthaditjaba Community Centre built by Afrika Tikkun. We came away with a sense of gratitude, humility and satisfaction at having been able to spread some kindness.



Do you know a worthy NOMINEE?

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www.TheCharlesBronfmanPrize.com

Jewish Values. Global Impact.

Six scholarships up for grabs

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The South African Jewish Report together with Burning Bush Marketing has announced the creation of six new scholarships and bursaries for the study of media and related studies at Boston City Campus in Johannesburg.

These new scholarships demonstrate an ongoing commitment by the SA Jewish Report to nurture an environment for quality journalism and professional excellence within the Jewish and broader community in South Africa.

The scholarships will be awarded in the areas of journalism, marketing, public relations, event planning and information technology with a specific preference to those looking to expand their skills in the areas of website development, graphic design, video editing, social media and general technology studies.

Of even greater interest is that successful candidates will intern within the structures of Burning Bush Marketing, where interns will be provided with hands-on training, unparalleled exposure and practical day-to-day experience which will put them way ahead of other students who have not been afforded a unique opportunities such as this.

Karen Knowles, commercial director of the SA Jewish Report says: “We are so hap-

py to be associated with a project of this nature, we who manage Jewish media in South Africa understand the importance of growing skills in these crucial areas and continuing to feed our community with new talent, new skills and new ideas.”

Says Howard Sackstein, one of the founders of Burning Bush Marketing and a director of the SA Jewish Report newspaper: “We understand the future of media is digital, we need to invest now to develop the communication channels that will allow us to grow our reach within the community as technology changes.

“Now more than ever, we need to ensure that our community is professionally run, sufficiently resourced and managed with a clear vision and strategy.”

Dina Diamond, co-founder of Burning Bush Marketing reiterates: “We are looking for unique candidates with that spark of enthusiasm and talent, people with a good track record, people who want to enhance their skills so they can make a difference in the world.”

This project has the support of a very broad range of the leadership of the South African Jewish community.

Applicants should submit a full CV and letter of motivation to Gavriel Sacks at gavi@beyachad.co.za. All candidates will be shortlisted and interviewed if selected for the next round.

BURSARY APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN



Bursaries are offered by the SA Jewish Report and Burning Bush Marketing for degrees in Information technology (IT), Marketing, Public Relations (PR), Journalism or Event Management and get work experience at the same time.

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed for the bursaries, must meet the entry requirements for their chosen qualifications and must be between 18 – 30 years of age.

Forward your CV to Gavriel Sacks at gavi@beyachad.co.za
Terms & conditions apply

Community Talk

November is KDL Reunion month!

Did you matriculate from KDL in the following years?

- 1974? - November 16 @ 17:30
- 1984? - November 9 @ 17:30
- 1994? - November 30 @ 17:30
- 2004? - November 23 @ 17:30

Then make sure you join the King David Schools' Foundation for your reunion! Reminisce, reconnect and catch up with your old classmates and teachers.

For booking please contact [Gila glazerg@kdsf.org](mailto:Gila.glazerg@kdsf.org) or (011) 480-4701.



Soul Workout set to release another Soul Sport

Dynamic and original are the best words to describe the Soul Workout Jewish outreach and educational organisation, the inspiration of Rav Ilan Herrmann. At year-end they are releasing another spectacular edition of Soul Sport, the only Jewish sports magazine anywhere.

The blockbuster year-end edition is nothing short of extraordinary, with coverage of the whole gambit from sports to health, exercise, Jewish inspiration and exclusive

interviews with leading sporting personalities.

The magazine has resonated strongly across the communal spectrum as a wonderful platform for promoting educational and healthy lifestyle awareness.

Soul Sport will have distribution to synagogues and Jewish day schools countrywide - (011) 440-5995. Visit www.soulworkout.co.za for a visual preview of what you can expect.



JJMC presents Concert for Peace

The Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir, through the medium of song, will be presenting their annual concert in the magnificent Sandton Synagogue. Titled “A Concert for Peace”, it will take place on Monday, November 10 at 19:30 for 19:45.

The programme includes... Sim Shalom, Shalom al Yisrael, and the overpowering Ose Shalom Bimromav. A first in the country will be an acknowledgement of the men and women of the Israel Defence Forces, Mi Shebeirach composed by a young musician Dovi Zeltser.

Complementing this composition are favour-



ites including Avinu Malkein, V'hi-sh'amda, V' Zakeini and Hamavdil by Rosenblatt.

Leading the concert is our guest, Netanel Hershtik, chief cantor of the Hampton's Synagogue New York, ably assisted by Musical Director Evelyn Green.

The audience can look forward to a night of uplifting entertainment of Jewish music from past to present.

Hatzolah will be a part beneficiary

Reserved seats available from Evelyn Green, (011) 728-5570; 082-704-2322 or, Prof Russel Lurie, 082-331-3019; or Sandton Shul Office (011) 883-4210.

CALLING ALL JEWISH REPORT KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

Jewish Report and 67 blankets for Nelson Mandela are continuing to work together towards the target of over 7 000 blankets.



The blankets collected will be placed at the Union Buildings early in 2015.

Keep knitting... Should you need wool, contact Karen on (011) 274-1400.

In Johannesburg it’s Kentridge and more Kentridge...

OWN CORRESPONDENT

There’s a William Kentridge (pictured) festival about to happen in all the major arts venues in Johannesburg from this month. This takes place in tandem with major survey exhibitions of the artist’s work in Latin America and the East, to name a few.

From November 9, the Johannesburg Art Gallery will host The Refusal of Time, a collaboration with Philip Miller, Catherine Meyburgh, Dada Masilo and Peter Galison. It’s a performed piece and a soundscape investigating the nature of time.

It debuted at Documenta in 2012 and then travelled all over the world, from Avignon to Australia. This, however, will be its Johannesburg debut and the work will be on show until February next year.

On November 15, an exhibition of some 45 landscape drawings on the pages of cash books and mine ledgers from defunct East Rand mines dating from 1906, opens at the Goodman Gallery in Rosebank. The drawings have been produced over a three-year period and range



Photo by Marc Shoul.

from the East Rand to the platinum belt. The exhibition will also host the launch of a book, Accounts and Drawings from Underground, with a text by Columbia anthropology Professor Rosalind Morris. The exhibition closes on December 20.

November 18 sees the opening of “Tapestries” a collaboration be-

tween Kentridge and the Stephens Tapestry studio in Diepsloot, at the Wits Art Museum in Braamfontein. Weaver Marguerite Stephens and Kentridge have been collaborating for 24 years, birthing some 40 tapestry translations of his drawn or collaged work.

Dedicated exhibitions of these

extraordinary tapestries made by Stephens and her team of weavers, have been shown in Philadelphia, Spain and Capodimonte. This is the first time they will be seen in Johannesburg as a group. The exhibition closes on December 15.

Kentridge, arguably one of South Africa’s most well-recognised con-

temporary artists, a Jewish Achievers Award winner for Arts, Science, Culture and Sport in 2011, is known for his innovation in hand-made films dealing with the unique complexities of South African politics, but he is also celebrated for his incredible work ethic.

In addition to these three major shows, he is involved in numerous projects all over the world, including the opening of Winterreise, a project based on Schubert’s last song cycle, at the Lincoln Centre in New York on November 11, and the premiere of his opera Lulu (based on the original by Alban Berg) in Amsterdam and Washington next June.

In addition to the Rosalind Morris publication which launches at the Goodman Gallery, three other books on or by Kentridge are being released this year: Six Drawing Lessons, published by Harvard University Press; 2nd Hand Reading, published by Fourthwall Books; and The Soho Chronicles, 10 Films by William Kentridge, written by his brother, Matthew and published by Seagull Books, Calcutta.

World News in Brief

One dead, more than dozen injured in J’lem car attack

JERUSALEM - One person is dead and more than a dozen injured after a car drove into a light rail station and onto the sidewalk in Jerusalem in what is being called a possible terror attack.

Two of the injured in the Wednesday noon attack are in critical condition. The injured were taken to Jerusalem hospitals.

The driver, identified as a Hamas

activist from Shuafat in eastern Jerusalem, left his car carrying a metal bar and began attacking police, who shot and killed him.

The driver steered his car into a crowd of people waiting at a bus stop and then crashed into a light rail station, both on the border between western and eastern Jerusalem.

In a news conference at the scene less than an hour after the midday attack, Israel’s Minister of Internal Security Yitzhak Aharonovich said he recommended to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to destroy the house of the attacker.

It is the second attack of its kind in two weeks. On October 22, a Palestinian driver plowed into a crowd of people at a light rail station on Ammunition in northern Jerusalem, killing a three-month old dual American-Israeli citizen baby and a tourist from Ecuador.

“It is a difficult day for Jerusalem. The situation is not easy,” Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat said at the scene.

A Hamas spokesman reportedly praised the attack, calling it an act of revenge “for al-Aqsa and for the blood of those who guard al-Aqsa.”

The al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount has been the scene of rioting

and unrest in recent weeks, including on Wednesday. (JTA)

Official – Iron Dome won’t fully protect Israel from Hezbollah

JERUSALEM - The Iron Dome missile defence system would be unable to fully protect Israel against a massive missile attack by Hezbollah, a senior

defence official has warned. “Ben-Gurion International Airport would have to be shut down from early on in the fighting against Hezbollah,” the official told Israel Hayom last week. “Iron Dome won’t be able to duplicate its interception rate from Operation Protective Edge.” The Iron Dome was designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells fired from distances of 2,5 to 43 miles. Hezbollah’s arsenal is believed to contain 100 000 missiles, including surface-to-air and surface-to-sea missiles whose range could cover all of Israel. (JNS.org)

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Israeli aid group tackles world’s most difficult crises



In early October, IsraAID delivers humanitarian supplies to Iraqi refugees in Kurdistan.

SEAN SAVAGE/JNS.ORG
JERUSALEM

Known primarily for their military prowess and hi-tech ingenuity, Israelis are often overlooked when it comes to their global engagement. But IsraAID, an Israeli non-profit and non-governmental organisation founded in 2001, has been on the frontline of every major humanitarian crisis of the 21st century - including today’s most difficult hotspots in Iraq and West Africa.

“Our mission is to efficiently support and meet the changing needs of populations as they strive to move from crisis to reconstruction and rehabilitation, and eventually, to sustainable living,” Navoneli Glick, IsraAID’s programme director, told JNS.org.

Drawing on Israel’s military expertise and robust healthcare system, IsraAID has tackled humanitarian disasters in 22 countries, including the earthquakes in Japan and Haiti, refugee situations in South Sudan and Kenya, and Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy in the United States.

In early October, IsraAID supplied mattresses, blankets, food, and hygiene kits to more than 1 000 people in the Dohuk and Erbil refugee camps in Iraq’s Kurdish region.

Providing aid to refugees in the Arab world is no easy task for an Israeli organisation, especially in countries as hostile to the Jewish state as Iraq, which has been overrun by jihadists from the Islamic State terror group.

“This is an issue that is very sensitive, but not for the reasons that one would expect,” Glick said. “More than our security, our concern is how to make sure to protect the people that we are helping. Having people we want to assist become the target of Islamic State sleeper cells within camps would be horrendous.”

The plight of Iraq’s Christians and Yazidis is eerily similar to the story of the country’s former Jewish community. The modern persecution and expulsion of Iraqi religious minorities draws many parallels

to the waves of attacks on, and eventual expulsion of, Iraqi Jewry during the mid-20th century. Nearly 135 000 Jews were forced to leave Iraq from 1948 onwards.

“We decided to launch this project because of the incredible needs of the displaced populations fleeing death and abuse at the hands of the Islamic State,” said Glick. “They are coming with absolutely nothing but the clothes on their backs.”

According to estimates, more than 1,8 million Iraqis have been displaced by Islamic State. Christians in particular have been singled out by the jihadists, with many being forced to convert, leave, or die.

Most of the refugees living in Iraq’s Kurdish region are Christians and Yazidis who fled from Islamic State during the summer.

While Israel does not have diplomatic relations with Iraq, Israel and the Kurds maintain warm relations, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has backed Kurdish independence.

“We do not want to hide our identity, and to be honest, with those who knew where we were from, we never encountered any animosity whatsoever - quite the opposite at times, in fact,” Glick said.

IsraAID is funded by a diverse group of sources, including North American Jewish communities, Christian partners, foundations, corporate sponsors, and private individuals. The American Jewish Committee (AJC) recently announced that it would provide assistance to IsraAID’s efforts in Iraq and West Africa.

“AJC has long responded to humanitarian crises around the world,” Kenneth Bandler, AJC’s director of media relations, told JNS.org. “Our partnership with IsraAID began about a decade ago to offer an international Jewish response to manmade and natural disaster and emergency situations.”

“IsraAID’s ability to send quickly much-needed humanitarian and medical experts and supplies and to be among the very first on the ground is impressive, and, importantly, demonstrates that Israelis can and do assist others,” added Bandler.

Currently, IsraAID is the only Israeli entity present on the ground in West Africa amid the Ebola crisis. Glick, who currently is in Sierra Leone, described the situation as “very worrying”.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry and MASHAV - Israel’s Agency for International Development Co-operation, have jointly begun sending aid to the region, including the deployment of mobile field hospitals that feature isolation units and protective gear for medical professionals.

“The Ebola outbreak continues to spread, and while an increasing amount of international support is coming, the healthcare workers who have been on the frontline of the fight for over five months now are exhausted, burnt out, and traumatised,” Glick said. In Sierra Leone, IsraAID is beginning to provide training to address the psycho-social impact of Ebola.

“Most people realise the very direct medical efforts necessary to tackle the disease, but only now are people starting to realise the psychological toll that the outbreak has had on huge sections of the population,” Glick said.

Though the crisis in West Africa is serious, Glick said people around the world needed to stop the panic and hysteria surrounding Ebola. The sensationalistic global reaction to the outbreak was leading to a growing stigma associated with people from West Africa and hampering efforts to combat the disease.

“This disease is indeed dangerous and scary, but it is not easily transmitted, and even in the affected countries, there are still millions of people who are living their lives every day,” he said.

IsraAID was committed to continuing to provide aid to Iraqi refugees as winter approached, and he believed the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was also a long-term project.

“The road to containing and eventually beating this disease is still a ways away, and mitigating its psychological impact will probably take years,” he said. (JNS.org)

World News in Brief

Israeli defence company unveils maritime version of Iron Dome

JERUSALEM - Israel’s Rafael Advanced Defence Systems unveiled a new version of the highly successful Iron Dome anti-missile system called “C-Dome”, which will serve to protect maritime interests such as naval ships or oil and gas platforms.

Rafael unveiled the new system at the Euronaval conference near Paris this week. According to the state-owned defence contractor, the new system would protect against threats from the air including missiles, helicopters, and drone aircraft.

“C-dome offers something that is not out there [in the market] yet... A small footprint and the capability to engage multiple targets and saturation threats. And it’s based on the only system in the world that has more than 1 000 intercepts,” said Rafael programme director Ari Sacher, the Associated Press reported.

“We can protect the ship from every direction at the same time,” he said. “Most systems out there can’t do that.” (JNS.org)

SodaStream to close oft-targeted West Bank plant

JERUSALEM - The beverage carbonation company SodaStream has decided to close its West Bank plant in Ma’ale Adumim. The plant’s location has made it a frequent target of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel - particularly leading up to the 2014 Super Bowl, when it ran a TV advertisement featuring Jewish-American actress Scarlett Johansson.

SodaStream plans to relocate its plant to northern Israel by late 2015. Despite ongoing pressure from BDS activists, a spokeswoman for SodaStream told Bloomberg News that the decision to move the plant was “purely commercial” and part of the company’s “global growth plan”.

This year, the West Bank plant employed 500 Palestinians and 450 Israeli Arabs, along with 350 Israeli Jews. Johansson had drawn criticism from the UK-based charity Oxfam International for serving as a pitchwoman for SodaStream, leading her to quit her role as a global ambassador for Oxfam. (JNS.org)

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Giant SA ‘cacti’ flag will cover 66 hectares

ROBYN SASSEN

From the purpose-built deck overlooking the Valley of Desolation in the majestic heart of the Karoo, a major initiative was born on October 23. Conceived four years ago, Giant Flag is the brainchild of entrepreneurial maverick Guy Lieberman. It might raise eyebrows with its wild sense of possibility; it might also raise funds, tourism and catches the world’s attention.

As its name indicates, it’s a South African flag of 66 hectares comprising millions of growing cacti. While the red, white, green, yellow and blue panels of our flag will be represented by succulent species, the black panel will comprise a four megawatt solar field, one third of which will be a canopy roofing a tourist precinct.

It’s designed to harness environmental, social and economic activity, in a bid to break the cycle of poverty in the Camdeboo.

Born of the enthusiastic raptures we all fell into over the Soccer World Cup in 2010, the Giant Flag aims to generate a socio-economic shift. Referring to it as a “game-changing initiative”, Deputy Minister of Tourism Tokozile Xasa said: “The innovative model of the Giant Flag has the potential to implement change in other countries. In addition to socio-economic issues, there are also questions of climate change, food security and the local ecology’s health.”

The Camdeboo municipality, comprising neighbouring Karoo towns Graaff-Reinet, Aberdeen and Nieu Bethesda, with a population of 51 000, has one of the worst income disparities in the country and 40 per cent unemployment.



An artist’s impression of the completed Giant Flag.

The environment is semi-arid: agriculture is difficult. The hospitality industry lubricates its economy. The Giant Flag is designed as a pragmatic example of how a low-carbon, innovation economy can function; the aim is for it to be a prototype.

The Giant Flag might be eccentric, egotistical even, in its thinking, but it’s rooted in formalities: a trust was formed to oversee it.

Profits from its activities will be fed into an endowment fund with the purpose of generating further opportunities in the district’s innovation, green and social sectors. But further, it is about sparking a cycle of economic development expanding opportunities, building capabilities and raising living standards sustainably.

The project is in its activation phase - the planting and building of the Flag is expected to begin early next year. Its reach

extends in several directions. Directly, the Flag will create 700 jobs. Other employment will be stimulated around it.

“Think hot air ballooning and micro-light sky tours,” says Lieberman, who spent the Shabbos Project in the beautiful area. “Think indigenous honey harvested. Think SMMEs and the marketing of indigenous craft. South Africa needs initiatives that create ecologically sustainable employment opportunities. I cannot think of a more sustainable outcome. If it works, we can really scale up.”

The project requires R170 million in seed funding and it has extensive corporate funding. But it is also focusing on crowd funding. Visit www.giantflag.co.za.



Jimmy Joubert, a Giant Flag trustee; Guy Lieberman, its initiator; and Noel Petersen, Municipal Manager, Camdeboo.

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A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

National Director Wendy Kahn, along with Charisse Zeifert and Aviva Moses from our national office, co-ordinated the event together with Cape Council Chairman Eric Marx. Addressing the gathering, Wendy said that smuggling in a pig’s head in a pram and depositing it in a fridge that was assumed to contain kosher meat, showed “a vicious and vulgar hatred”. It was something that every SA citizen who cherished our democracy should be horrified by.

We were gratified by the amount of media coverage generated by this initiative, and we have also since seen the ANC come out and condemn Cosas’ action.

In a media statement the ANC reaffirmed its position that the solidarity campaign [with the Palestinians] should not “promote anti-Semitism nor undermine the constitutionality enshrined right to freedom of religion enjoyed by all the people of this country”.

This year, we have seen mounting instances of anti-Israel demonstrations crossing over into overt anti-Semitism aimed at the local

This column paid for by SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Pig’s head to Mauritian celebration

Last Thursday, the SAJBD held a protest demonstration in Cape Town against rising levels of anti-Semitism in South Africa. The gathering took place outside the Woolworths store where the previous week, a pig’s head had been deposited by the Congress of SA Students in protest against Woolworths’ stocking Israeli produce.

Jewish community. We felt that on this occasion, it was important for us to take a more visible, public stand against these trends.

Thanks to Wendy and the Board’s team for the swift and efficient manner that the protest was planned and executed.

I attended a meaningful event in Mauritius, namely the official opening of a memorial centre and exhibition recording the story of Jewish refugees from Nazism who were detained on the island during the Second World War.

This is a joint initiative of the African Jewish Congress (AJC) and the Island Hebrew Congregation and was the vision of AJC President Mervyn Smith. I will report back in more detail on my Mauritian visit next week.

On Monday, the long-awaited court case between the SA Human Rights Commission and Cosatu’s International Relations spokesman, Bongani Masuku is scheduled to begin. The genesis of this matter is the hate speech complaint lodged by the SAJBD against Masuku in 2009. The SAHRC upheld the complaint and directed Masuku to apologise for the inflammatory statements he had made. When he refused to comply, the SAHRC instituted proceedings against him in the Equality Court to get its ruling enforced.

The Board has been assisting the SAHRC’s legal team in preparing for the case, the outcome of which has important implications for how the laws governing the anti-hate speech provisions in the constitution are interpreted and applied. See our Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SAJBD> and website (jewishsa.co.za).

• Listen to Charisse Zeifert on Jewish Board Talk, 101.9 ChaiFM every Friday 12:00-13:00.

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

From top to bottom

I was walking across the Sandringham Gardens campus to attend a meeting in the finance department when a resident intercepted me. She was unhappy about the location of her parking spot - something about overhanging trees. I took down the details and promised to look into it for her.

It was a busy week. Our Biennial General Meeting for the Chev and all NGOs under its umbrella was held on Wednesday November 5 and there was a lot of work to be done in preparation.

Holding these meetings every two years is a constitutional obligation and entails the presentation of audited financials for the preceding years; the election of the board of governors; the appointment of auditors for the following two years and other essential issues along those lines.

If there are any important matters that need attention, like constitutional changes, a special general meeting is held simultaneously to address them.

The Biennial General Meeting is Corporate Governance at its highest level, whereas ar-



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AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY WELFARE
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Michael Sieff
Group CEO

ranging a new parking spot for a resident might, quite reasonably, be seen as being at the lowest. Although not, of course, to her. And that’s the point.

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That’s why it was important to resolve the parking problem.

May our partnership continue to thrive!

Communicate with me on feedback@thechev.org.za

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha

Sports

Heated Tel Aviv derby turns ugly



Elroy Yadi, a Hapoel supporter, attacks Eran Zahavi of Maccabi Tel Aviv.

ILAN HERRMANN

What’s in a soccer game? Well, in a derby between the two big sides from Tel Aviv - Hapoel and Maccabi - it seems quite a lot.

This is what happened at the Bloomfield Stadium in Tel Aviv on Monday night. In the 33rd minute after the teams were tied at 1-1, Elroy Yadi a Hapoel supporter runs on to the field shirtless and attacks Eran Zahavi, a player from Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Zahavi counters by lashing out at Yadi. This then prompts referee Roei Reinshriber to red card the player which in turn infuriates his teammates who claim he was merely defending himself.

The game was halted as Zahavi rallied his team to walk off the field. Eventually escorted by sporting director Jordi Cruyff (son of legendary Johan Cruyff) Zahavi walks off and the game resumes. Not a few seconds go before some Maccabi Tel Aviv fans run on to the field towards the Hapoel supporters’ section and taunt them.

The game is summarily abandoned.

But wait, there’s more! At the court hearing the next day fans from the opposing teams again start fighting.

Hapoel has called for Yadi to be banned for life. Zahavi has had to have a security company protect him because he has been threatened

and talk is he may even leave the country due to intimidation.

The education minister noted that the incident happened on the very day (Hebrew calendar) the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin was commemorated. He said: “Nineteen years after, we say and repeat: no to violence, not on the political arena, not in the schools, and not in the soccer field. No more violence. Verbal or physical, hurtful, insulting, crude...”

This has cast a dark pall on what should be a very upbeat time in Israeli soccer. The national team recently defeated Andorra 4 - 1 away from home to keep an unbeaten record in their Euro 2016 qualifying attempt. They are a point behind Wales in second place with a game in hand.

Some have suggested that it’s symptomatic of a tendency within a certain section of Israeli society to resort to violence. Others claim it is the old evil that has plagued soccer all over the world and it rears its ugly head every so often in incidents of violence, racism and anti-Semitism.

In a recent discussion I had with one of rugby’s all-time great referees Jonathan Kaplan, the subject of rugby’s outstanding gentlemanly conduct came up. Kaplan lamented how soccer needs to take a leaf out of rugby’s book.

Changes are needed to ensure an incident like the one in Tel Aviv doesn’t happen again.

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• UZLC hosts Judy Jaye on “Your Personal Journey Going Forward Into the New Year”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

• Chabad's Goodness & Kindness Centre in Sandton, offers a “Daily Educational Academy for the Elderly”. Time: 09:30 - 12:00, Monday through Friday for senior men and women at Chabad House, Savoy Estate. Programme includes free transportation, refreshments, dynamic lectures, blood pressure and sugar level tests, outings, much more. No cost. Information: Rabbi Ari Kievman (011) 440-6600, e-mail rak@chabad.org.za or just come to Chabad House.

• Chabad's Goodness & Kindness Centre in Sandton, hosts a daily Mincha/Maariv at 17:45pm daily. Refreshments served every day. Easy walking distance from all major businesses and hotels in Sandton central. Opportunity to learn with a rabbi between 17:00 and 19:00. Information: Rabbi Ari Kievman, 079-434-1293, rak@chabad.org.za or www.SandtonCentral.org.za

Saturday evening (November 8)

• WIZO Etgar hosts the stage production of “War Horse”. Venue: Teatro Montecasino. Cost: Best seats at R450. Time: 20:00. Tickets: Jenni, 083-377-8238.

Sunday (November 9)

• Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St John's College Auditorium, Houghton. Time: 14:15 sharp. Dave Goldstein presents “Frank Sinatra 1915 - 1998”, a short DVD on Big Bands in Hollywood followed by Sinatra performing some of his favourite songs. Also a DVD on “High Society” 1956. Enquiries: Marilyn, 072-243-7436, or Jack, 082-450-7622.

• Second Innings hosts Rufina Mausenbaum on “The Blossoming of Jewish Portugal - A Journey of Discovery”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R30 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Contact: Hylton Marks, (011) 532-9616.

• JWBS hosts its “Sonja Bernstein Book Fair”. Venue: Jabula Recreation Centre, Sandringham. Time: 09:30 - 12:00. Contact: Gloria,

(011) 485-5232 or gloria@jwbs.co.za

Monday (November 10)

• Chabad's Goodness & Kindness Centre in Sandton offers iPad training for seniors. Learn how to use an iPad, browse the web, get an e-mail, Facebook and Skype accounts to communicate with friends and family worldwide. No computer experience necessary. No cost. Time: Mondays 16:30 and Wednesdays 14:30. Venue: Chabad House, Savoy Estate. RSVP essential. Information: (011) 440-6600, email rak@chabad.org.za or www.ChabadSouthAfrica.org/seniors

• UJW hosts Mpumelelo Mkhabela, editor of the Sowetan, on “Our Duty to Construct a ‘Civil’ Society”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (November 11)

• WIZO Bnoth Zion Association CT, presents its Rebecca Sieff Awards to honour members for exemplary service to WIZO for 40, 50 and 60 years. Time: 10:00. Guest speaker Rhoda Kadalie. Information: (021) 464-6729.

• UJW hosts Simon Scharma, British historian and writer on “The Story of the Jews”, from ancient to modern times. Part 3: “The Return”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

Wednesday (November 12)

• Chabad's Goodness & Kindness Centre in Sandton, hosts a lecture, “How to Remain Happy Through Times of Stress”. Time: 19:15. Information: (011) 440-6600, -mail rak@chabad.org.za, or www.ChabadSouthAfrica.org/seniors

• WIZO Forum hosts a tour of the “green” Standard Bank Building in Rosebank Time: 15:15. Cost: R50 (incl tea). Details and bookings: (011) 645-2515.

• UJW hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Dept of English at Wits, on “Exploring the Wonders of Milton's ‘Paradise Lost’” part 3. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

Community

A deeply inspiring answer to anti-Semitism



Edna Freinkel; Christo Wiese (Christian Friends of Israel); Huibre Venter (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem); Jan Venter (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem); Bets Theron (Bridges for Peace); Johan Theron (Bridges for Peace); Shulamit Kagan (chairman, Elphin Lodge WIZO branch); Alida Schoultz (Ebenezer Operation Exodus).

EDNA FREINKEL

There was a record attendance at the monthly Elphin Lodge WIZO meeting on Monday. The audience was deeply inspired and often in tears as Christian speakers movingly told how their love for Israel and the Jewish people motivated them to serve through various pro-Israel international Christian organisations.

All these organisations have offices throughout the world, including South Africa, Japan, Finland, the United States, Canada and Russia and collect sizeable amounts money which go to Israel to buy blankets, kosher food, building equipment, ambulances and books for school-children.

They are involved in helping Israelis in more than 50 towns all over the country. All are headquartered in Jerusalem and all are Christian organisations.

Several of the speakers emphasised that the Jewish people had suffered at the hands of the Church over the centuries and they wanted to make up now for that suffering. Others reiterated that the Jews gave Christianity to the world

and they rejoiced in doing the L-rd's work in gratitude and to counter anti-semitism.

Some of the services provided by these groups for our Jewish brethren in Israel, are to repair homes, provide hot school meals at 12 schools, attend to the sick and needy, especially Holocaust survivors, etc.

Thousands of Jews who have gone on aliyah from Ukraine, France, Europe, South America and Africa, are helped financially and emotionally for their first year in Israel. Other olim from the United States, Canada and the UK, are also helped to settle in.

The future looks much brighter and more hopeful in the hands of so many dedicated Christian lovers of Israel and the Jewish people. Contact them to hear their inspiring stories: Alida Schoultz-Ebenezer Operation Exodus - alidaeef@icon.co.za Jan & Huibre Venter - ICEJ - (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem) - huibre@baruch.co.za; Christo & Rina Wiese - CFI (Christian Friends of Israel) - christowiese@lantic.net.

Johan&Bets Theron - BFP (Bridges For Peace) - theron4110@gmail.com.

Record-breaker Lara would give it all away, if...

JACK MILNER

West Indian cricket great Brian Lara, will go down as one of the greatest batsmen of all time. He is the only batsman to have scored a first-class century, double century, a 300, 400 and 500 (he scored 501 not out for Warwickshire against Durham).

After Matthew Hayden had eclipsed his Test record for highest individual score - 375 - by five runs in 2003, he reclaimed the record scoring 400 not out in 2004 against England. With these innings he became the second player to score two Test triple centuries, the second player to score two career quadruple

centuries, the only player to achieve both these milestones, and regained the distinction of being the holder of both the record first-class individual innings and the record Test individual innings. He is the only player to break the world record twice.

He also became the first player to score seven centuries in eight first-class innings, the first being the record 375 against England and the last being the record 501 not out against Durham.

However, speaking at a gala dinner at the Wanderers in Johannesburg last week, Lara said he would give them all up to have played in a winning West Indian team.



Brian Lara and Anne Leon during the Sports Heroes Walk Against HIV/Aids and the Brian Lara Gala Dinner at The Wanderers last Wednesday.

During his time as player there was parochialism in the team and they were always at loggerheads with the West Indian Cricket Board. “To have played in Viv Richards’ team would have been amazing,” said Lara. “They always played with such confidence and it was all about the cricket.”

Lara was in South Africa as the guest of honour for the Sports Heroes Walk against Aids. It is an annual event to raise Aids awareness in the country. A number of organisations were involved in the event, including Right To Care, behind which former United Cricket Board of SA managing director Ali Bacher is the driving force. Bacher was behind Lara’s visit.

The banquet was held at The Wanderers last week Wednesday and among the speakers were Dr Jonathan Broomberg, CEO of one of the sponsors of the event, Discovery Health, Dr Reuel Khoza, who spoke about handling Aids in the workplace, and Anne Leon, who has been living with HIV for 19 years and is a survivor of two types of cancer.

David O’Sullivan, who interviewed Lara at the function, asked him about his favourite knock. Lara said that after their disastrous South African tour in 1998 they returned to the West Indies to play two Tests against Australia. For the first time the West Indian Cricket Board placed the captain on notice.

Lara was under scrutiny when they arrived in Jamaica to play the first Test. Lara was from Trinidad and there is not much love lost between the two islands, so even within the team and the management he was under pressure.

“When we arrived at the airport and we got on the bus to take us to the hotel, I left my baggage outside and boarded the bus, thinking it would be loaded by the staff. When I looked out the window all the others bags had been loaded but mine was still on the pavement. “Suddenly somebody gets on the bus and

shouts: ‘Hey, Lara, go and get your luggage!’ So, I had to get off and take it on myself.”

Lara says he was very aware of the tension and when they came out to field at Sabina Park on the opening day of the Test and he had to lead the team out, he expected a rotten reception. But to his surprise, bowler Courtney Walsh, who is from Jamaica, put his hand on Lara’s shoulder and walked out on the field alongside the captain.

Lara went on to score 213 and the Windies won the Test by 10 wickets in four days. “For me, that was the innings that meant the most.”

Lara also apologised to South Africans for the 1998 tour which nearly did not happen due to infighting between the players and their cricket board. The team was at a hotel near Heathrow Airport in the UK and stayed there until Bacher turned up with a letter from Nelson Mandela.

“In our minds, the tour was definitely off until we were handed the letter from Madiba. How could we refuse him?”

“So I’d like to share a little of the blame with him. If he’d only written that letter one week earlier, the whole fiasco could have been avoided.”

But history is set to repeat itself as the Windies are due to tour South Africa at the end of the year, but another dispute has put the tour in jeopardy. Lara, however, has promised to do everything he can to ensure the tour takes place. “I’m very biased towards the players because I’ve been in that situation before and I know what it’s like.

“The public in the West Indies come down heavily on the players because it always seems to be a money issue, but that isn’t necessarily the case. Sometimes we just want principle points to be addressed.

“We want to play cricket - we’re born to play cricket - but we want to be treated fairly.”

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