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south african Jewish Report

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Photo: David Fleminger



Meiri's mischievous murals light up drab city walls

Famous Israeli street artist Rami Meiri is pictured with his wife Rachel in front of a wall of an orphanage on the corner of Nelson Mandela Drive and Stanza Bopape Street in Pretoria, with second year students from the Tshwane University of Technology and some staff members of City Property. Meiri, who also painted another wall in Pretoria (see page 3), conducted a workshop with his young university charges this week. Meiri was brought to South Africa as a joint collaboration between the Israeli Embassy and the Wapnick family through their company, City Property. "I'm an urban artist. My language is visual. I have been giving gifts to cities through murals for 35 years," the erudite Meiri said. He has plied his art as far afield as China. He will also grace some walls in Cape Town with his quirky designs and characters.

Keeping kosher in the UK, Canada and Australia

Jewish Report puts 3 major cities with large Jewish populations under the spotlight to see what kosher products are available there - and at what price.

Street artist Meiri gives joy to Pretoria walls

Meiri's artworks have been bringing cheer and laughter to passersby around the world.

The US and Iran: What happens once a deal is in place

A nuclear deal between Iran and the major powers could unleash far-reaching changes in the region. Much depends on what the final deal will look like.

Sir Nicholas Winton, rescuer of WWII Jewish children, passes on

Sir Nicholas Winton, the British stockbroker who saved the lives of more than 600 Jewish children from the Nazis, has died at the age of 106.

Happy 80th birthday, community stalwart Herby Rosenberg

A veritable feast of family, friends, felicitations and fine food - fitting tribute to a gentleman and scholar.



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Keeping kosher in the UK, Canada & Australia

**SHIRA DRUION
LONDON**

In times gone by, kashrut was a challenging mitzvah to undertake because of the many intricacies that came as part of the package. However, it is interesting to note that it did not deter many from upholding the complex laws that oblige Jews to adhere to the Torah commandments pertaining to diet.

Twenty-first century life has advanced Jewish diets too and presently, there are thousands of kosher products readily available the world over, with these product ranges expanding weekly.

SA Jewish Report put three major cities with large Jewish populations under the spotlight to see what they have to offer, in comparison to what is available in South Africa.

The South African Jewish community numbers some 70 000 and its members are fortunate to choose from an impressive selection of kosher products available at all local supermarkets.

Kosher butcheries, fisheries and bakeries provide the community with fresh and delicious goods and overseas visitors often remark that keeping kosher in South Africa could not be easier. "The kosher delis in Cape Town made

our trip so much more enjoyable! We could not believe what was on offer."

The United Kingdom has a Jewish community of approximately 300 000. Rabbi Eli Schoeman who grew up in Johannesburg, is the rabbinical co-ordinator of the kashrut department at the London Beth Din.

He says that for those fortunate enough to be living in a "Jewish area", keeping kosher is easy. There are kosher products from all over the world which are imported to the UK and there are many bakeries available to supply the community with a choice of kosher goods.

Schoeman adds: "For those living outside the typically Jewish areas, there is a kosher guide produced annually by the KLBD (Kashrut Division of the London Beth Din) as well as very efficient online searches with updated information (see www.isitkosher.uk).

"Meat and dairy products are difficult to come by and people have to make different arrangements for how they get these delivered to their area."

"There are approximately 270 000 Jews living in Toronto," says Sharon Durbach, a South African expat living in the city who is a kosher caterer. "There is a lot of kosher food available here. There are large allocated areas in supermarkets where there are only kosher products

and then in the non-kosher aisles, you just have to look on the packaging to find products with kosher stamps. Kosher meat is about two thirds more expensive than non-kosher meat and dairy products are also more expensive."

Former King Davidian, Rabbi Myron Sacher, currently lives in Bondi, Sydney where he is a teacher at The Jewish Learning Centre and Kesser Torah College.

"Kosher food is very accessible in the Jewish areas. The supermarkets in these areas stock many products, but finding them outside of these areas will prove a little tricky. Some of the products bear a kosher logo (KA, Kosher Australia, and Adass).

"Others are found in the kosher directory or online. Kosher meat is also more expensive," says Rabbi Sacher, which confirms that kosher products are more expensive the world over as a result of the intensive stages of kashrut involved with the entire process.

In a price comparison of a whole kosher chicken across the continents, Jewish Report ascertained that kosher chicken comes out cheapest in Johannesburg at R77.30 per kilo as opposed to the United Kingdom at R80 per kilo, Toronto R90 per kilo and Melbourne at R88 per kilo.

For those looking to eat out, "There are a

number of kosher restaurants available," says Durbach from Toronto. "But it seems that not too many of them make it for longer than a few years because going out to eat with bigger families becomes a very expensive outing."

"We have a Mexican eatery, lots of Chinese take-outs, lots of pizza places, a fancy dairy place and my personal favourite, called Bistro Grand on Eglington. But we don't even really have a good steak house! There are also many places where you can buy all kinds of ready-made deli stuff."

London has a very wide assortment of kosher restaurants servicing the thousands of strictly kosher customers. There are many milk restaurants, steak houses, Chinese and even an Ottolenghi restaurant which has become a real tourist attraction for authentic Mediterranean food lovers.

"We have a few kosher restaurants available," says Sacher from Sydney. "There is Katzys (meat), Bondi Pizza, Savion, Pita Mix and three branches of Glicks (kosher supermarket)."

South Africa has a good selection of kosher restaurants, some of which have even become a favourite of overseas visitors who return to foreign shores raving about, "Frangelica's dreamy muffins and cheesecake or Next Door's many sumptuous delights!"

Berland flees Holland, not hospitalised - reports

ANT KATZ



After the Dutch Supreme Court rejected his appeal and authorised his extradition to Israel on Tuesday, Chassidic leader, Rabbi Eliezer Berland (pictured), has been rumoured to have absconded from Holland before he could be extradited.

The rabbi who is accused of having indecently assaulted women in Israel and who had South African Jewry following his every move last year after arriving with a whole entourage, was widely reported to have been hospitalised in Holland.

The rabbi was ordered to turn himself in to Dutch police on Monday. On Sunday, Chassidic media were reporting that the rabbi's followers had been instructed to leave Holland and return to Israel. On Monday it was reported that Berland had, in fact, made off to an undisclosed country which has no extradition treaty with Israel.

The Dutch prosecutor said on Monday: "We are currently not in touch with the rabbi and we are checking as to his whereabouts." Then, said the prosecutor, "we will know if he has fled or not."

The rabbi-on-the-run has evaded arrest for over two years, twice slipping out of the hands of the Hawks while in South Africa and then flying out of OR Tambo Airport on his own passport despite there being an arrest warrant out for him.

Berland opposed his extradition from Holland on the grounds that the alleged assaults happened in the Palestinian territories (his Jerusalem yeshiva is in "occupied" East Jerusalem) and that Israel therefore has no jurisdiction. In any case, claimed Berland, he was not an Israeli citizen.

• Much more on this story on our website: www.sajr.co.za

Self-control



Parshat Pinchas

**Rabbi Yoni Lipschitz
Mizrachi Shul**

We are currently in the Bein Hametzarim (between the straits), the three weeks between the 17th of Tammuz and Tisha B'Av. These days have historically been days of misfortune and calamity for the Jewish people.

During this time, both the First and Second Temples were destroyed, among other great catastrophes occurring in Jewish history.

This is a time period where we as the Jewish people and as individuals need to look at ourselves and our actions in order to improve ourselves as human beings.

In today's world of instant gratification, we are seeing a decrease in self-control among people. Obesity in the world is at extraordinary proportions because we lack the self-control and discipline to make better choices about what we put into our mouths and what speech comes out of our mouths.

In this week's parsha, Aaron's grandson Pinchas is rewarded for his act of zealotry in killing Zimri and the Midianite princess who was his paramour.

G-d grants him a covenant of peace and the priesthood. Why is Aharon, Pinchas' paternal grandfather mentioned as Pinchas' grandfather in the Torah and not his maternal grandfather?

Rashi comments that this is because people were mocking Pinchas that he was the descendant of an idol worshipper and that is why he acted in the manner in which he did. Rabbi Avraham Sofer, the Kesav Sofer, writes on Parshat Pinchas that it seemed to people that the zealotry of Pinchas was based on traits that he inherited from his maternal grandfather rather than his paternal grandfather who was a "lover of peace, a pursuer of peace, one who loves the creatures and draws them close to Torah" (Ethics of the Fathers chapter 1:12).

Therefore, the Torah specifically states that Pinchas took after his paternal grandfather Aharon to show that he was by nature, a calm, merciful and peaceful person. The Torah, in praising him, is praising him for defying his natural tendencies, going out of his comfort zone, in order to bring honour to G-d.

The Vilna Gaon based on the verse in Mishlei 4:13: "Take fast hold of discipline, do not let it loose; guard it, for it is your life," remarks that in life everyone has challenges and life is about struggling with those challenges and working out how to overcome them.

Self-control is the ability to control oneself, in particular one's emotions and desires, especially in difficult situations. The Torah is teaching us that we must be prepared to step outside our comfort zone and extend ourselves and exercise self-control and discipline in our daily lives. This applies equally to what we put in our mouths as to what comes out of our mouths.

According to the Talmud, in Masechet Gittin (55a-56b), lashon harah was the cause of the destruction of the second Beit Hamikdash.

During this time period we should act like Pinchas by stepping outside of our comfort zones and exercising control and discipline over what we speak about and how we speak to others. May we merit to see the rebuilding of the Beit Hamikdash, speedily in our days.

Shabbat Times

Parshat Pinchas
Jul 10 / 23 Tammuz
Jul 11 / 24 Tammuz

17:13	18:04	Johannesburg
17:34	18:29	Cape Town
16:53	17:46	Durban
17:14	18:07	Bloemfontein
17:06	18:00	Port Elizabeth
16:59	17:53	East London

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Street artist Meiri gives joy to Pretoria walls

DIANE WOLFSON
PRETORIA

Driving along Church Street in the Pretoria CBD, one may for a moment think that you are in Tel Aviv. Two buildings were this past week transformed by Israel's finest street artist, Rami Meiri (pictured), and his bold signature in Hebrew stands out.

From the early '90s to the present day, lively murals have been popping up around the world, to a large degree thanks to Meiri; give him a blank concrete wall and mischievous murals become colourful depictions which interact with their environment.

"I'm an urban artist. My language is visual," Meiri self-describes his talent for creating evocative, larger-than-life murals.

His bright, acrylic works mirror Israel's lighter side, portraying pub culture, nightlife and images of beachgoers lazing in the sand, which are splashed across the country's building facades and cultural centres.

"I have been giving gifts to cities through murals for 35 years. I like to bring funny figures to balance life under pressure," remarked Meiri. He does this with peeping toms, funny faces and realistic characters to bring smiles and laughter to passers-by.

Meiri was brought to South Africa as a joint collaboration project between the Embassy of Israel and City Property Administration, a residential and commercial property



Photo: David Fleminger

management company, owned by the Wapnick family.

According to City Property's MD, Jeffery Wapnick, the company is extremely proud of its achievements in helping to uplift the Pretoria CBD. Its partnership with the Israeli Embassy in bringing Meiri to South Africa was based on City Property's mission to revive and regenerate the Pretoria CBD. It was also the result of collaborative efforts between South Africa and Israel, working with the community and local business.

The first completed mural (pictured) depicts two men working off open platforms on a high-rise building while the second (front page photo) is on the wall of an orphanage

in the CBD, which Meiri is doing as a workshop with second-year students from the University of Technology and joined by staff of City Property.

"What happens here is wonderful, working with local people and giving this gift to the City of Pretoria," said Meiri who uses his environment as part of the picture he creates.

Meiri's work is well-known in Israel, but he has also been commissioned to create murals in the US, Argentina, Germany and China, where Israel's embassy commissioned him to paint a mural on the wall surrounding a Beijing elementary school.

More recently, he began conducting workshops to get members of the community involved in this

art process. Under his guidance, employees have gone out and helped to paint their own office walls, while high school learners have been able to leave their mark, bringing communities together in more ways than one.

He has found it very interesting to tour and see the history of the country which inspires his art work. People working together give the atmosphere to what is created and he hopes that the children in the orphanage will be happier with their new cheerful building.

Meiri will also be doing murals in Cape Town after driving through the Garden Route and said that from what he had already seen of South Africa, he would return.

The role of women in local synagogues' governing bodies

SUZANNE BELLING

In Orthodox synagogues one is accustomed to seeing men reading from the Torah, opening and closing the Aron Kodesh, performing Hagba (the lifting up of the Torah), calling up men to the Torah and all the other duties and mitzvot that are incumbent on males to perform. But does this religiously male domain preclude women from serving on synagogue committees? And we are not talking here of ladies guilds.

Contrary to popular belief, women are playing an increasingly vital role on the governing bodies of shuls and are in demand for their organisational skills, decision-making and a variety of other essential tasks that preclude making mezonot savouries for the Kiddush after shul on Shabbos.

Speaking to the chairmen and presidents of several shuls in fact revealed that ladies guilds hardly exist any longer and that most of the catering is done professionally.

Stanley Seeff, president of the Sydenham-Highlands North Hebrew Congregation, told the SA Jewish Report: "The women are important cogs in the wheel of our council. It would surprise you to know that there are two women on our committee - one is actually the chairman of our shtiebel and the other is chairman of education."

But what of the shtiebel chairman who is not permitted halachically to carry out duties on the bimah during the service? "Not a problem," replied Seeff. "When it comes to religious obligations, other arrangements are made."

Carmen Kay, office manager of the Great Synagogue in the Gardens, Cape Town, says there is no objection to having women on the committee, although there are none at present. The woman who previously served on

the committee was in charge of the children's services and the former executive director of the shul was a woman, who has since emigrated.

Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation President Arnold Bloch said women elected to the shul committee were always welcome. "There are many women who assist unofficially but we do not have elected women committee members at the moment as we find they are committed to women's organisations such as Broth Zion Association WIZO."

"We haven't given up trying to recruit women as they are administratively competent. We are still looking."

Of course, there has never been a question about women serving on the committees of Progressive temples. Temple Israel in Hillbrow has three men and three women on the committee, one of whom is Reeva Forman, who was the first-ever elected chairman of a temple within the Progressive movement.

"I previously belonged to the Great Synagogue in Wolmarans Street, which I fought to save from being sold as I have a great respect for heritage sites. I was devastated when it was sold after a Jew was mugged and killed in the area."

In 1994 Forman was given the opportunity to fight, as chairman, to preserve Temple Israel, another heritage site, and this time she succeeded - by one vote.

"Jews were moving out of the area in 1997. But today there are still congregants from areas such as Hillbrow, Yeoville and Parktown and all services are run by capable laymen."

"There are services every Shabbat and on festivals - although we struggle to find a minyan on Friday nights. We actually need a rabbi and more facilities but are grateful for the assistance from the three rabbis of Beit Emanuel and Bet David."

World News in Brief

Woman reportedly denied entrance to Western Wall for wearing kippah

JERUSALEM - Security guards on Monday prevented an American woman from entering the Western Wall plaza because she was wearing a kippah, the Women of the Wall group said.

Guards and officials from the Western Wall Heritage Foundation asked the woman, identified only as Linda, who "authorised" her to wear a kippah, Women of the Wall said in a Facebook post under the heading "Breaking News". The woman, who recently arrived in Israel to study at a Conservative yeshiva, refused to accompany a guard to the nearby police station and instead was escorted to the taxi stand outside the Kotel.

"We at Women of the Wall are outraged by the Western Wall Heritage Foundation for treating anyone who is not ultra-Orthodox as a suspect and a criminal, and getting to determine that despite a court ruling, women cannot enter the Kotel to pray if they have a kippa, tallit, tefillin or Torah scroll," the group said on Facebook.

An April 2013 Supreme Court ruling acknowledged women's right to pray at the Western Wall according to their beliefs, claiming it does not violate what has come to be known as "local custom".

Women of the Wall gather at the Western Wall at the start of each Jewish month for the morning prayer service. (JTA)

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Around the Jewish World

WORLD JEWISH POPULATION REACHES 16,5 MILLION, REPORT SAYS

JERUSALEM - The number of Jewish people in the world is almost the same as it was before the Holocaust, according to Israeli think-tank, the Jewish People Policy Institute.

Before the Holocaust - in which six million Jews were murdered by the Nazis - there were 16,5 million Jews in the world. Now, the institute - which presented its report to the Israeli Cabinet - has said there are 14,2 million Jews, with a further 2,3 million identifying as "partially Jewish", including those with one Jewish parent.

The report attributed the rise to population growth in Israel, which has one of the highest fertility rates in Western countries.

It also attributed the growth to people identifying as "Jewish" if they have one Jewish parent.

According to the report, there are 6,1 million Jews living in Israel, 5,7 million in America and 475 000 in France - which has the third-highest population of Jews in the world. – Jewish Chronicle

PROMOTING JEWISH-MUSLIM UNDERSTANDING

MONTREAL - Representatives of the Montreal Jewish and Muslim communities have agreed to co-operate in areas of common concern and to encourage greater contact between their members.

At an initial meeting, a group of 27 people, both clergy and laymen, held a 2 1/2-hour discussion behind closed doors under the auspices of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FFEJU), a New York-based not-for-profit organisation that, since 2007, has been trying to "build a global movement of Muslims and Jews who are committed to strengthening relations between [the two] communities", said the programme's director Walter Ruby after the meeting.

In the Greater Toronto Area, the FFEJU has worked with the Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims (CAJM) since 2008, organising annual "twinning" events between mosques and synagogues, and between Jewish and Muslim organisations, said Karen Mock, a human rights consultant and adviser to CAJM.

There were similar festive or social events run by local communities throughout the United States and many cities in Europe, under the FFEJU's aegis, Ruby said - Canadian Jewish News

WARNING: HOLOCAUST CAN HAPPEN AGAIN

LONDON - BBC political editor Nick Robinson has urged young people to raise the subject of the Holocaust as much as possible in day-to-day conversation and on social media, "to make people remember".

Robinson told teenagers at the annual conference for Holocaust Educational Trust Ambassadors: "It is your job first and foremost to say that it did happen. This is not an argument, it is not a debate. It happened and it could happen again."

Over 300 HET ambassadors - young people who have taken part in the trust's Lessons from Auschwitz project and run events and talks in their regions to educate others on the Holocaust, attended the conference.

They raised concerns about online anti-Semitic abuse and the pros and cons of using new technology in the future of Holocaust education. - Jewish Chronicle.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD TO RABBI WHO HELPS CHILDLESS COUPLES

JERUSALEM - In an impressive ceremony which took place last week at the presidential residence in Jerusalem, the chairman of the "Pri Chaim" Organisation, Rabbi Moshe Shlesinger, received the Honorary Presidential Volunteer

Award for his long-standing activity in bringing respite, relief and smiles to childless couples.

The award was granted to Rabbi Shlesinger by President Reuven Rivlin, and the chairman of the committee for the presidential award, Dan Meridor.

Rabbi Shlesinger received the honour for his many years of activity within the framework of the "Pri Chaim" Organisation which assists couples with fertility issues.

The committee's decision stated that this award was being granted to Rabbi Shlesinger "for having toiled for over 30 years, without any monetary gain or reimbursement, in assisting and guiding those who seek to establish families.

"He is available for telephone consultation in his home every hour of the day, as well as throughout the country and from Jewish communities all over the world. In the course of this long period, he has assisted some 30 000 couples to bring children into the world through his extensive connections with the top experts in the field."

Many of these couples think of their children as "grandchildren" of Rabbi Shlesinger. Often, he has defied the pessimistic prognoses of doctors and forged ahead, seeking alternate solutions, different tactics, suggesting innovative and original ideas to circumvent the problems." – "Pri Chaim", the Fruit of Life

Community Voices

Load-shedding - a pain in the butt we have to live with...

The people are angry - or resigned. Load-shedding is no longer a sporadic inconvenience - it is a regular way of life. Again, those who suffer the most are the ones who cannot afford to pay for generators, inverters, fancy gas cookers or even alternative methods of lighting up their homes and keeping food warm. When will there be a respite? Nobody knows, not even Eskom itself. The Jewish Report canvassed opinions in the community.



Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, CEO of the African Jewish Congress and spiritual leader of country communities, is disillusioned with the situation, "just one of which is the current load-shedding crisis. I have witnessed this decline for too many years in Zimbabwe and am fearful South Africa is going the same way. I travel to Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho, Kenya, Uganda, Swaziland, Mauritius, Mozambique and Namibia, where this does not happen - and it should not be happening in this country."

He says that when at home for Shabbat and festivals, he is always worried about load-shedding, especially when entertaining and not wanting to give his guests cold food.

"I suppose one has to learn to be resourceful and I recently heard about a special insulated bag that can keep food warm for hours if placed in a pot, when the food is piping hot."



Linky Neimann of Rouxville says she had never experienced load-shedding on Shabbat, but "my biggest fear is that we would have load-shedding on Shabbos, especially if we are entertaining." She adds that if there was load shedding, she would put extra blankets over the hot tray to keep the food warm and if they were expecting load-shedding, they would put on some emergency lights before Shabbat.

If it happened on another night, they would just put on the emergency lights when the electricity went off and "finish up whatever we're doing and go to bed".

She says she is irritated by load-shedding, which she finds "a waste of time".



Joanne Benjamin, operations and human resources director of the Cape Town Jewish Community Centre, has been "looking into generators" but, with quotes in the region of

R45 000, is not sure whether it is worth it. She has strong feelings about "the mismanagement of Eskom and all its incompetents. I think they should stop making payments to all their executive CEOs and rather use the money for maintenance."

On a personal level, she is not really affected in her home in Milnerton. "It seldom happens at the times I need to be at home; if it does, I

have a candlelight bath and wait for the lights to come on." Benjamin says she is often out for dinner on Friday nights and cannot remember ever experiencing load-shedding on Shabbat.

"But we do have some solutions. My domestic helper who lives in the suburb of Denoon, experiences much more load-shedding - even between six to eight hours. I think it is disgusting."



Retired accountant **Monty Sassen** says if we were forewarned, if there was a programme and we knew what was coming and when there would be load-shedding, it might not be so serious and we might be able to adapt.

"[But] we have to adapt and accept it accordingly. However, we can't always do so because, and without warning, it's there. It's of nuisance value. It's the inconvenience," he said.

"When it happens, we've got those Consol lights. We immediately put them on. They cost about R180 [each]. They cost nothing to operate. You charge them during the day. You can switch them on at night for about seven hours." His wife, Bernice, adds "But I don't know what we would do if we had load-shedding on Shabbos. It would be terrible."



Entertainer and producer **Helen Heldenmuth** is not in the least bit perturbed about load-shedding on Shabbat.

"I would just give everybody cold food," she says. "I wouldn't feel bad because it is part and parcel of living in South Africa today. And every time we have outages, before I even think of complaining, I remember the lives of the people who lived in Alexandra and Soweto and who never used to have electricity. Their children studied by candlelight and it did not even ruin their eyesight."

"They cooked on gas burners or even open fires - and that was after the Putco buses (before taxis) brought them home at seven or eight at night." There was always the risk of fires, she says.

"Today, my main complaint (personally) is having to walk up five flights and, by the time it takes me to climb the stairs, the lights have usually come on already. But, if it is dark, and I don't have the energy, I get back into my car and drive from Killarney to my machateneste's home in Houghton and spend the night there."

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We need to hear Muslims say ‘not in my name’

TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

The success Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement has had in South Africa and elsewhere in making the phrase “apartheid Israel” familiar and acceptable, underlines the importance of what things are called – particularly in the social media age, where a name or acronym can go viral in seconds and affect the perceptions of millions.

BDS knows what it is doing – it’s a powerful strategy. The name may be wrong, implying things that are not true, or giving a superficial gloss to something very complex, but the damage is hard to undo once the label has been attached.

Peaceful Muslims have that problem today in a huge way as the world is flooded with ghastly images of terrorists cutting off the heads of innocent people, mowing down tourists on a beach in Tunisia, and other similar acts, and broadcasting loudly that they are doing it in the name of Islam.

But if the label is false, why don’t peaceful Muslims protest loudly? It is a question that puzzles non-Muslims. Silence is understood as acquiescence, whether intended or not.

Last Saturday, a reaction came from a strange source: the Egyptian foreign ministry. It instructed journalists not to link the terrorism of Islamic State to

Islam when reporting on it, because it would “tarnish the image” of the religion. It came after a string of barbaric acts perpetrated in France, Kuwait, Tunisia and in Sinai by IS-inspired groups and individuals.

Older South African whites remember their discomfort during apartheid when they travelled overseas and were accused of being evil racists. Apartheid was being perpetrated in their name. Saying they were not responsible, that they were just living their own lives, was not good enough. They had to shout out their opposition, declare loudly that it was “not in their name”.

Do the actions of IS reflect what Islam is – the beheadings of journalists, the slaughter of innocent tourists, the suicide bombings and all the other ghastly deeds we’ve seen lately which make it feel as if the world has gone mad? Most Muslims would say emphatically no. Islam is a religion of peace, we are often told.

Egypt’s “guide” to journalists was issued several days after a series of co-ordinated attacks by an IS-affiliated group that killed dozens in the Sinai Peninsula.

It said religious terms must be avoided in referring to the Islamic State group, as these “tarnish the image of Islam as it falsely attaches the horrendous acts of these extremist groups to the Islamic faith”. The terminologies used “should not be associated with any religion or affiliated with any faith, even if these groups falsely claim to base their horrifying acts on religion and associate their gruesome deeds

with faith”.

Terms that may be used when describing terrorist groups, said the guide, were: Terrorists, extremists, criminals, savages, murderers, killer, slayers, assassins and so forth. Terms that should not be used were Islamists, Islamic State, Jihadists, and fundamentalists.

The truth is that most victims of terrorism perpetrated by Muslims are other Muslims, which makes it even more complex – it becomes one interpretation of Islam battling against another. According to Haaretz, “In 2013, nearly 18 000 people were murdered in terror attacks, and in 2014 the number crossed 32 000. Almost all of them were Muslims. In addition, there are the victims of the wars in the Muslim world, so the estimates are that 132 000 – 174 000 Muslims were killed in 2014.”

According to different surveys, an absolute majority of Muslims worldwide, including those in Egypt, oppose the Islamist State.

We can’t expect all South African Muslims to take up arms and rush off to the Middle East or wherever else to fight against IS to clear the name of Islam. Most South African whites who hated apartheid, lived their lives within it, brought up families, and so on. Peaceful Muslim families are similarly entitled to be allowed to live their lives unhindered as long as they don’t harm others.

But it would be good to hear Muslims say more loudly and clearly that they oppose IS, what it does and stands for. Their own “not in my name” statement.

Salmon: health food or toxin?

RICHARD SUTTON

It's widely believed that salmon is one of the healthiest foods on the planet. It's high in essential oils (especially omega-3 fatty acids), important minerals and vitamins and is an excellent source of protein.

This is true - if you are consuming the wild variety. Unfortunately farmed salmon does not live up to the reputation of its wild counterpart, and may in fact be harmful to our health.

Several medical experts began speaking out against farmed salmon. Dr Anne-Lise Bjørke-Monsen, a senior consultant from the Haukeland University Hospital in Norway, is a respected medical authority.

She and her team have been vocal in their warnings against the consumption of farmed salmon in the interests of public health and safety, particularly for young or pregnant women and children.

The first major study on the topic was published in Science in 2004.

The team assessed two metric tonnes of salmon which came from eight different salmon-producing regions in both the northern and southern hemispheres.

The goal was to investigate the levels of pollutants within the fish, as their carnivorous nature and position within the food chain makes them prime candidates in the bioaccumulation of contaminants.

The results shocked the researchers. It indicated that farmed salmon have significantly higher contaminant

burdens than wild salmon and that farmed salmon from Europe (Scotland and Norway) are significantly more contaminated than farmed salmon from South and North America.

Thirteen organochlorine chemicals were identified in the farmed fish at levels that can significantly impact human health, such as numerous highly toxic and even banned chemicals, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dieldrin, toxaphene and dioxin.

These chemicals are associated with behavioural disorders in children; memory impairment; decreased IQ; neurodegenerative diseases; various forms of cancer; attention deficit disorder; the development of autism; and skeletal abnormalities.

In a 2011 study published in Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, levels of organochlorines and heavy metal contaminants were up to 11 times higher in farmed salmon, when compared with salmon in the wild.

The fundamental question is: “Why is farmed salmon so contaminated?”

The primary issue appears to be their diet. Farmed salmon are fed a concentrated feed, high in fish oils and fishmeal, which is obtained primarily from small pelagic fishes.

Additionally, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, salmon feed contains, “animal by-product meal, poultry by-product meal, meat meal, blood meal, hydrolysed feather meal...” the list goes on to allegedly include pork by-products and genetically modified grains.

In addition, because salmon

farming is very intensive (with large numbers of fish in very small spaces) there are challenges with the control of parasites, especially sea lice, viruses and bacteria.

According to reports that measured the levels of organochlorines (dioxins, PCBs) in a variety of different food sources, farmed salmon showed 10 times higher levels of these chemicals when compared to beef, and almost 15 times greater concentrations than chicken.

How much salmon can one consume without putting one’s health in jeopardy? According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, the recommendation is a salmon intake of two portions every five months, if it is from European origin (Scottish or Norwegian).

Salmon from North and South American origin is considerably less toxic and the guidelines are in the region of two portions a month. Wild salmon can be consumed fairly freely, about two to three portions a week.

Scientists have been mixing the genes of various fish species to create a new breed of salmon that is up to 13 times larger than its wild relative and can grow to full size in half the time (18 months as opposed to 36 months).

The only thing that is keeping the new “Frankenfish” off the Shabbos table for now is strong opposition from environmental groups, which believe that the GMO fish could escape from enclosures, out-compete wild salmon and contaminate wild stocks.

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south african Jewish Report

What is our choreography for dealing with adversity?

Some of the recent news about anti-Semitism from the United Kingdom is not easy to digest. Figures released last Friday by London's Metropolitan Police show that anti-Semitic crimes rose last year by 138 per cent, from 208 incidents in 2013 to 495 in 2014.

Then last week graffiti was found on the gates of the Simon Marks Primary School in the east London borough of Hackney which read: "F*ck the Jews".

A month ago, the London community got wind of a planned "neo-Nazi" rally to be held in the heavily Jewish area of Golders Green on Shabbat of July 4, to protest against its "Jewification". This followed a demonstration by a handful of protesters in the Stamford Hill area in April also fighting against the "Jewification of Britain" which was orchestrated by neo-Nazi blogger Joshua Bonehill-Pane.

But British Jewry did not stand idly by and they should be commended for how they dealt with last Saturday's march.

Finchley and Golders Green Member of Parliament Mike Freer, unsuccessfully tried to convince the Home Office (the government department for immigration, crime, and policing) to ban the protest as "a deliberate attempt to provoke tension and anti-Semitism". The Metro Police said they did not have the right to ban a demonstration and were obligated to protect free speech.

As a result, a coalition of key organisations, including the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the London Jewish Forum, and the pluralistic, anti-fascist group Hope Not Hate banded together as a group called Golders Green Together. They passed out leaflets, lobbied British members of parliament and the police, and asked local shops to display gold and green banners and ribbons as a symbol of defiance.

Through their efforts, the rally was moved to central London. Many believed that if the rally had taken place in Golders Green, thousands of counter-protesters would have converged and chaos would have erupted. Bonehill-Pane, who had a hand in touting the Golders Green rally, was also charged with inciting racial hatred.

The result was a tiny gathering of 20 alleged neo-Nazis escorted by a lot more police officers and an estimated 200 counter-protesters. The counter-protesters who were not only Jewish, yelled slogans such as "Nazis off our streets" and "We are black, white, Asian and we're Jews, and there's many more of us than you".

The protesters waved Palestinian and Confederate flags, as well as White Pride banners. At the end of the protest, the 20 or so "neo-Nazis" were escorted to Westminster Tube Station by police officers; no violence broke out and it was a non-event.

London's Jewish community should be proud. They gathered the high level support they needed to minimise any negative impact and they stood up to the protesters in much greater numbers. It was "very British" and very dignified.

Anti-Semitic marches in South Africa have taken on a different hue. We have not had to deal with a neo-Nazi rally in our city centre but we have also faced the red and green of the Palestinian flag at various Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions rallies and at Israel Apartheid Weeks where phrases such as "Shoot the Jew" were heard.

Luckily our community organisations would make us proud too. The quality of our community structures and the cordial relationships our leadership maintains with government has already proven that we too can cope with anti-Semitism when it arises.

There is a lot within our wonderful and troubled South Africa that works in our favour. Our exceptional constitution which can be called upon when necessary, our visceral commitment to the protection of human rights, the humane way the Jewish community has interacted with other groups, particularly when they are under threat, are all part of the much needed fabric that protects us.

– Vanessa Valkin, Editor

More news on our website www.sajr.co.za



US President Barack Obama teleconferencing about the Iran nuclear talks from the White House with Secretary of State John Kerry, on March 31.

The US and Iran: What happens once a deal is in place

RON KAMPEAS
WASHINGTON

Years before it is deemed a success or a failure, a nuclear deal between Iran and the major powers could unleash far-reaching changes in the region. Much of the focus in Congress and the media in recent weeks has been on whether the deal would inhibit Iran's nuclear capability via a tough inspections regimen, or enhance that capability by keeping in place some amount of uranium enrichment.

And while the full military dimensions of the deal may not be known for years, its political and diplomatic dimensions are likely to play out within months of an agreement. Much depends on what the deal looks like, whether its backers or opponents prevail in shaping its public perception, and how the Obama administration handles the post-deal landscape.

"It will take several months to determine if this agreement will function," said Aaron David Miller, a vice president at the Wilson Centre think tank and a longtime Middle East negotiator for several presidential administrations.

Hurdles facing the Obama administration included congressional approval, which was required after a deal was reached, and obstruction from the deal's opponents, chief among them Israel, Miller said.

"The Saudis and the Israelis and Republicans will make a great effort to persuade [Congressional] Democrats that this is a fundamentally flawed agreement," he said. "I wouldn't rule out the idea of Israelis going to cyber warfare, to black ops" against Iran.

Israel has been blamed for assassinations in recent years targeting top Iranian nuclear scientists.

Among the issues Iran watchers will be tracking:

- Will a nuclear deal between Iran and the major powers improve the Islamic Republic's relations with the US, or will it further stoke tensions? And which scenario would be better for Israel?
- Saudi Arabia and Persian Gulf states in recent years have increased their purchases of anti-missile systems, leading Israel to press the Obama administration to maintain its qualitative military edge over those countries. Would a deal abate regional anxieties and slow down the arms race now underway among the Gulf States and Israel? Or will it push regional powers to seriously consider nuclear weapons development?
- Would a deal free Iran to expand its regional hegemony, or would it moderate Iran's mischief-making?

Ken Pollack, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Centre for Middle East Policy, whose focus in recent years has been Iran and its nuclear capacity, outlined four post-deadline scenarios: a deal and a US retreat from the region, which would embolden Iran; a deal and US engagement in the region, which would moderate Iran; a failure to achieve a deal, in which the US is blamed and the sanctions regime collapses, which would embolden Iran; a failure to achieve a deal, blamed on Iran, which would tighten sanctions and constrain the regime.

The deal itself "is not definitive in any way about what's going to happen in the future", Pollack, a senior Clinton administration National Security Council staffer who handled Iran, said in an interview. "How the United States responds to a deal, or no deal, will have an impact."

Gen Martin Dempsey, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, on a visit to Israel a month ago, coupled understanding for Israel's concerns that sanctions relief would expand Iran's influence with assurances to Israel that the United States would mitigate any such expansion with arms sales.

"If the deal is reached and results in sanctions relief, which results

in more economic power and more purchasing power for the Iranian regime, it's my expectation that it's not all going to flow into the economy to improve the lot of the average Iranian citizen," The Associated Press on June 9 quoted Dempsey as telling reporters after meeting with his Israeli counterparts.

"I think they will invest in their surrogates; I think they will invest in additional military capability."

It's not clear if that view pervades the Obama administration.

Richard Nephew, a former Obama administration Iran negotiator and now at Columbia University, scoffed at the possibility of Iran using sanctions relief to fund terrorism. Instead, he wrote last week in Foreign Policy, Iran's leaders were likelier to invest in their battered economy.

"To ensure the stability of their government, Iran's leaders must tend to the problems at home and make the investments necessary to sustain their future," Nephew wrote.

Dempsey also said he told his Israeli interlocutors that the United States would continue to enhance Israel's military posture.

The emerging deal focuses only on Iran's capability to produce fissile material and leaves aside delivery systems, including ballistic missiles. That has fuelled an arms race among Gulf Arab states eager to buy state-of-the-art American weapons systems in anticipation of being a counterweight to Iran.

That in turn has led Israeli officials to express concerns to their Obama administration counterparts, as well as their allies in Congress, about Israel maintaining its qualitative military edge in the region.

Israeli officials say they do not perceive a threat from the Arab regimes, but are concerned that the upheaval roiling the region could replace friendly governments with hostile forces who would have access to sophisticated arms.

Another critical element fuelling Arab and Israeli anxieties was the Obama administration's retreat in 2013 from a pledge to strike Syria should the Assad regime use chemical weapons in that country's civil war. The regime has remained ensconced in large part because of substantial backing from Iran.

"They're concerned that the Obama administration will use a nuclear deal with Iran as a get out of the Middle East free card," Pollack said, referring to Israel and Arab allies of the United States.

"Greatly stepping up its involvement in Syria, would be a great way to show that the United States is not walking away from the Middle East."

President Obama appears ready to do just that. On Monday, he convened a news conference at the Pentagon to announce that he "will do more to train and equip the moderate opposition in Syria", without providing details.

Should the Assad regime collapse, the likelihood was that Iran would increase its efforts in Syria and Lebanon, said Alireza Nader, an Iran analyst at the Rand Corp think tank, which consults with the US government's defence sector.

"Let's say the Assad regime begins to collapse six months from now and Iran steps up its involvement and the United States doesn't like that," Nader said. "If there is no political process for determining the post-Assad government, then Iran and the United States might be at odds."

In those circumstances, renewed tensions between the US and Iran might ultimately affect the agreed-upon deal.

"There is a possibility Iran and the US can reduce tensions, but also the possibility that based on circumstances that tensions regionally with Iran could also increase," Nader said. (JTA)

Sir Nicholas Winton, rescuer of WWII Jewish children, passes on

RAFAEL MEDOFF
WASHINGTON

Last week's passing of Sir Nicholas Winton (pictured) at the age of 106, the London stockbroker who rescued more than 600 Jewish children from the Nazis on the eve of the Second World War, has drawn attention to the phenomenon of ordinary individuals who risked their lives to save Jews from the Holocaust.

Winton's story is also a reminder of some often overlooked contrasts between British and American responses to the plight of Europe's Jewish refugees.

The most widely known examples of such rescuers are Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish businessman who sheltered Jews in Nazi-occupied Budapest; Oskar Schindler, the German industrialist who protected Jews by using them as employees in his factories; and Varian Fry, the American journalist who organised the smuggling of some 2 000 refugee artists and writers from Vichy France.

But in recent years, the stories of some previously unheralded individuals have also come to light.

An HBO documentary film came out last year about Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus, a Jewish couple from Philadelphia who brought 50 children from Vienna to the US in 1939. A documentary is in the works about the Rev Waitstill Sharp and his wife, Martha, a Unitarian couple from Massachusetts who undertook rescue operations in German-occupied Czechoslovakia in 1939 and then joined Fry's rescue network in France.

Winton's rescue work likewise came to public attention only relatively recently. The son of German-Jewish immigrants to England who had converted to Christianity, Winton became involved in the refugee cause almost on a whim.

Alerted that several of his friends had become involved in Jewish refugee relief work in Czechoslovakia, Winton flew to Prague in 1939 to see what they were doing. He ended up taking charge of a remarkable mission to smuggle hundreds of Jewish children out of the country in the months following the Kristallnacht pogrom.

The Nazis had taken over the western Czech region known as the Sudetenland as a result of the September 1938 Munich Pact. Then, in early 1939, the Germans occupied the rest of the country. The approximately 350 000 Jews of Czechoslovakia now braced to share the fate suffered by Jews in Germany and Austria.

Winton realised the possibility of finding havens would be greater if they focused on children. His group, the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia, Children's Section, raced against the clock to find foster homes for Czech Jewish children, raise funds to bribe German and Czech border officials, and forge exit papers.

Uncertain as to how many children England would accept, Winton turned to America to play a part in the rescue effort. On May 16, 1939, he wrote directly to President Franklin D Roosevelt about the "desperately urgent situation". Many Czech Jewish children are "quite destitute", he wrote, with some of them "homeless and starving".

If compelled to stay in Czechoslovakia, "there is no future", he wrote. "Is it possible for anything to be done to help us with this problem in America?"

The State Department responded that there was nothing the US could do, since "the United States Government is unable... to permit immigration in excess of that provided for by existing immigration laws".

That answer was disingenuous. The annual quota for immigrants from Czechoslovakia was small - just 2 874 - but it was never filled during the Hitler years. In fact, during most of those years, it was less than one-third filled.

The year that Winton wrote, 1939, some 158



quota places sat unused. Thus, at least some of the children could have been brought to America within the existing quotas. But the Roosevelt administration piled on numerous bureaucratic regulations and requirements to make the application process extremely difficult and time consuming, and the one thing Europe's Jews did not have, was time.

England has been justly criticised for its wartime policies concerning Europe's Jews. But when it came to aiding Jewish refugees after Kristallnacht, the British actually were considerably more generous than the Roosevelt administration.

Roosevelt condemned the pogrom and extended the visitor visas of those German Jews who already were in the United States as tourists. But he refused to admit refugees to American territories such as Alaska or the Virgin Islands, where the quota laws did not apply.

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, on the other hand, did not condemn Kristallnacht but did agree to take in 10 000 Jewish children on the famous Kindertransports. England also gave shelter to an additional 14 000 young German Jewish women by allowing them to enter as cooks and nannies.

Eight trains organised by Winton and his friends, carrying a total of 669 children, made it out of Czechoslovakia in the summer of 1939. A ninth train, with 250 children, was scheduled to leave on September 1 of that year, but the borders were sealed when Germany launched its invasion of Poland that day. Those children were never heard from again.

Winton never spoke about his rescue work, even to his wife, Grete Gjelstrup. More than 50 years later, she discovered a stack of dusty documents and photos from the Czech rescue mission in their attic.

"I did not think for one moment that they would be of interest to anyone so long after it happened," he later told an interviewer.

Winton very reluctantly allowed his wife to share the information with a handful of historians and journalists. As a result, late in life he was made an honorary citizen of Prague, praised in a US congressional resolution and even knighted by the Queen. In 2009, shortly after his 100th birthday, he was reunited in an emotional ceremony with some of the children he saved.

The letter Winton sent to Roosevelt, however, remained a mystery until last year. In a "60 Minutes" segment broadcast in April 2014, Winton referred to the letter but mentioned that he had never been able to locate a copy. David Langbart, a staff member at the National Archives, saw the programme and, after some digging, managed to locate both Winton's letter and the administration's reply. They were presented to him in May 2014, on the occasion of his 105th birthday. (JTA)

(Rafael Medoff is founding director of The David S Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies in Washington, DC)

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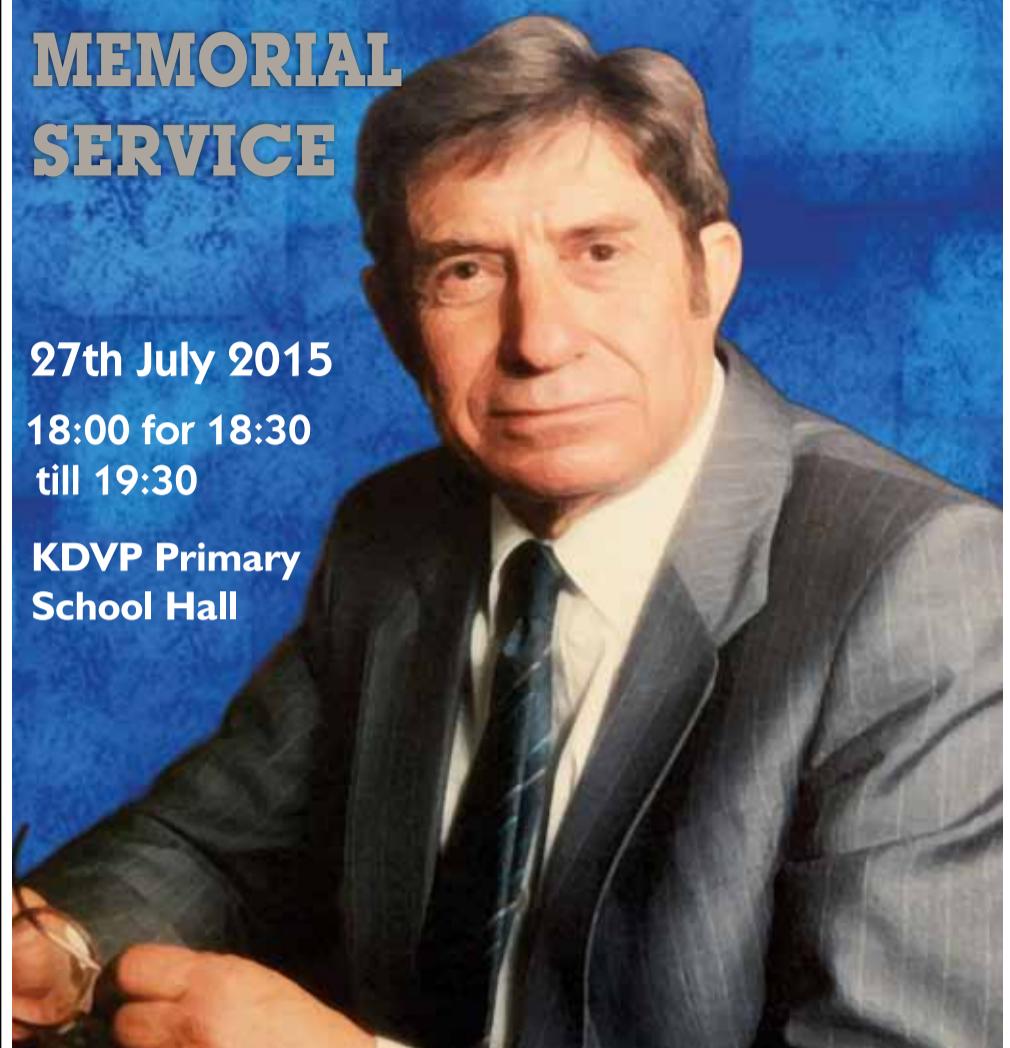


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Introducing the Jewish Report's board of directors

BEV GOLDMAN

Founded in 1998, the South African Jewish Report is the only national newspaper for South African Jewry. Its board of directors, since inception, has played an invaluable role in ensuring that the paper remains financially and editorially viable and that its mandate and mission are followed to the letter.

Two of the founding members of the paper - Bertie Lubner and Herby Rosenberg - are still members of the board today. The chairman of the first board was the inimitable Sam Abrahams.



remains honorary lifetime chairman and honorary lifetime president of SAUJS; and is chairman of the Jewish Achiever Awards and a trustee of the Afrika Tikkun Trust.

Equally comfortable with political and social issues, he was one of the organisers of the two previous extremely successful Yom Ha'atzmaut raves held for the younger members of the community; and serves as a role model for many of them.

Of the Jewish Report, Howard says: "The SA Jewish Report is no longer just a newspaper. Today it is a media company with a newspaper, web portal and Facebook presence. Our role is to provide quality and responsible content that is newsworthy, unique and relevant to a South African Jewish audience.

"The Jewish Report has become the glue that bonds the South African Jewish community together. It is a great honour to step into the chair in the footsteps of some of the giants that have come before me. Our new board is a mixture of great diversity, all of whom have a deep love and affection for the South African Jewish community.

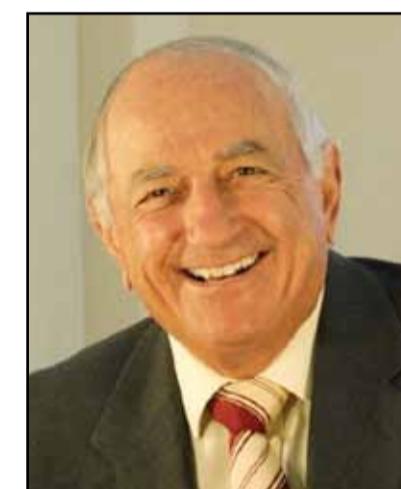
"I have no doubt that with our new board and new editor Vanessa Valkin, we can all add great value to both the Jewish community and South Africa as a whole."

In his day job, Howard is CEO of Saicom Holdings which includes, Saicom Voice Services, Saicom International, Saicom SMS and Tariffic.

be able to afford them, he sits on the boards of a number of other trusts and bodies including the CSF Trust, Greater Glenhazel Active Security, Vaxitron Investments and Wozipo Capital.

An avid sportsman, Benjy has completed 14 Comrades Marathons, over 100 marathons and half marathons, 13 94.7 Cycle challenges and a number of half Ironman and full Ironman competitions. His wife and six children are his greatest supporters and greatest fans.

His community involvement extends to a number of initiatives beside the Jewish Report, most notably CAP. Of his position at the Jewish Report he says: "I am passionate about the Jewish Report as I believe it can be a way of showing and building unity in our community. I am also very grateful to my mentor and the chairman of our business, Issie Kirsh, for getting me involved and it is a great honour to take over from him as vice chairman."



Newly-elected chairman of the 2015 board, **Howard Sackstein** holds a BA in Law and International Relations and an LLB degree from Wits and a Masters degree from Brandeis University in Political Advocacy and International Conflict Resolution.

An inveterate globe trotter, Howard has travelled to 66 countries, exploring places known to very few South Africans. He describes himself, in his other life, as king of social media, explosive political activist, lover of life, meanderer of the globe, and official photographer to life itself.

Never one to shy away from the contentious, Howard was actively involved in the Anti-Apartheid Movement and took Nelson Mandela to Brussels in 1993. A year later he joined the Independent Electoral Commission, where he worked for six years, in the process becoming executive director largely responsible for the 1999 general election.

In 2006, he undertook the initial research that resulted in the creation of the CAP security project which today protects more than 100 000 homes and has reduced crime by over 90 per cent in the areas that it covers.

He is also very involved in communal affairs, having served as chairman of the SA Union of Jewish Students and vice-chairman of the World Union of Jewish Students. He



Bertie Lubner, well known and highly respected for his philanthropy, his business acumen, his commitment to the challenges he undertakes, his assiduity and perseverance in business and communal activities, has been an active member of the board of the Jewish Report since its founding.

Bertie was previously chief executive of Plate Glass and Shatterprufe Industries, vice-chairman of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, an executive member of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, chairman of Salid Investments, director of Plate Glass Holdings SA, and chairman of the Lubner Group of Companies.

After a lifetime in business, Bertie changed direction, taking on the role of creating organisations that would look after new generations of South Africans. He founded and became chairman of a number of outreach programmes including Afrika Tikkun, a Jewish-led outreach organisation to assist previously disadvantaged children, whose patron-in-

Holding B Com and B Acc degrees from Wits University, and having completed his articles at Grant Thornton in 1999 to become a chartered accountant, Jewish Report vice-chairman, **Benjy Porter** is a firm believer in the importance of leading a balanced lifestyle.

As well as holding the position of CEO of Legal & Tax, a national company that offers and makes accessible sound legal and tax advice and other services to many South Africans who might not otherwise

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chief was former President Nelson Mandela.

He initiated the Field Band Foundation - an organisation which has developed 31 college-style bands, bringing not only musical skills, but lifestyle skills to over 4 000 children from the most deprived areas. He is a trustee for the Worcester Home for the Deaf and Blind and is a patron of the Lubner "Kibbutz" - a farming project in South Africa, incorporating people with Down's syndrome.

Bertie is also vice president of the Institute of Directors; president of the SA Israel Chamber of Commerce; and member of the task force representing Business and Government at the World Economic Forum. He was awarded an honorary doctorate of philosophy from Ben-Gurion University in 1987; and in 1990 he received the highest South African Civil Award - OMSS, which embraced his role in business, the interests of the country and his direct involvement in philanthropic and social community projects.

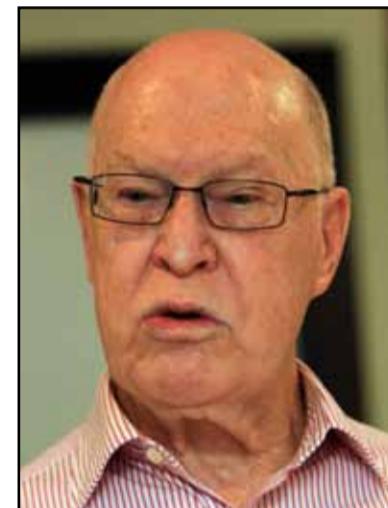


Howard Feldman, who until recently was chairman of the board of the Jewish Report before Howard Sackstein took over, is a lawyer, a physical commodity trader by industry and a writer by obsession. He co-hosts the weekday Morning Mayhem Breakfast Show on Chai FM from 06:00 to 09:00. Very active in the Jewish community and passionate about the Jewish world, he

is also a philanthropist and social commentator.

His regular blog in The Times of Israel has garnered for him a dedicated and loyal following and his recently published book "Carry-on Baggage", detailing his rise and fall in life, and enabling him to discover not just the meaning of home, family and friendship but also himself, is a best-seller across a wide spectrum of readers.

Unashamedly Jewish, unashamedly South African, and unashamedly supportive of Israel, Howard is married to Heidi and has five children. He is passionate about the Jewish Report, and during his tenure as chairman of the Board, he propelled the paper through both good times and bad, never defaulting on his responsibility to ensure its success.



Having recently celebrated his 80th birthday, and as active and involved as ever, non-executive board member **Herby Rosenberg** has brought to his position at the Jewish Report the same passion and dedication that is the hallmark of both his professional and his communal lives.

The list of his directorships and patronages is long and impressive, covering as it does a plethora of different professional companies, organisations, NGOs and communal bodies. A now-retired attorney of the Supreme Court of South Africa (Transvaal Provincial Division) and the High Court of Swaziland, and former chairman of the SA Prop-

erty Owners Association, Herby is vice-president of the SA Associates of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Fellow of The Institute of Directors based in London, chairman of the Forum for Reconstruction and Reconciliation and executive deputy chairman of Afrika Tikkun NPC. He is also chairman of the Southern African Strategic Consultancy and a partner in Lubner Rosenberg and Associates.

Herby was a former director of the New York-based JTA (Jewish Telegraphic Agency); he served on the board of governors of the President's Fund (Israel); he was an executive member of the Mizrachi Association of SA, an executive member of Telfed (Israel); and director general of the SA Zionist Federation.

He was also a former member of the Council of Medunsa University and of the Medunsa University Trust, as well as a trustee of the Worcester School for the Deaf and the Blind. Herby's dedication to serving the community has been one of the driving forces behind his passion and involvement with the Jewish Report.



Property mogul and board member **Herschel Jawitz**, CEO and owner of Jawitz Properties, states as his personal goal being able to "live an inspired life and to inspire those around me to be the best that they can be or even better than they ever imagined" - applicable not only to his employees

and colleagues but to his family as well. And why is he involved in the Jewish Report? Because, as he says, "This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in a publication that is seen as one of the mouthpieces of the Jewish Community in SA."

Having led his family business through the transition from founder to second generation with his brother, and from a regional company in South Africa to a national one and the beginnings of an international group, his passion for leadership and keeping the company's entrepreneurial flair alive, has ensured its success.

But Herschel is much more than just a businessman - his interests in jazz, outdoor adventure, running, golf and swimming, as well as his passion for the Kruger National Park and its amazing wildlife, have played an invaluable part in making him an all-rounder, interested, involved and determined to bring as much of his business acumen to the running of the Jewish Report as possible.

In 2006 Herschel won the Jewish Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Since then he has become a passionate, dedicated and fascinating tweeter, sharing ideas and opinions on a multitude of issues with his followers: politics, business, human interest stories, Israel, humour... and Donald Trump!



Bringing gender balance, albeit in

the minority of one, and a healthy dose of female logic, energy and creativity to the board of the Jewish Report, **Dina Diamond** offers more than 15 years' experience in the financial services sector in South Africa, Africa and the United States, with a focus on marketing and communications.

The various disciplines in which she has played a role have included strategy, project management, information technology, business process re-engineering, operations management, risk management, and more.

Over the past few years Dina has searched for the opportunity to join a non-profit board, and the Jewish Report offered her the perfect vehicle.

She has always striven for perfect balance in her life; and although she sees her biggest sacrifice as that of not being a full-time mother, she has nonetheless managed to combine the demands of her work with those of giving her children and family sufficient quality time.

Dina's perseverance, the respect she shows to everyone she deals with and recognising and seizing opportunities when they present themselves are the hallmarks of her success. The fervour and zeal with which she approaches her position within the community are reflected in her very positive attitude towards the growth and success of the Jewish Report. She says, "In a world where media shapes and drives public opinion, I feel it is important to try and create a balanced perspective and to help highlight what general media distorts for various political agendas. The Jewish Report is a platform to present a balanced view of local and world events, to highlight the stories that go untold relating to the Jewish community and to celebrate wonderful accomplishments that deserve to be showcased. It is for these reasons that I am thrilled to be part of such a passionate and esteemed team in this endeavour."

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'Be strong and brave' could be Israel's clarion call

SUZANNE BELLING

"Anti-Semitism keeps changing like a chameleon. It swings from denying that the Holocaust ever occurred to reversing the role of the Jews in history. Like a cancer it metastasises new libels, thus posing ever-present dangers."

Thus writes Dr Harold Serebro in his new book "The Canopy: Warriors for Justice; Facing the Ticking Time Bomb", which was launched at the Killarney Golf Club last Sunday night with guests of honour Tokyo Sexwale (former Cabinet minister) and Israel's Ambassador to South Africa Arthur Lenk.

Like Serebro himself, a man of many skills and facets - gastroenterologist, former senior executive director of the Altron Group, entrepreneur, philanthropist and author - the book spans time and place with a common theme: those who persecuted and still intend to persecute (or attempt to annihilate) Jews and other races they deem inferior.

This includes anecdotes from Europe and the Middle East and crossing the seas to South Africa; stories of the anti-apartheid freedom fighters, who with partners for peace and reconciliation, brought about a new democratic dispensation in South Africa.

The writer played a role - as a Nazi hunter, as a measured voice in the turmoil that was South Africa and in the conciliatory talks which followed, highlighting his close relationship with the late President Nelson Mandela and other key figures who brought about change.

The book opens with four heroines of Auschwitz: Rosa Robota Gate, Ella Gertner, Regina Sapirstein and Estera Weisblum, who together smuggled explosives used to blow up crematoria in the death camp. The book is dedicated to these four. Aged 23, 11 days before the liberation by the Soviet Army, Rosa and the three other women were hanged. Her final words were, "Chazak ve'ematz" ("Be strong and brave").

Her words resonated with members of an elite Israeli hit squad, given fictitious names



Tokyo Sexwale, Dr Harold Serebro and his son Bradley.

New singles' social club packs a Jewish punch

ANT KATZ

A new social club for Jewish singles and dating couples, aged 30 - 55, is growing in numbers and activities by putting together people who just want to chill out and have fun.

The Johannesburg Jewish Activities Club (JJAC) was started last year by 39-year-old Sheli Berger. "Anybody can come as long as you're not married," Sheli told Jewish Report this week.

Among the activities the JJAC has on offer, are: attending plays, films and musicals; star-gazing; drive-in; snooker; museum visits; dragon boating; Jewzi canoeing; braais; quad biking in Soweto; Segways at Sun City; Da Vinci Expo; table tennis; Little Shop of Horrors; hikes; Tutankhamen Expo; Coffee and Chocolate Expo; Hartbeespoort Cableway; abseiling and drumming. They also have weekly get-togethers at Sandton Shul.

The JJAC are doing a "Graffiti Walking Tour" of Newtown this Sunday. But this walk is not just about graffiti - they'll also visit sculptures and fascinating architecture. "We have a very experienced guide who will walk us through all the nooks and crannies of Newtown to show us these hidden treasures," says Sheli. "We will also have a top graffiti artist join us to tell us about his life as a graffiti artist."

To-date, Sheli has attracted over 75 people to her events. "Because it's interest-driven," she explains, different events attract different numbers. "We usually have between 20 and 30 at an event; it's cosy and chilled - the magic is that one can really relax," she says.

• For more information contact Sheli by e-mail at: ilovejjac@gmail.com



Happy 80th birthday, community stalwart Herby Rosenberg!

BEV GOLDMAN

A veritable feast of family, friends, felicitations and fine food - a fitting tribute to a gentleman and a scholar.

Hosted by Bertie and Hilary Lubner at their Johannesburg home, the recent sparkling 80th birthday celebration for community stalwart and Jewish Report board member, Herby Rosenberg, was everything he wanted and enjoyed. Surrounded by his family and long-standing friends, Herby was visibly moved both by their presence and by the many accolades paid to him.

Herby's passion, enthusiasm, warmth, sincerity, and dedication have formed the cornerstone of his personal and communal life. This was evident through all the speeches made.

His relationship with Bertie, going back many years, has always been one of mutual respect, responsibility and esteem. Aside from other projects, they have together given many years of dedicated service to outreach organisation Afrika Tikkun, building an organisation which is acknowledged as one of the finest NGOs in the country.

Nothing, said Bertie, was ever

too much for Herby, whose assistance and presence added immeasurably to the success of the venture, as well as to enriching Bertie and Hilary's lives.

Reminiscing on their long association, Ann Harris amused the guests with a number of delightful anecdotes concerning Herby, each of which was a perfect example of the fine man he has always been.

Herby's compassion for those with whom he worked, his ability always to see the best in everyone, his understanding of the contrasting lives people lead and his acceptance of their differences, form part of the special characteristics that so define him.

Bertie's son Marc's esteem and admiration for Herby shone through his address: A man for all seasons, dependable, calm, reliable and professional, who better than Herby to have been Marc's mentor in the latter's early days as CEO of Afrika Tikkun, the position Herby held until he exchanged it for that of executive deputy-chairman of the organisation.

For Marc, the regular meetings with Herby were and remain a highlight of his working day, bringing him a sense of calm and clarity, and giving him time to reflect on issues of importance



Sandra Rosenberg; birthday boy Herby Rosenberg; Bertie Lubner; Hilary Lubner, Marc Lubner and Niki Judelman.

before he makes vital decisions. They have an enviable working relationship - something which for Marc was most special and cherished.

Having travelled from Australia with his family to be with Herby on this special occasion, Clifford, Herby's son, spoke of his father's tolerance, perception and insight, as well as the essential values of giving and sharing that he has passed onto his children.

Non-judgemental and accepting, Herby was and is a remarkable

father and husband, able and willing always to give quality time and attention to his family despite his incredibly busy work schedule.

What filtered through all the speeches was Herby's devotion to his work and the pleasure and pride he takes in what he does. Those with whom he interacts cannot but be struck by his zeal and commitment to ensuring that every organisation - and there are many - with which he is involved, strives for and reaches its own heights.

In responding to and thanking everyone, especially the Lubners, for the evening, Herby paid tribute to his wife Sandra, his companion who had stood by him for 55 years as well as his two sons Clifford and Stanley.

A brief interlude of hilarity was provided by comedian Marc Banks, who had guests shrieking with laughter at his irreverent comments and his pointed satire. This was followed by food and drink in a warm and hospitable atmosphere.



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The Editor, PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034 email: sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

Letters**Guidelines for letters**

Letters up to 400 words get preference. Provide your full name, place of residence, and daytime contact phone number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.

TORAH TELLS US THAT SEXUAL TRANSGRESSIONS ARE ‘ULTIMATE SIN’

I wonder if the management of the Jewish Report knew that last week’s edition corresponded with the Torah reading of Parshat Balak.

I say this because I found the cover and various articles in the edition of July 3 both hurtful and insensitive to pure Jewish emotions.

In the parsha we are taught that because sexual transgressions of any kind are viewed by G-d as being the ultimate sin, Bilaam suggested to Balak to use the Moabite and Midianite women to seduce the Jewish men by sexual means as “weapons of war” and pushing back the fences of chastity and modesty never to be returned as they were before.

The gentile women succeeded in their mission to such an extent that 24 000 Jews died for the sins Bilaam had instigated. The parsha ends with the zealotry of Pinchas: “But Pinchas, son of Elazar, saw what had happened, and remembered the Law. He stood up from among the congregation and, taking a spear in his hand, he went into the tent after an Israelite man and pierced the spear through both of them - the Israelite man, and the gentile woman - right through her lower abdomen.

“The plague then ceased from the children of Israel. A total of 24 000 died in the plague.” (Numbers: 25; 7-9). Pinchas was rewarded with eternal priesthood and a covenant of peace for zealously avenging G-d’s anger. (Num. 25;10)

Today we are witnessing a continuation of the Bilaam syndrome of reducing the world’s moral level on a grand scale. It is being performed by the Supreme Court of the United States, by declaring same-sex marriages to be recognised in all 50 states of the country. As the world, including South Africa, edges closer to suicidal immorality, at least we the Jewish nation will know that there is an Island of kedusha, sanity and morality in Eretz Yisrael.

It is distressing that South African Jewry has a major news outlet where columnists write articles with a headline: “Can SA Jewry provide a home for same-sex marriages?” The author challenges religious leaders to make all Jews, no matter what their sexual preferences are, to feel at home among them.

While it is true that we must not outright condemn individuals who commit Torah sexual transgressions, there can be no compromise with the sin itself.

I would like to commend your on-line editor, Ant Katz, who approximately 18 months ago, wrote the following line in a blog: “I was brought up to believe that nobody should question our Holy Torah.”

I agree 100 per cent with this sentiment and find it especially relevant when applied to the subject of Jewish morality and sexual matters.

Choni Davidowitz
Johannesburg

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GAYS, LESBIANS MAY SANCTIFY THEIR UNION IN PROGRESSIVE SHULS

I read with great interest Geoff Sifrin’s column in last week’s paper about providing a home for same-sex couples in our congregations. I agree with him that this is an important theme for all Jewish communities in South Africa and that we should start an open and honest debate about it, sooner rather than later.

However, I don’t share his view that lesbians and gays have no Jewish home in South Africa at all. Although in South Africa the Progressive communities are, in relation to their Orthodox counterparts, smaller, they are still very much alive and reflect what is the common sense and approach of the Progressive/Reform movement worldwide.

This means that gays and lesbians, as well as all other members of our Jewish community, are welcomed and have a home in our congregations to honour their Jewish heritage and to build a Jewish future.

And without any doubts, gays and lesbians can sanctify their partnership in the form of a chuppah and civil union in all Progressive communities in South Africa. Both I and my colleagues are happy to officiate for those couples just as we do for any other couple.

Just recently, the chairman of the Southern African Union for Progressive Judaism,

Alvin Kushner, as well as the chairman of the Progressive Rabbinic Association (SAAPR), Rabbi Greg Alexander, confirmed in a statement following the US Supreme Court ruling, the general position for all Progressive communities in South Africa:

“In December 2006, South Africa became the fifth country in the world to grant same-sex couples the same status and rights as heterosexual marriage partners. The SAUPJ, encouraged by the World Union for Progressive Judaism, was in fact one of the first faith groups in the country to allow its clergy to conduct same-sex marriages. The first Jewish same sex marriage took place in Cape Town. In a press release at the time we marked that event with our statement ‘The SAUPJ honours the divine within all human beings, and their right to live with dignity.’

The Progressive Jewish community in South Africa is robust and is proud to enforce the rights enshrined in the South African Constitution that guarantees equal protection before the law of all citizens regardless of sexual orientation.

Rabbi Adrian Michael Schell
Bet David Progressive Jewish Congregation, Sandton

JEWISH MPS MUST EXPLAIN DA STANCE REGARDING ISRAEL/PALESTINE

I want to address an open letter to DA MPs Michael Bagraim and Darren Bergman in response to an article in a Johannesburg daily on June 30.

DA leader Mmusi Maimane recently launched Gauteng DA MPL Jack Bloom’s book in Johannesburg, and used the occasion to state his position on the Israel/Palestine question.

“Our view is that we must support parliament and South Africa’s stance. We must have a two-state solution.” This is the general consensus of opinion. However, the report adds that he “stunned the Jewish

community”, branding the pro-Israel position as “narrow and fundamentalist”.

Could the two MPs please state, through the medium of Jewish Report, whether their leader asked for, or was given, any input on this complicated subject. Could they further affirm whether or not his remark is in line with the DA siding against Israel with the government last year, explained away as an aberration by an individual DA spokesman, in contrast to the principled stance of the ACPD.

Dr Bryna Lewis
Port Elizabeth

CONCEPT OF ‘CHOSEN PEOPLE’ IS A RACIST IDEOLOGY

In reply to Rod Waner’s letter in last week’s Jewish Report, I admit that I am bitter: I have no doubt that the Jewish religion has made us into the most hated people in the world. If that isn’t enough, there is no shortage of “self-hating Jews” either... The belief that we are a chosen people is a racist ideology and the root of anti-Semitism.

Religious people continue to dwell in the past; they still discuss and learn about events that happened (or not) 2 000 years ago, as if it happened last month. I am afraid that all religions belong in the past.

Whether Waner as well as other like-minded Jews believe it, or not, the fact is that Jews on the American continent are abandoning the sinking ship of Judaism en masse.

Judaism became synonymous with suffering. We’ve had enough. It’s very sad. With the creation of the State of Israel there was an extraordinary excitement and hope of revival of the Jewish nation. Now we are left with a baggage of religious fanatics who are unable to think and cannot deal with the realities of today.

I am also bitter because I cannot become a member of the Jewish Board of Deputies nor one of the directors of the SA Jewish Report for the simple reason that I’m secular, not religious. I am bitter, thanks to the religious Jews.

Yossi Bogacz
Johannesburg

Help Sugarman compile a ‘Record of Honour’

Martin Sugarman, an archivist of the Jewish War Veterans of the UK, AJEX, is drawing up a “Record of Honour” of Jews who served in the Second World War in the merchant navy. Sugarman is asking “all relatives or friends of anyone who served” to send him details of such men, including photographs, to his e-mail address, mailto:martin.sugarman@yahoo.co.uk.

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Muslim scholar talks on progressive Islam

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Sacred, the South African Centre for Religious Equality and Diversity (Sacred), recently hosted Professor Taj Hargey, a distinguished Oxford-based academic on Islam and the Middle East, at Bet David in Johannesburg, with a lecture on "Progressive Islam: Tolerant or Intolerant?"

Prof Hargey, who hails from South Africa, is also the director of the Muslim Educational Centre of Oxford, which promotes a progressive, pluralistic Qur'anic Islam and runs a newly-formed think-tank called the Oxford Centre for British Islam.

Prof Hargey spoke about perceptions of Islam in the modern world and with his push for a more egalitarian, pluralistic way of practising Islam,

talked about resisting the covert imposition of the patriarchal shariah or Muslim religious law into modern society.

He has publicly opposed Wahhabi-Salafi theological propaganda, and has courageously led a national campaign to ban all forms of facial masking, including the non-Qur'anic burka and hijab in the United Kingdom.

Prof Hargey also spoke about The Open Mosque, launched in Cape Town last September where he was invited to deliver a sermon. The mosque calls itself Qur'an-centric; gender-equal; non-sectarian; inter-cultural; and independent. It was subject to attacks from local Muslim clergy, as well as several arson attacks, but has gained widespread publicity and international praise, he says.

He serves as the imam of the Oxford Islamic Congregation, the most progressive body of Muslims in the UK. It made European history a decade ago by welcoming women to conduct sermons and leading the weekly Friday prayers in mixed-gender assembly.

This was Sacred's second evening of interest this year and gave its audience a much needed, different take on Islam.

"We had guests from other synagogues, as well as the broader Jewish community," said Rabbi Julia Margolis, chair of Sacred. "Muslim and Christian friends joined us too." Next month Sacred will host a discussion on why different faiths and religions pray over food and beverages, specifically investigating the subject of water and prayer.



Rabbi Julia Margolis and Professor Taj Hargey.

Great Park's Shmooza 2015 delivers winter warmth to many.

RABBI DOVID HAZDAN GREAT PARK SYNAGOGUE

The bonfires of Lag B'Omer were never extinguished. Their flames flicker on with the warmth that they continue to bring through the blankets collected at Shmooza 2015 and distributed this week at Afrika Tikkun's Uthando Centre in Braampark. Great Park bar- and batmitzvah boys and girls were joined by a

large group of grade 7 King David Linksfield learners to share the cheer, warmth and privilege of giving. They personally experienced that the greatest bar-/batmitzvah gift is the one that we give - not the one that we receive. Hundreds of blankets and jackets and coats were given to the Uthando Nursery School children and will be further distributed to hundreds more who are in the care of Afrika Tikkun's "Cradle to Career" programmes.



WIZO travels to 'foreign' places, nogal!



Zee Bergman; Karen Shafer; and Tanya Kahanowitz.

ANDY SCHWARTZ, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER OF WIZO

With our big smiles and our purses at the ready, we boarded the bus last week Wednesday morning to explore what are for most of us Johannesburgers, foreign places indeed.

Margo Snyman, our "WIZO Ilanit Super Shopper" was our guide on this shopping safari.

First stop in the CBD... "The Haby Centre", for an unbelievably cheap array of haberdashery. Our bevy of happy shoppers left with their collections of buttons and bows and we headed off for Ees Millinery on Von Wielligh Street.

We were good girls and crossed the street in an orderly line and as we passed, two bibbed car guards looked at each other and said: "Touristies."

"Ja," I thought, "all the way from Sandton!"

Who would have known that hidden behind the big wooden door of Ees, was a secret stash of costume fabrics and feathers. This is a go-to place for local designers.

We learnt a bit about the history of this industry and then headed off to 109 Prichard Street in the "Fashion District" where we were introduced to the most unbelievable range of Shweshwe fabrics; so inspiring and so cheap, we were spoilt for choice!

I'm happy to say we lined up at the till with our bundles of fabric and loads of decor inspiration!

We crossed the street to the "Fashion Kapitol" shopping precinct and descended upon the Fashion Shack Coffee Shop, a reclaimed space in a heritage building, with a warm African vibe, for our refreshments. Margo shared her ideas of upcoming fashion trends and we opened our "lighter purses" and bought some amazing leather goods for unbelievable prices as well as "local is lekker" stuff from the Fashion Shack collection.

Back on the bus with our parcels and packets, we wended our merry way home through the litter-lined streets and arrived back spot on the dot at 13:00.



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A TA market day of 'creative endeavours'

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Torah Academy Primary School held its annual entrepreneurial market day last week Friday. It was an occasion when teachers and pupils embarked on a creative endeavour, including designing posters, making popcorn, raffling sweets, and making key-rings with beads and chips. The children enjoyed games and also painted nails and applied lip gloss in preparation for Shabbos.

"The innovative and exciting ideas, together with the creativity and buzz while packing their goods and designing their posters, makes education beyond the curriculum a sustainable and sound practice," said Michelle Kaplan, deputy principal of the school.

Pictured is amateur "manicurist" Batsheva Feinblum (grade 4), painting Michelle Kaplan's nails.



Photo: Kim Isaacman

Puppeteer storyteller enthralled little ones

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Minnie Bersohn Nursery School in Johannesburg ended a fantastic second term with puppeteer storyteller, Brenda Shafir, who visited the school recently. She related two African bush stories to the children who participated with drums.

They picked up the rhythms and thoroughly enjoyed the stimulating experience.

Pictured are Brenda Shafir, a puppeteer storyteller; Daniel and Joshua King; Liron Barashi; Daniel Monastrusky; Saul Mondschein; Zac Flowers; and Kesia Silbermann.



Photo: Michelle Vinokur

UJW PE knits for a host of good causes

BERYL MEYER, SECRETARY, UJW PE

The Union of Jewish Women, Port Elizabeth's knitting group has been distributing blankets, jerseys, beanies and scarves over the last 18 months to needy people in and around the city - gifts which are always very gratefully received. Recently we distributed beautiful blankets to each of the 45 senior wheelchair-bound residents at the Gelvandale Old Age Home. All in all, 800 items have been distributed locally this year. UJW also sends jerseys, blankets, etc. to Israel, via Divote in Durban.

Part of the third shipment of knitted items sent to Israel, with UJW members Jose Greenblatt and Beryl Meyer.

Community



Photo: Hilary Meyer

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This week Jewish Report Online gave away 13 tickets worth up to R1,820 (depending on whether they are used for adults or kids) to "The Art of the Brick Exhibition" - and we have many more to give away next week.

The winners of tickets, who had to give a reason why they thought they should win, are:

- GAYLE LIVINGSTONE who gets two tickets so she can take her three-year-old grandchild to the exhibition;
- JACOV who gets two tickets as, he says: "I would love to take my daughters to the expo";
- JULIE TOBLIB who gets a ticket as, she says, she has "loved Lego

What's On

Today, Friday (July 10)

Johannesburg Jewish Activities Club (JJAC) is an activities club for singles aged 30 - 55 looking to meet people with similar interests and have an amazing time. Share unique experiences and create wonderful memories. Join our mailing list by entering your details at <http://eepurl.com/bpmctD>

UZLC hosts Judy Jaye on "A Role Model to Others in Our Daily Life". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact, Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Shalom Masorti, an egalitarian community, embraces everyone with an affiliation to and/or interest in Judaism. Rabbi Chaim Weiner,

rosh European Masorti Beth Din, will be visiting SA again at the end of July and into August to participate in Limud South Africa and at Shalom Masorti. For those who feel that Orthodox Judaism is not for them, give us a try. Call Esther on (011) 485-5619. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Sunday (July 12)

- Second Innings hosts Claudette Medefindt, deputy president, Retina International, on "Vision and the Ageing Eye". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R30 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Information: (011) 532-9701.

Wednesday (July 15)

- Second Innings undertakes a "Tour of the Roodepoort Theatre Backstage and Adjoining Museum on the History of the West Rand". Time: The bus will depart at 09:00; tours to start at 10:00. Meet the bus at Golden Acres for the tours to Roodepoort Theatre and West Rand Museum, Roodepoort. Cost: R140 (incl entrance, both tours and the bus; the bus is R80 per person) Enquiries: Betty, (011) 532-9701.

Thursday (July 16)

- Join WIZO every Thursday for a "Lunch & Learn" shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz at Beyachad. Time: 13:00. Information: WIZO office (011) 645-2515.

Community Columns

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Nothing can beat face-to-face interaction

The Board is constantly aware of the need to provide regular and accessible channels of communication to keep the Jewish community abreast of its activities. National and regional conferences remain important vehicles in this regard, but it has obviously been necessary over the years to ensure that more regular means of disseminating information are in place.

This has become even more essential in today's world of instant communication; whereas once one had days, or even weeks, to get in touch with the community, it is now a matter of hours.

Thus, in addition to such traditional methods such as conferences, printed publications and report-backs in the Jewish media, the Board makes extensive use of its Facebook, website and Twitter profile to reach as many of its constituents as possible.

Essential as these vehicles are, they are ultimately no substitute for direct, face-to-face interaction. For this reason, we have begun to actively seek opportunities through which Board members - both professional staff and lay leaders - can speak at communal gatherings.

In practice, this has mainly involved speaking to particular shuls. Most recently, I addressed the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, while Charisse Zeifert spoke at the Pine Street Shul in Johannesburg. However, Board members have spoken to other communal bodies as well.

The response from the community has been very enthusiastic; clearly, people appreciate it when those mandated to represent their interests as Jews, take the trouble to speak to them directly about what is happening. From our point of view,

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

Above Board
Mary Kluk

National Chairman

to have a member of the Board address their members, should they so desire. A slot of between 10 and 15 minutes would be sufficient for a brief report-back and a few questions afterwards.

On Tuesday, together with National Director Wendy Kahn, I met with Minister Susan Shabangu, Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women, and senior members of her team. Being ourselves women in positions of leadership, it was very encouraging for us to have Minister Shabangu share her vision to uplift the status of women in our society and foster a culture where women are valued and allowed every opportunity to achieve their potential.

One of the main focuses of her department next year will be to celebrate the role women have played and are playing in building South Africa as part of the 60th anniversary celebrations of the famous Women's March to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the pass laws. This is something the Board itself will look to participate in when the time comes.

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

Glorious online prizes - and more to come...



In our other competition that closed this week, Jewish Report Online is giving away a copy of Howard Feldman's best-selling book "Carry-on Baggage" to all those who entered the competition.

Click on the LEGO banner at the top of our website home page to enter this week's competition: who knows, you too may win some of the R8 000 worth of tickets. Winners should contact Shereen Miller at (011) 430-1980 during office hours to arrange for the collection or delivery of their prizes.

The thrills and spills of Wimbledon

ILAN HERRMANN

As at the time of writing, Wimbledon 2015 is building up to a dramatic and exciting climax. Wimbledon is of course the stand-out, annual grand slam tennis event on the pro circuit and one which is avidly followed right across the globe.

Wimbledon is not just a gathering for sport, it has also fashionably become a mixing of all sorts, including politicians, singers, actors, sport stars and sometimes even the queen of England!

This year's tournament has had its fair share of thrills and spills as it usually does, with some magical tennis and some shock defeats. The demise of former world number one Rafael Nadal

continues. Having come in to the tournament seeded 10th, he was disposed of by the 102nd seeded Dustin Brown of the US.

The top seeds of Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Andy Murray and Stan Wawrinka have all made good, which bodes well for a grand finale.

Serena Williams easily defeated her sister Venus in round four and is looking to continue her 2015 grand slam march, having won both at the Australian and the French Opens.

Jewish participation in this year's event has seen few high points.

A dismal set of qualifying rounds saw Shahar Peer, Amir Weintraub and Julia Glushko, all of Israel, tumble out.

Men's singles hopefuls, Diego Schwartzman



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Camila Giorgi, of Italy, flew the Jewish flag high. She is playing very good tennis.

and Dudi Sela, fared little better after first round defeats. Israel's Sela went down in four sets against Dominic Thiem of Austria, while the Argentine Schwartzman lost in straight sets to hard-hitting Australian, Nick Kyrgios.

Sela put the defeat behind him saying: "Now I'm looking forward to Israel's Davis Cup match at home to Slovenia. After that I'll play Challenger tournaments in America and I hope to finish the season strongly."

Italian, Camila Giorgi, the last Jewish singles player left in the competition, had a good run through the early rounds. The 25-year-old, seeded 32nd in the ITP rankings and originally from a quaint little town, Macerata, near the Adriatic Sea in Italy, defeated Brazilian Teliana Pereira in round one and then Lara Arruabarrena of Spain in round two, to set up a third round tie against the Danish fifth seed Caroline Wozniacki.

Giorgi is known for her aggressive style and for guiding her shots with precision close to the tramline. She also has a great record against Wozniacki, coming in to Wimbledon having beaten her twice in their last three meetings.

This time, however, she got the jitters. A relentless string of unforced errors as well nine double faults paved the way for a comfortable Wozniacki victory.

In the men's doubles draw, Israel's Jonathan Erlich partnered with Philipp Petzschner of Germany. Since last playing with colleague Andy Ram on the ATP Tour in the Australian Open in January 2014, Erlich has time and again changed partners, recording little success.

Erlich and Petzschner registered a four-set victory over Albert Ramos-Vinolas and Andreas Seppi in round one. They then defeated Scott Lipsky and Treat Huey in straight sets in round two. Lipsky incidentally is also Jewish and at age 35, a US veteran of the doubles game.

The pair then continued their good run, defeating Marcus Daniell and Marcelo Demoliner in round three, in a four set humdinger, winning 6-3 4-6 6-3 6-3, to book a place in the quarter- finals.

South Africans had much to shout about as Kevin Anderson the world number 14, nearly caused a major upset against world number one Novak Djokovic in the fourth round. It was nothing less than a gruelling dog fight, with Anderson hitting some 40 odd aces against the reigning champion.

Djokovic continuously threw his arms in the air in frustration over the course of the five set match, venting his frustration at being unable to break down the South African. From Djokovic's side, having rallied from two sets down and being on the verge of defeat, he showed what a true champion he is eventually winning 6-7 6-7 6-1 6-4 7-5.

While Roger Federer is a firm good bet, a strong candidate to go through is home town favourite Andy Murray and if they can overcome their opponents, with Murray playing some of his best tennis and Novak with a reprieve after the Anderson duel, we may yet see one of the finest Wimbledon finals in recent memory.

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