

Because of the Yomtovim  
we will be missing  
four editions, with our  
next print edition  
on October 16.

# South African Jewish Report

www.sajr.co.za

## SA parliamentarians experience Israel – first hand



A group of senior South African parliamentarians, from a diverse range of parties, have just concluded a successful trip to Israel as guests of South African Friends of Israel (SAFI), a not-for-profit organisation which promotes interfaith dialogue between various South African groups. Ben Swartz, national chair of the SA Zionist Federation, who is also closely involved with SAFI, acted as tour leader during the week-long visit. Swartz expressed his satisfaction that the group had gained “a very balanced perspective” during their stay, to enable them to play a constructive role in the Mideast conflict. SAFI is careful not to convert these visits into “propaganda tours”, but it aims to allow its guests to meet a wide spectrum of opinion-makers in Israel and the territories and make up their own minds. On Tuesday they met with members of the Palestinian Authority and the following day they had breakfast with Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, before meeting members of the Knesset. But it wasn’t all politics. They visited the Volcani Institute of Agricultural Research as well as the Wolfson Medical Centre in Tel Aviv. Pictured are Dr Pieter Mulder, Freedom Front Plus; the Rev Kenneth Meshoe of the ACDP; Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi of the IFP; Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat; Mosiuoa Lekota of Cope; Bantu Holomisa of the UDM; and Ben Swartz.

### The artist behind Rosh Hashanah cover

Loren Hodes, whose magnificent art work “Welcoming Moshiah” graced the front cover of last week’s Rosh Hashanah issue, specialises in Jewish as well as contemporary art. She has had numerous exhibitions and her work is held in many private collections.



### ANC lekgotla aims the big stick at SA Jews and some companies

The SA Jewish community is deeply alarmed after Deputy Minister Obed Bapela announced that the ANC was considering banning dual citizenship – aimed primarily at stopping SA citizens serving in the IDF.

### Severing Israel trade ties would cost SA dearly

Calls by Deputy Minister Obed Bapela to cut economic ties with Israel “does not reflect reality”, says Deputy Ambassador Freeman. Ceasing trade would have a much bigger impact on South Africa than on Israel.

### New ANCYL president holds out olive branch to minorities

The newly-elected ANCYL president, Collen Maine, has reached out to young Jews, among other groups. Pres Jacob Zuma, too, was in a conciliatory mood when he opened the ANCYL congress last week Friday.

### Mendelsohn has big plans for Kaplan Centre

Adam Mendelsohn has been appointed associate professor of Historical Studies and director of the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research at UCT. “This is the position I would always have come back for,” he said of returning after his long sojourn in the US.

The SA Jewish Report wishes all its readers and friends Shana Tova, Chatima Tova and well over the Fast.



## L'Shana Tova

May you be inscribed in the  
book of life for a sweet year

Denese, Solly, Ephraim Zaslansky  
and the Firzt Family



www.firzt.co.za



# The artist behind the Rosh Hashanah cover

SUZANNE BELLING

Loren Hodes, whose magnificent art work “Welcoming Moshiach” graced the front cover of the Jewish Report Rosh Hashanah issue last week, is a South African artist specialising in Jewish as well as contemporary art. She has had numerous successful exhibitions and her work is held in many private collections in South Africa as well as abroad. Loren also teaches adult art classes.

She says the most important mitzvah on Rosh Hashanah is to recognise the greatness of Hashem and declare His Kingship over the entire world



“It is only when we have deeply internalised this reality that we can move on towards Yom Kippur and do the personal work needed to do teshuva and return to Hashem our King.”

On the Rosh Hashanah cover, a holy Jew heralds the coming of Moshiach with the sound of the shofar. The verse above him reads: “G-d has ascended with the blast, Hashem with the sound of the shofar... For Hashem is supreme, awesome, a great king over all the earth”. (Tehillim 47)

“This year, more than ever may we focus our prayers on the coming of Moshiach and the building of the third and final Temple. May it be speedily in our days.”

Visit [www.lorenhodesart.co.za](http://www.lorenhodesart.co.za)



Parsha

## Miracle of the eternal Jew



Parshat Nitzavim

Rabbi Shmuel Bloch  
Kehillas Eitz Chaim  
The Hazelwood Shabbos  
Minyan

Mark Twain’s astute and eloquent insight into Jewish continuity is as relevant now as it was back then when he expressed it over a century ago.

“The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendour, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed; and made a vast noise, and they are gone... The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?” (“Concerning The Jews,” Harper’s Magazine, 1899).

It takes real effort to digest all the catastrophies and challenges that the Jewish people

have faced over the last 100 years. Any nation that has faced the perpetual threat of annihilation and constant upheaval like the Jewish people have faced, should have vanished long ago into the annals of history.

Nevertheless we are still here. Despite the multitude of problems and issues that surround us, we need to appreciate the open miracle that the Jewish people are eternal and will never disappear.

The wonder and phenomenon of Jewish survival throughout the ages is discussed in the first line of this week’s parsha.

“You are standing today, all of you, before Hashem your G-d; Your heads, your tribes, your elders and your officers – all the men of Israel” (Devarim Chapter 29 verse 9).

Rashi, the foremost commentator on the Torah, quotes a Midrash which explains that when the Jewish people heard the terrifying litany of 98 curses in the Tochacha (the admonition, which appeared in last week’s parsha), they were despondent and demoralised.

The Midrash states that their faces turned different colours at the thought of their bleak and hopeless future. Therefore Moshe immediately consoles them in the first line of this

week’s parsha. He states that despite all the transgressions and misdeeds that the Jewish People have performed in the past: “You are (still) standing here before Hashem.”

Rabbi Nosson Scherman, one of the founders of Artscroll, explains that Rashi is stating that just as Hashem has never abandoned or discarded the Jewish People in the past, so too he will maintain them in the future.

The awful consequences of the Tochacha should prevent the Jewish People from violating the Torah. Nevertheless, if the Jewish People do sin, the punishments that would arise would bring atonement, but never destruction.

Mark Twain was correct in stating that external circumstances and world events do not determine the Jewish People’s future. It is imperative to internalise that we are here to stay and we will never disappear.

However, we must take every opportunity to fulfil our historic destiny as a light to the nations and generate as much goodness as we can and spread it as far as possible. With such a mindset and focus and with Hashem’s help, we will embrace our fantastic future with confidence and enthusiasm.

### KASHRUT ALERT

Gluten-free, cranberry and almond biscuits, as well as mocha chocolate biscuits manufactured by Fresh Earth Gluten-Free Bake House, are erroneously marked as parev, the kashrut division of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues, has announced.

“These products are milchik. The company apologises for the error and is taking corrective action.”

### Shabbat and Yomtov Times

Parshat Nitzavim  
Sept 11 / 27 Elul  
Sept 12 / 28 Elul

Begins	Ends	
17:41	18:30	Johannesburg
18:15	19:09	Cape Town
17:28	18:19	Durban
17:48	18:38	Bloemfontein
17:48	18:40	Port Elizabeth
17:39	18:31	East London

Sept 13 / 29 Elul  
Erev Roshanah  
Sept 14 / 1 Tishrei  
Rosh Hashanah  
September 13  
Candle-lighting

17:42	Johannesburg
18:15	Cape Town
17:29	Durban
17:49	Bloemfontein
17:49	Port Elizabth
17:41	East London

September 14  
Light candle before

18:31	Johannesburg
19:10	Cape Town
18:20	Durban
18:39	Bloemfontein
18:41	Port Elizabeth
18:32	East London

September 15 / 2 Tishrei  
Yomtov ends

18:32	Johannesburg
19:11	Cape Town
18:20	Durban
18:39	Bloemfontein
18:42	Port Elizabeth
18:33	East London

Fast of Gedaliah  
Sept 16 / 3 Tishrei  
Fast begins Fast ends

4:56	18:19	Johannesburg
5:31	18:57	Cape Town
4:43	18:07	Durban
5:03	18:26	Bloemfontein
5:02	18:28	Port Elizabeth
4:54	18:18	East London

More news on our website [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za)

South African  
Jewish Report

Editor Vanessa Valkin - [vanessa@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:vanessa@sajewishreport.co.za) • Sub-editor Paul Maree • Ed co-ordinator Sharon Greenblatt - [sharon@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:sharon@sajewishreport.co.za) • Design and layout Bryan Maron/Design Bandits – [bryan@designbandits.co.za](mailto:bryan@designbandits.co.za) • Website Anthony Katz  
General Manager Roni Lea – [roni@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:roni@sajewishreport.co.za) • Advertising Britt Landsman: 082-292-9520 - [britt@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:britt@sajewishreport.co.za) • Classified sales Shereen Miller - [shereen@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:shereen@sajewishreport.co.za) • Distribution manager Britt Landsman • Subscription enquiries Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860-13-2652.  
Board of Directors Howard Sackstein (Chairman), Howard Feldman, Bertie Lubner, Benjy Porter, Herby Rosenberg, Herschel Jawitz, Dina Diamond.  
Advertisements and editorial copy from outside sources do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and staff. Tel: (011) 430-1980.

abc  
Audit Bureau of Circulations  
of South Africa  
TRANSPARENCY YOU CAN SEE



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement  
Western Cape Provincial Parliament  
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni



# Yom Kippur

The Speaker and Members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament wish the Jewish community of the Western Cape an easy fast on Yom Kippur. G’mar Chatimah Tovah.

Posbus 648, Kaapstad  
8000, Suid-Afrika

PO Box 648, Cape Town  
8000, South Africa

PO Box 648, Ekapa  
8000, Mzantsi Africa

[www.wcpp.gov.za](http://www.wcpp.gov.za)  
+27 21 487 1600



# ANC lekgotla aims the big stick at SA Jews and some companies

## JEWISH REPORT STAFF

The South African Jewish community is seething with anger and is also deeply alarmed after Obed Bapela (pictured), head of the ANC’s national executive committee’s subcommittee on international relations, announced that the ANC was considering banning dual citizenship - aimed primarily at stopping South African citizens serving in the Israeli military. Although the ANC officially outlawed young Jewish South Africans undergoing military training in Israel in 1998, the party now wants an outright ban on the practice as well as implementing a crackdown on private sector ties with Israel.

“This is exactly what the Nazi regime did in Germany,” Zev Krengel, president of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD), told the Jewish Report. “You say Jews are not loyal to their country; secondly you make the outrageous claim that Jews train in Israel and come back here. In Nazi Germany they said that Jews were a danger to Germany; and thirdly you name and shame anyone who does business with Israel.”

The SAJBD and the SA Zionist Federation (SAZF) have requested a meeting with President Zuma and say they will update the community when they have more clarity.

The Sunday Times broke the story on the weekend and listed

several companies that the ANC would act against including Cape Gate, accused of constructing “the Apartheid wall” in Gaza, retailer Woolworths, and Caterpillar, whose machinery the ANC claim is being used to demolish homes in the West Bank, among others.

In an impassioned public address delivered by video this week, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein noted how disturbing it was that the ANC are proposing changing citizenship laws for the whole country because they are obsessed with the State of Israel.

He also said that: “To be a Jew is to be deeply connected to Israel and to Jerusalem. That is very much a part of our identity. And we love South Africa and we are loyal and committed South Africans. But we also love Israel and when the ANC targets, with an obsession, the State of Israel more than any other country in the world - that is deeply insulting to a very important part of South African society.”

Obed Bapela, who has continued in other media to back up his claims and plans since Sunday’s story, has confirmed that the issue had already been discussed at the ANC’s July lekgotla and would come up again next month at its national general council.

The measures on citizenship could affect millions of South Africans who have dual citizenship. Legal experts note however that

the ANC would have to change the Constitution.

According to well-known immigration lawyer Craig Smith, quoted in the Sunday Times, “There would be no way that our Constitution will allow government to impose such invasive measures that go to the core of international norms of citizenship law.” He called the proposal “retrogressive and ill-conceived”.

ANC policy can only be changed at their conference which is in 2017.

outcome however.

“In reality it’s a non-starter,” says Krengel. “Anything can come up on the agenda at the ANC legotkla and this midterm conference. Actual legislation is many, many years away from even being close to being passed.”

Krengel says he is “much more concerned that this type of anti-Semitic conversation is actually happening and that’s why we are fighting it so hard. It’s got to do with a deputy minister singling out the state of Israel, and his hatred for Israel that he is taking out on the local community.”

Mr Justice Dennis Davis is bemused and is wondering just how many South African Jews are actually going to fight in the Israeli army at the moment. “Let’s ask a simple question:Can the minister provide specific figures? It is hugely unlikely that this is such a major problem that it requires government intervention.”

The recruitment group, Homecoming Revolution, encouraging South African expats to return to the country of their birth, expressed its alarm, saying that should the citizenship ban be enacted, it would have “disastrous consequences” for the economy.

CEO Angel Jones said it would force people with more than one passport to give up their South African citizenship because of a fear the country was regressing.

Many people with dual citizenship living in South Africa rely on pensions from their home countries. Jones points out: “South Africa has more than 800 000 critical skills vacancies across all sectors and a dual citizenship ban would push this higher. We would lose even more critical skills and we would be making it harder for globally experienced South Africans to return home.”

How a proposal banning citizens from fighting in foreign armies - should it become law - could be enforced, is an open question, the experts say. If South Africans went to fight in the Israel Defence Force, it would require so much manpower by the South African government to follow up and investigate, that it would be unlikely to happen, says Mr Justice Davis.

In the past, Zionist South African Jews went to Israel’s aid in wars, filling positions such as truck drivers or kibbutz volunteers, to free up the “real soldiers” to do the actual fighting. Most of the South Africans never saw action.

Beyond the Jewish community, South African “mercenaries” are prohibited from plying their trade outside the country’s borders. It is well known that former SA special forces personnel act as “advisers” to many African heads of state. There are also quite a number of South African citizens serving in the British armed forces.



But to dismiss the “Bapela proposal” as merely a discussion document is to ignore the possibility that some of the measures could become law at some point, say some political observers. With its huge majority of some 62 per cent in parliament, policy is generally made in Luthuli House and then submitted to the ANC parliamentarians as a fait accompli. Jewish leaders are not yet quaking in their boots about this

# Severing Israeli trade ties would cost SA dearly

## MICHAEL BELLING

Calls by Deputy Minister Obed Bapela, head of the ANC’s national executive committee on international relations, reported in a weekend newspaper, for South Africa to cut economic ties with Israel, does not reflect reality, according to Michael Freeman, deputy Israeli ambassador to South Africa.

Freeman told the SA Jewish Report that asking about the economic consequences of trade between South Africa and Israel was the wrong question.

“The reality is that there are three El Al flights a week with Israeli tourists and business people who are coming here to spend and invest in South Africa,” he said.

“There are strong and growing business links between Israel and South Africa. That is the point. That is what we should be looking at.”

Freeman said trade between Israel and South Africa had increased year-on-year at over eight per cent for the past five years.

“Just this week, 11 companies from Israel were in South Africa having 200 meetings with South Africans to discuss potential for increased trade and investment.

“We have currently in Israel a South African delegation attending the Digital-Life-Design conference,” considered one of the premier international hi-tech gatherings, giving South African entrepreneurs exposure to hundreds of other start-ups, investors and leading multinational companies.

“This is a typical week in Israel-South Africa trade.”

Itai Melchior, the trade attaché at the Israeli Embassy, said trade between the two countries was over a billion US dollars a year - and the balance of trade was significantly in South Africa’s favour. South African imports from Israel are mainly in the strategic agricultural sector. Advanced irrigation systems and greenhouses as well as yield-enhancing fertilisers and seeds, top

the list.

According to economist Michael Kransdorff, enhancing the agricultural sector is a key component of the South Africa National Development Plan. The government has set the ambitious goal of creating a million much needed new jobs in South Africa’s rural areas, largely through empowering smaller farmers with improved skills and technology. Continued Israeli imports, investment and sharing knowledge is important to achieve this. However, Israel is far less reliant on South Africa. About 90 per cent of its imports are raw materials that can be readily purchased elsewhere. If trade were to be stopped, it would not have a major effect on Israel or Israeli companies. Israeli exports were mainly split among the US, Europe and the Far East, with around 30 per cent going to each of them.

“No Israeli company is reliant on the South African market. Jobs will be lost in South Africa, not in Israel. Israeli companies employ thousands of South Africans here directly and indirectly. These jobs could be lost.”

He was concerned that ceasing trade would have a much bigger impact on South Africa. It would have a negative effect on the atmosphere of doing business, which would be a shame.

“I don’t think it will happen,” he said.

South Africa needed what Israel could offer, “especially technology, water, energy and agri-technology, for which Israel is world renowned.”

He pointed out that, “the Palestinian Authority’s trade with Israel is growing year by year. The PA is not calling for a boycott of Israeli companies.”

He added that, “all the cellular operators and fixed-line operators in South Africa have Israeli technology. Most mobile phones have Israeli technology and companies like Google, Apple, Microsoft and Intel have major research and development centres in Israel.”

He quoted a recent article by Arthur Goldstuck saying if South Africa did not use Israeli technology, it would have to go back to the stone age.

# INVEST IN ISRAEL



## KFAR YONA - FROM R5 MILLION

- Rapidly growing town located at the heart of the sought-after “Sharon” area
- 5 km from Netanya and Highway #6
- Area rich with employment opportunities (Netanya and Herzliyah business parks)
- R1 Million deposit secures
- Balance payable over 2.5 years
- 50% Bonds available
- Full rental and property management services available

**To find out more contact Herschel Jawitz**  
**082 571 1829 | [herschel@jawitz.co.za](mailto:herschel@jawitz.co.za)**

**JAWITZ**  
PROPERTIES





## DR TRACY PAIKEN

There is often a fear associated with going to the doctor. Maybe a previous bad experience, a threat of an injection, a painful experience or just the fear of someone new poking and prodding to find out what's wrong.

My aim is to allay that fear and embrace the privilege of being able to heal and provide care for those in need. A most warming compliment that I recently received was that a child who hated going to the doctor, would come back to see me because I was a nice doctor.

I qualified as a doctor at university of Witwatersrand in 2002 after which I worked at Johannesburg

hospital for 2.5 years circulating through various disciplines but mainly in paediatrics and obstetrics and gynaecology.

I then ventured to London where I worked as a senior doctor in paediatrics with 9 years in a paediatric emergency department.

South Africa has always been home and I returned to provide a wholesome, warm and beautiful home and upbringing for my young children.

I realised that there is a gap in the healthcare of children. I am a paediatric GP, for children of all ages and am happy to discuss issues and provide appropriate advice and care for all

Linksfield Wellness Centre, 68 Club Street, Linksfield

Tel: (011) 485-0270 | Cell: 083-688-6404 | drtracy@telkomsa.net

## Frank Solomon Hearing Centre

- Affordable Hearing Aids for Pensioners
- 2 Year Warranty
- No Follow-Up Charges
- Latest Technology
- Small and Discreet Hearing Aids
- Extensive Wireless Communication Portfolio Available
- Supplements for Tinnitus, treatment approved by the American ENT association



We are preferred providers for all members of *KeyHealth*

**PHONAK**  
life is on

**Fairmount:**  
George Ave, Sandringham  
Johannesburg  
Fax: 011 849-3027

**CONTACT US: (011) 849-6256**

**Additional Branches:**

Bedfordview • Benoni • Germiston • Monroeville

# New ANCYL president holds out an olive branch to minorities

ANT KATZ

The newly-elected president of the ANC Youth League (ANCYL), Mokone Collen Maine (pictured), in his closing address of the elective National Congress at Gallagher Estate on Sunday, reached out to young Jews, among other groups. President Jacob Zuma, too, was in a conciliatory mood when he opened the congress last Friday.

ANC Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa also spoke extensively on the need for a shared future for South Africans of all races, religions and cultures.

Maine spoke at length about the urgent need for what he termed the "Revival of the Friends of the Youth League", which could only be obtained if the Youth League were to seek support "in the broader society, beyond its traditional base."

"We must develop a programme to work with the Muslim, Jewish, Afrikaner, Greek, Hindu, Portuguese, and other minority youth and student formations, among others, for the betterment and secured future of South Africa."

He pledged to "continue to give material, human and other support to Palestine, in support of their struggle for independence, as we continue to advocate for the two-state solution".

This conciliatory statement was well-received by young Jewish activists and students that the Jewish Report spoke to.

The new executive of the ANCYL is expected to meet with Jewish youth and student groups as early as this week. It comprises: President - Collen Maine; Deputy President - Desmond Moela; Secretary General - Njabulo Nzuza; Deputy Secretary General - Thandi Moraka; and Treasurer General - Reggie Nkabinde.

The Jewish Report was told by a source inside ANCYL that two high-ranking members of the anti-Israel group BDS-SA had hoped to find themselves on the national



executive committee; it is understood however that both have only become active at provincial level.

The re-established Youth League was clearly carefully chosen with all new office-bearers elected unopposed. Maine used a substantial amount of time in his closing address to apologise to the parent body (ANC) for the ill-discipline in the previous regime headed by Julius Malema, now leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters.

On international relations, Maine said: "We will continue to participate in programmes that seek to maximise the impact of international youth exchange programmes and further strengthen party-to-party relations with our progressive partners on the international platform, particularly within BRICS and South-South partners."

"The ANC Youth League will continue to offer support to youth formations that are operating within oppressive regimes, within the continent and the rest of global society."

Experience Israel, Explore Your Future.

GRADE 11 STUDENTS

**Israel Encounter 2016**

DEC 2015 / JAN 2016



ISRAEL CENTRE  
SOUTH AFRICA

From Only  
**R13 000\*** JHB

**R15 000\*** CAPE TOWN  
Includes domestic flights and transfers

JOHANNESBURG  
28 Dec - 8 Jan

CAPE TOWN  
31 Dec - 13 Jan

RELIGIOUS BOYS  
24 Dec - 3 Jan

RELIGIOUS GIRLS  
28 Dec - 8 Jan

**BOOK NOW and be a part of this life changing experience in Israel.**

For further info, please contact the Israel Centre on:  
JHB: 011 645 2561 / israelprog@israelcentre.co.za  
CT: 021 464 6718 / aliyah@ctjc.co.za  
or the Hebrew Departments at King David Schools  
[www.jewishagency.org/sa](http://www.jewishagency.org/sa)

**\*REGISTER BEFORE THE END OF JULY!**

To guarantee your place at this **ONCE OFF SPECIAL PRICE**, a 50% non-refundable deposit is required by 31 July 2015. Payments made after this date will not qualify for this rate or be guaranteed of a seat. Price to increase from 1 August 2015 to R14,000 (JHB) / R16,000 (CT). Full payment to be made by 30 September 2015



**Panel LAB**  
Auto Body Repair

## Restored to factory finish No ifs... No buts... No excuses

Panel LAB's sole focus is the repair of auto body related damage to the identical fit and finish of the motor manufacturer whilst ensuring that the entire repair process, **FROM CLAIM TO COMPLETION**, is as easy and convenient as possible for our customers.

- Our experienced claims specialists can assist you with the claims process with insurers
- Discounted insurance excess
- Late-model courtesy cars provided at no cost (where applicable)
- Lifetime warranty on paint and workmanship – no quibble
- RMI (Retail Motor Industry Organisation) approved

186 Johannesburg Road, Lyndhurst  
Opposite the Lyndhurst Spar  
Feel free to visit us for a quote anytime  
Contact us on 011 346 2325 / 082 825 9658



# On clamouring for a South African passport



## TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

It is unlikely that the proposal of Obed Bapela, a senior ANC official on international relations, to forbid dual citizenship for South African Jews who want to also be citizens of Israel, will succeed. The legal obstacles to changing the law in this direction are formidable and it would also have to apply to South Africans who are citizens of other countries.

The negative effect on them will be huge, as will be the effects on the country's image. Bapela probably knows that, so why is he willing to do so much damage to the morale of South African Jews by making them feel singled out in this way?

But let's play devil's advocate for a moment, and contemplate a scenario where such a law actually gets passed and South Africans can only hold one citizenship. What would Americans who also hold SA citizenship do? Give up their American citizenship? Very unlikely. Or British, Lithuanians, Canadians, Australians and others?

Would they choose to relinquish those passports and be South Africans only? The vast majority of them would - with great sadness for most - give up their South African citizenship rather than the others they hold - not because they don't want to be South Africans.

There still remains an idealism in this country and a feeling that we have done extraordinary things in the past and can again in the future. But there are serious questions about the future. People will look at how South Africa seems to be unravelling under the inept and corrupt leadership of President Jacob Zuma and his ANC and wonder what lies ahead.

What does it mean to carry a passport? Twenty years ago at the dawn of South African democracy, the citizens of this country for the first time felt proud producing their SA passports at international airports when they travelled. We were the people from the miracle country of Mandela, this was our brand, as opposed to the days when apartheid was the brand associated with us.

These days, however, many people are

again embarrassed, because we have become famous for our crime, corruption, xenophobia and racial divisions again, and for the ineptitude which characterises our government.

The debacles at Eskom, SAA, Prasa, and other major pillars of our economy, and the fact that poverty has got worse since apartheid ended, rather than better, should make us hang our heads in shame.

Bapela and the ANC should be concentrating their energies on making South Africa a country which people admire and are clamouring to be citizens of, rather than playing cheap politics in this way. He should be aiming for a day when a South African passport will be valued like a jewel because of the successful country it represents.

In making a noise about South Africans who go to Israel, he is scoring points with sections of the electorate, wanting to look like a gutsy campaigner for human rights. But it is superficial political grandstanding.

It paints Israel and SA Jews with a crude, broad brush as if they can be neatly summarised in one phrase: the building of more Jewish settlements on stolen Palestinian land, and the oppression of the Palestinians. It takes no account of the widely diverse views they hold on the nature of Israeli society, the nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the occupation of the West Bank, their personal roles, and so on.

None of the above is to say that Israel is blameless in this. It has today one of the most rightwing, rejectionist governments in its history, and a prime minister who provides no vision for a peaceful future - only more and more conflict.

But without a doubt, nor are the Palestinians that he champions blameless. They could have had their independent state, living in peace alongside Israel many years ago - they were offered it repeatedly by more liberal Israeli governments but couldn't bring themselves to make the choice to end the conflict.

All of these nuances seem to escape Bapela. Sadly, the only thing his ranting has achieved is to make South African Jews feel more vulnerable. But he needs to understand: South Africa is their country as much as it is his, and they will stand up for this right.

What does it mean to carry a passport? Twenty years ago at the dawn of South African democracy, the citizens of this country for the first time felt proud producing their SA passports at international airports when they travelled.



### Torah Academy has the following part-time employment opportunities:

- ▼ Qualified Secular Teacher for the Intersen Phase;
- ▼ Qualified Secular Teacher for the Junior Phase;
- ▼ Qualified Hebrew Teacher who will motivate pupils and instil in them a love of Hebrew;
- ▼ Social Worker to assist in the Social Work Department.

Qualifications for all posts essential.

Suitable candidates will need to be available for a model lesson. Interested applicants should please forward CVs to [hr@torahacademy.co.za](mailto:hr@torahacademy.co.za)

Only successful applicants will be contacted.



Gathering Voices  
Combating racism and global anti-Semitism.

22 Nov. 2015

#### Ronald Lauder

Businessman, art collector, philanthropist, and political activist.

#### Bernard-Henri Lévy

French public intellectual, media personality, and author.



South African Jewish Board of Deputies





# Living in the age of distraction



Last week Monday, August 31, over a billion people logged onto Facebook in one day - about one seventh of the world’s population. The social media site says it has nearly 1,5 billion users who log on at least once a month. While this is amazing news for its founder Mark Zuckerberg, what does it mean for the rest of us who live in a world of constant tweeting, Instagramming, whatsapping, and even sexting?

The sight of couples dining in restaurants in rapt conversation with their mobile devices, or family dinners marked by iPad use or intermittent texting, is commonplace. To pass judgement would be myopic because these are not necessarily unhappy couples or dysfunctional families.

Indeed mobile phones and texting allow us to be more efficient than ever. As parents we can check in with our children and schedule their activities while ordering groceries online, getting the ingredients together for supper or holding a business meeting.

Despite the advantages, what has gadgetry and the ubiquitous worldwide web taken away from our interpersonal spaces? In a recent article in Psychotherapy Networker by Ron Taffel, chairman of the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy in New York, he noted that one third of mothers in the US had mobile device by 2012. They utilised them on average 6,1 hours a day and reported that their devices were always within arm’s reach.

For psychologists like Taffel, the concern is the interrupted attention that this brings. Even when parents want to give undivided time to their children, our modern, technology-infused, multi-tasking lives, get in the way and our offspring do not get the unbroken intensity and eye contact that they deserve.

Is this a contributing factor to the increasing levels of anxiety and depression evident in teens today who are getting this “agitated, fragmented, distracted attention” from their parents? Taffel, among others, say it is.

“If love is, as has been suggested, focused interest, how can chronic distraction translate into secure attachment?” Taffel asks.

Secure attachment - forming strong attachments to parents but being able to leave them, knowing they will return later - is required during childhood to form the basis for secure relationships and independence as adults.

\*\*\*

And as adults, technology has revolutionised our interpersonal space. It has opened up the possibility of friendships or romantic partners in different social circles or even countries. It is now possible to build emotional bonds through constant texting and seeing one another on Skype without actually living in close proximity.

Although there are obvious advantages to this, it has altered the dimensions of our personal engagement. We live for the highs of the beep in response, we can sink when it has not been read or responded to, and in these interactions, we have lost the more traditional rules of engagement which involve touch, smile and eye contact.

Also, it is strange that through sites like Facebook, though we are not in regular touch with distant friends or acquaintances and may never be, we are party to the sometimes intimate moments of their lives.

Technology has also opened up a whole new world of “cyber infidelity”, a topic therapists are writing widely on. Woe for the amount of relationships that have ended over text messages surreptitiously discovered by suspicious partners.

And one can imagine the emotional havoc wreaked when Ashley Madison, the site for cheating spouses, was recently hacked and the more than 30 million names were released into the public domain.

\*\*\*

The late Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, once said that his customers didn’t know what they wanted until it was shown to them. He helped created a desire and now an absolute reliance on tablet computers and smartphones. Yes, this creator of modern computing was most brilliant.

Perhaps, however, the creator of Shabbat was even more so, giving us this amazing weekly opportunity to disengage from all our devices and to stop, take stock and really relate to important people in our lives. It is indeed a wonder more of us don’t take advantage of this “freebie”.

Wishing all our readers, leaders and advertisers a wonderful, meaningful and connected Yomtov period. We will resume publishing the paper on October 16. Please visit the website on [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za) for news in the interim.

– Vanessa Valkin

More news on our website [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za)

## A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

### Board denounces Bapela’s ‘undemocratic proposals’

The first part of this week was largely taken up with responding to outrageous comments, as reported in the Sunday Times, by Deputy Minister Obed Bapela suggesting that the ANC was considering abolishing dual citizenship in order to prevent South African Jews from serving in the IDF. The Deputy Minister was also quoted as expressing his party’s support for boycotting certain businesses because of their dealings with Israel.

The Board has conducted an active campaign in the media to denounce these undemocratic and grossly discriminatory proposals. In numerous interviews, as well as in an on-air

debate with Mr Bapela, our President Zev Krengel pulled no punches, saying that they overtly targeted the Jewish community over and above all other South African citizens and invoked against its members the classic anti-Semitic, “dual loyalty” canard.

In our press statement, we amplified on this, saying that the proposal to change existing citizenship legislation purely to prevent South African Jews from having a relationship with Israel, was an attack on a core value of South Africa’s democracy.

Also stressed was the sobering historical lesson that while discriminatory acts might begin with the Jews, they seldom ended with them. In a country which on a daily basis had to battle against racism and xenophobia, Bapela was further inflaming divisions within our society.

As the statement put it: “While mentioning Jews today, it will be other minorities tomorrow.”

Significantly, the proposed action against holding dual citizenship generated across the board anxiety. A number of commentators pointed out that in terms of the Constitution, no citizen could be



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

deprived of citizenship, and that therefore any mechanism to take away the citizenship of someone would be unconstitutional.

In fact, the Bapela proposals constitute just the latest instance of radical anti-Israel sentiment resulting in threats to our democratic culture.

The message we wished to put out was that we were proud South Africans who had as much right as anyone to take a position on Israel or anything else and that we would not be intimidated by threats or defamatory suggestions that our loyalty to the country was suspect.

In addition to our public response, we also took care to brief and reassure

our own community. Our communicate in this regard stressed that Bapela’s views represented those of a narrow faction within the ANC and not the policy of the party itself. To clarify what the true position was, we were following up with the ANC at the highest levels and would update the community once we had more clarity on this and related questions.

\*\*\*

We are now on the threshold of Rosh Hashanah and the extended Jewish festival season. At this time of reflection and new beginnings, I wish everyone a sweet, peaceful, healthy and successful new year.

Whatever challenges 5776 might bring, I have little doubt that we will meet and overcome them as in years gone by, and in that as always, the SAJBD will continue to do everything necessary to ensure that the civil liberties of our community are upheld.

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

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

## A column of WIZO South Africa

### As we face a new Jewish year...

I would like to begin with a message from World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov:

*I wish you a happy, healthy and joyous New Year  
A year of new beginnings  
A year of unity and harmony and peace  
A year of compassion, love and giving  
A year of hope and of Mazal.*



May WIZO continue to provide education, empowerment and opportunities for a better future.

WIZO would like to wish a hearty mazaltov to all the achievers from the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards who have contributed so greatly to the development and building of our country.

We were thrilled with the new category “The European Jewish Women in Leadership Award”, and marvel at the many names put forward. This award aims to honour the remarkable contribution made by Jewish Women in business, professions, politics, philanthropy, arts and in serving the Jewish and wider communities, among them proud WIZO SA members.

In the last few months of the year, we honour our



own WIZO achievers at the Rebecca Sieff Awards. This is a day celebrated in all South African WIZO centres for women who have given 25, 40, 60 and more years of devoted service to WIZO, enabling them to become agents of change for so many women and children less fortunate than themselves.

Rebecca Sieff took a leadership role in establishing WIZO to look after the women who toiled long hours under gruelling conditions in what was then called Palestine and whose babies had little or no access to nursing facilities when the need arose.

The establishment of the first Mothercraft training centres safeguarded the infants and freed up the mothers to continue with their valuable work in building up the country. The 800 WIZO facilities in Israel that offer help, support, comfort, direction and training, arose directly from the vision of that iconic woman, Rebecca Sieff.

With the ending of shmita and Israel’s renewal of the land, we hope that there will also be a renewal of peace and prosperity so that the Jewish people may live happily in their beloved homeland.

WIZO South Africa thanks its members and friends for their support and partnership. May all the house of Israel be blessed with a Shanah Tova.

Chag Sameach!

*This column paid for by WIZO SA*

**Panel LAB**  
Auto Body Repair

Restored to factory finish. No ifs... No buts... No excuses

Chag Sameach

186 Johannesburg Road, Lyndhurst | Feel free to visit us for a quote anytime | Contact us on 011 346 2325 / 082 825 9658



# KosherWorld



TRULY KOSHER

Offers valid till 4th October '15  
While stocks last

Wishing you  
& the entire  
community

שנה טובה  
U'metukah  
שנה טובה ומתוקה

THE  
**PRIME CUT**  
Mehadrin Commission  
**MEHADRIN  
COMMISSION**

RAISIN  
RIB

**139<sup>99</sup>**  
/kg

KLEINE  
DRAKEN  
GRAPE JUICE

**38<sup>99</sup>**  
each  
750ml

LARGE  
RANGE OF  
YOM TOV  
GIFTS

BACKSBERG  
KIDDUSH WINE

**48<sup>99</sup>**  
each  
750ml

SELWYN  
SEGAL  
HONEY

**33<sup>99</sup>**  
375ml

GRANNY SMITH  
APPLES

**12<sup>99</sup>**  
1.5kg

TENDERCHICK  
GRADE A  
WHOLE  
BIRD

**39<sup>49</sup>**  
/kg

רימונים

FRESH FROM ISRAEL

POMEGRANATES

**26<sup>99</sup>**  
each

EXTRA LARGE EGGS  
18 White Eggs  
Grade 1 (59-862)

NORTHWINDS  
GRADE 1  
EXTRA  
LARGE  
EGGS

**33<sup>99</sup>**  
18's

BERKIES  
SCHMALTZ

**26<sup>99</sup>**  
250g

SNOWSOFT TISSUES  
2-PLY WHITE - 200's

**12<sup>99</sup>**

REFRESHHH  
FLAVOURED SOFT DRINK  
VARIOUS FLAVOURS 2ℓ

**9<sup>99</sup>**

MENORA  
26 HOUR TIN  
MEMORIAL CANDLES

**7<sup>99</sup>**

MAXI'S  
STUFFED  
TURKEY

**119<sup>99</sup>**  
/kg

DE LA VI  
SALTED  
HERRING  
FILLETS

**28<sup>99</sup>**  
350g

1 Long Avenue, Glenhazel Call: 011 440 9517 | [info@kosherworld.co.za](mailto:info@kosherworld.co.za) | [www.kosherworld.co.za](http://www.kosherworld.co.za)

Trading Hours: Mon-Thurs 7am - 10pm | Fri: 7am-4pm | Sat: 1/2 Hour After Shabbos - 10pm | Sun: 8am-10pm



[www.kia.co.za](http://www.kia.co.za)



Selected Rio's,  
Picanto's,  
Cerato's and  
Soul's at cost!

THE ANNUAL KIA  
**SPRING  
MADNESS**

**MASSIVE SPECIALS. CARS AT COST**



The Power to Surprise

Go to [www.kiapromotions.co.za](http://www.kiapromotions.co.za) now or visit your nearest dealer, stocks are limited. KIA Spring Madness runs from the 17th to the 30th of September. Terms and conditions apply.



# Mendelsohn has big plans for the Kaplan Centre

MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

Adam Mendelsohn (pictured) has been appointed associate professor in the department of Historical Studies and director of the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research at the University of Cape Town, his alma mater.

The former Herzlian has lived in the United States for 12 years, having been associate professor of Jewish Studies at the College of Charleston, South Carolina and since 2008, has directed a centre focused on Jews in the American South.

Mendelsohn, who majored in history and politics at UCT, “stumbled” into the field of Jewish Studies “by accident”, when completing his undergraduate degree in the US. He took a course in the field and as part of the programme, did a comparative project on Jews in apartheid South Africa and in the Civil Rights Movement in the US.

“From there it really gathered momentum and I decided to do a master’s project which would be comparative; by that point I was hooked,” he recalls. A master’s degree at UCT followed, as well as a doctorate in Modern Jewish History from Brandeis University.

“Coming back to South Africa certainly wasn’t in my long-range plan,” the 36-year-old says, “but this is the position I would always have come back for. It’s at UCT, it’s in Cape Town and it’s very unusual in that it’s not just an academic position.

“The Kaplan Centre takes on the responsibility of doing research into the community - both historical and sociological - and there’s nothing quite like it in the equivalent American university positions.

“In the United States there are already 1 001 Jewish university or communal organisations



Photo supplied

which are doing research of one kind or another. Here, the Kaplan Centre seems to be the address to do that.”

Mendelsohn says it was not a hard sell to get his American wife, Andrea, to relocate. “She’s very adventurous; she lived in Ethiopia for a year, India for a year and has travelled to all sorts of other places. Ironically, when I was in the US years ago, she was a Semester Study Abroad student at UCT!”

The new director has many plans for the Kaplan Centre, some of which include continuing the projects of his predecessor, Professor Milton Shain. One of two major initiatives on the drawing board is a national survey of the Jewish community - previously done in 2005 - incorporating social attitudes towards a variety of current issues.

“The last study (reflected) a moment of great optimism in the community. (We’ll see how things stand now 10 years later.”

The other is a national survey to gauge black South Africans’ thinking about Jews. “There have been a number of episodes where people have said disturbing things,” he explains, giving as an example the (former) leader of Wits SRC’s pro-Hitler utterances earlier this year.

“Again, this will be a snapshot of the range and potency of attitudes to Jews, how much impact BDS, reporting on Israel in the media as well as the government’s approach to Israel, have had and whether Christian-Zionism has played a role in shaping attitudes.”

Mendelsohn also envisages the Kaplan Centre serving as a think tank, initiating discussion in the community through position papers on how broader societal issues such as gay rights, animal rights, feminism, the structure of the community and philanthropy should or can affect Jewish life.

## World News in Brief

### Iranian leader vows to increase military capability to defeat Israel

TEHRAN - Hours after US Senator Barbara Mikulski (Democrat Maryland) announced last week that she would back the Obama administration’s nuclear deal with Iran, ensuring enough supporting votes to prevent an override of a presidential veto of any Congressional rejection of the pact, a senior Iranian Revolutionary Guard commander said that the Islamic Republic would continue strengthening its military capabilities until it had defeated Israel.

“[The US and Israel] should know that the Islamic Revolution will continue enhancing its preparedness until it overthrows Israel and liberates Palestine,” said Brigadier General Mohsen Kazzemeini, Iran’s Fars News Agency reported.

“We will continue defending not just our own country, but also all the oppressed people of the world, especially those countries that are standing on the forefront of confrontation with the Zionists,” he said. (JNS.org)



Nick and the team at Waverley Engen wish all their Jewish customers Shana Tova & Well over the fast

*The antidote for fifty enemies is one friend.*  
- Aristotle (322 BC)

Waverley Service Centre  
35 Scott St. Waverley. JHB  
Tel: 011 440 1820



CAP SUPPORTERS



**Lee’s Stuff**

Moving or just cleaning house?

We pay top prices for a wide variety of household goods, antiques and collectables.



Please phone Lee at  
(011) 640-2007 or 082-450-4056

**Balfour**  
*Mall*

MAKE YOUR MOVE

# L'SHANAH TOVA

HAPPY ROSH HASHANAH TO ALL OUR JEWISH CUSTOMERS.

 [www.balfourmall.co.za](http://www.balfourmall.co.za)

 @BalfourMall





# Gross anti-Semitism goes unpunished in Australia

**VIC ALHADEFF**  
**CEO, NSW JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES,**  
**SYDNEY**

Imagine if an Islamist preacher called for death to the Jews in a public speech in your city in South Africa. This occurred in Sydney, Australia, and the state is powerless to act.

The six-month statute of limitations in which a prosecution could be mounted by the state,

expired on September 3, with an appeal by the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies for legal action against the preacher and his organisation dismissed, even though the Director of Public Prosecutions agreed that a “likely breach” of the law had occurred.

Describing Jews as “the most evil creature of Allah”, Ismail al-Wahwah, spiritual leader of Hizb ut-Tahrir - which has been banned in a number of countries but is legal in Australia

- told a rally in Sydney (translated): “Moral corruption is linked to the Jews... If the Jews were given the whole world, they would want the heavens. That is the nature of the Jews. It is a delusion to think that there can be peace and coexistence... with the Jews...”

“There is only one solution for this cancerous tumour: It must be uprooted and thrown back to where it came from. They have corrupted the world with their corrupt media. The Israelites have corrupted the world with so-called art, cinema and corrupt films, and with sex trade, drug trade and moral depravity. They have corrupted the world in every respect...”

“Whatever the outcome is of today’s battle, it is not the final battle. There is a sea of blood between the Jews and us. They will pay with blood for blood, with tears for tears, and with destruction for destruction.”

“The ember of jihad against the Jews will continue to burn. Judgement Day will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews... tomorrow you Jews will see what will become of you - an eye for an eye, blood for blood, destruction for destruction.”

The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, which represents the Jewish community of New South Wales - Australia’s most populous state - lodged an appeal with the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board in March this year, urging that the Director of Public Prosecutions take action against Hizb ut-Tahrir and al-Wahwah.

The Board agreed that within a month there was a case to answer and referred the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the police.

However, in the 26 years since the anti-discrimination legislation was enacted in 1989, the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board has referred 30 cases to the Director of Public Prosecutions; not one has been prosecuted.

Hizb ut-Tahrir calls for the overthrow of Western democracies and the creation of a worldwide caliphate, but insists that it does not advocate violence. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said earlier this year that his government was considering banning it.

The incendiary nature of al-Wahwah’s speech was so outrageous that the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies regarded the case as a test of whether the law is able to deal with someone who publicly calls for the death of a group of Australians based on ethnicity.

A multi-party inquiry into the legislation was held in 2013, but none of its 15 recommendations has been implemented.

# War hero Richard Kemp to visit South Africa



*“In relation to the 2008-09 Gaza conflict, no army in the history of warfare had taken greater steps than the IDF to minimise harm to civilians in a combat zone. My observations during the 2014 conflict confirmed this. No other army that I have served in or alongside or that I have studied and researched, has yet taken such extensive precautions.” (Colonel Richard Kemp CBE)*

Colonel Richard Kemp (pictured) has spent most of his life combating terrorism and insurgency. In his 30-year military career he commanded British troops on the frontline in some of the world’s toughest hotspots.

The South African Zionist Federation says in a media release it will be presenting Kemp to the community on Thursday evening October 15 and his focus will be on the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the horrors of ISIS.

“Seats will be limited and booking is essential,” the SAZF says.

In 2003, Col Kemp was commander of British forces in Afghanistan. From 2002 - 2006 he worked in the British Prime Minister’s Office, heading the international terrorism team at the Joint Intelligence Committee.

Concurrently he served as chairman of the strategic intelligence group at COBRA, the UK national crisis management committee, akin to the White House Situation Room. In 2006 he received a CBE.

In 2009, at an emergency session of the UN in Geneva, he vigorously refuted Mr Justice Richard Goldstone’s allegations of war crimes against the Israel Defence Forces during Operation Cast Lead.

Kemp was present during the Gaza operations’ Pillar of Defence in 2012 and Protective Edge in 2014 and when Operation Protective Edge ended, he gave a detailed briefing to the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the Knesset, providing his assessment of the way the conflict was conducted and the future in Gaza.

In February this year he gave evidence to the UN Commission of Inquiry investigating the Gaza conflict; and four months later he addressed the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, rejecting the Commission’s report.

In May this year, Bar-Ilan University in Israel bestowed an honorary doctorate on Kemp “in recognition of his stalwart battle against terrorism and terrorist organisations. Courageously defending Israel’s security policies and the morality of the IDF before the UN Human Rights Council, he has helped strengthen the standing of Israel throughout the world,” the university said.

Kemp is a regular columnist for The Times of London, frequently writes for other national and international newspapers and is a prolific contributor to television and radio news and current affairs programmes.

He has undertaken successful speaking tours in the US, Canada, Australia and Europe and shared platforms with former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

- For more information on Col Kemp’s visit, call Lisa on (011) 645-2510 or e-mail [lisa@sazf.org](mailto:lisa@sazf.org).

## the florence melton school of adult jewish learning

A PROJECT OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Experience how **4000** year old texts talk to the **21st** century

Core Courses

Melton fosters Jewish literacy through comprehensive, non-prescriptive and inclusive text-based curricula

Graduate Courses

•Foundation of Jewish Living, Beyond Borders: The History of the Arab Israeli Conflict •The Holocaust as Reflected in Diaries & Memoirs •Israeli Literature as a Window to Israeli Society •SHIV'IM PANIM – SEVENTY FACES OF WISDOM: Bereshit 1, Bereshit 2, Shemot 1, Shemot 2 and BaMidbar

*Wishing you Shana Tova and a year ahead blessed with meaning and knowledge.*

Viv Anstey (CT)      [vivanst@iafrica.com](mailto:vivanst@iafrica.com)      082 809 5414  
Ariella Milner (JHB)      [meltonjhb@gmail.com](mailto:meltonjhb@gmail.com)      082 804 6113  
Lauren Snitcher (CT)      [lsnitcher@iafrica.com](mailto:lsnitcher@iafrica.com)      082 880 2257

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

## COMMUNITY NOTICE 2015: JHB JEWISH CEMETERIES

It is a time-honoured custom to visit the graves of parents and families before Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. At the time one visits the graves, it is appropriate to give some tzedakah in the name of the deceased. This mitzvah benefits the soul of the departed.

### Visiting Times:

**West Park:** Sunday - Friday from 07:00 - 16:00.  
*Please note: West Park will be closed to drive-in traffic to graves on Sunday 6, 13 & 20 September. Unfortunately we are not in the position to make any exceptions. The cemetery will, however, provide transport during these times.*

**Brixton:** This cemetery has 24 hour security and may be visited on any day except Shabbat and Yomtov.

**Braamfontein:** No security is available. Should you wish to visit please contact West Park Cemetery to make the necessary arrangements. The community is encouraged to visit this cemetery in groups of at least two.

### West Park Cemetery Offices

t: 011 673 2057/8  
24 hour pager (incl. Shabbat & Yom Tov): 011 321 0000 code 4284

ChevrahKadisha

BURIAL SERVICES



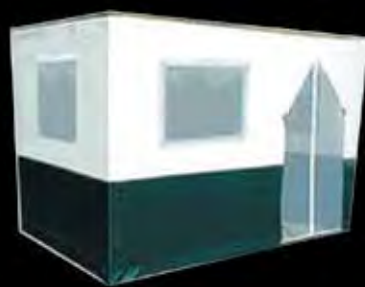
ג'תש

Come Celebrate  
Sukkot with us

# Sukkah Mart

Celebrating  
33  
Years

**NEW super-strong Sukkah,  
NEW fresh Schach mats  
many NEW decorations  
Solar Lights**



Sukkah 3x6 **R4997**

**Lulav &  
Etrog Set  
R627\***

With the Hechsher of: BADATZ,  
Chazon Ish, Kfar Chabad

**New 3x6m sukkah, can  
be used as 3x4m, 3x2m.  
– party tent combo  
Only R4997.**

Schach  
2.1 x 2.1  
**R667**



**\*Valid until September 13,  
in store only. Reg R647**

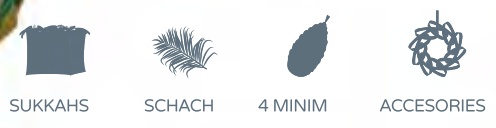


## Opening Times

6th-10th September 10:00 – 17:00  
16th-17th September 09:00 – 17:00  
18th September 09:00 – 14:00  
20th-21st September 08:00 – 17:00  
24th September 08:00 – 20:00  
25th September 08:00 – 14:00  
26th September 17:30 – 23:00  
27th September 07:00 – 16:00  
30th September – 2 October 10:00 – 12:00

**Genesis, Sandler Rd | Norwood Mall (next to the lifts)**

CALL 0723164599-0608307261






ADVERTORIAL


Waverley Shul launches exciting ‘ReJEWvination’ project

The past year has been a difficult one for Waverley Shul campus in Johannesburg, but according to Lionel Milner, chairman of the shul, “we are not looking back, only forward from here on in. With a new, fresh approach to the year, we have much to offer congregants.” As Waverley Shul and Beit Yisrael Minyanim bring in the New Year this weekend together over Rosh Hashanah, it is most fitting that the start of the year coincides with positive new beginnings, including the appointment of a new and vibrant leader in Rabbi Dr David Nossel, and the launch of the shul’s new and exhilarating “ReJEWvination” project. The initiative is being driven by a revitalised and dynamic committee, working very closely with the skilful expertise of the highly regarded spiritual co-leadership of Rabbi Dr Nossel and Rabbi Bookatz. With this capable and highly inspiring team in place, the vision of the

project is to offer members an array of inclusive programmes, which will also involve the broader community, and will enthuse congregants to get back and give back at the same time. Lionel invites members of the broader community to join The Waverley Shul team and share the exciting journey ahead. He says: “Make a date and reJEWvinate with us.” The shul arguably has the finest chazan and choir combination in the country with magnificent themes and tunes that haven’t been heard before. Seats are still available at the shul for the upcoming Yomtavim and new members are welcome to try before you buy! Rabbi Dr David Nossel will be introducing himself to the community on first day Rosh Hashanah. Watch out for other exciting events. Shana Tova u’metukah - from the Waverly Shul campus. Telephone (011) 786-0437.



**Waverley Shul**  
Northern Suburbs Hebrew Congregation



**BEIT YISRAEL**  
Waverley

- ★ Nossel and Bookatz join forces
- ★ Exciting new events coming up
- ★ In community projects
- ★ Wider community projects and Chesed initiatives



Join us for  
apples & honey this  
Rosh Hashanah

Contact us on (011) 786-0437

Letters

11 September – 16 October 2015

**Disclaimer**  
The letters page is intended to provide an opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report.  
*The Editor, PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034 email: sharon@sajewishreport.co.za*

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

ANC’S LATEST ACTIONS REGARDING ISRAEL, A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

I am a third generation South African, tracing my roots back some 125 years. My parents instilled in me a love for South Africa and for her people.  
In the early 1990s when, fearing the new dispensation, hordes of white South Africans left, my family made a conscious decision to remain. After all, this is what we had prayed and hoped for during the dark apartheid years.  
As a Jew I have, until recently, felt very secure in our decision to remain. But now this sense of security is waning, for in addition to being a loyal South African I am a proud Jew, unashamedly in love with and proud of the one and only Jewish state in the world - Israel. And creeping insidiously into the discourse of the ANC is an anti-Israel sentiment that is nothing short of anti-Semitism.  
The Middle East is imploding. Millions of Syrians have been forced to flee their country of birth; over 250 000 have so far been killed. Women and children are being beheaded by ISIS and traitors to its cause are drowned in cages or burned alive.  
ISIS proudly flaunts its barbarity on videos for all to see. But Obed Bapela (head of the ANC’s national subcommittee on international relations) and his comrades remain undeterred.  
It would also seem that they are undeterred by the fact that according to an Eyewitness News report at least 23 South

Africans had already been recruited by ISIS. Does ISIS truly pale into insignificance for them next to the Arab-Israel conflict?  
On February 20, on Times Live, it was reported that since 1997 Al Qaida has had a presence in South Africa and that by 1995 there were already five Hezbollah training camps in South Africa. It was further stated that the government was aware of these camps but has done nothing about them.  
In a survey by Gunnar Heinsohn in The Muslim Issue of September 24, 2013, it was found that in all the conflicts of the world since 1950, there have been 85 million deaths.  
Of those 51 000 have died in the Arab-Israel conflict - 35 000 Arabs and 16 000 Israelis. In this same period 11 million Muslims were killed, 90 per cent of them at the hands of fellow Muslims - 0,3 per cent as a result of the Arab-Israel conflict.  
And yet the ANC is seeking a law to ban dual citizenship in order to prevent Jewish boys and girls from enlisting in the Israeli army!  
Bopela’s call to ban dual citizenship because of Israel and Israel alone, is not only steeped in anti-Semitism but it displays ignorance of the highest order.

**Monessa Shapiro**  
**Glenhazel, Johannesburg**

PROF ALAN CRUMP, A ‘BUNDIST’, NOT A ‘BUDDHIST’

Congratulations to all involved with the Absa Jewish Achievers Awards. Special praise goes to all those responsible for the top quality magazine We Built this Country with Heart and Soul, which featured the finalists and sponsors.  
As author of the article in the magazine “The contribution of South African Jews to the Arts” (p64), I wrote that the late Professor Alan Crump, head of the arts faculty at Wits, told me “that both his parents were Jewish, but that he had been brought up as a Bundist.” The sub-editor or automatic spell check made a correction that was amusing but inaccurate, substituting the word “Buddhist” for “Bundist”.  
The professor was proud of the fact that his parents were Bundists. He would not have regarded the error as a compliment.

**Natalie Knight**  
**(Finalist in the Europcar Jewish Achiever Award)**


*According to Wikipedia, Bundism was a secular Jewish socialist movement founded in Russia in 1897. The Jewish Labour Bund was an important component of the social democratic movement in the Russian empire until the Russian Revolution of 1917. - Editor*

Nearly a million Tutsis died in Rwandan genocide

In the story on the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre, the number of Tutsis that were murdered in the Rwandan genocide was 800 000 to one million - not 80 000 as stated. The JHGC has educated 35 000 children over the last seven years - not 5 000.


.....

**WE**



**NORWOOD**

.....



**FOOD LOVER'S MARKET**



# Shanah Tovah

**& well over the fast  
to all our Jewish  
customers & friends**

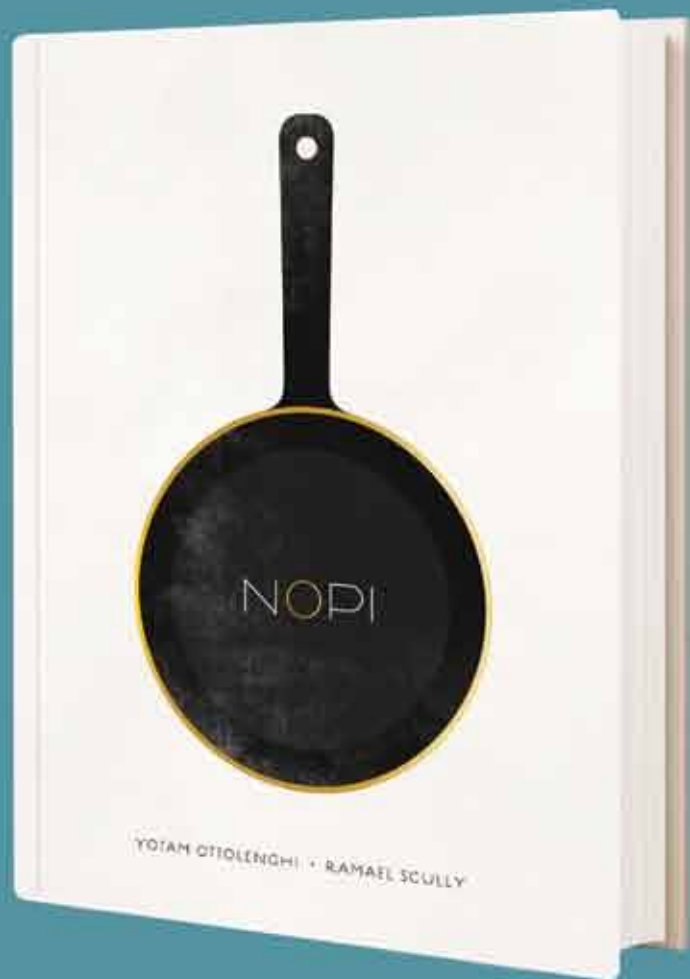


**HEART OF  
GOOD FOOD**

**Corner Hamlin & 6th Avenue, Norwood Mall, Norwood, Tel: (011) 728 5880, norwood@fnv.co.za**  
ACTUAL PRODUCTS ON OFFER MAY DIFFER FROM VISUALS SHOWN, AS THESE ARE SERVING SUGGESTIONS ONLY • 260815 • NO HAWKERS • NO TRADERS • WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES • E&OE



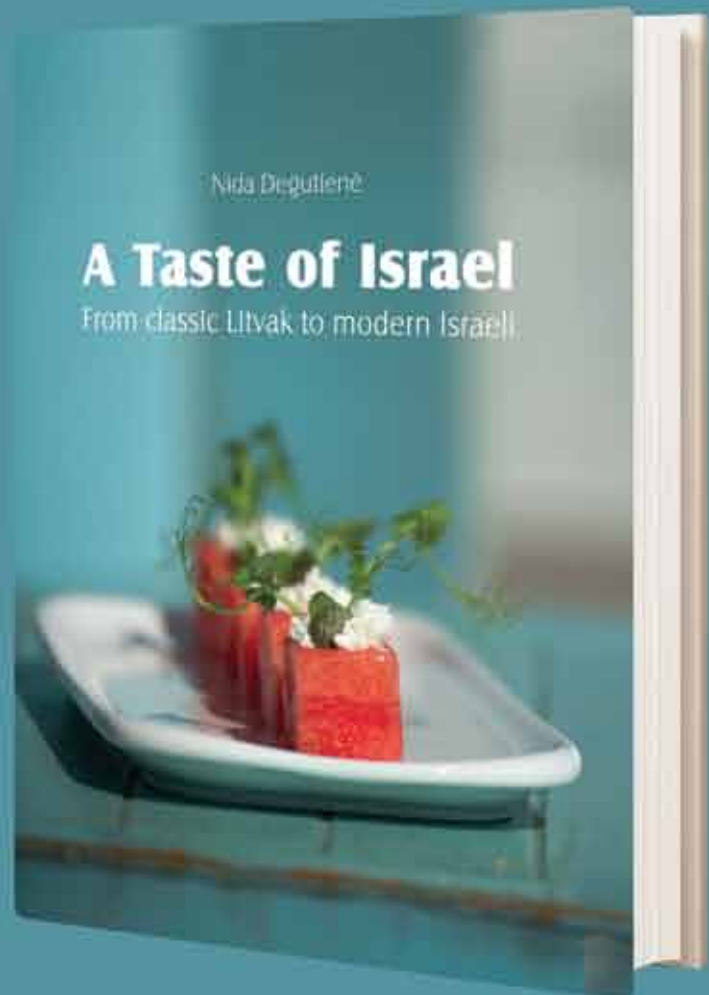
# THE LATEST MUST-HAVE COOKBOOKS



## Nopi

Over 120 of the most popular dishes from Yotam Ottolenghi's innovative Soho-based restaurant NOPI. Whether you're a regular at the NOPI restaurant or are an Ottolenghi fan who wants to try out restaurant-style cooking, this is a collection of recipes which will inspire, challenge and delight.

The first collection of wholly new recipes since *Jerusalem*, published in 2012.



## A Taste of Israel

This book is an open door into the kitchens of the ordinary Israeli home, an invitation to explore the country's diverse street food and a glimpse behind the scenes at some of its gourmet restaurants. You'll find recipes for dishes that do much more than just satisfy hunger. They are memories and stories shared by Litvaks from Israel and South Africa, by Israeli friends and by their mothers and their grandmothers.

Available for the first time in English.



Penguin  
Random House  
South Africa

Available in bookstores nationwide, or online.  
Visit [www.randomstruik.co.za](http://www.randomstruik.co.za) for more.



# KD Schools’ Big Walk and Night Run forge unbreakable bonds

PHOTOGRAPH: JASON CROUSE

On an unusually chilly Sunday afternoon on September 6, King David Sandton proudly hosted a 5km King David Big Walk and the first-ever King David Night Run, sponsored by Discovery Health.

Over 2 000 participants, including learners, parents, grandparents and staff, took part, aiming to unite the King David Schools in a fun and healthy way to encourage unity and cohesiveness between the various campuses.

The SA Board of Jewish Education said the event was a huge success.

“Over 400 King David high school learners and adults kitted out in lumo bandanas, ran for a cause. The participants were encouraged to pre-select worthy charities or organisations to which all money raised from the night will be donated.”

The 5km walk and run began at King David Sandton and continued through the boomed-off suburbs of Woodmead Springs and Brakrivier. Up-and-coming South African singing sensation Majozi entertained the crowds and a giant outdoor movie was enjoyed by the younger children and their families.

Rabbi Craig Kacev, director of the SABJE, said: “The KD Big Walk and now the KD Night Run, are fantastic opportunities for families to enjoy time together outdoors.”

“The inclusion of the ‘run for a cause’ Night Run added a component of charity for high school learners and reinforced the King David value of giving to others.”



# Sweet voices ring out at Rosh Hashanah concert

OWN CORRESPONDENT

On Thursday September 3, the senior and grade R children at Minnie Bersohn Nursery School had their Rosh Hashanah concert.

It was attended by Rabbi Siggy Suchard, Rabbi David Shaw and all the parents. The children sang both traditional and modern Rosh Hashanah songs.

Everyone left with the spirit of Rosh Hashanah in their souls, especially after the shofar was blown by Jayden Levy, a former Minnie Bersohn pupil, and Max Yutar who is in grade R this year.

Pictured are Jayden Levy and Max Yutar.



# TA’s Mendy blows the shofar every day

SUZANNE BELLING

Mendy Ash, a grade 8 learner at Torah Academy Boys’ High School in Johannesburg, blows the shofar for staff and learners on the entire campus every day – except on Shabbat - during Elul, the month leading up to Rosh Hashanah which falls on 1 Tishrei.

The call of the shofar awakens Jews to prayer, penitence and charity at the start of the New Year, 5776.



*To the very special  
South African Jewish Community*

We wish you a **Chag Sameach** and a **Shana Tova**. May you be sealed in the book of life and may the year ahead be filled with only health, happiness and success.

Thank you for your continued loyalty and support.

From  
Ilan Janks and Peretz Beleli



**SA MOTOR CORPORATION**  
www.samotorcorporation.co.za  
11 Republic Road, Bordeaux, Randburg  
Tel: (011) 326-1954

**WINDOW DOCTOR®**



**A Nice Little Jewish Boy**

**Glass For Offices  
Homes & Car Windows**

**CALL: 011 640-5053/4/5/6/7**

**A Division of the Klingshield Group Of Companies**

**WANTED**  
**Advertising  
sales executives**



We are looking for self-starters and determined sales people who are ready for a challenge.

E-mail your resumé to  
roni@sajewishreport.co.za  
and let’s get talking.

Tel: 011 430-1980

• south african •  
**Jewish Report**



TO BOOK YOUR CLASSIFIED NOTICE OR ADVERT CONTACT:

Tel (011) 430-1980, Fax 086-634-7935, email: shereen@sajewishreport.co.za

**BEAUTY & HEALTH**

**AUDIOLOGIST**

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

INDIVIDUALISED SERVICE FOR ALL YOUR HEARING NEEDS

**LIFTS OFFERED**

**A TAXI SERVICE**  
Let Warren Pogorelsky chauffeur you in and around Johannesburg in his Mercedes Benz.  
OR Tambo from R200.  
Tel: 082-399-6187  
Also Sun City & game reserves  
Passenger liability insurance

**SMILE-LEE'S LIFTS**  
A reliable lift service.  
Specialising in lifts to and from airports, shops, appointments, casinos and courier.  
Charna 083-391-6612

**AIRPORT SERVICE**  
**JHB**



8-seater.  
Tours/Day Drives  
**CONTACT ARNOLD,**  
**082-447-0185**  
**011-454-1193**

**CAPE TOWN**  
**HOWIE'S SHUTTLE**  
*Since 2007*

- AIRPORT TRANSFERS  
- GENERAL TRANSPORT

www.howiesshuttle.co.za  
**Please phone Howard**  
**082-711-4616**

**Alex's Lift Service**  
Experienced, reliable driver  
specialising in lifts to shops and appointments you need to go to.  
Contact Alex: 083-409-4378

Experienced, reliable driver able to lift you anywhere/ anytime 24 hours. Courier work undertaken.  
Please call Paul Minsker  
083-542-6480  
(011) 882-2181

**LIFTS OFFERED**

**EJ's Shuttle**  
Cape Town Airport and around.  
Competitive rates  
24 hours.  
**Evan 079-529-3398**

**AIRPORT SHUTTLE**  
**SAM**  
**(011) 728-5219**  
**083-627-8516**  
To OR Tambo from R190.  
To Lanseria from R220.  
*Reasonable rates to all other areas.*

**DIAL A LIFT**  
Comfortable  
6/7 seater  
All lifts,  
day drives, tours  
Pip Friedman  
**083-267-3281**  
dialalift@gmail.com  
www.dialalift.co.za

**SERVICES**  
**HOME SERVICES**

**DECEASED**  
**ESTATE HOUSE**  
**CLEARANCES**  
Entire households  
cleared, professionally  
and confidentially. I'll  
take the burden off your  
shoulders and pay you  
for it. Please contact  
**Ladislav Miklas**  
**079-810-8837**  
ladimiklas22@gmail.com  
for a trusted and  
professional service.  
Also clear garages,  
cellars, storage rooms  
and storage facilities.

Appliance repairs on-site  
Fridges, stoves, washing  
machines, tumble dryers and  
dishwashers. Free quotations.  
Call Jason 082-401-8239 /  
076-210-6532

**WANTED**  
**TOP CASH PAID**

**All household**  
**furniture, linen,**  
**kitchenware,**  
**clothing & more.**

**All size beds &**  
**bases.**

**Call Terry:**  
**076-533-1440**

**SERVICES**  
**HOME SERVICES**

**The Fridge Doctor**



**083-228-2277**

**LOVE VEGGIES?**  
Have your own vegetable garden now! Call qualified landscape designer  
**Richard Kahn**  
**083-964-3016**  
Consultation R300.

**Repairs**  
**Fridges, all electric**  
**freezers, aircons**  
**and cold rooms.**  
**On-site repairs.**  
**Contact Ian**  
**079-648-9783**  
**(011) 079-4363**

**A1 PLUMBERS**  
**24 HOUR SERVICE**  
10% discount for pensioners

- MAINTENANCE?
- FLOODED OUT?
- NO HOT WATER?
- BLOCKED DRAINS?
- GEYSER REPAIRS?

**(011) 646-3412**

NO JOB IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL WE TRAVEL TO ALL AREAS AT NO EXTRA COST

**SERVICES**  
**NOTICES**

Hawley Marble and Granite Works  
Est. 1948. Monumental masons.  
We are proud to have served the Johannesburg Jewish community for many decades. Your support is much appreciated. Collen Hawley  
Tel: (011) 828- 9010 Chaim Silver (011) 485-3005



**RABBI CHAIM KLEIN**  
Expert and reliable Sofer

- Taleisim, Tzitzit, Tefillin, Mezuzos and more.
- On premises computer checking

49 Dovedale Rd. P.O Box 92237  
Cheltondale 2192 Norwood 2117  
Tel: 485 4059 Fax: 485 2304

**email: klein@icon.co.za**

**Qualified Sofer (Scribe)**  
**to write, check and sell**  
**Mezuzos, Sifrei Torah,**  
**Tefillin and Megillos**

Member Vaad Mishmeres Stam Johannesburg  
Under Auspices JHB Beth Din  
Ordained Jewish Scribe  
Vaad Mishmeres Stam International



All sizes of Mehudar Mezuzos and Tefillin at affordable prices  
Collection and affixing service offered.  
Computer checking of Mezuzos and Tefillin

**FOREIGN CITIZENSHIP**

**LITHUANIAN / POLISH / GERMAN CITIZENSHIP**  
Many South African Jews are eligible for EU citizenship. If you are interested, please contact me. I specialise in obtaining Lithuanian, Polish and German citizenship. I am able to obtain the required documents from archives in Europe.  
**RAEL CYNKIN CA (SA)**  
**INFO@NOBORDERS.CO.ZA**  
**083-346-4627**

**Toronto real estate relocation**  
Thinking of moving?  
We are a relocation team who can assist with renting/buying and more! Call Daniel Bloch  
@ 416-666-0311  
daniel@danielbloch.com  
Or visit www.DanielBloch.com

**EMPLOYMENT**  
**OFFERED**

**MARKETING AND**  
**EVENTS**

**CO-ORDINATOR**

**POSITION**

Bet David in  
Morningside.

Fulltime. Start  
immediately.

Must have experience  
and required skills.

**Send CV to Glynnis at**  
**admin2@**  
**betdavid.org.za**

**EMPLOYMENT**  
**WANTED**

**SEEKING EMPLOYMENT**  
In creditors/  
bookkeeping/  
debtors/admin/  
data capturing  
**Steven**  
**(011) 887-4137**  
**071-701-0530**

**Brilliant Domestic/ cleaner available**  
Live out possition  
Can cook kosher  
**Patience**  
**073 771 9547**

**ACCOMMODATION**  
**AVAILABLE**

**Room to let**  
**in Sydenham**  
**house**  
**Spacious room**  
**with bathroom in**  
**kosher house.**  
**Own entrance.**  
**Parking for 1 car.**  
**Available imm.**  
**Contact**  
**Lorraine:**  
**083-469-2562**  
**(011) 640-3332**

**OFFICE SPACE**  
**AVAILABLE**

Pine Place, Lyndhurst  
116 Johannesburg Road.  
Call: 082 666 52 52  
emailinfo@standout.co.za

**To place your classified**  
**adverts, call Shereen on**  
**(011) 430-1980**

**VEHICLES**  
**WANTED**

**ARE YOU**  
**EMGRATING**  
**AND WANT TO SELL**  
**YOUR VEHICLE?**



**Please contact**  
**Solly Kramer**  
**082-922-3597**  
**anytime**

**VEHICLES WANTED**  
**WE PAY CASH**

**ANY MAKE**  
**ANY MODEL**  
**ANY CONDITION**  
**ALSO ACCIDENT -**  
**DAMAGED VEHICLES**  
**& NON RUNNERS**  
**WANTED**

**CALL ARNOLD ORKIN**  
**Cell: 082 823 7826**

# Our baby finally has a name on a headstone



MONICA SOLOMON

A long battle to get permission to put up headstones for Jewish stillborn babies in West Park Cemetery in Johannesburg has been won and has brought about change to a long-held custom of burying babies who did not live past 30 days, in the stillborn section without parents present and with no gravestones.

This is because babies who do not live longer than 30 days are classified by the Orthodox in particular, as being stillborn.

On Sunday, August 23, a group of Beth David congregants, including the temple's rabbis, Adrian Schell and Julia Margolis, met at the cemetery to clean up the stillborn section.

Thirty-eight years after our baby was buried, we were finally given permission to erect a gravestone and now, six years later, dozens of parents have taken that step to honour their children.

We went to the cemetery armed with gardening tools and refuse bags and got down to the serious business of restoring dignity to a neglected area hidden behind a hedge. Two hours and more than a dozen bags later, we had cleared a good portion of the area, replaced grave markers and washed down gravestones. We also said Kaddish with a minyan which truly affirmed his life, short as it was.

People visiting the cemetery stopped to find out who we were and what we were doing and all expressed their gratitude for what we had undertaken.

Our baby, like many others in the stillborn section, was not actually stillborn. He died on the day of his birth in 1971. The procedure was that the Chev did not allow parents to be present at the burial and in fact we were only notified after the fact that our son had been buried.

Because these babies were not considered viable, they could not be named and death certificates were issued with the name "baby" on it, so, in our case we have a birth certificate with a name and a death certificate without one. We were also told that no stones could be erected for these babies.

But in 2009 a very sympathetic lady at the Chev gave us the go-ahead to erect a headstone. I can only imagine that other parents visiting the resting place of their babies saw what we had done and followed suit.

The cleaning exercise has helped us so much. Finally we feel that others understand what it means to lose a baby."

## What's On

Sunday (September 20)	Sunday (October 11)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Johannesburg Light Music Society meets at Roosevelt Park Recreational Centre. Time: 14:00. Two audio presentations followed by a full-length musical feature film. Refreshments available at R15 per head. Entry fee for first-timers is waived. Information: David (011) 678-9725 / 076-574-1446.</li><li>SAJBD and partners host an evening commemorating the important role played by the Russian army in the liberation of the concentration camps during the Second World War. A Russian-themed buffet will be served afterwards. Booking essential. No admission charge. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 17:00. RSVP: jenni@sajbd.org or (011) 64-2521.</li><li>RCHCC screens a documentary, "Sketches of Frank Gehry" by Sydney Pollack. Time: 19:30. Architect</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gehry's designs blur the line between art and architecture. Interviews with Bob Geldof, Dennis Hopper, Charles Jencks, Philip Johnson, Robert Rauschenberg, Edward Ruscha, Julian Schnabel, and Dr Milton Wexler (Gehry's therapist). Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Donation: R70 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, a/h (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net or www.greatpark.co.za</li><li>Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St John's College Auditorium, Houghton. A DVD will show shorts from "Big Band Fascination" at 14:15 sharp. Audio by Ron Cowley. After interval, a video on the Syd Lawrence Orchestra at St David's Hall, Cardiff from 1990. Enquiries: Marilyn 072-243-7436 or Jack 082-450-7622.</li></ul>

**VIDEO**

**HIGHLANDS NORTH**

**CHAG SAMEACH**



*The Great Escape*

**TOWN**

**011 887 2876**



# Be proudly Jewish, AJ tells sportsmen

JACK MILNER

The debate on whether Jewish athletes should put religion before sport, especially if they make a living out of sport, will never reach an agreed solution, but AJ Edelman is a sportsman with a different spin on the whole debate.

Edelman is hoping to qualify for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. He was born in Boston in the US, grew up on the East Coast and attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. But a gap year which he spent studying at Yeshivat Lev Hatorah in Ramat Beit Shemesh, inspired him after graduating in 2013, to join the Israel Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation.

Skeleton is a fast winter sliding sport in which a person rides a small sled down a frozen track while lying face down during which the rider experiences forces up to 5Gs and reaches speeds of more than 130km per hour. The bony appearance of the sled gave the sport its name. It was added to the Olympic programme for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Last year Edelman had four successful races that landed him 91st in world rankings and qualified him for a spot in the World Championships in Austria. Now he has plans to enter 12 to 14 more races in order to represent Israel in 2018.

Edelman calls himself “a self-identifying Orthodox Jew”. He is shomrei Shabbat and is happy to put on tefillin prior to a competition, as he fully embraces his Judaism. But, in a recent interview with Breaking Israel News, Edelman says his primary goal isn’t to compete, but rather to inspire other Jewish would-be athletes and to be a role model

they can look up to.

He wants to “inspire other Jews to take up sport, fulfil their passions, give their all, and to represent their homeland by doing so”.

He is dedicating the next seven years to this sport in order to encourage others.

Edelman believes there is a stigma that works against Jews who participate in sport. “Jews are highly represented in almost every field of excellence in the public eye - doctors, lawyers, businessmen, actors, scientists, engineers...” he explained. “The only place Jews are not highly represented by excellence as role models, is in sport. It’s almost as if it is the butt of a joke for Jews to succeed in sport.”

Edelman is setting out not just to succeed at his sport, but to change the message and send out a new one: that Jews can also achieve excellence in sport.

“Athletes like Aly Raisman, who is proudly Jewish and won a gold medal with the US gymnastic team, are sadly the exception to the rule,” said Edelman. And this, according to him, is because there is no prime role model for Jewish children who are proudly Jewish, successful and visible.

“I realised I can inspire them and can be that individual,” said Edelman. “Growing up, I was keenly aware of the way I acted and that my teammates viewed me as a reflection of my community and of Israel, as well as of myself. That was quite a burden. I want to make it easier for the next generation of Jewish athletes.

“I want to be seen by as many Jews as possible. I want them to see the Star of David on my uniform and feel that they can do what I’m doing.”

He believes that if there were more Jews

who were active in sport and also living a Jewish life, this would encourage other Jews to also get involved.

He still has many hurdles to clear before he can attain his goal of competing in the Olympics. His secondary objective is to get the Israeli government to recognise that it should be a priority to have Jews represent the country by competing in various sports around the world.

Athletes are known for spreading good PR so it would be good for the image of the country, he believes.

The recent work of Omri Caspi, who brought other NBA stars to Israel to fight the BDS movement’s propaganda, is a perfect example of an athlete who, by competing on the international stage, has succeeded in rehabilitating Israel’s image.

Edelman does not receive support from the state and funds himself, footing the bill for training, competitions, gear, and travel, as well as finding coaches and there are also living expenses. He co-trains with teams from other small nations.

He needs R550 000 a season. He also has to travel 100km to a coach who would train with him.

Despite all the negatives, he says competing for the benefit of Israel gives the sport more meaning. “I felt that I could make a much bigger difference to inspire Jews if I represent the country that I love, my homeland, Israel.

“Every time I hear them announce instructions to clear the track for the Israeli athletes, every time I put on the white and blue, it gives me a tremendous amount of encouragement and a push to succeed and keep going.”



AJ Edelman lays tefillin prior to competition and wants Jewish athletes to be proud of who they are.

L'Shanah Tovah

Wishing you health, happiness and success in the New Year!

MACSTEEL

SERVICE CENTRES SA

The Macsteel Group - Africa's leading steel supplier - [www.macsteel.co.za](http://www.macsteel.co.za)

Europcar

moving your way

L'Shana Tovah

Happy Rosh Hashanah

Wishing you a prosperous journey for the year ahead.

0861 131 000

[europcar.co.za](http://europcar.co.za)

EuropcarSA

Switch / 5002363A