



Look out for our bumper Rosh Hashanah issue next week, September 19.

South African Jewish Report

www.sajr.co.za

Storm brews over West Bank land seizure

Photo: Miriam Alster/FLASH 90



Children seen playing in the streets of the settlement of Gvaot, on September 2. Two days earlier the Israeli government had declared part of the settlement - some 400 hectares - located near the West Bank City of Bethlehem, as state land. Critics say the move undermines the precarious position of PA President Mahmoud Abbas, whose Fatah movement badly trails the militant Hamas in popularity. The Israeli government said the move was to avenge the murder in the West Bank in June, of three Israeli yeshiva students - Naftali Fraenkel (16), Gil-Ad Shaar (16) and Eyal Yifrach (19) - in the area. The US has called on Israel to cancel the proposed expropriation, saying: "This announcement, like every other settlement announcement Israel makes... is counterproductive to Israel's stated goal of a negotiated two-state solution with the Palestinians." The Israeli army has declared that there was no claim of Palestinian ownership on the land in question.

Muslim Jewish Conference - bridging a divide

It was a difficult trip to Mauthausen, but one made all the more important in sharing it with people who had no historic ties to this tragedy.



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Rhodes' senate says no to anti-Israeli resolution

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MJC - striving to bridge a religious, cultural divide

DANI HOVSHA

This year over 140 young Muslims and Jews from some 30 countries, gathered in Vienna, last month, to engage on a platform of interfaith dialogue unlike any other.

The Muslim Jewish Conference (MJC) had its beginnings five years ago with the aim of facilitating communication between these two religions that have, of late, been divided politically and as a result also socially.

As a member of the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS), I had the opportunity to participate in this event, which took place over an intensive and inspiring seven days. Two of us, myself and a Muslim girl from the University of the Witwatersrand, Nadia Randerá represented South Africa, to explain to our fellow participants the unique situation we have been experiencing both on and off campus and to understand the varying circumstances across the globe.

In order to ensure that every one of the participants, who at times risk their security to attend the MJC, can contribute to the best of their abilities, the conference is divided into smaller committees. This way every person can focus on an area they are interested in and learn from others who share similar interests.

I was a part of the “Power and Religion” group, which focused mainly on issues of politics and religious law and how these were amalgamated in modern states. We discussed the implementation of sharia law in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, as well as how halacha works in Israel.

The MJC kept focus away from the conflict in the Middle East, choosing instead to engage on shared experiences, from Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, to culture and arts and historical narratives.

As such, we could learn from and about each other and discuss the challenges we face together, rather

than those that drive us apart. This was solidified through our trip to Mauthausen concentration camp, where over 200 000 Jews and prisoners of war lost their lives to the Nazis.

It was my first time at a camp; it was a difficult trip, but one made all the more important in being able to share it with a group of people who had no historic ties to this tragedy, but who felt it with me all the same.

We held a group prayer at the site, where we recited Kaddish as well as a passage from the Qur’an. It was deeply moving.

Overall, learning about Islam was probably the greatest part of the experience, understanding its laws, but also the modern-day applications of practising in a Western secular world. The similarities were striking.

I was also privileged to discuss the means through which people in other countries had created interfaith dialogues. Interestingly, when talking about South Africa with



Photo supplied

Dani Hovsha and Nadia Randerá

staff from the MJC, the consensus seemed to be that our context was one of the most hostile environments for Jews and Muslims.

However, the MJC has pledged support to South Africa and there has been discussion about seeing if we can mirror the conference or even bring it here at some point.

I think an interfaith connection between the three major mono-

lithic religions will be the best approach: It will open a religious platform from which we can hopefully move forward and attempt to alter a paradigm which at present is making life on campus difficult for Jews and Muslims alike.

I would like to thank the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and Steve Lurie for making this trip possible.

Young Christians have a joyous Shabbos at Sydenham Shul

ANT KATZ

Last Shabbos the SA Friends of Israel (SAFI), together with Christian Zionist group DEISI, took 30 DEISI members to Sydenham Shul’s Shabbos service and then to Beyachad where 70 people enjoyed a Shabbos dinner.

The event was an initiative of Mark Hyman, vice-chairman of both SAFI and DEISI and was also attended by country communities spiritual leader, Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, also affectionately known as “The Travelling Rabbi”.

Rabbi Silberhaft told Jewish Report he was “encouraged by this initiative. The spirit of all who attended was lively and joyous and the praise of Israel was addressed and sung about.”

The intention of the initiative, said Hyman,

was to “introduce young Christian adults to a little bit of Yiddishkeit and bring them and the young adults of the SA Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) together”. It was an overwhelming success, added Hyman.

Rabbi Yossy Goldman of Sydenham Shul was thrilled to host the young Christians, most of whom had never been in a shul before. Sydenham’s Chazzan Yudi Cohen, sang for the youngsters during the dinner, including his rendition of Shoshaloza that was very well received.

SAUJS National Chairman Ariela Carno, told Jewish Report that the students were delighted. “We have to acknowledge that we have friends and we need their support in getting Israel a fair hearing. It was wonderful to share the experience with them,” she said.

The event was funded by SAFI. At the dinner Rabbi Silberhaft explained all the traditions, such as why we have two challas, etc. Rabbi Goldman thanked DEISI Chairman Olga Meshoe, SAUJS and SAFI for what he said was a fantastic idea.

Olga’s father and ACDP leader, Rev Kenneth Meshoe, SAFI Chairman Ben Schwartz, and the SAZF’s Benji Shulman, were among the 70 guests.

* Between November 24 and December 3, 30 DAISI members will be taken on a tour of Israel. Over 40 qualifying applications from young adult Christian Zionists from all political persuasions were received from as far afield as Nigeria, Cape Town, and Pretoria. The committee is presently interviewing the applicants to select the final 30.



Photo supplied

Mark Hyman, Olga Meshoe and Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft in Rabbi Silberhaft’s Beyachad office.

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

Centre stage



**Rabbi Dovid Wineberg
Green & Sea Point Hebrew
Congregation**

Overheard at a barmitzvah: “A Jewish boy becomes an adult when he realises he has more chance of owning the team than playing on it.”

If a nice Jewish boy or girl can’t aspire to being a top international sportsman, how come so many hero-worship them? And it’s not only sports heroes. One look at the multibillion dollar tabloid industry reveals an insatiable hunger for the latest about Hollywood and music stars. Do our youth really aspire to such behaviour and fashion?

Someone coined the term: “Centre-stage syndrome”. Fact is, we aspire to be noticed. Actually, we believe that we are already centre-stage! After all, as an individual, you are the centre of your existence. (That’s why you’re always the

hero in your dreams.)

So, worshipping famous people brings you a little closer to the centre of the stage - even if only vicariously.

That’s why Hollywood types make the strangest fashion and relationship choices. It’s not artistic expression; it’s marketing. They know that people will gravitate to the centre part of the stage and they’re jockeying for position.

A quick glimpse of this week’s Torah reading reveals the two extremes of Jewish experience. “Ki tavo el ha’aretz” is an opening filled with the realisation of all our hopes and dreams: the promise of entry into Israel and the mitzvah of the first fruits, bikkurim.

But before you know it, we’re traversing into dangerous territory with the “rebuke”; three columns of dire predictions in the event that we veer off G-d’s path. And the reader may wonder: How did we fall so quickly?!

No-one understood the power of centre stage and had the ability to manipulate it (often for the good) like Princess Diana, who died 17 years ago this week. It was deeply ironic that the very

thing that kept her centre stage - lifting her up as an enduring British icon - that very tool was the instrument of her death.

It is indeed a tragic truth, that in seeking to hold centre-stage, many pop icons make really dumb and dangerous choices. Often these have disastrous consequences.

You see, the power of the centre is that it either lifts you all the way up, or tears you down to the pit of oblivion. At the dawn of our existence, G-d takes Avraham outside and shows him the stars and the sand saying: “So will be your descendants.”

They are the centre stage of history and so they will either rise to the very top or sink to the dust of the earth - but there is no in-between. This is no syndrome: Such is the lot of the Chosen people.

As we enter the High Holy Days, believe in your ability to improve and succeed. Aspire to reach the stars. Be the change you wish to see in the world.

After all, you’re centre-stage.

Shabbat Shalom and Shana Tova!

KASHRUT ALERT

Frangelicas - status of parev products

Frangelicas is under fulltime kashrut supervision and comprises two separate kitchens, one milk, and one parev. All products made in the milk kitchen are milchik, not Chalav Yisrael. All take-away parev products are made in the parev kitchen on dedicated equipment and are Mehadrin (eg muffins, breads, cakes etc), with the exception of items containing tuna.

‘Pizza Mike - kosher style’

This is a non-kosher pizza manufacturer. Pamphlets are being distributed outside Jewish schools and kosher stores. Kosher consumers are asked to be aware and to exercise caution.

Shabbat Times

Ki Tavo
September 12 / 17 Elul
September 13 / 18 Elul

17:41	18:31	Johannesburg
18:15	19:10	Cape Town
17:29	18:19	Durban
17:48	18:38	Bloemfontein
17:49	18:41	Port Elizabeth
17:40	18:31	East London

Rhodes' senate says no to anti-Israel resolution

ANT KATZ

Rhodes University's senate last week Friday rejected a resolution to cut any ties with academics who hold Israeli citizenship, or official representatives from Israel, unless they "make a statement renouncing the use of lethal military force" by the IDF.

Rhodes' registrar, Dr Stephen Fourie, confirmed this to Jewish Report on Wednesday.

The original motion (read it in full on sajr.co.za) asked the senate to endorse the following: "We now call on members of the Rhodes University academic community to support the position that academics holding Israeli citizenship, as well as official representatives from Israel, in advance of an invitation to visit Rhodes University, be requested to make a statement renouncing the use of lethal military force by the Israeli government against unarmed civilians in Palestine the Occupied Territories and the forcible displacement of Palestinian from their homes."

The original motion was prepared by Prof Larry Strelitz (who is Jewish) and Prof Robert van Niekerk - who is at the forefront of anti-Israel activity at Rhodes.

Dr Fourie said that the senate had rather resolved to define Rhodes' position as follows: "Rhodes University upholds the constitutionally enshrined rights of academic freedom and freedom of speech. Rhodes is an intellectual space for all, and a home for all. We encourage academics and students to debate vigorously on any issue without excluding others from the process of creating



Rhodes' University's famous clock tower frontage.

knowledge and uncovering truth.

"Rhodes respects the rights of individuals and/or groups of individuals to freely and openly express their opinion, views and disapproval of countries and/or individuals involved in the violation of human rights, propagating war and violence against humanity and is committed to ensuring that the campus is a safe space for the unfettered pursuit of truth and knowledge, and the exchange of views in the form of reasoned debate, including those topics that are controversial or uncomfortable," concluded the registrar.

Rhodes has become decidedly 'Jew unfriendly'

ANT KATZ

SAUJS, Jewish and Christian Zionist students and staff at Rhodes University, have expressed concern about the deteriorating situation at the Grahamstown university, where an anti-Israel resolution was rejected by the senate last week.

"Jewish students keep their heads down and don't advertise their religious affiliation," said SAUJS National Chairman Ariela Carno, this week.

Last month Rhodes held a "supposedly

neutral panel discussion" on the media reaction to Gaza (see the video on sajr.co.za), said Carno, and only one panellist was truly neutral. Media Studies Prof Anthony Collins went as far as suggesting the international community should disarm Israel. A Jewish student in the audience asked if this should apply to Hamas as well. "No," came Collins' reply.

Some of the Gaza lectures turned into vigils, say students. "I was given a report of one lecture that turned into an anti-Israel propaganda event and snowballed from a little thing to two hours of hate," says Carno.

She says the environment can be "really uncomfortable". One student had complained of being "cornered several times" and asked: "How can you support the massaging of children?"

A Jewish staffer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the campus had become increasingly frustrating and hateful. South African Jews were becoming synonymous with Israelis, he said.

"There are some people who separate the two, but most don't. They show us pictures of dying children - which are usually from Syria."

He said he had not bothered to take this up with the Rhodes management. "I would never go to the institution itself - it is so one-sided - the only way to do it is to fight individual battles. Rhodes have never done anything whatsoever despite their being aware of the prevailing situation," he said.

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On sajr.co.za this week

SAJBD conferences - Two SA Jewish Board of Deputies' provincial biennial elective conferences are taking place before Rosh Hashanah - the Gauteng conference on Sunday September 14, and the Cape Council the following Sunday. Everyone is invited to attend - and sajr.co.za will be live blogging from Cape Town on September 21.



Summer U - SAUJS executives, Natan Pollack (national treasurer, pictured) and Cayla Urdang (vice chairman) went to the small town of Luhačovice in the Czech Republic

last month for the annual European Union of Jewish Students' Summer U conference. The EUJS is an umbrella organisation for over 200 000 Jewish European students from 34 countries. Read about the SA pair on sajr.co.za

Dutch populist Geert Wilders goes wild - "War has been declared against us" said the pro-Israeli politician in Parliament last Friday, accusing successive European "ostrich Cabinets" of lying to their electorates about the threats of what he called "Jihadists".



Israeli hospital saves Gazan teen - Rambam Hospital saves the life of M, a 14 year-old Gazan boy with a kidney transplant with a donated kidney from his sister.

Eight years ago M had a kidney donation from his brother, but the transplant, in Egypt, failed.

Rabbi Berland takes ill as followers pour in - Hundreds of Shuvu Banim followers have arrived in Johannesburg and thousands more

are expected. Rabbi Berland is still being sought by the Hawks. He took ill last week and required medical treatment and blood pressure-related medication after Shabbos.

Delving deeper with Rabbi Shmuel Bloch - Take a glance at the news from Israel this week. It's the usual stories. Reports of faribels, factionalism and bickering top the headlines.

Yet, just a few weeks ago Israel was at war and a totally different spirit and outlook pervaded.

Facts on ISIS confuse and confound - Users fear ISIS' encroachment towards the Israeli border. Who are they, what do they do and do they really pose the threats that the US media is depicting? "Yes," say CNN and the NYT. "No," wrote The Times of Israel.

Victor Gordon and Steven Friedman slug it out - A host of users have

joined in the fray between Gordon and Friedman. The letters are serious and angry. The accompanying user-comments are generally more light-hearted. Join in the discussion.



Will the real Israelis please stand up - "I'm confused. Who are the real Palestinians?" a hilariously piece submitted by a user. The sad thing about all this, is that it is all true.

Rabbis emerge invigorated from annual conference



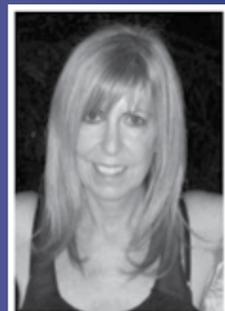
This year's annual Rabbinical Conference was attended by record numbers of rabbis from across the country and was held last week at the Umhlanga Jewish Centre. Important issues of vision, strategy and values for South African Jewry were debated in a lively and warm atmosphere.

There were also a number of Skype presentations delivered by leading rabbinical figures from around the Jewish world, all of whom gave fresh insights and perspectives on a wide variety of relevant topics.

The annual Rabbinical Conference is always a time of friendship and unity among the rabbis, who also took the opportunity to brainstorm and plan new ideas and programmes for the community.

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'Small business' competition bags 'big doers'

First prize in the ORT JET Eureka "Launch Your Business" Competition this year went to Gladi8, owned by Ryan Canin, Richard Cohen, Gian Luca Cantarin and Etai Miller, ORT JET announced in a media release. Gladi8 is an innovative web-based platform which allows businesses to drive consumer behaviour.

Second prize went to Stockshop, owned by Lawrence Joffe and Annabel Dallamore. Stockshop is an online platform that acts as a personal assistant for investing in the stock market.

Third prize went to Fabcab, owned by Mark Kruger and Russell Katzoff. Fabcab supplies a dispenser unit which houses a variety of household cleaning products which is filled weekly by the company.

Fourth prize went to Student Work SA. Amanda and Paul Rabinowitz's business is aimed at school leavers and students to assist them with finding quality part-time employment.

In addition to these winners, the ORT JET Sheldon Cohen/Sasfin Mentor of the Year, was awarded to Coral Wilder and the ORT JET

Business of the Year award went to Vernon Zwiers.

The six-month-long process of the competition culminated in an exciting awards event last week at the Sandton Shul Hall. There were 11 finalists out of 78 entries.

Said Paul Bacher, ORT JET CEO: "It has been great to be on the journey with the winners. Some of the finest business minds in the country have fine-tuned the finalist's strategies - which is so unique - an amazing opportunity for start-ups to come into contact with these captains of industry."

Steven Braudo, Deputy CEO of Liberty said his company was a proud sponsor of the competition. "We know that we have a responsibility for South Africa to start a new mindset which encourages entrepreneurship. The quality of the Eureka finalists, their growth and development throughout the competition process which included training and mentorship by captains of industry, showed their vision, passion, flexibility, self-belief and not least, chutzpah."

"This is an important gathering to

celebrate creativity and innovation," added Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein. "These participants see an opportunity and take risks - courage is really what it is all about. Jews have always been entrepreneurs. We have

a sense of vision and faith."

ORT SA National Executive Member Clive Butkow, who was MC for the evening, said ORT JET's unique mentorship programme which now numbered

some 600 volunteer mentors, was thriving. "I hope you are inspired by this evening to help entrepreneurs to thrive in these uncertain times."



First prize winners in the ORT JET Eureka "Launch Your Business" Competition: Gladi8's Richard Cohen; Gian Luca Cantarin; Ryan Canin; and Etai Miller, flanked by Steven Braudo of Liberty (left); and Paul Bacher, ORT JET CEO.

West Street's bomb shelter stands proud in Israel



This video still shows people taking shelter in one of the JNF's portable bomb shelters.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jewish National Fund (JNF), represented by 42 national offices, heeded the call by the Israeli government to provide additional bomb shelters to the people in the southern region, in close proximity to Gaza.

The South African branch of the JNF, through the efforts of its fundraiser, Sharon Sack, had already sent allocations for two bomb shelters when a windfall occurred with the generosity of West Street Shul.

From its members, West Street was able to collect funds and donate an entire bomb shelter on its own, to the tune of R120 000. This shelter will be placed in the south and will carry a plaque thanking the members of West Street Shul.

With indiscriminate rocket fire constantly plaguing and bombarding these citizens day and night, each and every home is required to have a safe room of fully reinforced concrete. External bomb shelters are therefore usually attached to each home with a doorway broken through into the house.

Additional protective shelters are also needed in public places to grant quick access for residents going about their daily lives. Thus, if a warning siren should sound when crossing a parking lot, in a playground, clinic, shopping centre, public swimming pool or just about anywhere, there needs to be somewhere to take cover.

Each new bomb shelter creates a better sense of security and a better chance of reaching cover in time.

This is not the first time West Street Shul has come to the aid of Israel. Just a few years ago after the devastating Carmel fires, West Street too appealed to its community and managed to raise R100 000 towards the rehabilitation of the forest. Their plaque stands there as a testament to their generosity.

Sack has worked with dedication to secure as much funding as possible towards the safety of the citizens of Israel.

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Current tenant: FLJ Motors

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Current tenant: Vastrap Bande
Building F: ± 260 m² letable space
Storerooms, office and ablutions.
Current tenant: Vastrap Bande
Building G: ± 1 000 m² letable space
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South African Jewish Report

SA Muslims and Jews must keep talking

For the average Jewish South African, it's hard visualising the cruelties he is told are being committed around the world these days by people saying they are doing it for Islam, compared with his daily experiences here, including friendly encounters with most Muslim South Africans.

We are blessed to live in a society with so much positivity in our inter-group relations - derived partly from our victory against the ethnic animosity of apartheid - compared to what we hear from Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere.

Worldwide, however, we live in an ugly era which seems to be tipping ever closer to explosion. How else can one see it, looking at Syria, ISIS, Al-Qaida, Boko Haram, Sudan and other examples where ethnically and religiously-based savagery seems to be taking over and major world powers are gearing up to take action - or at least talking about it?

Images of the recent ISIS beheading of journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff are emblematic, as well as the fact that Sotloff's American/Israeli and Jewish identity could only be revealed after his death - this information was hidden by Western media in an attempt to save his life following his capture.

Political Islam is seen by many people as the driving force. But as Elhanan Miller, The Times of Israel diplomatic correspondent said at Limmud recently, ISIS and Al-Qaida are not truly political Islam, but are really driven by an extreme view of good versus evil. They don't recognise state borders, their methods are unspeakably violent and their views are anti-establishment rather than political.

ISIS members are uncompromising adherents of Sunni Islam and sharia law and will use deadly violence on Shia Muslims, Christians, Yazidis or others who don't follow their strain of religion.

The execution of journalists, taking and murdering of hostages, kidnapping of young girls, threats to sell them into slavery, and so on, are among their methods which have been broadcast to the world, including with the gruesome videos they have put out.

The more genuine form of political Islam today is characterised by the ideal that Muslims should be governed by Muslims and that "Islam is the solution" - Muhammad was both a political and religious leader; there is also often a love-hate relationship with the West, especially for Muslims who have lived or worked there, as well as a deep-seated sense of injustice.

Muslim South Africans living in a democratic country - or Muslims elsewhere, for that matter - who don't subscribe to the methods of ISIS or similar groups, are in a difficult situation when asked to condemn them.

It is not easy to denounce one's co-religionists, especially given the perception that enemies of Islam abound and that this will give them ammunition. But it is essential that moderate Muslims defend the concept of Islam as a religion of peace. Therefore, an online petition by democratic South African Muslims - cited in a weekly SA paper recently - must be praised for denouncing "the murders, kidnapping and violence against innocent people, destruction of schools and sacred spaces and forced conversions" being carried out.

While we certainly are not short of our own challenges in South Africa, it's hard imagining such things happening here. But we are vulnerable to infiltration of people and ideas from elsewhere.

Fortunately we have never had a major terrorist attack, although this country has been described as vulnerable because of its "porous" borders and the relatively easy forging of South African identity and travel documents.

We need to hold on as tightly as we can to the good-neighbourliness between South African Muslims and Jews. What can be done proactively? One example elsewhere is an annual gathering of Muslims and Jews in Vienna reported on page 2. SA Jewish organisations should do all they can to actively foster good relations with Muslim organisations, appealing to them as South Africans even when there is a reluctance from their side to openly associate with "Zionists".

Geoff Sifrin, Editor

Jewish reporters hide their identity



University of Central Florida student Melissa Catalanotto, president of the UCF Society of Professional Journalists, attending a candle-light vigil for journalist Steven Sotloff held at the university in Orlando, Florida, on September 3. Sotloff was a student at UCF.

**RON KAMPEAS
WASHINGTON**

Don't bring it up. If it comes up, change the subject. If you can't change the subject, consider an outright denial.

Those are some strategies used by Jewish reporters working in the Muslim Middle East to conceal their religious heritage.

The dangers facing Jewish journalists in the region became evident last week after the beheading of a dual American-Israeli citizen, Steven Sotloff (pictured inset), by the jihadist group Islamic State, or ISIS.

It's not known whether ISIS was aware Sotloff was Jewish. Colleagues believe his kidnapping by ISIS-affiliated terrorists in 2013 in Syria was one of opportunity and not a deliberate targeting. James Foley, another journalist kidnapped and beheaded by ISIS and last month was Catholic.

However, Sotloff's family in South Florida, his friends and colleagues - indeed much of the journalistic community - went to lengths to conceal his family's deep involvement in the Jewish community and his Israeli citizenship in order not to draw his captors' attention to a factor that may have exacerbated his ordeal. JTA did not report on his captivity for the same reason.

The captors of Daniel Pearl, a Wall Street Journal correspondent kidnapped and beheaded by terrorists in Pakistan in 2002, made a point of his Jewishness. In the video showing his execution, they included Pearl saying: "My father is Jewish, my mother is Jewish. I am a Jew."

"We send our deepest condolences to the family of Steven Sotloff," Pearl's parents, Judea and Ruth, said in a statement emailed to JTA. "We know too well the pain of such horrific loss. Once again the world has seen the horror of terrorism in action. We continue to find strength in the belief that united, civilisation will triumph and humanity will prevail."

As ethnic and sectarian origins loom large in every encounter, keeping Sotloff's Jewish identity under wraps made sense, said Janine Zacharia, who has reported in the region for the Washington Post.

"For me, the first question whenever I met anyone in the Arab world was: 'Where are you from?' And they weren't asking whether it was the United States or Canada - it was: 'Are you a Muslim or a Jew?'" said

Zacharia, who was based in Jerusalem for the Post from 2009 until 2011 and who now lectures at Stanford University.

"I would say: 'I'm from New York or DC,' if they persisted, I would say: 'My grandfather is from Greece,' which is true. I didn't want to say what my religion was."

Another Jerusalem-based correspondent who asked not to be named because she is still reporting throughout the region, said she drew on the experiences of her extended family who are Christian, to pretend she was as well.

"You hear it in conversation: 'You're not a Jew, are you?'" said this correspondent, who knew Sotloff. She said it was especially pronounced in Libya during the overthrow of Muammar Gadhafi there in 2011. "There



was so much indoctrination against Jews, but they didn't know Jews."

Suspicion of Jews is not straightforward. Often it was wrapped into other issues - for instance, being based in Jerusalem, which hundreds of foreign journalists are. Many governments in the region ban entry to correspondents, regardless of religious heritage, who are based in Israel.

When they are allowed in, Jerusalem correspondents travelling to Arab countries, go to lengths to cover up any Israel ties: ripping tags out of clothes, leaving Israeli cash with trusted friends in transit cities, shutting down social media accounts.

Aaron Schachter, who was based in Lebanon and Jerusalem for the BBC in the last decade, said that in Lebanon, asking one's background was a natural opening conversational gambit. But when the answer was

"Jewish", he said, there was a patina of suspicion that he called "creepy".

"In Lebanon it was slightly threatening because everyone pays attention to what you are - Sunni, Shia - and it's not unusual for someone to call attention to it, but at a point it's vaguely threatening" for Jews, said Schachter, now an assignment editor for The World, a Public Radio International programme.

"I know they're going to try to figure out who you are, whether a Maronite Christian or Orthodox Christian," Schachter said. "But when you have someone say: 'I know what you are,' what is the purpose of that in the course of the conversation?"

One thing journalists quickly learn is that the Jewish "tells" in the West don't mean much in the Middle East. Jewish names obvious in the West are not at all so in the region and stereotypical "Jewish looks" among Westerners are indistinguishable from the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern features that are common throughout the Middle East.

A non-Jewish Baghdad correspondent for a major US outlet recalled that in 2009, she and another American staffer were alarmed when they learned that a US-based staffer for the outlet was on his way in. From his looks and name, she said, they immediately surmised he was Jewish.

Stoking their alarm was the fact that local Iraqi hires were unabashed in their anti-Jewish hostility, at least in conversation with the non-Jewish American staffers, said this correspondent who asked not to be named to speak freely.

So she and the other American devised a plan: The incoming reporter would be met in Amman, Jordan, by the local Iraqi hires and taken out for dinner before travelling to Baghdad. Neither the incoming reporter nor the Iraqis knew the true agenda of the dinner, and the Iraqis were not told that the reporter was Jewish.

Afterward, she recalled, she casually asked the local hires for their impressions of the newcomer - would he fit in? Their reactions were universally positive; no-one had guessed he was Jewish.

Jamie Tarabay, a senior writer for Al Jazeera who is not Jewish, said the anti-Jewish hostility alarmed her during her reporting in Baghdad for major US outlets. "All I know is that people who might have been Jewish in Baghdad, you kept it quiet, you did not talk about it," she said. (JTA)

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

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 be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.

VICTOR GORDON RESPONDS TO STEVEN FRIEDMAN

If Prof Steven Friedman is uncomfortable with my designation of him as an “academic of stature” I will happily revise my assessment. My last wish is to assign to him a status that affords him discomfort.

It was Friedman who in his (Limmud) lecture claimed the figure of 80 per cent of the land (not 93 per cent - the correct figure), which, in his written response, he has once again erroneously claimed to be available for sale to Jews alone. This land has never been available for sale to anyone and is only for lease to both Jews and Arabs.

The arrangement whereby the ILA compensates the JNF with equivalent “land swaps” (whereby the same area of state-owned land is transferred to the JNF), has nothing to do with Friedman’s original misleading claim that 80 per cent of the land is available for sale to Jews alone.

Nothing about this supports his contention that “the principle of land allocation on an ethnic basis is still intact”. Everything, in fact, points to the contrary.

Friedman has conveniently skipped addressing what he clearly stated at Limmud, being the false claim that Israeli passports bear the ethnic origins of the holder - Jewish, Arab, Druze, Circassian. The rest of his explanation is irrelevant.

Quite obviously, Friedman places a great deal more trust in Hamas’ reliability and intentions than do I. If Hamas is so sincere about a long-term and meaningful peace, why leave it at a hudna which is no more than an armistice or ceasefire or truce, and not pursue a permanent peace treaty instead? After all, Hamas broke all seven ceasefires during Operation Protective Edge.

All we have to go on is Hamas’ behaviour towards Israel since assuming its governmental role in Gaza, as well as its apparent ambition to eventually dominate the West Bank as well.

With this in mind, I quote from an extensive publication by Raymond Ibrahim, the associate director of the Middle East Quarterly (<http://www.meforum.org/2538/taqiyya-islam-rules-of-war>) in which he addresses the thorny subject of hudna and jihad.

From the Encyclopaedia of Islam, Emile Tyan states: “The duty of the jihad exists as long as the universal domination of Islam has not been attained. Peace with non-Muslim nations is, therefore, a provisional state of affairs only; ...circumstances alone can justify it temporarily... (Based) on the 10-year treaty of Hudaibiya (628) ratified between Muhammad and his Quraysh opponents in Mecca... ten years is the maximum amount of time Muslims can be at peace with infidels...”

“(The) sole function of the truce is to buy weakened Muslims time to regroup before renewing the offensive... By their very nature, treaties must be of temporary duration... Hence the fuqaha [jurists] are agreed that open-ended truces are illegitimate if Muslims have the strength to renew the war against

them [non-Muslims]... In short, the prerequisite for peace or reconciliation is Muslim advantage... For, from an Islamic point of view, times of peace - that is, whenever Islam is significantly weaker than its infidel rivals - are times of feigned peace and pretence, in a word, taqiyya.”

In addressing what Friedman terms the “sad reality”, all offers tabled by Hamas to end the violence have been subject to the unacceptable caveats that either Israel returns to the indefensible so-called 1967 “borders”; extends the right of return to all 4,5 million refugees and releases all Palestinian prisoners. This obviously nullifies any possibility of negotiation.

I am unable to find any reference to the 1997 peace offer to which Prof Friedman refers.

In terms of this debate I feel justified in referring to a report in the Mail & Guardian (August 8) titled “Gaza conflict: Behind SA Jews ‘siege mentality’” written by Gabi Falanga wherein Friedman is extensively quoted. In evaluating his all-round objectivity, his observations make interesting reading.

Not loath to resorting to sweeping generalisations, Friedman stated that South African Jews are paranoid “which is absolutely central to the community... The way in which the Israeli government ensures support around the world is to create an atmosphere of fear, ...Jews over the centuries were persecuted in many countries. It’s become part of the Jewish memory.”

See Friedman’s further analysis of what he regards as having contributed to the insular makeup of the South African Jewish community on <http://mg.co.za/article/2014-08-07-gaza-conflict-behind-sa-jews-siege-mentality>

Further, according to Friedman: “There weren’t any rockets being fired before Israel invaded Gaza. How many people in Israeli cities have actually been under threat? Zero... If you read mainstream Jewish media, their understanding of what is going on there is that people who hate the Jews are now attacking them. The Israeli government blows sirens and forces people into bomb shelters, so that they have a real sense of terror and feeling besieged.”

Asked to accept so blatant a manipulation of fact, do we not deserve an explanation for such obfuscation as it is public record that 62 rockets and three mortars were fired into Israel in June 2014 while in July, prior to the launch of Protective Edge, 172 rockets and 21 mortars were launched in just 7 days? (See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Palestinian_rocket_attacks_on_Israel,_2014#June)

In the event that Prof Friedman has been misquoted by the M&G, I am unaware of any objection from him or retraction by that publication.

**Victor Gordon
Pretoria**

FRIEDMAN RESPONDS TO GORDON’S ‘FINAL WORD’

Victor Gordon seems unable to distinguish between what I say and what he would like me to say: I didn’t say I was uncomfortable with the way he described me - I said I was glad. So it is no surprise that he remembers me saying things at Limmud I have no memory of saying.

On the bigger issues, despite some smoke-screens, Mr Gordon offers no evidence to contradict my point that land in Israel is allocated on an ethnic basis - how else would we describe a system in which a set amount of land must remain in Jewish hands?

He does not even try to refute my point that Israel implements a discriminatory nationality system in which people’s ethnic label determines their access to immigration, naturalisation, land and employment. It would be interesting to know the grounds on which he justifies this discrimination.

Gordon seems to deal with the uncomfortable reality that Hamas has offered repeated ceasefires which Israel has refused to discuss, by quoting an “authority” on the “Muslim” mind. (Would he be happy with “experts” who claimed to know “the Jewish mind”?)

In response, I could quote, among many other sources, Nathan Thrall, a senior analyst with the International Crisis Group, whose sober analysis of Hamas’s calculations offers a much more credible account than one which claims spurious insight into the “Muslim” mind.

Thrall concludes his analysis in the London Review of Books: “The obvious solution is to let the new Palestinian government return to Gaza and reconstruct it... This solution would of course have been available to Israel, the US, Egypt and the PA in the weeks and months before the war began, before so many lives were shattered.” <http://www.lrb.co.uk/v36/n16/nathan-thrall/hamass-chances>.

Neither Thrall nor I are fans of Hamas - we simply see it as a rational actor which believes its interests are served by a compromise. But this conclusion requires us to look beyond crude religious stereotypes to the evidence. (If Mr Gordon can’t find a source for the 1997 ceasefire, he should try CNN: <http://edition.cnn.com/WORLD/9710/07/israel.hamas/>)

I did not say that “SA Jews” were paranoid, I

said the mainstream communal institutions encourage a paranoia in the community which is fuelled by centuries of Jewish persecution. The evidence is overwhelming - I have personally heard representatives of communal organisations claim both that all non-Jews are anti-Semites and that all Muslims are. That sounds pretty paranoid to me.

The fact that I, and others who share my view, are seen by the mainstream leadership as a mortal threat to be silenced, is also ample testimony to a tendency to regard any alternative view as a danger. (Only in response to pressure did a section of the communal leadership distance itself from Ivor Blumenthal’s apparently approving view that in previous eras Jews whose opinions displeased the mainstream would be stoned to death.)

My statement on rockets was designed to illustrate the point. At the time I made my comments, one Israeli had died in a rocket attack (outside the cities) and yet the entire urban population was routinely herded into shelters. By the end of the conflict, the death toll had sadly risen, but not a single resident of an Israeli city was a victim of a rocket attack.

Despite this, the sirens were heard repeatedly in the cities and local Jews no doubt feared for their loved ones in the shelters. But in the cities, the danger was illusory. Contrary to one of the libels currently used to silence critics, the point is not that it is a pity that more Jews didn’t die: any death is one too many.

It is, rather, to challenge a severe obstacle to a peace settlement - the view that, despite the overwhelming military superiority of the Israeli state, Jewish Israelis are in imminent mortal danger.

As long as the enemies of peace foster the false claim that the state and its urban residents are in peril, potential negotiating partners will continue to be seen as mortal dangers. The enemies of peace need groundless fear - there will be no peace unless we expose the use of fear to prevent talks which will save lives.

**Professor Steven Friedman, Director,
Centre for the Study of Democracy
Rhodes University/University of
Johannesburg**

HAMAS SEEMS TO BE FRIEDMAN’S ‘FAVOURITE TERRORIST ORGANISATION’

Having read Victor Gordon’s letter and Prof Steven Friedman’s reply of last week, I have come to the conclusion that all the arguments referring to the percentages by them, are mere semantics and really mean nothing in the scheme of things.

The only thing that really matters is that the Hamas Charter calls for the destruction of Israel and the killing of all the Jews in Israel.

In the face of this, according to international law and also Jewish law, Hamas must be completely destroyed and eliminated. If a man comes to kill you, you are obligated to kill him first.

Only after the elimination of Hamas can a just solution be negotiated between the Palestinians and Israel, where both sides will have to make some painful compromises.

It is no secret that Friedman has more sympathy for the Palestinians’ suffering than the suffering of his fellow-Jews. He is entitled to his opinion, but he must not try and make out that that the war in Gaza was started by the Israelis.

He must also realise that we also have our opinions of his opinion.

Surely he cannot be so naive as to believe that Hamas would stick to a hudna agreement? The past has shown how Hamas have carried out the terms of the previous war’s agreement, where it was agreed by Hamas not to rearm.

Friedman has lost all credibility with anyone who knows the facts about the start of this last war. Where was he when thousands of rockets were raining down on Israel?

Where was he when the three young students were brutally murdered by Hamas members and then just recently, when the two young families had their throats cut (including the babies) by Hamas members?

He has developed a blind spot when it comes to the horrors committed by his favourite terrorist organisation.

Maurice Sackstein, Johannesburg

A NURSERY SCHOOL WHICH GOES THE EXTRA MILE

It is with pride and pleasure that I have become acquainted with a caring young lady, the principal of the Rimon Nursery School in Lyndhurst. (Rimon means pomegranate in Hebrew). She is caring, nurturing, loving, kind and very patient.

I have a grandson age four with type 1 diabetes. Almost every nursery school will not accept a child with diabetes, as it takes courage to look after. The ones we approached were not at all interested.

Jade Goldstein, her helper and the school, are in my opinion outstanding and I hope that they grow from strength to strength. Thank you all for your support much appreciated.

**Gogo Sandra Breitz
Johannesburg**

FORTUNATELY THERE ARE CLEAR-HEADED SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL

A special thanks, Kol Hakavod to the Bible-believing Christians of South Africa on their full page advertisement in a Sunday paper of August 31. They are proof there are intelligent, clear-thinking citizens in South Africa (this certainly does not include the ANC and the hypocritical bigoted, misguided members such as Tony Ehrenreich) who can reason on an intellectual level when they see the cruelty and hatred of Muslims towards Jews and Christians in the Islamic world, extending into Europe, Africa, the UK and the US. The double standards of some bigots make me sick.

Jack Miller, Gresswold, Johannesburg

ARE WOOLWORTHS' ISRAEL PROTESTATIONS REALLY KOSHER?

On September 5 the SAZF requested the community to send a letter of support to Woolworths and Dis-Chem.

While I heartily endorse Dis-Chem's position, I have a problem with giving Woolworths the same unconditional endorsement for inter alia the following two reasons:

1. When Woolworths was taken to task for its original boycott stance, which has not been denied by the company (I refer to Kathy Kaler's response quoted by you online that she spoke to the head of Woolworths marketing who put her on to the Woolworths Media liaison who confirmed that in fact Woolworths will no longer be stocking produce from Israel, and that they may overturn this when they see the reaction from the community but as it stands, there is no Israeli produce in the stores), Woolworths allegedly as a sign of good faith to the Jewish community posted a statement on their corporate website as quoted by you online but included the disclaimer that "less than 0,1 per cent of our food is sourced from Israel", says Woolworths. "Woolworths has no political affiliations," they stated emphatically.

1.1. Why has the rider been issued?
1.2. If it is complying with SA trade law on Israel, which incidentally it does not apply to any other country in "similar circumstances", most notably China's occupation of Nepal, why did Woolworths issue the rider? In my opinion this was done to try to appease its detractors, notably the BDS and its supporters. Dis-Chem to its credit, told its customers that if it does not like Dis-Chem's policy, they are free to shop elsewhere.

2. It has been brought to my attention this Monday afternoon at around 14:00 that as at 12:00 on Monday, Woolworths' Benmore store in Sandton, has a sign displayed over and/or alongside the Selwyn Segal products (for Rosh Hashanah) which reads inter alia: "All these products have been manufactured locally."

Why do other local products in the store not have the same notice?

For the above two reasons I personally will not be giving any endorsement to Woolworths.

**Myron Robinson
Randburg**

VISAS: NO TO DALAI LAMA BUT YES TO YASSER ARAFAT

The ANC has denied a visa to the Dalai Lama, a man of peace. Yet, in recent memory the ANC welcomed with a guard of honour Yasser Arafat, an acknowledged terrorist - a man who spoke with a forked tongue and even submitted to allow him to enter Parliament carrying a gun!

The ANC government deployed South African troops into Lesotho, to uphold a virtual dictator in a country that holds no threat of danger to the South Africa.

Yet the ANC condemns the Israelis for launching reprisals into Gaza, whence at least 20 000 rockets have bombarded Israeli territory and from whence - Gaza and the West Bank - suicide bombers and murderers with the avowed intention to kill every Jew, and wipe Israel off the face of the earth

Anybody recognise what bigotry and hypocrisy in the actions of the ANC? Anybody recognise the application of double standards?

**Jack Miller
Gresswold, Johannesburg**

David Sloane looking for Sandra Sloane

David Sloane, who left South Africa for the UK in 1960, is looking for a cousin, Sandra Sloane, who was born in 1945 in the UK and went to South Africa before returning to the UK.

He writes: "She later returned to South Africa and as far as I know, settled in Pretoria. Her mother was Lillian Ethel Naylor-Garrad and her father who died on January 21, 1963 in London, was Sidney Joseph Sloane (formerly Solomons).

"As children Sandra and I lost touch and so did the rest of the family when Sandra and her mother returned to South Africa after the death of her father. I understand she married her husband in Pretoria and took up residence there."

David Sloane may be contacted at david@thesloanes.com

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Shabbos Project going global this year

WIZO, as a non-profit organisation concerned with the welfare of women, has committed its involvement and commitment to the Shabbos Project taking place on October 24 and 25. The particular initiative that WIZO will drive and promote, is the lighting of Shabbat candles, one of three special mitzvot performed by women.

This is a mitzvah brimming with symbolism, importance and the light and warmth of Judaism. This year the Shabbos Project is also going global. WIZO, through its extensive network in over 52 countries, will therefore assist in promoting this project and spreading the light globally.



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'67 blankets' wins Campaign of the Year award

67 blankets for Nelson Mandela Day, a small initiative with a big heart, has beaten corporate giants including Coca-Cola, Kellogg's and KFC for the title of Campaign of the Year. A media release states that the initiative was launched in December 2013 "and since then, has attracted a global base of loyal supporters or knit-wits, as they are often called".

Carolyn Steyn, the founder of the initiative, was at the inaugural ANN7 South African of the Year 2014 Awards, which was held at the Sandton Convention Centre, to accept the award.

"67 blankets for Nelson Mandela Day started out as light-hearted banter between Zelda la Grange (Nelson Mandela's personal assistant) and myself with her challenging me to make 67 blankets by Nelson Mandela's birthday."

Steyn's next goal is to collect double the amount of blankets for distribution as soon as the cold weather strikes in 2015. To keep the momentum alive, she plans on having knit-a-thons, blanket hand overs and even "yarn-bomb" the Nelson Mandela statue at the Union Buildings.



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DL Link - making a real difference in cancer patients' lives



Kathy Kaler, CEO of ChaiFM; with Jolene Marks (DL Link); Michelle Goodman (DL Link); Tammy Lewin (DL Link); Sharon Goodman (DL Link); and Lauren Dansky (ChaiFM).

ROBYN SASSEN

King Solomon's words: "This too shall pass," are engraved on a plastic bracelet distributed to cancer patients supported by the Johannesburg-based initiative, the DL Link. It's part of an all-embracing support for sufferers of the illness, DL Link's co-founder Michelle Goodman told Jewish Report earlier this week from the DL Link house in Talboton, Johannesburg.

The DL Link is this year's ChaiFM's annual radiothon's elected beneficiary. It got 47,9 per cent of ChaiFM's listeners' vote.

"We're planning to renovate this property," said Goodman. "The idea is to have a survivor man the centre every day and for people to drop in for a cup of coffee, a yoga class, a pilates class, painting, just to meet with one another and talk."

The organisation was founded in 2010 in memory of Goodman's daughter Devorah Leah Levy, who succumbed to cancer, by Goodman with Jackie Altshuler and Yocheved Bacher.

"And why build a room, specifically? Why can't they go to a gym to do pilates or yoga," she's been asked. "Because people battling cancer lose a lot of weight. They feel weak. Many have lost hair. They're scared of infections. They feel self-conscious and not comfortable. This space is something safe and secure and they can link with people who are facing the same challenges."

DL Link currently supports 197 patients, from the age of two to 102; its reach is extending nationally, as the project's ethos gets known.

"Each patient has a family," adds Goodman, a remedial therapist by training. "When a dire illness is diagnosed, everyone needs counselling. Even the family's housekeeper. They all need to be strong to support the patient."

But more than that, Tammy Lewin, another of Goodman's daughters explains her experiences of her sister's illness: "When you go through something like this, you realise such a need not only for the patients but for the whole family. A cancer patient gets bombarded with advice. The outcome is always in G-d's hands. But we aim to make the journey less challenging."

The DL Link goes the extra mile to make things like coastal holidays possible for cancer patients, or to bring Shabbat meals to people, or to do homework with the children of a patient.

Goodman cites a situation in which she became aware of an elderly woman diagnosed with cancer. She approached the woman's daughter, who said that her mother was coping fine and didn't need help. "I gave her a DL Link 'goodie bag' for her mom: a branded cooler box, a photo frame, the Aneni Prayer Book, lip ice, a notebook and a pen, meditation CDs and so on.

"About two days later, the mother called me. She said: 'I must tell you that I have some such lonely and scary days that I don't want to tell my family'."

Said Kathy Kaler, ChaiFM's CEO: "We've seen unprecedented participation leading to the announcement of the winner. The charities' stakeholders decided who the winner was."

Goodman was delighted by the outcome, saying: "We set up with nothing, and we are hugely supported by volunteers wherever we go. But the organisation needs to expand and employ staff. Jolene Marks holds the heart and soul of the organisation's admin together and my daughter-in-law Sharon Goodman does an enormous amount of volunteer work for us.

"We're an NPO, a Public Benefit Organisation and we have a board of directors, but in terms of operational, it's us.

"When you are dealing with the stress of having an ill loved one, you don't think about things like cooking meals. You don't want to go into the shops; just to smile at a person takes way too much energy. We're not Meals on Wheels, but often meals are needed," she speaks of how patients can spend hungry hours in medical waiting rooms, but how almost every kosher food establishment in the city donates food to DL Link.

"Flower power is an initiative with Glenhazel Flowers," adds Lewin, "which enables customers to donate money to the shop for flowers for DL Link patients.

"We would like to establish awareness of the DL Link in all the communities. Ideally we would like to target our rabbis, because the entire community needs to be aware."

"What is our aim?" Goodman mentions the upcoming radiothon, on September 18.

"That the budget is taken care of for a year or two so that we can do what we do best."

Their frills-stripped budget is R108 000 a month. "That is what we need to employ extra professionals as well as the renovation of the centre."

A DIFFERENT BEAT

Adventure awaits

There are few things as exciting as setting out on an adventure - and even more so when the entire family can be part of the experience. The Kia Sorento, with its powerful diesel engine, all-wheel drive configuration and abundant passenger space, makes going off the beaten track easier than ever before, but there are still a few things to keep in mind when setting off on an adventure.



Ray Levin,
CEO - KIA Motors South Africa

Know your vehicle

Knowing your vehicle goes beyond the long list of comfort and convenience features that make up part and parcel of the Kia Sorento. Get a real sense of your vehicle's height and width, as your 4,7-metre long Sorento might seem much bigger on a narrow nature trail. The same applies to ground clearance and approach and departure angles: the Sorento can clear many obstacles thanks to its 184 mm ground clearance, but one cannot predict what obstacles mother nature may put in your way.

Know where you're going - and take a friend (or six)

It may seem like defeating the purpose when setting off on an adventure, but it's important to know where you're going and how long it should take you to get there. Always inform a friend or loved one of your plans, should something go wrong en route. It's also wise to invite friends along: with seating for seven and an excellent radio/ CD/ MP3 player, the adventure will not only be more fun, but safer too.

Having another vehicle or person with you greatly increases the odds of getting home safely, while the extra eyes will come in handy when traversing difficult terrain.

Safety first: be prepared for anything

While your Sorento is equipped with a multitude of active and passive safety systems, accidents can still happen. Have your vehicle checked out by your nearest service centre before embarking on an extended adventure, and lower tyre pressures just before leaving the tar to prevent punctures. If you follow the basic rules of off-roading, your adventure will remain exactly that.

By following these basic tips, you will be prepared for any circumstance while exploring our beautiful country. For more information on the Kia Sorento, visit www.kia.co.za.

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Young KDVP musical prodigy scores big at Eisteddfod Academy

ARRAN VALKIN

Benjamin Valkin (14) a pupil of King David Victory Park High School, is the winner of the National Eisteddfod Academy (NEA) Young Performers Awards, Classical Music, Junior section for 2014, where he performed Chopin's Prelude number 15 "Rain-drop".

The NEA competition, held over 2013 - 2014, attracts thousands of entries. More than 1 300 entrants remained after the qualifying rounds to compete in the elimination rounds.

Benjamin beat all the other competitors in all instruments in the Classic music section, to win the Classical Music Junior award (grade 4 - 7).

Benjamin has won several awards recently, including three trophies at the Johannesburg Festival of Music Competition, Trophy for Most Promising Pianist under 14, the Gertrude Plaut Trophy for the best overall Junior, and the Peggy Haddon Trophy for the most memorable performance of a classical work for piano.

He also won the Trinity College of Music medal for the highest exam mark in the Gauteng region, scoring 97 per cent for his grade five exam in November 2013.

Benjamin, a pupil of Lorna Heher, started playing the piano at age four and has been playing classical music ever since. However, he is also very active in the King David High School rock band, as well as the marimba band and is taking music as a school subject.

The music school at KDVP is thriving with many groups, choir, and solo performances taking place, and Benjamin is busy at school in the afternoons jamming and rehearsing.



Photo: Arran Valkin

Mendy blows the shofar in month of Elul



Photo: Suzanne Belling

OWN CORRESPONDENT

In an annual school tradition, Mendy Ash, a grade 7 learner at Torah Academy Boys' High School, blows the shofar every day during the month of Elul for pupils, teachers and staff on the Torah Academy campus in a call for tefillah, teshuvah and tzedakah leading up to Rosh Hashanah.

Mendy is the son of Rabbi Eitan and Gila Ash.

Encounter 2014 – a truly life-changing experience



Delighted encounter participants.

AVIGAEEL BROWN

On August 10, the grade 11 learners of King David Linksfield, left for Encounter 2014. This was an experience which changed our lives.

We began the day by visiting an underprivileged school in Kameeldrift the other side of Pretoria and donating stationery to the children. Later we arrived at Roodevallei, where we stayed for the week and received a friendly welcome from our DIJE advisers.

Encounter was a fun-filled week. The learners were able to enjoy spending time with each other during some amazing and inspiring sessions and activities. We were able to bond with each other more deeply than ever before. We realised that we share more similarities than differences. The unity between all the grade 11 learners was extremely strong.

We enjoyed many sessions where we learnt more about our Judaism and deepened our connection with Israel, with the help of our advisers. We were also able to spiritually connect with G-d through these sessions.

The week ended with the most uplifting and inspiring Shabbat, where many of those who attended, kept Shabbat for the first time in their lives. Not only was Shabbat a spiritual time, but it was also a time where we could enjoy ourselves by attending the fun programmes including a hilarious hypnotist show.

During the Encounter week, we experienced something very special: spirituality and unity. We learnt so much from the experience and appreciated the path of self-discovery that we were exposed to.

Encounter is a memory that will stay with us forever.

Photo: Rory Rubin

UJW vows: No child should go to school barefoot

The Union of Jewish Women's Mandela Day Project, "No Child Should Go To School Barefoot", saw the community open up its collective heart, and 1 500 brand-new pairs of school shoes were collected for disadvantaged children, many of whom have never owned a new pair of school shoes.

In a media release, the UJW said King David Primary School, Sandton, collected over R13 000 for this project, and at their assembly last week 250 pairs of school shoes and socks were handed out to Mayibuye Primary School, which is a school supported by KDPS Sandton as part of their outreach programme.

A group of schoolchildren and two teachers from Mayibuye School attended the assembly, where a prefect from Mayibuye thanked the King David pupils for their generosity.

A further 1 250 pairs of school shoes and socks will be distributed to schools in Soweto, Krugersdorp, Roodepoort and Tembisa within the next few weeks, the release says.



At a King David Primary Sandton assembly, kids and teachers from the Mayibuye Primary School, who received new school shoes, are pictured.

18 August - 24 September 2014

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Post-modern horror story cuts to the quick



Daniel Janks; Jessica Friedan; Ashleigh Harvey and James Alexander in *Bash*.

Theatre: Bash, written by Neil LaBute, directed by Megan Willson, at Auto & General Theatre on the Square, Sandton (011) 883-8606
Until: September 27

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

You don't frequently come across a theatrical work so developed and elegant in its entirety that it makes you remember why you go to theatre, and why it exists as a discipline, altogether.

This Neil LaBute play, was not awarded a Gold Ovation Award at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown this year for nothing; it's a flawless and riveting contemporary indictment on flaws in the moral fabric of our society.

It also celebrates collaboration. The name of the lighting professional does not appear in the programme, but the manner in which subtleties play over the two red plastic tub chairs on stage, show the mark of a sophisticated hand: never does the set, conjoined as it is with a filmic projection, become bland.

Further to that, are the performers. It's an unusual play comprising three stories, two of which are premised on the values cast by Greek tragedies, each told directly to the audience, with astonishingly vivid and beautiful words rather than re-enactment.

Indeed, in *A Gaggle of Saints*, James Alexander and Jessica Friedan (who recently directed the marvellous Gogol production "Government Inspector" at Wits) don't look at each other at all.

The effect of this device makes the work that much more intense, but also exposes the horror in each tale, clothed as it is in a contemporary garb with values we can access.

Each performer - Ashleigh Harvey and Daniel Janks play *Medea Redux* and *Iphigenia* in Orem respectively - shines like a gem in this immensely difficult but eminently successful piece.

In less capable hands, the work might judder into being text heavy or too intense: for a third of the work, the spotlight is on one performer who holds the responsibility of keeping his audience entranced and focused.

One emerges with one's head spinning with the horror and beauty of Greek

tragedy and moral chasms in contemporary values told with wisdom and poetry and hard-hitting indictments which are haunting.

As each vignette is developed and brought to its conclusion, taking the colloquial word "bash" and splaying it in several associative directions - as theatre practitioners like Lionel Newton and Sylvaine Strike recently did with "Greed" - your gaze at the performer becomes irrefutably coloured and three-dimensional with a sense of increasing horror.

In many respects, this foray into the central taboo tenets of Greek tragedy, from killing of one's own children to breaking the bodies of those whose life-choices differ from your own, is a post-modern horror story: there's no gore; it is all internalised into a fiercely elegant piece of theatre.

One emerges with a sense of universality and one of dread of the heaviness of moral culpability, but with the understanding of privilege in having seen something completely magnificent.

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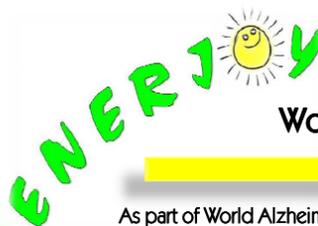
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CLOSING DATE: 30 September 2014

The school reserves the right not to make an appointment. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Should you not hear from the school by 18 October 2014 please accept that your application has not been successful.



FREE LAUNCH EVENT

World Alzheimer's Day : Family Skills Training

As part of World Alzheimer Day on the 21st September, Enerjoy is hosting a free introductory seminar on Skills Training for families of people with Alzheimer's and Dementia.

Who we are:

Enerjoy Care Services currently specialises in providing home based care for people with Alzheimers and Dementia. They have achieved outstanding results due to their integrated approach which includes in-depth training of the care givers, combining emotional intelligence with clinical expertise, and involving the family as an integral part of the team.

What this program is:

The program is unique in that it will equip families with practical skills to:

- Gain a deeper understanding of Dementia and Alzheimers
- Be able to identify the specific stages and identify at which one their family member might be
- Learn how to stimulate and communicate effectively at an appropriate level
- Set healthy boundaries to cater for their own emotional needs, while still enhancing the quality of their relationship with their family member
- Develop the emotional intelligence to deal with challenging behaviour
- Create support structures to empower them on a day to day basis
- Implement a personal action plan

Where: Lifeline Conference Centre
2 The Avenue (cnr Henrietta Str),
Norwood, Johannesburg

When: Sunday, 21st September, 2014
2.30pm – 5.30pm

RSVP: By Wednesday 17th September, 2014
Diana Hughes: 011 447 0128
Shem Bolei: 082 465 5242
Tessa O'Grady: tessa@enerjoy.co.za

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www.enerjoy.co.za

COMMUNITY NOTICE 2014: JHB JEWISH CEMETERIES

It is a time-honoured custom to visit the graves of parents and families before Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. At the time one visits the graves, it is appropriate to give some tzedaka 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 **14, 21 & 28 September** and on Wednesday **24 September** due to Heritage Day. 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 Yom Tov.

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.

Reserved Graves: If you are aware of family who have emigrated or for any other reason no longer require their reserved plots, please cancel the reserved grave/s and release the plot/s to the Chevrah Kadisha.

Grave Repairs: Minor repairs should ONLY be done by approved Chevrah Kadisha workers.

Please contact the West Park cemetery office to arrange these repairs or for more information on the Eternal Care project.

West Park Cemetery Offices

T: 011 673 2057/8

24 hour pager (incl. Shabbat & Yom Tov): 011 321 0000 code 4284



ChevrahKadisha
BURIAL SERVICES

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

Working with paradox part #2

Last week, in the first of our three-part series on paradox, we discussed "Life in a Fishbowl". This time...

Cutting our coats according to our cloth

We want to do the very best for our residents and clients; to spare no expense and give them the most comfortable beds: Tempur mattresses and the softest line; to finance every surgery and provide trailblazing treatments; offer the best cuts of meat, caviar (kosher) and imported salmon; pay for every person who needs rehab and for every child who needs remedial education. Imagine how great it would be not to have to charge residential and funeral fees at all? That's what we would like to do. But the reality is vastly different.

In truth, we can't do what we want any more than any average family can. Every household has to budget: how much money is needed for rent, school fees, electricity, petrol, food, clothing, medical aid, staff—the list is long.

The Chev is no different in that way. We just do it on a much larger scale and also have to plan longer-term because most of our "children" won't leave home, get jobs and become self-supporting at any stage. And hopefully your households don't rely on donations, as ours does.



ChevrahKadisha
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Michael Sieff
Group CEO

We must walk a fine line and make best use of our resources to achieve stability and sustainability for the community's future generations, while simultaneously offering a high standard of care.

This paradox is felt in all areas, but acutely when it comes to our advertising spend. Ask any entrepreneur - advertising pays! The more you do, the more attention and business you're likely to attract, provided you do it right.

The Chev must advertise because it brings in badly-needed donations, reminding people that we're here and that we need help to help others. The better our ads, the better the response.

But how much is too much? And when, as with soft linen and caviar, does it become irresponsible?

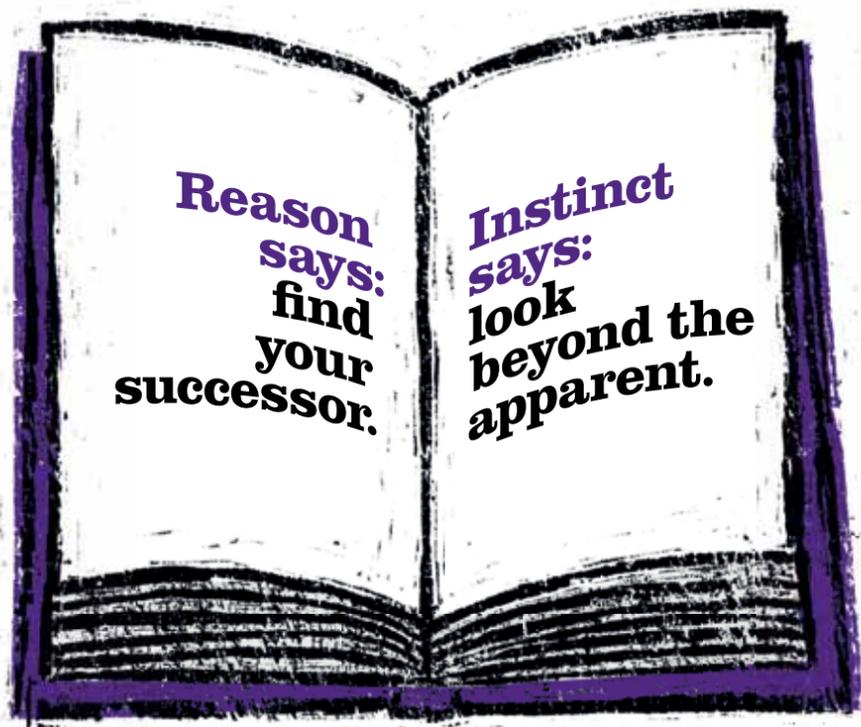
Our carefully thought-through solution is to allocate a tiny percentage of our annual budget to advertising and to stay within those confines. In fact, we spend less than 0,3% on advertising. That's why you may not see us in every publication. I hope you would challenge others to do likewise.

More is not always better. What's better is to cut our coats according to our cloth.

May our partnership continue to thrive!
feedback@jhbchev.co.za

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha

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



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A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Standing together we will prevail



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

This Sunday evening, the SAJBD Gauteng Council will be holding its biennial conference. As related in my previous column, one of the main focuses will be the sharp rise in anti-Semitic activity as a result of the Gaza conflict and what the Board is doing to address this.

The main theme of the conference is "Celebrating 20 Years of Freedom", where speakers and participants will reflect on the journey our country has taken in the two decades following the transition to democracy, where it finds itself in 2014 and where it still needs to go if the ideals and aspirations that marked the launch of the democratic era are to be realised.

Normally, I would be attending the conference, but instead have opted to represent our community at two other important gatherings being held in Berlin, Germany. The first, to take place almost simultaneously with the opening of the Gauteng conference, is a demonstration against ant-Semitism outside the city's historic Brandenburg Gate. This has been organised by the Central Council of Jews in Germany, with those participating including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Joachim Gauck.

The other event is the meeting of the governing board of the World Jewish Congress on September 14 - 16. As the representative for South African Jewry on this occasion, I will be participating and giving input into those debates from

our own community's perspective.

Like the SAJBD, the mission of our German counterpart, the Central Council of Jews in Germany, is to strive for a secure, confident Jewish life in their country and to work with their government and supporters in the greater society to achieve this. This mission is pursued on behalf of global Jewry by the World Jewish Congress.

The naked hatred now so openly expressed against Jews, particularly in Europe, but also in many other parts of the world, is a cause of great distress and anxiety to all of us. We cannot afford to remain silent and hope it will go away, but must stand together - Jew and gentile alike - in denouncing and confronting this evil.

I am privileged, as a representative of SA Jewry, to participate in the stand being taken by international Jewry against the escalating anti-Semitic threat. As we are well aware, our own community, has also experienced a sharp rise in such activity over the past several months.

Confronting these developments and determining the way forward will form the major part of the World Jewish Congress meeting. The challenges we face are certainly formidable ones, but by standing together as a people alongside the many friends and supporters we have outside our ranks, I am confident we will be able to meet them and eventually to prevail.

I will report back on my Berlin experiences next week, and conclude by wishing our Gauteng Council and all those involved a very successful and productive conference.

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

This column paid for by SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Community News in Brief

A really fun breakfast morning with WIZO Aviv

Recently Johannesburg's WIZO Aviv held a successful Women's Day Champagne Breakfast at the HOD. The hall was festively decorated to reflect the theme "Heel Your Sole" with the help of Adele of Decorum and Ilana Markowitz, and the 200 women present heard Joel Harris, on "To Stress or not to Stress - That is Your Choice" and Gia Bass on "JOMO" (the joy of missing out), as well as world class hip-hop dance.

Gift packs for kids affected by terror in Israel



Kids of Netzer Hazani, Israel.

Divote, started by Durban philanthropist John Moshal 12 years ago, is a Jewish organisation, aiming to show support to children in Israel affected by acts of terrorism. During Operation Protective Edge, Divote appealed to the SA community for donations of crafts, games and toys for children in safe rooms and hospital waiting rooms. Divote has teams of volunteers both in South Africa and in Israel, who collect, pack and deliver the packages. For more information: Cheryl 083-799-6440.

Deloitte, ORT JET, to empower CT entrepreneurs

ORT JET, in partnership with Deloitte Western Cape, hosts CEO of Branding & Marketing YOU, Donna Rachelson on October 1, on "Seven Key Steps to Business Marketing Success." Building on their association with ORT JET in Johannesburg, Deloitte has extended the partnership to the Western Cape, offering Cape Town members of ORT JET a learning and networking platform to enrich their business knowledge. "Many of the volunteer mentors at ORT JET are successful businessmen and women who give of their time to equip small businesses with essential skills and information," says Cape Town Deloitte partner, Ryan Dogon.

Frankel shares wealth of knowledge with young entrepreneurs



Recently, the Chevrah Kadisha's Helping Hands in partnership with Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) hosted a talk in the Jewish Entrepreneurs Insight Series, for over 80 Helping Hands donors who contribute R540 or more monthly. Guest speaker venture capitalist David Frankel, visiting from the US, told his life story. He attributed much of his success to good partnerships, investing in people, believing in gut instinct, having a work ethic, and creating disruption in business.

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SERVICES NOTICES

The unveiling for the late Nathan Cohen will take place this Sunday, September 14, at 10:00 at West Park Cemetery

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Interested candidates please e-mail CVs to cindy@jhbchev.co.za.

Closing date for applications is September 19, 2014 .

Only short-listed candidates will be responded to.

What's On

Today, Friday (September 12)

- UZLC hosts Lionel Slier on "From Gaza Without Love". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.

Sunday (September 14)

- Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St John's College Auditorium, Houghton. Time: 14:15 sharp. An introductory video will be followed by an audio presentation by Shirley Markowitz and after interval a DVD will be screened on Frank Sinatra with Gene Kelly and others. Enquiries: Marilyn, 072-243-7436 or Jack, 082-450-7622.
- Second Innings hosts Prof Brian Buch on "The Jewish Guild Orchestra". Venue: Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R30 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Contact: Hylton Marks, (011) 532-9616.

Monday (September 15)

- UJW Chairman Diane Levine, convener of this year's "Interfaith Project", invites the community to join them for a "Mitzvah Day Planning Workshop", to share ideas on how to help bring a little joy to others in need. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 10:00. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Wednesday (September 17)

- UJW CT's AED Programme hosts David Jacobson will give a talk on "Who's Afraid of 'BDS'", explaining the BDS campaign and

anti-Semitism in SA. Venue: Stonehaven, Sea Point. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20. Enquires: (021) 434-9555 (until 14:00).

- Chev Social Services/CAJE's "Enrich Your Life" series presents "Press Restart: How to Continue with Confidence After Divorce", with psychologist Dr Ronel Duchon. Also, a woman will share her personal journey. Venue: Sydenham Shul Hall. Time: 19:45. Cost: R30 (incl light refreshments). Bookings: Sharon (011) 532-9616/sharonp@jhbchev.co.za

- UJW hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Dept of English at Wits, for the second lecture on "Exploring the Wonder's of Milton's Paradise Lost". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office, (011) 648-1053.

- JWBS's book sale at Benmore Gardens Shopping Centre. Information: Gloria, tel and fax (011) 485-5232.

Sunday (September 21)

- World Alzheimer's Day. Enerjoy is launching a free introductory seminar, "Family Skills Training (supported by LifeLine)", for families of people with Alzheimer's and dementia. Venue: LifeLine Conference Centre, 2 The Avenue, Norwood. Time: 14:30 - 17:30. RSVP: (by Wednesday September 17) to Diana Hughes (011) 447-0128; Shem Bolel 082-465-5242 or Tessa O'Grady: tessa@enerjoy.co.za

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Jews on both sides of acts of racism

JACK MILNER

Racism in sport has become a massive issue and recently there have been four events involving Jews - in two cases on the receiving end and in the other two they have been seen as perpetrators.

Most people are aware of the rants of Donald Sterling, owner of the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team. On April 25, a recording of a conversation between Sterling and a female "friend" was released in which a man - confirmed to be Sterling - was irritated over a photo she had posted with Hall of Fame player Magic Johnson.

"It bothers me a lot that you want to broad-

cast that you're associating with black people" and, "you can sleep with (black people). You can bring them in, you can do whatever you want", but "the little I ask you is... not to bring them to my games".

Sterling was banned by the National Basketball Association (NBA) and while there are still numerous court cases going on, he was forced to sell the franchise, for which he received \$2 billion.

Now Bruce Levenson, owner of the Atlanta Hawks, has found himself in a similar situation. Levenson sent an e-mail to the team's general manager, telling what steps had already been taken to make the arena experience feel "less black" in order to attract more



Bruce Levenson, owner of the Atlanta Hawks, has volunteered to sell the franchise after having admitted to making racist remarks.

white fans.

When the Sterling mess hit the fan, Levenson told a local radio station that he had "zero tolerance for this sort of bigoted racial comment" but he ended up getting caught out himself!

Explaining why ticket sales were low, Levenson wrote: "My theory is that the black crowd scared away the whites and there are simply not enough affluent black fans to build a significant season ticket base."

Levenson added that talk of the arena being unsafe was "just racist garbage" and "when I hear some people saying the arena is in the wrong plac, I think it is code for there are too many blacks at the games".

The difference between Levenson and Sterling is that the owner of the Hawks appears to have self-reported the e-mail in question, offered about as strong an apology as possible and is taking responsibility for what he wrote and did, by deciding to sell the team - without a fight.

Levenson responded: "It was inflammatory nonsense. We all may have subtle biases and preconceptions when it comes to race, but my role as a leader is to challenge them, not to validate or accommodate those who might hold them."

In the UK two instances of alleged anti-Semitism have raised their head in the world of football. The FA is investigating claims that former Enfield Town manager George Borg told Wingate & Finchley fans: "Hitler is going to get you."

Borg was sacked by the club hours after their 3 - 2 defeat, though the club refused to comment as to the reason for his dismissal.

Borg denied he had said what had been reported, but admitted to making a similar remark. He claimed Wingate supporters had

been singing songs about his mother who died from cancer three years ago. "I know it is not acceptable either way but I dispute the wording of what has been reported. I did not say: 'Hitler is going to get you', but I did say: 'They sound like Hitler' with the songs they were singing."

Wingate released a statement which read: "Any allegations made by George Borg as to the conduct of the group, are categorically denied. Those present at the match are willing to co-operate with any investigation into the conduct of George Borg."

The other incident was a text from former Cardiff City manager Malkay Mackay to Jewish agent Phil Smith, which read: "Go on, fat Phil. Nothing like a Jew that sees money slipping through his fingers."

Smith came out in support of Mackay, saying the manager was not a racist. "Most times when someone calls you a 'Jew' it's out of ignorance and with all that's going on around the world with the anti-Semitic slants, I just felt it was irresponsible that something which might have been said in jest, had got out. It started to make me angry."

Mackay has subsequently made a public apology.

These issues do beg the question about whether we are getting too politically correct; where to draw the line. Comedian Mel Brooks admitted that two of his best movies - The Producers (the original 1968 version with Gene Wilder and Zero Mostel) and Blazing Saddles - would not have been made in today's environment.

In the media a question that is cropping up more often is: Are we perhaps losing more than we are gaining by overreacting to even the most innocuous of comments? Who knows. Hindsight is an exact science.

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