



Jack Ginsberg, art philanthropist, celebrated (page 5).

South African Jewish Report

www.sajr.co.za



Vehicles used as a terrorist weapon

The scene where a car crashed into Jerusalem's Ammunition Hill in a Palestinian terrorist attack on October 22 when Abdel Rachman al-Shaludi rammed his car into a crowd at a Jerusalem light rail station, killing two people, one a three-month-old baby and the other SA-born Dalya Lemkus. In a new pattern of using vehicles as "terrorist weapons", on November 5 another terrorist, Ibrahim al-Akari used his van as a weapon against pedestrians, killing two more people. The seemingly randomness of the attacks is particularly terrifying. The two terrorists have both been lauded as "heroes" by Palestinian Media Watch. Stronger action by American lawmakers has been urged to curb this trend. See page 7

BDS support: 2 Progressive rabbis cause huge furore

Although our Progressive rabbis bend over backwards to reiterate their support for gay congregants, I am increasingly uncomfortable with their trend politicising their pulpit.

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Cosas students get their wings firmly clipped

Cosas is "extremely angry at Woolworths' pigheaded management", and stressed that their "logic behind the pig head initiative was not against particular people".

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Sevitz leaves UOS after restructuring

The first inclination of changes at the UOS, came last week on the Kashrut-SA Facebook page, on which Sevitz has built a huge following, when he posted a resignation statement.



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Sackstein: SA Jews have become 'slacktavists' instead of 'activists'

How is it that we have a community that has gone from the most politically activist in the past, to the most passive of bystanders today?

6

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8-9

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Darren Sevitz leaves UOS after restructuring

ANT KATZ

The popular executive director of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues (UOS), Darren Sevitz (pictured), is leaving the organisation after 14 years. This has been done “in order to maximise efficiencies and improve levels of service delivery to the community”, UOS Chairman Jonathan Levitt told Jewish Report Online on Monday.

The UOS, said Levitt, “has embarked on a strategic restructure” and as part of this restructure, the UOS “decided to replace the position of executive director with two new positions”.

Levitt paid tribute to Sevitz for serving the UOS “with dedication”. Asked if he had anything to add to the UOS statement, Sevitz, would not comment further. Read the full story on our website...

The first inclination that there was going to be changes at the UOS structure, came at 21:09 last Thursday night on the Kashrut-SA Facebook page, on which Sevitz has built a huge following, when he posted the a statement of his resignation:

“After having had the privilege and honour to serve as the executive director of the UOS for more than 14 years, I will be leaving the organi-

sation at the end of November.”

Sevitz told SAJR the following day that “because there was a lot of chatter” on the Facebook page, he felt he had to say something.

“I would like to thank the organisation, its member shuls and our special SA Jewish community, for the wonderful years of partnership and support,” he wrote. “I wish the UOS the greatest success with its future endeavours on behalf of the SA Jewish community.”

At the request of Jewish Report last week Friday, Levitt prepared a statement over the weekend.

Sevitz said last Friday he had appreciate the sentiments expressed in the online support, because it made him realise the extent to which he had affected people’s lives positively.

The statement by the UOS executive committee, reads:

“In order to maximise efficiencies and improve levels of service delivery to the community, the UOS has embarked on a strategic restructure, which was led by an independent expert consultant.

“As part of this restructure the Executive Council and Management Team decided to replace the position of executive director with two new positions: Head of Finance and Group Services as well as Head of



Kashrut.

“Darren Sevitz has served with dedication as executive director for the past 14 years and although he was offered a senior position in the new structure, he decided instead to leave the organisation in order to pursue new opportunities.

“The UOS Executive Council and Management Team acknowledge Darren’s years of loyal service as well

as the many wonderful contributions he has made to the success of the organisation during his tenure.

“We wish him great success in his new endeavours.

“Plans are in place to manage the organisation in the transition until the new positions have been filled by candidates of excellence.

“We are confident that the restructure will significantly enhance

the operational capabilities of the UOS and its service to the South African Jewish community.”

The statement is signed by Levitt, “on behalf of the Executive Committee”.

Sevitz would not add to his original statement.

During a recent interview Sevitz told SAJR that the Kashrut-SA Facebook Group had grown to over 3 500 members and continued to grow daily. On an average day, said Sevitz at the time, he would field anything from 20 to 50 questions - excluding around 10 private messages per day.

He pointed out, however, that the Facebook Group was seasonal. “When it comes to Pesach and December when people are in unfamiliar territory”, there was a huge uptick in numbers. Also, when new products were launched, the Facebook page saw more activity.

Sevitz said he had always prided himself on answering questions in less than five minutes. “If it takes more time, I am either in a meeting or I had to research the answer,” he added.

• *The Sevitz story on our website elicited dozens of comments of support within 24 hours – and climbing. See www.sajr.co.za*

Living a truly good life



Rabbi Shmuel Bloch
Director of Programming
at Arachim SA

A good life. It is something we all want and intrinsically desire. As parents we do everything and anything to ensure that our children lead a good life.

Transitioning from children to adults, we base most of our major life decisions on one consideration: will my choices cause me to have a good life or not? We are constantly seeking and searching for the means to guarantee that we live a good life.

When we reflect deeply and contemplate life itself, we realise how precious life is and we understand that we do not want to look back thinking that our life was anything but good. We all appreciate and recognise that our goal

of living a good life is possible and attainable. However, it requires toil and effort on our part to get there.

This week’s parsha discusses the death of Sarah and Avraham’s determined efforts to have her buried in Maaras Hamachpelah, the cave of Machpelah, in Chevron.

“Sarah’s lifetime was one hundred years, twenty years and seven years; the years of Sarah’s life” (Genesis chapter 23 verse 1). Rashi (1040 - 1105) explains that the last phrase in the first verse “the years of Sarah’s life” is coming to teach us that all the years of Sarah’s life were good.

However, Rabbi Zelig Pliskin raises a very perplexing question: How are we to understand that Sarah’s life was good? Even a cursory reading of the book of Bereishis shows that Sarah’s life was filled with ordeals and difficulties!

She was childless for so many years. She experienced famine and exile. She was abducted by Pharaoh in Egypt and later by Avimelech.

Despite all that happened to her, Rashi clearly states all of her years were equally good. How can we make sense of Rashi’s words?

Rabbi Pliskin answers by quoting the great Chasidic Rebbe, Rabbi Zushia of Anipoli (18th century) who explains that Sarah mastered the attribute of constantly saying “Gam Zu LeTovah” which translates in English as: “This too is for the good.”

This phrase is attributed to a sage in the Talmud, Nachum Ish Gamzu. Whatever circumstances befell him, he would recognise it as coming from Hashem and always see the good in it.

Nachum Ish Gamzu provided a model for us to follow to generate a perspective that everything in life happens for a reason and that Hashem only ever causes things to happen for our benefit.

It is critical to note that the phrase “this too is for the good”, does not explain why things happen or take the pain away in difficult circumstances. Rather, it is a tool to put events in their

correct perspective and get on with the business of living life.

Sarah lived with the perspective that her difficulties will not define and shape her life. She overcame and surmounted them by seeing the good in every situation and seeing G-d’s care and love at every step of the way. Living with such clear vision she truly did have a good life.

Try say “Gam Zu Letovah” - “this too is for the good”, once a day and you too will come to realise how good your life really is.

| Shabbat Times | | |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Parshat Chayei Sarah | | |
| November 14 / 21 Cheshvan | | |
| November 15/22 Cheshvan | | |
| 18:15 | 19:07 | Johannesburg |
| 18:15 | 20:04 | Cape Town |
| 18:10 | 19:04 | Durban |
| 18:15 | 19:21 | Bloemfontein |
| 18:15 | 19:35 | Port Elizabeth |
| 18:15 | 19:23 | East London |

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BDS support: Two Progressive rabbis cause a huge furore



Dan Brotman



Sa'ar Shaked



Greg Alexander

ANT KATZ

Rabbi Sa'ar Shaked of the Beit Emanuel Progressive Shul in Killarney, Johannesburg, addressed an approving letter last week to Jewish Voices for Just Peace (JVJP), a group who “actively promote BDS”, while Cape Progressive Rabbi Greg Alexander, who as chairman of the SA Association of Progressive Rabbis, prior to this, together with JVJP, attended an event with Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

Dan Brotman, a congregant of Rabbi Shaked, maintains the two rabbis are “dishonouring the Progressive movement’s respect for diversity (by) using their pulpits to openly affiliate with one political viewpoint on such a divisive issue”.

In his letter to JVJP, Rabbi Shaked gave his “wholehearted blessing” to the JVJP’s Breaking Down The Wall event at Constitution Hill in Johannesburg. “A pattern of public activity is starting to be revealed,” wrote Shaked. “This is very encouraging indeed.”

But Rabbis Shaked and Alexander have caused an outcry by associating themselves publically with BDS, from people who believe politics should not be played from the pulpit.

The recently-appointed national chairman of the SAUPJ, Alvin Kushner, told Jewish Report Wednesday afternoon that “the SAUPJ is unequivocally opposed to the BDS movement, whose commitment and aim is the destruction of the Jewish State”. The SAUPJ, said Kushner, “therefore distances itself from any activity by any members of our community that gives any support and credibility to the BDS movement.”

However, Rabbi Alexander issued a contrasting statement to SAJR Wednesday afternoon, saying unequivocally that the SAUPJ and the SAAPR “do not have a political position on Israel.

“We are a religious movement and do have a religious stance on Israel,” he said, “which is to push with all our resources for a time that Israel can truly fulfil the prophetic vision: ‘I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying’.” (Isaiah 65)

He said they encouraged SA Jewry to listen to all voices and to bring them into the mainstream “to foster debate and discussion on positive pathways forward”.

In an apparent reference to himself and Rabbi Shaked, Alexander told Jewish Report that “two of our rabbis recently engaged” with Jewish Voices for Peace to encourage dialogue and debate. “We do not endorse all the goals of any single organisation.”

Jewish Report is reliably informed that Rabbi Alexander had to explain his decision to participate in the public meeting of mainly anti-Israel and BDS campaigners to the Cape Progressive leadership and that the matter was raised at a Cape regional meeting last week.

Brotman, who now resides in Johannesburg, is a long-standing Jewish communal worker. He wrote a letter to the Jewish Report in his personal capacity:

“As a gay Jewish man, one of the reasons why I joined a Progressive synagogue was due to its full inclusion of LGBTI individuals and the movement’s respect for all forms of diversity. Members of the Progressive movement are diverse not only in terms of age, race and sexual orientation, but we are also diverse in terms of our views on Zionism and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

“Although our Progressive rabbis bend over backwards to reiterate their support for LGBTI members, I have become increasingly uncomfortable with a recent trend among Progressive rabbis of politicising their pulpit on the Israel/Palestine issue.

“I was distressed to learn that two rabbis, one in Cape Town and one in Johannesburg, recently publicly associated themselves with groups that advocate boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel...

“When I see a rabbi openly associating him or herself with groups that actively promote BDS, it makes me wonder whether those who oppose BDS are welcome within the congregation. I believe that the rabbis concerned are dishonouring the Progressive movement’s respect for diversity, as they are using their pulpit to openly affiliate with one political viewpoint on such a divisive issue.

“...I believe it’s a rabbi’s responsibility to bring together congregants with diverse views...

“I challenge the SA Union of Progressive Judaism to articulate a clear stance on where the movement stands on its support for BDS and whether rabbis are permitted to publicly express their political views, especially on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

Kushner, says that the World Union for Progressive Judaism, to whom the SAUPJ is affiliated, “identifies with and is fully committed to the State of Israel as the democratic state of the Jewish people”.

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Claims Conference

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

ועידת התביעות

ועידת התביעות

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Deadline December 31, 2014

The Claims Conference has established a Late Applicants Fund (“LAF”) of €50 million in order to accept applications from certain heirs of a former Jewish owner (“persecutee”) of property/assets in the former East Germany for which the Claims Conference received proceeds as Successor Organization under the German Property Law of 1990.

The **heirs** of a persecutee who can make application to the LAF are:

- (a) The immediate testamentary heir of the persecutee;
- (b) Children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren of the persecutee;
- (c) Siblings of the persecutee;
- (d) Children of siblings listed under (c);
- (e) Spouses of persons listed under (b), (c) and (d).

The Claims Conference has published on its website, www.claimscon.org, a list of the **properties/assets** received by the Claims Conference as of the date of publication, and such assets for which claims by the Claims Conference are still pending under the German Property Restitution Law, including the name of the former owners and/or businesses, as well as the addresses of the properties/assets.

Applications can be filed directly with the Claims Conference for no fee. There is no need for applicants to pay a fee to any party. **The LAF will accept applications through December 31, 2014.**

The detailed rules of the LAF, applications, and other information are also on the Claims Conference website, www.claimscon.org.

All applications and communications regarding the Late Applicants Fund must be submitted to:

Claims Conference Successor Organization, Sophienstrasse 26, D-60487 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Fax: +49-69-97-07-08-11. Email: claims-conference-laf@claimscon.org

After the application deadline, the Claims Conference shall determine the payment that each eligible heir will receive. This determination will be based on a number of factors detailed on the Claims Conference website.

To aid applicants who do not have complete information, the Claims Conference has a Department for Property Identification. If you believe that you or your relatives may have owned Jewish property in the former East Germany, please include as much information as possible in your application and the Department will endeavor to identify such property. Please write to the above address. There is no charge for this service as well.

The Claims Conference has an Ombudsman. To contact the Office of the Ombudsman, please email Ombudsman@claimscon.org or write to The Ombudsman, PO Box 585, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113, USA

Jerusalem terror attack ‘result of Abbas’ incitement’

JERUSALEM - Following last week Wednesday’s terrorist attack near Jerusalem’s Shimon Hatzadik light rail station, in which a Border Police superintendent and a yeshiva student were killed and another 12 people were injured, several Israeli politicians have strongly denounced Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas for what they have called his incitement against Israel.

“This attack was the direct result of the incitement of Abbas and his Hamas partners,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. “This front of hate wants to run over all of us. Peace will come when Abbas stops calling Jews ‘defilers’ and he stops embracing murderers.”

Defence Minister Moshe Ya’alon said: “The rhetoric of incitement of Abbas - who, with one hand, spreads hatred and lies against the State of Israel and, with the other, glorifies and exalts Palestinian terrorists who attack Jews - is responsible for the bloodshed in Jerusalem.”

In a letter to foreign ministers around the world, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman also slammed Abbas’ incitement.

“The Palestinian leadership needs to be held accountable for glorifying terrorists and murderers to ensure that its conduct is in accordance with accepted international norms,” Lieberman wrote. “A society in which cold-blooded murder is revered by the head of state is not one that can be expected to pursue peaceful coexistence. Such a ‘terrorocracy’ can lead only to increased conflict and bloodshed.” (JNS.org)

Only on the Web this week

Just some of the stories only to be found on our website this week:

NEWS:
UOS’ Sevitz leaves: Story becomes 3rd top read in just over 12 hours, dozens of users speak out, but Sevitz calls for calm
Progressives in a flap: Tumult as two rabbis show support for BDS
Israel: Emmarentia girl a victim of Jerusalem attacks; We won’t give up Jerusalem, Prosor tells UN; Bibi: We nearly missed anniversary of Balfour Declaration
Community: Six new scholarships up for grabs from SAJR and Burning Bush
Woolies and the pigs: Cosas has its wings clipped; two new blogs; ANC and ACDP chastise students



BLOGGERS:

- Rolene blogs: This BDS piggy went to market
- Ant blogs: Cosas puts their feet in the pigsty...
- Bev Blogs: 11 top Zionist reads of the week
- Shaw blogs: On Meeting Kenneth Meshoe
- Ostroff: The Lancet brouhaha & scientific integrity;
- Bev Goldman’s picks of top Zionism reads

WHACKY JEWISH WORLD: The Magen David Car; and Frummes drink too much to drive on Shabbos

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Kids got a healthy bite of this Apple

ROBYN SASSEN

Last week, at the dignified environs of St Mary’s School in Waverley, Johannesburg, the relationship between Apple and the classroom were celebrated. Mooted Apple in Education, the competition, now in its sixth year, recognises and awards learners and their teachers who have created innovative projects using Apple technology.

According to a media release, this year’s competition was fuelled by entries from 72 private, government, township and rural schools from nine provinces. In all, 562 projects were received from learners in grades 1 to 12.

Featuring themes Shape of My World; Exploring the Sciences in Everyday Life; Bringing to Life Your Favourite Historical Figure; Expression Through the Arts; and categories embracing all ages including one for the teachers, the sky was the limit for the projects created with apps and utilities like iLife, iMovie and GarageBand.

Michelle Lisssoos, managing director of Think Ahead, organisers of the competition, and a division of Core Group said: “The Apple in Education competition gives learners and teach-

ers the opportunity to showcase how Apple technology has enhanced their learning and teaching, and the difference it has made in their classrooms. Schools that use Apple technology already see teaching and learning in an entirely new way.”

While Parklands College distinguished itself with winners in several categories, including iTeacher of the year which went to Anthony Peters, winners from the Jewish community were: Redhill’s Liora Kaplan (grades 1-4) and Yeshiva College’s Liat Shear (grades 5-8) and Moran Katz (teacher) in the theme Shape of My World.

In the Sciences in Everyday Life theme, King David Victory Park’s Rachel Edelstein and Loren Kramer (grades 5-8) were honoured with their teacher, Yael Gordon, who was also acknowledged in the same age category in the theme Bringing to Life Your Favourite Figure where Tyra Parsons won.

King David Sandton came up trumps in the Expression Through the Arts category, where Reuven Kaplan (grades 1-4) and his teacher Nikki Heyman, won, and in the grades 9-12 category, King David Victory Park’s Gabriella Nutter and Loren page and their teacher Sue Heydenrych walked away with top merits.

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News

Cosas students get wings clipped

ANT KATZ

An ongoing balegan caused by the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) in the Western Cape placing a pig’s head in a Woolworths store, has led to BDS, the ANC and others dissociating themselves from the student organisation and the SAJBD laying hate speech charges with the SAHRC. In light of this, a high level delegation from BDS-SA met with the leadership of the Western Cape branch of Cosas last week. The meeting was facilitated by the Western Cape branch of the ANC Youth League.

Following this meeting and intervention by BDS-SA, Cosas Western Cape “has resolved to suspend the placing of pigs in various Woolworths stores, but will continue advancing the #BoycottWoolworths campaign”, said Cosas in a media release.



The students noted that they were also “adamant that we might reactivate the pigs head initiative if the bosses of Woolworths don’t end their relations with Israel”.

In a joint media release, BDS-SA, ANCYL-WC and Cosas-WC, said it was noted by the Cosas-WC provincial executive committee that “the #BoycottWoolworths Cosas pig head initiative was militant, radical and that Cosas-WC does not believe that the media fairly covered their actions”.

Cosas is also “extremely angry at the attitude of the pigheaded Woolworths management”, and stressed that that their “logic behind the pig head initiative was not against particular people”, but rather an initiative against Woolworths.

While the students insisted that they are an autonomous organisation, they expressed “huge

respect” for ANCYL and BDS-SA. Their efforts, said the students, were motivated by “revolutionary love for Palestine”.

Out of “respect for BDS-SA”, said Cosas, it would postpone its “Woolworths pig heads initiative”, but reserved the right to resume it if Woolworths did not withdraw its trade from Israel. “This will be evaluated on November 26 at the upcoming Woolworths AGM,” Cosas said, adding that it intended to “mobilise Cosas masses to support a protest” outside the AGM.

The students insisted that they remained “unapologetic but disciplined” in their activism and campaign “against the Woolworths pigheaded management”.

The BDS-SA delegation said they “recognised that the Cosas pig head initiative was intended to support the #BoycottWoolworths campaign”, but they felt concerned about “the pig head initiative” and viewed it as troublesome and said it was “threatening to marginalise supporters of the #BoycottWoolworths campaign”.

BDS also noted that that the students had helped place great pressure on Woolworths which, said BDS, “seems to (be) squirming under pressure”. But, added BDS, “the pig head initiative should be stopped” and “other militant, but less offensive ways of supporting the #BoycottWoolworths campaign” could be pursued.

BDS-SA said it remained “hopeful that a major shareholder in Woolworths, the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) would meet with BDS-SA and support the call for Woolworths to end its trading with Israel”.

• Much more on sajr.co.za

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Arts philanthropist Ginsberg honoured by Inyathelo

ROBYN SASSEN

“Artists need help in the form of things like bursaries and residencies, which are easily available in many countries of the world, but very meagre in South Africa,” says art collector Jack Ginsberg, this year’s winner of a Philanthropy in the Arts Award, granted by Inyathelo, the SA Institute for Advancement.

“I have sat on a few boards who give money away, which is great. Giving other people’s money away especially is good fun,” he laughs. “But I always say to them, don’t be a Philistine. Just allocate five per cent to the arts. And they often do that.”

Ginsberg is an accountant by profession, but has been collecting art for nearly 45 years; he has amassed arguably the finest collection of artists books in Africa.

“The nice thing is that if you are a patron



Jack Ginsberg (left) with artist Willem Boshoff, and Boshoff’s work *Druid’s Table*, in the Wits Art Museum collection.

of the arts, you can channel your patronage into your favourite thing. So, 18 years ago, I started my own foundation: the Ampersand Foundation.

“The idea was to send SA artists to New York really to experience the art there. There’s no requirement for the bursary: it’s a gift. We’ve had about 130 residencies to date in the 18 years.” The fellowship comprises a funded two-month residency at the Ampersand apartment in New York, which is owned by Ginsberg and his foundation.

“SA artists at this distance from the major

“SA artists at this distance from the major centres of art are inclined to underestimate their worth...”

centres of art are inclined to underestimate their worth and it’s only when they are exposed to other artists that they realise how good they are.”

But Ginsberg’s philanthropic contribution to the arts is not only about New York. While he helps fund the Artist Proof Studio in Newtown Johannesburg, he also enjoys an abiding interest in Wits Art Museum:

“I have been interested in the Wits Art Galleries, as they were called, for many years. Then the university underwent changes and the gallery was relegated to a dusty basement. We managed to raise something like R50 million to rebuild it. It is wonderful to walk around, so many years later, and see exactly what has happened.

“My role at Wits Art Museum (WAM) is now in raising funds, creating a small endowment fund of my own from which they will be able to buy art, and of course, giving art. And I enjoy it extraordinarily.”

Ginsberg joins the ranks of winners like Jabulani Ncubuka who has been proac-

tive in chess development projects, Gayle McWalter and Gahlia Brognieri who co-founded the Adonia Musati Project for Refugees and Paul Bruns who steers the Hlumelelisa project for convicted offenders, among others.

Inyathelo, in existence in celebrating achievement in South Africa for eight years describes its mission as “to acknowledge, celebrate and honour this choice of personal giving as contribute towards sustainable social change in our country”.

The awards ceremony took place at the Zip Zap Circus Dome in Cape Town on November 6.



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Torah Academy Girls’ High School is looking for the following teachers to start in January 2015:

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south african
Jewish Report
**The minefield
of pulpit politics**

Should a synagogue be for Jewish worship alone? Or also for politics? Can one separate them?

The killing in Gush Etzion this week by a Palestinian affiliated with Islamic Jihad, of Israeli woman Dalya Lemkus, whose parents made aliyah three decades ago, raises not just sorrow for her and her family, but also political questions about Israel and Palestine.

Lemkus was a resident of the West Bank settlement of Tekoa. Telfed - the SAZF's Tel Aviv branch - was represented by its CEO at her funeral.

In the period when the Lemkus family left South Africa along with many other Jews - in the mid-1980s - South Africa was in the grip of a desperate attempt by the apartheid regime to control the country and suppress all dissent. The outlook seemed bleak and likely to end in a racial bloodbath. In June 1986 a state of emergency was in place with security forces patrolling black townships.

Not only Jews - many of whom went to Israel as passionate Zionists - but other whites as well, were seeking alternative places to live. Australia, Canada, the UK, the United States - any Western country which would take them.

Israel was seen at the time as having a reasonable chance of solving its conflict with the Palestinians and was not yet viewed as the "bad-boy" by the international community to the extent it is now.

Fast forward to today: Israel is mired in what increasingly looks like the beginning of a third Palestinian intifada; peace prospects are receding further and further. Lone terrorists attack Israeli civilians on the streets of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and elsewhere - like the one who killed Dalya Lemkus.

The security establishment is warning of violence spiralling out of control.

In South Africa, by contrast, we have defied the pessimists. We are a democracy with a good chance of a bright future, notwithstanding our problems.

Something else has also changed in South Africa, particularly in Jewish community attitudes towards Israel. When people like the Lemkus family went on aliyah, South African Jews viewed Israel in fairly similar ways.

The gap between the right and left was not so wide. Many saw Israel as a "David" standing up against a "Goliath", and believed that if it persevered, sanity would ultimately prevail between Israelis and Palestinians and peace would be achieved. And from a religious point of view, what was said in most synagogues regarding Israel, was not that different to the views of the moderate mainstream.

Today there is a new scenario, with separate religious factions and their shuls openly taking specific political stances about Israeli politics, ranging from the far left to the far right.

The latest example involves Temple Emanuel, the flagship synagogue in Johannesburg of the Progressive movement, which is causing dissension among its members. Its rabbi, Sa'ar Shaked, last week put out a statement on the synagogue's letterhead supporting the Jewish group Jewish Voices for a Just Peace (JVJP), which is politically far to the left of mainstream SA Jewry.

His statement congratulated them on the "Breaking down the wall" event held recently at Constitution Hill in Johannesburg and invoked the legacy of Madiba in seeking peace. And recently, Progressive Rabbi Greg Alexander from Cape Town attended an event with Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, evoking questions among Progressive members about whether he did so officially or in his private capacity. Both events painted Israeli actions as a key obstacle to peace with the Palestinians.

Should a synagogue take such a clear public position on Israeli politics and risk alienating members and potential members whose politics may differ? Does the synagogue view the killing of Dalya Lemkus as a consequence of Israeli intransigence and West Bank settlements? Or an example of inherent Palestinian violence towards innocent Israelis?

If the Progressive movement wants to attract mainstream Jews in terms of attitudes to Israel and not just be a place for Jews far to the left of the mainstream, it needs to think clearly about whether it is primarily a place of worship or politics.

– Geoff Sifrin, Editor



A scene from Johannesburg Jewry, 2005. Photo by Geoff Sifrin.

SA Jews have become ‘slacktavists’ instead of ‘activists’

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Where have all the Jewish activists and politicians gone? Why have the community become “slacktavists” instead of “activists”? Our parliament has become virtually “Judenfrei”... In a hard-hitting critique of Jewish apathy in general, HOWARD SACKSTEIN (pictured inset), moderating a panel discussion at the SA Board of Deputies conference in Cape Town recently, appealed to the community not to choose complacency, but to choose life.

“How is it that we have a community that has gone from the most activist to the most passive of observers?” he asked.

Going down the path of history, he recalled that when the security police raided Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia to arrest the leadership of Umkhonto we Sizwe, it was the home of Arthur Goldreich “and the arrest sheet read like a shul minyan: Goldberg, Goldreich, Wolpe, Bernstein...

“When the roll-call of heroes of the Struggle is read, it includes names like Joe Slovo and Ruth First.”

The history of the trade union movement in South Africa is replete with names such as Solly Sachs, father of Albie Sachs.

When the ANC claimed responsibility in the 1960s for the sabotage of power lines and infrastructure, it was “a bunch of Jews” under the auspices of the African Resistance Movement and when John Harris exploded his bomb in Johannesburg's Park Station, the explosives had been given to him by the head of Betar South Africa.

“Wherever you look in the history of activism in this country, you see Jews - you see Helen Suzman and you see Harry Schwarz who loomed large... It was Isie Maisels, chairman of the SAJBD who remained a stalwart of the Mandela defence team.

“When Mandela wanted to give assurances to the Jewish community upon his release from jail and after he had hugged Yasser Arafat, he called Helen Suzman and Isie Maisels to his hospital bed where he was recovering from eye surgery to pass on his commitment to us, his fellow countrymen.”

When the Constitutional Court was formed, its first chief justice was Arthur Chaskalson, with other prominent Jews on it being Richard Goldstone and Albie Sachs. “Today there is none of our tribe on the court in a legal profession still disproportionately represented by Jews.”

Where have they all gone? Sackstein asks rhetorically. Why is the political establishment almost Judenfrei?

“Today there is not a single Jews in parliament in the ANC

camp - the first time in 20 years. There is no Andrew Feinstein, or Ben Turok or Joe Slovo or even Ronnie Kasrils.”

Within the opposition DA “we do have two and maybe two and a half Jews - Michael Bagraim, Darren Bergman and the newly discovered Glynnis Breytenbach”.

Why have Jews abandoned politics? “And of those Jews who remain active within the NGO world or the political world, why do they have such a strained relationship to our community? Why do they feel so alienated, why do they feel so pushed away and why do they continually try to wreak revenge against us by expressing views against our community and Israel which are often radically biased and potentially designed only to try to build their credibility within the broad left of the NGO world?

Sackstein wanted to know why “those Jews who remain ac-

tive in our community, why is it that they often remain only active in Jewish affairs and Israeli affairs, but avoid the rest of South Africa with our myriad problems”?

Today, he said, politics had become “a money grabbing

orgy of corruption, self-aggrandisement and kleptocracy - who wants to be part of that”?

And also in South Africa we live in two worlds. “For many of us government is now irrelevant; we have succeeded in making government irrelevant in our lives and we reluctantly pay our taxes, expecting them to get misspent and stolen and we get on with our lives oblivious to the decay around us.

“We think we are activists; and we gather over Shabbos dinner - we fight, we debate, we think we've done something when we sign an online petition or when we post a message to our friends and family on Facebook or we forward an e-mail.

“We comfort ourselves and think we are activists but we are slacktavists!”

The Jewish community paid a price for its lack of involvement:

- When the ANC compares Israel to Nazis
- When ANC party workers proclaim Hitler to be right
- When (ANC General Secretary) Gwede Mantashe proclaims the illegitimacy of the right of Israel to exist
- When Tony Ehrenreich of the ANC in the Western Cape calls for Jews to be expelled from South Africa

“We pay a heavy price for our isolation. We have a choice: We can sit quietly here in a room and accept the rise of bigoted racism or we can stand up.”

Sackstein emphasised: “Don't choose survival, don't choose existence, don't choose complacency. Choose life. Stand up, engage with your community. Be counted. Choose life!”



Helen Suzman



Ruth First



Joe Slovo

What to do about car terrorism

**STEPHEN M FLATOW/JNS.ORG
NEW YORK**

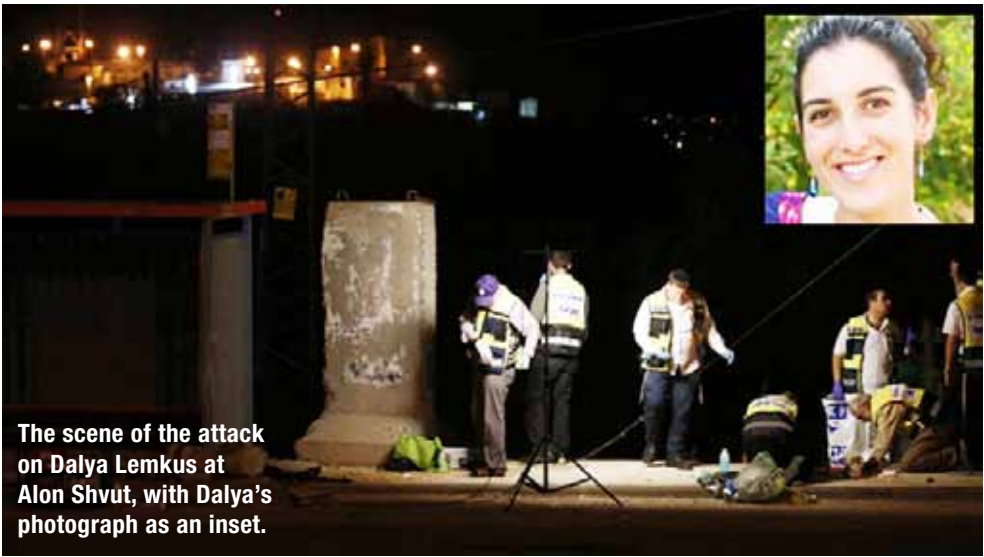
As I prepare for an upcoming visit to Israel, I can't help but feel a twinge of apprehension. How could it be otherwise? The recent vehicular terrorist attacks in Jerusalem inevitably make every visitor to the city wonder who will be the next victim.

On October 22, a Palestinian terrorist rammed his car into a crowd at a Jerusalem light rail station, murdering two people, one of them a three-month-old baby. On November 5, another terrorist used his van as a weapon against pedestrians at another light rail station in the Israeli capital, killing two people and injuring a dozen others.

The seeming randomness of the attacks is particularly terrifying - exactly as the killers intend. The attacker doesn't need any bomb-making skills or expertise as a sniper. He doesn't have to elude security checkpoints or Israeli army patrols. All he has to do is get in his car and step on the gas. He can strike anywhere, any time.

And yet if you walk down any street in Jerusalem this morning, you will see Israelis going about their daily lives as they always do. They don't seem especially worried. They're not going to stop taking the train. They know that a crowd at a bus stop or outside a movie theatre or on a corner waiting for the green walk signal could be targets too.

Life has to go on. Israelis don't worry because they have no choice. Visitors worry because they do. They can and will soon return to their home countries, where standing on a street corner is not a life-endangering action. That is a difference between the lives of Americans and



The scene of the attack on Dاليا Lemkus at Alon Shvut, with Dاليا's photograph as an inset.

Israelis that can't be bridged. Yet there is another, and very important, difference. The average Israeli can't do much about Palestinian terrorism. But the average American Jew can. Israelis have little choice but to rely on the police and the army to continue doing everything possible to pre-empt the terrorists in their ongoing genocidal war against them. American Jews, however, have the ability to take political action that could make a real difference in the fight against Palestinian terrorism. Let us recognise that "car terrorists" do not simply appear out of nowhere. Abdel Rahman al-Shaludi, who carried out the October 22 attack, had twice served time in prison for terrorist activities. His uncle, Mohiyedine Sharif, was a senior Palestinian terrorist who was killed in an intra-Arab feud in 1998. Ibrahim al-Akari, who perpetrated the November 5 attack, was the brother of Musa al-

Akari, who was convicted in the kidnap-murder of an Israeli border policeman and was freed in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange. Al-Shaludi and al-Akari are the products of a society, and a culture, in which murdering Jews - whether by bomb, knife, or car - is praised and rewarded. What influenced Abdel Rahman al-Shaludi and Ibrahim Akari to become "car terrorists"? One source was the Palestinian Authority's leadership and social media. Exhibit A: Sultan al-Einen. He's a senior adviser to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and a member of the Central Committee of Fatah, which is the largest faction of the PLO (the PA's parent body) and is also chaired by Abbas. Palestinian Media Watch has compiled a long list of statements by Einen praising terrorists. But the one that attracted the most attention was his public praise, in May 2013, of a terrorist

who stabbed to death an Israeli father of five. Einen said the killer was a "heroic fighter" and called for "blessings to the breast that nursed him". In response, five members of Congress - Republican Ed Royce (California) and Democrats Eliot Engel (New York), Nita Lowey (New York), Ted Deutch (Florida), and Brad Sherman (California) - wrote to Abbas, demanding that he fire Einen. Abbas ignored the letter. After the car attack by al-Shaludi two weeks ago, Einen publicly hailed him as a "heroic martyr" and charged that Israel "murdered him in cold blood". Fatah's Facebook page is replete with cartoons extolling "car terrorism" and urging viewers to "Hit the gas at 199 [km/h] for Al-Aqsa". Now is the time for American Jews to ask those five members of Congress to take action - not just another letter that Abbas will ignore, but the imposition of penalties that Abbas cannot ignore. Here's one idea: from now on, deduct the cost of medical treatment for victims of Palestinian terrorism from the \$500 million that the US gives the Palestinian Authority each year. Make them pay for the damage they cause. There are many other ways in which American Jews, working closely with friends in Congress, can force Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian Authority to stop praising and glorifying terrorists. That would be the first, important step in the process of changing the culture in Palestinian villages that is raising children to become "car terrorists".

Stephen M Flatow is a New Jersey attorney whose daughter Alisa was murdered in a 1995 bus bombing by the Palestinian terrorist group Islamic Jihad.

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Through the Detainees Memorial, Mauritian Jewish presence will live on

ROBYN SASSEN

Fondly and widely known as the Travelling Rabbi, Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft needs no formal introduction. In his capacity as CEO and spiritual leader of the African Jewish Congress he was among the key motivators in the establishment of a museum celebrating the brief episode in the history of Mauritian Jewry, launched with high-profiled community and stakeholder support on November 4.

In 1940, some 1 580 Jewish refugees from Nazi-held Europe were desperately trying to emigrate to Palestine, then under the British mandate. When they arrived, after a dangerous and uncomfortable journey, they were interred at Atlit, a town some 20 km south of Haifa.

The British authorities refused to allow them to stay, declaring them illegal immigrants; two weeks later, they deported them to Mauritius - under British rule since 1835 - where they were held as virtual prisoners for the remainder of the Second World War.

During that time SA Jewry, under direction of the SA Board of Jewish Deputies provided them with food, clothing, medicine, religious items and reading material, including copies of the Zionist Record and Yiddish and Hebrew publications.

Sadly 126 of the detainees died in Mauritius and were buried in the local St Martin Jewish Cemetery in an area allocated for Jewish burial. After the war, in 1946, the Jewish Cemetery was handed over by deed of grant to the SAJBD.

In 2011, Rabbi Silberhaft organised and led a solidarity visit to Mauritius during which Mervyn Smith, president of the AJC, suggested that the 190-year-old chapel next to the cemetery be converted into an information centre, depicting and recording this history, because the story should not be forgotten and the local community should understand what transpired in Mauritius in a positive way. “So we embarked on the project,” continues Rabbi Silberhaft. “It took a lot of work, over three years. There were no real challenges in raising this money - which drew mainly from South Africa, Mauritius and elsewhere - it was a joint project between the AJC, the Island Hebrew Congregation and the Honorary Consul for Mauritius in Israel.



Interior of the Beau Bassin Jewish Detainees Memorial & Information Centre.

“Now it’s called the Beau Bassin Jewish Detainees Memorial & Information Centre, beside the St Martin Jewish Cemetery. In it, the history of Mauritian Jewry is depicted in panels - designed by exhibition designer Linda Bester who created the display at the Holocaust Museums in Cape Town and Durban and is now finalising the display at the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre.



The panels document everything from the arrival of the Jews in 1940 until their departure in 1945, showing how resourceful they were in organising their daily lives in nutrition, education, religious and cultural life.

As Mervyn Smith was not able to travel to the recent event, Ann Harris, senior vice-president of the AJC, who in 2011 unveiled a plaque to her late husband, Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris at the Jewish Cemetery, led the delegation of 21 dignitaries.

The assembled guests comprised members of Mauritius’ civic leadership, many friends from the local community and representatives of six media houses.

“We were also accompanied by Mary Kluk, national chairman of the SAJBD, Richard Freedman from the SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation, Tali Nates from the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre and others.



Geff Clency Geffroy and Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft stand next to the “Benediction Plaque” dedicated by Geff Geffroy.

“Among the delegation was Geff Clency Geffroy and his wife, Sharon. Of French descent, Geff was born in Beau Bassin. After settling in South Africa in 1966 and marrying, he converted to Judaism. In 2004 he discovered his maternal grandmother, Lucille Telescourt, née Skydeber, was in fact Jewish.

“Li Boiskin from Cape Town, an executive member of the AJ, was the glue holding this project together on behalf of



Mervyn Smith,” Rabbi Silberhaft added. Most important members of the delegation were Tali Regev and his family and the Borochowitz family. Regev’s father, Dr Aaron Zwergbaum had chaired the camp’s committee and compiled the diary of events during the detention. Regev, who was born in the prison, described growing up in the camp. Diseases like malaria and typhoid took the lives of 126 detainees. “It is hoped this Centre will bring this unique chapter in Jewish history to broader audiences.”

The Borochowitz family was represented by Isaac, his sister Ida Jacobson, and niece Karen Borochowitz. Hella Rypinsk, the mother of Isaac and Ida, had been a teenager in the camp.

Karen described retracing her mother-in-law’s steps - going through the same doorways and walking the same paths - as emotionally overwhelming.

Hella had made a point of never speaking about this period in her life. “Her brother died 21 days after their arrival; her mother died shortly afterwards. Her father went blind in the camp.” After the war Hella was reunited with relatives in Cape Town.

Remarking on the presence of SA Jewry in the detainees’ lives, Karen added: “It is quite amazing how the community, particularly the SAJBD, managed to send hope to these people. In SA today, we don’t know this. It is so important for Diaspora Jews to be involved in these kind of things on each other’s behalf; we don’t always realise how far such support goes”. She was also moved by the involvement of so many non-Jewish Mauritians in the cemetery’s maintenance.



Karen and Isaac Borochowitz and Ida Jacobson of Cape Town standing at the grave of their uncle who is buried in the ST Martin Jewish Cemetery.

Rabbi Silberhaft described the day’s events as beginning with a visit to the 1888-built prison. “The visit was hosted by the Commissioner of Prisons, Jean Bruneau who screened footage of the inside of the prison where the male detainees were held. Then we visited the Baby S Curpen Cultural Centre in Curepipe, which houses the Amicale Maurice Israel community centre and the synagogue of the Island Hebrew Congregation. Later in the day, the delegation visited the cemetery and attended the Centre’s opening.

Said Owen Griffith, president of the Island Hebrew Congregation: “It is with great pride (and a little relief) that we officially open the Detainee Memorial. It will be an important tool to not only honour the detainees’ memory,





but also to educate Mauritians about this part of the Shoah’s story. With the SAHGF’s assistance, plans are in place to use the Centre educationally.” He thanked Andrew Slome for co-chairing the local committee with him.

Mary Kluk addressed the delegation: “I am enormously proud to represent the SAJBD - the organisation that was the vital connection between the prisoners and the Jewish world and who provided them with support in the form of medicines, provisions and religious items.”

In his message, Michael Freeman, non-resident deputy ambassador of Israel to Mauritius, said the mother of Elyakim Rubinstein, Israel’s chief justice who was in South Africa recently, was one of the nurses Israel sent in 1945 when they were released, to bring them back to Palestine.

Li Boiskin citing the final chapter of child survivor Rachel Springmann-Ribak’s book Sweet Lemons, said: “It was written on this woman’s return to the Island of Mauritius. She was 60 and she gave evocative expression to her deepest and most painful memories of her imprisonment in the Beau Bassin Prison, in a heart-wrenching poem titled ‘Being There.’

“In sharing the poem with the attendees at the official opening, and taking liberties with Rachel’s closing words, she said: ‘I declare the following: to Rachel Springmann-Ribak, child survivor and family; to Tali Regev, child survivor born to detainee parents during their internment; to Isaac Borochowitz and family; to Ida Jacobson and family; to the 126 refugees buried in the St Martin Jewish Cemetery; to all vic-

tims of Nazism, of evil incarnate, the Beau Bassin Memorial and Information Centre honours their memory, their right to freedom and dignity, the hardships endured, their spirit and tenacity to survive against all odds.

“No longer can or will a wall, nor a man, have the power to deny you your freedom, your privacy, your right to life, your right to live with your family in your own home. This is the message of our Centre, now, and for all generations to come.”

The event also featured the launch of the French translation of a book called the Mauritian Shekel by Geneviève Pitot, first published in 1998, recounting this history.

In her address, Ann Harris said: “We commemorate two journeys: One began in 1940 and ended in 1945; the second began three and a half years ago with the idea to establish



Owen Griffiths accompanies Ann Harris to view the exhibition. Gila and Tali Regev are behind them.



Joyous Hachnasat Geffroy Sefer Torah. Owen Griffiths, president of the IHC; Geff Geffroy; Mike Kushner; Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft; and Earle Saks.



Geoff Ramokgadi, head of the Swaziland Jewish community and a vice president of the African Jewish Congress, viewing the exhibition.

the Centre. Please G-d it will continue for years to come to preserve the detainees’ memory and to teach all who visit it the dangers of racism. The coming generations must accept as their responsibility the preservation and dissemination of the story as part of Holocaust history.”

Reading Mervyn Smith’s greetings, she said: “It falls to me to try to put this special occasion into the context of southern African Jewry. So, I ask you as you view the exhibition to keep some thoughts in mind: Mervyn points out that Mauritius is probably the only place in the southern hemisphere where part of the Shoah was actually played out.

“There are outstanding foundations in South Africa, Australia and some countries of South America which undertake sterling work in both commemoration and in education against racism and genocide. But this is the only place in the southern hemisphere which must always be remembered as a part of Holocaust history.

“That geographical connection was picked up by the SAJBD in the early 1940s. The Board began to understand the enormity of the tragedy unfolding in Europe and did all it could to do to make the lives of the detainees easier.

“And to the AJC, so ably guided by Rabbi Silberhaft: why is this project so important as part of the AJC’s project to keep Jewish life and history alive in parts of the continent where Jewish people could easily be forgotten? In these difficult times, we need to capture and retain the loyalty of every Jew wherever they may be - that is the AJC’s continuing task.”

After the speeches, all gathered at the front of the information centre where the plaque commemorating this historic opening was unveiled by Griffiths and Regev. Its inscription was read by Boiskin. Before Ann Harris officially cut the ribbon declaring the Centre open, Rabbi Silberhaft affixed the mezuzah on the main entrance. Finally the guests attended a reception for which Rabbi Silberhaft had organised kosher food, arranged by Sugar Beach Resort.



Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft affixing a mezuzah to the entrance.



2011: Mervyn Smith, president of the AJC, Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam and Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft.

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

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SOME HOME TRUTHS FOR THE BDS SUPPORTERS

“Deep Fried Friedman” cannot understand that he and his BDS supporters are so reviled by the majority of Jews for their opinions. Let me explain something to him.

He was not yet born when, before we had the State of Israel, we had pogroms in the 1920s and 1930s, where hundreds of Jews were murdered, because they were Jews.

He was not yet around when the Jewish refugees, trying to escape the Holocaust, were turned away from every country (there was no Israel then), only to be sent back to Europe to be

murdered by the Nazis.

He did not have to undergo the anti-Semitism of the old days where we were called bloody Jew every day at school. Nor did he have the pleasure and joy and pride of seeing the Israeli army drive back the armies of five Arab countries attacking it, nor the pride of having our Israel win one war after another against impossible odds.

He did not see the complete change of attitude after the State of Israel was declared.

He obviously feels that Israel has “usurped” land from the Palestinians; there were no Pales-

tinians before 1948.

Even if he does not believe in the story of Abraham in which G-d promised this land to the Jews, can he deny that this whole land, Judea and Samaria, was settled by the Jews thousands of years ago?

Can he deny that King David built his capital city in Jerusalem and that Solomon built his Temple in Jerusalem? Jerusalem has always been the Jewish capital. Why then should Israel have to ask Obama and the United Nations for permission to build houses there?

Every country has at one time or another been occupied. Australia stole the land from the Aborigines, South Africa from the Khoi, America from the indigenous peoples, and so on. How far must we go back for the Jews to own this land. It was fought for and won in a legitimate war thrust upon it by the Arabs.

When it comes to the children killed during the Gaza war, also thrust upon Israel by Hamas, who should be blamed for this terrible tragedy? Did Hamas not send thousands of rockets into Israel before she retaliated?

It’s very admirable for these anti-Israel activists to sympathise with the tragic loss of Arab life, but do they mourn for the hundreds of children and babies murdered by the Palestinian suicide bombers?

These BDS supporters are so indoctrinated with Palestinian propaganda and lies that they are prepared to give up their heritage and turn against their brothers and sisters.

BDS supporters are entitled to their opinion, but let them not expect the Jewish community to respect them or accept them.

**Maurice Sackstein
Melrose, Johannesburg**

ISRAEL IS NOT EXERCISING ITS POWER FOR PEACE

The call of the South African Jewish Voices for a Just Peace is for Israel to end the occupation and enter into genuine negotiation for a just peace. Some 105 former generals, retired commanders, police officers and Mossad chiefs have joined the call for Israel to negotiate in good faith .

Former President Shimon Peres made a similar appeal last week, saying: “It’s a shame that the only peace initiative was an Arab initiative. Where is the Israeli peace initiative?”

The tit-for-tat about who has killed more people, when and where, referred to in Gary Selikow’s letter in last week’s Jewish Report, is reprehensible. It is unacceptable that anybody dies or is killed, especially civilians.

As we experienced in South Africa, a true negotiation is possible. The consequences are unimaginable if FW de Klerk did not lead his government into negotiations. There was tremendous fear among white people at that time - remember how people stocked up with food?

We are currently seeing the horrors of the consequences of (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu not leading his government into negotiations. Instead, he obstructs peace by entrenching the occupation with land grabs, displacing people from their homes, building in occupied Jerusalem territory and not lifting the blockade on Gaza.

Nobody is saying that the situation is not complex. But Israel has the military and economic power to pursue negotiations for a just peace. And they are not exercising their power in that direction.

**Leonard Shapiro; Rina King;
Jessica Sherman
SA Jewish Voices for a Just Peace**

Looking for Rav Berland contact

Wayne Blumenau is looking “for a way to contact a follower of Rabbi Eliezer Berland. I am not wishing to speak to or correspond with the Rabbi, just one of his contacts I am particularly looking for a Rabbi Gabriel Pilo.”

Blumenau may be contacted on (011) 402-5150.



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Illustration purposes only | Photo of the Show Apartment



Bridal supplement

Wedding checklist - it's a definite must!

After the initial ecstasy of announcing the engagement, the bride-to-be soon realises that an actual wedding now needs to be planned. More often than not, with working moms and busy friends, the organising of the wedding falls to the bride.

As daunting as this sounds, it is actually a wonderful exercise in independence - and a crash course in event management - which can open up a whole new career path should you find the experience pleasant.

The following checklist is intended as a guide only and it would be wise to remember that each item entails an entire checklist of its own. Try to delegate as much as you can to responsible friends and family.

As soon as possible:

1. Choose a date - this might depend on when overseas friends and family are able to get tickets. It also depends on the availability of your wedding venue of choice.
2. Book the hall and secure booking shortly after-

- wards by paying the deposit.
3. Choose the rabbi (and shul) where you would like to have the chuppah.
4. Select someone who will do the invitations. These must ideally go out about six weeks in advance. You will also need to get quotes on thank you cards, table cards, and table lists. Your registry, if you want one, needs to be mentioned in the invitation, which will entail selecting the store(s) and choosing a gift selection.
5. Book a photographer.

6. Book someone to take a video.
7. Choose a florist. You will need flowers for the reception, the chuppah, the bridal bouquet, bridesmaids and possibly the male retinue.
8. Book the band, both for the chuppah (although many shuls have their own choir) and the reception.
9. Choose your retinue, eg maid of honour, best man, MC, drivers, pole-holders, and let them know if they are to make speeches.

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Zulu Nyala Venues - for that truly unique experience



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>> from page 11

2 - 3 months before

10. Get UOS authorisation. They have a checklist of their own which includes copies of parents' ketubahs and unabridged birth certificates of bride and groom, which may take several weeks to get from Home Affairs. Contact the Beth Din on tel: (010) 214-2600.
11. Arrange Kallah classes (marriage education).
12. Arrange marriage preparation sessions.
13. Find a dress or a dressmaker. Get material for bridesmaids' dresses, find ties and kippot for the pole-holders. Later you should buy small gifts for the retinue. You'll need to look for comfortable shoes for the wedding and jewellery for the day.
14. Meet the caterer - (many halls are contracted to a specific caterer). Choose the menu and pay the Beth Din fee.
15. Order or buy wedding band(s). Many brides buy their groom a tallis, and depending on his custom he will need to get a kittel (white garment worn on wedding day and Yom Kippur).
16. Choose your make-up and hair artists and book beauty treatments and trial dates.
17. Choose a sheitel, buy hats and scarves etc.
18. Order your ketubah.
19. The ANC - Contact an attorney to draw up your ante-nuptial contract.
20. Order benching cards. Also consider having beautiful tefillat haderech cards on the table purchased from the Kallah Fund. The money helps brides less fortunate.
- One month before
21. Meet with your rabbi to go over the ceremony at

- the chuppah.
22. Allocate who will recite the sheva brachot at the chuppah. This is regarded as an honour.
23. Start taking vitamins to ward of colds and flu.
24. Arrange seating plans with the caterer (how many guests per table) and with the person doing your table cards and table lists.
25. Contact friends (who have already offered) who will host sheva brachot. Give them the details of the guests they must invite.
26. Delegate someone to get food for the Yichud room. It is customary to fast on the day of the wedding, so its best to have a light snack before post-chuppah photos commence - and don't take too long with those.
27. If you are going on honeymoon make necessary arrangements.
28. Delegate your retinue to organise the bachelor party, kitchen tea or pamper party etc.

The week before

29. Assuming you've found somewhere to live, move in essential furniture (eg beds) and essential appliances (eg fridge, stove). Toivel items you will be using immediately.
30. Plan Ofruf lunch - this is the Shabbos before the wedding when the groom is called to the Torah.
31. Plan Shabbos Kallah. This is a women-only get-together on the Shabbos before the wedding and helps to bring joy to the bride.
32. Arrange bride's table - usually where the bride gets dressed and has photos.
33. Delegate friends to buy Shtick - fun gimmicky toys to add excitement to the wedding eg bubbles, sparklers etc.
34. Ask someone to make you a Bircat kallah - a prayer sheet that you say shortly before the chuppah with the names of people who need your blessings. Confirm that there will be a bedekin chair at the chuppah to receive guests etc.
35. Make arrangements to go to the mikvah.



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Summer Place is unsurpassed as a venue for conferences, business functions, and events. A professional, yet warm, ambience has been created where the business of business is clearly understood. Together with efficient, versatile room configurations, multimedia technical facilities and business services allow for strategic discussions, key negotiations, private breakaways, or commercial celebrations.

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Situated on the second floor of the Summer House is a beautiful banqueting room which can accommodate 120 people for weddings and private functions of any nature, as well as press conferences, seminars, and workshops. The balcony overlooks our beautiful gardens and famous water feature.

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A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Poignant reminder of
Mauritius' Jewish presence

Last week, as reported in my previous column, I participated in a very moving and uplifting series of events on Mauritius in memory of the more than 1 500 Jewish refugees who were interned on the island during the Second World War.

The main event was the official opening of a memorial centre and exhibition recording that story. We also visited various sites associated with the detainees, including the Beau Bassin Prison where the men were held and the cemetery where 126 of those who died on the island are buried.

Listening to the various speakers, it made me very proud to remember how during those difficult years, the SAJBD provided so vital a source of support and comfort to their incarcerated brethren. Thanks to the Board, the detainees did not feel that they were completely isolated and abandoned but that they were connected to a greater Jewish world that cared about them.

The Board also provided much material support, including siddurim, essential medicines and other provisions. After the war, the Board's connection with Mauritius continued through ensuring the upkeep of the Jewish cemetery, which is today fully restored and beautifully maintained.

What was also a great source of pride to me was learning how the detainees, despite the harshness of their circumstances, were able to foster a sense of community and get on with living, both in a Jewish sense and as normal, civilised people. They established schools and three shuls (they were divided into three main groups, all speaking different languages) and conducted a range of cultural and educational activities.

While men and women were held in separate quarters, a degree of mixing was possible, and a number of marriages took place. One of those who joined us, Tali Regev, was one of 60 children born on the island. Today, he serves as Honorary Consul General for Mauritius in Israel.

In all, the story of the Mauritius detainees testifies both to the resilience of the Jewish people and the solidarity that Jews throughout the world have with one another. In recent weeks, that resilience has again been put to the test with the horrific series of terrorist murders that have taken place in Israel. The situation as I write remains very tense, and we can only pray that the violence will not escalate into something even worse.

Tonight (Tuesday), I will be participating in the final Black-Jewish Entrepreneurs Network (B-JEN) event for this year in Johannesburg. B-JEN, an initiative of the Cape Council of the Board and generously supported in both Cape Town and Johannesburg by Investec, was conceived as a forum through which black and Jewish entrepreneurs could share their experiences and create networking opportunities.

It was introduced with equal success by the Gauteng Council at the beginning of 2014, with this evening's function being the third such event held since the inaugural launch in March. B-JEN has done much to forge bonds of friendship and co-operation between our community and up-and-coming young black entrepreneurs. It is gratifying to see how the Board, while continuing to pursue its primary mandate of upholding the civil rights and safety of South African Jewry, has also been able to involve itself - and therefore the constituency it represents - in meaningful nation-building activities of this nature.

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



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

This column paid for by SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Prestigious award for ORT
SA Cape director

Dr Lydia Abel, ORT SA Cape director, has been awarded the prestigious honour of the "Continental Winner in Education and Training; Private Sector", of CEO Magazine's "Most Influential Women in Business and Government award".

ORT SA said in a media release it accepted the award on behalf of Dr Abel at a gala dinner held at Gallagher Convention Centre, hosted by CEO Communications.

ORT SA Cape moves children from impoverished areas off the streets and into enriching after-school programmes in reading and robotics.

"Kol hakavod Lydia, you are truly a dynamic and inspirational role model," said ORT SA Cape board members and staff.





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What's On

Today, Friday (November 14)

• UZLC hosts Isaac Reznik on “Anno Horibis”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (November 16)

• JH&GC with the Goethe-Institut and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung hosts a talk on “Kristallnacht Commemoration” by historian Prof Ulrich Herbert (Freiburg University, Germany) on “Völkermord und Volksge-meinschaft: The German Society during the Nazi Dictatorship”. Time: 15:30 for 16:00. Venue: Goethe-Institut, Parkwood. Admission free. RSVP to kim.nates@gmail.com or (011) 640-3100/2148.

• Second Innings hosts an outing to the theatre to watch “War Horse” at the Teatro, Montecasino. Time: Show at 18:30; meet the bus at 16:00 at Golden Acres. Cost: R160 per ticket (in the R400 seats); Cost of Bus ride: R90 per person. Enquiries: Ros Berman, (011) 880-6864.

Monday (November 17)

• UJW hosts retired pharmacist Henry Epstein, IT expert and videogra-pher, with Shirley Zar, architect and town planner on “The Amazing Antoni Gaudi, Architect Extraordinaire”, with visuals of his work in Barcelona. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (November 18)

• WIZO Johannesburg invites you to some “Fun and Games in the Garden” after a jam-packed 2014. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R50. Venue details and booking: (011) 645-2515.

Wednesday (November 19)

• Chev Social Services/CAJE’s “Enrich Your Life” series presents “It’s a Wonderful World After All - Building Self-Esteem, Confidence and Resilience” with psychologist Leonard Carr and social worker Arlene Bernstein. Venue: Sydenham Shul Hall. Time: 19:45. Cost: R30 (light refreshments). Booking: Sharon, (011) 532-9616, sharonp@jhbchev.co.za

• Chabad’s Goodness & Kindness Centre presents “The Art of Gratitude: Why Aren’t We Happy With What We Have?” Venue: The Centre. Time: 19:15. Information: (011) 440-6600 or jlr@chabad.org.za

• SAZF Isie Maisels Library is having a book launch, “Black Widow, White Widow: Is Al-Qaida Operating in South Africa?” by De Wet Potgieter. Venue: Beyachad, Roedene. Time: 19:30. Cost R50. Bookings: (011) 645-2531 or e-mail Miriam@beyachad.co.za

• UJW hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Dept of English at Wits, on “Exploring the Wonders of Milton’s ‘Paradise Lost’” part 4. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

Thursday (November 20)

• WIZO invites you to a “Lunch and Learn Shiur” every Thursday with Rabbi Michael Katz. Time: 13:00. Venue: Beyachad. Information: WIZO office (011) 645-2515.

Friday (November 21)

• UZLC hosts Prof. Barry Schoub on “Ebola - Do We Need to be Afraid?” Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

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On your marks, get set... waiting for the “go” from Torah Academy Primary School Principal Rabbi Motti Hadar (pictured), children from the school are about to compete in one of the races at the TAPS annual sports day.

Events included javelin, shot-put, sling throw, long jump and track events.

Of the two houses, Mitzvah and Torah, Mitzvah House won for the first time in over four years.

Victor Ludorum (junior boys) went to Aharon Smith and senior boys to Shneur Uzvolk. Victrix Ludorum went to Rochele Rodel (junior girls) and to Leah Meltzer (senior girls).



Photo: Neville Hopwood

KD schools take Etgar quiz to heart

ROMY MICHELSON,
ETGAR CO-ORDINATOR

On Friday October 24, the King David Schools launched the first-ever Etgar quiz on South African shores. Etgar is a stimulating quiz imported from the UK.

Etgar produce a richly illustrated, highly engaging handbook of Jewish general knowledge. The handbook is given to the children and the material is taught to them over the year. Etgar aims to foster Jewish learning in primary schools by creating an exciting, team-based inter-school quiz competition.

We enjoyed a very vibrant and engaging quiz at the Sandton Shul Hall. The grade 6s from King David Linksfield, Sandton and Victory Park, enjoyed an engaging morning. Lots of fun was had by all; there was a wonderful interschool spirit and a huge amount of Jewish general knowledge was gained!

King David quizzers hard at work.



Photo: Sandra Hirsch

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Community

Do Jewish ‘genes’ fit ?



Yvonne Jawitz of WIZO and Professor Amanda Krause.

YVONNE JAWITZ

“Do my genes fit” was the topic of a two-part illumination of genetics today, hosted by WIZO last week. Prof Amanda Krause explained the advances in genetic testing and the importance for Jewish couples to undergo testing for genetic diseases prevalent in, but not exclusive to, the Jewish population, such as Tay Sachs and cystic fibrosis.

She spoke about the breast cancer genes BRCA 1 and 2. However, she emphasised that even if the gene was present, it did not mean

conclusively that the person would develop cancer. Environmental factors played a large role.

Rabbi David Nossel, who is associated with Ohr Somayach Shul in Savoy, referred to the immutable laws of the Torah regarding saving life. He also explained the difference between pre-life and life as far as the possible termination of a pregnancy was concerned.

When faced with difficult choices, young couples showed great moral and ethical fibre and usually made the best decision.

There were many questions from the audience.

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