



Two high flyers speak out on Israel and South Africa. See page 7.

South african Jewish Report

www.sajr.co.za



Photo: Ilan Ossendryver

Lag B'Omer warmth and bonhomie

The "Lag B'Omer Shmooza" at the Great Park Shul in Johannesburg has become a highlight on the Jewish calendar. The event attracts Jews of all ages who enjoy the bonfires, music and camaraderie - epitomised by this group of young girls at last week's celebrations. There was entertainment, food and drink for every one of the more than 3 500 who attended. But the event has also become a major outreach project, with the collection of blankets that are distributed to the less fortunate, to help stave off the freezing Highveld winter nights. Lag B'Omer, held on the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer, began on the evening of last week Wednesday - May 6 - and ended the evening of the following day. Lag B'Omer is a festive day celebrating the anniversary of the passing of the great sage and mystic, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, author of the Zohar. It also commemorates another event: In the week between Pesach and Shavuot, a plague wiped out some 24 000 of Rabbi Akiva's students. It ceased on Lag B'Omer. One of only five students spared was Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. See page 2.

YALE - story of an unsung hero

YALE, an organisation serving the needs of Jewish adults with intellectual disabilities, does superb work and fills a definite need.

4

Eshkol Nevo in SA for launch of his book 'Neuland'

Israeli author Nevo has won umpteen awards and been translated in a host of languages. He was in SA to launch the English translation of 'Neuland'.

3

Two KDVP debaters hit the big time!

Jordan Arenstein and Rachel Weisz of KD Victory Park have won two of the three berths available on the SA National Junior Debating Team for 2015.

10



'Reinvented' SAICC coming back with a bang

Under its new CEO Peter Quinn, the SA-Israel Chamber of Commerce is reinventing itself and is on the rise.

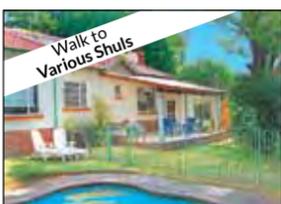
12

For Netanyahu, Obama, mistrust is personal and also cynical

A year of tense and angry exchanges between US President Obama and Israeli PM Netanyahu has yielded an atmosphere of deep mistrust.

6

AN EASY STROLL HOME FROM SHUL...



Walk to Various Shuls

SUNNINGDALE

Delightful family home with various options on a large stand.
 R2 600 000 | Ref 16453
 Tammy Wright 083 379 3484



Walk to Great Park Shul

MELROSE

Sought-after 'Heritage Building'
 R2 999 000 | Ref 16374
 Valerie Berkow-Kaye 011 731 0300
 Gary Jerrard 076 033 0440



Walk to Linksfeld Shul

LINKSFELD

Close to King David Linksfeld!
 R3 950 000 | Ref 16560
 Hilton Steinfeld 082 455 8630
 Lourayne Hersch 082 780 0253



Walk to Waverley Shul

BRAMLEY

Exciting hidden treasure with accent on space.
 R2 800 000 | Ref 16583
 Vivienne Levin 082 886 2842



Walk to Chabad Norwood

THE GARDENS

The epitome of style & sophistication.
 From R4 400 000 | Ref 16523
 Zipporah Benn 082 302 1017
 Gary Jerrard 076 033 0440

011 731 0300
 www.firzt.co.za

Who is the boss?



Parshat Behar-Bechukotai

Rabbi Danny Sackstein
Sunny Road Shul

One of the most difficult challenges we face in life is coming to terms with the reality that there is so much beyond our control. We are sent constant messages from G-d teaching us this lesson.

Sometimes a subtle hint is sufficient. At other times we need blatant reminders. All too often we spend our time in this world grappling with this issue, refusing to accept that there is a higher force orchestrating our lives on a cosmic scale. When we open ourselves to this truth and focus on that which is in our control, we begin

to live spiritually productive lives.

Rabbi Abraham ben David, known as the Raavad (1125 - 1198), in his famous work Baalei Hanefesh, explains that many of the mitzvot demonstrate this point, that G-d is in charge of the world.

The mitzvot assist us in developing the correct perspective and reminding us of the existence of a higher being. Rabbi Shlomo Wolbe (1914 - 2005) describes Shabbos and Shmittah as two mitzvot that fall under this category.

This week we read Parshas Behar-Bechukotai. Behar begins with the mitzvah of Shmittah, "When you enter the land that I give you, the land should rest a Shabbos for Hashem". Rashi (1040 - 1105) explains that "for Hashem" means for the sake of Hashem.

He adds that we find the exact wording in the Ten Commandments with regard to the

weekly Shabbos: "And the seventh day shall be a Shabbos for Hashem". G-d is telling us that the common denominator of these two mitzvot is to remind us that He is the boss.

During Shmittah, which falls out this year in Israel, we desist from working the land. All the produce that grows during this year is free for the taking. The land is not ours, it belongs to Hashem.

Likewise, on Shabbos we are commanded to refrain from performing the 39 creative activities called melachos. The melachos are all acts of creation. On Shabbos, we demonstrate that we are ceasing to create, for Hashem is the sole Creator of the world.

Shmittah is infrequent and uncommon, since it only takes place once every seven years and applies only to Eretz Yisrael. On the other hand, Shabbos occurs weekly and is relevant

everywhere in the world. Shabbos helps us remember that Hashem runs the world and we are His caretakers.

Fortunate is the person who internalises this message of Shmittah and Shabbos, that we live in G-d's world, created for us to acknowledge that He is the boss and faithfully follow His precepts.

Shabbat Times

May 15 / 26 Iyar

May 16 / 27 Iyar

Parshat Behar-Bechukotai

17:11	18:01	Johannesburg
17:36	18:28	Cape Town
16:53	17:44	Durban
17:14	18:05	Bloemfontein
17:07	18:00	Port Elizabeth
17:00	17:52	East London

Lag B'Omer in Jhb: Building bon(d)fires

RABBI DOVID HAZDAN
GREAT PARK SYNAGOGUE

Lag B'Omer in Johannesburg once again brought together the broad spectrum of Jewish organisations and communities at the biggest yet "Lag B'Omer Shmooza" celebration last week Wednesday.

"Lag B'Omer Shmooza" is hosted annually by The Great Park Synagogue. Over 3 500 attended this year's event which was taken to new heights through the professional co-ordination and expertise of Lisa Zimmerman.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein delivered a message regarding the vital importance of Jewish unity.

Entertainment included extravagant rides for children of all ages, the Yeshiva College School Choir, the King David Marimba Band and a Shooby Doob Shloimy children's concert with Mark Samowitz. Jonathan Birin was the DJ and the MC for the evening was Kevin Fine.

Psukim - verses of Torah - were recited by Torah Academy learners and were responded to, word by word, by many hundreds of enthusiastic young voices.

Food and drinks were on sale and families sat and warmed themselves around numerous bonfires listening to and experiencing the joys of Jewish music.

A mitzvah table signed up hundreds of commitments which were placed in balloons and released into the night sky. The booth of The Torah Institute of Johannesburg signed up men and women for ongoing Torah classes and for individual learning opportunities.

Hundreds of blankets were on sale to be donated for distribution to the homeless in the townships. It is wonderful to see one mitzvah leading to another - the celebration of the festival of Lag B'Omer has the spill-over effect of bringing blankets and warmth to the needy.

Great Park bar- and batmitzvah boys and girls, together with the King David Foundation and Afrika Tikkun, will distribute the blankets to Afrika Tikkun's centres in Orange Farm, Alexandra Township, Soweto and Diepsloot.



MELBOURNE WOMAN REMAINS IN NEPAL TO HELP

KATHMANDU – An Australian Jewish woman who found herself in Nepal during the devastating earthquake, has promised to stay in the country and help reconstruct it. Chani Gurewicz from Melbourne arrived in Nepal just a few days before the first quake, but says that she now feels a calling to stay and make a contribution. "I'm going to try to do everything I can," she said this week.

She plans to go to a remote village with a group of volunteers who will start reconstructing some buildings and erecting toilets for residents.

Gurewicz, 29, said she arrived in Nepal to enjoy the country, but "I'm not in this world to only experience the positive stuff", so she plans to stay on an open-ended basis to help. "I just got here; I don't want to leave Nepal," she said. - Australian Jewish News

ISRAELI PARAMEDICS DESIGNED WORLD'S 1ST 'POCKET' VERSION OF LIFESAVER

JERUSALEM – Among the Israeli medical innovations that paramedic Dov Maisel brought to Nepal to treat victims of the devastating earthquake, was the Pocket BVM (bag valve mask), a uniquely collapsible version of an essential device that emergency medical crews need for manual resuscitation and respiratory support. Maisel isn't only a user of the Pocket BVM, he's also one of its inventors.

On the market since 2007 from the Jerusalem-based company MicroBVM, the inexpensive Pocket BVM folds into a protective case, allowing EMS workers to fit 20 of the devices into the space of two regular-sized resuscitators - yet once unfolded, the units look and operate the same as regular

ones. For responders to mass casualty scenes such as in Nepal, the ability to carry several BVMs is critical.

Some 100 000 units of the Pocket BVM are in use all over the world. It has become the resuscitator of choice for all branches of the US military, Nato forces, the Israel Defence Forces and civilian emergency medical response teams around the globe. - Israel21c

JEWISH DOCTOR HONOURED FOR BRAVERY

LONDON - A Jewish doctor has been recognised for her quick thinking and bravery after she saved a man who had jumped onto the tracks at a London tube station.

Debra Fine, from Highgate, was honoured by British Transport Police with a prestigious Chief Constable's Commendation.

Guests at the award ceremony heard how Fine, who was a medical student at the time, and is now a doctor, was waiting for a train at Tottenham Court Road station, when she saw a man step down from the platform onto the tracks just as a train was entering the station.

Without a thought for her own safety, she grabbed him by the shoulders and pulled him back onto the platform before the train could hit them.

Fine then tried to calm him down and went to seek help from station staff. However, the man had run off when she returned.

In an act of kindness and commitment she searched the station and found him again and stayed with him until police officers arrived. - Jewish Chronicle

CANADIAN ORTHODOX RABBIS NOTE SHIFT ON LGBTQ INCLUSION

MONTREAL - While Canadian modern-Orthodox rabbis aren't having the kind

of public discussion about including LGBTQ Jews like their counterparts did recently in New York, many say they've been grappling with the issue for years and agree there's been a shift toward greater sensitivity to the issue.

Rabbi Michael Whitman of Adath Israel Poale Zedek Anshei Ozeroff Synagogue in Hampstead, Quebec and former president of the Rabbinical Council of Montreal, said that in the past two decades, modern-Orthodoxy has moved from the attitude that homosexuality is deviant to "we don't agree with the behaviour, but want to support the difficulties [gay and lesbian] people face" - Canadian Jewish News

REPORTER: OBAMA LIED ABOUT BIN LADEN ELIMINATION

LONDON - In an article in the London Review of Books, Pulitzer Prize-winner Seymour Hersh attacked US President Barack Obama, claiming that the president lied to the American public about the events that led to the elimination of Osama bin Laden.

Seymour Hersh, formerly a reporter for the New York Times, claims that US President Barack Obama lied to the American people about the functioning of the US Special Forces in Pakistan in the raid in which Osama bin Laden was eliminated, so that he would be able to take credit for the mission.

In the article, published in the prestigious British magazine, Hersh claims that Obama caused chaos in the American intelligence community, forcing it to co-operate with his version of events. In the article, Hersh quotes sources from the Pakistani intelligence community and the US Navy, who all claim that the White House and CIA lied to the public repetitively with regard to the raid on Bin Laden's hideout. - Jerusalem Online

South African
Jewish Report

General Manager Karen Knowles - 082 855 2131 - karen@sajewishreport.co.za • Editor Vanessa Valkin - vanessa@sajewishreport.co.za • Sub-editor Paul Maree • Ed Co-ordinator Sharon Greenblatt - sharon@sajewishreport.co.za • Advertising: Britt Landsman: 082-292-9520 - britt@sajewishreport.co.za • Classified sales: Daisy Munda: jrclassified@global.co.za • Distribution manager Britt Landsman • Design and layout: Bryan Maron/Design Bandits - bryan@designbandits.co.za • Website: Anthony Katz • Subscription enquiries: Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860-13-2652. Board of Directors: Howard Sackstein (Incoming Chairman), Howard Feldman, Bertie Lubner, Benjy Porter, Herby Rosenberg, .

Advertisements and editorial copy from outside sources do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and staff. Tel: (011) 430-1980.



We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the

Norman Metz 777 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Club



Noah
Kallner
13 December
2014



Talia
Gingell
29 March
2015

We thank you for your generous donations, which will help us ensure that No Jew Gets Left Behind. In the merit of your good deeds may you be truly blessed.

Mazel tov!

Join the Norman Metz Bar/Bat Mitzvah Club, by making a donation to the Chev on the occasion or anniversary of your first (or second) Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Become a part of a unique group of men and women who recognise the needs of others at a special time in their own lives.

www.jhbchev.co.za

By donating a minimum of R777, you will become a member of the club. Please email your name and contact number to 777Club@jhbchev.co.za, so that we can send you your special, personalised certificate.

Chevrah Kadisha

Anti-Semitism money deprives funds for human rights

ANT KATZ

The funding of anti-Israel activity whittles away vital funds that should be allocated to managing human rights issues - so says respected Israeli think-tank "NGO Monitor".

The group released a comprehensive new report on the subject on Monday in advance of the 2015 Global Forum for Combating Anti-Semitism in Jerusalem this week.

The report which details "egregious anti-Semitic activities" also gives extensive evidence of rising levels of anti-Semitism in Europe. NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and governments "continue to fund these groups

with hundreds of millions of dollars, pounds, euros, and kroners", says the report.

"NGO Monitor's research shows that by funding NGOs that engage in anti-Semitic activities and rhetoric, governments highlight a persistent double standard: hatred of Jews is tolerated in a way that would be unthinkable for other racial, ethnic, or religious groups," stated Professor Gerald Steinberg, president of NGO Monitor.

"Jewish and Israeli targets are often denied the right to define what constitutes discrimination against them." The report, published in full on this website, also highlights the rising levels of hatred in Europe.

According to the report, despite

the extensive evidence of NGO anti-Semitism, which contradicts claims to promote human rights and humanitarian agendas, governments continue to fund these groups.

Incidents discussed in the report include the July 2014 "Open Letter for the People of Gaza", published in the leading British medical journal "The Lancet". The letter, which accused Israel of "war crimes" while ignoring Hamas's crimes of rocket fire and terror tunnels, was signed by Drs Mads Gilbert, Iain Chalmers, Paola Manduca, Sweet Ang Chai and others associated with highly politicised NGOs and anti-Israel campaigning.

Manduca and Ang promoted

a virulently anti-Semitic video by the white supremacist, David Duke. The editor-in-chief of The Lancet, Dr Richard Horton, never apologised for the letter, and the article is still available on the magazine's website.

NGO Monitor's publication also documents the inaction of NGOs to report on or condemn anti-Semitism. On April 19 this year, Amnesty International's UK branch held its AGM. Out of 17 proposed motions, the only resolution that was rejected called on Amnesty-UK to "campaign against anti-Semitism in the UK", as well as "lobby the UK Government to tackle the rise in anti-Semitic attacks in Britain", and "monitor anti-Semitism closely".

In this context, it is notable that Amnesty-UK employee Kristyan Benedict has repeatedly used social media platforms to circulate anti-Semitic content. In addition, this report documents ongoing anti-Semitic content among church groups involved in anti-Israel demonisation.

"NGOs and governments must enact clear policies and establish where campaigns regarding Israel cross the line," said Professor Steinberg. "Funders bear responsibility for the hate-filled activities and rhetoric of their grantees. Such funding, as well, must end," Steinberg said.

• Read more about the report and see it all on www.sajr.co.za

Eshkol Nevo in SA for launch of his book, 'Neuland'

SUZANNE BELLING

There is another Promised Land that exists in the mind of award-winning Israeli author Eshkol Nevo (pictured). This land is a combination of Utopia and dystopia, called Neuland in South America.

Acclaimed by renowned writers such as Amos Oz and Roddy Doyle, Nevo told the love story of "Neuland" at his South African book launch at the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre on Tuesday evening.

The book was inspired by his grandmother Pracha Frishberg, who escaped Poland on the last boat to reach Palestine two days before the Second World War broke out.

Nevo's characters in the narrative are Inbar, her grandmother Lily, and Dori, who left his wife and young son at home in Israel to search for his missing father in South America.

The author is the grandson - although he never met him - of the late Levi Eshkol, who was prime minister of Israel during the 1967 Six Day War and who died in 1969, two years before Nevo was born. The family name was originally Shkolnik-Frishberg, but, at the behest of his grandmother, Nevo's name was Hebraised, as his mother had died and the Eshkol name became a memorial to his grandfather.

In Johannesburg, Nevo spoke in advance of his appearance at the Franschoek Literary Festival, both at the RCHCC and at University of the Witwatersrand, which, surprisingly, remained non-political, "although the number of security guards equalled the numbers in the audience", Nevo said.

Born in Jerusalem in 1971, he studied copywriting at the Tirza Granot School and psychology at Tel Aviv University. Today he owns and co-manages the largest private creative writing school in Israel; he is considered the mentor of many young Israeli writers.



Photo: Suzanne Belling

His lessons are in Hebrew, apart from "crash courses in England and all over the world", he said.

"I never thought of writing as a profession but, while in advertising, I felt the urge to write something that was not commercial. I started with short stories - in a sort of creative underground."

In spite of having a wife - Anat - to support, now he also has three daughters. "I found myself with a manuscript and a publisher, quit my job and went into writing fulltime."

Nevo's works are written in Hebrew and have been translated into English, Italian, German, French, Spanish, Arabic, Polish and Turkish.

His own command of English is excellent, having spent part of his childhood in Detroit in the US.

He symbolises the wandering Jews he writes about and straight from South Africa, goes on to Montreal, Milan and Venice.

Speaking about his grandfather, he says that people in Israel accept that he had a prime minister as grandfather without a barrage of questions, but in other countries the

idea aroused more curiosity.

Nevo's 2004 novel "Homesick" was a best-seller and won the Reimond Vallier Prize in France in 2008. It was also short-listed for the Sapir Prize in Israel in 2005 and long-listed for the Independent Prize in the UK in 2009.

"World Cup Wishes", published in 2007, was awarded the Golden Book Prize in Israel and the Adel-Wizo Prize in Italy.

"Neuland" (2011) is his latest book to appear in English and, apart from selling over 130 000 copies in Israel, won the Steimatzky Book of the Year prize.

"The Lost Solos" (2013) won his second

Golden Book Prize in Israel.

A new book is entitled "The Last Mikveh in Siberia" - not in Russia, as one might be given to think, but a story about the Russian neighbourhood in Safed, where the mayor wanted a mikveh that had been donated, but the Russians had their own ideas in this humorous and erotic story.

"There is a lot to write about in Israel - open the window and the conflicts come in," Nevo remarks.

He and his family live in Ra'anana, where he is quick to point out, a lot of former South Africans live.

World News in Brief

Nearly 80% of secular Israeli Jews want civil marriage

JERUSALEM - A new survey reveals that 80 per cent of secular Jews in Israel do not want to marry through the Rabbinate, with most of those preferring a civil marriage.

The survey, conducted by the Smith Institute for Hiddush - For Religious Freedom and Equality, questioned 500 adult Jews living in Israel who had to choose between four marriage options.

Fifty-one per cent said they preferred an Orthodox wedding, though this was a 17 per cent drop from the most recent prior measurement by the association.

Twenty-eight per cent said they preferred a civil marriage, 17 per cent said they preferred a Jewish Reform or Conservative wedding, and 4 per cent said they preferred to cohabit without getting married.

Among secular Jews a vast majority did not favour a religious marriage and preferred a civil ceremony. Currently Israeli law recognises Jewish religious marriage only if conducted by an Orthodox rabbi under the authority of the Rabbinate, and does not allow civil marriage. However, the marriages of couples who marry in a civil ceremony abroad are recognised by the state. (JNS.org)

INVEST IN PROPERTY IN ISRAEL



Ir Yamim, Netanya



Ramat Gan



OR Akiva, bordering on Caesarea

To discuss investment opportunities in Israel, contact:
 Herschel Jawitz 082 571 1829 | herschel@jawitz.co.za
 Ari Shapiro 071 989 5343 | ari@hold.co.il
 • Ari will be available to meet in South Africa from 7 May



YALE - story of an unsung hero



Merle Sager, YALE director; Shelley Harris, prize winner of a Magen Dovid and religious toy; and Valerie Blumenthal, YALE founder and chairman.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Young Adults Learning and Earning (YALE), an organisation serving the needs of Jewish adults with intellectual disabilities, is one of those unsung hero organisations that does superb work and fills a definite need. YALE was founded in 1989 by Val Blumenthal who has been the chairman since then, assisted by Susan Kacev, her vice-chairman.

YALE has three specialty services: The YALE Workshop, the YALE Residence and the YALE K9 Pet Food manufacturing kitchen.

In a media release YALE says it is totally self-reliant and doesn't receive any assistance from government. Money is raised for the YALE Workshop and YALE Residence through numerous fundraising activities and also through the sale of its K9 Pet Food. YALE was formed "because an obvious need existed to cater for the intellectually disabled persons in our community. YALE gives such persons an opportu-

nity to have meaningful employment, socialise with their peers, and maintain their dignity. At YALE, these people work with limited pressure under the staff's supervision."

YALE Work Centre commenced operations by undertaking contract work such as mail shots, packaging and assembling of various goods, etc. By far the most ambitious attempt was the purchase of a franchise to manufacture high quality pet food. YALE now manufactures, packages, freezes, sells and delivers K9 Pet Food. They also offer a health pellet and K9 Pet Treats.

YALE also realised that the people they were catering to would need long-term care in a group home. Today, 8 Yalers live together happily, with limited supervision.

• Should you wish to enquire as to how you can help, or wish to buy K9 Pet Food, please contact YALE Workshop on tel (011) 640-1530/ (011) 640-5005 or e-mail: yale@telkomsa.net.

Jewish DA delegates to PE conference dine with local Jewry

ANT KATZ

The dwindling Port Elizabeth Jewish community turned out en masse to host a group of Democratic Alliance members attending the party's elective conference last Shabbos. PE Hebrew Congregation past chairman Arnie Katz this week told Jewish Report that over 70 members of the community attended the Shabbos dinner and services with a dozen DA members.

There was no coincidence in the DA's choice of PE to hold its national elective congress last weekend, according to one MP who spoke to Jewish Report. The Nelson Mandela Bay metropolitan municipality, which incorporates PE and Uitenhage, is going to be one of the battleground metro areas in the 2016 municipal elections, which the DA has in its sights during next year's municipal elections.

Speaking in his personal capacity, Katz said the DA councillors present at their dinner represented all tiers of government, from city councillors, Members of Provincial Legislatures and Members of Parliament.

The congregation had decided to split up their guests (not all of whom were Jewish) so that they had one or two DA members at every table. This allowed for closer engagement, said Katz, and the members of the congregation walked away with a better understanding of the general political landscape in the country.

Katz, in a speech, highlighted the need to protect SA Jewry and asked the DA members what their party was doing to protect the community in the light of the local and global rise in anti-Semitism.

DA MP Michael Bagraim, a past chairman and past president of the national SAJBD, was instrumental in setting up the Shabbos dinner. "I had to apologise that I wasn't able to be present on the Friday evening due to my plane being delayed," Bagraim told Jewish Report, "but the feedback I have had was absolutely fantastic."

Darren Bergman, MP and the DA's deputy shadow minister of sports and recreation, told Jewish Report that he, Errol Anstey and Jack Bloom spoke at the event. "It was a great kosher Shabbat dinner and an awesome night," said Bergman. "We discussed issues ranging from the DA's stance on the Middle East to anti-Semitism. Jeff Hermann, Alec Brett and Michael Bagraim were the organisers and brains behind this great



Democratic Alliance Gauteng MPL Jack Bloom with new party leader Mmusi Maimane last weekend. The two battled it out in 2013 for the party's Gauteng leadership.

evening."

Last week, President Jacob Zuma, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe held an emergency meeting with the party's Nelson Mandela Bay regional leaders in PE to discuss how to retain the troubled metropolitan municipality.

In November the ANC's National Working Committee admitted that the PE region was "faced with serious challenges and the threat of the opposition gaining ground". The ANC received 48,81 per cent of the votes in the 2014 national election, while the DA polled 40,8 per cent.

Political analyst Kelvin Knowles said he believed PE was "lost to the ANC", despite interventions by the ANC's bigwigs, which he said was "too little, too late". Two weeks ago, Human Settlements Minister Lindiwe Sisulu announced a R4,6 billion house-building scheme over four years in the metro and denied suggestions it was meant to appease residents ahead of next year's election. ANC national spokesman (and NEC member), Zizi Kodwa, said that PE had been on the agenda at last weekend's NEC meeting and discussed a technical report on the functionality of the metro.

"That technical report raises issues both on political and administration level. It is on the basis of that report that we are going back to Nelson Mandela Bay on May 18. We first wanted to present it to the NEC. Given the seriousness of the report, we felt it was important to take the national leadership into confidence," Kodwa said.

Gigaba to meet BDS-SA over Israel/SA visa policy

ANT KATZ

BDS-SA, the local affiliate of the US-based NGO "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions" (Israel), announced that Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba has agreed to meet over SA's visa policy in relation to Israel. This comes in the wake of Israel's refusal of a visa to South African Minister of Higher Education Blade Nzimande to visit a university outside Ramallah three weeks ago.

Cosatu, BDS-SA, the ANC Youth League, the student body Cosas, the Young Communist League and its mother body, the SA Communist Party, are among the bodies to meet Minister Gigaba. The release does not give a date for the agreed meeting.

BDS-SA's Kwara Kekana said the meeting came in the wake of "the denial by Israel of Minister Blade Nzimande of a visa to Palestine", and that they were demanding that Gigaba "scrap" all automatic visas for Israelis and create more stringent visa requirements for Israelis wanting to travel to South Africa.

The visa refusal has led the two major South African Jewish communal bodies, the SA Zionist Federation and SA Jewish Board of Deputies,

to issue a joint statement criticising the visa refusal. Nzimande is an outspoken critic of Israel in regard to its policy towards the Palestinian territories.

BDS-SA's delegation to meet the minister would include anti-Israel members of three political organisations; three youth organisations; labour and student organisations; and three organisations focused on anti-Israel activities.

Kekana says that among the topics they plan to discuss with the minister, will be "proposing that, among other visa requirements, Israeli citizens must in future declare if they have been actively enrolled in any military or militia (which would include the Israeli Defence Forces), if they have participated in any unlawful conflict".

This would include asking Israeli visa applicants whether "they have participated in conflicts that utilised chemical weapons (such as white phosphorus) and if they have adhered to international law (Israel's settlements are illegal under international law)", said the BDS-SA statement.

Jewish Report was unable to contact BDS for a statement on Monday or Tuesday for further clarification.

Read more on www.sajr.co.za

Experience Israel, Explore Your Future.

ISRAEL CENTRE
SOUTH AFRICA

masa
Israel Journey

האגודה היהודית
THE JEWISH AGENCY
FOR ISRAEL

YOUR MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE IN ISRAEL

MASA INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

FIND THE PROGRAM THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

- GAP YEAR
- VOLUNTEERING
- TIKKUN OLAM
- STUDY IN ISRAEL IN ENGLISH
- INTERNSHIPS FOR UNIVERSITY GRADUATES
- DESIGN YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE IN ISRAEL
- PERSONAL INTEREST PROGRAMS (ART, SPORT, MUSIC... WHAT'S YOURS?)

START HERE. GO FURTHER.

Go to www.masaisrael.org to see how we can help you find and fund your perfect program.

Masa scholarships are available

For more information please contact Tanya Izaki on
Email: israelprog@israelcentre.co.za
or Tel: 011 645 2561

www.facebook.com/israel.centre.9

CONNECT INSPIRE EXPLORE EMPOWER

New Israeli government - bigger elephant in the room?



TAKING ISSUE
Geoff Sifrin

Israel's new rightwing government - some say the most rightwing in its history - will make it harder for South African Jews to argue Israel's case in their local context. The mantra of South African Jewry's moderate mainstream, including organisations like the SAJBD and SAZF, has been: "We support the two-state solution to resolve the conflict with the Palestinians and ensure full human rights for all."

"That's what the majority of Israelis want - an independent Jewish state of Israel and an independent Palestine living side by side in peace."

The extremely narrow coalition government - it has only 61 seats in the 120-seat Knesset - which Benjamin Netanyahu cobbled together just minutes before the legal deadline for presenting to President Reuven Rivlin, is going to make this stance increasingly non-believable in South African politics and civil society for people who either are neutral about Israel or already hostile.

Two key parties in this government are Netanyahu and his Likud party, and Naftali Bennett, leader of Habayit Hayehudi (the Jewish Home) party.

Netanyahu has said publicly that there will not be a Palestinian state on his watch, and Bennett advocates Jewish settlement of the entire West Bank, with no policy for what to do about the Palestinians.

He told The Guardian of London in 2013: "There is not going to be a Palestinian state within the tiny land of Israel [between the Jordan River and the sea]. It's just not going to happen. A Palestinian state would be a disaster for the next 200 years." Other coalition partners include haredi parties.

The Palestinians are to blame as much as anyone. They could have had their state years ago - they were offered it by more moderate Israel governments, but turned it down.

The truth is: In today's circumstances, the two-state solution is virtually dead. Reviving it would require a drastic change of heart among Israelis and Palestinians alike. Also, a turnaround in the growth of radical Islam in the

Middle East, without which a Palestinian state would likely become yet another violent Jihadist entity right in Israel's heart.

Both scenarios are unlikely for now, and Israel will perforce remain the controlling power in the West Bank. And under this new government, settlement building will certainly continue.

The SAJBD and SAZF's support for the two-state solution is key to their credibility in approaching the South African government and political and civil society, despite the prevalent anti-Israel attitudes.

What are these organisations to say when the Israeli government itself is not adhering to that line?

Perhaps more than any previous Israeli government, this one presents no vision towards a better situation. It was put together on the basis of narrow politics - Netanyahu's determination to remain prime minister, the haredi parties' desire to get more money for their yeshivot and to push back requirements for haredi men to serve in the IDF, resisting demands for civil marriage to be made possible in Israel, and so on. Palestinian issues and ending the conflict slipped almost completely off the table.

South African Jewry lives in the South African political reality, however. In its meetings with non-Jewish South Africans in business, academia, the professions and other areas, there is often an "elephant in the room": What kind of country is Israel and what about the Palestinians?

If not the two-state solution, then what? A one-state solution, or bi-national state? The thought of these two peoples - Israelis and Palestinians - with so much bitter history between them, trying to live and co-operate together in a single national entity is almost unthinkable.

South African Jewish leaders can withhold unqualified support for Israel on certain tactical details, like the public criticism they voiced of Israel recently for its refusing to give South African Minister of Higher Education Blade Nzimande a visa to travel through Israel on his way to Ramallah. That was a bump in the road which can be smoothed out.

But what can they do when it comes to the big strategic issues - such as how to end the conflict?

They will have a hard time publicly contradicting Israel on issues that go to the very core of the future vision, such as whether the two-state solution is still viable.

World News in Brief

Anti-Israel British politician blames 'Zionists' for election defeat

LONDON - Vehemently anti-Israel British politician George Galloway, has blamed "racists" and "Zionists" for his defeat in last Thursday's UK election.

Galloway, who represented the Bradford West constituency for the Respect Party, overwhelmingly lost to Naseem Shah of the Labour Party, 50 - 21 per cent.

"But there will be others who are already celebrating: the venal, the vile, the racists, and the Zionists will all be celebrating," Galloway said in his concession speech, The Telegraph reported. "The hyena can bounce on the lion's grave but it can never be a lion and in any case, I'm not in my grave. As a matter of fact I'm going off now to plan the next campaign."

Last year, Galloway declared his city of Bradford as an "Israel-free zone", in which Israeli tourists, academics, and products are not welcome. He said he "rejects this illegal, barbarous, savage state that calls itself Israel". (JNS.org)

Israeli invention fights stunted growth in children

JERUSALEM - A new dietary supplement developed at Schneider Children's Medical Centre in Israel has successfully helped children in the bottom 10th percentile for height and weight grow taller and gain weight. The supplement, named Up-Pro, will be available in stores in the near future.

Studies show that children who took the supplement grew 1-2 centimetres taller than the control group, who were given placebos. The children's height-to-weight ratio was not affected, and the additive did not cause anyone to become overweight.

"Until now we did not have a solution for these kids," the head of the hospital's Endocrinology and Diabetes Institute, Professor Moshe Phillips, said.

"We created the supplement after years of research, and it contains ingredients that we are already familiar with, such as proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, and minerals," he said.

Schneider Children's Medical Centre is currently studying the effects of the supplement on girls who begin taking it at age 10 and boys who begin at age 11. Each gender has its own version of the supplement. (Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org)



KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL VICTORY PARK

OPEN DAY

28 MAY 2015

- OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RESULTS
- A SCHOOL WHERE EVERYBODY COUNTS
- COMPETITIVE SPORTS TEAMS
- STRONG JEWISH IDENTITY
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- LOVE FOR ISRAEL
- WEALTH OF ARTS AND CULTURE

YOU WANNA GO WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME

contact Lauren Dove on 082 677 7793 or dovel@sabje.co.za

RIGHT OF ADMISSION RESERVED IS TO BE PRODUCED ON REQUEST



south african
Jewish Report

To speak or not to speak

Two high profile figures have got themselves into hot water recently for publicly praising controversial leaders for their smarts.

Veteran journalist Allister Sparks' choice of Hendrik Verwoerd - the architect of apartheid - as an example of an effective and intelligent politician, in his speech at the weekend's DA federal congress in Port Elizabeth, has drawn the ire of many.

So did Wits Student Representative Council President Mcebo Dlamini's expression of admiration for Adolf Hitler's charisma and his capabilities to organise people, cause a furore last month. Dlamini was then dismissed as SRC president for an earlier altercation with a Wits staff member but the Hitler comment hastened the process.

It is not difficult to see why these careless comments would have those consequences. The president of an SRC shouldn't post on his Facebook page that Hitler was charismatic when he wiped out millions of people and a journalist extolling the virtues of former DA leader Helen Zille, shouldn't tell South Africans that Verwoerd was to be admired for his brains when he devised a plan that dehumanised and oppressed the country's majority.

Within the Jewish community, leaders have also been criticised for being outspoken even when their views were carefully considered. Last week the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the South African Zionist Federation publicly criticised Israel's decision to refuse a visa for Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande and were condemned by many for it.

It is not de rigueur for Diaspora Jewish organisations or its leaders to speak out against Israel. This was also the experience of former South African mining mogul and chairman of the Jewish Leadership Council in Britain, Mick Davis, when he spoke out against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government (see article page 7).

Investec chief executive Stephen Koseff told Jewish Report last week that in 2012 he was accused of being an old, white racist when he said that although Investec had helped entrepreneurs like Brian Joffe of Bidvest to build their businesses, he was disappointed that South Africa was not producing more young black entrepreneurs of Joffe's calibre who built companies from the ground up.

"What we have not yet seen is a young, black Brian Joffe," Koseff said at the time, sparking the negative reaction.

But this does not mean that communal and business leaders should be silent on policies or systems they admire or oppose for fear of offending others or of being misconstrued; or even worse - because they feel it won't make a difference anyway.

And although criticism does not necessarily bring about the desired change, there is something therapeutic in expressing one's standpoint. It is as important for the speaker as it is for the systems he or she lives within. In the sphere of interpersonal relationships, individuals need to know they can express their feelings to each other, within reason, without fear of repercussions. We should be able to do that in society as well but with clear awareness of the context in which one is speaking and what one's intentions are - considerations that both Allister Sparks and Mcebo Dlamini fell dismally short on.

Mark Cutifani, CEO of AngloGold Ashanti, said in the press a few years ago: "When you lead a substantial business, the business has an effect on the country's economy and this brings with it responsibility.

"You have to accept that the organisation you lead is part of society... Your aim should be to help in directing the country towards a better South Africa and, ultimately, a better world. Your opinions should be carefully formulated and have a basis in fact, not whim."

Permission to express a viewpoint is a very precious privilege of democracy and a right that we have to protect closely. If we do not, we become silent bystanders and face the danger that when systems malfunction and situations become intolerable, we will be powerless to stand up to them.

- Vanessa Valkin, Editor



Photo: Alex Wong/Getty

President Barack Obama's statement to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu following the creation of the new Israeli government lacked the personal touch that he conveyed in similar statements to other allied leaders.

For Netanyahu, Obama, mistrust is personal - and also cynical

RON KAMPEAS
WASHINGTON

Obama administration officials have long contended that the friction between the US president and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is not personal and that American support for Israel remains as robust as ever - and arguably even more robust by some metrics.

But a year of tense and angry exchanges between President Barack Obama and Netanyahu has yielded an atmosphere of deep mistrust, with each side insinuating the other is acting in bad faith. Conversations with current and former officials from both countries, as well as with Jewish community sources, suggest that there is a deeply personal dimension to the mistrust, with each leader and his aides ascribing malevolent motives to the other side.

"Part of the reason there's a presumption of bad faith is that the channels of communication aren't working," said Ilan Goldenberg, until last year the chief of staff on the State Department's Middle East peace team. "When you don't talk to the other side a lot, you assume bad faith."

Accusations of bad faith are sharpest in conversations behind closed doors, but the acrimony has found its way into what would normally be routine statements of friendship.

Congratulating Netanyahu on May 7 on forming a new government, the White House said that it "looked forward" to discussing with Israel's leaders "the importance of pursuing a two-state solution" - a pointed rejoinder to Netanyahu, who pledged on the eve of his re-election not to allow the establishment of a Palestinian state on his watch, though he subsequently clarified that he remained committed to a two-state solution but conditions were not yet ripe for it.

Notably, when another conservative prime minister of an allied nation won a surprise re-election last week - Britain's David Cameron - Obama's message avoided mention of policy disagreements and spoke of "building on an already close relationship" between the two leaders, a personal touch that was lacking from the Netanyahu statement.

Netanyahu also routinely laces statements with barely veiled gibes at Obama and his team, as he did in a May 3 statement in Jerusalem following a meeting with visiting Senator Rob Portman, Republican Ohio. Referring to a possible nuclear deal with Iran, Netanyahu pushed back at "those who tell us that this will not endanger Israel".

Netanyahu added: "I have to tell you as the prime minister of Israel responsible for Israel's security, it endangers Israel, it endangers the region, it endangers the world - the entire world in my opinion."

The Obama administration argues that the emerging deal is the best formula for diminishing the danger posed by Iran. Still, Netanyahu is said to bristle at what he perceives as Obama's condescension in dictating to Israel what outcome is best for his nation.

Netanyahu plans to keep up the public pressure until the June 30 deadline for a deal and beyond, according to Israeli sources.

The perception in his camp is that Israel paid a political price for the prime minister's March 3 speech to Congress - organised with Republican Congressional leaders behind the back of the White House - through the loss of Democratic support. But the price was worth it, Netanyahu's people say.

US officials believe that the speech to Congress was little more than a re-election ploy by Netanyahu and do not countenance the notion that he is desperate to inhibit Iran's advance toward becoming a nuclear-armed regional hegemon.

The question among Obama administration officials is why Netanyahu is not making his case in private. Netanyahu is said to have despaired of the closed-door route when he found out in 2013 that the United States had opened a secret channel to Iran to launch the nuclear talks, and then again earlier this year when the US began limiting its reporting to Israel on the talks, citing what American officials said were distorted leaks of material.

"The Israelis want to make it better, but they don't understand they have to cool the rhetoric down, that they can't take it to Congress and to TV," Goldenberg said.

Both sides insist that military and intelligence cooperation are unprecedentedly close. What is suffering is the diplomatic dimension, which has devolved from an intimate conversation to a hostile game of chess, with each side advancing moves it hopes will keep the other in check.

Israelis dismiss Obama's fury with Netanyahu for his Election Day rhetoric invoking hordes of bused-in Arab voters as payback for the Congress speech. Not acknowledged is how the first black American president, who has written searingly about his efforts as a community organiser to enfranchise impoverished blacks, would take Netanyahu's statement to heart.

Meanwhile, both Netanyahu and Obama see American Jews as a natural constituency that the other guy is trying to muscle. Israelis were amazed last month when Obama spent over an hour with Jewish delegations twice on the same day.

One casualty of the communications breakdown is co-ordination on pushback against an intensified Palestinian effort to corner Israel with hostile resolutions in international forums. Samantha Power, the US ambassador to the United Nations, told Congress last month that the United States would continue to stand by Israel "when it matters", suggesting that there might be some diplomatic actions targeting Israel that were not worth the effort to deter.

In an April 30 speech to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Vice President Joe Biden for the first time explicitly warned Iran that Obama was ready to go to war to keep it from acquiring a nuclear weapon should the talks fail. But he also twice mocked Netanyahu in the speech for overblown rhetoric.

At a speech at the Israeli Embassy's Independence Day party on April 23, Biden likened the recent spat to a family feud.

"We're like family," he said. "We have a lot to say to one another; sometimes we drive each other crazy, but we love each other and protect each other."

"Protect" is still very much on. "Love" is an open question. (JTA)

Business

by Vanessa Valkin

Two high flyers speak out on Israel and South Africa

“Israel is a toxic issue in the discourse of South African government,” said Mick Davis, to a forum of young entrepreneurs hosted at Investec Bank in Johannesburg last week. Davis, who until recently was CEO of the world’s largest mining company, Xstrata, and was named Britain’s most powerful Jew last year by the Jewish Chronicle, said that his native South Africa, was leading the pack in promoting the boycotting of Israel.

“The discourse is not balanced and it is not helpful,” he added. “It is not a question of giving Israel a free ride,” but antagonism towards Israel here in South Africa “is way worse than anywhere in Europe”.

Davis was speaking along with Stephen Koseff, chief executive of Investec Bank, about the appropriateness of businessmen commenting publicly on politics. Both Davis and Koseff, legends in their respective fields

Mick Davis



of mining and banking, said they felt it was incumbent on business leaders to speak up.

“If you have something to say, say it, back it up and if they don’t hear, say it again,” Davis told the group, with a smile.

Davis has historically been very vocal on Israeli politics in the United Kingdom where he holds a number of Jewish leadership roles. And although he is a big supporter of Israel, both with his pounds and with his time, he has not been scared to criticise it.

At the end of 2013, he sparked a lot of controversy by claiming Israel was doing too little to show a commitment to

peace. In an online article for the Israeli newspaper Ha’aretz, he criticised Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and said that Diaspora efforts to fight delegitimisation of Israel were being hampered by the actions of his government.

In 2010 he publicly warned that Israel was

at risk of becoming an apartheid state over its treatment of Palestinians. “I was condemned by a lot of people,” he recalls. “But if I see something that I don’t think is correct, I will voice it.”

He said he believed that “it’s possible to be a friend of Israel and still support the rights of the Palestinians”.

Davis, who hails from Port Elizabeth and went to Theodor Herzl Jewish day school, is chairman of the board of the Jewish Leadership Council of Great Britain, chairman of the Holocaust Memorial Commission, chairman of Euro Chai South Africa, and honorary president and former chairman of the United Israel Appeal of Great Britain.

Since leaving Xstrata which merged with Glencore two years ago, Davis has gathered a £3bn fund to make acquisitions for his new mining venture X2 Resources.

Koseff, who is less outspoken on Israel, ensures that Investec supports initiatives that promote Israel’s standing here. The bank funds trips there for South Africa’s future business and political leaders as well as supporting forums like the South Africa-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Koseff also says he is not shy to speak out about the way he sees the situation on his home turf. “It is a tragedy that our society is nowhere where it should be,” he notes. “And I have no shame in telling government you are letting us down and we are not letting you

down,” he says.

“You have a very strong private sector here and a few elements of government that are good... corruption is a problem.”

Despite this, Koseff is happy that there is at least freedom of expression and people can voice their dissatisfactions.

He believes that business has a very important role in building South Africa.

“The greatest coalition between business and government should be on education.”

Investec sponsors the Promaths programme which provides extra tuition in maths and science to pupils in grades 10 through 12 at six learning centres across the country.

Koseff also believes that in a country like South Africa with such great disparities in wealth, “business has to shift away from maximising corporate profit to a focus on being good corporate citizens”, although companies still have to focus on building profits, he adds with a grin.

But, both men agree that overtaxing the wealthy is not a solution to the economic disparities.

Says Davis: “The idea that you can help poor people by taking money from rich people is a fallacy.”

AWADAGIN PRATT piano
Winner Naumberg International
Bach-Busoni Chaconne,
Brahms, Liszt Sonata
Sat 16 May – Linder Auditorium – 20:00
Entrance to Linder now only from Victoria Road
www.jms.org.za **BOOKING AT COMPUTICKET** *No credit card facility at Linder



Stephen Koseff

DEMO CLEARANCE SALE



SX4 CROSSLANDER
1.6 GLX 5MT
FOR ONLY R239 900
Retail price includes 3yr / 90 000km service plan

With all the bells and whistles

While stocks last.

SUZUKI MOBILITY FINANCE
A division of WesBank

SUZUKI BRAMLEY
2014 PLATINUM DEALER
55 2nd Avenue, Cnr Corlett Drive, Kew, JHB
Tel: 0861 673 673 - 011 887 5422

To view all stock go to www.suzukibramley.co.za
Pics for illustration purposes only. Terms and Conditions Apply. E&OE

SUZUKI Way of Life!

aw_17_SuzukiBramley

SUZUKI BRAMLEY

55 2nd Avenue, Cnr Corlett Drive, Kew, JHB

<p>55 AMG</p> <p>R299 900</p> <p>2006 Mercedes-Benz SLK 55 AMG A/T 4.3 200 km, Sat Nav, AMG Alloys & Seats</p>	<p>SPORT</p> <p>R184 900</p> <p>2013 Suzuki Swift 1.6 Sport 21 100 km, Bal of Warranty & S/Plan</p>	<p>Sat Nav</p> <p>R179 900</p> <p>2011 Suzuki Kizashi 2.4 SDXL 6MT 56 800 km, FSH, Ext Warranty, S/Roof, Leather, Bluetooth</p>
<p>AUTO</p> <p>R179 900</p> <p>2010 BMW 320i (E90) Facelift A/T 52 700 km, Ext. Motorplan to June 2016</p>	<p>4X4</p> <p>R169 900</p> <p>2013 Suzuki Jimny 1.3 4X4 Facelift 23 200 km, 1 Owner, All Terrain Tyres</p>	<p>AUTO</p> <p>R139 900</p> <p>2011 Suzuki SX4 2.0 CVT 1 Owner, Bal of Ext Warranty, Bluetooth kit</p>
<p>4X4</p> <p>R139 900</p> <p>2011 Suzuki Jimny 1.3 4X4 81 950 km, FSH, N/Bar, Smash & Grab</p>	<p>6MT</p> <p>R139 900</p> <p>2010 Suzuki SX4 2.0 6MT 78 700 km, Bal of S/Plan, Leather Seats</p>	<p>ALLOYS</p> <p>R129 900</p> <p>2013 Volkswagen Polo Vivo 1.6 Trendline 62 200 km, 1 Owner, FSH, Bal of Warranty, Bluetooth</p>
<p>LEATHER</p> <p>R119 900</p> <p>2012 Volkswagen Polo 1.6 Trendline 5-Dr 91 300 km, FSH, Red Leather, Elec Windows</p>	<p>ALLOYS</p> <p>R104 900</p> <p>2011 Suzuki Swift 1.4 GL 47 700 km, 1 Owner, FSH, Radio/CD/USB, Alloys</p>	<p>EXT WARRANTY</p> <p>R99 900</p> <p>2012 Toyota Etios 1.5 XS Sedan 35 400 km, 1 Owner, FSH, Ext Warranty</p>
<p>R99 900</p> <p>2014 Suzuki Alto 1.0 GLX 13 750 km, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Electric Windows</p>	<p>R99 900</p> <p>2011 Opel Corsa 1.4 Essentia Facelift 5-Dr 78 300 km, Bal of Warranty to March 2016, FSH</p>	<p>R84 900</p> <p>2012 Suzuki Alto 1.0 GLS 49 700 km, 1 Owner, FSH, Elec Windows</p>

Prices do not include on-road fees
VISIT www.suzukibramley.co.za to view all stock
Tel: 0861 673 673
011 887 5422
www.suzukibramley.co.za

- Greg van Kerckhoven - 083 450 9662 - Jerry Doorsamy - 083 215 8181
- Arthur Przygon - 083 737 4087 - Chris Ely - 084 888 8053
- Hymie Dinner - 083 702 7027 - Mario Beltrame - 082 891 2335

Disclaimer

The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report.

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

Guidelines for letters

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

THE 'GOOD LIFE' OUTSIDE OF ISRAEL NOT DOING JEWS ANY GOOD

Every week there are more reports of the Jewish community and Israel being attacked from all quarters, including many academic institutions and NGOs.

In last week's edition of the Jewish Report there were many cases of anti-Zionist/Semitic sentiment mentioned and apparently much of the same opinions and criticisms are appearing in the non-Jewish press.

Our Jewish leaders seem to be doing their very best in countering this continuous barrage of hatred towards Israel, although sometimes it is very sad to find that they themselves criticise Israel. I refer to the (Minister of Higher Education Blade) Nzimande incident. No doubt this anti-Israel campaign has spilled over and has become more and more anti-Semitic. Anti-Semitic incidents all over the Diaspora have proved this to be true; South Africa is no exception.

All our efforts in combating this "new" anti-Semitism are not defending Jewry as such, but "defending" the exile. As my good friend from Cape Town, David Hersch, has stated: "Maspic" (enough) with South Africa, and everything that goes with it. The "tsores" (worry) we get in exile is meant to chase us home to Israel.

Like me, he agrees that people like Terry Crawford-Browne, and Dr Iqbal Survé, will continue to harden their hearts against Israel and the Jewish people and serve no other purpose but to

be G-d's (evil) messengers to force Jews to come home to Israel.

Sadly our religious leaders, and certainly parents, do not realise that they are living in exile. It is so sad that throughout the long exile, Jews felt so comfortable wherever they found themselves, that it was only through massive persecution and violent anti-Semitism that they sought refuge in Israel.

Here in South Africa, far too many Jews, including the most observant, led by their rabbis, have abandoned the feeling that they are outside of Israel and living in exile. I believe that while this feeling of living in a non-Jewish land is forgotten, we are increasingly on a trajectory of assimilation.

Even now Jews no longer feel the primacy of Zion in their daily lives and are moving rapidly from their heritage as a unique Jewish nation in their own land. What a pity our rabbis are not internalising their daily prayers for the ingathering of our people and that we are part of a nation that yearns to return home.

The last Lubavitcher Rebbe said: "A Jew living outside of Israel should always feel deep pain and remorse that he is living in exile away from his Homeland." (Likutei sichos; Vol 30 p234).

Choni Davidowitz
Golden Acres, Johannesburg

LUBYA VILLAGE: SOUTH AFRICAN GROUP ALSO SAYS 'SORRY'

We travelled to Israel-Palestine last week as a group of Jewish South Africans to be part of a ceremony in the South Africa Forest in the Galilee.

The forest was planted by the Jewish National Fund with money donated by the South African Jewish community. Many of us contributed our pocket money as children to what we thought was a "noble cause of greening the desert".

We were told that Israel was "a land without people for a people without a land". We now know that the forest was planted over the ruins of Luby, which once housed some 2 000 Palestinian people.

In 1948 the villagers, after fierce resistance fled; they were expelled by the advancing Israeli Haganah forces and the area became a closed military zone with the residents forbidden from returning to their homes. The residents were displaced to the neighbouring village of Deir Hanna, or travelled as refugees to Lebanon and Syria.

Subsequently, the forest was planted over the village, its ruins still remaining visible beneath

the pine trees. The rocks, wells and cemetery are testimony to the lives that were once here.

Today, around 40 000 descendants of Luby live scattered throughout the world. Since 1966, when the military rule was lifted, villagers have been able to visit the forest.

On May 1 we joined about 200 Luby descendants, some of whom had come from as far afield as Scandinavia, for the ceremony in the forest, with the purpose of acknowledging the injustice that had occurred to them in their forced expulsion, and to take responsibility for donating money to make the forest possible.

We handed over pledges of solidarity recognising our role in the erasure of Luby's memory, signed by 200 other South Africans. The ceremony was a symbolic one and represented a small step towards recognising that other people once lived in the place called the South Africa Forest.

Wherever we travelled throughout the central and northern parts of the region, we were met with extremely

gracious hospitality by Palestinians and were welcomed warmly in people's houses.

Palestinians from various backgrounds and political views shared their stories with us and their hopes for the future. From everyone we spoke to, whether in Bethlehem, Jerusalem or inside the borders of modern-day Israel, Palestinians spoke of a shared future with Israelis, the need for peace and equality. The "Right to Return" for refugees is guaranteed by the UN and central to the desire for a just peace.

However, everyone we met recognised the complexity of the issue and while people are debating the possibilities of making this practical, none of the discussions we heard, involved "driving the Israeli-Jews into the sea".

On the contrary, we heard a commitment to finding workable solutions that respected the need to accommodate all people currently living in Israel.

Shereen Usdin
and **Emma Daitz**
Johannesburg

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

WE BUILT THIS COUNTRY WITH HEART & SOUL

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS **2015**

THE AWARD CATEGORIES ARE:

- Lifetime Achievement Award in honour of Helen Suzman
- Chivas Humanitarian Award in honour of Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris*
- Kia Community Service Award
- Jewish Report Art, Sport, Science & Culture Award
- Absa Entrepreneur Award
- Absa Unlisted Company
- Absa Listed Company Award
- The Creative Counsel Young Jewish Entrepreneur Award

NOMINATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE:

- The nominee's name, telephone number and email address
- The award for which the nominee is nominated
- A short motivation for the nomination

ALL NOMINATIONS CAN BE MAILED TO nominations@SAJewishReport.co.za
For more information www.sajr.co.za

23 AUG 2015

ABSA JEWISH ACHIEVER AWARDS 2015

Jewish Report

ABSA
Member of
BARCLAYS

CHIVAS
LIVE WITH CHEVALRY

KIA

LCC

* Awarded to either a Jewish or non-Jewish person who has contributed substantially to the betterment of the lives of the people of South Africa. Members of the Board and Staff of the SA Jewish Report are not eligible for nomination.



Union of Jewish Women JOHANNESBURG

Proudly presents

DIVAS IN 4 CONCERT

A GREAT FUN NIGHT OUT FOR WOMEN ONLY
OUTSTANDING DYNAMIC PERFORMERS

When: Wednesday 10 June @7.30pm

Where: The Victory Theatre
Safe parking available

Charge: R300 per person

Bookings: Please call Ann at the UJW office: 011 648 1053

Payment in advance essential to confirm your booking. No payments will be taken at the door.

Back by Popular Demand!

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/unionofjewishwomenjhb

PROCEEDS TO THE UJW PROJECTS

BANK DETAILS:
Union of Jewish Women
Standard Bank Killarney
Branch Code: 007205

Acc no. 001674218
Reference essential:
Divas and your name

www.logorhythm.co.za

NPO 000780

We get things done!

FACTS REFUTE IQBAL SURVÉ'S 'FAIRNESS' PROTESTATIONS

Dr Iqbal Survé defending his Independent Newspapers' "impartiality", claiming that they are not anti-Israel, is pretty shallow.

Consider the following: During the Gaza war last year, The Star continued to run a vicious campaign of vitriol that fanned the flames of anti-Semitism that was last witnessed in the 1930s in Germany. When a newspaper continues to print opinion pieces that do not present the full picture, the result is not only dishonest but borders on thought manipulation.

On August 18 last year The Star published a full-page op-ed by one Kim Sengupta. Is he a journalist of international repute? Is he someone whose opinion resonates a credible discourse? Or was he simply writing with a bias (or perhaps hatred)?

Just a week prior to that report, I sent the editor an article by Dennis Ross which appeared in The Washington Post. Ross, a counsellor at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, served as President Bill Clinton's Middle East negotiator and was a special assistant to President Barack Obama from 2009 to 2011.

Surely with such credentials Ross' piece would have warranted similar exposure as Sengupta's?

This is where the dishonesty, bias and lack of integrity of The Star is exposed. Its editor simply

ignored any veneer of an attempt at balance, ignoring that there is another narrative to that conflict, ignoring most importantly, the truth!

During the first week of October last year, The Star published a scathing attack on Israel by Suraya Dadoo, a member of an advocacy group. An opposing advocacy group requested the right of reply to that op-ed, but it fell on deaf ears.

Where is the balance? How many times does INL allow opinion space to The Media Review Network, a well-known anti-Israel advocacy group, but has never allowed the Israel Media Team the same consideration?

Again on October 14 last year, The Star featured a report on a donor conference for Gaza, emphasising the number of deaths "most of them civilians", and again the following day a similar report about the reconstruction of Gaza. But it couldn't resist underscoring the 2 100 Palestinians killed, "most of them civilians".

Every report was accompanied by those subliminal photographs designed to stir up more hatred.

Dr Survé, please read Malice, Media bias and The Cape Times, by Mike Berger, then perhaps you may understand the criticism that you are trying to defend.

**Allan Wolman
Rosebank, Johannesburg**

SAUJS at Tuks off to a promising start



The SAUJS committee at Tuks: Chavah Barit (vice-chairman); Jaden Kramer (national director); Chad Posner (chairman); Natan Pollack (SAUJS national chairman); and Taryn Bortz (treasurer).

**DIANE WOLFSON
PRETORIA**

Chad Posner, a second year B Com Business Management Student at Pretoria University (Tuks), was instrumental in forming a branch of the SA Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) at the beginning of the year.

Together with a number of other Jewish students, he was motivated to put this organisation on track due to the lack of Jewish unity on campus, problems with having to write tests on Shabbat, no structural support for Jewish students and to bring Jewish awareness to the university.

According to Pretoria University legislation, a minimum of 60 signatures are required to start an organisation. An amazing 30 students turned up at the first meeting. After advertising to the Jewish students "free coffee for a signature", a total of 67 students signed on!

The first event held was a "Fallafel Tasting" where T-shirts

and bags were handed out and students on campus were educated about Israel and the Jewish community, thereby increasing public relations on campus.

Approximately 70 non-Jewish students also expressed interest and signed up at this event. More events are being planned for the upcoming months.

After personally battling with the university over exams on Shabbat and Yomtov for approximately four months, Posner felt it was necessary to give the Jewish students a support structure. Posner, as chairman of Tuks SAUJS, has been in regular contact with Wendy Kahn of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies who helps make arrangements with the university to ensure that it does not violate the rights of Jewish students.

• Anyone wishing to find out more, can log onto the Facebook page, "Tuks SAUJS" and any Tuks student can sign up through contacting Posner by e-mailing tukssaujs@gmail.com

Wanted for Next Auction

Art, antiques, objects, furniture & jewellery



Penny Siopis,
Oil and mixed media on canvas
SOLD R440 000



Otto Klar,
Oil on board
SOLD R25 000



Early 19th century
silver plated tea urn
SOLD R7 500



Fr. Frans Claerhout,
Oil on board
SOLD R50 000



19th Century oak chest on chest
with brass handles
SOLD R15 000



Three piece
Chester silver teaset
SOLD R6 500

Upcoming auction
Saturday, 20 June @ 9:30am

russelkaplan 
auctioneers

www.rkauctioneers.co.za • 083 675 8468 • rka@global.co.za
Corner Garden and Allan Roads, Bordeaux

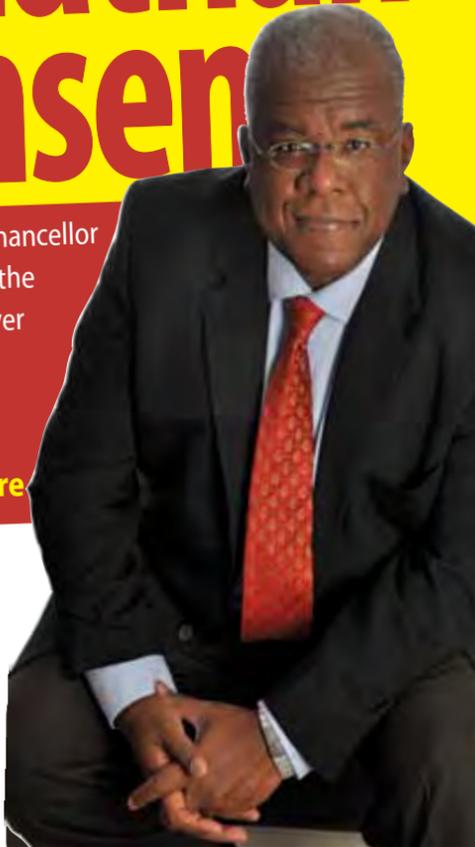
Read the South African
Jewish Report online
www.sajewishreport.co.za

Wednesday, 20th May 2015 at 8.00pm

Jonathan Jansen

The dynamic Vice Chancellor of the University of the Free State will deliver the 11th annual **Franz Auerbach Interfaith Memorial Lecture**

Slome Auditorium,
Beit Emanuel
Progressive Synagogue,
38 Oxford Rd, Parktown.
Entrance Free
www.beitemmanuel.co.za



Lag B'Omer celebrated with fun and joy at KDLPP

SHEVA MESSIAS

Lag B'Omer was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fun at KDL Pre-Primary School last week.

After a week of learning about Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, the school was visited by the grade 7s who had prepared an hour of varied activities. They played games, drew pictures of bonfires and ate iced biscuits.

A bonfire was then lit and the children stood around, sang songs and watched the flames. They roasted marshmallows and all the classes held picnics.

A highlight was a visit by champion archer Aurelle Medalie, who demonstrated how to use a bow and arrow. It was a memorable celebration enjoyed by all.



Photo: Sheva Messias

Two KDVP debaters hit the big time!

DR ELIZABETH LEAVER

King David Victory Park champion grade 10 debaters, Jordan Arenstein and Rachel Weisz, have brought further honour and glory to the school, by winning two of the three berths available on the South African National Junior Debating Team for 2015.

Debating takes place under the auspices of the SA Council for English Education. Last year the KDVP SACEE Junior A team, consisting of Jordan, Rachel, and Jared Greenstein, pulled off a great victory when they won the SACEE Junior Debating Championships.

Jordan and Rachel were subsequently selected to represent Gauteng at the South African National Championships where they performed so well that they were chosen for the South African Junior Team trials, which took place on Sunday May 3.

The 2015 South African Junior Team comprises two development debaters and three non-development debaters, and therefore, by their selection, Jordan and Rachel have been



Rachel Weisz and Jordan Arenstein - KDVP grade 10 champion debaters.

identified as two of South Africa's top three junior debaters. They are currently undergoing training with the Junior Team coaches, in preparation for a major international debating tournament later this year, probably in Europe.

The school salutes Jordan and Rachel for their stellar achievement and wishes them success in the coming months.

"We would also like to express our gratitude for the splendid way in which they help to coach and encourage our youngest debaters, especially the grade 8 SACEE team, who are just starting out on their debating careers," the school said in a statement. "With learners such as Jordan and Rachel, debating is certainly alive and well and living at King David Victory Park."

Yeshiva Primary celebrates Lag B'Omer in style

OWN CORRESPONDENT



Yeshiva College grade 5 girls enjoying the boerewors braai and bonfire.

Yeshiva College Primary School in Johannesburg celebrated Lag B'Omer by creating a "Mini Olympic Park".

The entire school was divided into teams with boys and girls competing separately. There were a variety of events with even a "Potatoes and Spoon Race", in honour of Lag B'Omer. The day finished with a boerewors braai, a bonfire and a picnic for all the learners.

TA sports day combines with Lag B'Omer celebrations

SUZANNE BELLING

Torah Academy Primary School held its annual sports day last week Thursday, Lag B'Omer. Parents and grandparents joined in the celebrations cheering on their choice of the two houses, Mitzvah and Torah. Events in all age groups included sprint, javelin, shot put, sling throw, long jump, relays and even tug o'war and races for dads and teachers. Prior to the sports events, the entire school held a rally to celebrate Lag B'Omer.

The following learners took top sports honours:

Junior Victrix Ludorum: Rachel Meltzer and Rivka Youngworth;
Senior Victrix Ludorum: Rochele Rodal;
Junior Victor Ludorum: Tzvi Stern; and
Senior Victor Ludorum: Shneur Uzvolk.



Grade 1 pupil David Medalie taking aim in the shot put.

Photo: Suzanne Belling

**AMAZING
TRANSPORT &
WAREHOUSING**

**AMAZING
TRANSPORT &
WAREHOUSING**

- Free quotations
- Office removals
- Domestic removals
- International removals
- Internal removals
- Fully trained supervised staff

- Monitored storage
- Local and long distance transport
- Specialising in packing and unpacking
- Removal of safes and computer equipment



011 887 1882 • 011 440 2736

Fax: 011 440 2905 • Cell: 082 564 9051

ACCREDITED
BEE



Member of The Road Freight Association - the body that sets standards for trucking companies and drivers

VAMOS
We are an Accredited Mover of the Professional Movers Association of SA

We are an Accredited Mover of the Professional Movers Association of SA



Member of The Professional Movers Association

ESTABLISHED IN 1989, AMAZING TRANSPORT AND WAREHOUSING WILL GUARANTEE A STRESS-FREE MOVE.

WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON OUR PERSONAL SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO YOU, OUR VALUED CLIENT.

Email: info@amazingtransport.co.za
Website: www.amazingtransport.co.za

Kipa Bots Lego whizz kids set the mind reeling

SUZANNE BELLING

The mind boggles at 12 8th grade learners from an Amit school in Modiin, Israel who were in Johannesburg to compete in an international Lego robotics competition. To see the robots they created out of Lego, totally programmed to mathematical equations, one can hardly believe these imaginative building blocks, marketed originally as toys for the very young, can do what they do. Plus the precision of the robots built by the boys themselves.

Their achievements in the field of Legorobotics and an obligatory accompanying project on how to improve education, earned the youngsters second place out of 44 competing countries in the competition held at the Dome last week.

The name of the team, Kipa Bots, is a combination of their middle-of-the road Jewish observance and their passion for Legorobotics. Not only did their creation of the robots garner them the acclaim of the judges, but also the educational part of the competition – the team's design of an ideal classroom. They designed the model to be conducive to learning and teaching, complete with tables, whiteboards, an aquarium for time-out with an emphasis on cohesion and integration between teachers and their learners.

A far cry from the traditional classrooms with desks in formation and loafers sitting at the back, the Kipa Bots team's classroom design was approved by the director-general of education in Israel, complete with a budget to actually build two classrooms on this model, with a third



The award-winning Israeli Kipa Bots team that took second place among 44 teams in an international Lego robotics competition in Johannesburg, Sigal Uziel-Karl, mentor; Lishay Ein Dor; Eshel Sinclair; David Grunfeld; Omer Avidar; Matan Kriel; Matan Rynhold; Shalev Zeiger; Oren Ansbacher; Yona Gil Zeller; Omri Kingsley; Rafi Cohen; Noam Maisel; and Yosi Karl, mentor.

on another campus in the offing.

"It is encouraging a comeback to engineering, as opposed to the usual career choices of law and accountancy," said their school principal, Rabbi Itamar Haikin, who brought the boys to South Africa. The team was accompanied by mentors Sigal Uziel-Karl and her husband Yosi Karl.

The competition, says Haikin, is called FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). "It is a joint venture between the First Lego League (FLL) and FIRST.

Says Karl, "It has taken off all over the world and this particular competition was organised by FIRST in South Africa. In Israel, there are 400 FLL groups.

"The FLL challenges us to build a robot and programme it to complete a maximum number of assignments within a given time frame, to score points on a themed playing field (robot game), to de-

velop a solution to a problem we identify in the real world - the project - and to do all this while adhering to the FLL core values."

The team meets twice a week after school for about six to eight hours, where they design, build, programme, test and refine their robot, as well as spending time working on the FLL World Class Project.

The boys told SA Jewish Report: "We each bring different talents to the group. We have our engineers, programmers, problem solvers and researchers. We all work together to achieve our goals."

One of the strengths of the Kipa Bots team was the proficiency in English during the presentations, as many of the members have roots in Anglo-Saxon countries, including South Africa.

"What we discover is more important than what we win," is the consensus of the team players.

Nominations are open

Nominations for the 17th annual SA Jewish Report's "Absa Jewish Achiever Awards" are open and the 2015 event is sure to again raise the bar.

The annual fundraiser culminates with a gala banquet on August 23, which is, without question, the highlight of the Jewish Johannesburg social calendar. The glittering dinner honours members of South African Jewry who have excelled in business and the humanities.

Nominations are open to the public and all nominations should be sent via e-mail to nominations@sajewishreport.co.za - see more on www.sajr.co.za - and anyone can nominate anyone.

The closing date for nominations is June 26.

The judging, especially in the audited business categories, has been described by many top financial people in the know, as the most rigorous and credible business awards process in the country.

Nominations should include:

- The nominee's name, telephone number and e-mail address;
- The award for which the nominee is nominated;
- A short motivation for the nomination.

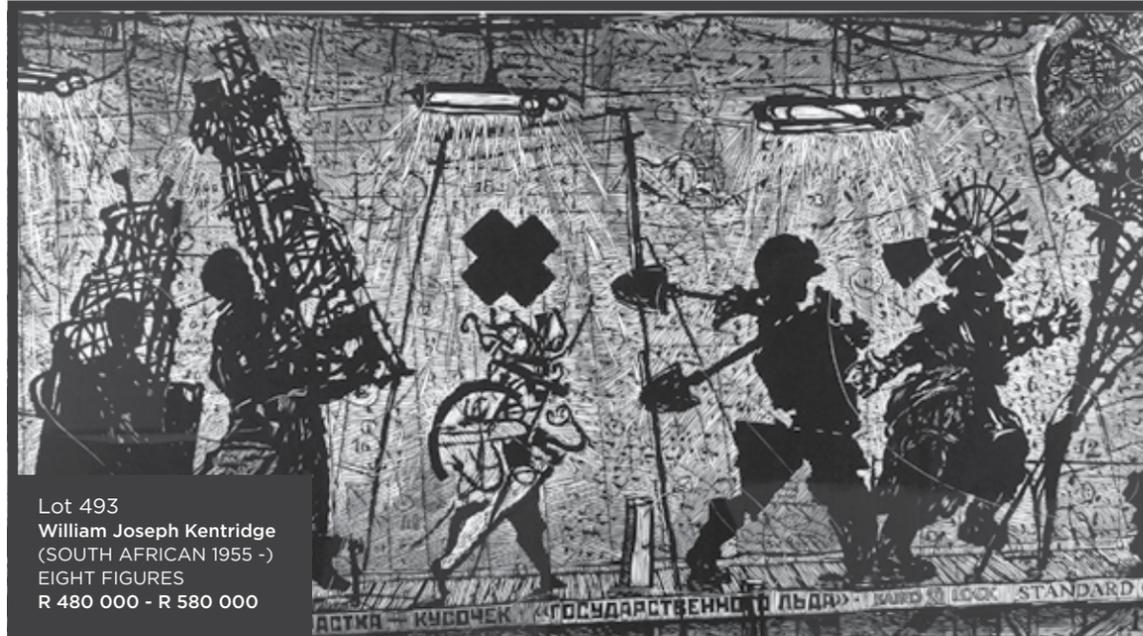
The Business and Entrepreneurial awards are judged by a panel of independent business people, financial journalists, stockbrokers and Absa representatives. The results are all audited by Grant Thornton.

The Jewish Report Humanities awards are:

- The Lifetime Achievement Award in honour of Helen Suzman;
- The Community Service Award, going to a Jewish person;
- The Arts, Science, Sports & Culture Award, going to a Jewish person;
- The Chivas Humanitarian Award in honour of Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, awarded to either a Jewish or non-Jewish person.

The four Jewish Business Awards are:

- The Absa Listed Company Award;
- The Absa Unlisted Company Award;
- The Absa Entrepreneur Award;
- The Creative Counsel Young Jewish Entrepreneur Award.



Lot 493
William Joseph Kentridge
(SOUTH AFRICAN 1955 -)
EIGHT FIGURES
R 480 000 - R 580 000



Lot 478
Sydney Alex Kumalo
(SOUTH AFRICAN 1935 - 1988)
MOTHER AND CHILD
Est. R 70 000 - R 90 000



Lot 708
A GALLE BLOWN-OUT CAMEO GLASS
VASE, CIRCA 1900
Est. R 40 000 - R 60 000

FINE ART & COLLECTABLES AUCTION

CAPE TOWN
26 & 27 May 2015
Viewing 20 - 24 May

Contact
021 794 6461
for more details

Stephan Welz & Co. EST. 1968
FINE ART & DESIGN AUCTIONEERS

Books | Maps | Paintings | Sculptures | Collectable
Cars | Carpets | Clocks | Furniture | Ceramics | Glass
Jewellery | Silver | Watches | Vintage Fashion
Tribal Art | Photography

The Great Cellar | The Alphen Estate
Alphen Drive | Constantia | 7806

www.stephanwelzandco.co.za



Fake parts can kill you.

 Genuine Parts



The Power to Surprise

Nik brings laughter in times of 'darkness'

LISA SCHEWITZ

The Union of Jewish Women, East London, hosted well-known comedian Nik Rabinowitz as a fundraiser for the major charities they support in East London.

This was Rabinowitz's first performance at East London's Guild Theatre and the event was sold out.

His enthusiasm and energy got the

crowd engaged and everyone had a good laugh, which was much needed in these times of load shedding and "darkness".

The charities that benefit from the funds raised include: Cansa, Greensleeves, Jersey Week, Hospice, Masimanyane Rape Care Centre, Meals on Wheels, Reach for a Dream, Salem Baby Centre, Southernwood Primary School and Sunshine Place.

The East London branch was touched by the tremendous support of the broader East London community and it was wonderful to have so many denominations and faiths laughing together and having a good time.

Michelle Rosenthal (vice chairman); Nik Rabinowitz; Ethne Schewitz (chairman); and Lisa Schewitz.



Photo: Larry Schewitz

@the right time @the right place @Grant Thornton

We've moved.

Just like our dynamic clients, we're going places. We now have over 450 people working under one roof for the first time since our 'merger of equals'*.

Our new office building, aptly named @Grant Thornton is a state-of-the-art space where our multi-disciplinary teams can unite to help our dynamic clients unlock their potential for growth. We are Grant Thornton and it's what we do for our clients every day. Contact us at our new address to help unlock your potential for growth.

@Grant Thornton

Wanderers Office Park
52 Corlett Drive, Illovo, Johannesburg, 2196
T +27 (0)10 590-7200 F +27 (0)10 590-7201

* Grant Thornton and PKF Johannesburg announced their merger of equals in July 2013 which doubled our size and capacity in the city of gold.



95 years of making a difference

Audit • Tax • Advisory

www.gt.co.za

2015 Grant Thornton South Africa. All rights reserved. Grant Thornton South Africa is a member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTIL). GTIL and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate, one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions. Please see www.gt.co.za for further details.

Community Columns

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Diversity is something to be welcomed

At the time of writing, I am in Cape Town at the invitation of Minister Susan Shabangu, Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women, to attend her budget speech in Parliament.

Yesterday, our President Zev Krenzel attended the State Security budget speech. This week, other executive members are attending the 5th Global Forum for Combating Anti-Semitism in Jerusalem.

These activities underline what is one of the key functions of the SAJBD, which is to maintain a working connection between the Jewish community and the greater society, whether in the realm of local political affairs or those involving international Jewry.

Participating in international conferences enables us to take part in the global Jewish conversation through meeting and exchanging ideas with our counterparts from all over the Jewish world and forging productive working relationships with them.

In the local political sphere, building relationships with government at all levels not only makes it possible for us to deal with issues of direct concern to SA Jewry, but also creates opportunities for us to participate in and contribute to the wider nation-building process.

What is true of the political and international Jewish spheres also applies to the civil society realm. Much of the essential work in confronting our country's myriad challenges is being carried out by the NGO sector, including in the human rights, educational and social welfare fields.

In KwaZulu-Natal, the Board's regional office continues to be much involved, in tandem with such Jewish-headed outreach organisations as



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

ORT-SA and Afrika Tikkun, in addressing the aftermath of the recent xenophobia unrest.

This involves dealing not just with the immediate, short-term needs of those who have suffered, but seeking to confront the underlying socio-economic problems that gave rise to the violence in the first place.

An area where I believe our community can make an especially significant contribution is that of tolerance education. This is where the work of the SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation (SAHGF), and its three regional centres in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban, is so vital.

Each year, tens of thousands of learners visit these centres. Among the lessons they learn are that acts of hatred against others based on race, ethnicity or other such grounds do not happen out of nowhere, but are invariably preceded by hateful words against those targeted.

Just as invariably, a central theme of such discourse is to portray the targeted group as being "the other" – people to be regarded as an alien and negative element in society by virtue of their differing from the mainstream. Such thinking is at the core of all racist thinking. It is also characteristic of totalitarian regimes, where divergences from what is held to be "correct" modes of thinking are officially discouraged.

Part of the brief of the SAHGF, therefore, is to teach that diversity whether of race, culture, religion or creed – is something to be respected, indeed welcomed, and that people can hold different views without regarding those who think otherwise as being "the enemy".

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

This column paid for by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies



DEALER OF THE YEAR - 2014
SUZUKI POP
JHB SOUTH
FOCUS ON

Demo Madness

Toyota Auris 1.8 MT
R169 900
SAVE R23 000

Suzuki Swift 1.3 SA MT
R118 900
SAVE R13 000

Land Rover Freelander 2.2 SA MT
R201 900
SAVE R20 000

Suzuki Swift 1.3 SA MT
R239 900
SAVE R56 000

Suzuki Swift 1.3 SA MT
R119 900
SAVE R10 000

Suzuki Swift 1.3 SA MT
R108 900
SAVE R15 000



73 Main Street, Rosettenville 2091
(011) 210 1300
www.suzukijhbsouth.co.za



Mario: 082 569 5339



Meyer Benjamin: 082 490 6000



Basil: 076 511 5696



Car Outfitters & Mouton roads, Morija, West Rand, Roodoepoort
(011) 760 2307
www.suzukiwest.co.za

PEOPLE YOU KNOW, CARS YOU TRUST

Offers valid for a limited period only. Mandatory insurances are excluded. Pictures shown are for illustrative purposes only. E & OE.

Lee's Stuff

Moving or just cleaning house?

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

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

TO BOOK YOUR CLASSIFIED NOTICE OR ADVERT CONTACT:

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

BEAUTY & HEALTH

Professional wedding make-up



Jacqui 083-447-6347
Jacqui@slenderwithin.co.za

AUDIOLOGIST

KELLY NATHAN

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

INDIVIDUALISED SERVICE FOR ALL YOUR HEARING NEEDS

LIFTS OFFERED

A TAXI SERVICE

Let Warren Pogorelsky chauffeur you to your destination in Johannesburg and back. OR Tambo from R200. Mercedes Benz
Tel: 082-399-6187
Sun City & Game Reserve

SMILE-LEE'S LIFTS

A reliable lift service. Specialising in lifts to and from airports, shops, appointments, casinos and courier.
Charna 083-391-6612

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

AIRPORT SHUTTLE SAM

(011) 728-5219
083-627-8516
To OR Tambo from R180.
To Lanseria from R220.
Reasonable rates to all other areas.

CAPE TOWN HOWIE'S SHUTTLE

Since 2007
- AIRPORT TRANSFERS
- GENERAL TRANSPORT
www.howiesshuttle.co.za
Please phone Howard
082-711-4616

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

To place your classified advert call Daisy on (011) 430-1980

LIFTS OFFERED

Lift service
Doctor's app, OR Tambo, Lanseria Airports.
Reasonable rates!
Ivan 082-962-5007

DIAL A LIFT

083-267-3281

Pip Friedman
Comfortable & Spacious
7 seater.

dialalift@gmail.com

www.dialalift.co.za

AIRPORT SERVICE

JHB



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

SERVICES

HOME SERVICES

DECEASED ESTATE HOUSE CLEARANCES

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

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

The Fridge Doctor

083-228-2277

Bramley Plumbers

Since 1966
Reliable, efficient & affordable same-day service
Tel: (011) 444-4732

SERVICES

HOME SERVICES

A1 PLUMBERS
24 HOUR SERVICE
10% discount for pensioners

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

(011) 646-3412

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

SERVICES

NOTICES

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

FOREIGN CITIZENSHIP

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

Toronto real estate relocation

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

VEHICLES

WANTED

IF YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL A VEHICLE

CONTACT: SOLLY KRAMER 082-922-3597

VEHICLES WANTED WE PAY CASH

ANY MAKE ANY MODEL ANY CONDITION ALSO ACCIDENT - DAMAGED VEHICLES & NON RUNNERS WANTED
CALL ARNOLD ORKIN
Cell: 082 823 7826

Today, Friday (May 15)

- Chabad Seniors Club presents a daily "Educational Academy for the Elderly". Free transportation as well as occupational therapy, dynamic lectures and discussions, refreshments, lunch, Yiddish Club, iPad lessons, blood pressure and sugar tests and more. Venue: Chabad House Savoy. Information: Rabbi Ari Kievan (011) 440-6600 or www.chabadsouthafrica.org/seniors
- Shul in Sandton Central presents "Study & Miryan in the CBD". Come learn with Moses, Maimonides and a couple of rabbis. Venue: 8 Stella Street, Sandton. Time: 17:00 - 19:00 Mincha/Maariv 17:30 - 18:15. Information: Rabbi Ari Kievan 079-434-1293 or www.SandtonCentral.org.zarak@chabad.org.za
- UZLC hosts Mannie Zar on "Some Humour in the Law". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Saturday (May 16)

- Pine Street Shul, under the auspices of the Chazzones Club, screens "Beneath the Helmet" at the shul, followed by a talk by Wayne Kopping, producer of the film. Time: 19:30. Cost R60 (incl light supper). Limited seating. Booking essential. Information: Ashley Lazarus, tel (011) 728-6366 or e-mail lazari@iburst.co.za. Payment at the door.
- Greenside Shul hosts Sarah Sassoon after the brocha, on "Iraqi Jews and Their Relationship to Ezra and Nechemiah". Contact: Lara (011) 447-3729 for more information.

Sunday (May 17)

- Chabad's Goodness & Kindness Centre presents "Power Sundays; Learn,

Shmooze, Pray. Start Your Week in a Soulful Way!" Venue: 8 Stella Street, Sandton. Time: 08:15. Information: Rabbi Ari Kievan 079-434-1293 or www.SandtonCentral.org.zarak@chabad.org.za

- RCHCC screens "The Tin Drum", a film by Volker Schlöndorff. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R70 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378), a/h (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net or www.greatpark.co.za

- RCHCC hosts the opening of an exhibition of paintings by Thyryza Stott and Ronel Wheeler. Time: 18:00. Exhibition closes on Sunday June 7. Gallery Hours: Monday - Thursday 09:00 - 16:00; Friday 09:00 - 12:00; Saturday - closed. Enquiries: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088, a/h (011) 728-8378 or e-mail rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net

- Greenside Shul, as part of its Yom Yerushalayim celebration, hosts a "First Fun Run/Walk of Greenside Jerusalem Marathon" at 08:30, with trainer Graham Rozen. Contact: Lara (011) 447-3729 for more information.

- Second Innings hosts Dr Judy Jaye on "The Value of Positive Thinking". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R30 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Contact: Linda Fleishman (011) 532-9701.

Monday (May 18)

- Chabad Seniors Club for men and women includes free transport, memory enhancement with occupational therapist Cynthia Liptz, lectures and discussions, refreshments, lunch, iPad lessons and more. Venue: Chabad House, Savoy. Time: 09:00 - 13:00. Information: Rabbi

Ari Kievan (011) 440-6600 or www.chabadsouthafrica.org/seniors

- South African Jewish Museum in Cape Town hosts internationally acclaimed photographer David Rubinger at the Museum, to promote an exhibition of some of his most famous photographs. The exhibition will run until the end of July. Rubinger will be available for interviews from May 12 - 17 in Cape Town. Contact: Gavin Morris at gavin@sajewishmuseum.co.za or (021) 465-1546.

- UJW adult education division hosts Edward French, consultant to SA Qualifications Authority and observer of the politics surrounding educational policy in SA, on "Personal Reflections on Standards of Education in South Africa". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (May 19)

- Chabad offers a "Multiplex of Shiurim". Venue: Chabad House, 27 Aintree Avenue, Savoy. The 09:45 lecture for men and women, "Power of the People" with Rabbi Ari Kievan and at 11:15 an exclusive ladies shiur with Aviva Goldman. Free transport, refreshments, lunch, no cost. Information (011) 440-6600 or www.chabadsouthafrica.org/seniors

- WIZO Forum presents "The Key to Unlocking the World of Books", with booklover Penny Hochfeld and Exclusive Books CEO, Benjamin Trisk. Venue: Exclusive Books Rosebank. Time: 09:45 for 10:00. Cost: R40 (incl tea). Contact: Nadine (011) 645-2515 or wizojhb@beyachad.co.za

- Greenside Shul, as part of its heritage programme, presents a nine-part series with Abba Eban, "Civilisation and the Jews" every Tuesday until June 9.

Venue: Downstairs function hall. Entrance free. Donations toward screening of DVD series welcome. Time: 19:30 - 20:30. Contact: Lara (011) 447-3729 for more information and to RSVP.

Wednesday (May 20)

- Chabad House offers "Get Ready for Shavuot", a lecture for men and women. "Venue: Chabad House, Savoy. Time: 09:45. Information: (011) 440-6600 or www.chabadsouthafrica.org/seniors

- Chabad House offers "Judaism Decoded: The Origins & Evolution of Jewish Tradition". Venue: Kirsh Goodness & Kindness Centre, 8 Stella Street, Sandton. Time: 19:15. Information: www.JLI.org.za

- UJW adult education division hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Dept of English at Wits on "Contemporary Poetry and its Relevance to Our Own Lives". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

Thursday (May 21)

- Second Innings hosts the new Barbara Streisand movie "Back to Brooklyn". Venue: Ditsong Museum of Military History, Saxonwold. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. It's a 2-hour movie, with an intermission for tea. Cost: R80. Enquiries and bookings: Betty Jankelowitz. Tel (011) 532-9701.

- Beit Emanuel hosts the 11th Franz Auerbach Interfaith Memorial lecture. Guest speaker: Prof Jonathan Jansen, vice-chancellor of the University of the Free State. Time: 20:00.

- WIZO every Thursday hosts Rabbi Michael Katz for a "Lunch & Learn" shiur. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 13:00. Enquiries: WIZO office, (011) 645-2515.

Community Columns

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

Tip of the iceberg

I received an e-mail on Monday last week and although it was not unusual, it occurred to me that anyone not in the know wouldn't realise the significance of the message and how it hints at something much larger and infinitely more complex. It simply said, "Please be advised that (name of resident at our mental health facility) was admitted today to Ward 487 at the Jo'burg Gen."

What that means is that something has gone wrong that we are not equipped to deal with within our facility and need help from a state or private hospital.

So what could have happened to escalate a patient's condition? There are many possibilities. The 85 residents in our mental health facilities suffer from a variety of mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder, depression, OCD, substance abuse, schizophrenia, eating disorders, etc. They are invariably on psychiatric medication to help them manage these difficult conditions.

Prescriptions are filled at government hospitals where supply is erratic, alternatives (not always helpful) are provided and changes made without notice or consultation. Sometimes their medication is not available at all - not anywhere - and sudden discontinuation can lead to serious withdrawal symptoms.



Chevrah Kadisha
AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY WELFARE
Partners in Chesed
Michael Sieff
Group CEO

That's one scenario and I won't minimise the challenges it poses for us. But there are others too, like the fact that trauma, stress, hormonal changes and a build-up of resistance can render medication previously effective, useless. There are times when a physical illness can lead to a change in mental health and even times when the cycle of the illness itself indicates medication revision.

But state hospitals often refuse to accept our patients - they are short of beds, of staff, of everything. Ours is not a lock-up facility and if a patient is sent back to us in a psychotic state, we face a sizeable problem.

In a strange way then, the e-mail was good news. In a psychiatric hospital ward we are hopeful that residents will be stabilised and discharged. And while there, we maintain contact with them through our hospital liaison programme, tracking their progress, visiting and sending food and toiletries.

Still better news was the e-mail I received a few days later saying: "Please be advised that (name of resident at our mental health facility) was today discharged and is back at Sandringham Lodge."

May our partnership continue to thrive!
Feedback@thechev.org.za

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha

Ben-Gurion University to develop robots to help senior citizens

BEERSHEVA - Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) researchers have received a grant from Israel's Ministry of Science, Technology and Space to develop robotic systems that will meet the needs of senior citizens.

The project, titled "Follow Me: Proxemics and Responsiveness for Following Tasks in Adaptive Assistive Robotics", will use "robotic adaptive person-following" algorithms to create robots that will adjust to specific tasks, the pace and ability of their users, and their environment.

"While most person-following algorithms focus on the effectiveness and efficiency of the robot, what is unique about our approach is we focus on the effectiveness of the human-robot interaction by introducing constructs related to proximity in human-human interaction," said Dr Tal Oron-Gilad, a researcher in BGU's Department of Industrial Engineering and Management. Robots can assist the elderly in everyday tasks as they age," she added. (JNS.org)

Hasofer Rabbi Yisroel Drutman

טל: 2711 640 1834
טל: 2782 347 8744
yisroeldrutman@ofers@gmail.com

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

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

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

Cyclist Kevin Evans calls it quits

JACK MILNER

Maccabiah gold medallist Kevin Evans has decided to retire from professional cycling.

Kevin is one of South Africa's most successful cyclists, particularly mountain biking, but he turns 37 next month and feels the time has come to call it quits.

"I've had great sponsors and ridden for fantastic teams over the years. Most importantly, I've built up personal relationships with all of them. There are so many and I can never thank them enough for everything they have done, to help me try achieve my personal goals that I set out for myself," Kevin told Tread magazine.

"But the time has come for me to step down from fulltime racing. I will always be involved in the cycling world and industry; it's my love and my passion. Perhaps I'll return to racing in a few years' time, in the competitive 'vets' category, but for now I have some other priorities, small ones, like life, family and business."

In July, Kevin will contest the Momentum Knynsa Festival road and mountain bike events for the last time as a professional and will conclude his racing career in September at the Crater Cruise Marathon, which he's won five times, the Pennypinchers Dr Evil Classic three-day stage race, which he won in 2014, and then the Pennypinchers Karoo2Coast, which he has

won three times.

Kevin turned professional at the age of 24 and that late start might well have played a part on his longevity. While he has primarily been a mountain bike racer, Kevin has also excelled on the road. In 2008 he finished fifth at the Tour of Egypt, ninth at the Tour of Ireland and 19th at the Tour of Britain.

He also competed for South Africa in 2008 at the road cycling World Championships. And in 2010 he finished second overall at the Giro del Capo, won the King of the Mountains jersey and, later that year, the South African Individual Time Trial title. In 2013, Kevin won gold in the road race and silver in the time trial at the Maccabi Games in Israel.

However, the majority of his successes have been on the mountain bike. He represented the country at the mountain bike World Championships every year consecutively from 2003 to 2012, mostly in the marathon but in 2003 and 2007 also in the Olympic cross country. He won the South African cross country elite title twice and the marathon title four times, which is still a record.

His final national team representation at a marathon World Championships was last year, when South Africa hosted the prestigious global event in Pietermaritzburg. His highest marathon World Champs finish was eighth in 2009.

Kevin also won the South African National Marathon Series title for six consecutive years and contested 10 Absa Cape Epics, finishing on the final overall podium four times with four stage wins.



SA and Maccabi gold medallist, Kevin Evans, has decided to quit professional cycling later this year.

It's that time of the year again,
sasfin
 2015 Sports Quiz

DATE: Thursday, 18 June 2015
TIME: 18:00 for 18:30
VENUE: The Polo Room, Inanda Club, 1 Forrest Road, Inanda, Sandton.
DRESS: Smart Casual
COST: R12 500 per table
BOOKINGS: Christy (011) 646-7340 or email christy@mscsports.co.za

MSCSPORTS making sport count

sasfin bank IN SUPPORT OF **Sasfin Sport**

MACSTEEL

Offering you the most comprehensive range of steel products and value added processing services in Africa

- Aluminium
- Blanking
- Bright Bar
- Castellated Beams
- Cellular Beams
- Cold Form Sections
- Cold Saw Cutting
- Conveyance Pipe
- Corrugated Roofing
- Drilling
- Expanded Metal
- Fencing Products
- Flame Cutting
- Flanges
- Fluid Control Systems
- Freestock
- Galvanized Sheets
- Galvanized Tubing
- Grating
- Guillotining
- Harveytiles
- Heat Treatment Services
- High Strength Steels
- Hollow Bar
- IBR Roofing
- Laboratory Services
- Laser Cutting
- Laser Cut Tubing
- Lipped Channels
- Open Sections
- Palisade Fencing
- Pipe Fittings
- Plasma Cutting
- Plates
- Plate Bending & Rolling
- Pre-coated Sheets
- Pressure Vessel Steels
- Profile Sections
- Purlins
- Rails
- Reinforcing
- Roofing Solutions
- Sheets
- Slitting
- Special Steels
- Stainless Steels
- Stretcher Leveling
- Structural Steels
- Technical Consultancy
- Tool Steels
- Tubing
- Valves & Actuators
- Wear Resistant Steels
- Zinalume Roof Sheets



Best Quality, Service, Value!

The Macsteel Group - Africa's leading steel supplier - www.macsteel.co.za

Maccabi SA is keeping busy

JACK MILNER

We are still a couple of years away from the next Maccabiah, but Maccabi SA (MSA) is keeping the organisation busy, especially with younger sportsmen and women.

Maccabi SA Golf has been in a good state for many years and the Pro Shop Maccabi SA Golf National Championship took place from April 26 to 28 at Houghton Golf Course. Some 75 players competed in the 55th edition of this three-day event.

The field of players was divided up into divisions A, B, C, Masters, Super Seniors, Women and Juniors and what has been the tradition for many years, Mr Maccabi SA Golf himself, Barney Gordon, assisted in the handing out of prizes of the overall winners.

Division A: Jonathan Josset; Division B: Dan Stillerman; Division C: David Spilkin; Super Seniors: Stan Allison; Masters: Adrian Diamond; Women: Elaine Rubens; Juniors: Jonathan Kotzen

Maccabi SA Golf will now be looking to the Camp David Tournament where South Africa plays Israel for golfing glory at the Israeli Open in November.

In cricket, on April 27, Maccabi SA Junior Cricket hosted a 50 overs format tournament at King David Victory Park. Some 40 junior cricketers from different

schools competed under the banner of MSA.

There were two age groups - Under-13 and Under-18 who battled it out and the "blue caps" won the U18 division and the "white caps" the U13 division.

This tournament was part of the greater MSA project to be a sustainable ongoing and active community organisation that can add value. Events such as this provide an out of school Jewish setting which is vital in keeping our youth engaged in the community. More events have been planned.



Men's and women's winners Jonathan Josset and Elaine Rubens with their trophies after the Pro Shop Maccabi SA Golf National Championship at Houghton, Johannesburg.



59⁹⁹ 200g



25⁹⁹ 1kg

Plus lots more specials instore

Offers valid till 20th May '15



11⁹⁹ 200's

