



Minister Gigaba -
again - allays fears
regarding dual
citizenship
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South African Jewish Report

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Fervent prayers for Israel peace



Photo: Ian Ossendryver

Fervent prayers for peace in Israel are reflected on the faces of these women in the gallery of the Yeshiva College Hebrew Congregation last Sunday evening. Several hundred members of the Gauteng Jewish community, comprising representatives of organisations, synagogues, as well as individuals responded to Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein’s call for unity and prayer at a special service organised by his office and held in conjunction with the SA Zionist Federation. Speakers included the Chief Rabbi, Israeli Ambassador Arthur Lenk, SAZF President Avrom Krengel and Rabbi Dr Shlomo Glicksberg, of the Mizrachi Congregation and Rosh Kollel on the Yeshiva College Campus. Pictured are from bottom left: Rachel Hodes; Peta Welcher; Ruth Welcher; Naomi Lichtenstein. Middle row: Pam Goldberg; Leah Gordon; Alison Goldberg; Rachel Goldberg. Third row: Michal Chipkin; Pnina Herring; Tali Bregman.

In SA, over world, Shabbos Project is embraced

The Shabbos Project takes place on Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24. This project, brainchild of Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, was initiated in this country in 2013 and has already spread to 465 cities and 65 countries.

2

Our ‘Dan the Music Man’ is conquering the world

South African Dan Patlansky has carved a niche for himself as one of the world’s foremost rock/blues exponents. He has embarked on a major tour of almost every western European country.

5

Third intifada? Palestinian violence Israel’s new norm

Israelis have become accustomed to dismal news in the past few weeks – mornings and evenings punctuated by stabbings, car attacks and rock throwing. The cycle of violence has left dozens of Israelis and Palestinians dead, with fears of a ‘third intifada’.



6

Rabbinical Pimpernel is back in South Africa

Controversial fugitive Rabbi Eliezer Berland, leader of the Shuvu Bonim Breslov Chassidic sect, wanted on a number of charges in Israel, is back in SA. He and his followers have been living in the Midrand area for the past month.

11

For Shane, four decades on, the journey continues

‘Karate king’ Shane Dorfman’s ‘fourth decade’ has brought three major changes: Seventh Dan in karate; specialist radiologist; and for the first time he has bought a house! He admits that he has mellowed over the years. But be sure, it’s not the end yet!

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In SA and all over the world, Shabbos Project is embraced

SUZANNE BELLING

“We are proud to again be joining the spiritual tsunami sweeping the world,” Rabbi Ari Kievman, of the Shul in Sandton Central, told the SA Jewish Report in anticipation of this year’s Shabbos Project, initiated in this country in 2013 - the brainchild of Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein. It takes place on Friday, October 23 and the next day, Saturday, October 24.

Rabbi Goldstein, in his message during the recent Jewish festivals, described the implementation of the Project as one of the most dramatic kinds of community leadership... “people who embrace personal responsibility and do not wait for others to provide solution, but who come forward optimistically and dynamically to create a better community for all”.

The Shabbos Project started in South Africa and last year spread to 465 cities and 65 countries, involving about one million Jews, who speak eight different languages.

While it is impossible to cover all the efforts of the Shabbos Project across South Africa and beyond, several of the congregations and

communities in Gauteng, the Western Cape, Umhlanga and even as far afield as Kimberley and Swaziland, have wholeheartedly embraced the programme.

Rabbi Kievman’s shul will commence with a candle-lighting workshop and meditation, followed by the Friday night service, a buffet brocha and “A Taste of Shabbos” dinner. The next morning there will be a “Kabbalah Café” before shul and a communal brocha lunch after the service.

Rabbi Yossy Goldman, senior rabbi of the Sydenham-Highlands North Hebrew Congregation, said his shul would be hosting the Solomon Brothers, musical stars of the Havdalah concert, for the Friday night service. They would be joined by Chazan Yudi Cohen and the Sydenham Choir, with a massive street brocha on Main.

Shabbos day will feature a combined shiur, with Rabbi Goldman speaking on “The Soul of Shabbos” and a catered lunch.

Dayan Rabbi Dovid Baddiel, of the Johannesburg Beth Din, will conduct a question and answer session on the laws of Shabbos at the seuda shlishit after Mincha, which is at 17:00.



Shabbat candle lighting

Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, of the Great Park Shul, says his congregation is looking forward to a “huge Friday night dinner under the stars” and a special lunch on Shabbat day.

“There will be exciting activities for kids,” he said.

In Cape Town, the Claremont Wynberg Hebrew Congregation will be holding a Friday night dinner with “host couples” at each table, who will be inviting their own guests and individuals will deliver their own Dvar Torah - for prizes.

The Shabbat Kiddush-brocha lunch will be in the “tent of Avraham and Sarah”.

“Marais Road Shul is gearing up,” says Rabbi Dovid Wineberg. “We start with a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service. By day we are hosting a huge picnic on the (Sea Point) promenade, with individual picnic bags for all those keeping Shabbos.

“Like always, we’ll end up with a smashing seuda shlishit and musical Havdalah.”

The Pretoria Hebrew Congregation is hosting a big Shabbos lunch at the shul - no cost for people staying for the duration of Shabbos.

WIZO is holding a challah bake on Thursday evening, October 22 at the shul.

Also a group of individuals is hosting a supper for about 60 people at their apartment block.

The Griqualand West Hebrew Congregation in Kimberley, does not normally have Saturday morning services because of the difficulty in finding a minyan.

“But, in honour of the Shabbos Project, we are having a Saturday service and a brocha,” said chairman Adrian Horwitz.

At Chabad of the North Coast, Shlomo Wainer said his congregation was organising a Friday night dinner with a “Shabbos Around the World” theme and a brocha lunch following the Shabbos morning service.

Geoff Ramokgadi, leader of the Swaziland Jewish community, which comprises 18 families, said he would invite as many members as possible to participate in a communal Shabbos meal at the home of Chaim Torgeman and encourage them to keep Shabbat.

In addition to all the shul activities in Johannesburg, there will be a communal challah bake on Thursday, October 22 in the covered parking area of the Norwood Mall.

Parsha

Journey of the soul



Parshat Noach
Rabbi Ari Kievman
Shul in Sandton Central

A fellow once travelled on a journey that took him through tropical islands. Taking a walk, he was hit in the head by a coconut falling from a tree, rendering him unconscious. When he awoke, he had no recollection of his whereabouts - why he was there, where he was coming from, or where he was headed.

This analogy is true of life. An ancient Jewish text teaches that before we are born, an angel taps us under our noses, erasing all of our memories of heaven. But no need to worry, those memories are not lost forever.

When we study the lessons contained in the Torah portion of each week, our souls experience déjà vu.

Last week we commenced our annual cycle of Torah study, from the very beginning of Genesis all over again. We read the cheerful narrative of how the Divine Architect created a most amazing universe. The ultimate raison d’être of it, we are taught, was for the human being, who was created in G-d’s image.

Yet, not too long after, it appears that the masterpiece has not turned out that glorious after all. This week’s portion of Noach describes how the world descended into a culture of decadence and corruption. Only a devastating flood obliterating all of creation could rectify and cleanse the malevolence.

The past week of violence around the world and especially in our Holy Land has once again

reminded us how morally bankrupt humanity can become.

How is it that man - this lofty entity created in G-d’s own likeness - could lapse into the depth of depravity?

Within the text of our parsha some insights could be gleaned. After the entire planet’s desolation as a result of the flood, G-d promises: “Never again will I curse the soil because of man, for the inclination of man’s heart is evil from his youth.” (Gen 8:20-21)

Our Creator fashioned man with a soul that is both in the Divine image as well as containing elements of “evil”. It is our choice which lifestyle to live at any given time; on either the spiritual or animalistic plane.

Interestingly, the evil inclination seems to be on autopilot and works spontaneously, whereas the Divine soul requires cultivation.

Did you ever notice how the flowers in a beautiful garden actually require meticulous care while the weeds just appear without any effort?

A weed-free garden requires much care and work. Like a rose, the G-dly soul requires meticulous, proactive maintenance to cultivate, whereas the wilder spirit seems all-natural.

We weren’t created as angels, one-dimensional. If we have tendencies for both good and evil there must be a purpose. Chassidic philosophy teaches that our weaknesses, when recognised as such, can become the springboard for a much improved self.

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Shabbat Times

October 16 / 3 Cheshvan

October 17 / 4 Cheshvan

Parshat Noach


Begins	Ends	
17:57	18:47	Johannesburg
18:15	19:35	Cape Town
17:48	18:40	Durban
18:07	18:58	Bloemfontein
18:14	19:07	Port Elizabeth
18:03	18:56	East London

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No smuggled Torah to Kotel, for security reasons



JERUSALEM - The Women of the Wall said it would not attempt to smuggle a Torah scroll to the Kotel during this month’s Rosh Chodesh prayer service due to the current security situation.

In a letter sent on Sunday to Shmuel Rabinowitz, rabbi of the Western Wall, Women of the Wall chairman Anat Hoffman said the women had decided “out of a deep sense of responsibility, not to attempt to smuggle a Torah scroll in to the Kotel this month, so as not to challenge the security forces during this time of high threat levels”, according to a statement from the group.

Police and security officials in Jerusalem have been on high alert over the past several days following a number of stabbing attacks in the city.

In her letter, Hoffman reiterated her request that the women be allowed to use one of the Torah scrolls located at the site.

In the past, the group has smuggled a mini-Torah scroll into the women’s section. During a service in April, male supporters of the group hoisted a scroll over the divider between the men’s and women’s sections, encountering violent opposition.

Women of the Wall gather at the Western Wall at the start of each Jewish month for the morning prayer service. Its members have clashed frequently with staff from the office of the rabbi of the Western Wall and the holy sites of Israel, and with police for holding services that violate the rules enforced by the office.

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

Regulations at the site set by the office have allowed women to wear prayer shawls and kippot, but prevented them from using a Torah scroll in their section. (JTA)

‘Unity against terrorism no reason to join government’

JERUSALEM -The leader of the opposition in Israel said that it would not join the government to show unity during the current security crisis.

“We are all united in the fight against terrorism, but that is not a reason to join a failing government,” Zionist Union head Isaac Herzog said Monday night at the opening of the Knesset’s winter session.

Herzog called for a regional peace summit to restore calm, leading to catcalls from lawmakers of several parties, including his own.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in his address: “Terror is not a consequence of frustration at the lack of progress in the diplomatic process. It is clear that it comes from the desire to destroy us. That was the motive for terrorism in the early years of Zionism, and that’s what it is today.”

Netanyahu stressed that Israel is committed to maintaining the status quo on the Temple Mount and railed against the Palestinians’ use of “mendacious propaganda about the Temple Mount to make trouble”. He accused Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas of encouraging the current upsurge in terror attacks by disseminating such lies.



Lawmakers from the Arab Joint List, who have demonstrated in support of Palestinian attackers, walked out of the room when Netanyahu began speaking.

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin called the Knesset gathering a “celebratory occasion”, but added in the wake of the many terror attacks in recent days, “our hearts cannot celebrate”. He sent his wishes for recovery to those injured in attacks and expressed his support for the security services, saying “their fight is all of our fight”.

“Unfortunately, we live in a reality of bloody conflict,” Rivlin said. “There is no definite timeline to the end to this conflict, to this tragedy. What is clear is that the responsibility for our lives here, our lives here together, Jews and Arabs, rests on all our shoulders. What is clear is that the infrastructure to any solution is establishing trust between the parties.”

The Knesset voted against one of four no-confidence motions and was expected to reject the others. (JTA)

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Minister Gigaba - again - allays fears regarding dual citizenship

DAVID SAKS

Deputy Minister Obed Bapela’s recent comments that dual citizenship might be abolished to prevent SA Jews from serving in the IDF, have generated considerable controversy since first reported on in the Sunday Times of September 6.

Among the many who have slammed the proposed measure are the SAJBD and SAZF, who in a joint statement charged Bapela with having “undermined the very core value of South Africa’s democracy by proposing a change to our law purely to prevent one sector of our society, in this case, South African Jews, from having a relationship with Israel”.

The statement further asserted that the singling out of any minority group for discriminatory treatment, served only to further inflame divisions in a country which on a daily basis had to battle against racism and xenophobia.

On September 30, the senior leadership of the SAJBD and SAZF met with Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba (pictured) to obtain clarity on the issue. The delegation comprised SAJBD Chairman Mary Kluk, President Zev Krengel, Vice-Chairman Jeff Katz and National Director Wendy Kahn, SAZF Chairman Ben Swartz and President Avrom Krengel.

Gigaba, in line with previous statements made by himself and by the ANC, re-emphasised that “no review of dual citizenship was underway or anticipated in the foreseeable future by the Department of Home Affairs”.

He pointed out that in fact the contrary was

true, with South Africa having encouraged other African states (such as Lesotho) to likewise adopt the dual citizenship principle.

Gigaba further assured the delegation that as a matter of policy, Government would never make laws that targeted a specific sector of society and concurred that such a policy would serve only to sow conflict and division.

Ultimately, he said, all South Africans belonged to one or another minority group. The challenge was therefore to foster a culture of inclusiveness whereby members of all groupings ultimately felt connected to one another by their shared sense of identification with South Africa and its values.

To illustrate his point, Gigaba referred to the poignant dilemma pinpointed during the xenophobic violence earlier this year by a citizen of Somali origin, who rhetorically asked whether he was required to join other South Africans in fighting Somalis or identify as a Somali and fight his fellow South Africans. No-one, he stressed, should ever feel that they were faced with this kind of choice.

Since making his remarks concerning dual citizenship, Bapela has been replaced as chairman of the ANC’s International Relations Subcommittee. The reasons for his replacement were not discussed in the meeting. However, Gigaba made it very clear that views expressed by an individual within government or the ruling party, even when such a person held a senior position, did not necessarily reflect those of government, nor the collective decisions of the ruling party itself.



Red Army’s role in liberating camps

DAVID SAKS

Last Sunday evening at Beyachad in Johannesburg, a capacity crowd joined the ambassadors of the Russian Federation and of Israel in commemorating the crucial role played by the Soviet army in achieving victory and the liberation of the concentration camps 70 years ago.

The function was organised by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, the Embassies of the Russian Federation and State of Israel and the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC).

The event was unique in that it was the first time the Jewish community and representatives of the Russian state had collaborated in remembering and paying tribute to the Red Army for its part in defeating Nazi Germany and its allies.

In the apartheid era, the Soviet Union had been regarded by South Africa as a hostile state, and the Jewish community had regarded it with abhorrence because of its persecution of its Jewish citizens and active support for Israel’s most implacable enemies.

Speakers at Sunday’s event included Doctor Tsipra Boudnitski, a Jewish Red Army veteran who was brought in to care for the survivors of the camps and Tali Nates, director of the JHGC. The evening also featured the screening of a new documentary by award-winning SA-born journalist Paula Slier, documenting her journey and that of her father, Lionel, to discover what happened to

their family during the Holocaust.

In his message, Mikhail Petrakov, Ambassador to the Russian Federation, pointed out that the Soviet Army that liberated Auschwitz and many other notorious death camps, had been a mixture of 39 nationalities. Over half a million Jews had fought in the Red Army against fascism; more than 200 000 of them lost their lives.

Boudnitski, a highly decorated war veteran, served as a military doctor during the war and its immediate aftermath. Through a translator, she described the horrific scenes that greeted her and her comrades when they entered the newly-liberated death camps and the subsequent struggle to save the lives of the sick and malnourished survivors.

Nates emphasised the enormous sacrifices the Soviet people had made to free their own territory and other occupied Eastern European countries from Nazi occupation.

Lionel Slier related how the chance discovery in Amsterdam of a box of letters written by his cousin, Flip Slier, while in hiding from the Nazis, motivated him to embark on a mission of retracing his family’s roots.

Flip was later captured and sent to a labour camp where he was eventually gassed in the Sobibor concentration camp.

Slier described how, a day after the war ended, his father received a telegram from the Red Cross informing him that 34 members of his family were dead and where they had been murdered. In all, 119 members of the extended Slier family died.



Soviet army veteran Dr Tsipra Boudnitski relives the liberation of the death camps.

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Ark full of books to celebrate our Heritage

DAVID SAKS

Jews are widely known as the “People of the Book”; it was therefore fitting that the Jewish community float that participated in this year’s Heritage Day parade through the streets of Pretoria, took the form of a mobile library, made up to resemble Noah’s Ark. Following the parade, the library moved on to its permanent home at Arcadia School, to which it was formally presented as a gift from South African Jewry. In addition, 18 000 charity boxes in the form of an ark were produced and distributed.

The Heritage Day project was co-ordinated by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies in partnership with Chabad SA and with the involvement of the various Jewish day schools in Gauteng. In the months leading up to the event, Board and Chabad representatives worked closely with Dali Tambo, CEO of the Carnival Company that organised the carnival together with the Gauteng Provincial Government.

The Ark float was a notable hit, with many people wanting photographs and bystanders dancing in the streets to the accompanying Jewish music. From Chabad SA’s point of view, the Ark Library initiative tied in well with its broader campaign to provide libraries for underprivileged communities around the country, 12 of which have already been established.

Last year, Chabad SA embarked on a multi-faceted campaign to encourage the general community to perform acts of goodness and kindness



SAJBD and Chabad representatives, including Rabbi David Masinter of Chabad and Wendy Kahn, national director of the SAJBD (left) in front of the Ark Library.

towards one another. Chabad SA Director Rabbi David Masinter said his inspiration in this regard came from the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who shortly before his passing told a non-Jewish CNN journalist that Moshiach was now ready to come and that to bring this about, increased acts of goodness and kindness on the part of humanity at large were needed.

It was at Rabbi Masinter’s suggestion that the Ark float, rather than being a temporary structure that would be dismantled once the parade was over, instead took the form of a library that would be donated afterwards to a school that needed it. This would be stocked through donation by Jewish day school learners.

It was further decided that the letters of the word “Ark” would represent the slogan “Acts of Random Kindness”.

In the weeks leading up to Heritage Day, the Ark was taken round to all

the main Jewish day schools in Johannesburg, resulting in it soon being filled to capacity with educational and inspirational books. Donations were also received from members of the wider Jewish community.

An estimated 23 000 people of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds eventually took part in the parade, which commenced at the Pilditch Stadium and concluded at the Union Buildings.

Citing the opening statement of the Freedom Charter, the 60th anniversary of which was celebrated earlier this year, the official theme for the 2015 carnival was “Social Cohesion: South Africa belongs to all who live in it”.

Wendy Kahn commented on how uplifting it had been to see so many diverse people celebrating their own heritage within the context of the broader South African heritage that they shared with their fellow citizens.

Our ‘Dan the Music Man’ is conquering the world

SUZANNE BELLING

Johannesburg musician Dan Patlansky has carved a niche for himself on the world stage as a foremost blues/rock exponent. He has correctly been labelled a musical genius, guitarist of note, singer and songwriter – the man who can make a Fender sing.

Now he has embarked on a major tour of “almost every western European country, ending up in the United Kingdom. We will be returning in mid-November,” Patlansky told SA Jewish Report shortly before his departure on October 7.

A highlight of the tour is when he will be a special guest of legendary guitarist Joe Satriani during the UK Shockwave November 2015 tour.

Satriani is said to have extended the tour which will stretch over 31 days, 10 countries and will include 25 shows.

Patlansky grew up in North-cliff. He attended the National School of the Arts in high school.

“I always loved music and started playing the guitar when I was 12. That was the instrument I chose.”

After school – in 2000 – he and his Dan Patlansky Band started touring and playing around South Africa.

His debut album was “Standing



Photo: Hiehan Bakkes

at the Station” (1999) followed by “True Blues” in 2004. The following year (February 2005) and in July 2006, Selwyn Miller, the New Orleans-based manager of David Gates, Randy Crawford and Petula Clark – among others – arranged for Patlansky to go to New Orleans to showcase his music.

His latest album, “Dear Silence Thieves”, was produced by Theo Crous, and released by Blues Rock Review/USA in 2014. It was subsequently voted the Number One blues/rock album in the world.

Last year he was chosen to open the Bruce Springsteen concert in the FNB Stadium in Johannesburg in front of an audience of 64 000 – to date his largest audience.

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Hope vs despair: Is it in Israel’s hands?



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

“Apartheid in South Africa was a picnic compared to what we have seen in the occupied territories,” said Parliamentary Speaker Baleka Mbete at the ANC’s National General Council last weekend, which recommended discouraging travel to Israel unless in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle.

When 1994 Nobel Peace Laureate Shimon Peres visited South Africa in 2002 as Israel’s foreign minister, he said that in the 1970s when apartheid was at its height, he thought South Africa’s racial conflict was almost insoluble, and he believed Israel and the Palestinians would achieve peace long before South Africa.

But South Africa became a non-racial democracy in 1994, while Israel, the Palestinians and the Middle East still continue with their convulsions of ethnic and religious violence. The killing fields in Israel’s neighbour Syria is the most ghastly current example, with Muslims slaughtering Muslims in their

hundreds of thousands.

Peres was wrong, as he admitted. And Mbete is only half right, and needs to look urgently into the other half: apartheid South Africa as a whole was a picnic compared to what is going on in the Middle East. South Africa never had the religious and ethnic terrorism which has plagued that region for generations, with ISIS as the latest manifestation.

Is peace possible? Two approaches characterise the Israeli debate about the current terror attacks. The first says Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has failed to provide hope to the Palestinians, and when there is no hope, there will be violence. This view is held by political heavyweight Ami Ayalon, who was previously head of the Shin Bet, commander-in-chief of the Israeli Navy, and a recipient of Israel’s highest decoration – the Medal of Valour.

Together with other prominent Israelis, he founded the political movement Blue White Future, aiming to advance a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

“A thousand policemen and a thousand soldiers will not cover the burning and murderous fire in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and the sizzling embers in the Gaza

Strip,” he says.

“Speeches and futile Cabinet meetings won’t change what is happening these very moments between us and hundreds and thousands of young Palestinians. We will have security when they will have hope. Their hope has been consistently fading for years. At the same time, our hope – for the fulfilment of the Zionist vision of a safe, democratic and thriving state for the Jewish people – is disappearing as well.”

Netanyahu disputes this, as he told the Knesset’s winter session opening on Monday. He denied that the terrorism derives from Palestinian frustration. “Terrorism comes from the desire to annihilate us,” he stated. “A hundred years of terrorism and a hundred years of attempts to destroy the Zionist enterprise, and our enemies haven’t learned.”

Respected Israeli political analyst Ben-Dror Yemini agrees: “There is a delusional school of thought which claims that if we would only grant the Palestinians a political horizon and some hope, we wouldn’t have this violence.”

He says history shows the opposite, that the most painful wave of terror occurred during the 1990s, the hopeful years of the

Oslo accords: “There was a political horizon, there was a government striving for peace. It seemed that a solution was at hand. Did this bring quiet? We got non-stop terror.”

An even bigger wave of terror began with the second intifada, says Yemini, “precisely when Israel agreed for the first time not only to a Palestinian state but also to the division of Jerusalem. But instead of peace we got a festival of blood.”

“Today,” he says, “not one of the violent youngsters throwing stones, rioting, blowing themselves up, committing murder, is doing so in order to restart the political process... They belong to a camp that does not want an end to the occupation but rather an end to Israel.”

There is no easy answer to Israel’s search for peace, as the Middle East descends further into bedlam, and radical Islam rears its head everywhere.

Rather than calling for South Africans not to visit Israel because apartheid was a “picnic” compared to what’s going on there, the ANC should try and understand the debate about whether peace is actually possible, visit Israel, Palestine, and other places in the region, and talk to the cynics and the optimists on both sides.

Third intifada? Palestinian violence is Israel’s new normal

**BEN SALES
JERUSALEM**

Israelis have become accustomed to dismal news in the past few weeks – mornings and evenings punctuated by stabbings, car attacks and rock throwing.

The cycle of random violence has left dozens of Israelis and Palestinians dead, and many fearing the worst: The start of a third intifada, or armed Palestinian uprising, that could claim hundreds more lives.

But since the second intifada started in 2000, fears of a repeat have proved unfounded. Conditions in Israel and the Palestinian territories have changed since then, and short bursts of low-level violence are the new normal.

“It’s a matter of days until this stops,” said Nitzan Nuriel, former head of the prime minister’s Counter-Terrorism Bureau. “This has no goal. It will be forgotten. The reality is we have waves of terror. It doesn’t matter what the reason is.”

Israelis have been bracing for a third intifada ever since the second one ebbed to a close in 2005. Waves of terror have risen and fallen, along with concerns that the region is on the verge of another conflagration.

Most recently, a string of attacks in late 2014, including the murder of four rabbis in a synagogue, sparked talk of a third intifada. But those clashes died out after several weeks. Another rash of attacks came and went two years ago.

Now, after two weeks of near-daily attacks, some Israelis and Palestinians are already calling this string the third intifada. But during the past 15 years, Israel has created safeguards to keep Palestinian violence in check.

“Every night we have actions to detain people who are involved in terrorist activities,” Israel Defence



Photo: Ilia Yefimovich/Getty Images

A Palestinian protester during clashes with Israeli security forces in the West Bank, last week Thursday.

Forces spokesman Peter Lerner told JTA. “We have operational access at any given time to any place.”

After hitting a peak in 2002, attacks on Israelis waned the following year when Israel completed the first part of a security barrier near its pre-1967 border with the West Bank. Part fence and wall, the barrier has proved controversial. Its route cuts into the West Bank at points in what critics call an Israeli land grab. And the restrictions on Palestinian movement imposed by the barrier, as well as the fence around Gaza, have led some to call Gaza an open-air prison.

Still, the barrier coincided with a sharp decrease in Israeli deaths from terrorism. Terrorists have infiltrated it repeatedly, but successful Palestinian terror attacks dropped 90 per cent between 2002 and 2006. Militants attacking Israel from Gaza now shoot missiles over the barrier or dig tunnels under it.

The current wave of violence has mostly involved attacks in the shadow of the security barrier – either in the West Bank or in Jerusalem. Both are Palestinian population centres with easy access either to Jewish communities. A handful of stabbings have taken place in central Israel, perpetrated by Palestinians who were able to sneak across the barrier.

The unorganised, “lone wolf” attacks occurring across Israel have created an atmosphere of insecurity and tension, even as the attacks have been relatively small in scale. There’s a feeling, some say, that an attack could happen anywhere at any time.

“No one is in charge to say tomorrow we stop the attacks,” said Shimon Grossman, a medic with the ZAKA paramedical organisation who is responding to the ongoing violence just as she did in the second intifada.

“Whoever wants to be a shaheed [‘martyr’] takes a knife and stabs people. It’s very scary for people because they don’t know when the end will be, what will stop it. Last time people knew to stay away from buses. Now you don’t know who to be afraid of.”

Another significant obstacle to a third intifada has been the West Bank Palestinians themselves, who have worked with Israel for eight years to thwart terror attacks. In 2007, Hamas seized full control of the Gaza Strip, violently ousting the moderate Fatah party, which controls the West Bank’s Palestinian Authority.

Since that takeover, the PA and Israel have viewed Hamas as a shared enemy and co-ordinated on security operations aimed at discovering and arresting Hamas terror cells.

Netanyahu has accused PA President Mahmoud Abbas of inciting

the ongoing violence. But Abbas has maintained security co-ordination with Israel through the clashes and has a history of opposing violence. Nuriel said that while Abbas was not to blame for the attacks, he stood to benefit from them.

“He has an interest for the conflict to get headlines,” Nuriel said. “He wants to show there’s chaos here. He wants to show it’s in places that Israel controls.”

But a majority of Palestinians are fed up with Abbas and oppose his stance on nonviolence. Rather, Palestinian society as a whole appears to support violence against Israelis. A poll by the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey research last week found that 57 per cent of Palestinians support a return to an armed intifada, an increase of eight per cent from earlier this year. Half believe the PA has a mandate to stop security co-ordination with Israel, and two-thirds want Abbas to resign.

“This is an explosion of a whole generation in the face of the occupation,” said Shawan Jabareen, director of Al-Haq, a Palestinian civil rights group. “No one can say when it will stop unless people get hope that things will change. But if they see there’s no hope, I don’t know which way it will take.”

Even if the attacks continue, according to former Israeli National Security Adviser Yaakov Amidror, Israel will retain the upper hand. The best course of action, he wrote in a position paper this week, is to maintain current security operations and be cautious in using force.

“Now we no longer have to prove anything,” Amidror wrote in the paper for the Begin Sadat Centre for Security Studies. “Israel is a strong, sovereign state, and as such it must use its force prudently, only when its results have proven benefits and only as a last resort.” (JTA)

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‘Truth’ seems to belong to those who shout loudest



BARBARIC YAWP

David Saks

Time will tell as to whether Britain’s Labour Party, following its unexpectedly heavy defeat in the May elections, has committed electoral suicide by choosing the dogmatic, old-school ultra-leftist Jeremy Corbyn as its new leader.

Domestic economic issues aside, what has particularly provoked unease is Corbyn’s stance on foreign policy issues, which includes supporting Vladimir Putin over the invasion of Ukraine, describing leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah as his “friends” and making a supportive TV appearance on an Iranian state propaganda channel.

The fact that he pointedly declined to sing the national anthem at a memorial service for British war dead did not fail to go unnoticed. The Tories are by and large quite pleased that their traditional rivals, in an apparent overreaction to their reverse at the polls, have opted for a leader whose views are so extreme as to make the party essentially unelectable so long as he is in charge.

One can only but hope that no radical shift in the country’s fortunes - another global economic meltdown for instance - will change that outlook.

So far as Israel is concerned, Corbyn is predictably implacably hostile, and an ardent proponent of the boycott strategy. When addressing a gathering of Labour Friends of Israel recently, he could not even

bring himself to refer to Israel by name, a sure indication of his being unable to come to terms with its very existence.

As we have seen, those advocating the Jewish state’s destruction (when not simply resorting to the standard “Zionist entity” phrase) almost invariably precede any mention of it with such epithets as “illegitimate state of....”, “racist”, “colony of” or “apartheid”.

So great is their hatred for Israel that they cannot even bring themselves to say the word. It always bothers me when people like Corbyn are described as “harsh critics” of Israel, since their antipathy clearly goes much further than that.

Corbyn’s election has caused more disquiet within the British left than in conservative circles. Many Labour supporters are seeing it as another sharp lurch away from such traditional liberal-left values of secular democracy, gender and sexual equality and anti-racism on the part of the left-wing establishment.

The phenomenon is by no means limited to the UK. Throughout the democratic world, one will find voices being raised (to little effect, it would appear) against how the above values are being betrayed in what has in reality become an ideological war against the Western democracies.

Some have termed the alliance between radical Islam and the hard-core left as a modern-day “Hitler-Stalin Pact”. In historical terms, this is not accurate, however. The latter was a pragmatic arrangement between two dictatorships in which, inter alia, they agreed not to go to war with one another in the near future; it was not an

ideological alliance.

By contrast, loony leftists and Jihadists seem to have found common cause in the realm of ideas, and are collaborating in that arena.

On the face of it, the hard-line left and Islamist right should be utterly opposed to one another. No-one would argue that

“...of fundamental importance is an unequivocal rejection of racism, which surely extends to cultural or religious-based prejudice.”

among the core values that the broader left has in common are secularism (including the right to question and, if desired, mock other religions), gender equality, gay rights and in general a non-judgemental approach to how people conduct their sex lives. Also ostensibly of fundamental importance is an unequivocal rejection of racism, which surely extends to cultural or religious-based prejudice.

One does not have to be an analytical genius to see at once that the Islamist position on every one of these issues is diametrically opposite to what the left holds. This even extends to the left’s supposed opposition to racism and like forms of prejudice.

The overwhelming sense of betrayal that

left-leaning Jews are feeling is in large part due to the failure of their ideological “family” to distance itself from the rabid anti-Semitism permeating every corner of the Islamist movement.

The same silence is evident regarding the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East (obviously such reticence has not applied with regard to the occasional vandalising of a church in Israel, the only Middle East country where Christianity is growing).

I have long cudgelled my brains over what the far left and Islamist right might have in common and come up with a few tentative conclusions. In summary, what ultimately unites the two camps would appear to be a resentment-driven victim mentality combined with a fanatical sense of self-righteousness that leaves little room for serious introspection.

The rage is in both cases outward-directed, against an evil “other” exclusively responsible for preventing the coming about of an envisaged global Utopia. In this paranoid, conspiracy theory-ridden world view, the strong and successful are as a matter of course held to be guilty while those who fail to compete with them are righteous victims in no way responsible for their plight.

This explains why the US and Israel are depicted as being the epitome of evil by both the hard left and the Islamists. As a naïve youth, I used to believe that hard facts and common sense would always prevail in the end. Now I know that “truth” belongs to those able to shout the loudest. However, that is not a reason for the rest of us not to keep fighting.

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

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

TAKING ISSUE WITH SIFRIN’S STANCE ON ISRAEL

Reading Geoff Sifrin’s recent column, I found his comment about Israel having the most rightwing rejectionist government in its history and a prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu who provides no vision for a peaceful future, an insult and in my opinion an outrageous statement.
Sifrin is obviously left wing and believes that peace can [only] be achieved by giving back land, and [acquiescing to] a demand from [PA President Mahmoud] Abbas for giving up Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. The barbaric murder of Jews nearly every day has passed Sifrin by. Sorry Geoff, but I am a fanatic Zionist and I thank G-d for giving the Jewish people their own homeland called Israel not Palestine.

Louis Joffe, Umhlanga Rocks

A SAD, UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Of late the threat of terrorism and anti-Semitism has escalated to such an extent that on a recent trip to London it was no problem being admitted through border control, Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace, but try attending synagogue on a High Holy Day!
I understand why we have to be so strict and cautious and appreciate the efforts of everyone in protecting the Jewish people while they pray on the holiest day of the year. I wrote to Jewish institutions and Members of Parliament (in Britain) to request both meetings and an opportunity to attend synagogue. I received only two out of 10 replies. The one asked for further information as well as a security reference and the other replied by the time I had already returned from my trip.

I got the sense that it was more a hassle than convenient to accommodate foreign Jews. Again, I do not believe that there was any ill-intent in ignoring me; I just believe that it was the easier and safer option.
I just find it awfully sad that an unintended consequence of the scourge in anti-Semitism has been the rights of Jews being denied an opportunity to stop in and pray. I understand from a Jewish perspective why the red tape is necessary, but I will never appreciate how far we have come from the days in which a travelling Jew would find solace in his own house of prayer to the present day where it’s easier to enter a country or a palace.

Darren Bergman, MP, Cape Town

TORAH INJUNCTION TO SPREAD WORD OF G-D – SO PROSELYTISE!

One of the contentious issues in modern Judaism is the question whether or not Jews should proselytise. The majority opinion is that Jews should not proselytise.
Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists all go out and ask the “unfaithful” to consider conversion to their cause. Israel is becoming more and more isolated as propaganda from the mainly Muslim world wins over new converts and maintain that the Jews don’t belong in Israel. They proffer that Jews are the great cause of all the upheavals in the world. A lie often repeated, soon takes over the appearance of truth. The appeal to counter Muslim and anti-Semitic propaganda has never really taken off in the gentile world.
Jews simply inform fellow Jews about what’s happening outside. But do we really need to know what we already know? This is akin to preaching to the converted. Jews don’t need to convert. We already sit with the true faith. It is the world out there that is in need of conversion!
Yet, sadly the Jewish people have been fed the myth that proselytisation is a bad thing. Really, says who? I have yet to come across a biblical, historical and sensible reason from those who are vehemently opposed to this concept. Jewish families and individuals follow what their elders and leaders have inculcated in them from generation to generation.

Questioning one’s elders is still frowned upon in certain homes. Yet the Tanach is full of examples where Israel has been exhorted to indeed approach G-d and authorities and pose questions. Moses, the prophets and King David were constantly in conversation with G-d; always in fear and reverence, of course.
Through constant debate with G-d our patriarchs gained wisdom. We all have the ability and intellect to communicate. How strange then that proselytisation has become a taboo issue, often met by an emphatic and resounded “No”!
The irony is that Judaism since its conception has been a religion of converts. Every Jew knows the story of Abraham, the first convert. And lest we forget, it is the A-mighty himself who converted the patriarch. Thus every Jewish family is a descendant of converts.
The world is in need of Judaism but there are neither prophets nor rabbis to go out there and tell the world about G-d who watches over Israel and is creator of all things on earth.
Israel has a special function in life to minister to the world. Every Jew is obligated to spread the word of G-d and to welcome the gentiles to the faith of G-d. This is a Torah injunction.

Colin Jantjies , Johannesburg



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10 SA JEWISH REPORT

Community Columns

16 – 23 October 2015

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

South Africa gets anti-Semitic fallout

After the high we experienced over Yomtov, we have been brought abruptly down to earth by the upsurge of deadly violence in Israel. At the time of writing, murderous random attacks against Israelis in all parts of the country continue unabated.

What the present unrest has demonstrated yet again is when inflammatory rhetoric, particularly on the part of those in leadership positions, goes unchecked, acts of violence will inevitably ensue. We can only hope and pray that sanity will prevail and the parties can find a way to pull back from the brink before matters escalate still further. South Africa is far from the conflict zone, but sadly, we are once again seeing its fallout manifesting in our own back yard. Over the past few days, we have seen instances of horrific incitement against our community in the social media, reminiscent of the period during last year's Gaza conflict when levels of anti-Semitism in this country reached their highest-ever recorded levels.

Our law protects freedom of expression, but not when this crosses the line into hate speech and incitement to cause harm. We are following up on every one of the cases that we are aware of, and as ever will leave no stone unturned in bringing those responsible to book.

Here, members of our community can play an important role by informing us timeously of any incidents of anti-Semitism that come to their attention. In this regard, please write to wendy@sajbd.org and copy david@sajbd.org.

I would also appeal to people not to be provoked into engaging in tit-for-tat exchanges of insults and abuse on online forums and in the social media. Such discourse only enflames passions further, in addition to often goading members of our community into posting wantonly offensive comments of their own.

Current developments have unfortunately underlined how appropriate it is that the theme of the forthcoming SAJBD national conference on November 22 will be the rise of global anti-Semitism and how to counter it.

We are pleased to report that on the programme are two of the foremost international experts on this topic, the renowned French intellectual and commentator Dr Bernhard-Henri Levy and World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder.

Both, in different ways, have been at the forefront of bringing the rise of anti-Semitism to the attention of the international community. In addition, we are privileged that President Jacob Zuma has agreed to attend the conference and deliver a message to our community.

In all our previous meetings with Mr Zuma, he has been unequivocal in his assurances that the government will continue to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, and will work with us to help ensure that South Africa remains a country where Jews feel secure and accepted.

We will shortly be celebrating an especially joyous aspect of our heritage as we gear up for the third Shabbos Project, a subject we will focus on in next week's column.

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

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



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

Kasrils, Lekota lock horns on Israel trip

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Former Intelligence Minister Ronnie Kasrils, the “enfant terrible” of South African Jewry, has lambasted his former comrade and fellow Cabinet minister Mosiuoa Lekota, for going on a free trip to Israel.

But Lekota, not one to ever pull any punches, gave as good as he got in reply to Kasrils’ “open letter”. In his letter, viewed by the Saturday Star, Kasrils expressed his displeasure with Lekota.

“I am deeply disappointed that after my attempts to dissuade you from going to Israel at the invitation of the Israeli government and Zionist supporters, you (nevertheless) undertook the trip,” Kasrils wrote.

Lekota was among five opposition parliamentarians including the IFP’s Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the UDM’s Bantu Holomisa, Pieter Mulder of the Freedom Front Plus and the African Christian Democratic Party’s Kenneth Meshoe, who went on a weeklong study tour to Israel last month.

“You accepted the free flight and accommodation from a racist and apartheid-style state that has dispossessed the Palestinians of their land and their rights and carries out merciless and continuous aggression against them in violation of international law, human rights and innumerable UN resolutions,” Kasrils wrote.

He likened Lekota’s trip to an overseas delegation visiting South Africa during the apartheid era when the United Democratic Front, which Lekota led, was calling for a boycott and isolation.

“To have accepted an all-expenses paid invite from Zionist Israeli sources places your visit in the disgraceful category of strike-breakers and sweet-hearts of a regime that Dr (Hendrik) Verwoerd, of all people, had stated in 1961 was ‘like South Africa... an apartheid state’.”

Kasrils called Lekota’s visit “an insult to those striving for freedom and justice for Palestine.

“I urge you to think again and engage in a discourse with those who can put you straight on this issue. It is not a question of being even-handed in consideration of two equal sides, but standing with a colonially oppressed people who have been robbed of their land and rights and are savagely repressed.”

Lekota responded with guns blazing.

The visit, he said, had been at the invitation of South African Friends of Israel.


“It was their view that I and others did NOT have a fully ‘informed understanding of the dynamics of the Middle East question’.

“In their view, an exposure of the nature in which we could visit both ‘Israel and Palestine’ and talk and listen to whoever we chose (to) and who agreed to engage with us, would help us understand deeper the intricacies of the problem of that region.


“Quite independent of this interaction I had understood that since democratisation, South Africa (has) maintained diplomatic relations with both Israel and Palestine in order to encourage a peaceful resolution of the region’s conflict.

“Indeed, no one can promote peace between belligerents if they take sides. We went there guided by our nation’s orientation! We visited Tel Aviv (Israel) and Ramallah (Palestine). In both we touched base with South African missions. South Africa has NOT resolved to be anti- or pro- either one or the other parties in that conflict!

“That is the reason one can explain why government recently appointed former Minister (Zola) Skweyiya and former Deputy Minister (Aziz) Pahad as envoys to intervene and help calm down tensions in that region! South Africa is pro-peace in the Middle East conflict.”



Mosiuoa Lekota



Ronnie Kasrils

Rabbinical Pimpernel is back in South Africa

ANT KATZ

Fugitive Rabbi Eliezer Berland (pictured) is back in South Africa and he - and several hundred of his followers - have been living in the Midrand area for the past month.

The leader of the Shuvu Bonim Breslov Chassidic sect - wanted in Israel - and his followers arrived in South Africa before Rosh Hashanah.

Hawks spokes-man Brig Hangwani Mulaudzi told the Jewish Report that the authorities were investigating the matter and had reported it to Interpol. Mulaudzi was not able to confirm whether the outstanding arrest warrant against Berland is still valid.

Jewish Report met some of the most senior followers and spokespeople of Rabbi Berland on Tuesday and they confirmed that there were several

hundred followers, many of them families, staying at a facility between Johannesburg and Pretoria and they had all the requisite necessities such as schools and study facilities available to them.

Rabbi Berland, they said, had strictly instructed his followers to stay away from the cities to avoid a repeat of (last year) their coming into contact with local communities. One of the issues of contention last year was the persistent begging and harassment by the followers and Berland is determined not to allow it this time.

So strict is this edict that even the most senior followers who met Jewish Report in Glenhazel on Tues-

day, had to have their rabbi's permission to be there. Jewish Report Online has been following the story of the rabbi's return with interest since rumours of his arrival in South Africa first surfaced last week, but we chose not to publish anything until the sect's presence could be confirmed.

During his five-month-long stay in South Africa last year, Rabbi Berland and his followers became the most newsworthy Jewish story of the year. The "Rabbi on

the Run" as he was dubbed by Israeli and world media, was at one stage making news every week - and Jewish Report regularly led the coverage of his activities, being quoted by a host of media sources.

Rabbi Berland - who twice narrowly escaped capture by the Hawks during his South African sojourn last year - from South Africa fled to Holland, where he was arrested at the request

of Israeli police with a view to his being extradited to that country.

His legal team in The Netherlands managed to delay these procedures and, when his appeal against extradition failed, he was nowhere to be found. The major Dutch daily, Telegraaf, reported that Berland was on the tiny Caribbean island of Petit Tobacco, which is so small that it does not even appear on Google Maps - and which has no extradition treaty with Israel.

Some local rabbis have confirmed that some members of their congregation are now davening with Rabbi Berland.





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Danny K urges community: ‘Give with a smile!’

SUZANNE BELLING

Pop idol Danny K is simply a really nice Jewish boy who is not only a music celebrity, but believes and acts on putting back into his community.

Danny K and his partner Kabelo recently launched “Smile”, a song, written by the two young men and Mi Casa as part of the their Shout - for a safer South Africa, a non-profit organisation launched in 2007 to raise funds for fighting crime in this country.

This was followed by the release of “You Are the Voice”, which raised funds for crime-focused organisations, the rehabilitation of criminals and drug addicts, to widows and orphans of policemen killed in the line of duty and victims of crime and rape. There are teddy bears to help psychologically traumatised children and even a Garmin to aid police vehicles with navigation!

Now “Smile” will shift the focus of the fundraising efforts slightly with the words, “Light up your world with your smile, boy; light up the world with your smile, girl...” and funds are being channelled towards education.

“We are building libraries in primary schools throughout the country and sending out a message that we should make a difference. Jews should make a difference and I am appealing to the Jewish

community to support us,” Danny K told the SA Jewish Report.

“Education is the only real long-term solution to preventing crime from escalating. This option is a gift of education. The libraries encourage kids in their education and, by the end of the year, we will already have built five libraries.”

Danny K, who with Kabelo, was a recipient of the Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris Jewish Achiever Award in 2011, called on the Jewish community to “spread the word. Discuss it at your Shabbos table. All you have to do is SMS the word ‘Smile’ to 40388 which will secure a donation of R20 per SMS.

“Everything is for charity. We are all volunteers with a regular outside income. This is a tangible, easy way to help the country move forward.”

Danny K is the author of a book “Take it from Me” - part of a series by young successful South Africans.

A product of King David Linksfield, he began his musical career at Fairmount Primary School in “my very first live performance”. Throughout his school career, he was chosen for the lead in his school plays and was awarded colours in the performing arts. He also sang solo in the school choir.

“Singing came naturally to me. I went on to take guitar lessons and music (his instrument today is the piano). This and sport were my two greatest interests. I was not as



Danny K with his wife, Lisa.

talented in sport, though!”

Danny K firmly believes that “school is a good barometer of something special. In other words, children who shine in a particular area at school should play to their strengths. I always tell that to parents.”

Danny’s surname is Koppel – that’s where the “K” comes from. His father, Gavin, is the chairman of his NGO and his mother, Pam, his professional manager.

His musical career was a post-school choice. Initially, he graduated with a BA in law and political science from the University of the Witwatersrand and went on to obtain a degree in business management.

“I spent four years at university,

writing songs and submitting them to record companies throughout my studies.” He also worked at a bank. Then he had his lucky break and recorded his debut album in 2000.

His albums are “Danny K”, “J23”, “Same Difference”, “This is My Time”, “Across the Line” and “Good Look”. Four of them were awarded gold.

“J23”, as with many of Danny K’s other works, was inspired by his late brother, Jarren, who was killed in a helicopter crash at the age of 23.

Danny is married to Lisa (formerly Gundelfinger), an advocate, and is a member of the Great Park Shul. They have a young son.

World News in Brief

Palestinian terror wave hits Jerusalem businesses hard

JERUSALEM - The recent surge in Palestinian terrorism has hit business owners hard in Jerusalem. Deterred by the ongoing attacks, the number of tourists visiting the city has dropped significantly, leading to a drastic decline in revenues.

“The ongoing situation has dealt a fatal blow to business owners,” the head of the Jerusalem City Centre Merchants Association, Eli Levi, told Israel Hayom on Sunday. Levi is the owner of the Eldad Vezehoo restaurant, a longstanding Jerusalem institution.

“People are not going out and our workload has dropped by 60 per cent to 70 per cent,” he said. “If this continues we will have to send people [employees] back home. Coffee shops and restaurants are empty. No one wants to go and have fun, because people are scared of terrorists.”

Dror Babay, who operates the Black Bar ‘n’ Burger joint in Jerusalem, said: “People are staying home because they are scared, and our revenues have dropped significantly, by more than 50 per cent. People are not in the mood to go out, there are fewer teenagers who go out either, because their parents are afraid, and there are no tourists.”

The Jerusalem Municipality said it was premature to take action on the situation.

“At this point, it is not possible to determine whether the ongoing situation has any long term economic consequences on the city, since only a short period has elapsed,” the city said. (JNS.org)



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Pictured are Sha-Sha Levin-Kur; Robyn Merkel; and Tarryn Longueira.



One sure way to beat the summer heat!

MICHELLE VINOKUR

Earlier this month pupils from Minnie Bersohn Nursery School in Johannesburg had oodles of fun in the sun by running through the sprinklers in the summer heat. They felt so refreshed and rejuvenated.

Pictured are Joan Lurie and senior and grade R children.



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NOTICES



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Beloved mother, grandmother and Great-grandmother passed away on Thursday October 1.
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From Issie, Mushe and family.

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Today, Friday (October 16)

• JWBS diaries for 2016 now available and selling for R60 each. Desk tent calendars selling for R40 each. Monies raised will go towards assisting the destitute in the community, as well as food, clothing, tertiary and remedial education. Contact: (011) 485-5232 or selling at JWBS office at Sandringham Gardens.

Sunday (October 18)

• Chabad's Tefillin Club with "Shacharis and Breakfast" at 08:15 at the Shul in Sandton Central. Information: rak@chabad.org.za

• RCHCC hosts a presentation by leading actress Fiona Ramsey on "Giving Voice to Souls". The title embraces the wide range of work Ramsey does. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R80 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378; a/h (011) 728-837; e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net

• Johannesburg Jewish Activities Club hosts "Amazing Race Soweto". Meet at Firzt Realty head office in Glenhove Road, entrance via 5th Street. Time: 08:30. Cost: R650. First 10 entrants to pay get a discounted rate of R499. A tour company will take us into Soweto where we will be taken to various historical places of interest, ending off with a picnic. Bring food for a picnic. Payment: Sheli Berger Nedbank 1970799064, branch code Sandton City Retail 197005. Reference "Your name - Soweto" - e-mail proof of payment to pay@ijac.co.za

• The Tony Yoko Quartet Concert takes place at 15:00 at Inyoni Retirement Village, 200 Modderfontein Road, Lyndhurst. Proceeds to go to Hatzollah. Booking and time: Rollo Berman tel (011) 786-8275 or cell 073-936-6546.

• JWBS hosts a poker/blackjack evening at 18:30 for 19:00 at the Wanderers Club. R1 000 incl R600 funny money, dinner and many prizes. Proceeds to JWBS Chai Education Fund. Information: (011) 485-5232 or e-mail jwbs@icon.co.za

• Second Innings is hosting Bryan Hirsch on "Are We Depriving Ourselves of a Few Luxuries So We Can Leave Our Children a Large Nest Egg?" Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R30 visitors (incl tea and refreshments). Contact: Linda Fleishman (011) 532-9701.

Monday (October 19)

• Chabad's Jewish Seniors Club Monday to Friday, from 09:45 - 12:00, with interesting lectures, hot lunch, transport and more. Venue: Chabad House, Savoy. Information: Rabbi Ari Kievman (011) 440-6600.

• UJW hosts Isobel Frye, director Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute on "Poverty and Inequality in South Africa: Are we Making Progress?" Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (October 20)

• The Cape Town Holocaust Centre screens the short film "Memory Keepers", followed by a discussion with the director Molly Blank. Venue: 88 Hatfield Street, Gardens. Time: 18:00. RSVP: (021) 462-5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za English and Hebrew with English subtitles

Wednesday (October 21)

• Chev Social Services/CAJE's "Enrich Your Life" series presents "Living With a Label - The Debate Around Childhood Psychiatric Diagnosis" with Judith Ancer and Dr Linda Kelly. Venue: Sydenham Shul Hall. Time: 19:45. Cost: R40 (incl light refreshments). Booking: Sharon (011) 532-9616 or sharonp@jhbchev.co.za

• WIZO Cyndlene and Tzabar host their "Traditional Israeli Breakfast", featuring performer Anita Scott (Maraney). Time: 09:30 for 10:00 at the home of Yvonne Jawitz, Oaklands. Cost: R160. Contact: Nadine: (011) 645-2515 / wizojhb@beyachad.co.za, Molly: (011) 264-2140 / 083-378-1702 or Naomi: 082-496-1111.

• King David Sandton has its annual art exhibition at the Morningside Shopping Centre in Rivonia at 18:00. Contact: Geordie Nicholls, (011) 253-7440, e-mail: spinfo@sabje.co.za.

• UJW hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Dept of English at Wits, on "The Written Word Leaps Off the Page" - first in a series. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

• Second Innings screens the documentary of the Nazi art plunder, "Rape of Europe" presented by Selwyn Klass. Venue: The Ditsong Museum of Military History, Saxonwold. Time: 09:15 for 09:45. Cost: R80 payable in advance (incl tea). Enquiries: Betty Kowal. Contact Linda Fleishman (011) 532-9701. Book early.

News

Gandhi-Kallenbach friendship symbolised in a statue

DAVID SAKS

On October 2, a monument commemorating the history-making friendship between the famed Indian nationalist leader Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi and the Lithuanian-born Jewish architect Herman Kallenbach, was unveiled in Rusnė, Lithuania, Kallenbach's birthplace.

The monument, a bronze life-size statue of the two figures, was formally unveiled by Gandhi's grandson, Gopal Krishna Gandhi and a Gandhi great-grandson.

Others who attended included Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius and India's Minister of State for Agriculture Shri Mohanbhai Kundariya.

Kallenbach immigrated to South Africa in 1896 and ran a successful architecture practice in Johannesburg until his death in 1945. His friendship with Gandhi started 1904, and over the next decade he played a crucial supporting role in the Indian civil rights campaign that Gandhi headed.

The two men shared homes in various parts of Johannesburg, including at what is now Satyagraha House adjoining the Pine Street Shul and the famed commune Tolstoy Farm in Lenasia. Kallenbach's financial support enabled Gandhi to give up his law practice and devote himself fulltime to political activism.

Laimonas Talat-Kelp ša, Lithuania's ambassador to India, described the monument as "a testimony to Indo-Lithuanian friendship", adding that it would "tower as



Photo: Martynas Ambrazas

a symbol epitomising a single individual's impact on the larger history of mankind".

• For more on the Gandhi-Kallenbach monument, see Kathy Munroe's article: www.heritageportal.co.za/article/monument-south-african-friendship-gandhi-and-kallenbach

For Shane, four decades on, the journey continues

JACK MILNER

There is a hackneyed saying that life begins at 40 and for Shane Dorfman his “fourth decade” has ushered into his life three major changes. However, considering what he has already accomplished over the last 39 years, it would be fanciful to believe his life is just beginning.

What has happened is a change in the way he looks at life, of what is important now and the way he looks at achieving his objectives.

In the world of karate the Dorfman family is legendary. Father Malcolm set the tone and was a trailblazer in the sport. Then came

Shane, producing one record after another.

In 2004, at the age of 29, he became the youngest person ever to achieve a sixth grade. Now, at the age of 40, he is the youngest to achieve a Seventh Dan.

Shane first made an impact on world karate when in 1986 as an 11-year-old he entered All-Japanese Junior Championships. “There were 4 000 Japanese kids and this one blond Caucasian one. Nobody outside of Japan ever entered this event and to make matters worse, in 1986 South Africans were not welcome,” said Shane. He entered as an Israeli - and won.

In 1992, at age 17 and too young to enter



Shane Dorfman – there’s just no stopping him.

the fighting part of the tournament, he won the JKA World Championships for kata.

A year later he was named SA All Styles Grand Champion and by the time he was 19 he was Under-19 All Styles Grand Champion.

In 2000 he made the decision to focus on traditional karate which takes the focus off the sporting side of karate and puts it onto the fighting side. “It’s not the philosophy of the sport to go around and kill anybody, but it’s about being able to deliver that killer blow. Of course, to do that you have to risk skin to get into a fight.”

Does this ever become a purely instinctive process? “I don’t believe in instinct,” says Shane. “You work hard to develop pattern recognition and you then learn to interpret that. It’s all about correct decision making.”

For the next nine years he dominated in the sport and in 2009, for the first time in more than a decade, he did not participate in the world championships.

“I’m a hyper competitive person and when I don’t win it’s not that I fall apart or went mad, it just made me feel incomplete. When

I did not participate in the 2009 championships I suddenly realised that for the first time this decade I was not going to be a world champion.

“I suddenly realised why people like Lance Armstrong have the need to come back because when you stop competing, the void you feel when you’ve been the best in the world is massive.”

He studied medicine and worked in the field, then completed an MBA and left clinical medicine to work on the business side of medicine. “But I didn’t really feel fulfilled.”

That brought about the second major change - his decision to specialise in radiology.

“Most people don’t make it through the first time but I was fortunate to do so. Radiology is so vast and it changes all the time.”

His third change is that he has bought a house for the first time! And he does admit that in some ways he is mellowing.

“From a karate point of view I am not looking at qualifying for my Eighth Dan for a long time. I also want to focus on my kiddie class - four to six years old.”

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