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Photo: Ilan Ossendryver

Jewish movers and shakers converse with Kgalema Motlanthe

An intimate gathering of Jewish business leaders were invited to a briefing with former South African President Kgalema Motlanthe on Tuesday night at the home of Howard Sackstein, chairman of the board of the South African Jewish Report. There were no speeches, and contents of the discussions were all off the record, but Motlanthe, who briefly served as president after Thabo Mbeki resigned in 2008, and also served as deputy president of South Africa from 2009 until 2014, was confronted with some tough questions by participants. Sackstein's guests included key figures in property development, health insurance, banking and more and Motlanthe promised to take back some of the concerns, questions and suggestions to the appropriate people in government. Pictured at the gathering are Marc Wainer, CEO of Redefine Properties; former President Kgalema Motlanthe; Jeff Zidel, co-founder at Resilient Property Income Fund; and Raymond Goss, head of Wealth Management, Investec South Africa.

Kol isha: Cape Board invites applicants to join colloquium

To open up Monday's scheduled community colloquium on the kol isha issue, the Board has invited the three applicants - who want to sue the Board in the Equality Court on the basis of "gender discrimination" - if the issue cannot be resolved amicably.

2

Jewish-owned companies support the Bokke and cricket

This is the first time that two predominantly Jewish-owned companies are sponsoring the Springboks. Bidvest and Blue Label Telecoms have come on as short-term sponsors for the Tests the Boks are currently playing against Ireland in SA.



Can SA dodge a December credit rating downgrade?

In light of the world's three major credit rating agencies - Moody's, Standard and Poor's and Fitch's visit to SA recently, Steven Gruzid talks to people in the know about South Africa's prospects of avoiding a December downgrade to junk status. The jury is out.

4

Recognising and dealing with sexual harassment in the workplace

Gail Blacher, a lawyer specialising in labour issues, spells out what is deemed sexual harassment in the workplace and the various "grey areas". She says: "More often than not we find ourselves questioning the parameters what is and isn't okay."

10

Long John Berks - what a boykie!

John Berks in a book to be launched shortly, tells of his life journey, from someone who was asked to leave school to one of the best-loved radio presenters this country has ever seen. It is a lovely "rags to riches" story from a truly humble man.

12



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Denese Zaslansky



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Torah: Ahead of the times



Parshat Nasso
Rabbi Ilan Herrmann
Lions Doornfontein
Congregation

The portion of Naso follows Shavuot, the festival in which we received the Torah. Torah is unique among all things. It is the wisdom of G-d. In light of the timing we can therefore understand the opening words of the portion, “lift up the head” in two ways.

The “lifting of the head” is precisely what the relationship is between the Jewish people and the Torah. This is because the Torah is a perspective that transcends all others. It therefore “lifts” one’s understanding (“the head”) to a deeper and broader appreciation of things.

The second way is in the reverse, namely that in order to approach Torah, one needs to “lift one’s head”. To see the Torah in the same vein as other philosophies or belief systems is an error that risks reducing the sublime, holy and sacred, to something secular and ordinary.

To understand this idea better, the Midrash Eichah Rabbah states: “If a person tells you

there is wisdom among the nations of the world, believe him. If a person tells you there is Torah among the nations of the world, do not believe him.”

G-d bestowed humanity with the gift of intellect, and gave mankind access to wisdom and spirituality. One therefore is able to feel and be both wise and spiritual. Hence, we take pride in the philosophical genius of Plato and Aristotle, the poetry of Dickinson, the writings of Shakespeare, the mathematics of Einstein and the insights of many lofty thinking spiritualists. But as deep, profound, mystical and brilliant as these may be, they are not Torah.

One corollary of this is that just because man’s intellect, even at its best, may conclude something is a certain way, the Torah’s view may differ. We sometimes trumpet our disappointment and vent our indignation, that the Torah doesn’t share our view. But considering it is G-d’s wisdom, is that not being presumptive and haughty?

History can also testify to man’s limitation. Celebrated initially as systems to solve the world’s woes, human invented structures, such as communism, socialism and democracy, have been shown up for their flaws.

As carriers of the Torah, there is a far more complex paradigm that needs to be held together in order to preserve it. There are matters concerning things that the intellect or human sensibility cannot fully appreciate.

These are matters such as purity; hierarchies in creation, such that for example, man and beast are not equal; the assertion of moral, sexual principles that may run against the grain of societies’ norms; defining roles within the sexes; an emphasis on Torah study in a world that prioritises fundamentally the secular; laws pertaining to food, not motivated from a hygienic standpoint, but by something called “kosher” and so on.

Torah equilibrium is very fine, because the elements are many and subtle. It incorporates the world of the soul, reincarnation, plan and purpose, absolute morality, spiritual forces and energies and it maps a structure in which the cosmic puzzle of all things is addressed.

The modern secular mind, with all its enlightenment, may smugly assume it is light years ahead and may decry the Torah with the claim of antiquity.

Nothing could be further from the truth and quite to the contrary, it is Torah, that reservoir

of potent Divine wisdom, that is progressive, pioneering and forward-thinking.

The analogy is told of the great scientist who climbs the Mountain of Knowledge. Thinking he is the first to reach the summit, he is stupefied upon arrival, to see a rabbi quietly sitting on the peak.

“What are you doing here?” asks the scientist.

“Nu, what took you so long?” responds the rabbi.

Shabbat Times		
June 17 / 11 Sivan June 18 / 12 Sivan		
Parshat Nasso		
Starts	Ends	
17:06	17:58	Johannesburg
17:26	18:21	Cape Town
16:46	17:39	Durban
17:07	17:59	Bloemfontein
16:57	17:52	Port Elizabeth
16:57	17:52	East London
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Kol isha: Cape Board invites applicants to join Monday’s community colloquium

ANT KATZ

The community colloquium that has been called by the Cape Council of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies on the kol isha issue for Monday and which is likely to be heard by the Cape Equality Court in August should the matter not be resolved, has been widely criticised as not being representative of the community.

With this in mind the Cape Board on Tuesday decided to invite the applicants in the matter to attend as well. The Board will also decide later on Wednesday whether to open the meeting to the media.

The colloquium’s objective, Cape Board Chairman Eric Marx told Jewish Report is “to find a way to continue to keep the annual Yom Hashoah commemoration as inclusive as possible, and not split the community”.

The matter arose after the Cape Board was served papers on April 6 by two Orthodox Capetonians - later joined by SACRED - to sue the Board in the Equality Court for “discrimination of women on the basis of gender”. The claimants are brother and sister pair Gilad Stern and Sarah Goldstein. The charges emanated from women not being allowed to sing solo in front of men at secular events - or the halachic doctrine of kol isha.

The brouhaha has been smouldering over at least a decade, as traditional SA Orthodox Jews such as Stern and Goldstein joined secular Jews in protest against the country’s apex secular communal organisations - the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and the SA Zionist Federation - who have been

applying religious restrictions at secular events they host.

Two letters in this week’s Jewish Report, one by court applicant Sarah Goldstein and another by Diane Fine of Johannesburg, sum up a belief that the Board may be planning a “whitewash” of the issue. “The title of ‘community colloquium’ is misleading,” suggests Fine in her letter, “as it suggests inclusion of the whole Jewish community”.

Marx disagrees. While only the Cape Board’s 70-odd affiliates were invited to send delegates, he says: “They are all independent. They do not fund us and we do not fund them.” The Cape Board affiliates include all shuls, youth groups, communal organisations, etc. “I can assure you that many of them have completely divergent views,” says Marx. The colloquium is being chaired “by a totally independent person, Bobby Godsell, and he is setting the rules”.

Godsell, says Marx, has personally invited all of the affiliates and all submissions are being sent directly to him at his private e-mail address. Marx also invited “the entire community database to make submissions either directly to us or through any of our affiliates”. This, he says, has resulted in a large number of submissions on the matter.

Marx admitted to Jewish Report on Wednesday that “(the Cape Board) understands that the status quo can’t remain”.

The community, he says, “do not want this to play out in court” which is why the Cape Board this week agreed to invite the applicants in the matter (but not their legal representatives).

The SAJBD hosts the annual Yom Hashoah

commemoration throughout the country, while the SAZF hosts all the local Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut events nationally.

In the Cape High Court sitting as the Equality Court, only the arguments before it will be adjudicated on, allowing, in effect, the parties to mitigate any risk of the matter evolving into the bigger question of whether religious rights trump constitutional rights or vice versa, or, in fact, if such questions should be adjudicated on a case-by-case basis.

However, there is a strong likelihood that whoever loses the first round may well go further up the legal rung and appeal, either to the Supreme Court of Appeal or directly to the Constitutional Court (should the Court agree to hear it directly).

The applicants insist that this not a matter of religion and that they are not suing on religious grounds. The Board is only using a religious ground to defend its case, they maintain.

“This matter is not going to (be put to) a vote” at the colloquium, says Marx. And, while the Board believes that the colloquium will be as representative as it can be, its purpose is to give the Board “an opportunity to listen to the community”.

While the matter has been ring-fenced to the Cape community and the Cape Board (as against the national community and including the SAZF), Marx says the Cape Board “can’t do more than that. We can’t argue on behalf of the Orthodox community.”

• Read the legal arguments on [sajr.co.za](#)

World News in Brief

Brazil regrets Unesco vote negating Israel’s tie to Kotel, Temple Mount

RIO DE JANEIRO - Brazil’s Foreign Minister Jose Serra intends to change Brazil’s anti-Israel vote given in April at a United Nations session, where rights for cultural assets in the areas conquered in the Six Day War were discussed, Brazilian media reported.

The text of the resolution passed at the 199th session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), does not recognise a Jewish connection to the Western Wall and the Temple Mount and calls Israel an “occupying power”. It was approved with 33 votes in favour, including Brazil’s. There were 17 abstentions. France also reportedly has decided to change its vote.

“In practical terms, it (the resolution) was more a pretext for the Arab world to disseminate hatred against Israel,” read a statement from the Brazilian Israelite Confederation, the country’s umbrella Jewish organisation. Although Latin America’s largest nation’s new vote is not enough to change the resolution, the move shows good will to change the acid relationship with Israel fostered by leftist former President Rousseff, who is currently suspended by Congress in the midst of an impeachment process. (JTA)

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Get refuser Anthony Sherman put in cherem by the Beth Din

BRIAN JOSSELOWITZ

The Go-Getters - The SA Get Network - and Women-4-Women (W4W), a project of the Union of Jewish Women (UJW) Cape Town, have warned recalcitrant husbands that they will receive the same treatment as Capetonian Anthony Sherman, who has refused to grant his former wife a get.

Sherman was put in cherem this past weekend by the Beth Din which excludes him from Jewish communal events as a way to pressurise him into granting his ex-wife a Jewish divorce. But despite the Beth Din’s efforts over the past four years he has remained obdurate.

A statement issued by the Union of Orthodox Synagogues on the Sherman case said that the sanctions imposed on the recalcitrant former husband include: he may not enter a shul, receive an aliyah, be included in a minyan or be buried in a Jewish cemetery.

Rosh Beth Din Rabbi Moshe

Kurtstag previously said when he told Sherman that he could be put in cherem, he did not seem bothered.

“Sherman had an extramarital affair which culminated in a divorce and since then he has not paid maintenance to his first family and is being sued for not paying maintenance,” Go-Getters and W4W said.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein said last week Thursday, when he made clear that the Beth Din intended to place Sherman in cherem: “The halacha mandates us to do everything in our power to defend the rights of women and especially in a situation like this, where a husband maliciously withholds a get. Therefore, the Beth Din treats these situations with extreme seriousness...There is also very good South African legislation and so we have had hardly any agunah cases in South Africa.

“We must all support these sanctions against him because in so doing we support the strong moral

stance of the halacha to fight on behalf of his ex-wife, whose rights are being violated by her recalcitrant husband.

“His behaviour is immoral and we, as a community, have the duty to take a strong stand against such conduct,” the Chief Rabbi said.

“The issue of men refusing to grant their former wives gittin is an old and tragic one,” says Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani of Temple Israel in Green Point. “While some Progressive rabbis issue a teudat hafreida - a certificate of separation - to annul the ketubah, all will marry a divorcee on presentation of a civil divorce decree. While it works for us, we recognise that it does not conform with Orthodox halacha.”

Go-Getters and W4W said the giving of a get should be a simple process once the marriage has broken down.

“Before staring the Go-Getters campaign many people urged Anthony and Christie to do the morally correct thing by giving the get, but

we couldn’t convince him. Sherman’s first wife who has been trying to protect their children, now supports the Beth Din’s decision to institute cherem. But she remains an agunah and by excommunicating Sherman, the rabbinate are sending a clear message that this type of behaviour is unacceptable in Jewish law.”

The social media campaign started by Go-Getters with W4W and UJW Cape Town highlighted that there are other women in this position.

“The Sherman case should serve as a strong warning to other South African get refusers, who are known to us and we will expose them, if necessary. It is intolerable to have men abuse halacha by withholding the get as a form of punishment.

“If we are asked to help either the spouse or the Beth Din, we will

embark on appropriate campaigns. Some men attempt to intimidate their wives and children, but we and our legal team will pursue them to prevent this abuse. All we want is justice,” W4W and Go-Getters said.

When a horrified Rebbetzen Zeesy Deren of the Shul of the West Coast read the first report in the SAJR, she contacted Go-Getters and W4W and within three hours arranged to have the statement from the Rabbinical Council read out in all the shuls.

Since news of the cherem decision was placed on the SA Get Network Facebook page on Monday, 24 655 people have seen it. “It has been shared 168 times, we had 134 comments, 247 people engaged the post and four South African agunot contacted us,” Go-Getters said.



Jewish-owned companies support the Bokke and cricket

JACK MILNER

This is probably the first time ever that two predominantly Jewish-owned companies are involved in sponsoring the Springbok rugby team.

Bidvest and Blue Label Telecoms have both lent their support to the Springboks for the current inbound three-Test series against Ireland. The SA Rugby Union found itself in a sponsorship vacuum when Absa, a long-time supporter of SA rugby, pulled out rather suddenly.

BMW followed shortly afterwards and there was a fear South Africa would go into this year’s international season without a sponsor.

Bidvest and Blue Label have stepped into the void - for the moment at least. Both have come forward with sponsorships for the Ireland tour, but whether it will extend beyond this is uncertain.

The deal between Bidvest and SA Rugby has seen their logo feature on the Springboks’ shorts for the Ireland series, as well as a logo placement on the field for the Tests.

Lindsay Ralphs, CEO of Bidvest, said the new partnership with SA Rugby showed their commitment to South Africa and one of the country’s biggest international brands. “The Springboks are a byword for South Africa in the world and we’re proud to be associated with them,” said Ralphs.

“This series is the start of a new era for Springbok rugby and we are excited to be a part of this prestigious event. Our association with the Springboks is a perfect fit for our brand and what we stand for.”



Levy Brothers, Mark and Brett, show off their company logo on the Springbok jersey.

The turnaround was complete when the Blue Label Telecoms signed on. The telecommunications and technology company will partner the Boks for the Tests in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth.

Blue Label Telecoms’ name and branding appear on the Springboks’ jersey for the series as well as in a number of on-and-off-field areas.

“Our rugby team is a national treasure, and we’re delighted to be associated with the Bokke ‘gees’ during the team’s debut. It’s fantastic to experience this period of reinvention and renewal,” said Joint CEO Brett Levy.

Mark Levy, the other joint CEO added: “SA Rugby has a vision for the team, from coach through to captain and management - the stage is set to show the world the Bokke’s determination and

prowess.

“We share their confidence in South Africa and their commitment to excellence - the Bokke are a perfect fit with the Blue Label Telecoms brand.”

“We are delighted to welcome Blue Label Telecoms to the rugby family,” said SA Rugby CEO Jurie Roux. “They are one of South Africa’s most innovative and visionary companies, and the way they have embraced this opportunity is testimony to that.

“These are tough financial times for South Africa, and we at SA Rugby have to be creative in how we approach our commercial partnerships,” Roux said. “Blue Label Telecoms’ partnership for a Test series - rather than for a number of years - is a model that we are increasingly considering.

“It offers our partners good value, while also allowing us to introduce new names into our family, with a view to longer-term relationships,” he said.

Blue Label Telecoms has announced that its Indian associate, Oxigen, will be the brand behind the Proteas for all T20 cricket matches in the upcoming season.

The Oxigen Proteas will feature in 12 T20 matches against Bangladesh, New Zealand, India, England and Australia before next year’s ICC World Twenty 20 Championships in India.

Mark Levy comments: “We enjoy a long-standing relationship with Cricket South Africa, spanning many years, through our sponsorship of the Proteas. Oxigen is a brand born and bred in India and we expect that Oxigen’s sponsorship of the Proteas T20 team will resonate closely with the Indian community, considering the massive impact the brand has in the country.”

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World News in Brief

After Orlando, Trump amps up calls to ban Muslim entry

PALM BEACH, Florida - Donald Trump amped up his calls to cut off Muslim entry into the United States and to monitor US Muslims, in the wake of the worst mass shooting in US history.

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee, through his Twitter feed and speaking to news outlets on Monday, said a substantial threat existed among Muslims overseas and Muslims in the United States.

“First of all we have to stop people coming in from Syria, we’re taking them in by the thousands,” he told CNN, referring to Obama administration policy on Syrian refugees, which has allowed in just over 2 000 this year and which sets an annual maximum of 10 000.

“This will only get worse because we have very weak leadership,” he said, and called for more monitoring of American Muslims. “We need intelligence gathering, we have to look

at the mosques, we have to look at the community.”

Omar Mateen, who killed 49 people in an attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando early last Sunday, was American born. He pledged allegiance to Islamic State during the attack. An array of Muslim American groups has condemned the attack.

Trump accused Muslims in the United States of not reporting terrorists in their midst.

“You have many, many people, thousands of people living in our country, people who are around them, Muslims, know who they are,” he said. “People in his community,” Trump said, referring to Mateen, “and their community, they know who the people are, almost in every case, they know who they are, they brag about it, they talk about it, they have to turn them in.” (JTA)

Can SA dodge a December credit rating downgrade?



STEVEN GRUZD

The big three international credit ratings agencies, S&P Global Ratings (formerly Standard and Poor’s Rating Services), Moody’s and Fitch all recently stopped short of downgrading South Africa to sub-investment grade. The Jewish Report asked well-known market watchers, whether, with the crippling drought, sluggish economy and volatile politics, a downgrade is likely by December.

S&P, for instance, cited specific structural reforms needed to avoid a downgrade: reliable energy supply, labour market reform, clarity on the minerals regime and a reduction in political infighting.

Three factors all of these agencies are watching in South Africa are: fiscal consolidation, or the ability of government to contain public spending and reduce the budget deficit; management of state-owned enterprises (such as Eskom, SAA and the SABC) so that they do not require ever larger government bailouts; and economic growth.

Analysts concur that greater growth is the key ingredient.

Dr Azar Jammine, director and chief economist of Econometrix, believes Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan has a strong commitment to the first, the second is currently uncertain, and the biggest problem is the third. He says growth is undermined by “the ideological economic divide between market-oriented and socialist solutions”.

Dr Iraj Abedian, chief economist at Pan-African Investment and Research Services, agrees that Minister Gordhan, in his recent international roadshows with big business and organised labour, has bought some time.

“Now we must demonstrate what has been promised - good management of government finances, less corruption, better governance,” he says. “Pravin Gordhan has already put his foot down on a number of big expenditure items. The agencies will look closely in October at his Medium Term Budget Statement.

Equally, if not more importantly, we need to show a turnaround in growth performance... a humungous task at the best of times; currently the global economy is not in anyone’s favour”.

South Africa’s growth is not expected to reach two per cent in the next three years.

Raymond Goss, head of Wealth Management SA at Investec, sees avoiding a December downgrade as “a tall order based on an environment marked by economic headwinds and political own-goals”.

The first quarter GDP decline of 1,2 per cent, dragged down by mining and agriculture losses, “sets a sombre tone for the months ahead”. With low growth globally, commodities are unlikely to recover soon, he says.

David Shapiro, deputy chairman of Sasfin Securities, says: “Huge amounts of our tax go to paying for social grants. There is nothing left for growth.”

Shapiro also cites political tensions as a beleaguered ANC tries to hold onto power. The agencies will watch how August’s local government elections unfold. “Plus, strict labour laws are not helping business. And workers drop tools for anything. The drought could lift, but mining and manufacturing numbers are very worrying.

“We also can’t ignore the international picture - a global slowdown, ‘Brexit’ [the possibility of Britain leaving the EU] and the US elections.”

Both Goss and Shapiro highlight the Auditor-General’s report of over R25 billion lost to irregular, authorised and wasteful expenditure in 2015. Disturbingly, only 30 per cent of government entities received clean audits.

Shapiro says: “Politically, the ratings agencies are very reluctant to downgrade South Africa, especially because of its position on the continent.”

Abedian sees South Africa’s relative standing to other downgraded emerging economies like Brazil and Russia as more critical. “South Africa is miles ahead of Russia, for instance, in terms of protection of property, integrity of the courts, and the robustness of the political system, even with the shenanigans in parliament.”

Goss, however, believes the country can leverage “strong policy institutions, deep local capital markets and favourable government debt structures” and that government departments, beyond just Treasury, need to implement reforms rapidly to reverse the slide.

But Goss says that heading into the August polls, “the ANC appears to be moving in the exact opposite direction, defending the indefensible and sweeping issues such as state capture under the carpet. Given the dire economic consequences of losing our investment grade status, government may come to rue their short-sighted choices.”

What can ordinary taxpayers do? “Pay your taxes, so that government can reach its revenue targets more easily,” said Jammine. “Work harder. And try to get the unions to toyi-toyi less.”

Jammine feels “there’s a significant probability that we’ll be downgraded” by the end of this year. He also pointed out that the agencies have South Africa pegged at different levels (S&P Global has its outlook as “negative”, Fitch’s is “stable” and Moody’s has the country two notches above sub-investment). A downgrade by all three will be serious.

Shapiro says: “We shouldn’t be celebrating - we have to use this reprieve to change what’s wrong with our economy. And maybe a downgrade will be the best thing, a wakeup call, like the klap the Springboks got against the Irish.”



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At 50, Goodman Gallery still embodies an eternal youthful spirit



ANT KATZ

The Goodman Gallery in Cape Town and Johannesburg celebrated its 50th anniversary last week. The Jewish-owned gallery, which has only had two owners in this long period, has enjoyed a distinguished life among international contemporary art galleries.

Founded by Linda Givon during the era of apartheid in 1966, Goodman Gallery “offered a non-discriminatory space in a time when museums served the agenda of the government (of the day)”, says Liza Essers, who purchased the gallery from Givon in 2008. Essers is a national NEC member of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies.

The gallery has remained true to its policy of exhibiting artists who are contemporary, influential and strive to shift perspectives and engender social transformation, says Essers.

“There is no doubt that (Linda) is a visionary and responsible for initiating the journey we are all on,” Essers told guests at a gala dinner in Johannesburg on June 4 to celebrate the anniversary - as well as open Liza’s comprehensive “New Revolutions” programme

Liza Essers at the opening of “In Context” in 2010.

(the Cape Town launch had been held two days earlier).

Givon, said Essers, had “built a non-discriminatory space, stood up to the law, and offered her home to artists-in-hiding”. Her support and generosity for her artists had been incredible, and was ongoing, said Essers. “Thank you Linda, for entrusting me with the Goodman Gallery (and its legacy) eight years ago.”

Essers, too, has left an indelible mark on the Goodman Gallery. She has promoted a global outlook, while initiating unconventional interventions both within and outside of the traditional gallery space.

This approach has dovetailed with a three-tiered focus: working with southern Africa’s most significant artists (established and emerging); those from the greater African continent; and international artists who engage in a dialogue with the African context.

The Gallery has also produced a limited edition (1 000 copies), 124-page hand-stitched high quality coffee-table book which will be sold from their galleries. The complete book as a PDF document can be found on our website at www.sajr.co.za/goodman.

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Around the Jewish World



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu condemns terror attack

JERUSALEM – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has condemned the terror attack at a lesbian and gay nightclub in Orlando, which left 49 people dead and 53 injured in the early hours of Sunday morning.

In a statement after the mass-shooting at the Pulse club, which was carried out by self-radicalised Islamist Omar Mateen, Netanyahu said: “We are all shocked at the horrific massacre in Orlando. On behalf of the government and people of Israel, I would like to again express our condolences to the American people and the families at this especially difficult and tragic hour.”

Condemning the spike in terror attacks a week after Israel celebrated Gay Pride in Tel Aviv, Netanyahu added: “We stand shoulder to shoulder with the American people.”

In the wake of the attack, the worst mass-shooting in US history, the Tel Aviv municipality building displayed the rainbow flag in solidarity with victims of the attack. In Jerusalem, people gathered in Zion Square with rainbow flags and placards that displayed messages of support.

David Quarrey, Britain’s ambassador to Israel, who is gay, tweeted a message of support for victims of the attack. He said his thoughts were “with the United States”. - Jewish Chronicle, London.

JEWISH LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS

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Can we do better?

The shooting spree at the upscale Saron Market in central Tel Aviv last week Wednesday night that killed four Israelis and wounded six others, adds to the tally of 33 Israelis and 200 Palestinians who have been killed in the Israeli Palestinian conflict just since October.

Then over the weekend Omar Mateen opened fire at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people and injuring 53. This week in our own country, we remember the Soweto Uprising of 1976 and all the people who were shot in the ensuing violence. And 40 years later, violence is still our “mother’s milk”: a rape occurs every half hour (although the statistics are difficult to verify) and a policeman dies every four days.

Where are the solutions for the seemingly unsolvable rage, hatred and violence around? What do we do?

As Israel mourned the terror of Saron and various Israeli Cabinet members with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the helm called for a series of punishments, one man’s sentiments might offer the beginnings of some answers.

The speech of the father of Ido Ben Ari (one of the victims) at his son’s funeral, have stuck with me. Their profundity is almost hard to believe, given the pain and despair he must be experiencing.

The bereft father (who was not named in the press) decried the rhetoric that came from Netanyahu and his ministers in reaction to the tragedy and called for a new approach.

“Last night, after the attack, the prime minister and two of his

ministers arrived and yet another security Cabinet issued decrees - not to return corpses, to put up barriers, to destroy houses and to make lives harder. These solutions create suffering, hatred, despair and [lead] to more people joining the circle of terror,” he said

“Already 49 years you’ve been trying to solve things tactically and you haven’t succeeded. The time has come for a strategic solution,” he added.

A friend of mine gave a speech recently where she spoke about two kinds of leaders: those who build bridges and those who build walls. My guess is that leadership and conflict resolution through bridge building is far more effective.

We just have to remember the great South Africans who sat down at the negotiating tables and steered us through the seemingly unsolvable apartheid vortex as an example. They were individuals who broke down walls and really started listening to one another.

Thus the ability to build bridges when there are contentious issues to resolve, requires a deep understanding of the other party’s needs, feelings and motives. It requires empathy.

Interdisciplinary artist Sue Pam Grant who runs workshops in Johannesburg on empathy based on long-held psychological evidence that empathy can really shift the game and build change, said: “People are realising that we have to see with different eyes, hear with different ears. Everything has to be turned on its head if we are to understand the different worlds that others live in.”

Grant and her colleagues are teaching people to hone their listening skills and recognise their own hurts, strengths and triggers which she says opens doors to empathy for others. “We are dealing with so much conflict and rage all around us,” Grant says. “We have to awaken creative, intuitive ways to find solutions to deal with these complex scenarios.”

Leaders like Netanyahu and Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump tend to use language of barrier building, playing to peoples’ fears, not their hopes. Indeed, since the Orlando shooting, Trump has reiterated his call for a freeze on Muslim immigration to the US.

But it is unlikely that freezing Palestinian visas and upping security at the checkpoints as Netanyahu’s



South African Jewish Report

Cabinet is threatening, or stopping Muslim immigrants from coming into the US, as Trump suggests, are going to do away with the accumulating anger that leads to violence.

Meting out punishment and greater restrictions may work in the short term in the Palestinian conflict, but the anger just goes underground, seethes and erupts later, more dangerously.

I think we have to step away from our computers, our e-mails and Facebook posts and make ourselves available for real human connection. Let’s support leaders who don’t only appeal to our fears but rather to our braver and nobler selves and let’s really listen to what our “enemies” are saying.

The Cape Times for all its faults sent its harshest Israel critic, foreign editor Shannon Ebrahim, to visit the death camps of Europe earlier this year.

I too am wondering what steps I can take. Let’s all examine moves we could make towards standing in the other’s shoes. Call me “pie in the sky” idealistic, but it starts with each one of us.

– Vanessa Valkin, editor

World News in Brief	
<h3>‘Orlando casts light on flaws in institutional security’</h3> <p>WASHINGTON - Jewish institutions must heed the flaws in the security industry exposed by the mass shooting in Orlando, the top Jewish community security official said.</p> <p>Paul Goldenberg, who directs Secure Community Network, said Omar Mateen’s employment by a prominent security firm, G4S, should raise alarms for Jewish groups that hire security staffers from that firm and other contractors.</p> <p>“We need to rethink the process and not depend on the lowest bidder,” Goldenberg told JTA on Sunday, emphasising that he was not singling out G4S, but noting that many Jewish institutions used outside contractors. “The Jewish community has come to rely on private security professionals. We need to consider who to hire.”</p> <p>Mateen pledged loyalty to the Islamic State in communications with police during his attack on a gay nightclub early on Sunday, in which he killed 49 people and wounded 53. He was killed during the attack, the worst mass shooting in US history.</p> <p>G4S said in a statement it was co-operating with law enforcement. It said Mateen was employed as a guard at a residential community in south Florida and that it had screened him twice, once in 2006 when he was hired and again in 2013. G4S said there were “no adverse findings” in its screenings (JTA courtesy SCN).</p>	<h3>CSO’s Gauteng threat level stands at four</h3> <p>Jevon Greenblatt, operations director of the CSO in Gauteng, has clarified the organisation’s threat levels, mentioned in a Jewish Report article in last week’s edition, as follows:</p> <p>Levels are between one and five, with the standard level in South Africa usually at three. (The current threat level is four.)</p> <p>Greenblatt said precautionary measures were being put in place. “It is our duty to protect Jewish institutions and Jewish communal life. But people must be vigilant, take care and report anything suspicious to the CSO or, in a mall, to security.”</p> <p>More news on our website www.sajr.co.za</p>

Massacres, gays and religion - SA still a miracle nation



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

While Sunday’s massacre of 49 people in a gay nightclub in Florida in the United States - in which the gunman pledged allegiance to Islamic State, although his sincerity is questionable - may seem far away for South Africans, it throws into relief things that are reasonably on track in this country, despite the cacophony of political noise suggesting everything is falling apart.

One is the protection of LGBT rights - including recognition of same-sex marriage - deriving from the constitutional prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation. This is not to say there is no prejudice against gay people, but it is a refreshing contrast to most African countries, where such rights are scarce.

The International Gay and Lesbian Association says that of 55 African states

recognised by the United Nations or African Union or both, homosexuality is outlawed in 34.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, for example, rigidly opposes LGBT rights, referring to lesbians and gays as being “worse than dogs and pigs”.

In South Africa, on the other hand, a public figure who denigrates gay people would be publicly castigated and possibly taken to the Human Rights Commission. A furore similar to the social media firestorms which erupt around expressions of racism, might follow.

There is, however, a much uglier side to parts of South African society, as seen in the long tradition of “corrective” rape of lesbian women in black townships. Sadly, this outrageous practice still continues.

We don’t see in South Africa the kind of radical religious extremism - such as jihadist Islam - which is proliferating elsewhere and which violently opposes gay rights. Interfaith relations have also always been relatively good between Muslims, Jews, Christians and others. We need to keep it that way.

In Israel too, there is a relatively high tolerance of gay rights, despite opposition from ultra-Orthodox Jews such as the Shas party. Recent polls indicate a majority of Israelis support same-sex marriage.

When a radical ultra-Orthodox Jew last year stabbed six people at a gay parade in Jerusalem - one of them, teenager Shira Banki, later died of her wounds - he was vehemently condemned by society at large and most politicians.

Tel Aviv has frequently been referred to as one of the most gay-friendly cities in the world, known for its massive annual Pride Parade. Political leaders have consistently defended gay rights, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former President Shimon Peres. A monument dedicated to gay victims of the Holocaust was erected in Tel Aviv in 2014.

Last month, in a historic visit, over 100 leaders of the American LGBT community came to Israel on a trip called “Visiting Israel with Pride” to express solidarity with the Israeli LGBT community. They met with President Reuven Rivlin and US Ambassador to Israel Dan

Shapiro, who hosted them at their homes in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Rivlin told them he had received the first ever LGBT delegation to the Knesset 23 years ago and later when he was chosen to become president, had welcomed a similar group.

Gay-bashing has usually been justified by longstanding religious traditions which see themselves as the guardians of morality and demonise anyone who is “other”. It is hard for them to change, even under massive societal pressure. In the Jewish world, formal recognition by ultra-Orthodox Jews of gay rights is unlikely to happen any time soon.

Could what took place in Florida also happen here? We shouldn’t be complacent. We have witnessed horrendous outbreaks of xenophobia against foreign nationals - the “other” - despite our fine Constitution. Hopefully, the gay rights message has become so deeply embedded in our society that such a thing is inconceivable.

• Read Geoff Sifrin’s regular columns on his blog sifrintakingissue.wordpress.com

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‘Memories of Muizenberg’ exhibition travels far and wide

The “Memories of Muizenberg” exhibition has been travelling the world and has elicited a lot of interest.

Joy Kropman, curator of the exhibition, writes: “It is hard to believe that the ‘Memories of Muizenberg’ exhibition that was compiled several years ago, sourcing pictures, memorabilia and memories from family and friends, is enjoying so much nostalgia from people all over the world - and is on the move again.

“It has now reached Vancouver, Canada, and is opening there on July 10.”

Having started at the Jewish Museum in Cape Town, the exhibition first moved to Muizenberg’s Labia Museum before taking off on its travels to the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre in Johannesburg, then to Israel, London, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Toronto and San Diego.



Memory Lane has become a highway in far-flung parts of the globe, with people flocking to view photographs of the once iconic Jewish Western Cape enclave of Muizenberg.

Community Columns

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies



Above Board
Jeff Katz
National Chairman

For the 2014 national and provincial elections, the SAJBD put together South Africa’s first interfaith and multinational election observer team to assist the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) on polling day.

Our team comprised nearly 100 volunteers from across the religious, ethnic and national spectrum, including Jews, Muslims, Christians, British and Australian citizens and Zimbabwean and Congolese refugees. Officially accredited by the IEC, it monitored events at over 250 voting stations in five cities and across three provinces, supervising the delivery of ballot boxes, the opening of the polls, helping to resolve problems at polling stations and ensuring that the polls were closed and that counting began on time.

From various points of view, our Election Monitoring initiative was a significant success. In practical terms, it provided a vehicle through which members of the public wishing to contribute to the election process could do so.

Their participation in turn helped the IEC to fulfil its mandate of ensuring not only that the polling ran smoothly and efficiently, but was at all times both free and fair. Beyond this, it was an inspiring bridge-building experience, with South Africans of widely differing backgrounds coming together to contribute to our country’s democratic process.

For the upcoming municipal elections on August 3, the Board is again putting together an interfaith and multinational observer team and I encourage as many of our own community as possible to be part of it.

To do so, please send your full name as it appears

in your ID book, contact details and ID number to alanabaranov@gmail.com. The closing date for applications for organisations to observe the elections is June 24, so all those interested in coming on board should do so as soon as possible.

Fighting hate

Last week, the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JH&GC) met with the Mthakazi Liberation Front, an organisation which inter alia seeks to promote public awareness of the massacres carried out against the Matabele people in Zimbabwe during the 1980s.

The Board was instrumental in setting up the meeting. Since its establishment, the JH&GC has played a vital role in educating the public, in particular high school learners, of the dangers of prejudice, whether based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality or other such grounds, and of what the ultimate consequences of such prejudice. It combines Holocaust education with teaching about other genocides, including those that have taken place in Africa.

Over the weekend, we received yet another painful reminder of what hatred of “the other” can lead to, with the murder of 49 people at a LGBT night club in Orlando, Florida.

While this atrocity, the worst mass shooting in American history, took place on another continent, it should serve to remind us of the ongoing and largely under-reported attacks taking place against members of the LGBT community in our own country.

We must never turn our heads against such hatred and intolerance and must stand up and oppose it with all our effort wherever and whenever it arises.

• 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

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Be part of South African history. Join the ‘Make Us Count’ election observer team.

The SAJBD’s election awareness and mobilisation campaign ‘**Make Us Count**’ will once again be forming our election observer team to monitor the municipal elections for 2016. This election observer team has been officially accredited by the IEC, and has aided in previous elections, ensuring that the elections are free and fair. Take this exciting opportunity and play an active role in our democracy. Our observer team will be stationed in cities across the country. Observers can be stationed at polls close to where they live for a few hours or for the full day, and can even assist in vote counting after the polls close, if they wish. If you are 18 years or older and wish to join the ‘**Make Us Count**’ observer team, **please send your full name as it appears in your ID book, your contact details and ID number to alanabaranov@gmail.com by 24 June at 1pm.**

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Getting the ear of the former president

Business leaders greatly enjoyed dinner and interactions with former President Kgalema Motlanthe at Howard Sackstein’s home this week. The former president was very measured but frank in his responses to the questions posed during the discussion period. This is the second such event at Sackstein’s that has given Jewish industry players this kind of access to a key member of the ANC.

Top row: left to right: Roland Sassoon and Howard Sackstein; group photo of participants.

Second row from left: Hayley and Shaun Levitan with former President Motlanthe (centre). Howard Sackstein mediating discussions with Mothlanthe.

Third row from left: Motlanthe and Barry Swartzberg; Motlanthe and Solly Kramer; Adrienne Hersch and Motlanthe; Shaun Zagnoev and Motlanthe.



Searching for a gentile great-aunt who saved Jewish men

SYBRANDUS ADEMA

“Regina Adema ID I49344, daughter of Martin Adema and Jikke Justina Blom, was born in Bolsward on December 19, 1902, the Netherlands. Regina is deceased.”

So began my Internet search regarding a great-aunt of mine, a larger-than-life mensch, singer and lingerie seller. But, more importantly, a woman who sheltered and kept five Jewish men alive during the Second World War in her cramped Amsterdam apartment. A woman who managed to offer hope to these trapped men in a country that saw roughly three quarters of its Jewish residents murdered during the Nazi occupation.

And what would such a story be without romance? She and one of the Jewish survivors, “Oom (Uncle) Sal”, married directly after the war – and were inseparable until her death.

Growing up with Jewish neighbours and later friends in Cape Town (my immigrant father met my mother here), I sometimes mentioned the story, but never investigated it, even when I met Oom Sal as a child and later lived in Amsterdam for a year. So I e-mailed aunts and uncles, but strangely most barely knew anything - during the war, the less people knew, the less chance there was of accidental betrayal.

Shortly after the First World War, a young Regina Adema moved from the rural province of Friesland to Amsterdam. She was a very good singer and wanted to perform with Louis Davids (real name Simon David 1883-1939), one of various Jewish Dutch cabaret artists at the time. Her musical career was not enough to survive on and she opens a “bh-zaak” (a lingerie store).

In May 1940, Adolf Hitler conquered the Netherlands; rapidly, new laws restricted Jews’ movements, leading up to their mass deportations. In part due to the registration of Jews by the Jewish Council and the Dutch’s meticulous bureaucratic machine, it was relatively easy for the Nazis to apprehend Jews.

As Tante (Aunt) Regina was now friends with many Jewish artists, she was asked to provide some of them with shelter, and soon there were four or five Jewish men in her small apartment, including a Salomon Shrijver. As described in the diary of Anne Frank - whose house on Prinsengracht was not far from Tante Regina’s near Carré and the Amstel - everyone had to keep quiet. The curtains remained closed and they were basically prisoners.

Whether Oom Sal had any contact with his family was uncertain. His father Hartog

had passed away in 1939 and mother, Roozje Speijer, died at the beginning of the war - both are buried in the local Diemen Jewish cemetery.

Oom Sal was one of 14 children, of which two died very young. Five of his sisters and three brothers died during the war years; one in Amsterdam, most in the Sobibor concentration camp in Poland between January and July 1943 - moreover, two of them on the same day in a gas chamber. Which makes one wonder: Were they at least together in those final moments?

After about a quarter of a million Jews perished in Sobibor, the inmates rioted in October 1943. Hundreds of prisoners fled but most escapees were eventually tracked down and murdered. I even found a grainy photo of another of Oom Sal’s sisters, Sara, who survived an unnamed concentration camp. Tragically she died on a train on her way back - less than 300km from the Dutch border. Her body was left on a station as an air raid prevented any burial.

Before this, however, in the last year of the war, the Netherlands’ “Hunger Winter” saw severe shortages. Tante Regina faced innumerable military checkpoints to cycle hundreds of kilometres over the Afsluitdijk (Enclosure Dyke) between North Holland

and Friesland provinces to collect and smuggle food.

Back home, she and Sal had fallen in love, but due to the war, marriage was out of the question; the country was barely liberated before they got hitched on June 27, 1945. The few Dutch Jews who survived, formed a close-knit community in Amsterdam and despite all the sadness and pain, they retained their sense of humour. Life went on, and decades later the couple ended up in a Jewish old age home near Utrecht.

And I at last have their photographs, taken at a final celebration. Tante Regina turned 80 in 1982, and in the photo they are singing and dancing together - just a few months after I, as a nine-year-old, met them.

In 1983 Oom Sal turned 80, also celebrated with a big party. His wife passed away shortly thereafter and he, inconsolable, died soon afterwards of the proverbial broken heart.

The final words belong to Oom Sal, the eternal optimist, as quoted to me by an aunt: “Years after the war, he still left the house’s door open; ‘what if a family member returned?’”

• This is a shortened version of an article appearing at www.litnet.co.za/op-die-spoor-van-regina-adema/

Devastated by WW II death camps, Czech Jewish life returns to normal

MARGOT COHEN

The Jewish community in the Czech Republic is small but progressing rapidly, says Zuzana Pavlovska, who heads up the education and culture department of the Jewish Museum in Prague.

A presentation describing the life of the Jewish community after the Second World War took place at the newly-opened Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre in Forest Town last week.

The function was attended by Czech Ambassador Michal Kral and Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa Arthur Lenk.

Speaking at a moving presentation on the life of survivors post-1945, Pavlovska traced the history of her department since its founding in 1996. One of the main goals is fighting racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

Prague now boasts a Jewish primary and secondary school, three fully functioning famous synagogues, old people’s home, orphanage, nursery school and more. There are only 5 000 Jews in the country, living in 10 communities.

Many synagogues are not used for prayer any longer, she said. There are around 250 synagogues and they are gradually being reopened as cultural centres and museums.

When the Second World War ended, some of the Jews who came from different concentration camps to the former Czechoslovakia, spoke mostly German. Before the war Jews had to choose between the Czech and German languages.

Anti-Jewish laws in the former Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia during the period 1939-1941 resulted in more than 75 000 Jews being deported on mass transports to Nisko, Minsk, Lodz and mainly Theresienstadt.

Life was vastly different for Prague Jews after 1945. Home was no longer home. Outbreaks of typhus and death marches had dwindled their ranks, besides the mass killing in the camps.

By mid-May 1945, the Jewish Region agency was registered with the aim of getting back many of the 153 Jewish



Ambassadors Arthur Lenk of Israel and Michal Kral of Czechoslovakia talk at the presentation of post-war survivors in Czechoslovakia.

communities. “Prague was not destroyed by the Nazis; everything was in place, only many of the people they knew were missing,” commented Pavlovska.

During the period 1946-1948, Prague became a halfway house for Jewish refugees. More than 250 000 of them were crossing the country. By 1948 the Communist Party took power and many Jews left Czechoslovakia and changed their identities from German to Jewish.

Some who stayed became members of the Communist Party, but the Jewish community still celebrated its religious holidays. The Old Synagogue which is 800 years old, is still in existence and very much used, Pavlovska said.

In the “Prague Spring” of 1968, many Jews left and there was no rabbi active in the community. By 1989 a new rabbi - Karol Sidon - became rabbi of Bohemia and brought stability to the community.

A Reform Movement began in 1990 when Rabbi Herschel Gluck of Moravia arrived. His arrival gave a boost to Jewish education.

Around the Jewish World

Amnesty International condemns detention of circus clown

JERUSALEM - Amnesty International on Monday condemned the IDF for administratively detaining a circus clown who performs for disabled children, saying the legal proceeding behind the detention was itself a “circus act”.

Muhammad Abu Saha was first detained by the IDF in December 2015 and on Monday his detention

was extended for another six months by a military court in Ofer.

The IDF’s administrative detention sidesteps the right to a criminal trial and allows the presentation of secret evidence in court. However, detention can only occur if approved by a court at least once every six months.

Most of the international community is critical of Israel’s administrative detention policy. But in this particular case, due to Abu Saha’s job as a clown and the children he helps, clowns from the US, England, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Brazil and a list of other countries have loudly protested the detention even more than usual. An Amnesty spokesman said that all they

had been told was that Abu Saha was accused of being a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, but with no details about him being dangerous or concrete evidence to back up the claim.

The spokesman added that Abu Saha was convicted of low-grade stone throwing when he was 17 in 2009, but that the IDF presented no new evidence against him. The IDF has not responded to press inquiries about the case. – Jerusalem Post



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Recognising and dealing with sexual harasssment in the workplace

GAIL BLACHER
Blacher is a lawyer specialising in labour issues

Sometimes the question of whether a certain remark constitutes sexual harassment is a grey area and more often than not we find ourselves questioning the parameters of what is and isn't okay. Many of us sweep it under the rug, laughing it off along with the countless other situations that, on reflection, were simply not okay. It's in part because many of us don't know what defines sexual harassment or that we have rights to take action.

While you might believe your story is too trivial to talk about, once you bring up the subject you'll be surprised at the number of women with a "do you know what happened to me" tale to tell.

According to our labour laws and guidelines, sexual harassment is defined as any "unwanted conduct of a sexual nature" and includes "all unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct".

Examples can range from unsolicited touching, to seedy jokes, comments with sexual overtones or that refer to a person's body or sex life, indecent exposure, wolf whistling, displays of explicit pictures and sexual favouritism.

Even "trying your luck" has to be held to be sexual harassment.

Employers are legally bound to create and maintain an environment in which the dignity of employees is respected.

Employers have a duty of good faith towards their employees, including a duty to provide a safe working environment.

Employers should take decisive action in circumstances where they receive complaints of sexual harassment, but must always ensure that the rights of both the complainant and the person accused of such conduct, are respected in the process.

Employees who engage in sexual harassment should expect to face the harshest penalties under the law.

Checklist
Don't ignore the harassment.
Don't become a victim. If you believe you are the subject of sexual harassment in the workplace, don't ignore the problem as doing so will not result in it going away. Talking about sexual harassment can be uncomfortable, but you can empower yourself by following the correct procedure within the company.

Make it clear to the harasser that the conduct is unwelcome.
An essential element of a sexual harassment claim is that the conduct must be "unwelcome". Harassers often contend that their victims welcomed the behaviour and that the behaviour was consensual.



Sexual harassment is generally behaviour that is an impairment to dignity and must be sexual in nature and includes physical - such as touching - assault, verbal - such as comments or statements or even e-mails and non-verbal such as gestures or pictures.

It can be difficult or even frightening to object, so either you or another person on your behalf must tell the harasser. If you do so in writing, as in an e-mail, you will have proof that the conduct was unwelcome if the harassment doesn't stop.

Keep a log from the start.
Keep any e-mails, memos, gifts, or other tangible evidence from the harasser. And keep a log or notes of any incidents or other information that may be relevant to your concerns about sexual harassment.

Lodge a grievance as soon as possible.
Many companies have a sexual harassment policy in place. It may be difficult and feel frightening and intimidating to report the incident(s) so you may seek the intervention of another person.

If the company has no policy in place, you should report the matter to the employer directly or the HR or a colleague who will inform the employer.

You will then have proof that the employer is aware of the harassment and the employer is then bound to take action against the harasser.

Will I lose my job?
Any adverse or negative reaction against you, such as threats of job loss, negative performance evaluations or pay cuts for bringing a sexual harassment claim is an unlawful offence. If this occurs, report this to the person who has the authority to address the issue or is handling

your sexual harassment complaint.

Keep in mind.
According to the law employers should have specific sexual harassment policies that are freely available and are often displayed. The

employer is legally bound to investigate the incident as well as retain the confidentiality of the complainant. If your employer does not have a sexual harassment policy and procedure, complain to someone you believe has the authority to address the problem.

Don't resign from your job.
Sexual harassment is against the law. You do not have to endure such victimisation or a hostile environment. Don't resign, as this will not be to your benefit. It is important to give the employer an opportunity to deal with the issue.

Sexual harassment law.
A labour lawyer can advise you about what the law considers to be sexual harassment; counsel you about how to handle the situation such as assisting you with your grievance; deal with your employer; ensuring that there is no retaliation; and retaining your position in the company; and advise you on your various options.

They can also advise you about your legal options such as taking the matter to the CCMA or negotiating a severance package or a settlement agreement.

Jewish Interactive app has taken Jewish world by storm

SUZANNE BELLING
Nicky Newfield and Corinne Ossendryver launched a Jewish educational app, Shabbat Interactive, from Johannesburg four years ago. Its success led to the establishment of Jewish Interactive (Ji), now a multinational body promoting Jewish education through cutting-edge technology.

Operating in South Africa, the United States and the United Kingdom, Jewish Interactive aims to instil a love and knowledge of Judaism in children, whether they are part of a formal Jewish educational framework, such as a Jewish day school or cheder, or not affiliated at all - which includes around 800 000 children in the United States who are not in any formal Jewish educational framework.

In a major joint leadership training day last month with Jewish Interactive, the New York based

was made available free to 5 000 Jewish school-children. It was favourably received.

The Ji app - or now, more correctly, series of apps - has been introduced to schools in South Africa, with many using it in their computer laboratories, making it available to all the pupils.

Workshops were held around the country. The schools include the Jewish day schools, from Herzlia in Cape Town to Yeshiva College and Torah Academy in Johannesburg, and even Jewish schools in East London and Umhlanga.

Among the non-Jewish schools are Fairways in Durban and Crawford College and Bella Vista in Johannesburg - all have Jewish pupils. There have also been downloads from the Sharon School in Harare.

Apart from educational material through other websites, such as the Jewish text site



Centre for Initiatives in Jewish Education and Apple at Apple headquarters in New York, 50 school principals joined Newfield and her father, Martin Glatt, whose foundation has sponsored the project, to consider the future of Jewish education.

The event followed two similar launches at Apple headquarters in London and was the first of a nationwide campaign to inspire Jewish day schools in the US to bring their Jewish classrooms up to date, using the latest technology.

More than 200 teachers in the US from over 40 schools have already been trained in the new platform.

In South Africa, Ji approached schools with Jewish learners throughout the country to promote the app.

In 2010, the original Shabbat Interactive app

Sefaria, Ji provides fun games from the app store, enabling young people - and adults too - to play in an enjoyable Jewish environment.

The latest app in the range is Ji Tap, which includes a social platform where Jewish Studies teachers and learners can create, play and share their own gaming apps, with insights, data and inbuilt assessment tools.

Ji now has a team of 10 in the three countries. In Israel, apart from Newfield, who now lives there, the office in Modi'in employs three people, including a programmer and a rabbi. The CEO, Chana Kanzen is based in London, where there are also two fulltime trainers.

Ossendryver, the chief operating officer, and Rachel Silke, the graphic artist, are based in Johannesburg, where they are responsible for graphics and production.

Around the Jewish World

Holocaust survivor and theatre producer recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours



LONDON - Sonia Friedman, the theatre and television producer whose works have won numerous Tony awards, Olivier awards and a Bafta, has been made an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Others recognised included Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, who survived Auschwitz by playing in the Women's Orchestra at the camp, Neil Martin, chief executive of the Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade and James Cohen, a commander in the Royal Naval Reserve.

Friedman was made an OBE for services to the theatre after a string of award-winning

productions on stage and television including The Book of Mormon, Hamlet, Shakespeare in Love and Wolf Hall. Lasker-Wallfisch, a talented cellist who became a professional musician in Britain after the war, was appointed an MBE for her services to Holocaust education.

The survivor, who carries out most of her teaching on the Holocaust at schools and universities in Germany, said she goes "a little bit further than telling my story. I try to make them think about anti-Semitism." - London Jewish Chronicle

LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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- **Europcar** Jewish Woman in Leadership Award

To nominate please visit www.sajr.co.za and click on the Nominations Banner or email nominations@sajewishreport.co.za
The closing date for nominations is 24 June 2016.

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

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* 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.

Harold Serebro talks to some illustrious audiences in the US



Joshua Karsh (CEO of AIPAC, South Florida); Dr Harold Serebro (author of “The Canopy”); Carlyn Mayer (national board member of AIPAC, USA); and Lothar Mayer (national board member of AIPAC, USA).

SUZANNE BELLING

Dr Harold Serebro’s acclaimed book “The Canopy: Warriors for Justice; Facing the Ticking Time Bomb” earned him an invitation to address Jewish audiences in Florida, US.

Serebro, a man of many skills and facets - gastroenterologist, former senior executive director of the Altron Group, entrepreneur, philanthropist and author, spoke for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in Fort Lauderdale in the Boca Raton Synagogue. He also spoke at the Bnei Torah Synagogue also in Boca Raton, the Bal Harbour Synagogue, Miami Beach and at Chabad Centre with the Hebrew Order of David.

Serebro, also author of “The Devil and His Servant” and “Beyond Redemption”, discussed

sinat chinam (baseless hatred), the Holocaust, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the nuclear threat to Israel, as well as answering questions on all his books.

“The Canopy” spans time and place with a common theme: those who persecuted and still intend to persecute (or attempt to annihilate) Jews and other races they deem inferior.

People who attended included Holocaust survivors from Budapest and Austria, as well as Yaron Bob of Sderot, founder of the Rockets to Roses programme whereby Metal Sculpture designs are created from rockets fired into Sderot.

Many former South African doctors and businessmen as well as several rabbis attended the talks.

Serebro also visited the Boca Raton Synagogue Holocaust Memorial.

Long John Berks - what a boykie!

SUZANNE BELLING

John Berks (Berkowitz) followed the pattern of many South Africans - his parents Louis and Hennie (who is soon to turn 103) were from Lithuanian stock, transplanted to England and later to Krugersdorp and Klerksdorp, like many Jews who settled in the country towns of South Africa.

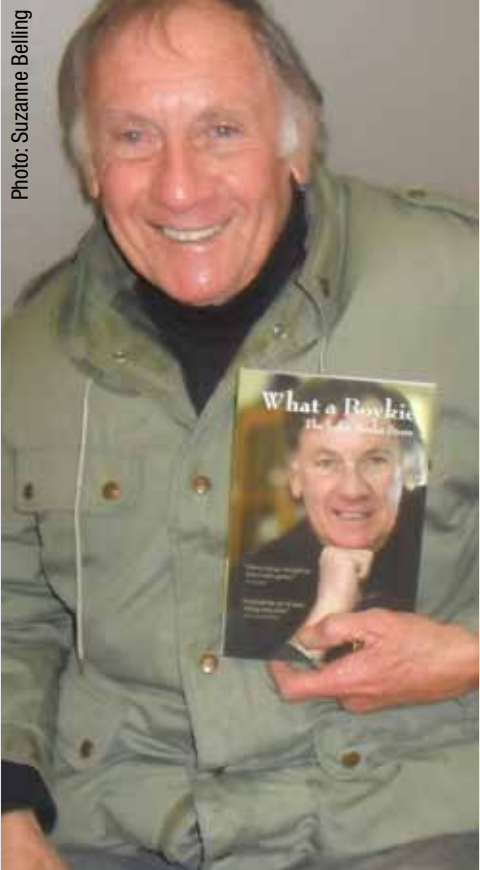
“But there is where the similarity ended,” Berks told SA Jewish Report. “I was dumb - dumb academically - and left school without passing standard eight because I was already shaving and looked too old to still be at school. It was suggested that I leave.”

The other Jewish kids in the then community of 150 families “were flying” but Berks had been told he would only amount to working at the train station, clipping tickets. However, John Berks, or Long John Berks as he is affectionately known, has outshone many of his peers to become a household name. He even has a street in Klerksdorp named after him.

“It’s really only a lane,” he says modestly. Berks admits he is shy, “except when I am with my best friend ‘Mike’ (a microphone)”. He is humble, honest and unassuming and spends much time looking after Hennie (now Nochimowitz), who lives in Glenhazel.

Berks followed his childhood dream to be a broadcaster. “One of G-d’s greatest gifts is to present a picture through the spoken word. That is what radio does. You can be blind like my mother and still see a picture in your mind’s eye. If you dream it, you can do it,” he says.

From an early age, encouraged by his father, who died when Berks was only 14, he would spend hours glued to the old-fashioned radio, mimicking the sports commentators. “I would tune up the old Philips radio and mimic the great commentators on BBC - John Arlott,



EW Swanson and Rex Austin, encouraged by my father, who would set up a cricket pitch in the yard, and I would do the commentary.”

Hard to believe but Berks, said to have been born with a “wooden spoon in his mouth”, was a sickly child, who came out with rashes from nerves and stuttered and stammered - unless he was imitating his idols.

Robin Binckes insisted Berks had a story to tell, a tale of a dream turned into reality, which comes alive on the pages of his book “What a Boykie - The John Berks Story”, to be launched on June 28 at Exclusive Books Hyde Park (30° South Publishers). Price is R302.

The book tells how Berks’ “wooden spoon” turned to silver “through perseverance and sheer willpower”.

It traces the young Berks’ persistence in making endless calls to the SABC, standing outside the building in the Johannesburg CBD in the rain and never giving up until Colin du Plessis offered to give him elocution lessons, ridding Berks of his Afrikaans accent and generally doing a Pygmalion on him.

It tells of his employment with Dandy Polish and a soap factory, retching on the tallow used for the soap products. He tried his hand at reporting for the Klerksdorp Recorder and the Germiston Advocate. Then there was his unfortunate stint in the then SADF till his lucky break came with LM (Lourenco Marques) Radio, drawing the attention of the iconic David Davies who sent Berks to Australia, where the pattern of commercial broadcasting became a blueprint for radio in this country.

Berks’ career spanned 40 years of different countries and radio stations, including Springbok Radio (as a freelancer), Capitol Radio, Radio 5, Swazi Music Radio and 702 (through Issie Kirsh) and even living in Port St Johns in the former Transkei, where his children Lance and Charise went to school and back in a rowing boat.

Berks is described as an exemplary father and grandfather. He is also known by many different guises, including the characters he invented in his radio talk shows. He fooled unsuspecting victims with his practical jokes and the imaginary situations he conjured up.

With unmatched wit and humour he took in politicians, professors, and celebrities, including hotel magnate Sol Kerzner by pretending to be late US president Ronald Reagan, angling for an invitation to the opening of the Lost City.

This “boykie” overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles to become a broadcasting legend. In 2014 he was inducted into South Africa’s Radio Hall of Fame and honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rodney Mazinter turns Protocols of the Elders canard into a tale of fiction

BRIAN JOSSELOWITZ

Rodney Mazinter’s CV says he is a member of the South African Zionist Federation Cape Council media team. What it doesn’t say is that the Camps Bay activist spends hours writing letters to newspapers correcting the misperceptions put out by the anti-Israel brigade, which often is viciously anti-Semitic in nature.

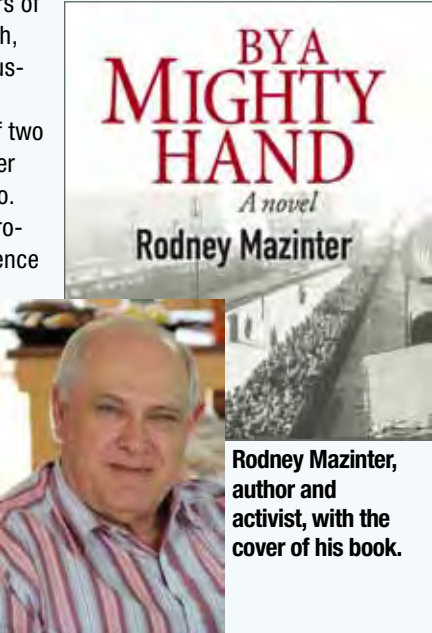
Now he has turned his hand to fiction and written a book, “By A Mighty Hand” (Quickfox). Rooted in fact it is based on the infamous canard, Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a virulently anti-Semitic document, which, while only a slim volume, still has had repercussions for Jews worldwide.

As far as can be ascertained, it is only one of two novels with the Protocols as its theme. The other one is “The Prague Cemetery” by Umberto Eco.

“I became interested in the origins of the Protocols during the Durban International Conference on Racism in 2001. I had heard about it, but it was to me another snippet of history, and consigned to the literature of the 20th century as a lesson to be learnt. I was taken aback to find that this banned publication was freely on sale at the conference,” Mazinter said.

“My interest was piqued and I started reading whatever I could find on its origins. I felt that I would like to write an article or two about this very interesting topic, when I came across the scholarly work by Hadassa Ben-Ito, a judge of the Israeli High Court, who wrote “The Lie That Wouldn’t Die”. I bought a copy and read it avidly.

“It was an eye-opener but I soon realised that a factual book on the same subject from me would be a waste of time. However, it struck me that in looking for a way of bringing this vile piece of literature to the attention of the general public, my vehicle could be a historical novel. So that’s what I did and ‘By A Mighty Hand’ is the result.”



Rodney Mazinter, author and activist, with the cover of his book.

Umberto Eco, best-known for “The Name of the Rose”, criticised the Protocols as a forgery, and finally wrote a whole novel about it. In all his books he usually mixes facts with fantasy.

“I read extracts of the Protocols out of curiosity and while researching for my book.

“I have read extensively about the origins of the Protocols, Maurice Joly’s role in it, and Tsar Nicholas II court’s plot in bringing it into being. It is the one book that has never been published in Hebrew, but into every other language in the Western and Eastern world.

“Judge Ben-Ito told me that it sold more books than the bible.”

Mazinter said he started writing “By A Mighty Hand” five years ago.

“The events are set in the 20th century and encompass both world wars and the Holocaust.

The epilogue is a poem, “Children Are Not Born to Hate”, which Mazinter wrote and which was published in Jewish Affairs last year. “Given the state of anti-Jewish propaganda being pumped out of the Middle East today, I felt that it was an appropriate end to my story.”

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion is arguably the most notorious and most successful work of modern anti-Semitism and uses popular anti-Semitic notions which began in Europe with the Crusades.

Among the libels are that Jews used the blood of Christian children for Pesach, poisoned the wells and spread the plague. These were excuses for the destruction of Jewish communities across Europe.

The virulent document posits that the Protocols were drawn up at a secret meeting of Zionists, with the aim of exterminating Christians. As Mazinter points out, it has long been proved in court that it is a fraud and forgery.

- “By A Mighty Hand” follows the fortunes of the Berg and Meckler families and the Nazi Viktor Schultz. It’s on Amazon, or e-mail mavrod@iafrica.com to order a copy.

Woodrock - a place of shelter and safety for all animals

TALI FEINBERG

Many people regularly ask how they can make a positive difference in the lives of animals. Well, Stella Meldau’s Woodrock Animal Rescue shelter on 8,5 hectares in the Hennops River Valley near Johannesburg is one place trying to answer this question.

This Jewish couple’s motto is “Acta Non Verba - Action Not Words”. Meldau, together with her husband Nicholas, founded the shelter in 1992.

“We believe that every animal deserves a loving, stable, ‘forever home’ and we provide assistance to homeless, abused, neglected, stray, injured, ill, geriatric and unwanted animals,” explains Meldau.

The shelter predominantly looks after dogs, but has also taken in cats, chickens, ducks, geese, pigs, and donkeys... “We will feed and take care of all animals that enter our doors - even bats, owls, monkeys and jackals.”

The rescue centre started off in the suburban area of Woodmead and Khyber Rock, hence the name Woodrock. The

Hennops River Valley location is only 25 minutes north of Fourways on the R511 Hartbeespoort Road.

The first port of call at Woodrock is adoption. “Adopt one of our animals and change a life, while opening a space for us to help another animal in need,” appeals Meldau. “The centre has over 100 animals looking for homes and we offer advice on the dogs and pairing your home with the most suitable pet.” The centre is open on weekends.

But if adoption is not an option and you would still like “to make a difference”, you can volunteer.

“Volunteers have a very important role to play in the rehabilitation programme,”



Dogs are lovingly cared for at Woodrock Animal Rescue.

says Meldau. “We call our long-term committed volunteers ‘Woodrock Warriors’.” Their role is to assist on weekend mornings with walking and playing with the dogs, and they need to

be at least 16 years of age.

“Woodrock is funded through community support. Our important work on behalf of animals is reliant on the generosity of donors,” explains Meldau. Thus one can donate or contribute by sending one’s dog to the centre’s excellent “animal hotel” while the owner is on holiday. All proceeds go towards the rescue centre’s upkeep.

The shelter’s wish list includes its own

veterinary clinic and a variety of items ranging from bedding to food to toys.

Woodrock’s work extends beyond the boundaries of the shelter itself. “The (largely underprivileged) communities in our surrounds - Diepsloot and Atteridgeville townships - receive food and medical attention for their domestic animals. We educate them on pet responsibilities and also visit schools,” says Meldau.

With regards to Judaism’s approach to animals, Meldau maintains that is “no different to anyone else’s, if you as a human being know and understand the Torah injunction of ‘watering your animals before yourself’ and adhering to the principle of not harming the helpless.

“I would only hope that our animals are fed, watered and have safe shelter; I ask that we are kind and nurturing.”

• For more information on Woodrock, adopting, volunteering and contributing, visit www.woodrockanimalrescue.com

Her passion is winter warmth for our four-legged friends

ANT KATZ

Chiara Favish is passionate about two things, dogs and children. The enterprising 24-year-old Johannesburg teaching student also runs a dog-walking service, Paw Walker, in the mornings.

She had previously volunteered at the SPCA for two years and keeps in contact with almost every branch in South Africa on Facebook. And that was how she noticed so many branches calling for help with blankets this year. “It is all over their Facebook pages,” she told Jewish Report this week.

And so, as if studying and chasing dogs around parks wasn’t enough to keep Chiara busy (and she has her wedding to Adam Cohen to plan for December), Chiara couldn’t stand the thought of dogs freezing this winter. So she started a blanket drive over social media and the response has been overwhelming.

Her initial aim was to collect 90 blankets for the Randburg SPCA and 60 each for Soweto and Booyens. She’s already been there and done that! No problem for Chiara - she simply decided she wasn’t stopping while she was on a roll, and set herself a loftier goal.

Even as her exams loom next week, Chiara wants to collect another 600 blankets, 300 each for the Midrand and Germiston branches. She



Chiara Favish with a bakkie-load of doggy blankets.

is already well on her way. “One woman who I don’t know put R2 000 in my bank account,” says Chiara. She added some of her own money, then went to a big retailer and left with a

whopping 95 blankets.

Chiara has completed a Montessori course and has her heart set on a teaching degree.

Her university gave students an assignment of putting together a novel business plan. She decided on “Chiara’s Boutique Palace” - a hotel and day-care facility for dogs.

“One day when I win the lottery I will open it,” she says, with hope in her eyes.

Everybody to their own, she says. “There are so many people out there who are collecting for and caring for people, but not enough of us care

for the animals,” she says.

She cares about people, she says, but she is passionate about animals. She loves her dog-walking in the mornings. “It’s my happy place, whenever I’m around dogs.”

Chiara has decided that she is going to continue and take responsibility to make the SPCA blanket drive an annual event.

• Anyone wishing to help donate new or old blankets, can contact chiarafavish@gmail.com and she will contact you to arrange collection.

Two young KDL learners raise R4 500 for SPCA

ANT KATZ

Two eight-year-olds from King David Linksfield decided they wanted to raise money for the SPCA. Using their own initiative, they arranged a lottery with a wonderful prize.

For three weeks Sophie Hodes and Jade Robinson sold R5 tickets once a week at break to their fellow-learners in grades one, two and three.

They created such excitement and awareness for the SPCA as well as for their huge main prize and consolation prizes that ticket sales were well above their expectations.

The girls raised a whopping R4 500 for the SPCA.

The bumper prize was a one-night stay at Gold Reef City, including dinner and breakfast, as well as theme park tickets, movie tickets and tenpin bowling tickets. Several smaller prizes were also won.



Sophie Hodes and Jade Robinson with SPCA kennel assistant Chris Kamwendo and Mr Plod the Basset (who has since been adopted and has a new home).

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KDL’s cultural committee has much to shout about

EITAN MALKIN, HEAD OF CULTURAL COMMITTEE

The cultural committee at King David High School Linksfield supports all kinds of cultural events, whether it be dance, song, performance or art, and particularly the art of literature.

It was therefore fitting to partner with Danny K’s SHOUT Foundation which combats illiteracy and builds libraries for underprivileged children.

The cultural committee has been raising money since the beginning of the year for SHOUT. It had a Nicki Minaj ticket raffle competition, a civvies day, a Shabbat collection and sold food and drinks at the annual Shakespeare Festival. In total the committee raised R10 000.

Through contributing to this worthy cause, the cultural committee says it has made “some small difference and enhanced the cultural understanding in our school”.



KDL Principal Lorraine Srage; Danny K of SHOUT; and Eitan Malkin, head of KDL’s cultural committee, with the R10 000 cheque raised by King David High School Linksfield learners.

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You can never be too young to celebrate Shavuot

SUE BENJAMIN

There is much hype surrounding Shavuot as this holiday has a double significance. It marks the all-important wheat harvest in the Land of Israel and it commemorates the anniversary of the day Hashem gave the Torah to the entire nation of Israel assembled at Mount Sinai.

Preparations for Shavuot began with the counting of the Omer and included a visit to Yad Aharon by the senior and grade R pupils of Sydenham Pre-Primary School.

They spent a productive hour packing to-matoes and learning about chesed. A sense of festivity filled the air as they all gathered in the shul to celebrate Shavuot.

This chag is filled with fun, and lots of singing and dancing took place while Rabbi Yossy Goldman presented them with some insightful wisdom on Shavuot.

A bikkurim parade was held in the garden and the children marched with their decorated baskets of nonperishable foods which they then donated to Yad Aharon.



Pictured enjoying the festivities are Rafael Berkowitz; Jamie Kay; and Avi Bilman.

Ganeinu tots do a lot of milking for Shavuot

DIANE WOLFSON
PRETORIA

Four of the bochurim at Pretoria’s Yeshiva once again showed their willingness to dress up and entertain the children at Pretoria’s Ganeinu Nursery School, while teaching them about Shavuot.

Together with Farmer Yaakov (Aron Zvi Altman) and King David (Efraim Lerner), Kasriel Kay and Shmuli Rosenbaum dressed as cows, and the children had great fun “milking” them while singing Shavuot songs.



Community



Frangelica’s of Glenhazel shows it is tops with cheesecake

PETER FELDMAN

The 5th annual ChaiFM Great BIG Shavuot Cheesecake Competition, held at the community radio station’s studio recently, exceeded all expectations.

It was fun and food as the large panel of judges descended on a wide range of professional cheesecakes, which included a New Yorker, a Bar One Special and Red Velvet cheesecakes, sampling the taste, texture, base and flavour of each culinary delight. The competition was, as usual, tight.

This category consisted of six professional bakers whose confectionery masterpieces are sold through retail outlets. The winner was Frangelica’s of Glenhazel which once again rose to the challenge. The company received R30 000 worth of advertising on ChaiFM.

Kathy Kaler, CEO of ChaiFM, said that over

the past four years the competition had become fierce among the various bakers who presented their best confectionery creations - and this year was no exception.

The second category was for community chefs, those women with a yen for baking and who are very good at what they do. These community bakers all received well-stocked prizes from Kitchenique, a specialist kitchen and gifting store.

Celebrities seen tucking into the rich delicacies included comedian and musician Deep Fried Man, who had a few choice words to say about the occasion; Roy Peretz and Irene Bower of the TV series “Pawn Stars SA”, who also hosts a show, ‘Pawn Stars Unplugged’ on ChaiFM and various other on-air personalities such as Sasha Star, Steve Marks, Justin Joffe, Toni Roomer and Dr Nimrod Mbele.

A gloriously good time was had by all...

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Letters

SA JEWISH REPORT 15

Disclaimer

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

KOL ISHA: THE TERM ‘COMMUNITY COLLOQUIUM’, HOWEVER, IS MISLEADING

The Cape Jewish Board of Deputies is planning a community colloquium (for June 20) to discuss the matter of women singing at secular events. The title of “community colloquium” is misleading as it suggests inclusion of the whole Jewish community.
It is important to realise that this is an internal discussion between representatives of affiliates of the Board; it is not a public discussion and is open only to invited delegates.
Neither the applicants in the matter (two Orthodox Capetonians and SACRED), nor any members of the broader Jewish community are welcome to attend. It is a forum for the affiliates of the Board to share their views, presumably in support of the Board’s stance (against allowing women to sing solo at such events). Significant sections of the Jewish community are not represented by the Board and their views (therefore) will not be heard at the colloquium.
Though it may be useful for this group to share their views internally, the most valuable outcome would be a commitment to reopen dialogue with the applicants in the matter placed before the Equality Court.
The chairman of the meeting, Bobby Godsell, will facilitate the expression of views by those present, but any document he can produce reflecting this discussion can only represent the opinion of a section of our diverse community.
I believe that it would be more useful to commission him to facilitate a discussion between the various parties in an attempt to find a resolution of the matter without it having to go to court.

KOL ISHA: IT EXTENDS FAR BEYOND A ‘CONCESSION’ ALLOWING WOMEN TO SING

Over the last few months I have come to understand that the issue of kol isha is not only about whether a woman can sing at a (communal Jewish) service; it is about the way women are seen. It is about the way women are “handled, managed, and dealt with”.
Women have been asking “nicely” for years now, agreeing, pleasing, compromising, and ultimately not being heard. It has taken a man starting a court action for the Board to wake up and respond. This issue is not about religion or disrespecting rabbis; this is about us, it is about our kids, our girl children, about letting them grow up in a world where a woman is judged by her capabilities and not her gender. It’s about a world where men take responsibility for their urges and do not pass this responsibility on to women, and by doing so deny us the right to equality.
Saying a woman can’t sing because of its potential effect on men is on the same continuum as saying girls shouldn’t wear miniskirts so they don’t get raped and on the same continuum as women being denied the right to drive, get educated, speak their mind, for its possible impact on men around them.
Why would we agree to this? That is what puzzles me the most. It is not like all rabbis stand by this rule, or that it has existed forever. Why would they not let us sing, but for now we can wear pants at the Holocaust memorial service, and not cover our hair? What is it about this particular rule that has got the rabbis and the Board to protest, and what will come next?
The so-called “compromise” idea of allowing women sing with the men, in a mixed choir, is more of the same. Once again, the women are being asked to be pleasing, compromising and allow men to chaperone and manage them.
While I understand that to compromise is the way of the enlightened and the courageous, there is also a time to say to one’s opponent: It’s your turn to compromise, your turn to end this. We have been compromised for 10 years. It’s enough!
Women are equal, equally valuable, equally accountable, equally responsible and make up 50 per cent of the world! Why then should we not be treated this way? More so, why would we agree to anything less?

Sarah Goldstein (one of the applicants in the Cape Town kol isha case)

Cape Town

What’s On

Friday (June 17)

• UZLC hosts Les Markowitz on “The Secrets of Retirement”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Orchards. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (June 19)

• RCHCC screens the documentary “David Oistrakh - Artist of the People?” Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R50 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, a/h (011) 728-8378 or e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net or www.greatpark.co.za

• JJAC invites Jewish singles aged 27 - 49 to the Gateway to Space Exhibition at the Sandton Convention Centre. Cost R180. E-mail whatson@jjac.co.za to book.

Monday (June 20)

• UJW hosts Dr John Kani, actor, director and playwright, chairman of National Arts Council SA, on “Arts and Change”. Venue: I Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R40. Everyone welcome - men and women. Booking not necessary. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (June 21)

• JH&GC in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency and the UN Information Centre, hosts a screening of the documentary “No Asylum: The Untold Chapter of Anne Frank’s Story” at 19:00 at the JH&GC, Forest Town. Admission free. Seating limited. Booking: shirley@jhbholocaust.co.za or (011) 640-3100/2148. Donations welcome.

Wednesday (June 22)

• WIZO Johannesburg hosts social entrepreneur Adi Altschuler for its “Biennial Campaign 2016/17”. Time: 18:30. Cost: R100 (limited seating). Contact (011) 645-2515 or wizojhb@beyachad.co.za for bookings and venue details.

• Chev Social Services’ Enrich 2016 presents “Good Food Good Mood: Making Sense of Dietary Trends” with Tabitha Hume (dietician) and Clare Appleyard (co-founder of Katannuta) at the Jewish Life Centre in Strathavon. Cost: R50 (incl light refreshments). Time: 19:45. Booking: Sharon (011) 532-9616/enrich@jhbchev.co.za

Sunday (June 26)

• JJAC invites Jewish singles aged 27 - 49 to a quiz evening in Parktown North. Cost R50. E-mail whatson@jjac.co.za to book.

• Second Innings is hosting a tour of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre. The bus departs at 09:30 from Golden Acres and the tour starts at 10:30 at the Centre. Cost: R140 includes the bus and a donation to the Holocaust & Genocide Centre. Book with Betty Kowal (011) 485-2526 or Fanny Baumann (011) 346-0767.

• UJW Adult Education Division hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer dept of English at Wits, on her fifth lecture on Hamlet. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R40. Contact: UJW offices: (011) 648-1053.

WIZO Tzabar hosts a charity fundraiser of “The Whole Megillah According to Harry Sideropolis”. Venue: The pop-up theatre corner Glenhove and 5th Avenue, Melrose Estate. Time: 18:30. Cost: R250. Bookings: Raya 083-377-2970 or Batya (011) 645-2517.

• Second Innings hosts Fiona Capstick, sworn translator in the High Court on “The Role Played by Jewish Translators in the Transfer of Knowledge Across Cultures in Mediaeval Europe”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Contact: Linda Fleishman (011) 532-9701.

Sela joins Israel’s largest Olympic squad

JACK MILNER

Olympic Games fever is starting to catch on and Israel is planning to send the country’s largest team so far to Brazil for this year’s event.

During the week Dudi Sela became the first Israeli tennis player since 1992 to take part in the men’s singles event at the Olympics in Rio this summer despite falling six places to No 68 in the world on Monday.

Only the top 56 in Monday’s decisive ATP rankings receive direct acceptance to the 2016 Rio Games, but Sela made the cut as each country is only allowed to send four representatives.

The last Israeli male to represent the country at the Olympic singles tournament was Gilad Bloom at Barcelona in 1992.

Anna Smashnova (2004), Tzipi Obziler (2004)

and Shahar Pe’er (2008, 2012) have all taken part in the women’s singles since, with Andy Ram and Yoni Erlich playing in the doubles tournament in each of the past three Olympics.

The 31-year-old Sela became the 45th member of Israel’s biggest delegation, two more than the previous record set in Beijing in 2008. The delegation could still grow further over the next few weeks, with golfer Laetitia Beck almost certain to qualify. Beck is ranked 42nd on the Olympic listings, with all players who are in the top 59 on July 11, guaranteed a berth in Rio.

Israel’s swimmers also have until July 3 to set a qualifying time in a sanctioned event.

Sela, who lost to Dustin Brown in the first round of Roland Garros in Paris, will be in action next week at the grass tournament in Den Bosch, Holland.

There are also massive rewards on offer for Israeli medallists this time. The Israeli Olympic Committee announced during the week that every Israeli gold medal winner will be awarded a NIS 500 000 bonus, as well as an apartment worth NIS 1 million from one of the committee’s sponsors. His/her coach will receive NIS 250 000, the coaching staff NIS 50 000 with his association and club to get NIS 25 000.

Any Israeli silver medallist will be awarded NIS 400 000, with his/her coach to get half the sum, coaching staff 10 per cent and association and club five per cent. Bronze medallists will receive NIS 250 000, with the coach to get half the sum, coaching staff 10 per cent and the association and club five per cent.

Athletes from Israel who finish between fourth and 12th place will also be awarded performance bonuses.

But they will all have to be wary as health authorities warned on Tuesday about the Zika virus and other ailments that could strike athletes and visitors.

The risk assessment has been updated in light of further information on the ongoing Zika



Dudi Sela has become the first Israeli male tennis player to participate in the Olympic Games since 1992.

outbreak in Brazil. Visitors to both the Olympics and Paralympics will be most at risk of gastrointestinal illness and vector-borne infections. People at the Games need to pay attention to standard hygiene measures to reduce the risk of gastrointestinal illness and protect themselves against mosquito and/or other insect bites using insect repellent and wearing long-sleeved shirts and trousers.

That sounds like a load of fun.

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Promotion for KDHL rugby team

JACK MILNER

The 2016 rugby season ended in celebration for King David High School Linksfield as they won their section of the league and have now been promoted to the A section of the Pirates Schools Challenge. The school topped their table on 70 points.

As far as the individual teams at the school are concerned, the school’s 1st XV and the under-15 A sides finished third while the under 14 A and under-16 A sides were second.

It is amazing how things have changed over the years. Once considered a bunch of no-

hoppers (certainly in my days at the school) the rugby department shows an improvement on the scoreboard year on year. This season the school played a cumulative 66 games, winning 52 of them, drawing three and losing 11.

The under-14 A team was the most successful, winning 90,9 per cent of their matches. The schools participating in the league are Northcliff High School, Randpark High School, Fourways High School - all a lot bigger co-educational schools than KDHSL - as well as Heronbridge. King David also played friendlies against CBC Boksburg, St Johns College, St Benedict’s and Edenglen High School.

The King David High Linksfield rugby first team celebrate after their promotion to the A section of the Pirates Schools Challenge.



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