



All's well with Jewish education in South Africa. SABJE Conference hears that Jewish day schools perform well. (Page 11)

South african Jewish Report

www.sajr.co.za



V is for victory! Triumphant Netanyahu beams after the polls

And there he did it again! The wily Likud leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, trounced his arch-rival, Isaac Herzog of the Zionist Union, by gaining 29 of the 120 Knesset seats, with Herzog getting 24. Up to four days before Tuesday's polls, public opinion had Herzog's party leading Likud by some four seats. But they had it wrong. Again. And Netanyahu has already started the horse trading to form a workable right-wing coalition. But it's not going to be plain sailing for a Likud coalition. Netanyahu has promised no Palestinian state on his watch and intends to build more houses in Eastern Jerusalem. He has also badly ruffled American feathers. See page 6.

Election returns see Netanyahu triumph

Despite a critical campaign which had focused on Bibi's failings, Israel woke up Wednesday morning to a clear victory for him.

3

Jew-hatred in its crudest form has its roots in Sydney

Sydney's Jewish leadership has called for legal action against an Islamist group which has called for Jews to be killed.

2

Cutting your nose to spite your face

It's clear that the much-vaunted boycott campaign against Woolworths has been a disastrous failure - David Saks.

4

Security: Government reassures Jewish community

The Government has assured the Jewish community that it takes its concerns seriously.

12

Madonsela is passionate about 'sacrosanct' Constitution

Thuli Madonsela says SA is 'not the most corrupt country' - in fact, it's one of the most transparent.



12



YOUR SEDER STARTS AT Feigel's

'Who have been preparing for Pesach over the past 47 years'

ENJOY THE FOOD WITHOUT THE FUSS

Call 011 882 5305 e-mail: patsy@feigels.co.za for an Order Form

Visit our Glenhazel or Lyndhurst Deli's

FIRZT
REALTY COMPANY

'FIRZT Cares'

011 731 0300
www.firzt.co.za

When small is big



Parshat Hachodesh Vayikra

Rabbi Michael Katz
Chabad of Illovo

When teaching a child Torah, we are meant to start teaching them from the Book of Vayikra - Leviticus. Not from the beginning of Torah, but from the book that relates how we are to bring the korbanot - offerings - to G-d in the Holy Temple, and all the various services that are to take place there.

It is the book of action; not where we came from, not about the history of the world, but a practical book of instruction. A child needs to know right away what we are meant to do – the history and the reasons can all come later, but action is the first lesson that he or she needs.

But there is a more subtle message in the opening word of the book, the word that gives this book its name - Vayikra - which really means “He called with love”.

G-d is calling his faithful servant Moshe - Moses - and so the Torah expresses the fact that He called to him in an endearing way - not a shout out, but a call of deep affection.

Moshe was uncomfortable writing this term about himself and wished to shorten the word, leaving out the Aleph, the last letter of the word. The word would still connote calling and wouldn’t alter the meaning, except that it would not have the meaning of “calling with love”, but just “And He Called”.

G-d insists that the Aleph appears in the word and so a compromise is struck and the Aleph is written in a small size. It stands as a testimony to the humility and sensitivity of Moshe.

So the first Aleph that a child should see in his or her Torah learning is an Aleph that represents humility and sensitivity!

What a fine lesson for our children! In a world that seems to be driven by pride, arrogance and ambition, the very first lesson that we have to give our children is that we have to know what our service of G-d must be, we need to put that first, but at all times it must be clothed in humility and at all times it must be sensitive to the needs of those around us.

We read from three Torah scrolls this Shabbat. For not only do we read Vayikra, we also read a portion for Rosh Chodesh as Shabbat marks the first day of the month of Nissan, and we read the special pre-Pesach reading of Hachodesh - the portion instructing the Jewish people to live by our unique and fascinating calendar.

The Torah is telling us with this mitzvah that

we need to live our lives as Jews according to a different rhythm, to function according to a different beat. But as we are doing all that, we dare not lose sight of the need for the small Aleph. It is the small Aleph of humility and sensitivity that truly makes us great.

With best wishes for a Shabbat Shalom, a Chodesh Tov and a happy kosher Pesach.

Shabbat Times		
Shabbat Hachodesh Vayikra Mar 20 / 29 Adar Mar 21 / 1 Nisan		
18:01	18:49	Johannesburg
18:15	19:30	Cape Town
17:50	18:38	Durban
18:09	18:57	Bloemfontein
18:11	19:01	Port Elizabeth
18:02	18:52	East London

Jew-hatred in its crudest form has its roots in Sydney

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Sydney’s Jewish leadership has called for legal action to be taken against leaders of an Islamist group which publicly called for Jews to be killed.

New South Wales (NSW) Jewish Board of Deputies President Jeremy Spinak has written to the state’s Anti-Discrimination Board demanding that Ismail al-Wahwah, spiritual head of the Sydney chapter of Hizb ut-Tahrir - which calls for sharia law - and spokesman Wassim Doureih, be prosecuted under race hate legislation for inciting violence against Jews.

During a public rally held during the Israel-Hamas war on July 25 last year, Wahwah issued a tirade against Jews, accusing them of corruption, describing them as “hidden evil”, warning that the world would rid itself of them.

“The entire world suffers from the children of Israel today and complains about them,” he fulminated. “Who will set the world free from the children of Israel so that the world will be able to say that it has rid itself of that hidden evil?”

“This mission will be accomplished by none but you, O Muslims... The struggle and the jihad will continue until the words of Allah come true. Judgement day will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews... Tomorrow you Jews will see what will become of you - an eye for an eye, blood for blood, destruction for destruction.”

Reinforcing his message, the unseen crowd interjected with a chant of “Khaybar, Khaybar” - the full war cry being “Khaybar Khaybar Ya Yahud jaysh Muhammad saya’ud” (Khaybar, Khaybar O Jews, the army of Muhammad will return). Khaybar was the scene of a 7th-century massacre of Jews in what is now Saudi Arabia.

NSW Jewish Board of Deputies chief executive Vic Alhadeff (who grew up in South Africa) said the “unrestrained venom and hatred” could conceivably have “inspired another Mohammad Merah, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev,



NSW Jewish Board of Deputies President
Jeremy Spinak



NSW Jewish Board of Deputies CEO Vic Alhadeff

Mehdi Nemmouche, Said Kouachi, Amedy Coulibaly, Omar El-Hussein or Man Monis - the terrorists who murdered innocents in Toulouse, Boston, Brussels, Paris, Copenhagen and Sydney”.

“The problem we face today is not just violent Islamic extremism, it is also non-violent extremism, which is equally sinister and equally dangerous,” he said.

“Wahwah’s diatribe was not anti-Israel sentiment, as some insist, but crude Jew-hatred reminiscent of last year’s anti-Israel rallies in Sydney that descended into blatant anti-Semitism, complete with Nazi swastikas and placards

evoking racist images that had nothing to do with the Middle East.

“It is unconscionable that a public figure can brazenly and outrageously incite such hatred. All people of goodwill have an obligation to speak out on these issues. We are either opposed to giving platforms to hatred and bigotry, or we are not. There is a choice to be made.”

Hizb ut-Tahrir is banned in several countries. A spokesman for the group was quoted in the Sydney Morning Herald as saying the rally was a protest against Israel’s attack on Gaza and that allegations of anti-Semitism were “cheap” and a “McCarthyist attempt to silence dissent”.

Wahwah’s speech was delivered in Arabic and a subtitled video was recently released.

In a brief response, Hizb ut-Tahrir accused the Board of Deputies of “falsely exploiting the words of Hizb ut-Tahrir. The comments were made at the time of the recent offensive against the people of Gaza, an offensive that indiscriminately razed homes, schools, hospitals and mosques, killing thousands of men, women and children,” a statement said.

“Any words expressed at that time must necessarily be viewed in the context of this aggression and any references to Jews must necessarily be viewed as reference to Jewish occupation.”

The Jewish World

in seven seconds

Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta-Jones return to Israel

JERUSALEM – A year after celebrating their son Dylan’s barmitzvah at the Western Wall, actor Michael Douglas will return to Israel in June to receive the 2015 Genesis Prize, given to someone who has attained excellence in their field. Dylan was recently the subject of anti-Semitism in Europe while wearing a Magen David. - Ynetnews

Video on execution

JERUSALEM – The Islamic State released a video online which showed a child executing an East Jerusalem Arab who had joined its ranks, but who the radical Islamist group claimed was a Mossad agent. - The Times of Israel

Calls for removal of ‘anti-Jewish’ professor

SYDNEY – A petition calling for Sydney University to remove Associate Professor Jake Lynch from its staff for his “continual harassment and intimidation of Jewish students” has received more than 4 000 signatures. - Australian Jewish News

Alon Liel is pro-Israel boycotts

TEL AVIV – Former Israeli ambassador to SA Alon Liel, who is an ex-director-general of Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is a leading organiser of world cultural boycotts against Israel. He is on the management team of Ir Amin, which works against Jewish interests in Jerusalem. - Times of Israel

Islamist group rebuilding rocket arsenal

JERUSALEM – A senior Hamas terrorist, Marwan Eissa, said his Islamist group which controls Gaza is rebuilding its depleted rocket arsenal to prepare for a new terror war against Israel. Eissa is a commander of Hamas’ “military branch”, the Al-Qassam Brigades. - JEWSNEWS

Kidnapped Israeli in Nigeria released

ABUJA – An Israeli in his seventies who was kidnapped roughly a month ago in Nigeria where he worked, has been released by local criminals who demanded thousands of dollars in ransom. - Ha’aretz

Syrian mom and daughter escape to Israel

JERUSALEM – A Syrian Jewish mother and daughter who escaped the four-year civil war have made aliyah and are in an absorption centre. There are only 20 Jews left in Syria. - Ma’ariv

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

South African

Jewish Report

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

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

SALE AND RENTAL PROMOTION

All Sellers / Landlords who SELL / LET with Stamelman Properties will save Promotion extended due to demand. Valid for March, April and May Call or email Trevor today to LIST, LET or SELL & for more info

Extended due to demand. Valid for March, April and May 2015

Stamelman PROPERTIES

Extraordinary Service Extraordinary Trust

Trevor Stamelman

C: 082 608 0168 T: 011 885 3742 trevor@stamelmanproperties.co.za

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

www.stamelmanproperties.co.za

Election returns see Netanyahu triumph

**BEN SALES AND
STAFF REPORTER
TEL AVIV**

Despite a critical campaign which had focused on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s failings, Israel woke up on Wednesday morning to a clear victory for Netanyahu’s Likud Party over the Zionist Union Party, in Tuesday’s election.

Election returns that came in just before dawn showed Likud taking 29 seats over Zionist Union’s 24. The results represented a dramatic improvement in Likud’s fortunes just hours after exit polling indicated the party was in a virtual dead heat with Zionist Union.

Exit polls released by three Israeli television channels just as the polls closed at 10:00 pm Tuesday night showed Likud and Zionist Union each taking about 27 seats. But as official returns trickled in through the night, Likud saw its position improve significantly.

According to the Jerusalem Post, with 95 per cent of precincts reporting, the Joint Arab List had won 14 seats, coming in third; Yesh Atid came in fourth, with 11 seats; Jewish Home fifth, with 8; Shas and United Torah Judaism took seven seats each, followed by Yisrael Beiteinu with 6 and Meretz with 4.



The official results will be presented on Thursday, according to the Times of Israel.

The Likud party said that Netanyahu had already phoned the party leaders he hoped to form a coalition with – the Jewish Home’s Naftali Bennett, Kulanu’s Moshe Kahlon, Yisrael Beytenu’s Avigdor Lieberman, Shas’s Aryeh Deri, and United Torah Judaism’s Yaakov

Litzman. If all those party leaders agree to join up with Likud, Netanyahu will be able to form a coalition of about 68 seats, holding on to power after an election that was seen by many as a referendum on his rule. The prime minister said he hopes to create a coalition in the next two-three weeks.

This result also represents a remarkable turnaround from the

last pre-election polls published Friday, where the Zionist Union, led by Isaac Herzog, showed a four- or five-seat lead and building momentum, and the Likud polling close to 20 seats.

To try and bridge the gap, Netanyahu embarked on a last-minute campaign, promising that no Palestinian state would be established as long as he remained in office.

Benji runs with Sophia in his heart

OWN CORRESPONDENT

South African Benji Altshuler (pictured) was one of the runners taking part in this year’s Jerusalem Marathon; he ran on behalf of the DL Link, most specifically for young Sophia Bennett, a six-year-old girl who needs a refuah.

Benji said he was privileged to run through the hills and valleys of the ancient city with Sophie in his heart and prayers.

He admitted that it had been “a tough run”, but the effort had been well worth it

Sophia’s mother expressed her gratitude to Benji, saying that this was one of the most touching acts that she had experienced. It is due to people like Benji that makes the DL Link such a positive bridge between serious illness and hope.



ORT JET getting business connected on social media

OWN CORRESPONDENT

ORT JET hosted a dynamic training session recently on digital marketing trends. Ryan Sauer, director of Search Online Consulting, discussed how to use digital platforms to keep one’s business brand relevant and targeted to one’s audience.

Michael Harf, of office coffee vendor Aqua Espresso, demonstrated how to use key words online for optimising searches and used businesses of audience members as examples. Georgie Chennell, from Quirk Marketing Agency, discussed upcoming social media trends.

All the speakers emphasised how the face of marketing is constantly changing and the importance of adapting to remain relevant and visible.

“Are you on Facebook? Are you on Twitter? Are you on LinkedIn? Most importantly, are you connecting with your customer?” asked Tracy Rosin, ORT JET’s training co-ordinator.

“Digital marketing is experiencing an age of change. Businesses have to do things differently by adapting and staying up-to-date

with digital marketing trends to engage with their consumer.

“Social media has personalised the way businesses do marketing. It is no longer about pushing products or services, it’s about participating in conversations with your customers,” she said.

To attend ORT JET’s business workshops, go to www.ortjet.org.za and choose from a range of topics such as strategy, finance, marketing, sales and much more. For further information contact Tracy@ortjet.org.za



South Africans vote in mock election

The SA mock Israel election website attracted over 7 000 page-views with an average time on page of over four minutes over the past two weeks. This is huge in web terms.

Not everyone voted, said the embassy’s deputy head of mission, Michael Freeman: “Our aim was always to help people to understand about democracy (in Israel),” he told Jewish Report, describing the project as an “absolute success”.

The embassy will keep the SA-designed and -developed website, www.israeldemocracy.co.za, alive as a means of keeping people informed on Israel’s democracy. “We are very, very happy with the numbers of people who read the website,” said Freeman.

And who did South Africans vote for?

Likud, 62%; Bayit Yehudi, 15%; Zionist Union, 12%; Yesh Atid, 3%; United Arab List, 1%; Kahlon, 1%; Yahad, 2%; Meretz, 2%; Yisrael Beiteinu, 1%; Shas, 0.5%; and United Torah Judaism, 0.5%.

JAWITZ

PROPERTIES

To invest in a property in Israel contact
Herschel Jawitz 082 571 1829 | 011 880 3550
Herschel@jawitz.co.za



Waverley – Asking R4.5 Million
Tucked behind high walls for privacy & security nestles this classic, modern cluster offering easy indoor/outdoor living. An all north facing home with receptions leading to a secluded garden and pool. Featuring entrance hall, expansive open plan lounge/dining room, separate family room, study, guest cloak, kitchen with granite counter tops and pantry, scullery & laundry. The bedroom wing consists of a main en suite with walk in dressing room, 2 further bedrooms and another full bathroom.
Chrissie Hammer 082 568 0440 | 011 880 3550



Glenhazel / Sunningdale – Asking R3.9 Million
Exciting release in 24 hour guarded road. Web Ref: 87903. Be the proud owner of this gorgeous modern 4/5 bedroomed and 3 modern bathrooms family home. Exquisite gourmet eat-in kitchen, 3 lavish reception rooms leading onto designer covered patio and tropical garden plus pool, borehole. Excellent staff accommodation, garaging for 4 cars or work from home set up with own entrance. A must to view.
Joel Harris 082 926 0287 | 011 880 3550



Lyndhurst / Glenhazel – Offers from R2.79 Million
Immaculate simplex in small cluster. Web Ref: 87361. North facing onto garden with pool. Double garage and covered extra parking. Entrance hall with skylight, modern kitchen, TV room, lounge and dining room open onto covered patio, guest toilet, 3 North facing bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, domestic quarters. Close to 4 shuls (less than 900m). Area is boomed at night.
David Adler 082 449 1844 | 011 880 3550



Silvamonte – Asking R1.4 Million
Exciting new release. Web Ref: 88785. Finally a garden simplex set in immaculate complex with excellent 24 hour security. 2 Modern bathrooms (mes). Open plan well fitted granite kitchen. Covered patio and 2 covered parking’s. Pool in complex.
Joel Harris 082 926 0287 | 011 880 3550

Mamabola takes 8th place in Jerusalem Marathon

JOSHUA GAVRONSKY

After months of preparation, Mizra-chi South Africa partnering with ORT SA and the SA Zionist Federation, took a group of runners to this year’s Jerusalem Marathon. The marathon which attracted 25 000 participants from around the world - 2 200 from outside Israel - including many of the world’s elite marathon runners, is considered one of the toughest in the world due to its hilly terrain.

This year saw the South African delegation continue its tradition of being accompanied by an elite South African runner. While the group hosted Comrades great Bruce Fordyce in 2014, this year the Unity Team hosted Ludwick Modibe Mamabola. Mamabola, who won the Comrades in 2012 becoming the first South African to do so in over seven years, was the lead runner for the South African delegation.

The Unity Challenge comprised

members from all over South Africa and as Rabbi Ramon Widmonte, director of Mizrachi South Africa, said: “The Unity Challenge was a uniquely South African project bringing together people from all over to live the miracle that is Israel.” It consisted of members running and walking the different routes on offer, which included the 42km, 21km, 10km and even the 5km race.

Mamabola, who used the Jerusalem Marathon as an official Comrades preparation run, started with the Elite runners as he went on his quest for gold in Jerusalem. After a hilly but very inspiring race, he took eighth place overall in a time of two hours and thirty minutes.

Tadesse Yae Dabi (26) of Ethiopia, completed the course in first place in two hours, 18 minutes and 20 seconds. Last year, Kenyan Ronald Kimeli Kurgat (28), won the marathon with a record-setting time of two hours, 16 minutes and 9 seconds.



Running through the streets of Jerusalem, steeped in history, Mamabola said: “This was the most uplifting and special marathon I have ever raced. To be able to run through the streets of the holy city and land of the bible, was an experience I will never forget. I’m looking forward to participating in 2016 again.”

Throughout the tour to Israel, Mamabola experienced many of the places he had only ever heard about in the bible - including Nazareth and Jerusalem.

The international community had a huge interest in Mamabola’s story, including his many accomplishments. He was the keynote speaker at the

official marathon press conference, as well as at many charity engagements throughout the country.

Mamabola, who wants to share his success, hope and powerful story, has developed a foundation that assists young aspiring runners with achieving their dreams of a podium finish. The Unity Challenge hopes to work closely with this foundation and bring many of these aspiring young runners to future marathons in Jerusalem.

This entire trip was very successful with a powerful message resonating within the team and all of the delegation: The marathon is an unbelievable story of how sport has the power to bring people together and is a true showcase of the beauty of Jerusalem and the vibrant democracy that Israel is.

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, who also ran the race, wrote on his Facebook page: “Even if you’re not taking part, come down to cheer on the runners in the streets of Jerusalem and to enjoy performances and bands along the route...and one big celebration throughout the city.”



HEAD OF INFORMAL EDUCATION

Yeshiva College Girls High School invites all applicants for the post of a **full time Head of Informal Education.**

Applicants must identify with the Ethos of Yeshiva College. Relevant teaching diploma with at least one year of learning in a Midrasha is essential. Applicant must have at least five years’ experience teaching Limudei Kodesh as well as experience in running informal activities

Only successful candidates will be contacted.

Please email a short CV to cmkatz@yeshivateachers.co.za



ChevrahKadisha

Chevrah Kadisha is looking at filling the following Vacancy for its Cemetery department in Westpark:
POSITION: Operational supervisor - Cemeteries

REPORTS TO: General Manager

Main Purpose: To manage the day to day operations of the cemetery. The cemetery is looking for someone to ensure the smooth running of the cemetery/ies; this includes grounds maintenance; liaison and management of all outsourced services; management of the grounds staff; responsibility for all stock, cemetery assets and maintenance thereof.

Skills Required: Good communication skills • Good interpersonal skills • Good stock taking skills • Good computer skills

Job Requirements:

The job requires someone who has had previous experience in above, someone who has valid driver’s licence and is prepared to work on Sundays.

Suitable candidates to send their current CV to: jobs@jhbchev.co.za
Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to.
Closing Date: 26 March 2015

Cutting your nose to spite your face



BARBARIC YAWP
David Saks

While the mainstream media has predictably been silent on the matter, it is now apparent that the much vaunted boycott campaign against Woolworths has been a disastrous failure. Sales figures do not merely show that it has had minimal impact. If anything, it would seem to have boosted sales, partly, one assumes, because those opposed to the boycott made a point of buying from Woolworths, but also because of the welcome free advertising that saw Woolworths name being liberally splashed about in print, electronic and online media.

All this was despite the overt support for the BDS initiative displayed by the latter, as well as by senior representatives of the ruling party, most notably Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe. Nor did the aggressive, in-your-face tactics of BDS achieve anything.

Few Woolworths patrons were impressed by such stunts as “till jamming” (piling goods on trolleys, having them rung up by the cashier and then refusing to pay), “die-ins” (screaming and then lying on the floor, blocking the aisles, and feigning death) and preventing customers from entering or moving freely inside the stores. In the end, Woolworths attained a court order prohibiting BDS from “organising, co-ordinating or encouraging harassment, intimidation and/or the causing of psychological harm of Woolworths employees or customers, or engaging in any form of protest action inside Woolworths stores”.

BDS has vowed to continue the boycott, but that is just face-saving rhetoric. The organisation is, of course, notoriously adept at putting a positive spin on things, and knows well that the media will largely go along with it.

In other areas, unfortunately, BDS has made genuine advances, particularly through senior ANC, and even government members explicitly endorsing their platform. The way things are going, boycotting Israel is set to become official ANC policy at its next major conference a few years hence, and should that happen, it is only a matter of time before it is adopted as the policy of the South African government.

What are the implications of South Africa going this route? Realistically speaking, it would appear that whereas only limited harm would result for Israel, South Africa would suffer fairly substantially.

According to department of trade and industry statistics, the trade relationship between the two countries is heavily skewed in favour of South Africa, which annually exports about R6 billion worth of goods (mainly coal and diamonds) to Israel, while importing perhaps half of that. That being the case, boycotting Israel would mean a net loss of several billion rands in trade revenue, a not insubstantial amount.

Moreover, how would perennially cautious international investors view the prospects of a country willing to undermine its own economy in order to further what is essentially a Jihadist platform? It is always dangerous when governments put ideological concerns before practical ones, as Mugabe’s systematic destruction of Zimbabwe shows.

There are other likely losses that would ensue from a boycott. Among other things, it would inevitably impact negatively on foreign donor support (Jewish expatriates constitute, among other things, a high proportion of big-hitting donors to universities) and very likely see a drop in Israeli tourism to South Africa (currently, Israel is the number one source of tourism from the Middle East).

It would also put paid to the many agricultural and humanitarian projects that Israel runs in this country, while local agriculture would suffer substantially were it to be deprived of the technological resources it currently sources from Israel.

The fact that boycotts are disadvantageous to South Africa does not, however, mean that they will not be implemented. We have already seen how the introduction of an internationally approved method of circumcision has been held up by Cosatu because it originates in Israel.

This effectively means that South Africans are being allowed to die unnecessarily, and in substantial numbers, in order to appease the Israel haters. Perhaps the progressive disintegration of Cosatu will ultimately see this grotesque situation rectified, but it does show how easily the blind prejudice and ideological fanaticism of a few can trump the practical needs of the many.

Expectations that a boycott of Israel by South Africa will persuade other countries to follow suit in light of South Africa’s supposed standing as a human rights beacon are also, surely, misplaced.

This, after all, is a country that has three times in five years refused a visa to the Dalai Lama while rolling out the red carpet for a gruesome array of world dictators and terrorists. In truth, South Africa post-Mandela has been something of a disappointment to those genuinely concerned with advancing global human rights. Also, nobody likes a hypocrite.

Pressure to sever ties with Israel will most likely increase, given that progress on the Middle East peace front has come to a standstill and with Hamas once more replenishing its military arsenal ahead of launching its next made-for-television war.

Every effort will have to be made to resist it, which in turn must include educating the public as to the cost of a boycott to South Africa as against its minimal impact on Israel. Ultimately, all South Africans, and not just Jews, should fear a boycott being implemented against Israel, not because they should support Israel, but because it would imperil their own future in a country whose current long-term prospects are far from certain.

KosherWorld



TRULY KOSHER

Wishing you and the
entire community

פסח
כשר ושמח

Pesach

Kasher v' Sameach



MOSMARKS
MATZOS
PARVE **24⁹⁹**
300g



JERUSALEM
MATZO BALL
MIX
PAREV **25⁹⁹**
127g

TENDERCHICK
GRADE A
WHOLE
CHICKEN **39⁹⁹**
/kg



MAXI'S
RAISIN
RIB **135⁹⁹**
/kg



KLEINE
DRAKEN
RED GRAPE
JUICE STILL
750ml **38⁹⁹**
each



DE LA VI
CHILIAN
SMOKED
SALMON
PAREV **76⁹⁹**
200g

DE LA VI
HERRING
SALTED
FILLETS
PAREV **29⁹⁹**
350g

LARGEST
PESACH
RANGE
AVAILABLE



KING OSCAR
SARDINES
IN EXTRA
VIRGIN
OLIVE OIL **37⁹⁹**
105g

BNEI
DAROM
SAUERKRAUT
NO PRESERVATIVES **48⁹⁹**
430g



HULETT'S
WHITE
SUGAR
PAREV **29⁹⁹**
2.5kg

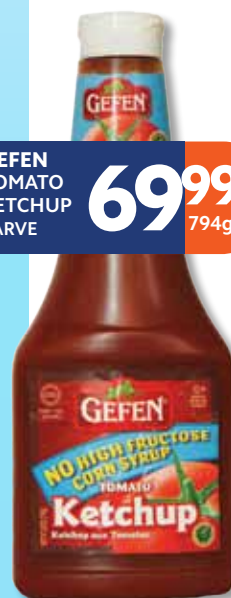


KEDEM
GRAPE
JUICE
946ml **65⁹⁹**



DELICIOUS 2 GO
STRAIGHT CUT
FROZEN CHIPS
OVEN BAKE OR FRY
NO ADDITIVES **27⁹⁹**
500g

GEFEN
TOMATO
KETCHUP
PARVE **69⁹⁹**
794g



GEFEN
CHICKEN
SAUCE
ORIGINAL
RECIPE
PARVE **63⁹⁹**
538g



HELIOS
ORIGINAL
MARGARINE
PAREV **19⁹⁹**
500g



OSEM
CONSUMME
CHICKEN
STYLE
SOUP MIX
PAREV **124⁹⁹**
1kg



FLIX
CRUNCHY MILK
CHOCOLATE /
BITTERSWEET
CHOCOLATE BALLS
CHALAV YISROEL **32⁹⁹**
70g



SNOWSOFT
FACIAL
TISSUES
2-Ply white
tissues **12⁹⁹**
200'S

1 LONG AVENUE, CORNER RIDGE AND SUMMERWAY, GLENHAZEL
CALL: 011 440 9517 | INFO@KOSHERWORLD.CO.ZA | WWW.KOSHERWORLD.CO.ZA

TRADING HOURS: MON-THURS 7AM - 10PM | FRI: 7AM-4PM | SAT: 1/2 HOUR AFTER SHABBOS - 10PM | SUN: 8AM-10PM

E&OE. OFFERS VALID 18th MARCH - 3rd APRIL 2015 OR WHILE STOCKS LAST. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES.

ORDER
ONLINE



south african
Jewish Report

Israeli nationalism
is defining feature of
Diaspora Jewish identity

The world, in recent weeks, has watched with fascination as Israel’s exciting election process unfolded and, earlier this month, its prime minister stood on a powerful platform - the United States’ Congress floor - to speak on behalf of all the Jewish people about a potential major world threat in the form of Iran.

Whatever hue Diaspora Jewish sentiment has taken for our state nestled among hostile neighbours, it is clear that Israel is as relevant to us now as it ever was.

This has not always been the case. In the last few decades, Jewish leaders have placed high up on their list of anxieties (worrying is in our gene pool) that the significance of Israel as an independent homeland for the Jews, has not filtered into the consciousness of Jewish youth, particularly in North America where the proportion of Jews who attend Jewish day schools or visit Israel, has fallen and where rates of assimilation continue to rise.

Surveys have shown that higher observance is strongly associated with a greater connection to Israel and less synagogue attendance is associated with less interest in the country.

Yet, for Diaspora Jews in 2015, even if one is secular, Israel is very much a part of how we think of ourselves. How can we not? We live in a world where militant Islamic terror activity against Zionism has led to a rise in attacks against Jewish establishments.

Right here in Sandton, the 48th Annual Zionist Federation Conference saw BDS supporters calling for “no Zionist conference be held on our soil” and chanting “You Jews do not belong in South Africa”. As a result, most of us will stand up for Israel because we see it as our role.

Toronto University researcher Emma Jo Aiken-Klar published a paper showing how concerns about Jewish continuity were handled in Canada. She discovered that community funding was driven towards innovative ways to attract students to Judaism and that Israel advocacy was considered a major draw card for bolstering Jewish identity on campuses.

“Israel was chosen to be the vehicle through which ‘Jewish continuity’ would be maintained,” Aiken-Klar explains.

Events like the riot which broke out at Concordia University in Canada in 2002 where students from a Palestinian rights group protested outside a talk by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, gave an even greater impetus for Jewish communal leaders to channel resources to train Jewish students to advocate against Israel haters on the frontlines of university campuses.

Here in South Africa, which has the highest proportion of Jewish day school attendance among Diaspora Jewry, and where our government is vocal in its criticism of Israel’s treatment of Palestinians, a naturally strong identification with Israel by Jewry is a given.

The apartheid metaphor which has been imported across the world to describe Israel’s policies and the now annual Israel Apartheid Week, has given our community, the birthplace of the term, an even greater ownership of the battle ground of defending Israel.

And what does this ensuing phenomenon, where Judaism and Zionism have blurred so that Israeli nationalism has become a defining feature of Jewish identity in the Diaspora, then mean for the great debate of whether anti-Zionism is really anti-Semitism?

Many of us feel, with a gut instinct, that when the United Nations Human Rights Council focuses on Israel’s alleged human rights abuses to the exclusion of the behaviour of other countries or when students call out to “Shoot the Jew” at an Israel Apartheid rally, this delegitimisation of Israel is about Jew hatred. And it may very well be.

But our critics tell us that branding advocates for Palestinian human rights as anti-Semitic and fudging the important distinction between criticism of Israel as a nation-state and anti-Semitism does not take into account that disagreeing with Israeli policy is not akin to criticising or discriminating against all Jewish people, or even Israeli people.

So we need to hear those voices too because attending to both points of view does not taint our allegiance, it merely gives us a greater understanding and a sense of mastery of a very complex situation. We may have to realise, even though our identity is so enmeshed with supporting our ‘homeland’, that not every pointed finger at Israel is an attack on our people as a whole.

– Vanessa Valkin, Editor



Israel election: Netanyahu’s Likud
storms to victory

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The wily old political fox, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s (pictured) right-wing Likud Party has won a surprise victory in Israel’s March 17 election.

Exit polls had forecast a dead heat but with almost all votes counted, results give Likud a clear lead over its main rival, the centre-left Zionist Union.

But Netanyahu had to take a “hard right turn” to commandeer the voters to vote Likud, after it had at one stage - as early as four days before the election - seemed as if Isaac Herzog’s Zionist Union might spring a nasty surprise. The win for Netanyahu comes after he moved to the right in the final days of campaigning, including abandoning a commitment to negotiate a Palestinian state. In a four-day pre-election blitz, he made a series of promises designed to shore up his Likud base and draw voters from other right-wing and nationalist parties.

As well as ruling out a Palestinian state, he also pledged to continue building settlements on occupied land. His victory is likely to mean continued tensions with the United States, which has had an increasingly fraught relationship with Netanyahu.

Pronouncements that there would not be an independent Palestinian state on his watch - reneging on a 2009 pronouncement - and roiling the relationship waters with his major ally, America, with his Iran speech at the US Congress recently, may make it much more difficult to “govern” properly, rather than merely stay in power, say experts.

President Reuben Rivlin later this month will choose the candidate he sees as best suited to form a coalition. The outcome favours Netanyahu to form a right-wing coalition government. The inherent problem in a fractious coalition lineup is that a coalition has to be a broad church, accommodating the demands and needs of all the partners. To a degree small “kingmaker” parties can hold the major coalition partner(s) to ransom.

Netanyahu will clinch a fourth term and become Israel’s longest-serving prime minister, a position currently held by the country’s founding father and first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, who served from 1948 to 1954 and again from 1955 to 1963.

The latest tally (on Wednesday before us going to press, but with over 99 per cent of the votes counted) gave Likud 29 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, with the Zionist Union on 24 seats.

Herzog called Netanyahu early on Wednesday to congratulate him on the result and wished him “good luck. Nothing has changed, we will keep fighting for a just society,” he was quoted as saying by Haaretz.

Ecstatic Likud supporters celebrated after the exit polls were announced. After Tuesday’s polls, Netanyahu said he had already spoken to the leaders of other right-of-centre

parties about forming a new government “without delay”.

He described the vote as a “great victory” for Likud, which had trailed the Zionist Union in opinion polls in the run-up to the election. But in the end Israeli opinion polls told the wrong story - yet again.

When the polls closed on Tuesday, Herzog was able to say it was a tie, the best result for the left in more than 20 years. But overnight, as the real results emerged, Netanyahu and his governing Likud party emerged as clear winners.

Israel’s form of proportional representation always produces smaller parties and coalition government. None has ever won an outright majority under Israel’s proportional representation voting system.

Almost 72 per cent of those eligible voted in the election. The turnout was four points higher than the previous election in 2013.

A Herzog win would have been a sensational result; the Israeli left had been in the doldrums for a generation and Netanyahu was a clear favourite when he called early elections in December last year. Even in defeat, Herzog has now established himself as the undisputed leader of his party.

The Joint Arab List, an alliance of Israeli Arab-dominated parties, came third with 14 seats. It has said, however, that it will not take any positions in government and in any event it would have been most unlikely for them to have been asked to do so.

While Netanyahu had vowed not to allow the creation of a Palestinian state, Zionist Union expressed support for a two-state solution and promised to repair relations with Palestinians and the international community.

Moshe Kahlon, a former Likud welfare and communications minister under Netanyahu, may still play a kingmaker role. His centre-right Kulanu party won 10 seats.

The head of the Joint List, Ayman Odeh, sees the “solidarity vote” among Arab voters, as an achievement in getting this far in Israeli politics.

“There is no Arab in this country who imagined that we would be the third force,” said Odeh, who only weeks ago was a little-known municipal councillor from Haifa, a mixed Arab-Jewish city.

Some see this election as a beginning in Israeli politics, in which the Arab alliance will become an active opposition. At the very least, the large turnout gave Arabs more weight to promote their community. Arabs in Israel number some 1,7 million, forming one-fifth of the country’s population.

Though most are Israeli citizens, they tend to be poorer, less educated and are less likely to be employed than their Jewish counterparts. Israeli Arabs say they have felt more marginalised during the years when the government in Jerusalem has been dominated by Netanyahu and Likud.

Should Sandton or Copenhagen care about Israeli elections?



**TAKING
ISSUE**
Geoff Sifrin

What difference will the Israeli elections make in a Jew’s life in Sandton? Probably little in a practical sense, although there will be vigorous debates around Jewish dinner tables. Interactions with non-Jews will continue as usual. Notwithstanding BDS’ anti-Israel hype, Israel features little in most South Africans’ daily lives. Where Jews and Muslims do business together, there is generally tacit agreement not to bring up the Middle East; each side knows their sentiments are contradictory.

The elections might have slightly more political significance. A new Israeli government assertively seeking peace with the Palestinians could lessen anti-Israel groups’ effectiveness and give Jewish students ammunition to counter Israel Apartheid Week at universities - sadly, Benjamin Netanyahu gave them little help. The South African government might also show more enthusiasm towards warming diplomatic ties with Israel. But these are more irritants than actual threats. Many Jews prefer an Israeli government which prioritises security - as Netanyahu has done.

Israelis are as much concerned today with bread and butter issues as with solving the Palestinian struggle. Most Israelis and Palestinians see no solution for the conflict, which remains the proverbial elephant in the room while attention goes elsewhere. The elections won’t affect Jews in most parts of the Diaspora. Their circumstances possess an inherent tension deriving from centuries of Jewish life in Christian - and today, increasingly Muslim - societies. Whatever new Israeli government emerges, it may affect that tension somewhat, but will not fundamentally eliminate it, particularly in Europe.

This is a great disappointment. After the Second World War and the Holocaust, it was naively believed Israel would solve the Diaspora Jewish problem. A flourishing Jewish state would signal triumph over Hitler; anti-Semitism would disappear. But it hasn’t gone that way. Recent news from Denmark - the latest in a string of such items worldwide - illustrates this. The country’s Jewish broadcast station Radio Shalom has stopped airing on the advice of the security services due to terrorist threats. The police offered protection, but the station director did not want to work under such conditions. “We will not have police standing outside the door. We would rather close down until it is quiet again.” This comes after terrorist shoot-

ings of Jews at Copenhagen’s synagogue, and in Paris and elsewhere. And fearful French Jews wanting to leave en masse. For those who have believed in the Zionist dream, the fact that Israel didn’t resolve the Diaspora Jewish problem is hard to swallow. Israel has been a crucial chapter in Jewish history, but Jewish life continues elsewhere, sometimes thriving and sometimes threatened; the Jewish state’s existence is not necessarily the determining factor. The issue of its centrality among Jews has evoked heated arguments. For example, is the singing of the Israeli national anthem Hatikvah appropriate at the culmination of the annual

March of the Living in Poland? The international event intended to demonstrate that the Jewish people are alive and well despite Hitler’s plots, attracts thousands of Jewish participants from all over the world - including school kids and adults - who do the 3km march between Auschwitz and Birkenau - an inversion of the notorious death marches that took place along the same path some 70 years ago. Some say the Jewish state - symbolised by Hatikvah - should not be seen as the single answer to Jew-hatred, and that Jews should rather sing the anthems of their home countries in the Diaspora. A similar argument arose

some years ago when Israeli air force jets flew over Auschwitz to thumb their nose at Hitler. Is displaying Israeli military might the appropriate answer? Or is it equally the flourishing of Diaspora Jewish life? Israel is indeed thriving, including the democracy which produces its government. But Jews in Sandton or Copenhagen must deal with their local situation on its own terms, and insist on their right to be safe as citizens of their home countries regardless of what happens in Israel or who becomes its prime minister. Geoff Sifrin is former editor of the SAJR. He writes this column in his personal capacity.



Pre-sale investment opportunity in Netanya
A LIMITED NUMBER OF PRE SALE APARTMENTS
IN A BRAND NEW DEVELOPMENT IN A TRANQUIL AREA OF NETANYA

Barry is available for private meetings in S.A. from 23 – 26 March. Please contact him on 076-577-2000 / +972-5283-11174 or barry@LCM.co.il to arrange.

If you have been considering getting into the Israeli real estate market and haven’t found the right thing, then look no further. A brand new development is being built in north Netanya and offers a selection of large 3 and 4 bedroom apartments. Completion within 36 months. **EASY FINANCING OPTIONS AND NO LINKAGE** *Payment terms: 30% deposit with the balance due on completion.*



cartridges for africa
originals • compatibles • printers

The Best Prices In Town !!!
Cnr Long & Study Rd, Glenhazel
www.cartridgesforafrica.co.za
011 440 0594

hp LEXMARK SAMSUNG Canon brother

The more it changes, the more it remains the same

**LARA DOEL
JERUSALEM**

With the Israeli elections behind us and the votes being tallied today (Wednesday), it is an interesting day in Israel.

The lead-up to the elections held a different feel to any that I have experienced in the seven and a half years since I made aliyah from South Africa. Although certainly not representative, my social media feeds prior to voting day, teemed with individuals, across all party lines, pushing for their preferred candidates - mostly related to domestic issues, more specifically, the economy - finances and the inability of many of Israel's citizens to purchase homes.

On the street, calls to vote in Labour (the Isaac Herzog-Tzipi Livni team) were strong, while parties like Bayit Yehudi, under the leadership of Naftali Bennett, pushed the undecided to vote for him in order to keep Benjamin Netanyahu (or Bibi as he is generally known) on the straight and narrow in a right-wing-led incoming government.

On election day, as Israelis from

all stripes prepared for a welcome "Sunday", the media overwhelmingly reported on the high hopes that the votes would usher in a new government and a new era.

As we woke up the day after, it became increasingly clear that that overwhelmingly pro-left-wing stance is not where the majority of Israelis seem to be and a vast majority of the Israeli public have shown confidence in Netanyahu and boosted him to 29 or 30 seats (the final results have yet to be tallied).

Adam Segal, a former South African who has been in Israel for close on two decades and who was not shy to show his full support for Bennett's Bayit Yehudi party in the lead-up to and day of the elections, was crushed by the outcome.

"I don't have high hopes [for the future] to be honest. I think this election was a huge waste of money. We are in no better a position than we were three months ago. Labour supporters will be celebrating, but in reality, they're still in second place and will sit in the opposition, so there is no real difference.

"The winners are Likud, Labour



and the Arab List. The losers are the social parties and ultimately, that is what this election was supposed to be about. We wanted a new government to fix the internal problems and instead, it's all about foreign affairs."

Jonathan Davis, an immigrant from the United States, former aliyah shaliach to South Africa and current vice president of external relations and head of the Raphael Recanati International School at IDC Herzliya, said: "I think that the Labour party has a lot of soul-searching to do because it's not connecting with most of the people in Israel.

"Those people who they claim are of a lower socio-economic level that they want to help, are the ones who voted against them.

They seem to be more connected to middle-class and upper middle-class and I fully agree with the assessment of MK Shelly Yachimovich that the Labour party needs to go back to roots and espouse its original ideology if they wish to make an impact. The voters who voted for the Likud appeared to be many of the same original voters who used to support Begin."

This celebration through sound wows the audience

OWN CORRESPONDENT

"Young South Africans celebrating music and social cohesion", was the theme of "Sounds of Celebration II", a musical production presented by Sydenham Shul and Education Africa at Emperors Palace this past Wednesday night.

The cast consisted of 150 learners from a range of schools and community centres around Gauteng, performing on different instruments including marimbas, steel pans, pennywhistles, Greek bouzoukis, gumboot dancers, and many more.

Among the groups who performed was St Benedict's Male Choir, the Jeppe CBC Boksburg Pipe Band and the King David Linksfield Marimba Band, which is co-ordinated by Darryl Frankel, deputy headmaster of King David Primary School. Joining them on stage was "Jewish Star" Choni G, who showed his amazing musical talent as he sang a variety of songs, both solo as well as together with the different musical groups.

"Only in South Africa will you see such

a unique event with a diverse variety of performers on one stage. This is the power of music that allows us to transcend differences in background, race and religion," said David Bloch, MC for the evening.

Chief Executive Director of Education Africa, James Urdang, was joined on stage by Rabbi Yehuda Stern and Dr Tali Frankel of Sydenham Shul, who together thanked the musical director and the genius behind the event, Joan Lithgow.

The "Sounds of Celebration" project, launched in 2013, works throughout the year to donate marimbas and build marimba hubs in disadvantaged schools, and this concert was the culmination of the 2014 project.

"Sounds of Celebration 2015" has already been launched with exciting plans brewing. Education Africa is a Level 1 B-BBEE participant and contributions to this initiative are eligible for B-BBEE Compliance and Section 18A Certification. For more information contact Education Africa at (011) 685-7300 or Sydenham Shul (011) 640-5021.



Torah Academy fundraiser has a sweet taste

SUZANNE BELLING

One of the major fundraisers of Torah Academy, the bargain priced wines - a very wide selection - were on sale to the hundreds who flocked to Glenhazel in Johannesburg last Sunday, to participate.

Stalls included a variety of goods suitable for Pesach, while participants were able to do all their Passover shopping under one roof.

"The crowds seem to increase every year and there was a larger range of premier wines offered," said Rabbi Shabsy Chaiton, administrator of Torah Academy.

Rabbi Chaiton said that in addition to the stalls offering products for Pesach, there were chesed stalls such as the Infinity competition stall for Torah Academy, selling tickets for a first prize of R50 000 and second prize of R10 000 for TA funds and a special section for Yad Aharon.

"I would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted, the community for its support, and, of course, KoshersWorld and Adam International for the venue and the wines."

The organisers could not immediately put a figure to the fundraiser, but were confident that it would exceed last year's figure.



"Le Chaim" - Moshe Reuven Schneider and Moshe Amoils, sample Passover wine in a toast at the annual Torah Academy wine sale and morning market held at KoshersWorld on Sunday March 15.

ברוכים הבאים!

The South African Alumni and friends of Midrash Shmuel Yerushalayim are happy to extend a warm welcome to Rosh HaYeshiva
רבי בנציון מוסקוויטש
on his visit to South Africa this week, בע"ה

ברכה והצלחה
להגדיל תורה ולהאדירה.

For more information contact
rabbibengoodman@gmail.com
midrashoffice@gmail.com
R' Menachem Kaplan 082 407 0146

Board chairman slams protesters’ blatant anti-Semitism

ANT KATZ

Flagrant anti-Semitism was the order of the day when BDS-led pro-Palestinian protesters defied the agreed protocols while protesting at the SAZF Conference in Sandton last weekend, said the SA Jewish Board of Deputies Chairman Mary Kluk, who issued an angry statement accusing, among others, a deputy Cabinet minister of complicity in anti-Semitism.

It all happened during the SA Zionist Federation’s Conference on March 8, when protesters yelled: “You think this is Israel, we are going to kill you,” said Kluk.

“From the outset, it was clear that the aim of the demonstration, in the protesters’ own words, was to ‘shut down Sandton’ and ensure “no Zionist conference be held on our soil,” said Kluk.

The conference was held at the Sandton Convention Centre and the BDS-led demonstration had been approved by police and municipal authorities with the specific proviso that the protesters confine themselves to the back of the Convention Centre in Alice Lane, and not use Maude Street in front of the Centre.

Police and security services set up blockades at the two entrances to Maude Street to ensure that the protesters complied.

But the situation became hostile



when the protesters defied the terms of the protest and tried unsuccessfully to get through the police barriers, said Kluk afterwards. “It became apparent that the rally was nothing more than a front to stoke up Jew-hatred in South Africa.”

In Kluk’s statement, she made the Board’s position clear: “Sentiments such as: ‘You Jews do not belong in South Africa’ were shouted from the ranks,” she wrote. “As worrying as these displays of anti-Semitism are,” said Kluk, “equally worrying is that a deputy (Cabinet) minister, Obed Bapela, chose to attack the SAJBD, specifically calling out the name of our national director, Wendy Kahn.

“One would expect a more measured and dignified tone from a government official.”

Furthermore, said Kluk, Deputy Minister Bapela had “made a libellous allegation and accused a Jewish mar-

shal of assaulting a protester”.

A look at the video footage, she said, clearly showed Bapela’s allegation to be “unfounded and malicious”. Despite Bapela’s statement, said an angry Kluk, the Board “will continue engaging government on Israel and local South African issues, as before” and not be intimidated. She said that the tactic of manufacturing incidents which have repeatedly been found to have no substance, was “a clear modus operandi of the BDS movement.

“The SAJBD once again reiterates that it is every South African citizen’s constitutional right to attend events of our choosing without fear of intimidation.”

• *The SAJBD has compiled a video of anti-Semitic utterances during the protest. The video and further pictures can be seen on www.sajr.co.za*

Asking Hamas is asking for trouble...

ANT KATZ

Hamas’ attempt last week to woo Europeans and English-speakers using Twitter, backfired spectacularly on them before they even had the chance to get it off the ground.

The media wing of the militant group that controls the Gaza Strip, announced a social media operation aimed at Europeans and English-speakers last Thursday, saying that it would begin operating on Friday March 13.

One of the features was that Hamas would set up an English-language Twitter account (@HamasInfoEn) and allow senior members of the group to take questions via the hashtag #AskHamas.

Everything seems to have blown up in Hamas’ face, however, starting with a lack of English literacy by naming the campaign: “Truth from the mouth of the horse”.

The US-based, social media analytic company Topsy reported that people didn’t wait until Friday to start tweeting their questions. In fact, said Topsy, within three hours of Hamas’ media release on Thursday they received over 3 000 tweets to the hashtag #AskHamas - almost all of them negative and many which were “unprintable”.

However, the campaign appeared to have been retweeted by Hamas’

Arabic language account and some high-profile members of Hamas and was featured in a number of Palestinian news outlets. The #AskHamas, alas, has become a major embarrassment.

The hashtag campaign intended to change the minds of the group’s sceptics: “The campaign is aimed at rejecting the labelling of the Palestinian resistance as ‘terrorists’,” said the Hamas media department.

Taher al-Nounou, Hamas’ media co-ordinator, told Turkish media last Thursday that their target audience was the United States, the European Union and Israel where Hamas is considered a terrorist organisation.

Another deeply embarrassing aspect for Hamas was when one tweeter to #AskHamas stated that the Hamas leader, Khaled Mashaal, was worth \$2.6 bn! “Why are you poverty pimps?” asked Dumisani Washington (@dumisani6) on #AskHamas last Thursday. Jewish Report has been unable to verify the veracity of this statement of Mashaal’s worth.

It seems like Hamas, in trying to take steps to further their social media battle against Israel (which already has a slick and well-publicised Facebook and Twitter strategy), didn’t fully understand the risks of going open source.

INVITATION TO CONSIGN

Consigning now for the
CAPE TOWN
May Auction
closing 25 March 2015

AUCTION
26 & 27 MAY 2015

Contact
021 794 6461
for more details

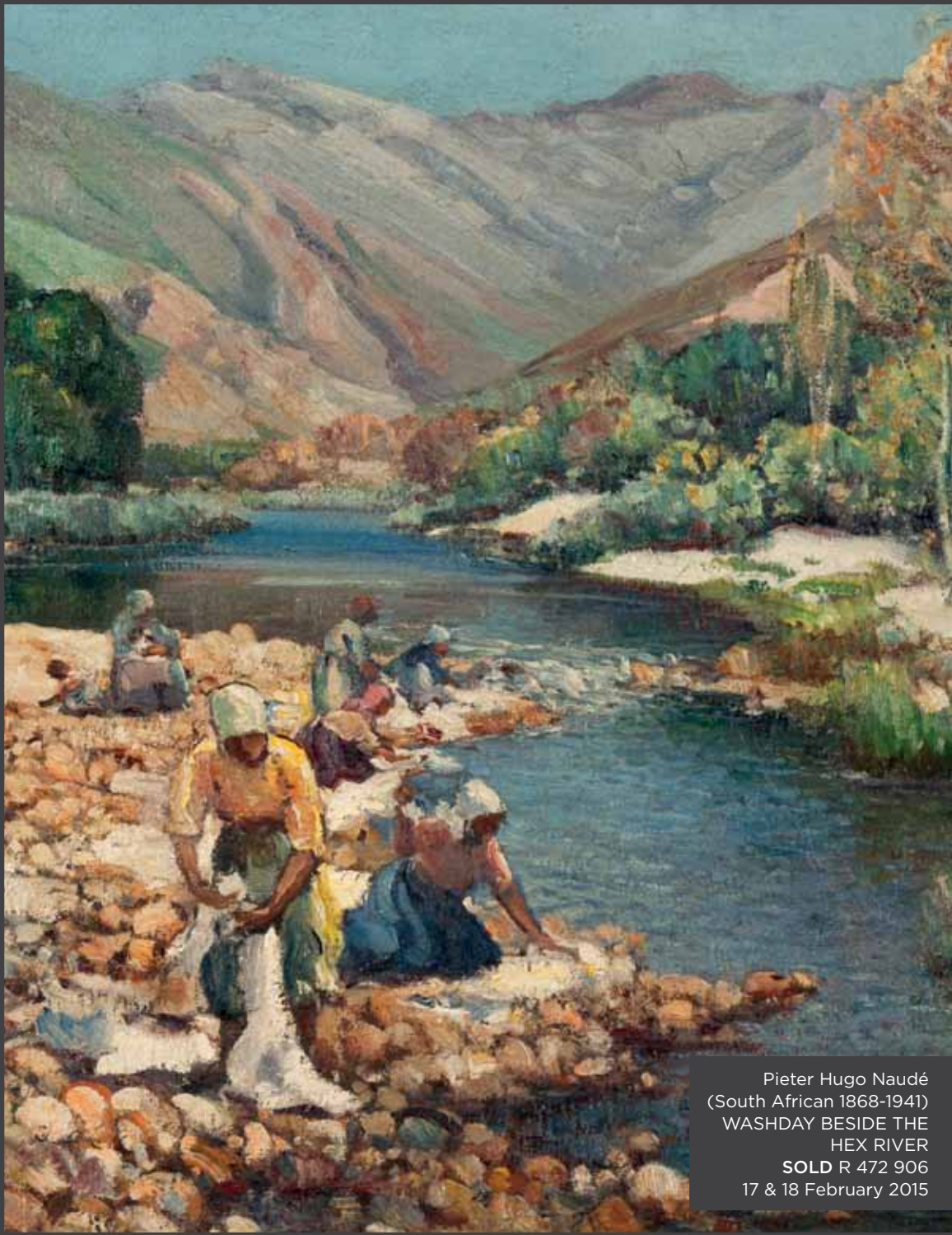
Stephan Welz & Co. EST. 1968
FINE ART & DESIGN AUCTIONEERS

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

The Great Cellar | Alphen Estate
Alphen Drive | Constantia

www.stephanwelzandco.co.za

Pieter Hugo Naudé
(South African 1868-1941)
WASHDAY BESIDE THE
HEX RIVER
SOLD R 472 906
17 & 18 February 2015



JOHANNESBURG MUSICAL SOCIETY

SPENCER MYER piano

Winner Unisa International 2004

Gold Medal New Orleans International 2008

Sat 21 March – Linder Auditorium – 20:00

Scarlatti, Schumann, Ravel, Bolcom

Entrance to Linder now only from Victoria Road

www.jms.org.za

BOOKING AT COMPUTICKET

*No credit card facility at Linder



Disclaimer

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

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

See more at
www.sajr.co.za

Guidelines for letters

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

PRICES OF PESACH GOODS AT NORWOOD HYPERMARKET GOING THROUGH THE ROOF

I would like to voice my displeasure at the pricing of Pesach goods at Norwood Hypermarket.

On Wednesday March 11, I was in the Hypermarket and bought, among other Pesach products, Beit Hashita cucumbers.

The price was R33,99 which I thought was rather high, but they are an imported item.

I happened to walk through the Hyper again on Thursday March 12 - one day later - to find that the same product had been reduced to R25,90 per tin. I was told that this was a weekend special and I appreciate that. But, as Jews who buy kosher throughout the year and at Pesach, we are constantly faced with prices that increase almost on a daily basis.

If the Norwood Hypermarket can sell these cucumbers and other items that are on special at these prices, surely the way to encourage people to shop at the store would be for these products to come onto the shelves at a good price and that the price should hold for the duration of Pesach shopping.

I compared prices at other stores in the area and their prices compete with the Hyper’s discounted price.

Did Norwood Hypermarket discount these Pesach items because they genuinely were using them as loss leaders, or did they compare prices at KosherWorld and Spar and realise that they needed to be competitive?

And who knows what else we are being ripped off on.

Adrienne Schiff, Johannesburg

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU DOES INDEED SPEAK FOR ALL JEWS

In his column, Taking Issue, in Jewish Report of March 13, Geoff Sifrin posed the question: “In whose Jewish name does Bibi speak?”

I want to associate myself completely with the sentiments expressed in the letter written by Choni Davidowitz, taking Sifrin to task.

When Bibi speaks up against an implacable, murderous enemy, he does certainly speak for all Jews, never mind a few delusionist Jew haters, “useful idiots”, and their ilk.

Isaac Lew
Johannesburg

KOSHER CHICKENS HAVE TO PASS RIGOROUS FOOD SAFETY TESTS

Much has been written lately about the prices and food safety of kosher chickens. I am the owner of tenderchick cc, the kosher chicken abattoir in Gauteng. In particular I respond to the letter by Dr Bryna Lewis, advocating a vegetarian lifestyle because of salmonella in chickens.

Our abattoir is independently audited for food safety. The latest assessment was completed on February 23 this year and was found to adequately comply with the requirements of ISO 22002 prerequisite programmes on food safety, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles and food safety management systems, as guided by the Global Food Safety Initiative.

BDS AND WPSC ARE GUILTY OF GROSS HYPOCRISY

As Israel Apartheid Week has now closed and Wits Palestine Solidarity Committee (WPSC) together with other anti Israel groups smugly rubbed their hands in glee, having stirred up those feel good emotions among themselves, the need to expose their hypocrisy must be given air.

Both the BDS and WPSC stand guilty of gross hypocrisy claiming they are fighting for the rights of the Palestinian peoples. Really? Perhaps one should ask: Which Palestinians?

Here’s the rub: There are almost half a million Palestinians in Lebanon, existing under a harsh system of apartheid, stripped of all rights with inadequate health, education and living conditions, confined to certain living areas with limited freedom of movement.

Isn’t this what our WPSC and BDS friends are accusing Israel of?

But the raw nerve of their hypocrisy is really exposed by their complete silence to the horrors unfolding daily in Syria, where the Palestinians number close to half a million. Amnesty International confirmed that government forces had systematically cut off food and medical supplies to the Palestinian enclave of Yarmouk on the outskirts of Damascus and a thousand of these hapless people have died in that mass slaughter. Not to mention those languishing in refugee camps in Jordan.

So, here we have almost one million Palestinians in those countries suffering degradation, humiliation and death in the thousands

Our chickens are reared in free-roaming, open-sided houses with fresh air and sunlight. We do not use any growth hormones and our chickens are sampled monthly by an accredited independent microbiological laboratory for a wide range of microbiological tests, so as to ensure they comply with ISO 22002 food safety standards.

The kosher consumer can rest assured that the chicken they are eating is tested for among other things, being salmonella-free and having no antibiotic residues.

Ami Bolnick
Johannesburg

but Shaeera Kalla of the WPSC and her supporters have no knowledge of this, yet they accuse Israel of those atrocities.

If Israel Apartheid Week was about the rights of the Palestinian peoples as they claim, surely the right to life of these poor people should appear somewhere in their narrative? No, it’s not about the Palestinians, it’s simply about hatred for a Jewish state.

This hate game is also a most profitable enterprise. Israel bashing has evolved into a billion dollar industry. Various organisations, from the UN Human Rights Council to the World Council of Churches to Amnesty International and a host of others, are all recipients of billions of dollars of donor funds from EU taxpayers, Arab oil potentates and many private donors.

These organisations employ thousands of people whose sole purpose is to dig up dirt on Israel.

What would happen if there were to be a peace agreement signed and sealed tomorrow? Thousands out of work, NGOs left begging for funds for unpopular causes - no, this would be bad for business.

A Palestinian-Israeli settlement would mean an end to first-class travel, five star hotels and all kinds of other freebees, who would want an end to that?

Allan Wolman.
Rosebank, Johannesburg

BDS’ ACTIONS AT EXPO WERE DESPICABLE

The BDS movement, which promotes hatred against Jews, supports terrorism and illegal acts of aggression (as proved by its recent promotion of convicted terrorist Leila Khaled), is despite its best efforts starting to reveal its true colours.

BDS’ long-term goal of turning South Africa into another one of its militant Islamic battlefields by exporting their hatred and aggression towards Jews and Israel, is becoming very clear.

Recently BDS tried to disrupt a family-orientated expo highlighting the works of various Jewish charity and communal organisations, as well as Jewish businesses and the positive contribution that they make in South Africa. In what must have been pure desperation to make it seem like there were large numbers of protesters, Muhammad Desai, BDS’ chief propaganda minister, manufactured protesters by providing free buses from Orange Farm to Sandton.

Unfortunately for him and the BDS movement, most of them did not even know what they were being used for, as confirmed by many journalists covering the event - again highlighting the unscrupulous and manipulative nature of BDS.

When an entrance to the convention centre was closed to protect the expo attendees, violent BDS supporters encouraged by Desai, started throwing stones and threatened and intimidated both the attendees and the police.

Police were there as they know from past experience that BDS’ threats of illegal violence and intimidation are all too real.

Luckily there were no reported injuries, despite attempts by BDS members to break through police barriers. BDS supporters also shouted direct anti-Semitic phrases such as “Go back to Europe”, “This is our land, not yours”.

It’s absurd that BDS can decide who is eligible to be a South African resident and who not; they call for South African Jews to go back to Europe even though these Jews were born in South Africa and even their parents.

Nevertheless, the expo received a fantastic turnout where the good work of many charities, educational and communal organisations, was applauded by Jews and non-Jews alike.

Sarah Cohen
Johannesburg

Win up to

R16 000

in shopping vouchers

Help Matza Man feed Jewish families this Pesach and stand a chance to win up to 4 x R4000 vouchers to spend at Pick n Pay

How to enter the competition

STEP 1

Buy a Pesach product

STEP 2

Drop it into the special Matza Man bin you will find at selected Jewish schools, Pick n Pay Hypermarket Norwood and Pick n Pay Fairmount, Genesis.

STEP 3

Fill in your details on the entry form and drop it in the Matza Man bin, together with the item you are donating.

A PROJECT OF THE CHEVRAH KADISHA

Pesach Food Drive

Terms and conditions apply. Please see details on flyers in store.

All’s well with Jewish education in South Africa

SHANA SASSEN AND GABY COHEN

The 30th South African Board of Jewish Education (SABJE) Conference, held on Sunday March 15, hosted speakers from the SABJE, the Johannesburg Jewish community, the Independent Schools’ Association of South Africa (ISASA) and international keynote speaker Dr Tal Ben-Shahar.

The SABJE oversees all the King David Schools on behalf of the community and represents affiliates on various educational platforms.

The highlight of the morning was the speech by Dr Ben-Shahar, author and lecturer at Harvard University and IDC.

His topic, “How to make sure our children are equipped to succeed”, stressed the importance of “positive psychology” to the 550 capacity delegates.

He explained the relationship between happiness and success, saying that happiness is

the cause and success the effect, and he congratulated King David Schools on acknowledging the importance of social-emotional wellbeing in their mission statement.

Opening the conference, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein addressed the audience on the importance of Jewish schooling and the significant role the King David Schools play in the Johannesburg Jewish community.

Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa Arthur Lenk, elaborated and compared the Jewish day schools in many ways to the “start-up nation” environment, reflecting on the huge impact of the schools on the Jewish world.

Outgoing SABJE Chairman Raoul Gamsu spoke on the financials and current position of the SABJE, on the healthy financial position of the SABJE, stable and growing numbers of children in the King David School system and the vision of “excellent teachers teaching excellently”.

He thanked the King David Schools’

Foundation (KDSF) for the generous contribution of their donors, which enable facility upgrades and teacher training, allowing the schools to remain centres of excellence. He reiterated the connection that the South African learners have with Israel and highlighted the importance of building a love for Jewish culture and religion.

SABJE Director Rabbi Craig Kacev spoke about the eight key ingredients that a King David education instils in learners, enabling them to succeed and achieve great things later in their lives.

The morning concluded with the election and announcement of the new members of the SABJE.



Outgoing chairman of the SABJE, Raoul Gamsu, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and SABJE Director Rabbi Craig Kacev.

Beating Pesach cleaning - at a cost

SUZANNE BELLING

That time of the year is just around the corner – where we peek into the corners of each nook and cranny of our homes to rid ourselves of the last vestiges of chometz before Pesach.

And although South Africans are generally blessed with domestic helpers, many of whom dread the onset of Passover cleaning and preparation almost as much as their employers, the good news is that there is a way out. South Africans increasingly are emulating their co-religionists, especially in the United States and Israel and taking their families off to a kosher l’Pesach resort for the duration of Passover, or, at the very least, attending a communal seder.

The most popular affordable getaway this year seems to be Chabad’s Rabbi Ari Kievman’s retreat at the Shumba Valley Lodge in the Magaliesberg - less than an hour’s drive from Johannesburg.

In KwaZulu-Natal, there is the five-star Zimbali Coastal Resort, where the Fairmount Luxury Hotel has 154 rooms and a permanent shul on the premises. There is also a golf course, indigenous vegetation and wetland areas. This is being organised by Cape Kosher. Children’s programmes and baby-sitting is being arranged.

Avron Almeleh, of Avron’s Place, the kosher fleishik restaurant in Sea Point, will open for chol hamoed. During the entire period, he will provide all the meals for the President Hotel, including both the seders and breakfast, lunch, supper and morning and afternoon teas for the eight-day period.

We have vacancies for all meals during the Passover period at present,” a hotel spokesman said.

In Umhlanga on the KwaZulu-Natal north coast, where Shlomo Wainer of Chabad of the North

Coast accepts guests for the Pesach week, there will be two seders. “The accommodation, however, is fully booked,” he said.

There will also be a communal seder on the first night under the auspices of the Durban Hebrew Congregation.

The Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation in Marais Road will, as usual, host communal seders on both nights, while the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation is holding a community seder for the first night only, as is the Wynberg Claremont Hebrew Congregation.

The Great Park Synagogue in Glenhove Road in Johannesburg, will be having one communal seder (first night) while the Greenside Hebrew Congregation in the city, is also arranging a first night.

The community seders, however, do not absolve people from changing their pots and having Pesach products after making their homes Pesachdik.

One is spared the effort only if one goes away before Pesach comes in (in the morning when one is no longer able to eat chometz).

Rosh Beth Din Rabbi Moshe Kurtstag says as long as one sells one’s chometz before Pesach and locks up one’s home (not returning until the entire Passover period is over), one does not have to make one’s house or flat Pesachdik.

“The only problem that arises is when going overseas to places like Australia (which is ahead of us when it comes to starting Pesach) or the United States (which is behind us when it comes to ending Pesach), then special arrangements will have to be made - like organising another Jew to sell one’s chometz to a local non-Jew. If there is a doubt, this should be discussed with a rabbi,” he said.



Check Dry Cleaners

The Professionals

Your Pesach Cleaning Specialist

Talleisim ✓ Kapotas ✓ Curtains ✓

Tailoring ✓ Carpets ✓ Hats ✓

Extended Trading Hours

Sunday 29th March 9am - 12pm
Friday 3rd April 9am - 3pm



 **011 640 3596**
www.checkdrycleaners.co.za

Cnr George Ave & Bradfield Dr, Fairmount

The management & staff wish their family, friends & customers a

Kosher Le Pesach



Stockists of





HOSTESS FOOD WARMER **R4899**

WE GUARANTEE THE BEST DEALS

Nathan, Tony & Len
previously of
HNT furnishers,
are back and better than ever!
With a combined furniture experience of over 100 years, they'll have you relaxed in no time!





FURNISHERS

MIDWAYS MALL 280 Corlett Drive, Bramley Gardens Tel: 011 887 5456 / 011 440 9571
Open: Monday to Friday 8am - 5pm / Saturday 8am - 1pm • Sunday 10am - 1pm www.ideal furn.co.za

Security: Government reassures Jewish community

VANESSA VALKIN

Amid the wave of Islamic terrorist attacks in Diaspora communities in recent months, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) has prioritised trying to meet with local government ministers to ensure that the clear and present danger that Islamic terror presents within our own borders and particularly for the Jewish community, was well understood.

Their chance came last week when SAJBD President Zev Krengel and Chairman Mary Kluk, got to meet with new State Security Minister David Mahlobo who took over the post when President Jacob Zuma was re-elected last May, as well as with his deputy, Minister Ellen Molekane.

After incidents like the Hyper Cacher supermarket killings in Paris and the murder of a Jewish security guard outside a synagogue in Copenhagen, the Board wanted to ensure that the South African government fully understood the real threat of Islamic fundamentalism and the possibilities of terror cells within South Africa, said Krengel.

“We currently don’t have knowledge of an increased threat to the Jewish community, but we know, due to the increased terrorist attacks on Jewish communities in the world, that we have to increase our level of security,” Krengel told the Jewish Report.

The Board said they were very reassured after their discussions that the government’s intelligence units were being hyper-vigilant.

“They understand the seriousness of the situation and they know the dangers.”

Meetings were also held last week with Minister in the Presidency Jeff Radebe, Minister



Wendy Kahn, Jevon Greenblatt, Deputy Minister Ellen Molekane, Zev Krengel, Minister David Mahlobo, Mary Kluk, Jeff Katz.

of Women Susan Shabangu, and Minister of Justice Michael Masutha. Some of them were attended by Canadian Member of Parliament and former Canadian Minister of Justice Professor Irwin Cotler, who was in South Africa as a guest of the Zionist Federation Conference.

Having Professor Cotler there for the meeting with Justice Minister Masutha was very positive, the Board said, in that it allowed for fruitful intercourse on lessons learnt by an older democracy like Canada and a very new one, South Africa.

Discussions centred on topics ranging from how judges get selected, to issues of hate speech and at what stage in a complaint of discrimination does the Board give up on attempting to negotiate and reconcile, and seek justice.

In the meetings with Minister Radebe, who as Minister for Planning, Performance, Monitoring, Evaluation and Administration, essentially oversees the other ministers, the Board’s stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was

discussed. In the meetings, which included Cotler, the Board reiterated the South African Jewish community’s support for the SA government’s role in helping the peace process and

Radebe himself expressed a recommitment by government to help on this path.

In July last year, at the height of Operation Protective Edge, Zuma appointed Zola Skweyiya and Aziz Pahad as envoys to the Middle East to call for a ceasefire. The two have since tried to remain engaged.

According to Krengel, Cotler also asked in their meetings that Radebe and various government ministers who had been imprisoned during the apartheid struggle, consider taking mentoring roles for high profile political prisoners in other parts of the world like Shi’i Muslim cleric Ayatollah Boroujerdi, an advocate of the separation of religion and government, who has been imprisoned several times by the Iranian government as well as prisoner Raif Badawi, who was arrested in 2012 for insulting Islam through electronic channels in Saudi Arabia.

Madonsela is passionate about ‘sacrosanct’ Constitution



TALI FEINBERG

Public Protector Thuli Madonsela and former DA leader Tony Leon in conversation was bound to fill the Gardens Shul in Cape Town. More than 500 people, eager to listen, particularly to Madonsela’s views, attended.

In the discussion, arranged by the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies, the two spoke about the challenges, successes and aims of the Public Protector’s work.

Most democracies today have a national institution similar to the Public Protector, empowered by legislation, in our case the SA Constitution, which helps in establishing and maintaining efficient and proper public administration and in “investigating and redressing improper and prejudicial conduct, maladministration and abuse of power in state affairs”, according to its stated mission.

While the Gardens Shul discussion focused mainly on national politics, it demonstrated the Jewish community’s commitment to engaging with South African society and its challenges.

Getting down to the “R246 million dollar question”, in Leon’s words, the two discussed Madonsela’s report on President Jacob Zuma’s Nkandla home- stead, where she had stated that Zuma and his family had unduly benefited from some of the upgrades at his home and suggested that he pay back some of the money.

But Madonsela would not criticise the president directly, saying that she “tries not to personalise things. We rather ask how best we can help the President regarding the enforcement of ethics.”

She added that she thought her report on Nkandla would be resolved to her satisfaction, no matter how long it took.

Leon put to Madonsela the question of why she thought she was so well known, while her predecessors had been practically “invisible”.

“They had to make simpler decisions, and had to build this office from scratch. I stand on their shoulders and therefore ‘higher ground’,” she answered.

Questions from the audience included whether she had ever feared for her safety. She admitted that her family “was concerned”.

Asked about her plans for the future, she re-emphasised that she “has no interest in going into politics”.

On why corruption seemed so prevalent and widespread, she answered: “We are actually not the most corrupt country; we’re in fact one of the most transparent. Our Constitution is a sacrosanct agreement between citizens and those in power and my aim is for everyone to know it, so that leaders can be held accountable.

“What I’m proud of is that South Africans are saying ‘no’ to maladministration, which is why we are hearing more about it. There are many institutions that are successful in fighting these challenges, but these are not grounds for resting on our laurels. Every South African has to play their part.”

Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies Chairman Eric Marx, in kicking off the event, reiterated that the South African Jewish Board of Deputies “works for the betterment of human relations in South Africa and debates issues of concern for all South Africans. We draw inspiration from our Jewish values and traditions to effect social change.”

This view was echoed by Gardens Synagogue Rabbi Osher Feldman, who said that the parsha of the week in fact dealt with accountability, describing how Moses ensured that a record was kept of all the precious metals used to build the Mishkan.

“Stories like these demonstrate how Judaism expects every person in power to behave beyond reproach,” he said.

These ideas were echoed by Madonsela herself, who said that one of her aims during her years in office had been to encourage more people to be aware of corruption, engage government and to expect accountability. She added: “We [the office of the Public Protector] get more acclaim than we deserve. We are not the only problem-solvers - we are simply one of many.”

Describing the limits and challenges of her work, she told the audience: “We only have the power to make findings and recommendations.”

Yet she hoped systems would be put in place to enforce them. Since the fall of the Scorpions, she said, even more corruption cases had come to her office, but had not all been adequately dealt with yet, due to a lack of resources.

DEMO CLEARANCE SALE



SX4
CROSSOVER

1.6 GLX 5MT

FOR ONLY R239 900

Retail price includes 3yr / 90 000km service plan

With all the bells and whistles

SUZUKI
MOBILITY FINANCE


A division of WesBank

SUZUKI BRAMLEY

Dealer of the year 2010 & 2013

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

Tel: 0861 673 673 - 011 887 5422

To view all stock go to www.suzukibramley.co.za

Pics for illustration purposes only. Terms and Conditions Apply. E&OE


SUZUKI


Way of Life!

ane_51_400_SuzukiBramley

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

Trending in truth

The Chev is frequently the subject of discussion among people in the community, which is as it should be. The organisation has a large and longstanding presence and its impact on lives here is considerable. Most of the time the talk is around the good work we do and the way in which we help and support people which, provided the information is accurate, is heart-warming.

But sometimes conversations revolve around distorted and fictitious versions of Chev policy, the challenges we face and the demographics and statistics of SA Jewry.



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

can, and does, cause havoc. In this day and age when social media offers infinite opportunities for people to pontificate in chat rooms, on blogs and on Facebook groups, the habit takes on an ever more ominous dimension.

Here are just two pronouncements I recently saw online:

“All aged Jews in SA have been abandoned by their families who have emigrated.”

“The shuls are all empty, everyone has left.”

We understand the enormous power of words and how repeating untruths adds credibility to them. So I’d like to suggest that we launch a “new” mode of behaviour by making the truth popular. Let’s demand that people provide credible sources when they generalise. Let’s challenge them to back up their words with real evidence, or remain silent and admit they don’t know.

Let’s trend in truth - in person, on our cells and on the Internet - and set the example for others by watching our own words and demanding that they watch theirs.

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

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha

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

@the right time
@the right place
@Grant Thornton

We’ve moved.

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

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

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

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



Grant Thornton

An instinct for growth™

95

years of making a difference

Audit • Tax • Advisory

www.gt.co.za

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

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Cotler makes a strong impression

As reported elsewhere in this week’s issue, the past two weeks have been very busy ones for the Board in terms of its meetings with senior members of government, among them Cabinet ministers - Michael Masutha (Justice), Susan Shabangu (Women’s Affairs), David Mahlobo (State Security) and Jeff Radebe (Presidency).

We were accompanied at these meetings by our distinguished guest Professor Irwin Cotler, himself a former minister of justice in his native Canada and an internationally respected human rights activist and legal academic.

Through the Board, Professor Cotler also met with various leading figures in the legal fraternity, Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke and former Justice Albie Sachs, as well as with Democratic Alliance MPs.

At all these meetings, issues relating to Jewish security and combating hate crimes and anti-Semitism were discussed. As in previous visits, Professor Cotler made a strong impression on all he met through the wisdom, expertise and experience he brings in confronting these complex questions.

Saddened by Collins Chabane’s death

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic passing of Minister Collins Chabane over the weekend. This has deprived not only South Africa of one of its most capable and dedicated leaders, but also our Jewish community of a good friend, one who was an unfailing source of advice, support and reassurance to the SAJBD.

I had the opportunity of meeting on a number of occasions with Minister Chabane and found him to be unfailingly warm and helpful. In our press statement, which featured in numerous media reports, we emphasised how this was reflective of his deep commitment to ensuring the peaceful co-existence of all South Africans.

Government not hostile to Jewish interests

There exists in our community an impression that government is hostile to Jewish interests, but I can state unequivocally from our own experiences that nothing could be further from the

truth. Government representatives with whom we have met, have consistently shown an appreciation for what Jews have done and are doing to build up our country, and been very understanding of the concerns we have regarding security and anti-Semitism.

In addition to government meetings, we have also in recent weeks been engaging with constituencies with whom we had previously had little dealings and where in fact a fair amount of antagonism has existed. These include the Young Communist League, ANC Youth League, National Union of Mineworkers and the ANC Veterans association.

It has come as a pleasant surprise to find that notwithstanding our differences over the Israeli-Palestinian question, there is at the end of the day far more that unites than divides us.

We share the same vision for achieving a prosperous, just and united South Africa, and would like to find ways in which we can assist one another in furthering these goals.

That being said, it is a reality that Middle East conflict is a source of bitter contention within different sectors of the South African population and that increasingly, this is spilling over into overt expressions of ant-Semitism. The stance of the Board is that while we can agree to differ on the rights and wrongs of the conflict itself, using it as an excuse to threaten, denigrate or otherwise cause harm to our Jewish community is a red line that cannot be crossed. Here, too, I can confidently say that the Board and government are on the same page, and remain committed to working together to address such problems whenever they occur.

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

This column paid for by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

Community Voices

Keeping kosher – at a steep price

Ongoing complaints about the price of keeping kosher is nothing out of the ordinary. But the gripes are intensified when it comes to filling up a trolley for Pesach - maybe the quantities are more because of the seders and increased entertaining of guests, but no one is quite sure why our Pesach tables are laden and our pockets are so empty. The SA Jewish Report posed the question to some of our readers: “Pesach products are already on the shelves. Do you find the prices exorbitant or the same as last year?”

SUZANNE BELLING

“Definitely worse than last year,” said **Shirley Cohen**. “So much so that I am going back to basics completely.” She is determined not to purchase any ready-made, tinned or prepared food and will make it all herself. “Matzah is the only ready-made product I am buying,” she said.

Rabbi Stephen Jawitz says he shops for Pesach throughout the year, when prices are cut and goods still have a six to eight month shelf life. “Then we use it on Pesach. Actually, things do appear more expensive this year but I haven’t really looked to compare prices yet.” “It pays to shop around. I did manage to buy a bottle of Pesach wine for R39.

Justine King was visibly shocked at the prices of Pesach goods. “It is an opportunity for retailers to take more money for basic necessities,” she said.

“It certainly gets expensive,” said **Lawrence Knopp**. “I haven’t actually seen the prices this year as compared to last year. But I am gritting my teeth and just hoping some things will be cheaper.”

Leanne Margo says she has noticed a “significant increase” in prices. “Maybe the retailers and suppliers should take another look at the problem and be a bit more realistic. We look at the posters saying ‘Kosher is Kool’ but this is not realistic if they want young people to keep kosher.”



LIFTS OFFERED

A TAXI SERVICE
Let Warren Pogorelsky chauffeur you to your destination in Johannesburg and back. OR Tambo from R170. Mercedes Benz
Tel: 082-399-6187
Sun City & Game Reserve

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

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

SERVICES
HOME SERVICES

WANTED

All household furniture, linen, kitchenware, clothing & more. All size beds & bases.
Call Terry: 076-533-1440

EMPLOYMENT
WANTED

TEACHER REQUIRED

Shaarei Torah Schools are looking for a grade 6 teacher to start April 15. Hours: 12:20 - 15:00 pm.
Call (011) 887-0744 during office hours

To place your classified advert call (011) 430-1980 or email daisy@sajewishreport.co.za

CAPE TOWN
HOWIE'S SHUTTLE
Since 2007

- AIRPORT TRANSFERS
- GENERAL TRANSPORT

www.howiesshuttle.co.za
Please phone Howard
082-711-4616

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

AIRPORT SHUTTLE
SAM
(011) 728-5219
083-627-8516

To OR Tambo from R180.
To Lanseria from R220.
Reasonable rates to all other areas.

LIFT SERVICE OFFERED

Reliable and punctual
Lifts to appointments, airport, visits, shopping, to and from school. Have worked with the elderly, organised outings and creative activities.
Call Simone Mayer
082-871-2222

SERVICES
HOME SERVICES

DECEASED ESTATE HOUSE CLEARANCES

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

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

SERVICES
NOTICES

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

ACCOMMODATION
AVAILABLE

FLAT TO SHARE

Garden unit in a beautiful secure complex in Sandringham. Pool in complex.
Call: 073-830-4774

FLAT TO LET

Flat in Sandringham, modern 2-bedroom flat. Lock-up garage. R5 500 p/month
Call Melissa
082-444-2551

IF YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL A VEHICLE

CONTACT:
SOLLY KRAMER
082-922-3597

VEHICLES WANTED
WE PAY CASH

ANY MAKE
ANY MODEL
ANY CONDITION
ALSO ACCIDENT –
DAMAGED VEHICLES
& NON RUNNERS
WANTED
CALL ARNOLD ORKIN

Hasofer
Rabbi Yisroel
Drutman
סופר סופר
Est. 2003

1: 2711 640 1834
c: 2782 347 8744
yisroeldrutmansofer@gmail.com

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

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

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

What's On

SA JEWISH REPORT 15

Today, Friday (March 20)

- Jewish Genealogical Society of SA hosts Cliff Mathews who will present a film and talk titled "Bassia's Kaddish - a Dream Comes True". Venue: HOD, Orchard. Time: 19:30. Donation: R20 (incl refreshments). Information: Mo (011) 887-7764.

Sunday (March 22)

- The Johannesburg Light Music Society meets at the Roosevelt Park Recreation Centre (behind the fire station on Beyers Naude Drive) and features Benny Michel, who will present a programme on "Announcers Choice", followed by Alan Garlick, who will present a programme with a Latin theme. The meeting starts at 14:00 sharp. Enquiries: David or Eileen, (011) 678-9725.
- A plaque will be affixed in the Johan-

Wednesday (March 25)

- Second Innings hosts Tali Nates on: "Creating the Biggest Holocaust and Genocide Centre in Africa - From a Dream to a Reality". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R30 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Information: Linda Fleishman, (011) 532-9616.
- Shalom Bayit hosts a seminar on "Domestic Abuse", with panelists Chief

Friday (March 27)

- Rabbi Warren Goldstein; Brenda Laser-sohn; Lisa Vetten; and Brenda Solarsh. Venue: Sydenham Shul. Enquiries: Barbara (011) 645-2159. Donation: R60.
- Shalom Masorti has started a Seniors Club and invites visitors on the last Friday of each month. Tea will be served and there will be a selection of board games, cards, including bridge. Venue:6 Elray Street, Roedene. Time: 14:30. Enquiries: Esther Alper (011) 485-5619.
- UZLC hosts Russell Gaddin who will speak on "Israeli Politics". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

What's on the web this week...

Top reads on www.sajr.co.za over the past week:

Cape Town pundit Aubrey Katzeff's updates on the Israeli election outcome were the most read item culminating in Monday's: "Bibi-led coalition still Aubrey's call" in which he was spot-on. Despite polls, Aubrey predicted "Arab voters... could increase their representation from 11 to 13," and a Bibi-led coalition was still on the cards.

Anti-Zionism is the new anti-Semitism, says Natan Sharansky.
Read our exclusive in-depth interview - "I don't want to be the commissar of aliyah".

Benji Shulman's "Team work pays off in combating IAW" complimented SAUJS' response to "the hate and vitriol" of Israel Apartheid Week and turned it on its head with their "Israel Awareness Week".

"Fed elects new national office bearers" was very well read and users weren't shy about voicing their opinions, as was Pam Stein's letter, "Lukewarm response at SAZF Conference saddening".

SAJR's exclusive interview with Hebrew University's Prof Friedman: "Israel simply can't afford to export water", was an eye-opener on why Israel is a world leader in smart agriculture, how much they co-operate

with SA and how Hebrew University is helping to solve SA's bee crisis, arguably the biggest threat to SA agriculture and food security ever.

Top reads right now:
Today's top read: Pesach shopping season starts with a bang
Gaza terror group's social media attempt to schmooze Europeans blows up in their face: " Hamas over-run with embarrassing questions" and suggests Hamas leader's personal wealth is \$2,6 billion.

"You Jews don't belong in SA!" Angry Mary Kluk reacts - see Board's video documenting anti-Semitic rants by BDS and Cabinet member.

Sitting side-by-side in the hairdresser: "Jews & blacks share love of sheitls".

Bev Goldman at her best with: "Thirteen of the best Zionist reads around".

NEWSLETTER:

Did you know you can get your Jewish Report e-Paper sent to you with our free weekly e-mail newsletter every Wednesday evening? Simply go to www.sajr.co.za and type in your e-mail address on the right hand column of any page. It is as simple as that! Join our over 7 000 subscribers and you will never be late getting your news.

At 100, looking back on a life well lived

SUZANNE BELLING

On meeting Sarah Copelowitz (pictured) who turns 100 on Shabbat Hagadol (28 March, the Shabbat before Pesach), one comes away feeling that this centenarian's lifestyle can hardly be believed.

The Oxford Synagogue which she terms "my baby", is her second home - she lives across the road and has hardly missed a Shabbat morning service there, save when she travelled 30 times to the US to see her daughter Leone Abrams, sister Essie Shubitz (98), her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and the rest of her family, many of whom will be in Johannesburg for her party at the Killarney Golf Club.

When she turned 99, she decided her travels had ended. She also stopped living alone and doing her own cooking and housekeeping, employing a live-in caregiver.

Her spiritual leader, Rabbi Yossi Chaikin, brought her "astonishing achievements" to the attention of Jewish Report.

Copelowitz is an institution in the shul, where she and her friend Sari Desatnik taught bridge and where she still plays the game. They originally started bridge classes at the Sydenham-Highlands North Hebrew Congregation.

The two women also founded the Sunshine Club - bingo for seniors - for the Union of Jewish Women.

Copelowitz who recalls travelling in an ox wagon and horse and cart, says she has been blessed with good health and a wonderful family.

"She has scarcely been to a doctor and her regular medication comprises only four pills a day," says her great-niece Melanie Ossip.

This sprightly centenarian amazes everyone with her computer

literacy, sending her own e-mails and messages. She is also an avid reader, spending half the day with her books "when I don't have visitors".

She was born into a religious Orthodox family, with her father Yitzchak Katz, an intellectual and a Torah scholar. Her father acted as a reverend for the Lions Shul (Doornfontein Hebrew Congregation). "I learnt Hebrew and Torah from him and my brother, Morris, and ended up teaching Hebrew myself."

Copelowitz was one of eight children and helped to run the household. "Although I always wanted to be a doctor," she says, she ended up becoming a shorthand typist.

She attended Jewish Guild Elementary School and then Athlone Girls' High. Her working career, however, was short-lived when she met and married a distant relative, Louis Copelowitz, who came to South Africa at the height of the Lithuanian and Polish immigration.

"We all gathered in my parents' home, which was a meeting place for the immigrants. It was very hard for my husband initially as he had to learn English, but he found work in a furniture factory." Later, he bought up lots of properties and made a good living.

The couple had four children - Stanley, Ethne, Ivan and Leone. Stanley and Ethne have since passed on.

In 1969 she and her husband were involved in a terrible car accident. He was killed and her legs were badly burnt. She took over the management of their properties and only sold them when she turned 95.

She played bowls until recently and only stopped driving in her nineties.

Rabbi Chaikin paid tribute to this stalwart of his congregation. "I wish her many more happy healthy years and naches from her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren," he said.

Photo: Suzanne Belling

So close for Earl and his Davis Cup team...

JACK MILNER

Tennis is often said to be a game of millimetres and in the end it was a matter of millimetres that separated the Turkish and South African Davis Cup teams in their tie played in Mersin, Turkey, earlier this month, which Turkey won. Earl Grainger was thrown into the deep end when John-Laffnie de Jager resigned as South Africa's Davis Cup captain and Earl was asked to stand in at the last minute. He has been the SA Federation Cup captain for the past year and after a slow start for the girls last year February, they fought back brilliantly to win their way into the Europe/Africa Zone Group 1.

Away Davis Cup ties are never easy and to play in a place like Turkey, is particularly difficult. To make matters worse Earl also went without South Africa's No 1 player, Kevin Anderson. What he had was a young and inexperienced team, all ranked in the 400s, with the best doubles player in the two teams, in world No 27 Raven Klaasen. The singles players comprised Fritz Wolmarans, Tucker Vorster and Ruan Roelofse, all ranked between 433 and 449. The Turks had a similar problem but at least their No 1 player had a singles ranking of 77. The problem with these players is they rarely get the opportunity to play the best of five sets

and the whole approach to the match changes. Players need to keep energy in reserve. Wolmarans opened the tie for South Africa against Turkey's No 2 Cem Erkel and quickly was up two sets to love. However, he lost the third set in a tie-breaker but raced away to win the fourth set 6-1. Turkey, as expected, came back to level the tie when their No 1, Marsel Ilhan, comfortably beat Tucker Vorster in straight sets. South Africa was always expected to win the doubles rubber and when Klaasen and Roelofse led Erkel and Ilhan 6-3 6-2, the outcome looked a formality. However, the South Africans battled to close it out and the Turks won the next two sets to level the match.

Even when South Africa went up a break in the final set, they dropped their serve in the very next game. But Klaasen's experience coupled with Roelofse's tenacity saw them win the final set 6-4 to give SA a 2-1 lead.

"We should have won that match in three sets and I think that would have set the tone for the final day," said Earl. "By letting the Turks back, we also allowed the crowd back into the match."

Wolmarans was determined not to go down without a fight against Ilhan. The Turk won the first two sets, but Wolmarans won the next two sets and only capitulated late in the fifth, going down 8-6.

It all came down to the final rubber and once Vorster was declared unable to play by the doctor due to an injury, it all was up to Roelofse. "We had no choice. The doctor said Tucker wouldn't have been able to play two sets and we would have lost it on a retirement in any case. But Ruan rose to the occasion and we were just a little bit unlucky."

Roelofse was involved in a marathon match. He had seven set points in the opening set but lost it 13-11 in the tie-breaker. However, he went on to win the next two sets but like Wolmarans, went down 6-4 in the final set.

"Ruan played well but just didn't close it out. I think overall we allowed the crowd to influence us. The umpiring was not very good. They even had linesmen who were clapping when Turkey won a point!

"It was a great team effort and we need to continue building for the future," said Earl. The next tie will be against Ireland but it is



Earl Grainger, South Africa's Davis Cup and Federation Cup captain, in a pensive mood.


due to be played in South Africa after Wimbledon in July. One has to accept that when a person like Earl steps into a role like this, the daggers are out. "I realise I haven't played at the top level of the game and I knew I was going to be criticised. I told the team that I can't offer what JL (De Jager) has to offer. "My biggest asset is to build the team. I know what I'm about and I'm a great motivator. I wanted a positive aura around the team and I told them we are moving on from the past." Earl has opened the lines for Anderson and they are discussing the possibility of the world No 17 playing for his country. Earl had also managed to convince Chani Scheepers to return to the Fed Cup team and that made a huge difference in their Europe/Africa Zone 2 competition in Estonia last month. Considering the odds against them, the SA Davis Cup team performed very well in Turkey and Earl has to be complemented for a job well done. It can only get better from here.

MACSTEEL

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

- Aluminium
- Blanking
- Bright Bar
- Castellated Beams
- Cellular Beams
- Cold Form Sections
- Cold Saw Cutting
- Conveyance Pipe
- Corrugated Roofing
- Drilling
- Expanded Metal
- Fencing Products
- Flame Cutting
- Flanges
- Fluid Control Systems
- Freestock
- Galvanized Sheets
- Galvanized Tubing
- Grating
- Guillotining
- Harveytiles
- Heat Treatment Services
- High Strength Steels
- Hollow Bar
- IBR Roofing
- Laboratory Services
- Laser Cutting

- Laser Cut Tubing
- Lipped Channels
- Open Sections
- Palisade Fencing
- Pipe Fittings
- Plasma Cutting
- Plates
- Plate Bending & Rolling
- Pre-coated Sheets
- Pressure Vessel Steels
- Profile Sections
- Purlins
- Rails
- Reinforcing
- Roofing Solutions
- Sheets
- Slitting
- Special Steels
- Stainless Steels
- Stretcher Leveling
- Structural Steels
- Technical Consultancy
- Tool Steels
- Tubing
- Valves & Actuators
- Wear Resistant Steels
- Zincalume Roof Sheets



MACSTEEL
SERVICE CENTRES SA

Best Quality, Service, Value!

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

World News in Brief

Paris kosher supermarket re-opens after terror attack

PARIS - Hyper Cacher, the Paris kosher supermarket that was the scene of an Islamist terrorist attack in January, re-opened last Sunday. The store was badly damaged in the attack and has been fully renovated, and re-opened with new staff, AFP reported. Muslim terrorist Amedy Coulibaly took nearly 20 Jewish shoppers hostage at Hyper Cacher and killed four of them. The attack came just days after the office of the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo was also attacked by a Muslim terrorist in a shooting that killed 12 people. (JNS.org)

KosherWorld



TRULY KOSHER



Wishing you and the entire community

Pesach

Kasher v' Sameach

כשר
פסח
ושמח



1 LONG AVENUE CNR RIDGE AND SUMMERWAY GLENHAZEL | CALL: 011 440 9517 | info@kosherworld.co.za | www.kosherworld.co.za
TRADING HOURS: MON-THURS 7AM-10PM | FRI: 7AM-4PM | SAT: 1/2 HOUR AFTER SHABBOS -10PM | SUN: 8AM - 10PM

SPACEWORX_KOSH_1151_JR