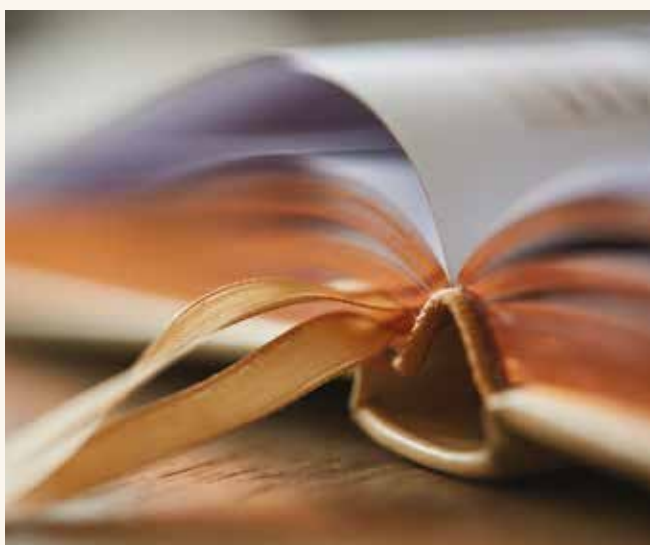


News getting you down?

There's a psalm for that.



Tehillim, the book of Psalms, is an incomparable work of Divine inspiration that is able to give expression to any emotion, remove any barrier, elevate any heart. Whatever your situation, whatever inner connection you need to make – there’s a Psalm for that.

The Tzemach Tzedek, the third Lubavitcher Rebbe said, “If you only knew the power of Tehillim, you would say them all day.” While “all day” may be unrealistic, a few minutes a day is not, which is the very idea behind the ‘There’s a Psalm for That’ drive. With your help, we can get a copy of Tehillim into the hands of every South African Jewish child and teenager, including adults who cannot afford one.

We are also launching a drive to encourage the saying of Tehillim so that every Jew can experience the transformational power of Tehillim for themselves - all while helping to fulfill the Rebbe’s wish that every Jewish home has Torah books.

**You can play a meaningful role by either making a donation
or by sponsoring the drive.**





Shabbat times this week		
Starts	Ends	
17:44	18:32	Johannesburg
18:19	19:09	Cape Town
17:31	18:20	Durban
17:50	18:39	Bloemfontein
17:50	18:40	Port Elizabeth
17:41	18:31	East London

Appliance Repairs on Site

Fridges, Dishwashers,
Washing Machines, Stoves
Tumble Dryers & more

Call Jason
082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532
FREE QUOTATIONS

HAROLD'S REMOTES
Est. 1977

Keys & Key Cutting

Remote Control Transmitters for

★ Alarms ★ Gates ★

★ Garage Doors ★

81 Hathorn Avenue Cnr Durham St,
Raedene Estate (free parking)
Tel: 082-881-3720

DECEASED ESTATE
HOUSE CLEARANCES

Entire households cleared
professionally & confidentially.

We will take the burden off your
shoulders and pay you for it.

For a trusted service call
Ladislav Miklas on 079 810 8837
ladimiklas22@gmail.com



medicare

Savoy Pharmacy Clinic Hours

Mon – Fri 9:00am – 3:00pm

WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING SERVICES

- Videomed Instore
- Cholesterol Screening
- Vaccinations
- Family Planning
- Discovery Vitality Assessments

- First Aid & Wound Care
- Breast Feeding Advice
- Baby Milestones
- Immunisations
- Rapid HIV Testing & Counselling
- Ear Piercing

580 Louis Botha Ave, Savoy Estate (Opp Nando's)
Tel: (011) 885-1200/1 • Email: savoy@medicarepharmacies.co.za

VEHICLES WANTED



Any make, any model, any condition
Accident damaged vehicles and non-runners also wanted

 Arnold Orkin 082 823 7826
AUTO AFRICA

SA condemns US recognition of Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan

TALI FEINBERG

The South African government this week went against United States President Donald Trump recognising of Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Experts say this is unlikely to help relations with either the US or Israel.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation released a statement on Tuesday saying: “South Africa joins the international community in expressing concerns on the US Administration’s decision to recognise Israel’s sovereignty over the Syrian Heights.”

This came after Trump upended decades of US policy by announcing – on Twitter – that he did not expect Israel to give up the Golan Heights.

“After 52 years it is time for the United States to fully recognise Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which is of critical strategic and security importance to the State of Israel and regional stability!” he wrote on 21 March.

The Golan is a strategic territory captured from Syria in the Six-Day War and formally annexed in 1981. The annexure has not been recognised by many countries, but few Israelis could ever imagine returning this vital piece of land.

Nine months after the start of the Syrian civil war in March 2011, an overwhelming 77% of Israelis said it would not be possible for Israel to return the Golan Heights.

DIRCO referred to the “unilateral decision” of the US as a “serious violation of UN Charter, International Law (sic) and applicable UN Security Council resolutions”. The statement

went on to say: “Such unilateral declarations constitute a severe setback to the rule of law and international norms.

“The government of the Republic of South Africa will not support any unilateral action by the US government that undermines efforts of creating peace and stability in the Middle East region.”



“...the US is out of step with the rest of the world on the Golan.”

It then called on the United Nations Security Council to exercise its mandate in preserving international peace and security, and implement its relevant resolutions to take the Golan Heights from Israel to give to Syria.

Political analyst Steven Gruzd said: “This move appears to follow from President Trump’s approach of acknowledging the realities on the ground, as he did with recognising Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. But the US is out of step with the rest of the world on the Golan.”

He said South Africa condemning the move would not help to improve the country’s ties with either Israel or the US. “Israel would be unlikely to surrender the Golan Heights due to its strategic importance as high ground, and any peace deal with Syria looks far off anyway. I don’t think this will, on its own, affect the relationship between South Africa and the US. South Africa has adopted a generally anti-Trump orientation and this fits into that

mould. But Pretoria’s close ties with Tehran and Damascus might come into the reckoning when the US considers how to relate to South Africa going forward.”

Former diplomat J Brooks Spector, who hails from the US and lives in South Africa, said Trump’s announcement came as a shock to many, and was seen as being “a little too involved in the domestic electoral policies of Israel”. In other words, this might be a way to boost Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the polls.

Spector said the South African government condemning the move was in line with many other countries. He also did not think this would particularly affect South African-US relations, as it was mainly a symbolic move. However, he pointed out that South Africa had voted with the US on just 18% of United Nations resolutions, meaning they are not in sync on many topics.

Although Trump’s Golan Heights comment is highly symbolic, it will not change much on the ground. For Spector, this is the curious aspect of moves such as these – they make a big statement but don’t actually lead to any changes towards peace in the Middle East.

He added that these gestures have pushed the parties further apart, making it more difficult for the Trump administration to enact its peace plan.

He also mentioned that Trump often announced these decisions on Twitter, at odd hours, which means “they are not going through the structures and mechanisms that have been there with every other post-war president. There is definitely a new ad hoc spontaneity to making such foreign policy decisions.”

Torah Thought

Are you ready for Pesach?

Pesach is steadily approaching. The sights, sounds, and smells of Yom Tov already fill the air of Jewish homes everywhere. Schools have been teaching kids the four questions, shuls are booming with holiday studies, shops’ shelves are stocked with a multitude of fabulous new products, and some lucky guests are booked for The Pesach Retreat.

The Torah instructs us that in every generation we ought to experience the exodus from Egypt. How can we do so if we’re not slaves today?

When we read our haggadahs this Pesach, let the message not just be one of history, but rather let’s experience it as our story. How do we do this?

Slavery finds many forms and takes on various appearances. In the days of old, it was depicted by a whip toting task master hovering over a slave with a chain wrapped around his ankle. Today, bondage is often found in our jobs, relationships, and attitudes, where we find ourselves

addicted to certain negative traits and have difficulty “breaking free”.

Is this not the modern-day equivalent of slavery?

As we begin the Pesach holiday and celebration of freedom, we are reminded that the stories we recount and the rituals we observe are more about a commitment to the present than reminiscing about the past. During this time of year, we once again reaffirm our obligation to fight all forms of bigotry, negativity, and slavery, whether within or without. Most importantly, we devote ourselves to being positive members of society at a time when we all crave the priceless blessing of universal peace.

As our Pesach menus continue to expand, diversify, and become more sophisticated, let’s make sure that our understanding and appreciation of this holiday’s significance progresses at least apace with our culinary prowess.

Do you understand the meaning of the litany of biblical quotes and rabbinic commentary that we read? If not, perhaps it’s time to trade in your old haggadah for something with explanations. Do you know more about the exodus now than you were taught as a kid in *cheder*? Are you familiar with the rich significance attached to the many rituals of the seder experience?

It’s time to enrich our Jewish observance, and tap into the relevant holiday messages. There are so many resources available today at our fingertips. A website I would recommend is ChabadSouthAfrica.org/Passover which is chock full of holiday information, from practical, how-to guides and deep mystical insights to recipes and games for the entire family.

Pesach is coming. Let’s be ready!




Rabbi Ari Kievman, Chabad’s Goodness & Kindness Centre

south african

Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

Editor Peta Krost Maunder – editor@sajewishreport.co.za • Sub-editors Julie Leibowitz • Helena Nell
Journalists: Nicola Miltz • Tali Feinberg • Jordan Moshe
Editorial co-ordinator Martine Bass – editorial@sajewishreport.co.za
Proofreader Kim Hatchuel – kim@a-proofed.co.za • CEO Dani Kedar – ceo@sajewishreport.co.za • Advertising Britt Landsman: 082 292 9520 – britt@sajewishreport.co.za • Design and layout Bryan Maron/Design Bandits – bryan@designbandits.co.za
Subscriptions Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860 525 200 • Board of Directors Howard Sackstein (Chairperson), Herby Rosenberg, Dina Diamond, Herschel Jawitz, Shaun Matisonn, Benji Porter. Advertisements and editorial copy do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff and board of directors. Tel: 011 430 1980.



The SA Jewish Report subscribes to the Code of Ethics and Conduct for South African Print and Online Media that prescribes news that is truthful, accurate, fair and balanced. If we don't live up to the Code, within 20 days of the date of publication of the material, please contact the Public Advocate at 011 484 3612, fax: 011 484 3619. You can also contact our Case Officer on khanyim@ombudsman.org.za or lodge a complaint on their website: www.presscouncil.org.za



All quiet on the Israel Apartheid Week front

JORDAN MOSHE AND
TALI FEINBERG

Israel Apartheid Week (IAW) in South Africa has been extraordinarily uneventful during the first half of this week. This is a fact on both the campuses of the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and the University of Cape Town (UCT), which are ordinarily hotbeds of confrontation and heckling.

Instead, IAW was defined this year by a pervading sense of calm and, in some cases, fun on the part of the pro-Israel side.

The South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) had set up its installation on the Wits west campus. Manned the whole day by committee members and representatives of the Israel advocacy group StandWithUs, the space was geared towards engaging dialogue and healthy interaction. Lunchtime saw a different event each day, including guest addresses, Israeli cuisine tasting, and a unity concert.

Unusually, not a single event was disrupted by the opposition, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), which in previous years had made a point of heckling speakers and engaging in confrontation with pro-Israel attendees.

Instead, the few identifiable anti-Israel students kept to the vicinity of their “wall” installation and hosted very low-key talks and film screenings. Consequently, the mood among the supporters of Israel was one of elation.

“What we thought was an April Fools’ joke evolved into a fascinating observation about the two organisations responsible for IAW on campus, the PSC and PSF (Palestine Solidarity Forum), being virtually AWOL,” said Wendy Kahn, national director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. “Their mangy attempts at their annual ‘wall’ raised questions about the future of this hateful week.

“The extraordinary IAW flop resulted in nothing short of a celebration of Israel by SAUJS students. For the past 12 years, I have spent IAW on Johannesburg campuses supporting our students and monitoring what has generally degenerated into ugly anti-Semitism, intimidation, and threats. It is no

coincidence that the one year the PSC campaigns were negligible is the first year we have not had an anti-Semitic incident.”

The situation at UCT was much the same. “It is almost like there is zero presence of IAW on campus,” said Nathan Esra, SAUJS chairperson at UCT. “They only requested space for their stand on the plaza last week. They seem to be extremely disorganised.”

Although a “wall” was erected across the UCT campus plaza, only three PSF students stood by it on Wednesday afternoon.

When the SA Jewish Report asked why they were participating in IAW, their answers were vague and unsure. “The main thing is to raise awareness about what’s happening in Palestine... the killing... and oppression...” they said.

They could not provide specific examples. And when asked where “Palestine” is, they said it should be “everywhere”. Indeed, the back of their wall said, ‘From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.’

The three students said they did not believe in a Jewish state. Asked

whether Jewish students who are Zionists had a place on campus, one woman said, “I don’t want to answer that question.” She later added: “If you believe in someone else’s oppression, then no.”

They said they believed picking on Israel was fair, and it was a “deductive argument” that they should also be protesting against human



IAW debate on Wits campus



Photo: Tali Feinberg

Written on the back of the anti-Israel lobby wall: “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free”

In contrast, the SAUJS students on UCT campus appeared energised and enthusiastic. At a stand alongside the plaza, their posters said there was “no place for hate” on campus. Another section allowed students to hold up a sign saying they are Zionist and whatever other identity they choose – for example, “pro-peace”.

The absence of confrontation this year could be attributed to a number of issues, said Sara Gon, a policy fellow at the Institute of Race Relations. “There has been the backlash against UCT’s attempt to achieve an academic boycott of Israel. The UCT council has effectively kicked the issue aside to decide at a later date. The claims levelled at

UCT made it look distinctly anti-Semitic and anti-freedom. As such, it also looks like a tertiary institution that has lost its academic rigour. Its reputation may be at stake.”

Add to this the indisputable fact that Hamas was responsible for starting the most recently witnessed military engagement (flying in the face of the false narrative broadcast for the past 15 years that somehow Israel had started every such engagement), and the dampened mood makes some sense.

“I believe all round a climate was created that left the BDS-niks feeling uncertain about their strategy,” said Gon. “All that those who usually support them but are really just along for the ride didn’t feel that supporting IAW was the thing to embark on.”

Downgrade of SA embassy in Israel to go ahead

NICOLA MILTZ

The South African government is continuing with the downgrading of its relations with Israel, International Relations and Cooperation Minister Lindiwe Sisulu said on Wednesday night.

Sisulu was responding to questions following her address on South African foreign-policy priorities and key international events hosted by the South African Institute of International Affairs, which was held at its head office at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Before a packed hall of ambassadors, diplomats, and foreign media, Sisulu said: “We are putting together a programme of downgrading our relations with Israel in line with the resolutions that were taken by the ANC. We have a programme put in place that we will place before the

ANC in response to their demand and the resolution they have taken.

“We will also look at the legal implications of the agreements that we currently have with Israel, if there are any, and any other administrative repercussions that come out of that.

“The first thing that we have done is we no longer have an ambassador in Israel. We now operate at the level of a liaison office, so the liaison officer will deal with all our diplomatic matters in Israel.”

She said the ambassador to Israel, Sisa Ngombane, who was recalled to Pretoria in May last year, was still officially “ambassador until such time as we have adopted fully the resolutions of the ANC”.

Sisulu spoke about South Africa’s role at the United Nations. She explained

that on 8 June 2018, South Africa was elected to a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC) by 183 votes. This would be valid for the 2019-2020 period. “The increased number of votes for South Africa was a signal of confidence by the international community.

“This heralded a new dawn in South Africa’s diplomacy. It provided an opportunity for a recalibrated engagement with other nations of the world,” said Sisulu.

“We took the opportunity in September last year to use our status as observers to attend meetings of the council, even though it was not necessary. We did it to introduce ourselves and to show that we have a hands-on approach to our work.”



Minister Lindiwe Sisulu

She said the government had chosen a theme for the country’s tenure: “Continuing the Legacy: Working for a Just and Peaceful World”.

“We will utilise our membership of the UNSC to place emphasis on and prioritise the importance of women, peace, and security.”



PROPERTIES

INVEST IN PROPERTY IN ISRAEL
FROM R5 MILLION
Contact Herschel Jawitz in strict confidence
082 571 1829 | herschel@jawitz.co.za

REAL
LIFE Real Estate



ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

BEDFORD PARK | R2.999 MILLION
8 Linksfield Village. Gorgeous modern townhouse. Great position. Not a thing to be done! Perfect New York style lock-and-go. Interleaving reception rooms, onto stunning imported kitchen. 3 bedrooms all en-suite to contemporary bathrooms, onto balcony with tranquil views. 1 Garage, plus 1 parking bay. Pool in complex. Pet friendly. Directions: Follow pointer boards along Club St into Gibb Rd.
3 3 Web Ref: RL48150
Ingrid Hoaten 082 490 6246



ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

SANDRINGHAM | INVITING BUYERS FROM R 2.399 MILLION
37 Henry Ave. Asking More. A superbly renovated 3 bedroomed, 2 bathroomed (mes) home oozing lots of character and style. Open plan gourmet kitchen, inviting reception areas, huge covered entertainers' patio or reception room. Lovely outside office / flatlet potential, two lock up garages. Double carport. Excellent security.
3 2 Web Ref: RL47494
Joel 082 926 0287 | Laureen 083 789 0229



ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

GLENHAZEL | R 4 199 990
58 Jennifer Lane. A special north facing 4 bedroomed home oozing character and style. 2 bathrooms(MES) plus guest loo. 3 spacious reception rooms leading out onto stunning covered patio. Lovely pool and tropical garden. Gourmet eat in kitchen with separate scullery and walk in pantry. Separate flatlet. Double automated garage. Off street parking. Walled and fort Knox security.
4 2 Web Ref: RL48862
Joel 082 926 0287 | Laureen 083 789 0229



ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

OAKLANDS | R 4.5 MILLION
22 Victoria Street. A super family home, lovingly cared for and set on 2100m2 of magical garden. Offering 5 receptions, 2 studies, eat-in kitchen, 4 beds, 3 baths, patio, pool, double garage, staff bathroom + 1 bed, 1 bath flatlet. This is one for the must see list! Directions: From Pretoria or African, into Victoria St.
4 4 Web Ref: RL49385
Chrissie Hammer 082 568 0440 | 011 880 3550

UCT boycott motion “being deferred to death”

TALI FEINBERG

In a strange twist of events, the University of Cape Town’s (UCT) council decided not to go ahead with the decision of its senate to boycott Israel. It did this by sending the decision back to the senate for further discussion.

The university’s senate, made up of about 300 academics and administrative staff, voted on 15 March to pass a motion that the university “would not enter into any formal relationships with Israeli academic institutions operating in the occupied Palestinian territories as well as other Israeli academic institutions enabling gross human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories”.



“This is a way of ‘killing it’ without having to say so openly. This is especially true if the council does not provide very specific and limited guidance to direct the future debate in the senate.”

This decision was then sent on to the university’s highest governing body – its council – which was supposed to vote on it on Saturday, 30 March. But council secretary Royston Pillay said a number of issues required clarification before the resolution could go to a vote. He therefore sent the resolution back to the senate, asking for “a full assessment of the sustainability impact” and said that a “more consultative process was necessary before the matter could be considered any further”.

The council also said it resolved to “condemn the atrocities and human-rights violations perpetrated in the occupied Palestinian territories, and elsewhere in the world” and affirmed “UCT’s commitment to academic freedom, but reserved the right to dissociate itself from academics and academic institutions that supported (directly or indirectly) the violation of human rights and/or enabled the violation of human rights”.

A senior academic at the university, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the council’s refusal to adopt the motion and the fact that it had sent it back to the senate for consideration, would most likely “defer it to death”.

“This is a way of ‘killing it’ without having to say so openly. This is especially true if the council does not provide very specific and limited guidance to direct the future debate in the senate.”

The academic said that the statement condemning human-rights violations was probably a “face-saving measure” following the deep opposition expressed by many council members to the motion.

The academic thinks the move to boycott Israel will now die down. “Essentially, it was ‘defeated’ in November (when the senate voted against the boycott but it was not ratified) and now ‘defeated’ by council. No one at the university administration wants this saga to continue, and many do not have the

political will to push it further right now.”

A second academic, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said, “My feeling is that the council probably thought it would have been too radical to reject the senate-approved motion out of hand. So, it has asked the senate to reapply its mind and be more cognisant of the detrimental effects that an academic boycott could have on the university.”

He said that as a result of the attention given to the motion, the next senate meeting would probably be well-attended by those against the boycott (which might not have been the case at the last meeting), and this would help to defeat it.

“On the other hand, there is a lobby group that wants the boycott motion to succeed, and will do its utmost not to let it end.”

But the lack of clarity from the council led the Palestinian Solidarity Forum to claim a “significant victory” on Facebook. It said, “It is noteworthy that by council’s resolution, we have lost nothing, we have only gained and advanced – not as much as we had hoped, but we have advanced nonetheless! It is an important step towards UCT adopting the academic boycott of Israel. Zionism at UCT is weaker now because of this resolution. That, in itself, is worthy of celebration.”

Indeed, some are concerned that there is still the possibility of a boycott. “Although the council’s refusal to adopt the senate’s resolution means that academic freedom has lived to see another day, we also note with concern that UCT has once again failed to take a conclusive step towards protecting academic freedom at the university,”

said Tami Jackson of Progress SA. Her organisation has taken up the fight not because they are a Jewish or Zionist organisation, but because they want to open up the space for free speech and debate that has been closed off by radical student politics at UCT.

Jackson pointed out that the council’s comment that it reserved

but a few. UCT would not benefit from such isolation, and neither would the people of those individual countries,” she said.

“For more than two years, this matter has been tossed around in the senate and other bodies with no clear resolution. It not only reveals the lack of decisive and principled leadership at UCT, but the political apathy and

Israel, or indeed in any other country, would contravene outright these principles,” said SAJBD National Director Wendy Kahn.

“We look to the senate to further endorse and uphold these principles in its future deliberations. Any resolutions should reconfirm the university’s ethos and its commitment to fairness, justice, and



the right to dissociate itself from academics and academic institutions who directly or indirectly support the violation of human rights was a negative move.

“If UCT accepts the viability of this kind of authoritarian control in principle, we are left with a potentially absurd situation in which academics are not free to associate with anyone from a country whose institutions are suspected of ‘enabling’ human-rights abuses. This would include [according to Amnesty International] China, Venezuela, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, Yemen, Turkey, Myanmar – to name

self-censorship amongst academics.” Another organisation, the Rule of Law Project, said that the motion to restrict interaction between UCT and Israeli academic institutions would be unconstitutional. The organisation has sought legal opinion on the subject to clarify what a publicly-funded university can do.

Meanwhile, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) views the step taken by the UCT council as positive. “It endorsed the principles of academic freedom that underpin any credible global top ranking university. An attempt to boycott academic institutions in

non-racialism.” The South African Zionist Federation’s Ben Swartz and Rowan Polovin also applauded the move, saying they welcomed the council’s decision to reject a motion that singled out the Jewish state for unique censure.

“We call on UCT to irrevocably reject this campaign of hate against Israel. We call on the university to show courage, dismiss the academic boycott campaign outright, and spend its precious time on other pressing issues relevant to South Africa and its student body,” they said.

Fight not over for Lithuania activist Grant Gochin

TALI FEINBERG

When Grant Gochin took the Lithuanian government to court in March, he knew he might lose the battle. And he certainly lost this particular one, when the judge ruled in favour of the government last Wednesday, saying that Gochin’s case was “ill-based”.

But, from the beginning, he knew that losing one battle did not mean losing the war.

That war is to ensure that the Lithuanian government recognises that many of its political and military leaders played an active role in the extermination of the country’s Jews during the Nazi era.

Furthermore, it is to reverse the dangerous trend of Lithuania calling these people heroes, and whitewashing this history.

Gochin focused on the actions of Jonas Noreika, who is hailed as a hero and martyr in Lithuania. In reality, Noreika played a key role in facilitating the massacre of thousands of Jews in the shtetls of Lithuania, where many South African Jews’ relatives were killed.

Although he was expecting the Lithuanian government to win this case, it was still a blow to the passionate activist. Yet, he remains

resolute. “I’m not surprised by this verdict. Lithuania is a Holocaust-distorting state... the government’s legal position was that we Jews have ‘no material interest’, in what was done to our families,” he told the *SA Jewish Report*.

“That shows the dishonesty and insincerity of the diplomatic and financial outreach to Jews. [The government’s] real feelings about Jews and what Lithuanians did to Jews during the war have been exposed by this case. They have made their real attitudes clear. Jews should no longer have any illusions about a changed Lithuanian state.”



Grant Gochin

Gochin says that dismissing a case because it is “ill-based” does not bode well for future foreign investment and tourism in Lithuania. “Seeking truth is ‘ill-based’. Evidence is ‘ill-based’. If a business case comes before the court of a foreigner against a Lithuanian, this standard of law says that such a case is ‘ill-based’ and may be dismissed. This is a catastrophe for Lithuania. It is the end of foreign investment in that country. The courts are an arm of government, they rule as instructed. At least now decent

people know what Lithuania is and has always been. It is consistent. Jews should never mistake what we face,” he said.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center’s chief Nazi-hunter, Dr Ephraim Zuroff, termed the decision of the court “absolutely ludicrous, and an insult to victims of the Nazis [and] survivors the world over... In Lithuania, Nazi killers are glorified and their bloody past ignored, as if the Jewish citizens murdered there are of no concern to the country.”

The Lithuanian Jewish Community (LJC) also expressed deep disappointment and demanded that “representatives of the Lithuanian executive and legislative branches respond appropriately and in a timely manner by condemning this incident of institutional anti-Semitism, and that the centre take responsibility and publicly retract the text, apologise to the LJC for the gross belittlement of the scope of the Holocaust, and apologise to the Lithuanian public for misinforming [it]”.

If neither of these actions are taken, “the LJC, in defence of its interests protected by law but now violated, reserves the right to make sue [sic] of the defensive measures and remedies provided in Lithuanian law”, according to the organisation’s chairperson, Faina Kukliansky.

Indeed, Gochin is not alone. Silvia Foti, the granddaughter of the late Noreika, has bravely fought to ensure that his role in the extermination of Lithuanian Jews is recognised and condemned.

Gochin, meanwhile, said he would appeal the case all the way to the European Court of Justice.

UCT’s lack of principle

In much the same way as University of Cape Town (UCT) academics took Karl Marx seriously in the 1970s and 1980s, so they have now heeded the advice of the less famous Marx. “These are my principles and if you don’t like them... well, I have others,” said Groucho. Groucho would be applauding UCT. Last November, the senate roundly defeated a motion to boycott Israeli institutions. Debate was correctly focussed on principle, and not on the intricacies of a hundred-year conflict. Let’s face it, no one on either side will convince their antagonist. Importantly, the senior executive of UCT formally shared the senate’s majority view. Less than four months later, the senate – and those who attended the meeting of what was once a serious and august institution – turned on its principles. UCT’s council – the institution’s highest authority – debated the senate’s decision last Saturday. The outcome suggests a stalemate. On the one hand, the council did not have the stomach to endorse the senate’s call for a boycott. On the other, it lacked the ability to support unequivocally the free exchange of ideas. In an obvious fudge, the council has now asked the senate to reconsider the matter, possibly in the hope that it will defeat the call to boycott and avoid catastrophic consequences. The council ought to have rejected the senate’s resolution on principle, but it failed to do so. In what appears to be an obvious attempt to appease the anti-Israel lobby, it has introduced its own resolution which, inter alia, condemns all gross violations of human rights in the occupied territories and (wait for it) “elsewhere in the world”. This removes the stain of identifying only the Jewish state. More disturbing, however, is a clause in which UCT reserves the right to “dissociate itself from those academics and academic institutions that support [directly or indirectly] the violation of human rights and/or enable the violation of human rights”.

This should be of immediate concern. The door to mischief-making is open, and the Boycott Divestment Sanctions (BDS) movement will surely be smiling. On the other hand, in the event of a legal challenge, the resolution might not pass constitutional muster. This remains to be seen.

Many leading UCT scholars are shocked by the turn of events. Even in a country that has regularly shot itself in the foot, UCT’s actions have raised alarm. Arguably, the senate’s decision (and the council’s mealy-mouthed response) will cause even greater damage to the institution than the events surrounding the #FeesMustFall protests.

And all this has, ironically, been initiated by the Academic Freedom Committee! I kid you not! Oh Groucho, where art thou now?

That some individuals have a moral investment in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is their right. But for a university to pronounce on such a complex conflict is another matter. Enemies of the Jewish state see the clash through a South African prism. Jews are alien settlers, the arm of western imperialism. They also believe the academic boycott of South Africa aided the demise of apartheid. In that case, however, the issue was incontestable.

Surely the advocates of a boycott must acknowledge the fact that there are two sides to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – or as they say in the arts block on University Avenue, two narratives. Yes, the occupation has been too long and yes, the occupation is harsh. But this is an unresolved war.

Israel has indeed been at war with its



OPINION

Professor Milton Shain

neighbours since the United Nations (and not only Western countries) voted in November 1947 to partition Palestine (then a British Mandate) into a Jewish state and an Arab state. In its formulation, Jerusalem was to be an international city. But the Arabs refused to accept the decision of the United Nations and, as soon as the British withdrew in May 1948, five Arab armies invaded the nascent Jewish state. The rest is history, entangled and complex, and fraught with arguments on both sides.

The UCT council has opened the way for

BDS activists (of whom there is no shortage) to work towards a back-door boycott. The council should have taken an unequivocal and principled stand. A boycott is an infringement of academic culture. Instead, it has fudged the issue. The bottom line is that the council resolution enables UCT to prevent an academic from engaging with a scholar from a country deemed to be “enabling” human-rights abuses. This could be Zimbabwe, China, or a host of countries. Of course, we know which it will be.

Shame on UCT.

• *Milton Shain is Professor Emeritus of Historical Studies at UCT. His latest book, ‘A Perfect Storm. Antisemitism in South Africa, 1930 – 1948’, was published by Jonathan Ball in 2015.*

Ramaphosa honours veteran SA journalist

One of the esteemed people who will receive an order of merit from President Cyril Ramaphosa on 25 April left South Africa more than 30 years ago, but his love for the country has never faltered.

This man is journalist and author Benjamin Pogrund, now 85, who has been in Israel for decades.

For some, Pogrund's recognition in getting the Order of Ikhamanga – recognising South African citizens who have excelled in the creative fields of arts, culture, literature, music, journalism, and sport – has been a long time coming.

“This is a well-deserved recognition for a truly legendary South African journalist,” said the South African Jewish Board of Deputies’ head of communications, Charisse Zeifert.

“During the dark years of apartheid, he was at the forefront of exposing the great injustices to which black South Africans were subjected. His special friendship with (Pan Africanist Congress founder) Robert Sobukwe and his literary contribution to Sobukwe’s life is part of our history.”

Pogrund covered the truth behind apartheid from the late 1950s to 1985 at the now-defunct *Rand Daily Mail*. He brought the words of black leaders such as Sobukwe and ANC struggle stalwart and former president Nelson Mandela to white readers’ consciousness.

Pogrund has spent many years working at creating dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, Christians and Jews, and Jews and Jews.

Continued on page 17>>



ASK US FOR YOUR

PASSPORT OF EUROPEAN UNION REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA





Dainius Ambrazaitis
ADVOCATE / PARTNER
Head of the Citizenship Division
at IN JURE Law Firm, Vilnius, Lithuania

I assure you that obtaining your Lithuanian citizenship is possible even if you have no documentation pertaining to your Lithuanian ancestry or even if your particular case has been disqualified or rated as not qualified.

LAW FIRM | VILNIUS | LITHUANIA

IN JURE

ADV. DAINIUS AMBRAZAITIS IS AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS YOUR SPECIFIC CASES IN PERSON FREE OF CHARGE

Book online: www.LithuanianJews.com
Email: INFO@INJURE.LT
WhatsApp: +370 600 68454
Call: +27 87 551 0813

April 9-15 in Johannesburg
April 16-17 in Cape Town

REQUEST A FREE CONSULTATION



Absolutely no upfront payment required



Direct services – no intermediaries are involved in the process

Charging upon successful application only

Nine years experience of successful professional assistance



HOLD REAL ESTATE

SECURING YOUR FUTURE IN ISRAEL

INVEST IN ISRAEL

20% SECURES THE DEAL



Ra'anana 7 Brandeis

Choose from a well established neighbourhood in **Raanana** to beautiful ocean views in **Netanya**



Netanya Zuk Tower



Jaffa , 117 Yefet Street



ISRAEL

Prime Developments
also available in Harish, Netanya, Tiberias, Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv

To book an appointment contact us at info@hold.co.il
Julian 087 551 0734 | herschel@jawitz.co.za | 082 571 1829
Julian will be in SA from 8th to 12th April.

JAWITZ
PROPERTIES

Israel Apartheid Week 2019: a damp squib

Every year for more than a decade, universities begin their countdown to Israel Apartheid Week (IAW) when the academic year begins. This week, it is the 15th such dreaded week on campuses around the country.

For young Jewish university students, it is always something they look forward to with a touch of excitement and a whole lot of trepidation. Just what will Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions South Africa and their student supporters, the Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC), do to make their lives on campus uncomfortable? Will the Jewish students be badgered and harassed? Will there be anti-Semitic graffiti plastered over the campus? Will they be humiliated by anti-Israel activists? Will they be mocked for their views on Israel?

Suffice to say, for Jewish students and their parents, this is rarely a fun time. It is stressful and worrying because we never really know what will happen, and it takes so little to ignite an aggressive hatefest. We have seen it before.

What is clear from IAW in the past is that the anti-Israel lobby will do and say whatever it can to make Israel look as bad as possible. It is all about making Israel look like an apartheid state (as the name clarifies).

The South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) – and its expert guests brought out for assistance – do what they can to promote discussions and debate around the Jewish state. In this, they attempt to bring clarity and reason to the misinformation that the anti-Israel lobby is putting out there. It is rarely an easy conversation or debate. More often than not, it has become heated, ugly, and openly hostile.

In 2017, the then national chairperson of the SAUJS, Gabriel Zollman, told the *SA Jewish Report* from the University of the Witwatersrand’s campus: “We are experiencing the brunt of clear hatred, but our students have been unwavering in their commitment. It is hard to tell what will transpire in the rest of the week, but it is clear that PSC do not endorse our camp’s legitimacy. They do not respect our students. They are wantonly damaging our displays and have damaged our banners.”

Last year on the Wits campus, students affiliated with the PSC spray-painted hateful graffiti around the university. The government has somehow endorsed the IAW over the past two years by allowing ministers or ANC honchos to speak at BDS IAW rallies.

So, Israel Apartheid Week 2019 dawned on the day after the first anniversary of the “Great March of Return”, which led to the death of more than 50 Palestinians on the Gaza border. When this happened in 2018, there was widespread condemnation of Israel in South Africa, particularly from Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Lindiwe Sisulu and some ANC leaders.

So, understandably, we were expecting the worst, both on the Gaza border to Israel and on our campuses. In fact, news last week was that all schools in Gaza were to be closed on Saturday to get as many children to the border as possible. That didn’t bode well for the anniversary protest.

However, despite tens of thousands of Palestinians amassing on the Gaza border, it was comparatively calm.

And back here, we were holding our proverbial breath for trouble on campuses this week, what with IAW almost coinciding with the anniversary.

There was another factor that had the potential to add to the volatility of IAW, and that was the University of Cape Town’s council voting last weekend on the senate’s proposed boycott of Israeli universities. There was potential for much anger, what with the council sending the proposal back to the senate.

But what was expected didn’t happen.

There was very little publicity for IAW events or protests, which was unusual. In fact, other than a press release saying IAW was going to focus on a pan-African front against Israel, there was little hype.

On both sides, this was the case. No great speakers coming out to draw the crowds. No government ministers holding forth about his or her support for or against Israel.

As I write this on Wednesday, when arguably IAW is almost halfway done, the much anticipated and feared event has turned out to be a damp squib. It was so very quiet on the campuses. It was as if – and I stand to be corrected – people have become bored with this annual hatefest in which nobody wins.

It appeared over this first half of the week that IAW was old and tired, and literally died a quiet but uneventful death.

There didn’t seem much anger, enthusiasm, or passion.

Why? I cannot tell you.

I have kept expecting something to change. I kept asking what is going on.

Perhaps it is Israel’s ceasefire agreement, or even sheer disorganisation. I guess there could be many reasons. I don’t know.

Whatever it is, it does seem to bode well for an on-campus ceasefire and focus on important things like studying and working together towards a happy campus life.

I guess the fat lady has yet to sing, as we have a few more days to go before the end of IAW. But I, for one, have stopped holding my breath and am hugely relieved.



Shabbat Shalom!
Peta Krost Maunder
Editor

Social media enables a fake-news slugfest

I remember my early years in the newsroom when we’d have some harmless fun thinking up some fake news story to broadcast on 1 April, also known as April Fools’ Day.

Some of those stories have remained with me. For example, when I was working as a journalist at the SABC, a news editor asked a colleague of mine to go film an art exhibition by Leonardo da Vinci and, if possible, interview the Italian artist. (Sadly, I remain convinced that this was not an April Fools’ joke, but that the editor really meant it.)

These days, one doesn’t need to wait for 1 April to read or watch purposefully falsified information. We’re living in the age of a fake news industry in which disinformation is deliberately spread through traditional and online media. We need to be vigilant about what we read not only once a year, but on each of the 365 days of the annual news cycle.

United States President Donald Trump popularised the phrase, but “fake news” has been around for centuries. And far from helping us sort through what’s true and not, Trump has muddied the waters by labelling any story or news outlet he doesn’t like “fake news”.

Sadly, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu echoes the tactics of his ally by castigating the police who have been investigating him, and the news media who’ve reported on it. Netanyahu doesn’t use a cell phone, so unlike the US president, he doesn’t do late-night tweeting. However, the Israeli prime minister is not shy of also using the terms “fake news” and “witch-hunt” against those he dismisses.

There’s a world of difference between not liking news and deliberately spreading false information. So we find ourselves left to sort through endless fake news accounts, Facebook feeds and Twitter posts, mostly on our own.

Nowhere has the issue of fake news received more attention than during political electioneering. Russia was accused of deliberately spreading false information during the 2015 US presidential campaign.

That charge, which Moscow has consistently denied, claims that people were paid to fill news feeds with false stories aimed at sowing distrust in democracy and helping Trump to win.

Whether true or not, it was later revealed that there was more public engagement with the top 20 fake news stories on Facebook about the elections than the top 20 true election stories from 19 major media outlets.

The same happened during Brazil’s elections at the end of last year. Only four of the top 50 images that circulated in political WhatsApp groups were found to be real. This means that 46 out of 50 were hoaxes or distortions of the truth.

We learn two things from this: digital platforms (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp) are hugely important during election campaigns and there’s expansive room for fake news to flourish on these platforms.

Israel is no exception.

With just days to go before the 9 April parliamentary election, it’s emerged that a network of hundreds of social media accounts, many of which are fake, have been boosting Netanyahu’s re-election campaign online.

This is according to an independent internet watchdog, the Big Bots Project, which claims the network posted more than 130 000 times in Hebrew on Facebook and Twitter. (The network has been found to have no direct link to Netanyahu’s Likud party or any of its staff.) The sole purpose of these posts was to praise Netanyahu and smear his rivals; sometimes the latter was done by spreading false information.

The report found that as Netanyahu’s chief rival, Blue and White leader Benny Gantz, became more popular, the accounts worked in sync with each other to discredit him.

One account, for example, posted the false rumour that Gantz was a rapist. Others immediately reposted it until it was picked up by prominent Likud campaign officials and, eventually, the mainstream public.

The same happened with posts about Gantz being mentally ill, gay, and even having a mistress. On the evening before the attorney-general announced his decision to indict Netanyahu, a Facebook post by a US woman claiming Gantz had sexually harassed her in high

DATELINE: MIDDLE EAST

Paula Slier



school was reposted many times online. Despite there being no support for the claim and Gantz denying it, the story spread.

The watchdog found that 154 of the accounts used fake names and another 400 were presumably fake. But still, the posts, all of which were in Hebrew, had more than 2.5 million hits.

And this is the double-edged sword the Israeli elections, and indeed the information age in which we live, face. One can reach huge numbers of people online through Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and other such platforms. However, the same technology still hasn’t managed to stop lies and disinformation from spreading.

Facebook is trying its best. It has been actively shutting down accounts responsible for promoting fake news. This it did especially in countries holding general elections, such as Indonesia and India, which are going to the polls later this month.

When it comes to Israel, the social media giant has applied a filter that limits who can post political advertisements to the Israeli public. Interested parties have to confirm their identity with an official government-approved ID.

This means non-Israelis are unable to take out political adverts. Every political advertisement has to have a disclaimer acknowledging the name of the account that funded the advert. Also, an available archive allows users to search for all advertisements paid for by politicians dating back seven years.

But it’s not foolproof, and least of all when politicians are increasingly using social media to reach potential voters.



KosherWorld



TRULY KOSHER

JOIN US
ON TUESDAY
9 APRIL - 1-9PM
FOR FUN & FOOD
AT OUR PESACH
SHUK

WISHING
YOU A CHAG
KASHER
V'SAMEACH

פסח כשר ושמח
**Happy
Passover**



TELMA
POTATO
PANCAKE MIX

79⁹⁹
170g



VILLA CAPE
SHIRAZ, CHENIN BANC,
CHARDONNAY, PINOTAGE,
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

61⁹⁹
each
750ml



JERUSALEM
MATZO
SQUARES

28⁹⁹
300g



VILLA CAPE
GRAPE
JUICE

36⁹⁹
750ml



JERUSALEM
MATZO BALL
MIX

31⁹⁹
127g



EUROBERRY FROZEN FRUIT - 350g

25⁹⁹
STRAWBERRIES

31⁹⁹
BLUEBERRIES

35⁹⁹
MANGO & PINEAPPLE



OSEM
HEAT & SERVE
MASHED POTATOES

36⁹⁹
130g

We have wandered the
length & breadth of the
world to bring you
LOTS MORE SPECIALS
and the largest range of
Pesach products, come in-store
to see for yourself!



SCHMERLING
ASSORTED
CHOCOLATES

49⁹⁹
each
100g



MEAT LASAGNE



SWEET & SOUR CABBAGE ROLLS



ALL FEIGELS 500G
HEAT & EAT MEALS
LESS 10%



SWEET & SOUR CABBAGE ROLLS



BEEF STEW



MOSMARKS
MATZO
MEAL

43⁹⁹
450g



THE
SOUL TREE
POTATO FLOUR

51⁹⁹
1kg



STEINZ
HEART OF PALM
MEDALLIONS IN BRINE

28⁹⁹
400g



BERKIES
ASSORTED
SAUCES

42⁹⁹
each
500g



GEFEN
CLASSIC PASTA
SAUCE

66⁹⁹
730g



ELITE
CHOCOLATE
SPREAD - PARVE

71⁹⁹
500g



STEINZ
HONEY
CHOICE GRADE

49⁹⁹
375g



SELWYN
SELGAL
KICHEL

64⁹⁹
250g



HADDAR
ITALIAN
DRESSING

60⁹⁹
415ml



ELITE
MINI CARAMEL
BARS ASSD

69⁹⁹
each
190g

Actual offers may differ from visuals shown. We reserve the right to limit quantities. While stocks last. E&OE

Offers valid till **10 APRIL '19** or while stocks last
1 Long Avenue, Glenhazel | 011 440 9517 | info@kosherworld.co.za | www.kosherworld.co.za



Call to ban ‘Rape Day’ video game from South Africa

NICOLA MILTZ

A graphic online video game, *Rape Day Apocalypse*, released online last week has sparked a widespread public outcry, with calls for the banning of violent video games that promote violence against women.

Women’s rights organisations in South Africa, including Jewish organisations, have condemned it, and demanded that it be banned outright.

In spite of being banned in other countries, including Germany and Austria, the game can now be downloaded for free in South Africa. Politicians in the United Kingdom are calling for more restrictive legislation to prevent it. The South African Film and Publication Board has received numerous complaints from members of the public and is believed to be looking into it.

Created by an independent developer known as Jake Roberts – *Rape Day* is set in a zombie apocalypse. The player controls a protagonist who is described as a “menacing serial-killer rapist”.

The developer refers to it as a “visual novel” in which the rape and murder of women is encouraged to progress the plot.

A preview of the game on the Steam games platform last month featured screenshots of women held at gunpoint and raped, causing an immediate backlash. Steam stopped

the release of the game following an outcry and petitions.

The Cape Town-based 1000 Women Trust, a non-profit organisation aimed at combatting violence against women and girls, has launched a petition urging people to condemn the release of the video game. It is calling for censorship and tighter regulation. It has so far received over 3 000 signatures.

1000 Women Trust Ambassador Claudia Roodt told the *SA Jewish Report* that the video game was “outrageous” and should not be tolerated. “Rape is a crime, it is not a game. This game should not be available in South Africa,” she said.

The video game opens with a warning which says, “This visual novel contains mature content including acts of physical and sexual violence. All characters are 20 years old or older in both visual depiction and story.”

It is a violent video game where rape is the aim and goal, said the developer recently on a YouTube radio show. “It’s a 45-minute game where you go around and rape people, it’s supposed to be a dark comedy,” he said, claiming that he had not expected such outrage, and would still find ways of getting the game “out there”.

The game went online on 6 March, and within hours sparked a petition

on Change.org, which garnered thousands of signatures. It is likely to have contributed to the decision to pull *Rape Day* from the gaming distribution service Steam Direct.

Last year, Change.org successfully pushed Steam to have a school-

the relevant body at the United Nations.

According to Roodt, the petition aims to change local legislation to ban the release and availability of any video game that promotes violence against women.



A screen grab from ‘Rape Day’ video game

shooting game removed from the platform. The 1000 Women Trust has teamed up with Avon to call on members of the public to sign the petition, which will be presented to the South African government, according to Roodt. The petition will be handed to the Minister of Women in the Presidency, the Minister of Communications and Telecommunications, and

Rozanne Sack and Wendy Hendler from Koleinu SA, an educational and advocacy organisation supporting victims of abuse, have criticised the video game, calling for its creator to be criminally brought to book.

“We condemn in the strongest possible terms the *Rape Day* video game which portrays rape, which is a criminal act, as a recreational

activity to be exploited in a game. We are already living in a society where gender-based violence and rape statistics are staggering.

“It is unconscionable that the creators of the game would see fit to minimise the horrific act of rape and its devastating impact on victims, who carry scars for the rest of their lives. The inhumanity of individuals who would use rape as an entertainment tool boggles the mind. The sole outcome of normalising such a brutal crime is an increase in its incidence. This game needs to be banned, and the creators charged criminally with inciting violence in society.”

Johannesburg psychologist Ruth Ancer told the *SA Jewish Report* that videos like these are extremely dangerous because they carry damaging messages especially for children and young minds, reinforcing toxic ideas about the world we live in.

“It is a very sad indictment of our society that something like this gets traction. It is horrific in the extreme, and the scary thing is that it normalises violence and rape and gives the impression that this is ok and fun. It is a sick reflection of society that glorifies violence against men and women, and objectifies women as sexual objects to be conquered.”

For Israelis abroad, elections bring a scramble for flights

CNAAN LIPSHIZ – JTA

Like many voters in democratic national elections, I almost always hope that whoever is elected will be able to serve out their full term – even if they weren’t my pick.

This is especially true in my native Israel, whose infamously brittle coalitions last on average only two-and-a-half years. Early elections there cost billions in polarising campaigns and present a governance challenge that I see as far more worrisome than having the country run by someone who isn’t my cup of tea.

But if I’m honest, my desire for political stability in Israel is tainted by selfishness: I’m one of thousands of Israelis living abroad who, in every election, must fly home on short notice with high costs because our country won’t let us vote anywhere else.

as 1976. The word for leaving Israel in Hebrew is “yerida” – descending – as opposed to “aliyah” – ascending.

Whereas the United States, France, the Netherlands and many other democracies actively encourage expats to participate in elections – expats even have their own constituencies and representatives in the French parliament’s lower house – Israel bars its about 500 000 citizens living elsewhere from voting abroad.

The only ones eligible to vote overseas in Israeli elections are several thousand government envoys.

According to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, about 60% of the world’s 193 countries allow their citizens to vote abroad. Globalisation is only helping to increase this trend, with Belgium, Sweden, Mexico and Panama joining the list in the previous decade. India did so

in Berlin. “This mentality needs to go, whether the prime minister stays or not.”

Why, then, are we prepared to travel thousands of kilometres to vote in Israel, where we haven’t lived in years? And why do some of us do this, then lazily opt out of voting in the countries where we do make our homes?

Maximilian Marco Katz, an Israeli citizen and activist against anti-Semitism in his native Romania, said he wouldn’t make a special trip to vote there, although he will for Israel.

“The truth is, in Romania I was told too often that I don’t belong, even though I grew up here,” said Katz. “I served in Israel, I fought in Israel. My children are there. I’m a Zionist above all and it’s my home, so of course I will vote.”

The relatively dramatic nature of just about any Israeli election – it’s often a close race with serious security implications – certainly helps to attract the devotion of some expat voters.

Merav Shtifman, an Israeli businessman from Amsterdam, will travel to Israel for two days just to vote. She cited her belief that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is implicated in several alleged corruption scandals, is a danger to Israeli society.

“There is no alternative to replacing this ruler,” wrote Shtifman, who will vote for Blue and White, the newly formed centre-left party led by Benny Gantz and Yair Lapid, which is neck and neck with Netanyahu’s Likud in the polls. “I don’t think he cares about what’s good for the country, only about his personal survivability (in power).”

Katz, in contrast, says the allegations against Netanyahu have a minor influence on his decision-making, although he has not decided whether to vote for him or for Blue and White.

“I live in a country with many corruption scandals,” he said. “I’ve learned to disregard them until a court hands down a verdict. There’s too much risk for manipulation otherwise.”

Torn and undecided about whom to vote for, Katz says Netanyahu has “elevated Israel to new heights in terms of its international status, economy

and security, but neglected vital internal issues like health, socio-economic gaps and education”.

Meital Davidsen, a repeat expat voter from Denmark, will vote Labour not necessarily against Netanyahu, she said, but for its “great legislative work, which corresponds with my values”. Like Katz, Davidsen has decided to suspend her verdict on the allegations facing Netanyahu until a court delivers its own.

“It’s only fair to give him the right to fight for his name and not be the judge and jury,” Davidsen wrote of Netanyahu in a private Facebook message to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “Though I never believed in his agenda nor agreed with his way of managing the country, I don’t think he is a traitor, as others claim. But he lost his way a long time ago.”

Beck will fly in to vote for Netanyahu. “The left has not internalised the lessons of its failed policy of concessions (to the Palestinians),” he said. “That makes it dangerous. And Netanyahu and his Cabinet have brought Israel to unprecedented achievements in security and diplomacy. I’m voting to protect it.”

Netanyahu’s legal woes and unpopularity in the media only strengthen Beck’s feeling that “Israel’s democracy is under attack” by people, including in the justice system, determined to oust Netanyahu.

Beck is less nonchalant than many other Israeli expats about voting in Europe.

“I basically make a point of participating in every election where I am eligible to vote,” said Beck, a dual citizen of Austria and Israel. “The difference is, Austria makes an effort to allow me to vote wherever I am. Israel does not.” (Austria allows voting by mail. The Netherlands even allows citizens to empower others to vote for them.)

This time around, I booked my ticket from Amsterdam, where I’ve been living since 2010, days after the early elections were set for 9 April. I’ve learned that, even out of season, waiting any longer means forfeiting all hope of finding a direct flight and submitting myself to exorbitant prices for a connection – thanks to other Israelis flying from Amsterdam to Tel Aviv close to the elections.



In other words, I really wouldn’t mind limiting this ordeal to once every four years.

Just as our desire to vote reflects an undying attachment to the country that many of us perceive as an insurance policy, Israel’s lack of absentee voting reflects a country’s hang-ups about citizens who leave its borders and the Zionist ethos of Israel’s founders.

The late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin famously called leavers “wimpy debris” as late

this year.

Netanyahu’s is one of several Israeli governments that have tried to promote voting abroad, but a 2015 bill on the matter failed. (Opponents of the idea include Arab lawmakers and many on the left and right of centre.)

In Israel, “the first reaction to any political statement by an expat is often not to debate the expat’s argument, but their right to even express an opinion”, said Eldad Beck, an Israeli journalist based

THE MATZA TEAM NEEDS YOU

STAND A CHANCE TO
WIN
1 OF 4 R5000
PICK N PAY VOUCHERS

HOW TO ENTER:

1

Buy a Pesach product.

2

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

3

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

Pick n Pay


**Pesach
Food Drive**



ChevrahKadisha



chevmatzaman

www.jhbchev.co.za



#pesachfooddrive

Pan African African-American Zionist says Israel Apartheid is “anti-truth”

NICOLA MILTZ

Comparing Israel with apartheid is “historically and morally false and anti-Semitic”, says visiting African American Professor Ansel Brown.

Brown, assistant clinical professor of political science at North Carolina Central University, is passionate about what he sees as the strong parallels and similarities in the past experiences of African Americans and the historic plight of the Jews.

Married to an Ethiopian Jew, Brown and his wife adhere to Jewish traditions, regularly attending synagogue and observing Shabbat and festivals.

As an expert in the African diaspora and pan-Africanism, Brown is touring South Africa this week to coincide with Israel Apartheid Week. “Israel Apartheid Week is anti-truth, anti-peace, and is all about delegitimising the State of Israel,” he said.

Brown believes the comparison of Israel with apartheid is a form of contemporary anti-Semitism. “The equation of Israel with what the world knows to be one of the most evil, notorious political regimes in our modern era is a form of anti-Semitism that is rooted in a moral and historical bankrupt narrative of the truth,” he said.

Brown also commented on the University of Cape Town’s (UCT’s) toying with the idea of an academic boycott of Israeli universities. “A boycott flies in the face of academic freedom and intellectual progress and collaboration,” he said. “Any credible university must have academic freedom. Israeli technology and innovation, research, and scholarship have contributed invaluablely to the world. So I’d be curious as to whether those who support boycotting Israel as an apartheid state, which is the furthest thing from the truth, would be interested in boycotting Israeli research and scholarship and technology, and breakthroughs in medicine. The whole thing is absurd.”

Brown delivered a lecture at UCT on Monday in which he shared his experience in the diaspora as an African American. He discussed the prospects for pan-Africanism while drawing from inspirations of the Jewish plight, which he insists has strong parallels with experiences of African Americans.

Brown was brought up in a spiritual home with his father a pastor and his mother a minister. He was very familiar with the Jewish story of the exodus from Egypt. He was also familiar with the African American experience of slavery, the injustices of segregation, and institutionalised racialism.

“I always had a deep yearning and desire to be reconnected with my African roots. In my yearning to be reconnected with Africa, I became knowledgeable about the ugly legacy of colonialism in Africa. It resonated with the Jewish story of the diaspora,” he said.

“Growing up, I was very familiar with the ancient Jewish story of enslavement, and how the Jewish nation was birthed out of slavery. This has inspired African Americans through generations. A lot of African American spiritualism is inspired by the Jewish story of Moses and the exodus and ‘let my people go’ idea.”

He added that “even during the civil rights movement, African Americans and leaders of the Jewish community marched together. Some spilled their blood alongside their African American brothers and sisters.”

“Dr Martin Luther King, at his last sermon before he was slain at the height of the civil rights movement, said: ‘I may not get to the Promised Land but I have seen it.’ In this, he drew directly from the 3 000-year-old Jewish story.

“This is the connection: the Jewish experience of exile, persecution and alienation, and being demonised and scapegoated in Europe and all around the world in the diaspora, is very much

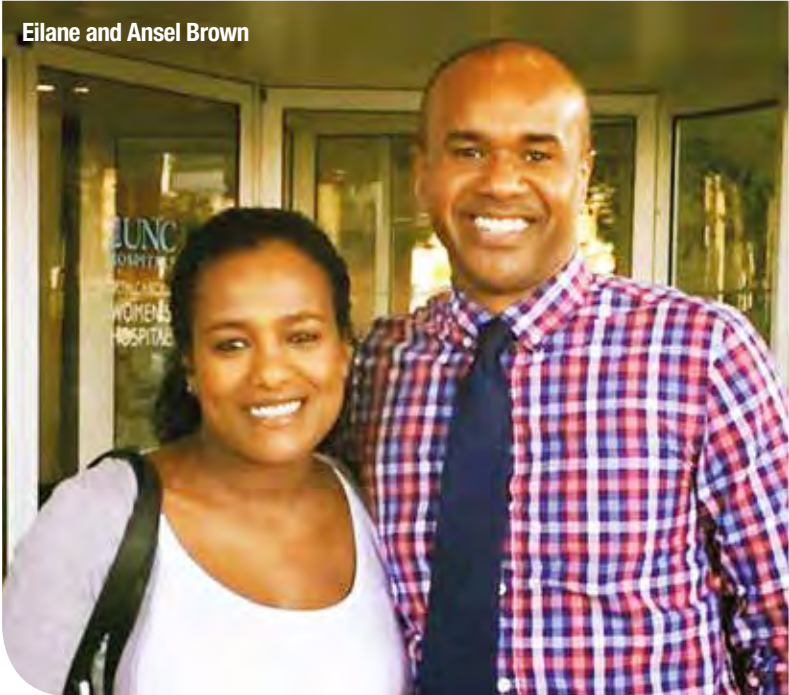
parallel to the African American experience of exile, oppression, demonisation, and brutality.

“We have much to learn and draw from one another. It is time we tell the truth about our experiences, and that we stand together against this false narrative that the Jewish land is somehow a foreign, colonial apartheid experiment. It is the exact moral and historical opposite of that.”

Brown said Jews worldwide were “undergoing a very ugly campaign of modern, contemporary anti-Semitism. The target is not the innocent Jewish boy walking down the street with a kippah. The target now is the Jewish state, and we have to stand against this.”

Brown agreed that Palestinians deserved a better future. “The truth is Palestinians have been denied what is their rightful place in this world by rejectionism within the Palestinian leadership. Time and time again, the Palestinian leadership has made a strategic and tragic choice to opt for focusing on the destruction of Israel and the Jewish homeland in lieu of committing to the self-realisation of the Palestinian people.

“Arab leadership have rejected countless offers over the years. I can go on and on about the betrayal. Israel settled about 850 000 Jews



who were exiled from Middle Eastern countries, but the 700 000 Palestinian refugees, who have mushroomed into the millions, are being held in refugee camps in Arab countries. The Arab and Palestinian leadership has betrayed the trust of the Palestinian people.

“The Palestinian people deserve a better future, but it will take a leadership within the Palestinian and Arab world that believes in peace and the Palestinian cause more than it believes in the destruction of Israel.”

Brown earned his doctorate from Harvard Law School. As a law student, he co-founded the Harvard Alliance for Israel, and wrote his third-year paper with a renowned legal mind, Professor Alan Dershowitz, critiquing the 2001 Durban Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. “In the paper, I critiqued what I believed to be the unjust treatment of Israel at the (conference).”

While in South Africa, Brown has spoken to students on campuses, Christian organisations supportive of Israel, and with members of the community in a bid to “build bonds of solidarity” with what he believes to be the true narrative of Israel.

“Israel is not a colonial apartheid state. It is the Jewish homeland that has a 3 000-year history. It is a story that should inspire Africans and African Americans everywhere of what’s possible through resilience, through steadfastness, and through hope – *hatikvah* – the hope that Jewish people have held on to in the face of true oppression. It should be hope to the rest of us.

Nkomo’s journey from BDS to Zionist

JORDAN MOSHE

Until six years ago, student activist Justice Nkomo was a diehard member of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, vehemently opposed to anything to do with Zionism or Israel.

In 2014, he visited Israel for the first time and discovered that he had been grossly misled, and today he urges others to become better informed before taking sides in the conflict.

Nkomo is a candidate for the provincial legislature of Gauteng. He is a former student leader, previous chairperson of the Congress of South African Students, and member of the Wits 11 group that disrupted the piano recital of Israeli pianist Yossi Reshef in 2013.

Speaking at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) on Monday and the University of Cape Town on Wednesday, Nkomo shared his experience of Israel with student audiences at the invitation of the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS).



“I am no expert on the conflict,” he said. “When I was with BDS, I was a young man who was an activist for change in the world. I knew about the oppression of the Palestinians and wanted to do something to change it.”

He explained that his interaction with the conflict was filtered through his political involvement. “When I joined BDS, the material used to introduce to the conflict was a video called *Palestine 101*. It depicts a conflict in which children are always dying, where life is basically a war zone every day.

“It made you believe that when you think Israel, you think apartheid state... that it’s a war zone with big guns killing innocents. Every day it’s Goliath versus David and David never wins. I never believed people lived normal lives there. I thought it was always a war zone, with mass graves and death every day.”

A keen political activist, Nkomo involved himself in multiple demonstrations and protests, pushing for the liberation of the Palestinian people. “I would lead protests to challenge conflict. I was very threatening. With other student leaders at Wits, we made the decision to oppose all engagement with Israel,” he said.

“Our office at Wits was opposite that of SAUJS. They never had a moment’s rest from us, and we did horrible things to them. We put stickers on their doors all the time, and yelled at them to stop the oppression. That is what we

were taught to do. We were taught to boycott anything connected to Israel. If a person said he was a Zionist, I had to boycott him because he was racist.”

Nkomo eventually accepted an opportunity to visit Israel in 2014, after refusing to do so for six months. He decided he wanted to gain a better understanding of the situation. “I chose to take a chance and see for myself. I was anti-Zionism and anti-Israel.”

When he arrived and was taken to his first stop, Ramallah, he found nothing that corresponded to what he had been taught. “There was no war zone. I asked a Palestinian guy where it was – where the dead people and the guns were. I didn’t know what was going on. I felt this is not what I was taught!”

Nkomo went on to visit both Israeli and Palestinian areas, including the West Bank and Jerusalem. For the first time ever, he said, he was able to connect with actual people involved in the conflict and learn what it actually meant to them. “I saw that in everything I had learned there was no true reflection of who they are as people.”

Upon his return, he made the decision not to stop being pro-Palestinian, but to become a pro-human being. He decided he would no longer accept narratives blindly but establish the truth himself. “When I came back, I wanted a meeting with leaders of BDS. It went downhill very quickly. I was accused of being anti-Palestine and a sellout. I said that no matter how much hate you have, you can’t hate an entire nation. Even if I’m angered by them, I can’t hate all of them. But they didn’t listen.

“Until today, I still get responses from people that are harsh, saying I’m a traitor. Sadly, I can see where they come from. I come from their position, and I know that’s what they teach you.”

Nkomo said that as an African, he had come to understand that Zionism is not racism. “I’m a proud African, and this speaks to Zionism. It’s not racism. It’s the self-determination of the Jewish people. The Palestinians can do the same thing. Unfortunately, they are divided. Gaza is divided by Hamas and Fatah – it doesn’t work for them.”

He said extreme lobby groups on either side achieved nothing and harmed their causes, if anything. “I have a problem with the approach of BDS. They ignore and shut out enjoyment. You cannot close your eyes like that. This does no justice to the cause.”

Instead, he maintained, people had to develop their own informed perspective, no matter which side they wanted to support. “I don’t want to be told by the media how to interpret the conflict. Being African, we obviously want to sympathise with the Palestinians, because they are marginalised.

“There are actually marginalised voices on both sides. There are casualties on both sides. I am pro-human beings. I am here to support people. We have reduced ourselves to saying ‘choose one of them’. Whether you are on one side or the other, there is no justification for killing. No stabbing or rockets. Use of violence to achieve a solution is essentially building the next generation of destruction. The only benefactor in destruction is the grave.”

He concluded: “Be brave enough to identify where a view come from. Don’t go into discussions blindly, and know what you are subscribing to. Boycotting discussion can never lead to a beneficial solution. Leaders must speak and engage, informed by peace as the ultimate solution.”



**SHEBA MEDICAL CENTER, TEL HASHOMER
NAMED ONE OF WORLD'S
10 BEST HOSPITALS
BY **NEWSWEEK** MAGAZINE**



SHEBA BY NIGHT BY BRUNO LAVI

**South African Friends of
Sheba is honored to support
Sheba, its groundbreaking
initiatives, and the pride this
world leader brings to the
State of Israel.**



**SOUTH AFRICAN FRIENDS OF
SHEBA MEDICAL CENTER**

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SHEBA, VISIT
ENG.SHEBA.CO.IL**

**OR CONTACT NAOMI HADAR AT
082-90-777-28 or naomi@shebamed.co.za**

South Africa’s Michelle Makori makes her mark on global TV channel

STEVEN KRAWITZ

Michelle Makori, born in Haifa and raised and educated in Johannesburg, is the face and editor in chief of the New York-based i24News English language channel that broadcasts around the world and across the United States.

i24News is an international, 24-hour news and current affairs television channel, headquartered in Jaffa, Tel Aviv. It has been broadcasting in English, French, and Arabic from Jaffa since July 2013. In February 2017, i24News launched its live American programming, and began broadcasting across the US from studios in New York’s Time Square and Washington DC.

Makori was part of the small team of seasoned journalists who launched i24News’ expansion into America, where it is now available from New York to Los Angeles.

“We are capitalising on the disillusionment in the US with mainstream media,” says Makori. “There is a need and desire for fact-based, insightful coverage, and analysis of global, and particularly US and Middle Eastern, events. That’s what we provide.”

Makori finds that most American domestic news channels serve as echo chambers that fixate on the editorial bottom line of pro-Trump or anti-Trump, with good quality news coverage ignored.

She believes international news services also suffer from a lack of objectivity when covering Israel. i24News addresses these issues, she says, pointing to the station’s

mission statement, “Because what happens in the Middle East doesn’t stay in the Middle East.”i24News is the brainchild of Israeli-French billionaire Patrick Drahi. Drahi was born in Morocco, and is considered to be one of the richest people in both France and Israel. He lives in Geneva, Switzerland, and keeps a low profile. Drahi is the founder of Altice,

at how Israel was portrayed as the aggressor, and by absence of coverage of how Israelis, himself included, were experiencing the trauma of living under constant terrorist attacks. i24News was Drahi’s way of redressing this skewed coverage.

To help bring his vision to reality, Drahi turned to Frank Melloul, a French diplomat and media specialist

She became the editor-in-chief and anchor for the channel’s flagship show, *ClearCut with Michelle Makori*.

Melloul, whom Makori describes as “an inspiring, hands-on, and engaged” chief executive, assembled a diverse team in Israel and in the US.

“In our newsrooms, we have Israeli, Arab, French, British, Australian, American, and a number of South

beholden to any political party.

“In Johannesburg, I have heard people describe us as pro-Israel. We are pro-truth. Perhaps viewers are so used to blatantly anti-Israel coverage that when you report things as they are, it appears to be pro-Israel. For example, in our coverage of the Gaza border riots, we reported that many of those killed were Hamas terrorists, some armed with explosive devices, who were attempting to infiltrate Israel’s borders. We say it’s not just a peaceful civilian march, as portrayed by others. That’s just the reality on the ground. We are not being pro-Israel, we are just being pro-facts.”

Makori launched her television career at the SABC as an anchor and producer for SABC African television, an Africa-wide news service. One of her career highlights was interviewing Nelson Mandela. She also recalls being reprimanded when she referred to Hamas as a terrorist organisation, a deviation from the SABC’s preferred script of freedom fighters.

She studied journalism at the University of the Witwatersrand after graduating with a BA degree, majoring in law and psychology. She obtained a post-graduate honours in media studies and journalism cum laude. “I am a proud Wits graduate,” she says. “I feel my education always holds up against Ivy League peers and colleagues.”

During the early years, Makori made a mark in South Africa, with *Cosmopolitan* magazine voting her as one of its top 30 awesome women in 2004. In 2005, Makori moved to New York after getting a break and landing a coveted anchor position on Bloomberg TV. After five years at Bloomberg, Makori went on to report for CNN Money while getting some Wall Street experience at GFI and obtaining her financial advisor license. In 2011, she started working on TV full time, and joined CGTN, China’s international news channel, where she helped launch the English language channel and covered American business and finance.

CGTN is one of the international news channels carried by DStv, and Makori’s mother, Hana, who still lives in Johannesburg, would tune in every morning at about 03:00 to watch her daughter, while marking matric Hebrew essays. Hana is a well loved and respected high school Hebrew teacher.

Makori makes a point of ensuring that news about Africa is prioritised on her show. “I think it’s important to cover Africa and South African stories on my show. We have a reporter in Johannesburg, and I aim to give viewers an insightful look at developments on the continent. It’s part of the global picture.”



a telecommunications group based in the Netherlands with vast media and technology assets across Europe.

Drahi started i24News in the aftermath of Operation Pillar of Defence in November 2012. He was in Israel during that war against the Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists in Gaza, and was forced to flee into bomb shelters when Hamas rockets were fired into Israel.

When he tuned into international news channels to follow the events he was living through, he was astounded

who had helped launch news channel France24, and who advised numerous French presidents on public relations.

Makori had met Melloul a few years prior when she was in Israel celebrating her parents’ 50th wedding anniversary. Her mother insisted that she should meet Melloul, who had already launched i24News in Israel.

They were impressed with each other, and when the New York-based English language channel was being launched, Melloul reached out to Makori to help spearhead the project.

African journalists and producers. We create a truly global perspective and, of course, a variety of opinions. As journalists, we strive for objectivity, but as individuals, we have our own subjective political positions. We are certainly not all in agreement – but that’s our strength. There is no single editorial position being pushed,” says Makori. “We are not owned or controlled by any government. We are not a state broadcaster like the SABC in South Africa or the BBC in the United Kingdom. And we are not

G-d’s chosen people – a ‘racist notion’

MOIRA SCHNEIDER

“It’s a garbage idea that we are a chosen people.” So said Gilad Stern, addressing the Union of Jewish Women adult education division on the topic, “Is the idea of a chosen people racist?”

Stern has a Master’s degree in Public Administration. He has an interest in the language of race and prejudice, and lectures management at the University of Cape Town’s commerce faculty.

Stern related that the Orthodox, Reform, and Conservative streams of Judaism agree that we’re chosen, as do most liberal Jews. Surveys showed that 75% of Israelis believe that Jews are chosen.

“It’s a widely shared belief that we’re better than the rest,” he said. “Judaism believes in distinction, we believe in difference.”

To illustrate his point, he quoted from the end of the Havdalah service, “*Hamavdil bein kodesh l’chol*”, in which we bless G-d, who makes a distinction between the sacred and the ordinary.

“Are we the chosen people? It was once easier to talk about it. Today it is less so. To suggest that one nation is better than the other is not politically correct today.”

The British once believed that they were a superior race, as exemplified by Rudyard Kipling’s poem, *The White Man’s Burden*. “Today, they are battling not to fall over a cliff,” Stern commented.

Until Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution two hundred years ago, everyone believed in the religious explanation of man’s appearance on Earth, according to Stern. “In the Bible, the Jews were the central players. The Bible was the core of Western civilisation, and the Jews were the chosen people.”

Stern drew a parallel with the Afrikaners who embarked on the Great Trek from the Cape into the interior in 1838. They saw themselves as the chosen people, and compared their suffering to those of the Jews in the Bible.

“The idea of being chosen was a very popular idea

then – today it’s less so,” he said, labelling the biblical notion of “This land is mine, G-d gave it to me” as “psychotic”.

Stern said that classical rabbinic literature was “full of racist comments against others”. Referring to the “*Aleinu leshabeach*” prayer, he said it was “an entirely racist statement – ‘G-d made us better’”.

And the kiddush: “*Asher bachar banu micol ha’aminim*” (Who has chosen us from all the nations), he described as “a really radical thing. It makes me feel self-conscious. Generally, the Jewish texts say the most terrible things about *goyim* (people who aren’t Jewish), but only from our perspective today.”

People have prejudices about nations, as if a whole nation could be stupid or clever. “That there’s a Jewish people who are similar is a stupid idea and lazy thinking. Qualities are not associated with race.

“We share certain similarities, but when you unpack what it means to be human, there’s so much more going on. We’re very different. There are Jews in Israel who don’t like Ethiopian Jews, Moroccan Jews, Russian Jews.”

Due to advances in scientific knowledge, our understanding of race is not what it once was.

“With genetic testing today, we can find out where we came from. We’re all big mixtures – the idea of a pure race is an unbelievably stupid one. The idea that Jewish people are a race is a simply ridiculous notion.”

Referring to conversion to Judaism, Stern said, “Nothing really gets converted in your genes. The idea

that the Jewish people are one people is a garbage idea, and not based on science.”

Stern referred to the former chief rabbi of the United Kingdom, Lord Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits, who stated 50 years ago that Jews were chosen, not because they were superior, but as pioneers of religion and morality. “Even this couldn’t be said today,” he noted.

“The idea of being chosen is racist, and it’s best to avoid it. But, if you leave notions of superiority and inferiority out of it, I have to say I just love being Jewish!

“I like shul [in spite of the prayers mentioned above]. I love the tunes. OK, stone me, ban me – I like my team.

“I hate BDS [the Boycott Divestment Sanctions movement], which believes Israel’s bad. I say it’s a garbage idea – there’s some good, some bad.

“Yes, the concept of Jews being chosen is racist, but it belongs to a time when this was acceptable.”

In Stern’s view, culture is the binding force. “It’s okay to have associations and to feel warmly about ourselves. Attachment is the core of who we are.

“I like being Jewish. I’m not saying there’s anything wrong with being Jewish, but it is wrong when you persecute people because they haven’t got the right type of conversion.

“My idea of a chosen people is that I choose to be Jewish. I’m not sure G-d chose me. I choose to be in this nation.

“Often they drive me mad, and I drive them mad, but I want to be in this disputatious, messy, noisy group of people. In that sense, it’s ok to be a chosen people.”



• *KosherWorld has secured a co-operative marketing arrangement with i24TV and will be giving away a free three-month subscription to the news channel (worth R150) – that can be accessed on cell phone, computer or television – to all its customers. On Israeli election day (9 April), there will be three huge screens broadcasting events and analysis on i24News at KosherWorld in Glenhazel.*

Ex-South African behind most successful food-rescue company

GILLIAN KLAWSKY

One third of food in South Africa goes to waste. Yet 12 million South Africans go to bed hungry each night. It's the juxtaposition of those two statistics, and the desire to bridge that gap, that has driven ex-South African Ronni Kahn to bring her international organisation, which addresses such disparities, to her birthplace.

Now living in Australia, it was a visit to South Africa that cemented the idea that would lead to Kahn creating one of the most successful food-rescue organisations in the world, OzHarvest, which recently delivered its one hundred millionth meal.

OzHarvest's local equivalent, SA Harvest, a non-profit company, began operating in Johannesburg this week. It's founder, Kahn, was recently appointed Officer of Order of Australia – the Australian equivalent of the Order of the British Empire – and is regarded as one of the world's foremost social entrepreneurs.

Kahn has rolled out her food-rescue organisation in countries around the globe, but bringing it to South Africa is particularly meaningful to her. Speaking at an event hosted by the Union of Jewish Women in February, Kahn revealed how excited she was to be launching SA Harvest, 16 years after the birth of OzHarvest.

"The poignancy for me was that I was born and brought up in South Africa, but I left after matriculating, and was never able to give back to this country," she

said.

Kahn had the "lightbulb moment" that led to the founding of OzHarvest when she was driving through Soweto with a lifelong family friend, Selma Browde.

"I knew Selma had been an activist, but I didn't know the details," recalled Kahn. "As we drove into Soweto, Selma said to me in the quietest way, 'You know, I was responsible for electricity in Soweto.' As she said that, the hairs on my arms stood up and I thought, I want to know what it feels like to make that kind of impact on that many people. I knew that my life would never be the same again."

While Kahn had already started delivering surplus food from her events company to an agency she knew, it was only on her return to Australia that OzHarvest officially came to be.

"I'd reached a point where I wanted to know what my purpose was, why I'd been created," she said. "It couldn't have been just to put food on my table."

Fittingly, Alan Browde, Selma's son, is SA Harvest's chief executive. "Ronni and I grew up together," says Browde, speaking to the *SA Jewish Report*. Having recently sold his marketing communications business, Brooke Browde Communications, Browde brings more than 37 years' worth of experience in marketing and business leadership to the table.

While it's a non-profit organisation,

SA Harvest is a major undertaking. "We're running a professional business, our operations systems have to be absolutely efficient, especially with regards to food safety," says Browde.



Alan Browde and Ronni Kahn

"The harvest model is unique in that it can intervene in food waste," he says. "Importantly, this enables us to work with perishable foods including in the use-by-date category. That's where a massive amount of waste happens, and that's where we're going to make a big difference."

As food nears its expiry date, supermarkets often start marking it down. At a certain point, they then get

rid of this food, which is often thrown away. "Here we can intervene and save hundreds of millions of rands worth of food, delivering it to people in need," says Browde. "Our model is to collect food from a variety of food donors, including supermarkets, in refrigerated trucks, deliver it on that same day, and ensure that it's fed, via our beneficiary agencies, to the people in need immediately."

SA Harvest complies strictly with the laws surrounding foodstuffs in the country, as mandated by the health department. "We have registered, certified vehicles that comply with the laws surrounding local municipalities – they're checked, cleaned and hygienic," says Browde. "We have a very fastidious programme where we make a note of the food that is collected, when it was collected, and when it is delivered to our beneficiaries."

Education is one of the key pillars of the Harvest model. It starts with the driver. "Our drivers are vital to the successful distribution of food, and they're trained to follow our processes strictly," Browde says. "They know how to collect, record, and deliver everything, and they know the people they're delivering to. We don't deliver to end users, but rather to points of contact at beneficiary organisations including agencies, schools, old-aged homes, or feeding schemes, all of whom sign an agreement with SA Harvest saying they'll stick to the plan. We help train

them, ensure their refrigeration facilities are correct, and that they'll prepare and serve the food that we deliver on that day."

Events are also a major source of food for SA Harvest. "Whether it's a Barmitzvah or wedding, up to 50% or 60% of the food ordered can go to waste." There are also strict rules surrounding events and food safety. "If food has gone onto a plate, we don't touch it," says Browde. "We only collect and deliver foods that are still freshly cooked in their containers." Food is collected immediately after the event, often at 01:00 or 02:00. "We collect and keep it refrigerated or frozen, and at 08:00 the next morning, it's at our beneficiaries."

Restaurant chains, corporate kitchens, and fruit and veg markets are also key food donors. "We also go to the source, the farms, where waste levels are massive."

The Harvest model is completely based on donations, says Browde. There's no monetary exchange.

SA Harvest started operations with a school in Alexandra township. It chose Alex because of its proximity to Sandton, raising consciousness about the economic gap between the two areas.

Raising consciousness and educating the public is key to SA Harvest's mandate. "The food-rescue side is one part of the business – dealing with the crisis," says Browde. "SA Harvest's main purpose, though, is to be a thought leader in elevating sustainability and waste consciousness in South Africa."

EL AL Presents the New Way to Fly from South Africa to Israel

LITE TICKET

NO checked baggage allowance.
Only hand baggage.
Fares starting from
ZAR 5 300 all inclusive

CLASSIC TICKET

Includes a checked bag and advance preseating.
Fares starting from
ZAR 7 700 all inclusive

FLEX TICKET

Most flexible option with a wide range of services.
Fares starting from
ZAR 13 300 all inclusive

Ticket sales from South Africa based on the new model will apply to departures on/after 01 April 2019.

Contact ELAL on (011) 620-2525, or visit our website www.elal.co.il for more information

Terms and Conditions Apply. E&OE

IT'S NOT JUST AN AIRLINE. IT'S ISRAEL

Digital content is dangerous for our children

TALI FEINBERG

“There is no shallow end on the internet. Digital content is dangerous content,” says Emma Sadleir, founder of The Digital Law Company.

A lawyer by profession, Sadleir has written extensively and spoken to schoolchildren across the country about the dangers of social media – and her expertise is endlessly in demand.

She was presenting a talk titled “Parenting the Screenager” to a large audience of parents and teenagers at Herzlia Middle School in Cape Town, and opened it with some hard and fast facts. In her opinion, smartphones should be banned for children under the age of 13. All social media accounts should be set to private. No child should be allowed a smartphone next to their bed at night – it is leading to a sleeplessness epidemic and major social crises.

Children as young as 10 can be arrested for criminal capacity, and they can be sued at age 7. At age 14, they can be charged as an adult. She has seen all this happen as a “first responder” for when things go wrong on social media.

And things do go awry. In a series of harrowing examples, she showed how children, teens and their parents have found themselves on the wrong side of the law thanks to the powerful device in their hands.

For example, a Dutch girl sent a “joke tweet” threatening terrorist activity to a United States airline and is now being charged with terrorism. In the US, a teenager encouraged her boyfriend in an online message to commit suicide and is now being held legally responsible for his death.

A group of students about to start at Harvard had all their offers at the university rescinded because they were part of a racist meme group on WhatsApp.

In South Africa, a teen created a joke photo of his school headmaster and deputy headmaster in the nude. The latter sued him for defamation. A Port Elizabeth pupil was stripped of being a prefect because of photos on social media of him drinking – which was in conflict with a contract he had signed with the school.

An ex-wife sued her ex-husband for damages, because he was tagged in a defamatory Facebook post by his new wife – and he did not remove the tag. A teen girl was suspended from school for being part of a WhatsApp group bullying other girls – because even though she did not take part in the bullying, she did not stop it.

A celebrity tormented another woman on social media and received a criminal record. A child sent a racist voice note and her mother was fired from her job. A parent created a racist Facebook post and the child was expelled from school.

All these examples show that the digital world is the real world, and vice versa. If children are taking part in cyberbullying, sexting, catfishing (pretending to be someone other than who they are), or reputational harm, they could face very real consequences. They can also be the victims of these actions.

Sadleir says this generation doesn’t understand that “there is no such thing as a free lunch”. Social media may be free, but, essentially, these platforms “own us”. Most have the rights to use, sell, redistribute, broadcast, exhibit, publish, and store the content uploaded. And because it is free, and no one is forcing anyone to take part, there is not much one can do if unhappy with the outcome.

Privacy only exists if one guards it jealously. Because of the screenshot, even a private WhatsApp conversation can be shared widely. Because of the cloud, even private photos can be hacked and distributed.

And even “temporary” content like Instagram Stories and Snapchat photos are stored by the apps that host them.

Meanwhile, everyone has become paparazzi, uploading photos of family and friends without their consent. “We need to teach our children from very young that they have a right to say they do not want to be filmed or photographed,” says Sadleir. This includes parents who share every moment of their children’s lives online – which may come back to haunt them and their kids as they get older.

In this new world, children will be googled before they apply for a position at university or a job. Sadleir advises parents to set up a Google Alert of both their and their children’s names, and work hard on keeping their digital footprint clean. “The ‘tattoo effect’ of the internet is that once we have a ‘digital shadow’, it is there forever,” says Sadleir.

She believes apps that allow people to remain anonymous should be illegal. “Anonymity on the internet is the root of all evil,” she says emphatically. If one’s child is using an app like

Q-me, she advises they get off it immediately.

In the same vein, children must know who follows them on Instagram, and their account should be private. “They need to understand that being popular on Instagram is like being rich in Monopoly. It’s not real. And it’s not worth compromising safety for another ‘like’,” says Sadleir.

But all is not lost. Social media means people have the power to call out others for bullying – they actually have a duty to stand up to it online, otherwise they may be complicit. The screenshot allows users to record instances of bullying, and connecting with others online offers huge resources of support.

Parents can also sign contracts with their children regarding the use of their smartphones. At the same time, Sadleir advises giving a child “immunity” if something goes seriously wrong so that one can help the child in that moment.

But ultimately, do not wait until things go



wrong. Sadleir says it is parents’ duty to understand every app, website or game, and monitor them closely. People need to guard their privacy fiercely and know that everyone can be a publisher.

Locations and identity

details must be kept off the internet, in case of identity theft. Parents need to teach their daughters to use the hard and fast “no” if they are being asked to share photos of their bodies. Their sons must know that such requests can lead to formal charges of harassment. Children need to be able to detect a scam that could solicit them to share personal photos or details.

And everybody needs to know the billboard test: if one would not put a photo, comment or video on a huge billboard signed with one’s name and personal details, do not put it on social media. Because tomorrow, it could appear on that billboard.

A mother’s letter exposes Eastern European pogroms

MIRAH LANGER

It was considered the Holocaust of its day – even a precursor to the Holocaust itself. Yet, the anti-Jewish pogroms which swept across Eastern Europe from 1917 to 1921 are a part of a history almost erased out of memory.

Now, the story of Feiga Shamis, a mother of 12 who survived wave after wave of this violence, has become the lens through which these horrors are exposed in a new documentary.

“Anti-Jewish violence in the aftermath of World War I? Why had I never heard of this?” So says LeeAnn Dance, the documentary’s director, of the impetus for her involvement in the film. “Surely, if mankind is to understand a tragedy as great as the Holocaust, then we must understand its roots.”

As World War I bled into civil war in the region made up of what is now known as Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova, Jews were caught in the middle of the power play. As faction upon faction claimed control over these territories, Jews became convenient scapegoats. Their targeting culminated in a series of massacres, leaving up to 300 000 Jews dead. In particular, these killings were marked by an intention to torture, rape, and loot.

Dance, “a non-Jew in Northern Virginia” as she describes herself, became aware of this history through a series of serendipitous personal circumstances which brought her to the story of Shamis. It was a connection that would eventually result in the creation of *My Dear Children*, the first documentary ever to focus exclusively on this wave of pogroms.

Dance, who previously worked for CNN, along with the co-producer of the documentary, Cliff Hackel, suggests that these pogroms have been little studied for a number of reasons. First, archival information was inaccessible until the fall of the Soviet Union. Second, deciphering the documentation requires specialised language skills. Researchers have to be able to speak Russian, Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish, German, and French in order to make sense of the information. Third, the sheer horror of the World War II Holocaust that ensued, largely directed the focus of public attention away from previous examples of anti-Jewish violence.

The basis for this ground-breaking documentary is a 174-page letter, handwritten in Yiddish, which Shamis painstakingly copied into three different notebooks. The letters were intended for three of her children, two of whom, Mannie and Rose, she had given up for adoption. At the age of eight and 10 respectively, these siblings were brought to South Africa by philanthropist Isaac Ochberg.

While Mannie was later adopted by the Favish family in Johannesburg, Rose refused all offers of adoption, apparently hoping that her mother would come back to claim her.

Even once he had married and had children, Mannie did not speak openly of his past. As such, it

was after Mannie’s death, that Judy Favish, his one daughter, decided to investigate her father’s origins. Along with her own daughter, Favish chose to travel back to the Ukraine and trace the path detailed in Shamis’ letters.

“In part, it was a way of trying to connect to him and reap some kind of closure in a chapter of his life we didn’t really understand,” she says in the film about her trip.

The film documents her visits to the ruins of villages to which Shamis and the family fled throughout the years of expulsion, displacement, and chaos. Chillingly, in location after location, evidence of once thriving Jewish communities is almost entirely obliterated. It is an erasure that makes Shamis’ letter, in which she details the everyday trauma of Jews at the time, all the more remarkable and rare.

Shamis suffered huge losses at this time. Her husband died of typhus and at least one child, a son, was murdered in the pogroms. While two older children managed to get to America, Shamis was left solely responsible for the remaining children.

It was under these conditions that Shamis, as

some cases, entire villages wiped out.

The perpetrators of these acts were mostly teenagers – their ages pegged at between 14 and 20. One of the particularities of the killing was the proliferation and normalisation of non-Jewish neighbours killing their Jewish brethren and then seizing all their property and possessions.

These two aspects of the killings have led some academics to suggest a clear thread between this wave of pogroms and World War II. After all, when German officers entered Eastern Europe during World War II, they reportedly enjoyed significant co-operation – and often keen participation – by locals in the rounding up and killing of Jews. It seems plausible that many of these local populations comprised the same pogrom killers, just somewhat older and more than eager to adopt the Nazi agenda in order to finish off a job started two decades before. In particular, there were few moral qualms about betraying and butchering neighbours, a cultural value that, it has been suggested, had to have had tendrils in an earlier time.

For Shamis, by the time the war had broken out, out of the children who survived the pogrom period,



other Jewish parents did at the time, placed some of her younger children, including Mannie and Rose, into a Ukrainian orphanage for safe-keeping.

While she would later take back her youngest daughter Yente, in 1921 she signed permission to allow Mannie and Rose to leave for South Africa. It was a decision that would haunt her for the rest of her life. In the documentary, a number of academics place Shamis’ personal plight in the larger political context.

For the Jewish population of Eastern Europe, the violence experienced was unprecedented both in terms of its sadism and scale. The perpetrators took pleasure in finding new ways to kill Jews that would inflict the most pain and suffering. In the documentary, descriptions and photographs attest to slaughter beyond imagination: a baby spiked on a bayonet; people with limbs cut off and eyes gouged out; girls raped in front of their parents; traumatised victims slipping into insanity; families torn apart; in

five, including Mannie and Rose, had left Europe. The rest were scattered across the continent.

Shamis had by then moved to Palestine with one of her older daughters. It is during this time, between 1939 and 1941, that she is believed to have started composing her epic letter.

By the end of the war, a bitter irony would be revealed. All of her children who had remained in Europe had perished in the Holocaust. Her decision to give up Rose and Mannie, had, in fact, saved their lives. In 1950, during a brief and disastrous reunion between Mannie and Shamis, she presented him with the letter intended for him and Rose.

By then, Rose and Mannie could no longer speak Yiddish, the language in which the letter was written. The letter languished for years until eventually Rose went to a rabbi in Johannesburg to have it translated. She did not share the contents with her family, but cried for “days and days”, her daughter reveals in the documentary.

Just one week before the elections, and nothing is foolproof



OPINION

Aubrey Katzef

By this time next week, Israel’s election will be over, but the winner at this point is not 100% certain. Though the polls are now more or less consistent, their accuracy is not foolproof. In the lead up to the 2015 election, pollsters were predicting a Zionist Union victory. They got it wrong, and so did the pollsters who forecast that Hilary Clinton would beat Donald Trump for presidency of the United States.

In the United Kingdom, pollsters predicted that voters would choose to remain in the European Union. In Israel, they are predicting that the Blue and White Party will win the largest number of seats.

The leaders of the Blue and White Party are still keeping a low profile. In the past week, Benny Gantz gave two interviews, and they were rated disappointing by the media.

He has now raked up the historically inaccurate accusation that Likud leader and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was responsible for the murder of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated in November 1995 by a right-wing fanatic.

Having failed to attract the support of right-wing voters, he is going all out to attract voters from Labour and Meretz on the left.

To me, this is a sign of desperation. When the Blue and White Party was formed, polls predicted that it would get 37 seats in the Knesset. Now, the polls are predicting 30 to 31 seats. I don’t believe that it will achieve even this.

Once some of the Labour Party voters see that Gantz will not beat Netanyahu, they will remain loyal to their party, which has experienced Knesset members, albeit a weak leader.

Yair Lapid, another joint leader of Blue and White, sent out a tweet in which he confused the leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah. Although he deleted it and later tweeted a corrected version, the right-wing wasted no time in heaping scorn on him and his party. After all, with three former chiefs of staff, Lapid doesn’t know who the leader of Hamas is? So, with Blue and White falling in the polls and Likud remaining more or less the same during the pre-election period, right-wing voters will be free to vote for their favourite party or leader. Here are my predictions:

Right wing

Likud – 28 seats. Two less than it got in 2015. In 2015, some of the right-wing voters deserted Bayit Yehudi to ensure that Likud topped the polls. Now, their votes are needed to ensure that the smaller right-wing parties cross the 3.25% threshold to be able to enter the Knesset.

United Right Party – seven seats. When Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked left to form the New Right, they took with them another MK, reducing the old Bayit Yehudi to five seats. But now, Otzma Yisrael, which ran under the name Yachad in 2015, will probably bring in 100 000 extra voters.

Yisrael Beiteinu – four seats. The polls are predicting that Avigdor Lieberman’s party will not cross the threshold, but it has always been the voice of the Russian immigrant community. With more than one million Russians in Israel, Lieberman must be able to muster the about 150 000 votes to cross the threshold.

Kulanu and Zehut – four each. Kulanu, which places itself in a centre-right position, will suffer from having to compete with other parties for the unaffiliated vote, and will drop from 10 seats won in the 2015 election. The polls are expecting Zehut, the party of former Likud MK Moshe Feiglin, to get six to seven seats. It will attract many from the centre-left with his promise to campaign for the decriminalisation of marijuana, but I don’t see him attracting many from the

right or religious segments.

Religious parties

United Torah Judaism – seven seats. This Ashkenazi Haredi party did well in the local elections, and it might encourage more of their community to come out and vote.

Shas – six seats. The Sefardi religious party has a poor leader in Aryeh Deri. Realising that he can’t cross the threshold, his main opposition, Rabbi Eli Yishai, has withdrawn from the election. This might help Shas.

Centre

The Blue and White Party – 28 seats. A conglomeration of parties and policies, its

leadership has not been inspiring, and it seems that it will have to settle for being the official opposition in the Knesset.

Left wing

Labour – 10 seats. Most polls don’t give the party more than eight, which is better than the four it was expected to receive when the polls began. I believe that traditional labour members will vote for it.

Meretz – five seats. The same old die-hards will vote for it together with some dissatisfied labour voters.

Arab parties

A total of 11 seats between the two parties,

which get very little attention in the media. Some polls predict that Hadash-Taal will get seven seats, and Raam-Balad four. Others predict that the latter won’t cross the threshold.

The blocks

The right wing 66, centre 28, left 15, Arab 11.

This election is turning out to be the hardest to predict since I started doing so three elections ago. All of the above predictions may be thrown out because all the votes which go to parties that do not cross the threshold will be redistributed pro rata to the parties that do.

To quote Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, “To be, or not to be: that is the question.” Will it be Netanyahu or Gantz? My bet is Netanyahu.



WISHING ALL OUR
JEWISH SHOPPERS,
CHAG SAMEACH

ANNUAL PESACH MARKET | CENTRE COURT
7 - 19 APRIL 2019

Monday to Thursday: 9h00 – 16h30
Friday: 9h00 - 14h30
Saturdays: Closed
Sundays: 9h00 - 15h00



NORWOOD
MALL
your mall, your moments

Tel: 011 728 6640/42 | Fax: 011 728 6643 | 26°08’47.20”S 28°04’43.82”
African Street & Sarie Marais Street or Corner Hamlin Street & 6th Avenue, Norwood | www.norwoodmall.co.za



King David’s fame turns up the heat

If we agree with Francis Bacon’s belief that good fame is like fire, then King David Victory Park (KDVP) certainly brought heat to the stage this week.

Missing neither beat nor note, the talented high school cast of *Fame* brought the acclaimed musical to Johannesburg in a flurry of fancy footwork and memorable melodies.

Based on the 1980s-era film of the same name, *Fame* chronicles the lives and hardships of students striving to make it in showbiz by attending the High School of Performing Arts in New York. An intricate narrative which blends angsty adolescent emotions with daunting discussions surrounding growing up, this is by no means a simple production to pull off.

Add to this the high standard set by the school’s stellar performance of *Grease* in 2018 and *A Chorus Line* in 2017, and you’ll understand the enormity of the task which lay before this year’s KDVP cast.

Under the excellent direction of drama doyen Renos Spanoudes, the cast has revived the classic story of high school love, competition, rebellion, and the discovery of identity by delivering a mostly exceptional performance on Sunday’s 18:30 show.

Few will forget the frenzied yet flawless footwork of Alon Raichlin, whose impeccable portrayal of dyslexia-challenged Tyrone Jackson was clearly carried off with aplomb. His spunk, spirit, and sensational moves bowled the entire audience over, all of whom were transfixed as he danced up a storm across the stage. Partnered with the

grace and poise of ballerina Iris (played by Shayna Sundy), the duo certainly knew how to cut a rug with flair.

While the choreography of the cast as a whole was virtually flawless, technical issues appeared

properly audible only in the second act, PA teachers Ms Sherman (Loren Hrustinszky) and Ms Bell (Erin Midzuk) delivered the tense standoff between artistry and academics with conviction and aplomb.

Providing a healthy comedic counterweight, Joe



Photo: Trevor Sachs

Alon Raichlin and other members of the cast during rehearsals

to drown out the dialogue and beautiful voices in the first act, hampering the quality of the performances.

Although they were difficult to hear and became

Vegas (Benji Abrahams) and Mabel Washington (Keren Katzew) gave the audience a few good laughs with their respective stand-up and food-craving routines.

REVIEW



Jordan Moshe

Also warming to her role in the second act was Paris Obel, who played the part of the fame-obsessed Carmen Diaz, whose determination to make it big ultimately leads to her tragic death. Engaging naturally with love interest Schlomo Metzenbaum (played by the talented Eli Kaplan), Obel’s soulful renditions of *In L.A.* and *I Sing the Body Electric* were both well-received, and spoke for her evident singing prowess. Equally vocally gifted were Dina Kay (playing Serena Katz) and Talya Bartal, whose brief performance of *You Say* was met with rapturous applause.

Supported by the talented drama, dance, and music ensembles, this cast presented a polished and hugely talented performance. There was nothing high school about the talent at this school of Fame. The talent on stage was so very professional, it could have been brought to you by theatre doyen Hazel Feldman herself.

The production truly paid tribute to the style and sense of the 80s, featuring costume, setting, and sound expertly managed by the backstage crew and production band.

All in all, it was a compelling reflection of the drive to make it big in showbusiness and the numerous choices which have to be made in the rise to stardom.

Who really is the son of the soil?



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

An alien from Mars landing in Johannesburg would see many smiling posters from political parties fixed to street poles, and think that everyone is so polite, in spite of the tough battle going on for peoples’ votes in the upcoming election.

Everywhere, you see bakkies with enthusiastic youngsters jumping out to affix posters of Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema, in his characteristic red beret, smiling amiably, with the words “Son of the Soil”. The message it appears to be giving is: if this honest young man found a million dollars on the street, he would search for the owner, and not keep a cent. The country would be safe in his hands.

However, any follower of South African politics knows Malema’s other face. He is feared for his aggressiveness and regarded as a potential fascist. He and his unruly comrades have been thrown out of Parliament for disruption, been accused of assaulting a journalist, fired live rounds illegally at the EFF’s anniversary, and have constantly used derogatory, anti-white racial language. Nervous whites say the country is doomed if he gets significant power.

In his posters, Malema does what all politicians do: project a positive image of himself and a negative one of his opponents. An old adage says that the most successful political leader is not the most honest one, but the best liar, who can convince millions to follow him. Honest politicians get relegated to the side lines. History is littered with dishonest leaders sending thousands of soldiers into futile battles.

In the internet era, it’s not just physical posters on street poles that manipulate potential voters; Twitter and Facebook are ideal. At the highest level, United States President Donald Trump unashamedly uses Twitter like a street poster to broadcast his

messages. Other international politicians do the same, such as Russian President Vladimir Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

On Monday – a week before the Israeli elections - *Ynet* in Tel Aviv reported a synchronised system of Facebook and Twitter accounts that has been discovered by internet watchdog, the Big Bots Project. This was employed for the purpose of praising Netanyahu and discrediting his opponents. Netanyahu has denied involvement.

In South Africa, digital placards are less used because the population is less internet-savvy. But in the more prosaic, physical poster-war on street poles in Johannesburg, dreary-looking images of African National Congress (ANC) leader, President Cyril Ramaphosa, call out, “Let’s grow South Africa together!”

The message we are meant to read is, “We are the hundred-year-old ANC, the older sons of the soil, who destroyed apartheid and will lead South Africa to prosperity.” For the election, the ANC is relying on the notion that even if it is stained by corruption today, most South Africans will vote for it, believing it is not the ANC that is corrupt, but certain individuals, who will be rooted out.

In other places, posters of others parties dominate, such as the Democratic Alliance and Freedom Front Plus. Among minorities, the Jewish vote is so small as to be almost irrelevant.

Everyone knows Ramaphosa’s hold on power is precarious because the old guard of former President Jacob Zuma’s supporters are waiting to stab him in the back. The reassurances his posters are meant to convey are tenuous. Malema’s posters are slightly more effective: The man is actually in charge of his party. If the EFF was not racist, some whites might even vote for it.

All things considered, it might be best for the country if the tired ANC collapsed and was rebuilt from scratch without the rogues who ruined it. Is this possible? For a start, South African voters will have to put their votes elsewhere to convey the message.



Pesach in the lap of luxury

Sometimes it’s wonderful to be able to kick back and not change all your dishes and food for Pesach. Rather let someone else do it for you.

We can’t all afford it, but if you can, there are few experiences more decadent than being able to pay for Pesach to be conducted for you in the utmost style and magnificence.

Retreats on offer this year include:

The Pesach Retreat at the **Protea Marriott Hunters Rest Hotel** Hosted by Rabbi Ari and Batya Kievman, this retreat from 18 to 28 April in the Magaliesberg offers the strictest kashrut, gourmet cuisine, and the entire resort is koshered for Pesach. According to the Kievmans, you will have access to world-class attractions and adventures, including shiurim and workshops, as well as special children’s programmes. There will also be entertainment on Chol HaMoed (the weekdays of the festival).

For more information, contact: 072 801 7491 or pesachsa@gmail.com

Passover at the **Premier Hotel, Cape Town** At this fabulous establishment, guests have access to five shuls within walking distance. The hotel offers a range of kosher packages, from seder only to an all-inclusive nine-day package with accommodation, meals, and excursions. Contact 021 430 3400 to discuss your needs.

Pesach at **The Krystal Beach Hotel** This hotel on the Gordon’s Bay waterfront offers superb Pesach options. Each one is strictly Glatt kosher, with the highest standards of kashrut. There are many activities available, including a children’s programme and shul on the premises. The goal is to provide a fun-filled, luxurious, kosher Pesach vacation at a unique location. Dates: 19 to 28 April. Contact: 082 444 9574 or info@capekosher.co.za

The Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel 5**** offers exclusive Pesach packages. Organisers describe these seders as events of quintessential elegance. Resident and guest rabbis, lecturers, and visitors offer and conduct daily shiurim and fun interactive workshops. Kashrut is strictly Glatt kosher. There is also a fun-filled programme of entertainment on Chol HaMoed evenings. Children are kept busy with fabulous entertainment. Dates: 19 to 28 April. Contact: 082 444 9574 or info@capekosher.co.za

Cape Town’s beautiful, iconic hotel, **The President**, offers a true Yom Tov atmosphere. Ideally located in the eruv, and within easy walking distance of five shuls, the hotel maintains the highest level of kashrut under strict, expert rabbinical supervision through the Cape Beth Din. World-class facilities and attractions are available, including children’s programmes. Dates: 19 to 28 April. Contact: 021 434 8111 or pesach@presidenthotel.co.za

Charidy’s missteps start with misspelling

Remember when we poured ice water over our own heads, and claimed that we did so in the name of ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis)? If that wasn’t bad enough, we then nominated others to do the same, publicly. There was an implied message that if we didn’t participate, we simply didn’t care about Joost van der Westhuizen, who was an ALS sufferer.

It was cute at first, but then the public water boarding became boring and silly. And much like any ponzi scheme, I am pretty sure that the last wet and cold person felt pretty dumb when they took the bucket off their head to see that everyone had lost interest and had moved on to the next challenge.

I know it’s not the same, but I feel the same way about the Charidy campaign. I am just going to come right out and say it. I hate it. I don’t hate the causes (at least not all of them), but the Charidy thing drives me a little crazy.

We were sitting at the Linksfeld Clinic a few weeks ago, having a serious medical conversation over a particularly poor (and expensive) cup of coffee, when my brother’s phone rang. He saw it was about a then current Charidy project that was nearing its deadline. Work needed to be done at that point to raise the level of hysteria to levels that only teenage girls were capable of. It was his third such call, so he ignored it.

Then my phone rang, then my other brother’s, and then my father’s. In a short space of time, we were collectively subject to about seven such intrusions. It felt a bit abusive, if I am to be honest. And it certainly didn’t endear that cause to us in any way.

In fact, it achieved the opposite.

My irrational hatred towards Charidy campaigns no doubt stems from the spelling of the word. The bastardisation of charity, for me, lies in the very name.

It doesn’t get any better from that point, as I never quite understand the maths and process behind it all. As far as I can tell, someone seems to have always agreed to match something or other. So, the organisation has a target (which is nice for it), but why that should be at all relevant to me and why I should need to get

caught up in the high-pitched hysteria of it all still perplexes me.

I have also noticed that much like loadshedding, it is an ever moving goal post that seems to jump miraculously to stage four, just as we settle into stage two. The whole system seems to be designed to confuse and enflame all at once. And nothing makes me more mean spirited than that does. That, and bad spelling.

We live in tough economic times. I am sensitive to that. The recent Chevrah Kadisha Purim campaign was a challenge for the organisation, and it was sadly predictable.

The Chev is responsible for supporting the vulnerable of all ages in our community. The

need is growing, the support base is shrinking, and financial insecurity is making donors reticent.

It isn’t surprising that the organisation is feeling it if you add the complexities of power outages, the difficulty in contacting community members on campaign day, and donations headed for abroad. And if it is feeling it, then every local school, shul, and organisation must be feeling it too.

By no means do I suggest that Charidy campaigns be stopped. If someone is keen to pour ice water over their head, then by all means, let him do so.

It just doesn’t mean that I need to participate

INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman



as well. What I do suggest is that the organisers of these initiative don’t badger people. Also, they shouldn’t assume that their campaign is as meaningful to everyone as it is to the organisation driving it.

I also suggest that considering the enormous challenges the community is facing, the donors think very carefully where to channel their money. They should consider where it will be put to the best use, and who the recipients of the limited resource will be.

Charidy does, of course, begin at home.

Ramaphosa honours journalist

>>Continued from page 5

Pogrud said he received an email from the presidency two weeks ago, informing him of his national order. “South Africa is so much in my soul that I especially treasure this honour from the highest level of government,” he said.

“Although I had little choice but to leave South Africa many years ago, I have closely followed events and have given innumerable lectures and TV and radio commentaries, and have written articles and books. My newest book, due to be published later this year, is about South Africa.

“I visit as much as I can. I care deeply about the people – happy that they are free, sad and angry that the dreams and hopes of so many for a better life are still unfulfilled,” said Pogrud.

“I have applied my long and extensive knowledge and experience of apartheid to relate to what I have found during the 20 years I have lived in Israel, including my dialogue work across the lines of conflict. I am as resolutely opposed to injustice in Israel as I was in South Africa.

“I also know enough about both societies to be able to say that simplistic comparisons are wrong. I have tried to apply a basic mantra which I brought from South Africa, and which is as relevant and needed in Israel as it was there: ‘Make contact, create trust’.”

The executive director of the South Africa Israel Forum, Benji Shulman, said: “This man wrote down a piece of history about pan-Africanism and its leader, Robert Sobukwe, that people would have been ignorant about, if not for him. And now it is more relevant than ever.

“He is also an extremely powerful voice of the left, and is able to really stand by what is right and the truth in both Israel and South Africa.”





9-DAY PASSOVER PACKAGES

FROM **R22 000** PER PERSON


WHERE KINDNESS & KOSHER MEET

Passover packages now available



Enjoy your Passover stay in Cape Town. With 5 shuls within walking distance, Premier Hotel Cape Town has a range of Kosher packages available, from Seder dinner only, to Yom Tov, and an all inclusive 9-day Passover package providing accommodation, meals and excursions.

Contact our Kosher booking experts today to discuss your needs.



Going beyond the family tree

Judges of the My Family Story project at King David schools in Johannesburg had a difficult task choosing which of the artworks made by Grade 7s would be forwarded to the Beit Hatfutsot Museum in Israel.



David Joseph, Jesse Shur, and Cara Beck

The My Family Story programme is sponsored by Beit Hatfutsot – the museum of the Jewish people – in Israel, in collaboration with Partnership2Gether, and the Israel Centre South Africa. Now in its 24th year, it offers students at King David Linksfield, Victory Park, and Sandton Primary School the opportunity to express their

family history, Jewish roots, and Jewish family values through creativity and skill. The programme culminates in an artistic installation done by the children. This year, exhibitions were held at all three schools to showcase the final artistic projects produced by the Grade 7s. Judges included Professor Liat Amar Arran, the Director of the Israel Centre SA; Kim Nates and Courtneigh Bernstein from the Holocaust Museum; and Anthony Rosmarin, the Chairman of Partnership2Gether. The winners were: Jesse Shur, Cara Beck, and David Joseph from King David Senior Primary School Linksfield; Alexa Abrahamsohn and twins Gali and Alma Kella from King David Primary School Victory Park; and Daria Cohn and David Matisonn from King David Primary School Sandton. Winners will send a one-minute presentation of their projects to the Beit Hatfutsot Museum, where they will be entered into an international competition with thousands of other projects from around the world. Each winner has a chance of being selected to join 50 others from around the world in a two-day celebration at the museum in Israel in July, where their projects will be displayed in an international exhibition at the museum.

Hop, skip and jump to revive focus in class

The Yeshiva Extension and Support (YES) Centre is thriving in its second year. Located at Yeshiva College, it offers an integrated therapy and assessment facility benefiting parents, teachers and pupils. Its most recent initiative is an obstacle course that was developed for the school's juniors. It is the brainchild of occupational therapist Shari Levy who wanted to incorporate underlying foundation skills in an innovative and exciting way. The obstacle course provides the opportunity to

create “movement breaks” for the young children. Such breaks allow the children to rid themselves of any restlessness, which increases their ability to refocus in class. Research has shown a direct correlation between movement and optimal brain function. The course contains hopscotch, a maze, visual pathways, arrow jumps, zigzag tracks and square jumps. In a fun and inviting way, these activities develop skills such as coordination, visual tracking, balance, eye-foot coordination, rhythm, timing, and speed.



A record number of cases of wine and grape juice were sold last Sunday at the annual Pesach charity wine sale in aid of Torah Academy held together with Adam International at KosherWorld in Glenhazel.

SAFI and WIZO give gift of mobility

Two child-sized wheelchairs were presented to pupils at the Lebohang Centre for Disabled Children (LCDC) in Sebokeng by the Women's International Zionist Organisation (WIZO) and the South African Friends of Israel (SAFI) on 27 March. The wheelchairs are intended to empower the pupils' education through mobility. The donation is part of WIZO SA's local outreach programme. The chairs were secured from Israeli

nongovernmental organisation Wheelchairs of Hope. The donation follows a visit by WIZO to the LCDC a few months back, where it became apparent that the centre's biggest challenge was the mobility of children travelling to and from the centre in a location environment coupled with harsh terrain. This was having an unfortunate and devastating impact on the children's education and well-being.



Batmitzvah honours fallen Israeli soldiers

Leora and Sara Joffe with Yaron and Sigalet Bezaleli



King David Primary School Sandton had a special Batmitzvah project commemoration at assembly on Friday, 29 March. The Joffe twins, Sara and Leora, made a presentation in honour of two fallen Israeli soldiers, Hadar Cohen and Hila Bezaleli. Bezaleli's parents, Yaron and Sigalet, travelled to South Africa to be a part of the Joffe twins' Batmitzvah weekend, and to honour their daughter's memory.

King of the councillors

Out of a group of 80 junior councillors elected from 40 different schools, four came from King David Primary Schools Victory Park and Sandton. The Johannesburg Mini Council executive committee was elected at the Holy Rosary Convent on 12 March. Two King David students were selected for the executive, namely Daniel Kapeluschnik from Victory Park as chief whip, and Benjamin Ginsburg from King David Sandton as mini mayor. The other two King Davidians on the council are Alexa Abrahamsohn, secretary of the smile committee, and Liana Wes, the vice-chairperson of special projects.

Alexa Abrahamsohn and Daniel Kapeluschnik from Victory Park



Writing and resilience at Torah Academy

Author Jeremy Daniels recently addressed pupils at Torah Academy Primary School about the qualities of famous South African sportsmen, and his passion for writing. His talk, themed, “Road to Glory”, focused on the resilience of famous sportsmen who have managed to achieve glory even in adverse situations. The talk's theme echoes Daniels' most recent book: *Siya Kolisi: Road to Glory*, which is a story about the rise to fame from humble beginnings of one of South Africa's most popular rugby stars, and is written specifically for young readers.

Torah Academy pupils with author Jeremy Daniels



Inspirational Batmitzvah in Edenvale

Three girls from the Edenvale Jewish community recently celebrated their Batmitzvah with the theme, “Our Jewish names – what they mean to us and how they define us.” Each one spoke about their Jewish names, themselves, and what is important to them in life. They were well prepared by Rebbetzin Helene Gruzd from Edenvale Shul. A beautiful part of the ceremony was that their moms also got the opportunity to speak about them.



Emma Powell, Holly Liebowitz and Gabi Railton

Treasured domestics get tea and goodies

Margaret Ndebele, Lynne Raphaely and Maureen Phakathi



The Union of Jewish Women's (UJW's) annual Domestic Workers' Tea was held on 26 March. About 120 people were treated to a morning of entertainment, talks, prizes and a fabulous tea at the Waverley Sports Club Hall. The guests were entertained by Alan Gold before UJW Executive Member Lynne Raphaely began proceedings with the lucky draw. Two mothers whose sons

were victims of the recently exposed sexual abuse at Parktown Boys, spoke about their experience, and gave advice about the signs of abuse, and what to do if you suspect abuse is taking place. A CAP security representative spoke about safety and security, and gave tips about what to do in a dangerous situation, and how to work together to combat crime.

Setback for UCT boycotters

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies



On Saturday last week, the council of the University of Cape Town (UCT) declined to adopt a senate resolution that the university imposes an academic boycott against its Israeli counterparts. Instead, the matter was referred back to the senate, since it was felt that “a number of issues required clarification, including a full assessment of the sustainability impact of the resolution, and a more consultative process was necessary before the matter could be considered any further”. We welcome the council’s rejection of the resolution, which in addition to flouting fundamental principles of academic freedom, was self-evidently discriminatory, thoroughly unscholarly in terms of its skewed interpretation of the Israeli-

Palestinian question, and driven by radical ideological bias against Israel rather than any genuine concerns for human rights. In our statement, we commended the council for having endorsed the principles of academic freedom, and called upon the UCT senate “to further endorse and uphold these principles in their future deliberations”. I thank all those organisations and individuals, including students, academics, alumni, activists, and others from both the Jewish community and outside it, who have joined us in taking a stand against this morally repugnant initiative. Our focus now will be on the upcoming senate debate on the issue.

Mozambique relief appeal

I am pleased to be able to report that there has been an outstanding response from our community, particularly in Pretoria, to our appeal on behalf of victims of the Mozambique cyclone disaster. Our national and regional offices are overflowing with donated items,

which will be sent by truck to the crisis areas. In terms of financial donations, the community has likewise been very generous. Through these funds, we have been able to purchase large amounts of disinfectants, soaps and other hygiene products, and assist with the provision of hospital beds. We are further able to support other relief bodies, including Cadena, a newly founded Jewish relief agency in South Africa. We are assisting Cadena in facilitating the transportation of donated items, and also in purchasing materials for water purification projects. The Jewish schools have all come on board, as have the South African Union of Jewish Students, which has made flood relief a core component of this year’s campaign in response to Israel Apartheid Week (IAW), another grotesque anti-Israel initiative on our campuses. I will report back on this year’s anti-IAW activities next week.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the community’s response

is that it came at a time of considerable economic stress in our own country. That so many South Africans contributed to assist disaster victims across the border is indeed to the credit of the country as a whole. In conclusion, I would like to also mention the participation of our national director, Wendy Kahn, as part of the World Jewish Congress delegation in

last week’s American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference in Washington DC. This included speaking on a panel with her counterparts from the United Kingdom, Argentina, and Ireland about the challenges their respective communities face. • Listen to Charisse Zeifert on Jewish Board Talk, 101.9 ChaiFM every Friday from 12:00 to 13:00.

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

Letters

KOLEINU ANTI-ABUSE PROGRAMME ESSENTIAL FOR OUR CHILDREN

Thank you for the recent article about safeguarding our children from inappropriate internet content. As parents, we need to get involved in our children’s phone usage, and teach them how to keep themselves safe from harm online.

There is another area where we as parents and as a community should guard our children and teach them to keep themselves safe from harm.

I’m referring to abuse. All kinds of abuse, whether it be physical violence or sexual abuse of children and/or women. Our community is similar to other communities. We have our share of monsters. But, as a religious community, we are even more at risk than other communities. Why? Because we don’t talk about it. We don’t tackle it head on. Silence works in favour of the abuser. Silence tells the monster that they can continue with the abuse because no one will find out. A community that does not actively peel away the shroud of silence is guilty of facilitating the abuse.

There was also an article about Dr Pelcovitz, a professor of psychology at Yeshiva University in New York. He gave an informative talk about pornography

at this year’s Sinai Indaba. He also wrote a lengthy “Endorsement for Koleinu SA SchoolSafe Programme”.

No doubt, we are lucky to have an organisation like Koleinu in our midst. But are we, as a community, open to what Koleinu has to offer us and our children?

So far, I’m afraid not. Koleinu should visit every primary school in the country. And we, as the community from which it has sprung, should be lining up for it to teach our children to keep safe from the monsters in our midst. But we are not doing that. Therefore, our children are left vulnerable. We have not equipped them to deal with situations that may arise – bad situations that may damage them for life.

Because we love our children, I urge every school to take up the Koleinu programme. I urge every parent to make sure that their school is implementing the Koleinu programme. Because the few rands it costs to implement the programme now is mere pocket change compared to the cost of a child not having the skills to protect themselves against the monsters. – Michele Engelberg, Johannesburg

ANC TRIP TO ISRAEL AS LIKELY AS OPERATION TO THE MOON

In Peta Krost Maunder’s editorial in the SA Jewish Report of 29 March, she refers to Baleka Mbete’s support of BDS [Boycott Divestment Sanctions], and suggests that she get on a plane to Israel to see the country for herself.

Not a chance that she or any other ANC member would be allowed to go to Israel to see the country for themselves.

Should they go, they would be shocked to see that this tiny country in the desert has an abundance of water well beyond its needs; there is no load-shedding; every traffic light works; and there are no potholes on the roads.

Apartheid does not exist anywhere in Israel. Arabs, Christians, and Muslims are members of Knesset, attend universities, and are free to go and shop where they like.

They will see greenery all over the country which was once yellow desert sand.

There are trees, fruit, and vegetables all over the country.

There is hardly any unemployment and there is no car hijacking, no house robberies, nobody being robbed or raped. No daily murders of rivals. Women and children are safe.

Imagine Mbete or other ANC members seeing all this and comparing it to what they have achieved.

The answer is simple: don’t go to Israel!

Moreover, is Mbete or any of her compatriots aware that this tiny country, the size of the Kruger National Park, has sent a satellite to the moon, which will land on 11 April. Israel will be the fourth country in the world after the United States, Russia, and China to perform this magnificent feat. – Robert Lieberman, Johannesburg



- Sunday (7 April)**
 - Second Innings hosts Jamie Mithi, ChaiFM presenter on *Embracing The Debate – stories from the frontline of the biggest conversations in Africa*. Time: Tea at 10:00. Meeting at 10:30. Venue: Arcadia, entrance opposite Glenwood Lodge in Long Avenue, Sandringham. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors, includes tea and light refreshments. Contact: Linda Fleishman 011 532 9701.
- Monday (8 April)**
 - The Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC) presents a workshop on *Victors Among Victims: Forbidden Care as Holocaust Jewish Resistance* with guest speaker Arthur Shostak. Time: 10:00 to 11:00. Venue: 1 Duncombe Road, Forest Town. Free admission, donations welcome. RSVP to dowi@jhbholocaust.co.za or 011 640 3100.

- The Union of Jewish Women hosts Sharon Seftel, renowned teacher of English literature for matric on *Reading – The Fairy-Godmother Gift*. Time: 10:00. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Donation: R40. Contact: UJW office 011 648 1053.
- Tuesday (9 April)**
 - The JHGC in partnership with the Embassy and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania opens the exhibition, *One Century of Seven: Lietuva. Lita. Lite*. Time: 19:00. Venue: 1 Duncombe Road, Forest Town. RSVP to dowi@jhbholocaust.co.za or 011 640 3100. Free admission, donations welcome.

- Wednesday (10 April)**
 - The JHGC hosts a conversation with Lithuanian Jewish Community Chairperson Faina Kuklansky on current Lithuanian-Jewish interests and relations. Time: 10:00. Venue: 1 Duncombe Road, Forest Town. RSVP to dowi@jhbholocaust.co.za or 011 640 3100. Free admission, donations welcome.
- Thursday (11 April)**
 - Hebrew speakers meet at Beyachad. Time: 10:30. Venue: 2 Elray Street, Raedene.
 - Join the Women’s International Zionist Organisation (WIZO) every Thursday for a *Lunch and Learn* shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz. Time: 13:00 at Beyachad. For more information, contact: WIZO office: 011 645 2515.

JOHANNESBURG MUSICAL SOCIETY
TRIO CAP DE CLASSIQUE
Liesl Stolz – flute
François du Toit – piano
David Pinoit – cello
Saturday 6 April
Linder Auditorium – 20:00
Trios by Hummel, Debussy, Mendelssohn
www.jms.org.za **BOOKING AT COMPUTICKET** *No credit card sales at box office

ACCOMMODATION
Budget Rooms, Studios & Cottages
Daily • Weekly • Monthly
Easy walk to Pine Street Shul, Torah Academy, Chabad Norwood & Kolel

53 Garden Road Orchards (next to H.O.D.)
(011) 485-3800/1 • info@gardenplace.co.za
Shabbat Special
Pay for Friday and get Saturday FREE

Michael David
QUALITY WORKMANSHIP

Tired of your old worn-out furniture?
Rejuvenate your home...

- Custom upholstery
- Furniture repairs
- Dining room suites
- and more

Michael 082 820 7091
Warren 072 940 7757
430 Louis Botha Avenue, cnr Main Street, Rouxville

FRANK SOLOMON HEARING CENTRE
Hearing aids that easily connect to **any cell phone** and your TV
SPECIAL PRICE FOR PENSIONERS

- Affordable Hearing Aids for Pensioners
- 2-Year Warranty
- No Follow-Up Charges
- Latest Technology
- Small and Discreet Hearing Aids
- Extensive Wireless Communication Portfolio Available
- Supplements for Tinnitus Treatment approved by the American ENT Association

CONTACT US TODAY: (011) 849-6256
Fairmount 6 George Avenue, Sandringham, Johannesburg
Additional Branches: Bedfordview • Benoni • Germiston

PHONAK
life is on

Jordan Chait: a crisp definition of sporting youth

LUKE ALFRED

The coming weeks will be busy ones for young Maties flyhalf Jordan Chait. On Monday night, top-placed Maties played their last round-robin game of the Varsity Cup against bottom-placed UWC. Maties beat UWC 84-26, with matters heading towards the knockout stages of the competition this coming week.

“We’ll have home advantage against Shimlas in the semifinal,” says Chait. “After that it’s either Tukkie or Pukke in the final if we win against Shimlas.”

Maties have galloped through autumn like a thoroughbred side of old, so much so that if Danie Craven is watching from somewhere up above, you feel that he might allow himself the pleasure of a rare smile.

Perhaps he’s even reaching down to pat his beloved dog, Bliksem.

On the face of it, Chait’s Maties haven’t been overly extended in the Varsity Cup. They beat UCT Ikeys (at UCT) 66-5 in the second round, and more recently slapped down Shimlas by putting a casual 45 points on them in a comprehensive 59-14 away victory.

Monday night’s romp against UWC was similarly impressive.

They’re the only side in the competition who haven’t lost, and are one of only three sides who have picked up five bonus points (prior to the final round of matches) alongside Ikeys and Shimlas.

The win against UCT was particularly satisfying for Chait because after matriculating in 2016, he wrestled with whether he wanted to stay close to home and go to UCT with some of his mates, or whether he wanted to experience student life in all its glory at an

Afrikaans university some distance away. “It wasn’t an easy decision,” he says. “Finally, though, I wanted to experience what life was like outside of the family.”

Chait is the son of former Western Province flyhalf, Anton, with the rugby-playing family going back four generations to SACS in Cape Town. Jordan says his earliest memories involve kicking a rugby ball to dad (“I was always right-footed”) in the garden of the family home, and although he played good water polo at school, there was never any question about whether the rugby road was the one he would pound.

“It’s in my genes – I was born to play rugby,” he says. “My dad and I play rugby, and my mom and brother go horse-riding – that’s just how it works.”

Not that any pressure was placed on him to play. He was allowed to get on and discover his love of the game for himself without too much heavy-handed parental interference. “Dad’s pretty direct. If I’ve had a bad game he tells me, but it’s not as though there’s been major pressure.”

While at SACS, Chait was part of a school first XV that beat Affies 13-10, probably his most cherished moment as a schoolboy rugby player, and slowly, he’s climbed the ranks to a point where people outside of the Western Cape are beginning to talk about him and whether he might have a long-term future in the game.

He remains relatively unfazed by the chatter, saying that he hasn’t decided what he’ll do in 2020 when asked if he’s considered making rugby a full-time career. He might do honours, he says, but he’s yet to make up his mind one way or another.

Such laissez faire sentiments square with



Maties flyhalf Jordan Chait

his response to a question about naming one important thing that he’s learned at university in the last while. “That’s quite a difficult question,” he laughs. “I think what I’ve probably taken away most is that you shouldn’t be afraid to take risks. You should go with your instincts. I’ve also learned about discipline, I guess, and the importance of living a balanced life.”

As in life, then, so in rugby. You wouldn’t think in listening to him talk that Maties are about to embark on probably the most important two weeks of their rugby lives so far. Indeed, Chait seems to be taking it stride for stride, day by day, not getting too bothered

about whether he’s about to play against UWC in a game of no consequence, or against Shimlas in a semifinal in a week’s time.

Indeed, listening to him talk suggests that Maties are a side high on confidence, with defeat the furthest thing from their collective mind. Knockout rugby brings with it its own anxieties but for the moment at least, those anxieties seem an awfully long way away for the third year BCom Innovation and Entrepreneurship student.

He’s just enjoying the ride, trusting his instinct and not thinking too much about the future. It sounds like a crisp definition of a sporting youth – and a good one at that.



UPCOMING:
William Kentridge, *Untitled (Woman and Café)* (detail)
Estimate: R2 800 000 – 3 800 000

ASPIRE

ART AUCTIONS

FOR BEST RESULTS

SELL WITH US. CONSIGN NOW.

WINTER 19 AUCTION

Modern & Contemporary Art

Johannesburg, 2 June

CONSIGNMENTS CLOSE MID-APRIL

FREE ART VALUATIONS

JOHANNESBURG

011 243 5243 | 071 675 2991

enquiries@aspireart.net

www.aspireart.net

A

Donate or Sponsor

For every R180 you donate you will receive one copy of Tehillim with your name included in a special dedication section.

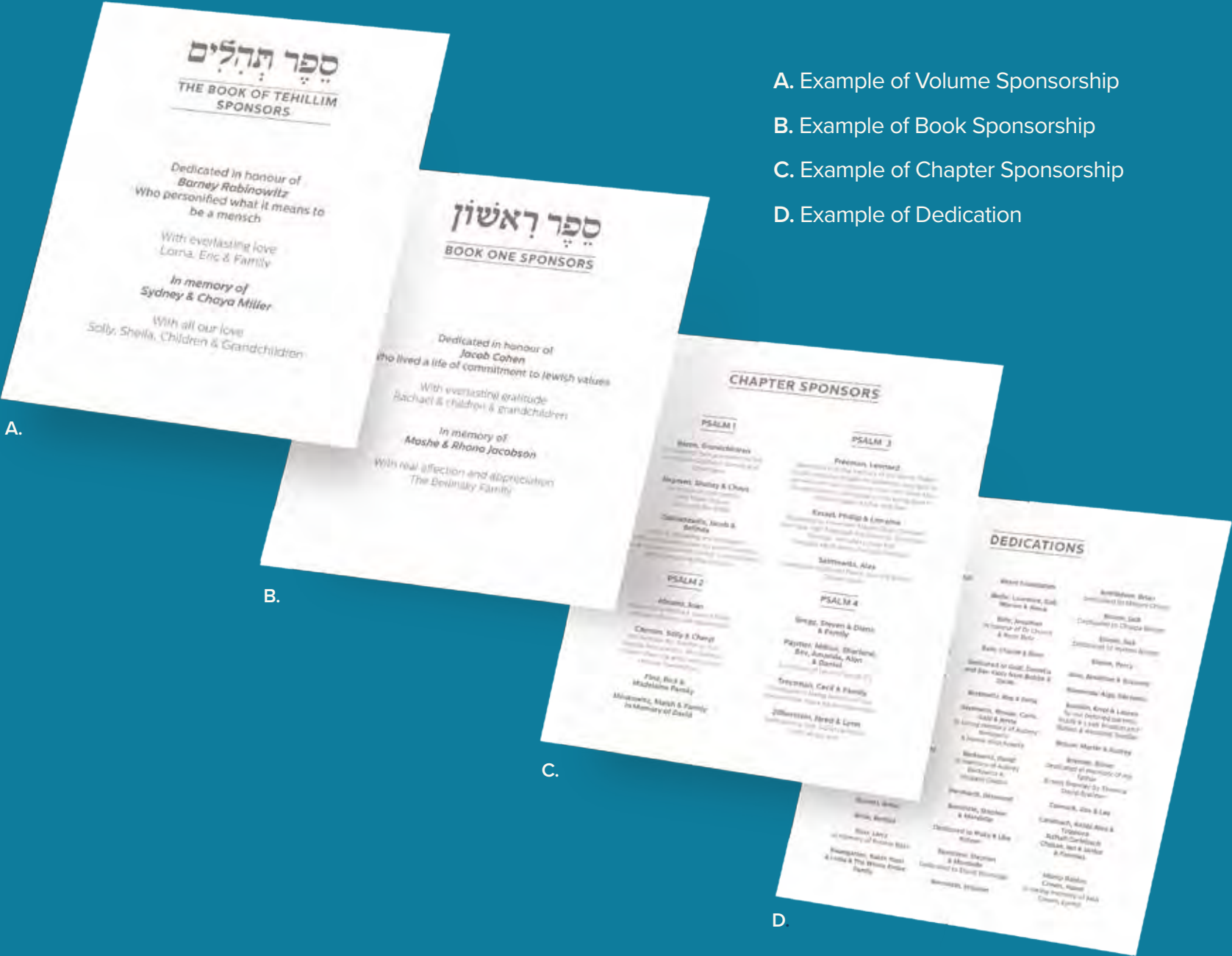
For a R3,600 sponsorship, 20 people will each receive a copy and you will have the opportunity to have the chapter of your choice dedicated to your name.*

For a R18,000 sponsorship, 100 people will each receive a copy, and you will have the opportunity to have one of the five books dedicated to your name.*

For a R180,000 sponsorship, 1000 people will each receive a copy, and you will have the opportunity to have the entire Volume dedicated in your name.*

Want to put the value of this project to the test?
... well, there’s an entire book for that.

* Multiple sponsor names may appear together in dedication to a chapter, book or volume.



Please complete the following sponsorship form

ב'ה

Name _____ Surname _____

Tel _____ Email _____

Postal Address _____

_____ Postal Code _____

Please provide correct spelling of names to be listed for dedications

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Payment Options

☐ CREDIT CARD ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX ☐ DINERS ☐ OTHER

Card Number _____ CVV _____

Expiry Date ____/____

EFT Payments:	Miracle Drive Trust Standard Bank	Branch: Sandton Account No: 022 723 218	Branch Code: 051001 Reference: Tehillim
----------------------	--------------------------------------	--	--

Please WhatsApp photograph of completed form to 082 370 1770
or email it to info@psalm4that.com. You can also visit www.psalm4that.com
and complete the form online.

There's A Psalm For That Tehillim Drive

Honouring the lives of Joshua and Taryn

www.psalm4that.com



chabad house
Driven by Miracle Drive