



London
shortlists
Yaël Farber
(page 4).

South African Jewish Report

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Photo: Backpagepix

Bafana pride - Captain Courageous Dean Furman



Despite having already qualified for the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations, South Africa still has a hunger to do well in its final group match this weekend in Uyo, Nigeria, says Bafana Bafana captain, midfielder Dean Furman (26), epitomising the new cock-a-hoop spirit in the team under coach Shakes Mashaba. Furman, the inspirational first-ever Jewish captain of the national soccer team, has become a firm crowd favourite and every time he touches the ball there are roars of “Mluuuungu” (white man) or “Deeeean”! Last weekend Bafana beat Sudan 2 - 1 in Durban in their second encounter, to top group A with 11 points and secure their entry into next year’s Africa championship. The Nigerian encounter is academic, but the new-found Bafana pride will ensure a tenacious battle. See pages 6 and 16.

Woolies gets tough as BDS gets dirty

BDS’ tactics of using smoke and mirrors to make the #BoycottWoolworths seem bigger than it is, like their rent-a-crowd protests at 40 Woolworths stores every month are evident.

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Is Abbas to blame for Jerusalem attack?

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Passing of communal giant, Mervyn Smith

“A grievous loss” to the Jewish community, whose “presence, wisdom and experience will be sorely missed, not only by his family, but by all his friends and colleagues.”



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A very skewed view of what Beit Emanuel stands for

“The only way one creates peace is by being at peace, with deep commitment to non-violence and to the dignity of all humans.”

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Louis Botha Rea Vaya: pros and cons

“Louis Botha was very much in need of rejuvenation, and I believe this bus route will bring this about. I believe it is a positive development for all the immediate areas.”

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Passing of communal giant, Mervyn Smith

DAVID SAKS

Tributes from around the world have poured in for Mervyn Smith (pictured), a senior South African Jewish communal leader who went on to play an increasingly important role in the arena of international Jewish politics. Smith (77), passed away in Cape Town over the weekend after a long illness. The funeral took place at Pinelands Jewish Cemetery on Monday.

Born in Vereeniging in the then Transvaal, Smith lived most of his life in the Cape, in Vosburg in the Karoo and thereafter in Bellville.

He later practised law in Bellville, where he also played cricket for 25 years and eventually was made life president of the Bellville Cricket Club. Other positions he held outside of the Jewish community included president of the Law Societies of South Africa, chairman of the Performing Arts Council of South Africa and Cape Performing Arts Board and chairman of the Cape Town City Ballet.

Parallel to these activities, Smith was involved in Jewish affairs from an early age, being active in Habonim and serving as chairman of the University of Cape Town branch of the Students Jewish Association.

He was first elected to the Cape Council of the Board of Deputies in the 1970s, serving two terms as chairman between 1983 and 1987. In 1991, he became the first-ever person outside of Johannesburg to be elected national chairman of the Board. Dur-



Photo: Ilan Ossendryver

ing his tenure, he was instrumental in establishing the African Jewish Congress to act as the representative, coordinating body for the Jewish communities of sub-Saharan Africa and served continually as its president for the remainder of his life.

His growing stature as an international Jewish leader was demonstrated by his appointment as a vice president of the World Jewish Congress and, in May last year, as co-chairman of its policy council. He was also a director of the Claims Conference for Material Claims against Germany, and for many years represented South Africa on that body.

Always deeply opposed to apartheid, Smith was at the forefront of those within the SAJBD pushing for the organisation to adopt a firm moral position against it. These efforts bore fruit during the 1980s when, inter alia, the Board adopted a resolution unequivocally condemning apartheid

at its national conference in 1985. Smith later remembered one of his proudest moments as being the Cape Council of the Board had condemned the Group Areas Act.

During the years of transition to multiracial democracy, Smith was adamant that the Jewish community should not only welcome the process, but participate in and contribute to it.

His chairmanship was very much focused on pursuing those goals, which underpin the vision and strategy of the Board to this day. For his “contributions to reconciliation, change and empowerment in South Africa in the fields of business and/or art, science, sport or philanthropy”, Smith became only the second Capetonian to receive the Lexus Lifetime Achiever Award at the Jewish Achiever Awards ceremony.

Another area in which Smith was extensively involved was in combating oanti-Semitism, particularly in the legal sphere. One of Cape Town’s leading attorneys, he devoted countless hours gratis to fighting the Board’s battles, of which the epic hate speech cases against Radio 786 and Cosatu’s International Relations Spokesman Bongani Masuku, were just two of many examples.

He was especially passionate about Holocaust commemoration and education, and in that regard was a long-serving chairman of the board of trustees of the South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation.

For generations of Jewish commu-

nal leaders and professionals, Smith provided an invaluable source of support and advice. Michael Bagraim, who in 2003 became the second Capetonian to be elected as SAJBD chairman, described him as “a friend, adviser and mentor” who had been “instrumental in advising and guiding me in most of the positions” he had held both within the community and outside. Smith was a long-acting attorney for the Democratic Alliance and last week was awarded the Democracy Award by the party.

One of the Jewish professionals who worked especially closely with

Smith was Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, CEO of the African Jewish Congress. In a statement, he wrote that Smith’s passing was “a grievous loss” to the Jewish community, and that his “presence, his wisdom and his experience will be sorely missed, not only by his family, but by all his friends and colleagues”.

Smith is survived by his children Paul, Deborah, Raphael and Abigail, seven grandchildren and brother, David. He was predeceased by his wife Tamar, a teacher who headed the Religious Instruction Department, and a daughter, Rinah.



Photo: File

Communal leader Mervyn Smith, alongside former President Nelson Mandela and the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, when Mandela visited the Sea Point Shul in May 1994. On the far left is former Israeli ambassador Alon Liel.

Let’s be grateful for our blessings



Rabbi Julia Margolis
Bet David Shul, Morningside

This week’s Torah portion, Toldot - “Generations” - chronicles the history of our Patriarch Isaac and the generations that he and his wife Rebecca created through the birth of their twin sons Jacob and Esau.

We read about a dramatic and unsettling tale of family disharmony, a tragic story with Esau selling his birthright to Jacob, who turns around and steals the blessings that his blind father thought he was bestowing upon Esau on his deathbed.

We all have our personal chronicles of our own family. Perhaps because I am an only child, sometimes its easier for me to see many families from a certain perspective and to see how they are caught up in their internal fights, there is often no affection, and togetherness.

They’re perhaps too busy to appreciate that every day is a privilege to spend with your loved ones. In our days we are caught up in modern technology and we spend so much of our time on different networks, or group chats that we start to forget the basis of our own “chronicles”.

We can so easily get drawn into arguments and foolish disagreements over nothing really. That many times one should caution one’s self to stop, to take a step back and take a moment to appreciate what is surrounding one. We need ultimately to study how to recognise the blessings we are in each other’s lives.

We need to be grateful for each moment; unfortunately often such gratitude is too late. We should complain less in order to teach our next generation that complaints rarely bring anything good, in most cases we find ourselves on the receiving end of the opposite.

We are all very busy in our work, homes and lives. I am both a mother and a rabbi. Some days I’m more a mother and some days more a rabbi. One somehow does one’s best to make it all work; I just know in my heart that it all feels

right, and when the going gets tough I just keep putting one foot in front of the other, knowing I will get there in the end.

The experience of coupling motherhood with a career is something women fought for in the last century. The opening of the doors to women in the rabbinate was very much a result of the Women’s Liberation Movement. And Judaism is no doubt all the better for it.

I’m trying to follow in the steps of my role-models, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, as well as Regina Jonas - the first female rabbi, ordained in Germany in 1935 and murdered in Auschwitz in 1944. Another role-model is my mother, Rabbi Rubinstein serving her congregation also far away from Israel.

We must always seek truth in our world, and not be afraid to live according to those truths; not be afraid to speak up when those truths are questioned; knowing that we have received a gift from our ancestors, and passed this down through the generations of mothers following them.

This Shabbat Toldot, let’s think about our

blessings, encouraged to focus on building our internal gratitude, and to thank G-d out loud for all these blessings. Perhaps if Jacob and Esau, Isaac and Rebecca had done the same, then the entire course of Jewish history would have changed for the better. But we must hold close to our faith, to the lessons we can learn from it, and even closer must we hold to and appreciate the blessings our spiritual parent continues to bestow upon us - generation after generation - even if we are only aware of a few of the many, let us be truly grateful for them.

| Shabbat Times | | |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------|
| November 21/28 Cheshvan | | |
| November 22/29 Cheshvan | | |
| Parshat Toldot | | |
| 18:15 | 19:13 | Johannesburg |
| 18:15 | 20:11 | Cape Town |
| 18:15 | 19:10 | Durban |
| 18:15 | 19:27 | Bloemfontein |
| 18:15 | 19:43 | Port Elizabeth |
| 18:15 | 19:30 | East London |

South African

Jewish Report

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Woolies gets tough as BDS gets dirty

ANT KATZ

There seems to never be a dull moment in the battle of wills over the #BoycottWoolworths tussle between the retail giant and pro-Palestinian organisations, who want Woolworths to stop sourcing any products from Israel. And the current battlefield seems to have moved from Johannesburg to Cape Town.

Ten days ago the Congress of SA Students (Cosas-WC) had their wings clipped by their elders from the ANC and the SA arm of US NGO, Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS-SA), with the students agreeing to stop placing pigs’ heads in Woolworths stores and to stop promoting themselves over the cause. Woolworths then made two strategic moves last week:

- Firstly, they made good on an earlier promise, saying that “while we respect the right to protest peacefully and lawfully, the safety of our employees and customers come first”. Paula Disberry, Group Director: Retail Operations, announced that Woolworths had “filed a court application (for an interdict) to protect our employees and customers from the increasing unlawful protests inside our stores”.
- Their second move was to announce mid-week that they only had two Israeli products in their stores, pretzels and figs. And, by Friday, pomegranates were added to the list. This, they said, was simply a normal seasonal situation and they were at pains to point out that the small “Israeli tomatoes” are, in fact locally grown. (Israel developed the baby round tomatoes and small namesake “Israeli cucumbers”).

BDS-SA had a few tricks up their sleeves themselves. They shifted their #Boycott-Woolworths focus from customers to shareholders ahead of the retailers’ AGM

A second barmitzvah for Clive Black

Photo supplied

Clive Black recently celebrated his second barmitzvah surrounded by family and friends at Chabad Seniors Programme, which he attends daily at Chabad House in Savoy.

LUCETTE MARTIN

Clive Black was born in Leeds, England in 1931 and came to South Africa with his family in 1947.

Clive married Barbara Kuper in 1969 and has two children, Lucette and Glenn.

He has nine grandchildren (five boys and four girls and one due).

Clive worked until the age of 75 and now spends his time between his grandchildren, reading, doing puzzles and playing bowls.

He is a regular member of the Chabad Seniors Morning Programme, finding it most enjoyable and enlightening.

on November 26. BDS’ tactics of using smoke and mirrors to make the #BoycottWoolworths seem bigger than it is, like their rent-a-crowd protests at 40 Woolworths stores every month-end Saturday, are evident in their new tactics:

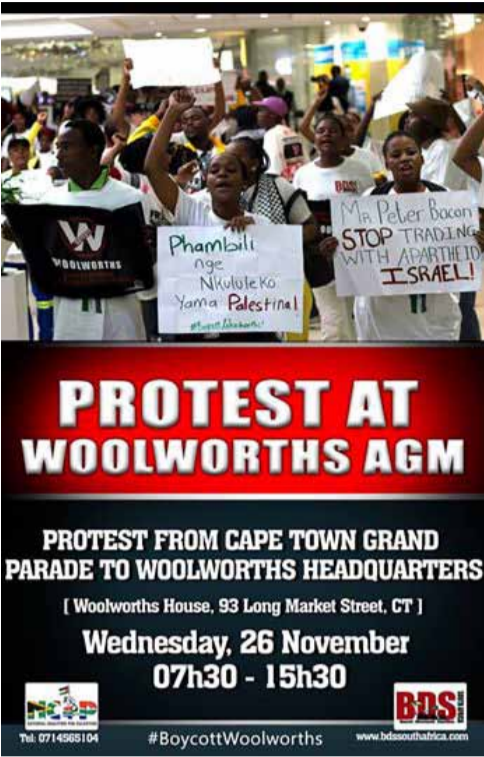
- BDS has begun operating under a newly-formed umbrella body known as the National Coalition 4 Palestine (NC4P);
- They are planning to hold a protest outside Woolworths’ Cape Town head office during the AGM, together with Cosatu and Cosas;
- They invited sympathisers to participate in a survey which allowed BDS’ Muhammed Desai to brag to gullible reporters about the effect of its campaign. “About 96 per cent are in support of the campaign”. Desai said about 89 per cent said they would support the campaign for as long as it lasted, and 88 per cent expressed confidence that the campaign would be successful;
- This Tuesday the media were invited to a media briefing of shareholders. Little did

the few reporters - and fewer shareholders - who turned up realise that it was an anti-Israel affair;

- This was followed shortly thereafter by shareholder statements, clearly written before the event, like one by Marthie Momberg: “for the Woolworths AGM. As an investor in Woolworths I am compelled to reveal my concern about the image and the ethics of the company in which I invested a considerable amount of my savings. The Woolworths brand is increasingly questioned. The real issue is not the number of Israeli products on the shelves of Woolworths, but rather the existence of contracts between Woolworths and Israeli businesses.”

But Woolworths seems not to be taking the bait. “We have additional security in place to ensure only authorised visitors and shareholders have access to Woolworths head office. We have engaged local authorities in addition to our in-house security measures (for the AGM)”, says Disberry.

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Madonsela: How women can leave their imprint

TALI FRANKEL

This year, on November 2, Sydenham Shul’s fifth annual Liberty Working Moms’ Breakfast, titled a “Working Mom’s Guide to Courage”, hosted a capacity crowd as hundreds of women gathered for a morning with Public Protector

Thuli Madonsela. The audience gave Madonsela a standing ovation as she took to the podium. Madonsela called on women throughout biblical and South African history, including the biblical figures Deborah, Esther and Yael, and political icons Olive Schreiner, Ruth First, Helen Suzman and

Charlotte Maxeke, to reiterate the point that women are capable of using compassion and courage to leave their imprint on the communities around them. She said that as individuals and women, we were “exactly the person your Creator intended you to be”. Madonsela paid tribute to mothers and drew on her own experience of parenting two children. She stated that as mothers, we have the opportunity to create the world we yearn for by shaping the people placed in our immediate sphere of influence and imparting values like social justice at the core of their upbringing. In a touching letter she wrote to her 16-year-old self, she revealed a personal glimpse into her own struggles and vulnerabilities as a teenager and advised her younger self to be comforted in the knowledge that she was “a perfect



Estee Stern; Tali Frankel; Hazel Lerman; Thuli Madonsela; Benita Levin; and Rochel Goldman, at the conclusion of the breakfast.

expression of G-d’s magnificence in the world” and that she would be blessed with a life where she would be loved and supported immeasurably. Madonsela concluded her address by urging women to take active roles in shaping a society where public accountability is real. She encouraged women to consider not just taking part in elections, but also to enter Parliament, join public service and government think-tanks and finally, to assist victims of social injustice to exercise their rights.

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Tapestry

Farber nominated for Evening Standard award

ROBYN SASSEN

South African-born and -educated thespian Yaël Farber is up against the international industry’s cream at this year’s London Evening Standard Theatre Awards, for her direction of Arthur Miller’s witch trial play *The Crucible*, which performed this year at London’s Old Vic Theatre. In an e-mail interview this week, Farber explained her relationship with the work. In line for the Milton Shulman Award for best director, Farber is vying against directors Stephen Daldry, Jeremy Herrin and Ivo van Hove. Previous winners in this category include Sean Mathias, Trevor Nunn and Deborah Warner; performers including Helen Mirren, Maggie Smith, Dorothy Tutin and Judi Dench and playwrights Alan Bennett and Harold Pinter have been recognised by this award in the past. Established in 1955 by the newspaper’s arts editor, Sydney Edwards, the award unequivocally represents the cornerstone of theatre. With categories named for former London Evening Standard staffers and critics, it is coveted by the industry and audiences alike. Henry Hitchins, the Evening Standard’s theatre critic and one of the award’s judges, described Farber’s *Crucible* work as “astonishing”. In his review, he wrote “[it] has a bold simplicity yet grips like the most complex thriller. Miller’s vision of the Salem witch trials, which convulsed colonial Massachusetts in the 1690s, was intended to draw attention to the political repression that scarred America in the 1950s. It could just as soon be interpreted as a picture of how modern religious fundamentalism can strangle reason, tolerance and individuality. “Farber makes the play feel immediate; the performances pulse with bruising physicality.” Farber, who rose to become a prominent director in South



Yaël Farber (centre) directing Rebecca Saire (Ann Putnam) and Adrian Schiller (Reverend John Hales) in *The Crucible*.

Africa while still a student at Wits in the early 1990s, recently shocked Grahamstown, Johannesburg, Edinburgh and London audiences with her lurid local interpretation of Strindberg’s *Miss Julie*. She subsequently directed a new work, *Nirbhaya* which recounts the gang-rape of a female medical student on a Delhi bus. Farber told SAJR that *The Crucible* was among her favourite works. “I’ve loved it since I read it as a 13-year-old. The Old Vic had the rights to the script. They had seen my two most recent works, *Nirbhaya* and *Mies Julie* and agreed to my directing it. The *Crucible* sadly retains its extraordinary relevance - almost six decades since it was written,” she adds. While there have been explorations of both of these works travelling to South Africa, “this remains to be seen”, adds Farber. • The 60th London Evening Standard Theatre Awards is at the London Palladium, November 30.

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Is Abbas to blame for Jerusalem synagogue attack?

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After a gruesome attack by two Palestinian cousins left five dead at a Jerusalem synagogue on Tuesday morning, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu singled out one person for blame: Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

In a statement issued by his office, Abbas denounced the attack, saying he “condemns the killing of civilians no matter who is doing it”. But over the past few weeks, as a string of violent attacks have unsettled Jerusalemites, Abbas has issued statements some see as encouraging violence against Israelis.

In late October, he called for a “day of rage” over the temporary closure of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, saying the move amounted to a “declaration of war”. Days later he called the shooter of Jewish Temple Mount activist Yehuda Glick a “martyr” in a letter to the attacker’s family.

“This is the direct result of the incitement being led by Hamas and Abu Mazen, incitement which the international community is irresponsibly ignoring,” Netanyahu said following the synagogue attack, using Abbas’ nom de guerre. “We will respond with a heavy hand to the brutal murder of Jews who came to pray and were met by reprehensible murderers.”

In the attack, the two Palestinians entered a synagogue in a haredi Orthodox neighbourhood of Jerusalem and attacked worshippers with a gun and butcher knives.

Four Israeli rabbis were killed in the attack: Mosheh Twersky, 59, head of the Toras Moshe Yeshiva in Jerusalem and a grandson of Rabbi Joseph Soleveitchik, the founder of modern Or-



thodoxy; Kalman Levine, 55; Aryeh Kupinsky, 43; and Avraham Goldberg, 68.

Twersky, Levine and Kupinsky were dual Israeli and American citizens; Goldberg was an Israeli and a British citizen. Eight others were wounded, including one Israeli police officer.

An Israeli Druze police officer - Zidan Saif, 30, of the Druze village of Kfar Yanouch in the Galilee - died Tuesday night of wounds suffered during the shootout with the assailants.

The assailants, members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, were killed by Israeli police at the scene.

Despite Abbas’ condemnation, Israeli politicians and American Jewish groups admonished him for inciting the violence.

“There’s hypocrisy at work here,” Finance Minister Yair Lapid said in an interview with i24 News. “You cannot incite in the evening and

condemn in the morning.”

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who called the attack “an act of pure terror” while travelling in London, also called for an end to Palestinian incitement, though he didn’t mention Abbas by name.

“The Palestinian leadership must condemn this, and they must begin to take serious steps to restrain any kind of incitement that comes from their language.”

In the West Bank, a senior official from Hamas’ political echelon told a visiting journalist that he found the attack “encouraging”. The attack appeared to be a spontaneous response to Israeli actions, the Hamas official said, not a co-ordinated assault organised by the military wing of Hamas, journalist Neri Zilber, now a visiting scholar at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said of his meeting with the

Hamas official, whom he would not identify by name.

“It’s obviously a high Hamas interest to foment this type of instability to keep the Palestinians in the West Bank rising up against both Israeli authorities and Palestinian authorities, which they see as going hand in hand.”

Some analysts say placing the blame on Abbas is a mistake. They point to the Palestinian president’s longtime opposition to violence as well as the Palestinian Authority’s ongoing security co-operation with Israel, which some credit with preventing the recent unrest from spiraling into a full-blown uprising.

“From the perspective of the Palestinians, every Palestinian that is killed in the conflict with Israel, no matter the circumstances, is thought of as a martyr,” said Itamar Radaï, a research fellow at Tel Aviv University’s Moshe Dayan Centre. “Abu Mazen lives in his society. There are codes he can’t completely break.”

On Tuesday, Yoram Cohen, head of Israel’s Shin Bet internal security service, told the Knesset’s Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that “Abu Mazen isn’t interested in terror and isn’t causing terror”, according to Israeli reports.

“Mr Abbas is a true partner of Israel who wants peace,” said Munib al-Masri, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation’s Legislative Council. “We are fed up with occupation. We don’t want harassment in our holy sites. We want to sit down and talk about this.”

But Mordechai Kedar, an analyst at Bar-Ilan University’s Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies, said Abbas only opposed violence when speaking to an international audience and that his inflammatory Arabic pronouncements showed his true position. (JTA)

(JTA’s Uriel Heilman contributed to this report.)

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Jewish Report
**The triumph
of Dean Furman**

“Mir klib’n nachas!” would be an appropriate Yiddish expression of South African Jews’ pride at seeing 26-year-old Dean Furman captain the South African national soccer team Bafana Bafana last weekend in its game against Sudan in Durban, which they won 2-1. “Kol hakavod!” would do it in Hebrew.

At the stadium Furman was greeted by a large crowd with “Mluuuungu” and “Deeeean” during the opening stages of the game.

Our front page picture illustrates not only the exhilarating sense of triumph emanating from Dean himself, but also symbolises South African Jewry’s joy at once again having a national sports champion rise from its ranks. He is the latest in a string of well-known Jewish sportsmen who have excelled in various sports over the years: rugby, tennis, golf, cricket, swimming, marathon running, canoeing, horse racing, motor racing and others. Numerous Jews have shone in top soccer teams.

Bafana coach Shakes Mashaba’s men guaranteed qualification for the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations with their win last weekend.

There was also a sad tinge to Furman being named Bafana Bafana captain. He replaced the immensely popular former captain Senzo Meyiwa, who was tragically shot dead in a robbery in Vosloorus two weeks ago at the home of his girlfriend’s mother, an event which left the country heartbroken.

Furman was born in Camps Bay, Cape Town on June 22, 1988. As a professional footballer who plays for English club Doncaster Rovers as a midfielder, he was first selected for South Africa’s national team squad in September 2012, making his debut against Brazil.

Becoming a sports champion or any other champion takes a lot of things coming together aside from intrinsic talent - such as mentors, opportunities, fortuitous encounters and so on. Ultimately though, the most indispensable ingredient is the inner engine in a person - the determination and grit that drives him or her to keep going through thick and thin, successes and failures, always aiming for the top.

Dean has it in bucketfuls. And a team sport like soccer means that without genuine camaraderie and dedication from all the players working together as a cohesive team, success cannot come.

In this too we are entitled to glow with pride at this new country of ours in which a white Jewish man from Cape Town is loved and accepted by a largely black team in a predominantly black-dominated sport. The photographs one sees everywhere of Dean in action on the field with his teammates show their bond. How different this is from the bad old apartheid days when soccer was separated into different whites-only or blacks-only divisions, and stadiums had separate white sections and black sections for fans.

Madiba set the tone for reconciliation in the new country when he attended the World Cup Rugby final in 1995, wearing a green and gold number 6 Springbok jersey - the jersey of Springbok captain Francois Pienaar - waving his arms to the crowd - and the world - from the centre of the pitch, standing next to Pienaar. Who can forget that iconic photograph of him with that broad smile, revelling in the triumph of the moment?

As Jews and South Africans we live in dark, dangerous times today. We need the exhilarating lifting of the spirit that comes with events such as Dean’s and Bafana Bafana’s triumph, and the fellowship between diverse people that sport brings.

Kicking a soccer ball around is a pervasive image all over the country. You see youngsters in every city, town and rural village doing it. Many fantasise about becoming a great soccer hero. But it’s a long way from kicking a ball with your buddies to captaining the national team and becoming a household name.

Dean Furman deserves every accolade we can give him. We are proud of and inspired by him. We wish him many more triumphs in the years ahead.

Terror – bluntest form of attack

The terrorist attack this week on a synagogue in Jerusalem in which four rabbis and a policeman were killed - aside from the two killers themselves - and others injured is yet another brutal example of the ongoing tragedy that plagues Israelis and Palestinians. Sadly, it seems as if the two peoples are teetering over the edge into yet another round of barbaric violence. The voices of peace, of those who still believe that coexistence is possible, seem to growing fainter and fainter, while those of rage and retribution intensify.

Terrorism is the bluntest form of attack. It does not discriminate between people with different viewpoints, allegiances or lifestyles. Its victims may range from passionate pursuers of peace, all the way to intolerant militants.

It must be totally condemned by everyone who seeks a secure and safer future for the peoples of this blood-stained region. While it is essential that diplomats and leaders worldwide denounce this latest act, it is equally important - perhaps even more so - that Palestinians do so. Celebrating the terrorists who perpetrated this atrocity as “martyrs” will bring more tragedy not only to Israelis, but equally to Palestinians.

From our South African perspective, the most honourable thing for our local pro-Palestinian groups to do is also to condemn this barbaric act. Without that, any claim they might make of being peace-seeking, rings hollow.

– Geoff Sifrin, Editor

Piggigate - more bad PR for BDS



**BARBARIC
YAWP**
David Saks

Exploiting the post-apartheid legacy of anti-white resentment is an overt ploy of BDS-South Africa in its drive to promote boycotts of Israel. Only part of this, as we are seeing, entails depicting Israel as being itself an apartheid state. It is also taking the more immediate form of portraying “Zionists” - inevitably that means most Jews - as being unreconstructed racists of the kind that once kept the black majority in thrall.

One of the results is that 20 years after the democratic transition, the Jewish community is being singled out as having been somehow especially guilty of the crime of apartheid over and above the rest of the white population of which it was only a small part.

That this tactic is having an impact is undeniable. Among the many examples that could be quoted is the statement released last month by the Congress of SA Students (Cosas), in which an SAJBD-led demonstration against anti-Semitism was described as a “gathering of racist white people and armed white militia...” and as an “illegal and unpermitted public gathering, which aimed to portray Jewish people as victims - while they still are enjoying the sweet taste of the yoke of white Aparthied [sic] privilege ...a mockery to South African black people”.

The problem for BDS-SA is that sometimes its allies have got a little carried away. Last year’s “Shoot the Jew” incident at Wits was a PR disaster for the organisation, made worse by its national co-ordinator, Muhammed Desai’s inability to concede that there was anything really wrong with it.

More recently, its much-advertised boycott campaign against Woolworths was severely compromised by Cosas’ extraordinarily fat-headed notion of depositing a pig’s head in what it assumed to be the kosher meat section of a Woolworths store (the stated reason being not to permit “people who will not eat pork, to pretend that they are eating clean meat, when it is sold by hands dripping with the blood of Palestinian children”).

Once again, Desai et al failed to actually condemn the demonstration; the most they could bring themselves to do was to call it “very controversial” and to lamely suggest that it “may not have been properly thought through”.

BDS-SA’s ducking and diving and Cosas’ extraordinary ineptitude made for an enjoyable spectacle, but it is not really a laughing matter. At least in the past, when people wished to offend and intimidate Jews through depositing pigs’ heads at places associated with them, they did so in secret.

Cosas, by contrast, felt completely comfortable doing so in full public view and then, obviously believing they had done something terribly clever, publicising the fact

as widely as possible. It only shows how the barriers of common decency in this country on which harmonious inter-group relations depend are progressively breaking down.

BDS-SA is driven by the unquestioning belief that just as boycotts were the key to bringing down apartheid South Africa, so can (and will) they eventually bring about the demise of Israel. Are they, in fact, correct in believing that history can be made to repeat itself?

Moreover, how true is it that the apartheid regime collapsed as a result of international sanctions? One can never predicate which direction events will take, especially where Jews are concerned, but there is good cause to conclude that the scenario envisaged by BDS-SA and similar lobbies is based more on wishful thinking than any sound grasp of either historical or contemporary realities.

So far as the fall of apartheid South Africa is concerned, boycotts were just one of a number of factors bringing this about. At least as important were the end of the Cold War (thereby removing the crucial “Rooi Gevaar” aspect - whites would never have surrendered power if there had been any prospect of the country going Communist), the complete failure of the Verwoerdian apartheid vision and the chaos this was occasioning and, above all, the sustained popular revolt by the black population that no amount of state crackdowns could suppress.

Let it also not be forgotten that the liberation movements based their vision for a post-apartheid society on the Freedom Charter, not the Hamas Charter.

Comparing the situation then with the one today, one finds many crucial differences. In the apartheid era, South Africa’s most implacable opponents were the Soviet Union (which meant also all the Eastern and Central European countries under its sway), China and India.

All three today not only have full (and rapidly growing) trade relations with Israel, but have emerged as economic superpowers in their own right.

A second difference is that the world has moved on from the post-colonial black anger and white guilt that informed so much of the anti-apartheid movement. It also has to count for something that equating Israel with apartheid is an outright falsehood and, unlike the hapless National Party diplomats who were required to defend the indefensible, Israelis are able to objectively refute those charges - All they require is a fair hearing.

The problem is, once you have thoroughly demonised Israel (those “genocidal child killers”) and smeared South African Jews as unreconstructed Verwoerdian apartheid champions, it can be taken as a given that no fair hearing will realistically take place. And that is why BDS-SA, the occasional Piggigate setback aside, probably know what they’re doing.

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

Victims of synagogue terror laid to rest



Israelis mourn victims killed when terrorists entered the Kehilat Yaakov Synagogue in Har Nof, Jerusalem, with pistols and axes, attacking Jewish worshippers. From a nearby building, a man looks down on mourners at the synagogue. See page 5.



The World Jewish Congress notes with profound sadness the passing of Mervyn Smith, a vice-president of our organization and co-Chairman of our Policy Council. Much respected by his peers, Mervyn was a man of wisdom, integrity, moral courage and intellectual probity. He served us with great distinction and will be sorely missed by all committees on which he served, for his enormous contribution on legal and constitutional matters, and for his clarity of guidance and vision.

As President of the African Jewish Congress he placed great store on keeping the small Jewish communities of Southern Africa alive. As a proud South African he long opposed Apartheid and lived to see his country's transformation.

We join the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the African Jewish Congress in extending our sincerest condolences to his children and grandchildren.

Ronald S. Lauder

Ronald S. Lauder
President

Robert Singer

Robert Singer
Chief Executive Officer

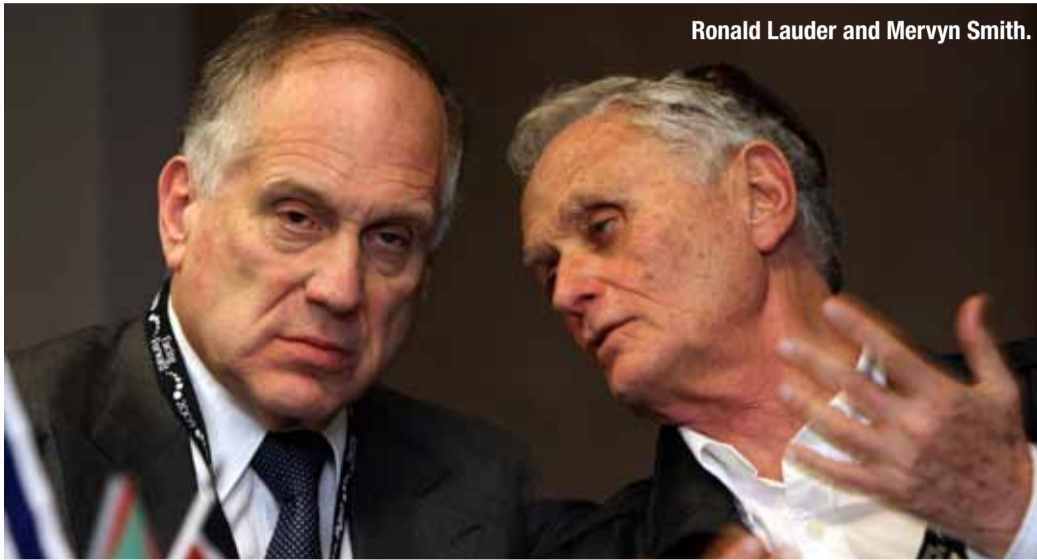
Huge turnout for Smith funeral

ANT KATZ

Mervyn Smith's funeral on Monday afternoon in Cape Town, was attended by over 600 people, one of the biggest Jewish funerals ever held in the city.

Among the dignitaries to attend were Tony

Leon and Western Cape Premier Helen Zille. Smith was laid to rest alongside his beloved late wife, Tamar. His son, Raphael, spoke at the funeral and recounted an occasion when he had been introduced to Madiba by his father. "You chose your father well," Mandela told Raphael.



Ronald Lauder and Mervyn Smith.

A communal giant has sadly passed away



ANT KATZ

The passing of Mervyn Smith ends the era of a communal colossus.

But, such was the making of the man, that the former SAJBD national chairman and African Jewish Congress president leaves in his wake a legacy that South African, African and world Jewry will be enjoying the benefits of for many, many years to come.

Mervyn gave almost half of his 77 years to the community, right to the end. He remained intrinsically involved in the affairs of every organisation he was ever involved in.

At the time of his passing, he was president of the African Jewish Congress, an organisation founded largely at his behest in 1993 and he served this organisation as president for the remainder of his life.

As a lawyer, he was also still actively assisting the SAJBD with numerous legal matters.

Mervyn Smith was "a vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, president of the African Jewish Congress, an honorary life vice-president of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the first Capetonian in 100 years to be elected as its national chairman", says his colleague of many years, Suzanne Belling. "Few could touch him when it came to his encyclopaedic knowledge of the Jewish community, Jewish history and demographics, current events, Israel and politics."

"If there was a Jewish organisation, I belonged to it - with my heart and soul," Mervyn would say.

Ann Harris, vice-president of the AJC who has herself worked tirelessly for, and

devoted herself to, African Jewry since the passing of her late husband, Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, issued the sad news to Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, the CEO and spiritual leader of the AJC just after Shabbat ended: "I am sorry to begin a new week with sad news for us all," she wrote, "Our highly respected president, Mervyn Smith, passed away during Shabbat after several months' severe illness."

His death, wrote Ann Harris, was a loss "not only to his family, but to our whole community since he was such a driving force in so many communal organisations".

Mervyn's passion and commitment for the communities of sub-Saharan Africa was beyond the call of duty, she said, "and kept our interests firmly on the agenda of the World Jewish Congress. We will all miss his wisdom and leadership. May we all be blessed to

be in touch with and support one another with happier news."

Mervyn Smith became a prominent practising attorney, visionary, orator and intellectual in Cape Town. He was bold and unafraid. His quotes were eminently quotable and his brief, apposite statements, combined with his professional image, made him a darling of the media.

Although some disagreed with his visionary stances, Mervyn remained one of the most popular Jewish communal leaders for all his years.

But he also served in other, broader community offices, such as president of the Law Societies of SA, chairman of the Performing Arts Council of SA and CAPAB. He served until recently as chairman of Cape Town City Ballet, having been a director for many years.

Says Sue Belling: "He was fond of saying: 'I have always



Ronald Lauder, President of the WJC present Mervyn Smith with the AJC Lifetime award, while Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft looks on with pride. - South Africa 2009

been skilled in time management, so I manage'."

A cricket player for 25 years, Mervyn was life president of the Bellville Cricket Club and, in recent years, he chaired the Democratic Alliance branch on the Atlantic Seaboard.

But his passion, like his background was always in Zionism.

Mervyn came from a background steeped in Zionism. His mother, Mabel, was active in the Zionist movement and his grandmother, Lily Osrin, sewed the flag for the first Zionist Congress in Vereeniging. Mervyn himself was born in that small town near the Vaal River and spent his early years in Vosburg in the Karoo before his family settled in Bellville near Cape Town.

He was educated at Bellville Primary School, the South African College School (SACS) and UCT. Even as a young man, Mervyn was a leader, starting in Habonim and going on to chair the then-Students Jewish Association's Cape

Town branch.

In the '70s he was elected to the Cape Board of Deputies, serving on the public affairs sub-committee and later becoming vice-chairman. He was elected chairman of the Cape Council of the Board for two consecutive terms - from 1983 to 1987. At the same time, he served as senior national vice-chairman of the Board. It was during this period that he spoke out firmly to the SAJBD about the necessity of adopting an anti-apartheid stance.

The home of Mervyn and his late wife Tamar, was always deeply connected to Jewish life and the community. Tamar, a teacher, headed the Religious Instruction Department of the Board. Apart from Mervyn's daughter Rinah, whom he and Tamar lost tragically as a young child, Mervyn is survived by his children, Paul, Deborah, Raphael and Abigail, seven grandchildren and a brother David from California, USA. Raphael and Paul both live in London.



On November 17 2009, Ann Harris, Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft and Mervyn Smith at the Commonwealth Jewish Congress meeting in London. "It was a sad day for me as we paid our last respects to Mervyn. Six years ago today, on my 42nd birthday, Mervyn, Ann Harris, my parents and son, and friends and colleagues were in London together. Today November 17, Ann Harris, many hundreds of friends and admirers and myself, said farewell to Mervyn, on my 47th birthday".



Visit the website at
www.africanjewishcongress.com/

This feature has been paid for by the World Jewish Congress and the African Jewish Congress

COMMITTED TO A JEWISH FUTURE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



A DIFFERENT BEAT

The all-new KIA Soul: It's hip to be square

It's a phrase you will probably hear quite often over the next few months, because with the all-new Soul, KIA is celebrating individuality.

Whether you are part of a young family, a 30-something urban diva or young entrepreneurial hipster, the KIA Soul driver says: "Look at me: I'm different." Much like its individualistic nature, the Soul appeals to people who know they are original, unique, and who do not fear standing out in the crowd. In a KIA Soul, you will definitely not be considered a wallflower.

To celebrate the Soul's unique design, KIA's marketing campaign - built around the concept that it's hip to be square - highlights many different square elements that we come across on a daily basis in order to showcase the various square square dynamics of the KIA Soul.

But it's not just a clever line, as the Soul's iconic design and advanced technological specifications places it firmly above others in its segment.

The perfect car for an urban lifestyle

Building on the sporty, crossover-like styling of the original, the all-new KIA Soul is completely redesigned and refined to even better meet the demands of urban living. Longer, wider and lower, the iconic design remains sporty, but now also emits a modern elegance that makes it stand out in the crowd.

The rear of the new Soul sees the addition of a "floating" body-colour panel that appears to be embedded in the rear hatch glass, paired with tall, high-mounted taillights that flank the hatch opening.

Stylish top-of-the-range features such as LED Daytime Running Lights, HID headlights, 18-inch alloy wheels and an optional panoramic sunroof complete the distinctive look of the vehicle, which is simultaneously solid, striking, robust, unique, bold and distinctive.

You won't believe it's a KIA

Get behind the steering wheel of the all-new KIA Soul and you won't believe it's a KIA. Building on the quality interiors the company is known for, the new Soul features generous amounts of soft materials throughout the cabin, with stylish and modern lacquered black trim elements to enhance the plush, up-market ambiance.

It doesn't just look and feel good though: due to a slightly longer wheelbase, the new Soul offers vast passenger space that matches or even outperforms many vehicles with much larger exterior dimensions - a great plus for the needs of a young family. In addition, owners can enjoy large door openings, ensuring the most comfortable access to both the front and rear seats, and much improved luggage space.

Start, Street or Smart?

The all-new KIA Soul is offered with a choice of three engines (1.6 and 2.0 petrol, as well as a turbocharged 1.6 diesel), and three specification packages: Start, Street and Smart (linked to specific engines). There is also a choice between a 6-speed manual or 6-speed automatic transmission.

In true KIA style, standard features abound across the range. On top of everything you would expect in a KIA, the Soul also features - among others - multiple audio capabilities, including USB, AUX and iPod adaptability, innovative audio-initiated lighted speakers, Bluetooth hands-free telephony, and an engine start button and smart key.

A large variety of exterior paint colours are on offer, as well as - for the first time on a KIA - three two-tone options.

Hi-tech applications like the electronic stability programme and anti-lock brakes are designed to create the safest possible driving conditions, complemented by advanced warning systems.

The Soul comes with dual front airbags, front side and full-length curtain airbags, as well as height-adjustable front seatbelts with pre-tensioners and belt load-limiters, and three-point seat belts for rear seat occupants.

Further peace of mind is offered through KIA's class-leading 5-year/100 000km warranty, 4-year/90 000km service plan and 3-year/unlimited km roadside assistance. For more information, visit www.kiasoul.co.za, or visit your nearest KIA dealership.

Kia, The Power to Surprise



KIA MOTORS
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Ray Levin,
CEO – KIA Motors South Africa

In response to a critical article on JVJP and Beit Emanuel in last week's paper, we allow them their right of reply on these pages.

Thou shalt not bear false witness

**RINA KING, JESSICA SHERMAN AND
LEONARD SHAPIRO**

South African Jewish Voices for a Just Peace (JVJP) recognises that the growth of our organisation has sparked debate in the Jewish community (see, for example, Jewish Report November 14) over the ongoing conflict in Israel-Palestine.

We think it is unfortunate that in some of this debate the organisation has been misrepresented. We therefore welcome the opportunity to clarify to the community and public at large what JVJP stands for.

As our name implies, JVJP supports a just resolution to the decades-long conflict in Israel/Palestine. Such a resolution must accommodate the full realisation of rights, for all people in the region, as defined under international law.

With this in mind JVJP opposes all violations of these rights that are both harmful to the lives of Israelis and Palestinians and perpetuate the conflict, undermining the prospect of a peaceful solution. Central to these violations is the ongoing occupation, by Israel, of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The West Bank is occupied by Israel's military forces, with its Palestinian residents subjected to daily human rights violations, including curtailed freedom of movement. Settlement expansion continues to threaten the potential for a just and lasting peace.

As an organisation committed to the achievement of such a peace, we stand resolutely opposed to these policies of the Israeli government. At the same time we abhor any and all attacks on civilians, whether perpetrated by Hamas, the IDF, or any other entity.

We maintain, as is the official position of most Jewish communal bodies, that the only solution to the conflict is a negotiated settlement between the parties, as was achieved in South Africa. As JVJP we do not feel it is for us to prescribe what kind of state(s) should be worked towards in Israel/Palestine.

We welcome into our ranks - as was the tradition of the Zionist movement prior to 1948 - those who wish to see two states, one state, a binational state or some other formulation, and encourage a vibrant debate over which of these will most ably fulfill the aspirations of the majority of people from Israel/Palestine.

In order to achieve any meaningful resolution, negotiations need to be undertaken in good faith.

JVJP has not officially adopted any cam-

paigns that call for Boycott, Divestment or Sanctions (BDS), nor do we have any institutional affiliation with BDS-South Africa (BDSSA) or Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) in the United States.

The claims that have been made in this regard against both JVJP and Progressive Rabbis Alexander and Shaked are therefore simply unfounded.

JVJP calls for an end to the occupation, to the blockade and to human rights abuses on both sides. We wish to ensure that a Jewish voice is heard in South Africa that speaks out against human rights violations and the dangers of the occupation.

There is a sizable, often silent, minority of South African Jews that is angered by the unwavering and unconditional support that mainstream Jewish communal bodies express towards all the actions of the Israeli government.

To foster debate, there is a necessity for safe spaces for diverse Jewish opinions on Israel. This inclusive space is open to all members of the community, whether schoolchildren, adults, or rabbis who oppose human rights violations in Israel/Palestine.

Our campaigns have focused on opening such a space, as well as on raising awareness and seeking understanding of the crisis in the region. We have extended invitations to both members of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) and the Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC) to our events, as participants and panelists, in order to build bridges and promote understanding within the community.

We are open to engaging with other segments of the community and public who are also dedicated to a cessation of the human rights violations and to achieving a just peace in Israel/Palestine.

We are lucky to live in a country in which freedom of speech and association are constitutionally enshrined rights and in which a vibrant media thrives. It is regrettable that debate is not as open within the Jewish community and that intolerance is shown towards views such as those held by JVJP; this extends to the active vilification and silencing of prominent dissenting voices.

We look forward to an ongoing open, respectful and productive engagement with other elements of the community, one that avoids baseless attacks and focuses instead on the real, urgent issues at stake in this debate.



Clarification: Beit Emanuel Synagogue

A congregant at Beit Emanuel Synagogue in Johannesburg claimed in these pages last week that Rabbi, Sa'ar Shaked had shown support for the BDS movement and used his pulpit to openly affiliate with one political viewpoint at the expense of others. Jewish Report has checked the claims and can find no evidence to substantiate them. We regret any damage caused to the reputations of Beit Emanuel and Rabbi Shaked.

A very skewed view of what Beit Emanuel stands for

DIANE FINE
CHAIRMAN, BEIT EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE



An article in last week’s Jewish Report linked our shul and its rabbi to the BDS movement (BDS support: Two Progressive rabbis cause huge furore). The allegations are untrue, and no evidence was provided to support them:

- The topic of BDS support has never been discussed at any of our meetings, let alone approved.
- The synagogue has long had a policy of discouraging political sermons. Claims that the pulpit has been increasingly politicised, are untrue.

Beit Emanuel’s philosophy is to encourage open-mindedness, diversity and a willingness to engage in respectful debate with others, including those whose views we may strongly disagree with. Diversity is a difficult principle to live up to. It requires an ingredient often in short supply, namely tolerance.

In the past few months, this synagogue has held a huge Yom Ha’atzmaut celebration, and invited Israeli Ambassador Arthur Lenk to speak to the congregation.

We have had speakers on a range of topics from outright support for Zionism to those critical of the political systems in Israel/Palestine. We have had one-state supporters and two-state supporters and we try to encourage a space in which they can talk to one another.

Rabbi Sa’ar Shaked, an Israeli himself, is strongly committed to the idea of outreach, something he practised for many years in Israel where he ran an organisation that brought Israeli and Palestinian groups together to talk about their differences and seek accommodation.

Since arriving in South Africa, Rabbi Shaked has worked to open up dialogue with Christians and Muslims, charitable groups, gay Jews, and with the Orthodox rabbinate. He has also opened up dialogue with Jewish Voices for a Just Peace, hoping to encourage them to work as peacemakers within the community.

The Jewish Report article says the rabbi wrote a letter of “wholehearted support” to JVJP, an organisation which “actively promotes BDS”. Nothing in the rabbi’s letter touches on BDS. Nothing in the formal public statements from JVJP suggests organisational support for BDS.

There seems to be confusion between a radical US-based group called JVP and the local JVJP, which is not affiliated.

The point of the rabbi’s letter, written on the 20th anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin’s death, was to thank JVJP for organising a successful cultural festival and urge the organisation to “deepen your roots within the Jewish community” and work for peace in the spirit of Rabin.

“The only way one creates peace is by being peace, with deep commitment to non-violence and to the dignity of all humans.”

It is quite extraordinary that a mild-mannered letter like this can provoke such a hostile reaction. Rabbi Shaked has received hate mail and abusive phone calls from here and abroad, all of it from outsiders. I am pleased to say that the congregation





itself packed out the seats last Friday night and gave the rabbi and myself a rousing welcome.

Rabbi Shaked has never delivered a political sermon while he has been at our shul. He has never expressed anti-Israel views from the pulpit.





He is a thinking Jew, who lived all his life in Israel, who served in the IDF, whose closest relatives still live there, and who is deeply concerned with the rapid deterioration of the situation there.

He is a thoughtful man with a big heart and a vision that goes beyond narrow chauvinism. There ought to be a great many more rabbis like him.













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Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed for the bursaries, must meet the entry requirements for their chosen qualifications and must be between 18 – 30 years of age.

Forward your CV to Gavriel Sacks at gavi@beyachad.co.za

Terms & conditions apply

Community Talk

November is KDL reunion month!

Did you matriculate from KDL in the following years?

1974? - November 16 @ 17:30
1984? - November 9 @ 17:30
1994? - November 30 @ 17:30
2004? - November 23 @ 17:30

Then make sure you join the King David Schools' Foundation for your reunion! Reminisce, reconnect and catch up with your old classmates and teachers.

For booking please contact Gila on glazerg@kdsf.org or (011) 480-4701.



Soul Workout set to release another Soul Sport

Dynamic and original are the best words to describe the Soul Workout Jewish outreach and educational organisation, the inspiration of Rav Ilan Herrmann. At year-end they are releasing another spectacular edition of Soul Sport, the only Jewish sports magazine anywhere.

The blockbuster year-end edition is nothing short of extraordinary, with coverage of the whole gambit from sports to health, exercise,



Jewish inspiration and exclusive interviews with leading sporting personalities.

The magazine has resonated strongly across the communal spectrum as a wonderful platform for promoting educational and healthy lifestyle awareness. Soul Sport will have distribution to synagogues and Jewish day schools countrywide - (011) 440-5995. Visit www.soulworkout.co.za for a visual preview of what you can expect.



SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATES
OF THE BEN-GURION
UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV



“Created to make the desert bloom, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev has proven that local solutions can have a global impact.” University President, Prof. Rivka Carmi

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATES OF THE BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV, BASED IN HYDE PARK, JOHANNESBURG, HAS A VACANCY FOR AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Responsibilities

- Investigate opportunities for BGU to extend its world class expertise in subject matters that have a major interest – not only for Israel and the Middle East, but also for the Southern African region;
- Interface with South African universities and institutions and government, both local and national;
- To undertake ongoing fundraising activities with the accent on the continuity of funding, inter alia monies for research, bursaries and to cover specific needs that the University has from time to time;
- To ensure the continuity of existing programmes which include current fundraising programmes;
- To evaluate with the President and executive, the appointment of relevant sub-committees in order to assist in Fundraising, PR and general support for the work that is being undertaken, on a voluntary basis;
- Prepare a budget, illustrating anticipated income and expenses, to coincide with the budget periods of BGU.

This position requires the individual to report to the President and Board on a regular basis as follows:

- Prepare a budget for the next ensuing period;
- Report on the financials;
- Report on the progress of existing joint scientific and research programmes;
- Attend to PR issues for the University, relating particularly to its activities locally and internationally;
- Maintain close relationships with relevant members of the Ben-Gurion Executives in Israel and in South Africa;
- Reporting and interacting with donors, government, media, communal institutions, etc.

Personal Profile

Competent, highly motivated, assertive, honest, person of integrity, friendly, initiative taker who is flexible and has good attention to detail and who is passionate about Israel and South Africa. A go getter, enthusiastic, willing to work hard and fast, quick learner, someone who feels that no small task is too much to ask of them!

Experience and Skills

- Several years' experience in general management.
- Good interpersonal relationship building skills and presentation skills.
- Competent in MS Office package, especially Word, Excel, Outlook.
- Good project scheduling and organisational skills and ability to plan.
- Excellent verbal and written communication in English.
- Numeracy skills, an ability to draw up, allocate and manage budgets.
- Relevant experience in Community and Skills Development and Capacity Building.
- Organisational skills, ability to structure, organise and analyse information and processes in a logical and meaningful way (numeric / non-numeric).
- Team member management – working co-operatively with team members or independently and be accountable.

The remuneration, which includes the use of a car, is to be negotiated, depending on time commitments and experience.

Applicants are invited to submit their CVs to Herby Rosenberg, Vice President of South African Associates of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev by email to herbyr@afrikatikun.org or contact may be made by telephone (011) 325 5914 to arrange an appointment for an interview.

NOW’S THE TIME FOR POLITICAL MIRACLES IN ISRAEL

After centuries of persecutions, expulsions and even massacres, many Jews have decided that enough is enough!

In order to survive and prosper, we would need to return to our ancient homeland and would have to become militant in order to ward of the repeated threats against it.

The horrors of the Holocaust reinforced this urgency. Never before had an exiled nation returned home as we did.

David Ben-Gurion, who was against religion, nevertheless proclaimed it as a miracle. And there was more to come. For the first time in history an unspoken ancient language (Hebrew) was also revived.

Furthermore, this tiny nation without any natural resources, not only survived but prospered and has become a military and technical superpower. All of this was done in an incredibly short time The Israeli superpower was created in a mere 19 years between 1948 and 1967.

This was also achieved while under repeated military attack and while having to fight a number of wars.

Thus we were able achieve events of Biblical proportions, yet we are now stuck in a virtual state of war.

Having experienced these events, which remind me of miracles, I am hopeful that diplomatic miracles will still be achieved. After all, the rightwinger Menachem Begin made peace with our largest enemy (Egypt). Who could have imagined that Anwar Sadat, who tried to destroy Israel in the Yom Kippur War, would address the Knesset, as a friend?

In South Africa much of the world predicted a racial bloodbath. Most whites thought Mandela was an enemy, yet he had the wisdom to forgive and resolved a very difficult situation.

Due to our horrific history, it is often difficult to imagine peace with our enemies. Yet the world has changed.

We are no longer third class citizens throughout the world. In fact, Jews are now citizens in all countries, including Russia and Germany, where we are viewed favourably. We are no longer confined to ghettos and shtetlach and enjoy religious freedom in all lands. Jews are no longer

subjected to curfews at night.

It is now difficult to imagine the Czar or a priest getting up and instigating a pogrom, as they used to do. The Church (both Catholic and Protestant), which spread so much anti-Semitism in the past, has now befriended the Jewish people.

I am therefore hopeful that we can still find a way to make peace with the Arabs. Remember that before the rise of modern Zionism, Jews were often better treated in Muslim lands than in Christian countries.

Finally, if we allow anti-Semites to influence us to remain militant, then they are controlling us! And in a very bad way.

Martin Zagnoev
Johannesburg

GIVE WOMEN A PARSHA BREAK

I learn much from reading the Jewish Report. Would that a learned woman (rebbetzen) be invited to write every alternate week on the parsha, rather than keeping that domain by default, open to our men only.

Beverley Price
Johannesburg

Read the South African Jewish Report online

www.sajewishreport.co.za

A ‘JUST PEACE’ WHEN JUSTICE IS DONE TO BOTH SIDES

Why is it that there is always a small group of people who believe that they’re the only ones who actually understand what is just and fair?

SA Jewish Voices for a Just Peace quote the unsubstantiated number 105 which represents past generals, commanders, police officers and even Mossad chiefs, who believe that Israel is not negotiating in good faith.

Do the signatories of the letter appearing in the Jewish Report have any idea how many thousands, no, tens of thousands of Israelis fit those categories? Why were the voices of those leaders not heard when they were in office? Do the writers not know that Shimon Peres was president of Israel until very recently and that during his term he travelled extensively and publicly, making peace proposals in the name of the Israeli government?

Did he not state time and time again that the Israeli government and Israelis in general, wanted peace, but with security? Was he bending the truth then or now?

A just peace is when justice is done to both sides, twisting the comments made by Gary Selikow which had nothing to do with tit-for-tat concepts. It needs to be understood within the context of the Palestinian claims of genocide and the JVJP three are quite aware of this.

Of course, every child and innocent civilian that dies is a tragedy. Torah, however, teaches us that if someone comes to kill you or those around you, you have a duty to strike them first.

Israel not only waited while the terrorists struck again and again, but when she did strike back, it was with a fraction of the power and an abundance of care, to avoid civilian casualties.

If you truly want a just peace, stop the rhetoric, stop the inflammatory words such as “obstructing peace”, “entrenching the occupation”, “land grabs” etc. If you truly want dialogue, look at the facts objectively, stop mouthing political garbage such as “lifting the blockade on Gaza”.

When someone promises to wipe you out and then tries to do so, you don’t embrace them, relax your vigilance, and give them a free ticket to re-arm.

Our right to the land comes from Torah, but for those for whom this is not enough, it also comes from the Balfour Declaration, The League of Nations, the Partition and recognition of Israel in 1948 and from countless wars that were thrust upon us and which, thanks to Hashem, we were victorious.

Since when can the defeated aggressors make all the demands and terms - no recognition of a Jewish State, no sharing of Jerusalem, no territorial adjustments to address the situation on the ground. We all want a just peace. We want everyone to be safe. But we will not put our necks on a chopping block to satisfy those who believe that only they know the truth.

Michael Rootsttain
Highlands North, Johannesburg

ONE-STATE ‘SOLUTION’ WOULD MEAN END OF ISRAEL

I’m responding to the letter by Leonard Shapiro, Rina King and Jessica Sherman of Jewish Voices for a Just Peace in last week’s Jewish Report.

How can Israel exercise its power for peace when the Palestinians have shown completely no interest in peace with Israel? They refuse to even recognise Israel’s right to exist! They make unreasonable and unfair demands that make a two-state solution impossible, by demanding that their state should be Judenrein while Israel must under the bizarrely called “Right of return”, take in millions of descendants of Arabs who lived at one time or another in the British Palestine Mandate, thus meaning the end of Israel (as a Jewish state).

Ehud Barak magnanimously offered the land at Camp David in 2000 and Ariel Sharon unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005 and each time they received a violent response, making it quite clear that the issue is not about land but about the very existence of Israel, the very existence of the Jewish people.

If the end game of the Palestinians is a one-state solution, then further talks are futile.

Does JVJP even accept a two-state solution? Their allies in BDS do not!

If the demand for a one-state solution (or the right of return) became a reality, Jews would wait, huddled in their ghettos, to be massacred by the Arabs.

Those who call for Israel’s replacement by a “unitary Palestine” know full well that this would lead to a second Holocaust of Israel’s five million Jews. Is it regarded as such an injustice that a number of Arabs should be a minority in a Jewish state where they enjoy full civil and political rights?

Gary Selikow, Johannesburg

Sevitz in ‘restructure’ move

In last week’s paper, on the restructuring of the UOS, we mentioned that CEO Darren Sevitz had “resigned”. It’s wrong. As a result of “restructuring” his present job fell away. We regret the error.

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



Declaration of Support for the State of Israel

Recent actions by leaders of the Progressive Movement have been misunderstood by some as giving support to movements who are committed to the destruction of the Jewish State.

The SAUPJ and its international umbrella, the World Union for Progressive Judaism, identify with and are fully committed to the State of Israel as the democratic state of the Jewish people. Our World Union is a member of the World Zionist Organisation in partnership with ARZENU, the global Zionist Reform movement. Our World Union’s Mission Statement declares that “we are committed to the centrality of Israel in the lives of Jews worldwide and to partnering in the development of Israel as a democratic and pluralistic Jewish state.”

Where our leadership had taken a stand in the past was to mourn all deaths in the conflicts and to call for renewed efforts by all leaders to work for peace in the region and human rights for all its citizens.

We declare that the SAUPJ is resolutely opposed to any group whose aim is the destruction of the Jewish State. The SAUPJ therefore distances itself from any activity by any of its members which gives any support and credibility to these groups.



Alvin Kushner
National Chairman
South African Association for Progressive Judaism



Rabbi Greg Alexander
Chairman
South African Association of Progressive Rabbis

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A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Remembering Mervyn Smith

We were saddened to learn over the weekend of the passing of one of the true giants of our community, Mervyn Smith. I was one of the hundreds of people who attended his funeral in Cape Town on Monday, and listened to some of the tributes to a man who rendered such outstanding service not only to his own community, but to the wider society and the law profession.

His passing occasioned a flood of fulsome tributes from throughout the Jewish world. Our national director, Wendy Kahn, was in Prague at the time, attending an international conference for Jewish communal professionals under the auspices of the WJC. She was thus on hand to join with WJC President Ronald Lauder and others in paying tribute to him.

On a personal note, I benefited immeasurably from Mervyn's wise advice, experience and unfailing support, particularly in his mentoring me in terms of representing our community on the World Jewish Congress (WJC). It was he who was instrumental in South African Jewry being given a permanent seat on the WJC executive.

Mervyn was chairman of the SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation and hence, in my capacity of director of the Durban Holocaust Centre, I also worked closely with him in this area. A third key area in which I engaged with Mervyn was in the legal fight against anti-Semitism. Here, several columns would be needed to deal with just this one aspect of what he contributed.

Above and beyond his remarkable leadership and organisational skills and intellectual gifts, Mervyn was a man of exceptional wisdom, fairness and integrity. I will greatly miss him, both as a mentor and as a friend.

Tragedy in Jerusalem

As I write, Jews around the world are still coming to

terms with the latest shocking act of terrorist violence in Israel, this time carried out against worshippers in a Jerusalem synagogue. We extend our heartfelt condolences to those whose friends and loved ones were so brutally murdered, and pray for a complete and speedy recovery for those injured.

It is at such times that we need to focus on what unites, rather than what divides us. Diversity of opinion in our community is a healthy thing, but of late we have seen this taking the form of divisive, highly personalised attacks calling into question people's integrity and loyalties. This is something we always need to avoid, but especially in these difficult times when our brothers and sisters in Israel are on a daily basis confronted with deadly threats to their very survival.

Jewish women invited to build a better Africa

Wendy and I were among a select group of invitees who attended last week's African Union Foundation "Women in Business" event, and heard AUC Chairman Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma present her "Agenda 2063" vision for the African continent. Dr Dlamini-Zuma is a truly inspirational African leader. We feel privileged that our community is seen by her as being able to add value to achieving her vision for African development and appreciate how our contribution is sought after and enthusiastically received.

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

This column paid for by SA Jewish Board of Deputies



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

Unveiling of heritage plaque at Temple Israel

Temple Israel in Hillbrow, Johannesburg (pictured), is the oldest Progressive synagogue in South Africa, having been established in 1936. The synagogue, which has operated continuously since then, has recently been accorded heritage status and the Blue Heritage Plaque will be unveiled on November 22.

Temple Israel still serves a small but active congregation and holds services weekly, the shul said in a media release.

Reeva Forman, chairman of the synagogue, has expressed her gratitude to the Johannesburg Heritage Foundation for its decision to confer heritage status on Temple Israel.

"Temple Israel represents a genuine commitment to the inner city of Johannesburg," she said. "It represents the early history of Progressive Jews in South Africa, and holds important memories for our congregation. Our first rabbi, the late Rabbi M C Weiler, was a great proponent of human rights and believed that the essence of Judaism is a commitment to others.

"Under his leadership the congregation established a primary school in Alexandra (township northeast of Johannesburg) - now known as the M C Weiler School - and continued to grow and support the school throughout the dark days of apartheid.

"He was also deeply committed to women's rights and was the first South African rabbi to promote the equal involvement of women in all aspects of Jewish practice. So, we have a proud history.

"At the same time, Temple Israel is a contemporary institution, a home for Jews from a variety of backgrounds, and a welcoming space for visitors. We engage with our neighbours in the churches and in the residential communities and we are committed to the ongoing improvement of the area."





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TODAY, FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 21)

- UZLC hosts Prof. Barry Schoub on “Ebola - Do We Need to be Afraid?” Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.
- Chabad Seniors Club presents a daily “Educational Academy for the Elderly”. Free transportation, occupational therapy, lectures and discussions, refreshments, lunch, Yiddish Club, iPad lessons, and much more. Venue: Chabad House Savoy. Time: 09:00 - 13:00. Information: Rabbi Ari Kievman (011) 440-6600 or www.chabadsouthafrica.org/seniors

SATURDAY EVENING (NOVEMBER 22)

- JHGC screens “A Snake Gives Birth to a Snake”, followed by a panel discussion with Nic Boraine, Sibulele Gcilitshana and Max du Preez. Venue: Ditsong Military Museum, Saxonwold. Time: 19:30. Admission free. RSVP: kim.nates@gmail.com or (011) 640-3100/2148.
- The Lewandowski Chorale presents “Concert in the Atrium” under Adam Golding with soloist Warren Bank and Friends of the Choir, accompanied by Kyle Mouseekaa-Nel on pipe organ. Venue: The Atrium, SW Engineering Building, East Campus, Wits. (Wheelchair accessible). Time: 20:00. Tickets: R160 available only in advance, from Di, 082-338-4462 or tickets@golding.za.net. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 23)

- RCHCC hosts a group show of artwork by Sheila Huth, Joyce Goodman, Sandy Kuper and Bev Watson at the Centre. Opening today 18:00. Exhibition closes Wednesday December 10. Gallery hours: Monday - Thursday 09:00 - 16:00; Friday 09:00 - 12:00; Saturday closed. Information: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net
- Johannesburg Light Music Society meets at the Roosevelt Park Recreation Centre. Tom Considine will present “Western Music” and Jack Mink will present “Holiday in New York”. After interval, a movie. Time: 14:00 sharp. Enquiries: Marilyn, 072-243-7436 or Jack, 082-450-7622.
- The Majestic Film Society, together with The SA Military History Society and Radio Today, presents “Private Peaceful”, from the author of “War Horse”, Michael Morpurgo. It reflects an emotional, unbreakable bond between two brothers, from their childhood in rural Devon to the battlefields of Flanders. Venue: Ditsong Museum of Military History, Saxonwold. Time: 15:00. Bookings: (011) 486-3648 or majestic@telkomsa.net
- In honour of the first female rabbi to serve a congregation in SA, Rabbi Julia Margolis invites you to an address by her and two other female religious leaders at the Women's Jail, Constitution Hill at 15:00.

MONDAY (NOVEMBER 24)

- Chabad Seniors Rosh Chodesh Club presents Comedian Cyril Green. Venue: Chabad House, Savoy. Time: 09:30. Information: (011) 440-6600 or rak@chabad.org.za
- Chabad Seniors Club presents “Memory Enhancement” with Cynthia Liptz, “Dynamic Lectures & Discussions”. Refreshments and lunch, iPad lessons etc. Venue: Chabad House, Savoy. Time: 09:00 - 13:00. Information: Rabbi Ari Kievman (011) 440-6600 or www.chabadsouthafrica.org/seniors

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

Only on the Web this week

Did you know that the Jewish Report's website is updated throughout the week and that many stories are exclusively posted on www.sajr.co.za?

Did you know that you can subscribe to the Jewish Report's ePaper and receive it by e-mail together with our newsletter every Wednesday evening?

The website also allows users to post comments on any story or blog. When this turns into a balegan, we call it “Chirping” and our users have been particularly vocal over the past week.

- JHGC screens “12 Minutes About Peace” and “Grey Matter” and discussion with director Kivu Ruhorahoza as part of “From the Trenches of the Marne to the Hills of Rwanda” series. Venue: Liliesleaf, Rivonia. Time: 18:30. Cost: R25. Limited seating, booking essential. Information: (011) 640-3100/2148 or kim.nates@gmail.com.
- UJW screens award-winning film based on the story of Britain's Schindler, Sir Nicolas Winton “Nicky's Family”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 25)

- Greenside Shul with Jewish Report (67 blankets for Nelson Mandela Day) and Greenside School who is sponsoring a venue and wool (with coffee and tea) every Tuesday and Thursday. Venue: 7A Chester Road, Greenside East. Time: 10:00. (011) 788-5036. Hope to see all the knitters and crocheters there.
- JHGC screens “12 Minutes About Peace” and “The Consul of Bordeaux”, part of “From the Trenches of the Marne to the Hills of Rwanda” series. Venue: Liliesleaf, Rivonia. Time: 18:30. Cost: R25. Limited seating, booking essential. Information (011) 640-3100/2148 or kim.nates@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 26)

- Chabad's Goodness & Kindness Centre presents “How our Shortcomings can Become Sources of Joy; Can we Grow from our Mistakes?” Venue: 8 Stella Street, Sandton Central. Time: 19:15. Information: (011) 440-6600 or jli@chabad.org.za www.JLI.org.za
- JHGC screens “Armistice”, part of “From the Trenches of the Marne to the Hills of Rwanda” series. Venue: Ditsong Military Museum, Saxonwold. Time: 19:30. Admission free. RSVP: kim.nates@gmail.com or (011) 6403100/2148.
- Sharon Lurie, “The Kosher Butcher's Wife” with the UOS, hosts a fun-filled evening at Pine Street Shul where she'll be demonstrating new salad recipes, while Pinchas Goldberg, head of Insect Research Lab at the UOS, will show how to check fruit, vegetables and herbs, the kosher way. Time: 19:00 for 19:15. RSVP: admin@pineshul.co.za, (011) 640-3101 (Sue). Seats are limited.

- Second Innings hosts an outing to Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens. Time: Bus leaves Golden Acres at 9:00. Cost: R140 (incl the bus, guided tour and entrance). Enquiries: Betty Jankelowitz, (011) 440-4751.
- UJW hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Dept of English at Wits, on “Exploring the Wonders of Milton's ‘Paradise Lost’” part 5. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 27)

- Chabad's Goodness & Kindness Centre offers “Hebrew Reading Crash Course for Beginners” with Ephraim Zaslansky Time: 19:00. Venue: 8 Stella Street, Sandton Central. Time: 19:00. Information: (011) 440-6600 or jli@chabad.org.za www.JLI.org.za
- JWBS's book sale at Benmore Gardens Shopping Centre. Information: Gloria, tel and fax (011) 485-5232.

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Every story on the website indicates how many comments it has. Look for the “Chirping logo” (as shown in this article) on the website and you will see links to all of our readers' favourite posts this week - the main issues for debate have been contentious.



Both Orthodox and Progressive Jewry are under debate, the Woolies/BDS saga continues to enthrall users as do several Israeli stories, including the horrific synagogue killing in Jerusalem.

World News in Brief

Leaked EU document: Sanctions against Israel considered

BRUSSELS - The European Union is considering imposing sanctions on Israel for continued settlement building, according to a leaked document.
An internal document published on Monday in Haaretz, discussed the possibility of recalling European diplomats from Israel and cutting ties with Israeli leaders, including senior Cabinet members, who openly oppose a two-state solution.
The document also looks at reassessing the EU's commitment not to participate in anti-Israel sessions at the United Nations Human Rights Council and taking actions to support the Palestinians' statehood bid.
According to the Times of Israel, the document does not state official policy and is merely meant as a basis for future discussions.
In a news conference on Monday, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said the document was a “hypothetical working paper”. (JTA)

Captain ‘Deeeeeaan’ already a firm crowd favourite

ILAN HERRMANN

When last did we have a Jewish captain at the helm of the South African national soccer team? Before last weekend, never!

This history-making statistic was created by Cape Town-born 26-year-old Dean Furman who led Bafana Bafana out against Sudan in an Afcon qualifier in front of 32 000 spectators in cold and cloudy conditions at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban.

Bafana coach, Ephraim “Shakes” Mashaba, selected Furman to captain the side in a game that not only resulted in the South Africans gaining three points with

a 2-1 victory to top their group, but also ensured qualification to the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon), even before their last group game against reigning champions Nigeria this weekend.

Mashaba has vowed that, although the result against Nigeria is academic, his team wants to go through its qualifiers without a loss.

Furman was tasked with leading the team following the tragic death of Senzo Meyiwa, Bafana’s goalkeeper and captain, who was murdered on October 26, at the home of his girlfriend’s mother in Vosloorus. The game against Sudan was preceded by a minute’s

silence in Meyiwa’s memory.

Furman was ecstatic with his promotion, but was quick to shift the focus, attributing the victory to a collective team effort.

“What we showed today is that we are a team of leaders and that’s great for us going forward.”

For Furman it’s a continuation of an ever-developing and impressive career at both club and national level. For Bafana he has been a regular first team player since his debut against Brazil in Sao Paolo in 2012.

That was his highlight career moment until last weekend of which he said: “For me it was probably the biggest honour and one of the proudest moments of, not only my career, but my life, to lead my national team out onto the field.”

Furman recalls how it was just last year at the same stadium that South Africa failed to qualify for the 2014 Soccer World Cup. It led to a closing-in of coach Gordon Igesund’s tenure and was a low mark for SA national soccer. But all that’s changed now and Furman and the team are flying high under an inspired Mashaba and a string of good results.

Furman is a crowd favourite with the crowd wildly shouting “Mlungu” (white man) and “Deeeeeeaan” whenever he gets the ball.

“He is the calculating and stabilising factor in the team,” says Sy Lerman doyen of SA soccer. “Mashaba would do well to try find two or three more like him - sturdy white players to secure the defence and complement the skillful frontrunners.”

Furman’s tackling is often the cause for breaking down opposition forays into Bafana territory, but he also combines his



Bafana Bafana captain, Dean Furman, addresses the media after his team’s trouncing of Sudan. Photo: Daily Sun

defensive solidity with an ability to release precision passes that launch an offensive.

“He is the ultimate competitor, approaching every game with a fiery determination and gives 100 per cent always,” commented Raymond Hack former CEO of Safa (SA Football Association). “Mashaba likes that kind of leader, so I reckon Dean could become the firm favourite to lead the team into the future - certainly for the Afcon tournament.”

It’s not the first time Dean has led as captain. At his previous club, Oldham Athletic, he was the skipper over the 2011/12 season. In 2013 he signed for Doncaster Rovers, where he currently plays.

The Afcon takes place early next year from January 17 to February 8. The tournament was originally scheduled for Morocco, but due to West Africa’s Ebola concern, it has been relocated to Equatorial Guinea.

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Bernstein enters Soccer World Cup fray

OWN CORRESPONDENT

David Bernstein, former chairman of the England Football Association (FA), has urged the FA to lobby Uefa, the European football body, to organise a European boycott of the next World Cup unless the world football body, Fifa, reforms itself.

Bernstein, who was FA chairman between 2011 and 2013, is the latest senior figure to call for united and dramatic European action following the controversy surrounding Fifa’s report into the bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. There are wide accusations of bidding shenanigans and money under the table, but Fifa has found no wrongdoing.

In a BBC interview Bernstein has criticised Fifa for being a “totalitarian” set-up and said choosing Qatar as 2022 hosts, was “one of the most ludicrous decisions in the history of sport... an Alice in Wonderland sort of decision”.

Tiny Qatar has no football tradition and the searing summer heat there has prompted the world body to suggest that the World Cup be moved to the cooler winter months - but that would wreak havoc with European schedules.



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