

2

days to go, until
Jewish Achiever
Awards 2014.

South African Jewish Report

www.sajr.co.za



Photos: Ilan Ossendryver

Heading for Durban

On Sunday morning, a group of 35 Torah Academy boys, plus a contingent of their “traditional partners” from Moletsane High School and Pace Commercial Secondary School in Soweto, as well as a handful of cyclists from Israel, set forth after a rousing send-off, on their bicycles for the 17th annual Cycalive relay cycle ride from Johannesburg to Durban - 750 kilometres away. This year they started at the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory, to mark 20 years of democracy in South Africa, and not from Torah Academy as usual. MC Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, dean of Torah Academy, said Cycalive 2014 was celebrating the new South Africa “with hopes and dreams”. See page 2.

Kosher meat crisis looms for Johannesburg consumers

“Kosher and halaal meat can’t be stored in the same fridge. This applies not only to Mehadrin, but other kosher meat too.”

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Warm tribute to role of women in the community

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Dean Lutrin: The holiness of the BDS movement

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Mířenka Čechová dances with Anne Frank’s diary

“In the Czech Republic, Holocaust history remains in our blood and bones.” Čechová’s work is “constructed of subtle intimate emotions, expressed with honesty and authenticity.”



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Cycalive 2014 off to a rousing start



SUZANNE BELLING

Cycalive celebrated what we had in common - not our differences, said Wendy Kahn, national director of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, at the 17th annual Cycalive relay cycle ride from Johannesburg to Durban, which left from the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory on Sunday morning. The change in venue, which was previously at Torah Academy, was to mark 20 years of democracy in South Africa. “It is no secret that the last month has been a very challenging one for South African Jewry and being here today replenishes my love of being a South African... It focuses on what unites us, not what divides us,” she said. Cycalive - endorsed by the Nelson Mandela Foundation - embarked on the ride with a rousing send-off by Steel Wings motorcyclists, the previously disadvantaged Springs Field Band and majorettes. Thirty-five Torah Academy grade 11 boys were joined by their partners, Moletsane High School and Pace Commercial Secondary School, both from Soweto, on the 750 km journey to Durban along the back roads. Also part of the team were cyclists from Israel and their leader brought out by Partnership 2Gether, principals and teachers from the three schools and a support team of

medics. MC Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, dean of Torah Academy, said Cycalive 2014 was celebrating the new South Africa, filled with hopes and dreams. Rabbi Yossi Chaikin, principal of TA Boys’ High School, in a prayer before departure, beseeched Hashem to “put into the hearts all South Africans a spirit of wisdom and understanding that we may recognise that nation building is founded on love and concern for each individual citizen, regardless of race, colour or language”. Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein said Cycalive was the essence of Nelson Mandela’s legacy of non-racialism, the heart and soul of this legacy. “We are capable of achieving greatness beyond our wildest dreams. This is just the beginning of the journey,” Rabbi Goldstein told the cyclists. Marlene Bethlehem, a former member of the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL), referred to the words of Madiba at the Laureus World Sports Awards: “Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, to unite people in a way that little else does... It speaks to the youth in a language they understand.” Yase Godlo, manager: Mandela Day and Outreach at the Nelson Mandela Foundation, said Cycalive was a part of history and was a way of

making every day “truly” a Mandela Day. One of the initiators of Cycalive, Dan Zimba, former principal of Pace and now of Senaoane Secondary School, referred to Cycalive as “a milestone in the country’s nation building”. Clifford Amoils spoke on behalf of the sponsors of the event. The aims of Cyalive are to build bridges and forming bonds between young South Africans and their respective communities; to inspire ubuntu; to raise funds for much-needed educational projects; to highlight the importance of road safety, particularly relating to cyclists; and to encourage leadership and a spirit of adventure, personal challenge and self-confidence. The boys have prepared care packages, including stationery and refreshments for patients at the Newcastle Hospital and for learners with disabilities at Ethembeni School in Hillcrest, KwaZulu-Natal, as well as various rural schools along the way. The cyclists were scheduled to arrive in Durban on Thursday this week, with a welcome by the Field Band from KZN, civic dignitaries and Jewish community leaders. They will be escorted by metro police and will march along the Esplanade to the Moses Mabhida Stadium, after which they will be hosted by the Council for KwaZulu-Natal Jewry.

ASK THE RABBIS AND REBBETZENS שאלה?

The question: A Jewish man who has signed a Living Will becomes very sick. He is suffering badly and is on life support. The doctors believe he has no chance of recovery. The man’s family believe it is time to carry out his Living Will and allow him to die, but want his rabbi to concur. Does Jewish law allow the rabbi to do this?

Rebbetzen Estee Stern replies: I am so sorry to hear that this man is not well. Besides his own pain, this situation must be so difficult for his family. To “pull the plug” of the life support or not, is an extremely complex halachic question, and each case is unique. There are cases where Jewish law will possibly allow for it, but this needs to be discussed with the family’s personal rabbi with whom they can share the exact details. Before speaking to their rabbi, it is important that they understand the difficulty in such a circumstance. Sure, no-one wants this man to suffer. On the other hand, life and death are in G-d’s hands and ultimately He is the one that decides when man has fulfilled his mission in this world. We wouldn’t want to end his life earlier than was planned by G-d. Jewish law clearly defines the moment of death, and this will assist the rabbi and doctor in making the correct decision.

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

Master your time



When a person experiences a serious illness and miraculously recovers, or survives a car accident, the words of the Machzor reverberate through his or her mind: “On Rosh Hashanah it is written, and on Yom Kippur it will be sealed... who will live, and who will die... but teshuvah (repentance), tefillah (prayer) and tzedakah (charity) can avert a harsh decree.” This kind of experience changes the way we look at life, and the way we look at time. It teaches us that time cannot just be something that passes without our control, but rather we must become a master over our time, over our days, weeks, months and years. Every moment in life is a gift to be treasured and maximised, and not to be taken for granted. Hashem puts us here for a reason, and if He

restores our health, it is obvious that there was more that He wants us yet to accomplish here. This week, the month of Elul begins, and we start blowing the shofar in preparation for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We begin to work on ourselves, and seek to improve our character and our relationship with Hashem and resolve to rectify that which needs to be fixed, and ask forgiveness from anyone whom we may have hurt or offended. We make an accounting of the entire past year, a Cheshbon Hanefesh, a reckoning of how well we spent the time Hashem gave us. Compare Rosh Hashanah to the secular New Year, L’havdil. January 1 is also celebrated by millions annually, but in meaningless revelry without any purpose or goal. It is an excuse to have a party, because we are alive and we can. While New Year’s Day comes and goes without an impact, Rosh Hashanah asks: “How can I make amends with those whom I have hurt? How can I ensure that next year is better than this one? How can I accomplish more with the time Hashem has given me?”

The mitzvah of keeping a calendar is so fundamental to Yiddishkeit that it was the first mitzvah we were commanded as a nation in Egypt. Rashi opens his commentary on Torah (Bereshit 1:1) by writing that since this is the first mitzvah, in truth the Torah could have really begun with this Pasuk! Hashem commanded Moshe: “This month shall be to you the head of the months, the first of the months of the year” (Shmot 12:2), which means we must identify the new moon as it reappears monthly after waning, and to declare that day Rosh Chodesh, starting from the month of Nissan in the Jewish year 2448. “Since then, we have always counted our months and years. The words ‘This month shall be to you’, can also be read to say ‘make this month yours’, meaning, seize control over your time! Make it yours! Make the most you can out of each day.” By marking each week with Shabbat, each month with Rosh Chodesh, and each year with Rosh Hashanah, we make sure not to let time pass in a blur, but to set periods of time for

reflection and accounting. Furthermore, every day is divided by halachic times, like the time for tefillin and Shacharis, the time for mincha, the time for maariv, and time for the evening shema. We bring Hashem into each part of the day. This way we can be certain this year’s Elul, Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur will be better and more meaningful than last year, and we are better people and Yidden than we were last year. I wish you all a meaningful Elul, and Yamim Noraim.

Shabbat Times		
Parshat Re’eh August 22/26 Av August 23/27 Av		
17:33	18:23	Johannesburg
18:03	18:56	Cape Town
17:17	18:08	Durban
17:37	18:28	Bloemfontein
17:34	18:27	Port Elizabeth
17:26	18:18	East London

Readucate’s Freinkel receives prestigious award

Edna Freinkel (pictured) of Readucate, has become the recipient of the first Businesswomen’s Association Gauteng Branch’s Recognition Award.

In a letter to Freinkel, the Association says: “This award has been designed for our long-standing member, who has been supportive and committed to the upliftment and empowerment of women in this region.

“It is with great pleasure that I wish to inform you as the first recipient of the Special Recognition Award in 2014. We are incredibly honoured to present this award to you as the BWA. You are the epitome of excellence and grace - and your commitment to empowering the nation through Readucate is amazing.”

Freinkel received her award at a gala dinner in Sandton last month.



Kosher meat crisis looms for Johannesburg consumers

GEOFF SIFRIN

A serious crisis is looming for observant Johannesburg Jews, as the supply of kosher meat dwindles way below the demand, due to factors difficult to control. This will be particularly sorely felt as Rosh Hashanah approaches.

Yaakov Lazarus, of Moishe’s and Trevor’s Kosher Butchery - one of the main suppliers of Mehadrin kosher meat - told the Jewish Report: “At the end of June we got an e-mail from the Morgan Group - the biggest throughput abattoir from which we get almost 100 per cent of our meat, except for another smaller supplier at Wolwehoek for lamb - that they can’t do kosher slaughter anymore.

“They said this was a result of a new requirement from a certain halaal authority (the National Independent Halaal Trust), saying that on the processing line there needs to be an hour’s interval between when kosher slaughter is done, and then halaal slaughter begins.

“And in addition, kosher and halaal meat can’t be stored in the same fridge. This applies not only to Mehadrin, but other kosher meat too.”

Lazarus says Morgan came to a business decision that continuing with kosher slaughter was not good business because the Jewish market is much smaller than the Muslim market and the Muslim business must not be lost.

“I don’t think it’s a political issue,” he says. But this was an unfortunate new development, because Muslims and Jews had previously worked well together on meat and similar issues where they had a common interest, he said.

Lazarus has approached other abattoirs, but the need is for a place with a large capacity. “It will be very difficult to find another abattoir with the same throughput,” he says. “So, meat prices will increase and other abattoirs are raising prices by 20 per cent because they know we have a supply problem.”

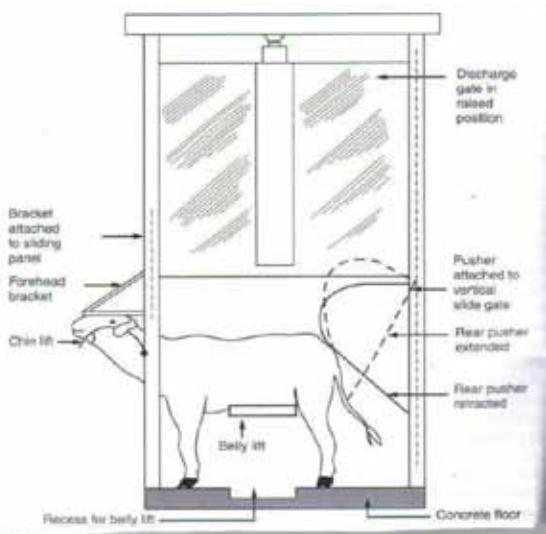
One of the problems is that for kosher slaughter a specially designed “box” is needed - which was agreed with animal rights groups - to place the animal in the proper position for the shochet to do his job.

A single clean cut is required for the meat to be kosher. If the animal moves its head, the meat will not be kosher.

“To build a new box, we need drawings, steel fabrication and a pneumatic system to open the entry door, push the animal in and position the head correctly. After the shochet slaughters with one cut, 20 seconds later the cow is stunned,

by arrangement with the SPCA. Then another bar lifts the door, and the 500 kilos of weight is moved out. It would cost about R750 000 to build a new box, by a large engineering firm.”

Lazarus feels the Beth Din and the UOS need to get involved. “There needs to be a campaign of awareness; the consumer needs to know why there is a shortage of kosher meat. And they need to ascertain the reason for the new one-hour requirement. Ultimately this needs to be addressed on a political level. Muslims and Jews used to work well together,” he stressed.



The box which positions an animal for kosher slaughter.

UOS says supply is on track

ANT KATZ

Darren Sevit, executive director the UOS which is the umbrella organisation that includes the Beth Din, told Jewish Report that they were aware of the problem arising from the loss of use of the Morgan facility.

The UOS is working very actively to secure another facility, says Sevit, and has “purchased a list of every abattoir in the country”.

He said they had been investigating and he and one of their shochtim had visited a possible site, but with no success as yet.

“We’re holding in the short term,” he says about supply, by making more use of the other facilities. “The UOS has spoken to the retail butchers,” he says, “but they have had no complaints from consumers regarding supply shortages.”

The numbers of heads of beef slaughtered for kosher consumption had risen dramatically from about 8 000 in 2010 to around 12 000 in 2013. The UOS had budgeted for a levelling out this year and, according to Sevit, the numbers to date for 2014 were “what we had expected”.



David Makhura



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Warm tribute to women’s role in community

STAFF REPORTER

Past tense - future perfect? This was the theme of the 30th National Triennial Conference of the Union of Jewish Women, held at the Killarney Country Club last weekend. The conference spanned over three days.

Women had always played an important role in society since biblical times, said Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein on the opening night of the conference.

“They are the mainstay of the community and have played a vital role in the unfolding story of the South African Jewish community, in our families, schools, shuls and indeed everything. Our sages teach us that ‘in the merit of righteous women we were redeemed from Egypt, and in their merit we will be redeemed in the future’. The women of our community, like the righteous women in Egypt, ensure our vibrancy and vitality,” he said.

Women had always influenced the course of Jewish destiny. The Book of Bereishit spoke not only about Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov, “our founding fathers, but also our founding mothers, Sara, Rivka, Rachel and Leah”, said Rabbi Goldstein.

The UJW harnessed the talents, creativity and commitment of the women of the community to make a real difference for good. This continued the finest tradition of generations of Jewish women “since the beginning of our people”, he said.

The UJW in South Africa had held a special place within the International Council of the UJW, said Robyn Lenn, president of the ICJW.



Margot Segal hands over the reins to Lynne Raphaely

“Since its inception in 1931, your organisation’s decades of dedicated service to your fellow-South Africans, to your Jewish community and your Israel project at the Hebrew University, demonstrate the UJW’s continuing relevance and valuable contribution within global Jewish women’s organisations,” she said.

Mary Kluk, national chairman of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, said the union was one of the most important affiliates of the SAJBD.

“Its representatives sit on all our national and regional councils, and several have gone on to occupy senior positions within the Board’s leadership structures. We are further proud to have been able to partner with the UJW in numerous successful outreach and educational initiatives over the years,” she said.

Margot Segal, president of the UJWSA, said the union, in its 80 years of existence, had played the role of initiator, motivator

and catalyst.

“The UJW has started programmes which others emulated. We have kept abreast of the times and been ready to change. Efforts towards the wellbeing and education of people, which took place almost from inception, remain a priority today. Our concern for the Jewish community is deep and abiding, as is our commitment to Israel where we support important projects,” she said.

Journalist and author Mandy Wiener, was the keynote speaker on the opening night of the conference. She spoke about her life as a writer and author.

Other keynote speakers at the conference were, among others, Glynnis Breytenbach, DA Member of Parliament and former senior public prosecutor, Nicky Newton King, the first female chief executive officer of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange; economist David Shapiro; and Arthur Goldstuck, media analyst.

Sainsbury’s removes kosher products during protest

LONDON - A branch of the popular British supermarket chain Sainsbury’s last Saturday removed kosher items from its shelves over fears of attacks by anti-Israel protesters.

The Holborn branch in central London emptied its kosher section as anti-Israel protesters demonstrated outside the store, the Guardian reported on Sunday.

At the same time of the Sainsbury’s protest, demonstrators at a Tesco supermarket in Hodge Hill, Birmingham, entered the store and began throwing Israeli food products on the floor.

The food removed from Sainsbury’s was not necessarily Israeli in origin. Some of it was manufactured in the United Kingdom and Poland, according to the Guardian.

In response to complaints by customers on its Facebook page, which accused Sainsbury’s of racism against Jews, the company apologised “for any inconvenience or offence caused”, saying the decision had been made in the one store “as a precautionary measure during a demonstration close by” and that the products had been returned to the shelves “as soon as was practically possible”.

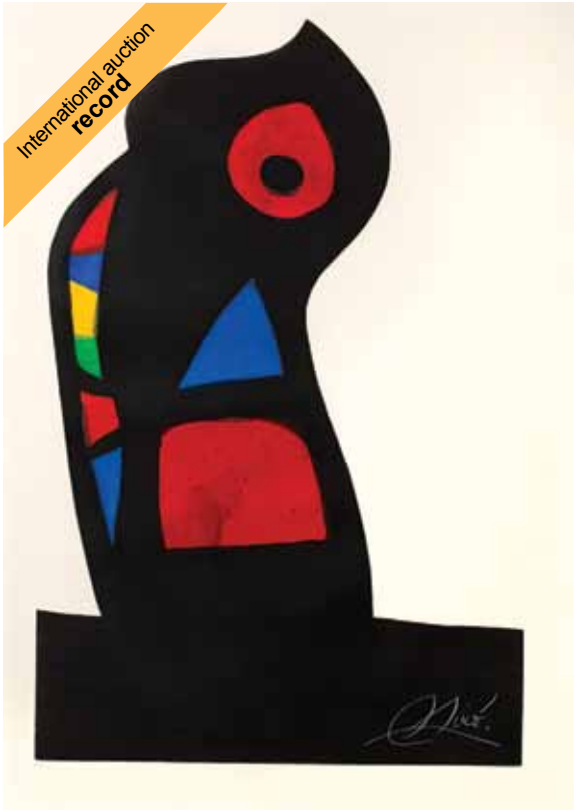
“As a non-political organisation, Sainsbury’s would never take such a decision on grounds other than ensuring the quality or safety of our products,” the statement said. (JTA)



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Concerning the chasm among SA Jews

Most South African Jews who read last Sunday’s biggest mass-circulation paper - which reaches hundreds of thousands of people and has an illustrious history as a crusading, gutsy paper in the SA media - were left with no doubts about how differently Israel and the SA Jewish community are perceived by many South Africans compared to how they perceive themselves.

Jewish cartoonist Zapiro’s drawing in the centre of the paper and several articles - including an op-ed by a Jewish writer - were scathing towards both of them and blasted the community’s “intolerance” and “closedmindedness”.

They were a sobering read guaranteed to raise the ire of many mainstream Jews.

The past few weeks’ events were fertile fodder for a cartoonist like Zapiro, who didn’t pull his punches in portraying King David Schools - and by implication the mainstream Jewish community - as a kind of fortress in which young learners encountered a “Goliath thought police” system which was there to bludgeon any kid who thought differently - such as Josh Broomberg and the other boy who has complained to the HRC for being bullied for his dissenting view - into a “Zionist or else” mindset. The cartoon’s tone also suggested that “Zionist” was not a multifaceted concept embracing adherents from left to right, but something inherently negative.

Zapiro is, to many Jews, like a red flag to a bull when his cartoons relate to Israel - although on other topics such as South African politics, he is widely admired. A 2002 cartoon during the Richard Goldstone saga showed Goldstone’s grandson going through his barmitzvah reading inside a synagogue, while outside - with his distressed face pressed against the window - stood grandfather Richard Goldstone, being punished with exclusion for criticising Israel.

And in 2001 during an argument between Ronnie Kasrils and the Jewish community, a cartoon showed Kasrils leading his supporters out of a Magen David-shaped fortress representing the Jewish establishment. The caption read: “Sound the alarm, dissidents are breaking out!”

Even taking into account the fact that a political cartoonist’s intrinsic role is to stir things up – to force the viewer to confront sometimes unpalatable issues and to enrage those he lampoons and delight those he praises - the view portrayed of Israel and the Jewish community cuts to the bone.

Zapiro is also joined by the 500 Jews - many of them eminent names - who recently signed a large ad in the Sunday Times.

The kneejerk reaction is: “He - and all those others - are wrong. They don’t understand the Middle East reality, Israel’s enemies’ barbaric nature and the huge attempts Israelis make to do the humane thing even in battle. And the need for Jews in the Diaspora to stand behind Israel.”

People accuse the Jewish “dissenters” who parade Palestinian flags or accuse Israel of inhumane bombing, of being out of touch with the circumstances in which Israelis live.

It’s easy to sit safely in Johannesburg on the “moral high ground”, they say, without having to live in danger in Israel and pay the costs. The dissenters, however, say mainstream Jews simply cannot tolerate other views.

As unpleasant as the past few weeks have been for SA Jewry, the question is: Will it merely further consolidate the far left and far right in their polar-opposite positions? Or open enough questions on both sides for each to see the possibility of another viewpoint?

It is too soon to judge whether South African Jewry has benefited or been damaged by this dispute. Is it an opening of the laager or tighter drawing in of wagons?

The notion of a Jewish community being one is inherently false: the fact is that we do not march in lockstep. It will take genuine leaders from both the right and the left to accept and understand different viewpoints.

It is said that newspapers are the first draft of history. Let’s encourage those leaders from the left and the right who have the guts and capability to do the surprising thing, so that the history of this time can be positive and not only negative.

Geoff Sifrin, Editor

The holiness of the BDS movement

Dr Dean Lutrin opines: “For the first time in millennia, we are in a position of strength and we as a people are conflicted as to how we should wield our power.”

DEAN LUTRIN

Hundreds of Gazan civilians have died in Operation Protective Edge. Predictably, this has led to organisations such as the BDS and “Jews for Justice in Palestine” expressing vocal opposition to current Israeli policies.

Many Jews announce proudly that they support the Palestinians and express shame at how Israel is conducting itself. Those who defend Israel, claim that its military conduct is beyond reproach and that each civilian death is an unintended tragedy.

The mainstream Zionist and Jewish community believes that Hamas is responsible for Palestinian civilian deaths as a result of the use of human shields.

The Jewish community gives the title of “self-hating Jew” to all those who stand in solidarity with the Palestinians, rather than giving unquestioning support to the State of Israel and its defence forces. These people are seen as an embarrassment and danger to the interests of Jews everywhere.

In reply, the Jews who are vocal in support of the Palestinian cause, say that Israel is behaving in an ethically unacceptable manner and that the only appropriate response is harsh criticism of Israeli politics and military decisions.

The Israelis have used more restraint in this war than any other army has in modern military history. The Israeli army believes that it upholds each and every principle of the Geneva Convention. Yet, Israel is held to a higher standard than the rest of the world. The condemnation levelled against Israel by the world, is completely out of proportion to its supposed crimes.

It is uplifting that there are so many Jews who understand the magnitude of the threat against Israel and remain optimistic in their hope for peace. They are generous in their belief that it is possible to reconcile with people and organisations who have explicitly declared their genocidal intentions.

These “self-hating Jews” represent the best of what Judaism has to teach the world. They are not content with keeping to

the Geneva Convention. They believe that Israel should aspire to a higher moral standard than the mediocre benchmarks of the United Nations. We see the visions of morality of the prophets of the bible and we set our bar at that level.

If we are being bombed from a mosque, then that place becomes a legitimate military target, yet Jewish ethics demands more of us. We expect Jewish soldiers to be able to destroy the weapons without destroying the minaret. We are hopeful that Jewish technical ingenuity will give us the precision we need so that we can avoid as much collateral damage as possible.

Jews are an optimistic people. Our faith that a better day is around the corner, has given us the courage to withstand pogrom after pogrom. That optimism leads us to ceasefire after ceasefire in the hope that there can be a political solution to the current conflict.

We are fortunate to be living in a time where Jews are no longer powerless. For the first time in millennia, we are in a position of strength and we as a people are conflicted as to how we should wield our power.

Israel has never intentionally targeted civilians but their presence on the battlefield is an incredibly difficult challenge for us. The accusation that a Jewish army is wilfully killing Palestinian children, is a terrible blood libel that should be rejected outright.

I expect that with time the memory of BDS, “Not In Our Name” and “Jews for Justice in Palestine” will be a minor footnote in Jewish history. I expect that their supporters’ hostility to the Jewish people will virtually guarantee that their children or grandchildren will not marry Jewish and tragically they will be lost forever.

But the message that they convey - that the Jewish people have always been and will always be a “kingdom of priests and holy nation” with a responsibility to be a light unto the nations - is one that remains true.

• Dr Dean Lutrin is a prominent Johannesburg surgeon. He is Orthodox, a member of the Mizrahi community, and is on the faculty of the Academy Jewish Thought and Learning.



Allan Horwitz, in his personal capacity, addresses an anti-Israel demonstration outside the Israeli Trade Office in Sandton last month. Demonstrators called for the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador and the recall of South Africa’s Ambassador to Israel. Horwitz is among the SA Jews who have expressed criticism of the community for being unwilling to listen to alternative views on Israel.



**BARBARIC
YAWP**
David Saks

Since the other's mind is working along completely different lines, he will not follow your logic - all he will realise is that you are going against something about which he is completely convinced.

Some by now have probably guessed where I am going with this. The local response to the latest act in the Israel-Gaza black comedy was underpinned by a mass irrationality, driven by blind emotion, group-think and heaven knows what other darker impulses.

The media more than did its part in driving the feeding frenzy and yet again university academics, who theoretically should have been the ones to provide a degree of balance and perspective, were among the worst offenders.

How would world Jewry react were the roles of the protagonists in the Israel-Gaza conflict reversed? In this scenario, the Jews are living in Gaza, carrying out continual missile attacks against the Palestinian population of Israel.

This they do, despite being hopelessly outmatched in a military sense, and in the sure knowledge that they will get the worst of it when the other side retaliates. Further than this, Jewish militants have based their operations in the very heartland of the civilian population, sometimes even using shuls, yeshivot and hospitals for that purpose.

What this means, is no matter how many precautionary measures the Palestinians take, it will be impossible to avoid civilian casualties when they target those carrying out attacks against them.

We know very well how Jews would react in the event of such a bizarre situation unfolding. Instead of working ourselves into a seething frenzy against the Palestinians, they would deplore and condemn the reckless, utterly immoral behaviour of the Jewish leaders for having thus brought disaster upon their own people.

There is nothing extraordinary about this. When people you genuinely care about are acting in a self-destructive manner, the natural reaction is to implore them to desist. No such calls, have been made on the part of those purporting to be concerned about the people of Gaza.

Only when the war commenced and noncombatants began dying, did the cries of “genocide” and images of mutilated Palestinian babies start flying around the world. What it demonstrates is that those currently howling for Israel’s blood do not care about Palestinian lives at all, but are in reality driven by an implacable animus against the Jewish state.

Jew-baiters have always found that the most effective way of inciting the mob against the Jews is to accuse the latter of murdering gentile babies. The Blood Libel of Mediaeval times lives on in “baby killer” charges against Israel.

Hamas, by forcing Israel to respond to their attacks and placing their own people in the firing line, are engineering the deaths of their

own children, but instead of being condemned for this, they are rewarded with propaganda victories.

This is the “spirit of mass irrationality” I referred to. What has also become apparent over the past month is that far from having an ameliorating effect, the putting forward of counter-arguments in defence of Israel, only provokes more rage. Moreover, it is providing the other side with an identifiable target, namely mainstream Jewry and its leadership.

In 18 years at the SAJBD, I have never seen anything like the outpouring of raw hatred against our community, which now comes not just from Muslims, but increasingly from blacks too. In addition to variations on the “Hitler was

right theme', the language against Jews who speak out for Israel, is becoming threatening.

The Western Cape branch of Cosatu has given the SAJBD an ultimatum: Either to stop propagating its Zionist “lies” in defiance of what the majority of the population believes, or face a Cosatu-led boycott of its members, funders and supporting organisations. A deadline for compliance was set.

Shortly thereafter, the branch's provincial secretary, Tony Ehrenreich, called for an "eye for an eye" response against the SAJBD every time a Palestinian woman or child is killed. That such fascist threats can be made in an ostensibly democratic society, is a reflection of the deranged times we find ourselves in.

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Women can take charge of their financial freedom



Women are increasingly becoming the financial decision-makers in their families, all the while trying to juggle many other different roles. In a single day a women can go from being a mom, to chauffeur, to chef, to housekeeper, while holding down a career and running her own business.

Nico-Louis Minnie, head of Wealth Platforms, Liberty Investments, notes that women need to understand the value of money management and if there will be a sustainable amount left upon retirement; factoring in where and how their money is currently being spent and on what investments they are currently paying for.

“The starting point should be a short visit to a financial adviser, a role which remains ever so important for women today. They are able to guide you efficiently and advise you on ways which will assist in managing your money in a way that you have sufficient funds to live the life you choose, and ultimately letting your money work for you,” says Minnie.

Below are a set of questions Minnie says you should use as a guideline when discussing your long-term investment strategies with your financial adviser:

1. What is my overall financial position?
If this question isn’t initially asked by your financial adviser, you need to ask them. It is imperative that every woman knows what her net worth is and through a comprehensive financial needs analysis you can establish what your overall financial status is. Remembe, without this knowledge you won't know if you're making progress towards your goals.

This question becomes more important should you be in a position where you have recently become divorced or widowed. By disclosing your current financial situation to your financial adviser, he/she can assist in creating the necessary contingency plans so you will be prepared should circumstances change.

2. How long do I need to plan/save for?
Because women tend to live longer than men, they need to plan accordingly. This is critical in the decision-making process with your financial adviser, as you need to ensure your retirement savings and income stretch further and last longer.

However, this can be challenging given that in general women also tend to choose safer, lower yielding investments which results in lower returns. Hence in order to avoid running out of capital, one needs to understand the risks associated with their investments.

3. Discuss your investing personality and your appetite for risk?
Are you a risk averse or a risk loving investor? Can you accept fluctuations in the markets, or are you prepared to invest for the longer term and generally have a hold strategy? This all depends on your financial situation and your financial goals. Try stick to your plan; after all, that's the reason you have a plan in the first place.

4. What about the cost of investing?
Your financial adviser should be as transparent as possible when it comes to the disclosure of fees and the taxes payable. This includes any product, portfolio or adviser-related fee, as well as upfront and ongoing fees. Fees and tax vary depending on the investment vehicle selected and it is imperative that these are outlined to you when you take out a policy.

5. How often would we meet to review the goals in my financial plan?
This is an important part of a good, solid financial plan, if not the most important! You need to visit your adviser regularly, at least once a year, in order to be able to measure and track financial your progress, as well as being able to measure the probability of success in reaching your financial goals. Your financial adviser will play a fundamental role in helping you on this.



For more information, speak to your broker or a Liberty financial adviser or call the Liberty contact centre on 086 032 7327.

PALESTINIAN PROSPERITY MAY GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

In almost every conflict each side is convinced that it is correct, yet the truth lies more or less in the centre. Similarly, we see this in the Middle East where most of the Israelis and Palestinians consider the other to be a deadly threat.

What then are their respective perceptions? Having endured many centuries of persecutions, expulsions and even massacres, many Jews decided that in order to be safe and to survive, they would need to return to their ancient homeland and would have to toughen up drastically. The horrors of the Holocaust reinforced this urgent need.

The weak “Wandering Jew” was to return home and would keep the recurring threat of violent anti-Semitism away, by becoming strong enough to ward off all danger.

Conflict with the Arab neighbours was not intended; all the Israelis wanted was peace and security. Yet, almost all of the Arabs in the region strongly opposed the influx of Jews into what they also considered to be their homeland and holy land.

This new-found militancy of the Israelis helped the Jews to survive in this hostile environment in the short term, but is not helpful to achieve peace, going forward. Acts of defiance and aggression by extremists on both sides were like fuel to the fire.

In 1948, a number of the surrounding Muslim countries attacked the new-born Jewish

state in order to destroy it. Israel managed to survive the onslaught, but the feeling that they need to be strong and tough, was only reinforced - not an attitude conducive to reducing the ongoing conflict. Nor is the prevailing belief in revenge, on both sides helpful.

And so we have a tit-for-tat escalation in the war, with neither side benefiting.

At first, when Israel was considered to be the underdog, most of the world supported her. Now that the Israelis have military superiority, much of the world support the Palestinians - the latter reinforcing the belief among many Jews that the world is against us and we need to remain tough, as described above.

Is there a way out of this tragedy? Here in SA, Mandela recognised that most of the whites were driven to hatred by fear and mistrust of the black majority. By showing them that he was not a threat but a friend, Mandela was able to gracefully defuse a very difficult and dangerous situation.

Perhaps a mediator with the wisdom of Mandela could be found to diffuse the volatile situation in the Middle East. Alternatively, if many of the Israelis and Muslims read or hear views such as these, the conflict might end.

Finally, if Israelis help Palestinians to rebuild and grow their economy, bringing prosperity to the region, peace will have a chance.

Martin Zagnoev, Johannesburg

JOSH, DO THE HONOURABLE THING AND RESIGN AS DEPUTY HEAD BOY

Further to your statement and your proud wearing of a Palestinian scarf as a representative of King David School and further to the open letter to you from Anthony Reich may I suggest that you:

- a) acquire a copy of the Hamas Charter (to kill all Jews and occupy Israel)
- b) find out the reason why so many innocent Palestinians were killed and whose fault it was
- c) take the trouble to understand the mentality of radical Muslims in the Middle East
- d) as a schoolboy yourself, find out (presumably you do have access to the Internet) to what extent the Palestinian children are indoctrinated towards jihad against the Jews from birth and that death is glorious and joy only exists after death.

Have you heard the now well-known story of the Palestinian girl who was burned by her family and after lengthy treatment lovingly administered at Hadassah Hospital was caught at a Gaza crossing on her way to her regular hospital check-up, with a suicide belt attached to her with the intention of blowing up staff at the hospital?

There are more stories like that.

As captain of the SA National Debating Team, you should also know a wise man knows when to keep quiet. You should also do the honourable thing and step down as deputy head boy of King David Victory Park.

Ellen Ettinger and Israeli friends
East London

‘SHOCH’ IS NO DIFFERENT FROM DEROGATORY TERM ‘FILTHY JEW’

Does the Jewish mission to be a light unto the nations empower us to behave as we please? “Shoch: A derogatory word for a black person originating from the Hebrew word Shachor, meaning black” - Urban Dictionary.

Shoch: A word that causes me to cringe every time that I hear it!

As a nation, Jewry has experienced anti-Semitism in many forms, and continue to experience it daily. For this reason, I cannot understand how we can, without concern, use the word “shoch” in our everyday speech.

Members of the community (ranging from frum to secular) are quick to label someone an “anti-Semite” yet believe that “shoch”, which has become a more acceptable word to use than “Kaffir”, is not a racist term. How is “shoch” any different to “filthy Jew”, or any other derogatory name? Is Jewish culture really that much better than African culture?

We are quick to complain about somebody standing too close to us in queues, but have you ever been into Shoshana’s on a Friday morning, when Jewish women are pushing for challah?

We are quick to complain about their (blacks’) eating habits, and judge them as “eating like

pigs”, but have you ever been to a brocha following a shul service or any other Jewish simchah involving a buffet?

We are quick to complain about the cashiers in the supermarkets shouting across the shop to one another, or to their colleague who might be only metres away. Have you ever been to a bar-/batmitzvah and tried to listen to the speeches or the rabbi’s drosha - when some respect will strengthen our community.

From a young age we teach our children: “If you can’t say anything nice, then don’t say anything at all.” We also teach our children to “treat others the way you want them to treat you”. It is time to start to practise what we preach and look at our own behaviour before judging everybody else.

That “stupid shoch” may have forgotten to iron your shirt yesterday, but she also cooked dinner, made your bed, did your laundry, washed last night’s dishes and made sure that your children were ready for school. Please, show some respect, and think before you complain about the “stupid shoch”.

Samantha Kahn, Johannesburg

GAIN FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE, THEN
TALK ON WHAT’S HAPPENING IN ISRAEL

I was annoyed reading about Joshua Broomberg of King David Victory Park’s opinion on the Gaza issue. Just because he is a learner at KDVP, it must be the school’s fault! A school can teach one to have an opinion, but it cannot be held responsible for the outcome.

King David cannot be blamed for Broomberg saying something or wearing anything and also cannot punish the boy, because as soon as a school punishes one for whatever he is doing, the school automatically sees itself as responsible for one’s wrongdoing and like it or not, every parent says a brocha on their son’s barmitzvah; as soon as he reaches the age of 13 he becomes responsible for his own doing and more so at the age of 18.

Being at school does not mean that the school is responsible for him; the only thing the school is responsible for is the learner’s wellbeing.

Those holding the same opinion as Broomb-erg, should go and live for at least one week in Sderot before they talk again about human rights and killing (Palestinian) kids and women or go and visit an Israeli cemetery were a baby is buried who has died as a result of a suicide bomber on a bus.

So please, parents, let one of your children serve in the IDF before they express an opinion. Don’t blame King David for the views of a boy with no first-hand experience about living in Israel.

We have enough enemies; let us stick together and love each other; let’s build each other up and not worry. The enemies won’t be able to destroy a well-bonded community.

Gershon Bachrach, Johannesburg

This letter has been shortened – Editor

THIS SANDRA MELTZ ‘NOT RELATED TO
MY FAMILY’

I would like to state categorically that the Sandra Meltz whose name appears in the anti-Israel advertisement of the Sunday Times of August 10 and on her Facebook page, is in my opinion not a proud South African Jew in any way. She is not related to my family.

She was not (as I could determine) married by any rabbi affiliated to the UOS or the Beth-Din of South Africa.

My father is married to a Sandra Meltz and they are affiliated to the Durban United Hebrew Congregation and the UOS and were married at Sydenham Shul some 34 years ago. Her son and my brother David Meltz, served in the IDF and was on the northern border of Lebanon defend- ing the citizens of Eretz Yisrael against Hezbollah and currently Hamas.

Leicester Meltz, Johannesburg

LET THE ‘RIGHTEOUS 500’ SIMPLY JOIN OTHER HAMAS
SUPPORTERS

To those “Jews” who proclaim their undying support of the Palestinians in their endeavour to destroy Israel - the “Righteous 500” - I want to ask: What makes you so special that your names must be publicly known to support the Palestinians in their mission to destroy Israel and kill all the Jews? Why don’t you simply join all the other supporters of Hamas - because that is what this is all about - and march with them as concerned individuals waving their flag? Clearly the only reason you want your sup- port to be known, is because you think that when they come to kill all the Jews, they will stop and say: “Not him; he is one of the good ones.” Boy, are you in for a shock! If Hamas’ rockets were to succeed in their inten- tion and killed hundreds and thousands of Israeli (Jews) citizens - mostly women and children - would you join them in the streets dancing for joy? Would you publicly declare that you applaud the success of their mission?

David Kaliski, Cape Town

BROOMBERG SUPPLIES
AMMUNITION TO ISRAEL
ENEMIES

Josh Broomberg is indubitably an extremely bright, intelligent, erudite and clever young man - perhaps a tad too clever. I would like to think that his parents were totally unaware of his intention to parade with a keffiyeh in public. However, what irks me the most, is the ammunition he handed to the Muslims in the form of politi- cal propaganda!

Jack Miller
Gresswold, Johannesburg

‘MICHAELOV OR MICHAELOW’
- WHO CAN HELP?

Elinor Brenner writes that she has had an enquiry from a friend in Pittsburgh in the US who is look- ing for relatives called Michaelov or Michaelow.

Says Elinor: “Her father’s cousin, Michael Michaelov, came to Jo- hannesburg in the 1930s. He was a doctor. Her father was William Conn in Pittsburg. Dr Michaelov/ Michaelow was either a paedia- trician or a gynaecologist. Can anyone help with this enquiry?” Brenner can be contacted e-mail, elinorbrenner1@gmail.com

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primarypa@yeshivateachers.co.za

Community Talk

Calling all King David Victory Park alumni

The King David Schools' Foundation invites all VP alumni who matriculated from King David Victory Park, to join us at one MEGA reunion to celebrate the 50 years of this incredible school's history.

Date: September 21, 2014 (all expats come home for Rosh Hashanah)

Time: 19:00 - till late

Venue: King David Victory Park High School Hall

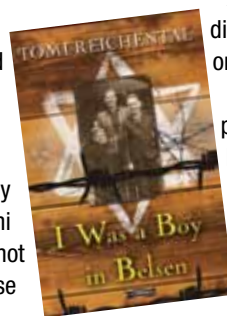
Cost: R250 pp

Bookings: Gila Glazer glazerg@kdsf.org or (011) 480-4701



Tomi's Holocaust book will aid JWBS

'In the last couple of years I realised that, as one of the last witnesses, I must speak out.'
Tomi Reichental was nine when he was sent with members of his family to Bergen-Belsen. For 55 years, Tomi didn't speak about his time there, "not because I didn't want to, but because I couldn't."



As the number of Holocaust survivors diminishes, Tomi is acutely aware that he is one of the final witnesses.

"I Was a Boy in Belsen" is Tomi's personal account of the horrors of the Holocaust. It will be on sale at the Waverley Shul Hall on Wednesday August 27, from 09:00 until noon. Proceeds will go to the Jewish Women's Benevolent and the Nashua Children's Charity foundation.

Sharing the Load

Sandringham Gardens' major annual fundraiser, Share the Load, was held in the Gerald Horwitz Lounge at Golden Acres on August 6, for the 24th time!



Always a fun function, over 200 people attended the audited draw and enjoyed the delicious buffet dinner. Myrna Jankelowitz, general manager of Golden Acres and long-time event organiser said that proceeds this year translated into a net R2 million for the Home. Chev Chief Revenue Officer Saul Tomson, added: "Many of the 15 prize-winners generously donated their winnings back to Sandringham Gardens."



South african Jewish Report

Please support the SA Jewish Report... Keep knitting !

Join the SA Jewish Report by continuing to knit your squares and blankets for '67 blankets for Nelson Mandela Day'. In February/March we will do an aerial shot of the blankets, placed at the feet of Madiba's statue at the Union Buildings. This will become an iconic photo around the world, depicting our commitment to keeping the legacy of Nelson Mandela alive. Stitch by stitch we will keep our beautiful country warm in all the years to come, in the name of our beloved Nelson Mandela.

– Carolyn Steyn,

67 blankets for Nelson Mandela Day

For info and deliveries call SAJR: (011) 274-1400



Sydenham Shul is seeking to appoint a

YOUTH DIRECTOR

(Individual or Couple)

The successful applicant will have some years of experience in Youth work in South Africa and successful achievements in running Youth activities for various age groups.

These need not necessarily have been in the Shul context. Attributes required:
Dynamic, passionate, creative, flexible self-starter.

Responsibilities will include the oversight and management of all Children and Youth Services and activities, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Programmes as well as the personal leadership of Shul Services and other Programming for ages 13-21.

Applications including CV and References should be sent as soon as possible to Jonty Cohen at execd@sydshul.co.za.



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- **MIND-BLOWING "SEEKING JERUSALEM" PRE-PROGRAM**
- **LAUNCH DATE:** Tuesday 16th September
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 GIVE YOUR ALL TO GIVE IT BACK
 2015

Dementia: a major problem is the stigma attached to it

ROBYN SASSEN

The care of dementia is not about tender loving care. It requires specialised nursing skills, but it’s a situation fraught with problems, ranging from stigmas in the nursing specialisation to the understanding that dementia could be the plague of the future.

So says Alzheimer’s specialist Loraine Schirlinger, of the upcoming Dementia Seminar, in September, she has organised.

This year’s programme is replete with talks from a range of different issues in the treatment of dementia to a reflection on cognitive markers. “We begin with a speaker who is affected

by dementia, Jonah Naidoo. Then, there’s a biokineticist, and a researcher. Renowned geriatrician Dr Stanley Lipschitz speaks on ethics and drug trials and Dr Michael Huth speaks on normal pressure hydrocephalus.

“The afternoon session is less technical, including speech and language therapist Ruthann Sedgwick on ‘One Swallow does not Make a Meal’ and Atteridgeville-based Sister Elsie Etsande on cultural diversity.”

Schirlinger is regional director of Alzheimer’s SA. She studied nursing, specialising in psychiatry and gerontology. “Alzheimer’s is pretty specialised. People tend to think it’s tender loving care, and if you’re a nurse, it’s covered in





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The Power to Surprise

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your training. It isn’t.

“People are more aware about the disease now,” she says, adding that the increase in the number of sufferers has to do with being diagnosed earlier and being able to make informed decisions.

According to the Alzheimer’s Disease International, 80 per cent of residents in institutionalised care have a form of dementia. “Every four seconds, according to the ADI, one person is diagnosed with dementia. By 2025, there will be a cure - but we are looking at estimated projections: In 2009 it was projected that by 2013, there would be 36 million people affected by dementia; the figure was 44 million.

“So much money is being poured into finding a cure or prevention. The fact that there is neither at this stage, opens ethical issues. People are so scared of Alzheimer’s they will try anything. At any cost.”

The older the patient, the higher the risk. According to the ADI, 1:1 000 younger than 64 can develop a dementia; 1:9 between the ages of 65 and 84; and 1:3 in people 85 and over. “People are living longer,” she responds to the idea that dementia is the plague of the future. “In some First World countries, dementia has overtaken Aids.

“Working in an old-aged home bears a stigma,” she considers the dearth of young trainees. “You get seen as ‘deadwood’. Surely to goodness medical institutions know gerontology is a serious specialisation.

“Dementia can be very trying; I feel working with these people and empowering them is a huge privilege. I try to encourage them to retain, above all, their ability to laugh.”

• *The Fifth Annual Alzheimer’s SA Gauteng one-day seminar is at the National Health Laboratories Auditorium, in Sandringham on September 10. Registration closes on September 1. Visit www.alzheimers.org.za*

• *Cost: for the public - R375; for students - R185; no charge for people with dementia.*

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Minnie Bersohn young learn about tefillin



Photo: Michelle Vinokur

MICHELLE VINOKUR

Rabbi David Shaw of Sandton Shul’s visit to Minnie Bersohn Pre-Primary School, was extra special last week Friday. He came to demonstrate to the children how men put on tefillin in the mornings.

He explained that the boxes are very special as they both contain the Shema. He also explained that the box on the head faces upwards towards Hashem and the one on the arm faces our hearts to resemble Hashem’s love for us. This was a very spiritual morning shared by all. Pictured are Jordan Mazor; Adi Glasser; Saul Defries; Rabbi David Shaw; Samuel Miller; and Judd Hirshowitz.

Herzlia High School elects new SRC



Photo: Lindy Diamond

TRACY KLASS

The Herzlia High School Student Council was elected recently. They are, front: Michaela Franco (deputy head student); Michael Cohen (head student); Jason Smith (deputy head student); and Kevin Pogrund (deputy head student). Back: Kira Stone; Romy Bloch; Gabriella Wilensky; Olivia Bernstein; Geena Kopping; Gabriella Saven; Justin Marcus; and Zachary Levin.

Thumbs up for Sydenham parents!



Photo: Sue Benjamin

SUE BENJAMIN

Just one e-mail and the response from the Sydenham parents of the pre-primary school and children, was yet again amazing!

The parcels for the soldiers (defending Israel) kept rolling in. Our hearts go out to the families in Israel who have lost their sons and brothers and our thoughts are with the soldiers in the IDF. May our prayers be answered quickly for their whole and safe return.

Pictured are Shannon Feldman; Heidi Alhadeff (standing); Ben Goshier; and Shira Zagorsky.

KOSHER KIA

Family vehicle – with style

Whether you have an established family or you're on the road to one, you'll know that the family vehicle is an essential ingredient in the mix. At KIA, we're no strangers to the countless nights spent agonising over size, safety, reliability, comfort and hopefully a little style if there's any room for that consideration left over. Allow us to help narrow down the exhausting list of options, with what we consider to be some of the essential elements to look out for when shopping for your next family car.



Ray Levin, CEO – KIA Motors South Africa

Visibility: Being on the road is risky these days, with the sheer numbers of cars on the road, especially when your kids are in tow. Make sure you choose a vehicle with added height and good visibility of the immediate traffic around you.

Load space: You never know what the kids are going to drag along with them; factor in grocery shopping, the odd pram and the inevitable December road trip for the whole family, and it all adds up to the need for plenty of boot space. Look for a vehicle that meets you load and storage needs.

Spare wheel: It's critical to have a vehicle with a fully-sized spare wheel, especially when carrying your family.

ISOFIX: The ISOFIX is a system that provides attachment points for child safety seats. If you have babies and/or young children, consider choosing a vehicle that has ISOFIX as standard.

No matter your choice of family vehicle, and especially as we head towards the end of the year, make sure you choose one that puts these essentials first, without sacrificing the good looks and style that make you, you.

The KIA Sportage ships standard with all of these features, as well as a few surprises that we'll leave you to discover for yourself at www.kia.co.za.

Kia, The Power to Surprise.



A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Board’s task: to protect community’s civil liberties

This week, I was interviewed on SAfm along with a representative of the group Jewish Voices for a Just Peace. In response to a claim that no space is allowed for dissenting views on Israel in our community, I emphasised that, on the contrary, there are various avenues and forums through which community members can express themselves.

What we need to ensure, rather, is that people are not demeaned and insulted because of the positions they choose to take. Our challenge is to embrace and continue the age-old Jewish tradition of debate where all viewpoints are dealt with on their merits and minority voices are not excluded from the dialogue.

Tony Ehrenreich, Cosatu’s Western Cape provincial secretary, is an example of someone who regards dissent from the view he holds as a punishable offence. This he has made clear in a number of highly inflammatory posts on Facebook, whereby he, inter alia, accused the SAJBD of being “complicit in the murder of the people in Gaza” and that the time had come for it to “feel the wrath of the people of SA with the age-old biblical teaching of an eye for an eye” whenever a woman or child is killed in Gaza.

The Board has since lodged both criminal charges with the police and a formal complaint with the SA Human Rights Commission in response to this overt hate speech and incitement to violence. This is in addition to a number of other such cases we have lodged recently against individuals who have, we believe, threatened and incited hatred against our community.

The activities of the Board are wide ranging, including outreach and bridge-building initiatives and the safeguarding of the Jewish heritage in this country. Its primary mandate, however, is to protect the civil liberties of South African Jewry, and our community can rest assured that to this end, we will continue to leave no stone unturned in dealing appropriately with each and every case of anti-Semitism that comes to our attention.

At a time of heightened emotion and diametrically opposed viewpoints regarding the Middle East question, it is rare to find someone who can negotiate between the

extremes and provide a reasoned, informed voice.

The renowned journalist and author, Benjamin Pogrund, is one such person. He is by no means uncritical of Israel, but when discussing what he sees as its flaws, he does so in a considered, contextualised way.

That inequalities exist in Israeli society is a reality that needs to be addressed but, as Pogrund has consistently argued, these in no way are of such a nature as to justify the “Israel = Apartheid” label. During the apartheid years, at considerable personal risk, he was at the forefront of journalists exposing the inequities of the system, which makes it hard indeed for others to simply dismiss him as a “Zionist apologist”.

He was in South Africa last week to promote his new book *Drawing Fire: Investigating the Accusations of Apartheid in Israel*. The SAJBD was much involved in organising his itinerary, including working with the publishers in arranging book launches, media interviews and meetings with other journalists and opinion makers.

For those genuinely interested in understanding the complex nature of Israel and its relationship with its neighbours, Benjamin’s measured, balanced approach to these questions will have come as a welcome change to the hyperbolic, heavily politicised rhetoric which all too often passes for critical comment in our media.

• *Listen to Charisse Zeifert on Jewish Board Talk, 101.9 ChaiFM every Friday 12:00 - 13:00. This Friday, Charisse speaks to Benjamin Pogrund on his new book Drawing Fire and Aviva Moses and a representative from the Japanese embassy on the forthcoming evening paying tribute to Chiune Sugihara, “Righteous Among the Nations”.*

This column paid for by SA Jewish Board of Deputies



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Sadness as ‘grand old lady’ bows out

OWN CORRESPONDENT

It was with a great sense of tribute to the late Devorah Nates and the leadership and membership of the Federation of Synagogues Women’s Guilds of SA, but also with great sorrow that a meeting was held for the organisation’s dissolution last Tuesday in Orchards, Johannesburg.

The organisation’s vice president, Loraine Ware, called upon Rebbetzen Aviva Fox, daughter of Nates, to address the disappointingly small crowd of the FSWG’s subscribing members.

Speaking of how she was convinced that the time had come for the organisation to close, because its mandate over its 60 years of existence had been fulfilled, she said that whether women worked in an organisation or on their own, they brought a special appeal to Yiddishkeit and observance.

Carole Heymann, a member of the executive, read a poem she had written, celebrating Nates’ efforts on behalf of the organisation and for the benefit of the community.

Ware said: “With Devorah’s passing, the organisation’s mandate can no longer be fulfilled. During her tenure, we saw the gradual diminishing of the shuls’ ladies guilds: they were no longer required to be the ‘herring and kichel brigade’.

“With the passage of time, most shuls found that the ladies originally responsible for the catering were being replaced by younger women, most of whom could not continue the labour of love of their predecessors, either due to financial reasons - a lot more women these days work - or because their interests and priorities differed.

“Devorah’s dedication was almost unique; many people unconnected to our organisation expressed amazement when they discovered that our organisation which came across to them as a vibrant, huge

gathering of loyal dedicated women, consisted, in fact, of a hard-working and inspired president with maybe five or six followers.”

The Federation, founded some 60 years ago, was led by women of the calibre of the late Elizabeth Rapaport, Blumie Louis, Ray Fine, and Rebbetzen Doreen Bender, to name but a few. It had two mandates: to serve as an umbrella body for shul guilds; and to disseminate literature pertaining to Yiddishkeit. Candle-lighting charts were typed on a typewriter and posted, as were weekly parsha sheets. Women spent hours in the shul kitchens preparing for the shuls’ weekly brochas.

Under the auspices of the organisation, during the last 15 years of its functional life, the Provincial Hospitals Kosher Kitchen became a department of the Federation. Also under the auspices of the organisation was the Kosher Consumers’ Organisation, established by the late Rebbetzen Bender in 1983.

Ware expressed her gratitude to Hannah Sachs, the organisation’s secretary for over 30 years, and Bernice Sassen, honorary secretary and honorary life vice president.

• *Twenty years ago, in 1994, Devorah Nates in her capacity as president of the Federation of Synagogues Women’s Guilds, introduced the first Women’s National Day of Prayer for Peace, which entailed reciting Psalm 27 before lighting the Shabbat candles and pledging a donation to charity. This year, the National Day of Prayer falls on August 29 - next Friday. The members and leadership of the Federation of Synagogues extend an appeal to all women of the community to light their Shabbat candles and recite Psalm 27, in a bid for world peace and in memory of Nates and the Federation of Synagogues.*



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What's On

Today, Friday (August 22)

- UZLC hosts Shirley Zar on "A Jewish Mishugash - Changing the World for Good with Lessons from Practical Planning Projects". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (August 24)

- JH&GC in partnership with The Johannesburg Sephardi Hebrew Congregation pay homage to the "70th Commemoration of the Martyrs of Rhodes", a memorial service, a report-back by Maurice Turiel and a screening of "It Never Rained on Rhodes" by New York-based artist Barry Saltzman. Venue: Johannesburg Sephardi Hebrew Congregation Synagogue, Orchards. Time: 17:00. No charge. Refreshments will be served. Booking essential: shirley@jhbholocaust.co.za or (011) 640-2148.
- The Johannesburg Light Music Society features presenter Des Sonnenfeld "Golden Oldies" and Jenny Considine on "Favourite Female Voices". After interval a movie will be screened. Venue: Roosevelt Park Recreation Centre. Time: 14:00 sharp. Enquiries: Marilyn, 072-243-7436 or Jack, 082-450-7622.
- RCHCC and Jacana Media host the book launch of "Blood Money - The Cyril Karabus Story", with a discussion between author Suzanne Belling, Michael Belling and Prof Karabus. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 16:30. Donation R80 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net
- Second Innings hosts Dr Dale McKinley on "The Real Fear

Monday (August 25)

- UJW hosts Ferial Haffajee, editor of City Press, on "Tale of Two Countries". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW Office (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (August 26)

- Koleinu SA presents "When Love ends in Disaster - The Anatomy of Abuse" - a three-part series by psychologist Leonard Carr, (last of the series). Venue: Chabad of Strathavon. Time: 20:00. Cost: R100 per talk. Booking: E-mail Koleinusa@gmail.com

Wednesday (August 27)

- Chev Social Services /CAJE's "Enrich your Life" series presents "Parenting: A Forgotten Art? Learn to Educate Before you Medicate" with educational psychologist Ken Resnick. Venue: Sydenham Shul hall. Time: 19:45. Cost: R30 (incl light refreshments). Booking: Sharon (011) 532-9616/sharonp@jhbchev.co.za
- JWBS hosts the book launch of author Tomi Reichenthal's personal account as a Holocaust survivor, "I Was a Boy in Belsen". Venue: Waverley Shul. Time: 09:00 - 12:00. Enquiries: (011) 485-5232 or for pre-orders, e-mail benevolent@iafrica.com
- UJW hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in Dept of English, Wits, on "Exploring the Wonder's of Milton's 'Paradise

Thursday (August 28)

- Second Innings hosts an outing to the Bryanston Organic Market. Time: Bus leaves Golden Acres at 09:00. Cost: R110. Enquiries: Helen

Friday (August 29)

- UZLC hosts David Batzofin on "The Green Green Grass of Somebody's Else's Home". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

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ChaiFM Radiothon's top 3 finalists announced

The top three finalists who will be going head-to-head for 101.9 ChaiFM's 2014 Radiothon - all registered charities - are the DL Link which offers lifestyle support for families with serious illness; the NSPCA for animals in need; and the Little Fighter's Cancer Trust, which supports children with cancer and their families nationally.


In a media release, ChaiFM says that in round one of the nomination process, listeners were asked to nominate their charity to be entered into a final vote between the top three finalists. Over the past three weeks, the station has received thousands of SMS nominations from communities nominating their charity of choice.

The second and final stage of the nomination is now active. From the SMS votes, ChaiFM counted up the organisations with the most votes.

This round is not through SMS votes, but through an online survey via survey monkey. The link is: https://www.survey-monkey.com/s/KYGL8BF

The winner of the 2014 Radiothon will be announced on September 1.

During the past five years the station has run annual radiothons. Some of the charities which have benefitted include The Selwyn Segal, Hatzolah and the Yad Aharon and Michael Food Fund.



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Israeli squash team conquers Soweto

JACK MILNER

While the world has gone mad once again about the happenings in Gaza, it is comforting to see that in some parts of the world sport between all nations can go on without protests.

An under-19 Israeli squash team spent some time in South Africa last week to prepare for the Men's World Junior Team Championships 2014, which is currently being played in Namibia.

The tournament involves teams from 23 countries, including Egypt, Kuwait, Pakistan, India and Malaysia and there have been no problems. In fact, Israel and Pakistan are in the same group and have already played one another.

At the time of writing Pakistan led Pool B with

Israel in second, Germany third and Namibia fourth. Israel's second place allowed it to qualify for the quarterfinals. Other teams who qualified for the quarterfinals are Egypt and the US from Pool A, England and France from Pool C, India and Colombia from Pool D, Malaysia and Ireland from Pool E and Spain and Finland from Pool F. The Israeli team comprises Daniel Poleshchuk, Roei Avraham, Noam Peer and Nir Cohen.

The decision for the team to spend a week prior to the championship in South Africa, came about when Maccabi SA's Glenn Lazarus met Stan Tannen, chairman of Israel Junior Squash, at last year's Maccabiah.

"I explained to Glenn we were hoping to send a team to Namibia to participate in the World Jun-



Israel's Daniel Poleshchuk with South African No 3 Thoboki Mohohlo at the Old Eds Squash Courts.

ior Championships in August 2014 and together we looked at the possibility of bringing the team to train in Johannesburg and get involved with the Egolisquash project," said Tannen.

Lazarus arranged a training facility and accommodation for the team. "During our stay we had the privilege of coaching at the urban squash programme at the University of Johannesburg and in Soweto. We also played one of the top local schools and met up with children from the King David Schools.

"We saw a lot of unbelievable raw talent and no words can describe the immense work and effort being put into the Egolisquash programme," said Tannen.

The Israeli team comprises players ranked in the top three and on their first day they had a training session with the Egolisquash Colts Future Champions players at Doornfontein squash courts.

On the second day they visited the Egolisquash Mass Participation programme for inner-city high schools and the turnout was amazing, with 120 players from Phoenix, New Model, Centurion, Our Lady of Wisdom, BASA and Bayhen Colleges, all eager to learn and have fun with these top players. Over 200 kids participated in the coaching.

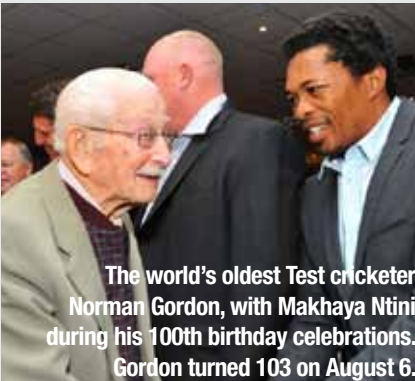
As part of their training camp, the Israel team also played matches against Northcliff Boys' High under-19 team who are the Central Gauteng under-19 Tops Schools champions for 2014. The Israeli team was too strong and powered their way to a 5-0 victory over the local team..

They then took on the mighty Old Eds First league team at the Old Eds Club. Included in the Old Eds team was Thoboki Mohohlo currently No 3 in South Africa. The Israeli team played some great squash and only lost one match out of five.

They toured Soweto and ran a training session at the Gazankulu School Squash court in Chiawelo. The touring team ran indoor and outdoor training clinics with the future champions of SA, which included SA under-14 champion Amukelani Zitha.

The Israeli team also played a match against the Maccabi under-19 team. The Israelis showed their class and strength in every match.

Oldest Test cricketer turns 103



The world's oldest Test cricketer Norman Gordon, with Makhaya Ntini during his 100th birthday celebrations. Gordon turned 103 on August 6.

JACK MILNER

Norman Gordon became the world's oldest living test cricketer when New Zealander Eric Tindell passed away on August 1, 2010, approximately four months before his 100th birthday. Gordon, who was even at that time the only living cricketer to have played in the 1939 "timeless test" in Durban, was just 361 days away from his 100th birthday.

Remarkably no Test cricketer had ever reached his century and the following year there were some scary moments as Gordon manoeuvred his way through a cold winter. On August 6 2011, Gordon turned 100 and remarkably, three years later, he can boast 103 not out.

Friend and former Test cricketer Ali Bacher, was quoted by Sport24 as saying that "old age is catching up with him".

Gordon represented South Africa in five Test matches in the 1938/39 season, including the "timeless test" played against England at Durban in March 1939. The Test lasted 10 days and ended in a draw.

Gordon was in the middle of bowling his 93rd over when the teams finally decided to call it a day as the England team had to dash to catch the mail boat home. War was looming in Europe and the English team wanted to get home.

Gordon's 92,2, eight-ball overs bowled in that Test, equating to a mammoth 738 balls, still stands as the most number of balls bowled by a fast bowler in a Test match.

His Test career ended prematurely with the start of the Second World War and he only played a handful of matches after the war before retiring at the end of the 1948/49 season.

Bacher said he had hoped to take Gordon out for lunch on his birthday, but he was not well enough to go out.

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