



See photos of
our Jewish
CEOs at the
Sleepout.
Page 10.

South African Jewish Report

www.sajr.co.za



Photo: Jason Crouse

Sinai Indaba offered a spiritual injection

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein's fifth Sinai Indaba took place in Johannesburg this past weekend. About 5 000 people who braved the icy Highveld weather to attend, were treated to 13 international experts who spoke on an array of topics – leadership, parenting, relationships, gender issues and the power and passion of Torah, among others. Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews alike experienced a day of inspiration and were allowed to rediscover some of the richness of their Jewish faith. In his opening address on the Saturday night, Rabbi Goldstein said that the Sinai Indaba theme of "Today We Can" epitomised the fact that for the Jewish people, the world has tremendous possibilities and opportunities. An Indaba hit was American animator Saul Blinkoff (pictured), who enthralled his audience with his career success story as well as his meaningful journey to his Jewish roots. See pages 8 and 9.

Zimbabwe's Lemba build their first shul

The Lemba claim they are descendants from a lost tribe of Israel, but Orthodox Judaism has made it clear the Lemba will not be recognised as Jews.

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Cape Town's Philip Krawitz honoured by Keren Hayesod

Philip Krawitz, founder of the successful Cape Union Mart outdoor leisure retailer, has received the Yakir award from Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal.

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Herber House Hostel boarders relive old times in Johannesburg

Herber House was a hostel for out-of-town Jewish learners. It closed its doors more than 50 years ago and on June 16, former residents held a breakfast reunion.

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Artist Impression

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Parshat Chukat

Rabbi Ari Kievman
Shul in Sandton Central
@ The Kirsh Goodness &
Kindness Centre

Living in Sandton’s CBD is always exciting. In the past few days, I witnessed some remarkable events. Late last Thursday night, while driving home with the heat turned up in my car, I drove past the CEO SleepOut, where prominent captains of industry spent the night “cozily” tucked into cardboard boxes outside the JSE.

Their aim? Solidarity and support of people living in dire poverty. It was amazing to witness individuals foregoing their creature comforts for a cause.

As expected, the gesture was met with cynicism from some sceptics. Spending one night outdoors does not a homeless make. Several hours of discomfort was relieved by the reality of returning to the security of their mansions.

So what’s the big deal about sleeping outside in a cardboard box for one night, even if they contributed quite generously to the less fortunate? Would they be willing to forgo their luxuries and permanently move into the streets?

But wait! Would that actually be necessary to validate this point or is a token gesture valuable at all?

In the Torah portion of Chukat, which we read this week, we encounter a category of mitzvot known as “Chukim”. These commandments are observed simply because the Divine willed them, whether or not we find them comprehensible such as the laws of purity, kashrut and shatnez.

We are taught this fundamental Jewish concept, that we don’t observe mitzvot as rational laws, but rather “because Hashem said so”. Therefore even if beyond our understanding, we still do them as we’re fulfilling the will of G-d.

This awareness has inspired Jews for centuries to, at times, give up their conveniences and comforts, sometimes even their lives for G-d and the preservation of Judaism.

Readiness to sacrifice for an ideal doesn’t make you a fanatic; it means that your life has purpose that is greater than yourself. The question then is, how much do you have to change? Do you have to move into a cardboard box until poverty is a matter of the past?

The Rebbe taught an empowering insight on the concept of self-sacrifice - Mesirat Nefesh

today. The definition of Mesirat Nefesh is not only being thrown into a furnace or plunging into the Red Sea. Rather it means any and every submission one makes to Hashem. Any amount, every time.

You don’t need to change radically, you just need to make a change. Experience a night out in the frigid cold; give a few more rand to charity; go to that extra prayer; celebrate with family on Shabbos; pen some Torah study into your hectic schedule; flash the smile when you didn’t think you would.

This past weekend thousands of Jews converged at the Sandton Convention Centre to experience true Jewish unity at Sinai Indaba V. Can the inspiration continue? Certainly. Each day, just make a small commitment that is a little more than you’re accustomed to and in no time you’ll notice a huge difference in your life and the lives of those around you. Indeed, today we can!

KASHRUT ALERT

The kashrut division of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues advises that Terrific Candy erroneously bears the Union's kosher symbol.

“Please note that this product is not certified by the OU (Orthodox Union) and therefore it is not approved by the Johannesburg Beth Din.”

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Shabbat Times		
June 26/ 9 Tammuz		
June 27 / 10 Tammuz		
Parshat Chukat		
17:08	17:59	Johannesburg
17:28	18:23	Cape Town
16:48	17:41	Durban
17:09	18:01	Bloemfontein
16:49	17:54	Port Elizabeth
16:53	17:47	East London

Around the Jewish World

BURGER KING COMING BACK TO ISRAEL
JERUSALEM - Fast food brand Burger King is coming back to Israel. A group of investors, the main one being French businessman Pierre Besnainou, who has holdings in a number of real estate and communications businesses and is a partner in Carmel Winery and the Chefa Meals & Service catering company, has obtained the Israeli franchise for the brand.

Burger King's new activity in Israel will be built from the ground up. The international chain prefers that its new investor should begin anew, without using the foundations left from the previous franchise period.

Fifty branches around the country are planned within five years, at an initial investment of \$12 million. The first branch will be launched next August, with five more branches getting underway by December. – Globes

such as Pakistan, Sudan, Indonesia, Iraq and other places she is not at liberty to identify.

That the Ministry of Culture and Sport approved her nomination for the honour is a testament to Israel's democratic principles, says Lusky. “The government knows how strongly I love my country.”

Lusky tells Israel21c she established Israeli Flying Aid because no other Israeli NGO was dealing with disasters in hostile territories. “I believe Israel does amazing work where it’s invited to do so, but I wanted to compensate the other parts of the world.”

She prefers to stay under the radar even when working with emergency responders in friendly countries such as the United States, Haiti and Nepal.

“I don’t want to compete in the media with formal Israeli missions; I want people to see Israeli soldiers helping people all over the world,” says Lusky. - Israel 21c

FORMER ENVOY OREN SAYS ‘LIKELY’ US WON’T VETO SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON-Former Israeli envoy to Washington, Michael Oren, said the United States was “likely” not to veto an expected UN Security Council resolution calling for the creation of a Palestinian state.

Oren’s remarks were made at the New York launch of his new book Ally: My Journey Across the American-Israeli Divide.

Responding to a question from the audience about Israel’s public diplomacy on the Palestinian issue, Oren brought up the expected upcoming move at the UN and stated emphatically that “the United States is likely not to cast a veto”. - The Algemeiner

THE DANGEROUS GOOD DEEDS OF GAL LUSKY
JERUSALEM - Israeli Flying Aid brings undercover rescue volunteers to countries that don’t have diplomatic relations with Israel or will not accept foreign disaster relief.

Founder and CEO, Gal Lusky, chose Frank Sinatra’s classic “Fly Me to the Moon” as her mobile phone’s ringtone.

“The moon is just about the only place I know that’s peaceful right now,” she quips. The nonprofit volunteer organisation provides lifesaving aid in areas of natural disaster or conflict.

Lusky was one of seven female and seven male Israelis chosen to light torches at the 67th Independence Day ceremony on Jerusalem’s Mount Herzl.

Her inclusion in this illustrious group is all the more remarkable considering that many of her missions are to nations normally off limits to Israelis,

MEASURES TO PROTECT GOLDERS GREEN COMMUNITY AHEAD OF NEO-NAZI MARCH
LONDON - A group of MPs have called for “every measure” to be taken to protect the Golders Green community ahead of a planned neo-Nazi demonstration next week. Led by Hampstead and Kilburn MP Tulip Siddiq, they have signed an early day motion in Parliament praising the efforts of campaigners to ban the July 4 protest in the heart of the north-west London Jewish community.

Siddiq’s motion is sponsored by fellow Labour MPs Sadiq Khan, Wes Streeting and Ruth Smeeth. They also called on Home Secretary Theresa May to take further action to stop offensive protests and demonstrations.

The motion states: “That this House notes with concern the planned neo-Nazi demonstration in Golders Green on 4 July; highlights that this rally is due to take place on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, in an area in which 40 per cent of the population is Jewish; praises the public activism in opposition to the rally - and particularly the change.org petition to ban it, and the work of Hope Not Hate and the London Jewish Forum, under the umbrella of the Golders Green Together campaign, to promote solidarity and celebrate diversity in the local area; believes that every measure should be taken to protect Golders Green’s vibrant community from provocation and abuse, and calls on the Home Secretary to consider what further actions the government could take to isolate the politics of hate and division on our streets.”

Siddiq’s constituency borders the Golders Green area.

The motion was also sponsored by Conservative MP Peter Bottomley. - Jewish Chronicle, London

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Zimbabwe’s Lemba building their first shul

ANT KATZ

For centuries the Lemba tribe in south-east Zimbabwe who believe they are a lost tribe of Israel, have had to hide their connection to Judaism due to the prejudice it brought on them. Many have converted to Islam and Christianity and there is a mosque and church in almost every Lemba town in Zimbabwe.

But over the past few decades, the Lemba of Zimbabwe, and indeed their compatriots in the east of South Africa’s Limpopo Province, have come out of their proverbial closets and now openly display their practices of male circumcision and kashrut and align with their belief that they are the descendants of Jews who fled the Holy Land thousands of years ago.

Now, in Mapakomhere, in Masvingo District, the heart of Lemba territory, there are the beginnings of a bigger spiritual message to the world: the Lemba are building their first shul!

The 500 square metre building is being financed to the tune of R500 000 by US non-profit “Kulanu” (Hebrew for “all of us”) which works around the world to support isolated and emerging Jewish communities who wish to learn more about Judaism and (re-)connect with the wider Jewish community.

This, however, creates a headache for the 12-nation African Jewish Congress (AJC) chaired by Ann Harris and with Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft as its CEO and spiritual leader. The AJC took a policy decision four years ago not to accede to requests from several black groups who consider themselves Jews and who wanted the AJC to minister to them and neither does it, nor Israel, consider them Jewish.

While the Lemba don’t appear physically distinct from their fellow South Africans and



Zimbabweans, their beliefs in their traditional roots are different. And so is their DNA.

Lemba men carry the Cohen modal haplotype Y-chromosomal type characteristic of the Jewish priesthood at about the same rate as that of major Jewish populations. The results convinced the world and members of the Lemba community themselves of the validity of the legends, something some members of the younger generation had doubted.

Located near the village centre, on top of a hill overlooking a valley, the spot for the shul was chosen to help convey the image of ascending to a place of worship, said Rabson Wuriga, secretary of the new shul and the Lemba Cultural Association.

The foundation for the structure has been laid and the walls are being built. Most of the workers are not paid. They do it because they place importance on their connection to the Jewish religion and the shul is a symbol of their commitment to that religion, says the

Lemba co-ordinator for Kulanu, Israel-based Sandy Leeder.

The Lemba want to preserve their culture. They daven as Jews do. “They realise they can’t do it by themselves, because they don’t have the structure and they’re being missionised,” Leeder says.

George Zvakavapano, a 24-year-old in tight

jeans and a yarmulke, told Aljazeera in an interview recently: “I knew I was a Jew, but from the start I wanted proof.” After his DNA results came out earlier this year, proving Zvakavapano carried the Cohen Y-chromosome, he was elated.

“This is real,” he said, and immediately started taking Judaism seriously as a religion, studying Hebrew and even adapting some of the clothing of Orthodox Jews like a tallit katan, the vest-like garment with ritual fringes attached to it. During Saturday services in Harare, he serves as a Shamashi, or helper, distributing prayer books, setting out chairs and cleaning up after the service.

Jack Zeller, president emeritus of “Kulanu Inc” and Leeder, the organisation’s treasurer and Lemba co-ordinator, have invited Rabbi Silberhaft to a meeting in Israel. Silberhaft said earlier this month that for “humanitarian” reasons the AJC was looking for solutions for the largest groups of African Jewish claimants and this week he told Jewish Report he had accepted Kulanu’s request and would be meeting with them in a few weeks’ time.

See more on this story on our website, www.sajr.co.za

Cape Town’s Philip Krawitz honoured by Keren Hayesod

VANESSA VALKIN

The Cape Town Jewish community’s unofficial mayor, Philip Krawitz (pictured), received the prestigious Yakir award from Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal in Jerusalem last week.

Krawitz was one of four recipients to be recognised at Keren Hayesod’s 2015 Annual World Conference. The other three distinguished community leaders and philanthropists hailed from Hong Kong, Brazil and Switzerland respectively.

In his acceptance speech Krawitz told the audience, which included Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, how, as a boy, his father had shown him photographs of refugee ships passing through Cape Town harbour, filled with Jews who were unable to find sanctuary in any port, in any country.

“That reality made me realise that, whether or not Israel requires the financial support of Diaspora Jews, we as Diaspora Jews have a need to support the only country in the world that will take us in, regardless of wealth, health, age, financial status, skin colour or level of Jewish observance.”

Krawitz told Jewish Report that he wasn’t



quite sure what prompted his recognition at this particular juncture but thought it was because he spearheaded the Cape Town Jewish community’s fundraising efforts during Operation Protective Edge last year when Cape Town raised the most amount of funds per capita in the world for Israel.

Krawitz, who has grown outdoor clothing retailer Cape Union Mart from a one-store operation to one of South Africa’s largest family-owned companies, is moving to a more non-executive role so he can focus his energies on philanthropy.

He is chairman of the board of the United Jewish Campaign, which raises funds for both local and Israeli causes; he is a trustee of the South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation as well as the CSO and is a protector of the Trust of Ikamva Labantu. He has also won an SA Jewish Report’s Lifetime Achiever Award.

Krawitz was thrilled to have his wife Michele as well as all three of his daughters at the ceremony with him. One of his daughters lives in Israel.

Former winners from South Africa include Stanley Seeff, Russell Gaddin, Robert Kaplan, Mervyn Horwitz and Geoffrey Herman.

JAWITZ

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At Summit and Global Forum, SAUJS could learn and share



**Dani Hovsha and
Natan Pollack**

**Dani Hovsha and
Natan Pollack**

The entire experience enforced a sense of the strength and passion of the international Jewish community, reiterating a dedication to the State of Israel and to the Jewish values which have guided us as Jews for thousands of years.

Among the plethora of astute and inspirational guest speakers was Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk and Lassana Bathily, the man who saved the lives of Jewish hostages during the attack on a Paris grocery store in January.

The forum also included web addresses from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Needless to say, the experience was overwhelming and deeply honouring. While the conference connected SAUJS with a global network of activists, young and old, who

David Stolper's death may help other bipolar patients

Chad said his son was living with the nightmare.



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Lessons from the Frankel story

The South African Jewish community is confronting what looks like the first case of a high profile businessman - once revered by many - heading down an inescapable path to being charged for sexual abuse.

Seven victims have come forward and intend suing Sydney Frankel for the harm they say they suffered. Although it is a civil case right now, because criminal prosecution requires the assault to have occurred in the last 20 years, and this group were alleged to have been victims before then, the claimants and their lawyers are confident they will find individuals who were abused after them to allow Frankel to be criminally tried.

They believe many more children, who are now adults, were sexually assaulted by him, but have been too terrified or ashamed to speak out. That this is the tip of the iceberg is not hard to believe.

Frankel was a patron of Arcadia Children’s Home and he would take children away to his homes on the weekend. One of the seven claimants was a resident of Arcadia at the time of his alleged abuse.

A social worker who had been employed at Arcadia at the time of the alleged molestations, came forward recently to Arcadia’s current management and told them that when staff got wind of the “irregularities” around Frankel’s behaviour, his contact with the children was cut off.

In a recorded interview with Eyewitness News, George Rosenberg, one of the seven, who resides in the US today, amidst tears, asks how all the adults at the time who were aware, could have let this happen and not acted upon it.

It was probably a mix of reasons.

One is lack of evidence. In the years when I was growing up, and rumours started to surface in Jewish business circles about Frankel, no-one seemed to be sure. Frankel, almost like Michael Jackson, loved having children around him. He would invite the sporty ones to play tennis at his home or to come swim at his pool.

Many of these children he did not touch. Based on the charges laid so far, it seemed to be the more vulnerable ones or ones whose parents may have left them in Frankel’s charge for too long who were subject to his alleged abuse.

Another was that there were stories that Frankel had been in therapy to deal with his paedophile tendencies so people were hopeful. Also, in the eighties, when a lot of the alleged incidents occurred, our community and legal institutions were not sufficiently equipped to handle it.

And so, in answer to Rosenberg’s question that was so painful to listen to, one can only offer that - the fact that no-one in his circle could show hard evidence, the fact that people were assuaged by his supposed therapies, and that society was so ill-equipped to deal with it, Frankel was never charged.

Growing up with both George Rosenberg and another claimant, Paul Diamond, my girlfriends and I remember them as super cool, “Highlands boys around town” - charismatic, intelligent, handsome and natural leaders. We had no idea of how they had suffered.

Despite their successful adult lives, they live with many emotional scars today as a result of their abuse.

We as a community will watch as this unfolds in the press and the courts in all its sickening reality. But we cannot sit idly by: hopefully these shockwaves will create the welcome alert we need.

Yes, a lot has changed since the eighties: the Jewish institutions under the auspices of the Chevrah Kadisha, including Selwyn Segal and Arcadia Children’s Home, now have board members, staff and volunteers fingerprinted for police clearance and their names are checked against the National Sexual Offenders Register. Many of our Jewish day schools screen their staff too though these measure were only introduced in very recent years.

But there is a lot more work to be done to create effective protection mechanisms for our vulnerable members. Child sexual abuse is an epidemic in our country where more than half of our youth are impoverished and seldom under adult supervision.

Even in relatively privileged communities, there is much to do. We need to educate and empower our children to speak out when they feel vulnerable and before they are harmed; and for those who we fail to protect, we owe them the best possible services and networks to deal with all the pain and distress that sexual violation brings.

– Vanessa Valkin, Editor

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



A Palestinian boy among the rubble in Gaza during the Gaza War.

Gaza War: Israel came prepared for report

RON KAMPEAS AND MARCY OSTER
JERUSALEM

Anticipating what they believed would be an unfair UN report on last summer’s Gaza War, the Israeli government and friendly groups in the United States were ready with at least three reports they say better reflects the reality of the five-week engagement between Israel and Hamas.

The UN report, issued on Monday, said Israel’s military and Palestinian armed groups committed “serious violations” of international human rights law during the conflict that in some cases may amount to war crimes.

While the 183-page report of the UN Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict accused both sides of possible war crimes, its findings focused more on what it considers Israeli wrongdoing in its operation known as Protective Edge.

“The commission was deeply moved by the immense suffering of Palestinian and Israeli victims, who have been subjected to repeated rounds of violence,” reads the conclusions section.

Israel refused to co-operate with the commission, as it had with a similar commission after the 2009 war that resulted in the Goldstone Report, which stirred much controversy.

This time, however, Israel had prepared its own report that said the escalation of attacks on Israel by Hamas and other terrorist organisations in the Gaza Strip justified its broader military operation under international law. It was released last week.

Additionally, the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs in March commissioned a report by a panel of former US military officials and legal experts. And earlier this month, the High Level International Military Group, a panel of retired military and diplomatic officials from Nato countries, came together under the “Friends of Israel” initiative and issued its own exonerating report.

Statements by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel-friendly groups in reaction to the UN report alluded to the counter-reports.

“Fair-minded observers recently investigated Israel’s conduct in the Gaza campaign,” Netanyahu said in his statement on Monday. “They include senior generals from the United States and Nato countries. They found that not only did Israel uphold the highest standards of international law, in the laws of armed conflict, they said Israel exceeded the highest standards.”

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee in its statement cited the High Level International Military Group’s finding that “Israel not only met a reasonable international standard of observance of the laws of armed conflict, but in many cases significantly exceeded that standard”.

One reason for coming prepared this time around: The Palestinian Authority this year established a relationship with the International Criminal Court, which is assessing whether to institute criminal proceedings against Israeli and Palestinian officials in the wake of the war.

ICC prosecutors must show that there has been no se-

rious attempt to bring to account those responsible for abuses in order for the court to step in. An array of investigations could mitigate an international prosecution.

“We urge the administration and Congress to stand by our ally, particularly if international bodies seek to exploit this report to punish Israel,” AIPAC said in its statement.

The writing of the UN report was directed by Mary McGowan Davis, a former justice of the Supreme Court of New York. Davis replaced the original head, William Schabas, who resigned in April. Israel provided evidence to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva that Schabas, a Canadian international law professor, had authored a seven-page legal briefing - for which he was paid - on behalf of the PLO.

The only other panel member was Doudou Diene of Senegal, a former UN watchdog on racism and on post-conflict in the Ivory Coast.

The report called on Israel to “provide sufficient details on its targeting decisions to allow an independent assessment of the legality of the attacks conducted by the Israel Defence Forces and to assist victims in their quest for the truth”.

It acknowledged that providing details on the targeting decisions could be a security risk for Israel that could “jeopardise intelligence sources”, but said that did not excuse Israel from doing so.

The report called on Israel to hold its soldiers and officers accountable for the breaches of international law during the conflict in Gaza.

On the Palestinian side, the report said “the commission has serious concerns with regard to the inherently indiscriminate nature of most of the projectiles directed towards Israel by these groups and to the targeting of civilians, which violate international humanitarian law and may amount to a war crime.

“The increased level of fear among Israeli civilians resulting from the use of tunnels was palpable. The commission also condemns the extrajudicial executions of alleged ‘collaborators’, which amount to a war crime.”

The report said that a “persistent lack of implementation” of recommendations by previous commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions, UN treaty bodies, special procedures and other United Nations bodies “lies at the heart of the systematic recurrence of violations in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory”. Past UN commissions have recommended that Israeli and Palestinian authorities conduct good-faith investigations of the allegations and proceed with prosecutions where necessary.

Netanyahu reportedly has ordered his government ministers to refrain from commenting on the report until it can be studied and a response formulated.

Davis, in an interview with Israel’s Channel 2 Television, denied bias. “I think we tried very hard to be even-handed, and there’s no bias at all in the report,” she said, according to the Times of Israel.

Responding to Netanyahu’s claims that the commission was not fair-minded, Davis said: “Well, I would say that he’s wrong. I doubt he had time to read all 183 pages. He’s a busy man.” (JTA)

Literary genius Bosman had strong Jewish ties



BARBARIC YAWP

David Saks

In one of his late short stories - “Sold down the river” - Herman Charles Bosman writes about an itinerant acting troupe whose actor-manager has the bright idea of taking the play “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” to the platteland.

After he and the cast have narrowly escaped with their lives after the first performance, he realises that some emendations to the script are called for. Among other things, Uncle Tom himself becomes a chicken thief. When it becomes apparent that the changes haven’t gone far enough, he has Uncle Tom threaten to hit Topsy with a brandy bottle... so it continues, with the relationships between various cast members being weaved into the mix, until the whole is brought to a typically Bosmanesque conclusion.

When, long after his death (aged only 46), Bosman scholars went about tracking down his writings, “Sold down the river” was discovered in the archives of the South African Jewish Times, of all papers.

It was commissioned by the then editor, Leon Feldberg, who had also brought Bosman on board to write special Rosh Hashanah columns, from an Afrikaner to the Jewish community.

The latter pieces - typically quirky, unconventional takes on such issues as anti-Jewish prejudice and the perennial anxiety of a religious-ethnic minority to “fit in”- have also since appeared in anthologies of HCB’s writings.

Bosman’s advice on combating anti-Semitism was not that Jews should deny allegations that they were money-loving and exercised too

much influence, but rather to baldly admit to it and tell their accusers to get stuffed.

That Bosman wrote at all for one of the Jewish community’s main organs, is indicative of the broader connections that he had with individual Jews throughout his life. Most significant was his friendship with Bernard Sachs, which began when they were schoolboys at Jeppe High and continued until Bosman’s death in 1951.

Sachs was himself an important figure in early South African writing, both as an editor and as a journalist and historian. As editor of the literary journal South African Opinion, he published many classic Bosman short stories, and other striking non-fiction pieces by him.

Because of the way he immortalised the Groot Marico area of the then Western Transvaal, where he lived for no more than a year, less emphasis has been placed on the fact that Bosman was essentially a Johannesburg man, and one of the most insightful commentators on that raw young metropolis during its formative decades.

Sachs was the brother of the famed trade unionist and anti-apartheid activist Solly Sachs, and uncle of Albie. Unlike his brother, he maintained a strong connection to his Jewish roots. (The family name, by the way, was originally spelled “Saks”, the same as that of a certain Jewish Report columnist).

Bosman’s first serious relationship with the opposite sex (his first marriage, subsequently annulled, notwithstanding) was with a young Jewish woman, Ellie Beemer. It was eventually brought to an end through pressure from the latter’s family, and it is hard to condemn them for it.

Apart from the religious question, Bosman was by then an ex-convict who had served over

four years for murder - the circumstances of which remain obscure even now - and he was clearly also a troubled, sometimes unstable personality.

Other Jews who befriended Bosman and played a part in advancing his literary career, were his literary editor, Lily Rabkin, and Edgar Bernstein, also an author and journalist who later became deputy secretary-general of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies.

On Bosman’s death, Bernstein, Rabkin and Feldman contributed some of the most important obituaries about him. Feldman’s included the comment: “The sudden death of Herman Charles Bosman has robbed South Africa of a fine writer, and the Jewish community of a good friend.”

Subsequently, Sachs published a full biography, Herman Charles Bosman as I Knew Him, one of the most important sources on the writer, which also vividly captures the flavour of Johannesburg’s pre-war Bohemian underground.

Later Valerie Rosenberg, a Bosmanophile, although she never personally knew Bosman, produced three biographies on him, the latest of which, Herman Charles Bosman - Between the Lines, appeared in 2011.

Mention should also be made of the poet and author Lionel Abrahams, whom Bosman coached in writing at the beginning of his career and who in turn went on to edit several posthumous volumes of Bosman’s work.

There are no doubt many other Jewish connections to this strange and brilliant man, one who, notwithstanding the two South African Nobel Literature laureates who have since followed (Nadine Gordimer and J M Coetzee) probably can still be said to have been, in the words of the poet Roy Campbell, “the only liter-

World News in Brief

Genesis Prize: Michael Douglas salutes son and dad Kirk

JERUSALEM - Actor Michael Douglas credited his son and celebrity father, Kirk, for helping him reconnect to Judaism as he accepted the Genesis Prize, “the Jewish Nobel,” in Jerusalem last week.

Douglas accepted the award which was increased to \$2 million this year, for his commitment to Jewish values and the Jewish people. His wife, the actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, and children, Dylan and Carys, were there, as well as talk show host Jay Leno.

Douglas who reconnected to Judaism at the age of 70, said his son Dylan’s decision to have a barmitzvah “made me think and it made me strong. And for that I will always be grateful”.

He said his father, the actor Kirk Douglas, also inspired him, having also reconnected to Judaism at 70. Kirk Douglas had a second barmitzvah at 83.

The prize is endowed by the Genesis Philanthropy Group, which endeavours to build Jewish identity among Russian-speaking Jews worldwide.

Douglas said he would use the prize money to reach out to other Jews from intermarried families seeking a connection to the Jewish community. He announced grants to Hillel and the Jewish Funders Network for programmes that reach out to intermarried children and couples.

The co-founder of the Genesis Prize Foundation, Mikhail Fridman, said the prize was established in order to inspire people “to reflect on their Jewishness and not take it for granted”. He described Douglas as “not a perfect Jew, yet he is someone who put his energy into being Jewish”. Fridman called on the Jewish community to welcome intermarried families and not turn them away. (JTA)

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Being united was and has always been the Jewish strength

SUZANNE & MICHAEL BELLING

About 5 000 people attended Sinai Indaba V at the Sandton Convention Centre last weekend, with 13 speakers from around the world who addressed 23 different sessions on Sunday.

The Saturday night opening was jam packed at Sandton’s massive main conference venue, with standing room only, to hear six of the speakers and enjoy entertainment by Jonathan Razel and Alex Clare.

Opening the event, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein discussed the conference theme: “Today We Can”, an exercise in Torah optimism, “the belief that the circumstances we face have been carefully designed

for us by Hashem”.

Sinai Indaba, he noted, is about the “immediate and burning relevance of Torah today”. We have everything we need to maximise our circumstances, said Rabbi Goldstein, pointing to the fact that the world has tremendous opportunities and possibilities.

This was shown by the original Jewish settlers in this country, who found nothing Jewish here and built shuls, welfare institutions and schools, so we could live full Jewish lives with optimism.

The same spirit led to the rebuilding of the State of Israel and the religious institutions there.

Chief Rabbi David Lau, Chief Rabbi of Israel - the youngest

person ever to hold that office and the son of former Chief Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, also speaking on opening night, told the story of Rabbi Chaim Berlin, a rabbi and mohel in Moscow early in the last century.

Rabbi Berlin was asked to perform a bris on the child of an army officer and his wife, who did not admit to being Jewish, although they both had Jewish parents. He related this to the words in the Siddur: eyes like a bird. Those words, he said, move him to tears every time he has heard them subsequently.

“Everyone is like a bird, looking to see where her home is and checking how to go there.”

The people of Israel are like the bird, knowing their heritage and looking for ways to keep contact with their tradition.

those Israel had to make last year with Operation Protective Edge in Gaza.

It is up to us to hear more, know more, regain our identity and share it - a candle in the darkness is more valuable than anything else.

Rabbi Dr Tzvi Weinreb, psychotherapist and scholar and editor-in-chief of the Koren Talmud Bavli Steinmetz edition, told of a telephone call he made to the Lubavitcher Rebbe from his home in Maryland, US, about certain problems he was encountering. He did not give his name. The Rebbe referred him to “a Jew in Maryland”.

Rabbi Weinreb then revealed his identity. The Rebbe’s response was that sometimes one must talk to oneself.

In other societies, professionals and clergymen study. In Judaism, all study.

On Shavuot, we are passive recipients of the Torah, but on Simchat Torah we are active participants. That is why Simchat Torah is such a joyous festival, expressing love for Torah.

That love relationship with the Torah is also expressed in studying.

Former award-winning Australian filmmaker and theatre director, Rabbi Doniel Katz, translates Kabbalistic wisdom into “the language of experience”. Today he holds “elevation seminars” teaching Torah models of consciousness and psychology and meditation.

“You have within you something more than you think you are,” he said - kedushah, holiness, “not to separate us from the outer world but to stop us separating ourselves from our inner world”.

A famous Torah sage said G-d is wherever you let him in. That is the power of holiness - the more holy you become, the more unique you become. We are all different.

Being united is our strength, where our differences transcend themselves.

“The journey is as important as the goal. We must validate each other’s journey.”

Rabbi Yitzchak David Grosman, whose talk (in Cape Town) was covered in Jewish Report last week, also spoke.



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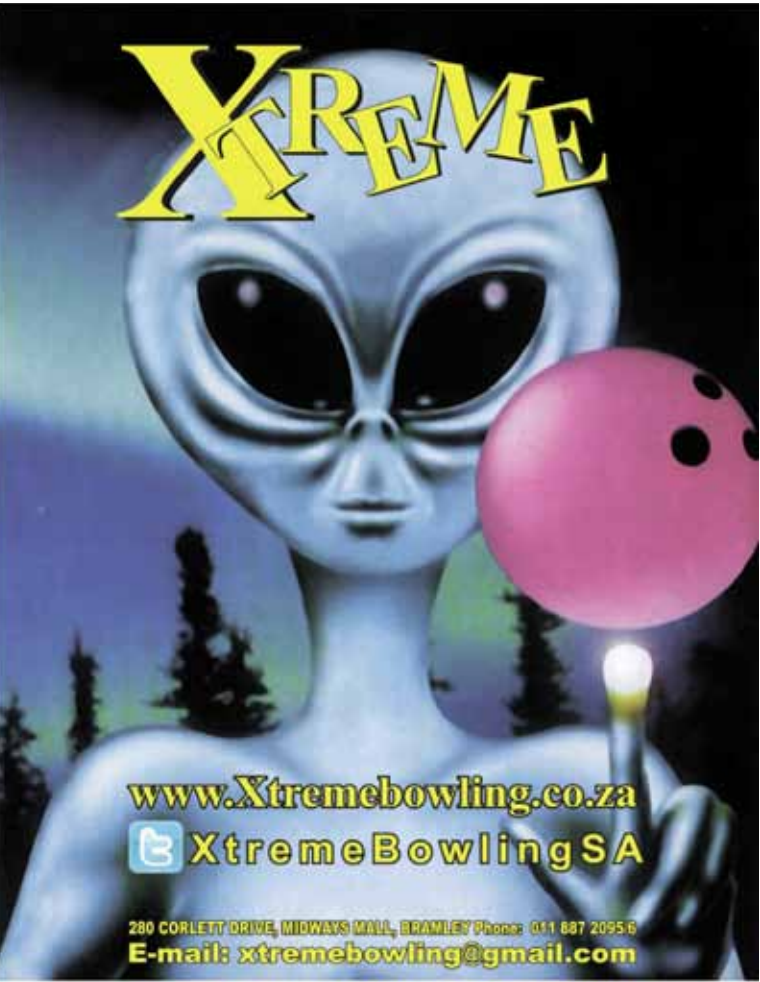
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From ‘happiest place on earth’ to richness of Jewish identity

SUZANNE BELLING

Saul Blinkoff, speaking at the Sinai Indaba on “A Disney Tale”, related how he followed his dream and en route found his Jewish identity and observance.

Blinkoff’s aspiration, after seeing the movie “ET”, was to become a film director. “Steven Spielberg is a Jew and I thought if he could do it, so can I,” he recounted.

He started off with the objective of becoming an animator and was supported by his mother who took him to Florida after he became enamoured of “The Little Mermaid”.

“So,” my mom said: “You want to fall in love with a fish!” But, all the same she accompanied him to the casting offices, “the doors of which looked like they came out of Alice in Wonderland” and the building décor included figures of Peter Pan and Wendy and John.

Blinkoff’s next move was to go to art school where he found he was the only Jew in the school. His roommate had Mickey Mouse slippers, a bedspread and a clock. He was told by a Disney representative that of the 350 students, only four would be successful and have Disney internships.

“There was a model but when we started to draw her, she had left. We were told to concentrate on the gestures and draw what was in our heads.”

Blinkoff was unsuccessful in his Disney attempt, but his friend Andy was chosen. “They said that at Disney World, you would be the happiest you could be in the world.”

Then Blinkoff decided to contact the representative who chose Andy and found he had just missed being chosen. “Seventeen were successful and I was number 20. This gave me a new perspective and then nobody worked harder than me.”

After seeing “Beauty and the Beast”, Blinkoff did animations for “Sleeping Beauty” and he gave his portfolio to a Disney animator, who was impressed. “But my portfolio became a tug of war with him as I found out I had more time to improve it. I created a new portfolio in two weeks and was told by Andy: ‘You did it, you are on the list,’ and I was going to the happiest place on earth.”



Blinkoff became an animator on films like Pocahontas and the Hunchback of Notre Dame. “I couldn’t believe I was getting a pay cheque for something I loved doing!

“It takes four-and-half years to make a Disney movie and one million drawings and we had a lot of down time while making the ‘Tarzan’ movie.” So Blinkoff decided to go to Israel where he was profoundly influenced by Rabbis David Aaron and Binny Freedman, scholars and Kabbalists. Rabbi Aaron has visited South Africa and discussed his books here.

Learning the lessons of the Temple, the meaning of the mezzuzahs on doors of Jewish households, incidents from the Holocaust and about the Torah and Shabbos, made Blinkoff want to connect.

He became a director at MTV in New York, became shomer Shabbos and was joined in his observance by his girlfriend (now his wife).

Today he lives with his family in Los Angeles and does not mind when (on Succot) his neighbours remark on how they seem to be “enjoying being homeless people”.

Often his signature in his animations is a Jewish sign: “Winnie the Pooh’ became ‘Winnie the Jew’,” he quipped.

He now has “a life of meaning through Torah” and enjoys switching off his cellphone and iPad on Shabbat and throughout his work the influence of Judaism rears its head.

Two chief rabbis put spotlight on aspects of leadership

MICHAEL BELLING

Two Jewish leaders, the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi David Lau and Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein of South Africa, gave their lessons on leadership on Sunday afternoon at Sinai Indaba.

Lau said everyone was a leader and every leader had to remember two things, namely to work with love and to show a personal example.

Working with love was a lesson we learned from Abraham, he added. Abraham was a peacemaker; he healed disputes by telling the one party that the other wanted to make peace and then repeated the exercise with the other party, with great success.

He managed to use this tactic successfully for a number of reasons: He believed all Jews wished to live together in peace and harmony. He also had a heart full of love for everyone and the people concerned could not say no to him - they wanted to see him happy as well, because they knew he had their welfare at heart.

This was the first aspect of leadership, Lau said, making it clear that it required considering the other person, who could sense that you had his interests at heart.

This could be summed up as “doing this my way is not for me, it’s for you”.

Showing a personal example was illustrated by Joseph, when interpreting the dream of Pharaoh about the seven years of plenty to be followed by the seven lean years. The people had to store food during the years of plenty.

Pharaoh had to set an example in doing so for the people to follow, otherwise the people would do as they saw fit.

Rabbi Goldstein said that while an entire industry had been built on the literature of leadership, there were no books on leadership in Jewish holy literature, although Torah wisdom contained much rich material about leadership.

He asked why this was so. One answer was that Judaism was uncomfortable about creating a literature of leadership, about the concept of leadership if it also created followers.

Leaders and followers created a hierarchy, but in Judaism it was fundamental that each person had direct access to Hashem, without hierarchies or intermediaries.

Hierarchies disempowered and disenfranchised people, causing them not to take responsibility, which was then left to the leaders. If someone else took responsibility, it freed others from doing so. But in Judaism, everyone had responsibility.

Resolving this difficulty required a paradigm shift.

In Western society, leadership was top down; in African societies it was bottom up, achieving consensus that way.

The Torah paradigm was different - inside out. All were called upon to be leaders, starting with each person, as everyone was created in the image of G-d.

All leadership started with self-mastery. Only then could we move out to family, the neighbourhood and beyond, creating expanding circles of influence from the inside out.

“It is our life’s calling to expand our circle of influence,” Goldstein said.

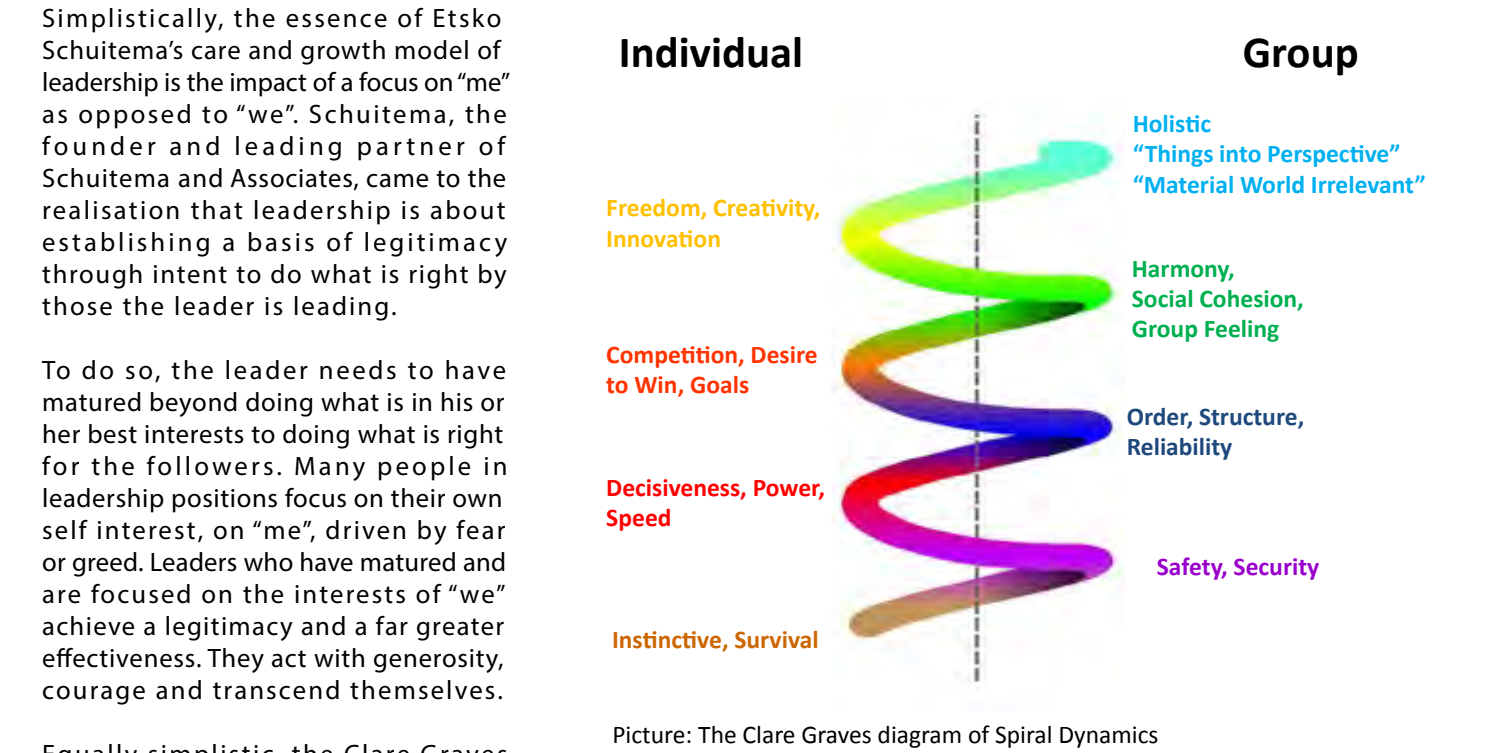
“The difference between people who occupy positions of leadership and others is only the circle of influence. Every one of us is influencing the people around us.

“If we all became leaders together, we can create a better world.”





“ME” OR “WE” AND SOUTH AFRICA



Equally simplistic, the Clare Graves theory of spiral dynamics contains the concepts of “me” and “we” at its essence. However, spiral dynamics assumes that as societies, organisations and even relationships develop, they oscillitate between a focus on “me” and “we” through different coloured stages.

In the **beige** stage, it is “me” alone against the world, **purple** is when people begin to group together as “we” analogously to a tribe, **red** is when hardy pioneers break away with a focus again on “me”, followed by “**blue**” when laws and obedience enable “we” to coexist.

Orange is when people begin to find the order stultifying and become non-conformist individuals and **green** is when higher more humanistic societies emerge. **Yellow** is when this too becomes constraining and people strive for self-actualisation followed by **turquoise** when a harmonious ethos emerges. This is an oversimplification of some very complex theories, but enough to provide a basis for understanding some of the stresses in South Africa today.

We as a nation have experienced the exhilaration of the higher “we” focused levels of the Spiral Dynamics theory, when we were proud, united and role models to the world- if not turquoise, then at least green. More recently we appear to have begun to spiral back down to the lower levels.

Some years for the control and order of blue, while others are in the “me” worlds of greed or fear in red and purple. However, South Africans are resilient, and increasingly one can discern people reaching out to one another to explore recapturing some of the dream and achievements they fear we have lost.

In light of this, an exciting initiative was hosted recently by Deloitte between representatives of the Black Management Forum (BMF), the Black Business Council (BBC) and ORT JET, the entrepreneurial division of ORT SA.

The participants very frankly and constructively explored the challenges facing South Africa, and identified focus areas to work on together: education, work ethic / values and mentorship / entrepreneurship.

It was very encouraging to see the extent to which the participants engaged at a personal level, were able to express their fears and dreams, and showed trust and respect for one another.

Most exciting was the realisation that we have more in common than divides us, and that true transformation can only happen through collaboration.

Written By Dave Wilson,
COO Clients and Industries, Deloitte



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Last Thursday night, June 18, more than 200 chief executives left their warm beds and comfortable homes for the 702/Sun International CEO Sleepout. Many CEOs from the Jewish community participated, in an attempt to experience what it feels like to be homeless on one of the coldest nights of the year. More than R23 million was raised by the initiative.





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Our next talk (monthly evening of interest) will be held on the 29 of July.



‘SleepOut’ - goes beyond a once-off

Photo: Yael Gordon



Staff members Jonathan Eloff; Sarah Marais; Margaret le Roux; and Bruce Nozaic.

BRUCE NOZAIC, ACTING HEAD, KDHSVP

It was 1.47 am when I woke up and checked my watch. My feet were ice cold and the top of my head was frozen as my beanie had fallen off... and now I was wide awake! I managed to stare at the leaves of the tree above me, then at the stars behind them. I even contemplated whether I should begin counting them.

On and off I dozed, turning left and right as first my hip went numb and then my back began to ache. The cold began to seep in through the thin layer of cardboard beneath me and my face tingled as if a thousand ice needles were piercing the skin.

That was just part of the experience I underwent as part of the “SleepOut” I volunteered to participate in, in solidarity with the 702 CEO SleepOut through the King

David Foundation.

Yet how difficult a night was this actually? I had on a long sleeved shirt, two fleeces, a jacket and had climbed into a down-filled sleeping bag. I was experiencing luxury in comparison to the hundreds of homeless people who have little more than a thin jersey and cardboard boxes to keep out the elements.

This is when the sobering realisation dawns upon you of how many people out there suffer night after night in difficult conditions - far, far worse than I would ever experience.

As wonderful as an experience it was, I sincerely hope that, for all those who did participate, the initiative and real meaning of what the “SleepOut” signified, is not lost and seen simply as a “once-off, rather fun” exercise. There are so many lessons to be learnt here.

KDL Cultural Committee presents culture in a fun way

Photo: Shira Jacobs



The Jazz Band performs during Culture Week break.

DANIEL ABRAMS, GRADE 10

At the end of May, King David Linksfield’s Cultural Committee hosted a very successful Cultural Week. The intention behind the programme - which ran from May 26 - 29 - was to enlighten the school about all that “culture” has to offer and to remove the stigmas attached to it by presenting it in a fun and enjoyable way.

During the breaks, the school was treated to many activities including cupcake sales, a performance by the KD Jazz Band, a flashmob, a parachute debate between the learners and the teachers, and an exhibition displaying what “KDL Culture” is all about.

The school hosted an afternoon Yoga Club, Philosophy Club sessions, a Film Club screening, as well as the annual Inter-house One-Act Play Festival, which showcased the amazing talent KDL has to offer. A fantastic time was had by all who attended.

To conclude the week, the school held a “Cultural Assembly” and “Crazy Hair Day” where the importance of culture and what it means to the learners was emphasised.

Special guests from the Joburg Ballet Company gave a fantastic performance as well. All the money raised throughout the week was given to the Joburg Ballet Company for their special development programme that takes disadvantaged children out of harsh environments and affords them a future through the art of dance.

Well done to the Cultural Committee for its incredible work and for the success of Culture Week.

Exotic animals fascinate Yeshiva’s Pre-Primary kids

OWN CORRESPONDENT

An array of exotic animals recently visited the Yeshiva College Nursery School and grade Rs. The animals elicited much excitement and enthusiasm from the children and staff alike.

From the appearance of the first animal - a grey and cuddly chinchilla - to the last - a hairy and somewhat intimidating tarantula - the children were captivated by the animals shown and discussed.

A prickly looking tenrecs; an aloof bearded lizard; a tortoise rescued from the roadside and two slithery, winding snakes, completed the menagerie and were touched and stroked by the children.



Pictured are the children mesmerised by the tenrecs.

Sandton Sinai Primary learners meet a sofer

AMY JAFFE

The learners at Sandton Sinai Primary School were thrilled to have been able to spend time with Rabbi Ryan Goldstein, a sofer. Rabbi Goldstein showed the children practically how a mezuzah and Torah are written. The children were intrigued by the intricate nature of the text and the length of time it takes to complete such works.



Rabbi Ryan Goldstein; Jaden Cohen; Erez Hadar; Josh Serman; Ariel Margalit; Sarah Orkin; and Georgia Ross.

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RIK RABINOWITZ
WHAT THE EFF
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20:00

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

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

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

GORDIMER WAS A GOOD FRIEND OF FELICIA

In the obit for Felicia Kentridge which appeared in the issue of June 12, it stated that Nadine Gordimer was a cousin of the family. In fact, she was a very good friend. We regret the error.

south african

Jewish Report

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The SA Jewish Report is looking for a senior executive to be responsible for the financial and commercial wellbeing of the SA Jewish Report media company.

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AL-BASHIR MUST ALWAYS BE LINKED TO SOUTHERN SUDAN ATROCITIES

In last week’s Jewish Report, President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan is mentioned together with the fact that he is wanted by the International Criminal Court in connection with the deaths of some 300 000 people in Darfur.

Al-Bashir came to power by force in the late 1980s and since then, through the 1990s, there was a terrible war in Southern Sudan, in which more than a million Southern Sudanese perished, and many were enslaved.

The same person who was governor (on behalf of Bashir’s genocidal regime) of Southern Sudan, was later the leader of the main rebellious group in Darfur, apparently because al-Bashir had become “too moderate” for him.

That rebellious group also abducted Chinese workers who arrived there after the West had

cut off relationships with Sudan.

No! It was not due to the systematic killing and enslavement of millions of Southern Sudanese, but due to Sudan sheltering those who had made an attempt on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak’s life. (Afterwards Mubarak was deposed and imprisoned, and that was okay for the same West!)

So I am very shocked whenever al-Bashir, genocide, Darfur and the ICC are mentioned, without any mention of Southern Sudan.

Regarding this and such a cynical use and manipulation of genocides, I would like to refer everyone to a video clip: Holocaust denial & cynical political use of the Holocaust.

Avner Eliyahu Romm
Jerusalem

JEWS CAN’T BE SILENT FOR FEAR OF ANTAGONISING GOVERNMENT

The article by Ant Katz on “Jewish outrage over al-Bashir” and Geoff Sifrin’s column in last week’s Jewish Report, “Does being African mean choosing al-Bashir as our friend?” are both intellectually stimulating and are careful examinations of the morality issues facing our government, which seem to negatively affect the Jewish community in South Africa.

At the outset it must be said that the refusal of countries like the US, Russia and China to sign the Rome Statute, is an indication of those countries’ honesty and integrity towards non-compliance with controversial laws that have international ramifications.

The difference between those countries’ attitudes and South Africa’s, is that we willingly signed up to conform and abide by the Rome Statute and we reneged on our obligations.

That said, the question posed by Sifrin, requires an equitable answer which reflects integrity.

We Jews (and other whites in this country) are South African. We are not African. In fact most Jews here are of Eastern European descent.

It is true that we have learned much from the Holocaust and oppose all genocides. Africa and Africans, though, have seemingly not learned from it as is evidenced by the savagery and barbaric internecine bloodshed that has

plagued much of the continent for centuries.

Africa seeks to blame everyone for its ills and even Archbishop-Emeritus Desmond Tutu reflected on the issue and laid the blame on “powerful nations which have created a rationale for the SA government to allow al-Bashir into the country, despite the international warrant of arrest hanging over his head”. This demonstrates that Africa and Africans refuse to take the blame.

Africa has never - and still - refuses to take responsibility for its obligations and failures. Instead it continues to blame colonialists, imperialists, the Western world, Jews and in many cases whites for its ailments.

Even in America, we have examples of African Americans like Reverend Jesse Jackson, who (in 1984) referred to “Hymietown” - a slanderous reference to a suburb where many Jews live.

Louis Farrakhan, an Islamic preacher and Professor Louis Jefferies (of the City University of New York), are other examples of black Americans who blame the Jews for all the problems afflicting black people.

The failure by our government to detain and arrest al-Bashir, is not only shocking but shows the hypocrisy of our politicians in the ANC (and government) in their condemnation of Israel for alleged human rights violations.

Indeed, I recall that a few years ago threats were made to arrest Israeli politician Tzipi Livni as a war criminal, when she was to visit South Africa. As a result, her visit was cancelled.

The ANC has shown itself not to be pro-Israel, notwithstanding that many Jews formed part of their struggle for freedom.

We as Jews cannot be silent for fear of antagonising the government. Winston Churchill said: “An appeaser is one that feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last.”

Nathan Cheiman
Northcliff, Johannesburg

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The Power to Surprise

Herber House boarders relive old times in Johannesburg

STUART BUXBAUM

Although former residents of Herber House Hostel are spread all over the world, a sizeable number still live in Johannesburg.

A Herber House reunion breakfast was held in a Johannesburg restaurant on Tuesday, June 16, where some of the previous boarders and their spouses and partners, who were once resi-

dents at Herber House Hostel, came together to reminisce.

The hostel, which closed more than 50 years ago, was the first boarding facility of the SA Board of Jewish Education and was named after Harry Herber, founder of Greatermans Stores and one time president of the Board of Education.

The main building of the hostel, an imposing

castle-like structure in South Street, Yeoville, was located just off the old Harrow Road (now Joe Slovo), and across the way from that now iconic Johannesburg landmark, the Ponte building.

The hostel provided boarding for Jewish students from the country districts of South Africa and indeed from beyond its borders, in the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

Towards the mid-sixties, the number of boarders declined and the hostel became unsustainable. It closed its doors at the end of 1964. A hostel on the grounds of King David High School, Linksfield, Sachs House, opened its doors in 1966. It has also ceased operating.

To mark the reunion, a donation of R1 600 was made by those attending the breakfast, to Hatzolah.

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Community Columns

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

The Freedom Charter - 60 years on

As I write, the Board is preparing for tonight's 60th anniversary of the Freedom Charter function. The Charter, adopted at the Congress of the People in Kliptown, on June 26, 1955, became the blueprint for a future democratic, non-racial society.

We are honoured to have as speakers former President Kgalema Motlanthe and veteran anti-apartheid activist Leon Levy. Levy, in his capacity as president of the SA Congress of Trade Unions, was one of the original signatories to the Charter.



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

He was one of many members of the Jewish community who participated in the consultation and drafting process; other Jews included Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein, Michael Harmel, Alan and Beata Lipman, Joe Slovo, Ben Turok and Ruth First.

The Freedom Charter foresaw a South Africa where all citizens enjoyed equal rights and all basic democratic freedoms would be upheld. This is summed up in its famous opening statement: "We, the people of South Africa declare...that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people."

Without this all-embracing, inclusive vision, in fact, it is doubtful that a peaceful, negotiated transition to democracy could ever have occurred. It is worth reflecting on what the result would be in terms of inspiring confidence in their negotiating partners and paving the way to a lasting peace settlement were Palestinian leaders to adopt a "Freedom Charter" of their own.

The UNHRC Report on the 2014 Gaza conflict: preliminary thoughts

Earlier this week, the commission appointed by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate possible human rights violations during last year's war between Israel and Hamas, released its report.

Given the UNHRC's notorious record of institutional bias against Israel - shown by, among other things, the infamous "Goldstone Report" - it was taken as a given that the find-

ings would be slanted against Israel. What emerged was indeed often problematic - for instance, the persistent failure to distinguish between those whose consistent policy is to try to minimise harm to civilians while conducting legitimate defensive operations and those whose equally consistent aim has been to maximise such harm.

That being said, the report was a great deal more balanced and nuanced than its predecessor, and clearly some effort this time around went into taking into account the Israeli position. The Board and SAZF are working together in studying the document and preparing responses.

World Jewish Congress meeting

As previously reported, I was in Israel last week to take part in a meeting of the steering committee of the World Jewish Congress. The leadership of the 12 largest Diaspora communities, of which South Africa is one, were included in the discussions.

We had the opportunity of meeting with the leadership of Israel from across the political spectrum. It was encouraging to see how, irrespective of their ideological differences, all were deeply committed to achieving a peaceful outcome to the Israeli-Palestinian question.

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

This column is paid for by SA Jewish Board of Deputies

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Today, Friday (June 26)

- Shalom Masorti Seniors Club welcomes anyone who would like to make new friends and have some light-hearted fun on the last Friday of each month. Tea is served and there is a selection of board and card games. Time: 14:30 p.m. (Stay for a couple of hours.) Mike Kimmelman will be playing CDs of Big Band music and artists such as Frank Sinatra. A donation of R10 is appreciated if possible. Information: Esther, (011) 485-5619.

Sunday (June 28)

- Second Innings hosts Fiona Capstick, sworn translator in the High Court of SA, on “The State of Israel and the Jewish People - We Must Never be Bystanders to Bigotry and Anti-Semitism”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R30 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Contact: Linda Fleishman, (011) 532-9701.

Monday (June 29)

- UJW adult education division, hosts representatives of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Christian Friends of Israel, Ebenezer, Operation Exodus and Bridges for Peace, to participate in a panel discussion on “Cross-Religious Assistance in Israel”. There will be a Q&A session at the close of discussion. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35, Information: Ann, (011) 648-1053 or email info@ujw.co.za

Sunday (July 5)

- Second Innings hosts Jane McKenzie, B Pharm, MBA, on “How to Build Your Immune System With the Correct Nutrition”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R30 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Information: (011) 532-9701.

Wednesday (July 8)

- Chev Social Services/CAJE’s “Enrich Your Life” series presents Cliff Barnes, financial planner and educator and Lynda Smith retirement life coach on “Embracing Post-Midlife Changes and Planning for Retirement”. Venue: Sydenham Shul Hall. Time: 19:45. Cost: R40 (light refreshments served). Bookings: Sharon (011) 532-9616/sharonp@jhbchev.co.za NB: CPD points available.

- Umhlanga Jewish Centre invites July holidaymakers to join the Centre for a “Kosher Burger Bar” each week of the holiday at 18:00. Booking essential for catering purposes - ujc@icfrica.com. 81 Campbell Drive, Izinga Ridge, Umhlanga. Kiddies entertainment and tasty food. Holiday minyanim daily at 06:45 and 17:00, Shabbos 08:45. Information: Angie, 072-118-0936.

Wednesday (July 15)

- Second Innings hosts Claudette Medefindt, deputy president, Retina International, on “Vision and the Ageing Eye”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R30 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Information: (011) 532-9701.

Wednesday (July 15)

- Second Innings undertakes a “Tour of the Roodepoort Theatre Backstage and Adjoining Museum on the History of the West Rand”. Time: The bus will depart at 09:00; tours to start at 10:00. Meet the bus at Golden Acres for the tours to Roodepoort Theatre and West Rand Museum, Roodepoort. Cost: R140 (incl entrance, both tours and the bus; the bus is R80 per person) Enquiries: Betty Jankelowitz, (011) 532-9701.

On www.sajr.co.za this week

SA Jewish Report Online has lots of exclusive content and often has a lot more content on print stories.

- Read more about...**
- Zimbabwe’s Lemba building their first shul - AJC (and Country Communities’) Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft invited to Israel to discuss status of Jewry’s “lost African tribes”. Who is doing conversions in Zimbabwe and Uganda? What rights do newly-converted African Jews have? So much more on this story. And next week is crunch-time for top Mizrachi rabbi in Israel who is embroiled in the affair.
 - Herber House Hostel remembered, 50 years on – Calling back the past after reunion of Johannesburg’s oldest Jewish school hostel - see the group picture and read the history of Herber House. Guess who it was named after?
 - Braving Highveld cold for a good cause – We had great photographs by Thursday morning as 30-odd Jewish CEOs joined almost 200 in all who each paid R100 000 for the mitzvah of freezing on Sandton’s streets last Wednesday night in aid of Boys - and Girls - Town.
 - Last chance for nominations for the Absa Jewish Achievers Awards. Seat bookings are now open and don’t miss a chance to place magazine adverts for the event. Everything you ever wanted to know about the simple nomination process, attending the gala dinner or advertising in the unique niche magazine that arguably has the highest networth readership in South Africa.

- Only on the web...**
- Israel hears about Madiba & SA Jewry’s

- special relationship – Stalwart speaks and an interesting letter from Walter Sisulu about Mandela’s legal mentor turns up.
- The fun to win thousands in tickets to Lego’s best expo ever (in Rosebank) and books.
 - Dame Helen has headed posh UK school for 30 years – Johannesburg Jewish girl becomes one of England’s top educators and makes sure that the Shoah stays firmly on the syllabus.
 - Don’t miss Nat Cheiman’s letter, Jews can’t be silent for fear of government, in which he congratulates Jewish Report writers for their “intellectually stimulating and careful examinations of the morality issues facing our government” over Omar al-Bashir.



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The faster the better as Lazarus drives it hard

ILAN HERRMANN

Jewish motorcar racers with South African origins, have produced some outstanding champions. The most famous is of course Jody Scheckter, 1979 Formula One champion. But there have been many others, including Jody’s brother Ian, Peter Lindenberg, Eddie Keizan, Arnold Chatz, Stan Levine, Clive Massel and others.

So it is among this esteemed list, that 28-year-old Ross Lazarus finds himself, after 11 years in motor racing and can already lay claim to numerous trophies, medals and podium appearances.

Lazarus, who hails from Pretoria, has over the years proven himself to be one of the leading motor racers in South Africa and has already built up an enviable reputation.

He has been racing since the age of 16 and for four years prior to that, he raced speed boats. He has been mentored in both sports over the last 16 years by legendary Peter Lindenberg, who is also Lazarus’ team partner at races. Originally Lazarus raced Junior Powerboats, then went on to Formula 30 before moving to Sascar racing.

This year at the Jaguar Simola Hillclimb in Knysna, in a race called the Classic Car Friday, Lazarus came first in his class, third overall and was the winner of the time trial. Then there was the Piper Series, a very popular historical race with drivers from all over the world including Holland, the UK and Germany. It comprises various long-distance races.

At the Killarney race track in Cape Town, Lazarus came in at number one in the 45 minute main attraction event; in the TT challenge he came second overall.



Ross Lazarus with a trophy and a bottle of champagne.

Lazarus’ favourite track is Kyalami in Johannesburg and for speed - something he can’t get enough of - it is of course East London with its long stretches of track, as well as for its beautiful surroundings.

As financial director at Lazarus Motors in Centurion, he has worked alongside his father Colin, who together with his wife and the rest of the family, support Ross 100 per cent in his aspirations and attend his races whenever they can.

For a 28-year-old, Lazarus junior can’t expect to get into Formula One, but he has other ambitions. “Lamar in the States would be great. I’d also like to do the Australian V8 race and if Nascar ever comes my way, that would be something!”

Lazarus is a racing fanatic and watches everything there is to view - from F1 to Nascar, Motor Corp, through to motorcycle racing. His favourite driver of all time is Michael Schumacher. On the current Formula One circuit he says Fernando Alonso is a great driver, but his favourite is Nico Rosberg.

Israeli research connects sport and compulsive betting



An Israeli study has claimed the participation of high school learners in competitive sports is associated with problem gambling and gambling frequency.

JACK MILNER

In the “old days” when one spoke about having a bet, it was either on a horse (or the dogs in some countries) or a casino. These days money bet on horses pales into insignificance when one looks at what is bet on sport in general.

For many years sport betting was banned in most countries, so it went underground. But with bookmakers now legally able to bet on every form of sport, it has become very big business.

If one logs on to Betfair, a betting exchange based in the UK, you will see that millions of pounds are bet on a single Premier League soccer match - and Betfair is only one of thousands of betting sites.

Perhaps a couch potato taking a bet on a particular sporting event is acceptable, but when the sportsmen themselves start to gamble, it is cause for concern.

We all like to believe that when we see a sportsman (or -woman for that matter) make a mistake that costs a goal or a few extra runs in cricket, that it was a genuine mistake and not because the sportsman was deliberately trying to lose the match.

The Hansie Cronje affair caused ripples all over the world. Cronje admitted to “throwing” cricket matches. In the world of tennis, players such as Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Feliciano Lopez were investigated for gambling.

The question is: What turns a sportsman into a compulsive gambler? It is said the soft signs of compulsive gambling - high energy levels, unreasonable expectations, extreme competitiveness, distorted optimism and above-average IQs - are often the traits characterising competing athletes. However, precious little research is available on the prevalence of gambling among athletes and the relevant warning signs.

A new Tel Aviv University (TAU) study pub-

lished in The American Journal of Addictions, indicates that high school learners involved in competitive sports are at an increased risk of gambling.

According to the research, led by Dr Belle Gavriel-Fried of TAU’s School of Social Work and conducted by TAU student Idit Sherpsky, in collaboration with Dr Israel Bronstein of Bar-Ilan University, the participation of male high school learners in competitive sport is associated with problem gambling and gambling frequency, and female learners who participate in competitive sport are also at a higher risk of gambling frequency.

“The drive to win underpins both gambling behaviour and competitive sport,” Gavriel-Fried is quoted as saying. “Most of the research within this area has been conducted on university athletes, but we wanted to dig deeper, find out whether the link between gambling and physical activities began earlier - before other co-factors emerge - and we found that, in fact, it does.”

For the study, the researchers asked 316 high school learners aged between 14 and 19, from four high schools in Israel to fill out questionnaires to establish their involvement in sport and their gambling habits.

“Intensive exercise” was assessed on a frequency rating scale. “Competitiveness” was rated by the number of competitive sports engaged in over the previous year, including university or junior university sports and other extracurricular programmes.

They found a significant difference between youths involved in intense cardiovascular activity (for the sake of exercise alone) and those participating in competitive sports. The latter were more often engaged in regulated lotteries and scratch cards, gambling on other sporting events, poker and other card games.

“Studies conducted on college-age athletes in relation to gambling might be misleading, because the university environment itself has been found to promote risk behaviour,” said Gavriel-Fried.

“Here we made a distinction between youths involved in competitive sport and those involved in intensive exercise. The objective of competitive sport is to win as a team, whereas the objective of intensive exercise is to maintain your health and fitness.

“There was a clear divide between the two groups. We hope that this study will redirect high schools to integrate gambling prevention programmes for youths involved in competitive sport - in order to avoid sticking ‘healthy heads in sick beds’, so to speak.”

According to the researchers, due to their competitiveness, athletes as young as 14 should pay closer attention to the risks involved in so-called harmless gambling practices, such as card games.

“For competitive athletes, there is an intrinsic impulse embedded within - to win, at all costs. This underpins gambling behaviour as well,” said Gavriel-Fried, who is currently researching high-risk behaviour and addictions.

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