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OUR PAST, OUR PRESENT
OUR FUTURE



JAWITZ

PROPERTIES

Chag Sameach

Wishing you a Seder table filled with joy
and a Passover filled with happiness



Chag Sameach. From our family to yours.



The Power to Surprise



Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein's Pesach message. (Page 2)

South African Jewish Report

www.sajr.co.za

Shop till you drop - for Pesach



It's that time of year again! Jews are filling their trolleys with matzah ball mix, Pesachdike wine, chrain and much more, as they prepare for a marathon of cooking, seders and eight days of Pesach observance. The festival commemorates the story of the Jews leaving Egyptian slavery and journeying in the desert until reaching the Promised Land. It is a story celebrating miracles and freedom, yet honours the pain and hardship the Jewish people have endured. Stocking up in a Johannesburg supermarket this week were Rabbi Daniel Kaplan, Bnei Akiva shaliach, with his son Yishia. Also stocking up are Orly Segev, accompanied by grandson David Sacks. Pesach starts on the evening of Friday, April 3 and ends on the evening of Saturday, April 11.

Cecil John Rhodes sits uneasily on his UCT plinth

Protesters at UCT demand the removal of the statue of Rhodes on the UCT campus, calling it a vestige of a colonialist past.

4

Netanyahu faces challenges, criticism from Jewish liberals

Leading American Jewish liberals are rallying forces against Netanyahu for pronouncements he made during electioneering.



6

Board takes action after 3 teenagers assaulted in Rosebank

Three Jewish teenagers were physically assaulted by three males at The Zone in Rosebank last weekend, in an anti-Semitic attack.

18

Woolworths looters leave BDS leaflets behind

21 pupils from Mamelodi were arrested after looting a Pretoria Woolworths store, shouting anti-Jewish slogans and leaving BDS leaflets behind.

29

ANC kindergarten does its nut over DA's Israel visit

The ANCYL Western Cape slammed a DA delegation visit to Israel, saying this exposed the DA as 'a friend of Israel'.

32

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We are so blessed



Parshat Shabbat Hagadol Tzav

Rabbi Yonatan Lau
Ohr Somayach

There is a beautiful offering mentioned in this week's parsha called The Todah offering. This is an offering of gratitude to Hashem for deliverance from a dangerous situation.

It is significant that the Hebrew word for thanks shares the same root as the word modeh which means to admit to. Also the Hebrew term for gratitude is hakaros hatov which means recognising the good.

Rabbi Zev Leff Shlita explains that

gratitude is all about seeing the good that is there and the opposite is denying the good.

Let's illustrate the Torah perspective with the following story:

Rabbi Avigdor Miller of blessed memory was a giant of Torah who focused on seeing the love and magnificence of Hashem's creation. One time he began a lecture with the following request (paraphrased): "Please spread your toes apart!" Sensing the puzzlement of the audience, he explained: "Isn't it kind of Hashem to give us space between our toes?"

Would we ever have noticed that? Do we think this way?

Another time, a family member of Rav Miller crept into his study and hid away.

Rav Miller came in and took an apple in hand. Before reciting the blessing he began: "Hashem, thank you for making the apple so sweet, thank you for the beautiful colour etc." He went at length before reciting the blessing.

I ask: Could Hashem not have made pills for us to eat? Or protein drinks?

But no, He made many foods, nice looking, sweet tasting, and delicious, luscious, gourmet foods for us!

I ask: Could Hashem not have made a dark gloomy sky all day long?

But no, He gave us breathtaking blue skies, majestic clouds, spectacular sunsets!

Hakaras hatov is seeing, admitting and realising that we are so blessed.

Hashem should bless us to recognise all the good that He gives us, to appreciate our abilities, surroundings, loved ones, homes and above all, The One Who gave it to us to use to serve Him, Hashem.

Shabbat Times

March 27 / 7 Nisan

March 28 / 8 Nisan

Parshat Shabbat Hagadol Tzav

17:54	18:41	Johannesburg
18:15	19:21	Cape Town
17:41	18:30	Durban
18:00	18:49	Bloemfontein
18:02	18:52	Port Elizabeth
17:53	18:43	East London

The art of the seder

CHIEF RABBI WARREN GOLDSTEIN

The Pesach seder is not a presentation; it is not a shiur nor a lecture, but a dialogue, a conversation.

Each and every year we begin this conversation with Ma Nishtanah - the four questions. We ask: "In what way is this night different from all other nights?" We encourage everyone to ask. And we all do our best to find answers.

This thread of questions-and-answers weaves its way across the telling of the Exodus. Clearly, this is not simply about imparting information. Indeed - as we learn in the Haggadah itself - even if a person knows many of the answers, he or she must still engage in the dialogue.

The question-and-answer format promotes this dialogue and that really is the art of a good

seder - finding a way to draw participants into a discussion so that it becomes real and relevant to everyone present.

From a psychological perspective, this question-and-answer format engages participants and helps them take ownership of the narrative. Having this sense of ownership is a very important concept when it comes to Torah in general.

Learning Torah is not just about absorbing information or grasping a set of instructions. Rather, it necessitates internalising the content. In learning Torah, we debate and discuss, we probe and we question. We think things through and own the knowledge.

We know that the greater the investment, the greater the reward. The more we invest ourselves in the process of understanding the Exodus; the more it becomes a part of who we are.

There is great wisdom in the Torah's approach to perform this mitzvah of recounting the Exodus in a question-and-answer format. The Chumash alludes to it: "...when your son will ask you at some future time, 'what is this?' you shall say to him: 'With a strong hand Hashem removed us from Egypt, from the house of bondage'."

The entire discussion of the Exodus - in both the Torah and the Haggadah - is characterised by a question-and-answer format.

The transmission from one generation to the next of the great origins of our people - of our dramatic Exodus from Egypt and our wondrous liberation from slavery - are the heart and soul of the seder experience.

So much of the structure and content of the seder is geared towards children. As parents, we need to reflect deeply on how we continue the great chain of transmission; on how we give over, in a relevant and interesting way, the essence of our people, as given to us by G-d, and as transmitted through the ages.

And even if there are no children at our seders, we should all engage in the learning process with a child-like wonder and appreciation for our Torah heritage.

In this spirit, and as part of the Generation Sinai programme - an ongoing platform for parents and children to learn Torah together - packs of learning cards are being made available to the community for use at the seder.

These cards - which utilise a questions-and-answer format characteristic of the seder itself - will, please G-d, facilitate lively discussions, and enrich the sharing of new ideas between parents and children during the precious moments of our Pesach seders.

The driving vision of Generation Sinai is to bring parents and children together on a regular basis to learn Torah. Once a year, just before Shavuot, Generation Sinai brings parents and



children together at their schools and on three other occasions during the year, Generation Sinai provides interactive Torah learning material for parents and children to engage with at home.

It is significant that three of the four sessions of Generation Sinai take place at home, rather than at school, because this is indeed the message: that our homes - not only our shuls and schools - can be places of Torah learning.

Together, we can create a culture of Torah learning in our homes. And perhaps the Pesach seder points the way to how this can be accomplished. Together, let's create seders that are fun and fascinating and interactive and conducted in a joyful spirit as, within our families, we embark on the great journey of learning Torah together.

In this merit, we can extend the magic of the seder, so that as families we share in dynamic Torah learning experiences throughout the year - and watch our homes become beacons of light, and an inspiration to us all.

"Gina and I would like to take this opportunity to wish our entire community a joyous and kosher Pesach."

If you would like a pack of Generation Sinai seder cards, e-mail office@chiefrabbi.co.za

Are you a University Student? Have any of your exams been scheduled on Shabbat or Chagim?

If yes, contact sajbd@sajbd.org or jenni@sajbd.org so that we can include you in our representation to the University.

The SA Jewish Board of Deputies works closely with the university to ensure that no Jewish student is disadvantaged by his/her religious commitments.

SAJBD

World News in Brief

Israeli singers attacked for anti-Netanyahu views

JERUSALEM - The Israeli singer Yonatan Geffen was physically attacked for public comments he made lamenting Benjamin Netanyahu's election victory; the following day, the Israeli musician Noa said she was verbally threatened and abused because of her politics. Geffen was attacked at his home in a central Israel village last Saturday after posting on Facebook that Netanyahu's March 17 election victory was the "Nakba" of the Israeli peace movement, Haaretz reported. Nakba, which is Arabic for "catastrophe", is the word Arabs use to describe Israel's victory in 1948 and their displacement.

An unidentified individual tried to hit the musician, pelted his house with eggs and called him a "leftist traitor". According to Ynet, in addition to the Nakba comment, Geffen also said at a concert prior to the attack that "to everyone who slipped a Likud vote into the ballot box, don't cry when your children die in the next dumb conflict". Noa, whose full name is Achinoam Nini, posted on Facebook last Sunday that when she arrived at Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport after a trip to Italy, hecklers yelled: "Here's Achinoam Nini... enemy of Israel. We'll deal with you like Geffen." For many years she has been outspoken about her dovish and left-wing views. (JTA)

South African
Jewish Report

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Danielle Rovetti's Pesach cover explores freedom

SUZANNE BELLING

Talented graphic designer Danielle Rovetti (pictured) portrayed the theme of "Freedom" in her symbolic cover of this Pesach issue of the SA Jewish Report.

"For me, the source of my design was the concept of freedom - the Jews being freed from slavery in Egypt and how it relates to the Jewish people of today."

Rovetti acknowledges that the fight for freedom has still not ended: "In the past, over the years we sought freedom [from oppression] and today, we fight for freedom from the Palestinians, freedom for Israel and freedom from war. We want freedom of expression and we want to be free of anti-Semitism."

Rovetti has depicted this quest for freedom - past, present and future - with modern Jews, their arms outstretched, walking through the parted Red Sea, taking the same route as the Israelites in the Exodus from Egypt. It also conveys a message of "freedom within ourselves", she says.

"What does freedom mean to me?" is the

question posed by this design. "It does not necessarily illustrate the religious aspect of Passover, but the meaning of freedom to Jews and all peoples of the world who are imprisoned - physically, by laws and by their own state of mind.

"We must view it as it relates to freedom today," she says.

Born and bred in Pretoria, Rovetti (formerly Nowitz), on completion of her schooling, made her home in Cape Town, where she attended the Red and Yellow Advertising School run by Ogilvy and Mather.

"After that I did computer courses in graphics and, in 1998, I moved back to Gauteng to live in Johannesburg."

She specialises in multimedia and started freelancing two years

ago. Her involvement with the SA Jewish Report began through her friendship with Howard Sackstein, a member of the Board of the SA Jewish Report and the organiser of the annual Jewish Achievers function.

Rovetti has, for the past two years, been responsible for the graphics and branding of the Jewish Achievers magazine and enjoys her association with the SA Jewish Report.



The Jewish World

in seven seconds

Youths attack synagogue in Stamford Hill

LONDON - "We will kill you!" A group of 20 youths attacked a local synagogue in Stamford Hill at the weekend, yelling threats, beating worshippers and vandalising property. The assault on Jewish worshippers comes days before the opening of an anti-Semitism hotline meant to provide support to victims. Six men have been arrested. - World Jewish Congress

Israel approves \$46 million plan to absorb Jewish immigration

JERUSALEM - The Cabinet has approved a plan that would aid in absorbing thousands of European Jews. It approved a special NIS 180 million (\$46 million) budget on Sunday to finance the costs of settling thousands who are expected to arrive in Israel this year from Ukraine, France and Belgium. - Haaretz

Pro-Israel ad campaign rejected

LONDON - The Zionist Federation has claimed an advertising campaign in support of Israel was rejected by a number of organisations following the Gaza conflict. It said Transport for London had refused to run adverts comparing Hamas to other terrorist groups, including Islamic State, on the London Underground because they were "too controversial". - Jewish Chronicle

Holocaust film expected to cause stir

TORONTO - Max Beer is expecting controversy over his soon-to-be-released documentary "Nobody was interested. Nobody asked" on Holocaust survivors and the local Jewish community. The film reveals that North Americans Jews shunned European survivors when they arrived after the war and barely asked about what they had endured. - Canadian Jewish News

Australian PM's remark causes walkout

MELBOURNE - Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott caused uproar in the country's parliament when he compared the Labour party leader to Joseph Goebbels, prompting Jewish MP Michael Danby (Labour) to walk out. - Jewish Chronicle

Swastikas on Jewish fraternity house

NASHVILLE - Two swastikas were spray-painted on a Jewish fraternity house at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and swastikas and racist slurs were scrawled in bathrooms and in a classroom at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan. - San Francisco Jewish Journal

Rabbi believes Pesach should be a week of basic living

LONDON - Miriam Berger, principal rabbi of a major north-London Reform community, attributes the high cost of Pesach items to Jews exploiting their brethren, arguing that the message of the festival is being lost amid the retail frenzy. - Jewish Chronicle

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

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Cecil John Rhodes sits uneasily on his UCT plinth



VANESSA VALKIN AND ANT KATZ

The University of Cape Town has been host to a series of protest actions, including the placing of images of Adolf Hitler and swastikas last week, as students campaigned for the removal of the statue of Cecil John Rhodes, seen as a strong symbol of South Africa's racist apartheid past.

When Vice-Chancellor Max Price last week Friday was unable to give students a definitive date for the removal of the statue, students stormed the Bremner central administration building and have staged ongoing sit-ins.

Rhodes donated the land on which the UCT campus is built and the statue, unveiled in 1934, has evoked much controversy since then over its place in the cultural and symbolic landscape of UCT.

Many generations of UCT students have protested for its removal. Rhodes, who served as prime minister of the Cape Colony in the 19th century, is widely scorned by black students for his historical discrimination and exploitation of blacks in the province during the colonial era.

Students want a definite date for removal of the statue and are demanding talks about other areas of transformation at the university. The series of protests has also seen a student throwing human excrement at the statue.

Seeing the Nazi images plastered prominently on pillars outside Jammie Hall, apparently with no explanation as to why they were there, distressed students. The images were speedily removed. SAUJS were soon informed that the students responsible for the posters were organisers of the Black Monday campaign, the group who have been largely responsible for all the protesting against the Rhodes statue on campus.

SAUJS said it met with the UCT Students' Representative Council (SRC) and the Black Monday perpetrators last week Wednesday and were told that the responsible students had intended the inflammatory posters to show that Rhodes was "just as bad as Hitler".

The responsible students explained that it was impossible for white students to understand "the struggle of the black child", and the outrage that black students feel upon seeing the statue daily.

The swastikas were intended to put their struggle against the statue into a form that "Jews could understand". The students were not at all apologetic and said they had more poster campaigns planned.

SAUJS, in their statement, expressed outrage. "These students' attempt to re-appropriate the Holocaust for the purposes of their own political aims, is unacceptable, and trivialises the greatest crime against humanity in history.

"When a swastika appears in a public place (especially without any context, as occurred today) this is often construed as an imminent threat of violence against Jews," the statement continued, adding that "no attempt has been made by the protesters to understand this fear, or... the visceral emotional reaction experienced by Jews upon seeing symbols of Nazism.

"SAUJS supports the struggle of black South Africans to redress inequality and remove the structural discrimination which exists against them as a result of colonialism," the statement read. "[However,] the use of symbols of genocide against the Jewish people is not a justifiable form of protest," it continued.

Chairman of the Cape Council of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, Eric Marx, was also up in arms.

"While we support and endorse the right of students to protest against the historical and structural discrimination experienced by black South Africans, we strongly condemn the appropriation of Nazi symbolism to communicate this pain," he said.

Marx added that the use of Nazi symbols was offensive to many more people than just the Jewish community.

The Cape Board has urged the students involved in the "Black Monday" campaign "to reconsider their careless use of Nazi imagery". SAUJS say they remain committed to ensuring that Jewish students feel safe on campus and that university management has opened a formal investigation into the matter.

On April 15, UCT Vice-Chancellor Max Price will be taking the question of the Rhodes statue to the UCT Council. Price has also sent a letter to staff and students, saying that broad consultation was needed on this issue before any decisions were taken. In the letter, Price said the university was committed to transformation and happy to engage in a dialogue around statues, names of buildings and other symbols that some viewed as divisive.

"I don't think the statue should be destroyed," he said in a radio interview, adding that he was not against moving the statue.

The UCT Alumni Department also sent out a letter to alumni, asking former students to offer their viewpoints.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Passover's secret of success

SARA YOHEVED RIGLER

Shimon E, a 16-year-old Israeli Shotokan karate champion, was in Philadelphia with 11 other Israeli boys for his first international competition. He had trained long and hard, but seeing his opponents, especially the Japanese contingent, he felt daunted. The Japanese contenders seemed to have karate in their blood.

What did he have in his blood? Suddenly it hit him: He had not seen any of the contenders pray. Although Shimon was not religious, he intuited that he should ask G-d for help. At the beginning of each match, he prayed for Divine assistance. Shimon scored victory after victory; by the end of the tournament he was number 1 in his division in Israel and number 2 in the world.

As Shimon described it years later, his prayer was not a magic formula to strengthen himself or disable his opponent. Rather, it simply expressed his recognition that G-d is the ultimate causal factor.

Of course, had he not trained hard, his victory would have been impossible. But watching many sports competitions had shown him that human effort even augmented by tremendous talent, did not always spell success: Unlikely victories as well as defeats are determined by the Divine.

Many years ago, my husband and I invested most of our savings in a mutual fund, run by a man who was rated one of the smartest and sharpest fund managers in the world. His genius quickly proved itself. In a short time, our investment tripled. We were euphoric.

Then, literally overnight, the fund plunged. It had something to do with the Japanese selling off yen. Suddenly all our gains had vanished. The manager wrote a letter to his investors explaining how this unforeseen debacle of a single day could not have been anticipated even by his expertise, and how he planned to restore the fund to its former glory.

Within several months the fund was defunct. The manager didn't realise what 16-year-old Shimon knew: that G-d is the ultimate causal factor. Although human effort is essential, no matter how smart we are, victory and defeat, gain and loss, success and failure are ultimately determined by G-d.

Our ancestors in Egypt took a long time to grasp this point. During 116 years of slavery and 80 of sadistic oppression, it did not occur to them to appeal to G-d. Assimilated into the majority culture, our ancestors worshipped the idols of that time and place. They descended almost to the lowest level of spiritual impurity, forgetting the one Supreme Power taught by Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Instead, they looked for their salvation to political changes, such as the advent of a new, more compassionate Pharaoh.

Only when Pharaoh died and his successor continued his oppressive policies, did they "cry out" to G-d. The next verse tells us that G-d immediately initiated the process of the Redemption.

The "crying out" that catalysed the Exodus from Egypt, was not what we would call prayer. They pronounced no words, no lengthy supplications, no eloquent appeals for Divine mercy. Rather, their crying out was a simple, inarticulate turning to G-d as the only source of salvation. Yet that basic recognition jump-started all the miracles of the Exodus.

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the simple, adamant recognition that only G-d is in ultimate control.

To accomplish anything - to win a karate tournament, strike it rich, score high on a test, marry the spouse of your dreams, get admitted to the college/grad school/med school of your choice, find a good job during a recession - you have to work hard. Along with (not instead of) that effort, you have to know that G-d runs the world.

Passover is the holiday of the Divine giveaway. To receive the gift of atonement on Yom Kippur and the ensuing joy on Succot, we have to do the inner work of repenting for and rectifying our bad behaviour.

To receive the gift of the Torah on Shavuot, we have to "count the Omer", working our way up through the 49 levels of spiritual refinement. The gift of inner freedom on Passover, however, is a freebie. On seder night, G-d bestows on all Jews the possibility of redemption from whatever inner bondage holds them. It's like winning the lottery.

Of course, to win the lottery you have to buy a ticket, looking up the winning number, and claim your prize.

To become worthy of the Exodus from Egypt, our ancestors had to exert themselves to the extent of slaughtering the Passover Offering and smearing its blood on their doorposts.

Today, to become worthy of the liberation afforded by Passover, you have to exert yourself to the extent of attending a seder, eating the requisite amount of matzah, drinking the four cups of wine, and carefully fulfilling the other mitzvot of the seder.

To claim your Passover gift of inner freedom, decide before the seder, "What am I enslaved to?" The possible answers are many: anger, peer approval, materialism, jealousy, self-destructive habits, fear of commitment, etc.

As you eat your matzah in silence, commit to striving to accomplish that change and appeal to G-d to free you from that particular bondage.

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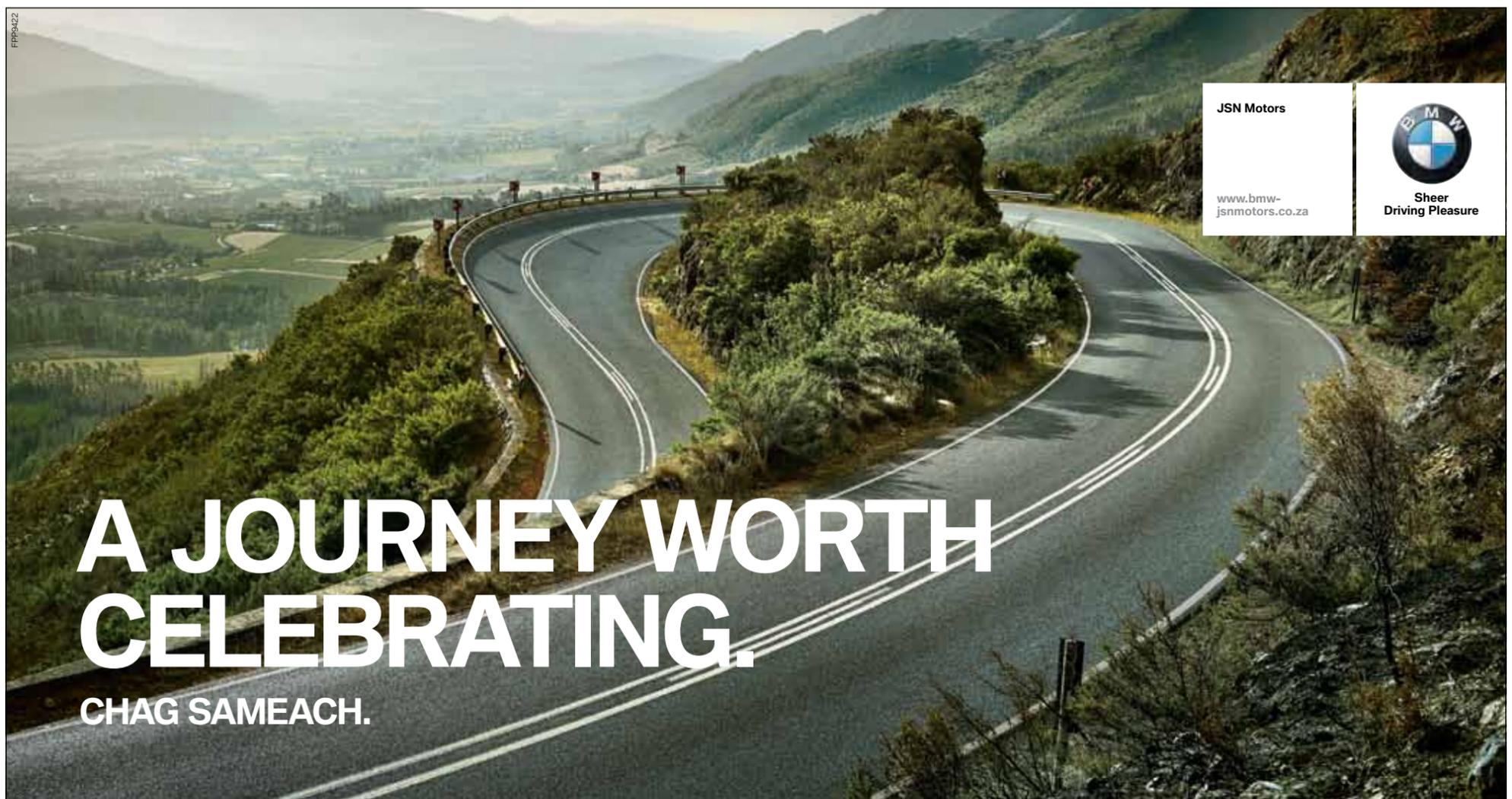
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south african
Jewish Report

Reflections on liberation

Pesach, the Jewish festival that celebrates our delivery from slavery in Egypt, is the theme of this week's issue. Yet freedom is often only the start of the journey - as the Jews left Egypt, their real journey, wandering in the desert and preparing for the Promised Land, began.

As we contemplate our celebrations of Pesach next week, we all have the opportunity to consider our own personal moments of struggle and liberation.

I imagine you have all had poignant experiences. For me, going abroad in my early twenties, leaving the womb and heading for the unknown, was so liberating and exciting. But much of it felt like a wandering in the desert. I never quite felt at home anywhere; I was always the outsider - the immigrant. When I finally returned to South Africa after 18 years, it was an entry into the Promised Land of home, which meant belonging, familiarity and acceptance.

In this issue, we report on some interesting stories about struggles for freedom. I interviewed a remarkable 93-year-old man, Major Leonard Berney who, as part of the British army's 11th Armoured Division, was a liberator of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp (see article on page 9).

After the war, a total of 250 000 Jews remained interned in Allied-occupied Europe, waiting for permission to start their journey to freedom in the Western world and Israel. The Jews who went into the Diaspora were absorbed into established, democratic, and peaceful societies and their dreams of freedom and prosperity were, for the most part, easily realised.

However the majority of these displaced Jews had to wait until the British gave Palestine independence and the State of Israel was formed in 1948, to get to their Land of Milk and Honey.

And, although Israeli society has prospered, turning desert into fertile farmland and its seeds of innovation have brought the world significant contributions, Israel's walk to freedom is far from over.

One has only to read about the fallout from last week's elections to see that Israel has woken to a post-election dawn dotted with perilous obstacles: not only a slightly miffed global ally in the form of the US (see article alongside), but also economic pressures, ongoing concerns over a nuclear Iran and unresolved conflict on its borders. Israel may now very well face an increasingly hostile world of International Criminal Court investigations and unwanted economic sanctions.

As South African Jews, we are familiar with the experience of being citizens of a pariah state. In addition, the freedom that democracy handed us in 1994, has not meant we have truly liberated ourselves from racism.

In this issue we report on students at the University of Cape Town who believe that the design of apartheid, oppression and colonialism, created a normative structure of society that was white and which democracy has not been able to remove. The resulting protests, where the escalating Rhodes Must Fall campaign to "rid the university of old vestiges of white supremacy", has even led to the plastering of Nazi posters on the campus (see article on page 4).

In the last chapter of his book "Toward a Meaningful Life - the Wisdom of the Rebbe", adapted by Simon Jacobson, the Rebbe talks about redemption or "reaching the light" - through virtuous acts and spiritual awareness - as the ultimate goal of a meaningful life.

"Redemption is G-d telling us that the reason for which He created the universe will indeed be realised - that goodness will prevail and that our lives can be meaningful."

For the Rebbe, redemption is defined as freedom - freedom from the boundaries that confine the human spirit.

"To be redeemed means to be freed from a tyrannical regime; to be freed from a dangerous habit or an abusive situation; to be freed from the fear within ourselves and the confusion that clouds our vision."

Our front page artwork alludes to the notion that our fight for freedom has still not ended. Artist Danielle Rovetti depicts this quest for freedom - past, present and future - for modern Jews, their arms outstretched, walking through the parted Red Sea, taking the same route as the Israelites in the Exodus from Egypt. It also conveys a message of freedom within ourselves, she says.

Whatever redemption we might be seeking - whether at a systemic level - from racism or from ongoing wars on the borders of Israel, or at a personal level - from a state of mind, an oppressive relationship or a difficult context, the great gift of the human spirit is that we never stop striving for it.

- Vanessa Valkin, Editor



Netanyahu faces challenges and criticism from Jewish liberals

RON KAMPEAS
WASHINGTON

With Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu facing escalating criticism and pressure from the White House, he could use some help from Israel's erstwhile allies in the American Jewish community - especially those with sway in liberal and Democratic circles.

But several leading Jewish liberal critics of the Israeli prime minister are working to rally American Jewish opinion against him by stepping up their condemnations of him and calling on the United States to ratchet up the pressure on Israel.

The epicentre of this liberal Jewish push is the annual J Street conference in Washington, where in a speech last week Saturday night to 3 000 attendees, the group's executive director, Jeremy Ben-Ami, accused Netanyahu of harming the US-Israel relationship through "partisan gamesmanship" and called on the Obama administration to put forth the parameters for a resolution to the conflict at the UN Security Council.

Ben Ami's remarks came days after another harsh Netanyahu critic, Peter Beinart, called for the Obama administration to "punish" Israel on several fronts - including by backing Palestinian "bids" at the United Nations and denying visas to and freezing the assets of Israeli settler leaders.

Beinart also urged American Jews to ensure that Netanyahu and members of his Cabinet are met with protesters at Jewish events.

While more establishment liberal and centrist Jewish organisations show no signs of writing off the prime minister or endorsing such aggressive steps, some have expressed concerns about Netanyahu's 11th-hour campaign tactics - specifically his vow that no Palestinian state would be established on his watch and his urging supporters to counter the "droves" of Arabs coming out to vote.

Leaders of the two largest religious streams in American Judaism, the Reform and Conservative movements, both issued statements last week condemning Netanyahu's comments about Arab-Israeli voters.

"Because we proudly and unreservedly continue our unflagging support for the State of Israel, its citizens and its values, we must condemn the prime minister's statement, singling out Arab citizens for exercising their legitimate right to vote," the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly said in a statement last week Thursday.

"It is incumbent upon Jews around the world to denounce the prime minister's divisive and undemocratic statement and we do so here."

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, called the statement "disheartening" and a "naked appeal to his hard-right base's fears rather than their hopes".

For his part, Netanyahu moved quickly post-election to contain the damage from his pre-election remarks, holding interviews with several US media outlets in which he

insisted that he remained committed to a two-state solution but circumstances did not allow for one because of Palestinian intransigence and ongoing turmoil across the region.

In a sign that Netanyahu was seeking to send the word out beyond his conservative base, the prime minister not only did an interview with Fox News, but talked with two leading liberal media outlets, MSNBC and NPR.

Several mainstream centrist organisations - including the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the Anti-Defamation League - were quick to embrace Netanyahu's post-election insistence. AIPAC criticised the Obama administration for having "rebuffed" the prime minister's efforts to put relations with the United States back on track.

But Denis McDonough, the White House chief of staff who spoke on Monday at the J Street conference, held his ground. "We cannot simply pretend that those comments were never made, or that they don't raise questions about the prime minister's commitment to achieving peace through direct negotiations," McDonough told J Street.

Netanyahu has also sought to contain the damage from his election day appeal to supporters to counter the "droves" of Arabs heading to the polls. Netanyahu said he did not intend to suppress Arab voters, only to inspire his base, and on Tuesday he apologised directly to a group of Arab-Israeli leaders gathered at his residence in Jerusalem.

Yet, even as Netanyahu sought to defuse the controversy over his remarks, reports suggested that the makeup of his emerging coalition could keep US-Israeli tensions boiling on several fronts.

The first party he invited into the government was Jewish Home, which rejects a Palestinian state. Another likely coalition partner, Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu, who recently said that disloyal Arab-Israelis should be headed. The coalition government is also likely to include haredi Orthodox parties, whose rejection of non-Orthodox streams has been a cause of tension with US Jews for decades.

Still, the mood at the J Street conference was one of jubilation in defeat, as speaker after speaker spoke of "clarity" now that Netanyahu had repudiated the two-state solution.

"There's more fuel in advocacy movements when you're fired up in opposition to something," Ben-Ami told JTA.

One star of the conference was Stav Shaffir, the 29-year-old Labour Party member whose pre-election Knesset speech accusing Netanyahu's government of abdicating Zionist leadership by neglecting the marginalised, went viral online.

Saying her message to J Street was one of hope, Shaffir told reporters that when she encountered a depressed conference-goer, she counselled activism.

"I don't accept despair as a political strategy," she said. (JTA)

How ordinary Israelis view the election

LARA DOEL

As the dust settles on last week's elections and Israelis have had a week to debate about and reflect on the Likud victory and the way forward as Benjamin Netanyahu forms his coalition, a number of interesting comments and thoughts have arisen as people try to figure out where Israel is now headed.

Tuvia Book, a Jewish educator and tour guide who splits his time between Israel and the US, asserted: "The people voted for their lives and not quality of life. Many Israelis still fear the existential threat posed by Iran."

"Iran continues to deny the Holocaust and runs cartoon competitions that specifically evoke the memory of the Holocaust and its evil perpetrators, as well as funding and arming terrorists in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria."

He added: "Some even blame Israel for the recent violent killings of Jews in Europe rather than the jihadists who perpetrate them. This is what is on the minds of a large part of Israel's population. Despite the extremely anti-Netanyahu Israeli press attention and the clear preference of the US administration and the EU for a centre-left government, the Israeli public has spoken, saying: 'Better what we know (even though it's not perfect) than what we don't in these trying times'."

Policy consultant and chairman of Women in International Security Israel, Lea Landman, said: "A major component of Israel's national security is its alliance with the US, and in a global world, alliances in general. Despite official reactions and its media coverage, the US and Europe remain very strong economic and political allies."

"To those, Israel's flourishing relations with Modi's India, and less outspoken ties with Arab countries, including Egypt's el-Sissi, suggest that the Palestinian issue is mainly close to the left-wing voters and Western countries."

"The Arab states have their own internal and external problems and threats, and their concern for the Palestinians is mainly rhetorical, although in the region, perception should not be underestimated."

"However, in an unstable Middle East, to say the least, Israel cannot remain inactive and reactive. Netanyahu will have to actively define Israel's international strategy for the next years, or it will find itself reacting to events rather than leading them."

Avi Ifergan, originally of Australia, and father of four from Rehovot, said: "The 2015 Israeli elections were fascinating: a modern Middle Eastern Game of Thrones, with the necessary scoops of drama, intrigue, subterfuge, suspense and surprise."

Looking at the elections overall, Ifergan said: "The clear winne, despite numerous obstacles in its path, wars the democratic process itself. Voter turnout, which was just

shy of 72 per cent, was the highest since the 1999 elections."

He noted that for the most part, the lead-up to the elections was fraught with anti-Bejamin Netanyahu propaganda - in most cases, targeting him as a person.

"The messaging of 'Just Not Bibi' or 'Thanks and Goodbye Bibi' transformed the elections as a competition, not between parties, but against a single individual."

One of Ifergan's main concerns was rumours that professional opinion polls in the weeks leading up to the elections were "doctored" with numbers inflated to the benefit of Isaac Herzog's Zionist Union.

In a blog post entitled "So Who Won?" on The Times of Israel website, Advocate Michal Cotler-Wunsh of Raanana, mother of four and director of International External Relations at the Interdisciplinary Centre (IDC) Herzliya set a positive tone, stating: "For the first time since the founding of the State, it is quite possible that Israel is advancing towards internationally accepted differentiation between left and right - defined by differences in approaches and views on economic agendas."

"It is a possible and real sign of maturation to think that economics and not foreign affairs define the political split... In Israel, a true democracy - the people of this country focused on their every-day life in casting their ballots at the polls."

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Can you explain Netanyahu's two states and Arab droves?



TAKING ISSUE
Geoff Sifrin

Spare a thought for those in the hot seats of the South African Jewish community who have to explain to the government and other quarters how they view last week's Israeli elections. Especially controversial statements from Prime Minister and Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu during his campaign.

Although at this writing the new Israeli government has yet to be formed - assembling a coalition to govern requires difficult horse-trading with different parties each with their own priorities - it is clear Netanyahu will again be prime minister.

In the South African political climate, with much hostility to Israel, SA Jewish leadership has for years taken a centrist position, forthrightly supporting the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict - two independent states, Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace.

This is how Palestinians will achieve self-determination. They have emphasised that the majority of Israelis support this, including Netanyahu himself.

SA Jewish leaders even obtained from President Jacob Zuma a letter endorsing the two-state solution as the ANC's official policy, which meant SA Jewry and the government could co-operate on Israel-related issues despite the ANC's coolness towards that country.

Then last week came the election's tense end-game with Likud and the Zionist Union

led by Isaac Herzog running neck and neck. And the huge surprise - or shock for some - after votes had been counted, with Netanyahu emerging with a crushing victory over Herzog.

The thorny problem for SA Jewish leaders is Netanyahu's statement in the final hours of campaigning - under pressure to demonstrate toughness on security for rightwing voters - that he does not support a Palestinian state.

SA Jewish leadership has for years taken a centrist position, supporting the two-state solution.

An interviewer asked him whether no Palestinian state would be created under his leadership; he answered: "Indeed." He qualified it by saying elsewhere "...in the current circumstances", and "any territory that you vacate will be used for an armed Islamist state against us".

SA Jewish leaders will struggle to maintain credibility when their declared two-state approach flies in the face of Israel's leader. The fact is, however, that the majority of Israelis do support the two-state solution, including many in Likud. And Herzog's party represents a huge proportion of centrist Israelis who desperately want to end the conflict and stop controlling Palestinian lives.

It is their fear of the Islamist threat - and the bitter precedent of Hamas taking control of Gaza after Israel withdrew in 2005 - that keeps them from asserting this strongly enough.

The "current circumstances" referred to by Netanyahu seem unlikely to change in the short term as radical Islam attracts more followers and enlarges its reach. In the unstable Middle East, as Iraq and Syria are disintegrating and ISIS is growing, a newly-created Palestinian state could quickly be overrun by Islamist extremists.

South Africans need to understand Israel's dilemma. You have to have your head buried in the sand not to see the threat radical Islamists pose to it - and to the world.

There is an even hotter potato for SA Jewish leaders. In his campaign's final hours, when it looked like the Likud might lose, Netanyahu obviously panicked and said something he will have a hard time living down. He sent a warning to the rightwing on social media saying: "The rule of the Right is in danger. The Arab voters are moving in droves toward the polling places. The NGOs of the Left are bringing them in buses."

The implication: Jews must respond to the Arab throngs - who are fully legitimate Israeli citizens! - by rushing to outvote Likud. Netanyahu wrote: "With your help, and with G-d's help, we will put up a nationalist government which will safeguard the state of Israel."

To South African ears this sounds racist, like the once-familiar cry in South Africa of "swartgevaar!", even though Israel's context is profoundly different. If comments about

Arabs were made by a random Israeli in the street, it would not be newsworthy; when it comes from Israel's prime minister, it is.

It is an achievement of which Israel can be proud that its Arab citizens participated vigorously. Whatever the views of individual Israelis, their full integration into society is crucial for the wellbeing of the state. The prime minister should never have made such a comment; Jewish Israelis have slammed him for it.

Returning to the starting point: how should SA Jewish leaders explain all of this to the ANC? This week we marked Human Rights day, 55 years after the Sharpeville massacre where police killed 69 unarmed blacks and injured 180 others who refused to carry the hated dompas identity document.

The day is also marked by the UN; safeguarding human rights has become a mantra for all enlightened societies.

Palestinian human rights are part of that goal. But one cannot ignore the world context and Israel's existential fears. Radical Islam cares not a whit for human rights as understood by the West, the UN and South Africa.

South African Jewish leaders need to pose this challenge to Israel's critics: "We support the vision of a peaceful, viable Palestinian state living alongside Israel. But if you cannot show us that it will not become merely another radical Islamist entity threatening not only Israel but the region and the world, then you have to understand the Israeli dilemma."

Geoff Sifrin is former editor of the SAJR. He writes this column in his personal capacity.

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A Bergen Belsen liberator relives the horror

VANESSA VALKIN

Major Leonard Berney, one of the British liberators of the infamous Bergen Belsen “displaced persons camp” in northern Germany on April 15, 1945, last week in Cape Town relived the horrors of what he had seen when entering this death camp, exactly 70 years ago, including 60 000 half-starved prisoners and 13 000 rotting corpses.

Berney, now 93, from Plymouth, Devon has, for the past few years, been a resident of The World, the world’s largest private residential cruise ship. It is owned by its residents and continuously navigates the globe, stopping off every few days somewhere new.

South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation Director Richard Freedman had heard about Berney and The World’s stopover in Cape Town, through a contact and organised the briefing.

Freedman’s contact, Elizabeth Kahn, 59, is the daughter of a Jewish classmate of Anne Frank who, unlike Frank, survived till the camp was liberated and was rescued by Berney and his British 11th Armoured Division. He was with Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor, the commanding officer of the 63rd Anti-Tank Regiment, who was tasked with taking charge of Belsen camp.

Kahn’s mother, Nanette Blitz Konig, was mentioned in Anne Frank’s world-famous diary, and had acted as translator for Leonard in the camp. At the then 16-year-old Konig’s request, Berney sent a letter to her relatives in north London to tell them she was alive and he helped arrange her safe transport.

On April 15, 1945, Major Berney and his division, were accompanied by SS member and Commandant Joseph Kramer, known as The Beast of Belsen, who handed over control of Belsen and was later executed on war crime charges.

Berney, who has written his own memoir of the events, recounts: “I remember being completely shattered. There were dead bodies lying beside the road, emaciated men and women prisoners still mostly behind barbed wire, open mass graves containing hundreds of corpses.

“The sights, the stench, the sheer horror of the place, were indescribable. None of us who entered the camp that day had any warning of what we were about to see or had ever experienced anything remotely like it before.”

Berney became responsible for supplying fresh food and clean water.

“Many of the inmates were starving, emaciated and suffering from typhus; they bolted down this rich mixture food and that sadly caused their deaths. It was estimated that 1 000 to 1 500 died because of the food we gave them.”

Berney was in charge of organising a makeshift 15 000 bed hospital to care for the people being evacuated from the camp which was burned down three weeks after their arrival.

While the Belgian, Dutch, French (and other Allied country) prisoners were swiftly repatriated, those from the Russian and Soviet occupied countries, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Yugoslavia, feared that as soon as they went home, they would be arrested and imprisoned

again as “German collaborators and spies for the Allies”.

This was surprising for the British soldiers who thought that the inmates would want to leave as soon as possible. The British soldiers then realised they were “in for a long haul”. They organised a school for the children, and arranged concerts.

“With the enormous effort put in by our soldiers and the less ill of the former prisoners themselves, life was made at least tolerable for those poor people,” Berney says.

After the Western former prisoners had left, about 20 000 inmates, virtually all Jewish, remained as Displaced Persons, “DPs”, and the transit camp became the “Belsen DP Camp”.

The DPs hoped to immigrate to Britain, America, and Australia but things moved very slowly. The DPs soon realised their only salvation was to make their way to Palestine and groups would leave daily “for that very long and perilous journey”.

The DP camp was only finally dissolved five years later and the DPs had scattered around the world by then, though the largest group went to Palestine. By this time, Berney was back in England and beginning to build his clothing manufacturing empire.

He says that in the early years he wanted to forget about his war experiences but about 10 years ago, amid an atmosphere of Holocaust denial, he began to feel it was important to start telling his story - and this he does, with great eloquence and mental alacrity for a man of his age.

Berney who has been reported Jewish in the British Press, told the SA Jewish Report that he grew up in a non-religious home, and says that after what he witnessed in the war, his atheistic beliefs were confirmed.

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Israel Apartheid Week – my perspective



NATAN POLLACK
SAUJS CHAIRMAN

Israel Apartheid Week has quickly become the new buzz on campuses nationwide. Over the past four years, I have experienced four different campaigns, each having a particular focal point on a different area in Israel; ranging from the “genocide” in Gaza, oppression in the West Bank or my favourite, the destruction of wildlife by the JNF. This is age-old Jew-hatred in a modernised form.

While flagrant anti-Semitism is unacceptable on campuses, support of organisations such as BDS is viewed as a noble cause, especially by the born-free generation whose parents also fought the same “apartheid” war. Despite the proposed BDS initiative, what transpires on campus has nothing to do with a possible resolution in Israel, but manifests itself as a venomous spewing of radicalised Jew-hatred.

Having sat in meetings with leaders of the Palestine Solidarity Committee (also members of BDS), it can be said they act with a sense of professionalism and apparent “understanding”. It is the lobbied, uneducated protesters who accurately communicate their core (BDS) message. And without a doubt, “Shoot the Jew”; “We love Hitler” and “F-ings Jews”, has been chanted repeatedly on campus.

The use of factually blinded, radical comrades as on-the-ground support, has become the standard BDS modus operandi. The BDS consistently distances themselves from these individuals only in times of disciplinary action.

Certainly, SAUJS has the responsibility to uphold and support the voice of Jewish students on campus. There is no more important time to do so, than Israel Apartheid Week, where SAUJS fights to ensure the State of Israel is not demonised, delegitimised and trampled upon.

In response, SAUJS has started a campaign called “Give Peace Wings”, which is centred on creating a space where both Jewish students feel represented and non-SAUJS members feel willing to engage with SAUJS.

Gone are the days where we decided to let emotion hijack our ability to engage with everyday students; we have learnt the “Israel isn’t an apartheid state because...” approach simply draws us further away from any constructive solution on campus. The only way to stop the anti-Israel plague is educational open engagement.

Our theme for 2015 was “#LetsTalkSolutions”, with the aim to discuss past and present

negotiations in Israel and how the South African legacy could be used to create a constructive awareness on the part of both the Israeli government and Palestinian Authority.

We soon realised that the overwhelming majority of students we engaged with could not point out Israel on a map; these were untouched gems to our peace initiative.

After basic engagement, we told our story and that the BDS tactics of adding more hate and problems to the existing hate and problems, solved nothing – indeed, is entirely counter-productive. It was quite astounding to see the sudden interest of hundreds of students, requesting more material to read at home.

We need not to forget about the SAUJS members, who so desperately need a voice on campus during IAW. While student apathy is an age-old problem, it is quite remarkable to see how many Jewish students take an active role when attacked for their beliefs.

On the Thursday, SAUJS held a peace rally which saw some 300 students (both members and non-members) come to the campus lawns on Wits, holding a 25 metre banner and placards with messages such as “We want peace, not war”, “Peace activists should not support Hamas” and “Let’s talk solutions”.

For about 30 minutes, the students were joined by the arms, singing Hatikvah, Nkosi Sikelel’ iAfrika and chanting “We want peace”. These 30 minutes were undoubtedly my proudest and most powerful moment on a South African campus.

It allowed me to be a South African Jew.

The element of pride proved to be the most crucial element to the success of the week. The willingness of students to engage with SAUJS members, was far greater when we unequivocally supported our cause on initial interaction.

Both Jewish and Israeli pride is the building block to any form of engagement or platform of communication on campuses.

With a modernised form of Jew-hatred on campus, fused with the revolution of social media, with images and news being shared every second, Jewish students find themselves in a very challenging environment.

The importance of on-the-ground support and engagement, has never been so vital. The true aim of BDS is not to help the Palestinians; it is to wipe the Jewish homeland off the map.

However, despite their efforts, Jewish students equipped with SAUJS leadership and its strategic planning, will continue to be Proudly South African Jews.

TAKE YOUR KIPPA TO THE MOVIES
THIS SATURDAY NIGHT

In a senseless anti-Semitic attack last Saturday night, three young Jewish boys were verbally and physically abused at the movies. The SAJBD calls on all South Africans, Jewish or not, to stand up against racism and intolerance.

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‘Palestine Solidarity Week’ sends out shock waves

ANT KATZ

SA Jewry is reeling after finding themselves in the midst of a City of Johannesburg-declared “Palestine Solidarity Week” - including a formal twinning of the city with Ramallah, hosting what is arguably the most high-powered Palestinian delegation ever to visit SA, holding a week of anti-Israeli activities and the inclusion of a rabid Holocaust denier as their guest speaker.

Wits and its SRC have also become embroiled in their support for “Palestine Solidarity Week” (PSW), which comes in the wake of last week’s UCT incident where students hung Hitler posters and swastikas on a statue of Cecil John Rhodes, so that “Jews

On March 18, Howard Feldman, chairman of the board of Jewish Report, published “An open letter to Professor Adam Habib” in which he tells Habib: “Your office sent out a notification to all students that next week is Palestinian week... and in celebration thereof you have invited a guest from Ramallah to speak at the university.”

The guest, he pointed out, was Holocaust denier Dr Zomlot. “Seriously?” asked Feldman, reminding Habib: “Let’s not forget this is the incubator for the infamous ‘Shoot the Jew’ war-cry.”

Habib replied in an open letter on Friday March 20, saying he has always ensured that students of all faiths are provided with a “safe space in which to develop their thoughts and discussions”.

He also disassociated his office with the events of PSW, saying it was an SRC initiative.

Yet, Jamaine Mithi, head of a five-person faction representing 40 per cent of the Wits SRC called Project-W, this week publicly opposed any unified SRC support of PSW.

Mithi told Jewish Report that: “The Wits SRC is not a political promotion tool for the mayor.”

Meanwhile SAUJS National Chairman Natan Pollack issued a statement on “the many concerns of our members” regarding Wits’ involvement with Palestine Solidarity Week.

“While SAUJS fully supports the freedom of expression and political association integral to the university’s ethos, we are also committed to equity of representation.”

He continued: “We request that the SRC invite an Israeli speaker, to share their story, and let our students decide for themselves. If you want to ‘give Witsies the edge’, give them the whole picture.”



Johannesburg executive mayor, Parks Tau.

could understand” their struggle.

Open letters have been published, addressed to Wits Vice-Chancellor Prof Adam Habib and Johannesburg Mayor Parks Tau, among others, by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, Jewish Report’s board chairman, SAUJS, and members of the Wits SRC who opposed the support.

The City of Johannesburg passed a resolution in January to twin the city with Ramallah. Johannesburg then decided to “use this year’s commemoration of Human Rights Day to draw attention to the Palestinian question”, according to their website.

The political delegation from Ramallah includes Mayor Musa Hadid; and Council Members Nadia Mari and Nijmeh Ganim.

Last Friday’s PSW event, a keynote address delivered by senior Abbas aide and Fatah’s executive deputy commissioner for international relations, Dr Husam Zomlot, took place at Wits. Zomlot is infamous for having said in a BBC interview: “Israel ‘fabricated’ the beheading of James Foley, [and] the Holocaust”.

With “Palestine Solidarity Week” having largely slipped under the radar of the Jewish community guardians, the matter was first raised in public by Gauteng Board Chairman Shaun Zagoev in an open letter to Tau. “We note that you will be hosting a ‘Palestine Solidarity Week’ this week and want to voice our distress that you have elected to partner in this with BDS SA, a group that has been responsible for creating a climate of hate against Johannesburg and South African Jewry.”



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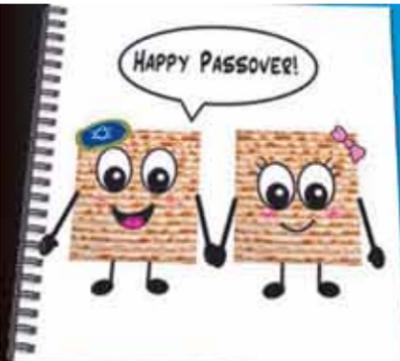
Pesach Haggadah

Since my husband passed away 4 years ago, I have received a food parcel every Shabbos and Yomtov. I can't tell you what this means to me. - Cynthia



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Matzah after midnight

YANKI TAUBER

When you were a child, you were blessed with faith. The world was good, people were good, and being good yourself was simply a matter of following the dos and don'ts of life which G-d had told your mom and dad.

Then you grew up, met some of the bad guys, and found that following the rules doesn't always pan out the way you imagined it would.

Morality muddled into an amalgam of maybes, ifs and usuallys. Faith alone wasn't enough anymore: you also needed intellect, sensitivity, feeling, will and desire to navigate this thing called life.

When you first married, you were blessed with faith. Your husband/wife was the most good-hearted, intelligent, beautiful, talented, caring and loving person in the universe. Your love for each other would get you through anything.

Then your marriage aged, acquiring wrinkles, an irregular heartbeat and bouts of dementia. Love alone just wasn't enough anymore: you also needed intellect, sensitivity, feeling, will and desire to maintain the relationship.

You begin in faith, and move on to experience. But there is also a third stage, a stage in which faith re-emerges. A stage in which you discover that your spouse really is the greatest, most wonderful person in the universe. A stage in which you discover that the world is good, that people are good, that the G-d-given dos and don'ts are the formula for a meaningful life.

No, it's not as simple and straightforward as your youthful faith saw it. But this mature, complex, thoughtful, willed and inspired faith has something that youthful faith didn't have: it has a density, a texture, a taste. A richness.

You've returned to that original faith, that same faith which shone so bright and hard because it wasn't saddled with knowledge and experience. Now, however, your faith co-exists with - indeed feeds

upon - your knowledge and experience. The roots of your faith reach deeper than them, its crown towers higher than them, but it also leans against them and is fortified by them.

Matzah is the most basic icon of the festival of Passover. The biblical name for Passover is "The Festival of Matzahs". For eight days, this flat, "unleavened bread" displaces all leavened forms of the staff of life. And on Passover eve, the three seder matzahs, enthroned on their special plate at the head of the table, take centre stage in the seder rituals.

But there's no small amount of confusion surrounding the significance of the matzah. The sages of the Talmud and the Kabbalah give it different - even conflicting - names: "The Bread of Affliction", "The Bread of Poverty", "The Bread of Humility", "The Bread of Instruction", "The Bread of Faith", "The Bread of Healing".

And then there's the matter of timing: Just when was the matzah born? At the beginning of the seder we announce: "This is the bread of affliction which our forefathers ate in the land of Egypt..." But later in the evening, we recite: "This matzah that we eat, for what reason [do we eat it]? Because the dough of our fathers did not have time to become leavened before the King of the kings of kings, the Holy One, blessed be He, revealed Himself to them and redeemed them."

Thus we have pre-Exodus matzah and post-Exodus matzah. Or, as they're referred to in the teachings of Chassidism, pre-midnight matzah and post-midnight matzah.

For matzah, the bread of faith, has two faces. It is the faith of "poverty" which thrives in pristine souls free of the tangles of intellect and the burdens of experience. And then, when it emerges from the other side of the night, it is a faith enriched by the very elements that stifled it in its years of exile.

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Mobile payments grow up

The announcement of Samsung Pay, in direct competition with Apple Pay, is a signal that payments with mobile devices are growing up, writes ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK.



**GOLDSTUCK
ON GADGETS**

Once a year, Barcelona plays host to an event that signals the key shifts in mobile technology, setting the agenda for personal gadgets for the rest of the year. Mobile World Congress 2015, recently, pushed the boundaries just a little further than usual. The most significant announcement of the week was not a device, but a new way of making payments.

When Samsung unveiled its new Galaxy S6 and S6 Edge, it also declared the next phase in its war with Apple. Back in September, Apple had announced the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus, along with a payment system, called Apple Pay. The similarity in names is no coincidence. Samsung wants to make it clear that it is playing in the same space as Apple, and doing it better.

Apple Pay works through NFC, or near-field communication, which allows the sending of data from one device to another with a single tap. That data can include files, photos and payment or transactional information, if it has been set up in advance. As a result, a single tap, authenticated via the fingerprint sensor on the iPhone 6, can conclude a transaction at an NFC terminal in a retail outlet.

Samsung Pay goes further. It also offers fingerprint verification and NFC, which is still in limited use in the retail world, but ups the ante with MST, which caters for the vast majority of retailers who still use magnetic stripe card readers.

MST, for magnetic secure transmission, allows a device to be placed alongside a card terminal and sends a radio signal that mimics the interaction of the magnetic stripe on a card with the terminal. It instantly allows Samsung Pay to be compatible with any retailer in the world that accepts credit, debit or payment cards.

Samsung's leapfrog over Apple was made possible by its acquisition, earlier this year, of LoopPay, which describes itself as "the world's first mobile wallet solution allowing consumers to pay with their mobile devices at most places, leaving their wallets at home".

The LoopPay solution, as it existed prior to the recent announcement, consisted of a LoopPay App and a LoopPay device, which worked in tandem.

"The app manages and securely stores all payment cards including credit, debit, loyalty, and gift cards on the device," LoopPay explained. "Currently, we offer the LoopPay Card, Card-Case, and a stand-alone Case for iPhone 5/5s, 6, and 6 Plus."

The company's explanation of how LoopPay works, provided no inkling of the scope of Samsung Pay, as it implied any manufacturer could use it. Samsung turned the market on its head with one simple innovation: it built the LoopPay technology into the Galaxy S6 and S6 Edge, instead of providing an accessory device.

The phone merely needs the app to be activated for it to run Samsung Pay. It also means

that the accessory case for iPhones is almost instantly obsolete.

The service is initially being launched in South Korea and in the United States - a direct challenge to Apple. There is no timeframe on its roll-out elsewhere, which suggests Samsung is initially more focused on taking on Apple than on serving consumers.

That is also, most likely, the reason for the cut-and-paste branding of the payment service. It may be the snappiest possible title, but calling it Samsung Pay is also the most sincere possible form of flattering Apple. If the wheels come off this particular bandwagon, it will be more than a financial disaster for Samsung.

Later this year, American retailers will be required to implement EMV (Europay MasterCard Visa) "chip-and-pin" terminals, which may well have to include NFC technology. That opens the rest of the US market to Apple, but still leaves Samsung with a global edge.

Other challengers are also likely to emerge. Rumours have already surfaced that LG Electronics will build payment technology into the next version of its flagship phone, to be called the LG G4. Numerous mobile payment applications will also have to change their game or find a way to integrate or add to the two Pay systems.

Google Wallet, which was once expected to dominate mobile payments, is fast fading into the background. Its near-demise is a timely lesson to the Pay masters of the mobile world that market domination in one arena does not automatically lead to market success in another.

• Arthur Goldstuck is founder of World Wide Worx and editor-in-chief of Gadget.co.za. Follow him on Twitter on @art2gee, and subscribe to his YouTube channel at <http://bit.ly/GGadgets>

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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.

DON'T REMOVE RHODES STATUE - PUT ONE OF MANDELA NEXT TO HIM

We Jews who have endured so much racial discrimination in the past, should be wary of the strident calls to remove the statue of Cecil Rhodes from the UCT campus.

Instead of breaking down, we should rather build up and add statues representing all the other nations in this great land, next to that of Rhodes.

We cannot attack part of the rainbow and expect to produce a rainbow nation.

If you hate hatred then it has sucked you in and you have also become hateful, even if the initial intentions were noble.

After Nelson Mandela's release from prison, (US President) Bill Clinton phoned him and asked if he hated those who kept him in jail. He answered no, if he hated them they would still be controlling him.

Mandela had the wisdom to know when to stand firm and fight the good fight and when to let go and forgive.

After serving more than 20 years in jail, PW Botha offered Mandela freedom if he would renounce violence (against apartheid). He refused and chose to remain in prison instead.

However, after his release, Mandela had the grace and wisdom to see the bigger picture of nation building and was willing to let go of the past and build the future. He recognised that many whites were driven to hatred by fear of the black majority. By showing that he was

not a threat but a friend, Mandela was able to drastically reduce racial tensions and even prevent a possible civil war.

Much of the world expected a racial bloodbath in South Africa, but due to the wisdom of Mandela, FW de Klerk and Constand Viljoen, as well of the goodwill of the people - black and white - we enjoyed a miraculous and peaceful transition.

Thanks to the amazing grace of the black majority and the co-operation of the mostly Afrikaans civil servants (who held the country together), did we astound the world with our new country.

Rather than remaining stuck in the past, let's build a peaceful present. Holding on to resentments will not bring peace to ourselves or this great land, nor will it enable us to create a great country.

Mandela took the time to travel to the racist enclave of Orania to have tea with Hendrik Verwoerd's widow and to visit a statue of Verwoerd himself.

Maybe we should place a statue of Mandela next to that of Rhodes at UCT. Would we have the grace to make them of equal size and prominence, even while we reject the cruelties of colonialism?

**Martin Zagnoev
Johannesburg**

CRAWFORD-BROWN HAS NO MIDEAST CREDIBILITY

Terry Crawford-Brown of the Palestinian Support Committee, in a Cape newspaper last week gave his take on the geopolitical situation in the Middle East - and naturally Israel is the centre of all that is wrong, not only in that region but in the entire world.

Crawford-Brown is the man who took on the South African government on the arms deal that according to him "almost bankrupted" him. Indeed a noble cause and all credit to Crawford-Brown's continued vigil in seeking justice about an issue that has plagued the public domain for so long.

Now here's a man who quite obviously feels so deeply for South Africa that he will fund his own legal battle against an all-powerful government. We know that legal costs can be more than crippling, and this illustrates his commitment to justice and the betterment of our country. Well, some might question his sincerity?

Now here's a man steeped in the political landscape of our country. He has clear knowledge of the abysmal state of education, healthcare, housing, Eskom, labour issues and the list goes on and on about the real and daunting problems that threaten the very fabric of our society.

Now here's a man ready to risk his financial security in court to seek justice and eradicate the scourge of corruption, so we need to ask why he stops there. A man so committed to a cause, but then turning his back on the real problems of this country and focusing his

energies on an issue so far from our shores that one must question his sincerity in his first endeavour. Was there an ulterior motive?

Now here's a man who obviously believes strongly in a legal system with a high respect for the integrity of the law. Well, only certain legal systems and where he sees the opportunity to gain by it.

He was secretary of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine, a "tribunal in the general sense is an institution with the authority to judge, adjudicate on, or determine claims or disputes". A legally constituted body imbued with all precepts of legal procedures.

Now here's a man, who as secretary of this august tribunal, when approached by interested parties to call for cross-examination of the "invited" witnesses, simply refused the request - no cross-examination allowed in his kangaroo court! A tribunal with only invited witnesses, by the way, and a man with well-documented biases against Israel, a country accused by this tribunal.

Now here's a man with obvious respect for the law but who turns that law on its head to suit his particular agenda and who rewrites legal precedent by not only denying cross-examination at a tribunal, but only "invites" witnesses for the prosecution and then disallows counter-argument.

**Allan Wolman
Rosebank, Johannesburg**

World News in Brief

Secret Nazi lair reportedly found in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES - A team of archaeologists from the University of Buenos Aires believe they have found a secret Nazi hideout in the Teyu Cuare provincial park, in northern Argentina, The Telegraph reported. The hidden lair consists of several nearly inaccessible stone structures, in which the archaeologists found "German coins, fragments of 'Made in Germany' porcelain, and Nazi symbols on the walls," according to the report. The team's leader, Daniel Schavelzon, said there seemed to be no other explanation for the unusual structures than a planned refuge for German leaders in the event of a defeat, part of a larger project to create Nazi safe havens around the world. After the Second World War, Argentina would ultimately welcome Nazi leaders. (JNS.org)

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AND THEN YOU GO AND SPOIL IT ALL...

The staff of the Jewish Report should be congratulated for their excellent coverage of the South African Zionist Federation Conference that happened recently. The paper really did a great job of capturing the spirit not just of the event, but also the message being brought by the various speakers.

The thousands of words that went into reporting on the conference, put it in black and white; Israel really is the Nation of Creation. There was also considerable coverage of the excellent efforts of the Jewish community's programme countering the annual Israel hate fest called Israel Apartheid Week.

Unfortunately, despite all of these excellent efforts, the paper managed to undermine this message with the images that were used.

If a picture says a thousand words, then a completely different story was being conveyed from the one that was being told in the text. Take for instance the front page with the headline "SAZF conference reverberates with positivity and pride" and follows with some excellent information about the event.

The headline picture, however, is of a small group of Islamists protesting outside. The same phenomena occur in the article about attempts to combat IAW. Despite the Jewish students organising amazing visual displays across the country, the paper went with the same negative images from the same Sandton protest.

No-one is requesting Pollyanna reporting on this topic and a small picture was of the conference opening. The overall effect, however, was one that undermined the message the paper seemingly wanted to convey.

Isla Feldman
National Director
South African Zionist Federation

ISRAELI POLL RESULT 'A GOOD DAY' FOR LIKUDNIKS

What a good day it is! Likudniks the world over are celebrating a landslide election victory in Israel.

Likud's massive victory is so much sweeter as it was achieved against all the odds. I have received e-mails, Facebook messages and phone calls (among many others) from a host of non-Jews, including Rev Kenneth Meshoe, leader of the ACDP; his daughter Olga of Deisi; Rev Albert Mabenga, founder/leader of Africa Bless Israel; Leon van Zyl, hon life president of SAZ; and Ncedi Mayekiso of Africa For Israel Christian Coalition.

When one considers that President Barack Obama, the European Union, the overwhelming majority of the world's politicians and media, Jewish and other leftists worldwide, as well as Israel's media and political left in general, all demonised Netanyahu and wanted him replaced as prime minister.

Likud's achievement in turning around a significantly negative position in the pre-election polls into a remarkable victory, brings to mind what Menachem Begin used to say: "Man proposes and G-d disposes!"

Likud's inspiring victory exhilarates and motivates LikudSA to continue carrying the Jabotinsky legacy forward into the future. Am Yisrael Chai!

David Abel
Chairman, LikudSA Cape

SOVIET AUTHORITIES DESPERATELY TRIED TO STAMP OUT JEWISH IDENTITY

When I witness the malevolent campaign by the ruling party and its affiliates, SACP, YCL, ANCYL, Cosatu, Cosas, SASC *et al*, as well as the evil BDS, and the most malevolent of them all seems to be SA Jewish Voices for a Just Peace.

When I see the gross intimidation of Jews in South Africa whenever we show any connection to, or affiliation or solidarity with the Jewish state, including all Israel-related functions being violently picketed by the BDS, SAJVJP, etc, I am reminded of the plight of Soviet Jews from the early 1950s until the late '80s who faced brutal pressure from the Communist authorities to cut all ties with Israel, aided by the ever pervasive Jewish-born anti-Israel quislings.

We must not forget the brutal attempts of the Soviet authorities to stamp out Jewish identity and assimilate the Jews by force, into the "Soviet people".

The Soviet media was poisoned by a daily barrage of hate-propaganda against Israel and Jews were put under draconian pressure to renounce Israel, the homeland of their people.

In some places Soviet Jews, were accused of "Zionist propaganda" because they recited the traditional prayer at Passover: "Next year in Jerusalem."

To speak as a Jew, or for Jews, in any Jewish cause, was dangerous. Thousands of Jews languished in Soviet prisons and labour camps, for practising their faith, learning Hebrew or identifying with the Jewish State.

Martin Gilbert wrote in his book, *The Jews of Hope*: "Hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews were electrified by Israel's victory in the 1967 war. But it was the shrill Soviet propaganda about

Israel's imminent and total defeat that ignited the fuse of national identity.

"Some recall that this propaganda was so gloating in tone as to heighten to its limit the sense of affinity with the apparently doomed State. From that moment, many Soviet Jews regarded Israel as their nation, and emigration to Israel as their national purpose."

In the Soviet Union the propaganda so beloved of the radical left today, of "Zionism is fascism", "Zionism is racism", "Zionism is Nazism", "Israel is an apartheid state", was incubated.

Gilbert adds that each week, and at times, almost daily, press articles, television programmes and wall posters portray Israel as a brutal, even a neo-Nazi state.

The Jews of the Soviet empire persevered and today hundreds of thousands have made their homes in Israel.

When the Soviets launched an anti-Zionist campaign, headed by Jewish-born anti-Zionists, who claimed that Russian Jews needed no outside defenders, the refuseniks stated: "Yes, we need to be defended. We have no other defenders besides our brothers who call themselves Zionists, brothers from whom you want to isolate Soviet Jews."

"You say we are an inseparable part of the Soviet people, but we say we are an inseparable part of the Jewish people."

Israel and Jews are one and anti-Zionism is Jew-hatred.

Gary Selikow
Johannesburg

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Did Obama try to undermine Bibi in election?



ANT KATZ

Israeli political strategist group, Victory-15 (V15), may have illegally used US taxpayers' money to try to replace the Netanyahu government, US media are reporting. Non-profit, OneVoice Movement, which had access to \$350 000 of State Department grants, has come under scrutiny by the Senate, since its Israel arm became a partner with V15 to mobilise voters to bring about change in Israel. Beyond that, Jeremy Bird, a key strategist behind President Barack Obama's presidential campaigns from Chicago in 2012, was consulting for V15.

Republican from Texas, Senator Ted Cruz, who has just announced his bid for the 2016 presidential campaign, expressed outrage over the issue and pointed to mounting indications that the Obama administration could be implicated in efforts to meddle in the Israeli election.

Cruz also pointed to Jeremy Bird's involvement. "This is manifesting itself right now in President Obama's national field director helping run the campaign to defeat Prime Minister Netanyahu," said Cruz.

Cruz and another Republican senator from New York, Lee Zeldin, sent a letter in late January to Secretary of State John Kerry, asking whether OneVoice - as a recipient of the \$350 000 in grants - had violated its tax-exempt status when it began backing the anti-Netanyahu V15 campaign in Israel.

Cruz also publicly asked whether Obama had "launched a political campaign" against the Israeli leader in the run-up to the election.

"What does it say about the president of the United States when he's more concerned about undermining and attacking the prime minister of Israel than he is standing up to the mortal threat a nuclear Iran poses?" asked Cruz.

OneVoice quickly brushed off claims from critics that its backing of V15 meant it was targeting Netanyahu. Such an effort would be illegal under its tax-exempt status.

However, reported Fox News, just five days after the public dispatch of the Cruz-Zeldin letter, a "corporation service company" registered a new funding entity in Delaware called PeaceWorks Action, Inc under a section of the tax code that still governs non-profits, but allows them to engage in a limited amount of political activity.

PeaceWorks Action, Inc is now featured on the OneVoice website as one of OneVoice's funders, alongside PeaceWorks Foundation, which holds the same tax status as OneVoice itself.

Launched in 2002 by snack bar mogul Daniel Lubetzky, OneVoice says it works towards achieving a two-state solution in the Middle East and believes - in a reflection of Obama's thinking, but counter to Netanyahu's - that Israel's 1967 borders should form a starting point for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Against this backdrop, the State Department awarded OneVoice the \$350 000 in grant money in 2013.

After Netanyahu's win, V15 co-founder Nimrod Dweck said in an interview with Ronan Farrow aired on MSNBC's "Jose Diaz-Balart" that "not a single cent" of State Department or taxpayer money had gone to their campaign.

"These are false allegations and they have nothing to do with reality," Dweck said.

American strategists have for decades signed on to work in Israeli political campaigns, with Democrats usually aligned with the Labour Party and Republicans often backing Netanyahu's Likud. There is no evidence to suggest that Obama or any of his senior aides had anything to do with the move by Bird, who has never worked at the White House, to join the effort to defeat Netanyahu.

Prior to this month's elections, Netanyahu and his allies in Israel, had unsuccessfully sought a court injunction against V15, arguing it was violating Israeli election law by accepting foreign donations. Likud later withdrew the request, citing difficulty in proving the charge.

Board takes action after three Jewish teenagers assaulted in Rosebank

The SA Jewish Board of Deputies has called on all South Africans, Jewish and not, to attend a film-screening at a cinema this Saturday night (March 28), wearing a kippa or hat to demonstrate a commitment to fight against any form of prejudice and intimidation. #KippasAgainstHate.

This comes in the wake of last Saturday night's incident at The Zone in Rosebank, Johannesburg, where three Jewish teenagers were verbally abused and in two cases physically assaulted by three Indian males.

"From several of the comments reportedly made by the perpetrators, it would appear that the attack was anti-Semiticly motivated," the Board said in a media statement.

The Board noted that there has been a steep rise in anti-Semitic rhetoric in South Africa, as well as of incidents of verbal threats and insults.

"The above, however, was the first recorded case in several years of an anti-Semitic attack that involved physical abuse. Unlike in many other parts of the world, Jews in this country have been able to freely identify as such in public spaces without fear of being victimised, and the SAJBD and CSO are committed to helping ensure that this remains the case," it said.

The Board added that it was "completely unacceptable" that any members of the community be subjected to any act of unprovoked bullying on account of their being Jewish.

"A strong message needs to be sent out that such acts will not be tolerated, and to that end the SAJBD and CSO, working closely with the authorities, are taking all possible steps to identify the culprits and ensure a successful prosecution.

The SAJBD and CSO have requested that the Jewish community be vigilant regarding possible anti-Semitic attacks and ask that people report any incidents as timeously and in as much detail as possible to them.

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The Kabbalah of the seder plate

OWN CORRESPONDENT

How many ways are there to tell a story?

The obvious way is to tell it in words, and in this the story told at the seder meal is no exception. Indeed, the whole purpose of the seder is to tell the story of our ancestors' slavery and release from Egypt.

Another nonverbal method of telling the same story is the food on the seder table.

Each one is a symbol, calling to mind certain core ideas. As we refer to these symbols in our Haggadah and eat them at certain key points during the narrative, they reinforce for us, the central concepts of the Passover message.

The core ideas of Passover are slavery and freedom. On Passover we are actually celebrating the transition from slavery to freedom.

Wine

The seder begins with Kiddush recited over wine, usually red, since that is the colour of blood (only during the Middle Ages, when Jews were accused of using the blood of murdered Christians in the seder, did they use white wine). Blood has associations with slavery; our ancestors were beaten and they bled. There is also the blood of freedom. On the night preceding the Exodus, our ancestors were commanded to kill a sheep or goat and to smear its blood upon the doorposts of their houses, to be a sign that the plague of the death of all the first-born sons of the Egyptians would not affect any of the Israelite homes.

Salt-water

The second item taken at the seder is Karpas (usually onion, parsley or potato) dipped in salt-water. Salt-water calls to mind the tears of the slaves and so has associations with slavery.

When our ancestors stepped into the desert they were not yet entirely free. There was always the possibility of the Egyptians chasing after them and hauling them back into slavery.

Only after our ancestors crossed the Sea of Reeds, and the Egyptian army was drowned, were they entirely free.

Matzah

After eating Karpas, we break the middle matzah, the food our ancestors ate during their long slavery in Egypt. We say at the beginning of the Haggadah: "This is the bread of affliction which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt..."

The round matzah, being thin, is the bread which was given to slaves. It took very little time to bake and little time to eat.

After the slaying of the first-born Egyptian sons, the Egyptians were so anxious to drive the Jews out of Egypt that they did not have time to bake proper bread. Ironically, on the way out of Egypt into freedom, they found themselves eating the same matzah bread that they had eaten during the years of slavery. This time, however, it was the bread of freedom.

Bitter herbs

The ideal substance to use for bitter herbs is lettuce. The leaves of a lettuce are, of course, not bitter. In a young fresh lettuce they are crisp and sweet. Nonetheless, the lettuce grows from a green-white stalk which is very bitter. The sweet leaves represent freedom and the bitter stalk represents slavery.

Freedom can only really be appreciated when it is rooted in slavery. We who are born free often take our freedom for granted.

Charoset

When Charoset is made properly, it has the appearance and texture of river mud. It was from this mud that our ancestors made bricks. The appearance of the Charoset calls to mind the harsh servitude to which our ancestors were subjected. But when we put Charoset in our mouths, we experience that it has a sweet taste, a taste such as no slave ever experienced. Its sweetness is its association with freedom.

Bone and egg

We also have a burnt egg and a roasted bone (usually the neck of a chicken) on our seder plate. These are not connected with slavery or freedom; but they call to mind the Temple where our ancestors offered the Passover lamb sacrifice.

It is characteristic of Jewish celebrations that there should be something to bring the Temple to mind. It might be the glass smashed under the foot of the bridegroom at a wedding or the salt on the table into which we dip our bread, or the egg and bone on our seder table.

The egg represents the festive sacrifice which was offered on the three pilgrim festivals, Passover, Shavuot and Succoth. The bone represents the special Passover offering.

Symbols are a powerful way of making ideas tangible; they have an immediacy which the spoken word alone lacks. The significance of the seder meal is, as our Sages tell us, that we should come to see ourselves as though we personally had left Egypt.

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THE GIFT OF MENTORING

Mentoring requires building a sustainable relationship and the very first step is setting goals and expectations. Dave Wilson from Deloitte, hosted a discussion for ORT JET mentors, on the importance of driving the mentor relationship in a direction where both the mentor and mentee gain. Wilson explained why it is as important to the mentor to benefit from the mentoring process, as it is for the mentee.

You may be asking yourself, what does a mentor gain out of the relationship and how does it affect both sides?

The most important reason people need a mentor is having someone as a sounding board and creating a safe environment to explore ideas and discuss challenges. Mentors are usually great listeners, and by sharing one's problems crisis situations can be averted.

Mentors want to find the right mentee for the "nachas factor", in other words, giving back, helping others and elevating oneself to a higher level of personal satisfaction. By teaching, a mentor learns. Every problem a mentor tries to solve with their mentees means they will learn something new about themselves.

It is sometimes more stressful to be a mentor than a mentee. There is a personal sense of commitment to helping a business achieve real success, and this requires the mentor to provide real support.

"Together, there has to be trust and openness. In order for both sides to learn, both sides need to listen."

Dave Wilson, Deloitte

The ORT JET mentor model is one whereby entrepreneurs are guided by experienced businessmen and women to keep focused and engaged to achieve their strategy and vision.

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To attend an ORT JET Deloitte workshop contact Tracy@ortjet.org.za, or visit info@ortjet.org.za

ORT JET wishes you and your families Chag Kasher Ve' Sameach



Dave Wilson, Chief Operating Officer of Clients and Industries and Evan Kagan Human Capital, Deloitte Consulting (PTY) Ltd.



Enthusiastic ORT JET mentors engaged in a live mentoring session with Dave Wilson.

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Coffee



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6x1L

Dewfresh
Long Life Milk
Assorted

25⁷⁹ **Hulett's**
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2,5kg



22⁹⁹
320g

Selwyn Segal
Apricot Jam



24⁹⁹
560g

Beit Hashita
Cucumbers in Brine



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Smoked Snoek Paté



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Mediterranean Delicacies
Smoked Salmon



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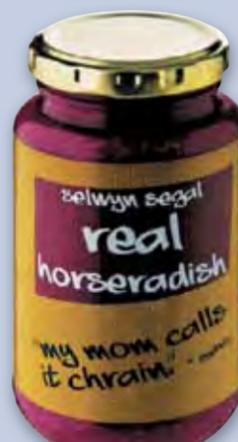
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Matza Man makes the day for TA tots

SUZANNE BELLING

The Matza Man - “a superhero” as termed by Tracy Mindel from the Johannesburg Jewish Helping Hand and Burial Society (Chevrah Kadisha) - visited Torah Academy Nursery School on Thursday, March 19, to illustrate to the little ones the mitzvah of giving to Jews in need, especially over the Pesach period.

Mindel explained that poor Jewish people did not have money for food over the Passover period and told the children to go home to their parents and explain the huge problem.

“You must ask your parents to take you shopping and you choose extra items to put in the trolley, which will then go into a mitzvah bin to help feed these people.

“You have the best ears, the best hearts and special neshamas to do this extra-special mitzvah,” she said.

She told the children they would put a smile on the faces of the less fortunate and enable them to enjoy their seders.

The children took turns in shaking hands with the Matza Man and sang “Do you know the Matzah Man?” to the tune of “Do you know the Muffin Man?”



The Matzah Man is pictured with the children from Torah Academy Nursery School.

Photo: Suzanne Belling

Yiddish Folk and Little Saints visit Lory Park Zoo

YIDDISH FOLK PRINCIPAL ANDY HAEFNER

The Yiddish Folk Pre-Primary School grade Rs, together with their sister outreach school for several years, Little Saints, in the Johannesburg suburb of Kensington, visited the Lory Park Zoo in Midrand recently.

The children thoroughly enjoyed this interaction and the outing was very informative and educational.

Little Saints’ school and crèche was established for the children of mothers who have been abused and are living in a special home together with their children, as well as serving other children in the community who wish to attend the school.

Yiddish Folk takes them on a special outing each year with the school’s grade Rs and the Little Saints children are brought to Yiddish Folk about three times a year.

They visit Yiddish Folk for Shavuot, where they receive fresh fruit and vegetables from the baskets brought by the children. They also attend Yiddish Folk’s Spring Day celebrations with a picnic, they watch Yiddish Folk’s end-of-year final rehearsal concert and receive Christmas presents directly from the Yiddish Folk children.

This is done to get the Yiddish Folk young to understand the true meaning of giving tzedakah and the importance of interacting with other children.

The teachers of Yiddish Folk and the principal, have also been assisting teachers from Little Saints with extra training.

Yiddish Folk also gives collections of clothing and other items, such as books, toys and carpets and assists Little Saints with buying outdoor play equipment.



Children from Yiddish Folk and Little Saints visited the Lory Park Zoo in Midrand recently. A glorious time was had by all.

Photo: Romy Adler

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Learning about the intricacies of all facets of sport

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Yeshiva College's sports department together with their coaching counterparts from Yeshiva's outreach school, Iphuteng Primary, were treated to an in-depth

coaching workshop courtesy of Super-sport United.

The day concentrated on both theoretical and practical coaching skills and culminated in a joint coaching session for the Yeshiva College and Iphuteng

learners. The coaches also had the privilege of speaking to Gordon Igesund, former coach of Bafana Bafana.



Photo: Supplied

Oh what fun making matzah!

OWN CORRESPONDENT

On Wednesday, March 18, the children of Minnie Bersohn Nursery School in Johannesburg visited the matzah factory at Chabad Savoy.

The children acted out the Pesach story and then made matzah. They had fun rolling and poking the dough with a fork, then watching it bake for 18 minutes.

A truly enjoyable morning was had by all!

Pictured are Eliora Sack; Devon Berger; Saul Defries; Moshe Joseph (organiser); Jessie Brill; and Robbie Berhmann.



Photo: Michelle Vinokur

Chabad of Sandton Nursery School kids learn about the mezuzah

SHARON KRAIN

Rabbi Yossie Hecht, of Chabad of Sandton, is pictured attaching a mezuzah to a new classroom at Chabad of Sandton Nursery School, with the help of Ryan Hellman and watched by all the children.

The children once again learnt about the importance of this special mitzvah and had a chance to walk through the door, kissing the mezuzah on the way.



Photo: Michi Aserman

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Mouth-watering recipes to celebrate Pesach

About Sharon Glass

Having written nine bestselling cookbooks, foodie, author and TV personality, Sharon Glass, has gained a loyal following with her simple, fuss-free approach to food. Her travels around the world have inspired her to include a variety of culinary influences into her recipes.

Sharon believes in achieving an optimal balance between taste and nutrition and in her recipes uses fresh ingredients available in well-stocked supermarkets. Having successfully run her own cookery school for 29 years, Sharon has been labelled South Africa's Domestic Goddess (Sunday Times, 2009) and rightly so!

The launch of the all-natural, "Sharon Glass Seasoning Salt" in 2014, the very first in a range of spices, has gained her an even larger audience. Sharon continues to teach cooking lessons in her thriving cooking school, as well as travel worldwide to do demonstrations and grow her brand while she pens her 10th book.



- All Sharon's books are available at leading bookstores nationwide as well as online at www.atv.co.za or www.sharonglass.co.za
- Sharon Glass Seasoning Salt is available from leading retailers in Johannesburg as well as online from www.sharonglass.co.za
- Watch episodes of Sharon's own TV shows on YouTube (www.youtube.com)
- Visit www.sharonglass.co.za for regular updates, lists of lessons and cooking tips.
- Join Sharon's Facebook fan page (www.facebook.com/sharonglass-recipes) and follow her on Twitter (@SharonGlassChef), Instagram (@SharonGlassChef), and Pinterest (www.pinterest.com/sharonglasschef).

Japanese cucumber salad

I love nothing more than a sweet-and-sour crispy cucumber salad. This one has an added bite with its hint of chilli. The cucumbers should still be crunchy when eating them.

Preparation time: 10 minutes

Cooking time: 10 minutes

Serves 4

Dressing

2 stalks lemongrass
250ml (1 cup) apple cider vinegar
125ml (½ cup) water
125ml (½ cup) sugar
5ml (1 tsp) salt
5ml (1 tsp) minced chillies
30ml (2 tbs) minced ginger

Method

Finely chop the lemongrass. Place all the ingredients in a medium pot and bring to the boil. Remove from the stove and cool slightly.

250g (8 oz) Israeli cucumbers
30g (1 oz) fresh coriander

Method

Slice the cucumbers diagonally. Pour the dressing over about 1 hour before serving. Chop the coriander coarsely.



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Chag Sameach
to all our Jewish customers

Baby potato and smoked salmon salad

There's nothing nicer than a filling starter of salmon and potatoes. This makes for a delicious light lunch dish as well. It goes particularly well with a green salad.

Preparation time: 20 minutes

Cooking time: 40 minutes

Serves 8 - 10

- 1 kg (2,2 lb) baby potatoes, unpeeled (approximately 30)
- 500g (1 lb) smoked salmon or smoked salmon offcuts, cut into strips
- 60ml (¼ cup) chopped chives
- 1 small red onion, finely chopped

Method

Boil baby potatoes until firm but cooked. Cut in half lengthwise with the skin on. Allow to cool. Mix with cut salmon strips, chives and red onion.

Dressing

- 250ml (1 cup) mayonnaise
- 125ml (½ cup) Orly Whip
- 45ml (3 tbs) lemon juice
- Salt and pepper

Method

Whisk dressing ingredients together. Toss over salad before serving.

Note: Salad can be prepared ahead and dressed a few hours before serving.



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Crispy date and nut tartlets with cream cheese and berries

Sticky and crunchy, these wheat-free bases can be baked ahead of time. Fill them just before serving. They make a great option for those of you not eating matzah over Pesach.

Preparation time: 15 minutes
Cooking time: 25 minutes
Makes 6 tartlets

Tartlet dough

125g (4½ oz) pitted dates
 150g (5 oz) ground almonds
 30ml (2 tbs) unsalted butter or margarine

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C. Place the dates in the microwave for a few minutes to soften them. Add them to the ground almonds and process until the mixture holds together. Melt the butter or margarine and add to mixture in the food processor. Process until everything sticks together. Press the mixture into sprayed 6 x 8cm (22-inch) tartlet tins. Bake for about 20 - 25 minutes or until golden. Remove from the oven and cool.

Filling

250ml (1 cup) full-cream cream cheese
 175ml (¾ cup) thick plain yoghurt
 45ml (3 tbs) honey
 5ml (1 tsp) vanilla essence
 250ml (1 cup) strawberries
 250ml (1 cup) blueberries

Method

Stir the first 4 ingredients together and spoon into the crust just before serving. Top with the mixed berries.



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 A HAPPY PESACH**



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THESE **NEW STORES COMING SOON:**





Moroccan chicken with prunes

Since I love travelling to the Middle East, this is the next best version of a trip. Without the skin, this sauce is far less fatty, but the chicken thighs are substantial and don't dry out. A wonderful blend of spices and flavours make it the perfect meal over Pesach.

Preparation time: 25 minutes

Cooking time: 70 minutes

Serves 6 - 8

60ml (¼ cup) olive oil
 2 medium onions
 60ml (¼ cup) potato flour
 10ml (2 tsp) ground ginger
 10ml (2 tsp) ground cumin
 10ml (2 tsp) paprika
 Pinch of saffron
 Coarse salt and black pepper
 2 kg (4,4 lbs) chicken thighs on the bone
 10ml (2 tsp) minced garlic
 2,5ml (½ tsp) minced chilli
 2 x 410g (14 oz) tins chopped tomatoes
 2 cinnamon sticks
 1 small packet pitted prunes
 80ml (⅓ cup) honey
 60g (2 oz) fresh coriander
 375ml (1½ cups) chicken stock (15ml or 1 tbs stock powder)
 Coarse salt and black pepper

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Prepare a roasting pan.

Heat 15ml (1 tbs) of the olive oil in a large frying pan. Slice the onions and sauté until they are browned. Remove and set aside.

Mix the potato flour with the seasonings and the salt and pepper. Coat the chicken pieces in the seasoned flour. Brown them in batches in the remaining olive oil until golden. Set aside in the roasting pan until each piece is browned.

Add the garlic and chilli to the pan with the chopped tomatoes, cinnamon sticks, prunes and honey. Chop the coriander coarsely and add to the pan with the chicken stock. Swirl the sauce for a minute, and then pour over the chicken and onions.

Place in the lower part of the oven and roast for 20 minutes uncovered. Then cover the roasting pan with foil and roast for a further 35 minutes covered. Add more chicken stock or water if necessary. Uncover again for the last 15 minutes of roasting.



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A column of WIZO South Africa

WIZO assists with many exoduses to Israel

A message from Prof Rivka Lazovsky, chairman, World WIZO executive:
 The story of the Exodus from Egypt, which we tell every Pesach, is one of the oldest and greatest stories in the world. It is a dramatic story of slavery to freedom.



“Since the Exodus”, says Heinrich Heine, a 19th century German poet, “freedom has always spoken with a Hebrew accent.”
 It is the story of how one people can inspire many, who are loyal to its faith, and are the guardians of its vision.
 Since the great Exodus the Jewish people have experienced other exoduses. In our time, the new State of Israel was established in the Land of Israel, as in the time of Moses and Joshua.



Jewish homeland was rebuilt. With the help of WIZO, hundreds of thousands of immigrants would become the core of the Jewish nation.

We, in WIZO, appreciate the role that we have taken upon ourselves throughout the last 95 years, in which we have helped to mould the many exoduses to the State of Israel, just as we appreciate the magnificence of the great Exodus from Egypt.

Yet this year, as in years past, we remember how much work there is still to do if we are all to be free - free from poverty, free from illnesses, free from hate, free from ignorance and free from

fear. Although the path ahead may be twisted, our goal is clear. So when we raise our first cup of wine at the Pesach seder, let it be for those who are still suffering, in the hope that they too, will soon enjoy freedom.

Let us give thanks for the freedom that is ours, for family, friends and our WIZO sisterhood. May we never take our freedom for granted.

I wish you, your family and your WIZO federation the anticipation, the joy, the urgency of hope, and the sweetness of a happy and kosher Pesach.

This column paid for by WIZO SA

News

Woolworths looters leave BDS leaflets behind

SUZANNE BELLING

“The safety of our employees and customers is our highest priority and we are reviewing our options,” a spokesman for Woolworths told SA Jewish Report following a looting by a group of some 21 pupils, said to be from Mamelodi, of a branch of the chain store at Sammy Marks Square in Pretoria.

“They damaged products and fixtures inside the store and BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) leaflets and posters were left at the scene.”

Woolworths said police were investigating the matter. However, there are reports that about 21 learners, aged between 16 and 18, have been arrested and have been released into the care of their parents while awaiting a court date.

The pupils were arrested by security guards, with the assistance of the metro police and were charged with theft and malicious damage to property.

According to the Pretoria News, the pupils wore black and white uniforms and held placards reading “Boycott Woolworths” and

“Israel is the Devil”. Some of the pupils were said to be armed with bricks and sharp objects. Once in the store, they looted - mostly clothing, food and kitchen utensils.

Police spokesman Sergeant Anne Poortman told Rekord East, a Pretoria suburban paper, that, according to a pupil, the perpetrators were all anti-Israel activists and were against Woolworths selling Israeli products. No shots were fired, but damages are estimated at R200 000.

This is not the first incident at a Woolworths store. In December last year, four people were arrested in a Woolworths store in Claremont, Cape Town and a pig’s head was placed in a Fort Road store.

National director of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, Wendy Kahn, lays the blame squarely at the feet of BDS, plus the responsibility for other anti-Semitic incidents.

“They persist with their campaigns, including bringing out [convicted terrorist] Leila Khaled, and are involved in hate speech and other actions which lead to incidents like the one in Pretoria,” she said.

“We cannot allow this.”

World News in Brief

Bibi backed by 67 Knesset members

JERUSALEM - Sixty-seven Knesset members endorsed PM Netanyahu to remain the Israeli government's leader, giving him enough support to form a governing coalition. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin must consult with the representatives of all Israel's political parties before choosing a party leader to build the government and serve as prime minister. With Netanyahu's Likud party winning 30 Knesset seats to the Zionist Union's 24, the consultations were not much more than a formality. The right-wing and religious parties - Likud, Habayit Hayehudi, Shas, United Torah Judaism, and Yisrael Beiteinu - recommended Netanyahu. The 10 Knesset seats of the centrist Kulanu party allowed him to surpass the minimum 61 seats needed. “We accept the people's decision,” Kulanu leader Moshe Kahlon said. “The people want Netanyahu to assemble the government, and I recommend Netanyahu.” (JNS.org)

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Grief-stricken Brooklyn father calls children 'a burnt offering'

JTA AND OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK - The Brooklyn father who lost seven of his eight children in a home fire, called his kids "a sacrifice" to the community.

Gabriel Sassoon sobbed as he tried to recite the names of his late children - saying they were "angels" - during a eulogy last Sunday at a Jewish funeral home in the heavily Orthodox Jewish Borough Park section of Brooklyn, the New York Post reported.

"They all had faces of angels.

Hashem knows how much I love them," Sassoon said, according to the Post.

He was out of town at a religious conference when the fire consumed his home shortly after midnight Saturday. Officials have blamed an unattended hot plate warming Shabbat meals as the cause.

His wife, Gayle, and one of his daughters, Tziporah, 15, both escaped the blaze by leaping from the house but are fighting for their lives in hospital. They are unaware of the seven deaths.

About 1 000 people lined the street outside the Shomrei Hadas funeral home for the service, according to the Post. Inside, an overflowing crowd of mourners wailed for the lost children, who ranged in age from 5 to 16.

The bodies were expected to be flown to

Israel for burial in Jerusalem.

"They were a burnt offering," Sassoon said of his children. "I lost everything in the fire. Seven pure sheep. Those are my seven children."

Gayle Sassoon reportedly had planned to take the children out of town for the weekend - to her parents' home in southern New Jersey - but stayed home because of a snowstorm that hit the New York area.

• Commenting on the tragedy, Rosh Beth Din in South Africa, Rabbi Moshe Kurtstag, said something flammable had to

have been close to the hot plate in order for the fire to have started.

With the approach of Pesach, he said, hot plates and ovens could be kept on for the Yomtavin. However, since this year Pesach coincided with Shabbos, no cooking was permissible.

"The food has to be properly cooked and can be kept in a (kashered) oven or on a hot plate - both using a blech - to keep it warm," he said.

One could use a time switch to switch off the oven, but there was a difference of opinion as to whether the electricity could be switched on by a timer once the pot was inside.

Rabbi Kurtstag advised people to consult their rabbis if they needed a ruling for themselves.



Yehuda Avner, 'a true servant of the Jewish people', passes on

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Hardly a rung below in fame from the prime ministers of Israel he served, Yehuda Avner, described by his son-in-law David Sable as "a true servant of the Jewish people", died in his Jerusalem home on Tuesday at the age of 86.

Author of the best-selling book, *The Prime Ministers*, with his second book, *The Ambassador*, due for publication shortly, Avner was born in Manchester, England in 1928 and made aliyah in 1947.

Joining Israel's foreign service in 1958, he served in numerous capacities including as Israeli ambassador to Australia and the UK.

He was an adviser to prime ministers Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Rabin and was a speechwriter for Golda Meir and Levi Eshkol. He worked closely with many of the top politicians in Israel.

Avner also served on the editorial board of the *Times of Israel*.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein paid tribute to Avner, who spoke at the rabbi's Sinai Indaba two years ago:

"Yehuda Avner was a great Jewish leader of our times. He was one of the most eloquent and articulate writers and speakers to harness the English language in the cause of the State of Israel at the most crucial and historic moments of her existence. But perhaps his most eloquent and powerful statement of all was the way he lived his life.

"He was the perfect gentleman and his qualities of derech erez, respect and sensitivity permeated his every interaction with the people around him, infusing the rough

world of politics with dignity and morality.

"He exemplified the greatest Jewish values of courage and vision; he loved 'Am Yisrael', and was deeply rooted in the world vision of the Torah given at Sinai, and was inspired with its compelling relevance to the most complex and pressing Jewish issues, bringing to his work the energy and inspiration of our sacred values. His passing is a sad loss for us all."

Avner's son-in-law, Sable, paid tribute to him. He wrote: "It is with deep sadness that I share with you the passing of Ambassador Yehuda Avner, Begin's Shakespeare... an articulate champion of the Jewish people and the State, who took his last breath, at home, in his beloved Jerusalem.

"There is so much to say and so much to share and such a rich life to celebrate. Suffice it for now that he always saw himself as a Yerushalmi - a person of Jerusalem..."

"He was a true servant of the Jewish people, in his role as adviser to the generation of legendary leaders of Israel. He was never political, never took personal gain, never shied from conflict... with his bag always packed... he went, listened, advised and wrote, giving voice to the prime ministers he served and voice to our cause and our people."

As ambassador, Avner represented Israel during tumultuous times and was respected by friend and foe alike. He was passionate about art, music, literature and theatre.

Says his son-in-law: "His legacy is Medinat Yisrael, the State of Israel, to which he dedicated his life to building. His gift to us... his words... which will live on and continue to inspire future generations around the world."



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King David women enjoy ‘Women in Conversation’



Photo: Ilan Ossendryver
Elliot Wolf (KDSF); Joanne Fedler; Nadia Bilchik; and Raelene Tradonsky, (KDSF) at the breakfast.

The King David Schools’ Foundation (KDSF) held a breakfast last week with two King David alumni, acclaimed journalist Nadia Bilchik and author Joanne Fedler, as its guests.

KDSF said in a media release, this “Women in Conversation” event was the fifth in a series of Dynamic Davidian breakfasts at which the Foundation hosts King David alumni who have been hugely successful in their respective fields.

Bilchik spoke about her journey from M-Net in South Africa to CNN in Atlanta, her immigration to the United States and what she missed most about South Africa. She shared her insights about coping in stressful situations and how to improve relationships with those around you.

She has been fortunate enough to inter-

view some world-famous individuals, including President Mandela and actors Meryl Streep and George Clooney.

The highlight of this stimulating morning was Bilchik interviewing Joanne Fedler, award-winning journalist, Fulbright scholar and Yale graduate, about her latest book, “Love in the Time of Contempt - Consolations for Parents of Teenagers”.

Fedler entertained the audience with her personal anecdotes on raising teenagers and coping with the challenges of bringing up children in a techno-savvy world. Her natural, humorous and honest style endeared her to her audience, who as parents, could relate to what she had to say. Fedler assured them that the book did not offer parenting advice, but rather, imparted snippets of her personal parenting experiences.

It’s Matza Man calling all Jewish children!



Most of you know the Chevrah Kadisha’s Matza Man from his comic books or from his Facebook page where he has many friends.

“I am famous for many things,” he says in a media release. “For belonging to the Chevrah Kadisha family; for having super-powers (although I use them only in emergencies to help people in trouble) and for loving all Jewish children who are the world’s best people!”

Pesach is Matza Man’s favourite time of year because that’s when he gets “to do the important work of collecting food for over 700 families”.

But, he adds, he couldn’t do it without “the help of all the wonderful children who get involved and who ask their parents to help too”.

Every Pesach, for eight years now, Matza Man has been visiting all the Jewish day schools and meeting thousands of children.

He teaches them all about the festival and how important it is to care about people who have less than they do. “We have so much fun together collecting food and giving it to those who need it in time for Pesach.”

This year, as usual, he is visiting Jewish day schools “I have a special gift to give you. It will help to remind you to bring your Pesach foods to school. With Pesach just around the corner there is no time to waste. Together we must make sure that no Jew gets left behind.”

Pick n Pay has supported Matza Man over the last few years and has donated R16 000 in gift vouchers to four lucky winners leading up to Pesach.

“All you have to do to enter is donate one (or more) Pesach food items and fill in an entry form.”

Community involvement is key to the success of the Chev’s Pesach campaign, so the Chev is inviting everyone to bring their parents, brothers and sisters to help pack Pesach food parcels into boxes ready to be collected or delivered to the people who need them.

• Remember the time and date: Sunday March 29, from 09:00 - 12:00, outside the Sandringham Gardens kitchen.



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ANC kindergarten does its nut over DA's Israel visit

ANT KATZ

The ANC Youth League (ANCYL), Western Cape, has slammed a Democratic Alliance (DA) delegation that had visited Israel and the West Bank last month, accusing the DA of being “exposed as a friend of apartheid Israel”.

The ANCYL's statement was issued shortly after the leader of the delegation, the DA's Stevens Mokgalapa, released a report on their visit to senior party officials late last week. Mokgalapa concluded that: “The delegation benefited from the study tour immensely”.

The ANCYL said it was “shocked that DA leaders were funded, hosted and transported on a cosy visit to Israel by an Israeli lobby group and given special treatment by the Israeli government”.

But Mokgalapa in his report-back, stressed that the purpose of the trip was to “to conduct a study tour to the Middle East to ascertain the facts of conflict and learn more about conflict resolution and also to explore trade relations possibilities”.

Other high-ranking DA MPs were Darren Bergman; Dean Macpherson; Glynnis Breytenbach; Makashule Gana; Michael Bagraim; and Sandy Kalyan.

Far from being the “cosy visit” the ANCYL had termed it, Mok-



DA delegation: Dan Brotman (SAIF); Sandy Kalyan; Makashule Gana; Glynnis Breytenbach; Nir Barkat (mayor of Jerusalem); Darren Bergman; Stevens Mokgalapa; Michael Bagraim; and Yusuf Cassim.

galapa in his report laments the fact that they didn't have enough time to attend to all they had planned to.

Among the challenges the delegation faced, was the withdrawal of some speakers and guests from the Arab Palestinian side and the alleged leaking of their programme to BDS which, they say, might have led to the withdrawals.

The DA delegation was funded by SAIF (South Africa Israel Forum). They met numerous Israeli and Palestinian dignitaries such as

Deputy Mayor of Tel Aviv Mehereta Maruch Ron, an Ethiopian immigrant, who highlighted her role in social development and upliftment of the poor.

They also met SA Ambassador to Israel Sisa Ngombane, who took them through the complexity of the Middle East conflict. South Africa, he told them, enjoyed good trade relations with Israel, worth about \$400 million a year. They also met Emily Neilson, director of the Christian Empowerment Council.

The key takeaways, said Mokgalapa in his report, were that land, refugees, and Jerusalem, were the main issues.

Israeli Minister Yuval Steinitz shared with them that “Israel has a right to existence and self-determination. Israel is ready to dismantle settlements if peace is achieved with Palestine.”

The Mokgalapa report pointed to further trade possibilities between SA and Israel and the many areas that “SA can benefit from”.

The delegation was impressed

with the Innovation Africa programme which provides solar energy to 86 African villages and water pumps which provide water to clinics, schools and villages in Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and South Africa.

The MPs visited a regional business incubator hosting companies which are owned by Arabs, Jews, and Christians. The 100-odd companies employ 3 000 and contribute \$700 million to the economy on an annual basis. They also visited a Druze community (Druze make up eight per cent of the population).

They met with Arab human rights activists and academics, most notably Bassem Eid, and Palestinian journalist Khaled Abu Toameh, who highlighted that the West Bank had no media freedom. Hamas' power was growing, he said, and Palestinians were historically secular and wanted to attain a better life through job creation and economic success.

Dr Nabeel A Shaath, a PLO Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, told the MPs that the West Bank was inextricably linked to Israel.

The West Bank's internet connection was controlled by Israel and 95 per cent of West Bank imports were from Israel. Palestine relied on Israel for food, medical supplies and energy.

Reflecting on Pesach seders of years past



FROM THE BELLING TOWER

Suzanne Belling

Although I hate to admit it, I am old enough to remember mutter-mumble seders, when everything for Pesach was homemade and when my aunt, the matriarch of the family, assured us: “I have cleaned so well, you can eat off the floors.”

One year, we actually did, after she slipped while carrying a huge pot of tzimmes and, unperturbed, scooped it off the floor with a ladle. Nobody was any the wiser and she had proved a point in favour of house proud housewives.

Just about everyone we knew kept kosher. We lived in a couple of streets near the shul, where the elders of the congregation ruled undemocratically. There was self-imposed apartheid at the seder tables and no one had even heard of gender equality.

The story of the Exodus was told without a peep from the little ones, even to the detriment of their bladders. It was obvious that, while the menfolk, plumper than the Jews from the Heim and plumped up on their freshly laundered white pillows, had absorbed the Pesach story from their Eastern European fathers, the womenfolk and children didn't have a clue what was going on.

Those were the mutter-mumble seders. Imagine yourself as if you were coming out of Egypt, it is said. The women and children imagined very well. Nothing was explained

- they were in an emotional desert, save for the food and copious amounts of wine which elicited a remark from one of the little ones: “I feel like a wibble wobble.” They did not think of substituting grape juice in those days - if we even had it.

The women perpetuated the Exodus by wandering in and out of the kitchen, returning periodically to report to those not taking part in the façade on the progress of the turkey/duck (which seems to have disappeared from the kosher freezers in supermarkets today) and chicken roasting in the oven. Those seders inspired many present-day vegetarians.

Of course, there was a temporary respite - Ma Nishtanah and a dispute among the bobbas and mothers over whose little darling was going to be the chosen child to ask the questions and bring them naches. But the children fought among themselves to avoid taking centre stage.

When the victim rose three foot high from his chair - girls were usually left out of this contest - the mother of the Pesach king anointed her son - with smothering kisses - as the Wise One of the four sons in the Haggadah.

The others could hardly wait to eat, but they had to hang on. The men had not finished their muttering. The dinner became increasingly dried out. The only condiments were apple sauce, fresh tomatoes and salt and pepper. Running to the toilet became a favourite ploy for the younger generation to leave the table and avoid the mutter-mumble.

Sure, finding the Afikomen was fun

but there was no reward of chocolates - none were manufactured for Pesach in those days. There were only nuts, pletzlach and ingberlach, which were full of ginger to burn the tender palates.

There was sometimes humour, when the door was opened for Elijah and the family dog walked in. But fear prevailed when Elijah's cup wobbled and the kids were spooked.

How different it is today. Seders are for the children to learn from their fathers - and their mothers. Difficult questions are asked about the meaning of freedom, the story of the Exodus itself and its relevance to politics today. Children, going to Jewish schools or nursery schools, now compete to ask the four questions and to sing the songs. Much of the Exodus story is repeated in English. And explained.

Today, we cannot pass a bush fire without one of the youngsters asking: “Is Hashem in that burning bush?”

The 10 plagues are the highlight of the night. Plastic frogs, lice, beasts, boils, hail, locusts, dying cattle, skeletons, bottles of “blood” and whatever favourite plague is commercialised, appear on the table - and often in the soup, competing with the kneidlach. The plastic plagues are widely advertised - craft kits, puppets and 10 plagues on a stand.

I think the only similarity between the seders of yore and those of today is the inevitable indigestion from overeating and reflux from eating late into the night.

World News in Brief

White House looking for ‘two-state commitment’

WASHINGTON - The Obama administration said it would look to the new Israeli government to recommit itself to the two-state solution.

“We will look to the next Israeli government to match words with actions and policies that demonstrate a genuine commitment to a two-state solution,” Dennis McDonough, the White House chief of staff, said on Monday, addressing the annual conference of J Street, the liberal Jewish Middle East policy group.

McDonough's comment, the first sign the White House seemed ready to put behind it Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's pre-election comments last week repudiating a two-state solution. McDonough made clear that Netanyahu's comments were still an irritant to the relationship between the governments.

“In 2009, Prime Minister Netanyahu publicly endorsed a two-state solution,” he said. Over the course of President [Barack] Obama's administration, most recently with the tireless efforts of Secretary [John] Kerry, the United States has expended tremendous energy in pursuit of this goal,” McDonough said.

“That is why the prime minister's comments on the eve of the election - in which he first intimated and then made very clear in response to a follow-up question that a Palestinian state will not be established while he is prime minister - were so troubling.” McDonough noted that Netanyahu, after winning the election, attempted to explain that he was referring to current circumstances when he said two states would not happen, not rejecting two states as an outcome. “For many in Israel and in the international community, such contradictory comments call into question his commitment to a two-state solution,” he said. “We cannot simply pretend that those comments were never made, or that they don't raise questions about the prime minister's commitment to achieving peace through direct negotiations.”

For this reason, McDonough said, Obama was re-evaluating “how we pursue the cause of peace”.

Obama administration officials told media, anonymously, that one option they were considering in the absence of a peace process, was presenting the parameters of a final deal and, McDonough said, “in the end, we know what a peace agreement should look like.

“The borders of Israel and an independent Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps,” he said. “Each state needs secure and recognised borders, and there must be robust provisions that safeguard Israel's security. An occupation that has lasted for almost 50 years must end, and the Palestinian people must have the right to live in and govern themselves in their own sovereign state.”

McDonough said the difference over two states would not affect the security relationship. “Today, our security, military, and intelligence co-operation is stronger than it's ever been, and that's not going to change,” he said. (JTA)

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ORT SA Cape hosts annual fundraiser

ORT SA Cape held its annual fundraiser luncheon on Sunday, March 15, with Eric and Sheila Samson hosting the event at their beautiful farm, Klein Cabriere, in Franschoek.

Guests arrived to the beautiful sounds of "Two Flutes" and enjoyed starters under the oak trees. After Dr Lydia Abel, director of ORT SA Cape, welcomed the guests, Merle Rubin served lunch and guests enjoyed the humorous magic performance by magician Jacques le Seuer, ORT SA Cape said in a media release.

Berg Rivier Secondary School is one of the beneficiaries of ORT SA Cape's "Constructive After School Programme for EnRichment" (Casper). This Casper drama group performed a poem, "Dream Chaser" for the 300 guests. They were well rehearsed, confident and their message was well thought out and communicated. Their performance brought tears to the eyes of many guests.

Ariella Kuper conducted a successful auction, raising funds for the ORT SA Cape Casper programme.

A special thank you goes to the Samson family for their generosity and to everyone for their commitment to ORT SA Cape.

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PESACH NEWS

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Iconic cartoonist Fedler finally publishes his memoir



David Williams (left) in conversation with cartoonist Dov Fedler at the launch of Fedler's book, *Out of Line: A Memoir*.

SUZANNE BELLING

Iconic cartoonist Dov Fedler, who turned 75 recently, said his book, *Out of Line: A Memoir*, launched on March 19 at Love Books in Melville, was inspired by the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

Fedler and his wife Dorinne had an audience with the Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson, in 1979. He anticipated some life-changing instruction.

Dorinne, a doctor, was told: "Attend to the healing of the soul as well as the body."

Then, turning to Fedler, he said: "Finish your book."

"What book?" was the response, but he realised it was a story he had started many years previously.

His father had published a commentary on the Pesach Haggadah; years later his daughter, Joanne, became a published author. At that stage, the generation in the middle was missing.

It is missing no longer. Fedler's book has now been published.

His story is intensely personal and honest, combining humour, emotion, anecdote and a history of the Johannesburg Jewish communities in Mayfair and Greenside where he grew up. It is both a memoir and a chronicle of a community of first-generation South Africans of Jewish Lithuanian stock.

His drawing talent has made him a leading cartoonist for many years; his writing talent has

made him a recorder of a generation. Together they make him an entertaining, often funny, yet serious observer of the people and times in which he developed and matured.

In conversation at the launch with David Williams, host of CNBC Africa's show *Open Exchange*, Fedler proved himself a master raconteur as well, mixing profundities with humour and pathos.

He wants his book to be universal. "You don't have to be Jewish to read it."

In describing the relatively poor community of his childhood, he said he didn't "want people to think Jews wore gold chains and fat signet rings".

He spoke of his parents, Solomon and Chaya, with great affection and respect, mingled with side-splitting anecdotes.

He was fascinated by the magic of his father's printing shop, where he would be given paper offcuts for some of his early drawings. He was not allowed by his father to use the more expensive paper, kept for special jobs. "Do you think paper grows on trees?" was his father's rhetorical question.

Fedler always knew he wanted to do something with his drawing. His father wanted him to become a dentist, "because you will be called a doctor and you won't be called out at night". He in fact started to study architecture, but gave that up for a successful life as a different kind of artist, observer and commentator.




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Celebrating Pesach in neighbouring Zimbabwe

SUZANNE BELLING

This Pesach it is the 11th year that the African Jewish Congress Zimbabwe Fund under the direction of its president, Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, has provided the dwindling Jewish community of Zimbabwe with the essentials for Passover.

“We send matzah meal, matzah, wine, grape juice and teiglach,” said Rabbi Silberhaft, who did not make his annual pre-Pesach trip to Zimbabwe because he recently returned from Harare, where he conducted the funeral of Sam Benatar, veteran leader, former president of the Zimbabwe Jewish Board of Deputies and chairman of the AJC Zimbabwe Fund.

“The community can now manage its own distribution of these items for Passover. Historically, especially when the Jews living in Harare and Zimbabwe were in distress, I flew up to oversee the project,” he said.

As the situation with South Africa’s northern neighbour improved, there has been an increase in people observing kashrut, especially over Pesach.

Zimbabwe has always had to import its Pesach foods, according to Rabbi Ben Isaacson, who was spiritual leader in Zimbabwe in the late 1980s and into the 1990s, first in Harare for five years and then in Bulawayo for seven, before returning to South Africa.

“As far as I can remember, we were able to buy matzah, but most of the Pesachdike food was imported.” He recalled making “old-fashioned” seders without the availability of sophisticated products on the shelves of the supermarkets in Johannesburg and Cape Town today.

That was when the combined community of Harare and Bulawayo was over 800 souls, whereas today only 240 Jews remain, with 160 in Harare and 80 in Bulawayo.

But, says Rabbi Silberhaft, there is a renewed interest in keeping Pesach.

“Apart from the items sent by the Zimbabwe Fund, I have been given personal lists from people for their own account. Items include oven cleaner - to kasher their ovens, gefilte fish in bottles, tins of tuna and chocolate.

“People are cleaning out their homes and about six members of the community are totally observant.”

These families include the Kablys - Yosi, Gwynneth and daughter Kameya - who keep a kosher home against all the odds. As they are pescatarians, they only eat fish and not meat.

As there is no longer a resident rabbi in either Harare or Bulawayo, Yosi, is the baal koreh, and Gwynneth is co-chairman of the Sharon Jewish day school with a handful of Jewish children.

“I make everything from scratch, except for the meals from the increasing supply of the few kosher tinned foods available from the South

African-based supermarket,” says Gwynneth.

A talented, self-taught cabinet maker, Yosi crafts the magnificent chairs, tables and beds in their home and teaches Kameya Hebrew, which she speaks like an Israeli child.

“With the increasing hostility towards world Jewry, Yosi also has been appointed security officer, responsible for Jewish life and the Jewish way of life,” Rabbi Silberhaft said.

There are no official communal seders in Zimbabwe, except for two at Savyon Lodge old-age home in Bulawayo and private community seders among Israelis who usually do not attend synagogue or participate in the activities of organised Zimbabwe Jewry.



Overseeing the loading of Pesach goods destined for Zimbabwe are Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft; Sonny Boy Rashaolane; and Brian Sher, who lives in both Johannesburg and Zimbabwe.

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World News in Brief

US House Speaker Boehner to visit Israel by end of March

WASHINGTON - US House Speaker John Boehner (Republican Ohio) will travel to Israel later this month to meet with newly re-elected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

“He looks forward to visiting the country, discussing our shared priorities for peace and security in the region, and further strengthening the bond between the United States and Israel,” Boehner spokesman Kevin Smith said.

Boehner, who will reportedly lead a Congressional delegation of Republican lawmakers on the Israel visit, recently angered the Obama administration by arranging Netanyahu’s March 3 speech to Congress about Iran. Boehner, along with many Congressional Republicans and some Democrats, have been strongly critical of Obama’s stance on the nuclear negotiations between Iran and world powers. (JNS.org)

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These acts starting with Jews, rarely end with them



BARBARIC YAWP
David Saks

International attention regarding the post-Arab Spring turmoil has focused mainly on the deaths that have ensued - over 220 000 in Syria alone. Far less attention has been paid to a second humanitarian disaster, namely the vast numbers of people who have been displaced.

Even before the emergence of ISIS, the number of Iraqi refugees around the world was estimated at some four million, while the civil war in Syria has resulted in over three million fleeing to neighbouring countries. Other war-torn Arab states experiencing massive population upheavals include Libya, Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea.

The current Middle Eastern refugee crisis is the largest, while also exceeding many times over, the region's previous most serious case of population displacement, namely those resulting from Israel's establishment in 1948. It is well known that an estimated 700 000 Palestinian Arabs fled or were expelled as a result of the conflicts immediately preceding and following Israel's establishment. Considerably less well known is that an even greater number of Jews were forced out of their homelands as a direct result of Israel's creation.

Exploiting the legacy of anti-white resentment, local anti-Israel campaigners regularly portray Zionism as an extension of European colonialism and Israeli Jews as a foreign implant of European origin.

The reality, however, is that most Israeli Jews hail from Middle Eastern countries, which in addition to Israel itself include

Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Egypt and Libya. In 1948, an estimated 760 000 to 880 000 Jews lived in Arab-speaking countries. Today, there are fewer than 5 000 (mostly in Morocco and Tunisia). Of those who left, approximately three in four settled in Israel. Their descendants today constitute over 60 per cent of Israel's population.

In 1948, an estimated 760 000 to 880 000 Jews lived in Arab-speaking countries. Today, there are fewer than 5 000.

This extraordinary mass exodus all but brought to an end in the Arab world a Jewish presence that predated by many centuries not only Islam, but Christianity. The bare statistics tell their own story.

Libya's population was once three per cent Jewish; today, not a single professing Jew remains. In Egypt, a hundred are left out of 80 000 and Yemen's 60 000 and Syria's 25 000 comprise a few hundred at most. Most dramatic of all has been the disappearance of Iraqi Jewry, where fewer than a dozen remain out of a pre-1948 community of 150 000.

Mizrachi ("Eastern") Israelis have much in common with their Arab fellow-citizens, including the fact that they or their forebears shared the same language. Given this heritage, one would expect to find a higher

degree of sympathy towards the Arab world within this sector, but in fact the opposite is true.

In political terms, Mizrahi Jews consistently support right-leaning parties, whereas it is among the more secular, Westernised Jews of European origin that one finds the highest levels of support for those on the left.

The reasons for this are not hard to identify. In the years leading up to and following Israel's establishment, Jews throughout the Middle East were subjected to a systematic policy of state-sponsored persecution, including being dismissed from civil services and with quotas placed on their holding university positions. Show trials against Jewish community members, instigated on the flimsiest of pretexts, were commonplace, usually leading to conviction and public execution.

All this went side by side with innumerable acts of violence by their non-Jewish neighbours, including massacres, looting and destruction of property.

Under the circumstances, Mizrahi Jews began emigrating en masse. This was despite the fact that they would arrive in their new homeland all but destitute. Similarly to what Jews able to escape pre-war Germany experienced, they were allowed to take only a fraction of their possessions with them.

The total value of Jewish property abandoned or seized during this time, is estimated at between \$100 and \$300 billion, including real-estate amounting to 100 000 square kilometres (four times the size of Israel).

Despite the magnitude of the catastrophe that befell Mizrahi Jewry, the "Jewish

Nakhba" as it is sometimes called, has been accorded minimal attention by the world at large. Instead, it is the "Palestinian Nakhba" that has dominated the discourse around refugees and restitution in the context of the Middle East.

Comparing the two situations is predictably an area fraught with controversy. Palestinians claim that the issue is a red herring aimed at denying them and their descendants, their "right of return" and compensation.

Sometimes, it is denied that Mizrahi Jews came to Israel as refugees at all, but that rather their immigration was voluntary. From the other side, it is argued that the comparison is specious and insulting, since whereas Arabs in Israel were displaced in a war their own leaders and other Arab states had themselves instigated, Arab countries targeted their Jewish inhabitants solely because, as Jews, they were held to be collectively guilty for the humiliating loss of "Palestine".

Today, the persecution that led to the virtual disappearance of Jews in Arab countries is being repeated in the religiously-motivated persecution of Christians. It is no accident that Christians make up 40 per cent of Iraqi refugees, despite having comprised less than 5 per cent of the Iraqi population.

The targeting of Christians and other religious minorities is especially horrific in areas where ISIS operates, but anti-Christian persecution is on the increase throughout the Middle East. It all bears out Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' warning that while acts of hate might begin with the Jews, they seldom end with them.

World News in Brief

Hitler painting to be auctioned, gallery asking \$30 000

LOS ANGELES - A Los Angeles gallery is auctioning a painting by Adolf Hitler, with an initial asking price of \$30 000.

Hitler's floral still life, painted in 1912 before he entered politics, will be auctioned on later this week by the Nate D Sanders gallery.

As a teenager and young man, Hitler unsuccessfully pursued an art career and was twice rejected from the Vienna Academy of Art. Some of Hitler's only artistic successes came at the hands of a Jewish art dealer, Samuel Morgenstern, who purchased several of the future Nazi dictator's paintings, according to the New York Daily News.

During the Holocaust, Morgenstern's gallery was seized by the Nazis, and he was deported to the Lodz ghetto, where he died in 1943.

The watercolour painting bears Hitler's signature at the bottom right and has Morgenstern's stamp on the back. According to the catalogue description, the painting "is indicative of Hitler's floral work, which isn't as prolific as the architecture and Vienna street life scenes he did at the time".

Another Hitler painting sold in 2014 for \$161 000.

According to The Express newspaper of London, the Nate D Sanders gallery has also auctioned off signed copies of Hitler's "Mein Kampf", selling one for \$64 850 in 2014. (JTA)

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A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

The rise of global anti-Semitism

The forthcoming meeting of the executive of the World Jewish Congress, will again focus on confronting the rise of global anti-Semitism. Hardly a week now goes by without at least one serious incident being recorded somewhere in the world, whether it involves assault (or worse), the vandalising of synagogues or cemetery desecration.

Over the weekend, three young members of our own community were accosted in a Johannesburg shopping mall and both physically and verbally assaulted. It was the first anti-Semitic incident involving violence that has been recorded in South Africa in a long while.

From certain remarks made by the attackers, it also appears that the growing trend - pushed by, among others, the BDS movement - of holding local Jewry responsible

for what is happening in the Middle East, was the reason for the assault.

The Board and CSO are working closely with the authorities to get to the bottom of this awful incident and bring those responsible to book. Even though none of the youngsters were seriously hurt, it will have been a traumatic experience to be subjected to so despicable an act of bullying, especially when their being visibly Jewish was clearly the motivation for this.

We will not, and indeed cannot, allow anti-Semitic thugs to make members of our community feel unsafe when displaying their Jewishness in public. By hopefully identifying the perpetrators and ensuring a successful prosecution, we aim to send out a strong message that we will not be intimidated, and that those who wish us harm will not be allowed to get away with their actions.

In addition to following up on the incident through the relevant authorities, we have issued a call to members of the public - both Jewish and non-Jewish - to wear yarmulkes when visiting the same shopping mall this weekend. This will help to reinforce the message that bigotry and hatred, whether based on race, religion or any other such grounds, is unacceptable.

Looking forward to celebrating Pesach

In this special Pesach issue, we look

ahead to celebrating the forthcoming festival and what it means to us. Innumerable lessons can be drawn from Pesach. It is a time both of remembering and grieving over the harsh experiences of the past while ultimately celebrating how our ancestors were liberated from that travail to begin life anew as a free nation.

It further is a time of Jewish unity, epitomised by how the time-honoured seder ritual continues to bring Jews together, even when they are to a large degree estranged from Judaism.

Around the seder table, bonds of family and friendship are strengthened as participants recount and relive the events of the Exodus. Just as importantly, it is a time when those traditions are imparted to the youth, who one day in their turn will assume the responsibility of passing them on to the next generation.

One of the seder's lessons is that the challenge of confronting anti-Semitism is one that confronts us in every generation. Such anti-Semitism takes different forms according to the circumstances of the day, whether based on religious, racial, ideological or - as is the case today - national-political grounds.

What all these forms have in common, however, is that they are motivated by an implacable hatred of the Jewish people and a desire to inflict harm on them. The inspiring message of Pesach is that just as all of these malign efforts ultimately came to nothing so will we witness their ultimate defeat today and in the future.

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

This column paid for by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

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Community

Rothschild looks back on an illustrious JSE career

MICHAEL BELLING

Geoff Rothschild, a former chairman of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), is ending an unbroken 40-year association with the JSE on March 31.

He was given an official farewell by the JSE on Monday, when he blew a ceremonial kudu horn.

"The kudu horn is a significant instrument for companies on the JSE," he said. "They blow the horn when a new company is listed. [On Monday] I had that honour of blowing it at the opening of the market."

A JSE board member from 1991 to 2008, his current position is Head: Government and International Affairs.

He is a long-serving judge of the Jewish Achiever awards, which he considers "an encouragement to Jewish entrepreneurs and business people."

"It identifies role models and gives recognition to those who have really achieved," he told the SA Jewish Report.

"I think the Jewish Achievers has made a difference."

Retiring after a long, varied and successful career as a stockbroker, he spent most of his business life with Frankel Pollack, which was taken over in the 1990s by Sasfin Securities. He continued to hold many senior positions with Sasfin until 2003.

After 2003 he worked fulltime in the JSE marketing and education department. In this capacity he also worked with government, before taking on the responsibilities of government and international affairs at the JSE.

Rothschild began his career as an accountant with Kessel Feinstein, where he worked for al-

most 10 years. One of his auditing duties was checking the accounts of a stockbroker, which led to his entering stockbroking himself in 1974.

The stockbroking and JSE environment is vastly different today from when he first started, not only from the point of view of automation, but also the skills required, he said.

His activities have spread beyond the JSE. Since 2004, he has been a director of the Nepad

(New Partnership for Africa's Development) Business Foundation, which provides a policy framework for accelerating economic co-operation and integration among African countries.

He is a member of the Committee of Southern African Stock Exchanges and of the Committee of SADC Stock Exchanges and also serves on the executive of the African Stock Exchange Association.

He has long been involved in many charitable activities, which he will continue after his retirement. These include his being a patron of the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital and Education Africa.

Rothschild is a trustee of Brand South Africa, where he heads its audit committee and serves on its marketing committee.

"Other things are rearing their heads," he says, looking ahead, "but nothing definite yet."

He will be doing some consulting work for international companies, dealing with "the world, the country and the continent".

He has been married to his wife Barbara for 44 years - "we have known each other for 55 years", he said. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

Their sons Andrew and Paul own a large fitness business and are based in Cape Town.



Photo: Ian Ossendryver

Chag Pesach Sameach

The festival of freedom

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Today, Friday (March 27)

• Shalom Masorti has started a Seniors Club and invites visitors on the last Friday of each month. Tea will be served and there will be a selection of board games, cards, including bridge. Venue: 6 Elray Street, Roedene. Time: 14:30. Enquiries: Esther Alper (011) 485-5619.

• UZLC hosts Russell Gaddin who will speak on "Israeli Politics". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (March 29)

• Second Innings hosts Paul Rodgers on "The Status of Orchestras in South Africa". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R30 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Information: Linda Fleishman, (011) 532-9616.

Friday (April 3)

• Shalom Masorti is hosting a Pesach seder. Venue: 6 Elray Street, Roedene. Time: After Shabbat service. Cost per person, R200 and R100 for children

under 13. Enquiries: Esther Alper (011) 485-5619.

Sunday (April 19)

• Second Innings hosts Gary Els, civil engineer with Rand Water, "Water, The Sun and Life". 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) 532-9616.

Wednesday (May 6)

• South African Rugby Legends Associa-

tion, Food & Trees for Africa & NSRI, celebrate three of South Africa's legendary world champions - Jodi Scheckter, Joel Stransky & Shaun Thompson at a gala dinner. Chester Missing will be in comedy action. A charity auction will be held in aid of SARLA. Venue: Sandton Shul, Time: 18:30 for 19:00. Cost: R18 000 per table of 10. Contact: Tanya@richmark.co.za or 084-523-7773.

Wednesday (May 13)

• JWBS has its 43rd Annual Golf Tournament at Killarney Golf Club. Belle Katz is the convenor and can be contacted on (011) 485-5232.

What's on our website

Having an SA Jewish Report website means that we can always bring you more!

All the stories in the newspaper are there, and many more too. It is also updated six days a week so readers don't have to wait until Thursdays to get all their news.

Many of the stories that do appear in the print edition, are usually covered in more depth and often with more pictures. And, after the paper has come out on a Thursday, updates to the news are covered too.

One of the greatest advantages of www.sajr.co.za is that it is interactive. Readers can join the conversation and post their own comments on any story. So far, this week alone, there have been over 200 user-posts on the website. Each story tells you how many comments it has. It can also carry video and sound bites.

A classic case in point...

The big news story this week has been Johannesburg twinning itself with Ramallah and all of the associated issues, including Wits becoming embroiled in the matter. Five hundred or 600 words in print can offer only so much of the story.

On the website, you will also find:

- Video of the senior Abbas aide who the BBC unmasked as a Holocaust denier who was the keynote speaker;



- Gauteng Board Chairman Shaun Zagnoev's open and very frank letter to Mayor Parks Tau;
- Howard Feldman's open letter to Prof Adam Habib; and Habib's response;

- A PDF download of the City's comprehensive programme for their guests;
- A picture of the mayor and senior City officials being entertained in Ramallah last year;

- SAUJS National Chairman Natan Pollack's angry statement; and
- Wits Project W head Mithi's statement distancing his members from the SRC action: "The Wits SRC is not a political promotion tool for the Mayor."

Furthermore, in conducting interviews for this story and trying to uncover how this had slipped under the community radar, we discovered that certain complaints had been laid against the Wits SRC last week. When Jewish Report asked Prof Adam Habib about it, he said he had already instituted an enquiry and assured us that the matter was being investigated quickly and thoroughly.

Among the allegations (which we will also publish) on the web this week, are that SRC funds have been used to support anti-Israel activities. As soon as we know, you will know.

Don't fail to miss checking our website regularly. Go to the main tab titled "LATEST" and see what's new.

For the full stories and more, go to www.sajr.co.za



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From Swallows Larry could fly off to Lithuania

JACK MILNER

It is an amazing feature of Jewish footballers. Those of South African heritage who live abroad want to play for Bafana Bafana. However, those who live in South Africa are usually looking to play elsewhere...

I suppose at the end of it all most footballers want to represent a country, no matter what country that may be.

Of course, we have Dean Furman who has lived almost all of his life in the UK playing for Bafana while it was announced last weekend that Larry Cohen, who is a central defender for local team Moroka Swallows, will form part of

the Lithuanian national squad which will play England later this month.

England is scheduled to play Lithuania in a Euro 2016 qualifier at the Wembley Stadium on Friday and the defender has been selected by the Lithuanian national selectors.

It was previously reported that the 27-year-old Johannesburg-born defensive player was issued a Lithuanian passport, possibly paving the way for a European move in the near future, which would make it easier for him to join a European club without having to apply for the usual work visa that affects most South Africans wishing to ply their trade overseas.

Hopefully this will happen because in Sep-

tember last year it was announced he would be moving to Israel to play for a first division team.

"Larry's gone," Swallows coach Zeca Marques was reported saying. "To lose a player like this would be a knock for any club, but we've granted Larry's wish. He's always wanted to play overseas and when the opportunity came up for him now, and their window closing shortly, we couldn't say no to him."

But just four days later they did just that!

Birds CEO Leon Prins announced they had cancelled the transfer due to the current situation at Dobsonville. "I've called him back and cancelled the transfer. We have suspension issues in defence and Savic has got an injury, we couldn't afford to lose another centre-back at this point. He agreed to come back and I'm really happy about that," said Prins.

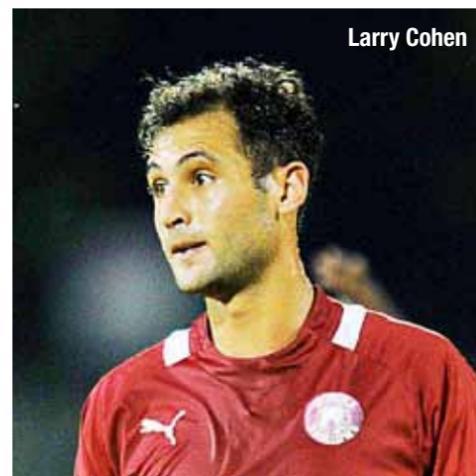
On November 21 last year, Larry's application to reinstate his Lithuanian nationality was approved and he became a Lithuanian citizen. He received his first call-up for the Lithuanian national football team but Fifa did not allow him to play for Lithuania. However, that all seems to have been sorted out.

Larry has a great soccer pedigree. He is the son of Martin Cohen who played for Highlands Park in the 1970s. Martin was a flamboyant player in his day and he was also a member of the racially mixed South African team which played against Argentina in an unofficial match.

Martin also played in the US where he was a teammate of the late, great George Best.

Larry started his professional career at Jomo Cosmos in 2007 and stayed there until 2010 when he moved to Wits for a year. He moved around to a couple of other clubs, but in 2013 joined Swallows and has been there ever since.

In an interview with City Press two years ago Larry admitted he had not seen his father play but said he would be happy if he could be half of what he is told his father was during his playing



Larry Cohen

days.

He said Cohen senior has been influential in his career. "My dad is my hero," he said. But he was quick to add his father did not force him to take up the sport. "It was an instant decision. But my father has guided me in the right direction although it has always been my choice to play football."

"I'm under no pressure to emulate my dad. I am a different player to him. I don't think Messi is as great as Maradona because they played in different times and the same applies to me."

Meanwhile, Doncaster Rovers FC midfielder Furman has been excused from international duty for South Africa at his club's request.

Bafana coach Shakes Mashaba said: "We have called up 30 players and have covered every position, so we will not replace any of those who are unable to come to camp. I think it is also a blessing in disguise in that we will be able to test out the players we have called up – for instance Dean has been playing with Andile [Jali] in the middle of the park, so it would be great to see who else could fill in that role. To be frank we would have loved to have all players available but seeing it is not possible we have to move on."



Chag Sameach

Wishing you a happy Passover



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Bobbas and zaidas, get ready

ILANIT CHERNICK

The annual Bobba-Zaida of the Year competition is back and in full force.

This year the Union of Jewish Women Johannesburg is focused on sending a deserving bobba or zaida overseas to see a child who they have not seen in many years.

"In many cases some bobbas or zaidas haven't even met their grandchildren," said UJW's social worker Ingrid Woolf. "Last year's winner had never met his grandchildren aged 18 and 21."

The UJW Johannesburg is calling on all moms, dads, grandsons and granddaughters, to nominate their bobba or zaida for the competition and afford them the

chance to take part in this opportunity. The competition closes on May 15 and the winner will be announced in June.

Any grandparent within the community from the Johannesburg and Pretoria areas are allowed to enter the competition.

"However a bobba and zaida who are married can also be entered and win as a couple," Woolf said.

Winners are given a plane ticket overseas, walking shoes, some luggage, spending money and many other surprises.

To enter, applicants can contact the UJW Johannesburg on (011) 648-1053. Forms are also available from the UJW Johannesburg offices at 1 Oak Street, Houghton.

KosherWorld



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Kasher v' Sameach

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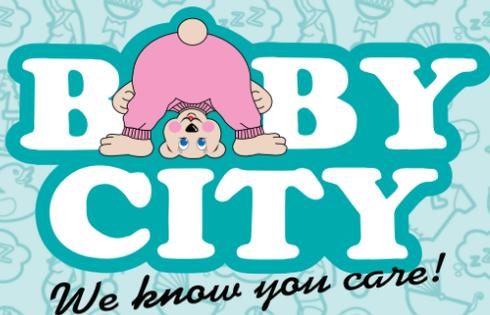


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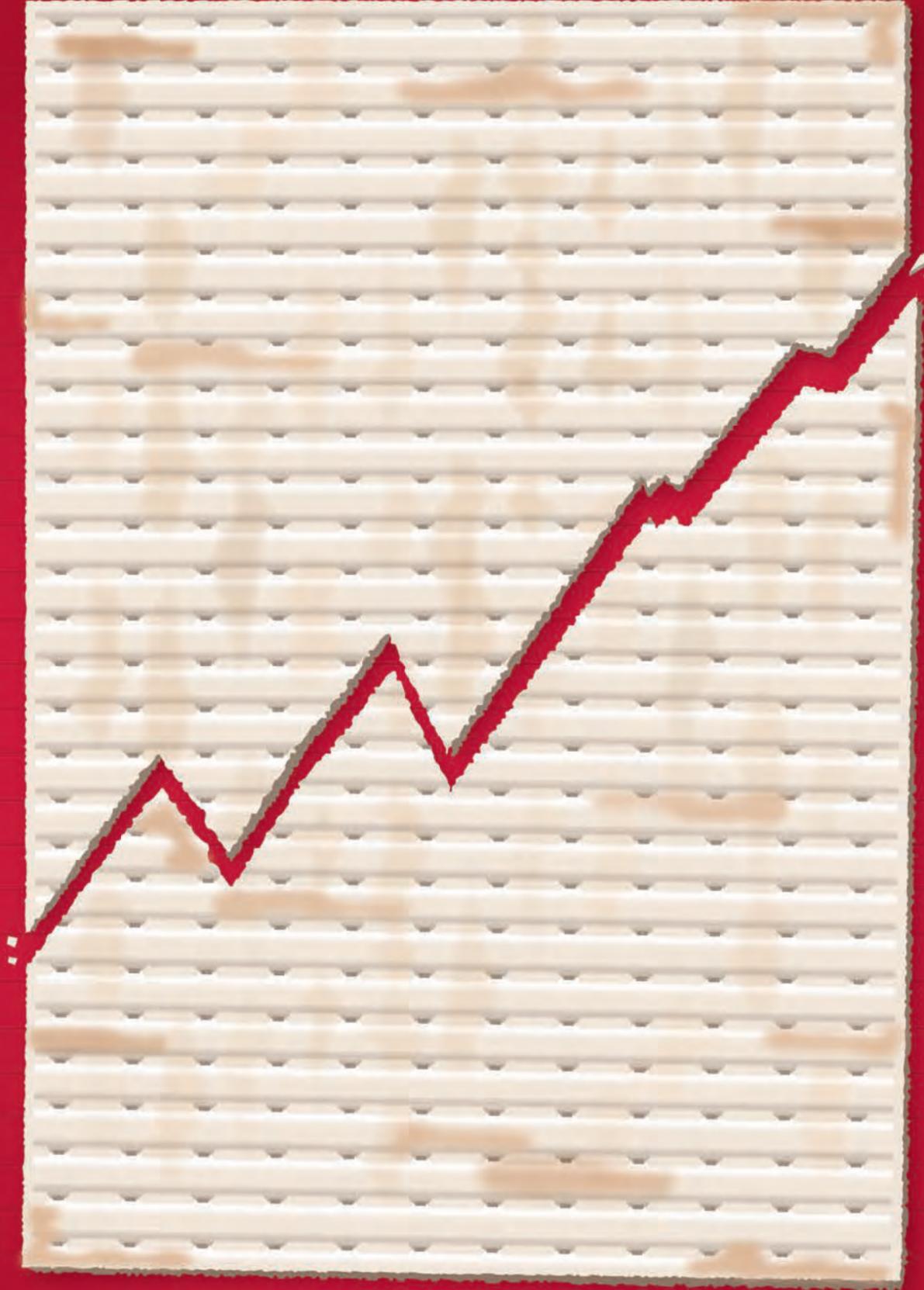
Chag Pesach



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