



Absa
Jewish
Achiever
Awards

South African Jewish Report

www.sajr.co.za

Achievers 2015 celebrated the talents of women



Photo: Ian Ossendryver

It was glitz, glamour, pomp and splendour as tribute was paid last Sunday evening to individuals who have been recognised by their peers for their outstanding contributions in a myriad fields. The glittering banquet with 600 guests at Vodaworld was sold out long before the event. What stood out this year was the strong female contingent amongst the nine categories of winners. Pictured are three of them – Tali Nates, director of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre, winning the KIA Community Service Award; the enduring Thuli Madonsela, who waves her Public Protector flag like a beacon of hope, honoured for her sterling work with the Chivas Humanitarian Award - a category open to the broader South African community; and Claudia Swartzberg, CEO of Top Dog Education, which provides digital learning for youth and adults, receiving the Creative Counsel Young Jewish Entrepreneur Award. There was also Paula Slier, now based in Israel, who has made a name for herself as an international war correspondent. She was recognised with the inaugural Europcar Jewish Woman in Leadership Award. Spearheaded by Dawn Nathan-Jones, CEO of Europcar and Imperial Car Rental Division, this award honours the contribution made by Jewish women in all spheres of South African leadership and society. Iconic businessman and philanthropist, Issie Kirsh, received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Honour of Helen Suzman; Cartoonist Dov Fedler won the SA Jewish Report Arts, Sports, Science and Culture Award; Paul Berman, CEO of property development company Berman Brothers, was joint winner of the Absa Entrepreneur Award together with Danny Aaron and Tom Goldgamer of Benatar Production Group; Bernard Stern of Metal Concentrators SA won the Absa Unlisted Company Award; and Stewart Cohen, co-founder and honorary chairman of the board of Mr Price, won the Absa Listed Company Award.

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Parsha

Constantly ignite the fuel of marriage



Parshat Ki Teitzei

Rabbi Ron Hendler
Northfield Shul

Parshat Ki Teitzei describes a Jewish man who goes out to war and sees among the captives a beautiful woman who he brings home. After she goes through a mourning process for her family and her pagan culture, she may be converted and become his wife. Directly after this the parsha describes a man who hates his wife. The Torah warns him to treat the son of the hated wife exactly the same as the son of his loved wife (in those days more than one wife was allowed). Immediately after this, the Torah describes the Ben Sorer Umored - the rebellious child who completely disregards his parents and seems headed for a life of crime and immorality.

What is the connection between these

three situations? Rashi explains that a man who is attracted to a woman primarily because of passion, may ultimately hate her and produce a child who himself rebels against his parents. The Torah is teaching us that we cannot escape the consequences of our actions. Something we do today in a moment of passion may have far-reaching consequences later in our lives. People often use the expression “falling in love”. This implies that we have no control over our lives and our choices. Fundamentally the decision to get married must be made with a cool head and a proper evaluation of the potential success of the relationship. Although the word “love” is something we hear in every song on the radio and although most grooms declare their eternal love for their bride in every wedding speech, the fact is that there is a very high failure rate in marriage today. The love quite quickly can turn to hate. How can we avoid this break-

down in marriage? Rabbi Volbe quotes the following verse: “It is good for a man to take on a yoke while he is still young.”. The midrash comments that the “yoke” in this verse is referring to the yoke of marriage. Most people want love, happiness, fulfilment, pleasure - but they don’t want responsibility. The true secret to a successful marriage is to accept responsibility for the wellbeing of another person. The required line in any wedding speech should be: “I can’t wait to take responsibility for your wellbeing for the rest of your life.” What does that responsibility look like? There is an interesting comment made about the burning bush that Moshe saw in the desert. The Rabeinu Bachya notes that if Moshe had not noticed the burning bush, Hashem would not have appointed him to save the Jewish people. Hashem was testing him to see if he went through the world without any awareness of what was going on around him.

Similarly a couple may be living in the same house, going through the emotions of marriage but not noticing each other’s needs, moods, and efforts. This is the first step in responsibility. One should not be in a relationship without constantly noticing the other half. This sounds so simple yet it often eludes our grasp. This fuel that keeps the marriage alive needs to constantly be reignited. Shabbat Shalom

Shabbat Times		
Parshat Ki Teitzei August 28 / 13 Elul August 29 / 14 Elul		
Begins	Ends	
17:35	18:25	Johannesburg
18:07	19:00	Cape Town
17:21	18:11	Durban
17:40	18:31	Bloemfontein
17:39	18:31	Port Elizabeth
17:30	18:22	East London

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South African
Jewish Report

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WIZO Aviv hosts a sell-out fundraiser



Shereen Markowitz; Cindy Polakow; Tracy Lurie; and Janice Leibowitz.

JANICE LEIBOWITZ

The Johannesburg WIZO Aviv branch recently held a sell-out fundraising event - Eat... Love... Laugh.

The Ohr Somayach Savoy hall was decorated in the Aviv signature colours of black, white and pink. Lorri Strauss kicked off proceedings in musical style before the hosting skills of Benita Levin took over.

Guests were treated to clever tips on style and tricks from image consultant Tanya Sachs, hilarious inspiration from the motivational Joel Harris and scrumptious food from Ilana Markowitz.

The combined teamwork of our Avivs made this event such a resounding success, raising much-needed funds for WIZO's many projects in Israel.

Equally important is the number of new members who joined the organisation this evening, ensuring the sustainability of our ongoing efforts to improve the lives of the many people who depend on us in the projects that we support.

Packed out evening at Sydenham Shul for Schleifer talk



Hedy Schleifer and Lara Noik.

CELESTE EVERITT

As a follow-up to the Chevrah Kadisha Social Services' very successful "Marriage Week", which ran from July 31 to August 7, the Chev/CAJE "Enrich Your Life" partnership on Monday, August 17 presented a special, one night only talk with world-renowned marriage guru, Hedy Schleifer.

More than 300 people attended the evening at Sydenham Shul to listen to Schleifer talk about the three invisible connectors in marriage: the sacred relationship; the bridge; and the encounter.

Mick and Sonya finally had their cake - and ate it!

Mick Leiman (98) and his wife Sonya (93) (née Raymond) (pictured), celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on August 19.

These two members of Johannesburg's Bet David Progressive Synagogue in Morningside were married in Johannesburg on August 19, 1945.

In a media release, the shul quoted the couple's younger daughter, Brenda Abelkop, speaking at a recent celebratory luncheon attended by 60 of their family and friends. She said that at their wedding the couple didn't have a wedding cake. "After all, it was at the end of the Second World War and things were hard to come by. Both Sonya and Mick were in the South African Army - she was a staff sergeant, with three stripes and Mick a mere sergeant with only two stripes! She out-ranked him... and she has never let him forget it!"

The couple have three children: Ken Leiman, Janice Barnard and Brenda, and six grandchildren. Ken and his son David live in KwaZulu-Natal; Janice and her husband David live in New York; Brenda and her husband Stephen live in La Jolla, California; while granddaughter Layla lives in Johannesburg; Caroline in New York; Sarah in London; Julia in Miami and grandson Guy in San Diego.

Sonya said: "It was absolutely fantastic to have our entire family - both blood and acquired - in one room to help us celebrate this wonderful milestone."

Ida Harman (née Sonnenberg) was also an



honoured guest at the luncheon, having been at the couple's wedding 70 years ago.

Because Sonya and Mick missed out on a cake at their wedding, fellow congregant Monica Solomon baked them a three-tier wedding cake for the anniversary. The couple cut the cake at the end of the luncheon - to much applause and cheering from their "wedding guests".

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Achiever breakfast scene-setter for Sunday’s Awards banquet

MICHAEL BELLING
PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

Of all the talented people out there, the ones who work the hardest rise to the top, Joel Stransky told a business breakfast last week Friday hosted by Absa Bank, which has sponsored the Jewish Achiever Awards for over 10 years. The former Springbok flyhalf’s drop goal against the All Blacks in the Rugby World Cup final in 1995 ensured the ‘Boks’ champion status.

The event was part of the lead-up to the Jewish Achiever Awards function on Sunday. Former award winners and 2015 nominees attended, as well as SA Jewish Report directors, senior Barclays and Absa staff and sponsors.

Stransky who in his talk was referring to the 1995 triumph, added that the same was true of

those attending the breakfast.

As a team, the Springboks that year illustrated a striving for the common good, developed a great bond and had a great work ethic. The coach, the late Kitch Christie, had motivated and trained them superbly.

The 1995 team had a theme of building one country with heart and soul - one team, one country.

“In our own way, we were one of the tools used to build the country,” Stransky said. To succeed, they had to be the fittest.

There is a perception, said Stransky, that for Springbok rugby to be successful, there has to be a Jew in the team. The late Danie Craven also supported this view, adding tongue-in-cheek that if things went wrong they needed somebody to blame!

The entire team had been touched by the

magic of the moment when Nelson Mandela came into the change room before the final, wearing the number 6 Springbok jersey and cap.

”He brought a personal message for each of us as he went round and shook us by the hand.”

Stransky added that life does not stop. “Life is about learning from the past and thinking forward.”

Howard Sackstein, chairman of the SA Jewish Report Board and chairman of the Jewish Achievers Committee, said the theme of the awards this year was: “We built this country with heart and soul”. The Jewish community typifies that, he said.

It has helped build this country with vigour and determination, sweat and brains, in addition to heart and soul.

He said 600 would attend the awards banquet on the Sunday evening - the 17th - and not a

single place was available for this prestigious event.

David Hodnett, deputy CEO of Barclays Africa and its financial director, said that in spite of problems faced by this country, “people who are active are positive”.

Absa, he said, has a long-standing partnership with the Achiever Awards, which has led him to “stand in awe at the contribution of the Jewish community and individuals within the Jewish community” to this country. He said it gives him hope and joy to see how many young people are coming through the Jewish community and creating a positive dynamic.

Roy Ross, CEO of regional and business banking at Absa, thanked the Achiever Award judges, who had gone through over 400 nominations, reducing that number to 64 in the various categories.



Roy Ross, Allan Hirsch and Banie Claassen.



Roy Ross, Herby Rosenberg, Banie Claassen, Howard Sackstein and Marlene Bethlehem.



Spring Into Spring with 3 amazing ladies!



Lisa Murinik shares her personal journey of loss and healing. Lisa's late husband, Michael Gordon, died running the Comrades Marathon, leaving her with two small children at the time. Lisa will be talking on "how my pain, adversity and trauma has led to inner strength and triumph of the human spirit".



Carin Marcus graduated from Wits BA Social Work Honors, completed a Psychology Honors Degree at RAU (cum laude) and her MA Clinical Social Work (cum laude) at RAU. Currently consulting to the Donald Gordon Hospital Oncology Ward, Radiation Oncology and private oncology units, Carin also runs a private practice dealing with a broad range of issues.



Kathy-Jo Wein speaks about her own life in "ACT AS IF", a funny, uplifting talk with a meaningful message. From a family closely connected to the world of entertainment. Kathy-Jo is the daughter of actress Annabel Linder and has herself worked successfully in the entertainment industry. She holds a degree in Dramatic Art from Wits.

DATE: Thursday, 3rd September at 9am.

VENUE: King David Linkfield Auditorium.

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Dina Diamond, Howard Sackstein, Herschel Jawitz, Benjy Porter, Herby Rosenberg and David Hodnett.



Bernard Stern and Banie Claassen at the breakfast.



David Benjamin.



David Hodnett.



Kumari Naidoo and Victoria Rabali.



Joy Coplan and Helen Fraser.



Joel Stransky.



Roy Ross.



Herschel Jawitz, David and Jonathan Shapiro.

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What a spectacular Absa Jewish Achiever event!

VANESSA VALKIN

Sunday night saw the equivalent of our community’s very own Oscar awards when the South African Jewish Report hosted its 17th Absa Jewish Achiever Awards gala banquet.

The banquet was completely sold out well before with waiting lists, and the indefatigable Howard Sackstein, chairman of the Achiever Awards, was dealing with desperate pleas for additional seating right up until its 16:30 start time.

All of the money raised from sponsorship and seat tickets go to support the free publication and distribution of this newspaper and its digital content.

Attended by nominees, past winners, prominent business people, key sponsors, media, and glitterati, Vodaworld in Midrand was alight with dark suits and glittering gowns. As the guests hit the “red carpet”, they were interviewed by the striking Dina Diamond, a volunteer member of the amazingly capable team that, each year, organises the Achiever banquet, and the selection process.

Guests warmed up in the cocktail area with mohitos and whisky before entering the beautiful banquet hall. The theme of this year’s Awards was “We built this country with heart and soul”, celebrating the contributions made by South African Jewry, who, from humble beginnings, have helped to build and to give back. As Sackstein noted in his opening address: “This group of underprivileged immigrants would become South Africa’s Nobel Laureates; winners in science, medicine and literature; leaders of the trade union movement, struggle icons, constitutional court jurists, artists, academics, lawyers, musicians, doctors, entrepreneurs, industrialists and revolutionaries.”

In every aspect of society, Sackstein said, Jews have had a profound impact.

“From the captain of Bafana Bafana, to the winning goal at the Rugby World Cup; from ‘White Zulu’ music and transgender comedy to the charcoal drawings of [William] Kentridge and the magical Zanzibar paintings of Irma Stern; from Helen Suzman to Nadine Gordimer; from Joe Slovo and Ruth First to Solly Sachs and Arthur Chaskalson; from Sammy Marks to Raymond Ackerman; from Brian Joffe to Eric Sampson; from Donny Gordon to Adrian Gore; from Operation Hunger to Afrika Tikkun, South African Jews have built this country with heart and soul.”

Over 400 nominations were received for nine categories of winners, which included the launch of the Woman in Leadership Award, sponsored by Europcar.

Four panels of judges interviewed 64 finalists for a total of nine prizes. (See story on page 13 for winners).

Public Protector Thuli Madonsela, winner of the Chivas Humanitarian Award in honour of Cyril Harris, expressed deep gratitude, as did all the award recipients, for the honour.

She said: “I have seen this evening what this community has done to recognise fellow human beings who go out of their way to make the world a better place; I’m grateful for the work that is being done.”

Stephen Koseff [from Investec] who gave out the Arts, Science and Sports Award to cartoonist Dov Fedler, spoke about the importance of entrepreneurs, many of whom were recognised that night. “You don’t create jobs by redistributing wealth, you create jobs by building companies.”

In handing out the new Woman in Leadership Award to war correspondent Paula Slier who runs a media house that supplies news on the Middle East to broadcasters around the world, Dawn Nathan-Jones, CEO of sponsor Europcar, spoke about the importance of women in leadership in both business and society at large. She said: “Women leaders need encouragement”, referring to Facebook COO Cheryl Sandberg’s view that women still make life choices to prioritise family life which keeps them out of top corporate jobs.

The event, in celebrating the success, hard work and commitment of so many talented individuals, left all who attended feeling inspired, proud and optimistic with a sense that the members of this small community are not just bystanders in South Africa’s process. They also perhaps felt strengthened and just a little more committed to building this country, despite all the hurdles it faces.

Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2015 photographers: Ilan Ossendryver, Jason Crouse and Shereen Miller.



Yoran Nitzan, Linda Galvad and Gilda Galvad.



Trevor Bernberg and Kylie Lipsitz.



Helen and Mel Fraser.



Allan Liknaitzky, Natalie Liknaitzky and Zamie Liknaitzky.



Genevieve Nathan and Romi Levenstein.



Margaret and Allan Hirsch.



Jonathan and Dr Sheri Hertz.



Stewart and Cynthia Cohen.



Joy Coplan and Howard Sackstein.



John and Anna Moshal.



Claudia Swartzberg and Damon Ivanisevic.



Jonny, Kim, Tali and Clive Nates.

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Howard Sackstein and Ronen Aires.



Herby Rosenberg, Howard Sackstein and Benji Porter.



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Shana and Shaun Rosenthal.



Laura Kaufman, Dorrine Fedler, Dov Fedler, Carolyn Batzofin and David Batzofin.



Herby Rosenberg and Reeva Forman.



Danny Aaron, Sheree Aaron, Carryn Goldgamer, Tom Goldgamer and Ore Goldgamer.



Haley and Gavin Rogoff and Gabi Medalie.

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Once upon a time, in a faraway and exotic land known as Tshwane (Pretoria), a marvellous carnival was held. This was no ordinary carnival, it was a special South African Heritage Day carnival, and it took place on the 24th day of September 2015. Each and every community rallied together in a long caterpillar of colourful community floats to share and celebrate their precious Heritage.

The Jewish community also participated with a float. A float that was indeed magical. This float was designed not just to last a single day - it was built by the Jewish Community to last forever.

The special children of the community came together to build an ark that would double as a library. They filled it to the brim with enchanting educational and inspirational books and comfortable reading chairs.

Once the grand carnival parade was over, and all the other floats were taken home to be discarded, the children continued on their parade, leading the ark to a previously disadvantaged community where a group of young readers eagerly awaited the wonderful and precious gift.

And the people of the land lived happily ever after, having shared kindness and the gift of reading.

The End.

Help the SAJBD, Chabad and Jewish children all over Gauteng create this magical story this Heritage Day.

The portable carnival library will visit your school in September. Please send any child-friendly, educational and uplifting books you would like to donate with your children to school before 4 September 2015.

Book online at: <https://arklibrary.wufoo.com/forms/heritage-day-ark-library-project>
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Buses will depart from Johannesburg at 10h00. You are welcome to make your own way and meet us at Pilditch Stadium at 11h30.



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Achiever winners jubilant with the honour

MICHAEL BELLING

The winners of the 2015 Absa Jewish Achiever Awards were unanimous in stating the value of the awards and in expressing their excitement at receiving them.

Pubic Protector Thuli Madonsela, winner of the Chivas Humanitarian Award in honour of Cyril Harris, said: “I have no words to express my sense of gratitude that the Jewish Report has bestowed this honour on me. I am delighted.”

She said the staff members in her office were “encouraged when our fellow South Africans appreciate what we are doing. We are willing to extend our hands to you to extend our democracy.

“It is encouraging and gives my team and me a sense of being affirmed in what we are trying to do,” she told the SA Jewish Report.

Issie Kirsh, founder of several businesses, including Talk Radio 702, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award in honour of Helen Suzman, said he felt deeply honoured.

“It came out of the blue. I didn’t expect it.”

The awards elevate the status of the whole Jewish community, not only from a business perspective, he said.

“It also elevates the paper, which represents the entire Jewish community. There couldn’t be a better community service.”

Cartoonist Dov Fedler, winner of the SA Jewish Report Arts, Sports, Science and Culture Award, said he had been working for 50 years

and this sudden recognition was overwhelming.

“I work very much on my own; it is marvelous to find the public out there paying attention and liking what I do.”

This made it hard for him to accept that he had won the award and he had difficulty relating to it.

He admitted he had no idea of the purpose the awards served.

“It’s so new to me. I have never followed them. Hopefully it will bring me some work. It is my 15 minutes of fame!”

Tali Nates, director of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre, won the KIA Community Service Award.

She found it “surreal and unreal, yet absolutely wonderful, exciting and a very humbling experience. It’s from the community I love, in the country I love.”

She felt the awards are a wonderful acknowledgement of the vibrant Jewish community in this country, with its many achievements in all fields. The community is contributing to building the country, she said.

Claudia Swartzberg, CEO of Top Dog Education, which provides digital, outsourced education, received the Creative Counsel Young Jewish Entrepreneur Award.

She found winning the award “absolutely amazing. You never get rewarded for what you do and this is special.

“It is a motivation and a reminder to keep pushing for whatever your goals are.”

International war correspondent Paula Slier

won the Europcar Jewish Women in Leadership Award.

“It is incredibly important to me. Being Jewish means being a light unto the nations, which has inspired me to go there and tell the stories. I am proud, honoured and privileged to be part of this community. This is recognition for work I have done from the people who mean the most to me.”

The awards are inspirational, giving something to aspire to, as well as recognition and acknowledgement, she said.

Paul Berman, CEO of property development company Berman Brothers, joint winner of the Absa Entrepreneur Award, said he was “extremely grateful and humbled” at receiving the award. He said he was most grateful to his brother for bringing him into the business in 1994 and said that the hardships they experienced together cemented an indestructible bond which has greatly contributed to their success.

The Achievers inspired other entrepreneurs, he said.“The greatest acknowledgement is recognition from your peers.”

Danny Aaron and Tom Goldgamer of digital marketers and lead generators Benatar Productions Group, were the other winners of the Absa Entrepreneur award, along with Berman.

Aaron said he felt blessed - and shocked - to receive the award. They had not even considered any awards, working 24 hours a day for eight years in their business.

To him the Achievers are part of the contri-

bution of what Judaism and South Africa are - “togetherness, equalities and miracles”.

Goldgamer also felt blessed, as well as humbled, excited and nervous - and grateful for the recognition.

He added that they had typically been at work and never stood back to see what they had achieved.

Bernard Stern, whose Metal Concentrators SA (Metcon) is the largest independent gold refiner in the country, won the Absa Unlisted Company Award.

He felt surprised, shocked and honoured. “I never thought my company was worth getting an award. It’s nice to get recognition for your life’s work,” he said.

“Awards motivate people, especially young entrepreneurs.”

The final winner, of the Absa Listed Company Award, was Stewart Cohen, co-founder and honorary chairman of the board of Mr Price.

He said he was “blown away” by the award, which was hugely appreciated.

“It is great recognition for all people in the company.”

The business implements the powerful concept of shared ownership, which has made many employees millionaires. This is modern capitalism, he said.

“There is too little recognition of employees. Recognition inspires people. In our company we talk about the power of recognition. The more recognition, the more you inspire.”



Stephen Koseff and Dov Fedler.



David Hodnett and Bernard Stern.



Paul Berman and Happy Ralinala.



Ran Neu-Ner, Claudia Swartzberg and Gil Oved.



John Moshal, Thuli Madonsela and Mandla Holomisa.



Paula Slier and Dawn Nathan-Jones.

More winners...



Nadav Ossendryver and Issie Kirsh.



Clive Blechman, Tali Nates and Ivor Ichikowitz.



Craig Bond and Stewart Cohen.



Danny Aaron, Tom Goldgamer, promotional staff, Paul Berman and Happy Ralinala.

And back to the party...



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Gabi Medalie, Olga Meshoe and Haley Rogoff.



Shira and Ali Bacher.



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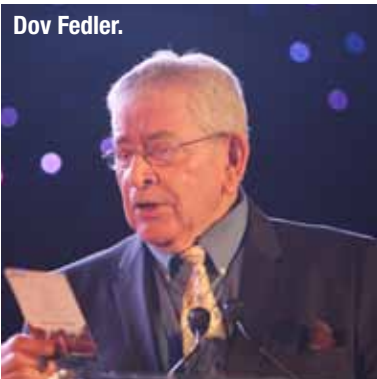
Joan and Shikey Joffe.



Benjy Porter, Howard Sackstein, Aki Anastasiou, Herschel Jawitz, Dina Diamond, Raelene Tradonsky.



Mervyn and Sue Serebro.





Hylton Kallner, Craig Bond and Adrian Gore.



Shareen and Trevor Richter, Clive and Niki Breger, Dawn Nathan-Jones and Raelene Tradonsky.



David and Jonathan Shapiro and Ralph Ririe.



Adam Sacks and Kye Crankow.



Nadav and Corrinne Ossendryver.



Lisa Spain and Dina Diamond.



Gill Sperling and Ore Goldgamer.



Molly Aires, Kim Goldreich and Mervyn Aires.



Jules and Stephanie Urdang.



Janna Stone and Andrew Robinson.



Bianca Arnsmeyer, Paul and Suzanne Berman, Hilary Berman and Dani Wallace.



Corrie Pieterse, Darren Bergman, Glynnis Breytenbach, Stewart Cohen and Michael Bagraim.



Selwyn Moss and Stan Shmookler.

The Iran deal brings liberal Jews out of the closet



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

South African Jews are a long way physically from Iran, the United States and Israel, and have generally not felt the need to take clear positions on the signing in July of the proposed deal between Iran and the P5+1 countries (US, UK, France, Germany, Russia, and China). The deal aims to prevent Iran from achieving nuclear weaponry while removing global sanctions against it and allowing it back into the community of nations.

But the issue is tearing apart the large American Jewish community and the heat will ultimately also find its way to South Africa. If the deal is ratified, Iran will be released from the punishing sanctions imposed on it since a United Nations resolution in September 2008, censuring it for non-compliance with nuclear non-proliferation regulations.

It will re-engage openly with the world, and will likely also become a more visible and vocal presence in the South African context. If it continues to promote its rejection of Israel's right to exist, its denial of the Holocaust, its financial and moral support for anti-Israel organisations and for radical streams of Islam, how will South African Jews respond? The South African political landscape is, sadly, very fertile territory for such ideas.

US President Barack Obama claims the proposed agreement is fully sufficient to stifle Iran's nuclear ambitions, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says it is disastrous and poses an existential danger for Israel.

He is leading a campaign to convince the US Congress to vote on a resolution of disapproval of the deal, which would eliminate Obama's ability to waive sanctions imposed on Iran by the US Congress, a key component of the agreement.

Huge arguments are raging among American Jews about the matter, between conservatives and liberals, hawks and doves, Republicans and Democrats, even rabbis and their congregations. Jewish organisations, community centres and synagogues have become battlegrounds.

On the national level, AIPAC, the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation

mation League have criticised the deal; the liberal J-Street and other, smaller Jewish organisations are supporting it.

American Jewry is structured around the 151 local Jewish federations, which have traditionally had a policy not to engage with divisive political matters - much like the SA Jewish Board of Deputies tried to do during apartheid, when it emphasised its "non-political" mandate - while focusing on unifying aspects like fundraising for Israel, Jewish education and community social services.

But now, 18 federations have broken with this "safe" stance and have come out against the Iran deal, albeit accompanied by fierce internal debate among their members. Some of them have urged Jews to lobby members of Congress to vote against the deal - and by implication, against Obama.

These federations include some of the most powerful, such as Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, Miami and Philadelphia. Many Jewish supporters of Obama are outraged at this. In contrast, the largest of the federations - the New York UJA-Federation - is remaining neutral.

Not everyone sees the American Jewish furore as a bad thing, however. This is typified by a letter-writer to Haaretz, who describes the open split among American Jews as a benefit which is allowing more liberal Jews a voice they have long been denied.

"Finally, the actual splits among American Jews are 'out of the closet'. For the first time, some leaders of the liberal American-Jewish community are feeling brave enough to speak their mind, to say publicly what they really believe... Until now, whenever a Jew spoke publicly against Netanyahu or against Israeli policy, others in the American-Jewish community would accuse the speaker of being anti-Semitic and a 'self-hating Jew'.

"That kind of accusation, and the fear of it, kept liberal Jewish leaders quiet for a long time - on a host of issues... Our non-Jewish friends can no longer assume (as most do) that we, as Jews, support everything Israel does. We do not!!"

There are echoes of this sentiment among liberal members of South African Jewry, many of whom also feel they have been marginalised and effectively silenced by a conservative mainstream Jewish leadership, particularly when it comes to criticism of Israel.

What will it take to bring them also out of the closet?

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BDS’ WHOLE AGENDA IS JEW-HATRED, PURE AND SIMPLE

The BDS has once again shown its true colours. Not in South Africa this time, but in Spain.

The Rototam Sunsplash Reggae Festival, held in Valencia, under pressure from the BDS, disinvited Jewish American singer, Matthew Miller (Matisyahu) from taking part in the festival.

Matisyahu is not an Israeli. He is Jewish and because he is Jewish he was singled out and told that he could not take part in the concert unless he signed a declaration in support of a Palestinian state. No other artist was asked to give views on any political situation in the world.

By singling out Miller, the BDS provided us with confirmation that theirs is not a fight for human rights but rather a quest to pursue the oldest racism known to mankind - that of Jew-hatred.

As the Wall Street Journal so aptly put it on August 18: “Remember the reggae star Matisyahu the next time anti-Israel proponents insist their aim is to promote Palestinian rights, not anti-Jewish bigotry.”

Monessa Shapiro
Glenhazel, Johannesburg




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RECEIVING THE ENTREPRENEUR AWARD A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE

My sincerest thanks for the very great honour which has been bestowed upon me by naming me as the recipient of the 2015 Absa Jewish Entrepreneur of the Year.

My gratitude is all the greater when I reflect upon the distinguished careers of those others who were nominated for this recognition and those who have been its recipient in past years. I was humbled and regard this award as one of the greatest achievements of my career.

In 1989 my brother Saul had a vision and started the business in the construction industry.

In 1994 Saul invited me to join the business after having been awarded the building contract for the domestic arrivals terminal at Cape Town Airport.

Together we became a formidable team. I have a deep emotional bond and friendship with my brother.

This is probably why we have been such a great success by virtue of the support and respect we have for each other and the determination to succeed, as we never had a safety net and failure was never an option.

I need to express once again my thanks and gratitude to my brother for inviting me to join him as it was that opportunity that has given me the platform to rise not only in the corporate sphere, but also in my communal activities within the community in addition to YPO and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Any award of this type is a humbling and gratifying experience, but I am particularly honoured by the fact that the Absa award represents recognition of my achievements by the Jewish community.

It is thus an award that is associated with a very important part of my personal identity and system of values.

I regard it not only as an acknowledgement of my contribution as an entrepreneur and businessman, but as an affirmation of my membership of a broader Jewish society of which I am a proud member.

As one who understands South Africa’s great need for entrepreneurship and the development of business skills if we are to address the country’s crises of poverty and unemployment, I also wish to thank Absa and the South African Jewish Report for creating and promoting an award that acknowledges this vital element of our national economic life.

You may be assured that I shall continue to conduct my business affairs in a manner that justifies the tribute you have paid to me and I accept this award on behalf of my brother and I.

I am extremely honoured.

Paul Berman
Cape Town

YOU MAY CALL THEM ‘ZEALOTS’ BUT I CALL THEM MERELY ZEALOUS!

A friend of mine sent me copy of Jean Lowenstein’s letter in a recent Jewish Report, headlined: “‘Zealots’ proselytise also non-Jews at Norwood Hyper.”

Lowenstein is absolutely right, writing: “As far as I am aware, there is little history of evangelism in Jewish literature.”

In Judaism, there is absolutely no such belief in any sort of proselytising or evangelism.

I thank the letter writer for bringing this to everyone’s attention. Allow me to shed some light on what these young men are doing.

Over 60 years ago the Lubavitcher Rebbe introduced a revolutionary idea known as the “Mitzvah Campaigns”. He called for Jews worldwide to take to the streets and encourage their brothers and sister to do a mitzvah - to go to every last corner [of the world] and spread the message of goodness and kindness.

Whether we see it or not, one mitzvah has the power to “tip the scales” of light over darkness within an individual Jew and, within all of Creation.

He saturated this world with hundreds of thousands of good deeds, smiles, and positivity through his Mitzvah Campaign - from IDF soldiers, to backpackers in Peru, and from college campuses to faraway islands. It gave new light, hope and power to so many. It inspired people to be all that they can be and uplifted them to join in the mission of making this world a better place.

I had the privilege to spend my last year volunteering in the Torah Academy High School, in the most amazing Jewish community in the world, Johannesburg. The high school boys felt responsible for their Jewish brothers and sisters across South Africa and they feel passionate about helping them with an act of kindness.

Before passing judgement on these boys, consider how other teenagers spend their free time! Here we have high school learners spending their free time reaching out, helping people with mitzvot, spreading light, and dedicated to wishing people “Shabbat Shalom” and “Have a nice weekend”. I’ve personally seen hundreds of smiles on faces, these boys brought to Johannesburgers of all ages.

So, with the correct guidance, we must encourage them to continue using their free time for such a special mission. Our youth must stay strong and adamant for the continuity of Judaism. So, zealots you call them? I call them zealous! Fervent, passionate, devout, devoted, committed, dedicated, enthusiastic, eager, keen, energetic, and zealous to make sure there is no Jew left behind. Not to impose, but light up their lamp, so they can now light others. In merit of these deeds we hope to be able to cease and desist quite soon when Moshiach comes to redeem us all.

JJ Duchman
Los Angeles

DESAI HAS TAKEN HIS HATE-MONGERING ONE TREADMILL TOO FAR

The most recent farce and staged incident at Old Eds Virgin Active gym by Muhammed Desai, “chief propaganda minister” for the extremist BDS movement, trying to latch on to any media opportunity, is actually laughable and hinges on the ridiculous.

It makes one remember “the Orange Farm Ball” when the fascists in BDS had to go and collect as many people as they could from Orange Farm [the informal settlement south of Johannesburg] and bus them in to “protest” in Sandton at a Jewish family fun day.

The unsuspecting people from Orange Farm were not even aware of the reasons why they were being used by BDS or what they were protesting about. Perhaps Desai is bored or lacks attention; he feels he has to come up with new ways to pedal his hate and aggression, to divide people and cause friction in our overall peaceful rainbow nation.

Or perhaps he hadn’t done his laundry and really only had one T-shirt to wear to gym. Only one T-shirt with a false message that he knows is insulting and creates controversy and assists in the subliminal spread of radical Islamic ideology.

Perhaps his anti-gay T-shirt or anti-Christian T-shirts were also in the wash. Perhaps his T-shirt condemning the inhumane slaughter of 18 000 innocent people at the hands of Islamic jihadists is still being printed (see: www.thereligionofpeace.com), or perhaps his T-shirt condemning the massacre of innocent Palestinians of Yarmouk in Syria by Islamic extrem-

ists. (Oh, no! They aren’t in Israel so it doesn’t count for his “human rights” watch). The fact that he wore his only “clean” T-shirt and took a media team with him to gym, might be a slight hint that he was not there to use the step-machine to burn off his red velvet cupcake he bought from Woolworths.

It might be a hint that he went with one purpose: to cause chaos and poison a place that represents positive energy, health, and a safe haven - almost a retreat from the hectic lives we lead.

It is bad enough that he tries to turn peace and positive co-existence into chaos and hate; it is bad enough that he tries to destroy and poison university campuses, places of worship, retail outlets and tries to manipulate unsuspecting victims, now he has taken it one treadmill too far.

The previous request by Virgin to gym-goers not to wear T-shirts that had a specific or political message that could be offensive to anyone, was purposefully and maliciously used in the very unscrupulous and conniving game that propaganda minister Desai is skilled at playing.

Unfortunately for him, the rainbow nation, representing peaceful co-existence, freedom of religion, brotherhood and common understanding, won here. He will have to ty again and enter another race.

Sarah Cohen
Johannesburg

This letter has been slightly shortened – Editor.

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

Primed and ready

With the approach of Rosh Hashanah, all Chev organisations, divisions and departments are busy preparing for the impact of the High Holy Days and what is undoubtedly the busiest time of the year for us.

For our Arcadia children it’s always a sensitive season because nothing says “family” quite like Yomtov does. In an ideal world it would be the same for them, but for some this isn’t an option. Where it is, arrangements are being made as I write this column. Otherwise, they will spend the time with friends.

It goes without saying that our central kitchen is busy sourcing best prices, ordering stock and planning menus with traditional, symbolic foods to delight visitors and residents alike. After all, there are 3 000 very special meals to prepare every day. Volunteers and staff at the Selwyn Segal Gift Shop work around the clock preparing beautiful gifts for delivery to the community’s friends and relatives. This impacts our transport department whose vehicles and drivers work overtime to get them delivered. Donations of furniture, household goods and appliances literally double in the month leading up to Rosh



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Hashanah. Our donation stores are delighted to respond to the accelerated requests for collection. Happily, too, our fund-raising team puts in longer hours to handle e-cards and gift certificates and to process financial contributions. It’s customary to give tzedakah before Rosh Hashanah and our community generously responds to the call to help the Chev provide for Jews in need.

While our income peaks over this period, our welfare costs escalate too, and the funds we receive now need to last well into 2016.

Spiritual aspects of the Yamim Tovim cannot be overlooked as our religious services department prepares the residents with shiurim, and the beautiful shuls at Sandringham Gardens and Our Parents Home for services with experienced chazanim and proficient shofar blowers. As always, the community is welcome to join in. It is my sincere prayer that all members of our wonderful community are blessed with a good and sweet New Year. In the merit of your support, may Hashem grant you and your families peace, good health and prosperity. May our partnership continue to thrive! feedback@thechev.org.za

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Achiever Awards showcase vibrancy of Jewish community

Sunday’s Absa Jewish Achievers Awards function was again a most inspiring event, one that showcased some of the very best of what members of our community are achieving. Congratulations to Howard Sackstein and his team at the SA Jewish Report for putting it all together so superbly.

I was especially delighted to see my colleague Tali Nates being honoured for the outstanding work she is doing in Holocaust and tolerance education. Together with Richard Friedman, Director of the SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation in Cape Town, I work closely with Tali in this field, and can thus attest not just to her passion and expertise, but to the remarkable empathy and sensitivity that she unfailingly brings to her work.

The Board is currently collaborating with the Russian Embassy in planning an event to commemorate the role of the Soviet army in liberating the death camps in the closing months of the Second World War. Also involved is Paula Slier, who received the Women in Leadership Award at the Jewish Achievers function. Paula has for many years been employed as an international correspondent for Russian TV, and has further been involved in documenting the experiences of her own family in the Holocaust. Expanding on the theme of identifying with and contributing to South Africa, the Board is working with Chabad Director Rabbi David Masinter, the schools and others in the community in organising the Jewish community float at the forthcoming Heritage Day carnival in Tshwane/Pretoria. The theme of the carnival is the celebration of South Africa’s cultural diversity through each community having its own float to showcase itself. The procession begins in the Pretoria Showgrounds and concludes at the Union Buildings grounds.



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

Our float will feature a model of an ark, (the letters standing for “Acts of random kindness”) containing a library to be donated to Tshwane/Pretoria for a school in the city. Jewish learners are being approached to donate books to the library. The project combines the central Jewish values of education and learning with the importance of contributing to society. We hope very much to see our community turning out in their numbers to take part in what should be a very proud and enjoyable family occasion. We are arranging bus transport for those who require it (contact Jenni at sajbd@sajbd.org).

On Sunday, National Director Wendy Kahn spoke at the departure of this year’s Cycalive team, led by Rabbi Dovid Hazdan and involving grade 11 learners from Torah Academy, Pace College and Moletsane High in Soweto and Israeli learners. We look forward to welcoming them in Durban later this week and meeting them at the traditional welcoming braai organised by the Durban Jewish community. Cycalive is a wonderful initiative, which over the years has brought together many young people from across the social and ethnic spectrum in celebrating their diversity and shared humanity. It was particularly inspiring on this occasion to note Tokyo Sexwale’s comments at the send-off, where he pledged to take the Cycalive example back to the Fifa committee he heads up which has been tasked with monitoring the mending of relations between the Israeli and Palestinian football federations.

• 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 Voices

Jewish Achievers get thumbs up all-round

The glamour, the glitz, the gourmet food, but most of all the acknowledgement of the Absa Jewish Achievers of 2015, made an impact on those who walked away with awards and, of course, on their families. Although not all could win on stage, just to have been nominated, to have been recognised by one’s peers, made everyone a winner. Those who simply came to observe and share in the fun and festivities of the occasion, think very highly of this impressive annual event. Jewish Report spoke to some of the guests as they arrived at Vodaworld.



Unaccustomed to the spotlight, **Graham Kluk** travelled from Durban for the occasion. Husband of Mary Kluk, national chairman of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, he feels the Achievers banquet provides an opportunity for people to get together once a year and celebrate the triumphs and activities of the Jewish community.

“I have been twice before and am very impressed - it’s fantastic.”



Stacey Swartzberg, who was part of the Discovery table, stressed the importance of bringing the Jewish community together in a social setting.

“The Jews of South Africa make a vast contribution to the GDP of the country. It is fantastic that they always give back huge amounts to both the Jewish and general communities,” she said.



Steven Dave is “proudly South African” and even wore a bowtie in the colours of the national flag to identify with this feeling. He says South Africa has provided its Jewish citizens with the opportunity to achieve. “Of course, we have a little bit of tsoris, but let’s not even go there!

“It is always good to recognise and acknowledge the success of entrepreneurs and go-getters,” he stressed.

Jonathan Cooper said an evening such as the Jewish Achiever Awards was sending out a message to the “detractors of Jews and Israel that in this show of unity, we are part of progress and achievement - an important part of society and business.

“The vibe is amazing and this event is unique - something we can claim as our own.”



ChaiFM newsreader **Sasha Star**, who covers worldwide events on radio, including reporting on the Oscars in Hollywood, feels the Absa Jewish Achievers is “basically the Jewish Oscars”.

She described the dinner as elegant and was happy to attend for the first time, with the intention of reporting on the event.

“It is fantastic that members of the community are recognised,” she said



Antony Seeff described the gala dinner as “incredible” and “an event the community should be proud of”.



He said celebrating success was encouraging. “I am proud to be part of this as it is important to get a dose of positivity in this day and age.”



Vicki Kuper, a veteran communal worker for ORT, said the composition of her table was a microcosm of people in South Africa and was an example of ubuntu.

“I now understand what ubuntu means and also why Jews and Afrikaners get on so well together, according to a remark that was passed at our table.”

The effort was sometimes underrated in the greater community - “but with all these people, there has to be something to it”.



Barbara Levy, whose late husband Ivan was in the forefront of leadership in the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and other organisations, said the Achievers was bringing her back into the community for the first time in a long while.

“The event is too wonderful. It brings people together, recognises business and other achievement and, especially with young entrepreneurship, encourages people to stay in South Africa, realising the country still has a lot to offer.”

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Around the Jewish World

BGU MAKES STRIDES IN HIV COMPLICATION TREATMENT

BEERSHEBA-The Campbell Foundation has announced that its first grant of 2015 has been awarded to the Lauren Sciences research team at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev who have already made great strides toward the goal of treating the neurological complications of HIV such as dementia, neuropathy and a number of psychological conditions including depression.

The team are the recipients of a \$100 000 grant that will allow them to continue their research to prove that they can show efficacy by delivery of the HIV medication tenofovir through the blood brain barrier in mice using V-Smart™, a technology developed with New York-based biotechnology company Lauren Sciences.

Thanks to the previous grant from The Campbell Foundation, this research team at BGU was able to overcome the “blood brain barrier” that prevents tenofovir from passing into the brain to fight the disease, making it more effective.

This second phase will test the efficacy of the treatment in a humanised mouse model with the goal to alleviate neurological HIV symptoms and eradicate HIV reservoirs that persist in the central nervous system and brain.

Meanwhile, Israeli scientists have made a breakthrough in researching HIV, the virus that leads to Aids.

Dr Ran Taube of the department of microbiology, immunology and genetics at BGU said his team discovered similarities between HIV and leukaemia.

The discovery will lead to a “revolutionary diagnosis and the key to the clinical solution that will prevent infection with HIV and will destroy the deadly virus,” Dr Taube said.

In collaboration with Dr Uri Rubio of Soroka University Medical Centre, Taube said the research aimed to stamp out Aids and slow the progress of a rare mixed-lineage leukaemia (MLL) that mostly occurs in children. - i24 News

TRAUMA CAN BE PASSED ON THROUGH GENES - STUDY

NEW YORK - A study of Holocaust survivors and their children has shown that trauma can be passed on through genes.

The study, led by Rachel Yehuda from New York’s Mount Sinai Hospital, looked at the genes of 32 men and women who directly experienced the Holocaust - either in a concentration camp or who had to hide during the Second World War.

According to the research, the survivors’ children had an

increased likelihood of stress-related disorders, as well as low levels of cortisol, the hormone that regulates the body’s response to stress.

Yehuda said: “The gene changes in the children could only be attributed to Holocaust exposure in the parents.”

The idea that environmental factors such as smoking or diet can affect one’s offspring via genetic mutations is known as “epigenetic inheritance”.

Yehuda’s team was specifically interested in one part of a gene associated with the regulation of stress hormones.

“It makes sense to look at this gene,” said Yehuda. “If there’s a transmitted effect of trauma, it would be in a stress-related gene that shapes the way we cope with our environment.”

The epigenetic tags representing trauma found on the Holocaust survivors’ genes, matched the tags found on their children’s genes. - Jewish Chronicle

ISRAEL LITERALLY BACK ON THE MAP

PARIS - The company responsible for providing passengers with electronic maps on Air France flights announced that it had added Israel to its computerised flight path screens, after sparking outrage last week by omitting it.

The controversy began when a passenger on an Air France flight sent a photo to the Facebook page of the pro-Israel group Stand With Us showing an in-flight map that did not name Israel.

In the photo of the map, there were only indicators of where the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are, with no indication at all of the State of Israel.

After the original photo was posted, other members of the Facebook page started posting their own photos of Air France in-flight maps without Israel.

In a letter to Air France chairman and CEO Frédéric Gagey, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre’s director for international relations, Dr Shimon Samuels, said that “French members of our centre have sent us reportedly captured shots from the English and French language of an Air France flight-path, taken last week between New York and Paris, and the locations ‘Israel’ and ‘Tel Aviv’ are glaringly absent.”

Panasonic France, the company that manufactures the maps, responded to the Wiesenthal Centre by saying that it had corrected its original error. - Australian Jewish News

Hatzolah launches its Life2Life with a sell-out breakfast meeting



Renowned speaker, writer and Jewish educator, Rebbetzen Lori Palatnik, who was in South Africa last week, shared her personal story, “How I saved a stranger’s life”, with a capacity crowd of men and women at the Wanderers Club in Illovo at a breakfast on Sunday morning, as a guest of Hatzolah Medical Rescue, to launch their latest initiative, Life2Life.

Palatnik told of her decision to donate one of her kidneys to a complete stranger. The rapt audience was enthralled from beginning to end as she shared her journey, concerns, fears and ultimate joy at being given the opportunity to save another’s life, the supreme mitzvah, in its purest form.

Hatzolah board chairman, Lance Abramson, explained that Life2Life was founded to facilitate, educate and raise awareness of blood, platelet, bone marrow and organ donation, particularly kidneys, primarily within the South Africa Jewish community.

In a media release, Hatzolah said the launch event attracted community members from across the spectrum of Johannesburg Jewry.

Sharon Newfield, Hatzolah’s marketing and events coordinator, said she had never expected such a capacity crowd, and had to literally turn people away at the doors. Due to huge public demand, Rebbetzen Palatnik agreed to repeat her talk that evening at Hatzolah head office, to a standing room-only audience.

“This is just the beginning,” said Abramson. “We hope that this new awareness of the need for donations in the community will lead to a tangible outcome, enabling us to do what we do best - save lives.”

In conclusion, he announced that in the audience was a 67-year-old man with three children and six grandchildren, who has been on dialysis for three years, with no suitable match in his family or general databases, with his only hope coming from the Jewish community. Anyone wishing to find out more, or who could possibly assist, was asked to contact Life2Life.

- For more information, contact Life2Life on info@life2life.org.za, www.life2life.org.za or call 0860 222 234.

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KDVP Pre-Primary PTA holds a highly successful bingo evening



Photo: Lisa Meyerthal

Some of the members of the special PTA meeting of King David Victory Park Pre-Primary are Justine Cohen; Tali Machet; Shawn Theunissen; Elana Fine; Nadia Auerbach; and Cherie Machet.

LYNDA ROMAIN, KDVP PRE-PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

On Wednesday August 12, King David Victory Park Pre-Primary School held its annual fundraising event, Blingo Bingo. The hall had a magical feel, excited parents and friends played pick a box and eight lucky winners won prizes valued between R10 000 and R 70 000. Part of the proceeds will be donated to The Malka Ella Fertility Fund. Well done to an effective and very hard working PTA!

Read the South African Jewish Report online
www.sajewishreport.co.za

Little ones learn all about the senses

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Children from Minnie Bersohn Nursery School recently learnt about their senses - hearing, seeing, tasting, touching and smelling. To teach them how important each sense is, Cecil Alexander, a visually impaired man and his dog Chai, came to visit the children. He explained how he lives his life using his other senses.

The children were fascinated by the way Cecil poured a glass of water, chose his clothes and uses technology. This was a very educational experience for the little ones as they learnt that anything is possible.

Cecil Alexander; Kira Levy; Chai; and Jayden Sarkin.



Photo: Michelle Vnokur

KDS learners walk the walk for Yad Aharon

SEAN KORB, HEAD OF JEWISH STUDIES

Yad Aharon last week launched its project to collect as many non-perishables as possible that could be donated to the less-fortunate in our community.

King David Sandton learners were given shopping bags and lists of items requested - and so the quest began. In just under a week, the learners collected an enormous amount of goods. With only a few weeks left until Rosh Hashanah, every parcel counts!



Jayden Levy; Adam Berger; Savanah Robbins; Jake Levin; and Michael Matheson – some of the many learners from King David Sandton, who have donated parcels to Yad Aharon.

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King David soccer derby goes way beyond the end score

GREG HURVITZ

The annual soccer fixture between the King David High Schools recently took place with the matches being split between the two campuses. There is always a wonderful atmosphere when the schools get together and this year was no exception.

The soccer scores from the last few years have gone the way of King David Linksfield across most of the age groups. This year was no different. What is exciting is that girls' soccer is really growing in numbers and skill levels on both campuses.

The scores for the 2015 fixtures:

	KDL	KDVP
U14A boys	3	3
U14B boys	4	1
U15A boys	3	1
U16A boys	4	0
1st team boys	1	0
2nd team girls	1	0

One of the more exciting matches was the under-14A boys' match where KDVP was leading 2-0 at the halftime break. It was only in the second half when KDHSL woke up and scored two quick goals to level the game. Both sides then scored a third to keep the end score a draw.

The 1st team boys' match was also knuckle-biting to the end. The KDVP defenders played a risky offside trap most responsibly which worked for them very often on the night and with a very well coached structure, their passing and building pressure through ball possession was commendable.

However KDHSL had very tight defence to shut down all attacks with KDVP having little time near the KDL goals. KDL showed great prowess near the KDVP goal and was rewarded when Rhett Becker scored a really good goal from a free kick about five metres outside the box.

At the end of it all, there were lots of handshakes and good catching up between the two schools' learners, staff and parents.



Photo: Kyla Smaller

Gabriel Kampel and 1st team captain Aaron Levinthal, attacking the ball in the first team match

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Cycalive, a true unifier in the spirit of ubuntu



Former Cabinet Minister Tokyo Sexwale and board member of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, wishing the Cycalive riders well as they leave the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory in Houghton on their way to Durban.

MICHAEL BELLING

Cycalive - the first project to be endorsed by the Nelson Mandela Foundation - was given a rousing send-off on Sunday as it embarked on the 18th annual relay cycle ride from Johannesburg to Durban, with support from the Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Club and the previously disadvantaged field bands.

The five-day relay cycle ride, which left from the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory in Houghton, has been an official event on the Nelson Mandela calendar for the past few years.

Torah Academy, in partnership with two Soweto schools, Moletsane High School and Pace Commercial Secondary School, were joined by four schools from Israel. Addressing the boys, former Cabinet Minister Tokyo Sexwale, who is also a board member of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, told the cyclists that “it is the spirit of South Africanism you are promoting here, the spirit of uniting our youth”.

Quoting from Nelson Mandela’s A Long Walk to Freedom, Sexwale said no journey could be completed without standing side by side with other people. The challenges would continue, but the boys had to “keep cycling. There are times when you will want to give up, but don’t do it. Think of the man from whose house you departed. The journey must take you to uniting with your fellow riders.”

Sexwale said he was soon going on a Fifa mission to Zurich, Israel and the Palestinian territories in an attempt to resolve the difficulties facing Israeli and Palestinian football, in a

spirit of coming together. The young people of South Africa had inspired him “to help others out there climb more hills”, he said.

Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, dean of Torah Academy, said Cycalive brought together young people from different backgrounds, religions and cultures. Unity was about helping people be “proud, confident and strong in their own individuality and identity”.

He said that 75 per cent of the Cycalive proceeds went to disadvantaged schools in Soweto.

Wendy Kahn, national director of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, said the Board had recently dealt with incidents of intolerance and hate. There had been meetings to consider how to deal with this polarisation and focus on commonalities.

“Today provides an exceptional model for social cohesion, celebrating what unites us and not what divides us.”

Madeleine Fane from Partnership Together (P2G) encouraged the cyclists to achieve a human bridge between people of Israel and abroad.

Dan Zimba, principal of Moletsane High School, said the bus that followed the riders symbolised unity.

“Every one of us has a chance to get on the bus and ride in it. That is what Cycalive is all about.”

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin, principal of the TA Boys’ High, said a prayer for the success of the trip.

A team of cyclists from Elvey Security Technologies also accompanied the 30 grade 11 cyclists as they set off.

What’s On

Today, Friday (August 28)		Wednesday (September 2)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UZLC hosts Isaac Reznik on “Nostalgic Johannesburg”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chev Social Services/CAJE’s “Enrich Your Life” series presents “Breaking the Habit - Understanding Process Addiction” with Tracy Helps and Pinchas Shiel. Venue: Sydenham Shul Hall. Time: 19:45. Cost: R40 (incl light refreshments) Booking: Sharon (011) 532-9616/sharonp@jhbchev.co.za	
Tuesday (September 1)		Thursday (September 3)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WIZO Johannesburg presents food blogger Nida Degutiené, wife of immediate past Lithuanian Ambassador to Israel and SA, sharing traditional recipes, history and customs from Israel and Lithuania. Tea and tasting of recipes. Venue: Home of Romi Rabinowitz, Illovo. Time: 09:30. Cost: R250. For venue details and more information, contact: Nadine (011) 645-2515 / wizojhb@beyachad.co.za		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RCHCC hosts Professor Barry Schoub with an audiovisual presentation, “Triumph Over Epidemics”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R80 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, a/h (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rhcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chabad Seniors’ Club for Men and Women, offers memory enhancement, lectures, refreshments, lunch, iPadLessons, and much more. Free transport. Venue: Chabad House, Savoy. Time:09:00 - 13:00 (Monday through Friday) Information: (011) 440-6600.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UJW Adult Education Division hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the dept of English at Wits, on “The Prodigal Summer” - a novel by Barbara Kingsolver. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW Office (011) 648-1053.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second Innings hosts an outing to the ballet, “Don Quixote”. Venue: The Nelson Mandela Main Theatre, Johannesburg Theatre Braamfontein. Time: 11:00 sharp. Cost: R60 a ticket. (A bus or kombi can be arranged if required.) Enquiries: Booking: Fay Smaller or Laura Sher (011) 532-9701.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CHCC in partnership with JH&GC screens the documentary “Politische Pole Jude”, the story of Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter who will talk after the screening. Venue: Clive M Beck	
Sunday (August 30)		Monday (August 31)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JWBS Quiz Evening. Venue: Simon Kuper Hall, Oxford Shul. Time: 18:30 for 19:00. Cost: R220 pp. Refreshments will be served. Information: (011) 485-5232.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shul in Sandton Central hosts a High Holiday prep at Mincha/Mariv. Time: 17:30. Information: (011) 440-6600.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shalom Seniors Masorti hosts the seniors’ afternoon meeting. The speaker is Peter Jacob with a talk entitled “Memories of Old Johannesburg”. All are welcome. Contact: Esther (011) 485-5619 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday mornings.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UJW Adult Education Division hosts Hilary	

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Furman back in SA, signs deal with SuperSport

JACK MILNER

Dean Furman played his first Premier Soccer League match in South Africa for SuperSport United when he took to the field against MP Black Aces in Nelspruit on Saturday night. The match ended in a 1-1 draw after New Zealander Jeremy Brockie saved the Pretoria-based team some embarrassment when he equalised in the 68th minute. The good news for the team, however, was

the fact that Furman managed to complete the 90 minutes without any fitness issues. The Cape Town-born Jewish player, who has spent most of his life in the United Kingdom, where he plied his trade, signed up last week to play for SuperSport United where he was reunited with former Bafana Bafana coach Gordon Igesund. Igesund opted to play Furman, despite the player’s warning he may be somewhat ring rusty as he had not had a proper pre-season



Dean Furman is unveiled as a new SuperSport United midfielder last week by team CEO Stan Matthews (left) and coach Gordon Igesund.

after leaving English First Division team Doncaster Rovers at the end of June. One other person who was no doubt over the moon that Furman completed the match and showed a decent level of fitness, was Bafana Bafana coach Shakes Mashaba. The South African national side face Mauritania in a 2017 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in Nouakchott on September 5. Bafana, who go into camp on August 30, started their campaign for a finals berth with a goalless home draw against Gambia on June 13. Group M favourites Cameroon await Mashaba’s team in March. Furman has captained the Bafana team in the past, but with Mashaba’s “captain rotation plan” it is not sure if he will keep the armband in the next match. It was Igesund who first introduced Furman into the Bafana team and his first match for the country was a friendly international against Brazil in September 2012. The 27-year-old has 28 Bafana caps and captained the country in six matches, scoring two goals in total. Furman was selected for the final squad of the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations tournament hosted by his home country. In the second group match of the tournament, Bafana convincingly defeated Angola 2-0 and Furman was named as Man of the Match. He is a never-say-die combatant who leads from the front and has always been a superb role-model for his team-mates and all aspiring youngsters.

He played the full 90 minutes in South Africa’s final group game - a 2 - 2 draw with Morocco - which secured Bafana the top spot in the group and ensured their first passage to the quarterfinals of the competition since 2002. The quarterfinal against Mali on 2 February ended 1 - 1 after extra time and Furman had his penalty kick saved as Mali won 3 - 1 in the penalty shoot-out. He was named captain of Bafana ahead of the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Sudan in Durban in November last year, replacing former captain, the late Senzo Meyiwa. Furman made 261 league and cup appearances for Doncaster with 16 goals to his credit. Furman, always passionate about football, was a member of the Chelsea junior team, making it all the way through the ranks until the final cut. From there he moved to Glasgow Rangers. He spent his entire career playing abroad for a number of English clubs, including Oldham United and most recently, Doncaster Rovers. He was apparently offered a new contract at Doncaster but turned it down, as he hoped to join a Premier League side. Furman joined SuperSport on a three-year contract, which was initially a two-year contract with a one-year renewal option. He has regularly indicated he did not see his future with a PSL team, but his options in the UK seemed limited. However, instead of being a small fish in a big pond, in South Africa he is already a big fish in a small pond.

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World News in Brief

Assad: Syria will fight Israel after defeating own rebels

DAMASCUS - In his first public response to recent Israeli airstrikes in Syria, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad told Hezbollah's Al-Manar television network on Monday that Syria would not directly respond against Israel while the civil war in his country continues to rage. Referring to rebel groups seeking to oust him from power, Assad said: "The terrorists operating in Syria are a tool serving the Zionist enemy, and their actions are far more grave and dangerous than the criminal military attacks Israel conducts against Syria from time to time."

The Syrian ruler said that after the rebel groups were defeated, Syria would "fight against Israel and respond to its criminal attacks".

Late last week, the Israel Defence Forces struck more than a dozen Syrian military targets in response to rockets fired from Syria into northern Israel by the Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad terrorist group. The cell that fired the rockets was also targeted and eliminated by the IDF. (JNS.org)