



Esther Gecelter
can start
packing for
'trip of a
lifetime'
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South african Jewish Report

www.sajr.co.za



Photo: Jason Cro

Flying the flag for marriage equality

American Jewish groups celebrated publicly last week Friday after the Supreme Court extended same-sex marriage rights throughout the United States. In recent decades, much of the Jewish establishment has embraced gay marriage as a right equivalent to the others it has advocated, including racial equality, religious freedoms and rights for women. Pictured are supporters celebrating the ruling in Washington, waving their colourful flags and rejoicing. The American Jewish Committee celebrated by packing “109 years” #LoveWins and the rainbow colours into a 140-character tweet. “For 109 years AJC has stood for liberty and human rights,” its tweet said. “Today is a happy day for that proud tradition #LoveWins.” This decision will no doubt pose major theological issues for Orthodox Jewish groups because of the halachic injunction against homosexuality. See page 5 and 6.

Board charges Dlamini for hate speech

The SAJBD has laid criminal charges against former Wits SRC President Mcebo Dlamini for calling Jews “devils”.

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Forty years on, Giora Raviv's killing commemorated

A memorial service was held at the Israeli Embassy to commemorate Giora Raviv, head of security at the embassy, who was killed in the line of duty on April 28, 1975.



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'SA belongs to all who live in it, black and white'

Last Friday - June 26 - marked the 60th anniversary of the famous Congress of the People in Kliptown, Soweto, where delegates from around the country adopted the Freedom Charter.

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Kashered meat - use salt in moderation

After the high price of kosher meat, another controversy regarding kashrut has emerged - this time the salt content of kosher meat due to the salting process involved in kashering.

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Pundits rate Marcus' July ride close to a certainty

Jockey Anton Marcus has broken many records in SA racing. However he could add another to his name if he can win this weekend's Vodacom Durban July aboard Legal Eagle, for his 5th win.

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New Developments

Rentals

Board charges Dlamini for hate speech

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The SA Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) has laid criminal charges against former Wits SRC President Mcebo Dlamini (pictured) for “racist and defamatory comments made against the South African Jewish community last week”.

The Board said that Dlamini, speaking about Jews in a live interview on Power FM on June 23, said, “They are devils. They are good for nothing. They are hypocritical, just like [Wits University Vice-Chancellor] Adam Habib. They are uncircumcised in heart.”

Dlamini’s comments are the latest in a series of offensive public statements he has made about South African Jews over the past nine months. The SAJBD already has a complaint of hate speech against him pending before the SA Human Rights Commission after he proclaimed his admiration for Adolf Hitler on Facebook earlier this year. The new complaint will be added to the existing one.

The Board said it considered the comments he made on Power 98.7 hateful and inflammatory and laid the charges at the Norwood police station last week Friday.

At the University of Limpopo’s Turfloop campus last month, Dlamini again tried to justify his “love” for Hitler in a public address he gave there. Dlamini’s anti-Semitic rants had caused a furore at Wits University where he was SRC president. He was finally deposed in May of this year for threatening a Wits

staff member last year. He was found guilty of misconduct by a Wits disciplinary panel and given a sentence of one year exclusion.

Wits Vice-Chancellor Adam Habib, when Dlamini’s “love” for Hitler was first made public, labelled Dlamini’s Hitler remarks as “racist and offensive in the extreme”.

“Disturbingly they valorise a racist autocrat who was responsible for the murder of millions of people. Valorising such an individual is utterly unacceptable and especially dangerous in a climate where we are experiencing xenophobic attacks,” said Habib.

Dlamini said he was not aware of the criminal charges the SAJBD had laid against him, but his lawyer would establish whether anything he said qualified as hate speech.

“I will respond to them in court,” he said when asked if he stood by his statement, or would withdraw it.

He is still waiting to hear the outcome of his appeal over his axing from Wits, he said.

SAUJS National Chairman Natan Pollack said at the time of the axing that SAUJS was determined to have Dlamini removed, not only from his SRC position, but also from the university.

Dlamini’s retort to his ousting was that he had been removed “by a weak man who is pressured by Zionists”. He also described Wits as “anti-black” and would not apologise for any of his comments.

He maintained that the decision to remove him was not taken by the students who



elected him, but rather by “a kangaroo court protecting white supremacy”. He vowed to continue fighting “these intellectual thugs”.

The initial Facebook profession of his love for Hitler, included such gems as “all white people are racists” and “they have blood on their hands”. He admired Hitler for his “charisma and organisational skills” and maintained that there was an element of Hitler in all whites.

He is also reported to have said inter alia: “Hitler took whites and killed them. Hitler took white people and starved them to death, the same way they did to black people. That’s why they hate him. I love Adolf Hitler for that.”

Justifying his “right” to vent his opinion on Facebook, he maintained: “I am not on the social media platform to nurse Jewish peoples’ feelings”. He wanted to know rhetorically: “Who told them they deserve special treatment?”

“I have seen these arrogant Zionist Jewish kids writing all over Twitter asking where I am going to work. I am not going to be employed by their fathers because the money that they will be paying me with has the blood of the Palestinian children. My conscience won’t allow me to...”

Shabbat Times		
July 3 / 16 Tammuz		
July 4 / 17 Tammuz		
Parshat Balak		
17:10	18:02	Johannesburg
17:31	18:26	Cape Town
16:50	17:43	Durban
17:11	18:04	Bloemfontein
17:02	17:57	Port Elizabeth
16:55	17:50	East London
Fast of Tammuz		
Sunday July 5 / 18 Tammuz		
Fast begins	Fast ends	
05:42	17:47	Johannesburg
06:33	18:11	Cape Town
05:36	17:27	Durban
05:54	17:48	Bloemfontein
06:04	17:39	Port Elizabeth
05:53	17:32	East London

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Parshat Balak

Rabbi Avraham Vigler

Orange Grove Hebrew Congregation

Imagine, upon your returning home from work on a Friday afternoon, your dog greets you with a statement: “It’s already late, hurry up, you will be late for shul.” “Hei doggy,” you stare at him with amazement, “I didn’t know you have a watch...”

Have you heard about the speaking donkey? Yes, a donkey who speaks to his boss. You probably laugh and think to yourself: “Ohi shrek, this can only happen in the movies...”

In this week’s parsha we meet a real donkey, an ass who spoke to her master.

The Torah tells us the fascinating episode of Balak, king of Moav and his profound fear of the Jewish nation. Balak had good reason to fear.

In a burst of inspiration Balak decides to fight this people with a different sort of weapon. Conventional warfare was nothing before this blessed nation. He decides to attack not with his hands, but with his mouth - the power of prayer, or more specifically, the power of the curse.

To this end, he hires the most celebrated sorcerer of the day, Bilaam, who is probably one of the first-known anti-Semites.

Miraculously, his curses were never articulated as they were intended, but as blessings; indeed, some of the most wonderful blessings the Jewish people ever received were from this Bilaam.

Bilaam asks G-d for permission to go and

curse the Yidden. He gets a “no”. He asks again and this time he gets a “yes”. The Talmud says that “chutzpah is effective even against heaven itself”.

On the journey with all the entourage sent by Balak, Hashem wants to teach Bilaam a lesson. Three times he sends an angel: First time, the donkey turns into a pathway, second time it crushes his foot into a wall and the third time with nowhere to go, the donkey crouches down. In return, Bilaam strikes her three times.

And then, “vayiftach Hashem et pi Ha’aton” - Hashem created a miracle and the donkey was given the power of speech. She said: “Meh asiti lach”? What have I done to deserve being hit by you?” Bilaam answered: “Because you made fun of me!”

The Gemorrah says that the donkey then said: “If you can’t kill me without a sword, then how can you kill an entire people with your tongue alone?”

Disgraced, Bilaam tries to disown the donkey, but then she answers: “Halo ani atoncha... But I am your faithful donkey over so many years.”

The message was loud and clear: The power of speech was entirely controlled from above. Nothing would happen without G-d’s consent.

In our generation too, we have our enemies who are trying to use their speeches to intimidate us, such as Iran and the UN. The lesson we learn from the donkey is that all is in the hands of Hashem... We have to put our trust only in Him; our enemies have no more strength than this donkey; when we follow His commandments we can be sure that everything will be fine in the end!

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Jewish Report

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Child abuse: community is urged to stand up and be counted

ELIANA CLINE

The Jewish community has become increasingly aware of abuse within its own quarters - a phenomenon that was, for many years, buried under the carpet. But a forum on abuse organised by Koleinu SA this week, providing a platform to address the issue, was evidence of a lot of communal frustration that still exists around how the community deals with it.

Three panelists, all acclaimed experts in their respective fields, addressed the audience.

Rabbi Avraham Union, a rabbinic judge in Los Angeles who is director of the LA Rabbinic Association’s religious court, heading a task force for abuse victims, emphasised the biblical imperative that obligates individuals to stand up for victims.

“It’s not enough to say 95 per cent of our community is safe. If we don’t look after the five per cent then it’s not good enough.”

Luke Lamprecht, a child advocate, outlined the relational context and psychological workings of an abuser.

“For abuse to occur, there has to be secrecy. These are nice people; anyone sitting in this

room can be one of them.”

He strongly opposed the notion that perpetrators are mentally ill. “These people function highly in all other areas of their life. To claim mental illness abdicates responsibility for their actions.”

Lawyer Sunette Potgieter detailed the available legal options for when abuse has taken place or is taking place.

It was, however, the open forum for questions from the audience which garnered the most emotion and calls for change. With a force and frankness that surprised both the panelists and organisers, the audience expressed their frustration at the lack of visible action and protocols in place within the community.

Issues included the perceived unwillingness of leaders to stand up against influential people who are themselves perpetrators. The recent exposure of Sidney Frankel’s alleged abuse of children in our own community is just one example of how money and status afforded a perpetrator immunity from his actions for many years.

Survivors of abuse also shared their experience within the system and were loudly applauded for their bravery.

While the mood was volatile, letting off steam was not the goal. It was clear that the Johannesburg community was not willing to sweep these issues under the carpet anymore and wanted a commitment from all community leaders to stand up for victims.

They also understood that this cannot be the sole responsibility of organisations. “What can we do to protect our community?” was asked repeatedly.

It was only the power of each of our voices which would change things, Lamprecht said in response: “Abuse will stop when we become the eyes and speak up about things which don’t seem right. It will stop when we make it clear to our leaders that we will not tolerate it anymore and when perpetrators cannot operate easily because the community is constantly aware (of what is taking place).”

Koleinu SA, which organised the event, responds effectively to all forms of abuse and works closely with organisations such as Kidsafe SA, Chevrah Kadisha Social Services and the Teddy Bear Clinic.

It has an anonymous helpline which offers support and referrals to adult victims of abuse. It is also building a database of lawyers who are willing to assist women in abusive

situations, at no cost. Awareness programmes for schools, parents and professionals take place regularly.

Koleinu’s next focus is empowering rabbis to recognise and respond effectively when confronted with a victim of abuse.

“Rabbis are the first point of call in most situations and need to be educated,” says Wendy Hendler, Koleinu SA co-founder.

An independent body to handle these issues is also in the pipeline. “This task force will have clear protocols on how to address these issues and take the appropriate action. These will be developed according to Jewish, legal and psychological guidelines in consultation with field experts,” says Hendler.

Around the Jewish World

LORD JANNER FACES HISTORICAL SEX ABUSE PROSECUTION

LONDON – Greville, Lord Janner will be prosecuted over claims of historical child sexual abuse after a review overturned a decision by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Prosecutors announced in April that the 86-year-old peer would not be charged because of his severe form of dementia. An independent QC has now recommended that the decision should be overruled.

Lord Janner, who was MP for Leicester West for 27 years, denies any wrongdoing and his family says he “is entirely innocent”.

He will face criminal proceedings relating to 22 allegations of historical sexual abuse against nine children during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

The case has been first listed for Westminster Magistrates’ Court on August 7.

It was reviewed under the CPS Victims’ Right to Review Scheme, which allows people to have their cases looked at again regardless of who took the decision at the CPS not to prosecute.

David Perry QC concluded that it was in the public interest to bring proceedings before a criminal court. BBC

RABBI'S CAR SET ALIGHT, DESTROYING PRAYER BOOKS AND TEFFILIN

LOS ANGELES - Security cameras at Chabad of Mt Olympus showed two individuals vandalising a Hyundai Sonata belonging to Rabbi Sholom Rodal, the Chabad's rabbi, at 02:00 on the morning of June 24, according to Rodal as well as a police official.

The two were caught on camera setting the car alight. It was parked outside the Rodal home on a residential street in Laurel Canyon where the home, which also serves as a synagogue, is located. Rodal said prayer books and tefillin that were in the car, were destroyed, but he said nothing was stolen from the vehicle.

“At about two in the morning we heard loud noises and explosions... [they] torched our car,” which was parked in the street, Laurelmont Drive, Rodal said. The rabbi's family was at home at the time.

Lt Alex Vargas of the Los Angeles Police Department Hollywood Division said that police were conducting an investigation into the incident, which did not cause any injuries. No arrests had been made. - Jewish Journal

'OBAMA'S MUSLIM OUTREACH STEMS FROM CHILDHOOD'

WASHINGTON - A new and controversial book by Israel's former ambassador to the US is aggravating the already tense ties between the two countries.

Ally, by MK Michael Oren, which came out recently, has enraged US officials and elicited a stern rebuke from Oren's own party leader.

Oren's memoir focuses on his dual attachment to the country of his birth and the nation he decided to make his home, as well as on the four years he spent as Israel's US envoy.

Ahead of the book's publication, Oren, who is now a member of the centre-right Kulanu Party, penned a series of articles in the US media in which he argued that, while President Barack Obama was basically supportive of Israel, he “deliberately” damaged his administration's ties with the Netanyahu government in order to build better relationships with the Arab world.

The US administration was particularly angered by Oren's theory that Obama has engaged with Muslim leaders because of his deep desire to compensate for his mother's abandonment by two Muslim husbands.

He also claimed that some of the president's Jewish advisers, who are themselves not married to Jews, have a skewed view of the Jewish state.

In addition, Oren criticised the president's view that, despite regular anti-Semitic statements, Iran's

leaders are acting in a “rational” manner.

The administration angrily slammed Oren's narrative. US Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro, described it as “an imaginary account” and explained that Oren “was an ambassador in the past, but he is now a politician and an author who wants to sell books”. - Jewish Chronicle.



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Forty years on, Giora Raviv’s killing commemorated

MICHAEL BELLING

Diplomats and security officials were in the front lines of Israel’s security system, Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa, Arthur Lenk, told a memorial service on June 23 for Giora Raviv, head of security at the embassy, who was killed in the line of duty in Johannesburg 40 years ago.

Raviv died on April 28, 1975, when a mentally unbalanced Jewish South African staff member, David Protter, shot him and took a number of hostages at the Israeli consulate in central Johannesburg.

Lenk said that since Israel’s independence, 16 diplomats had been killed in the line of duty.

Raviv’s widow, Nurit Raviv Dudai, and his two children, son Ori and daughter Ayelet Debby, were brought from Israel for the ceremony by the Israeli foreign ministry.

At the time, Gadi Dror, who was a colleague of Raviv’s, was monitoring the situation outside the building and liaising with General Hendrik van den Bergh, then head of the South African Security Police. The police had surrounded the building.

At one stage, they thought the attack was the work of six Japanese terrorists, an opinion reinforced by the hundreds of shots heard from inside the consulate. Later they found out that Protter had fired all the shots himself, above the heads of the hostages.

The police had also placed explosives around the building and at one stage were contemplating blowing up the entire building.

There was a real fear of a bloodbath, Dror said. The hostages were held for 24 hours and outside they had no idea whether they would live or die; several were wounded.

“Dealing with a super-crazy person was very difficult. At least he did not want to commit suicide and kill all the hostages,” Dror recalled.

In the end all the hostages were released and Dror remained alone with Protter.

Ori Raviv said his father, whom he had never known, was a special person, quiet, modest, an outstanding soldier, who was among the first to enter Jerusalem’s Old City in the Six Day War and was in the first unit to cross the Suez Canal in the Yom Kippur War.

Ori said in 2013 he met Lenk, who had suggested this commemoration. “It is more than



Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa, Arthur Lenk, (left) watches as the family of the late Giora Raviv - son Ori, daughter Ayelet Debby, and widow Nurit Raviv Dudai, plant a tree in his memory in the Pretoria embassy garden.

karma,” he said. He had found closure at the ceremony.

Debby stated that she had never found closure. “It has been 40 years of longing.”

Rabbi Gidon Fox of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation said the family had paid the ultimate price every day for the past 40 years.

We sometimes took the sacrifices for granted, but the trauma was patently evident

even 40 years later.

Asher Goldberg, the cantor of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation, intoned the memorial prayer and Ori Raviv recited kaddish.

The family members lit a memorial flame. At the end of the ceremony they planted a tree and unveiled two plaques in the embassy garden, one in English and the other in Hebrew, in memory of Giora Raviv.

World News in Brief

Israeli affiliate to stop using Orange name in 24 months

JERUSALEM - The French telecommunications giant Orange has signed an agreement with its Israeli affiliate that will allow the termination of their brand licence agreement within two years.

Orange announced the framework agreement on Tuesday, less than a month after its CEO, Stephan Richard, said at a news conference in Cairo that his company would abandon its Israeli affiliate Partner “tomorrow morning” if not for contractual penalties, raising questions about a company boycott of Israel.

Under the new agreement, Orange will pay Partner nearly \$110 million when the brand licence agreement is terminated. Much of that reportedly will go to rebranding Partner’s telecommunications services in Israel.

The two companies will launch a detailed market study to assess Partner’s position within the dynamics of the Israeli telecommunications services marketplace, according to Orange.

“The Israeli telecommunications market study

should provide a clear view to determine the best option for Partner, and we are committed to supporting this objective,” Orange’s deputy CEO, Pierre Louette, said in a statement.

“For Orange, Israel is a strategically important country and we have a long-term commitment to it, including our innovation activities through the Orange affiliates in Israel.”

Louette said the new agreement came after “productive discussions over the past weeks”.

Partner had previously been expected to operate under the Orange name following a new 10-year agreement that was to expire in 2025. Orange is 25 per cent owned by the French government.

The announcement of the new agreement comes two weeks after Richard, in a meeting in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said: “I want to make it totally clear that Orange as a company has never supported and will never support any kind of boycott against Israel.” (JTA)

south african

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Can SA Jewry provide a home for same-sex marriages?



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

When the US Supreme Court ruled last week that same-sex marriage is now legally binding in all 50 states, American Jews celebrated publicly. Surveys show that some 77 per cent of them favour the legitimacy of same-sex marriage - among the highest of all religious groups.

Numerous American Jewish organisations, including representatives of the Reform, Reconstructionist and Conservative streams - which together constitute the majority of religiously identified US Jews - backed the Anti-Defamation League’s argument in support of the court’s position.

The difference between South African and US Jewry regarding acceptance of homosexuality stands out sharply. Gay individuals or married couples in America who want to remain in the Jewish fold have a myriad options in the diverse, large - over five million-strong - community. Whereas in South Africa’s small,

overwhelmingly Orthodox community of 70 000 people, there are few options: Gay Jews are left virtually “homeless” in a Jewish sense, and generally end up looking outside the Jewish fold for a community.

The Reconstructionist and Conservative streams are all but non-existent in South Africa, while the once-vibrant Reform/Progressive stream has shrunk dramatically and has little influence today.

In many places in the United States, there are small, active egalitarian “minyans” - liberal equivalents of the Orthodox shtieblach which have proliferated in Johannesburg - offering complete openness to gay Jews. They are almost unknown in South Africa.

Worldwide, social attitudes on same-sex marriage are changing fast. It has been legal in South Africa since 2006, based on the constitutional right not to be discriminated against because of one’s sexual orientation.

Twenty-one countries allow it, including Belgium, Canada, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Argentina, Denmark, Brazil, England and Wales, France, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Scotland and Ireland. Now the US has joined this group. A decade ago, some two-thirds of Americans were against it. Today, well over

half support it.

Israeli social attitudes are moving in the same direction, and Tel Aviv is already famous as one of the most gay-friendly cities in the world. Yet the legalising of same-sex marriage is still a long way off in Israel because there is no procedure for civil marriage, and all Jewish marriages must go through the Orthodox-controlled rabbinate. However, calls are growing rapidly for change in this realm.

The issue poses a major theological problem for Orthodox Jewry because of the clear halachic injunction against homosexuality. The reaction by Agudath Israel of America to the US court ruling expressed this, warning in a statement about attempts to force any particular religious community to accept same-sex marriages.

This has already happened with Christian groups - a Christian baker in Colorado, for example, has been the subject of an enforcement action for declining to bake a cake for a same-sex wedding.

The Agudah said its members faced “moral opprobrium” and were in danger of “tangible negative consequences” if they refuse to transgress their beliefs. The issue, it says, is not whether all human beings are created in

the Divine Image, or whether they have inherent human dignity: “Of course they are, of course they do. [But] the truths of Torah are eternal, and stand as our beacon even in the face of shifting social mores.”

South Africa’s Jewish community has experienced tough times in the past few decades because of emigration and anxieties about the country’s future. It has shrunk by almost half since its heyday in the 1970s and lacks the diverse range of Jewish options that the US or UK communities provide.

The increasingly religious Orthodox mainstream has become so dominant in the last two decades, that liberal or secular Jews have almost nowhere to go where they feel a sense of belonging.

While the solid growth of the Orthodox ba’al teshuva movement is to be lauded, the unfortunate flipside of its dominance of SA Jewry is the alienation felt among other Jews whose talents and energies would otherwise have enriched the Jewish community.

It is an important challenge to religious leaders: will they find a way to make all Jews feel at home among them? The gay and same-sex marriage issue is not going to go away, but will only increase in importance.

Community Voices

Does Bibi have vision for ME peace?

There is a great deal of controversy surrounding Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his opinion on peace negotiations with the Palestinians. Does he, in fact, have a vision for peace? Some say he has given up trying and others think he has a plan but is not letting on. The SA Jewish Report canvassed several people on their views in this week’s vox pop.



Dov Klatzkin, of Highlands North, says: “First of all we have to ask who should we make peace with and what kind of peace will it be? “Of course Netanyahu wants peace, not war, but it depends on what and with whom. We are not for sale in the making of peace.” In the meantime, Klatzkin said he supported the opinion of Israeli Education Minister Naftali Bennett who says Israel must continue to send through food stuffs and medical supplies to the territories. He believes, like Bennett, that empowering civilians would obviate their desire for war and for building terror tunnels.



Ashleigh Elad feels Netanyahu only wants his own way and to have the popularity of the community. “He needs to get somebody into the process and needs to show his word is his bond.” Elad dreams of an Israel that is not segregated “and in which all can live in harmony”.



Rabbi Ben Isaacson was very firm in his opinion: “I don’t think Netanyahu has a vision for peace with the Palestinians because there is no vision for peace with them. They don’t want Israel to exist and they haven’t changed since 1948 when they rejected the partition plan of the United Nations.”

Netanyahu, says the rabbi, is a follower of the late Menachem Begin, who made peace with Egypt because there was no territorial dispute. But there is no possibility of making peace with the Palestinians.




Barbara Rigden of Hyde Park, believes nobody can tell what politicians are thinking, “but I do believe he has a vision for peace in the distant future. Although there is a lot of antagonism and opposition towards him, I think he has a long-term plan for peace and an eventual solution. I think he is a good prime minister.” Rigden said she believed he had the best interests of Israel at heart.



Dean Cohen, a member of the Waverley Shul Choir, said Netanyahu faced a lot of challenges. “His recent remarks might suggest otherwise, but he wants what is best for Israel. He has always been tough, but acts in the interests of the country.”



Linda Kantor of Gallo Manor, said: “I think Netanyahu would want to make peace to protect Israel”. She is convinced the Israeli prime minister has a plan. “Everyone in Israel is sick of war, but the negotiating partner must be right,” she said.



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The stories about last summer’s Gaza war

The fathers of postmodernism offered the idea that there is not one objective “truth” but rather narratives that we “construct” as our versions of reality based on our backgrounds, agendas and a host of other factors.

The findings of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) report on the 2014 Gaza war; the reports Israel and Israel-friendly groups published; and the varied news stories that covered them, offer wildly different versions of what actually occurred last summer during Operation Protective Edge (as Israel called it) and who was at fault. They all present the perfect case study for a constructivist postmodern philosopher.

The reports

Mary McGowan Davis, director of the much awaited UNHRC document and a former justice of the Supreme Court of New York, said that her group tried very hard to be even-handed, and that there was no bias in its findings.

The report found that both the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) and Palestinian armed groups, committed “serious violations” of international human rights law that may amount to war crimes. And Israel supporters say the report still focused more on Israeli wrongdoing, including putting responsibility for the conflict on Israel’s “protracted occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip”. The UNHRC will vote this week on whether to adopt the report’s findings.

In contrast, the Israel-friendly reports, including one by the Israeli government and another by a high level military group, found that the escalation of attacks on Israel by Hamas and other terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip justified Israel’s military response under international law and maintained that the IDF upheld “the highest standards of international law”.

They generally found that Israel had sought to avoid a conflict for months despite rockets being fired at civilians, and that it was ultimately forced into a defensive war. These groups said that deliberate targeting of Israeli civilians by Hamas and Hamas’ use of Palestinian civilians as human shields were clearly war crimes on the sides of the Palestinians.

The media coverage following the reports

The New York Times ran an op-ed piece by Richard Kemp, a retired British Army colonel, who was part of one of the high-level, Israel-friendly commissions, who called the UNHCR report “flawed and dangerous”, noting that Hamas actually sought to cause large numbers of casualties among its own people to bring about both international condemnation and heavy diplomatic pressure on Israel.

What a vastly different view to the page of articles in The Star last Wednesday (June 24) titled “The UN report on Israel’s Gaza war: What you need to know”. In an article by Professor Jerome Slater from the State University of New York at Buffalo, he said that the UNHRC report was “inappropriately” balanced and failed “to tell the truth” - including that Israel committed war crimes to maintain its repression of the Palestinians and Hamas committed war crimes to end that repression.

Slater compared this to the courage of Amira Hass whose article in the Israeli press talked about the “Jewish killers and torturers” who live in Israeli society and who are proud of their deeds. The Star also selected a piece investigating the psychological trauma endured by Gazans as well as the death and destruction wreaked by the Israelis.

Changing the story

For our own South African community, who are mostly Zionists with a deep sympathy for Israel but who live in a country whose media tell “the facts” through a lens that is very critical of Israel, it is easy to throw up our hands in despair and keep reiterating our own views.

We have to do better than that, however. If we want to powerfully assert our position amidst a cacophony of loud voices who are assured they own “the truth”, we first have to really hear what they are saying.

We need to embrace the narratives of our opponents in order to be convincing with our own. In any battle - of words, of views or of the sword - it is only when a party feels the other side is truly listening, that the platform can be laid upon which enemies are able to sit and talk about a possibility for peace and compromise.

But I’m a postmodernist and that is just my version of the story.

– Vanessa Valkin, Editor



A same-sex marriage supporter celebrating in San Francisco following the Supreme Court ruling on gay marriages, last week Friday.

Orthodox Jewish groups brace for consequences of gay-marriage ruling

RON KAMPEAS
WASHINGTON

The name that keeps coming up when Orthodox Jewish groups consider the consequences of last week’s US Supreme Court decision extending same-sex marriage rights to all states, has little to do with Jews or gays.

Bob Jones University, the private Protestant college in South Carolina, lost its tax-exempt status in 1983 when the Supreme Court ruled that its policies banning interracial dating on campus were “wholly incompatible with the concepts underlying tax exemption”.

Orthodox Jewish organisations, several of which publicly dissented from the Jewish community’s broad endorsement of the high court’s decision, now worry that similar consequences could befall Jewish organisations that decline to recognise gay marriage.

“It remains to be seen whether gay rights advocates and/or the government will seek to apply the Bob Jones rule to all institutions that dissent from recognising same-sex marriage,” Nathan Diamant, the Washington director for the Orthodox Union, said in an e-mail.

The groups point to an exchange in April between Donald Verrilli, the Obama administration solicitor general and Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, who asked whether a school could lose its tax-exempt status if it opposed gay marriage.

“I don’t think I can answer that question without knowing more specifics, but it’s certainly going to be an issue,” Verrilli replied. “I don’t deny that. I don’t deny that, Justice Alito. It is going to be an issue.”

How much of an issue is what is now concerning Jewish groups. Will Jewish schools lose their tax-exempt status if they don’t recognise gay couples? Could they become ineligible for government grants? Or face discrimination lawsuits for teaching the traditional Jewish perspective on homosexuality?

Abba Cohen, who directs the Washington office for Agudath Israel of America, called the court’s ruling an “ominous” sign.

“When an impression is given that religious views are bigoted and are vilified, and that [their adherents] really should be given the status of second-class citizens, once you’re dealing in that kind of atmosphere, you don’t know what kind of disadvantages and disabilities people will suffer,” Cohen said.

After the court’s decision was released on Friday, an array of Jewish groups were rejoicing, including several that had joined briefs in favour of same-sex marriage. But the Orthodox groups - including Agudah, the OU and the Rabbinical Council of America - expressed worry.

“We are deeply concerned that, as a result of today’s ruling, and as the dissenting justices have pointed out, members and institutions of traditional communities like the Orthodox Jewish community we represent may incur moral opprobrium and risk tangible negative consequence if they refuse to transgress their beliefs, and even if they

simply teach and express their religious views publicly,” said a statement from Agudah, which had filed an amicus brief opposing same-sex marriage.

The justices themselves acknowledged the possible fallout for religious groups. Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority, said the First Amendment protected religious groups that wished to advocate their view that same-sex marriage is illegitimate. But in their dissents, Chief Justice John Roberts and Clarence Thomas said such protections were insufficient.

“Hard questions arise when people of faith exercise religion in ways that may be seen to conflict with the new right to same-sex marriage...” Roberts wrote. “There is little doubt that these and similar questions will soon be before this Court. Unfortunately, people of faith can take no comfort in the treatment they receive from the majority today.”

Marc Stern, counsel for the American Jewish Committee, which also filed an amicus brief in favour of same-sex marriage, said immediate consequences were unlikely at the federal level. But on the local and state levels, there would be challenges, Stern said, especially in areas where the gay community had a strong political presence.

“Will a state or city official take the decision to remove a tax exemption? In San Francisco, it’s a possibility. In New York City, it might happen,” said Stern, who pointed out that he was speaking as a legal analyst and not expressing the AJC’s views.

Another potential challenge cited by Diamant is whether groups that reject gay marriage might become ineligible for government grants. Diamant cited a debate that erupted during the administration of George W Bush a decade ago over whether drug rehabilitation programmes run by proselytising religious groups should be eligible for funding through the White House’s faith-based initiative.

“We also can anticipate a fight akin to what we had in the context of the Bush faith-based initiative - whether institutions must recognise same-sex marriage to participate in government grant programmes,” Diamant said.

The Agudah’s Cohen wondered whether Jewish adoption agencies might be prohibited from limiting placement to heterosexual couples, or if schools run by religious groups that reject homosexuality could be subject to discrimination lawsuits.

“If you teach what the Torah says about homosexuality, and you admit all kids to your schools, are you creating a hostile environment?” he asked, noting the possibility that some of the children might have same-sex parents or, as they grow older, realise their own orientation is gay.

Rabbi Jonah Pesner, director of the Reform movement’s Religious Action Centre and a supporter of the Supreme Court ruling, said such concerns were overblown.

“We will continue to advocate for a healthy balance for religious institutions honouring their traditions and values and needs for a society to protect and defend all people,” Pesner said. “It’s important that faith groups are able to treat people equally and uphold their traditions.” (JTA)

‘SA belongs to all who live in it, black and white’

DAVID SAKS

Last Friday - June 26 - marked the 60th anniversary of the famous Congress of the People in Kliptown, Soweto, where delegates from around the country adopted the Freedom Charter as the basis for a future democratic, non-racial South Africa.

On the preceding Tuesday evening, at the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies held a special commemorative function to celebrate this milestone event, which SAJBD President Zev Krengel described as the bed-rock of the new, democratic South Africa.

Speakers included former President Kgalema Motlanthe and veteran anti-apartheid activist Leon Levy who, on behalf of the trade unions, had been one of the five original signatories to the Charter. Among the dignitaries present was Johannesburg Executive Mayor Parks Tau, who gave a warm introductory message, and Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa Arthur Lenk.

Levy described his involvement in the countrywide process of consultation that preceded the drafting of the Charter, and his memories of the Kliptown gathering itself, which carried on its business despite banning orders, arrests and massive police harassment and intimidation on the day itself.

The Freedom Charter, he said, was “crafted from thousands of demands written on scraps of paper at hundreds of meetings held in factories and farms, townships, rural areas, universities and wherever people lived or worked”.

After its adoption, the Charter was at the centre of the four year-long Treason Trial. Levy himself was one of those put on trial, and eventually acquitted.

“I can bear witness to the incredible legal effort to brand the Charter as subversive. It was not, and in its own right it endures as a

democratic beacon which proudly belongs to all of us,” he said.

Motlanthe said that one of the most significant ways in which the Freedom Charter differed from other historic documents heralding a new era in human affairs, such as the Magna Carta, was that it came about as “an inclusively shared vision” involving all the people and not just the social and intellectual elite.

“South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white”, was the famous opening statement which Molanthe said showed how, in adopting this inclusive approach, the ANC was in many ways “evolving in opposite ways to the popular sea of Africanist consciousness engulfing the African continent”.

In choosing this course, the ANC was transcending narrowly-focused racial claims in favour of a progressive and humanist nationalism that embraced the entire population. This inclusive form of nationalism, he said, was “the highest form of social cohesion, where what unites us is much stronger than what divides us”.

Motlanthe took the opportunity to congratulate members of the Jewish community who had “sacrificed so much for the liberation of South Africa”, including making a sterling contribution to the Freedom Charter itself.

“It goes without saying that all those Jewish souls were men and women who had learnt from history. Motivated by the long history of anti-Semitism, their consciousness would not hear of human oppression in any way, shape or form,” he said.

Tau said he had been engaging extensively with the Jewish communal leadership in recent weeks on ways in which his office and the Jewish community could work together in realising the core aims of the Freedom Charter, particularly in promoting socio-economic equality.

Zev Krengel gave the welcoming address and closing remarks.

\$11 million Jewish cultural centre to be built in Paris

JTA

PARIS – An \$11 million Jewish cultural institution will be built in Paris, the city’s mayor and the oldest existing Jewish organisation in France announced.

The European Centre for Judaism will be built in the 17th arrondissement, or district, in northern Paris and is set to open in 2017, according to the announcement on Sunday by Mayor Anne Hidalgo and Joel Mergui, the president of the Consistoire Centrale, the body responsible for providing French Jewry with religious services since its foundation in 1808 under Napoleon I.

“I wouldn’t want us to leave for the summer vacation and close this especially tragic year for France and for the Jewish community without being able to provide a note of hope,” Mergui told the Liberation daily. He said the centre would operate from “a large building situated in an area of Paris where a large Jewish community has developed.”

Hidalgo attended a fundraising dinner on Monday at the seat of the Paris municipality along with French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve and officials from the European Jewish Congress under Moshe Kantor, who has helped to realise the centre’s construction.

The institution, which is intended to serve as an academic centre as well as a cultural institution, will have a synagogue, conference halls, exposition space and offices, according to Liberation. Just over a quarter of the \$11 million estimated cost will be paid in subsidies by government offices. The City of Paris leased

the land for the centre, which will be among the largest opened in Western Europe in recent years, free of charge.

The centre’s opening comes at a time of record emigration from France by French Jews, partly because of violent anti-Semitism that has led to the slaying of 12 people since 2012 in attacks attributed to French Islamist terrorists targeting Jewish institutions. About 20 000 French Jews have left for Israel since 2012.

“It would’ve been easy to give up on this project and say that Jews are leaving,” Mergui said. “I want to convey a different message to France and its Jews: We determine our own future.”





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CLAIMS CONFERENCE CHILD SURVIVOR FUND

Claims Conference negotiations with the German government have resulted in a fund for certain Holocaust survivors who were children at the time of their persecution. The Child Survivor Fund will issue one-time payments of €2,500 to eligible individuals who apply to the program. Eligibility is open to those born January 1, 1928 or later AND who were persecuted as Jews in the following circumstances:

- (I) in a concentration camp; or
- (II) in a ghetto (or similar place of incarceration recognized as such by the German government); or
- (iii) living in hiding or under false identity or illegality for a period of at least 6 months in Nazi-occupied territory or in Axis countries.

Individualized application forms were mailed to certain survivors who have received previous compensation payments from other programs. If you received an individualized application form in the mail, please complete it and return it to the Claims Conference.

If you believe you are eligible for the Child Survivor Fund and did not receive an application in the mail, you may obtain an application at www.claimscon.org/childsurvivor and return it to the Claims Conference. Information about the program is also on this website.

If you have submitted an application and have received an acknowledgement from the Claims Conference, you need not take any further action. If you have submitted an application, and have not received acknowledgement within 8 weeks of submitting it, please contact the Claims Conference.

Applications must be submitted by survivors. If an eligible survivor applies and subsequently passes away, the surviving spouse is entitled to payment. If there is no surviving spouse, the child(ren) of the eligible child survivor is entitled to the payment.

Hardship Fund

The German Government has recently restated that Jewish Nazi victims cannot receive a Hardship Fund payment if they were part of an organized evacuation. However the German Government clarified that this restriction only applies to claimants who were themselves the subject of an organized evacuation. For further information contact the Claims Conference.

There is no cost to apply to any Claims Conference program.

For information contact:
Claims Conference
1359 Broadway, Room 2000
New York, NY 10018, USA
+1-646-536-9100
Email: info@claimscon.org www.claimscon.org

The Claims Conference has appointed an Ombudsman. To contact the Office of the Ombudsman, please email Ombudsman@claimscon.org or write to The Ombudsman, PO Box 585, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113, USA.

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Kashered meat - use salt in moderation

SUZANNE BELLING

After the high price of kosher meat, another controversy regarding kashrut has emerged - this time the salt content of kosher meat because of the kashering thereof, and, particularly in the case of sausages and processed meats, the additional salts, like saltpetre (necessary for colouring) and MSG.

Reader Sonja Bulkin highlighted this in her letter to the SAJR (see letters page), pointing out the dangers of excessive sodium intake.

Kosher butcher Ian Lurie, director of Nussbaums, stressed that halachically, meat had to be salted in coarse salt for one hour “to get the blood out” in order to comply, but he added that his meat was rinsed three times in buckets to wash out as much salt as possible.

“With regard to our hamburgers, Viennas and polonies, we use less salt in our recipes to counterbalance the higher salt content.”

Although the Beth Din has not been asked to change policies on salt usage for health reasons, Rosh Beth Din Rabbi Moshe Kurtstag, told Jewish Report: “We are quite happy to be accommodating and to lower the salt content, providing there is no contravention of halacha.”

Trevor Wainer, manager of Maxi’s Discount Butchery, feels people sensitive to salt - which includes saltpetre - could avoid processed cold meats in favour of roast beef if they were worried about the salt content. “Red processed meats tend to be higher in salt content because of the pickle mix and sodium nitrate we use. With fresh meat, one can always wash

away the salt.

“However,” Wainer added, “we don’t have many complaints and we sell tons of processed red meat.”

Cape Town doctor, Sol Lison, warned about consuming too much salt if one suffered from hypertension. This can aggravate the condition,” he said.

He advised that meat be thoroughly soaked and one should not add salt to food. “One should avoid Viennas and all forms of sausage and processed meat over which one has no control and never use more on food which already has been seasoned.

“It is difficult to avoid salt altogether, but one can tolerate 2,6 grams - about one teaspoon of salt - per day. Salt should not be added to prepared food,” he said.

Johannesburg dietician Shirley Norman said that kashered meat should be repeatedly rinsed to remove most of the salt. “Rinse at least two or three times and, with chicken, remove the skin before cooking as one finds most of the salt on the surface.”

She advises consumers to buy bigger cuts of meat - “do this rather than buy cubes as then there is a bigger surface of salt. One can always cube a large cut of meat at a later stage.”

Cooking in gravy further removes salt, “but don’t eat the gravy with the meat”, Norman said.

She also warned of the dangers of a high salt intake which included heart and kidney problems, stroke and high blood pressure.

Agreeing with the doctor, she said salt should be cut down to one teaspoon per day.

Glenhazel mikveh to get a complete makeover

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Glenhazel mikveh, built in 1985, is to receive a complete refurbishment.

In a media release Yeshiva College thanked the “generous donor” who had made the makeover possible.

At a ground-breaking ceremony held last week Thursday, Rabbi Avraham Tanzer, rosh yeshiva of the Yeshiva College campus, said: “The mikveh is one of the sole things that we have in Judaism, which speaks only of the future; the concept of mikveh is about tomorrow, it is an investment in generations yet unborn.”

The ground-breaking ceremony therefore marked the beginning of the Glenhazel mikveh’s “transformation into a top-class modern facility that will once again serve the women of the community for generations to come,” he said.

The Glenhazel mikveh was the first in Johannesburg that was built outside of the Yeoville area.



Carol Rod, Melissa Chipkin and Glynnis Sklar.

“It has served the Glenhazel community for 30 years, and provided many women with the convenience and ability to keep the laws of family purity, a basic foundation of the building of a Jewish family,” the media release added.

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TA in Johannesburg hosts ‘Temimim’



OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Torah Academy in Johannesburg was host to “Temimim”, yeshiva students from around South Africa over “Shabbos Achdus”, a unity Shabbos across the country.

The school’s shluchim (emissaries), “JJ” Duchman and Mendel Zaltzman, worked along with the New York-based Vaad Hatmimim Haolomi to arrange for the talmidim (students) of Torah Academy to be joined by the students of Machon Lehora’oh yeshiva in Pretoria, as well as shluchim to Cape Town, Sydenham Shul and Chabad House.

Dozens of bochrin (Torah students) from around the country, converged on the school’s campus for an unforgettable Shabbos spent with scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Shais Taub.

Kicking off with a breakfast and a talk by Rabbi Taub on Friday morning, the day continued with mitvtzaim - outreach by the participants, including putting on tefillin with Jewish men in public areas.

The early start of Shabbos allowed for a long unified seudat Shabbos around beautifully set tables, which stretched into a late night farbrengen (talks) with Rabbi Taub.

Shabbos day was packed with shiurim, spirited davening, singing and dancing. The talmidim paired up with baalei batim (volunteers) to learn Chassidism and joined in multiple farbrengens around the Torah Academy campus.

The Shabbos coincided with Gimmel Tammuz, the 21st yearzeit of the Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

Incredible season for KDL’s 1st 15

GREG HURVITZ, HEAD OF SPORT

King David High School Linksfield rugby has once again enjoyed an incredibly successful season. We surpassed 2014’s triumphs by winning all the finals.

What stood out for KDL rugby in 2015 was an increased focus on being a mensch on the sports field. The school was complimented by all sectors after the finals for its conduct and appearance on and off the field; the League chairman of Pirates acknowledged that KDL had the largest support of any final in the competition.

The rugby department fielded seven teams for the first time in many years. In total we played 61 matches, winning 43 with a win ratio of 70,5 per cent - an increase of 15 per cent over 2014.

The 1st XV won nine out of 11 games, losing only narrowly to Northcliff High School and then to St John’s College. However, more pleasing than these statistics was the fact that in this year’s finals, every team managed to play the reserves, emphasising the impor-

tance of including as many players as often as possible.

The sense of community and collective victory for the school was experienced by all.

The scores in the finals were:
U14 vs Bryanston - KDL won 52-5
U15 vs Bryanston - KDL won 38-5
U16 vs St Peters - KDL won 18-5
1stXV vs Bryanston - KDL won 33-0

King David High School Linksfield has been promoted to the Pirate’s Challenge A section for 2016 and 2017 and is aiming to field eight teams next year. In this league we will compete against Fourways High, Randpark High, Heronbridge and Northcliff High.

“We are very proud of the achievements, knowing the incredible effort that has gone into obtaining these successes; we remain very humble in victory aware of the continuous challenges we face on and off the field. Our preparations are already well underway for the 2016 season with sponsorship all but secured.”



Special siddur ceremony at KDVP

CINDY MORRIS

Last Sunday morning, the grade 2 learners at King David Victory Park Primary had a special and amazing siddur ceremony in the Victory Park Shul.

Each learner was presented with their own siddur, inscribed with a message from their parents. The ceremony marked their milestone of being able to read and daven from a siddur and the children showed their knowledge and enthusiasm for davening.

The children performed magnificently and made both teachers and parents very proud.



When KDL was turned into a living art gallery...

JODI STARKOWITZ

The grade 9 learners of King David High School Linksfield, for their art and drama practical exams, turned the school into a living art gallery. Learners were divided into groups and were given an artwork which they had to reinterpret into a living artwork, which they could perform anywhere on the school grounds.

Artworks ranged from “Song of the Pick” by Gerard Sekoto to “The Scream” by Edvard Munch. Learners took the bull by the horns and put in hours of work for their projects. Well done to Sarah Sutherland, the drama teacher, and Tracy Nortje, the art teacher, on a unique concept and to the grade 9s for their enthusiasm.



“Song of the Pick” artwork done by grade 9 learners – Juliana Bent; Liron Sharon; Jaimee Bayhack; Saul Mayers; Ethan Stein; and Dylan Jacobson.

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Mad, beautiful, vibrant Israel - our eternal home

FROM THE BELLING TOWER

You have to have chutzpah to live in Israel. In fact, you even need it while visiting the Jewish state and travelling El Al. And you have to have a big mouth to get anywhere.

Luckily, when being questioned by El Al security at OR Tambo Airport in Johannesburg, I first used it when asked: “Do you have any weapons?”

“Only my mouth,” I replied, which is my stock answer when travelling El Al.” Tough as the security peeps are, it never fails to raise a smile.

And on the plane going over, I had to apply this finely honed weapon of mine.

The cabin crew was not the most accommodating, especially one tall blonde whom I asked to help me take down my hand luggage from the rack – I’m not the tallest of people. “Not my job,” she retorted, but then did it grudgingly.

When it was time to put the case back, she confronted me with: “Now we will put it back together - one, two, three...” I didn’t move, but said, “Perhaps I had better tell you I had a very serious operation recently and cannot pick up anything.” Describing my operation graphically, she hastened to assist, her tough demeanour withering.

This very recent visit to my favourite place on earth was my seventh. But this time it was different. No special privileges, no transport or



tours laid on. No VIP treatment.

All my previous trips had been to attend media conferences, fact-finding visits and briefings for the South African media teams who daily have to reply to criticism of Israel.

I went to attend the wedding of my niece, whose husband is Israeli, although both of them are from Melbourne. Having lived in Israel, Hayley did her homework and sourced one of several beautiful wedding venues - this one in Petah Tikvah. Everything is laid on at the venue - catering, band, photographers, a chuppah of natural roses, restrooms which

provide anything the wedding guests might have forgotten, natural gardens and food and music from 19:00 to 02:30.

The kosher menu offered every conceivable item including steak that had been porged to comply with kashrut, and indescribable desserts.

I was also not prepared for the totally casual atmosphere of a chiloni (secular) wedding, although I delighted in the ululating of the Sephardi women.

After midnight, sandwiches and coffee were served before the (older) guests boarded the buses back to

their hotels. For the first time I discovered the doors opened the other way in Israel; I kept closing myself in the toilet and could never open my cupboard.

I made for the driver’s seat in every taxi, my expat SA friend and I took. After eight years, she still gets caught. We gave the taxi drivers back to front directions, one of whom muttered “meshugenahs” under his breath.

But there is one thing that never changes. Yerushalayim, the eternal City of Gold. I even recalled some of the same beggars, who shout insults

at you if they are not satisfied with your contribution.

I loved shopping among the residents in the supermarkets where everyone talks to everyone. I practised my minimal Hebrew but was stumped when I received a torrent of words in reply.

Israel is like no other country. I hate that “they” hate us. We are the bravest nation on earth. And I have to confess that, every time I saw one of the young soldiers, who smile as if they have no care in the world, the tears ran down my cheeks.

World News in Brief

Young Israeli dies from wounds suffered in West Bank shooting

JERUSALEM - The young Israeli man critically injured in a drive-by shooting by Palestinians in the West Bank, has died.

Malachi Moshe Rosenfeld died on Tuesday afternoon, less than a day after the car he was a passenger in, with three other men, came under attack on a major West Bank road near the Shvut Rachel and Shiloh settlements.

The victims, all in their 20s, were returning to their homes in the Kochav Hashahar settlement after playing basketball.

The driver and two other passengers also were hospitalised with injuries.

Police said that two Palestinian attackers fired on the car after waiting at the side of the road for an Israeli vehicle to pass. At least 15 bullets hit the car, Ynet reported, citing an initial investigation. The attackers fled the scene and are at large.

The road is used freely by Israelis and Palestinians.

Photos of the bloody interior of the car were circulated on social media.

“Attempts to attack us do not halt even for a moment,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday morning at the start of his meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni, adding that the Shin Bet security service and the Israel Defence Forces had foiled dozens of terrorist attacks since the start of the year and over 200 since 2014.

“The fact that up until now, the Palestinian Authority has not condemned these attacks needs to bother not only us, but also the international community as a whole. Those who do not take an unequivocal stand against terrorism cannot wash their hands.”

Two Palestinian terror groups, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Fatah

al-Intifada, claimed responsibility for the attack, Haaretz reported.

Rosenfeld underwent surgery on Monday night at Shaare Zedek Medical Centre. His father, Eliezer, had called on Israelis to pray for his son.

An older son, an Israel Air Force pilot, died in 2002 during a trip in the Judean Desert.

Also last week Thursday, an Israeli Border Police officer shot a Palestinian man after he rammed through a checkpoint while shouting “Allahu Akbar,” or “G-d is greatest.” The attacker was taken to Shaare Zedek in moderate condition, where he was treated for a bullet wound to his stomach. (JTA)

Dutch Supreme Court allows extradition of wanted Israeli rabbi

AMSTERDAM - The Dutch Supreme Court has authorised the extradition to Israel of a rabbi wanted there for alleged sex crimes.

The court made its ruling on Tuesday on Eliezer Berland, a Breslov Chasid who is suspected of sexually assaulting several of his female followers, including one minor. It is not known when he will be deported.

Berland denies the allegations. He was apprehended in Amsterdam last September during a layover at Schiphol Airport on his way from South Africa to Ukraine. Since fleeing Israel in 2012, he has lived in Morocco, Zimbabwe and Switzerland.

Several dozen devout followers from Israel followed Berland, founder of the Shuvu Bonim seminary, and settled in the Netherlands to be near their spiritual leader. He was free on bail pending his extradition.

Berland opposed his extradition on the grounds that the alleged assaults happened in the West Bank and that Israel did not have jurisdiction there, the French news agency AFP reported. (JTA)

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Esther Gecelter can start packing for ‘trip of a lifetime’

CINDY KREE AND BEV GOLDMAN

One of the highlights on the annual Union of Jewish Women’s calendar is the announcement of the winner of the much anticipated “Bobba/Zaida” trip.

On Wednesday June 24, at the weekly UJW Friendship Club lunch, Elaine Katz, convener of the project, announced that Esther Gecelter, a regular attendee of the lunch club, had won.

Gecelter, who has not seen her Toronto-based granddaughters for 12 years, was overjoyed and spoke lovingly of them through her tears. When she last saw them, they were toddlers and she has missed out on watching them grow into young adults.

Heart-warming letters from the family were read out and there was barely a dry eye among those present.

In her address, Katz described the reality with which so many elderly members of our community live every day - that of family members having emigrated and being left behind.

In response to this, the UJW initiated its outstanding “Bobba/Zaida” project and each year invites applicants from the community to participate.

This project affords a wonderful opportunity to a bobba or zaida to meet grandchildren and see children whom they have not seen for



Elaine Katz (co-convener of the “Bobba/Zaida” trip); Ingrid Woolf (UJW social worker); Esther Gecelter, winner of the “Bobba/Zaida” competition; Leo Gecelter; and Jonathan Gecelter. In front: Bev Cohen.

many years, due to financial constraints.

In addition to receiving a return ticket to visit family anywhere in the world - which is sponsored by an anonymous donor - the winner is also presented with spending money, classy luggage, sturdy shoes, elegant clothing, and for the women, lingerie, a hairdo and a manicure. Gecelter will be going to Toronto.

It is a dream come true, and is all made possible by the extraordinarily generous sponsors of all the prizes who have supported the UJW since the inception of the project.

---A column of WIZO South Africa---

WIZO scoops Einat Wilfe for SA talks



Save-the-date! International spokesperson for Israel, Dr Einat Wilf, will be addressing audiences in Johannesburg on November 18 and 19. She will also be the prestigious guest at WIZO’s National Triennial Conference in Cape Town on Saturday night, November 21.

Dr Wilf has an impressive list of accomplishments, which include being appointed foreign policy advisor to (then) Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres; to holding various portfolios in the Knesset; to receiving degrees from Harvard, Cambridge and INSEAD in France; and to publishing three books that explore key issues in Israeli society.

She is currently addressing the issues of the “War of Words” and BDS that pose a real threat to Israel.

WIZO conferences - and we invite all WIZO members to attend either as delegates or observers - reinforce our optimism and commitment to our wonderful projects in Israel, for example Ironi Carriera - the school with such a big heart!

This school is a diagnostic treatment and rehabilitation centre for delinquent youth from dysfunctional homes. The youth are taught basic vocational skills in fields such as hairdressing, videography and cooking and a team of professionals attends to their psychological and emotional needs.

The centre is often the “last stop” for young people who have been expelled from all other learning institutions. They obtain a matric, learn a profession and earn money by baking biscuits, cutting hair, making signage for street signs, and so on.

The school manages to create an alternative environment that strengthens and plants the seeds of hope and dreams in the students. Often they are the only breadwinners in their family. Once they graduate, they receive a certificate from the Israeli Ministry of Labour and are able to earn a living with the skills they have acquired.

WIZO can be proud of its role in this project that instils rays of light and hope for a better future in the lives of the students.”

I’d like to share one story with you: Elias Melaiv, came to the school when he was 14. His parents were immigrants and his father left when he was a baby. He had been to court three times. He wouldn’t go to lessons and was encouraged to join the music programme as he had many social problems.

He was told he could play guitar if he went to class. They discovered he could sing and to cut a long story short, he became an Idols finalist.

When he went into the army, he failed the training, so he ran away. He was arrested and had to appear in military court. The judge recognised him from Idols, and said that her daughters loved him. She sentenced him to be auditioned by the navy band and he is now a member of the band! He is planning on recording a CD and his sister is now doing hairdressing at the school.

Saving these children from their own stories is what WIZO is all about.

This column is paid for by WIZO SA

News

Gaza blockade: Israel intercepts Swedish flotilla vessel

ASHDOD - The Israeli Navy on Monday morning intercepted an activist ship in the waters off the coast of the Gaza Strip.

Commandos from the Shayetet 13 naval special forces unit boarded the Marianne of Gothenburg early in the morning and began steering the ship, which was trying to breach Israel’s maritime blockade of Gaza, to the Israeli port of Ashdod.

The takeover of the vessel and its approximately 20 passengers was short and there were no casualties, the Israel Defence Forces said in a statement. The passengers were expected to be interviewed and then deported.

The IDF said the seizure followed numerous requests for the ship to change course, in accordance with international law. Three other flotilla ships carrying about 30 passengers turned back before they were boarded.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu commended the sailors and commanders of the navy for their “determined and efficient action in detaining the passengers on the ship that tried to reach the Gaza coast in contravention of the law.

“This flotilla is nothing but a demonstration of hypocrisy and lies that is only assisting the Hamas terrorist organisation and ignores all of the horrors in our region,” Netanyahu said in a statement released after the takeover of the Marianne.

“Preventing entry by sea was done in accordance with international law and even received backing from a committee of the UN Secretary General.”

In a letter distributed to flotilla passengers upon their arrival in Israel, Netanyahu

said: “Welcome to Israel. You seem to have got lost. Perhaps you meant to sail to a place not far from here - Syria, where (Bashar) al-Assad’s army is slaughtering its people every day, and is supported by the murderous Iranian regime.

“Here in Israel we face a reality in which terrorist organisations like Hamas try to kill innocent civilians. We defend our citizens against these attempts in accordance with international law.

“Despite this, Israel transports goods and humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip - up to 800 trucks a day. In the past year we enabled the entry of over 1,6 million tons of products, an average of one ton per person in the Gaza Strip.”

In a statement issued Monday morning, “Ship to Gaza Sweden” called on Israel to return the Marianne, release the passengers and allow them to travel to Gaza.

“Ship to Gaza Sweden protests against this flagrant abuse of the freedom of navigation,” the statement said. “Israel’s repeated acts of piracy in international waters are worrying signs that the occupation and blockade policy extends to the entire eastern Mediterranean.” In the past, Israel’s navy has intercepted ships attempting to breach the blockade. The Foreign Ministry said aid groups might send supplies to Israel for inspection, after which permissible goods would be transferred to Gaza. In 2010, an Israeli navy commando takeover of the Turkish Mavi Marmara carrying activists armed with knives and clubs, ended with nine Turkish nationals dead. (JTA)

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The Power to Surprise

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Warm tribute for CSO’s selfless service

Over the weekend, a series of horrific terrorist attacks took place around the world, including the massacre of dozens of tourists and others in Tunisia. This has brought home yet again the vulnerability of all global citizens in the face of a threat that knows no boundaries and can manifest without warning anywhere and at any time.

As ever, our response has to be one of constant vigilance, combined with taking responsible measures to enhance the security of our community and its installations.

We are fortunate in South Africa to have, in the CSO, a body that devotes itself to protecting our community against physical attacks. Combining dedicated professionals with an equally committed team of volunteers, the CSO is in a continual process of monitoring the socio-political environment to identify potential threats and adapting and fine-tuning the systems it has in place.

Forestalling potential attacks means having to constantly think ahead, considering what could happen and developing contingency plans for all possible scenarios. This, in addition to ensuring that there is on-the-ground protection at installations and communal events, constitutes the day-to-day work of the CSO.

In all of its endeavours, the CSO needs the full support and co-operation of the Jewish community, and I again urge everyone to assist in this regard.

Just as the CSO works to ensure our physical safety, the SAJBD’s mandate is to protect our community against all forms of anti-Semitism, including verbal abuse, unfair discrimination or the propagation of anti-Semitic slurs in the public realm. The work of the two organisations complements one



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

another, and hence the Board and CSO maintain a close working relationship.

Maintaining the safety of the overall environment in which Jews live, also means confronting hateful and inflammatory anti-Semitic rhetoric. In addition to the emotional and psychological hurt that this inflicts, we know too well that, if left unchallenged, hateful words can easily lead to action.

Last week, the Board laid a charge of criminal incitement against former Wits SRC President Mcebo Dlamini for, among other things, referring to Jews as “devils” in a live radio interview. We already have a hate speech complaint against Dlamini before the SA Human Rights Commission and have asked that his latest outburst be added to those charges.

Hate speech, whether based on race, religion or other such grounds, is prohibited in South Africa. The fact that we live in such a society came about through the selfless efforts of those who in years gone past devoted themselves to creating a united, democratic South Africa guaranteeing equality to all its citizens.

Last week, the Board held a special commemorative evening to mark the 60th anniversary of the Freedom Charter, a visionary document that served as a blueprint for the democratic, non-racial society we enjoy today.

It was a very moving and inspiring event, with Leon Levy - one of the key figures involved in the formulation of the Charter - and former President Kgalema Motlanthe sharing their memories and insights regarding this inspiring period in our country’s history.

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

This column is paid for by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

Family first

I had a new experience last week which is not, in itself, unusual. The scope of the Chev’s work is such that I often encounter novel situations and unprecedented challenges. Although I am frequently involved in case conferencing when challenging situations arise, it was the first time that I attended an “intake session”.

Chev Social Services has a designated “Intake Social Worker”. It is her job to be the first point of contact for people seeking psychosocial help of any kind. She speaks to them, meets with them and assesses the nature of the assistance they require so that she can direct them and facilitate the allocation of a social worker (and frequently other experts as well) to the case.

But sometimes, as in the situation I am referring to, the intake process can be extremely complex involving a team of social workers and consultants representing different parties. In this case family dynamics and inter-generational tensions had resulted in an impasse damaging to the wellbeing and health of a family unit.

Unpacking and discussing a number of issues



ChevrahKadisha
AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY WELFARE
Partners in Chessed
Michael Sieff
Group CEO

from the perspectives of different family members required a high level of professionalism. Everyone had to be heard and their feelings and positions presented and considered. Importantly, calm and order had to be maintained for, without that, there could be no progress on finding solutions and no hope of resolution.

I am understating it when I say wisdom and patience was evident in abundance and I was extremely gratified - and humbled - to see the process in action. The outcome, which was the culmination of open-minded teamwork and sincere, objective focus on seeking and finding answers, ultimately reached a win-win outcome that was rewarding and satisfactory to all parties. Most essentially, it protected the sanctity of the family unit in a mature and proactive manner.

When all is said and done, our Social Services division’s primary goal is family preservation. Watching how it’s done, was nothing short of inspiring.

May our partnership continue to thrive.

feedback@thechev.org.za

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha

Mmusi Maimane vows Miracle Drive’s Young Drivers



Ryan Solovei; Rabbi David Masinter; DA leader Mmusi Maimane; Jack Bloom; and Gregg Cohen.

Newly-elected Democratic Alliance leader, Mmusi Maimane, on Monday addressed a group of Chabad Miracle Drive’s Young Drivers at The World of Yamaha in Johannesburg, giving his appreciative audience his personal view on the current situation in South Africa and his vision for the road forward. The talk left his audience with a renewed sense of optimism and confidence for the future of the country.

Jack Bloom, long-time member of the DA and newly-published author, concluded the evening with an overview of his new book, “30 Nights in a Shack”.

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Today, Friday (July 3)

• UZLC hosts David Batsofin on “Children - Are They Our Legacy?”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria, (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.

Sunday (July 5)

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

Wednesday (July 8)

• RCHCC presents “30 Nights in a Shack - A Political Journey” by DA politician Jack Bloom. 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, or e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net or www.greatpark.co.za

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

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

What's on the web this week

On our website this week we are giving away over R8 000 worth of tickets to win for “The Art of the Brick Exhibition” by LEGO®. You can also win one of 6 copies of “Carry-on Baggage” - the bestseller by Howard Feldman of Johannesburg.



“The Art of the Brick Exhibition” is one of the world’s most popular shows of 2015, and the biggest grossing and most popular LEGO® exhibition of all time. SAJR Online has secured dozens of FREE tickets to make it more affordable to attend. There are two family tickets and lots of single tickets to be won.

The expo in Rosebank is a treat for anyone between the ages of four and 104. Does that mean you? Then check out how to win your share in one of two ways. Simply click on the Competition banner at the top of the home page of www.sajr.co.za and see how you can make attending this wonder of little bricks cheaper, or FREE, for your family.

Then there are those six bestselling biographical books by Howard Feldman to be won. “Carry-on Baggage has been as successful as Howard Feldman has become in his second career as a blogger (he has thousands of weekly readers) and a prime-time broadcaster. This is your last chance to win one of these six books. The draw is Tuesday July 6.

Limmud gets off with a bang

We are also expecting a story on the pre-Limmud event last weekend which saw crowds of Jews returning to their roots with a walking tour of the Doornfontein area. Who knew there is a Rea Vaya station called “Old Synagogue”? See the super pictures by Bianca Shulman as soon as we get the full story.

World News in Brief

Islamic State-signed leaflets threaten Jerusalem Christians with ‘massacre’

JERUSALEM - Leaflets distributed in Jerusalem in the name of the Islamic State terror group threatened Christian residents of the city with a “massacre” if they do not evacuate by the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, according to Israeli media reports.

Haaretz reported the discovery of leaflets in several Jerusalem locations last week Saturday that were signed by “Islamic State, Jerusalem

Emirate” and stated: “We tell the heretic Christians, you must clear out immediately or we’ll massacre you on Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan, and one month is time enough to evacuate.”

Additionally, Israel National News reported that leaflets signed by “ISIS Palestine”, vowing “revenge” against Christians, were found in eastern Jerusalem last week Thursday.

Islamic State is notorious for its brutal slaughtering of Christians and other regional minority groups during its conquests in Iraq and Syria. (JNS.org)

Hamas official confirms that indirect talks with Israel are underway

JERUSALEM - Sheikh Hassan Yousef, one of Hamas’ leaders in the West Bank, has confirmed that Israel and the Gaza-ruling Palestinian terrorist group are in the midst of negotiations through mediators.

Upon his recent release from Israeli prison, Yousef told Channel 1 journalist Yoram Cohen that Hamas and Israel were trying to work out a deal for a long-term truce.

According to Yousef, the deal being negotiated involved Israel helping Gaza rebuild, following last year’s war there and providing a floating port along the Gaza coast, in exchange for Hamas maintaining a state of calm over the long run.

Yousef warned that if Gaza was not rebuilt soon, Hamas violence would resume. (Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org)

Aaron - a tennis name to watch

ILAN HERRMANN

Aaron Lee Marks doesn't like the limelight and shies away from publicity but it's something he will have to get used to. At 14 years old, he is currently seeded second in South Africa in tennis and first in the Western Province, in his age category.

Aaron attends Herzlia School in Cape Town and trains with coach Anthony Harris at the Anthony Harris High Performance Tennis Academy. Harris, originally from Zimbabwe, spent many years in tennis development in Israel, including working closely with Dudi Sela, Israel's highest ranked player.

Aaron has begun playing in ITF (International Tennis Federation) Junior tournaments. In

these tournaments players can gain international ranking points. Just this year he played tournaments in Nairobi and Potchefstroom, but it was recently in Windhoek, in Namibia, where Aaron gained his first ITF points, winning his first round match and getting into the last 32 draw. This gave him five ITF points and catapulted him from being ranked ninth to being second in South Africa. Next on the cards for him is the South African circuit and the next ITF tournament which will take place in Mauritius in August, which he hopes to attend.

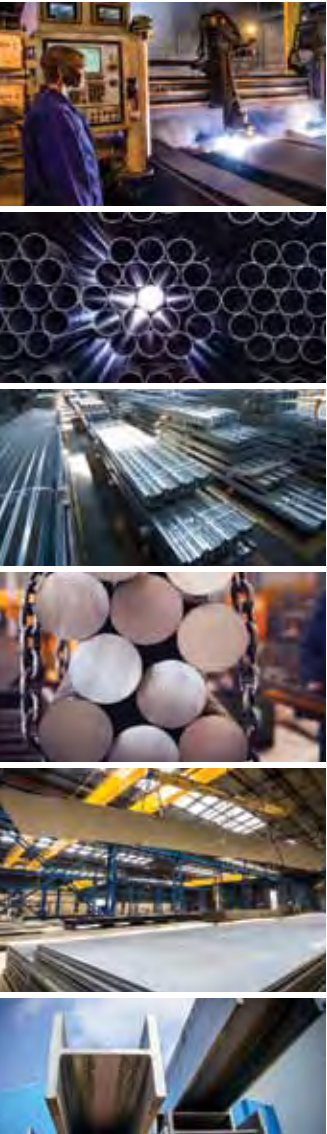
Aaron has managed to play at the highest level while still remaining diligent in his school work. He often has to catch up work due to tournament trips, but he does so by working extra hours and extra hard.

Harris sees huge potential in Aaron and is pushing him to try and get maximum exposure in these vital and defining teen years, ones that could shape a future career in tennis. Harris believes strongly in playing the ITF tournaments which he sees as major growth opportunities in tennis, but also in nurturing maturity and character. To add to his silverware, Aaron was recently awarded the Soul Sport Jewish Young Athletes trophy for 2015. The Soul Sport Jewish Sports Magazine hosts a feature whereby athletes in South African Jewish day schools are recognised for their sporting achievements.

The schools' heads of sport nominates an athlete and from this winning group Soul Sport selects an athlete who is awarded the Soul Sport Jewish Young Athletes trophy.



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Pundits rate Marcus' July ride close to a certainty

JACK MILNER

Jockey Anton Marcus has broken many records in South African racing. However, he could add another one to his name if he can win this weekend's Vodacom Durban July aboard Legal Eagle.

Marcus has won the Durban July four times - so has Tiger Wright and so has Anthony Delpach. Four seems like some kind of impenetrable barrier which nobody can get past. Wright retired many years back but Marcus could have the best chance of rewriting history if handicapping fundis have it right.

There are certain rules which apply to the weights given to horses for the Durban July. They are very complicated but the key rule in this particular case is that once the weights have been announced, they will not change, irrespective of what a horse may win in any race prior to the Durban July.

Legal Eagle was allotted a weight of 54,5kg based on his merit rating of 112. A few days after the weights were allocated this three-year-old colt won the Jubilee Handicap at Turffontein, beating older horses despite giving them loads of weight. His rating was adjusted to 120, which means that had the weights been announced a few days later, Legal Eagle would have had to carry 4kg more.

So, based on his current handicap, Legal Eagle has a massive advantage over the field and if one considers 4kg is equivalent to about four lengths, one can see why the handicapping experts are declaring Legal Eagle as close to the proverbial "racing certainty" as possible.

But, alas, racing is not that simple. So many other factors come into play. The draw is often one and Legal Eagle jumps from No 11, which

is in the middle of the field. In some ways that can be good as a horse is unlikely to be cut off as horses drawn wide look to move closer to the inside rail.

Marcus is very happy to be riding a horse like Legal Eagle who he says has "a touch of class about him", but he does voice one serious concern.

"I'm worried about racing at Greyville. Legal Eagle has won all of his races on galloping courses like Turffontein. He has yet to run on a tighter track, like Greyville."

The KwaZulu-Natal course has been remodelled to add a second Polytrack to the layout. As a result the turf track has narrowed and that could make life tough for horses such as Legal Eagle who like to come from behind and have to wind their way through 17 other competitors, some who are falling back as they drop out of contention. Last year it was a very rough-run race and a number of the top horses failed to get a run.

Marcus is one of the best jockeys to have competed in this country and that is why he has such a huge following and is highly respected by virtually all the trainers and owners.

If there is a way, he will find it, and it would be a major surprise should Legal Eagle not finish in the top four. In fact, this year the tote is paying up to six places so there could be some good bets.

Legal Eagle is trained by Sean Tarry and owned by Markus and Ingrid Jooste.

Other than Legal Eagle, the horses I like are Majmu, to be ridden by Delpach who is also seeking his fifth July win, Futura and French Navy. The best outsiders I believe are Power King, Pine Princess and Helderberg Blue.

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