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# Jewish Report

■ June 3 2016 / 26 Iyar 5776  
 ■ Volume 20 - Number 20

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# Biggest turnout yet at Great Park's Lag B'Omer celebration



Photo: Ian Ossendryver

Great Park Shul's Lag B 'Omer celebrations have become a highlight on the Jewish social calendar in Johannesburg. Over 3 500 community members gathered in the Great Park Forest last week at the biggest Lag B'Omer event so far. There were choirs and marimba bands, live performances by the likes of the Johnny Sklar Band and Shmuli Brill, with food for Africa and 50 bonfires! Pictured are Estee Zwick; Kayla Smith; Brochi Ziskin; and Bati Ben David. See story on page 2



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# Blessings or curses - you decide



Parshat Bechukotai

**Rabbi Greg Alexander,**  
**Cape Town Progressive**  
**Jewish Congregation**

Howzit? How was your week? Do you feel blessed right now? Cursed? Our Torah portion has strong feelings on this matter. It first tells us that if you follow the commandments you will be showered with blessings - and what blessings! Prosperity, security, children, freedom, food to eat and peace. And you will feel G-d's presence with you forever. But there's more: If you don't, then you will be cursed, and the curses are not the kind of thing you would want to trifle with - starvation, misery, slavery, diseases and some really gruesome bits that I'll leave you to read in the Torah itself if you wish. Now, I know what you're going to say:

"Rabbi, that just isn't the way the world works. I know people who are so careful about doing mitzvot and they seem to suffer such hardships. And people who are enjoying life, swanning around the world on yachts and jets and they're horrible people! And what about the Holocaust?" And you would be right, no disagreement there. Maybe the way to understand our portion is to look not at what is happening outside "to" us, but what is happening inside "of" us. What I mean is that stuff happens - it happens all the time and some of it is "good" and some of it is "bad", but actually we have as much say in this stuff as we do in the weather or the petrol price. In other words, none. What we have huge control over is ourselves, our bodies, our responses, our time. We might think that the world just happens to us, but actually we create our world every moment when we choose what we do, what

we say, even what we think. G-d's greatest and challenging gift in creating us was giving us free will, power over our lives. It all comes back to the first word of our Torah portion - in Hebrew "Im", in English - "if". That tells us that if we choose blessings, we get blessings, if we choose curses, we get curses. Now, I am not minimising suffering and saying that our lives are purely subjective. When I said "stuff happens", some of that stuff is hard core and I am not dismissing the harshness of something like cancer, death of a relative or a business going under. What I am saying is that how we respond to that "stuff" is up to us. When we live lives of mitzvot, we build up a certain way of seeing and acting in this world that makes us appreciate and acknowledge our blessings. It makes us positive responders, people who see the opportunities, who feel love and want to

share love. Forty years after our Torah portion, Moses reminds the Israelites that we have a choice - life and death, blessing and curse, and explores them to choose life (Deut. 30:19). May we all be life-choosers too. L'chaim, to life!

Shabbat Times		
<b>Parshat Bechukotai</b> <b>June3 / 26 Iyar</b> <b>June 4 / 27 Iyar</b>		
Starts	Ends	
17:05	17:57	Johannesburg
17:s7	18:21	Cape Town
16:46	17:38	Durban
17:06	17:59	Bloemfontein
16:58	17:52	Port Elizabeth
16:51	17:45	East London
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# Fifty bonfires make for a warm and cosy Great Park Lag B'Omer



OWN CORRESPONDENT

Over 3 500 members of the Johannesburg Jewish community gathered together in the Great Park Forest in celebration of Lag B'Omer and Jewish unity last week. A broad spectrum of 41 Johannesburg communities and organisations participated in what was the biggest Lag B'Omer celebration to date. "It was also the best organised thanks to the professional touch and dedication of the coordinator

Lisa Zimmerman," Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, of Great Park Shul, told SA Jewish Report. Choirs and a marimba band from King David Schools and Torah Academy entertained the huge crowd sitting on the lawns between the trees. There were also live performances by the Johnny Sklar Band and young phenomenon Shmuli Brill. Rabbi Eitan Ash arranged a moving presentation of Torah verses which were led on screen by Rabbi Danny Cohen and his children, to-

gether with soldiers in Chevron, by a young Torah Academy learner who is receiving treatment in New York and by children representing the diverse participating communities. Children enjoyed the exciting array of rides and shows. Food was on sale at affordable prices. Glynda Kramer led a formidable Great Park food production team. Families were treated to free popcorn, candyfloss and soup. Fifty bonfires lit and warmed the forest. A separate young adults section

for the over 21s included K Space arranged by Levi and Leah Lipskar, and YAD arranged by Naomi Hadar of the Israel United Appeal. They enjoyed the special ambience until after midnight. Blankets were sold to keep out the evening chill. They were returned at the end of the evening to be distributed to the poor through the offices of Afrika Tikkun. The blankets will be given out by the barmitzvah boys and batmitzvah girls of our community. An Ahavat Yisroel/chesed project was launched in the Jewish days schools by Elijahau Sasson who prepared lesson plans for teachers regarding the power of Hakhel and Jewish Unity. "This year is particularly associ-

ated with Hakhel - Jewish unity," said Rabbi Hazdan. Learners were videoed at their schools sharing their thoughts about Ahavat Yisroel. This was presented on screen through the professional assistance of Mark Badler of Show TV. Greg Hurvitz, choirmaster at Great Park, was the energetic master of ceremonies who kept the programme moving. Rabbi Dovid Hazdan drew the connection to this year of Hakhel - Jewish unity. "It affords us the powerful opportunity to add in our commitment to draw closer together as a Jewish community, to draw inspiration from the Torah and to bring light to the world around us."

# Pretorians joyously celebrate Lag B'Omer

**DIANE WOLFSON**  
**PRETORIA**

A crowd also gathered at the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation last week to celebrate Lag B'Omer. Johnny Sklar and his band had everyone dancing and singing along before, during and after a delicious supper. Pictured is the crowd relaxing around the bonfire as the evening drew to a close.



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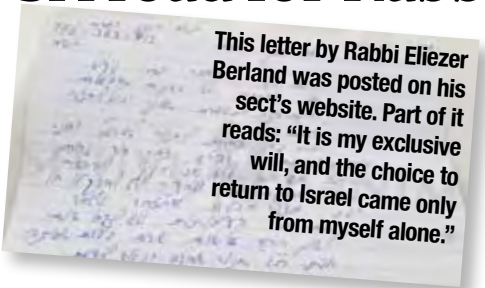
# It looks like end of SA road for Rabbi Berland

ANT KATZ

Speculation on the imminent extradition to Israel of Rabbi Eliezer Berland, the fugitive Shuvu Banim Breslov sect leader, has reached fever pitch when followers posted on both his website and blog just prior to Shabbos last weekend that the rabbi was returning to Israel, supposedly of his own volition, after three years on the run.

Hawks spokesman Brig Hangwani Mulaudzi, however, told Jewish Report on Wednesday that: “The extradition papers are still sitting with the Department of Justice (awaiting the minister’s signature)”.

Berland is wanted in Israel to face sex charges, yet has evaded police and efforts to



arrest him, pending an extradition hearing, for a number of years. But eventually the Hawks nabbed him in early April in South Africa and since then he has been a “guest” at Johannesburg’s notorious “Sun City” prison.

The postings by his followers last week intimated that the rabbi would be on the Saturday evening El Al flight. He wasn’t and this past

Wednesday Yeshiva World News reported: “Israeli team arrives in Johannesburg to take custody of Rabbi Berland.”

This news source, which has not always been overly reliable, said that Rabbi Berland “was supposed to board a plane for Israel earlier this week”, which they say was foiled because “the (SA) Justice Minister did not sign the extradition papers”.

“Numerous chassidim and his attorney were on the plane,” waiting for him to arrive, says YWN, but he did not. “In the Shuvu Banim ke-

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hilla in Yerushalayim they expect Rabbi Berland will arrive on the next El Al flight from Johannesburg, this Thursday, 25 Iyar” (June 2).

The Hawks’ Mulaudzi told Jewish Report on Wednesday that he was unaware of the arrival of any Israeli delegation in South Africa. He undertook to check with his colleagues at Interpol but believed they would have advised him had anyone been expected.

# Ross Levin and Nicholas Markowitz’s engagement takes centre stage

TALI FEINBERG

When Capetonian Ross Levin went down on one knee to propose to his boyfriend Nicholas Markowitz, it was not in a quiet setting or at a romantic dinner.

Rather, Levin went ‘all out’ and popped the question on stage at an Adele concert in Barcelona – a ‘perfect proposal’- according to many of the hundreds of people who have watched the moment on YouTube.

“It was the perfect proposal for Nick, who has a large, beaming personality,” says Levin, who planned the moment for months. He was able to organise it through Adele’s manager’s father, who is a regular visitor to Cape Town. “Holding back the surprise when I knew Nick would be so excited was the hardest part. He loves her music and her as a performer.”

Levin says he was very nervous - both because he wasn’t sure the plan would work out, and also because of the actual magnitude of proposing. “It was not just about being on stage with Adele, it was also that we were ready to make that kind of commitment, which deserved a large and grand gesture, given that both of us have travelled such a long road.

“For me on a personal level, a few years ago I couldn’t tell a soul I was gay, to now proposing on stage in front of 10 0000 people, added to the scope and scale of the moment.”

He adds that the couple were not intimidated by Adele, who “is so warm and accessible, and so comfortable in her own skin - she set the tone for this new chapter”.

For those looking for advice on planning



the perfect proposal, Ross says that is important that the moment suits the person. “It doesn’t have to be on this level; the pure joy and excitement of getting engaged is enough.

“Marriage is the glue that holds you together when it would be easier to fall apart. It is as important to us as to any straight couple.”

Both men are proudly Jewish, and Ross says that “the community has been amazing throughout our process, including rabbis. They have shown that we can be Jewish, gay and proud.

“One of my greatest fears when I came out was around my Judaism - and if I would still be accepted. And I have been. Our Judaism is very important to us, and if there is any message in this, it is that you can still be yourself, and be okay.”

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**Joel Harris 082 926 0287**

**Marco 082 048 2644 | 011 622 1820**



# Mandela Ramallah statue’s cost leaves many unanswered questions

ANT KATZ

Johannesburg’s gift to Ramallah is under scrutiny of the Public Protector. Advocate Anton Alberts, a Member of Parliament for the Vryheidsfront (Freedom Front) Plus (VF) party, has laid a formal complaint with the Public Protector regarding the process

and affordability of the City of Johannesburg’s donation of a bronze statue of Nelson Mandela to the West Bank city of Ramallah. It seems that the initial gift of R6 million worth of statue may end up costing Johannesburg ratepayers in excess of R20 million. The cities of Johannesburg and

Ramallah were twinned in November 2014 - while the City Council was only advised of it early in 2015 at a City Council meeting, according to minutes of the meeting, that were obtained by SA Jewish Report. In her response, Madonsela undertakes that she and her team will assess the complaint and come back to Alberts in due course.

“Although the central focus of the complaint is on the City of Johannesburg,” says Alberts, “the supporting department, namely that of the national Department of Public Works, also deserves scrutiny so as to ensure a holistic enquiry”. The complaint emanates from what the VF says it suspects to be an “unauthorised decision by Mayor Parks Tau and his delegates to create and donate

a R6 million statue of late President Nelson Mandela to Ramallah, and in doing so contradicting the tender regulations and possibly doing it “behind closed doors without discussing it at a Council meeting”. The VF’s request to the Public Protector is that she launch an investigation into the City of Johannesburg and the Department of Public Works in respect of the following issues: **1.** Investigate the “outrageous amount of R6 million” paid for the statue; whether the City of Johannesburg had the financial means for this donation; and the cost of the delegation’s trip to Ramallah to unveil the statue; **2.** The departure from normal Council tender regulations leading to the tender being awarded to a son of Struggle icon Oliver Tambo;

**3.** Whether Parks Tau and delegates had the necessary permission/authority to make this donation and how many visited Ramallah in the planning, creating and unveiling of the statue. **4.** Whether political interference played a role; whether the mayor or anyone else involved was guilty of negligence; and, if so, whether anyone found guilty can be held personally liable. SA Jewish Report has previously posed similar questions to the City of Johannesburg but has met with continued silence. All media have the right to issue an application under the 2002 Promotion of Access to Information Amendment Act (PAIA) to get the answers.

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## Bobroff saga: If innocent, why don’t they face music in SA?

*George van Niekerk, Director, ENS Africa, responds to the Bobroffs’ claims in last week’s paper that they are innocent of overcharging Road Accident Fund clients. Van Niekerk is the attorney representing Matthew and Jennifer Graham, a couple who took the Bobroffs to court, alleging that they had overcharged the Grahams when representing them in a personal injury suit, after Matthew was severely injured in a car accident. The Grahams’ case involved a four-year battle in the courts, including the Supreme Court of Appeal and the Constitutional Court. In the end they won their case.*

“On May 25, the SA Jewish Report published a statement by the Bobroff family, “Bobroffs maintain their innocence on charges”, wherein the Bobroffs deny any wrongdoing of whatsoever nature. The statement is rejected. The facts are: Eight recent High Court judgments catalogue their unprofessional conduct. There are another 10 pending civil cases against them based on overreaching. The judgments contain trenchant criticism of the manner in which the Bobroffs have conducted themselves in the litigation against them. Justice John Murphy held that they were “acting tactically to avoid and frustrate scrutiny” and that they have made the “calculated decision... to delay the disciplinary and investigative process”. Justice Sharise Weiner concluded that their “attorney and client bill was manipulated in order to obtain a higher fee”. Justice Elias Matojane found a “deliberate strategy... employed by the Bobroffs to delay for as long as they can the investigation of their financial affairs in the face of serious allegations of impropriety that are being made against them”. In the De La Guerre matter, the full bench of the South Gauteng High Court found that the Law Society and the Bobroffs were aware of the illegality of common law contingency fee agreements “as long ago as November 1992”. Instead of answering the allegations against them, the Bobroffs have tried to appeal the judgments against them. These appeals have been found to be “contrived” and “intended to delay an inspection of their books”.

They have been found to be in contempt of court. These are not our assertions; these are High Court judgments. The courts have ordered them to pay the legal costs of their former clients, and indeed in several instances the courts made punitive cost orders as a mark of the courts’ displeasure. For the past five years the Bobroffs have steadfastly and studiously avoided answering the very serious allegations of unprofessional and unlawful conduct against them. They claim in their statement to this newspaper that the law “should be allowed to take its course” and that “each and every allegation will be dealt with at the appropriate time and in a proper manner”. Yet Ronald and Darren absconded from this jurisdiction to avoid prosecution. As a consequence, their erstwhile attorneys of record withdrew as their attorneys, and they have been suspended from practice. A report by two inspectors of the Law Society concluded, on the basis of findings of very serious misconduct and criminal offences, that “the directors of the firm are guilty of unprofessional conduct”. The report by the Law Society remains unanswered by the Bobroffs. Ronald and Darren Bobroff suggest that they are untainted attorneys who should be trusted. They have abused that trust, most recently by fleeing the jurisdiction of the very courts of which they are officers, to evade justice. If the Bobroffs really believe in their innocence and that the law should be allowed to take its course, they should return to South Africa to face the music. ”

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# Objection to Tafelberg site an ‘ill-conceived, pre-election ploy’

**MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN**

David Polovin has slammed accusations of racism that have been levelled against him as “palpably false” and “morally reprehensible” in what has become a controversial issue on the eve of the local government elections. What is more, the deputy chairman of the Sea Point, Fresnaye, Bantry Bay Ratepayers’ Association is adamant that he will not be intimidated.

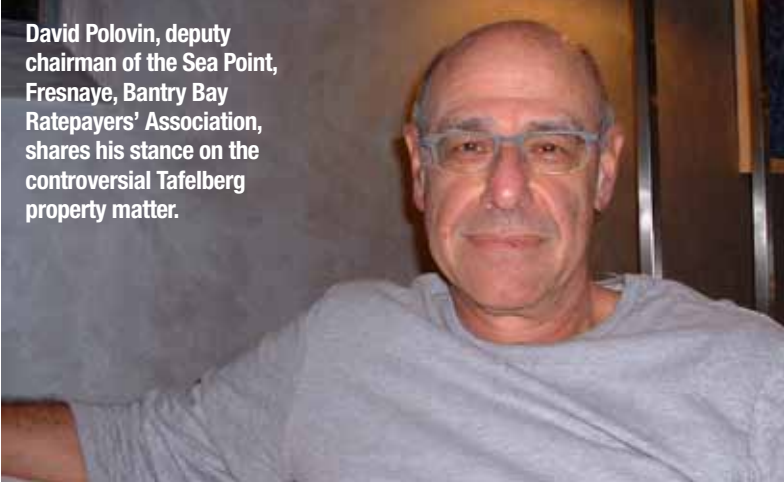
The sale of the Tafelberg School site on Main Road, Sea Point, by the province to the Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School (PJJDs) late last year, forms the backdrop to the matter. The sale was halted by the Western Cape High Court in early May following an urgent interdict brought by a group calling itself “Reclaim the City” (RTC) and the matter has now been reopened for public comment.

RTC wants the site to be developed for low-cost housing for those who are employed in the Sea Point area.

As for charges that failure to do so would conflict with the policy of affordable housing being geared to reversing apartheid spatial planning, Polovin says that the province and the city have taken this fully into account. “It’s not for people playing politics on the outside to second-guess what the city is going to do with its land.

“I think this whole thing is a pre-election ploy to embarrass the current (Democratic Alliance) administration. I think that it is not based on rational town-planning considerations at all, nor budgetary considerations or on the practicalities of what is available and can be done with a limited

struction of new housing. So, firstly, there is not money for it. “Secondly, if there was money for it, the question arises as to whether it would be better spent in Sea Point or elsewhere. The Tafelberg site can potentially support housing for several hundred people, but there are



David Polovin, deputy chairman of the Sea Point, Fresnaye, Bantry Bay Ratepayers’ Association, shares his stance on the controversial Tafelberg property matter.

amount of resources.” Polovin, a practising attorney, says moreover that the development of affordable housing on the property is not in the interests of the Sea Point community. “The province and the city are struggling with their budgets, which have been dramatically cut, and they have very little spending capacity. “There is a budget for social upliftment projects, but those budgets are small and only one element is the con-

far more strategic sites that can support housing for tens of thousands of people and if the city or the province are planning on spending money on social infrastructure, then they would best be spending that money where it’s going to benefit thousands as opposed to hundreds of people. “Miring this property in litigation and arguments only means more of the same - the property will lie fallow, unused and derelict. This can go on for

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years as opposed to it being deployed for the benefit of the community and for schooling, which was its original destination.”

Polovin describes the accusations of racism levelled against him as “strategic” and to be viewed in the context of the forthcoming elections. “I think the object is to intimidate, to stifle debate and to obscure the real issues.

“They are palpably false, morally reprehensible and certainly anti-democratic.”

Polovin maintains that RTC does not represent the interests of those in need of housing. “We have never heard of them before, they seem to be Johnny-come-latelies, they suddenly seem to have arisen as a result of the Tafelberg project and as far as we know, they consist of three people.

“Certainly there’s no suggestion on anybody’s part that they’re representative of any community at all other than the community that they claim, Sea Point. So far I haven’t heard of any elections being held to vote for Reclaim the City or anybody else, when in fact there is a representative body for Sea Point residents and ratepayers - the Sea Point, Fresnaye, Bantry Bay Ratepayers’ Association.”

If the property is ultimately sold to the current bidder, the Phyllis Jowell School, the province will benefit to the tune of R135 million which can be used for social infrastructure spending, says Polovin. In addition, a property of that value would attract “significant” rates for the city “for the benefit of everybody living here”.

If the property is not sold to private enterprise, it would result in a financial loss for both the province and the city.

Sea Point resident Thandeka Sisusa, who worked there as a domestic worker for most of her life and is the spokesman for RTC, says its action is based on a commitment made by the city council in 1994 that the land would be used for low-cost housing. “They must do what they promised us to do.”

She says objections from the Ratepayers’ Association are grounded in fears that property values in the area will fall.

Sisusa, a fighter for the rights of domestic workers, says she “feels the pain” of their long commute from their homes. “Each and every person must feel welcome to stay in the Sea Point area.”

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# Jewish Cape Town: Faribels and festivities

This is a very big year for Cape Town Jewry. The community is celebrating 175 years of existence, beginning in 1841 with the founding of the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation. This actually marks the birth of organised Jewish life in southern Africa too.

A host of events are taking place, including last month's inaugural Jewish Literary Festival; an upcoming exhibition at the SA Jewish Museum about Jewish life; and distinguished speakers from abroad.

But apart from the festivities, the Mother City has also inadvertently become the epicentre of two battles around the rights of women under Jewish law. The first, already extensively covered on these pages, is that of a group who tried unsuccessfully to get the ban lifted on women singing at the recent Cape Town Yom Hashoah ceremony.

The case may make its way to the Equality Court, a division of the Western Cape High Court, unless it can be resolved at the proposed Cape Town community colloquium later this month.

The claimants will likely argue that the Yom Hashoah ceremony, held under the auspices of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, is a secular event and is not bound by the religious doctrine

of the United Orthodox Synagogues or any other religious movement.

This group is led by a Cape Town-based brother and sister and SACRED, a Progressive-affiliated interfaith group, who insist women should not be barred from singing and discriminated against on the basis of gender.

The SA Jewish Board, the defendants, will argue that it is a halachic principle that men should not hear an unaccompanied woman singing, and if women did sing, it would preclude the attendance of the Orthodox rabbinic leadership and their followers.

They will contend that they are upholding this principle at this event in the spirit of inclusiveness, and that it is the Board's role to ensure harmony and to respect everyone's rights - rights to dignity, freedom of association, religious freedom and freedom of choice.

The outcome will be interesting as there is no real precedent for this. It seems like the courts will have to decide on whether the Board is discriminating against women, but in the process will be ruling on whether this is a religious issue exempt from civil law.

The second and more recent issue to come to the fore is that of a Cape Town Jewish woman whose former

husband refused her a get while he himself got remarried in a civil ceremony last Sunday. The woman is now effectively "chained" and may not remarry.

In Israel today, rabbinical courts have the power to sentence a husband to prison to compel him to grant his wife a get, but not here or anywhere else outside of Israel.

While the South African Beth Din have tried hard to pressurise the man, and are trying to be more aggressive about "naming and shaming" recalcitrant husbands in general (this is not the first case nor will it be the last), they have no civil legal recourse to compel him.

Section 5A of the South African Divorce Act, 1979, provides that the court may refuse a divorce decree if one spouse does not take steps necessary to dissolve the marriage in accordance with religious custom, the provision which was added in 1996, apparently does not make it obligatory. And in this case the couple got a civil divorce before the woman attempted to obtain her get anyway.

The two cases have obvious similarities around women's rights under Jewish law. But while the first legal battle involves civil law in that it is a secular ceremony to be adjudicated by a civil court, in

the case of the get, the woman is unfortunately subject to Jewish law which has far less in hand to force the husband to acquiesce.

And then there is one more conflict taking place deep in the heart of Jewish Cape Town that is making headlines: the development of the valuable Tafelberg school site on Main Road, Sea Point.

After a couple of South Africa's major Jewish philanthropists donated R135 million to buy the site for the Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School that is currently housed on the grounds of the Camps Bay Shul, a group of supporters of affordable housing approached the High Court for an interdict to stop the transfer of the property in April.

The sale has now been delayed on the grounds that it was not advertised in Xhosa as well. It has to be re-advertised and public sentiment has to be taken into account before a final transfer can occur.

Last week Samuel Seeff and Lance Katz, chairman and vice-chairman of the Jewish community's Western Province Priorities Board, sent a community-wide notice asking people to sign a petition in support of the sale.

Seeff and Katz believe that although access to affordable housing in the city is critical, the high



## South African Jewish Report

land value and the heritage aspects of the site (meaning the building cannot just be torn down to make apartments), make it less than ideal for affordable housing.

But this battle just got more complicated after David Polovin, deputy chairman of the area's ratepayers association, was accused of racism at the end of last week by a group called Reclaim the City, as well as activist Zackie Achmat, for publicly expressing that the land was not best suited to affordable housing.

One can only imagine that the City of Cape Town would prefer to earn the R135 million from Jewish community donors rather than use their own budget to build low cost housing.

There will be some exciting developments ahead for Cape Town Jewry...We will be closely watching...you should too.

– Vanessa Valkin, editor

## Community

# Having breakfast in Durban after Sunday's Comrades

Sunday's Comrades Marathon 2016 has come and gone, and some very sore bodies - as usual - prompt many to vow "never again". But lo and behold, the next year they are back. The Comrades bug and the camaraderie of the runners make this an experience no money can buy.

As usual, runners from Gauteng - including many Jews - were well represented. Pictured are tired, but happy Johannesburg runners who visited Circle Cafe at the Durban Holocaust Centre for breakfast on Monday.

Back: Clive Snoyman; Neil Lewus; Gary Lefevre; and Michoel Glenner. Middle: Josh Apfel; Michael Saltz; Bryan Port; Avron Krasner; Rabbi Dovid Horwitz; Philip Froom; Gary Serebro; Keith Tabakin; and. Shira Zadikov. Front: Ronen Krawitz; Rabbi Jarred Bloch; and Rabbi Gavriel Abrahamson.



# WIZO Avivs pack them in for Mother's Day breakfast



Bev Gamsu; Cindy Polakow; Shereen Markowitz; Janice Leibowitz; Tracey Lurie; Dina Diamond; and Lauren Winterstein.

Johannesburg WIZO Avivs hosted a sold-out "Tribute to Mothers Breakfast" on Sunday, May 22, at Sandton Shul.

"This beautiful event was also a tribute to the dedicated team who worked tirelessly to ensure that this would be a memorable morning for all who attended," WIZO Avivs said in a media release:

With good food and décor, special gifts for all, Benita Levin as MC and an inspiring guest speaker in Renciah Droganis of Africology, the Avivs certainly achieved their goal.

Approximately 300 guests attended, making it a truly successful function.



# Is Zapiro a racist or is he a victim of double-speak?



## TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

When South Africa’s best-known cartoonist, Zapiro (Jonathan Shapiro) was accused last week of racism for depicting a black man as a monkey in a Sunday Times cartoon, it showed how this troubled society has lost its compass and is eating its own best people.

The accusation’s trigger was Zapiro using the universal, comic metaphor of the organ-grinder and his monkey. The cartoon commented on National Prosecuting Authority head Shaun Abrahams (the monkey), seeming to be dancing to its master, President Jacob Zuma’s tune by resisting reinstatement of corruption charges against him, which were controversially dropped before he became president.

During his decades-long career, Zapiro - arguably the Western world’s most respected political cartoonist today - has incurred the wrath of many powerful people, which is the lot of anyone speaking truth to power.

He satirised apartheid’s political leaders and lampoons the antics of post-apartheid figures, particularly the blunders and corruption of Zuma and his lackeys.

ANC spokesman Zizi Kodwa responded angrily last week that “Zapiro’s cartoons are now being used by racists in our country to glamourise their prejudice”.

Jews and black people have something in common - a hypersensitivity to how they

are portrayed by others. Long histories of discrimination and dehumanisation, leading to violence and killings, have developed psychological buttons.

For Jews, pogroms and the Holocaust are emblematic of this. For blacks, the sore points are colonialism, slavery and apartheid.

A caricature which enrages Jews is the “Shylock” image, portraying a Jew with hooked nose, cunning eyes and pockets stuffed with dollar bills, controlling the world with money and secret deals - an image used by Jew-haters to demonise them before killing them.

Not everyone who comments negatively about Jews or blacks is anti-Semitic or racist, however. Sometimes these subjects over-react. Some Jews tend to respond to any non-Jew’s criticism of Israel by labelling the critic an anti-Semite.

The danger of genuine anti-Semitism is real and, sadly, is growing worldwide. But the term must be used carefully, or it loses its significance.

Zooming in on the local South African context: It is far too easy today to throw the word “racist” at anyone, regardless of appropriateness or the hurt caused. Nobody, black or white, Jew or non-Jew, is totally without prejudices - it is part of the human condition. But if everyone can be labelled a racist for the slightest hint of criticism, the term is drained of all meaning.

The sensitivity of the monkey image for black people is clear, particularly after the recent infamous incident where Durban estate agent and former DA member Penny Sparrow caused a national social-media storm by referring to black beachgoers as “monkeys”.

But where does the line lie between a sane perspective and the madness of today’s angry South African society?

Zapiro has previously portrayed all sorts of people as monkeys. One well-known cartoon shows white apartheid leaders Hendrik Verwoerd, John Vorster, PW Botha and FW de Klerk as neanderthals in various stages of development, with Nelson Mandela towering over them as the dignified, fully evolved human being.

He has also enraged Jews with negative depictions of right-wing Israelis and SA Jewry, resulting in some calling him a self-hating Jew.

With public discourse so dominated by social media, the crudest verbiage spewed by idiots quickly reaches thousands, making racist slurs more dangerous. When words lose meaning, it leads to the kind of bizarre doublespeak portrayed in George Orwell’s iconic novel Nineteen Eighty-Four, a society where nothing means what it says.

The current furore surrounding Zapiro indicates rising paranoia among South Africans, exacerbated by an increasingly prescriptive, legislation-obsessed government. The underlying causes - basic insecurity when leadership is almost non-existent and the future uncertain - must be addressed to avoid the kind of outcome Orwell envisaged.

Undoubtedly, South African society is filled with racists of all colours. But they need to be confronted wisely, not like a sledgehammer to a spider.

• Read Geoff Sifrin’s regular columns on his blog [sifrintakingissue.wordpress.com](#)

## World News in Brief

### UN demands Israel pay restitution for 1996 shelling of Lebanese village

NEW YORK - A United Nations body has demanded that Israel pay restitution for the accidental shelling of a UN compound in the southern Lebanese village of Qana in 1996. During Operation Grapes of Wrath, the Israel Defence Forces, while engaged in heavy fighting with the Hezbollah terror group, accidentally bombarded a United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) compound that also served as a refugee camp. The compound provided shelter for some 800 Lebanese civilians, 106 of whom were killed in the attack. The Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly, which is responsible for

administration and monetary matters, has been urging Israel to pay compensation of \$1,17 million. Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon said Israel is refusing the demand.

“Hezbollah terrorists were those who had attacked Israel and its civilians, while using the citizens of Lebanon as a human shield, and Israel is the one that ends up with a restitution demand,” said Danon.

“This is an absurd situation in which Israel is urged to pay for the war crimes of a terror organisation,” he added. (Israel Hayom/ Exclusive to JNS.org)



Naomi Hadar  
Executive Director  
Gauteng



Our YAD Division (Young Adult Division) participated in the Lag B’Omer celebrations at the Great Park Shul in conjunction with K-Space. There was a great turnout for our VIP section after the shmooza, where music by The Johnny Sklar Band entertained the crowds and treats like marshmallows, ice-cream, smores and gluhwein were served.

It was a great social and networking event and is vital in creating awareness among the young community about

## IUA-UCF Exec Naomi Hadar reports on Lag B’Omer and leadership to Israel

the importance of our organisation in helping to secure and nurture the future of our dynamic local Jewish community, with a strong Israel in our hearts.

We are engaging the young adult age bracket in a relatable way in order for them to connect to our Jewish community and future in a meaningful way.

I embarked on the South African Leadership Mission 2016 to Israel on Thursday evening May 26, with a group of enthusiastic participants on



what has proven to be a memorable and awe-inspiring trip. Missions like these are imperative in creating an understanding between our community and Israeli society. One of the many highlights of the trip was an intimate meeting with President Reuben Rivlin at his official residence. The group

was honoured to meet him and he received us with warmth and sincerity. He thanked the South African Jewish community for its unwavering support and commitment to the State of Israel.

He spoke about the peace process, the importance of unity and how vital Diaspora Jewry is to the State of Israel. The unanimous consensus amongst the group was that President Rivlin is truly a “Peoples President” for every Jew in the world.

I look forward to sharing more of our experiences on my return.

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### Around the Jewish World

## Israel invitation: Labour’s Corbyn slights Herzog

LONDON - Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn has once again found himself in the midst of controversy concerning Israel after not responding to an invitation by Israeli Labour leader Isaac Herzog to visit Israel, the Guardian reported on Sunday.

In April, Herzog invited Corbyn to assemble a delegation of British Labour members to visit Yad Vashem, saying he was “appalled and outraged by the recent instances of anti-Semitism by senior Labour Party officials in the United Kingdom”.

According to members of the Israeli Labour Party, a response from Corbyn was never issued or received in London or Israel.

British Labour MPs expressed disappointment in the party leader’s handling of the affair, particularly after the party has been fraught with allegations of anti-Semitism. Labour MPs added that Corbyn’s lack of response is further evidence of the party leadership’s slow and inadequate response to crises. - Jerusalem Post

## Schoolgirl’s anti-Israel speech voted out of competition final

LONDON - A schoolgirl who won a regional final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge with an anti-Israel speech is no longer being sent through to the grand final of the public speaking competition.

Leanne Mohamad of Wanstead High School won the Redbridge regional final earlier this month with a speech entitled “Birds not Bombs”.

During the speech Mohamad stated that “from 1948 until this very day more than 30 000 defenceless Palestinian children have been killed”.

She used the phrase “Palestine: one voice, one country and one dream” and closed the speech with the call to “free Palestine” while waving a Palestinian flag.

Following complaints by blogger Edgar Davidson to the Speakers Trust, the charity that trains the learners to take part in the Speak Out Challenge, the Jack Petchey Foundation and Wanstead High School, the judging panel have now decided “unanimously” against sending Mohamad through to the final rounds of the competition.

Julie Holness, CEO of the Speakers Trust, said that Mohamad had breached “two fundamental rules that are made explicit during the training”. - Jewish Chronicle, London.

# Kol isha: Two sides still poles apart as they talk ‘reconciliation’

ANT KATZ

There have been a number of significant developments in the kol isha matter - an Equality Court action brought by Gilad Stern and others against the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies over refusing to allow women to sing in front of men at secular events (with the emphasis on the recent Yom Hashoah commemoration) over the past week.

But despite some conciliatory gestures, the “moratorium” doesn’t look very solid.

Last week Stern wrote a piece in Jewish Report titled: “It’s not over ‘til the lady sings”, explaining his position on the matter. This week, Mary Kluk, national president of the Board, writes in a response - see article below - that the Board recognises that it would be preferable to have a sustainable and acceptable compromise between these two competing positions.

Other major developments this week indicate that there may be a softening of the previous seeming intransigence of the parties which highlight the fact that the majority among South African Jewry would prefer to see the issue settled within the community rather than through the courts.

Kluk writes that to achieve this “sustainable and acceptable compromise”, South Africa’s “diverse and vibrant community (must) be integrally involved in finding a resolution”. The community colloquium will take place in Cape Town on Monday, June 20, and the Cape High Court, sitting as the Equality Court, have named a judge and set down the court matter to be heard on August 22 and 23.

This week Stern and his advocate, Anton Katz SC, told the Jewish Report that they “have unilaterally declared” that over the next two months they will refrain from public comment on the matter. They have opened a website for community engagement, at <http://www.shalombayit.co.za>, and have listed a new set of proposals from their side, including what they believe are “Options which will solve the problem”.

Literally translated, “shalom bayit” means “peace in the home” and is a strongly reconciliatory term. Stern went one step further towards reconciliation, saying that “the applicants are open to hearing from the SAJBD directly”.

Stern and Sarah Goldstein are two Orthodox Jews from Cape Town who are suing the Cape Board on the basis that the Board’s policy (forbidding women to sing solo at communal events under the Board’s auspices, because of an Orthodox view that this would transgress their halachic beliefs and prevent them from attending such

functions) amounts to “discrimination of women on the basis of gender”.

The proposed court action was later joined by SACRED (a Progressive-affiliated interfaith group, the SA Centre for Religious Equality and Diversity).

Last week both parties were recalcitrant in their positions. But this week both sides appear to be much more moderate in their stance.

“If we had to choose between the two options, the welfare of the Jewish community, or the importance of women singing, it’s a no-brainer: we choose our community’s well-being,” says Stern “We think that going to court is not going to be good for the Jews.”

“The SAJBD has consistently been supportive of attempts to resolve this issue through conciliation,” Kluk told SAJR this week. On the colloquium, Kluk said the Board is “deeply encouraged by the support from the community towards this process”.

She believes a solution can only be reached if “the diverse stakeholders commit themselves to finding an outcome that will include all sectors of South African Jewry”. While the Cape SAJBD met with the complainant on March 23, says Kluk, “the key here is for everyone to participate in this forum committed to finding solutions with no preconceived outcomes or conditions”.

“Of course, we differ on how to achieve shalom bayit,” admits Stern. “We respect that the other side has good intentions.”

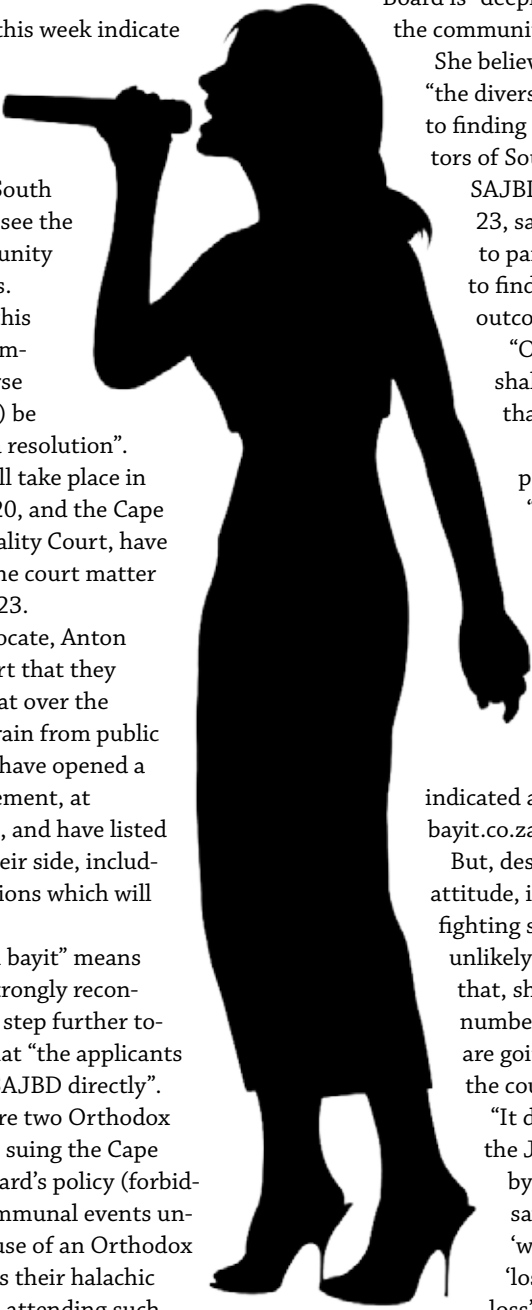
Stern says that since lodging their papers in March, the complainants have “received no communication from the Board at all”. They made three separate proposals to try to settle the matter and not go to court, but the Board “had only answered us through their lawyers”.

This, he said this week, was tantamount to saying: “We’ll see you in court”. Stern says his claimants have

indicated a number of ways (on [www.shalombayit.co.za](http://www.shalombayit.co.za)) to settle the matter.

But, despite his apparently toned-down attitude, it appears that Stern is still full of fighting spirit. He notes that “it’s extremely unlikely that the Board will win in court” and that, should it go to court, “it’s likely that a number of prominent human rights NGOs are going to join as amici curiae - friends of the court.

“It does not serve any of our interests for the Jewish community to be humiliated by a court loss on a human rights issue,” says Stern this week. “We don’t want to ‘win’, and we don’t want the Board to ‘lose’.” The Board’s loss “will be all our loss”, he says.



# Kol isha: Community itself should resolve matter amicably

MARY KLUK  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT SAJBD

The question of women singing at Yom Hashoah or Holocaust Commemoration Day is one that has caused a great deal of heartache within our community. Unfortunately, the debate has been characterised by much emotion but little understanding of the facts and issues involved.

This matter is one of complicated constitutional questions dealing with, among other things, freedom of association, freedom of religion, gender discrimination, fair versus unfair discrimination criteria and entanglement.

Due to the nature of the commemoration ceremony, the SA Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) makes a particularly concerted effort to be as inclusive as possible and seeks to ensure that every segment of the Jewish community is able to freely and comfortably participate.

This entails that the full spectrum of the religious community is fully included, from Orthodox to Progressive, from secular to religious, from men to women, from young to old. The SAJBD is seeking to arrive at a satisfactory resolution of this matter.

We have, over a number of years, been informed that the position of the Orthodox community is that were a woman to sing solo at Yom Hashoah, the Orthodox community would not be able to attend.

We do not, as the SAJBD, take a view on the religious aspect of this, nor can we. We are not a religious body and are not versed in religious law. Our mandate is to ensure that as many people in our community as possible can, and do, take part in our work and activities.

This means, taking into account the reality that were we to accede to requests that the Yom Hashoah programme be amended to include women singing solo, a significant portion of our community would inevitably

be excluded from commemorating the Holocaust.

We recognise that it would be preferable to have a sustainable and acceptable compromise between these two competing positions, but we would require that this be determined through a process of debate among the various stakeholders in our community.

We believe that the only way for us to reach a sustainable solution is to allow our diverse and vibrant community members to be integrally involved in finding a resolution to this situation.

To this end, the Cape Jewish Board of Deputies has committed to facilitating a colloquium at which a solution to the Yom Hashoah issue can be found. The colloquium, which will take place in Cape Town this month, will provide a forum for the Jewish constituent bodies to come together in dialogue.

The appointed facilitator is a well-respected South African with significant experience in the area of conflict resolution.

This colloquium provides our community with an opportunity of working together to settle the matter amicably and internally.

We believe our community itself should be allowed to determine the best way to resolve this impasse. It should not be given over to the courts to deal with, and certainly not to single interest groups seeking to capitalise on this difficult internal issue for their own purposes.

The SAJBD recognises, and indeed celebrates, the fact that South African Jewry is a heterogeneous and diverse community. Diversity and disagreement are symptoms of a healthy democracy and we expect that the colloquium will have a positive outcome for our unique South African community.

We encourage the community to fully support our efforts to find a constructive way forward through the conciliation process, and help ensure that all members feel a part of this kaleidoscope of beliefs and traditions.



# Lithuanian citizenship: It seems the only successful applicant is a dead Jew

*Daniel Lutrin, who works as a CA at The Ascott Limited in London, and grew up in South Africa, has been battling for four years to try to get Lithuanian citizenship for himself and his family.*

DANIEL LUTRIN



It was gratifying to see a recent article regarding the plight that Jews of Lithuanian origin (Litvaks) are facing when applying to have their Lithuanian citizenship restored. The article, however, does not hone in on the critical matter at hand, namely the extent to

which Lithuanian bureaucrats have gone to deny Jews of their ancestral right to citizenship.

In the background, a meticulous selection process has been underway which is nothing more than a modern manifestation of the same anti-Semitism which saw 95 per cent of Litvaks murdered in the Holocaust (the highest in all of Europe).

Denying Litvaks citizenship has been made easy in Lithuania by declaring, based on nebulous case law, that those Lithuanians who left the country during its years of independence (approximately 1919 to 1940) were not persecuted and are therefore not eligible for dual citizenship.

**Denying Litvaks citizenship has been made easy in Lithuania by declaring, based on nebulous case law, that those Lithuanians who left the country during its years of independence (approximately 1919 to 1940) were not persecuted and are therefore not eligible for dual citizenship.**

This has been appealed by many Litvaks, but with the courts being so engineered in Lithuania, 100 per cent of cases have gone in favour of the Lithuanian Migration Department. The only other countries with a 100 per cent decision confirmation are those such as Venezuela, Russia or Cuba.

It should also be pointed out that denial numbers quoted by the writer of the article, will be materially understated as numbers quoted are official denials. There will be hundreds of “pending” cases - a product of outlandish bureaucratic demands which made many just give up before being given the official “no”.

This Lithuanian selection process implies that today’s Litvaks must be punished because their ancestors did not voluntarily throw themselves into the hell of the Holocaust, waiting to see if they make it into the five

per cent who came out of the death pits alive. It implies that the only Jew eligible for Lithuanian citizenship is a dead Jew.

Germany grants citizenship to German Jews who lost their citizenship under the Nazis. Spain allows nationality for Sephardi Jews, even though the Inquisition was many centuries ago.

Lithuania, on the total opposite side of the spectrum, ignores the fate of the Litvaks and the massive role Lithuanian collaborators played in the destruction of their country’s Jewry. The country continues to honour such collaborators through monuments and street names (Jonas Noreika or Kazys Škirpa, for instance).

Recently, a prominent Lithuanian lawmaker, who unsurprisingly chose to remain anonymous, accused Jews of “only wanting money”. Jewish tombstones have been used to pave driveways in Vilnius. Mass graves are used as party sites. The list goes on and on.

Lithuania cannot be a member of the European Union or define itself as democratic if the criteria used to determine who is a citizen are based on a selective ideology rather than the rule of law.

The opportunity for Jewish-Lithuanian reconciliation does not exist if Jews are selected as undesirables. How is it acceptable that the form one needs to complete when applying for citizenship demands that you specify “Žydu” (“Jew” in Lithuanian) as your nationality?

The South African Jewish community should take collective responsibility for this injustice and insult towards its ancestors. When the Nazis marched into Lithuania in 1941, they hardly had to lift a finger as Jews in over 200 shtetls were humiliated, tortured and ultimately murdered by Lithuanian collaborators.

These victims were cousins, great-grandparents’ best friends. Let Lithuania know that this time justice will prevail, that this will be pursued relentlessly in the name of truth. Never again means never again.

## World News in Brief

### Hezbollah in worst financial shape in decades, US official claims

WASHINGTON - A US Treasury official claimsthat the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah is in its “worst financial shape in decades.”

Adam Szubin, the US Treasury Department’s acting under-secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, who was also the chief architect of US sanctions on Iran, told lawmakers from the House Foreign Affairs Committee: “After many years of sanctions targeting Hezbollah, today the group is in its worst financial shape in decades. And I can assure you that, alongside our international partners, we are working hard to put them out of business.”

Szubin also said the Iran nuclear deal has had “no impact on our efforts” to target Iranian

funding and weapons transfers for Hezbollah, one of Iran’s terror proxies.

“In late January, we sanctioned a major Hezbollah financial support network, which was laundering criminal proceeds to support Hezbollah’s terrorism and destabilising activity,” Szubin said. “And just last month, we published new sanctions regulations to implement the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 - a law which gives us yet more tools in our campaign to destroy Hezbollah’s financial networks.”

The Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act, passed last December, aims to sanction international financial institutions that knowingly facilitate Hezbollah’s activities. (JNS.org)



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# Visual banquet at National Antiques & Decorative Arts faire



For 16 years the National Antiques & Decorative Arts Faire has set the trend in collecting - and others have followed.

When it comes to breaking new ground the NAADA Faire delivers - showcasing everything from classical antiques to specialist dealers; from “mantiques” to “back to the future” collectables; from vintage to retro - in a venue that accommodates specialist pavilions, vintage and classic car platforms, a stylish refreshment area and an opening night for the who’s who of collecting.

Collecting is a unique human phenomenon often referred to as an “investment addiction” and something which is fast becoming a global phenomenon. Once bitten by the collecting bug, a person becomes a life-long collector, captivated by their particular field of collecting, continually researching, adding to and building their collection.

The beauty of collecting lies in the fact that one can start collecting on a moderate scale, buying what one can afford, but inevitably moving on to investing in even rarer and more valuable pieces.

The proliferation of reality programmes, such as the British Antiques Roadshow and Cash in the Attic, focus on traditional antiques. The American shows, such as American Pickers and Pawn Stars, with its focus on more recent collectables from the ‘50s through to the ‘70s, has opened up collecting to younger generations.

Celebrating its 16th successful year as the biggest and most dynamic collecting exhibition, visitors to the annual National Antiques & Decorative Arts Faire, which takes place from June 3 - 5 at the Sandton Convention Centre, Exhibition Hall 1, Maude Street in Sandton, are seduced by the variety of antiques, collecta-

bles, art, classic cars and decorative arts.

It’s the place to find that statement piece that will be the talking point of your home, that rare piece to add to your collection or just something special that catches your eye.

The profile of visitor includes people who are avid antique and art collectors or those who wish to start collecting as an investment. With the broadening of the range of collectables to include more modern wares, the Faire also attracts visitors who are interested in buying specific pieces for decorating purposes, as well as attracting the younger collector.

Stephen Falcke, decorator to the stars and to royalty, whose talent in mixing classic styles with contemporary touches, takes pride of place with his décor exhibit that enthralls and inspires visitors.

One of the must-attend functions on the Johannesburg social and investment calendar is the gala cocktail opening night of the Faire which attracts over 500 of the who’s who of the collecting world, top business people, the elite and celebrities who gather to mingle and be the first to reserve the best pieces in antiques, artworks and collectables.

The Faire offers everything you could wish for under one roof - beautifully styled and exquisitely presented:

- A visual banquet of décor settings, from dining areas featuring 24-seater antique mahogany tables laden with collectable porcelain dinner sets and valuable silver dining accessories, to seating areas complete with master art, bookshelves filled

with collectable books and ornaments that will intrigue and delight collectors.

- Juxtaposed to the opulence of 100-year-old and older antiques that grace many a wealthy home, are the young, up-and-coming collectors who look to find tomorrow’s antiques, today. It might be an Eames chair, a Warhol cupboard or a Norman Catherine sculpture. Others prefer the quirky seventies look, love the French provençal look or go gaga over a ‘50s Coca Cola fridge or a ‘70s classic car.

- A dedicated art pavilion for the art aficionados who want to experience art both in a gallery setting and as part of exquisite décor settings. With so many antique dealers picking up significant South African masters art pieces in their day-to-day dealings with collectors, the art section of the Faire is dedicated to featuring not only old South African masters but contemporary master art as well as museum art collections.

- The NAADA Faire once again welcomes the SA Mint whose Johannesburg Coin Fair takes centre stage at the Faire and puts the focus on collecting rare numismatics, bank notes and Kruger Rands and through their select and experienced dealers

- International exhibitors add a touch of the exotic to the Faire. American ceramics dealer Ed Pascoe of Pascoe Ceramics puts the focus on the 200th anniversary of the prestigious English house of Royal Doulton with some rare and valuable

pieces on show. Dutch antiques dealer Ricus Dullaert of Kunsthandel HWC Dullaert showcases never-been-seen before European and Chinese antiques and also specialises in finding antique pieces - whether in bibles, clocks or furniture - that have strong ties to the Dutch/South African heritage.

- Vintage and classic cars have always been platformed at the Faire - from vintage cars from the early 1900s to classic 1950s and ‘70s collectable cars.

The Faire is open daily between 10:00 and 18:00. Entrance is R100 pp. The charity opening night is on Thursday June 2 at 19:00, with a ticket price pp of R250 per person. Booking is essential. Visit [www.naada.co.za](http://www.naada.co.za)

For more information contact Giuli Osso at tel (011) 802-1602 or cell 083-377-6721 or [giuli@gocomms.co.za](mailto:giuli@gocomms.co.za)



## Highlights at NAADA 2016, where vintage becomes vogue

If there is one thing that everyone who visits the annual National Antiques & Decorative Arts Faire agrees with, it’s that it never disappoints and is always coming up with delightful surprises.

Collecting spans so many eras and such diverse disciplines that each year sees a new definition for excellence in antiques, art and collectables.

The overriding theme this year at the Faire is that of “why buy an imitation when you can buy an original” - whether it’s showcasing timeless antiques that have stood the test of time, to uncovering the contemporary classics of tomorrow.

Juxtaposing the collectables of the past with tomorrow’s collectables, is what this year’s Antiques Faire is all about.

The Faire this year will once again set the trend in showcasing the full spectrum of antiques, collectables and decorative arts, together with specialist pavilions of art, décor, classic cars and incorporating the Johannesburg Coin Fair sponsored by the South African Mint.

The presentation and glamour of NAADA Faire is unmatched in South Africa - from the décor design presentation style to the glamour of the opening night which takes place on Thursday June 2 and attracts over 500 of the collecting who’s who. The result is the most talked about antiques, art and collectables fair in the country.

**Décor settings to drool over**

Beautiful décor settings are what make the Faire so special - whether it’s a true-blue antique setting that harks back to an age of opulence, 20th century Scandinavian designer retro furniture, or the spectacular eclectic mix of old and new that decorator to royalty and the stars Stephen Falcke features, visitors will become addicted to vintage, with contemporary collectables juxtaposed with the beauty of the past.

**Catch the collecting bug**

Displayed on and among the magnificent furniture on show will be the widest

range of collectables - from exquisite antique silver to delicate porcelain and gleaming glassware. For the collector of the unusual and the quirky, you will find the most eclectic mix of collectables - from antique dolls to copper pots, from kitchenalia to antique linen. New disciplines in collecting are continually being added - from collectable advertising boards to old bottles; from Zippo lighters to action figures.

**Vintage clothes, jewellery and designer handbags**

Vintage fashion continues to have its devoted followers with the art deco period still one of the most popular.

For younger collectors the ‘60s, ‘70s, ‘80s and even ‘90s find them scouring second-hand shops for inspirational buys.

It’s one thing to be seen sporting the latest Gucci or Chanel handbag - it’s another to boast a vintage designer handbag that is no longer available in the high-end boutiques.

Finding a vintage handbag that turns out to be a rare Hermes pink crocodile Birkin that sold for £146 000 at Christie’s should be enough to get you trawling antique markets for handbags that will get everyone talking.

The most sought-after bags include the Hermes Kelly named after Princess Grace Kelly of Monaco who used the bag to hide her growing pregnancy and the classic Chanel 2.55, an updated version of the classic clutch bag with chain straps designed in 1955.

Just knowing that the designer bag you’ve bought was made by a distinctive fashion house like Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Dior, Prada or Cartier or comes from a glamorous era, is enough to make every woman a collector.

Finding an authentic designer bag and not a fake and in pristine condition is the challenge but there are specialist dealers at the Faire, like Vivien Hilton of Moonstruck Experience who will help you find some superb examples. Sboros Jewellery specialises in the very sought after amber jewellery and general dealers all have their own selection of antique & costume jewellery.

Visit Vivien Hilton’s shop in Northcliff and you will be transported back to the magic of the ‘20s and ‘30s.

Known as the roaring ‘20s and ‘30s, with its emancipated women in flapper dresses and long cigarette holders, its decadent lifestyle, Hollywood glamour and jazz, this is the “modern” era in collecting.

Besides the beautiful lounge suites, lamps, mirrors and masks, Spelter figures and bronzes, Vivien specialises in vintage clothing that includes original dresses, luxurious furs, exquisite costume jewellery and accessories.

**South African antiques come into their own**

Not to be outdone, our very own South African antiques take centre stage - from rare Africana pieces to Cape and Transvaal collectables, Boer War memorabilia and collectable copper and porcelain accessories.

A new area of collecting is South African imbuia and stinkwood ball

and claw revival furniture which is tomorrow’s new collectable.

**The Johannesburg coin show takes centre stage**

Sponsored by the South African Mint, the Johannesburg Coin Show pavilion will feature the South African Mint surrounded by some of the most reputable coin dealers in the country. Where the SA Mint launches highly collectable new coins, the coin and bank note dealers will offer some interesting and often rare specimens from all over the world.

**International treasures**

From the thousands of Royal Doulton and Moorcroft pieces brought to South Africa by Ed Pascoe, the world’s biggest dealer in English ceramics, to the highly collectable Chinese antiques and the porcelain brought out by Dutch dealer Ricus Dullaert, visitors will be exposed to top international collections. In furniture, the world’s your oyster - choose from English period furniture in a delicate Victorian ladies writing desk or a pair of Wellington chests or a Victorian mahogany 24-seater dining table; choose an ornate French four-poster bed or opt for a modern collectable Scandinavian leather chair or retro dining set.

**Japanese joins the club**

While Chinese antiques have come to the fore as a result of the growing number of Chinese nationals working and living in South Africa who have become ardent collectors, the introduction of Japanese antiques is an exciting development.

Exhibiting for the first time at the NAADA Faire is David Vokwy, Japanese fine art - a specialist in Japanese antiques, swords, armour and screens. Inexplicably sparked in his teens, says David, by his fascination of James Clavell’s novel Shogun, he soon became immersed in Japanese culture particularly the Samurai culture, their weapons, the tea ceremony, calligraphy and other related arts.

The samurai were typically skilled in the art of the tea ceremony, flower arranging (ikebana) and calligraphy among others. With Samurai swords probably the most well-known of Japanese collecting genres, in South Africa there are a number of collectors which has resulted in the formation of the Japanese Sword Society of South Africa.

**Classical modern and contemporary art masters**

The NAADA Faire has built up a reputation of showcasing some significant SA old masters art acquired by our antique dealers, including some and once again a dedicated art pavilion will showcase both South African old masters and introduce tomorrow’s contemporary art masters. At the Faire, collectors will be able to see everything from South African old masters such as Pierneef.

**The opening night - for the who’s who of collecting**

The prestigious opening night cocktail event for the Faire takes place on Thursday June 2. A charity event in aid of 67 Blankets, this is where the who’s who of the collecting world gather to mingle and be the first to buy up the very best in antiques and collectables. Tickets are R250 per person and



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 <p><b>ONE SHILLING</b> 1923 to 1964 = R12 1931 = R500 Up to R3000 1939 = R500 Up to R30 000 1949 = R400 Up to R4000</p>	 <p><b>6D</b> 1923 to 1964 = R6 1931 = R500 Up to R3000 1939 = R10 000 Up to R30 000</p>	 <p><b>3D</b> 1923 to 1964 = R3 1931 = R10 000 Up to R50 000</p>

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# Ganeinu Nursery School tots celebrate Lag B’Omer in style



Pretoria’s bochurim and children having fun on Lag B’Omer.

DIANE WOLFSON  
PRETORIA

The bochurim at Pretoria’s Yeshiva organised a special Lag B’Omer event for the children of the Ganeinu Jewish Nursery School last week.

Dressed up as Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and Rabbi Akiva, the bochurim re-enacted the story and entertained the children and sang songs around the fire. Great fun was had as they all helped to melt marshmallows over the small bonfire.

Lag B’Omer is celebrated on the 33rd day of the Counting of the Omer, which occurs on the 18th day

of the Hebrew month of Iyar.

This day marks the hillula (celebration, interpreted by some as anniversary of death) of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, a Mishnaic sage and leading disciple of Rabbi Akiva in the 2nd century, and the day on which he revealed the deepest secrets of kabbalah in the form of the Zohar (Book of Splendour), a landmark text of Jewish mysticism.

This association has spawned several well-known customs and practices on Lag B’Omer, including the lighting of bonfires, pilgrimages to the tomb of Bar Yochai in the northern Israeli town of Meron, and various customs at the tomb itself.

# KDL exhibition puts emphasis on human rights

LORRAINE SRAGE, CARYN HOROWITZ  
AND DINO ANGELOU

On Wednesday May 25, King David High School, Linksfield launched their “Right to be Human” exhibition, which was a culmination of months of work by the entire school. The aim of the exhibition, which runs until June 8, is to highlight the importance of human rights, which forms the core of who we are, both as South Africans and as Jews.

“It is our priority as a Jewish day school to sensitise our learners to the need to be aware, and to actively participate in the alleviation of human suffering. Our school not only strives to achieve academic, cultural and sporting excellence, but also to educate our learners to be compassionate, caring and committed human beings who are aware of the indignities suffered by our fellow South Africans,” commented KDHL Principal Lorraine Srage in her speech at the opening ceremony. This learner-driven process required grade 9 pupils to select one artwork by renowned artist David Labkowski to which they could relate, while engaging with the broader concept of “The Right to be Human”. The learners then designed installations based on their selected theme.

As the learning process is as important as the final product, it is important to recognise how the pupils came away from the experience having constructed new knowledge and ideals about pre-conceived ideas.

Art historian, teacher and author Esme Ber-

man, was quoted in a recent edition of the Jewish Report saying: “I consider the liberal arts fundamental to a healthy society, they make us human and give us the ability to appreciate things on a higher level.”



Grade 9 pupils Danielle Russo and Jodi Benjamin standing with their exhibits.

As South African Jews, we ponder what our learners can possibly learn from the baseless hatred inflicted on people. Viktor Frankl said: “Being human means being conscious and being responsible.”

- The exhibition will be open to the public until June 8. Call (011) 480-4500 for more information.

# A workshop to put fun back into learning



Grade 7 learners from Pholosho School in Alexandra were the guests of King David High School Victory Park Mitzvah School.

LORETTE VIEREN  
PHOTOGRAPH: YAEL GORDON

King David High School Victory Park Mitzvah School invited the grade 7 learners from Pholosho School in Alexandra township, north-east of Johannesburg to attend a “Study Skills Workshop” last week Tuesday afternoon.

Pholosho School caters for learners who come from disadvantaged homes and learners from KDVP High have reached out to them for many years, arranging various fun and educational activities.

The workshop was presented in the auditorium by Nadia Louw, KDVP’s educational psychologist. Learners explored a variety of learning techniques and approaches to assist them in making the learning process more effective and fun.

Lunch was enjoyed by all and each Pholosho School learner received a pencil bag filled with stationery. The afternoon’s activities were intended to help Pholosho School learners prepare for their upcoming examinations.

# Lag B’Omer warmth permeates little Sydenham hearts



Photo: Ingrid Seeff

Enjoying the festivities are Taylor Levitas; Sami Levin; Shaiya Crouse; Chaira Riback; Gabriella Seymour; Keren Fine; Samuel Berger; Jake Levitan; Saul Gordon; Kiara Bergman; Erin Katzman; and Jesse Roff.

SUE BENJAMIN

Everyone at Sydenham Pre-Primary School dressed in the warm colours of red, yellow and orange for their celebration of Lag B’Omer. Beautiful trees painted by the children decorated the walls together with self-portraits drawn by the grade Rs.

The children listened to the story about Rabbis Akiva and Shimon Bar Yochai and the miracles that took place on Lag B’Omer. They danced around a bonfire, singing songs about treating each other with love and respect.

It was a truly joyous day and the highlight of the morning was when everyone was encouraged to hug a friend in a show of unity and friendship before sitting down to enjoy roast potatoes around the bonfire.

# Minnie Bersohn kids get into the spirit of Lag B’Omer

MICHELLE VINOKUR

The children at Minnie Bersohn Nursery School in Johannesburg were in great spirits celebrating Lag B’Omer. The children had so much fun competing in different races like the potato and spoon, sack and hula hoop races.

A bonfire was lit which the children sat by and watched. They then enjoyed potatoes for a snack. They had a ball!



Photo: Michelle Vinokur



A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies



**Above Board**  
**Jeff Katz**  
National Chairman

On June 20, the SAJBD Cape Council will be facilitating a colloquium for its affiliate organisations to debate the question of women singing solo at Yom Hashoah, hopefully the outcome of which will be a working solution for the Cape Jewish community’s continued all-inclusive commemoration of the Holocaust.

We, as the national board of the SAJBD, regard such a process of consultation as being crucial to resolving what has become a very painful and divisive issue in our community. Ultimately, it is for us as a community working together, and not for outside parties, to determine the best way to resolve this particular impasse.

In doing so, our aim is not to create winners and losers, but to arrive at a solution that is acceptable and accepted by all within our community.

Unfortunately, the debate to date has been characterised more by knee-jerk emotion than by a real understanding of the facts and issues involved. Certain protagonists have sought to portray the dispute in simple, black-and-white terms, whereas in reality, it involves a range of complicated legal questions and legitimate competing claims.

These include freedom of association, freedom of religion, gender equality, fair versus unfair discrimination criteria, and entanglement (that is, the reluctance of civil courts to involve themselves in religious laws and practices), in addition to a host of other procedural and high constitutional issues.

The position of the Board of Deputies is that to the greatest extent possible, all segments of our community must feel comfortable and included when attending major communal

events. This is particularly true of Yom Hashoah. We must never forget that the atrocities committed by the Nazis were against the entire Jewish faith, race and community, regardless of what their religious beliefs or practices might have been.

The Board is not a religious body and therefore cannot and does not take any position on the halachic aspects of kol isha. Our mandate, rather, is to ensure that as many people in our community as possible can - and do - take part in our activities.

This means that were we simply to accede to requests that the Yom Hashoah programme be amended to include women singing solo without the necessary discussions and potential compromises being reached, a significant portion of our community would inevitably be excluded from commemorating the Holocaust.

The colloquium will provide our community with an opportunity to decide these questions internally, through free, constructive and respectful discussion. Just as diversity of

opinion is part of a healthy and vibrant democracy, so is the process of debate, conciliation and, where necessary, compromise, a way in which different constituencies can understand one another’s point of view and work towards achieving a solution that is in the overall best interests of the community.

For this process to be successful, all parties need to participate without preconditions or preconceived outcomes. We are hopeful that the colloquium will result in a positive solution, believing that there is more than enough wisdom and goodwill among our Cape Town counterparts to ensure this. Rather than prejudging the outcome, I encourage our community to support our efforts to find a constructive way forward through this process.

• 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*



# This Shavuot

## Chag Sameach





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# Nominations now open for Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2016

It’s that time of year again! Nominations are open for the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2016. The winners will be announced at a glittering gala on August 28, and includes a ‘who’s who’ of South African Jewry. The Award categories honour individuals who have excelled in both business and the humanities. The gala evening is not to be missed with music, comedy, and great food. No other event in the Jewish social calendar attracts as many high profile individuals.

All money raised goes to fund the free publication and distribution of the SA Jewish Report newspaper. All Awards are judged by panels of independent experts and are considered, especially in the audited business categories, as the most rigorous and credible business awards process in the country.

**Nominations**

Nominations are open to the public. Please feel free to nominate anyone you may consider worthy, for any of a host of categories.

Nominations can be submitted on-line at [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za) (click on the red nominations banner) or e-mailed to [nominations@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:nominations@sajewishreport.co.za).

**Nominations should include:**

- The nominee’s name, telephone number and e-mail address
- The award for which the nominee is nominated
- A short motivation for the nomination

The closing date for nominations is June 24, 2016.

## THE AWARDS

**The Lifetime Achievement Award in honour of Helen Suzman**

Awarded to a Jewish person who has contributed in an extraordinary manner, in their specific field, over a lengthy period of time.

**The Absa Listed Company Award**

Awarded to a Jewish person in a senior leadership position within a listed company who has achieved enormous success worthy of recognition.

**The Absa Unlisted Company Award**

Awarded to a Jewish person in a senior leadership position in an unlisted company who has achieved significant success worthy of recognition.

**The Absa Entrepreneur Award**

Awarded to a Jewish person who has shown enormous entrepreneurial flair and business innovation.

**The KIA Community Service Award**

Awarded to a Jewish person who has served the Jewish community with remarkable distinction.

**The Arts, Science, Sports & Culture Award**

Awarded to a Jewish person who has excelled in any of the aforementioned spheres.

**The Chivas Humanitarian Award in honour of Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris**

Awarded to either a Jewish or non-Jewish person who has contributed substantially to the betterment of the lives of the people of South Africa.

**The Creative Counsel Young Jewish Entrepreneur Award**

This award recognises entrepreneurship in young Jews aged 30 and younger.

**The Europcar Jewish Women in Leadership Award**

Awarded to a Jewish woman who has shown extraordinary success in her chosen field.

Previous winners of awards include Natie Kirsh (Kirsh Industries), Brian Joffe (Bidvest), Paula Slier (War Correspondent), Stuart Cohen (Mr Price), Meyer Kahn (SAB/Miller), Adrian Gore (Discovery), Raymond Ackerman (Pick n Pay), Steven Braudo (Liberty), Asher Bohbot (EOH), Alec Wapnick (Octodec), Gill Marcus (Reserve Bank), Brett Levy (Blue Label), Steven Joffe (Gold Reef City), Philip Krawitz (Cape Union Mart), William Kirsh (Primedia), Herschel Mayers (Discovery Life), Sean Melnick (Peregrine), Abe and Solly Krok (Krok Brothers), John Cope-lyn (HCI), Arthur Gillis (Protea Hotels), Jeff Zidel (Resilient Properties), William Kentridge (Artist), Danny K & Kabelo (Shout Campaign), Phillip Tobias (Paleo-anthropologist), Ina Perlman (Operation Hunger), Johnny Clegg (Musician) Dr Ali Bacher (Cricket Administrator), Pieter Dirk Uys (Comedian), and Thuli Madonsela (Public Protector).

The Awards in the past have also honoured both President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu for their contribution to South Africa.

The results are all audited by Grant Thornton accountants.

Please nominate appropriate candidates NOW before it’s too late!

# A book for every taste

**STEVEN KRAWITZ**

It is always a challenge identifying what I believe are the best books every month, as there is always so much to choose from.

**Business Books:**  
[Alibaba: The House that Jack Ma Built, by Duncan Clark \(ECCO\)](#)  
Alibaba, China’s answer to Amazon, has more than 334 million active buyers. That is more than the population of America. In this book Clark weaves together the worlds of business, technology, entrepreneurship and rising China. He draws on his personal knowledge of Jack Ma who he has known since 1999. The business personality of the decade in the Business Book of the Year.

**Current Affairs:**  
[A Rage for Order by Robert F Worth \(Picador\)](#)  
The New York Times Middle East correspondent tracks the tormented legacy of the “Arab Spring” by introducing a riveting cast of characters, including two Syrian women whose friendship turns into enmity when their sects go to war and two 80-something statesmen who save Tunisia from disintegration. An original analysis of how the dreams of an Arab world turned into a nightmare.

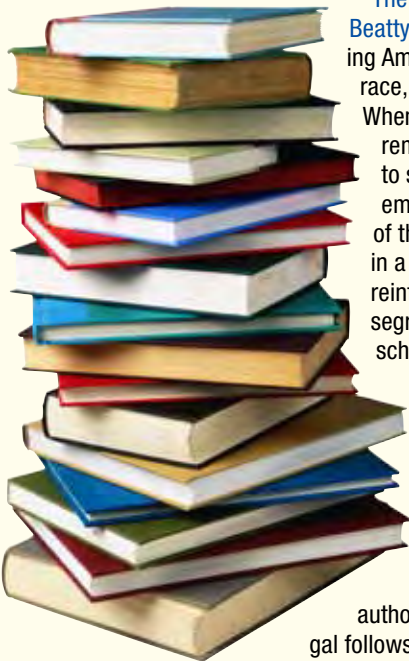
**Psychology:**  
Angela Duckworth’s TED talk on Grit has been viewed more than 8 million times. Now in her book [Grit \(Vermilion\)](#), she elaborates on how the secret to outstanding achievement is not talent but a special blend of passion, persistence, and grit. Duckworth also explains how grit is something that can be learned.

**Neapolitan Books:**  
In her bestselling Neapolitan quartet, Elena Ferrante creates a modern masterpiece of literature, following two women - Elena and Lila - across decades in Naples. The four books ([My Brilliant Friend](#); [The Story of a New Name](#); [Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay](#); and [The Story of the Lost Child](#)) are now locally available. Also look out for [Only in Naples](#) (Virago) - a memoir by Katherine Wilson who arrived in Naples as a young intern at the American Consulate,

married an Italian and was initiated into Italian culture.

**Thrillers:**  
[The Trap by Melanie Roabe](#) (Mantle) tells the story of Linda Conran, a reclusive best-selling author, whose sister was murdered. Her killer was never caught, but Linda saw him, and 12 years later, Linda sees him again, on TV. He is a well-known reporter. Linda sets the only trap she can think of: writing a crime thriller called Blood Sisters.

**Literary fiction:**  
[The Woman Next Door](#) (Chatto and Windus) by [Johannesburger Yewande Omotoso](#) is set in a Cape Town gated community and follows the “hateship” between two cantankerous octogenarians, one white and one black. Comedic in nature, this novel deals with so many real contemporary issues and sparkles with Omotoso’s rare talent to create rich characters and bring them to life. A compulsory book for all book clubs.



[The Sellout by Paul Beatty](#) (Oneworld) is a biting American satire about race, a timely topic. When a black town is removed from the map to save California from embarrassment, some of the black residents in a bid for recognition, reintroduce slavery and segregate the local high school, setting off a journey that challenges the sacred tenets of the US constitution. In [Mend the Living](#) (MacLehose), French prize-winning author Maylis de Kerangal follows one heart over a 24-hour period. Simon Limbeau’s heart starts the day beating as he sleeps, but today it will encounter a very different passage and end in a different body. Devastating and mesmeric.

**Sci-fi:**  
In [Sylvain Neuvel’s Sleeping Giants](#) (Michail Joseph), giant parts of what can only be an alien robot are found around the world and assembled in secret by a shadowy US government body. The reaction of other nations, shifts in the balance of international power make it a thrilling and compelling read.

# Cohen de Villiers’ books put emphasis full-square on family abuse

**SUZANNE BELLING**

When Marilyn Cohen de Villiers decided to write her first novel “A Beautiful Family”, it coincided with the Jewish community lifting the lid off abuse “within the areas in the eruv”. “I started to realise the extent of the problem through the Community Policing Forum and the 16 Days of Activism. We always thought abuse happened in poor uneducated families. But it happens everywhere.

“The story is fictional, but it reflects a major problem. I created the Silverman family - led by Alan and Brenda. I googled the name Alan Silverman to ensure that there was no one by that name living here and was assisted by the research of Kim Lindy Serebro, who did a masters thesis on abuse.”

Says Serebro: “This research attempted to gain insight into the perspectives of Orthodox Jewish women regarding the abuse of women in heterosexual relationships, in their community. Feminist theory and social constructionism were utilised in order to facilitate greater insight into the roles of women in Judaism and the manner in which Jewish doctrine and ideology influence women who are abused by

their husbands.

“The research focused on specific principles that are intrinsic to Jewish faith and identity. It also explored Jewish persecution and its influence on the formation and perpetuation of many of the Jewish customs and traditions as a means of preserving or upholding Jewish faith.”

Cohen de Villiers was further inspired by an international workshop on domestic abuse in Jewish communities around the world. This included a paper on Shalom Bayit, a shelter for abused Jewish women in Johannesburg by Brenda Solarsh (then the director of Social Services for the Johannesburg Chevrah Kadisha and co-founder of the Johannesburg Shalom Bayit project) and Jane Frankel (a social worker at Jewish Community Services, a division of the Chevrah Kadisha in Johannesburg).

But often, fiction, especially written with the depth of compassion and expertise of Cohen de Villiers, is a more eloquent conduit to transmit to the hearts and minds of readers. It shocks the reader into believing the previously unbelievable and the book’s sequel “When Time Fails” hits home the consequences of the actions of some of the characters in the first

novel.

The second book also deals with land restitution, which remains a much-discussed topic in South Africa today, a year after the launch of the book.

The themes of the two novels intertwine, but there are many unanswered questions, which the author intends to clarify in the third book in the trilogy which she has already started. “I haven’t even thought of the title yet,” she says. “But it is about assigning responsibility” and it ties up the loose ends.

Cohen de Villiers, who, when she was on the Students Representative Council at Rhodes University, where she attained a B Journalism and a BA Honours in English, was a staunch liberal, bridging the divide between the “radical and conservative” SRC members.

Her own experiences - six months in Israel on a kibbutz ulpan, backpacking through Europe, living in England and working on a moshav near the Gaza border - gave her the background which lends authenticity to “A Beautiful Family”.

“I was born and raised in Johannesburg’s northern suburbs, the youngest daughter in an extraordinary happy, stable and traditional

(rather than observant) Jewish family.”

Her writing career started as a journalist on The Citizen during the eighties. In 1996 she moved into public relations and now heads up the PR division at a marketing agency in Sandton.

- The books are available from selected bookshops, including some branches of Exclusive Books at R230 and from Amazon at \$4,99.



Marilyn Cohen de Villiers holding her two books.



# Jules Browde, legal and communal giant, passes on at age 97

DAVID SAKS

Advocate Jules Browde, who passed away on Tuesday at the age of 97, was a highly respected and much loved member of the Johannesburg Bar, as well as a long-serving human rights activist and Jewish communal leader.

In the course of a legal career stretching over more than half a century, he acted for various anti-apartheid activists, including Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo and was a founding member of Lawyers for Human Rights. His Jewish communal involvement included serving for 25 years as national president of Habonim.

Browde was born in Johannesburg in 1919. After obtaining a BA from Wits University, he commenced his law articles at his brother's Johannesburg firm Mendelow and Browde. At the end of May 1940, soon after the fall of France, he enlisted in the Union Defence Force and spent the next five and a half years as an officer in the South African Artillery.

He served in Abyssinia (now Ethiopia), North Africa and Italy, and took part in some of the fiercest fighting in the latter theatre, from the battle of Monte Cassino through to the final surrender of the German forces at the end of April 1945.

After the war, Browde continued his studies at Wits, where he first met Mandela, a fellow law student. The two men established a warm and enduring friendship, one interrupted by Mandela's 27 years of imprisonment but renewed soon after his release.

In the 1950s, Browde appeared, on both occasions successfully, for Oliver Tambo to apply for his admission as an attorney, and for Mandela & Tambo when attempts were made to evict them from their offices because they were in "white Johannesburg". Shortly after becoming president, Mandela appointed Browde to investigate irregularities in the appointment of certain public servant posts during the transition to the

country's democracy.

Browde was appointed a Senior Counsel in 1969. He went on to serve as an acting justice in South Africa and as a judge on the Appeal Courts of Swaziland and Lesotho. He was a founder member of Lawyers for Human Rights when it was established in 1980 and was its chairman from 1983-1993.

During this period, which included several years under the State of Emergency, the organisation was active in publicising human rights abuses and confronting such abuses through litigation.



The late Advocate Jules Browde.

In July 2008, Browde was presented with the Sydney and Felicia Kentridge Award for Service to Law in Southern Africa. Speaking on that occasion, former Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson commented that what made Browde special was "his integrity, his commitment to the Bar as an institution, his values rooted in his respect for the dignity of all persons, and his public commitment to the struggle for a better life for all".

In addition to being renowned for his skill as a trial lawyer, Browde

was also a famed raconteur. Many of his stories, which have become well-known in legal circles and beyond, have been recorded by his grandson, Daniel, who is currently preparing them for publication under the title A Few Trees: Stories My Grandfather Told Me.

Browde is survived by Selma, his wife of nearly 70 years, and sons Ian, Allan and Paul.

Professor Selma Browde also achieved considerable eminence, both in her profession as a senior radiation oncologist at the University of the Witwatersrand and Johannesburg group of hospitals and as an anti-apartheid activist, including being the only Progressive Party member of the Johannesburg City Council.

She and Jules were joint recipients of the SA Jewish Report's Helen Suzman Lifetime Achievement Award in August 2011.

# Top sculptress Naomi Jacobson dies age 91

DAVID SAKS

Naomi Jacobson, who passed away in Johannesburg last week at the age of 91, was an internationally renowned portrait sculptor and a member of a distinguished South African and Namibian Jewish family.

Her commissions over the years included making busts or statues of various anti-apartheid icons, among them Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo. In addition, she created a number of sculptures of birds and buck for public fountains and statues of historical figures for various centres in southern Africa.

Jacobson was born in Windhoek in what was then South West Africa, on June 1, 1925. Her father, Israel Goldblatt, was an eminent advocate, author and campaigner for Namibian independence from South Africa, while her mother, Jeanette, was the daughter of Rev Mordecai Cohen, first spiritual leader of the Windhoek Hebrew Congregation.

David Goldblatt, the noted Yiddishist, publisher and Jewish civil rights activist in Cape Town, was her grandfather. Another family member who carved a niche for herself in the country's literary history was her father's elder sister, Sarah Goldblatt, secretary and later literary executrix of the famed Afrikaans poet, writer and advocate, senator C J Langenhoven, author of Die Stem van Suid-Afrika.

Jacobson's younger sister, Karen, followed her father into the legal profession, becoming the first woman to be appointed as a justice in South West Africa.

After matriculating in Windhoek, Jacobson studied at the Michaelis School of Art at the University of Cape Town, where she met Larry Jacobson, a medical student, whom she married in 1947. The couple settled in South West Africa and they moved to Johannesburg in 1973.

Jacobson began sculpting in earnest in Windhoek, where she set up a studio. While a number of her important works were of deceased historical figures, such as Lord Baden-Powell, she much preferred working from live settings. Describing her approach, she once commented: "One can take a photo, but working in clay or plaster in three dimensions is really to get to the inside of the person."

It was after relocating to Johannesburg



Sculptress Naomi Jacobson, with husband Larry, working on a statue of Steve Biko.

that Jacobson's career began to take off, thanks in part to the friendship and support of such fellow artists as Cecil Skotnes and Larry Scully.

She was given an exhibition by Norma Wolfewitz, who had opened a gallery, and sold all 14 of her Namibian ethnic heads. From then on, commissions came in regularly, and she never needed another exhibition.

Many of her works today can be found in local, international and private collections and in addition she has created a number of sculptures of birds and buck for public fountains. She was further engaged to create life-size statues of, among others, Zulu kings Shaka and Cetshwayo.

Jacobson is survived by her son, David (who also achieved international renown as a sculptor) and daughter, Janine. Her husband, Larry, died in March 2004.



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

LIFE STILL CARRIES ON AS BEFORE - WITHOUT TALK RADIO 702

For about 20 years I was an avid listener, sometimes phone-in participant, but seldom quiet, whether on air or off, of Talk Radio 702. And then... John Robbie, my long-time air-wave sparring partner, went just too far.

In 2014 I protested to 702 and to Primedia about a provocatively one-sided commentary in which Robbie vilified my spiritual homeland, Israel, without bothering to extend the accused the right of reply.

Robbie’s “Holocaust” comment went beyond the pale. I protested vociferously by e-mail. Radio 702 itself ignored that protest. Primedia sent one of those robotic “your complaint is receiving attention” type non-responses. (Co-incidentally, the podcast of Robbie’s “Holocaust” comment was abruptly removed from the 702 podcast library. I recovered it from the Internet.)

Upon receipt of the “non-reply”, I banned 702 in my home, car and workplace. And for the last 18-24 months, 702 and I have quite successfully lived without each other. Neither side seems demonstrably better or worse off for the separation.

I have, however, become aware of another of Robbie’s “objective” and “unbiased” comments on the subject, apparently aired on May 25.

Interestingly, a visit to the 702 site once again reveals that no podcast is offered. If I am mistaken about the absence of a link, however, I will publicly admit to it upon receipt of a podcast link that the general public can access without having to submit a special request.

If 702 and Primedia want to know what I’m talking about, no explanation is needed.

If 702 and/or Primedia choose to respond, and by this I mean respond “meaningfully” as opposed to a “your complaint is receiving attention” type non-response, please do it by e-mail only.

**Stan Luntz**  
**Johannesburg**

HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE CENTRE FOLLOWS ‘UNDEMOCRATIC’ ROUTE

In our community we are used to undemocratic ways. For example, the Jewish Board of Deputies is not a legitimate body because we, the public, never vote for them. Now we have a new institution, the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre where everything is decided by its manager, Tali Nates. We, the public, have no say whatsoever.

Usually in museums and other institutions there is a visitor’s book where members of the public can write their own comments or opinions. I am not particularly keen on this because very few people read it.

I would like to see one or two exhibition panels exclusively for the use of the public to present their opinions, each one for at least a month at a time.

**Yossi Bogacz**  
**Highlands North,**  
**Johannesburg**

GOLDEN ACRES GETS A WARM RESIDENT ENDORSEMENT

As residents, (and parents) of Sandringham Gardens campus, we would like to endorse the sentiments and report of Michael Sieff on the activities of this wonderful institution which appeared in last week’s edition of the Jewish Report.

May the management and staff and all the donors of the Chevrah Kadisha enjoy Hashem’s richest blessings for a happy and healthy future. Sandringham Gardens campus is indeed a “holy” institution.

**Choni and Miriam Davidowitz**  
**Golden Acres, Johannesburg**

Looking for family of late Frieda Sichel/Ledermann

Wolfgang Matthäus in Germany is trying to find the copyright holder(s) of the book “Challenge of the Past” Johannesburg, 1975, written by the late Frieda Sichel. The book was sponsored by B’nai B’rith Lodge Johannesburg and First B’nai B’rith Women’s Chapter of South Africa.

“The City of Kassel in Germany and some historians want to have this book translated into German but they need permission from the family of the late Frieda Sichel or whoever has the copyright now,” Matthäus writes.

Frieda Sichel had a daughter Anne Lederman (born September 19 1927.9, died 1985) who lived in Rivonia. Frieda also had a son born in 1923 and he had two children - Adrian 1950 and Janet Herbert 1954.

Wolfgang Matthäus may be contacted at: Goethestraße 16, D 34119 Kassel, Germany. Tel. +49-561-14601, e-mail: w.matthaeus@t-online.de

More news on our website [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za)


With the assistance of the Jewish community of Lithuania and Moletai municipality

# Malat

## Moletai - Lithuania

### 29 August 2016 16:00

March in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the death march in Malat 1941



29 August 1941 - The Day of the Massacre

Before WW2 the population of Malat was mostly Jewish.

If you wish to participate in this historic march from the Malat Synagogue site to the mass grave of about 2000 Malater (1.5km)

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## Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2016

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# 28.08.2016

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- **Kia** Community Service Award
- **Jewish Report** Art, Sport, Science & Culture Award
- **Absa** Entrepreneur Award
- **Absa** Unlisted Company
- **Absa** Listed Company Award
- **The Creative Counsel** Young Jewish Entrepreneur Award
- **Europcar** Jewish Woman in Leadership Award

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**The closing date for nominations is 24 June 2016.**

### NOMINATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE:

- The nominee's name, telephone number and email address
- The award for which the nominee is nominated
- A short motivation for the nomination

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# This network of angels truly makes a difference to many lives

SUZANNE BELLING

An angel is defined as a being of great beauty, kindness and virtue. Angels perform good deeds and a network of angels can increase these many times over.

The Angel Network, though, is real, consisting of dedicated people who devote their time and effort to improving lives. It is a Facebook group started in November last year by Glynne Wolman of Johannesburg and already has more than 10 000 members.

It began with a plea for Santa shoeboxes filled with gifts for



Excited children, among them Aids orphans, hearing they were going to a sleep-out camp - many of them had never been away from home before. The Angel Network helped collect 60 bathing costumes, towels and sandals for each of the children, at the request of Orange Babies SA.

homeless children who never receive gifts. Within days, 65 boxes filled with sweets, toys and clothes were handed out.

This was followed by 500 packs of toiletries distributed at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg General Hospital and Edenvale Hospital to parents who often sit at their children’s bedsides for days on end. The Angels also packed some 100 gift bags for squatter children in Alexandra township.

A sponsorship enabled the fledgling organisation to provide

toys for the children in state hospitals.

Instead of focusing on one cause, the Angel Network is not affiliated to any one charity, but offers help to established welfare organisations whenever and wherever it is needed.

It has been approached by many groups and had assisted 25 of them over the past six months. These range from Jewish bodies such as the Johannesburg Women’s Benevolent Society (JWBS) and DL Link, to the Nashua Children’s Charity Foundation, Orange Babies SA, Khayalethu in Port Elizabeth and Clara’s Village in Limpopo.

The Angels Network is in the process of registering as a non-profit organisation (NPO).

It has expanded its operations to Cape Town and Port Elizabeth and has started a Little Angel Network in Johannesburg to involve the youth and help them learn about the joy of giving.

Wolman believes The Angel Network is “truly making a difference in the lives of others by offering a hand up as opposed to giving a handout”.

The Cape Town-born Wolman grew up in Port Elizabeth, then studied social science at the University of Cape Town. She later studied hotel management.

She travelled widely, including living in Israel, before returning to South Africa, where she has worked in personnel recruitment for the past 16 years. She moved to Johannesburg in 1990.

“I feel like I found my purpose. I am grateful that the things we are doing are changing people’s lives. “One person can make a difference,” says Wolman.

Wolman works with a five other women on her committee, Lindi Katzoff, Hayley Glasser, Janine Waisbrod, Beverley Smith and Giselle Wynn

“We help across the board,” even though she told SA Jewish Report that they “had flak” from some Jews for not confining their work to the Jewish community.

She is active in the JWBS, having founded the Pivotal branch with Leigh Brouze.

## Israeli flag stirs up controversy in Arab soccer tournament



JERUSALEM - Last week, Israel indirectly stirred up controversy during the opening ceremony of a beach soccer tournament in Egypt after the Israeli flag was featured in a documentary film presenting the upcoming tournament.

Eight Arab national teams have been participating in the tournament taking place in the city of Sharm El Sheikh.

Several Arab delegations strongly denounced the appearance of Israel’s flag in the documentary, stating that “the flag is not relevant to the tournament or to the activities related to it”.

The Omani delegation left the event’s media conference. The Omani representatives were followed by the delegations of Bahrain, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Iraq that threatened to leave the tournament. - Jerusalem Post

## Golish-sponsored Holocaust Torah is kosher once again

BOCA RATON - When Glen and Rosa Golish of Boca Raton - members of Boca Raton Synagogue, a Modern Orthodox synagogue in west Boca Raton – first found out what fellow synagogue member Sibyl Silver and her Jewish Heritage Foundation was doing, they knew they had to get involved to help in some way.

The Jewish Heritage Foundation has a mission of rescuing Sifrei Torah and other Jewish artefacts confiscated by the Nazis from European Jewish communities during the Holocaust and the Second World War.

The Golish family became the sponsors of the restoration of the first of three Sifrei Torah to be restored by a local sofer.

Now, after more than 70 years out of commission, this Torah is once again kosher for use during prayer services. - Florida Jewish Journal

## School Principal Sydney, Australia For commencement in January 2017

Kesser Torah College is a Jewish educational facility offering Jewish and Secular Education and care for children aged 2 years – Year 12. The College incorporates the Early Childhood Centres (Carl Rose Early Learning School and the Education & Care Centre), Primary School and High Schools, situated in beautiful Dover Heights, Sydney, Australia.

Kesser Torah was incorporated in December 2003, and is a Jewish orthodox school with a Chabad ethos. It has grown to accommodate over 420 students catering to over 220 families. With a staff complement of 90 professionals, the school is committed to enhancing academic and extra-curricular learning for each child as an individual, and to providing the highest quality Jewish and Secular education, as well as pastoral care.

### Key Selection Criteria:

- Be a dynamic, strong and decisive leader.
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- Build respectful relationships and a collaborative culture.
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- Optimise the utilisation of human and physical resources.
- Challenge, motivate and empower the School community to embrace change.
- Possess exceptional interpersonal and communication skills.

### Additional Selection Criteria:

- Actively promote the ethos of an independent school.
- Actively advocate school fundraising campaigns and directly engage with potential donors.
- Have outstanding marketing and school promotion skills.
- Have the ability to attract, motivate, inspire and retain high quality staff.
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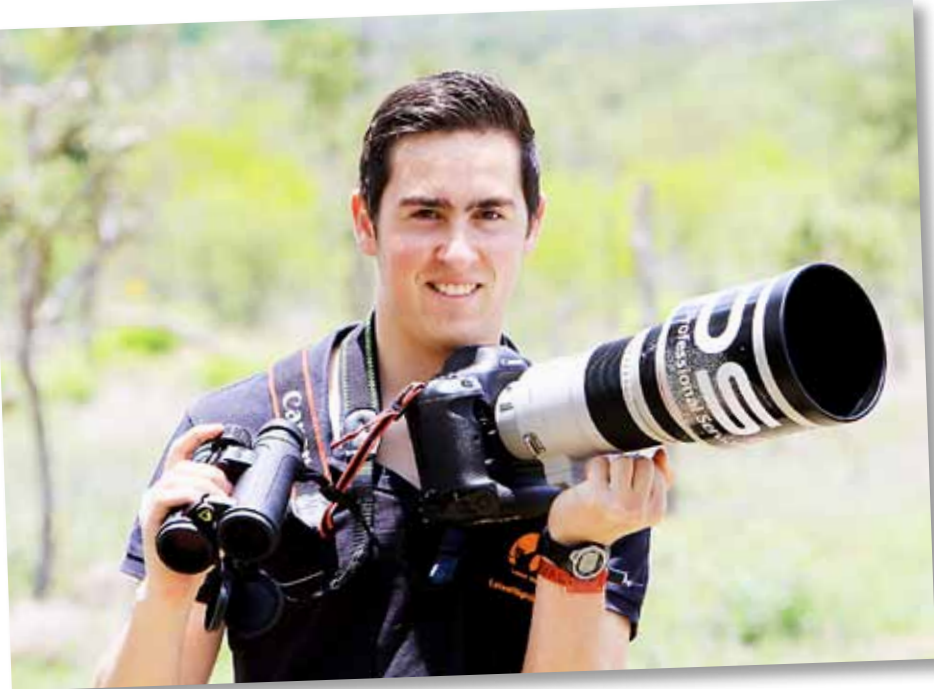


For a Principal pack, further information, or to submit an application, email [principalapplications@ktc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:principalapplications@ktc.nsw.edu.au).

Closing date for applications is 4pm on Friday 1 July 2016.

[www.ktc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ktc.nsw.edu.au)

## Young Nadav is on Forbes’ most promising entrepreneurs list



### OWN CORRESPONDENT

Five South Africans have so far made it onto the prestigious Forbes Africa 30 under 30s list of most promising entrepreneurs, with Forbes calling them “the billionaires of tomorrow”.

The youngest of the five is Nadav Ossendryver (19), CEO and founder of Latest Sightings, an online, real-time, wildlife spotting service for visitors to the Kruger National Park.

According to his Who’s Who profile, Ossendryver, nicknamed “Google McDuff”, was only 15 when he turned to technology to feed his curiosity for wildlife spottings and established Latest Sightings.

His website uses the concept of crowd sourcing - combining social media such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and BBM groups - and a website and iPhone, Windows and Android app to inform Kruger visitors and enthusiasts worldwide where interesting animals and birds have just been spotted.

The Kruger Sightings YouTube Channel is the most watched South African-based channel with over 315 million views.



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# Hazel upbeat about theatre in SA

PETER FELDMAN

Hazel Feldman, one of South Africa's best-known theatre producers, has over the years brought some illustrious names in show business to this country.

During her stint as entertainment director at Sun City in the '80s, she was responsible for importing every major name to grace the Superbowl stage, from Frank Sinatra to Liza Minnelli, from Paul Anka to Elton John, Rod Stewart, Cher, Shirley Maclaine, Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton - and others.

Today she is charting a different path and has introduced audiences to stage musicals of the calibre of Jersey Boys, Dreamgirls, Fame, Chicago, Menopause - The Musical and We Will Rock You.

Asked how difficult it has become to mount first class shows in South Africa in light of the economic situation, Feldman said: "It's very difficult. There are two key issues here, the state of the economy in South Africa and the foreign exchange rate. There's a limit to the prices we can charge for tickets - but international managements only see the revenue in terms of the foreign currency.

"So when we are charging around R350 and R450 for a ticket, that is only around \$22 to \$28 in American currency. The average ticket price on Broadway is around \$80 to \$150 and for concerts it's upwards of \$150.

"It's very difficult to get international managements and agents to take South Africa seriously as a viable destination. And from a local perspective every ticket carries a 14 per cent VAT deduction plus other

costs. It's not easy right now." Despite these challenges Feldman perseveres. "Whenever I talk about retiring, the phone rings and I cannot say 'no'."

South African audiences are changing all the time and Feldman believes they have become far more discerning. "The expectation levels are high."

She has to meet a busy schedule and has a full plate of productions geared for the remainder of the year. "We have 'Disney on Ice' opening on June 24 at the Ticketpro Dome."

The celebrated "Slava Snow-show", opens at the Teatro, Montecasino on July 26 and should prove a hit. "Slava is hauntingly beautiful and has played to enormous success and acclaim around the world."

In October "Annie" opens at Pieter Toerien's Theatre and forms another collaboration between her and renowned theatre owner and producer Pieter Toerien.

In November, Feldman is bringing back the "Cirque Éloize iD" for a short season, a hip hop/cirque extravaganza was last here two years ago.

Another facet to her career is her ability to mount shows both in South Africa and then tour them where possible in Asia. "Our talent is world class and is now accepted as such. And we can earn in foreign currency which has obvious benefits."

Asked whether she saw a bright future for entertainment in South Africa, Feldman replied: "Optimism is my middle name. We just have to be smart - and entertainment will always have a place in South Africa."

## What's On

### Saturday night (June 4)

- Pine Street Shul is hosting a Yom Yerushalayim function with the theme "Jerusalem Through Time". Cantor Ezra Sher will present a repertoire on Jerusalem, to be followed by a DVD "Mekonen". The journey of an African Jew who became an officer in the IDF. Then a short film "Beneath the Helmet". Time: 20:00 sharp. Cost: R75 pp. Payment at the door. There will be light refreshments. Booking: E mail lazari@iburst.co.za

### Sunday (June 5)

- Second Innings hosts Joel Harris, trainer for Jawitz Properties on "How to Make the Rest of Your Life the Best of Your Life". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Contact: Linda Fleishman (011) 532-9701
- JJAC invites Jewish singles aged 27 - 49 to watch the French Open Men's Tennis final at Metzuyan. E-mail whatson@jjac.co.za for details
- JAFFA's morning market at the home in Baileys Muckleneuk in Pretoria, takes place from 09:00 - 12:30. There will be different stalls to browse and buy from, second-hand clothing, bric-à-brac, refreshments, tombola, books and more.

- JH&GC in partnership with the Czech Embassy hosts a talk by Zuzana Pavlovská on "The Life of Survivors and the Jewish Community in Czechoslovakia after 1945" and opening of the exhibition "Don't Lose Faith in Mankind". Venue JH&GC, Forest Town. Seating limited. Booking: shirley@jhbholocaust.co.za or (011) 640-3100/2148

### Monday (June 6)

- UJW hosts Dr Anthony Turton, lecturer in environmental management, with an audiovisual presentation on "Water Pollution and Disease, Microcystin Problem and the Central Nervous System in Relation to MND/Alzheimers. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R40. Everyone welcome - men and women. Booking not necessary. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

- UJW Adult Education Division hosts Prof Anthony Turton of the University of the Free State Centre for Environment Management on "Water Pollution and Disease - the Microcystin Problem" - an audiovisual presentation. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R40. Contact: UJW offices: (011) 648-1053.

### Tuesday (June 7)

- WIZO Forum hosts "Yom Yerushalayim - Walk With us 'Under' the Holy City".

Expect to embark on a discovery of the 4 000-year history of the city. We'll visit the Kotel and experience a virtual tour underground. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 10:00. Cost: R50 (incl Israeli tea). Booking: Jenny (011) 645-2515 or wizojhb@beyachad.co.za

### Wednesday (June 8)

- RCHCC hosts a talk by Olga Meshoe of DEISI on "When Words are not Enough". 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: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net or www.greatpark.co.za

- Cape Town Holocaust Centre hosts a talk by Zuzana Pavlovská of the Jewish Museum of Prague, on "The Life of Survivors and the Jewish Community in Czechoslovakia After 1945". Venue: 88 Hatfield Street, Gardens, Cape Town. Booking is essential as seating is limited. Time: 18:00. RSVP: (021) 462-5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za

- UJW Adult Education Division hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer dept. of English at Wits, on her fourth lecture on Hamlet. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R40. Contact: UJW offices: (011) 648-1053.



# SA mourns passing of motor racing great Eddie Keizan

**JACK MILNER**

When you competed in Formula One racing, you took on the best drivers in the world. That is why so many people rate Jody Scheckter as the greatest South African

Jewish sportsman ever.

Eddie Keizan did not have the longevity of a Jody Scheckter in the sport and may not have won the World Championship, but he was still one of the best drivers around.

Sadly, Eddie passed away on May 21 at

the age of 71 but he left behind a wonderful legacy.

His days in Formula One lasted only three years - from 1973 to 1975 - and he just competed in the rounds in South Africa but he still demonstrated he could compete with the best.

Eddie was born on September 12, 1944 and matriculated at King Edward V11 High School (Kes) in Johannesburg and then studied at the University of the Witwatersrand. His passion was always motorsport and after leaving university he participated professionally in the sport over the next 14 years.

He won the Production Car Championships in 1969, 1970, 1977 and 1978 and during that period also competed in those three World Championship Formula 1 rounds in South Africa in a Tyrrell and Lotus.

The first year he was not classified but the following year he finished 14th behind Argentina's Carlos Reutemann, who had his first Formula One success. Unfortunately that Grand Prix is better remembered for the accident that killed American Peter Revson in a test session before the race.

A year later Eddie competed again and this time ended up in 13th spot behind Scheckter. To demonstrate the quality of the opposition, other than Scheckter and Reutemann, he raced against the likes of James Hunt, Nikki Lauda, Jackie Ickx, Emerson Fitipaldi, Graham Hill and Jochen Mass.

At the end of 1975 the South African championship was downgraded to Formula Atlantic cars and Eddie went back to racing touring cars with his own team, running a BMW 535 and winning the title twice more in 1977 and 1978.

Eddie also participated in rally driving, winning Lesotho's Roof of Africa in 1969 and 1972. He retired from professional motorsport after winning the Wynns 1000km at Kyalami in 1979 but continued racing competitively, his last major victory coming at the 2012 Border 100 Endurance event.



Eddie Keizan pictured in his racing days in 1975. He passed away last month at the age of 71.

In 1972 Eddie bought a small business called Tiger Wheels and as chief executive grew the business until his retirement in 2008. Tiger Wheels Ltd was listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange from 1987 until 2007. Its two primary activities were the manufacture of aluminium wheels for the auto industry and the retailing of tyres and wheels.

The company began as a small concern in Fordsburg but after the acquisition of ATS in Germany in 1998, the manufacturing side of the business was acknowledged as the sixth largest aluminium wheel manufacturer in the world, factories in Germany, Poland, the US and South Africa.

Eddie is survived by Hilary, his wife of 40 years, children Gary and Natasha and five grandchildren.

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