



Getting Africa
back on track
before we go
off the rails.
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South African Jewish Report

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Dough galore at world's biggest challah bake



Photo: Ian Ossenbly

Jewish women came out in droves to attend last week's challah bake on the rooftop of the Norwood Mall in Johannesburg in what was the largest gathering of Shabbos Project challah bakes in the world. And so it should be, since the Shabbos Project, now in 900 cities, had its origins here in 2013. About 6 000 gathered here, and the second largest challah bake was in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which drew 5 000 women. Egg, flour, oil, sugar, bowl and more – were all donated. In a tongue-in-cheek tribute to last year's Johannesburg challah bake which was rained out, 1800 umbrellas were stuck to the ceiling although the space had a rooftop. The energy in the room was palpable with an *a capella* group performing during the baking and women dancing the hora after. The women leading the baking and blessings, which included Yocheved Bacher and Rebbetzin Mashi Lipskar, pointed to the spiritual significance of baking bread and recognising that the food we work hard to create is ultimately a blessing from Hashem. Pictured left to right are Stacey Weston; Cherie Amler; Lisa Jellin; Jacqui Schewitz; Yael Rabin; Gabi Baker; Abby and Dana Rodrigues. *See pages 2, 6 and 7.*

Shabbos Project takes world by storm

In just two years, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein's Shabbos Project has spread to 900 cities in 75 countries. Throughout the world, the Shabbos Project united Jews in shuls, schools, streets and homes.



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Hosting Hamas: Changing the ANC's Israel stance?

A high-level delegation from the terrorist organisation, Hamas, visited South Africa last week. The delegation, led by Khaled Meshaal, came as guests of the African National Congress. The SA Jewish community was horrified by the visit.

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Jewish support for #FeesMustFall campaign

Students protesting in the #FeesMustFall campaign across the country had the sympathy of academics and students at tertiary institutions in all the major centres. All, however, were opposed to any form of violence. We canvassed some Jewish opinion.

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Terror in Israel doesn't get SA expats down

Many South Africans are concerned about the safety of relatives and friends in Israel at present. Nevertheless, the SA expats in Israel, although very much aware of the dangers, are confident that Israel will weather the storm.

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Obama could learn from Bill Clinton on Israel

By now it should be obvious how absurd it is to call Obama Israel's "best friend", as Thomas Friedman of the New York Times has claimed, writes Prof Gil Troy. Clinton finger-pointed when necessary, but did not always retreat into moral equivalences.

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Shabbos Project takes world by storm

SUZANNE BELLING

Throughout the world, the annual Shabbos Project united Jews who gathered in shuls, schools, streets and homes to observe the sabbath.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, who initiated the Shabbos Project three years ago, told SA Jewish Report: “Last year’s inaugural international Shabbos Project saw Jewish communities in 465 cities and 65 countries taking part. An audit on the 2015 event confirms that this year the Project reached more than 900 participating cities in 75 countries - in terms of the cities, a 100 per cent increase.

“To co-ordinate the initiative on such a large scale, the head office in Johannesburg worked with around 5 000 partners worldwide - up from 1 800 partners in 2014.”

The excitement was palpable - never mind sports – including the Rugby World Cup (there was a large screen up at the Norwood Mall after Shabbos) and Jewish sports fans were encouraged to use their PVRs - “you cannot record Shabbos” - they were told..

Previous non-observant Jews abstained from working, cooking, driving or using electrical appliances and cell phones.

“However, the Shabbos Project is what many South Africa Jews chose to do, even if there was a little confusion regarding the tearing of toilet paper and not using toothpaste.

“I think the major observance is important,” said one religious woman. “Each year, they can

become more and more observant until they become totally shomrei Shabbos,” she said.

In the heartland of Jewish life centred on the many shuls and shtieblach in the Sydenham, Highlands North, Fairmont, Glenhazel and Orchards areas of Johannesburg, Rabbi Yehuda Stern, associate rabbi of the Sydenham/Highlands North Hebrew Congregation, was upbeat about the response.

“Maybe not all participants became fully observant, but they are definitely more so now.

“The atmosphere in the shul was electric during the Friday night service in the shul, with joyous davening, by the Solomon Brothers joining Chazzan Yudi Cohen in the style of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. The synagogue was packed to capacity and after the service there was a street brocha and dancing in Main Street, themed “Redds and Rugelach”.

A lunch was served in the shul hall on Shabbat, with guest speaker Michael Freeman, deputy ambassador for Israel, who spoke about the future of the State of Israel.

A massive Havdalah concert was held on the Norwood Mall Rooftop, again featuring the three Solomon Brothers.

There were Havdalah concerts and celebrations throughout the world, including a display of fireworks in Melbourne.

One thing was clear - in spite of the terrorism striking at the very heart of Israel - no one was deterred from taking part in the Shabbos Project, which even included dinners in



closed-off streets and a picnic on the lawns in Sea Point, Cape Town, opposite the sea.

Of course, security was beefed up everywhere - from the huge Challah Bake in the Norwood Mall, attended by close on 6 000 people to the functions in Israel, a country usually on high alert. But the indefatigable Israelis forgot their troubles for 25 hours of Shabbat in the spirit of prayer and celebration.

In Melbourne, Australia, 2 500 attended a challah bake, with similar “bakes” in the US and England, where 100 expat South Africans organised their own challah bake in London.

Even as far afield as Gothenburg, Sweden, Jews celebrated at Chabad, where well-known Limmud speaker Annika Hernroth-Rothstein was an invited guest and keynote speaker.

In Sydney, Beit Shemesh, Jersey, Lancaster PA, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Cleveland, Boca

Raton, and, of course Jerusalem, Jews flocked to all the challah bakes, shul services, Havdalah concerts and family get-togethers. The motto of the Shabbos Project is “Keeping it together”, all as one people, with one destiny, even if the Anglo world could not make out the videos in Cyrillic script or Chinese!


Rabbi Michael Katz, of Chabad of Illovo, had the final say. “It is an absolutely incredible project.” His shul hosted 400 people to a lunch.

However, he added that “my sense was there were people who know nothing (about Shabbos observance) and we are still missing that bracket”.

While saying that Jews during the first few Shabbos observances could not be expected to do everything, “credit should be given for the little bit people do. In my opinion, it should not be an ‘all or nothing’ concept.”

Parsha

The social iniquities of Sodom and Gomorrah



Parshat Vayeira

Rabbi Sa’ar Shaked
Beit Emanuel Progressive Synagogue, Parktown

their words, almost 2 000 years later, we can relate to them easily. The basic human condition hasn’t changed: We live in political structures and need to choose how we treat one another. Sodom and Gomorrah are a mirror to what a heartless society looks like.

“If one would put out a line of bricks, all would come and pick one, till none is left, and each one would say: ‘But I only took one.’ If one would put out garlics or onions (to dry), all would come and pick one, till none is left, and each one would say: ‘But I only took one.’

“If one would beat his fellow’s wife so she lost her baby they would tell the husband: ‘Let him have her so she would conceive again.’ If one would cut his fellow’s donkey’s ear they would tell the owner: ‘Give it to him till the ear will grow again.’ If one wounded his fellow they would tell the injured person: ‘Pay him, for it is a medical treatment.’

“They had a bed which every guest was forced to lie down on. If he was too long - they shortened him. If he was too short - they stretched him.”

Shabbat Times


Parshat Vayeira
October 30 / 17 Cheshvan
October 31 / 18 Cheshvan

Starts	Ends	
18:05	18:56	Johannesburg
18:15	19:48	Cape Town
17:58	18:50	Durban
18:15	19:08	Bloemfontein
18:15	19:20	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:08	East London

South African

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Hosting Hamas: Changing the ANC’s Israel stance?

STEVEN GRUZD

A high-level delegation from Hamas - the nationalist Islamist party that rules Gaza, fires rockets and unleashes terror attacks on Israelis - visited South Africa from October 18 – 21. Led by Khaled Meshaal, chairman of its political bureau, Hamas was invited to South Africa by the ruling African National Congress.

Hamas had unfettered access to ANC bigwigs. Meshaal was welcomed at the airport by Jesse Duarte, ANC deputy secretary-general. He and his delegation met with President Jacob Zuma and signed a letter of intent to build a stronger relationship with the ANC.

In Cape Town, Hamas was feted at a huge rally in the Muslim community, presided over by ANC Western Cape leader Marius Fransman, Minister of State Security David Mahlobo, and former Minister Zola Skweyiya, a government-appointed Middle East mediator.

There, Meshaal publicly endorsed the vicious attacks on Jews by Palestinians in what’s already being dubbed “the Third Intifada”. He milked the opportunity to compare the Palestinian movement for independence with the anti-apartheid struggle, portraying his organisation as a brave, legitimate liberation movement, battling oppressive Zionist occupation.



Jessie Duarte; Baleka Mbete; Gwede Mantashe; and Khaled Meshaal at the podium. Meshaal's delegation is to his left.

ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe said Hamas was exploring opening a South African office. He was also quick to claim that this was merely a party-to-party relationship. Many view this as disingenuous; the lines between party and state in South Africa are extremely blurred.

The South African Jewish community was horrified. A South African Zionist Federation media statement said: “The ideology, values, aims and strategies of Hamas are diametrically opposed to the principles of the ANC, as embodied in the Freedom Charter...”

“Hamas... does not support... the creation of an independent Palestinian state co-existing in peace

An SAZF statement said: ‘The ideology, values, aims and strategies of Hamas are diametrically opposed to the principles of the ANC, as embodied in the Freedom Charter...’

alongside Israel... Hamas wishes to destroy Israel altogether and seeks to establish an Islamist dictatorship in its place.”

sistently seeks to talk to all sides in a conflict. The ANC agreed to sit down with its erstwhile enemy, the National Party (and other parties), to hammer out an inclusive negotiated settlement. It has used this blueprint in peace-making in Burundi, DRC, Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland and Sudan. This has meant, inevitably, sitting down with some unpalatable organisations.

ANC spokesman Zizi Kodwa said: “Our invitation of Hamas as one of the principal players in the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, is in keeping with our policies of working towards a peaceful world.”

But in this instance, Hamas denies Israel’s very existence and is bent on its destruction. It condones and promotes terror. It has not earned a seat at the negotiating table. The ANC conferring legitimacy on it strengthens Hamas’ resolve and undermines its international isolation. South Africa is drawing ever further away from Western states, who have Hamas on a no-talks terrorist blacklist.

The Jewish communal leadership plans to meet the ANC on this issue. Clearly, no minds will change in that meeting. For now, the official position remains a two-state solution through negotiations, reaffirmed at the ANC’s recent National General Council meeting. But, we must ask, for how much longer?



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Community Voices

Overall Jewish support for #FeesMustFall student campaign

SUZANNE BELLING

Students protesting in the “FeesMustFall” campaign across the country had the sympathy of both academics and student leaders canvassed by the SA Jewish Report. All, however, were opposed to any form of violence during the demonstrations.



Dani Hovsha, incoming chairman of the South African Union of Jewish Students, termed the campaign “a historic moment in our young democracy. “It has informed the highest levels of our government that the voice of the youth will not be silenced, that the issues which plague the student population are of national concern and demand a national response,” she said.

The students achieved that response, assuring a 0 per cent increase for 2016. “It is a victory that everyone involved in the peaceful actions of this protest should be proud of. There is much work to be done to reach the vision of free education for all, but the demonstrations have opened up a dialogue, and made this goal an issue of national and international interest.” “I think that the choice to continue protests, following the attainment of the 0 per cent increase is also of concern. Yet, I am hopeful that all students will soon be able to return to their studies, confident in the knowledge that we have been heard, that we have made a difference in the lives of so many and that we will enter our examinations this November assured of our return in February.”



SAUJS former national chairman **Natan Pollack**, a final year honours student (investment management) at the University of Johannesburg, says he is “supportive of the underlying cause. However, I feel the method used to voice the cause is unfair on other students as it infringes on their writing exams.” SAUJS condemned violence in any form in order to voice the cause, he said.



Professor David Bilchitz, of the University of Johannesburg and director of the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law, said it was clearly important “that we move in South Africa to a situation in which individuals with the ability to do so are able to gain access to higher education irrespective of whether they can afford it or not. “Students with less economic resources today often are excluded from university as they are unable to pay registration fees upfront or afford the tuition fees. The National Loan System (NSFAS) is also often inadequate to cover the fees, living expenses and access to books of students and many have to struggle to study without knowing how they will pay the rent and with empty stomachs.” He stressed that these conditions must change. “I support non-violent student protest

that seeks to achieve these aims. The victory of a no-fee increase, however, will be a pyrrhic one if the universities alone are left having to address the financial shortfall themselves: the funding gap will harm the world-class nature of our universities - preventing the acquisition of essential equipment, technology and staff - unless the government significantly increases its subsidy and we develop a sustainable and adequate system of funding for higher education that ensures access for all those who cannot afford it.”



Jonathan Levi, chairman of the Western Cape branch of SAUJS, said the organisation supported the view of the majority of students. “We feel it is unacceptable that many South Africans are unable to access tertiary education because of the high cost. We call on government to increase education subsidies in order to improve the current situation.”

He said there were “quite a few Jewish students on the frontline and were heavily involved” (in the campaign). One such student was Ilan Price, son of Dr Max Price, vice-chancellor of UCT. “He was arrested but released with no charges.” This was symbolic and a prime example of how students felt. Levi cautioned, however, against violence, “which was not representative of the entire movement but the acts of a select few who tainted the positive motive of the movement”.



Professor Boni Meyersfeld, professor of law at the University of the Witwatersrand, said she was proud of the students “because they identified a real fracture in society and, with discipline, are trying to correct it”.

She said she was present at the university last Friday when the demonstrators started to burn things. This was not the action of students, she said, “There is no violence among them. We can only speculate - we don’t know - that this is probably political.” People needed to be able to afford education. “We understand how hard it is, especially for the black kids today. We have students who eat only every second day and who sleep in the library and these are not among the worst.” She said even throughout the demonstrations, the students worked hard and held study groups at night.



Prof Stu Woolman, professor of ethics and law at Wits, feels students are “perfectly entitled to have protests and even make this uncomfortable for other members of the community. They have a special space that allows them to question the social contracts. It is important to understand their right to have this space.”

He says their demonstrations should “not be a nice cushy place 90 kilometres from where it is an issue” but on or near the campuses. While in agreement about the fees, however, he thinks this is not primarily about fees. “I don’t think students and others such as the EFF, should be allowed to hold the community hostage and that at this juncture put the academic year in jeopardy.” He feels the fees should be frozen until all the issues are worked out. He says he witnesses dissatisfaction among the black staff and students, which is not related to the university but something which is happening all over the world. “It is not good for young people to be coming out of university in debt and with unsure job prospects. South Africa is in a tough enough space. We have a 19th century economy and many (whites) still live on a ‘plantation’ with servants.”

Ilan Price in frontline of student protests

ANT KATZ

Ilan Price (pictured), son of UCT Vice-Chancellor Max Price, who has a BSc from UCT and was head of Habonim youth movement until the end of last year, was one of the 29 students arrested for trying to storm Parliament last week Wednesday. Asked by Jewish Report how his father had felt about his actions and arrest, Ilan said that although he had not spoken to him directly as he was travelling, his father had told the media he was proud of his son, and that if he could have joined the demonstrations too, he would have. “My father has always respected my right to make up my own mind,” said Ilan.



Ilan said any inconvenience that students suffered due to the protests was worthwhile. What is happening with students now is “a fight about giving people access to education,” he says. “The struggle is much bigger than ‘convenience’” While thousands of people may be concerned about whether they will meet their holiday booking dates, says Ilan, this is about the tens-of-thousands of qualified students who can’t afford to access tertiary education. While UCT has dropped all internal charges against staff and students arrested, the department of public prosecutions has not yet done so.

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Embracing your enemy – Can the unthinkable happen?



Two milestones occurred in the past two weeks: The 20th anniversary of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin’s assassination; and the provocative visit of a Hamas delegation to South Africa as guests of the ANC, where President Jacob Zuma’s warm conversation with Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal was publicised widely in the media.

In 1993, Rabin signed the Oslo agreement with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, who had until then been regarded only as a terrorist leader aiming at Israel’s elimination. It was an interim deal involving a partial Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territories and the creation of the Palestinian Authority. An outcome was formal recognition of Israel by the PLO, and the PLO by Israel as the representative of the Palestinians. Many hoped the accord would lead to lasting peace, but it also engendered vicious opposition from different factions on both sides. Rabin’s murder at a Tel Aviv peace rally by a Jewish religious extremist in November 1995, dealt a major blow to its chances of success.

It’s a good time to reflect on South Africa’s changing attitude towards Israel in the past two decades. South Africa has become one of the most hostile political environments towards Israel in the world. Members of the ruling ANC and its allies, Cosatu and the SACP, openly support BDS and Israel’s enemies, and hatred of Israel sometimes merges into blatant anti-Semitism. This is notwithstanding the fact that the government maintains diplomatic relations with Israel, its official policy still supports the two-state solution, and trade between the countries is healthy. Hamas, on the other hand, rejects Israel’s right to exist and is officially listed as a terrorist organisation in many parts of the world.

When Rabin was assassinated, Mandela sent Deputy President Thabo Mbeki to represent South Africa at the funeral in Jerusalem. In addition, Mandela attended the memorial service organised by the Jewish community at the Oxford Shul in Johannesburg, accompanied by ANC personalities like Tokyo Sexwale and Walter Sisulu. In his

address, he lauded Rabin’s courage and quest for peace. Mandela also made a point of visiting the Rabin memorial in 2001 during a hush-hush visit to Israel to meet with Israeli President Ezer Weizman, Foreign Minister David Levy and Prime Minister Ehud Barak. SA Jewish leaders Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, Russell Gaddin and Marlene Bethlehem accompanied him to Yad Vashem and on a walk on the Via Dolorosa.

But Mandela was also intrinsically sympathetic to the Palestinian plight. Five years before Rabin’s murder, he angrily rejected criticism from Jewish leaders after he was photographed embracing Yasser Arafat warmly in Namibia in 1990, soon after his release from prison. Mandela retorted that he had also once been called a terrorist, but said his position enabled him to intervene where the Jewish community could not. It was long before the Oslo agreement, when the Israeli Prime Minister would himself shake Arafat’s hand on the White House lawn in the presence of US President Bill Clinton.

The anniversary of Rabin’s murder comes amid high tension over control of the Temple Mount site in Jerusalem, terrorist attacks throughout Israel, and a chaotic and violent Middle East generally. Some people are saying the Third Intifada has begun. It is another reminder of the intractable nature of the Israeli-Arab conflict and the hatred that thrives when hopes for finding a solution die and visionaries like Rabin are lacking. An often-quoted statistic says 70 per cent of Israelis support a two-state solution, but 70 per cent also believe it is not possible to get there.

Many people believe Oslo – Rabin’s legacy – is all but dead and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank under Arafat’s successor, Mahmoud Abbas, cannot survive much longer. What comes afterwards, no-one knows.

South Africa’s attitude towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict tends to ebb and flow with the existence of a peace process. When Rabin was alive and the chances for peace looked better, South Africa’s attitude was more positive towards Israel. Now that there is essentially no peace process, and Israeli and Palestinian leaders express little vision for a peaceful future, it gives fuel to Israel’s enemies.

Rabin came closer than any other leader to forging Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation. His assassination means we will never know whether peace was an illusion based on wishful thinking, or stood a real chance.

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Scenes from the Shabbos

Johannesburg



Pretoria



Tel Aviv



Boca Raton



United Kingdom



Lithuania



Johannesburg



Montreal



Melbourne



Shortly after chuppah, bride gets stuck-in making challah

Yudi Singer, a paramedic at Hatzolah Medical Services, married Jade Goldstein, the principal of Rimon Nursery School, last week Thursday. After the chuppah, the couple headed for the Johannesburg Challah Bake en route to the reception. Still wearing her wedding dress, the bride rolled up her sleeves and mixed challah dough.



Project around the world

Photos: Ilan Ossendryver, Hailey Fox, Shereen Miller, Jason Crouse, Toni Jade and Diane Wolfson.

Johannesburg



Tel Aviv



Boca Raton



Pretoria





B'SD

EDEN CORE PRESENTS

THE MARVELLOUS MIDDOS MACHINE
by Abie Rotenberg

DIRECTED BY LINDA ZULBERG

MUSIC DIRECTION BY GLEN KIER

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS: JUDY LEVY & MEMBERS OF EDEN CORE STAFF

MON 9 NOV 6:30pm
TUES 10 NOV 6:30pm

Eden High School Hall
48 Johannesburg Rd, Lyndhurst

Tickets: 011 445 3900 (8am - 4pm)
or at the Eden College Primary School office & at the door

Price: R30 Adults



Jewish Report

Can inspired projects heal the rifts?

The news of the last few weeks has been tumultuous. Domestically, a small revolution within the student movement has emerged amid their increasing dissatisfaction with the price of tertiary education. The gathering of more than 10 000 last Friday at the Union Buildings carried a spirit not seen since the 1976 Soweto uprising but this time it seemed to unite students across all races.

Although demands that fee increases be scrapped resulted in victory, the issues are far from resolved. Students have decided they will continue to campaign for completely free education, which our government say they cannot afford despite a misuse of funds in other areas of administration. Universities are only resuming classes now and end-of-year exams have been postponed. Another gripe being dealt with by many universities is that of their outsourced workers who want the benefits and security of permanent contracts.

More startling news was the way the red carpet was rolled out by the ANC for Hamas political bureau leader Khaled Meshaal. In a speech made in Cape Town last week, Meshaal said that violence against Israel would continue. The ANC and the South African government have not condemned the statement and this has left the community somewhat confused as to the agenda of the ANC and the South African government. ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe is justifying the meetings with Hamas by saying it is to help find solutions to the Israeli Palestinian conflict.

For our community, a warming relationship with a group that has generally sought Israel’s destruction is a very unsettling notion. South African Jewish leadership feel that our government does not understand that the real agenda of Hamas is the eradication of Israel.

In his statements to the South African press last week, Meshaal spoke of forming a democratic state “on this piece of land” (referring to where Israel and the territories are now) but in the democratic Western world, where Hamas is viewed as a terrorist organisation, he is just not welcome. Our country, which is seen still (but fading) as the poster child of a successfully created democracy, has made quite a statement by welcoming him here.

And outside our borders - in Israel - the wave of violence and stabbings is alarming. As of this week, 11 people have been killed, and 126 wounded, 13 seriously. There have been 46 stabbings, four shootings and five car rammings. Over the weekend, Netanyahu reassured the world that he has no intention of changing the status quo to allow Jewish prayer at the al-Aqsa site in the Old City of Jerusalem, the third-holiest site for Muslims, upon which Palestinians say Israel is encroaching. But we are yet to see an end to what is looking like a third Intifada and growing mistrust and incitement.

Amid all the violence, anger and frustration, there was however one flash of hope and positivity last week - Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein’s Shabbos Project. With its humble beginnings right here in Johannesburg in 2013 - it is now observed in Jewish communities in 465 cities and 64 countries around the world.

From challah bakes and communal dinners, to Havdalah concerts and World Cup rugby screenings - this past Shabbat was unlike any other. Its critics say the extensive resources used for the events and publicity could be better spent elsewhere and that people who keep this Shabbat return to their old ways of non-observance for the rest of the year. But it is indeed a more than noble endeavour. It has, amazingly, captivated Jews globally in just two years and our Chief Rabbi deserves many accolades for its success. It brings to mind the song “Just one Shabbos and we’ll all be free” sung by Mordechai Ben David with its accompanying high hopes that if all the Jews observed a Shabbat, the Mashiach might come and all wars and pain would disappear.

It is too bad that the magic of this event passed as the Sabbath ended and our problems continue (including hearing of the defeat of the Springboks!). Yet the lesson learnt from the Shabbos Project, when we return to our daily battles, is that with enough inspiration, we can change our patterns. This may be wishful and naive thinking - but our academic leaders and our government leaders both here, in Israel and the West Bank, can learn that with connection, clear goals and creativity it is possible to create surprising communities of people across borders and boundaries and thereafter, great things can happen.

– Vanessa Valkin, Editor

Getting Africa back on track before we go off the rails



Ryan Davis, Ronen Aires, Claudine Ullman, Danny Lurie, Rony Sklar, Daniella Sachs, Howard Sackstein, and Aron Turest-Swartz

HOWARD SACKSTEIN

It was a journey of journeys - by foot, by Tuk-Tuk, by Gautrain, Commuter Rail and Blue Train, it was the most innovative Jewish conference yet seen in South Africa.

The concept was simple: Gather 75 of the brightest young Jewish minds in South Africa, isolate them together on a train for three days and ensure they conceptualise projects to develop the continent of Africa.

This was the brainchild of social entrepreneur Guy Lieberman, champion of the Giant Flag project, and tech entrepreneur Ryan Canin. Says Canin: “I believe that those who can, should. And in Africa, many Jews can make a difference - so we simply should.”

Soon the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation from the US jumped on board as principal benefactors of this innovative “hackathon”. The Schusterman Foundation is a global leader in supporting innovative projects which allow young Jews to connect about ways to change the world. And so “The Change Charte” left the station.

There is a glint in Lieberman’s eye when he says: “There is strength in numbers and there is potency in collaboration. Add to that our own home culture of invention and resourcefulness, kindness and intelligence, skill and vision, and you have a formidable community.”

The Blue Train, with its opulent splendour, butlers and crystal glass, wandered through the Karoo like Moses through the deserts of Egypt. In Prince Albert, after days of debate and brainstorming, 75 Jews alighted for a silent meditative trek through the desolate moonscape and in Matjiesfontein they partied in the place where Olive Schreiner wrote her Story of an African Farm.

It was Schreiner who wrote: “Jews taught the world not to accept the world as it is, but to transform it... Indeed it is difficult for all other nations of the world to live in the presence of the Jews. It is irritating and most uncomfortable. The Jews embarrass the world as they have done things which are beyond the imaginable.”

Under the guidance of mentors, teams worked late into the night preparing and refining proposals. Innovation, education, anti-corruption, inspiration, healthcare - over and over, the teams hacked away at idea after idea.

But when the Blue Train chugged into Cape Town, things changed. Down duvets were swapped for a commuter train to Muizenberg. Broken seats and crying babies, windows caked so thick with dirt that it was impossible to see the world outside.

In the Shul in Muizenberg seven teams pitched their ideas and competed for funding to seed their projects. Proposals had ranged from developing investment platforms to breed endangered species to using automatic voice messaging to ensure compliance with drug therapy for tuberculosis.

“My personal highlight”, says Canin, “was seeing the incredible quality in the final seven pitches and the passion behind the teams which delivered them.”

Adds Lieberman: “The highlights were witnessing talented, creative, highly intelligent and caring Jews collaborating on issues that lie way beyond the Jewish community - these were folks looking to positively impact African society, economy and the environment.”

The seeds sown on this three-day train trip will hopefully impact Africa for years to come.

• Howard Sackstein was one of the 75 participants.

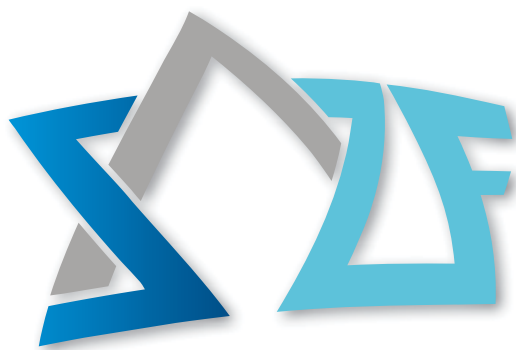


Photo: Howard Sackstein



Brainstorming on the road

Photo: Guy Lieberman



ISRAEL AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION

FEDSPEAK

A SHARED TOMORROW

www.sazionfed.co.za A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE IUA

Volume 4 OCTOBER 2015

Farewell to a legend

Thirteen years ago, Isla Feldman, Executive Director of the JNF, was approached by the Board of the SA Zionist Federation to ‘care-take’ the Fed until a new director could be found to lead the organisation; and 13 years later, the Fed bids farewell to the woman who soon afterwards became the National Director of the SAZF and under whose baton the Fed has grown, expanded, developed, blossomed and bloomed.

For nine years she ran both the SAZF and the JNF; and has worked for the community for the grand total of 35 years!

Keenly interested in and dedicated to all things artistic, Isla was the initiator, the designer, the composer, the driving force and the energy behind the 15 years of numerous and outstanding creative Israel-related SAZF presentations: conferences, concerts, orchestral shows, dance groups, pianists, singers, artists, speakers, peace rallies, festivals, cycle races, art exhibitions, choral competitions. The annual Yom Hazikaron commemorative evenings, and the Yom Ha’atzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim festive ceremonies, owed their superb timing, their innate atmosphere and their inevitable success to her eagle eyes: nothing went ahead without her strict supervision and her insistence that the smallest and seemingly most insignificant detail was covered.

A hard taskmaster, she nonetheless engendered great loyalty and admiration from her staff without whose dedication and commitment she would not,

by her own admission, have been able to achieve the sterling results that she did.

Isla has always been a force to be reckoned with; and she stamped her personality on all her achievements and all her colleagues. Blessed with a superb memory, she let nothing go by her, and was instrumental in ensuring that all arrangements and all functions were carried out with precision. She managed the SAZF budget with an iron fist; she paid regular visits to the Zionist Youth Group campsites and insisted on the best security, the finest accommodation, and the most pleasant surroundings for the thousands of Jewish youth who attend these annual machanot which are in many cases the highlight of their year.

She developed strong working relationships with all the directors, and board members, of the various Jewish communal organisations, and shared guests and events with them when appropriate. She was closely involved with many of the Beyachad staff members, often fighting for their rights and safeguarding their situations.

In addition to her responsibilities to the SAZF, Isla remained involved with the JNF in a consultative capacity, having vacated the position of Director three years ago. She interacted with the smaller committees of the SAZF including SAFI and FairPlay; she remained an active board member of the local NGO Food and Trees for Africa; and she took an interest in every aspect of the SAZF work even when



she had delegated it to other staff members. In 2014 she was the recipient of the prestigious Eric Samson/Mendel Kaplan Communal Service Award presented by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Isla was a formidable figure in the Jewish communal world, and made a huge difference to the standing and reputation of the SAZF. She will be remembered with much gratitude and affection, and we wish her a well-earned and exciting retirement.

THE SAZF - WHO WE ARE

The SAZF, which was founded on 11 December 1898, is a constituent body of the World Zionist Organisation in Israel. It is the representative in South Africa of the World Zionist Organisation in all matters relating to Israel and its image in South Africa.

It promotes Aliyah; it disseminates Hasbarah across the community; it presents the truth of the Israeli/Palestinian issue through national channels while simultaneously monitoring, countering and responding to blatant, biased and fallacious media attacks on Israel; it encourages and increases support for Israel among South Africa’s millions of Christian Zionists; and its interaction with the Zionist youth movements is ongoing and reciprocal.

Its ideology, its reason for being, is as follows:

“Eretz Yisrael was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the Eternal Book of Books ...

“If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its cunning...”


It promotes this ideology in order to reaffirm the strong and unwavering support and love for the Land and State of Israel that remain powerful and all-embracing among the SA Jewish population, and millions outside the community.

The SAZF has harmonious relationships and strong links with numerous Jewish institutions and organisations. These include the IUA / UCF; the Israel Centre; Maccabi; Women’s Zionist Organisation of SA (WIZO); the Jewish National Fund (JNF); Likud; Mizrachi; SA Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD); Betar; Bnei Akiva; Habonim Dror; Netzer; South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS); Beit Halochem; South African Friends of Labour Israel (SAFOLI - formerly Poalei Zion); United Zionist Association; SA Board of Jewish Education (SABJE); and Fairplay. It is recognised and respected within the Jewish community as the Voice of Israel in South Africa, and is in close and continuous contact with Telfed (the SAZF in Israel).

Through SAFI (South Africa Friends of

Israel), the SAZF has created permanent and immutable links with the many Christian Zionist organisations in South Africa which are vocal supporters of Israel and which represent millions of South African people.

Through the Media Team Israel, the SAZF has ensured that the truth around the Israel/Palestine and the Israeli/Arab conflicts has received adequate publicity, and that the slurs and vitriol in the media against Israel have been and are constantly being monitored and countered through responses of the highest quality. Through the regular cultural and academic events it hosts, the SAZF ensures that thousands of community members are exposed to the creativity and innovation that are such strong and defining characteristics of the Israeli landscape.




UPDATES FROM THE SA ZIONIST FEDERATION

South African Friends of Israel (SAFI) is a hosting communal event during which various opposition political leaders will share their opinions on Israel after their recent fact finding trip there. (25 Nov)


- SAFI will also host leaders of the Portuguese community to engage with them in an interfaith dialogue aimed at creating future collective goals and project building. (25 Nov)
- SAFI and leaders of the Hindu Maha Sabha community will meet to find commonalities between both and strengthen an already fruitful relationship.

HEADLINE NEWS


☛ In what was Israel’s UN Ambassador Ron Prosor’s last act in his position, he implored the UN Security Council to issue condemnation over the wave of Arab terror that has swept Israel in recent days. “In 72 hours alone, 11 terror attacks have taken place in cities across Israel. Israelis are being attacked and murdered in the streets, in their vehicles, and even in their homes, and the UN stands by in silence,” he charged. Prosor laid the blame for the recent terror-murders at the doorstep of the PA and its chairman Mahmoud Abbas.




☛ The Palestinian Authority raised its flag on 30 September at UN Headquarters in New York. “This is a day of pride for Palestinians around the world,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at the ceremony. “It is a day of hope. Symbols are important. A symbol can lead to action in the right direction.” The ceremony was held moments after Abbas’ speech in which he declared the PA was no longer bound by the 1993 Oslo Accords and would not engage in negotiations with Israel until it unilaterally withdraws from the West Bank and dismantles its security perimeter around the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip.



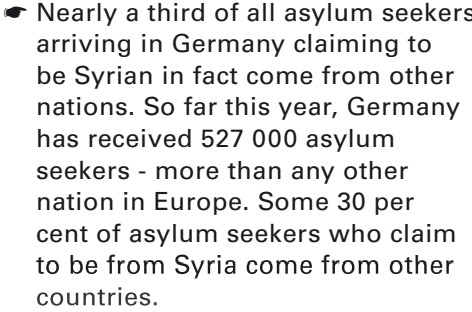
☛ Israel’s new ambassador to Jordan, Einat Shlain, presented her credentials to Jordan’s King Abdullah 2 at a ceremony at the Basman Palace in Amman in September. Shlain is Israel’s first female ambassador to an Arab country.



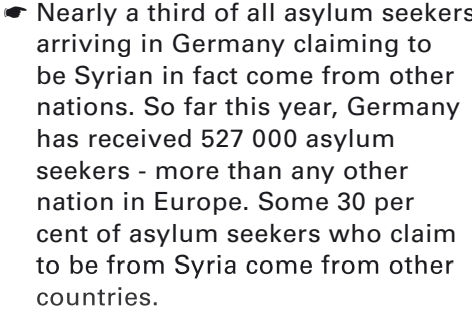
☛ Yemen’s remaining Jews have been given a stark choice by their government: convert to Islam or flee the country. The Jews were told to “convert or leave the state.” Yemen boasted a Jewish population of more than 50 000 during the mid-20th century; there are now fewer than 100 Jews in the capital, with another community of similar size in the northern town of Raida. The majority of the country’s Jews have immigrated to Israel.



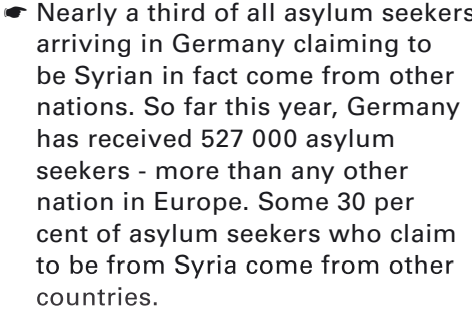
☛ A poll of Palestinians residing in both the West Bank and Gaza has shown increased support for terror and opposition to the two-state solution. A slight majority of 51% opposed the two-state solution, while 48% supported it. Support for armed conflict as ‘the most effective means of establishing a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel’ rose from 36% in June to 42% in the latest poll. Just 29% said negotiations were more effective.



☛ The Central Bureau of Statistics has released its annual population statistics, which show that Israel’s population has reached a record of about 8 412 000 people. Since Rosh Hashanah last year, the country’s population has grown by 1,9%, or some 158 000 people. The Jewish population in Israel stands at about 6,3 million people, 74,9% of the general population; and the Arab population is about 1 746 000 (20,7%). Another group, those who immigrated to Israel under the Law of Return but are not recognised by the Chief Rabbinate as Jewish, stands at around 366 000, 4,4% of the general population.



☛ Nearly a third of all asylum seekers arriving in Germany claiming to be Syrian in fact come from other nations. So far this year, Germany has received 527 000 asylum seekers - more than any other nation in Europe. Some 30 per cent of asylum seekers who claim to be from Syria come from other countries.



**RAMBAM MEDICAL CENTRE
PRAISED BY PRESTIGIOUS
JOURNAL**

A report from the prestigious Annals of Emergency Medicine praised Rambam Medical Centre in Haifa for treating Israeli and Palestinian children equally despite the bitter political acrimony between the two communities. “The Israeli-Palestinian conflicts may be intractable, but in the emergency department, all children are treated the same,” said lead study author Dr Itai Shavit. “We believe these good results are in part due to the high levels of professionalism in the nursing staff.”



**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY FROM THE
TIME OF KING DAVID**

Recently Jerusalem’s Temple Mount Sifting Project found a 3 000-year-old seal from the time of King David in the 10th century BCE. “The seal is the first of its kind to be found in Jerusalem,” said Dr Gabriel Barkay, co-founder and director of the project. “The dating of the seal corresponds to the historical period of the Jebusites and the conquest of Jerusalem by King David, as well as the construction of the Temple and the royal official compound by his son, King Solomon. What makes this discovery particularly significant, is that it originated from upon the Temple Mount itself.”

**ISRAELI ARTIST WINS “FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION” AWARD**

Israeli illustrator and cartoonist Avital Alter received the first prestigious “Freedom of Expression” award from the Universal Tolerance Organisation (UTO) in September during its second annual Global Tolerance Forum.

Two Iranian exiles, Mohammed Mostafaei and Maryam Fagihimani, presented Alter with the award, which was produced specifically for the event, in a special ceremony in Drammen, Norway.

Her caricature won a contest held in memory of the cartoonists and editors murdered in January’s Charlie Hebdo massacre; hers against 700 other entries from across the globe.

ISRAEL ADVOCACY FOR DUMMIES – Courtesy of the SAZF

Israel is an apartheid state
Untrue: there is no discrimination practised in Israel as happened during apartheid SA; no laws on the statue books prescribing living or working areas or movements; no segregation policies; everyone can vote; Arab women have more freedom in Israel than anywhere in the Arab world; Arabs are represented in the Knesset, in the government, and in the Supreme Court; children can attend any schools they choose; transport and medical facilities are open to everyone; and there is total and absolute freedom of religion.

Israel deliberately targeted Gazan children during Operation Protective Edge
Palestinian children were regrettably killed by Israeli fire because Hamas used them as human shields; Hamas deliberately sent rockets and mortar fire from residential areas including houses, schools, mosques and shopping centres, and innocents were caught in the crossfire. The IDF warned Palestinians by sms, leaflet drops and megaphones prior to launching their aerial attacks, but Hamas refused to allow the Palestinians to leave their homes.

The settlements are the chief cause of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict
In 1998 Israel offered to withdraw from 97% of the West Bank as part of a peace agreement – the Palestinians rejected it. In 2005 Israel summarily

withdrew from Gaza, dismantling its settlements and hoping for peace, but the infrastructure it left behind was destroyed and rockets continued to fall. This means Hamas is serious about its Charter. The Charter calls for the destruction of the State of Israel and its replacement with an Islamic state extending from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea; and includes hatred for the Jews.

Zionism equals Racism
Zionism is the national movement of Jewish self-determination - the desire for the existence of a Jewish state. To suggest that Jewish self-determination is illegitimate is to deny the Jewish people the right to self-determination. To say “Zionism is racism” ignores that the Jewish people are a nation. There are Arab ministers in government, Arab members of Parliament and Arab justices on the Israeli Supreme Court. Zionism — self-determination for the Jewish people — is not illegitimate. While self-determination for every other people is accepted as unquestionable, self-determination for the Jewish people is considered racist. Why is Israel condemned as “ethnocentric,” but self-determination for other groups is acceptable?

The BDS Campaign is destroying Israel
Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions: a campaign aimed at delegitimising, demonising and destroying Israel by cutting all ties with her – political,

economic, social, sporting – and isolating her entirely. It is a war of words but has not achieved its goals and aims because Israel’s economy is booming, she has established strong connections with India, China, Japan, many African nations, and a host of other countries around the globe. By isolating Israel, the world will lose numerous benefits that stem from unique Israeli innovation and intellectual capital.

The Law of Return is racist
It is the right of any country to decide who may or may not become a citizen. Most countries base citizenship on economic measures or job opportunities. The ‘right of return’ is part of the majority’s right to decide who may become citizens, and that is based on religion, not racial discrimination. People of other nationalities can become citizens of Israel but they must apply for this as they would to any other country. Arabs who fled or were expelled during the ‘48 or ‘67 war cannot return as a natural consequence of war.

During 1947 and 1948 more than 850 000 Jews living in Arab countries were subjected to more and more persecution. More than 580 000 fled to Israel, with nothing but the clothes on their backs, and leaving behind homes, money and valuables. About 260 000 went to Europe and America. The Jews who fled Arab countries cannot return there, nor have they ever been compensated for that which

they lost when forced to flee.

The JNF “steals” land and forces the removal of Palestinians from Israel
Towards the end of the 19th century, world Jewry collectively began buying land in Israel. The Jewish National Fund was formed to administer the funds donated by world Jewry and to look after the land that had been purchased. When Israel became a state this amounted to 13% of the total land. In 1948, land without private title was held by the state as government owned land. Legally all Israeli citizens can purchase land wherever they choose, as long as there is a willing seller. In 2002 the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that the government could not allocate land according to religion or ethnicity and that it could not prevent Arabs from living wherever they wanted.

Israel “ethnically cleanses” the Arabs
In 1949 there were about 160 000 Arabs in Israel. Today there are almost 2 million. Israel has not removed any traces of the Arab population from her midst – in actual fact her Arab population has grown exponentially. Life expectancy among Israeli Arabs has increased by 27 years since 1948 due to the high standard of medicine in Israel; life expectancy of the average Israeli Arab is some 10 years more than that of an Arab living in an Arab country.

REMARKABLE ISRAEL

- ★ El Al Airline’s travel start-up acceleration programme “Cockpit” took first prize at the Airline Passengers Experience Association (APEX) competition. El Al received the award for “Best Achievement in Passenger Experience 2015” . The prize was presented at the “Oscars” of the aviation world, APEX’s EXPO event and marks El Al’s first win in the competition.
- ★ Israeli startup Fisbo provides a For Sale by Owner (FSBO) facility for homeowners to sell their homes without using estate agents. Following a 2-month pilot in Israel, Fisbo has opened an office in New York. Fisbo’s database verifies FSBO homes and provides anything a buyer needs to know.
- ★ Israeli company SodaStream is offering jobs to Syrian refugees at its factory near the Bedouin town of Rahat in the Negev desert. Rahat is the largest Bedouin town in the world with a population of 55 000. SodaStream moved its factory to the city over a year ago after shutting its controversial factory in the West Bank. Today some 30% of SodaStream’s 1 100 [person] workforce in the factory are residents of the town. SodaStream’s offer has still to be approved by the Israeli Government, because Syria is still formally at war with Israel.
- ★ Israel’s EarlySense is launching its “smart bed” solution myEarlySense. The “under the mattress” sensors record data on how you are sleeping, such as tossing, turning, waking, sleeping, breathing and heart rates. It can also turn on heaters and make the coffee.
- ★ Indian businessmen are eager for their Prime Minister to adopt some of Israel’s policies that have led to the success of the Start-up Nation. They include Government loans, universities embracing entrepreneurs and the acceptance of failure.
- ★ CyberGym is the Israel Electric Company’s cyber

- security training centre and equips employees to thwart attacks on Israel’s electricity infrastructure. The IEC is now to export CyberGym to the Czech Republic where it will be the centre for cyber-security training throughout Europe.
- ★ Some years back, a wealthy Vietnamese businessman ordered thousands of copies of Saul Singer’s “Start-Up Nation” in Vietnamese to distribute them at schools. He then sponsored a business plan competition for students and the winners were awarded a tour of Israel’s agri-tech industry.
- ★ IBM Israel has granted Israel’s Teva access to its Watson supercomputing Health Cloud program. Teva plans to use the global technology platform to design treatments for millions of people suffering from chronic conditions like asthma, migraine, and pain.
- ★ US venture capital fund 500 start-ups is opening an Israel office. The fund, which operates one of the world’s five leading accelerators, will invest up to \$5 million in 10-20 early stage Israeli start-ups in the coming year.
- ★ Scientists at Israel’s Technion Institute have developed a programme and algorithm for estimating the fruit content of an apple tree. The programme searches night-time photographs of illuminated apple trees, counting glints in the foliage from light reflecting off the shiny fruit.
- ★ The ENTR system from Yavne-based (Swedish-owned) Mul-T-Lock raises the simple door-lock to a hi-tech Bluetooth-enabled device. Using algorithms from US-owned Freescale Israel, the “combination” of global marketing and Israeli-ingenuity “opens up” huge possibilities like making your front door smarter.
- ★ Technion scientists have discovered that when the

- HIV virus encounters resistance, it looks for detours. It then mutates and replicates itself, like a Trojan horse, exploiting redundancy in the DNA of host cells.
- ★ The International Astronautical Federation reports that three judges from the International Court of Justice will preside at October’s Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition in Jerusalem. International law students will argue the legal issues of a near-miss asteroid event.
- ★ Israel was recently ranked second (to Singapore) in Grant Thornton’s Global Dynamism Index, which combines 22 indicators across five growth areas to rank the business growth environments of the 60 largest economies in the world.
- ★ Scientists from Israel’s Technion are the only team working for European research consortium BeyondSeq on early diagnosis of cancer. They are using tiny silicon “nanopore” scanners to detect molecular DNA biomarkers in cancer cells.
- ★ The World Health Organisation (WHO) ranks Israel 6th in the world in Healthy Life Expectancy, with the average Israeli living without a terminal illness to age 71.5. Israeli men have the world’s fourth longest total life expectancy of 80,2 years. For women, Israel is ranked tenth with a total life expectancy of 84 years.
- ★ Israel’s Civil Administration organised a seminar at the Emeq Afula hospital for eight Palestinian Arab doctors from the PA city of Jenin. The Jenin doctors learnt the workings of the hospital departments such as surgery, trauma, internal medicine and paediatric care.
- ★ Tel Aviv hosted the sixth annual City Summit as part of its DLD Innovation Festival. The main debate was about how city residents engaged with the municipality in the Technological Age. Tel Aviv won the World Smart Cities Award in 2014.

Words from the mouths of...

“Iran as of this moment continues to deploy violent proxies to advance its interests. These efforts may appear to give Iran leverage in disputes with neighbours, but they fuel sectarian conflict that endangers the entire region, and isolates Iran from the promise of trade and commerce. The Iranian people have a proud history, and are filled with extraordinary potential. But chanting ‘Death to America’ does not create jobs, or make Iran more secure. If Iran chose a different path, it would be good for the security of the region, good for the Iranian people, and good for the world.”
(President Obama addressing the UN General Assembly 28 September 2015)

“Nowhere is our commitment to international order more tested than in Syria. When a dictator slaughters tens of thousands of his own people, that is not just a matter of one nation’s internal affairs -- it breeds human suffering on an order of magnitude that affects us all. Likewise, when a terrorist group beheads captives, slaughters the innocent and enslaves women, that’s not a single nation’s national security problem -- that is an assault on all humanity ... There is no room for accommodating an apocalyptic cult like ISIL, and the USA makes no apologies for using our military, as part of a broad coalition, to go after them. We do so with a determination to ensure that there will never be a safe haven for terrorists who carry out these crimes. And we have demonstrated over more than a decade of relentless pursuit of al Qaeda, we will not be outlasted by extremists.”
(President Obama addressing the UN General Assembly 28 September 2015)

“Qatar is pursuing an approach based on the rule of law, transparency, justice, and human dignity.”
(Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, emir of Qatar, addressing the UN General Assembly 28 Sept 2015)

“There is a difference between a legitimate argument,

relevant criticism of Israeli policy, and a monumental campaign of false claims of apartheid, genocide, crimes against humanity, and proclamations that Israel was born in sin because it is a colonialist entity and as such is involved in the serious crime of ethnic cleansing.”
(Ben-Dror Yemini, YNetNews, 28 September 2015)

“The UK remains staunch in our defence of Israel’s right to exist and to defend itself”
(PM David Cameron, meeting PM Netanyahu at Downing Street, 12 Sept 2015)

“We must resist the Zionist occupation. The occupiers want to change the characteristics of the history, geography and culture in Jerusalem, but our people, led by men and women clinging to the Al-Aqsa Mosque and around Beit al-Maqdis, stand against this attack and this war, with heroism and courage in their hearts, and they stress that this is our country ... The occupation will not escape the punishment of our struggle.”
(Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, Israel National News, 28 September 2015)

“If ever a terrorist Palestinian state is formed in the ‘West Bank’ any Palestinian terrorist president can, and will, just as easily invite the Russians into their new country within a day. Before Israel, or anyone will know it, Russians and their anti-aircraft missile batteries will line the Green Line. The moment that happens, start saying Kaddish for Israel ... Netanyahu’s delusional notions of a ‘demilitarised Palestinian State’ are a greater immediate threat to Israel’s existence than the Obama-Iranian nuke deal. Until Israel publicly rids itself of the suicidal notion of a ‘demilitarised Palestinian state’, the greatest dangers to Israel are its own politicians.”
(Mark Langfan, Arutz Sheva, 27 September 2015)

“The (Islamic State) terrorists plan on killing several hundred million people. The west is drastically

underestimating the power of ISIS...They are the most brutal and most dangerous enemy I have ever seen in my life. I don’t see anyone who has a real chance to stop them. Only Arabs can stop IS. I came back very pessimistic.”
(Jurgen Todenhofer, veteran German journalist, Arutz Sheva, 27 September 2015)

“Today a new chapter has started in Iran’s relations with the world. Two years ago, the people of Iran in a competitive election, with their votes gave me a mandate for consolidating peace and constructive engagement with the world - while pursuing national rights, interests and security ... The nuclear deal, which is a brilliant example of ‘victory over war’, has managed to disburse the clouds of hostility and perhaps even the spectre of another war and extensive tensions from the Middle East. The deal can and should herald a new era and lead to positive outcomes regarding the establishment of sustainable peace and stability in the region ... Our policy is to continue our peace-seeking efforts in the region based on the same win-win principle, and act in a way that would lead to all in the region and world benefiting from these new conditions ... We also expect the nuclear-weapon states to take necessary steps to fulfil their commitment of full nuclear disarmament based on Article 6 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Furthermore, we expect them to play a positive role in the creation of a ‘nuclear weapons-free Middle East’ and not to allow the Zionist regime to remain the only impediment in the way of realising this important initiative ... We must not forget that the roots of today’s wars, destruction and terror, can be found in the occupation, invasion and military intervention of yesterday. If we did not have the US military invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq, and the US’s unwarranted support for the inhumane actions of the Zionist regime against the oppressed nation of Palestine, today the terrorists would not have an excuse for the justification of their crimes.”
(Iranian President Hassan Rouhani addressing the UN General Assembly 28 September 2015)



News from Telfed: Securing our Jewish future



It is clear that the future of the Jewish people lies in the hands of our youth and thus we invest energy, time, resources and effort into educating and nurturing the next generation. Recognising this fact, Telfed CEO Dorron Kline seized an opportunity to bring one of the most inspiring youth leadership training schemes from the USA to South Africa. The prestigious



If Telfed is concerned with building a stronger Jewish future they cannot afford to ignore those less fortunate.

This year, for the third year in a row, TECI (Telfed Ethiopian Community Initiative), in conjunction with the Mauerberger Foundation Fund has sponsored a group of Ethiopian families comprising 44 individuals to attend YAHALOM’s Family Summer Camp, run by ex-Capetonian Derek Perlman, which provides a rare opportunity for minority Ethiopian, Russian-speaking, Yemenite and other Israeli families from under-privileged backgrounds to share an intensive Jewish family educational and cultural experience in Jerusalem.

American-originated Diller Teen Fellows programme hand-picks some of the most promising teens from Israel and the diaspora each year, engaging them in an eighteen-month programme aimed at “building leaders with the power to change the world.”

After Dorron gained approval for the SA programme in 2014, it was launched in record time for the 2014/2015 academic year. “I am so grateful for this incredible opportunity,” commented Yakira Shepherd, one of the JHB Diller participants.

Following the enormous success of the pilot, plans are well underway to launch the programme in Cape Town in time for the 2016 academic year.

Mel Cohen, Chairman of the TELFED Ethiopian Community Initiative, said “It is very rewarding to see how parents and children bond together by developing common interests through the programme. TELFED can be proud of the role it is playing in strengthening Israeli society, whilst providing ex Southern African Olim an opportunity to contribute to the process.”

Contact details: Toll free from South Africa: 0800-997-495 Email: info@telfed.org.il Facebook: www.facebook.com/telfed

Tel Aviv: the Middle East’s most expensive city



Tel Aviv is the most expensive city in the Middle East in terms of price levels. Israel’s second largest city is closely followed by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, which actually ranks higher when including rent prices into the calculation. Tel Aviv ranks 22nd overall in terms of price levels but places only 33rd when it comes to earning power. Workers in Tel Aviv, however, have the highest wages in the Middle East. According to the survey, employees in Tel Aviv must work 21 minutes to buy a Big Mac hamburger and 12 minutes apiece to buy a kilogram of bread, or of rice.

Israel helping Syrian refugees in Greece

For months, scores of small rubber dinghies have made the perilous journey across the Gulf of Edremit from Turkey to the Greek island of Lesbos, carrying mostly Syrian refugees trying to escape from the devastating civil war affecting Syria. Many did not survive the journey as the flimsy, usually over-laden boats, often sank. For those who managed to complete the journey there was usually some international help at hand.

Refugees arriving on the island realised that, in many cases, the people helping them from their dinghies, helping them to dry out and providing them with food were Israeli humanitarian volunteers, including doctors who immediately gave first aid to those Syrians in need, some of whom were women in advanced stages of pregnancy.

The Israeli volunteers were from the Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid (IsraAID). IsraAID was founded in 2001 to coordinate Israeli and Jewish aid organisations to provide all types of humanitarian aid, anywhere in the world, in the wake of disasters, natural or manmade.

Increased aliyah figures

According to The Jewish Agency for Israel and the Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption, some 29 500 immigrants arrived in Israel in the Jewish year 5775, representing a 13% increase over the 26 000 who came in 5774. Most of this year’s immigrants came from the former Soviet Union (14 100, compared to 10 800 last year) and Europe (more than 9 000, compared to 8 400 last year). Some 3 600 immigrants came to Israel from North America and 1 200 came from South America. The two largest sources of aliyah were France, with 7 350 immigrants compared to 6 700 in 5774 (a 10% increase), and Ukraine, with 6 900 immigrants compared to 4 600 last year (a 50% increase).

Israeli -Druze connection

Bringing together Jewish and Druze leaders in a time of increased tensions and violence in Israel, Chilean-Jewish philanthropist Leonardo Farkash in October donated a Torah scroll in memory of Master Sergeant Zidan Sayif, the Israeli-Druze policeman murdered in last year’s massacre at the Har Nof synagogue. The Torah scroll was donated to the Haifa Police Headquarters. Sayif was memorialised for his heroism and lifesaving efforts.

Off-the-beaten-path places to visit in Israel

Israel has a plethora of iconic and magnificent tourist sites, well-known, well-documented and extremely popular. But there are other places to visit in our spiritual homeland, perhaps not as well-known but equally fascinating and characteristic of a country that has it all.

- ◆ Try kayaking as a fun and different way to explore the famous grottoes of Rosh Hanikra in the far northeast of the country.
- ◆ A unique underground boat-ride in Ramla takes you through a 500sq m fish-filled reservoir within an eighth-century arched structure in Old Ramla called the Pool of the Arches or the Pool of the Goats.
- ◆ East of Nahariya in the Western Galilee is the etching workshop at Kibbutz Cabri, founded in 1993 as a venue for artists, and as an experiential museum for those wishing to watch masters of creative print-making.
- ◆ Nisco is at the outer edge of Ein Hod, an artists’ colony in the Carmel Mountains south of Haifa. Owner Nisan Cohen gathered this awesome collection of antique music boxes, hurdy-gurdies, gramophones, player pianos and other mechanical musical instruments over the course of 40 years and he loves demonstrating them to visitors.
- ◆ Among several spectacular pools and waterfalls within the Yehudiya Forest Nature Reserve are the Black Canyon and the Hexagonal Pools. The volcanic stone water-filled Black Canyon between the upper and lower Zavitan – the longest stream in the Golan Heights - is an exciting challenge for experienced hikers who can also rappel and swim. The Hexagon (Meshushim) Pool is located at the bottom of another deep canyon, walled in with hexagonal basalt rock formations, flowing water and cascades.
- ◆ In the village of Kidmat Zvi, Tami and Babi Kabalo established an eco-farm that is a refuge for unadoptable, injured, abandoned animals including lambs, goats, peacocks, pigeons, rabbits, marmots, guinea pigs and tortoises. On the same premises are Bel Ofri’s boutique winery, reconstructed ancient olive press pulled by a mule, organic vegetable patch, working water well and cheese-making enterprise.
- ◆ Along Route 44 off the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Highway 1 lies the Sculpture Road, a 10 km route through the KKL-JNF Presidents Forest. It’s lined with environmentally friendly artworks sculpted by immigrant artists from the former Soviet Union.
- ◆ Sidreh, a non-profit organisation established in Lakiya to improve the socio-economic status of Bedouin women in the Negev, incorporates the Lakiya Negev Weaving Project. The women spin thread from the wool of sheep from local Bedouin shepherds and create carpets, cushions and accessories.
- ◆ There are also the nine Israeli vineyards established along the path of the old wine and spice routes in the Negev Desert highlands, which have brought back to life the grape-growing terraces from 2 000 years ago. They are Carmey Avdat, Kadesh Barnea, Ashba, Rota, Sde Boker, Sdema, Rujum, Derech Eretz and the Wine Cellar at Boker Valley Vineyards Farm.



Israel blesses the world...

Rutgers University in New Jersey, Tel Hai College in the Upper Galilee, and the Knesset Economic Development Task Force in the North and Negev signed a memorandum of understanding to launch the New Jersey-Israel Healthy, Functional and Medical Foods Alliance. The new initiative will “foster collaboration among the parties focused on scientific research, technology commercialisation, and business incubation,” as well as “develop a world-class business cluster for the development of the healthy, functional and medical foods industry in both Israel and New Jersey.”

...and again...

Ambassador Gil Haskel, chief of the MASHAV foreign assistance office at Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, recently accompanied Israel’s Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Uri Ariel during his first official visit to Kenya. The visit included a stop at the Galana/ ccKulalu farm, Kenya’s largest irrigation project, where a large crop of maize planted with Israeli assistance was being harvested. The farm is part of assistance Israel is giving Kenya to increase employment, food security, environmental protection and sustainable development.

...and yet again

Facebook announced last month that it is partnering with the Israeli satellite company Spacecom and Europe’s Eutelsat to build internet infrastructure for Sub-Saharan Africa. “This Israeli satellite will bring some positive social advantage to Africa, which is very important beyond economic importance,” said Spacecom president and CEO David Pollack. “We are bringing a technological and social message here.” Elsewhere, zoologists from Tel Aviv University recently published research they’ve conducted in collaboration with colleagues in the UK, USA, Ecuador and Malaysia on the habits of long-living snakes and lizards, which could have applications for improving the quality of life for humans.



Jewish National Fund

Enhancing the quality of life for all Israelis through forests, water, community building, agricultural R&D, heritage sites, eco Zionism and more

JNF greens Mamelodi in “Role Back the Desert” style

27th September 2015 marked Arbour Day in Mamelodi where for the seventh year running the JNF Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre donated 1400 trees to the residents of the Tswane District to green the area.

This project, which was adopted by the Graham and Rhona Beck Foundation, was initiated in 2008 and is still running sucessfully today. The Becks had a deep passion for trees and the greening of Israel, and were more than delighted to bring that spirit of growth and skills development to our local areas and population.

Sadly, Rhona Beck passed away in September. Prior to that, she had consistently supported this project, purchasing hundreds of trees in Israel for her grandchildren. When she did so, she always asked us to attach a letter to their certificates reminding them of the absolute importance of greening the world and specifically Israel, which was always for her a top priority. She was buried in Israel on a hillock at Kibbutz Einat under a beautiful tree. May she rest peacefully in the Holy Land.

The legacy left by Rhona and Graham Beck will continue to grow and deepen its roots, improving the soil of the world and greening its dry forgotten spaces. Our grateful thanks to the Foundation for their ongoing support.



Graham and Rhona Beck

In 2010 the project was bolstered by an additional donation from Bidvest. The company had supported the project for three years and had also established the Bidvest Community Connect Nursery at the Centre. It is there that we are able to propagate our own shade trees and indigenous plants for the greening project and school gardens in the area.

The district which our project services is Mamelodi East. It boasts a population of 334 577 and a density of 7400 persons per sq km; and there are 88 schools in the area.

This year the project, under the able management of Jabu Mthombeni, planted another 700 shade trees and 700 fruit trees.

Each year a new ward is located for greening. Jabu co-ordinates with the local councillor and trains “urban foresters” who go from door to door in the given ward, educating the public on the importance of greening and showing them how to plant and nurture trees. If the householders agree, they are required to pre-dig and mulsh holes for trees and on the appointed day, they receive a fruit and a shade tree for their properties.

THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS SINCE INCEPTION 2008

- In excess of 28 000 trees planted in Mamelodi East
- 143 people trained as urban foresters to implement the project each year
- 118 paid volunteers to assist on Arbour Day
- 12 730 homes have benefited from shade and fruit
- 53 schools and other community institutions have benefited from trees and gardens
- 1 full time nursery worker has been employed
- 2 part time nursery workers are employed
- 1 manager equipped with project management skills runs the project
- Biodiversity has improved with the injection of indigenous trees into the area
- Climate change has been mitigated through the presence of more trees



Mandela Day tree planting at Mamelodi Hospital with Citadel/Peregrine



Urban Foresters 2015



I got mine!



Collecting trees for their homes

We are continuously looking for funding to grow this project and keep our Nursery operating ship shape. This JNF Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre greening project is both environmentally friendly and BEE compliant.

For more information please contact the JNF 011 6452541

Contact the South African Jewish National Fund on (011) 645-2541 or jnf@beyachad.co.za

MAY 2016 JNF ISRAEL TOUR Watch this space for details



YAD Golf Day

Once again the YAD division of the IUA-UCF hosted their annual fund-raising golf day at the Killarney Country Club on 13 October 2015. The format for the day was a shotgun start at 12h30 and the field of players included a mix of novices and experienced players comprising professionals and executives from Johannesburg.

The beautiful hot day was enjoyed by all the players and great fun was had. It was an extremely well-run event and was a day that gave participants the opportunity to network while supporting our very worthy organisation.

A big thank you is owed to the sponsors who contributed to ensuring that the day was a great success and for the wonderful

prizes.

After the golfing, a delicious supper was served in the club house and the participants were entertained by comedian and good friend of the IUA-UCF, Al Progers. Martin Smookler, the YAD co-chairman, welcomed everyone and spoke about the vital and important work of the IUA-UCF. He stressed how essential it is to secure our community with a strong Israel in our hearts. A successful auction was also held.

The top three four-ball winners of the day were Off Course Promotions, Team Ross Smilkstein, and Popper, Stiller & Partners. Nearest to the pin went to Dan Stillerman, Gareth Friedlander and Darryl Shaff. Longest Drive went to Dan Stillerman.



Re'ut Breakfast



Re'ut is the women's division of the IUA-UCF. Re'ut, which means friendship in Hebrew and stands for "REMAIN UNITED TOGETHER", is a division specifically targeted at dynamic, influential and empowered women in our local community. The group is aimed not only to be a platform for networking and socialising but, also as an important group that is making a significant difference in securing the safety and dignity of our community in the broader South African community.

Re'ut held a Women's Breakfast on Sunday 11 October, as a fundraiser for our worthy cause. The breakfast was hosted at one of our Re'ut member's home, Fran Blumenthal, who organised a scrumptious breakfast for all those present. It was a well-attended event and included women from a range of professions. Our key-note speaker, Dorianne Weil, inspired and uplifted the women with her insight and guiding tools on how to manage the challenges of life and to succeed at whatever path we embark

upon. Dorianne left us with practical advice and tools for life.

Our second guest speaker, Tumi Hlongwane, a young and dynamic business-woman, relayed her experiences about her recent visit to Israel. Her account was extremely moving and when she read from her journal, the exact recording of her experiences, many of the women were moved to tears.

The morning was a big success and we look forward to many more events in the future and to take Re'ut to the next level.

"I thought it was an excellent event, and well done to you for organising it so well." Joan Joffe

"I really enjoyed this event, and I am looking forward to the next one." Michelle Blumenau



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KUDOS GALORE FOR RABBI GOLDSTEIN’S SHABBOS PROJECT

Once again we must take our hats off to Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and his team for organising such a successful programme for the Challah Bake as part of the Shabbos Project.

It ran so smoothly and all the decorations created a wonderful atmosphere. Approximately 6 000 women participated, with each receiving an apron. What a wonderful thought.

This is the third time the Shabbos Project has been held. I am very pleased that I could participate in all the projects and most of all. All those who joined in created a camaraderie that will last forever.

As well as this, the residents of our cul-de-sac got together with some friends from the area, making a total of 95 people eating their Shabbos meal under the stars.

The cynics who did not participate in the project really missed out.

Joe Yudelowitz
Johannesburg

LOTS OF HYPOCRISY ON WHAT’S ALLOWED ON SHABBAT

I found the “Shabbat Map” enclosed in your issue of October 23 most interesting - all the things you can’t or shouldn’t do before or on Shabbat (because they are “work”) are fully set out. For instance, you can’t switch on lights or turn a kettle on or off, but you can source hot water for coffee or tea from an urn filled before Shabbat by turning the tap to allow water to run into the cup.

Rubbish. The mere fact that you touch and move the tap is also “work”. Using a teaspoon to put coffee/tea into the cup is also “work” - no different from turning a light on or warming plate on or off. Hypocritical.

Let us get on to the no driving bit: Firstly, there are rabbis, thank goodness, whose attitude is we would rather you drive to shul than not come at all. Then there is a reason not to drive.

Ever seen the crowd who open (also “work”) bottle upon bottle of whisky or even whiskey at the after shul brocha and become so drunk that for them to drive is a danger to other innocent road users and pedestrians, let alone themselves?

In any event, kindly refer me to the Torah where it states “Thou shalt not drive on Shabbat”.

I don’t really know if I’m being facetious or half serious, but you take it as you will.

Hilton Borach
Parklands, Johannesburg

What’s On	
Today, Friday (October 30)	Monday (November 2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">UZLC hosts radio personality David Batzofin on “No Turkey for Xmas”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.Shalom Masorti invites all seniors to its monthly tea from 14:30 to 16:30. Tea, board games, chat and listen to Andrew and Mickie Jacobs on their recent visit to India, in particular “Jewish India”. Contact: Esther, (011) 485-5619 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday morning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UJW hosts Alex Harris, adventurer, explorer and director: Xplore the World, on “The Dirty Thirsty - Crossing the Arabian Desert”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.
	Tuesday (November 3)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WIZO Etgar branch/Michelle Brivik Sloot Annual Golf Day at the Killarney Country Club in the name of Michelle Brivik Sloot. Funds raised will be donated to WIZO projects in Israel. Welcome coffee and snack, halfway house light lunch and finger supper. Cost per four ball: R3 200 (R800 per person). Wonderful prizes to be won. Contact: Zee Bergman 083-377-5644 or Anat Shevel 083-601-0174.
	Wednesday (November 4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WIZO hosts Arthur Marsden who has climbed some of the highest mountains and survived the extreme conditions of the Poles, “From the Highest Peaks to the Ends of the Earth”. Venue: Home of Leanne Braudo, Linksfield. Time: 19:00 for 19:30. Cost: R75 (incl tea and refreshments). Bookings and venue details: Nadine: (011) 645-2515 or wizojhb@beyachad.co.za or Andrea 083-677-8999.UJW hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Dept of English at Wits, on “The Written Word Leaps Off the Page” - third in a series. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.
	Thursday (November 5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jaffa in Pretoria has its market and fun day from 10:00. Venue: 42 Mackie Street, Baileys Muckleneuk. Stalls, a jumping castle and treasure hunt for children, a deli, tea garden and lunch, with entertainment by Yochi Ress. Information: (012) 346-2006.Johannesburg Jewish Activities Club hosts a visit to a Prime Circle concert, “Let the Night In”, at Roodepoort Botanical Gardens. Time: 13:00. Information on cost and booking: http://online.computicket.com/web/event/prime_circle/944752830/0/67567170. Information: sheli@jjac.co.za. Cell: 082-929-9765.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Johannesburg Jewish Activities Club hosts a table tennis, pool and games evening: in the Youth Centre of Sandton Shul. Time: 19:00. Cost: R25. E-mail sheli@jjac.co.za with “Table Tennis and Games Evening” in the subject line and your name and cell number in the body of the e-mail. Information: sheli@jjac.co.za. Cell: 082-929-9765.

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

NETANYAHU CORRECT THAT AL-HUSSEINI INFLUENCED HITLER

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is correct that the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, played a role in influencing Hitler and was involved in the Nazi death machine that perpetrated the Shoah.

Al-Husseini was a vicious enemy of the Jewish people, in the tradition of Amalek, Haman, Torquemada, Chmielniki, and of course Hitler. His legacy continues today in the PLO, Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, PFLP, Hamas , Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, Al-Qaida and IS and the regimes of Syria and Iran, as well as the supporters of the genocidal hate campaign against Israel on the international left (including the ANC/SACP here in South Africa, BDS and Jewish Voices for a Just Peace), and some on the far right (like Pat Buchanan and David Duke).

After Hitler came to power in 1933, Al-Husseini set up a Palestinian Arab youth group, known as the Nazi Scouts. In addition, Arab organisations, modelled on the Nazi Party, were set up in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

In August 1995 a graduating class of Palestinian Authority cadets, who would later engage in the mass slaughter of Jewish men, women and children, marked the occasion with a Nazi-style Sieg Heil salute. Fawzi Salim al-Mahdi, a commander of Fatah’s Force 17, Yasser Arafat’s elite Praetorian Guard, which would play a key role in suicide bombings, was known as Abu Hitler, because he named his two sons Eichmann and Hitler.

In 1936, Al-Husseini made contact with the German Nazis and with their backing launched the Arab revolt

in which thousands of Jews were butchered to the chilling cry of “Itbach al Yahud” - “Kill the Jews”.

In 1937, Al-Husseini met with Adolf Eichmann in a cordial meeting that would cement the Al-Husseini-Hitler alliance. Eichmann reported glowingly of the “national and racial conscience” among the Arabs of Palestine who hung swastikas and portraits of Hitler in their homes.

That year the mufti fled from the British to Lebanon and then to Iraq. After organising a failed pro-Nazi coup in Iraq, Al-Husseini fled to Nazi Germany where he was installed as a guest of honour, who frequently met with Hitler and was present at the 1942 Wannsee conference where the “Final Solution” to the Jewish question was adopted.

Al-Husseini organised SS Brigades of Muslims from the Caucasus, the Middle East and Bosnia, including the infamous Hansar Brigades of Bosnian Muslims, which killed thousands of Serbs, Roma and Jews.

He is reported to have visited Auschwitz and urged the SS guards there to be more diligent in their work of extermination. In 1943 he interceded with the Hungarian authorities to prevent 900 Jewish children from being shipped to Palestine. The children where instead sent to Auschwitz where they perished.

As the Nazis dehumanised the Jews before the Holocaust was launched, so the Arab and leftist media and educational networks demonise the Jews of Israel in the same way.

**Gary Selikow
Johannesburg**

NETANYAHU’S REMARKS ON GRAND MUFTI REMAIN RELEVANT

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has taken much flak for his criticism of the Grand Mufti (of Jerusalem) Amin al-Husseni and his links to Germany in 1941.

Lest Netanyahu’s remarks be misinterpreted, let us be clear in what he did not say. Firstly, he did not say that the Holocaust was as a direct result of the Mufti’s meeting with Hitler.

What was said (and intended) was that the Mufti told Hitler that the Arabs were Germany’s natural friends and that they shared the same ideals about the destruction of the Jewish race.

Secondly, the Mufti agreed that the Palestinians and Arabs would co-operate with Germany during the war. At no time did the prime minister blame the Mufti for the Holocaust.

The fact of the matter is that in 1941, when Mufti al-Husseini visited Adolf Hitler, there was no state of Israel. The Mufti, being a Palestinian, propagated the destruction of the Jews and shared the Nazis’ policies of hatred toward them already before the creation of Israel. So what has changed today with the Palestinian attitude toward the Jews?

What Prime Minister Netanyahu did recently, (mentioning the Mufti’s visit to Hitler) was a favour to Jews all over the world, by focusing historically, the source of anti-Semitism which today, masquerades as anti-Zionism.

It is well-documented that al-Husseini incited Arabs to murder Jews. This is precisely what has happened since (and before) the formation of Israel.

President Jacob Zuma and the ANC are either unaware of this history or they have chosen to ignore the historical facts.

Whatever the reason, their meeting with Hamas bodes ill for Zuma’s (and the ANC’s) legacy.

Nathan Cheiman
Northcliff, Johannesburg

NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN EVOLUTION AND BIBLE

Contrary to popular belief, there is no contradiction between the theory of evolution and the Bible’s account of the evolution of life. These two narratives are remarkably similar.

Both indicate that life began with the simplest life forms in the beginning and climaxed with the development of human beings in the end.

Whoever wrote the Bible seemed to have known about evolution thousands of years before it was discovered by science. Clearly it was the method employed by the Creator when rolling out life on earth.

Medical students are usually amazed by the incredible coincidences and complexities of life, but are often taught not to accept the obvious religious conclusions.

Spiritual matters are beyond the scope of science which is largely limited by what it can physically test and measure.

Science shows that the world is millions of years old, yet the Abrahamic religions seem to believe that it is

less than 6 000 years old.

According to traditional Judaism we are now in year 5775. Yet this is often misunderstood because this count only began on the sixth “day” of Creation, after humans were made. The Bible does not say that the “days” of Creation were 24 hours long. They could not have been literal day-night periods because the sun which normally shows when a day begins and ends, was only created on day four.

According to the Ramban, who wrote one of the most important rabbinic commentaries on the Bible, the Creation story is not meant to be taken literally anyway.

Finally, the existence of life is just too amazing to have been the result of so many incredible coincidences, unguided by a prime force.

Martin Zagnoev
Sunningdale Ridge, Johannesburg

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

Guidelines for letters
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.

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

PALESTINIANS PLAY DANGEROUS GAME ON TEMPLE MOUNT

When Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas addressed the United Nations, at the beginning of October, he opened with the PA libel that Israel is planning to destroy Muslim and Christian holy sites.

This libel is being spread by Muslim religious leaders and even by moderate ones like King Hussein of Jordan. Even in Cape Town marches are being planned to demonstrate against the so-called “occupation” of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Fatah and even the moderate Palestinian leadership, has not missed an opportunity to inflame and incite Muslim passions about Al-Aqsa and the threat posed by Jews to their absolute sovereignty. They have consistently denied that Jews have any rights to this holy sanctuary.

They completely reject conventional and Biblical history, that Mount Moriah was holy to Jews more than 1 500 years before the birth of Islam and the Jews built the First Temple on this site during the reign of King Solomon. They deny that any temple ever existed, which conflicts even with Christian history that records that Christ prayed in the holy Temple.

Israel, on the other hand, is doing everything possible to de-escalate tensions, always acknowledging the sovereignty of the Muslim Waqf and has refrained from allowing Jews access to pray at their holiest site.

Recently Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu forbade any members of the Knesset, even its Palestinian members, from setting foot on the Temple Mount.

The tensions are only stoked by the stupid remarks from Western leaders like US Secretary of State John Kerry, that link the uprising to Jewish settler activities. This obfuscates the issues and provides further justification for the taking of Jewish lives. This link between Al-Aqsa and the uprising was reinforced when Fatah brought soil from Al-Aqsa to the grave of a murderer who stabbed two to death in Jerusalem, “so that the dead body... can hug the soil for which he died as a martyr”.

The PA Ministry of Education plants trees in honour of

terrorists, which they call-”martyrs” which, according to them, instils national and humanitarian values in the Palestinian youth. After Palestinians murdered four Israeli civilians, Abbas said: “The Palestinian side... did not do anything against the Israelis... that is our right. We have to protect our holy sites.”

One of Abbas’ advisers said: “The stabbing and murder of two civilians in Jerusalem is a ‘heroic operation’.

Yet again Abbas lied when he accused the Israelis of the “cold-blooded execution” of a 13-year-old Palestinian boy, after he stabbed an Israeli child. Hadassah University Medical Centre in Jerusalem, has released photographs and video footage of the Palestinian boy sitting up and smiling in his hospital bed. This is the latest in a series of hysterical and inciting remarks to fuel the cinders of the uprising.

In one incident, a Palestinian employee of Bezeq, the Israeli telephone company, used his work vehicle to mow down a group of Israelis waiting at a bus stop. After crashing the vehicle into the Israelis, he went on a wild stabbing frenzy.

Like many of the other attackers, these were not the actions of unemployed desperate people, but of people filled with hate for Jews, hoping to be national heroes, or “martyrs”.

Sadly, when reported in the media, it becomes a tally in a macabre game of death and invariable because the tally of Palestinian deaths exceeds those of the Israelis, the Palestinians are cast as victims of a brutal occupation.

Moreover, because the initial deaths of Israelis go unreported, the media kicks in, only when the Israelis retaliate, and the headlines scream: “Israeli soldiers kill Palestinian”, as if there was no provocation.

To escape this cycle of violence, we need to hold the Palestinian leaders responsible for spreading lies, incitement and hate and have all parties commit to pursue the truth and life-affirming policies.

Ben Levitas, Cape Town

HOSTING HAMAS IS LIKE SPITTING IN JEWISH FACES

The recent trip to South Africa by delegates from the terrorist organisation Hamas has left me and many others from our community, simply without words.

Hosting Hamas is like spitting in the face of the South African Jewish community and it shows the ANC’s support for anti-Semitic extremist and terrorist organisations.

The ANC’s support for Hamas and generally its anti-Israel bias is worrying. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies will tell us to be patient as they “manage” the ANC and SA government. Well, they’ve managed to assist terrorism and anti-Semitism.

David Koch, Johannesburg

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"And all your children shall be taught of Hashem, and great shall be the peace of your children" - Shema 4810

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BDS TRIES TO GET INTO #FEESMUSTFALL ACTION

Not that anyone really needs any proof of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement’s violent agenda that has been on display many times, together with their famous calls of “Dubula iJuda” (Shoot the Jew), we now see how they have tried to latch on to the coattails of the #feesmustfall student movement and the ensuing protest.

There is a picture posted on Facebook of a poster by the Palestinian Solidarity Alliance calling for the boycott of Woolies at the student demonstrations at the Union Buildings grounds last Friday. What an intelligent move by BDS!

Do they know what Woolworths’ contribution to education is in this country, or have they any idea of the bursaries provided by this company to deserving students?

No, they also don’t care and neither do they care about the plight of our students’ (mainly) peaceful campaign for affordable tertiary education. Alas, any excuse to seek publicity however stupid it might be. And what better way to draw attention to themselves than by violent action!

Both on Radio 702 and in her Sunday Times column last Sunday, Redi Thlabi told of her experience at the demonstration at the Union Buildings. She tells of a group of about 30 youths wearing Sasco and ANC T-shirts torching toilets and throwing bricks at the police and they were later joined by “a handful of EFF supporters and much later by youths wearing Boycott Divestment and Sanctions T-shirts”.

Redi goes on to tell her readers how the peaceful students tried to stand up against this group “chanting No Violence!” A call obviously ignored by our BDS group!

Allan Wolman
Rosebank, Johannesburg

ARABS MUST ACCEPT: JEWS IN ISRAEL ARE GOING NOWHERE

A while ago I gave a talk on kibbutzim. Prior to this, I did research into the origins of the kibbutz.

In the year 1850, a group of religious Zionists made “aliyah”. This was considered “Aliyah Aleph” and they were, individually given land to settle on and farm. There were a number of drawbacks to this as none of them had any knowledge of agriculture. But they soldiered on.

Alas, the biggest problem they came across was violence from marauding Arab gangs who attacked them mercilessly, killed some of the settlers, destroyed irrigation systems that the settlers had installed and also destroyed their crops and generally made life unbearable for the Zionists who eventually left.

Then round about the end of that century and the early part of 1900/’01, there was a second aliyah known as “Aliyah Bet”. These people were, in the main, Zionist Socialists and they too, individually, were given land to farm. Fortunately, these settlers had studied agriculture and they became successful farmers. But they too were

mercilessly attacked by Arab gangs, intent on getting the Jews to leave.

But the Jews did not want to leave, so a small group - 12 of them (nine boys and three girls) decided to form a group that would live together on the same piece of land, farm it and because of numbers, could fight back when the Arabs came looking for trouble.

The Jewish authorities gave this group a piece of land just south of the Sea of Galilee and they called it Kibbutz (meaning settlement) Degania Aleph. History records that they fought off the Arab gangs and began to thrive.

Through this piece of history, I want to show that this latest wave of violence by Arabs against Jews is not anything new. Arabs attacked us in 1850 and have done so ever since. They just (still) don’t realise that they cannot beat us and that we are not going anywhere.

Sonny Myerson
Cape Town

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Sydenham tots love their multi-coloured challahs

SUE BENJAMIN

As part of the Shabbos Project at Sydenham Hebrew Pre-Primary School, to the surprise and delight of the children, their challahs were plaited with red, blue and yellow strands of dough last week!

The Elk Hall was set up in the true spirit of Shabbos; white cloths adorned the tables, candles were lit and sweet singing could be heard throughout the campus. The highlight of the morning was when Rabbi Yossy Goldman of the Sydenham-Highlands North Shul blessed all the children with the beautiful brocha.

Pictured are Ethan Miller; Jarryn Leviner; and Joshua Fainstein.



Photo: Sue Benjamin

KDVP announces its 2016 Junior Councillors

ELIZABETH LEAVER

Jared Greenstein and Danielle Bortz have been selected as the incoming King David High School Victory Park councillors for the Johannesburg Junior Council of 2016.

The school said it is confident that they will represent the school and community with pride and distinction.



Photo: Yael Gordon

KDL matrices look back at their school years

YAKIRA COHEN

This year's King David Linksfield matric valedictory evening was held on Thursday October 15, amid much nostalgia and sweet memories.

The matrices were addressed first by Rabbi Craig Kacev, followed by an outstanding inspirational address by this year's guest speaker, Olga Meshoe, who gave the outgoing matric body valuable grains of wisdom about entering into the next stages of their lives.

Principal Lorraine Srage spoke to the matrices with much fondness, wisdom and advice.

The two head prefects reflected on their experiences during their five years at King David. At the end of the evening the matrices were recognised for their outstanding academic and sporting achievements.

This year's matrices have continued to achieve outstanding results in true King David fashion.



Alexa Reichenberg receiving the WIZO Outreach Award from Andrea Wainer.



Jordan Ross and Natasha Silverman receive the Accounting Trophy for best achiever.

Photos: Ariella Harris

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‘Three generation challah bake’ at TA Nursery School



OWN CORRESPONDENT

Torah Academy Nursery School held a “three generation challah bake” for bobbas, moms and tots, in keeping with the spirit of the Shabbos Project.

Pictured are Eliran and Chagai Elmaleh with their mother Hadas, getting to work on mixing the dough.

Photo: Chana Rivka Levin

YS pre-primaries enjoy their school’s challah bake

OWN CORRESPONDENT PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

Shabbos is an integral part of the curriculum at Yeshiva College Pre-Primary School. The big challah bake in honour of the Shabbos Project last week went down extremely well, with everyone enthusiastically participating.



What are your children doing this summer?

The South African Zionist Federation and the new National Director of the SAZF encourages parents to send their children to Jewish summer youth camps this year.

As parents we want the best opportunities for our children. We do everything in our power to ensure that they are happy, healthy and have all the resources available to them to become well-rounded successful adults that will positively contribute to their environment.

So how will sending your child to a Jewish Summer camp this December benefit them?
Experts on child development show that the positive impact of a child attending camp, extends far beyond the obvious. The benefits of a fun and structured way to develop their social skills and self-esteem, is an important means for giving children the value of belonging to a community of their own. Away from the influence and pressures of home life, youth camps create an environment where children are able to connect, interact and belong while exploring and learning about themselves and their Jewish identity.

“Hundreds of thousands of Jewish camp alumni - and their parents - have long known that those halcyon weeks spent at Jewish summer camp don’t just cement lifelong friendships - they strengthen Jewish identity,” says Jewish news writer Sue Fishkoff who undertook a study on the success of Jewish youth camps globally.

The experience of being involved in a leadership capacity in the camp environment, provides invaluable tools that can be applied later on in life. Leaders in many different sectors of society have been products of the youth camp system, especially when they participated as councillors (Maddrichim)

The SAZF is proud to support and endorse four of the biggest Jewish youth movements in South Africa. We believe that each of these movements offer a safe place for children to have fun and develop a deep



sense of Jewish values and love for Israel. There is no doubt that the development and education of the youth in our community is a top priority.

We asked each of the movements to tell us about their theme for this year’s camp.

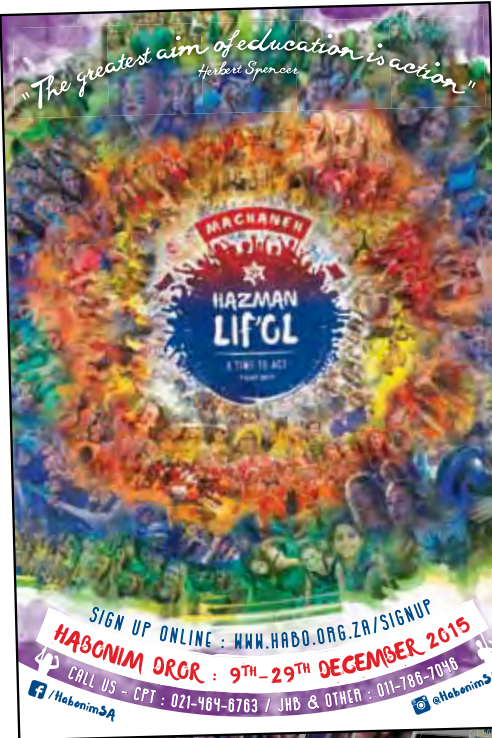
HABONIM is a left-wing Zionist youth movement which encourages passionate young people to engage in valuable debate and critical thinking. The theme of this

year’s camp is **Machaneh Hazman Lif’ol (The Time to Act)** and places emphasis on using the values and skills gained in being part of a youth movement, to change the world for good. **Sign up: mazkir@habo.org.za or call (011) 786-7046.**

BNEI AKIVA is a religious Zionist youth movement. Torah Va’Avodah, which translates as Torah and work, is central to the movement’s ideology which emphasises that the future of the Jewish people is tied to the people and Land of Israel. The theme of this year’s camp is **Machaneh Dor Shelanu (Our Generation)**. Each generation has the power to change the word and now it’s our turn to unlock that potential and assume our responsibility as Jewish Youth. **Sign up: Roshmach@bnei.co.za or call (011) 485-1695.**

NETZER is affiliated to the Progressive Jewish community and has a strong focus on Zionism and tikkun olam. The theme of their camp is **Netzer Machaneh Chalutzim (Pioneers)** and promises to be an awesome adventure for kids this summer. **Sign up: camp@netzer.org.za or call 082-855-5199.**

BETAR is a right -wing Zionist movement inspired by the teaching of Ze’ev Jabotinsky. Their ideology is based on aliyah (living in Israel) Hadar (self-pride, moral integrity) and Tagar (activism). This year’s theme is **Omdim Beyachad (Standing together)** which is particularly relevant to the situation our community faces today. **Sign up: Info@betarsa.co.za or call 082-851-3963.**



Picture courtesy: Habonim

Terror in Israel doesn’t get SA expats down

SUZANNE BELLING

Many South Africans are concerned about the safety of relatives and friends in Israel amid the current wave of terror attacks sweeping many parts of the Jewish state. The murderous attacks by individuals, usually armed with knives, or using vehicles as battering-rams, are difficult to prevent.

Nevertheless, former South Africans living in Israel believe that the assaults will not bring the country to its knees and that, as in the past, Israel will overcome them.

Allan Herlitz, a businessman who immigrated to Israel 18 years ago, said there is a lot of uncertainty - the new terrorists are often children themselves.

“A worrying part of the situation is that now the attacks are not limited to Jerusalem and the West Bank. There have been attacks in Tel Aviv, Petah Tikvah, Ra’anana and elsewhere,” he said.

“My fear is for my daughter who travels 40 kilometres to and from work as a teacher. I also fear for my son-in-law who travels 60 kilometres each way to Jerusalem daily to work. I would like to believe that it is life ‘as usual’, but that is not the case. “

But he is still optimistic. “We are a resilient nation and will overcome this,” he added.

Michael Jankelowitz, originally from Port Elizabeth and retired spokesman for international media at the Jewish Agency where he worked for 35 years, said the purpose of terrorism was to put fear in the hearts of a civilian population.

“In Jerusalem today all Jews are on high alert and are continuously looking over their



shoulder because the Palestinian Arab terrorists almost always stab their victims in the back.

“Business during the day is slow with people preferring to stay at home,” Jankelowitz said.

But it was not all bad news, he added, referring to the 25 000 Israelis who came to cheer Israel in its Euro2016 soccer qualifier against Cyprus in Jerusalem and two conferences in Jerusalem that attracted several thousand delegates.

“Just as Israel prevailed then, this current spate of terror stabbings will not bring Israel to her knees,” Jankelowitz said.

Another former South African, **Judith Yacov**, said the outbreak of violence was frightening - it was sudden and random. Israel was also misrepresented abroad.

the Palestinians. I wonder how one makes a peace agreement with people who don’t recognise your right to be here. How do we make the kind of contact that breaks down the stereotypes that drive hatred?” she asked.

Former Johannesburger **Shoshana Bloom** said: “I wish like a mother protecting her children that I could protect the citizens of Israel. I feel each attack personally and mourn each fatality with deep pain.

“We all want to live here in peace, to grow this wonderful brave country in peace and harmony, but this is denied us by hatred and discrimination - and by the nations of the world again turning against us.”

Israelis have to be strong, she said. “We have been under fire from time immemorial. But I believe Hashem has his plan and it is for the eventual good of Jews everywhere and for the Land of Israel,” she said.

Martin Furman and his wife Linky live on Moshav Timorim, 30 kilometres from Gaza, where 10 missiles have, since 2012, destroyed four houses.

“Thank G-d, apart from fear, fright and worry, no one was physically harmed,” he said.

His three married children and 11 grandchildren live within an eight kilometre radius of their house.

He said today’s situation was the most worrying in the 40 years he and his family have been in the country.

“It proves that the Palestinian Authority is not a partner to true peace as they are praising these young, knife-wielding terrorists, making martyrs of them and their imams are posting videos on Facebook and YouTube teaching how and where to stab a Jew to kill him.”

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Community Columns

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Message from Rome, the eternal city

I am writing from Rome, where I am attending a meeting of the World Jewish Congress’ (WJC) governing board, where I sit as a representative of South African Jewry. Last night, we were taken on a fascinating tour of the historic Rome Ghetto area, the world’s oldest Diaspora Jewish community. Today, nearly 150 delegates and guests have convened to discuss the situation of Jews around the world, as well as such related issues as the current wave of terrorist attacks in Israel, the refugee crisis in Europe and the aftermath of the Iran nuclear agreement. We have just listened to an inspiring presentation by the Vice President of the Union of Italian Communities on an incredible project supporting refugees in Milan. Later, I will be facilitating an important panel discussion on BDS.

The venue and date of this Governing Board meeting was specifically chosen to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate. Chapter Four of this landmark declaration by the Roman Catholic Church is particularly devoted to relations with the Jews, with special attention to addressing, and rethinking, the Church’s traditional anti-Semitism. Nostra Aetate thus marked the beginning of a positive new era in Jewish-Catholic relations. Wednesday, October 28, is the actual 50th anniversary of its announcement, and to mark this occasion, the Governing Board, headed by WJC President Ambassador Ronald Lauder, will attend a public audience with His Holiness Pope Francis. This will be followed by a press conference. I look forward to reporting back on this historic meeting next week.





Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

As previously reported in this column, we are very honoured that Mr Lauder will be one of the main speakers at the forthcoming SAJBD National Conference on November 22. Since taking over as WJC president in June 2007, Ronald has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to world Jewry, and the global impact made by the WJC during this time testifies to what he has, and is, achieving. Certainly, there is no more important Jewish lay leader in the world today, nor one who has done and is doing more to promote the well-being and fight for the rights of Jews wherever they may be.

The governing board meeting was preceded by the meeting of the Jewish Diplomatic Corp, a body established by the WJC to train and develop international young leaders. We can be proud that the current chairman of the JDC is one of our own upcoming young leaders, Marc Pozniak, and that its members also include Durban’s Alana Baranov. Alana, who made a presentation on hate crimes in South Africa, is a vice-president of the Council for KwaZulu-Natal Jewry, while Mark has already served for a number of years on the SAJBD Gauteng Council. Also with us in Rome to attend the conference are Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft and Ann Harris, respectively CEO and spiritual leader and acting president of the African Jewish Congress.

A little over three weeks remain before our conference, where in addition to Ronald Lauder, we will have as guest speakers President Zuma and the renowned intellectual and philosopher Bernard-Henri Levi. To book for the event, or for further information, contact Jenni on jenni@sajbd.org / (011) 645-2521.

This column paid for by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

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Obama could learn from Bill Clinton how to be a true friend of Israel



President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

PROF GIL TROY WASHINGTON

By now it should be obvious how absurd it is to call President Barack Obama Israel’s “best friend” ever, as Thomas Friedman of The New York Times has claimed.

A Blame Israel Firster, Obama won’t use his moral authority to try stopping the instigators of this latest spate of violence, the Palestinians. Unfortunately he never learned from his Democratic predecessor how to tell the good guys from the bad guys in the Middle East.

While Bill Clinton also endorsed a Palestinian state, and also felt frustrated with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he blamed the Palestinians for terrorism and Yasser Arafat for derailing the peace talks in 2000. Clinton finger-pointed when necessary, not always retreating into “cycle of violence” moral equivalences.

He distinguished between Israeli willingness and Palestinian foot-dragging. He never confused Israeli innocents with Palestinian terrorists. This Democratic president clearly stated that “the PLO must do everything it can to end terrorism against Israel”. With his down-to-earth “Bubba” style, he denounced terrorists as “the forces of doom and gloom”, while advising the Palestinians that “struggle and pain and destruction and self-destruction are way over-rated, and not the only option”.

Bill Clinton was an empath. He conveyed his love for Israel with words, gestures and flourishes. Heartbroken when an Israeli fanatic assassinated his friend Yitzhak Rabin, Clinton captured the world’s anguish with his famous “Shalom, chaver” send-off. On Saturday, Clinton will speak at a rally in Tel Aviv to mark the 20th anniversary of Rabin’s murder.

Clinton charmed Israelis, reassuring many who felt he pressured Israel to relinquish too much territory to the Palestinians. Even when Netanyahu’s obstructionism exasperated him, Clinton palled around with Bibi. Obama has scowled.

Clinton differentiated between Israeli openness, even if wary, and Palestinian resistance, even if camouflaged. My new book, “The Age of Clinton: America in the 1990s”, retells how when Arafat made his unprecedented 24th White House visit in January 2001, shortly before Clinton left office, the president was fuming. At Camp David the previous summer, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak had offered to withdraw from most of the 1967 territories and compensate the Palestinians with land swaps. Arafat never even counteroffered.

The oleaginous terrorist tried flattering the president, calling him a great man. “I am not a great man,” Clinton replied, “I am a failure. And you have made me one.” Clinton later explained: “Arafat never said no; he just couldn’t bring himself to say yes.”

Mourning Arafat’s “error of historic proportions”, Clinton would speculate: “Perhaps he simply couldn’t make the final jump from revolutionary to statesman.”

Also in January 2001, Clinton, in his characteristically colloquial way, warned the Palestinians: “There will always be those who are sitting outside in the peanut gallery of the Middle East urging you to hold out for more, or to plant one more bomb.” He begged them to resist those luring them to “the path of no”.

Today, Palestinians have again erupted in violence, but Obama lacks Clinton’s moral clarity.

“We continue to stress to leaders on both sides the importance of condemning violence and combating incitement,” Obama’s press secretary, Josh Earnest, has said. This mealy-mouthed amoralism reinforces Obama’s technocratic urging of both parties to try to “tamp down rhetoric that may feed violence or anger or misunderstanding”.

The Clinton-Obama contrast reflects two conflicting worldviews. Clinton entered office as such a national security novice that Ronald Reagan had to teach him how to salute. But Clinton’s passivity amid massacres in Bosnia and genocide in Rwanda transformed him. He realised that when America doesn’t lead, evil flourishes. He became a neoliberal interventionist, deploying the military to advance Western values in Kosovo and expressing zero tolerance for terrorism.

A postmodern power sceptic, Obama harbours more doubt about Western values and America’s ability to lead the world constructively. Emphasising America’s limits, morally and strategically, Obama wants to woo the developing world.

Regarding the Middle East, Obama should learn from Clinton that Palestinian desires to exterminate Israel - expressed through incitement and terrorism - remain the biggest obstacle to peace. If Obama, like Clinton, held Palestinians responsible for turning toward terrorism, he would be treating them as mature decision makers, not infantilised victims.

Obama should duplicate Clinton’s moral clarity. Obama must finally, belatedly, blame the Palestinians directly, pressuring Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and company to stop the violence. Obama should disagree with Secretary of State John Kerry, who blamed the settlements - not lies about the Temple Mount - for this latest eruption.

Clinton understood something Obama cannot comprehend: The world’s one-sided condemnations of Israel compound the trauma of Palestinian terror, reminding Israelis of the long history of anti-Semitic oppression - which Clinton frequently acknowledged. As a lonely, too-often-abandoned democracy, Israel responds to support, warmth, protectiveness. (JTA)

Nainkin hopes to have uncovered new US tennis star

JACK MILNER

David Nainkin was one of South Africa’s leading tennis players in the 1990s and was probably better than his highest ranking of 132, reached in January 1999, suggested. David knew how to have fun on the tennis tour and that may have played a part in some disappointing results.

I remember a second round match at Wimbledon in 1998 when David played British No 1 Tim Henman on centre court in a second-round match. Henman took the opening set 6-3 and David, now having settled down, was enjoying the limelight and

started to play better in the second. He took the second 7-5 and when David went up a break in the third set Henman looked really rattled.

But David was enjoying himself to such an extent that he did not realise he had Henman against the wall and let his intensity drop. A relieved Henman came through the match in four sets but David had the opportunity to cause yet another upset as he had done at the 1996 US Open when he beat Wayne Ferreira in the opening round.

David later went on to coach Ferreira and eventually joined the US Tennis Association (USTA) to help develop their youngsters. He



David Nainkin, pictured coaching American Sloane Stephens, believes they might have uncovered a new male star in Taylor Fritz.

also coached Americans Sam Querry, Mardy Fish and Sloane Stephens but at the start of the year he rejoined USTA Player Development fulltime as national coach for men’s tennis.

As most who follow tennis will know, the glory days of American men’s tennis have been over for quite a while and since Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi retired, Americans have struggled to get players into the top 20.

However, David, 45, finally believes they have found the future star - Taylor Fritz. Fritz won the US Open juniors earlier this year, turned pro, and became just the second 17-year-old to ever win back-to-back Challenger events in consecutive weeks.

He went on a 17-match-winning streak at those events and moved up a whopping 462 spots in the world rankings in just two weeks to become the second-highest ranked 17-year-old in the world.

Fritz has joined an illustrious group of eight players who won multiple Challengers before turning 18, among them Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Juan Martin Del Potro and Tomas Berdych.

Fritz is the second-ranked 17-year-old in the world and the one ahead of him - fellow American Francis Tiafoe - has benefited from rankings points accrued from playing six ATP events. Those two, in addition to Tommy Paul, Reilly Opelka, Stefan Kozlov, Noah Rubin and Jared Donaldson, comprise a group of young Americans who may be the

best crop since the days of Andy Roddick.

“The competition is healthy,” said David, who’s been working with Fritz. “There hasn’t been these types of players in 10 years.”

David has praised Fritz’s ability to dominate the big points. “He’s like few others I have ever seen. He can beat opponents off both the forehand and backhand wings. That coupled with a big serve of over 200kmph makes him tough to beat

“What I would like to see is improvement in his physical strength and net game.”

Fritz says he’s not getting caught up in pulling off feats Nadal and Djokovic achieved more than a decade ago. “It does mean I’m on the right path but they didn’t just get to the top from winning two Challengers. They got there because they worked hard and did the right things.”

But the recent past is littered with “the next big thing” in American tennis. Donald Young, now 26, is having a fine career, but is hardly the No 1 player John McEnroe predicted he’d be when the youngster won Junior Wimbledon.

That might not be a problem with the current crop of youngsters about whom David is so optimistic. Their attitude is different.

“It’s going to take staying very humble and not buying into all the hype that surrounds all the American juniors right now,” Fritz said of the attention around his contemporary countrymen.

“There’s still plenty of work to be done on and off the court.”

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