

Jewish Report

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A centre of remembrance, but also of hope



A far off dream of Tali Nates' in 2008 became a reality this week Tuesday when the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre (JHGC) in Forest Town held its building dedication ceremony. This world-class centre of learning will be officially opened early next year and is the first museum to be opened in Johannesburg in many years. The JHGC will raise awareness of the evils of genocide with a particular focus on the Holocaust and the 1994 Rwandan genocide. The project was funded entirely by charitable donations. The building, by architect Lewis Levin, is steeped in symbolism including railway sleepers embedded in the walls, which recall the trains and railway lines used to transport people to their death in Europe, and in Africa railways have represented the colonialists who brought oppression. In a gut-wrenching moment, Holocaust survivor Veronica Phillips, in the photograph flanked by Rwandan survivor Bonaventure Kageruka and museum director, Tali Nates, spoke of going back to the ghetto in her native Budapest after the war, and retrieving a childhood doll, which she has now donated to the JHGC. Kageruka presented items which belonged to his friend Xavier. The front door key and a rosary were found in the hand of Xavier's mother, murdered during the genocide. See page 3

Cutting through complexity

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein in his Rosh Hashanah message puts the spotlight on the shofar, "which is sounded throughout the month of Elul..." and enters the fray "with simple, unadorned blasts of clarity – about who we are, where we have come from and what our purpose is".



Bulk of married couples satisfied, Chev survey finds

Close to 80 per cent of the 2 100 married people who responded to a Chevrah Kadisha survey, indicated they were happy in their marriage. The Chev says the finding "offers renewed faith in the ideal of the institution of marriage" and its continued relevance in today's world.

High Holidays in the South African country communities

Outside the main urban centres, including in other southern African countries, there is no prospect of shuls being filled, even with every community member in attendance. Planning for Yomtov services in those centres involves bringing in people to officiate.

Why the frenzy?

Rabbi Yossy Goldman writes:
"Another year in Africa! It seems pretty inane, but we all seem to go through the very same performance annually. 'Oh my G-d, it's Rosh Hashanah already! Where has this year gone?'" He says you'd think that by now we'd have got accustomed to it.

Oldest Bok reminisces about a life well spent

At age 90, Dr Cecil Moss is the oldest living rugby Springbok. He played four matches on the wing — in 1949 — against the All Blacks and later coached the University of Cape Town team and then also the Springboks from 1982 to 1989, with the Boks playing 12 Tests and winning 10.

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Cutting through complexity

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein's Rosh Hashanah message

"There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers. We must have the courage to do what we know is morally right." These words of US President Ronald Reagan shed light on the message of the shofar.

The Jewish world today faces many challenges - physical, spiritual and political. It is also engulfed by forces of confusion and dissension, as the very notion of Jewish identity is plagued by doubts, debates and controversies.

In the midst of all of this turbulence, the shofar, which is sounded throughout the month of Elul leading up and then including Rosh Hashanah, enters the fray with simple, unadorned blasts of clarity - about who we are, where we have come from, what our purpose is, and what we need to do about it.

The shofar is a very basic, natural instrument which, according to



the halacha, may not be adorned with gold and silver. Its purity and simplicity, both in terms of its form and the notes it sounds, cut through the noise and turbulence of the world today, calling the Jewish people back to basics. Its message is that "there are no easy answers, but there are simple answers" to Jewish identity and destiny.

The shofar connects us to the key moments of Jewish history that define our destiny as a people. When G-d gave us the Torah, it says that the sound of a shofar could be heard by the millions of people gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai.

The shofar provided the backdrop for that moment which changed the course of Jewish history forever when G-d revealed to us our mission and purpose, as fulfilled through His

The shofar will also herald the era of the Final Redemption, when the world as a whole will reach its ultimate purpose and G-d's Oneness will be experienced by all, and "nation will not lift up sword against nation, and neither will they learn war anymore".

Jewish destiny is thus bookended by two shofar blasts - one of Mount Sinai and the other of the Final Redemption. In this way, the shofar calls on us to see Jewish history and Jewish identity in all its vast and glorious sweep - from the founda-

tions of our people when we received the Torah, through to the moment in which world history reaches its

> The shofar enters the fray with simple, unadorned blasts of clarity.

Often, we become so entangled in the problems of the day that we forget who we are and where we have come from. We forget that our ultimate purpose as Jews is to bring the light of Hashem's Torah into the world and to live in accordance with His plan for us.

Yet it is that elevated sense of purpose which has carried us through the enormous turbulence of Jewish history, which has brought us moments of great joy and inspiration, but also moments of indescribable

The one constant has been our sense of purpose; of understanding that our lives have meaning and that we have a Divine mission to fulfil. The shofar symbolises that. When we hear its simple notes, we transcend all of the artificial complexities and controversies of the era in which we live, and we reconnect with the basic truths of who we are and why we are here. And it is that reconnection to the purity of that vision that fills us with joy.

This is why Rosh Hashanah - in spite of the seriousness and solemnity of this "Day of Judgement" - is nevertheless celebrated as a Yomtov. The shofar reminds us of the beauty of simple truths, and of the inspiration that comes from clear purpose and a sense of mission.

With warmest Rosh Hashanah wishes! May Hashem inscribe us all for a good and sweet year filled with His blessings.

Parsha

The power of a congregation



Parshat Ki Tavo Rabbi Siggy Suchard Sandton Shul

One of the most moving prayers on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is the "U'netaneh Tokef". It spells out that on Rosh Hashanah it is decreed who will live and who not, who will be punished and who not. On Rosh Hashanah this is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed. However, repentance, prayer and charity avert the harsh decree.

We understand that to repent is the most integral focus of these days. We also pray that G-d sees our plight and will accept our remorse and pledges not to return to evil ways. The question is why the mitzvah of charity is mentioned, why not Shabbat or tefillin or Kiddush on a Friday night? What is special about giving charity?

Our sages explain that not always are the prayers of an individual accepted immediately. No prayer goes unanswered or was a waste; however when a multitude or a crowd pray, they are answered.

The Talmud explains that whenever a multitude calls out to Hashem, they are answered as it reads, "whenever we call out to Him" (Devarim 4).

A person by himself is sure to be answered between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, according to the verse: "Seek G-d when He is to be found." (Isaiah 55)

When one gives charity, one bonds with the recipient and each person cares for another. This brings them together and eventually as a cohesive congregation. (Rabbi D Hofstadter)

In a village in Europe the Czar was riding past on horse and wagon. It was raining fiercely, the roads were wet and muddy and the Czar's horses could not pull the wagon over a hill. They kept skidding to the left

and then to the right.

A local farmer arrived with his similar carriage pulled by six ponies. In one attempt they carried the cart over the slippery hill. The Czar was amazed. The farmer explained to him that "your excellency's horses are strong and pedigreed from different countries, from the best horses of Arabia, Egypt, Syria... When they pull, they do so in different directions.

"My ponies grew up together over the years and when they pull, they pull together in one direction, and therefore are success-

In our parsha we find two interesting topics: The mitzvah of bikkurim, the first fruits when each individual farmer thanks Hashem for his particular produce. The second subject is that of the tithes one has to give.

The farmer declares that he has separated the tithes correctly. However, when the farmer asks for a blessing for the land, he asks as a group: "Look down from Your

holy habitation from the heavens and bless Your people, Israel, on the land you gave us." (Devarim 26 15)

As a united people we have unlimited power to plead to Hashem for all we need as a people, and for our personal needs. May we all be blessed with good health and prosperity and to be signed and sealed in the Book of Life.

Shabbat Times

Parshat Ki Tavo

Sept 5 / 21 Elul		
Begins	Ends	
17:38	18:28	Johannesburg
18:12	19:04	Cape Town
17:24`	18:15	Durban
17:44	18:34	Bloemfontein
17:43	18:35	Port Elizabeth
17:35	18:26	East London

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Jewish Report

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Distribution manager Britt Landsman • Subscription enquiries Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860-13-2652. Board of Directors Howard Sackstein (Chairman), Howard Feldman, Bertie Lubner, Benjy Porter, Herby Rosenberg, Herschel Jawitz, Dina Diamond.

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A long-awaited dream come true

MARGOT COHEN

The dedication of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre (JHGC) on Tuesday could not have come at a more appropriate time in South Africa's history, said Prof Jonathan Jansen, vice-chancellor and rector of the University of the Free State. "Our moral arteries have become hardened by underlying racism of some of our citizens. The awareness and understanding of the Holocaust and Rwandan genocide will bring to attention the abiding dangers of supremacist thinking."

At a moving ceremony held at the newly-built centre, Jansen made an impassioned plea for all schoolchildren and university students to visit the centre. "All South Africans need this experience," he said. Jansen is a patron of the SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation.

The world-class centre of learning is situated on a prime site on Jan Smuts Avenue in Forest Town. It will be the first museum to open in Johannesburg in many years and will broaden the array of cultural experiences now available in the city. It will be open to the public in early 2016

Director of the JHGC, Tali Nates, said the project started as a dream in 2008. Its founders wanted a resource centre, library, outreach centre for schools and a memory space. They turned to survivors to help find tools of association and translate these into materials which would recall symbols of suffering.

Johannesburg-based architect and project manager for the centre, Lewis Levin, explained the architectural approach. "We spoke to survivors of both the Holocaust and Rwandan genocide to assist us. The centre has railwaylines embedded in the walls which recall trees which stood witness to the murders.

"Survivors were haunted by forests and landscapes of death. Rwandan genocide took place amidst lush green vegetation and hills. Tools of association were translated into materials which would recall symbols of suffering.

"Using rows of bricks commonly used in industrial buildings (which often hid atrocities) is a reminder of painful associations. The courtyard stones are made from gravestone offcuts, recalling pavements of European cities and unmarked graves.

"However, the building is also meant to teach tolerance and compassion and thus includes the art of the brave children of Terezin concentration camp near Prague. The drawings and poems represent their bleak surrounds but rich colours were used and they are full of optimism. The message to South African children is that art can find meaning in suffering and is a call to action."

The centre will house a memorial to children and a courtyard which promises hope and



Architect and project manager for the centre, Lewis Levin, with Pam Lissoos whose late husband, Dr Irving Lissoos, donated his library of Holocaust literature to the centre.

recovery.

Nates explains that the centre has established itself as a major role-player in the educational field. In the past seven years more than 5 000 learners and hundreds of educators have attended programmes in Gauteng alone.

The national curriculum for grades 9 and 11 which includes Nazi Germany and the Holocaust and suggested links to genocide in Rwanda, made the creation of the centre a must.

The centre is committed to assisting the education department, schools and educators, with the implementation of its human rights curriculum. By examining their own environments, schools, home and society - learners are given the opportunity to speak out and not be bystanders in the face of injustice.

The centre will house a permanent exhibition. There will be venues for workshops and public events, a memorial garden and resource centre, a coffee shop and a bookshop.

Together with its sister centres in Cape Town and Durban, the JHGC forms the SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation.

Says Nates: "We will show you history; the rest is up to you."

Raising awareness of the evils of genocide with particular focus on the Holocaust and the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, it serves as a memorial to the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust and more than 80 000 Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus who perished in the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

Pinchas Gutter, a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto, who takes student groups to Germany and started the Testimony Hologram programme project, Emmanuel Mwezi from Rwanda and Veronica Phillips, a Holocaust survivor, spoke of their experiences and lessons leant.

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UJW and A21 join forces against human trafficking

During the month of August the Union of Jewish Women SA joined A21, an NGO dedicated to abolishing human trafficking, in its prevention campaign and to help raise awareness about human trafficking across the country.

The UJW put up hundreds of posters at taxi ranks, stations, shopping centres, women's shelters etc throughout the country, as well as in Namibia, Mozambique and Kenya, and thousands of pamphlets were handed out.

The UJW said in a media release that human trafficking was defined as "the illegal movement of people, typically for the purposes of forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation".

It is, says the UJW, however, far more than this, and consists of trading humans for money, robbing them of their dignity and their identity, violating their human rights, threatening or abusing them, exploiting and coercing them into acts of prostitution, forced labour and slavery and/or the removal of vital organs to be sold for profit. Human trafficking is the fastest growing crime in the world.

"Trafficking is a system based on greed, control and power. It affects men, women and children who are trafficked within their own countries and across international borders, on every continent and in every country. It takes advantage of the vulnerable and of those who seek a better life for themselves.

"The trafficker uses every available skill and deception to make worthless promises to guarantee to the victim a new start in life."

Statistics provided by A21 show that there are more slaves in the world today than at any other point in human history, with an estimated 27 million in bondage across the globe.

A21 has a 4-pronged strategy to bring an end to this unspeakable and barbaric practice, namely prevention, protection, prosecution and partnering.



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Would Iran's rulers allow

in, given their rejection

of Israel's right to exist?

weekend: No! This was

the Palestinian cause.

The answer came over the

despite his long support for

Barenboim the Israeli citizen

Artists should go where politicians fear to tread



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

The idea of acclaimed Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim conducting a concert with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in Tehran, sounds like fantasy. But that is exactly what was mooted two weeks ago, as an accompaniment to the first official visit to Iran later this year by German Chancellor Angela Merkel. A form of "cultural diplomacy" that might have had a big impact.

But would Iran's rulers allow Barenboim the Israeli citizen in, given their rejection of Israel's right to exist? The answer came over the weekend: No! This was despite his long support for the Palestinian cause, his involvement in Israeli-Palestinian co-oper-

ation through music, and the fact that he is also an Argentinian citizen and an "honorary" Palestinian citizen. The Iranian culture ministry said: "Iran does not recognise the Zionist regime and will not co-operate with artists of this regime."

On the Israeli side too, not everyone sees the concert idea as positive. Israel's Culture Minister Miri Regev, for example,

acting clearly as a politician despite her "cultural" portfolio, has urged that it not go ahead. She says it will undermine Israel's efforts to block the Iranian nuclear deal, which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sees as a serious threat to Israel.

This story comes hot on the heels of another art-versus-politics incident, when Jewish singer Matisyahu performed the song "Jerusalem" at the Rototom Sunsplash reggae festival in Spain recently.

The festival had initially cancelled his appearance under BDS pressure, then re-invited him and apologised. Matisyahu - who is American, not Israeli - was targeted by BDS as the only Jewish performer on the roster.

The festival had cancelled his slot after he refused to declare support for Palestinian statehood, igniting an uproar from Jewish organisations and the Spanish government. Some pro-Palestinian audience members protested when he took the stage, but others applauded. He said before his closing song: "Whoever you are and wherever you come from, raise a flag and wave it in the air. Let music be your flag."

In South Africa we have had our own examples of the tension between art and politics, such as the infamous incident in 2013 when Israeli-born classical pianist Yossi Reshef's concert at Wits University was disrupted by BDS-motivated students in the middle of a Beethoven piece.

The pianist was escorted out of the Wits Great Hall by security guards for his safety. Reshef actually lives in Berlin, yet his Israeli origins were enough to provoke the students into sabotaging his performance. How contrary that was to the South African ideal of dialogue!

Can politics and art be separated? A local South African example gives a partial clue to this tricky question, through the works of landscape painter JH Pierneef, whose paintings have become an integral part of South Africa's heritage.

An exhibition of some of his best works which is currently on at the Standard Bank Gallery in Johannesburg, had to install spe-

> cial security equipment, because the artist - who died in 1957 - was a seminal member of the Broederbond, a bastion of racist white South Africa during apartheid which is reviled by many South Africans.

There were fears his paintings would be defaced. Yet he is today considered one of the best of the old South African masters, with

the quality of his art prevailing over his racially based political views.

The Iranian state which has refused Barenboim entry, has been controlled by the ayatollahs since the 1979 Islamic revolution. They are virulent enemies of Israel they won't even call it by its name, only the "Zionist regime".

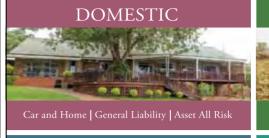
But could there be another, hidden side to the Iranian people - "Persians" - who are known for their richness in culture and art, notwithstanding their government.

Could it be that the beautiful music made by the Berlin Philharmonic and the skill of its Israeli conductor might have opened avenues for further encounters, and softened the stony hatred between the nations? For sure, the hall would have been packed to capacity by Iranians wanting to hear the performance. Maybe that's exactly what the ayatollahs fear.

Artists can sometimes go where politicians fear to tread, and create opportunities for human engagement when politicians see only obstacles. Is it too much to hope that one day the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra might perform in Tehran to packed houses? Sadly, a lot will have to change before that happens.

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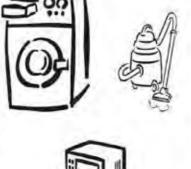
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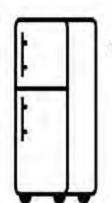












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Jewish Report The nattern

The pattern in the tapestry

As we gather the myriad articles required to fill our bumper Rosh Hashanah issue, we at the Jewish Report are reflecting on our year of publishing - where we have erred and where we can improve.

On a personal level, we are all doing that too - weighing our behaviour and relationships, our hardships and victories, our challenges and successes. Being Jewish comes with a lot of accountability.

Improving and striving for perfection is a driving force of Rosh Hashanah and of our very existence. It's a most basic need within ourselves to make life a little better, says Simon Jacobson in his book, "Toward a Meaningful Life - The Wisdom of the Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson".

"We have created new political and economic systems, we have pursued education and enlightenment, we have developed industry and enterprise - all in search of a more perfect society."

He says: "We live in a world that is imperfect and yet we search for perfection. We live a life full of pain and difficulty and yet we strive for peace and harmony." This striving is indeed the fuel that keeps our metaphorical motors going.

Any successful entrepreneur will tell you that if he or she does not keep improving their product or service, his business is likely to falter. So too, the board of directors of the Jewish Report, most of them successful entrepreneurs, remind us that we have to keep making the paper better.

In this issue we ask a group of innovators and leaders in our community what their New Year goals are, both personally and professionally, in their quest for better selves and a better society.

Several articles deal with both the spiritual goals and the customs of Rosh Hashanah. We hear a Yomtov message from Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein as well as an article from Sydenham's Rabbi Yossy Goldman about the frenzy that occurs just before Yomtov which goes beyond the preparations of a great meal, to that of really finding ourselves and assessing where we are in the journey of life.

There are some great new recipes from Stan and Pete, which any good balabosta could consider for her Rosh Hashanah meal. Our regular contributor, David Saks, tells what some of the smaller Jewish communities in outlying areas like Oudtshoorn and Kimberley are doing to hold services when their own numbers are not sufficiently high.

On the subject of relationships, Shira Druion writes about the difficulties Jewish women may face in trying to get an orthodox divorce or a "get" and we also hear about the results of the Chevrah Kadisha's marriage survey.

Our news includes the building dedication for the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre which was this week. This centre will be the first museum to open in Johannesburg in many years. Also interesting was a trip and conference in Israel for African church leaders last week, facilitated by South African Friends of Israel. The African leaders met with Jerusalem's Mayor Nir Barkat, travelled the country and forged important new relationships with counterparts in Israel.

Yes, much of our news is about people trying to create a better world, a better year, a better life for others and a better life for themselves. And, of course, it is about how we can have a more delicious, but more importantly, a more meaningful Rosh Hashanah.

So too, dear readers, we are also going to strive for perfection and although we may not reach it, we are determined to be producing an even better Jewish Report in 5776.

Shanah tovah umetukah

– Vanessa Valkin, Editor

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



US Defence Secretary Ash Carter, left, shaking hands with his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Yaalon, before boarding a military aircraft at Ben-Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, on July 21.

What America will offer Israel after the nuclear deal

RON KAMPEAS WASHINGTON

The moment the Iran nuclear deal becomes law, as seems increasingly likely given growing congressional support for the agreement, the focus of the US-Israel conversation will shift to the question of what's next.

What more will Washington do to mitigate the Iranian threat and reassure Israel and other regional allies?

For starters, President Barack Obama seems ready to offer an array of security enhancements. Among them are accelerating and increasing defence assistance to Israel over the next decade; increasing the US military presence in the Middle East; stepping up the enforcement of non-nuclear-related Iran sanctions; enhancing US interdiction against disruptive Iranian activity in the region; and increasing co-operation on missile defence.

There also will be an emphasis on keeping any of the tens of billions of dollars to which Iran will gain unfettered access through the sanctions relief from reaching Iran's proxies.

Adam Szubin, the US Treasury undersecretary charged with enforcing sanctions, made targeting Hezbollah a focus of his meetings with Israeli officials last week, JTA has learned.

Once some nuclear-related sanctions on Iran are lifted - should Iran meet the requirements in the deal on nuclear restrictions - Washington will allocate greater resources to focusing on other sanctions unaffected by the agreement, including those related to backing terrorism, a senior US official told JTA.

"We have a lot of that same personnel and resources we can devote to US-specific sanctions on Iran - and not only Iran," the

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, not wanting to be seen as endorsing the deal while there's still a chance Congress could scuttle it, has directed Israeli officials not to engage with US officials on what could be done after the deal is in place.

Congress has until September 17 to decide whether to allow the deal to proceed. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which is leading the opposition to the deal, argued in a memo distributed on Monday that US pledges of post-deal security enhancements are inadequate.

"The administration has tried to reassure those concerned by the dangerous consequences of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in two ways: by pledging increased support for Israel and our Gulf allies and by vowing that it will strictly enforce the deal," said the memo, which is headlined "Promises Cannot Fix a Bad Deal". "Neither approach will repair the deal's fatal flaw: it legitimises Iran as a nuclear-threshold state in 15 years."

Obama in an interview on Monday with the Forward, attached

urgency to confronting Hezbollah and other Iranian proxies.

Speaking of Israel, he said: "We can do even more to enhance the unprecedented military and intelligence co-operation that we have with them, and to see, are there additional capabilities that Israel may be able to use to prevent Hezbollah, for example, from getting missiles."

The emphasis on Hezbollah was appropriate, said Uzi Arad, Netanyahu's national security adviser from 2009 to 2011.

Arad outlined a number of areas that would enhance Israel's sense of security in a post-deal environment, including:

- Maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge in the region, even as the United States enhances the military capabilities of Arab Persian Gulf allies that, similar to Israel, will be seeking reassurances in the wake of the Iran deal;
- Enhancing joint missile defence programmes;
- Extending the defence assistance memorandum of understanding, which since 2008 has provided Israel with an average of \$3 billion in defence assistance per year, for another 10 years (it's set to expire in 2018), and delivering promised F-35 advanced fighter aircraft to Israel;
- Enhancing joint civilian scientific research and development;
- Delivering advanced bunker-buster bombs to maintain Israel's
 deterrent edge should Iran cheat on or abandon the deal. "Israel
 should be given this special kind of ordnance so it could have a
 more effective military option in case of Iranian violations of the
 agreement," Arad said, arguing that this would strengthen the
 agreement by creating a disincentive for Iran to cheat.
- A "declaratory" component emphasising US longstanding commitments to Israel.
- Making clear that the US effort to stop the expansion of Islamist terrorism and extremism targets Iranian activities as well as those associated with the Islamic State terrorist group.

Obama touched on many of these issues in a letter he sent to Representative Jerrold Nadler, Democrat New York, on August

"It is imperative that, even as we effectively cut off Iran's pathways to a nuclear weapon through the implementation of the JCPOA, we take steps to ensure that we and our allies and our partners are more capable than ever to deal with Iran's destabilising activities and support for terrorism," Obama said in the letter.

The president specified four areas where co-operation would be enhanced: extending defence assistance for a decade, joint missile defence research, joint efforts to improve tunnel detection (following the advances made by Hamas in its 2014 war with Israel), and "strengthening our efforts to confront conventional and asymmetric threats".

The letter persuaded Nadler to back the deal. (JTA)

Wrong Absa logo on Jewish Report masthead

The South African Jewish Report regrets using an outdated logo for Absa Bank on the masthead of last week's issue. We also apologise for the following errors in reporting on the Absa Jewish Achievers Breakfast. David Hodnett was incorrectly titled. He is the Deputy Chief Executive and Group Financial Director, Barclays Africa. Roy Ross's title was also incorrect. He is the Chief Executive: RBB Rest of Africa. Banie Claasen was incorrectly spelt and Kumari Moodley's last name was incorrectly given.

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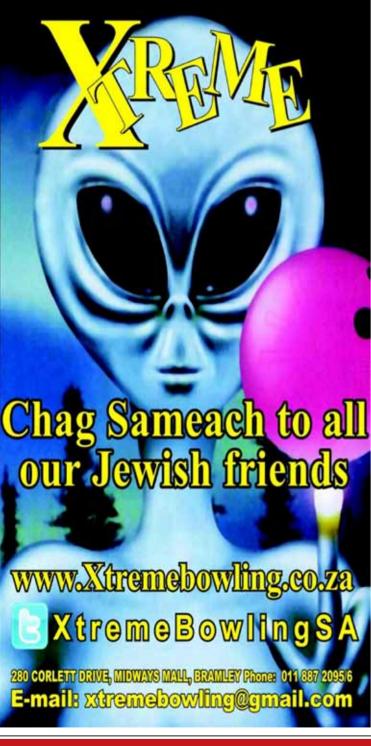
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High Holidays in the South African country communities



The venerable

Jewish community of

Oudtshoorn, now over

130 years old, will as

usual be holding full

Yomtov services. It will

be joined by members

George community on

the other side of the

Outeniquas.

of the neighbouring

DAVID SAKS

Most shuls around the country expect to be reasonably full over the Yamim Noraim, and several will no doubt be making plans to cope with an anticipated overflow.

Outside the main urban centres, including in sever-

al other southern African countries, there is no prospect of shuls being filled, even with every community member in attendance. This notwithstanding, the High Holidays provide a much valued opportunity for the smaller communities to come together, both for services and communal meals.

Part of the planning for Yomtov services in the smaller centres involves bringing in people to officiate. In this regard, the Country Communities Department of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies plays a pivotal role by liaising

with the communities concerned and where necessary arranging for suitably qualified individuals from Johannesburg and Cape Town to travel there to lead the services.

Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader to both the SA Country Communities and the African Jewish Congress, oversees this process and also travels to certain communities to be with them over the festivals. This year, he will be in Hermanus for Rosh Hashanah and Klerksdorp for Yom Kippur, with Dr Izhak Sharon from Israel conducting the latter services.

In Hermanus, the services will be taken by Shlomo Kessel, also from Israel and the father of the congregation's president, Mike Kessel. The congregation is expected to be significantly augmented by visiting Capetonians who have holiday homes in the town.

Another community whose ranks will be swelled by outof-towners with holiday homes, is Plettenberg Bay. The congregation is bringing out Rabbi Yoram Hadar, who will be in attendance for the entire month of Tishrei. To ensure that no members of the community are left on their own, all Rosh Hashanah meals and the post-Yom Kippur breaking of the fast, will be held at the shul.

The venerable Jewish community of Oudtshoorn, now over 130 years old, will as usual be holding full Yomtov services. It will be joined by members of the neighbour-

> ing George community on the other side of the Outeniquas. Other Western Cape country congregations that will be holding services are Stellenbosch, Paarl and Somerset West.

> Further north, Kimberley, whose Jewish congregation is the country's third-oldest after Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, will be holding services, although today the community is reliant on out-of-towners to make up a minyan.

> In Bloemfontein, the services will be conducted by Chaim Ehrlich, a descendant of former Bloemfontein

mayor, senator and distinguished Jewish communal leader, Wolf Ehrlich.

Across the border, there will be services in Harare and Bulawayo (Zimbabwe), and in Maputo (Mozambique). In Harare, the city's Sephardi and Ashkenazi congregations will hold separate services according to their own nusach and traditions.

On Shabbat, the two communities come together, holding alternate services in their respective synagogues. Cape Town's Michael Kushner will be officiating in Harare over Yom Kippur.

Efforts are underway to ensure that there will be minyanim in Windhoek (Namibia), Gaborone (Botswana) and Mauritius.

A problem these communities face, according to Rabbi Silberhaft, is that a number of their members, among them businessmen temporarily based in the countries concerned, return home or travel to be with their families in the larger centres over Yomtov.



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Bulk of couples surveyed by Chev 'satisfied in their marriage'

SUZANNE BELLING

Close to 80 per cent of the 2 100 married people who responded to a survey by the Chevrah Kadisha during its marriage week last month, indicated they were satisfied in their marriage.

A cross-section of the community responded to the widely-advertised online survey.

The Chevrah Kadisha said this finding "offers renewed faith in the ideal of the institution of marriage and its continued relevance in today's world".

A prize of a trip to Mauritius for the winning couple in a draw was an incentive to complete the survey.

The survey did not ask respondents to indicate whether they were observant or not.

The survey also gave a picture of marriage in the community today:

- A small minority rated their marriages at three out of 10 and below. "These couples should consider engaging in marriage counselling if they have not yet done so. International research indicates that couples often wait at least seven years before reaching out for help," the Chev commented.
- The vast majority of couples are able to deal with their differences effectively with more than 90 per cent feeling close to their spouses. They found successful ways to manage conflict.
- Many couples struggle to balance their leisure time with and without their partners and battle to find time for one another, possibly reflecting today's fast-paced lifestyle.
- A significant number of respondents stated that they did not agree on how to spend money. Finances are a notorious cause of marital dissatisfaction. The high cost of living as a Jew in South Africa and unrealistic expectations and different spending styles, contributed to this finding.

Identifying details of each couple were kept confidential when analysing the results. Steve and Des Weinberg were the lucky winners of the kosher trip to Mauritius, organised by the Chevrah Kadisha.



Steve and Des Weinberg, the winners of the kosher trip to Mauritius in the Chevrah Kadisha marriage week competition.

Rosh Hashanah

Three things we shouldn't say before Rosh Hashanah

RABBI BENJAMIN BLECH

In the view of Maimonides, the great Jewish philosopher, there is reason to believe that the choices we make in our own lives may very well have cosmic significance, comparable to those of the most powerful political leader.

As we approach the High Holy Days, Maimonides asks us to imagine that the fate of the world is placed on a scale weighing its good versus its evil - and is found to be perfectly balanced. Every one of us must view our lives as bearing the potential to sway G-d's Divine decree to one side or another based on the quality of the deeds we add to the total equation.

Let us explore the recent words of President Barack Obama - not as a political jibe - but in order to gain some insight to properly prepare for Rosh Hashanah.

1. 'We don't have a strategy yet.'

The words were in response to Islamic extremism. In The Washington Post, Karen DeYoung and Dan Balz observed that while Obama's no-strategy remark "may have had the virtue of candour", it in no way projected "an image of presidential resolve or decisiveness at a time of international turmoil".

In a time of national crisis a clear strategy is key to our very survival.

So too, it is fair to point out that in order to successfully confront the challenges and the crises of our own lives we dare not put off the need to develop a strategy for living, a strategy that incorporates the values and ideals that justify our presence here on earth.

Some years ago I received an amazing invitation to the Gathering of Titans. Some 100 CEOs of major corporations in America annually get together at a retreat to discuss issues relevant to their business practices and to hear from prominent experts in various aspects of corporate management. As part of their programme, they asked if I could come and lecture as well.

Stunned, I asked what role I could possibly play. I have no business expertise. My rabbinic background hardly qualifies me to teach these titans of industry how to improve their corporate bottom line.

"We understand that," they countered. "That's not why we want you to address us. We all know how to make money. But more and more of us have come to recognise that in the process of making ourselves very wealthy we've impoverished ourselves spiritually."

So I shared with the Gathering of Titans a concept they were very familiar with in their corporate world and asked them to integrate it into their personal lives as well.

Every major company prepares a mission statement.

Imagine if we had similar clarity about personal goals and how we plan to achieve them. Imagine if we took our personal mission statement as seriously as a business manifesto. Imagine if we took the time to decide why G-d put us here on earth and then went ahead and fulfilled our life's purpose.

In short, imagine if we had a strategy for the way in which we lead our lives. After all, making a success of our lives is as important as making a success of our businesses.

One of the chief goals of the High Holy Days is to find the wisdom to turn G-d's will into our personal strategy for living.

2. 'The world has always been messy.'

We read about masked madmen holding a knife to the necks of Americans on their knees in the desert and beheading them. We are witnessing the rise of a barbaric Islamic state in Iraq and Syria. We watch as Russia downs a civilian airplane murdering all aboard and takes illegal possession of its neighbouring country and we observe the rise of anti-Semitism in a post-Holocaust Europe that was supposedly cured of this lethal disease. But we cannot take comfort from a historical perspective that is willing to accept evil as inevitable and wickedness as inescapable.

Let's be clear: "We're never going to make this a better world" is a philosophy totally alien to Judaism.

How do you change the world? First from within. Begin with yourself. Then reach outward to those closest to you. Only then you may accept the challenge of the larger community.

On the High Holy Days G-d reaches out to every one of us, and asks us to improve in the knowledge that each one of us can eventually lead to all of us. The key to success is not to resign ourselves to the fact that the world has always been a mess, but to believe that every new year carries within it the potential for a new beginning that can lead to a truly happy ending.

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3. 'Don't do stupid stuff.'

"I never did anything to hurt anybody" sounds like a declaration of piety but falls far short from a biblical perspective. Don't simply tell me what you never did wrong but share with me what you did right if you want Divine respect.

"I never said anything bad about him" is meant to suggest kindness. True care and concern for others would include finding it possible at least occasionally to say something good about others.

"Don't do stupid stuff" isn't good enough to serve as the key to our national policy. So too, simply avoiding the irresponsible isn't good enough to express our personal goals for the coming year. We need to clarify the specific goals that we are proactively committing to this year. The High Holy Days are a time for serious consideration of our life's direction. It is a period of heavenly judgement. We dare not ignore the need for a strategy for living. Take a few minutes to think about these three important ideas.

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Why the frenzy?

RABBI YOSSY GOLDMAN SYDENHAM SHUL

In Yiddish, they would always say "Nog a yohr in Afrika!" - "Another year in Africa!" It seems pretty inane but we all seem to go through the very same performance annually. "Oh my G-d, it's Rosh Hashanah already!" "Where has this year gone?" You'd think that by now we'd have got accustomed to it.

Yes, time does fly. In fact, the idea features in one of our most famous prayers on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Just after Unesaneh Tokef ("Who will live and who will die?"), we read a most eloquent paragraph about how finite we are and how short life is. "Man was created from dust and our destiny is back to dust."

We muse about how "life is like withering grass, a fading flower... a dissipating cloud... and a fleeting dream".

Indeed, life is but a dream.

And the realisation that it's almost Yomtov, sends us into a tail spin; somehow it inspires a buzz of frenetic activity. But why is there such stress and pressure in our minds and hearts? Is it just the homemakers and balabustas anticipating their big dinners, lunches and the rush for new recipes?

Is it the selection process for the best seats at our preferred shul? Or is it the knowledge that some very earnest, solemn, Holy Days are almost upon us?

For rabbis, this is certainly the high-pressure season of the year. Some of my colleagues even call it the "silly season". But it's not just the demand to produce outstanding "keynote address" sermons. There is the intense awareness that Judgement Day is coming.

From the beginning of Elul, the month of prep-

aration for Rosh Hashanah, there is this anxious strain building up in the back of our minds. The trick, of course, is to get it to the front of the mind and actually do something about it.

With each passing day this month, we become more aware that in just a short while, the heavenly court will be scrutinising our past performance, not only professional but personal and spiritual.

That's why this is, traditionally, a time of Cheshbon Hanefesh - the season for soul-searching, introspection and personal spiritual stocktaking.

So, I believe that the deeper reason behind the frenetic rush of adrenalin in the Jewish blood-stream at this time of year has more to do with trying to work out who we are and where we are in life, than what we are serving for dinner or what is our seat number in shul.

So, where do we find ourselves? How many young people have gone off to uncharted frontiers in an effort to find themselves? They may search all over the world but we are not to be found in the mountains of Tibet or the ashrams of India. And we certainly won't find ourselves by escaping to Sun City for Yomtov. A fellow once told me that his son decided to go off in search of himself. So he said goodbye to his parents and set off on his motorbike across South Africa in an effort to finally discover his true inner identity.

Sometime later, the father called his son and asked him: "Nu, my son, did you find yourself?" "Yes, dad," he replied. "Really?" asked the father. "That's fantastic. So where exactly did you find yourself?" "Just past Bloemfontein, dad."

In the Torah reading shortly before Rosh Hashanah, (Deuteronomy 22) we read about the mitzvah of Hashovas Aveidah, returning lost articles to their rightful owner. You may not have known this but "finders keepers" is not exactly a Jewish idea. These laws are outlined in great detail in the Talmud (Bava Metziya, Chapter 2).

While there are occasions when we may indeed keep what we find in the public domain, generally we are taught to make every effort to find the rightful owner and return the lost articles to them.

Historically, the biggest lost and found department in the world was located in

the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

During the three pilgrim festivals, Pesach, Shavuot and Succot, people who had found things, would assemble at a special demarcated point to announce what they had found. Those who were looking for their lost valuables would have an opportunity to reclaim them provided they could identify them as theirs by sharing some of the unique characteristics of the objects in question.

It makes perfect sense that where Jews would congregate in their masses was the ideal place for this mitzvah to be observed.

Today, the synagogue has taken the place of the Temple in Jerusalem, albeit to a much lesser degree. Clearly, we long for Moshiach and the Beit Hamikdash. But the synagogue is an obvious place for a Jew to go to find people who may have seen his or her lost article. And the genius of Judaism in identifying the synagogue as the "congregation" and the place to find each other, goes way beyond finding a lost talis, umbrella, watch or wallet.



It is in shul that we also find G-d. We can also rediscover our faith, our people, and our community. And perhaps most importantly of all, we find ourselves. It is not only material things we find in shul. We find spirituality - our true, inner self, our soul, the real me, the real you, the real Jew comes out in shul.

So, you don't really need an airline ticket to the Far East or even a motorbike ride to Bloem. All you need is to come to shul. But it

does require some quality time in G-d's House. Don't just chat to the neighbour you haven't seen since last Yom Kippur. Open a book, whisper a prayer and listen to an inspiring word. Close your eyes and reflect on life and its meaning while the beautiful music provides some spiritual "surround sound".

And I want to ask you all to keep on the "lost and found" trail - for yourselves and for each other. Find some missing Jews. Find a Jew who may be lost spiritually, or simply does not have a shul to call home and bring them home.

Bring them to shul. There are so many people out there who would love to come but may just need someone to invite them; welcome them and acclimatise them until they feel comfortable.

Please G-d, in the days leading up to Yomtov, we will take the time to find ourselves and to reach out to others who would love to join us on the journey.

I wish you Shana Tovah - a meaningful New Year.

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Rosh Hashanah: A kaleidoscope of views

SUZANNE BELLING

With Rosh Hashanah approaching we asked several leading lights in our community what Rosh Hashanah means to them.



Anton Harber,

adjunct professor of journalism and founding editor of the Mail and Guardian (previously the Weekly Mail), puts forward his point strongly:

"As a Jewish South African, the issue

weighing most heavily on my mind at this time is seeing how Israel is treating African migrants and refugees. Jews should know better than most what it is to flee war, conflict and prejudice.

"How do we go in one generation from being a refugee people to one that treats refugees badly? How do we, as individuals and a community, take back the narrative from the extremists who have put us on a path of violence, hatred and confrontation?'

Harber says this is what he will be thinking about over the new year season "more than anything else. It is not easy, but this is a time to face up to the most vexing issues."



Glynnis Breytenbach, MP,

Democratic Alliance, and shadow minister of justice, spoke about what Rosh Hashanah means to her "as a relatively inexperienced Jew". She only discovered

her Jewish roots as an

adult when her maternal grandmother was terminally ill and told Breytenbach about her Jewish heritage for the first time.

"My maternal grandfather and my own father were not Jewish. My grandmother's maiden name was Cohen and she came from

"My godmother filled in the history as best she could after my grandmother had passed

"So I discovered my own Jewishness quite late, but it did explain why I had always been drawn to the Jewish way of life, even though I am not a particularly religious person.

"Rosh Hashanah, therefore, for me is really about reflecting on my family, how we came to be here, and what being Jewish means to me. I also reflect upon the year that has passed, about the (many) things I could have done better, and also reflect on the coming year, and how I can improve on those and

Being a politician for her is about helping to make South Africa a better place for everyone "and Rosh Hashanah is the ideal time to think about how to go about this".



Artist Kim expresses her thoughts through her art, says she has been "stewing and sifting through ideas for years, co-ordinating the grip on concepts that intrigue and pull

me both philosophically and in reality - our human context. How we mix, and are a mix, of our history and experience.

"In the last year these concepts have resolved and resulted in new works. These works, in combination with older works, form a body that is ready to enter a public space, and be seen."

The present view, she says is on Africa, moving away from the South African focus we are used to. "Our European past, our Chinese present and how we respond to both - gaining from - yet standing our African ground. How we can adapt past the reality of colonialism into a mix that is strong,

intelligent and uniquely on the African

She advocates that we should care for who we are now and be able to move with stability into the upcoming years. These are key concepts in her works.

"South African Jewry is able to be more sensitive to understanding how to broker peace in the aftermath of our history; it would be an incredible scenario seeing what we have learnt go out into the world at large and the Israeli issue specifically."



Stan Smookler, formerly from Stan and Pete caterers, renowned for his humorous online

"Stan the Good Shabbos Man" every Friday, says that to him Rosh Hashanah is a Jewish High Holy

Day, the beginning of the Jewish new year.

"To me it means the culmination of the past year, going into the new year, filled with promise of hope, health and peace in the world. The High Holy Days are a reminder from where we come and hopefully to where we are going, a time of doing good things for others, and helping the less fortunate...

He says in the "Beloved Country" [South Africa] it falls at the beginning of spring, which is such a good time of the year.



Nicci Raz, newlyappointed national director of the SA Zionist Federation, says this is the time of year when most of us start thinking about what we would like to do differently.

"My new year resolution is quite simple: Listen more.

"I feel that this simple skill, when practised, can literally change the world. Listening authentically to those around us our children, spouses, friends and colleagues - offers a rare opportunity to tap in to a different reality, one which is rich with knowledge and experience, ultimately giving us the tools to make better life choices for ourselves and infusing us with compassion for others."



Wayne Sussman, cochairman of Limmud South Africa, who is on the Melton faculty and works in the steel industry, referred to writer Peter Beinart's recent piece on the decline of the deli.

"While there has been a proliferation

of kosher food, there is a battle for chicken

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Talking about writers Philip Roth, David Grossman, Amos Oz and comedians Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld, he said they were not getting younger.

"While there are certainly pretenders for their veritable thrones", Sussman hopes in the new year for a new wave of Israeli and Jewish-centric literary and TV talent.

"The growth of Limmud on a global level continues to amaze me. I am looking forward to Limmud events continuing to pop up all over the world, energising volunteers, attracting younger people and bringing Jews from all different walks of life together.'

Sussman feels our community is becoming more and more concentrated. "We have so many old, beautiful Jewish institutions across this country. I hope for many barmitzvahs and weddings in shuls like Kimberley and Stellenbosch."



Nadav Ossendryver,

last year's winner of the Creative Counsel Young Jewish Entrepreneur Award at the Jewish Achievers for his website of wildlife sightings, says the year 5776 is going to

be the year that can help pave the way for South Africa's future.

"Wildlife and conservation is an integral part of South Africa's heritage and a big tourist attraction. Wildlife and conservation have been my calling since I fell in love with game reserves at the age of eight and started running a wildlife-based company, Latest

Sightings, at 15.

"My new year's resolution, is to spend 5776, and upcoming years, promoting conservation, protecting our wildlife and love for nature in our country to people all over the world, so that they can focus on the great aspects of South Africa, rather than the bad. I also hope I can inspire other young people in our community to follow their dreams and passions in life, and act on them to make them a reality."



Alana Baranov,

vice-president of the Council of KwaZulu-Natal Jewry as well as a steering committee member of the World Jewish Congress' Jewish Diplomatic Corps, believes that Rosh Hashanah is a

universal new year, "the anniversary of the creation of all human beings and a time to celebrate the unique potential of human existence.

"This special time of year gives us the opportunity to not only express gratitude and reflect on the past, but to dedicate ourselves to building a better future not just for our own community, but for all who live in South Africa and beyond."

Her new year's hope is for each of us to commit to transforming the Jewish value of tzedakah, which alongside prayer and repentance, will seal us in the Book of Life.

"We are living through the largest refugee crisis in recorded history. Few tenets in Jewish law are repeated as often as the call to protect the stranger and our community, with its history of fleeing persecution, can do so much to combat xenophobia and other hate crimes."



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Rosh Hashanah evening meal

Kiddush

Before starting the Rosh Hashanah meal, we sanctify the holiday by reciting the Kiddush over a cup of wine or grape juice.

New fruit

On the second night of Rosh Hashanah, a "new fruit", ie, a seasonal fruit which we have not yet tasted since its season began, should be present on the table when the holiday candles are kindled and during the Kiddush. While reciting the Shehecheyanu blessing after candle-lighting and after the Kiddush, one should have the new fruit in mind.

This fruit is eaten following the Kiddush, before washing for bread. Before partaking of the fruit we say the following blessing:

Ba-ruch a-tah Ado-nai E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam bo-re pri ha-etz.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the tree

Challah in honey

Immediately following the Kiddush (and on the second night, the eating of the new fruit), we perform the ritual washing for bread, after which we say the following blessing:

Ba-ruch a-tah Ad-onay, E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam, a-sher ki-desh-an-u be-mitz-vo-tav ve-tziv-anu al ne-til-at ya-da-yim.

Blessed are you, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us concerning the washing of the hands

When everyone has returned to the table, we raise the two challah loaves and recite the Hamotzi blessing:

Ba-ruch atah A-do-nay, E-lo-hei-nu Melech Ha-Olam, hamotzi le-chem min ha-ar-etz.

Blessed are You, L-rd, our G-d, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Cut the challah, dip it in honey (some also dip it in salt), and have a bite. Pass around pieces and make sure everyone does the same.

Symbolic foods

On the first night of Rosh Hashanah, after eating the challah with honey, it is customary to eat several foods which symbolise the type of year we wish to have:

We dip a piece of sweet apple into honey. Before eating it we say:

Ba-ruch a-tah Ado-nai E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam bo-re pri ha-etz.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the tree.

Ye-hi ratzon she-ti-cha-desh alei-nu shanah tovah u-m'tu-kah.

May it be Your will to renew for us a good and sweet year.

A head of a fish, ram, or other kosher animal, is served. This symbolises our desire to be at the "head of the class" this year.

A pomegranate is eaten, symbolising our wish to have a year full of mitzvot and good deeds as a pomegranate is filled with luscious seeds. Throughout the meal, it is customary to also eat foods whose names in the vernacular allude to blessing and prosperity. For example, many have the custom of eating a carrot dish, because in Yiddish the word for carrots, meren, means to multiply.

Rosh Hashanah cuisine

On Rosh Hashanah it is customary not to eat foods which are sour or tart (the gefilte fish will have to do without the horseradish...). Instead, the focus is on sweet foods, symbolising our desire to have a sweet year, blessings and abundance. It is also customary not to eat nuts on Rosh Hashanah, as the numerical value of the Hebrew word for nuts ("egoz") is the same as the Hebrew word for sin ("chet").

FOOTNOTES

- If it is Shabbat, the Shalom Aleichem and Aishet Chayil hymns are recited before Kiddush in an undertone.
- 2. Halachically, the two days of Rosh Hashanah are considered as "one long day". This idea led some halachic authorities to doubt whether the Shehecheyanu blessing, which is normally recited at the onset of a holiday day, should be recited during the candle-lighting and Kiddush of the second day of Rosh Hashanah.

To dispel any doubt as to the validity of this blessing, we also have in mind the new fruit, whose consumption also requires the recitation of the Shehecheyanu blessing.

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SAUJS, Sydenham Young Adults, host DA's Maimane



HEATHER SCHNEIDER

Last week Friday night SAUJS together with Sydenham Shul hosted a Shabbat dinner for young adults. The guest of honour was DA leader Mmusi Maimane.

Rabbis Yehuda Stern and Yossy Goldman, together with the SAUJS committee, arrived early to welcome and photograph Maimane before Shabbos came in.

Maimane attended Rabbi Goldman's Shabbat service and then enjoyed dinner with over 300 young Jewish adults.

The evening was organised by Aly Schneider, national social officer of SAUJS, in partnership with Rabbi Sterr

Schneider introduced Maimane as the guest speaker and spoke of his humble beginnings.

Maimane went on to share his dreams and hopes for South Africa and drew many parallels between the Jewish community at large and the post-apartheid fight for equality.

His biggest fear is the growth of the "No Vote" campaign and he implored his audience to all stand up and be counted and to spread the word that "no vote" equalled "no hope".

He believes that if the DA can change all the no votes into votes for his party, South Africa has a chance of a great, successful future. He also believes that all voters should be feared as it is their democratic right to place and replace politicians.

His immediate goal for his party is to win "The Big 5" - Johannesburg, Tshwane, Cape Town - which it already holds, Nelson Mandela Bay and Tlokwe (Potchefstroom).

A questions and answers session followed Maimane's speech and it was very reassuring to see that Maimane really seems to get to his audience, leaving them with a lot of positivity and a promise "of a very interesting political time" in the country between 2016 and 2019.

Jews have an excellent story to tell, says Olesker

TALI FEINBERG

The Jews have forgotten how to tell their story, yet no other nation has a better story than the Jews do, David Olesker (pictured) told a Cape Town audience when he spoke at the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation, hosted by the South African Zionist Federation Cape Council and the Marais Road Shul.

A Brit by birth now living in Jerusalem with his family, Olesker heads up the Jerusalem Centre for Communication and Advocacy Training (JCCAT). Addressing a large audience, Olesker demonstrated just



how many stories there are to tell, and that these are particularly important to share in South Africa.

He has visited this country often, and described being on Radio 702 just after the 1994 transition to democracy. Amidst vitriolic statements from listeners, one caller asked if "what Israel is doing to the Palestinians is the same as how black people were treated under apartheid".

Olesker said that he could not answer the question, because he would need time to elaborate on the complexities, but he did tell the caller that it was callous to exploit the memory of those persecuted under apartheid to score a cheap political point and that we shouldn't call something "apartheid" just because it is something we don't like

Olesker named a number of practical ways of advocating for Israel:

Connect to emotions: By making the powerful and true statement while on Radio 702, Olesker managed to tap into the emotions of listeners who knew what it had been like to experience apartheid and may not have wanted this to be "transplanted" to other conflicts. Olesker explained how the black producer in the studio liked his response because he could relate to it. Therefore, it is key to connect to the emotions of others when advocating for Israel.

Learn to speak the language of the world: "Advocacy does not come naturally to Jews," said Olesker, who elaborated that Jewish law asked questions, and it was not just about "who wins". However, the world works according to advocacy, "and we have to adapt to this system to get our voices heard. It is up to us to empower ourselves with advocacy skills."

Pictures are powerful: Olesker commented that the way the Western world communicates today is through visual images. "If a picture speaks a 1 000 words, Jews would choose the 1 000 words," he quipped. Yet with the rise of Instagram and YouTube, we see that content is king and that images pack a punch.

He advised sharing photos from trips to Israel. "What could be more powerful than sharing a photo of a kid-friendly bomb shelter in Sderot, painted to look like a caterpillar?" he asked, or posting videos on social media, particularly sharing how anti-Semitic ideas are perpetuated on television in the Arab world. Cartoons are another way to make an impact.

Change the conceptual frame: In the example of speaking on radio, Olesker turned the situation around, creating a new conceptual frame where the caller became

the exploiter of apartheid.

"Obtaining and maintaining control of the conceptual frame is key to advocacy," said Olesker. He suggests that Jewish students put together an educational campaign to speak out against the human rights abuses in Darfur, which allows them to connect with other South Africans on this key issue.

Take the initiative: Although it may be challenging to raise discussion about Israel, this allows you to ask the questions and for someone else to give the answers. For example, in the hosting of a demonstration for Darfur, Olesker suggests inviting Muslim societies on campus. He hopes

that they would join, but if they refuse, it would highlight that they do not support campaigning against Muslim-on-Muslim violence in Africa - totally changing the conceptual frame.

Tell your story: "Every Israeli has a story like mine," says Olesker, who told how two worshippers killed in the Har Nof terrorist attack last year were close friends of his, and how his daughter had been just outside the synagogue when the attack occurred, as the shul was at the end of his street. "Just tell the truth, share people's names, and your story will resonate. The journey of the Jewish people is the greatest story ever told."



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World News in Brief

UN chief to Knesset speaker: 'Iran deal is not perfect'

NEW YORK - United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon last week Friday met in New York with visiting Israeli Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein and told him that while the nuclear deal with Iran was "good," it was "not perfect". "There are no perfect agreements," Ban told Edelstein.

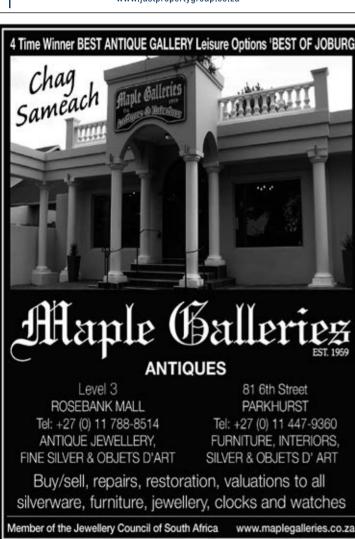
Edelstein said: "As a son of the Jewish people, who experienced the Holocaust, I believe someone when he says he wants to destroy us." Ban also called for the renewal of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. "You must sit and talk," Ban said. "I am very worried from the crime, the violence and the provocations in east Jerusalem and the West Bank. The Middle East needs security and both sides have an interest to improve the situation. That will only happen through dialogue." (Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org)

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Support for Arab-Bedouin female leaders of the future

CARLA TENZER
Executive Director
SA Associates of Ben-Gurion
University of the Negev

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU), located in Beersheva in southern Israel, has a dedicated support programme for young female Bedouin students. The care for these women extends from the leadership at BGU to the student body itself, and, even to a particularly generous South African foundation with headquarters in Cape Town.

In June 2015, Dianna Yach, chairman of the Mauerberger Foundation, visited BGU to meet with the recipients of the Foundation's scholarships.

Dianna, and her mother, Estelle Yach, whose father Morrie Mauerburger had been a business icon in Cape Town, take the Mauerberger Scholarships beyond just a monetary donation - they get to know their students personally, engaging with them and listening to each individual's story.

Dianna's annual visit ensures that the Mauerberger Foundation's mission to empower these women is achieved; through education they are able to empower their own communities.

During her visits, Dianna gives the students words of encouragement; she reminds them that women have the power to change the world. In this mission, the Mauerberger Foundation has found a perfect partnership with BGU President Professor Rivka Carmi,



who is herself the co-founder of an NGO that promotes education for Bedouin women.

Professor Carmi's contribution to the Bedouin population is far-reaching. Her speciality in genetics of the Negev Arab-Bedouin population led to tests that detect genetic abnormalities. Bedouin communities now incorporate these tests in matchmaking, and infant mortality has dropped dramatically.

The Israeli government has adopted Professor Carmi's programme, offering these tests to Bedouins as well as Arabs of northern Israel.

BGU ensures the sustainability of these benefits through its dedicated Centre for Bedouin Studies and Development. The Centre is tasked with outreach and retention programmes, providing financial and academic assistance to Bedouin students who account for about eight per cent of the student body, half of these students being female.

The Bedouin community's first

female gynaecologist is a graduate of BGU. It is partnerships between donors like South Africa's Mauerberger Foundation and BGU's community-oriented leadership that are empowering the Arab-Bedouin women of the Negev.

South Africa's connections to BGU go back many years, the highlight being an auspicious and unique occasion in 1997 when BGU awarded former President Nelson Mandela with an honorary doctorate.

The memorable ceremony was organised by the South African Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (SAABGU) and took place at the Baxter Theatre.

SAABGU focuses on building partnerships that benefit South Africa and Israel by looking to BGU for the expertise to address developmental and economic problems in our country.

SAABGU draws inspiration from BGU's established and successful global collaborations and its community initiatives that unite residents of the Negev, from Arab-Bedouins to Jews.

John Simon touched many lives in an illustrious career

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Doyen of the Cape Town legal community, John Simon (pictured), who passed away recently in Cape Town, influenced many lives in the legal field, in academia and beyond – and was integral to protecting the welfare of the Jewish community.

In a tribute to him, Michael Bagraim, MP, fellow attorney and former national chairman of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, said Simon worked tirelessly for the betterment of everyone with whom he came into contact.

Simon's family had to share him with a society which gained so richly from his involvement, Bagraim said.

Simon's communal involvement included serving as chairman of the Cape Council of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, executive member of the Zionist Federation and adviser to United Herzlia Schools. He was also a trustee of the Kaplan Centre at UCT.

He was a widely-read academic on many topics and disciplines. His involvement with the Jacob Gitlin Library was well known. His knowledge of Jewish scripture and law was renowned. He was also a raconteur and great listener, with impeccable manners and sartorial elegance.

Simon's law career spanned well over

Patric Gamble, a justice of the Western Cape High Court, said in a letter to the family that Simon's presence had been

such that he was known to some as the "Admiral", because of the way in which he swept into court with the fleet in tow - his handpicked captains behind him.

A devoted family man, Simon was devastated by the death of his wife a few weeks earlier.

He was a giant in everything he touched, Bagraim commented. He was buried at the Pinelands cemetery in Cape Town.

Simon leaves his three sons, Mark, Jeremy and Trevor, their spouses and their families

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CKNJ introduces its new committee

ALANA BARANOV

The Council of KwaZulu-Natal Jewry (CKNJ) held its 84th AGM last week at the Durban Jewish Centre, with guest speaker Dr Taddy Blecher addressing the topic: "How one Jewish boy is changing South Africa for good".

The evening focused on the work of the CKNJ

over the previous year, both within the local Jewish community, as well as its endeavours to build proactive and engaging bridges between Jewish South Africans and the broader KwaZulu-Natal

In particular, the CKNJ's relief efforts and advocacy work in the aftermath of the recent xenophobic violence, were highlighted.

> The CKNJ executive committee: Standing: KNZC **Chairman Anthony Arkin;** John Patlansky; SAJBD Chairman Mary Kluk; Sue Abro; Clive Bernstein; and FMC Chairman David **Simpson. Sitting: Honorary** Life President John Moshal; 1st Vice-President Jeremy **Droyman; President Ronnie** Herr; 2nd Vice President Alana Baranov; and Honorary **Treasurer Gary Baranov.**

Breakfast with Nik Rabinowitz and Deep Fried Man

LYNNE RAPHAELY

On Thursday August 20, the Union of Jewish Women hosted 275 women at a magnificent breakfast and comedy morning at the Sandton Shul Hall. Guests were treated to a fun performance by Deep Fried Man (Daniel Friedman), followed by the inimitable Nik Rabinowitz who had the guests eating out of the palm of his hand, weeping with laughter and at times shrieking hysterically.

The delighted women left with goodie bags containing great giveaways, and over 50 of them won fabulous prizes, from floral arrangements to a revolutionary non-surgical facelift and a catered dinner for 10 guests at home.



Lynne Raphaely, UJW SA National President, with the major prize-winners, Bev Bohbot and Pamela Lowenthal.

IUA-UCF Durban campaign launched

ALANA BARANOV

With this year's theme "We Are One", the IUA-UCF campaign for 2015/2016 was launched at a gala dinner on Wednesday August 12 at the Durban Jewish Centre.

The guest speaker for the evening was former DA leader Helen Zille, one of the country's foremost female leaders and current premier of the Western Cape. She shared her thoughts on why people give and the importance of charity. Local comedian Aaron Macilroy was the MC. The evening showcased the incredible charity and outreach work done both within the local community and by the Jews of KwaZulu-Natal.

The guest list included the communal leadership as well as the heads of various foundations supporting the Durban Jewish community. The evening also saw the launch of the "It's Durban Calling" project

by Michael Foreman. This is a not-forprofit online platform that connects Jewish Durbanites around the world, to keep up to date with the community and allow them to still contribute to the various projects and institutions here.

The IUA-UCF ensures that the KwaZulu-Natal community institutions and organisations have the necessary funding to carry out their essential work. The beneficiaries of the campaign include a wide range of causes, from Durban Jewish Social Services and Beth Shalom, to the CKNJ and youth programmes.

All funds raised go to ensure that the most vulnerable in the community live with dignity and security; youth are taught the importance of community and the role that Israel plays in the lives of the Jews in the Diaspora; and finally, that communal administrative structures are effective, efficient and co-ordinated.



SAJBD Chairman Mary Kluk and Graham Kluk; Lois and Brian Moshal from the Victor Daitz Foundation; and CKNJ Honorary Life President John and Anna Moshal from the Jakamar Trust are joined (front) by Western Cape Premier Helen Zille and CKNJ President Ronnie Herr and his wife Frances.





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Declining numbers, bad economy, but Italian Jews upbeat

בס"ד

BEN SALES ROME

Whenever painter Georges De Canino worries about the future of Italian Jewry, he looks at the bricks in the building across the street from his apartment in the centre of this city's old Jewish shetto.

The stones he stares at have been in Rome for nearly 2 000 years. The city's Jews have been

here for longer. And neither of them, De Canino says, is going anywhere.

"Above all, it's a community that survives invasions, barbarians, the economy," De Canino said. "We're a small community that is reborn, that grows. We play a very important role in Italy."

It's a sentiment widely shared by other members of Italy's 24 000-member Jewish community. At a time when growing anti-Semitism and rising immigration to Israel is prompting even



large European Jewish communities to fret publicly about their future, community leaders here are surprisingly optimistic even as they contend with many of the same challenges facing small communities elsewhere: high intermarriage

"The Jewish community in Italy is a small world, but very diverse," said Renzo Gattegna, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities. "There is a phenomenon of demographic decrease of the Italian communities. But I think this is balanced out by the increase of the cultural activities."

rates, young people moving abroad and shrink-

ing numbers.

The community has an intermarriage rate of 50 per cent, and many young people, driven by a skyrocketing youth unemployment rate - it hit 44 per cent this year - have sought better opportunities abroad. Last year, 340 Italian Jews moved to Israel, doubling the previous year's figure. The national Jewish community's numbers are also declining, from an official figure of almost 27 000 in 1995 to 24 000 today.

"I don't think of the future of my children in Italy," said Johanna Arbib-Perugia, former chairman of the Jewish fundraising operation Keren Hayesod in Rome. "I don't see Italy as a country that presents brilliant prospects for the future not in terms of jobs." She added that some Italian Jews "see Israel as the land of opportunity".

With a history dating to the time of the Roman Empire, Italian Jewry predates - and developed in relative isolation from - both Sephardic and Ashkenazic Judaism. What has resulted is a Jewish population with distinctive customs and dress. Florence's 1 000-member community has a prayer book with a liturgy and melodies all its own, as do Rome, Venice and other cities. Unlike

other European communities, many Orthodox Italian synagogues have organs - a holdover from a 17th-century legal ruling.

But Italy's Jewish leadership appears unfazed in the face of declining numbers that would seem to imperil the community's survival. Leaders call unemployment a national problem, not a Jewish one, and Gattegna said that plenty of people moved back and forth between Israel and Italy. Rome and Milan, he predicted, would preserve the traditions of smaller communities.

"Jewish survival doesn't depend on numbers, it depends on ideas," said Guido Vitale, who edits the national Jewish newspaper, Pagine Ebraiche. "People who see problems in small communities are people who want to treat Jewish people like an army that needs to go to a war of propaganda."

Several Italian Jews preferred to focus on what they described as a vital community. Rome supports more than 20 kosher restaurants, many of which opened in the past few decades. One eatery, Ba'Ghetto, has opened two branches in the past seven years to meet demand from locals, not tourists. The capital also has three Jewish kindergartens and one K-12 school.

In Florence, an effort to engage more with the wider community led to the launch of Balagan Cafe, a biweekly series of cultural events. In Milan, the local Chabad outpost hosted an annex to the EXPO Milan 2015 food fair that focused on kashrut. And in Florence and Torino, Jewish student associations have formed to organise cultural events and celebrate holidays.

"I think the communities of Rome and Milan and Florence and Torino will have a very strong Jewish life," said Gabriele Fiorentino, a consigliere, or board member, of the Union of Young Jewish Italians. "There is a part that moves to another country, but there are also young people that remain in Rome or in Milan, so I think in the near future there's no danger for the bigger communities."

Roman Jews say the increase in kosher restaurants and the active Jewish school scene are part of a rise in Jewish observance that began in 1967, when 5 000 Libyan Jews escaping anti-Semitic riots, fled to the city. On the whole, the Libyans were more religious than the native Romans. Though they still maintain their own synagogues, the two communities have married and merged, spreading Jewish observance.

One of the community's greatest strengths is what it lacks - a fear of anti-Semitism. There have been attacks, but leaders and laypeople alike dismissed them as a fringe phenomenon or tied them to developments in the Middle East.

On a recent summer day, Italian Jews wore yarmulkes on the street and tourists loudly spoke Hebrew under Israeli and Italian flags. The scene stood in stark contrast to Jewish communities elsewhere in Europe, where locals warn visitors against any outward signs of their Judaism.

Community members say Italy's Jews have always got along with their neighbours. This contact, Gattegna says, isn't a threat but a strength. He says Italian Jewry could grow even stronger by channelling that instinct for integration toward Jewish communities in neighbouring countries. (JTA)

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The Advantage of Knowing

How about a Jewish Non-Achiever Award?



BARBARIC YAWP

David Saks

"Jews are not fighters - let's face it," Jackie Mason says. "Have you ever heard of someone afraid to go into a Jewish neighbourhood because he might be killed by an accountant?"

As a New Yorker, Mason will nevertheless be well aware that it was not always thus. Between the wars, the city was awash with Jewish gangsters, and there was no shortage of them in a number of other major American centres as well. Three ethnic groups - the Italians, the Jews and the Irish - dominated the criminal underworld during these years and the Jews may have been the most dangerous of them all.

They were at the heart of much of the racketeering, extortion, bootlegging and illegal gambling that was going on, and few were more deadly when it came to eliminating rivals or those within their own ranks who were adjudged to have stepped out of line.

The dingy lives of the smalltime hoods and hangers-on who existed on the fringes of this underworld, were brilliantly captured at the time in the exuberantly comic short stories of Damon Runyon.

On first reading, one might conclude that the designations Runyon gives to some of his crimi-

nal characters are broadly satirical. In the real world, would one really come across individuals known as Harry the Horse, Rusty Charlie, Liverlips and Ikey the Pig?

Once you start reading up on American gangsters, however, you quickly realise that if anything, Runyon was being quite restrained. Their ranks (and these were just some of the Jewish ones) included Albert "Tick-Tock" Tannenbaum; Abe "Kid Twist" Reles; Arthur "Dutch Schultz" Flegenheimer; Seymour "Blue Jaw" Magoon; Jake "Greasy Thumb" Guzick; Harry "Pittsburgh Phil" Strauss; Jacob "Gurrah" Shapiro; Max "The Jerk" Golob; Moey "Dimples" Wolensky; and Martin "Buggsy" Goldstein. (Bennie Siegel was also famously called "Bugsy", but never to his face, if you valued your life!)

Runyon gave a comic veneer to the gangster underworld, but of course, in reality there was little to laugh about. Amusing though it might be that there was once a Jewish mobster known as Knadles Nitzberg, the reality is that Knadles is today best remembered as the hitman who "iced" Albert "Plug" Shuman - two bullets in the back of the head.

Of Kid Twist Reles, the formidable Brooklyn prosecutor Burton Turkus said: "There was something about Reles' physical bearing, a look in his eye that actually made the hair on the back of your neck stand up."

Reles himself admitted to carrying out 10 killings. He eventually turned stool pigeon, lived

long enough to send a number of his erstwhile associates to "The Chair" in Sing-Sing and was ultimately thrown from a high window, despite being in protective custody at the time.

Even today, some Jews can't repress a certain admiration for the Jewish mobsters of bygone times (see, for example, Rich Cohen's curiously ambiguous attitude towards his protagonists in his book Tough Jews: Fathers, Sons and Gangster Dreams).

These, after all, were Yids who fought back - hard - against a system that tried to keep them down. It is also the case that Jewish gangsters were instrumental in breaking up - brutally and effectively - numerous pro-Nazi rallies during the 1930s and '40s, and that several of them - such as Meyer Lansky, Bennie Siegel and Mickey Cohen - raised considerable sums of money and smuggled significant amounts of arms to Israel when the fate of the Yishuv hung in the balance.

What is glossed over by those who lean towards such views is the reality not only that these men carried out multiple murders (Pittsburgh Phil alone had at least 100 kills to his name), but more often than not, their victims were other Jews, generally gangsters like themselves who had fallen foul of the bosses in some way or had come to be regarded as a security risk.

A number of hoods ended their lives in the embrace of "Old Sparky" and a smaller percentage somehow lived out their ordinary life spans,

but the majority died violently at the hands of other Jewish gangsters, people with whom they'd collaborated, shared simchas (they would always attend the brisses of one another's children, for instance) and often grown up with.

Bugsy, Blue Jaw, Lepke, Longy, Big Gangi and all the rest of them were very bad guys.

How many people are aware that within South African Jewry for a time, there was also a gangster underworld? Shamefully enough, the racket in which Jewish criminals were dominant was prostitution. Throughout the 1890s, pimping on the Witwatersrand was to a great extent a Jewish business and Jewish men and women were among the leading brothel owners.

The undisputed "King of the Pimps" was Joseph Silver, an international gangster and psychopath so vicious as to have been put forward as a possible candidate for the never-identified Jack the Ripper by his biographer, Charles van Onselen.

Among the prostitutes plying their trade were many Jewish girls who had been tricked into coming out to South Africa with promises of jobs. Much of the early work of the Chevrah Kadisha was aimed at quietly alleviating the plight of these ruined and desperate women.

It goes without saying that until recently, none of this ever made it into the standard histories of South African Jewry. Maybe it's time to introduce a Jewish Non-Achievers Award evening...

News

The Road to Recovery - a grassroots act of reconciliation

BILL STRUBBE

Once or twice a week, Amatzia Dayan from Kibbutz Ein Hashofet, drives in the early morning through the security border crossing near Magen Shaul to pick up Palestinian children and their families from Jenin, to ferry them to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

The ill kids may be suffering from cancer, leukaemia or another life-threatening illness, but these two brothers, aged 14 and 15, waiting in the pre-dawn with their father, have the blood disease thalassemia, a genetic mutation affecting the production of haemoglobin, something that is common among Palestinians.

"Two out of six of my children have thalassemia, as well as one of my cousins and an uncle. I would guess that about 300 children in the Jenin area suffer from it," explains the boys' father, Norman. "Since there are no dialysis machines in Jenin, we have to travel to Rambam several times a month, and the only way to do this is with the help of Israeli drivers."

Palestinians with serious health conditions must obtain special permits to receive treatment in Israel, but they are not allowed to drive their own vehicles past the checkpoints.

Round-trip taxi fares would be prohibitively expensive for most. Instead, over 500 Israelis volunteers, through the organisation The Road to Recovery, pick up Palestinians at the border checkpoints and drive them to the hospitals in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa.

Being a passenger in a car with an Israeli licence plate and an Israeli driver, helps to minimise the transit time through the checkpoint.

What could take several hours might be reduced to 10 or 15 minutes.

A preponderance of children assisted through The Road to Recovery suffer from thalassemia, particularly clustered in Mediterranean communities. Similar to sickle-cell anaemia, the thalassemia trait is prevalent in climates where malaria was once endemic and confers a degree of protection against malaria, thus it has a selective survival advantage.

If both parents - more likely in isolated or island populations - carry the trait there is a 25 per cent risk that a child will be affected.

From either the disease itself or the frequent blood transfusions, excessive deposits of iron accumulate in the body and these deposits damage the heart, liver and endocrine system. An overtaxed spleen can become enlarged, neces-



Driver Amatzia Dayan, Norman and his two sons at the border crossing.

sitating its removal.

Anaemia can cause a child's growth to slow and can delay puberty. Thalassemia can cause the bone marrow to expand, which can result in abnormal and brittle bone structure.

Without regular blood transfusions at least every three months and adequate iron chelation therapy to remove excess iron, most patients with thalassemia would eventually die from it. Neither of those two treatments are available in Gaza and the West Bank, hence help is required from Israeli drivers.

The Road to Recovery was started by Yuval Roth, a member of Kibbutz Magan Micha'el. In 1994, Yuval's brother Udi was kidnapped and killed in Gaza by Hamas and Yuval decided to do something positive with his grief.

Roth joined the group called Parents Circle -Families Forum, Israelis and Palestinians with loved ones killed in wars and terrorism, and befriended many Palestinians, some of whom shared with him the common need of transportation access to Israeli healthcare facilities.

"Then one day, a man in the forum from Jenin called and told me his brother might have a brain tumour. He had an appointment at Rambam but no way to go," Roth explained. "He asked if I could drive him, and I agreed."

When other Palestinians asked for assistance, an eventually overwhelmed Roth recruited friends to help drive children and adults. Within several years The Road to Recovery came together as an "act of reconciliation instead of revenge". Since 2006, Roth and his team of some 500 volunteers, many of them pensioners like Amatzia Dayan, have been giving Palestinians a lifeline.

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------ A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies ------

The new JHGC in Forest Town has finally arrived!

I have just participated in the dedication of the new premises of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre (JHGC) in Forest Town. It was an extremely moving and uplifting occasion, and from my own point of view a great pleasure to be with my colleagues from both the Board and the SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation.

From its very establishment the JHGC, under the exceptionally capable leadership of Tali Nates, has been a dynamic presence on the Jewish communal and general educational scene.

To date, it has been operating out of temporary premises; we are delighted that it now has a wonderful new base

from which to continue the outstanding work it has been doing. The building will be open to the public from the beginning of next year.

Speakers included Professor Jonathan Jansen of the University of the Free State and Lewis Levin, the new centre's architect and project manager.

Prof Jansen emphasised the importance of Holocaust education in light of South Africa's own historical experience and also deplored the tendency of certain individuals to make inappropriate Holocaust allusions in order to score cheap political points.

Mr Levin described the careful thought that went into creating a space that would be appropriate, thematically and visually, to the JHGC's mission. It was, as he had previously stressed, important that the building be "humble yet respectful, austere yet contemplative".

The Board has been closely associated with the JHGC since its establishment in 2008. We have partnered with it in hosting a number of memorable public events, such as last year's tribute to Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese diplomat who issued 6 000 life-saving visas to Jewish





refugees during the Second World War.

On September 20 the Board and JHGC, in collaboration with the Russian Embassy, will be hosting an event commemorating the role played by the Soviet army in liberating the death camps. The evening, to be held at Beyachad, will include addresses by the Russian ambassador and a decorated Soviet war veteran who assisted survivors after the liberation and the screening of a new documentary by Paula Slier on the fate that befell various members of her family during the Holocaust.

The Durban and Cape Town branches of the Board likewise partner with their respective Holocaust centres in hosting commemorative and educational

events. We work with the SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation in such areas as sensitivity training, including in cases of anti-Semitism occurring in schools and universities and in assisting Holocaust survivors.

The Board is also preparing for the upcoming Heritage Day carnival. As reported last week, the Jewish community float for the parade through Pretoria, will take the form of an Ark (an acronym for "Acts of Random Kindness"), constituting a library stocked with books donated by our community.

This week, we began the process of taking the Ark round to all the Jewish primary schools to enable young learners to participate by presenting books, each to be inscribed by the donor. At the conclusion of the Heritage Day parade, the Ark Library will be presented to the Mayor of Tshwane for placement in a suitable school in the city.

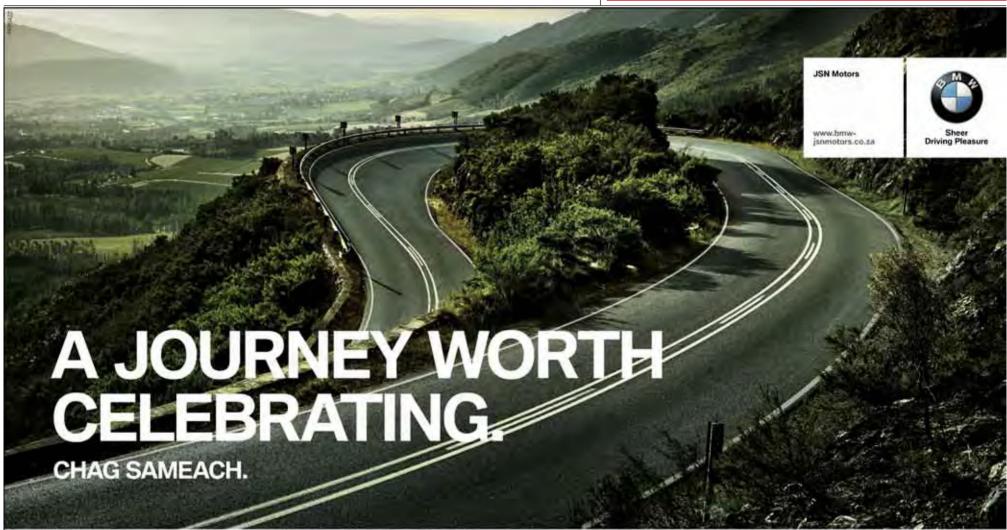
• Listen to Charisse Zeifert on Jewish Board Talk, 101.9 ChaiFM every Friday 12:00 - 13:00. The South African Jewish
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On behalf of the team at JSN Motors, I would like to wish you well as you celebrate Rosh Hashanah. May the festival bring you and your loved ones joy and happiness. Here's to a peaceful and prosperous year ahead. If you have any BMW sales, parts or service related questions, please do not hesitate to contact Steven Silber.

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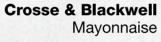
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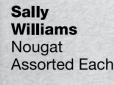


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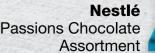


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Current venues under the Stan and Pete banner include Sandton Shul Hall, Killarney Country Club, Summer Place, Longmeadow and the Sandton Convention Centre.

Situated less than 1 km from Houghton Country Club, Stan and Pete are at their clients' service with hand-picked staff members that have been serving the community for years.

The recipes provided in this issue were supplied by executive chef Alex Barnett, who has been with them for the past 15 years – and he has revolutionised the art of kosher cooking.



Thai ginger salmon salad

- Fresh smoked salmon (30 gm Norwegian smoked salmon pre-sliced)
- Eitan Vaal lettuce colour mix
- · Red onion
- Avocado
- CarrotCucumber
- · White sesame seeds
- · Black sesame seeds
- Dried cranberries
- Fresh lemon

For the dressing:

- 1 tsp chopped ginger
- 1 tsp mint
- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tbs fresh lemon juice
- 2 tbs olive oil
- 1 fresh chilli chopped

Method

- Place the coloured lettuce in a mound on the plate.
- Cut the cucumber, carrot, red onion into matchstick pieces and place on lettuce.
- Slice the avocado into thin slices.
- Place salmon on the plate.
- Peel the fresh lemon, remove pips and take out segments. Cut in half and place on plate.
- Toast sesame seeds in a pan until golden brown.
- Place all salad ingredients in a pot and bring to boil.
 Set aside and cool.
- Drizzle dressing over salad ingredients and the salmon.
- Sprinkle with cranberries and sesame seeds.





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Carved honey fruit salad with honeyed nuts

You can use any fruit you like, but for a good effect, we suggest:

- Watermelon (in season)
- Pineapple
- Pawpaw
- Kiwi
- Strawberry
- Granadilla
- GrapesOranges
- Mixed nuts 1 packet
- Honey

Method:

- Cut the fruit
- Peel the fruit all the way around just leaving the flesh.
- Cut the fruit into long wedges, for instance watermelon, pineapple, pawpaw and kiwi, trimming the base flat so the pieces stand up.
- Cut all the other fruit (grapes, strawberry, granadilla, oranges) and place them in between.

To make the honeyed nuts:

- Mix a packet of nuts with some honey. Stir until well coated.
- Sprinkle over the carved fruit.

Serve.

Sweet baklava towers

For the towers:

- Phyllo pastry
- 2 tbs white sesame seeds
- 125 ml peanuts/mixed nuts
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 8 tbs sugar
- 100 ml melted margarine (preferably Cardin)

For the syrup:

- 375 ml sugar
- 500 ml water
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- 1 tsp orange zest
- 1 the learning zest
- 1 tbs lemon juice
- 1 clove½ tsp salt
- •

Fresh fruit to include strawberry, grapes, gooseberries, mint, Strawberry sauce Rich's cream

Rich's cream Honey

Method:

- Take 3 sheets of phyllo pastry and brush each sheet with melted margarine.
- Sprinkle sesame seeds on first layer; second layer with chopped mixed nuts and brush margarine on third layer.
- Roll the pastry into a honey cigar shape.
- Bake at 150° C for 35 minutes

For syrup:

- · Boil all ingredients together in a pot (not too high).
- When it's a thick syrup consistency, remove from heat.
- Retain 30 ml of this mixture and pour the balance over the hot baklava.

To make strawberry sauce:

- · Use leftover strawberries.
- · Blend in a blender until smooth.
- Add a little of the leftover syrup for sweetness.
- Beat Rich's cream and add a honey swirl.

To assemble:

- Cut the baklava at an angle and cut the bottom for the tower to stand straight.
- Place on a plate cut your fruit and make a fruit garden.
- Put a dollop of Rich's cream on the plate with a swirl of honey.





Lshanah Jovah

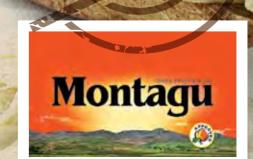
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Dark truffle torte (Serves 10)

- · Pareve margarine for greasing
- 110 g pareve biscuits crushed
- 450 g dark chocolate (70% cocoa)
- 4 tbs liquid glucose
- 4 tbs brandy
- 650 ml Rich's cream

To serve:

· Cocoa powder for dusting

Method:

- · Line a 23cm cake tin with baking parchment and grease base and sides.
- Crush the biscuits and place over the base of
- Break the chocolate into squares and place it in a heatproof bowl, with the liquid glucose and
- Place the bowl over a pan of barely simmering water, ensuring that the base of the bowl does not touch the water.
- · Leave until the chocolate has melted and become quite smooth.
- · Stir the chocolate mixture, remove from heat

- and leave the mixture to cool slightly.
- In a separate bowl, beat the Rich's cream until slightly thickened.
- Fold half of cream into the chocolate mixture and then fold this mixture into the balance of the Rich's cream.
- When it is smoothly blended, spoon it into the prepared tin.
- Tap tin gently to even the mixture out.
- · Cover with cling film and chill overnight.
- Just before serving, run a warm knife around the edge to loosen the torte.
- Remove from the mould.
- · Gently dust with cocoa powder on the surface of the torte.

Tasty vanilla almond crunch ice-cream

- Buy good vanilla pareve ice-cream.
- · Toast flaked almonds.
- · Crush them well and add to the vanilla icecream with a touch of vanilla essence.
- · Garnish with strawberries, ginger preserve and a vanilla wafer.



Trinidad and Tobago chicken

- · Olive oil
- 1 chilli
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 tbs medium curry powder
- 1 tsp mixed herbs
- Juice of one lemon Sweet chilli sauce
- ½ onion chopped
- Carrots
- Butternut Beans
- Eggplant · Baby corn

Method: For marinade

- · Drizzle olive oil in a pan.
- · Cut up one chilli (adding seeds if you like it hotter).
- Fry with onion, curry powder, garlic and mixed herbs - cook for about 2 minutes.
- Add sweet chilli sauce and juice of one lemon.
- · Pour over chicken, and marinade overnight. (Retain some marinade).
- On a griddle or braai, cook chicken until golden in colour.

Vegetables

- To make the vegetables, roast in a pan with olive oil, salt and pepper.
- · Add to chicken and finish off in the oven on 180° C.
- Warm the left-over marinade and pour over chicken just before serving.



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Rosh Hashanah

The Speaker and Members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament wish the Jewish community of the Western Cape a blessed Rosh Hashanah. K'tiva Chatima Toyah.

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Pretoria has become a city of Torah, learning and growth

DIANE WOLFSON PRETORIA

Last weekend a packed Pretoria Shul and a communal Shabbat dinner, supported by a vast number of the community and guests, came to celebrate the 14th year since the establishment of its Yeshiva, Mahon L'Hora'ah, and the ordaining of its 198th rabbi, Rabbi Levi Wineberg (pictured).

He has led the Machon LHora'ah of Pretoria since its inception in 2001. His reputation extends far and wide and students have come to Pretoria from around the world to get smicha when they could go anywhere else.

He was joined by Rabbi Aron Grinshtein who has assisted in the teaching, making a formidable team.

The impact that the Yeshiva has had on the Pretoria Jewish community is substantial. The mere presence of this group of top-notch students has added a new dimension to the city's kehillah. The healthy interaction between the bochurim and congregants - both frum and traditional - occurs daily, with bochurim available for one-on-one shiurim with members of the community each evening.

There has also been a very positive spinoff into our youth, making Pretoria a city of Torah, learning and growth.

One of the latest group of graduates, Avi Waren from Connecticut, says he is grateful for the opportunity to have learnt in a very rigorous but conducive environment.

'From the first day we arrived, we were welcomed to this warm community. We have felt like an integral part of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation (PHC) and have had the opportunity to meet many wonderful people during our time. We will cherish our memories of the Jacaranda City'

The new Rabbi Levi Rosenbaum from Melbourne, said: "From the first day we arrived, we were welcomed to this warm community. We have felt like an integral part of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation (PHC) and have had the opportunity to meet many wonderful people during our time. We will cherish our memories of the Jacaranda City."

September 2015 also marks the 10th anniversary of two important occasions - the arrival of Rabbi Gidon and Aviva Fox and their family from Melbourne as well as Chazzan Asher and Avigail Goldberg.

While Rabbi Fox has been a source of guidance and spiritual leadership and is a sought-after speaker nationally on the subject of fertility, his wife Aviva, has also been a tremendous asset.

Rabbi Fox has recently been appointed chairman of the SA Rabbinical Council.

Asher and Avigail Goldberg have brought much to the community since their arrival. Asher combines his day job as a physiotherapist with his position as chazzan, keeping the community spellbound with his magnificent voice. Avigail runs a highly successful kosher catering business. and teaches Jewish studies at Crawford College.

Six three-bedroom simplexes are presently being built on the shul campus with the units becoming available in January 2016

on a subsidised basis to newly-married couples willing to relocate to Pretoria.

"It is my hope and prayer that the PHC will continue to provide a location for communal spirituality, a meeting place for communal interaction, a home for communal learning and a dynamic centre of Jewish activity," says Ian Hertz, president of the PHC.

"Building on the successes of the past, we will endeavour to transform our shul into a powerhouse of Jewish religious, social, cultural and educational activity imbued with young couples and children who see the value and future of living in Pretoria".





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An amazing month of arts and culture at KDVP



RENOS SPANOUDES

August was the Arts and Culture Festival month at King David High School Victory Park.

The festival started on August 2 and embraced dramatic arts, dance, music and visual arts as well as prepared readings by the top learners of the various language departments - Hebrew, French, English, isiZulu and Afrikaans.

The mammoth culmination of the festival was the annual showcase on Sunday August 23, which provided a platform for the appreciation and applause for the range for learners' performance abilities, creativity and expression.

KDVP is an amazing school because one

gets a chance to develop and grow one's talent, whether it is in design, lighting, sound, movement, acting, writing, directing, debating, public speaking, or singing. One gets an opportunity to identify, develop and realise one's gifts.

Plans are already underway for the school's major production in February and March (Fiddler on the Roof), the one act festivals in May, June and July and the inaugural "Le Grande" next year.

Pictured are Jayna Goldstuck; Bradley Niselow; Gabrielle Onay; Tori Ichikowitz; Micaela Tucker; Bev Ambrose; and Yakira Shepherd, in the grade 11 dramatic arts performance, "Foetus".

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For more information visit www.tesprime.com. For further details or an informal conversation about the role, please contact Emma Formby or Michael Watson on 020 3194 3147.







Art exhibition pulls in the big names at KDVP Primary



TANYA LISSOOS

King David Victory Park Primary School recently hosted an extraordinary fundraiser in the newly-named Barney Meyers Hall.

The event - an exhibition and sale of contemporary South African art - was called "Cultivate" and formed part of a greater art and culture week which began with the primary school learners making their own prints with Artist Proof Studios and ended with them visiting the Wits Art Museum for a South African beadwork exhibition.

Displaying more than 120 artworks from over 60 of South Africa's top contemporary artists and a variety of emerging artists, the Cultivate Exhibition was a treasure trove. The evening was sponsored by Bidvest Bank.

The exhibition was curated by Kim Lieberman, Lesley Cohen and Kevin Handelsman and the art on display and for sale included works by William Kentridge, Robert Hodgins, Willem Boshoff, Norman Catherine, Phillemon Hlungwani, Kim Lieberman, Deborah Bell, Pat Mautloa, Candice Kramer and Bev Butkow, just to name a few.

Linda Givon, founder of the Goodman Gallery and doyenne of the South African contemporary art scene, opened the exhibition with an entertaining address.

Rabbi Craig Kacev had the honour of drawing the winner of the raffle. First prize was a valuable piece of art by world-renowned South African artist, Jane Alexander, donated by the Goodman Gallery.

Cultivate was initiated by King David Victory Park Primary School with a dual purpose.

As Rabbi Ricky Seeff, headmaster of KDVP Primary School, said: "The purpose of this active move towards art is not merely to raise funds; our school is embarking on a mission to imbue our pupils with creativity and problem-solving skills which are necessary for success in the 21st

"For us the arts are central to this process. Art is not mere etchings or colour on canvas - it provides safe spaces for learning - to question, to explore, to interpret, to experiment, to practise risk-taking, to make associations, to develop self-awareness, self-confidence and empathy, to collaborate, and so much more. We hope this event will serve as a catalyst in establishing our school at the forefront of 21st century education."

KDPPL ready for a new suit of clothing

King David Pre-Primary Linksfield (KDPPL) which has provided a world-class education to thousands of Jewish children for many decades, is currently being completely rebuilt.

The school says in a media release that it will have 14 modern classrooms, a fully-equipped media centre and library, a music room, admin offices, meeting rooms, resource rooms, therapy rooms and a fully functional kitchen.

The completed school will also boast a landscaped garden and playground area, specially designed to accommodate the developmental stages of all children from playschool through to grade R level.

"Parts of the Pre-Primary School building pre-date 1948, and as such, a decision was made by the South African Board of Jewish Education (SABJE) to rebuild the school on its existing premises to provide a modern new facility that will



educate King David children for many more years to come," said Rabbi Craig Kacev, director of the SABJE.

Sheva Messias, principal of KDPPL said: "The new King David Pre-Primary Linksfield is going to be spectacular. We are privileged that our school is going to be one of South Africa's most magnificent, modern and state-of-the art schools, with facilities and a playground that will delight every child."

She said the teachers and staff would "continue to provide educational programmes across all ages", an excellent grade R school-readiness curriculum and an emphasis on developing a strong Jewish identity.

The new school will offer classes from playschool (starting at 15 months) through to grade R.

There is also a wide range of after-school activities available and daily aftercare is offered, if needed. Applications are open for January 2016.

Herzlia introduces its newly-elected SRC

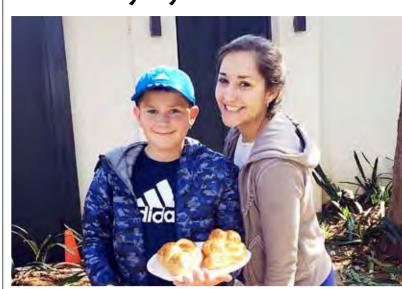
OWN CORRESPONDENT

Herzlia High School has elected its Student Representative Council for 2015/2016.

Back: Jared Kassel (Sport & Health); Emma Botha (Outreach); Sidne Barnett (Culture); Candice Tollman (Public Relations); Gal Chiles (Environment); and Grant Norrie (JLL). Front: Koena Nkhereanye (Exec); Teagan Levin (Head Student); Brendan Weaver (Exec); and Storme Eberlin (Exec).



Jewish heritage instilled in a fun way by Gan Yisrael



RABBI PINI PINK CHABAD HOUSE

It has all the bells

and whistles.

Gan Yisrael Johannesburg has just finished running its annual three-term camp, directed by Rabbi Pini and Rochie Pink of Chabad House, catering for children who attend three-term schools, and are not on holiday when the main camps run.

Over 75 children attended the camp which ran this past week. Many of these children have very limited Jewish studies at school. Gan Yisrael gives them a chance to learn about their Jewish heritage in a fun and interactive way.

There was a new, different dynamic in camp, with kids from every type of background and observance attending; they all came together, so united. The camp had a special energy to it between the dedicated counsellors and enthusiastic kids.

"It was a great experience for me; I learnt a lot from everybody and I will take home these special memories with me," said Liora Bloch who was the head counsellor of the camp.

One parent commented that she and her daughter would be keeping Shabbat together this week, as her daughter had come back from camp so enthused and excited about Shabbat.

Idan Karpelowsky is pictured proudly showing off the challahs he made in camp, with his counsellor Rivky Klein.

Wishing a Shana Tova to all of our Jewish clients and friends and well over the fast

The All New 7 Seater





'Pilgrimage' to Poland is much more than Auschwitz

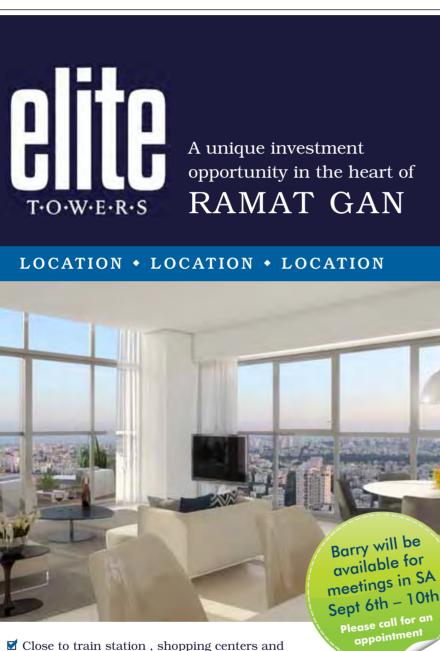
IVAN ZARTZ

When a Jew goes to Poland these days it is perceived as a "pilgrimage to Auschwitz". While a visit to witness where one of the most heinous crimes of history occurred is essential, Poland has become one of the most welcoming countries outside of Israel for Jewish travellers.

If not on an organised tour, one needs to prepare for one's trip well in advance. I had the help of Tali Nates, head of the Holocaust Centre in Johannesburg and Rabbi Yossi Hecht who opened spiritual doors for me.

The two key cities are Warsaw and Krakow. Before the war, Warsaw had a Jewish





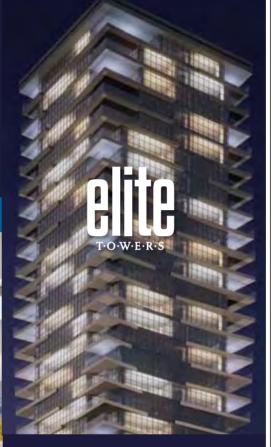
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Elite Towers is a luxurious residential development under construction in the center of Ramat Gan across the road from Tel Aviv.

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With easy access to the culture, entertainment and leisure facilities of Ramat Gan and Tel Aviv, this luxury tower will prove to be a great investment in Israeli property.

population of 400 000 and Krakow around 80 000. Those figures have trickled to 1 500 and 400 respectively. Warsaw was the birthplace of Frederic Chopin, Marie Curie and film producer Samuel Goldwyn.

One can go on free walking tours to places of interest. The guides are normally students who earn money from tips. They are knowledgeable and their English is polished. One can also arrange private tours with these guides to match one's specific interests at a cost of R1 200.

From a Jewish perspective, the only kosher restaurant in Warsaw is Galil, but you will need to book well in advance. There is a daily minyan at the main shul in Warsaw and regular Friday evening and Saturday morning services at Chabad.

The Polin Museum opened in 2014 and is dedicated to the history of Eastern European Jews with the emphasis on Poland. There are eight large rooms which make up the Coit exhibition and each room traces the history of Polish Jews from the 10th century to the present.

Prior to visiting this museum one should visit the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute and the Warsaw Uprising Museum. Other places of Jewish interest in Warsaw are the Old Cemetery and the Korczak orphanage, the place where hundreds of orphaned Jewish children stayed during the Nazi uprising.

There is not much to see of the Jewish Warsaw Ghetto as the area has been redeveloped with the Polin Museum at its epicentre. One can visit the Mila 18 Memorial and view various tenements where Jews stayed in shockingly overcrowded conditions, as well as the Umschlagplatz memorial where 300 000 Jews were transported to Treblinka. I would strongly suggest a walking tour in this area.

Krakow has no kosher restaurants but there is a kosher catering service and one can arrange for room service in advance. (Dinners cost around R350 for a three-course meal.) The Holiday Inn Krakow City is centrally located and the Jewish Quarter is a 15-minute walk from the hotel. They will arrange kosher meals for you.

Many scenes from "Schindler's List" were shot in the Jewish Quarter and in the nearby Liban Quarry.

The Schindler Museum is situated nearby and is a must to visit. I would recommend a free walking tour to the Jewish Quarter. Many restaurants have Hebrew signage and advertise specialities such as gefilte fish, borscht soup and kneidlach, but beware, they are not kosher.

Wandering through the Jewish Quarter in the evening, one can listen to klezmer music at the various restaurants or attend the Isaac Walton Synagogue where a concert is held at 18:00 nightly, except on Shabbat.

Auschwitz is approximately 75 minutes from Krakow and one can arrange a sixhour visit with an English-speaking guide at a cost of R200.



For more information call Barry Cohen [IL] +972 52 8311174 [SA] 076 5772000 [E] barry@LCM.co.il



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.

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

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.

WHAT ABOUT THE RIGHT NOT TO LOOK AT OFFENSIVE MESSAGES?

A recent incident at Old Eds Virgin Active gym has sparked debate about messages advertised on T-shirts. As the Jewish Report editor points out: "The South African Constitution protects freedom of speech and expression", therefore (it seems) this translates into the right of people to wear any form of clothing, with whatever message they want displayed on it "despite any offence it may cause".

I wonder, where is my right NOT to see this clothing? Or this message? Do I, as an individual in a democracy, not also have rights? It seems that my rights are not taken into account. I must just be subjected to whatever provocative images happen to be on bill-boards, in advertising, and even on T-shirts.

T-shirts seem to be specifically designed to be walking billboards for whatever message one wants others to see. People wear swear words and lewd remarks on their T-shirts all the time, so this message is read by untold numbers of people.

Conversely, had they verbalised the words, it would have taken a moment and most people would not be subjected to the ugliness of it. Some T-shirts bear promiscuous images and, yes, also provocative political slogans.

At a recent KKK rally in South Carolina, a white supremacist, wearing a swastika on his T-shirt, wasn't feeling well. The black police chief there helped get him to shelter and water. The white supremacist's message on his T-shirt was racially inspired; indeed the whole rally was racist.

This black police chief acted according to his morality and did not retaliate to the hatred, even though it was staring him glaringly in the face, by way of the man's racist T-shirt. I hope this white supremacist was ashamed!

The editor also points out that Old Eds is a private club, so it is entitled to set its own policies. Well, since society's standards are not high, maybe that would be an adequate way for private institutions to regulate what people wear and the messages therein.

Virgin Active's statement read: "We do not believe our clubs should be forums for contentious political activity." I echo that belief.

Michele Engelberg Johannesburg

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON THE FINEBERG FAMILY

Andy Grudko is looking for information on Isaac Fineberg, his wife Mary and his daughter Audrey Jennifer. It is believed that Mary might have died in October 1969.

The first address for the family was 52 Athlone Road Parkview, Johannesburg. These are now medical suites and the family are not known there. Another address was 24 2nd Avenue, Lower Houghton.

The current residents think that the Finebergs may have left for Australia between 2000 - 2005. The neighbours did not know of them. Enquiries in Australia have not been successful either.

"We understand that a solicitor in the UK is looking for the family on a matter to their benefit, even if only Audrey survived."

Grudko may be contacted atgrudko.co.za , agrudko@icon.co.za or (012) 244-0255 or cell 082-778-6355.

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

THOSE DASTARDLY BUNCH OF DOLPHINS ARE ALL SPIES!

A number of newspapers recently reported on the capture and detention of an Israeli spy by Hamas. That spy turned out to be a dolphin! And if you were not aware of it before, here's irrefutable proof that dolphins are now pro-Israel: Mo Denei, best known for his stylish T-shirts, has started a new movement called BDS - not to be confused with another movement of the same name.

Denei's organisation is distinctly identifiable, firstly by the dolphin in a dark shades emblem on his T-shirt, but also by the fact that it is called Boycott Dolphin Spies (BDS).

Now, are we going to hear calls for "Dubula ifeesh" - Shoot the fish? Certainly there will be calls to disrupt those "pods" of dolphins congregating in our ocean; in fact when those bleeding heart animal lovers hear the delightful sounds of dolphins frolicking, please remember to blow your vuvuzelas as loudly as possible. Also remember to do everything possible to demonise these awful creatures. After all, look who they are spying for!

But not all dolphins are bad; there is a group of

dolphins who call themselves "Dolphin Voices for a Just Cause" and they carry the slogan "Not in our name would we spy". No, these dolphins are totally shamefaced that one of their own could actually spy for those awful Israelis. Shame on them! How they sully our good name!

So next time you see a dolphin, take care, take great care. You never know, it may be spying on you!

Allan Wolman Rosebank, Johannesburg



Oldest Bok reminisces about a life well spent

JACK MILNER

When Piet Malan passed away on July 5 at the age of 96, Dr Cecil Moss became the oldest living Springbok rugby player.

Now, at the age of 90, the doctor might be slowing down a little. "On the first night of Rosh Hashanah I won't be able to go to shul because I'm not happy to drive at night. I've also got a very bad back and it's a bit arduous for me to stand. Nights are beyond me these days.

"My late grandfather was a rabbi and my father was very religious. I try to lead a reasonable life and not do naughty things."

His mind, however, is as sharp as the proverbial razor blade and only recently Moss released a book called "Doc Moss, My Life in Rugby!"

Moss only played four matches for the Springboks and they were against the All Blacks in the 1949 series. He ended his Springbok career with an unblemished record of four wins although, with his customary humility he says: "All of our games were at home and we had a very good team. The scores



The 1984 Bok team: Back: Hempies du Toit; Vleis Visagie; Schalk Burger; and John Villet. Middle: Johan Heunis; Avril Williams; Gerrie Sonnekus; Carel du Plessis; Chris Rogers; and Errol Tobias. Front: Danie Gerber; Divan Serfontein; Cecil Moss (coach); Theuns Stofberg (captain); Prof Daan Swiegers (manager); Rob Louw; and Ockie Oosthuizen.

Dr Cecil Moss with Carel du Plessis who played under him at both club and national level.

were very close; there were no easy wins."

He played those tests under two captains who are legends in Springbok history, Basil Kenyon and Felix du Plessis, father of another Bok captain, Morne.

A man to whom Dr Moss was very close, Dr Danie Craven, always used to say - albeit tongue-in-cheek - all successful Springbok teams needed a Jewish player. If that was the case one can see why the 1949 team was so successful - it had two!

"Okey Geffen was also in that team but of course he was a top forward from Transvaal and I was a Western Province wing, so we had a great rivalry. Later I got to know him better and of course, he was a very nice man."

Moss feels the public perception about Craven was very wrong. "In terms of SA rugby he was a great man. He was one of the reasons teams would come and play in South Africa, even during the boycott years. They knew he had one love: rugby.

"He had a strong personality and could be very dogmatic. But I found him to be honest and he would listen to differing opinions. He was very pro-South African in the international world and of course, very pro-University of Stellenbosch locally!

"He was always very good to me. He was my mentor and I got on very well with him. I later coached the University of Cape Town and he was at Stellenbosch, so we also had a great rivalry."

Moss says his interest in rugby started when he was "a little Jewish boy in Muizenberg. We used to run a lot on the beach and I attended SACS so I played at school level. When I went to university I continued to play and when I was in the army I played for 6th Division in Italy. When I came back I finished my medical degree and then went to Natal to complete my internship. It was then I was called up to the Springbok team."

He continued to play provincial rugby until 1951 but found it difficult to balance his rugby career with his medical career. He was in private practice. He then went to England for six years to study anaesthesiology.

He was out of the loop for all those years, but when he returned, fate took him into coaching. "It was one of those strange things. I came back from England, had nothing to do with rugby, but Dr Louis Babrow was chairman of our university club in Cape Town and they had a team going to Rhodesia. He told me that neither he nor the coach could go and would I take the team up.

"I had a brother who was a gynaecologist in Salisbury so I decided to go. We had a very successful tour and when I came back I was offered the job to coach the university team.

"We had a very strong team. I had players like HO de Villiers and Roy and Ian McCallum. After I had been appointed varsity coach, I was appointed coach of Western Province. Later, when Wynand Claassen had that disastrous tour of New Zealand, I was asked to coach the Springboks."

He was the Bok mentor from 1982 to 1989 and in that period, the Boks only played 12 Tests, but won 10. "They were all 'guest' teams in those days as there were no officials Tests. But the whole essence of being a good coach is that you had to have good players.

"We had a great team. Naas Botha was at his peak and then we had Danie Gerber, who to me is probably our best player ever. Carel du Plessis was also in that squad. One also must remember that all our games were at home."

It is the size of the players and the physicality of the game that for Moss has changed so much in recent years. "We had backs who weighed 110 pounds (50kg), now they have to weigh 190 pounds (86kg). The contacts and collisions are much harder and more physical and as a result the players have to be fitter and stronger.

"Doc Craven always said once rugby turned professional the game would never be the same again. It has become a job.

"We did it out of love. There was no question of money but there was always a great spirit."

Rosh Hashanah

The meaning of the traditional Rosh Hashanah wishes

MENACHEM POSNER

The Jewish New Year is not just a time to renew our resolve to lose a substantial amount of weight. Rather, it's the time when our fate stands in the balance as G-d reviews our past year and decides whether or not to renew our lease on His planet.

As such, Jewish greetings for this time of year (the Jewish New Year) reflect our prayers for a good, sweet year ahead.

The catch-all greeting you can use for

the entire season is "Shanah tovah", which means "Good year". The word "u'metuka" and sweet, is sometimes appended to the end.

Here are some other greetings that you may hear:

Before Rosh Hashanah, people wish each other "Ketivah v'chatima tovah" - "A good inscription and sealing [in the Book of Life]." On Rosh Hashanah eve, as we return from synagogue service, it is traditional to greet one another with "Leshana tovah ti-

katev v'tichatem". When greeting a female, this is modified to "Leshana tovah tikatevee v'tichatemee" This means: "May you be written and sealed for a good year."

From noon on Rosh Hashanah, when our fates are already written, until Yom Kippur, when our fates for the coming year are to be sealed, we wish each other "Gemar chatima tovah" - "A good final sealing".

Now for the Yiddish version: The standard wish is for "A gut gebentsht yohr", "A good and blessed year" And since tradition

tells us that our fate is not really sealed until Hoshanah Rabba, the customary salutation for that day is "A gutten kvittl" - "A good inscription".

No matter what we say, the main thing is to wish each other a good, sweet year with all our heart - because that is what G-d values the most.

Rabbi Menachem Posner serves as staff editor for Chabad.org

WOOLWORTHS

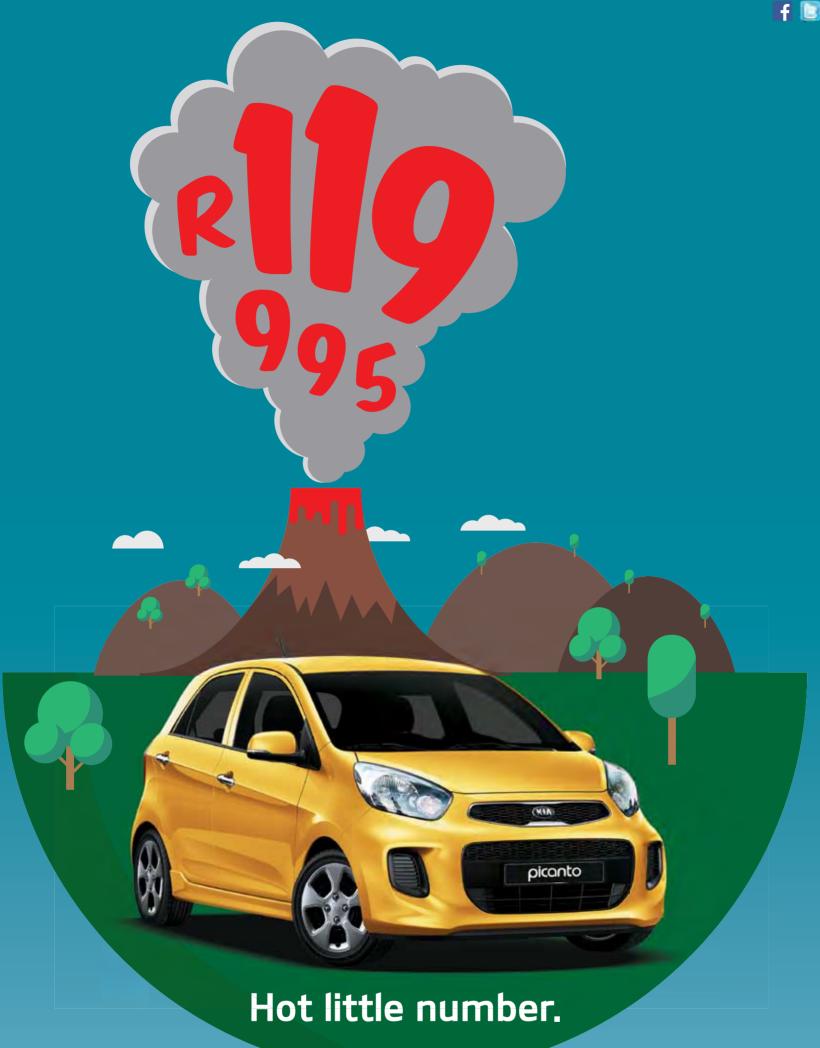
SHANAH TOXAH

Wishing all our Jewish customers and staff a happy Rosh Hashanah. May your year ahead be sweet and prosperous.











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The Power to Surprise

World News in Brief

IAEA says Iran may have expanded Parchin nuclear facility

BRUSSELS - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, says in a report that Iran may have built an extension to part of its Parchin nuclear site since May.

"Since (our) previous report (in May), at a particular location at the Parchin site, the agency has continued to observe, through satellite imagery, the presence of vehicles, equipment, and probable construction materials. In addition, a small extension to an existing building" appeared to have been built, the confidential IAEA report obtained by Reuters, said.

The Parchin nuclear site was last visited by international inspectors in 2005. The latest revelation may jeopardise the IAEA's ability to verify Western intelligence suggesting that Iran has carried out testing relevant to nuclear bomb detonations at the site. Iran has dismissed these claims as "fabricated". (JNS.org)

Some 200 retired defence brass urge Congress to reject Iran nuclear deal

WASHINGTON - A group of nearly 200 retired generals and admirals have sent an open letter to Congress urging US lawmakers to reject the Iran nuclear deal.

"The agreement will enable Iran to become far more dangerous, render the Mideast still more unstable and introduce new threats to American interests as well as our allies," states the letter, which was first reported by the Washington Post.

The letter, addressed to Republican and Democratic leaders in the House and Senate, is a response to one sent last week that was signed by 36 retired senior military officers who supported the nuclear deal.

The group of retired high-ranking military officials include William G "Jerry" Boykin, the former undersecretary of defence for intelligence under President George W Bush; John Poindexter, who served as national security adviser under President Ronald Reagan; and former Air Force Lt Gen Thomas McInerney, who was vice commander of US Air Forces in Europe. (JNS.org)

'Hezbollah enlisting Palestinian operatives to carry out attacks'

JERUSALEM - Hezbollah is working to enlist Palestinian operatives from Fatah's Al Aqsa Brigades to carry out attacks against Israeli targets in Judea and Samaria as well as inside of Israel proper, a Palestinian security source said.

The security source told the Saudi daily newspaper Okaz that "among those Hezbollah members involved in the operation, is Kayis Ubayid, who was behind the kidnapping of Col (res) Elahanan Tenebaum in 2000", the Jerusalem Post reported. Tenebaum was eventually returned to Israel in 2004 as part of a prisoner swap.

"We estimate that there are a number of youths who were drawn into joining Hezbollah's ranks and are now operating in the West Bank, because of economic hardship or the deterioration in the security situation," the source said, citing a recent terror attack near Beit Jala where an explosive device was thrown at Israeli soldiers as an example of Hezbollah's involvement. (JNS.org)

COMMUNITY NOTICE 2015: JHB JEWISH CEMETERIES

It is a time-honoured custom to visit the graves of parents and families before Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. At the time one visits the graves, it is appropriate to give some tzedakah in the name of the deceased. This mitzvah benefits the soul of the departed.

Visiting Times:

West Park: Sunday - Friday from 07:00 - 16:00.

Please note: West Park will be closed to drive-in traffic to graves on Sunday 6, 13 & 20 September. Unfortunately we are not in the position to make any exceptions. The cemetery will, however, provide transport during these times.

Brixton: This cemetery has 24 hour security and may be visited on any day except Shabbat and Yomtov.

Braamfontein: No security is available. Should you wish to visit please contact West Park Cemetery to make the necessary arrangements. The community is encouraged to visit this cemetry in groups of at least two.

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Withholding of a get can be abusive power play by an ex-spouse

SHIRA DRUION

Divorce is a particularly stressful time in anyone's life as the couple experience the unravelling of their marriage and they prepare to go their separate ways. However, when women not only part from their husbands but have to struggle to obtain their get (religious divorce), the issues that arise can become unbearable.

"I struggled to get my get for eight years," says Caron Friedman.* "It was a severely traumatic experience for me and my children. At first the Beth Din did not realise how serious the situation was and I don't think they took me seriously.

"But, then they quickly realised and assisted me. This, however, did not prevent the enormous losses I incurred emotionally and financially. My former husband also prevented me from moving on with my life.

"My advice to women in the situation is to get proactive. Take the necessary steps yourself; don't rely on other people, because it is your life and years of your life at stake."

"While there is most certainly a place for divorce in mainstream Jewish thought and more specifically a get which releases two parties from a union that has become untenable, the psychological warfare that often ensues is considerable," says clinical psychologist Serenne Kaplan who has helped many women struggling to obtain their get.

"When the joy and respect that underpins a marriage gives way to the pain, blame, hurt, disappointment, betrayal and shame often ushered by divorce, the stage is set for bitter recrimination and a vindictive acting out of a husband's power in the withholding of a get.

"The high psychological price of divorce on the spouses and particularly the children, is widely documented. But when the process takes on a highly acrimonious, combative or high conflict flavour, the collateral damage is extensive."

Kaplan explains how the power dynamic manifests: "The recalcitrant husband ostensibly has the power to sentence his wife to a paralysing grey area, a non-life of stasis, with her being unable to move on to a place of recovery and healing."



This unilateral withholding of a get becomes a potent form of domestic abuse replete with emotional assaults, psychological manipulation and is often a tool of financial control. It is often not a single new act of abuse, but may be the culmination of a long-standing entrenched pattern of controlling behaviour, Kaplan says.

"It often plays out in the economic arena, where a husband uses extortion, refusing to grant the get unless large sums of money are paid in order to gain the upper hand in a settlement, or to insist that child maintenance obligations are dropped."

Dayan Boruch Rapoport of the Johannesburg Beth Din explains that in the time of the Sanhedrin, a Beth Din, or Jewish court, had the power to force a man to give his wife a get where necessary. But, he says, today we no longer live in a day and age where that is the case.

"When a woman comes to us to seek assistance, we try our best to support her with her situation," he says. "However, it is very difficult for us when a man refuses, because the halacha insists that a get needs to have two willing parties.

"In situations where we have ascertained that the man is proving to be inflexible, we take more serious measures which may be shaming him in shul, preventing him from being called up to the Torah or of being part of a minyan.

"But when a man does not show much care for that, it becomes very challenging, because it leaves us with no bargaining power."

Dayan Rapoport explains that there are some Batei Din in Israel which have the same power as civil courts and in those situations it is much easier to insist that a man give his wife a get.

Therefore, when a man is noncompliant, he faces a civil charge of being in contempt of court.

Dayan Rapoport adds: "However, this is not the case in the South African Beth Din because the civil courts and Beth Din function as two entirely separate entities. This handicaps the Beth Din from 'inflicting serious punishment' on the guilty party."

Kaplan says: "While the Talmud teaches that a man must be forced to give a get until he declares himself willing, there is often a wide girth within the parameters of the law for the distribution of power to play itself out differently."

She explains how progressive rabbinic thought has been vociferous in pioneering a zero-tolerance attitude towards the punitive withholding of a get (the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris being one such voice) but she is emphatic in advising that the entire community needs to be educated and speak with one voice to condemn the husband who effectively becomes his wife's jailor. She says: "There are various ways to pressurise a man. This includes naming and shaming across personal, professional, business and religious domains."

She says experts in the field are advocating the "intelligent divorce" which aims to minimise the scope of emotional devastation as a sequel to the dissolution of a marriage with all the attendant loss it brings.

This involves preserving the dignity of the parties involved, in an effort to curtail damage. "In civil divorce, mediation has become a viable way to limit the potential pain of complex litigation and perhaps this is the direction the obtaining of a get should go too, with influential rabbonim being key players in the scenario."

*Name has been changed.

African leaders show support for Israel



STEVEN GRUZD

African leaders from the church, business and civil society, proudly affirmed their support for Israel at the second African Leadership Summit, held in Jerusalem from August 24 - 26.

The summit - which focused on worship, prayer, and learning the truth about Israel and Middle East politics - attracted 120 delegates from countries including Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, as well as approximately 15 local Israeli participants. It also incorporated visits to Christian sites all around Israel, including Bethlehem, the Galilee and Caesarea.

Held at the prestigious Jerusalem Crowne Plaza Hotel, the event was organised by Pastor Segun Olanipekun and his Institute for Christian Leadership Development, with support from the South African Friends of Israel (SAFI), an organisation dedicated to interfaith outreach in support of Israel, especially among Christians in South Africa and Africa. Delegates funded their own participation.

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat opened the summit. He emphasised that under Israeli sovereignty, Jerusalem is a holy city open to all faiths for worship. Delegates also met former member of Knesset Rabbi Dov Lipman of the Yesh Atid party, among other politicians and dignitaries.

"We are building positive relationships between Israel and African Christians. They are strong supporters of Israel through their faith," said Ben Swartz, chairman of the South African Zionist Federation and co-chairman of SAFI. "There is a massive groundswell of support for Israel in Africa".

On August 27, participants visited the Israel Export Institute in Tel Aviv, to explore closer business ties between Africa and Israel. Swartz said: "These trips have a multiplier effect among the grassroots. It might generate one or a dozen trade opportunities with

Olanipekun said: "Africans will now be able to tap into the amazing technology and development that Israel offers. They all left Israel tremendously inspired. And it's time for the Jewish and Christian communities to put 2 000 years of hostility behind us and work together."

The conference resolved to establish an Africa-Israel Chamber of Commerce. Swartz will sit on a working committee to bring it to fruition, collaborating with Israeli counterparts who have successfully developed the South African-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Swartz also highlighted the importance of taking Christians to Israel to see the truth of the situation with their own eyes. "It's the best way to fight the lies and propaganda about Israel. It's about being pro-active and developing strategic relationships."

World News in Brief

Monaco's Albert expresses regret over Holocaust deportations of Jews

MONACO - Monaco's Prince Albert has apologised for his country's history of deporting Jews to Nazi concentration camps during the Holocaust. During the period, Monaco police had rounded up and deported Jews in the small principality, including those who escaped to Monaco thinking they would be safe in what was considered a neutral country.

"To say this today is to recognise a fact. To say it today, on this day, before you, is to ask forgiveness," Prince Albert said in a speech attended by Monaco's chief rabbi and other prominent Monaco Jewish figures.

The prince also unveiled a monument commemorating the deported Jews at the Monaco cemetery.

"We committed the irreparable in handing over... women, men and a child who had taken refuge with us," Prince Albert said, the Associated Press reported. "We did not protect them. It was our responsibility," he said. (JNS.org)









SCHACH







Tel Aviv, Berlin nightclubs celebrate friendship

DEBRA KAMIN TEL AVIV

Back in the summer of 1965, the first West German ambassador to Israel, Dr Rolf Pauls, a former Wehrmacht officer, memorably kissed the hand of then-Foreign Minister Golda Meir.

It was part of the early stages of official diplomatic relations for Germany and Israel - even if it was cold, informal and marred by protests.

What a difference a half-century

Today, Israel and Germany have doffed their starched formality and emerged as true partners. More than just allies, the two nations can today call themselves real friends. This year they are marking 50 years of formal relations with a slew of ceremonies and official events.

Nowhere is this post-Holocaust evolution more passionate than in the romance between Berlin and Tel Aviv. The two cities, whose mutual admiration blossomed in tandem with a shared renaissance in the early 2000s, share the same kind of creative energy, rough-around-the-edges urban charm and hipster-infused youth culture.

So it's fitting that in the midst of the many starched-shirt commemorations marking Israel and Germany's half-century of relations, Tel Aviv and Berlin made their own little celebration - and did it entirely their own way.

On August 27, these joint capitals of cool marked a half century of mutual admiration in a manner that befitted the gritty creativity that had put them both on the map: a foreign exchange of the cities' best-loved

DJs beamed live from a pair of local nightspots and sent via the airwaves back across the continents.

Israelis feel so at home in Berlin that thousands have moved there in recent years. Somewhere between 10 000 and 15 000 Israelis have traded Dizengoff Street for Alexanderplatz, according to the Israeli Embassy in Berlin.

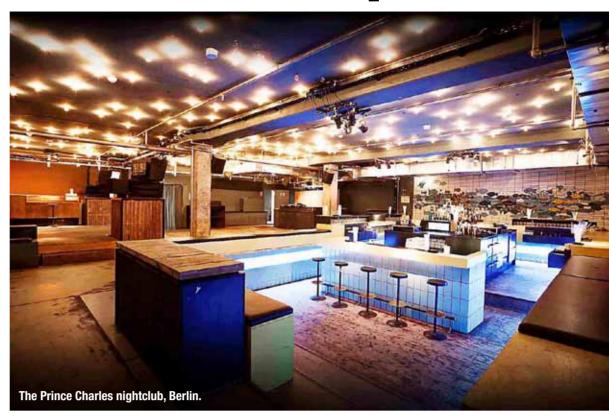
The Tel Aviv-to-Berlin exodus received considerable media coverage last year when an Israeli living in Germany made note of how much lower Berlin's cost of living was compared to Tel Aviv - most notably that pudding was four to five times cheaper in the German capital, which led to the viral "Milky protest" campaign, a reference to the popular Israeli brand.

Germany is the fourth-largest market for tourists to Israel after the United States, Russia and France, according to the Israeli Ministry of Tourism. (And among all tourists, Tel Aviv is the second-most visited place after Jerusalem.)

Today, thousands of young Germans are travelling to Israel to learn more about the Jewish state and gain a deeper insight into their own country's troubled past. Tel Aviv is almost always where they set up camp.

"Music is a language that everyone understands, and music is above our shitty politics," says Claudia Frenzel of Wanted! International, the company producing the event on the German side.

Frenzel, who lives in Berlin, fell in love with the Israeli music scene during a trip here in 2003, when she wandered into a record store and was exposed to the Hebrew hip-hop of Muki and HaDag Nahash.



The sounds were so fresh, and so unlike any Israeli music she had ever heard before, Frenzel says, that she became determined to expose the two groups to German listeners. This month's exchange, which is cheekily being called "Charles Alma" - the joint surnames of both nightclubs - came after a number of shared projects spearheaded on the German side by Frenzel.

The festivities kicked off with Tel Aviv's Kuli Alma nightclub welcoming the German hip-hop DJs The Beathoavenzs. In Berlin, the Prince Charles nightclub in the hip Kreuzberg district at the same time offered its stage to Tel Aviv spinners Yarin Lidor and Nadav Neeman.

As the musical ambassadors play their sets, Germany's DRadio Wissen and Israel's Kol Israel 88FM broadcast them in tandem, creating a foreign exchange of club-level diplomacy.

On the Israeli side, production of the event was managed by Kuli Alma, a multifaceted, street-art splashed nightspot on Yehuda HaLevi Street.

For Jonathan Lipitz, one of the club's seven owners - he had his own personal love affair with Berlin - a night of shared music makes sense. After all, he says, Berlin and Tel Aviv are, in some ways, cultural conjoined twins.

"Both cities had a rebirth about 20 years ago," Lipitz says. "When you took down the wall in Berlin, you un-

leashed something that wasn't there before. It was like a trigger that unleashed something, made art more exaggerated, and club culture, too."

In Tel Aviv, of course, there was no city wall to tear down, but Lipitz nevertheless says that politics have shaped the city's creativity.

"We don't have a physical wall here, but we can't travel freely to the countries around us, so in the same way things build up, they bubble, they feel more intense," he explains.

The Charles Alma weekend of clublevel diplomacy, Lipitz adds, was an ideal answer to those walls because it proves that diplomacy could feel as fluid as the beats on a dance floor.

News

Learning more about Israel - in Modimolle, Limpopo Province

STEVEN GRUZD

Support for Israel can sometimes come from unlikely places. Modimolle - known as Nylstroom until 2002 - is a sleepy farming town of 45 000 inhabitants nestling near the Waterberg in Limpopo Province, about 200 km north of Johannesburg.

Last week, from August 27 – 29, the town hosted 35 African church leaders (from Nigeria, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to learn more about Israel.

The workshop was the brainchild of Modimolle clergyman Reverend Reuben Chapasuka, and was run by Mark Hyman, co-chairman of the South African Friends of Israel (SAFI), an organisation promoting inter-faith support for Israel, especially among Christians, and Josh Trapido, a professional staff member from the South African Zionist Federation.

They travelled to Modimolle to educate participants about the history of Israel and its current situation. "There is a lot of misinformation and ignorance about Israel out there," Hyman said. Only three participants had

visited Israel.

Modimolle's mayor, Councillor Kgaretja Elizabeth Lekalakala, attended the opening session. Participants were enthralled by Riad Hassoum, an Israeli Druze who was formerly the city manager of Daliyat al-Karmel, a city of about 16 000 outside Haifa, who spoke passionately about Israel and how it protects minorities.

Chapasuka said: "We are teaching African Christian leaders how to deal with extremist views on Israel. There are only 14 million Jews in the world, but there are billions of Christians. They need the truth about the Middle East to counter the propaganda."

Chapasuka is working on developing an educational curriculum for home schooling that will incorporate both academic excellence in subjects like English, mathematics and science, as well as Israel advocacy, using digital technology. He is collaborating with Jonathan Davis, head of the Raphael Recanati International School and vice president for external relations at the Interdisciplinary Centre Herzliya in Israel.



Mark Hyman (Co-Chairman SAFI, Vice Chairman SAZF); Josh Trapido (Professional Staff SAZF); Riad Hassoun (Druze Former City Manager Carmel Israel); Councillor KE Lekalakala (Executive Mayor of Modimolle); Dr Harriet Chapasuka; and Reverend Reuben Chapasuka.

Hyman said SAFI was planning to visit Mozambique in December to help set up a home learning centre. "Christians desperately want us in their countries. The Ugandan delegate invited us to talk to 10 000 people there. Africa really wants a strong relationship with Israel.

"By going out to rural areas, we have great

impact. They really respected our efforts and they enjoyed a Shabbat with us," Hyman said.

Trapido added: "There is great value in projects like this, when people from different walks of life come together to learn about Israel and the Jewish community. Myths need to be dispelled."

Wishing all our Jewish customers
Chag Sameach and well over the fast









Cape Board's new executive director Daniel Levitt spells out his vision

SUZANNE BELLING

Daniel Levitt (pictured), newly-appointed executive director of the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies, says his predominant focus is to ignite confident support for Israel within the Jewish community and outside of it.

His primary vision for the Cape Board is to represent the Jewish community in a confident, positive and proactive manner. He also promises increased outreach to the broader Cape Town community.

As executive director of the Board, he says: "I am fully committed to the rights of a safe and positive future for South African Jewry and South African society as whole."

On his vision, he says: "We will be focusing great effort to ensure a safe and free living environment for all Jews in South Africa, where anti-Semitism is tackled in a resolute

"We will further our activism in addressing any form of racism and will add value to strengthening democracy and the freedom of all living in South Africa."

He said he believes "our traditions as Jews"

are paramount to the continuation of a proudly Jewish future and will focus on creative methods to use these foundations as important channels for activism within its own community and the wider society.

The State of Israel is part of the identity of all Jews. It is the Jewish State, and plays a role in the future of global Jewry.

"We will continuously defend our right to support Israel, to support her democracy and to strengthen positive relationships between South Africa and Israel," he stressed, adding that the Cape Town Jewish community was formidable and well-established, with deep

"Next year we will be celebrating 175 years of established South African Jewry which began with the founding of the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation, known as the Gardens



Shul. Today we have a flourishing community, proactive and well engaged in communal affairs."

Cape Town is a city of creativity and this element has been implemented in communal environments, he says. The schools, shuls and organisation, are thriving with initiative and innovation. Communal involvement from the youth is on the rise.

Levitt quoted Eli Wiesel: "For in my tradition, as a

Jew, I believe whatever we receive we must share." The Board has strong social change projects, is involved in economic forums, engages on interfaith platforms and is working hard to tackle racism.

"As a Jewish people, we've experienced the depths of discrimination and hatred and we are responsible for playing a significant role within our societies to strengthen freedom and rights for all," Levitt says.

A positive relationship between professional and lay leadership is vital to the growth of an organisation.

The Board is structured in a democratic way with the wider Jewish community and affiliate organisations voting in a new committee.

The lay leadership is the voice of the community and policies and implementation strategies should represent the interests of the community.

"With regard to the status quo of the Board, I do not have any plans to change it and will accelerate its purpose, which is to protect the civil liberties of the Jewish community."

Born in Johannesburg, Levitt attended Yeshiva College and Torah Academy in the city, before furthering his studies at a yeshiva in Melbourne and at the Mayanot Institute in Jerusalem.

He held office for a short period as chairman of the South African Zionist Federation (Cape Council), was previously elected vice-chairman and served on its committee in a range of portfolios

He is married to Miriam and they have three children, Eliyahu, Menachem and Idan.

WIZO awards show that every woman can be a heroine

ANDREA WAINER

At the WIZO Forum Rebecca Sieff Awards in Johannesburg recently, tribute was paid to "heroines" - women noted for their courage, daring action and their special achievements.

Tamar Lazarus, president of WIZO SA, spoke about Rebecca Sieff, the woman who started WIZO 95 years ago. Sieff took the lead and changed

the lives of so many people and the legacy of her courage is still changing and turning lives around today.

Then, three speakers took the audience on a heroic journey through history.

Rebbetzen Candy Lipshitz from Mizrachi Shul explained how women have had an influence on the world from the beginning of time.

The special characteristics that

we see in our foremothers - Sarah's understanding of what was needed in the world, and Rebecca's foresight to change the destiny of the Jewish people

Tali Nates, director of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre, spoke about the vital role women played during the Shoah. Women were "upstanders", not bystanders, who took the lead in the resistance, often behind the scenes.

Psychologist Julienne Sackstein, shared her wealth of knowledge and experience about the heroines in our times and how to be the heroine of our own lives. When all the outer trappings are stripped away, there lies our heroine.

We have to stop looking at others and criticising; we need to rather look inward to find our heroine. WIZO Johannesburg saluted their members who have given so many years of unbroken service and dedication to the organisation - Janine Rabbie (25 years); Joceline Basserabie (25 years); Yvonne Jawitz (40 years); and Shulamit Kagan, who has worked for WIZO for an amazing 60

The Elise Gift Shop also celebrated its 50th birthday.

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Girls and all women who are in the house (or if there isn't a woman in the house, the head of the household), light candles to usher in each night of the holiday and Shabbat.

Blessings for the evenings of September 13 and 14.

1) Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam asher ki-deshanu be-mitzvo-tav ve-tzvivanu le-hadlik ner shel Yom Hazikaron.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us to light the candle of the Day of Remembrance.

[Note: When reciting the following blessing on the second night of the holiday, one should have in mind the new fruit which one will subsequently be eating after Kiddush.]

2) Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam she-heche-ya-nu ve-ki-yi-ma-nu ve-higi-a-

Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.

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Light festival (and Shabbat) candles | Inspiring ways to start the new year

YVETTE ALT MILLER

As Rosh Hashanah approaches, here are five ways to making real changes and get the new year off to a fresh start.

1. Amp up your expectations

In 1965, teachers in a San Francisco elementary school were given lists of learners who were likely to have amazing "growth spurts" in the coming year. A Harvard psychologist, Robert Rosenthal, had tested all of the children, and was able to inform their teachers which kids were likely to achieve great things in the coming months.

At the end of the year, the teachers' experience tallied with Dr Rosenthal's: those learners he predicted would have growth spurts did so, enjoying above-average intellectual success across the board in school.

What the teachers didn't know was that the list of names they were given at the beginning of the year was entirely randomlygenerated. There was no academic test; each teacher was given a list of arbitrary names. Yet the learners' growth was real.

When teachers expected more from those learners, they delivered, increasing their performance in class. The IQs of those learners identified as "Growth Spurters" also increased, measuring much higher after the academic year than at the beginning, and increasing significantly in relation to their peers.

This year, view yourself as a "Growth Spurter". Give yourself the gift of believing in yourself and watch yourself grow into your higher expectations.

2. Break your routine

When we learn a new skill, we use our prefrontal cortex, the part of our brain in charge of deliberate, rational thought. (Think of learning to drive: first-time drivers don't carry on conversations, for instance - all their attention is focused on what they're doing.)

Once we master a skill, however, it gets downgraded to our basal ganglia, a part of our brains that is associated with emotion and memory. (This is why driving is second nature to us, allowing us to talk or listen to the radio with one part of our brains while we use another to navigate a car.) Finally, our brains experience a third emotion: pleasure, when a habitual act is completed.

We tend to perform activities the same way each time when we're in our usual environment. Changing our surroundings, however, breaks up the three-part loop that governs habits in our brains. When our usual cues and rewards are absent, it's easier to change our behaviour.

This year, consider ways to go someplace new - literally. Volunteering at a new place joining a new community, reaching out to new people are all ways to push ourselves beyond our comfort zones, escape our default ways of doing things, and give ourselves space to be someone new.

3. Evaluate your community

The people we surround ourselves with are crucial to our own behaviour.

In one recent study monitoring learners who transferred to a new university, entrenched habits like reading the newspaper, exercising, and watching television, were all altered; transfer learners quickly conformed to the habits of their new community.

The people we surround ourselves with have profound effects on the way we do things and the decisions we make. Even our most intimate choices might be influenced

by those in our wider community.

One study found that being privy to the details of a friend's divorce increased one's own chances of getting divorced by 75 per cent - even hearing about the divorce of a friend of a friend raised one's own chances of divorce a shocking 33 per cent.

Positive effects also flow from being part of a community. Two thousand years ago, the Jewish sage Rabbi Hillel recognised the importance of community in shaping our goals and sense of self. He counselled his students: "Do not separate yourself from the community" (Pirkei Avot 2:5). We all are stronger when we reach out to others and share in a set of values and goals.

This year, take a look at your social connections. Ask yourself how you can spend time with those whose values and lifestyle you want to share. Consider strengthening your links to your local Jewish community, and allowing the support and connectedness of your community to enrich you as well.

4. Spend more time with loved ones

Recent research shows that spending time with people who are dear to us profoundly affects our physical well-being. In one major study, physical wounds healed faster for people who had close, positive relationships in their lives. Another study found that people who feel they have close relationships are more productive at work.

In today's hyper-busy world, it can feel next-to-impossible to carve out quality time to spend with those we care about.

Fortunately, Jewish tradition provides a built-in opportunity for spending quality time with friends and family each week by slowing down and coming together over meals on Shabbat. Disconnecting from all our gadgets makes sure we spend quality face-to-face time at home.

There's even research to back up the benefits of these weekly meals: eating regular family meals together is associated with lower levels of stress for kids and adults. For children, eating a family meal is also connected to lower levels of drug abuse, higher grades, and better health.

5. Say thank you

Saying thank you is one of the most powerful ways we can move beyond our old habits and transform our lives.

In a ground-breaking study a little over a decade ago, a group was asked to write in journals about their daily lives and another group to work through their problems and irritations in their writing. A third group was asked to focus on writing things they were grateful for.

At the end of the study, they found something remarkable: The participants who used their journals to record what they were thankful for, reported markedly higher levels of happiness and wellbeing. Their entire demeanour was altered by the experiment.

They displayed higher levels of energy, determination, alertness, attentiveness and enthusiasm. This translated into concrete action, as well. People who kept gratitude lists were more likely to make progress towards important goals.

It isn't only writing down what we're grateful for that can have this profound effect. The researchers also found that attending religious services, praying, and studying religion, also creates a feeling of gratitude that can transform our lives.

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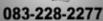
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KDSF hosts a glittering donor thank you dinner



Brian Joffe; Stephen Koseff; and Adrian Gore at the dinner.

The King David Schools' Foundation recently hosted a donor thank you dinner to honour and thank its generous donors.

In a media release the KDSF said the evening, sponsored by Investec, focused on showcasing the work of the Foundation, including the many improvements to King David Schools, which provided financial assistance to over 500 learners.

Stephen Koseff, Investec's CEO, welcomed the guests and reminded everyone of the essential role of the King David Schools in the Jewish community of Johannesburg. This was followed by Rabbi Craig Kacev's Dvar Torah, emphasising the nurturing role of donors in the Jewish day schools.

The key note address was delivered by David Frankel, a trustee of KDSF and a former King David learner, who was voted SA Technology Achiever of the Century and selected by the World Economic Forum for the Global Leader of Tomorrow Programme in Davos, Switzerland.

Frankel, in an inspiring address, depicted the path of his remarkable career that had its origins at King David High Linksfield, which had provided an environment of warm friendship, stimulation and the springboard for his instinctive entrepreneurial talents.

The evening showcased musical performances by King Davidians - current learners, alumni and parents at King David Schools.

These included vocal talents of Peter Berman (KDHSV 1994); Talia Kousaris (née Kodesh) (KDHSL 1997); Danit Krawitz (current KDHSVP grade 8 learner); Elton Krawitz (KDHSL 1991); Annabel Linder (grandmother of Davidians); Shelley Meskin (KDHSL 1991); Natasha Miller (KDHSVP 2010); Ryan Peimer (KDHSVP 2004); Lorri Glajchen-Strauss (KDVP 2000); Adam Pelkowitz (KDHSVP 2005); Oshy Tugendhaft (KDHSL 1965); Sharon Spiegel-Wagner (KDHSL 2001); Kathy-Jo Wein (mother of two Davidians); and Yael Benjamin (mom of soon-to-be Davidian), accompanied by pianists Daniel Tucker (KDHSVP 1998).

The entertainment was co-ordinated by Debbie Fleminger Mizrachi, whose musical talent and production skills, allied with her brother David Fleminger's knack for lyrics, ensured that all at the dinner were transported musically and humorously to the theme of Dor le Dor - Generation to Generation.

What's On

Today, Friday (September 4)

 UZLC hosts Helen Heldenmuth speaking on "Words! Words! Words!" Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-4921.

Sunday (September 6)

- Chabad House has a huge sale of imported kosher items - buy in bulk and save - at the Shul in Central Sandton, 8 Stella Street. Time: 12:00 - 15:30. Information: rak@chabad.org. za or (011) 440-6600.
- JH&GC, with the Johannesburg Sephardi Hebrew Congregation and the Turkish Embassy, hosts a screening of the documentary "Turkish Passport", at the Ditsong Military Museum, Saxonwold. Time: 18:00. No charge, but booking essential. RSVP to shirley@ jhbholocaust.co.za or (011) 640-3100/2148.
- Second Innings hosts Prof Brian Buch on "Morning of Music with The Jewish Guild Orchestra". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R30 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Information: Linda Fleishman

(011) 532-970.

 Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St John's College Auditorium, Houghton. The DVD shown will be "Big Bands in Hollywood" followed by an audio presented by Dave Goldstein. A collection of recordings of the '30s and '40s. After interval video will continue. Time: 14:15 sharp. Enquiries: Marilyn 072-243-7436 or Jack 082-450-7622.

Monday (September 7)

 UJW Adult Education Division hosts Irene Klass, Warsaw Ghetto survivor, on "Adjusting to Life after the Holocaust". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW Office (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (September 8)

• Chabad House Seniors Shofar Factory. Venue: Chabad House, Savoy. Time: 12:30. RSVP essential. Information: (011) 440-6600.

Wednesday (September 9)

 Chabad Benmore-Riverclub presents "Toward a Meaningful Life; My Relationship with my

Creator". Time: 19:15. Information: www.JLI. org.za or (011) 440-6600.

- · RCHCC screens the documentary, "The Rape of Europa", narrated by Joan Allen. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R70 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, a/h (011) 728-8378 or e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa net or rene.s@telkomsa.net
- UJW Adult Education Division hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the dept of English at Wits, on "The Prodigal Summer" - a novel by Barbara Kingsolver. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW Office (011) 648-1053.

Sunday (October 11)

• Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St John's College Auditorium, Houghton. A DVD will show shorts from "Big Band Fascination" at 14:15 sharp. Audio by Ron Cowley. After interval, a video on the Syd Lawrence Orchestra at St David's Hall, Cardiff from 1990. Enquiries: Marilyn 072-243-7436 or Jack 082-450-7622.

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Champions League: Maccabi Tel Aviv off to face Chelsea

JACK MILNER

Slavisa Jokanovic and Tal Ben Haim will be returning to Chelsea this month but not as players; Maccabi Tel Aviv will begin their Champions League group phase at the home of the Premier League champions on September 16.

Having beaten Swiss champions Basel on away goals, the Israeli team was drawn in Group G, with Porto and Dynamo Kiev completing the line-up.

Commenting on the draw, Jokanovic, coach of Maccabi Tel Aviv, tweeted: "Tough group. We will respect our opponents and give our all on the pitch."

This is the sixth time an Israeli team has reached the group stage of the Champions League and the first time since Hapoel Tel Aviv in 2010. It is 11 years since Maccabi Tel Aviv reached this stage of the competition.

After their 2-2 draw against Basel the previous week, the Israeli side went through on the away goals rule - and again it was Eran Zahavi who was the hero.

Having scored both goals in Switzerland, he netted in the 24th minute in the Bloomfield Stadium to cancel out Luca Zuffi's 11th-minute

Zahavi who scored seven times in the qualifying tournament, said: "This was a really fighting performance. It's fantastic and I'm so glad to have realised this dream for the

club. The players here want to give everything and do so much to help one another. The club and the fans really deserve this."

Jokanovic said: "I'm very proud of my lads and what they have achieved and they showed great character. This is an important day for us and an important day for Israeli football and all the fans.

"The important thing is that we are in Europe's important arena and I'm very happy and excited about what lies ahead for us."

The 47-year-old Serb, who played for Yugoslavia, joined Maccabi in June this year after having managed Watford in the UK. Towards the end of his playing career he joined Chelsea where he played for two seasons.

Maccabi Tel Aviv is owned by Canadian billionaire Mitch Goldhar who is obviously delighted with his team's performance. "This is the biggest moment since I came to Maccabi Tel Aviv. We've always prioritised domestic competitions, but now we also have to focus on Europe. That's what big clubs do and we'll have to get used to it.

"We have a long-term vision to fulfil and there is a long way to go. We are still not where I want the club to be, but we will go forward one step at a time."

Former Premier League star Tal Ben Haim left Maccabi Tel Aviv for England in 2004 just before they qualified for the group stage for the first time. "To come back and help



them to get there again is a dream

"We gave a fighting performance that you don't often see from Israeli teams. The club has invested a lot of money and it's great to pay it back for the fans," he said.

In other soccer news from the Premier League in England, business tycoon Lord Alan Sugar joked last week that London synagogues will likely be empty during Yom Kippur with congregants fleeing to watch the match-up of two leading English soccer teams known for having hordes of

"Spurs versus Arsenal cup game drawn on most important Jewish festival," Lord Sugar pointed out on Twitter. "Both teams have loads of Jewish fans. Conclusion: Synagogues will be empty."

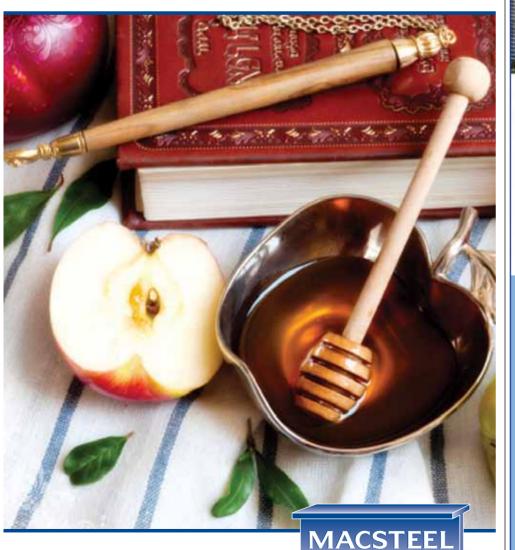
North London rivals Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal FC will go headto-head in the Capital One Cup thirdround draw on September 23, the same day as the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. The match is set to begin at 19:45, just two minutes before the end of the traditional fast.

Both British Premier League soccer clubs have gained a reputation for attracting Jewish followers. North London's Tottenham is a historically Jewish neighbourhood and many of the club's fans controversially refer to themselves as the "Yids".

It will be the third time in 10 years that the teams will face each other in the competition, according to the UK Daily Mail. Arsenal won a semifinal match in 2007 and Spurs was victorious at the same stage in 2008. In 2010-11, Arsenal beat Spurs 4-1 after extra time in the third round.

L'Shanah Tovah

Wishing you health, happiness and success in the New Year!



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