



Cape Town
Jewish artists
show their
mettle in
fundraiser.
Page 14

South African Jewish Report

www.sajr.co.za

The photograph Sunday Times wouldn't publish



A decision last week Friday by the Sunday Times not to publish a full-page advert - paid for by South African Friends of Israel - on what terrorist group Hamas actually is, created incredulity and also concern in the community. On Tuesday the paper backtracked, deciding to publish the advert after all this coming Sunday- but without the photograph of a masked Hamas terrorist. After three days of best efforts to get to the bottom of this censorship , the Sunday Times finally told Jewish Report: “We have a responsibility as a corporate citizen to ensure that content that is published in our newspapers does not stoke racial tension and discord and have always reserved the right not to accept certain adverts.” We publish the “scary” but otherwise innocuous “banned” photograph on our front page this week and we ask: “Nu, what’s the fuss about?” The full page ad, by SAFI, an initiative of the SA Zionist Federation to engage the broader South African community, aims to inform the country-at-large about what they view Hamas’ real agenda to be. This is in the wake of a Hamas delegation being feted in South Africa recently as guests of the ANC.

See page 2

Sunday Times to run Hamas ad (sans photograph) - after all

The Sunday Times explained to the SA Jewish Report their reasons for delaying the inclusion of a full-page ad paid for by SA Friends of Israel, on Hamas. This week the paper flip-flopped and decided to run the ad without an accompanying photo.

2

Pope reaffirms warm feelings towards Israel

October 28 this year marked the 50th year since the promulgation by Pope Paul VI of Nostra Aetate, a declaration that ushered in a new era in Jewish-Catholic relations. A delegation of SA Jewish leaders met the Pope last week in Rome and he reaffirmed his friendship with Israel.



3

‘Dear President Zuma please consider...’

President Jacob Zuma will be the guest of honour at the SAJBD biennial conference in Johannesburg later this month. Jewish Report asked some Jewish leaders what issues they would like to raise with the president, if they had the chance. The wish list is long and practical.

4

Expensive ads against Hamas a bad idea

Geoff Sifrin in his Taking Issue column queries whether an ad on Hamas in the Sunday Times is such a good idea. “How well-composed (it may be) you cannot control how it will be exploited and understood by sectors of the newspaper’s colossal readership.”

6

Europe trip: Abbas gets red carpet – and also hard questions

On his way to several meetings with Dutch parliamentarians in The Hague last week, PA President Mahmoud Abbas passed 300 demonstrators flying Israeli flags. The protesters accused Abbas of supporting deadly attacks against Jews.

6

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Sunday Times to run Hamas ad (sans photo) - after all

ANT KATZ

Last week, the Sunday Times refused to publish a full-page advert that had been booked and paid for by South African Friends of Israel (SAFI) – a SA Zionist Federation initiative to engage the broader South African community. This week, South Africa’s top-selling weekly newspaper - with over 3,5 million readers – flip-flopped and agreed to publish the advert this coming Sunday, albeit without the picture of a Hamas member.

The advert is the first salvo in a major information campaign being launched by SAFI and targeted to reach tens of millions of South Africans to inform them on Hamas.

After three days of best efforts, Jewish Report finally received a response from the Sunday Times: “We received the advert very late last week and is common practice with adverts of this nature, needed to satisfy ourselves that it was within the bounds of the law. We have had cordial discussion subsequent with the advertiser and are waiting for revisions to the layout prior to final approval.

“We have a responsibility as a corporate citizen to ensure that content that is published in our newspapers does not stoke racial tension and discord and have always reserved the right not to accept certain adverts.”

The initial ban last Friday led to a communal e-mail sent out on Saturday evening, headlined: “This is what the Sunday Times did not want SA to know about Hamas!” The mailer said “on Friday afternoon at 15:00 the Sunday Times pulled the advert”. But on Tuesday morning a spokesman for SAFI, which has a huge Christian Zionist support-base, told Jewish Report that the Times Media Group (owners of the Sunday Times) had informed them that the ad would run this weekend but without the photograph.

Addressing the thousands of Jewish community members, on what is known as “the communal list” - a compilation of various communal organisations’ e-mails put together some years ago - the e-mail that was sent to the community noted that the Sunday Times’ response was

that they were acting within their standard editorial guidelines.”

The intention behind the advert, SA Zionist Federation National Chairman Ben Swartz told Jewish Report, had been to educate South Africans and members of the ruling party on who and what Hamas is.

In his weekly “Taking Issue” column in Jewish Report this week, the paper’s former editor, Geoff Sifrin, comments on: “Expensive ads against Hamas a bad idea”.

Sifrin’s position is contrary to that of Swartz. He says that “placing such an ad raises issues familiar to any media expert. Firstly, no matter how well composed it is, you cannot control how it will be exploited and understood...”

He adds: “The ad will be viewed as a crude attempt by the ‘Zionist lobby’ to discredit Palestinians fighting Israeli oppression, using Jewish money and influence,” and gives “Hamas massive, free publicity”.

Professor Anton Harber, Caxton Professor of Journalism at Wits, told Jewish Report that “if the Sunday Times had good reason not to carry, or to withhold the advert, then we need to hear it.

“At the moment, they are being vague and evasive. If they can’t give a good reason, it will look like they are just censoring opinions they are uncomfortable with - which would do grave damage to their image.”

SAFI has vowed to continue with all facets of their information campaign on Hamas. Swartz says: “People (in SA) don’t know how Hamas continues to murder.”

The advert, which appears in this week’s edition of the Jewish Report, culminated with the words: “We urge the ANC to act as a credible mediator for peace in the Middle East and not to embrace a violent Jihadist organisation by welcoming them into our midst.”

And, say community members, that is the message that needs to be portrayed - and they are determined that they will not be thwarted in their efforts.

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Butkow fights scourge of ‘exclusion’ through her work



PETER FELDMAN

Johannesburg artist Bev Butkow (pictured) gave up a thriving career as a chartered accountant to pursue her dream of becoming an artist. Five years ago, at age 43, this mother of four changed course to follow her passion and has never regretted it.

Today Butkow’s career has soared, with a successful solo exhibition at Lizamore & Associates and a Merit Award in the 2015 SA Taxi Foundation Art Award under her belt. As a result of the Taxi Foundation Award, her artwork can now be seen replicated on 10 minibus taxis traversing the roads around the country, an experience which she describes as “priceless”. The objective of the competition was to broaden exposure to art in an accessible and fun way.

Tackling the contradictory themes of “Exclusion” and “Belonging”, her work explores such facets as lack of access, oppression and uplifting of vulnerable South African girls through education.

“It seems like I touch a universal nerve with my exploration of the very personal feeling of exclusion. Every person experiences exclusion at some or other time, a sense of non-belonging,” Butkow said in an interview.

Her work is topical. “The ongoing countrywide student protests have exclusion at their core. The cycle of oppression started by apartheid seems to have continued with the poor being denied access to the tertiary education that would lift them out of poverty.”

To Butkow, some clues to overcoming exclusion were learnt in her childhood with the emphasis placed on the importance of family and community connections and the rituals of tradition and religion to create belonging; as well as education as a tool to increase access through empowerment.

She obviously took these childhood lessons to heart. She donated her SA Taxi Foundation Art Award prize money in the form of a bursary to assist disadvantaged school girls.

“I awarded the bursaries to girls finishing matric this year, about to embark on their futures, in order to gain skills that will enable them to earn a living, thus empower them to become self-sufficient.”

As an artist, she admits to sometimes feeling guilty (“I’m Jewish after all!”) about being hedonistic and selfishly pursuing her own vision. But when her art connects with viewers and starts meaningful conversations, then she knows her focus is worthwhile.

Butkow works from her studio at the Bag Factory in Newtown close to where, decades before, her beloved grandfather peddled eggs at the Fresh Produce Market.

South African

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From around the world, they converged on Rome...

ALANA BARANOV

BDS and the delegitimation of Israel; anti-Semitism and hate crimes; the Syrian refugee crisis and human rights; and Iran - these were the four key areas of discussion at the recent World Jewish Congress (WJC) Jewish Diplomatic Corps (JDCorps) annual general meeting held in Rome last week.

The JDCorps meeting, which ran from October 24 to 26, in the heart of the Italian capital, brought together an exclusive group of young Jewish diplomats from around the world to engage on important issues being confronted by Jewish communities globally and create a work plan for 2016.

South Africa had a strong presence at the meetings. I was privileged to represent South Africa as a member of the JDCorps steering committee led by Marc Pozniak, a lay leader of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies. Our community's expertise and experience, particularly in refugee and migrant issues as well as hate crimes, allowed us to contribute valuable input to these topics and engage with ideas in communities.

The JDCorps is a worldwide network of outstanding young Jewish professionals who voluntarily engage in diplomacy and public policy. The organisation comprises a cadre of 130 individuals from more than 30 countries and, in 2014, was successfully reintegrated into the WJC as their flagship programme.

Besides the presentation of proposals on the four key areas of concern, the agenda included diplomatic meetings at the Vatican, where members of the JDCorps organised and led meetings with the missions representing the United States, Panama, Israel and Guatemala to the Holy See; sessions with external speakers; and of course meetings with the WJC leadership.

This year's AGM was dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Nostra Aetate declaration on relations between the Catholic Church and other religions, specifically the Jewish faith. The milestone provided an opportunity to highlight the special relationship between the Jewish and Christian communities.

The JDCorps meeting preceded the World Jewish Congress governing board meetings, which drew



Alana Baranov (second from right) together with other JDs from around the world meet with Guatemalan Ambassador Alfonso Matta (centre) at the Vatican.

nearly 150 delegates to discuss the situation of Jews around the world. One of the highlights of this gathering was a papal audience at the Vatican with Pope Francis on October 28, the day on which Nostra Aetate and its condemnation of anti-Semitism was signed in 1965.

After meeting with the Jewish delegation, Pope Francis remarked: "To attack Jews is anti-Semitism, but an outright attack on the State of Israel is also anti-Semitism. There may be political disagreements between governments and on political issues, but the State of Israel has every right to exist in safety and prosperity."

The governing board reaffirmed its continued support of a two-state solution and urged for the resumption of peace talks while also calling on the international community to maintain sanctions on Iran until it complies with all the conditions of the nuclear deal. Delegates passed a resolution on the refugee crisis, calling on the international community to provide sanctuary irrespective of origin or religion.

Together with the WJC professional staff and the steering committee, the JDCorps action plan will be rolled out through its network of young diplomats in 2016 to make strides in the key areas challenging Jewish communities around the world.

• Alana Baranov is vice-president of the Council of KwaZulu-Natal Jewry and sits on the steering committee of the Hate Crimes Working Group.

Pope reaffirms warm feelings towards Israel



Pope Francis talks to Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft.

DAVID SAKS

October 28, 2015 marked the 50th year since the promulgation by Pope Paul VI of Nostra Aetate, a landmark declaration that ushered in a new and positive era in Catholic-Jewish relations.

To mark the occasion, a delegation of Jewish leaders headed by World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder, had an audience with Pope Francis in the Vatican's St Peter's Square. The delegation comprised close to 150 delegates, most of who had participated in the previous day's meeting of the WJC Governing Board.

They included SAJBD National Chairman Mary Kluk and Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft and Ann Harris, respectively CEO and spiritual leader and acting president of the African Jewish Congress.

In terms of Nostra Aetate, the Church acknowledged the Jewish roots of the Christian faith and distanced itself from the anti-Semitic teachings, including the notorious deicide charge holding Jews to be collectively and eternally guilty of the death of Jesus that had permeated its attitude towards the Jewish people virtually throughout its history.

The declaration also introduced a more accepting approach towards other faiths, particularly towards Islam in light of the

many points of commonality between its core beliefs and those of Christianity.

Rabbi Silberhaft, who was the only Orthodox rabbi present, said he had been struck by the sensitivity displayed by the Pope in not mentioning the name of Jesus in his address and in not making the traditional sign of the cross when blessing the group afterwards. Ann Harris commented that Pope Francis' informal designation as the "People's Pope" was very apt. She had been struck by how unaffectedly warm he was towards other people, no matter who they were, and the evident pleasure he took in engaging with them.

He reminded her very much of Nelson Mandela, who likewise went out of his way to greet and speak to everybody he came into contact with, regardless of rank or status.

In a media statement released after the meeting, Lauder described the relationship between the Catholic and Jewish faiths as being stronger than ever, and praised the Pope for the pivotal role he was playing in this regard.

"Pope Francis does not simply make declarations; he inspires people with his warmth and his compassion. His clear and unequivocal support for the Jewish people is critical to us," he said.

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Community Voices

‘Dear President Zuma, please consider...’

SUZANNE BELLING

President Jacob Zuma will be the guest of honour at the SA Jewish Board of Deputies’ biennial national conference at Gold Reef City on November 22.

With the current situation in South Africa and the recent visit by Hamas at the invitation of the ANC, the community is concerned about the future in several areas. The SA Jewish Report spoke to several people in positions of leadership to ask them what issues they would like the president to address.



Reeva Forman, honorary life vice-president of the SA Zionist Federation and a member of the National Executive Committee and the Gauteng Council of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, would like Zuma to see the note she wrote to him:

“Dear President Zuma
“What is your wish for South Africa over the next five to 10 years?
A true ‘rainbow nation’ in which each group, irrespective of race or creed, can walk with their heads high?
An economy based on the principles of democracy and free enterprise?
A totally independent judiciary?
All these seem to be under threat...” she said.



Professor **Karen Milner**, director of the Emthonjeni Centre, associate professor of psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand and a member of the Gauteng Council of the SAJBD, would like to ask the president: “What is the key lesson that has been learnt from South Africa’s successful

transition to democracy that you would like to pass on to those striving for peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?”

Steven Gruzd, head of the governance programme at the SA Institute of International Affairs, wishes Zuma to comment on the triple threats to South Africa - of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

“I would also like to know where the government stands in terms of the South African Jewish community and the Palestinian-Israeli situation.”



In light of the ANC’s recent welcome to Hamas leaders, Gruz still wants clarification as to whether the SA government is for a two-state solution, “or is there a radical change in South Africa’s policy on the cards?”

“Perhaps I’d also ask him how he could inspire all South Africans to work together for a better country. We need positive and visionary leadership at this point in our history,” Gruz said.

governance in South Africa, including “zero tolerance” on corruption and wastage.

He also requested, “a commitment to partner with business to achieve a recovery in our economy, including good corporate governance in our state-owned enterprises”.

Dani Hovsha, chairman of the SA Union of Jewish Students, would also like to see Zuma address the issue of the Hamas visit. “I would like practical assurances that Jewish lives and Jewish voices will be protected across the country.”

She asked Zuma to comment on the #FeesMustFall campaign and that he would make education a priority for the government in the coming years.



Marlene Bethlehem, honorary life vice-president of the Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society and veteran community leader, would like to ask the president to explain to the community “how he is dealing with corruption within the government. This is a huge problem,” she said.



Diane Levine, chairman of the Union of Jewish Women, Johannesburg, wishes to ask Zuma how the government is going to manage all the areas of need - for example the high rate of unemployment and what plans are in place to bring it down.

“Does he see a connection between unemployment and the current restrictive labour laws?” she asked.



Eric Marx, who was recently re-elected chairman of the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies, said he would like Zuma to give him clear confirmation that the government’s stance on the Israeli/Palestinian issue was one of an honest, impartial broker.

He would like an explanation “as to why the government courted the Hamas leadership, having regard to the fact that Hamas is a terrorist organisation committed to the destruction of Israel”.

Marx would like to see a statement that anti-Semitism in South Africa is unacceptable “and this includes denying the right of the Jewish State of Israel”.

He asked for a commitment to clean



Around the Jewish World

Sir Paul McCartney’s return to Israel
TEL AVIV - Sir Paul McCartney returned to Israel, four decades after The Beatles were banned. It started with an act of contrition in January when Ron Prosor, Israel’s ambassador to Britain, apologised for Israel’s “missed opportunity” when it banned The Beatles from the country in 1965. It ended in Hayarkon Park recently with an excited Tel Aviv audience feeling self-evidently better about themselves, thanks to a trip 43 years later.

It turns out that the lapel badge McCartney sported at the concert was that of One Voice, a joint Israeli-Palestinian organisation committed to a two-state solution, and whose Israeli representatives he took the trouble to meet. So when he led a vast crowd – for Israel – in John Lennon’s song “Give Peace a Chance”, he had actually thought about the meaning of a message to which an audience in the most liberal city in Israel was well attuned. – Independent

Beyonce to give first concert in Israel
TEL AVIV - Beyonce is in final negotiations to give a performance in Tel Aviv. It will be Beyonce’s first

concert in the Holy Land. Her fans can hardly wait as this announcement follows years of rumours about her performing in Israel. She is one of the world’s greatest pop stars, most famous for her hits “Halo” “Single Ladies”, and “Crazy in Love”. – Tourist Israel

Mel Gibson’s daughter marries a Jew
BEVERLY HILLS - The daughter of actor and noted anti-Semite Mel Gibson, recently married a devout Jew.

In a ceremony at the Temple Emmanuel of Beverly Hills, 36-year-old Mary-Catherine Gibson married 42-year-old Ezekiel Sharon, a prominent record producer. The couple has been secretly engaged for two years and planned a long honeymoon in the south of France before meeting up with relatives in Israel.

Mel Gibson was asked about the surprise nuptials during an interview with E! News last week while promoting his upcoming documentary on how the Rothschild family killed Abraham Lincoln. The acclaimed actor and director said that although he was disappointed in his daughter’s decision, he hoped that eventually she would see the error of her ways and get a divorce. - The Daily Currant

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Expensive ads against Hamas a bad idea



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

One can understand the anger motivating people in the Jewish community to place a full page advert last weekend in the Sunday Times, denouncing Hamas and the ANC’s enthusiastic welcome of its leaders to South Africa two weeks ago. The ad was intended to inform the public of the true - and terroristic - face of Hamas, hidden behind the smiles and speeches. But was it a good idea, tactically? The Sunday Times - South Africa’s biggest-selling weekly newspaper with a claimed readership of some 3 700 000 - pulled the ad on Friday afternoon, despite the fact that it was paid for.

The SA Zionist Federation informed the Jewish community about the initial decision in an e-mail, criticising the newspaper: “...These are the facts that they did not want their readership to know about Hamas!” In a further development on Tuesday, however, the Sunday Times agreed to run the ad this weekend, but without the original photograph showing a masked Hamas operative in a threatening pose.

Among other things, the original ad said: “Unlike South Africans, who achieved peaceful resolution to conflict through dialogue, negotiation, truth and reconciliation, the political head of Hamas, Khaled Meshaal, emphatically insists: ‘Jihad and armed resistance are the true and correct way... There will be no concession on an inch of the land’.” In other words, Israel must be eliminated.

Placing such an ad raises issues familiar to any media expert. Firstly, no matter how well composed it is, you cannot control how it will be exploited and understood by sectors of the newspaper’s colossal readership.

Among many, particularly in the Muslim communities, it will have the opposite effect than intended: Hamas will be seen as heroes from Gaza fighting courageously for the return of their “stolen” land.

The ad will be viewed as a crude attempt by the “Zionist lobby” to discredit Palestinians fighting Israeli oppression, using Jewish money and influence - a full page ad in the Sunday Times costs an enormous amount.

Secondly, such an ad gives Hamas massive, free publicity. People who have never heard of it will want to know its story. With ANC heavyweights - including President Jacob Zuma - openly embracing it,

many will assume there must be something good there. In most places, there will not be anyone to offer the Israeli side of the story.

Political adverts are by their nature problematic, by condensing complex topics such as the Middle East conflict into a few sentences and emotive slogans. The nuances are lost.

The Jewish community was outraged a few years ago when BDS placed billboard adverts along the high-way to Pretoria, containing simplistic maps purporting to show how Israel progressively stole Palestinian land over several decades. The billboards’ accuracy was challenged and they were ultimately removed.

There is a good chance the Sunday Times and those behind the Hamas ad would be challenged in court over the original ad’s tone and veracity. Ensuing court battles could again give Hamas huge public opportunities for arguing its case against Israel.

So what to do about the ANC’s embrace of Hamas? Some points in the proposed ad were on target. Such as asking why on earth the ANC would want to “warmly” welcome them in South Africa, when the European Union, US, Canada, Australia and many democracies, “keep Hamas on their terrorism blacklist”, and “Hamas is unwelcome in Amman, Cairo and Riyadh”.

That question, however, would be better targeted directly at people who can engage with the Middle East’s complexity and the Israeli dilemma regarding how to achieve security in that chaotic region. The majority of Sunday Times readers are either not interested, or will be instinctively suspicious of the ad’s message.

Given the ANC’s increasingly beleaguered condition as South Africa unravels under its rule, it is puzzling why it chose this moment to do something as provocative as hosting Hamas.

The recent nationwide student uprising over university fees is one illustration that the party is hopelessly out of touch with the people’s needs. What has Hamas got to do with those needs? Is the ANC simply trying to capture the Muslim vote in the Western Cape by parading Hamas’ Meshaal as their guest? The harm this does to the country’s image is enormous.

The ANC should be made to pay for its blundering and for contradicting its own policy of supporting a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But there are better ways to do this than a one-sided, expensive ad in a newspaper which will in any case be misinterpreted. We wait to see what reaction the ad will have if the newspaper does indeed run it this weekend. The ad’s sponsors may come to regret it.

Ex-Iranian president admits to nuclear weapons programme

TEHRAN – Former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has reportedly indirectly admitted to his country’s pursuit of a nuclear weapon.

In the interview with the state-run IRNA news agency, which was translated from Persian by the Iranian opposition group National Council of Resistance of Iran, Rafsanjani described his country’s decision to build a nuclear weapons programme amid the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s.

“At the time that we started, we were at war and we were looking to have this capability [the nuclear bomb] for the day that our enemy would want to resort to the nuclear bomb,” Rafsanjani reportedly said.

“Our basic doctrine was peaceful usage of the nuclear technology although we never abandoned the idea that if one day we are threatened and it is imperative, we would have the capability for going the other path [to a nuclear weapon] as well,” he added. (JNS.org)

Most Israelis miss Rabin but can’t justify Oslo Accords

JERUSALEM – While most Israelis miss former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated 20 years ago for political reasons, an even larger proportion do not believe the 1993 Oslo Accords – for which Rabin was the foremost champion – were justified.

A new Israel Hayom poll – conducted among a sampling of 504 Jewish Israelis over the age of 18 – found that most Israelis still respect his efforts to strike peace with the Palestinians. Seventy-six per cent called Rabin a respectable leader and 55 per cent said they missed him.

But when it came to the Oslo Accords, only a third of respondents thought that the peace process was justified, while 42 per cent felt the accords were unwarranted. Twenty-five per cent did not have an opinion on the matter.

Asked whether they supported the Oslo Accords at the time they were reached, 33 per cent said yes and 38 per cent said no. (JNS.org)

13-year-old Palestinian terrorist wanted to be a martyr

JERUSALEM – Thirteen-year-old Palestinian terrorist Ahmed Manasra, who together with his cousin stabbed an Israeli boy in Jerusalem on October 12, was charged with two counts of attempted murder last week Friday.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas had claimed in a speech that Manasra was “executed” by Israel, when in reality he was being treated at an Israeli hospital. Manasra and his 15-year-old cousin Hassan stabbed a man, 20, who was walking along a Pisgat Ze’ev street, and a boy, 13, as he was getting on his bicycle after exiting a candy shop. Both victims survived.

The indictment said Ahmed and Hassan “talked about the situation at Al-Aqsa Mosque, the living conditions in Gaza, the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, and decided to be shahids (martyrs) – to be killed in the battle for Islam by way of committing a stabbing attack in an effort to kill Jews”. (JNS.org)

Iberia Airlines pilot: ‘We’ll be landing soon in Palestine’

JERUSALEM – Iberia Airlines Flight 3316 from Madrid was approaching Ben-Gurion International Airport last week Wednesday when passengers were shocked to hear the captain say in Spanish: “Dear passengers, we will be landing soon in Palestine.”

In his subsequent announcement in English, the captain changed the word “Palestine” to “Tel Aviv”, but he did not use the word “Israel” in either announcement.

Iberia Airlines acknowledged the incident and issued an apology. A spokesman for the airline said an internal investigation had been launched into the incident and that the captain had been suspended from the airline’s Tel Aviv route until the investigation was complete.

The flagship carrier of Spain, Iberia Airlines, has operated regular flights on the Madrid-Tel Aviv route since 1983. Flying on Iberia Airlines with a stopover in Madrid is a popular way to travel between Israel and North and South America. (JNS.org)

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER



BRIGITTE YOUNGWORTH
Author & Educator



RABBI LEVI GARELIK
Of the European Synagogue



SHAUN BACHER
Businessman



HILLY MILNER
Student



The power of persistence

The South African Jewish community has been aflutter these past few days about the Sunday Times decision to not run - and then a reversal to now run this coming weekend - a paid-for advertorial about Hamas. The insert, sponsored by a group called South African Friends of Israel, felt it had an absolute responsibility to tell as many South Africans as possible about how Hamas really operates. The advertorial alerts us that, according to the Hamas charter, jihad is the only solution to the Palestinian problem and that peaceful initiatives are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement. It states that Hamas sees

homosexuality as a crime punishable by death, that it uses abduction and torture against its opponents and its leaders are unwelcome in Western democracies and in parts of the Middle East as well. It also rightly asks the ANC why they made such an organisation welcome and how that could possibly assist the brokering of peace. While our community may be very offended by the Sunday Times’ initial decision not to run the ad, it does not mean we cannot guess what the newspaper’s management’s motives might have been. The paper may not have wanted to get into a turf war over a very sensitive issue. It has apparently not run political ads from the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement that were too controversial, in an effort to remain on neutral ground.

Yet, they did run a large advertorial in 2014 naming 500 South African Jews who signed a petition opposing Israel’s actions during Operation Protective Edge. In all likelihood, the initial refusal to run the advertorial was because the Sunday Times do not want to anger their major advertiser, the ANC, who is building bonds with Hamas. Whatever their reasons for at first refusing and then for changing their minds, and our paper made a credible effort this week to try to ascertain what they really were, the question still remains whether a loud, full page advert by Jewish communal organisations in the Sunday Times is the best way to get the desired message across. The content, already sent out to thousands among SA Jewry via e-mail this past weekend and appearing on our own pages in this issue on

page 13, is quite forceful and accusatory. While the goal is important and the content is true, it may be more readily swallowed by the South African public in softer, more nuanced tones. It may also, unwittingly, bring more attention to this terrorist organisation which has already got too much time and coverage in South African headspace of late. Nonetheless, we can commend the Jewish communal groups on their worthy efforts and courageous approach and for their persistence - winning the second time around. The advert’s creators believe that the ANC, and our country at large, do not adequately understand who they are dealing with in Hamas and need to be told. And they took the loudest, boldest approach that they could afford.

– Vanessa Valkin, Editor

Europe trip: Abbas gets the red carpet - and also hard questions

CNAAN LIPHSHIZ
THE HAGUE

On his way to several meetings with Dutch parliamentarians last week, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and his entourage passed 300 demonstrators flying Israeli flags. Like the Israeli government, the protesters, who convened outside at the urging of Dutch Jewish and Christian pro-Israel groups, accuse Abbas and his government of supporting deadly attacks against Jews. Incitement by Abbas and others, they charge, is a major catalyst for the recent wave of Palestinian terrorism in which 11 Jewish-Israelis have been killed and more than 50 Palestinians have died - including dozens identified by Israel as assailants - in Israel’s attempt to stem the violence. Their argument echoes one that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his European envoys have been making regularly since September, when the latest round of unrest began. But neither appears to have had much impact on how the Palestinian leader is received by European leaders. On his recent trip to the continent, Abbas visited Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands, meeting with top EU leaders and receiving the honour of an audience with Dutch King Willem-Alexander. In September, the mayor of Paris bestowed the Grand Vermeil medal, the city’s highest honour, on Abbas, for his efforts to achieve peace. Such gestures have angered many Israel supporters in Europe, particularly in light of recent comments seen as encouraging violence against Jews. “We welcome every drop of blood spilled in Jerusalem,” Abbas said on Palestinian television in September. The organisers of the anti-Abbas demonstration in The Hague wrote in a statement: “It defies logic that the Dutch government should receive with all honours the Palestinian Authority, which urges its population to kill Jews.” European leaders remain willing to embrace Abbas because they fear the alternatives could be worse, according to Uri Rosenthal, who served as Dutch foreign minister from 2010 to 2012. It is “not because the Palestinian record is so great, but out of a political calculus in which Abbas is seen as the only [other] option to Hamas or to chaos”, Rosenthal told JTA. Beyond this lies growing resentment in European capitals toward Netanyahu, who has alienated many European leaders with his hard-line stance on peace talks, his refusal to halt settlement construction and, most recently, his controversial claim about the role of a Palestin-



Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, left, and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte meeting in The Hague last week Thursday.

ian leader leading up to the Holocaust. “All of these things, all that mistrust toward Netanyahu, means his voice about Abbas and other matters is not heard in Europe,” said Gil Taieb, a vice-president of the CRIF umbrella group of French Jewish communities. “It just doesn’t count.” That view was endorsed by a senior European diplomat, who spoke to JTA on condition of anonymity, citing regulations prohibiting officials from expressing private views. Netanyahu’s inflammatory rhetoric, including his warning on the eve of Israeli elections in March that “masses” of Arabs were coming out to vote, diminished European goodwill toward the Jewish state and its receptiveness to Israeli complaints, the diplomat said. Adding to the problem is the perception that Netanyahu is looking for any excuse to avoid making progress toward peace. “For a long time, this has been the one issue that Israel presented as the main problem to moving forward with peace talks - simply because it was the only thing Israel could think of to stall progress,” the diplomat said. In his talks in Europe, Abbas used Netanyahu’s rhetoric and settlement policy to deflect criticism. Settlement construction and Israeli occupation “drive Palestinian violence - not any words spoken by a Palestinian leader,” Abbas told a delegation of the Centre for Information and Documentation on Israel, the Dutch Jewish community’s main pro-Israel lobby and watchdog on anti-Semitism. As for incitement, Abbas said at last Friday’s meeting, “it is not only coming from the Pales-

tinian side”, adding that he would be willing to discuss “all incitement, Israeli and Palestinian”, with Israel and the United States, but that Israel is not interested. Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian negotiator who also attended the CIDI meeting, described as “shameful and inciting” Netanyahu’s statement on October 20 that Haj Amin al-Husseini, a pro-Nazi Palestinian leader, advised Adolf Hitler to “burn the Jews”. Netanyahu subsequently said he did not mean to diminish Hitler’s responsibility for the Holocaust. The European official noted that Palestinian incitement was more prevalent and pronounced than in Israel, and added that EU leaders “repeatedly bring up this subject” in their talks with Abbas. Still, he said, there was a case to be made for examining Israeli incitement “also by Netanyahu, but especially from ministers around Netanyahu”. At the CIDI meeting, the delegation patiently listened to Abbas’ complaints about Netanyahu. When he was finished, Joep de Geus, the 22-year-old chairman of CIDI’s youth department, read to him a quote from Fatah Central Committee member Jamal Muhaisen, who on October 7 said that the murder of a settler couple the previous week in front of their children had been a case of “one fulfilling his national duty voluntarily, as best as one can”. Looking at Abbas, De Geus asked: “Your excellency, do we really need a trilateral committee to tell us whether this is incitement?” “We the Palestinians are not perfect,” Abbas replied, “but these things need to be discussed as a whole.” (JTA)

World News in Brief

Vandals spray swastikas on set of Israeli film in Poland

LODZ - An Israeli film crew which arrived in Lodz, Poland, to begin shooting director Avi Neshet’s movie “The Sins” found the set defaced by swastikas, Israel Hayom reported. Neshet, whose films have won multiple awards in Israel and international acclaim, said that the day before his crew arrived, the crew of another movie had been involved in an incident with local residents. “When the residents were informed that the next day an Israeli film would begin shooting, [their behaviour] crossed over into violent anti-Semitism, what they called an ‘intifada’,” Neshet said. In light of the anti-Semitic threats, Polish police decided to ramp up security on and around the set, and assign bodyguards to the actors. (JNS.org)

Joe Biden, Michael Douglas headlining Reform biennial

JERUSALEM – US Vice-President Joe Biden and Academy Award-winning actor Michael Douglas are scheduled to speak at the Reform movement’s biennial in Orlando, Florida. Biden will address the gathering of Reform Jewish leaders on Saturday, the Union for Reform Judaism announced in a news release on Monday. Douglas, the winner of the 2015 Genesis Prize, known as the “Jewish Nobel”, will speak next Wednesday at the conference’s opening plenary. Douglas is the son of Jewish actor Kirk Douglas and in the past year has become an advocate for greater inclusion of intermarried families within the Jewish community. In August, the Jewish Funders Network and Genesis Prize Foundation announced a \$3,3 million matching grant programme in Douglas’ honour to fund an intermarried outreach initiative, and on Yom Kippur Douglas was a surprise speaker at a Reform synagogue in Bedford, New York. The biennial is expected to draw 5 000 people from the United States and abroad, including more than 450 rabbis and 250 synagogue presidents. According to the URJ, it is the “largest religious Jewish gathering on the continent”. (JTA)

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Let’s talk about real estate!



Parshat Chayei Sarah
Rabbi Sam Thurgood
Rabbi of Beit Midrash
Morasha @ Arthur’s Road
in Sea Point

At first glance, this is the premise of the beginning of Chayei Sarah. The Torah spends 20 psukim speaking about Avraham’s negotiations to purchase the cave of Machpela as a burial plot for Sarah.

By way of comparison, Hashem tells us of the Creation of all of the universe in 34 psukim, so clearly there is a significance to this story beyond the fact of the purchase itself.

Our sages explain by putting this in context with Hashem’s promise to Avraham: G-d has already said that He would give the entire Land of Israel to Avraham, and now Avraham is purchasing space for Sarah’s burial.

The Midrash (Shmot Rabba 1:4) quotes this incident as an example of Avraham’s faith in Hashem. Although Hashem promised him a great deal and he finds himself owning no land whatsoever, Avraham’s trust in G-d was so great that he never complained, but accepted it with love.

The fact that our relationship with Hashem is sometimes difficult, that we don’t always see Hashem’s loving hand in our lives in the way that we expect, but that nonetheless the relationship is a deep and special one - is a point so important that it is appropriate to devote many verses of the Torah to it.

Rabbi Avraham Ibn Ezra (Bereishit :19) sees it differently. This, he says, is the fulfilment of Hashem’s promise to Avraham. G-d had said that the land would become Avraham’s possession, and here we see that promise being fulfilled before our eyes! Certainly the Torah should tell

us every detail of this beloved acquisition - the first time that a Jew owned property in the Promised Land.

Rabbi David Stav points out that, in a sense, these are two diametrically opposed approaches to the promises of Hashem. Once G-d has told us that He will give us something - how is that to materialise? Are we expected to play a role in bringing it to fruition, or is it now up to Hashem?

Ibn Ezra tells us that G-d’s promise is not, now, an invitation to become a passive witness. Our role is not to simply observe as our Creator does wonders, but to become an active participant in bringing those wonders to be. G-d promised us Israel would be ours? Good, let’s make it ours!

At the culmination of a difficult and expensive negotiation, where Avraham has invested time, effort, energy and money - he sees that this is in fact what G-d has promised him.

The Midrash takes a different view, that one day all that G-d has promised us will come to pass; that until then we must be hopeful and patient and never give up because of the interminable challenges that we experience until then.

Nevertheless, even in the Midrash’s view, Avraham does not sit passively by and wait for the burial plot. Although he has not seen the ultimate fulfilment of G-d’s gift of the land, he purchases a plot for himself.

Today we are still faced with the same challenges - and not in an abstract way, but in Israel itself! With all of the challenges and troubles and difficulties, is our role in the drama to be strong, to keep faith, to do what is right while we wait for Hashem’s promise to come through - or to actively engage in the process of redemption, and see Hashem’s hand within our handiwork? The answer, of course, is both.

Shabbos Project spinoff

SUZANNE BELLING

The new spiritual leader of the Sephardi Hebrew Congregation in Sea Point in Cape Town, has probably had one of the biggest successes as a result of the Shabbos Project.

“Seventy-two members of my congregation have made a commitment to keep Shabbat in full. This is very admirable for a community that has had difficulties in the past,” said Rabbi David Benchlouch (pictured), referring to the hardships a number of congregants endured coming from trouble spots such as the Congo and the former Rhodesia.

“We are seeing such a great energy, such a will. I see this as a thriving, growing and very successful community. This is so strong - people are willing to change so much about their routine to bring Am Yisrael closer.”

Rabbi Benchlouch, the son of Sephardi Rabbi Michael Benchlouch in San Francisco, among other places, was born in Miami, Florida and grew up in the United States. He went to a yeshiva high school in Ofakim, Israel and then, at the age of 14, on his own in the Old City, attended the Midrash Sephardi Yeshiva for five years under rosh yeshiva Rabbi Sam Kassir.

From 2010 to 2012 he underwent rabbinical



training in Efrat, under its Chief Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, at the Strauss Amiel/Beren Amiel Ner Le’elef Rabbinical Training Programme. He obtained smicha in 2013 under Rabbi Yaakov Perez of Jerusalem and Rabbi Eliyahu Abergel. Up until May this year, Rabbi Benchlouch taught in a yeshiva before taking up his post in Cape Town. His wife, Tirza, comes from Tifrach Israel and was an accountant for Yad Sarah before coming to South Africa. They have two children - Michael (3) and Ayala (7 months).

KASHRUT ALERT

‘FUNKY KORN’ IS IN FACT MILCHIK

The kashrut division of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues advises that “Funky Korn”, manufactured by “Cartoon Candy” has been incorrectly labelled as “parev” and is in fact “milchik”.

“The manufacturer is taking corrective action to remedy the error.”

It also advises that all Nachos, manufactured by “Natures Choice,” are “milchik”, even though they are not labelled as such on the packaging.

In two later “Alerts” the kashrut division asks the community to be aware that “Bar One Ice Cream Sandwiches” are NOT kosher. “They erroneously bear the Beth Din logo and we are working with the company to rectify this.”

Also, the following products manufactured by Woolworths, erroneously bear the Beth Din logo and are not kosher:

- Ciliegia Mozzarella with Sundried Tomato & Basil 215g
- Ciliegia Mozzarella with Olives & Thyme 215g

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Selwyn Segal

Long-term impact of student protests still to pan out



BENJI SHULMAN

Last month I was on my way to Parliament to engage with MPs about matters of mutual interest. However, as a result of Hamas’ unexpected visit and a series of transport problems, I was already running late for my meeting.

As I arrived, big screen TVs in the security lobby showed the EFF members being thrown out of the House for demanding that the budget speech underway, be suspended so that MPs could address the concerns of the students gathered outside.

I signed the visitors register and crossed an alleyway heading toward the parliamentary building. To my right, 50 metres up the road, I could see the crowd of students. They were chanting: “We want Blade! We want Blade!”

The police cordon seemed thin and was being pushed back a few metres at a time by the jostling crowd. Eventually it buckled, and the students swarmed toward Parliament. Behind me riot police began gearing themselves up, donning helmets and moving into position.

I retreated back into the security lobby, along with a number of journalists, parliamentary staff and government officials, as young people swirled around the building. Soon after that the boom of stun grenades signalled that police were driving the crowds out of the Parliamentary precinct and back into the street.

In that moment, South African student politics changed, starting a new chapter in its history.

The student-led #FeesMustFall campaign at Parliament was unlike anything we have seen on a campus in 20 years. Its origins, however, were in faraway University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

Protests about fees will be familiar to anyone attending Wits in the last 10 years. Costs have been steadily rising; take, for example, the upfront fee payable upon registration. Ten years ago this was around R2 000 (less if your marks were good). It has now ballooned to about R9 000, a huge amount for the increasing population of poorer students who know that a university entrance might be their only route out of poverty.

From these desperate students there has been resistance to the annual fee increases as they struggle to pay costs, not just of the degree itself, but also for accommodation, food and text books.

These students are natural supporters

of the EFF and the ANC Youth League on campus. They are also the most likely to vote in student elections, meaning the ANCYL tends to control bodies like the Student Representative Council.

It is therefore normal for the Wits SRC to protest fee increases and occasionally disrupt classes for a few days a year. The object is normally to force lower fee increases and raise additional funds for poor students.

The protests tend to be aimed at university management. This is natural since they are the students’ closest point of contact, but also because targeting, say an ANC minister, is not a good career move. A successful stint at an ANCYL-led SRC often means a foothold inside the ANC itself and nobody wants to make powerful enemies so early on.

At the University of Cape Town the situation is somewhat different as the students are largely more affluent and the ANC hasn’t been a strong political force there for some time. In its place students have taken from other traditions, such as Black Consciousness, feminism and Pan-Africanism.

Their leadership tends to organise horizontally and they make prodigious use of social media instead of deciding their course of action in traditional ANC-led committees. It was these groups that brought us the #RhodesMustFall protests earlier in the year.

Having already engaged in “warfare” against UCT management, it was inevitable that they would eventually turn to a broader target. By shifting the protest to Parliament, which then moved to (ANC headquarters) Luthuli House in Johannesburg and eventually the Union Buildings in Pretoria, they made government their focus, along with (Minister of Higher Education) Blade Nzimande and even President Jacob Zuma himself.

#FeesMustFall has won some important early concessions but it remains to be seen what the long-term impact of the campaign will be.

• *Benji Shulman is the deputy director of community relations for the South African Zionist Federation. He finished a masters degree in Geography at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2014. While at Wits he was involved with student issues and was the Senate Representative for the Post Graduate Association. He was also the former national chairman of the South African Union of Jewish Students.*

‘You do skew Jewish, don’t you?’

LISA ORLEOW

Banting pizzas are every BMI-conscious girl’s dream - you get all the pleasure, with none of the guilt. It’s not dissimilar to the feeling when your corporate server goes down on a public holiday, necessitating free-time; or when a guy you planned to cancel on given “the dangerous onset of a viral cold” (cue cough), cancels on you first, crippled by ebola-esque man flu.

I sat outside Col’Cacchio last night waiting for mine (pizza not flu) - the cool breeze tempering my excitement for carb-free cheese. I wasn’t a pretty formaggio: I had just visited my two-week old niece, and my black top was covered with vomit marks. I also had no makeup on, the result of having eyelash extensions applied at great cost (time, money, patience) the day before - and was avoiding all oil-based products lest they ruin my bonding glue and suggestive 3D flutter. To top things off, I had my retainer in, and my “S’s” were more sibilant than those of a drunk Jamie Oliver working on a scrumptious ceviche.

The manager came outside, and after extending pizzas and Coke to two homeless boys (#you-hadme@menschen), asked if I had been seen to. I replied courteously that I had in fact placed my order, after which he jovially urged my waiter to avoid burning my pizza at all costs - hell hath no fury like a cauliflower base scorched.

He introduced himself.

Confident and handsome, on top of being charitable, I noted. And to boot - post a Mossad-like glance at his ring finger - not married.

A good-looking, philanthropic, owner of a pizza joint - I mean how lucky can I get, right? A white picket fence with free Italian to fulfil my appetite (food, not men, pity) – yay me. So when he casually introduced himself and asked if he could buy me a glass of vino to balance out my healthy meal choice - I did what any single, willing, confident woman in her 30s would do - I blurted out: “No thanks really, I’m fine!” adding nervously “I promise I got wasted last night so I am being cautious tonight; anyway it is a school night!”.

He walked away, mumbling a warm apology, retaining the professional hospitality of a good manager. “Damn it! He was hitting on you, girl!” I realised - the only thing lower than my calorie intake being my self-esteem. I’m not Josie Grossie anymore, I encouraged myself.

Amid the Shakespearean angst of crossed paths and lost opportunity, I gathered my wits and my confidence, and pictured myself as the lead in some Woody Allen film where awkwardly-quirky turns

charmingly-perky in an act of brave daring. I wrote my number on the bill - with a blushing admission: “Sorry I panicked.”

He rang me on the way home. True story.

He asked me how I found the pizza - and I replied emphatically: “The foundation is really good!” I think he thought I was referring to the start of something special.

So let’s see what happens. After the obligatory stalk (MTV’s Catfish has widened my armoury of tracking techniques), I determined he was divorced, with a daughter, and an avid Crossfitter (are there any other types of Crossfitters?)

I said a silent prayer for ordering a Banting pizza – full-blown carbs could have burpee’d my chances). I also noticed a tattoo on his wrist, which while at the risk of generalising, inferred his lack of similar faith, me being Jewish and permanent ink - taboo.

Which brings me to a discussion I had earlier in the week. Surrounded by actuaries at work (thank goodness for Google, it took me a year to realise a negative reserve was a positive thing), always seeking and leaking quantitative analyses - I was urged by certain thought leaders in the business to hand over the back-end stats of my WordPress blogs.

A technical team, armed with excel and the sweet promise of algorithms, would perform complex analysis as to who was viewing my profile, split by age, nationality and other critical filters - and what my conversion rate of blog-readers into date-seekers was. A strike rate of sorts.

Now, given that any field research worth its publication requires adequate controls - they queried to what extent I value like-minded religious beliefs in a potential suitor.

To put it frankly, I was asked: “You do skew Jewish, don’t you?” I was quite embarrassed. This was a senior person for whom I have the utmost respect, but given the hub-bub of background noise - a large meeting disbanding in a neighbouring room - I couldn’t deduce his verb choice with certainty.

I rationalised at speed: he could either be talking about my evening escapades (profoundly sexy, I thought, grrrr); or about a mathematical distribution (profoundly unsexy, I yawned, zzzzz).

In my panic, I responded with something confusingly vague and rhythmic - like: “An outlier or two makes for any good Jew.”

Needless to say - despite being no normal distribution - I might be stuck in middle management for a long time coming.

• *When she isn’t researching for a top corporate, Lisa Orleow is dating, blogging, and talking herself into going to yoga.*

Human rights award for Michael Bagraim

ANT KATZ

Prominent Cape Town labour lawyer, DA MP, and past national president of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, Michael Bagraim, was honoured at the Cape Law Society’s annual get-together in Kimberley last week where he was given the Society’s human rights award.

Ashraf Mahomed, president of the Cape Law Society, told Jewish Report that the original nomination was by Shields Chait Attorneys.

Mahomed said that he had not had much personal interaction with Bagraim, “but I respect him and his seniority in the profession. I think he has served as a role-model in leadership situations and in the profession.”

Mahomed said that Bagraim was chosen in part due to his broad association with civil society groups - particularly his role in empowering vulnerable women,

Bagraim does all the legal briefs of the Cape-based association for battered women, Mosaic, for free and assists prosecutors in obtaining injunctions, convictions, etc.

Mahomed warns that the award could be a double-edged sword: “I think that giving him the award creates an expectation on him to become even more involved as a mentor in his human

rights activities.”

Bagraim, who has in the past chaired the Society’s labour subcommittee, told Jewish Report that he had won many awards in his career, but that this one was close to his heart. A recent chairman of the Cape Chamber of Commerce as well, Bagraim says that if he is to be remembered for something among broad society, it would be for his concern for battered women.



Cape Law Society President Ashraf Mahomed, right, handing over the award to Michael Bagraim.

Photo: Lizell Hamman, Starpix

Things we need to stop hearing about the ‘Stabbing Intifada’

BERNARD-HENRI LÉVY

This article was translated from French by Steven B Kennedy and appeared in Algemeiner on October 21. Dr Lévy is one of France’s most famous philosophers. He will be a keynote speaker at the SA Jewish Board of Deputies Conference ‘Gathering Voices’ on Sunday, November 22 at Gold Reef City in Johannesburg.

It is painful to hear the phrase “lone wolves” applied to the handful - and perhaps tomorrow the dozens and then the hundreds - of killers of Jews “liked” by thousands of “friends”, followed by tens of thousands of “Tweeters”, and connected to a constellation of sites (such as the Al-Aqsa Media Centre and its page dedicated to “the third Jerusalem intifada”) that are orchestrating, at least in part, this bloody ballet.

It is equally painful to listen to the refrain about “Palestinian youth no longer subject to any control”, after seeing the series of sermons published by the Middle East Media Research Institute, in which preachers from Gaza, facing the camera, dagger in hand, call upon followers to take to the streets to maim as many Jews as they can, to inflict as much pain as possible and to spill the maximum amount of blood.

It is doubly painful to hear that refrain from (PA President) Mahmoud Abbas himself, at the outset of this tragic chain of events a few weeks back, describing as “heroic” the murder of the Henkins in the presence of their children, and then expressing indignation at seeing the “dirty feet” of Jews “defiling” the Al-Aqsa Mosque and declaring “each drop of blood” shed by “each martyr” who dies for Jerusalem “pure”.

Not only painful and intolerable, but also inapplicable, is the canned phrase about “political and social desperation” that is used to explain - or excuse - criminal acts. Everything we know about the new terrorists, their motives and the pride their relatives take in converting, post mortem, crime into martyrdom and infamy into sacrifice, is, alas, much closer to the portrait of the robotic jihadist who yesterday would take off for Kashmir and today turns up in Syria or Iraq.

It is highly doubtful that “intifada” is the right term to apply to acts that bear more resemblance to the latest instalment of a worldwide jihad of which Israel is just one of the stages.

It is doubtful that erudite disquisitions on occupation, colonisation and Netanyahu-esque intransigence explain much about a wave of violence that counts among its favoured targets Jews with side-locks - that is, those Jews who are the most conspicuously Jewish, those whom their killers must consider the very image of the Jew, and who, by the way, are often at odds with the Jewish state when not in open secession from it.

It is doubtful that the very question of the state, the

question of the two states and thus the question of a negotiated partition of the land - which is, for moderates on both sides, the only question worth posing - has anything to do with a conflagration in which politics has given way to fanaticism and to theories of vast conspiracy, one in which some decide to stab random others as they pass by because of a vague rumour reporting a secret plot to deny Muslims access to Islam’s third holiest site.

It is doubtful, in other words, that the Palestinian cause is being helped in any way by the extremist turn. On the other hand, it is absolutely certain that the cause has everything to lose by it, that the reasonable heads within the movement will be the ones who wind up flattened by the wave and that the last proponents of compromise, along with what remains of the peace camp in Israel, will pay dearly for the reckless condemnations of the imams of Rafah and Khan Younis.

Intolerable and inapplicable, too, is the cliché of the “cycle” or “spiral” of violence, which, by putting the kamikaze killers and their victims on the same footing, sows confusion and amounts to an incitement to further action.

Intolerable, for the same reason, are the rhetorical appeals “for restraint” and disingenuous pleas “not to inflame the street”, which, as with the “spiral of violence”, reverse the order of causality by implying that a soldier, police officer or civilian acting in self-defence has committed a wrong equal to that of someone who chooses to die after spreading as much terror as he possibly can.

Strange indeed, how tepid are the condemnations of the stabbings of innocent passers-by and rammings of bus stops - condemnations that I have to think would be less half-hearted if the acts had occurred on the streets of Washington, Paris or London.

More than strange – disturbing - is the difference in tone between the equivocal reaction to the recent killings and the unanimous and unambiguous international outpouring of emotion and solidarity elicited by the fatal hatchet attack on a soldier on a London street on May 22, 2013, a scenario that was not very different from those unfolding today in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Intolerable, again, that most of the major media have paid the grieving Israeli families only a fraction of the attention they have paid the families of the perpetrators.

Intolerable, finally, the minor mythology growing up around this story of daggers: The weapon of the poor? Really? The weapon one uses because it is within reach and one has no other?

When I see those blades, I think of the one used to execute Daniel Pearl; I think of the beheadings of Hervé Gourdel, James Foley and David Haines; I think that the Islamic State’s videos have clearly gained a following and that we stand on the threshold of a form of barbarity that must be unconditionally denounced if we do not want to see its methods exported everywhere. And I mean everywhere.

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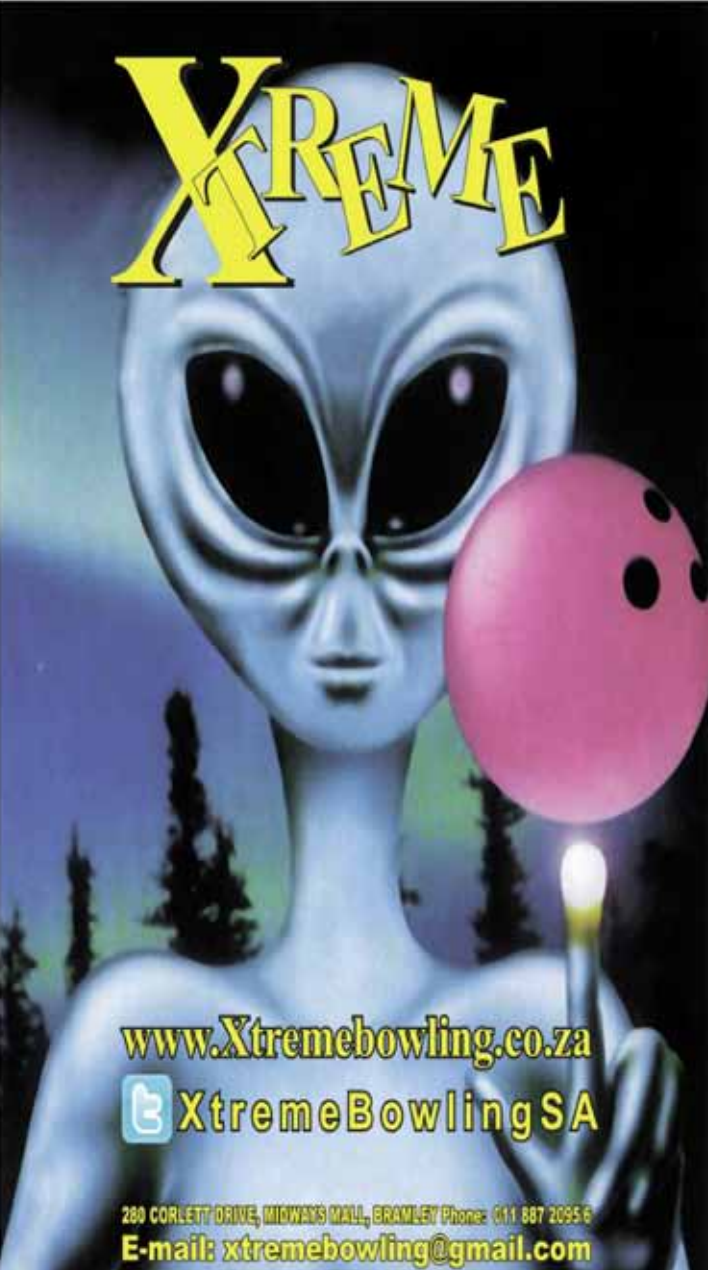



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Our magical Shabbat in Vilnius

Mendi Katz, Justine Seeff, Romi Rabinowitz, Mrs Krinsky and Rabbi Krinsky.

MENDI KATZ

In line with Lita Lives’ vision of bringing life to Lithuanian Jewry, a group of about 15 Jewish men and women recently travelled to Vilnius for the last weekend in October. The aim of the trip was for guests to experience a five-star, glatt kosher Shabbos in Vilnius - or as it used to be more commonly known in English as Vilna - once the vibrant home to the ancestors of the majority of South African Jews.

Simultaneously, Lita Lives - an organisation that aims to bring awareness and support for the Lithuanian Jewish community from Lithuanian descendants worldwide - made use of the trip to bring the concept of the worldwide Shabbos Project, initiated by South Africa’s Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, to Lithuanian Jewry.

On Thursday afternoon, October 22, we touched down in a cold and cloudy Vilnius. There was little time to spare once we had checked in to the magnificent Kempinski Hotel. Vilnius’ very first Challah Bake would begin early that same evening.

A larger than expected crowd of 80 women and girls arrived with great excitement. Ladies from the Lita Lives group joined for an undeniably meaningful and inspiring unity event.

Early Friday morning we set off for Kovno (Kaunas), just over an hour’s drive from Vilnius. Some of our guests enjoyed visiting the location of the Slabodka Yeshiva and other family-connected sites. We visited the headquarters of Stumbras, the oldest and largest producer of alcoholic drinks in Lithuania. Their renowned, state-of-the-art museum was fascinating.

To top off the chilly, rainy morning’s experience, a round of l’chaims was in order - we were treated to an exclusive tasting of the region’s finest.

As Shabbat drew nearer, the women lit candles and we made our way to the Vilnius Choral Synagogue - the only active synagogue that survived both the Holocaust and Soviet rule. Surrounded by the regal architecture, it was powerful and moving for us to join in singing the same Friday night tunes we have grown accustomed to in South Africa.

The realisation was truly striking: that despite the horrors and incredible hardships of the past, Shabbat is still being celebrated in our beloved Lita!

At our Friday night dinner, we had the honour of hosting the mayor of Vilnius, Remigius Šimašius, and his wife, as well as the Israeli ambassador to Lithuania, Amir Maimon. Both spoke of their joy at attending the festive

Shabbat meal, as well as their important, positive views on Lithuania’s Jews.

The dinner continued late into the night with delicious cuisine, Shabbat songs and uplifting talks from several members of our group.

On Shabbat day, we joined Chabad of Lithuania at their wonderful facility. Rabbi Sholom Ber Krinsky and his wife, along with several of their community members, graciously hosted us for a beautiful lunch. We learned of the shluchim’s tireless countrywide efforts over the more than two decades since they arrived.

Camps, kosher food supply, Chevrah Kadisha work, Jewish education for all ages, saving and housing children from precarious and dangerous backgrounds or homes, housing a fully functional boarding school, are to name but a few of the Chabad projects.

For the later hours of Shabbat day, we had an informative walking tour of the Jewish highlights of Vilnius which included strolling through the streets once walked by many Talmudic greats and seeing visible remnants of what was the epicentre of “The Jerusalem of the North”. It was heart warming and moving.

Minutes after Shabbat ended and Havdalah had been sung, many of the group’s participants found themselves in a small Vilnius pub, surrounded by South African and New Zealand rugby fans, as the World Cup semi-final drew to a nail-biting close. Although our Springbok hopes had been dashed, a spirited, uplifting dinner awaited back at the hotel.

A gourmet braai had been prepared with outstanding entertainment by Jewish Lithuanian musician Misha Jablonskis. The hotel hall was filled with the sounds of shtetl classics, Yiddish Fiddler On The Roof hits and several nostalgic song requests from the guests. The ambience was exciting yet emotional as memories were evoked.

By Sunday morning, we all began going our separate ways as we made our respective journeys from the heim, back home. Due to popular demand, we have already started working on our next trip to Lita.

Vilnius pulses with an incredible energy and almost enigmatic atmosphere. It is a First World cosmopolitan city that has a very unique, almost contagious vibe. The Jews of Lithuania and Judaism in the country are also very much alive. That being said, the Jewish community there still needs the concern and involvement of Lithuanian descendants worldwide. Lita Lives aims to fulfil this necessity - actively ensuring that Jewish Lithuania doesn’t just remain alive, but can grow and flourish once more.

Some of the visiting group at Stumbras Distillery in Kovno (Kaunas).

When HAMAS arrived unexpectedly in South Africa several weeks ago, the South African reaction was strangely muted. This may have been the result of other more important events happening but it also seems to be that South Africans simply don't know who HAMAS really is and what they stand for. It would be a great danger if South Africa began sleep walking into a nest of Islamic fundamentalism through sheer ignorance or naivety.

In contrast the reaction of the Jewish community was clearly one of outrage and concern. The SAZF strongly condemned the visit in a public statement expressing dismay at the "red carpet" treatment awarded to Khaled Meshaal and his entourage while calling on the ANC to recognise that the ideology, values and strategies of HAMAS are diametrically opposed to the principles of the ANC, as embodied in the Freedom Charter and contrary to the constitution of SA.

Preceding the HAMAS arrival, the SAZF hosted Col Richard Kemp, former commander of British armed forces in Afghanistan who travels the world advocating for Israel and warning about the threat of fundamentalist Islamic organisations like HAMAS, to democracy.

Simply speaking, HAMAS wishes to destroy Israel altogether and seeks to establish an Islamist dictatorship in its place which is why the South African Zionist Federation through its affiliate the South African Friends of Israel (SAFI) has embarked on a full-scale marketing campaign to educate South Africans about the dangers of our ruling party inviting HAMAS to our country. The campaign will include a full page print advert in the Sunday Times and other print media platforms as well as an extensive digital marketing campaign.

This campaign is just one of many that will be rolled out over the next year and SAFI will continue to actively promote our narrative to the broader South African community, increasing our support base and friendship circle.

HAMAS – It is time for South Africans to know the truth!

ACCORDING TO HAMAS, JIHAD IS THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE 'PEACE'

AND IT GETS WORSE

Unlike South Africans, who achieved peaceful resolution to conflict through dialogue, negotiation, truth and reconciliation, the Political Head of Hamas, Khaled Mashal, emphatically insists:

"Jihad and armed resistance are the true and correct way ... There will be no concession on an inch of the land."

The Hamas Charter openly and brazenly rejects peace initiatives and claims that Jihad is the only solution.

"Peace initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement ... There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by Jihad". ~ Hamas Charter ^{[1] [2] [3]}

And it gets worse.

In direct opposition to the South African Bill of Rights, Hamas has openly declared homosexuality a crime punishable by death. ^{[4] [5] [6]}

Freedom of religion is treated with equal contempt.

In Gaza, Hamas stands accused of forcing Christians to convert to Islam, digging up Christian cemeteries and warning Christians to 'cooperate' under threats of violence – including the threat of rape to the wives and daughters of Christian men. ^{[7] [8]}

Hamas forces abduct, torture, attack and summarily execute those who oppose them. ^{[9] [10]}

And it gets worse.

Virtually every country in the world, including most Arab states, deny entry to Khaled Mashal. ^[11]

Hamas is unwelcome in Amman, Cairo and Riyadh. All have closed their doors to Hamas leadership.

The European Union, the USA, Canada, Australia and many democracies keep Hamas on their terrorism blacklist.

And yet, Hamas is warmly welcomed in South Africa. ^[12]

Why? It defies all logic.

Given their intractable position on the Palestinian Israeli conflict, and their fundamentalist interpretation of Jihad as holy war, what good can it bring?

We urge the ANC to act as a credible mediator for peace in the Middle East and not to embrace a violent Jihadist organisation by welcoming them into our midst.

A Hamas-style, Boko Haram, Al Shabaab ideology is the last thing South Africa needs.

Do you know who Hamas really is?

Find out more at www.realfacts.co.za



^[1] <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/15/us-mideast-hamas-israel-idUSKBN0JS0LO20141215> ^[2] http://www.mythsandfacts.org/conflict/statute-treaties/hamas_charter.htm ^[3] <http://www.pmw.org.il/ty-hamas.htm> ^[4] <http://www.voltairenet.org/article183090.html> ^[5] Muhammad Rateb al- Nabulsi on Al-Aksa TV, April 2011. ^[6] Mahmoud Zahar: http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/would-gays-be-executed-or-imprisoned-palestinian-state_593540.html ^[7] <http://gatewaynews.co.za/acdp-outraged-by-forced-conversions-of-christians-to-islam-in-gaza-strip/> ^[8] <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/insideisrael/2009/December/Rights-Group-Hamas-Desecrated-Christian-Graves-1> ^[9] <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32894633> ^[10] <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/05/gaza-palestinians-tortured-summarily-killed-by-hamas-forces-during-2014-conflict/> ^[11] <http://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/middle-east/131218-jordan-denies-entry-to-hamas-leader-mashal> ^[12] <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Hamas-leader-gets-huge-welcome-in-Cape-Town-20151021>



Nicci Raz,
National
Executive
Director SAZF

Cape Town Jewish artists show their mettle in fundraiser

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

Works by 22 South African Jewish artists in an array of media are being showcased in Resonance and Wonder, an exhibition hosted by the United Jewish Campaign (UJC), Cape Town’s community fundraising arm, and the South African Jewish Museum. It is the brainchild of Aron Turest-Swartz, deputy director of the UJC who is better known as the founder of the highly successful band Freshlyground - and his wife, Kristy.

Aron has undergone what appears to be a dramatic change of career. It turns out, however, that his creativity is merely being channelled in a different direction.

Having been appointed close on a year ago, Aron and Kristy are a breath of fresh air for the UJC’s fundraising efforts. “We’re introducing new ideas and initiatives and this is just one of them,” he says, referring to the art exhibition.

In May, they showcased Jewish musicians - five bands and two deejays - and in August, they held a food-themed event for women.

“In our community, there are a lot of things that divide us,” Aron explains, “and we’re looking at ways that we can bring people together in spaces that are unifying and that celebrate our talent and diversity - things like music and the arts, food and books. With Freshlyground, the intention wasn’t to bring people together through music necessarily, but that was a result.

“I always have been driven by unifying people and especially when there’s diversity, which is not necessarily a weakness of a community - it can be a strength. I just feel that as a community, we already do a lot in broader society, but there’s so much more we could do if we were really cohesive and more connected.”

In addition to being communally focused, the couple has a personal factor underpinning its motivation. “Our son, Zacari, is eight and is going to be finished with school in 10 years’ time, so we’re thinking about what kind of community we’d like him to emerge into and wanting to create a vibrant and thriving Jewish community in Cape Town,” says Aron.

“We’re looking at the next decade and what we can do to create the kind of community that people



Rodney Band's Wild Olive Bowl on display at the South African Jewish Museum.

will hopefully want to be part of and be proud to be part of,” while at the same time raising much-needed funds to ensure the sustainability of the UJC’s 27 beneficiary organisations.

Besides featuring different genres, the exhibition represents works by artists at a range of ages, from 93-year-old Alice Goldin downwards. Among others whose works are included, are painter Francine Scialom-Greenblatt, ceramicist Martine Jackson, photographer Russell Smith and wood-turner Rodney Band.

Almost 200 artists had “come out of the wood-work”, says Aron, who hopes to make the exhibition an annual event.

Curator Mari Macdonald says the exhibition has been an eye-opener for the community as such magnificent work is being produced, of which people were unaware. “It shows a tiny piece of the talent and really shows the incredible capability of community members.

“These are some of the top artists that the country is producing at the moment and they’re here in Cape Town working every day.”

• *Resonance and Wonder is on at the SA Jewish Museum until November 15.*

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Part of a global Jewish community

Last week’s meeting in Rome of the Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) took place at a time of continuing terrorist violence in Israel and the wider backdrop of concerns throughout Europe regarding the ever-escalating refugee crisis.

I participated as a member of the WJC executive, representing South African Jewry. The African Jewish Congress was represented by CEO and spiritual leader Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft and acting president, Ann Harris, while the SAJBD’s Marc Pozniak and Alana Baranov played a leading part in the meeting of the Jewish Diplomatic Corps, a body established by the WJC to develop young Jewish leaders.

The value of bringing together Jewish leaders from around the world - the WJC represents Jewish communities in 100 countries across six continents - lies not just in the practical benefits that result from sharing ideas, information and expertise with one’s colleagues, but in the feeling of solidarity and chaverschaft that it generates.

No matter where we might be, we are all, as Jews and as Zionists, confronted with serious threats and formidable challenges and it is all too easy to feel overwhelmed by it all sometimes.

Coming together reminds us that we are not alone, nor working in isolation, but rather part of a united, global Jewish community whose members care about and assist one another in any way that they can. It is gratifying that SA Jewry, through its representation on the WJC executive, is positioned to be a meaningful part of the world Jewish voice and make a contribution on many levels.

After our meeting, as reported elsewhere in this issue, Ann Harris, Rabbi Silberhaft and myself, were privileged



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

to be part of the Jewish delegation that met with Pope Francis. It was a historic meeting, and all present drew much comfort from the latter’s unequivocal condemnation not just of anti-Semitism but of attacks on Israel that deny its legitimacy and right to exist.

Two key resolutions adopted at the WJC meeting were to urge the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority to return to direct negotiations without preconditions and to call for the maintenance (and if necessary, expansion) of sanctions against Iran until such

time as its compliance with the nuclear agreement reached with the p5+1 group of nations has been verified.

Other important areas dealt with were confronting anti-Semitism and BDS activism and fostering interfaith co-operation, in which regard WJC President Ronald Lauder spoke out strongly against the alarming rise of anti-Christian persecution, particularly in the Middle East, but in many other places as well.

Mr Lauder is among those who are at the forefront of building bridges and forging alliances between the Jewish world and the global community, whether in the political, religious, human rights or cultural realms.

We hope that as many of our community as possible will join us in hearing what he has to say on the work of his organisation and the situation facing world Jewry, at our national conference on November 22. To book for the event, or for further information, contact Jenni on jenni@sajbd.org / (011) 645-2521.

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

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

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

Steven Leas comes back to thrill the ‘home crowd’

SUZANNE BELLING

The Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir celebrated its 30th year with a special anniversary concert at the Sandton Shul last week, with guest Cantor Steven Leas from London and local soloists. South African-born Leas is the head cantor at the Central Synagogue in London.

He gave up a career as a chartered accountant and turned his world upside down in pursuing a life of song. There was always a passion for singing as evidenced by his early childhood roles in “The King and I” and “The Sound of Music”. He officiated as chazzan of The Linksfield-Senderwood Hebrew Congregation in Johannesburg and started a successful wedding and barmitzvah band called Moodswing, as well as forming a recording studio and music company, “Stone Music” together with Michael Hankinson.

Leas performed in many concerts in South Africa including, “Russian Exodus”, “Millennium Magic” and “Three Chazzans and a Cousin”, as well as appearing on numerous television shows and performing musical theatre favourites with all the major South African orchestras.

He sang with the KwaZulu-Natal Orchestra prior to his departure to London, to a crowd of 7 000 in a concert called “The Musicals”.

Leas moved to London in 2002 and was ac-



The Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir performing in the Sandton Shul, with chairman Professor Russel Lurie, guest chazzan Cantor Steven Leas and Cantor Ezra Sher (wearing jackets).

cepted to the English National Opera “The Knack” programme. He soon landed the part-time job of chazzan of the Central Synagogue in the West End of London and appeared on his first of many Jewish CDs as resident chazzan of the London Jewish Male Choir. He is known for his Helden (Heroic) tenor voice and for his renditions of Wagner, Verdi and Puccini arias.

The JJMC, said to be the longest-serving Jewish male choir in the international Jewish choral arena, first performed at Johannesburg’s Linder Auditorium in August 1996 to pay tribute to the late Cantor Johnny Gluck, who died at a young age shortly before then.

Over the years the JJMC has entertained audiences in the US, Canada, Israel, Australia and the UK. In December 2011 it was one of eight international choirs participating at the first international Louis Lewandowski Choral Festival in Berlin in honour of one of the greatest Jewish liturgical composers, whose 150-year-old music is still heard frequently today.

The choir is an acknowledged part of the Jewish musical scene of Johannesburg; its work is not confined to the Jewish community and it has served as an ambassador for the community and the country as a whole. The choristers are all volunteers.

As part of its outreach programme, the JJMC has performed on a number of occasions with the internationally known Imilonji Kantu Choral Society of Soweto, under the baton of George Mxadana.

This year the JJMC participated in a number of communal events, including Yom Hashoah and the 70th anniversary memorial service of the SA Jewish Ex-Service League. It will also perform at the “Poppy Day” commemoration concert for the First World War at the Military History Museum, Johannesburg.

Evelyn Green, one of the foremost accompanists and repetiteurs in South Africa, is a founder member of the choir and has been its accompanist and secretary since its establishment.

The highlight of her career was leading the JJMC as its musical director to the Lewandowski Festival in Berlin.

Professor Russel Lurie, who has sung in the choir since its second year, has been the JJMC chairman for the past 15 years. He started singing in a shul choir a few years before his barmitzvah. He has acted as choirmaster to a number of shuls in Johannesburg and currently sings with the Sandton Synagogue Choir.

He and Green have produced CDs entitled “Timeless Pearls”, and “Sim Shalom...Songs of our People”, a compendium of Jewish and related songs.

Another ORT JET Eureka milestone



Second prize Concept winner Neville Fleishman (business owner Life-Tubes Reflective); First prize Concept winner Wayne Gluckmann (business owner, Proximity); joint first prize Start-up winners Orit Taback (business owner, Orit's Bakery) and Anthony Wald (business owner, Apricity Capital); Business of the Year winner Shayla Hirschson (founder and director, Uvemvane Project NPC); and absent Mark Sack (managing director, Sally Williams Fine Foods).

MARCELLE RAVID

After a six-month exhilarating process, the 2015 ORT JET Eureka Entrepreneurial Competition, in partnership with Liberty, announced the winners at a glittering event on October 27. ORT JET celebrated its 10th milestone of serving small businesses in the community.

The winners prove that there's more to entrepreneurship than the profit motive: a simple but potentially life-saving device for cyclists, a home baker specialising in freezer-to-oven pastries and breads, an affordable credit system regardless of credit history and a seamless automated loyalty card app which combines all loyalty cards, are the winners of the competition.

A record-breaking 88 people entered the competition. All 25 short-listed businesses underwent intensive start-up business training. The 12 finalists pitched to a panel of top businessmen. "The mentoring session with ORT JET's network of prominent volunteers, was phenomenal," said 1st prize (Start-Up) winner, Orit Taback. "The incredible selfless giving and the interaction with these amazing mentors is priceless," said 2nd prize (Concept) winner, Neville

Fleishman.

Prizes included interest-free loans, office furniture, laptops, iPads, training, and ORT JET mentoring.

For the third consecutive year, Liberty has been a partner of Eureka with the competition aligned to Liberty's focus on education. David Lloyd, managing director of Liberty Investments said: "Each of the contestants had a burning desire to achieve great things. Their drive and willpower make for a great formula for success."

Wayne Gluckman, 1st prize (Concept) winner said: "The knowledge and skills we have attained in a short time-frame has been invaluable. Every exercise and workshop we have attended through ORT JET left us feeling more motivated and inspired than the last."

The special Sheldon Cohen Mentor of the Year Award went to Mark Sack, nominated by mentees for his dedication, empathy and insight. Business of the Year went to Shalya Hirschson.

Paul Bacher, chairman and founder of ORT JET, said: "It has been 10 years since ORT JET began and the success has far surpassed our hopes and dreams."

Labelling children: Lifeline or life sentence?

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The October session of the popular Enrich Your Life partnership between the Chev and Sydenham Shul's CAJE provided a wealth of information to the audience of almost 200, made up of parents and professionals.

How diagnoses are made, why they can be useful and the overuse of medications, were just some of the subjects touched upon by Dr Linda Kelly and Judith Ancer, two experts in their fields.

Their sensitivity toward children struggling in a complicated and competitive world was evident. Dr Kelly shared that many years of research are required before we can understand the trajectory of children currently diagnosed and receiving treatment.

Research has still to be done in tracking their lives into adulthood and understanding what the future holds for them. Overall, there was little doubt that optimism is not misplaced.



Child psychiatrist Dr Linda Kelly; Chevrah Kadisha social worker Tania Leibowitz; and clinical psychologist Judith Ancer.



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Q&A with Dr Harold Serebro • Book launch of The Canopy •

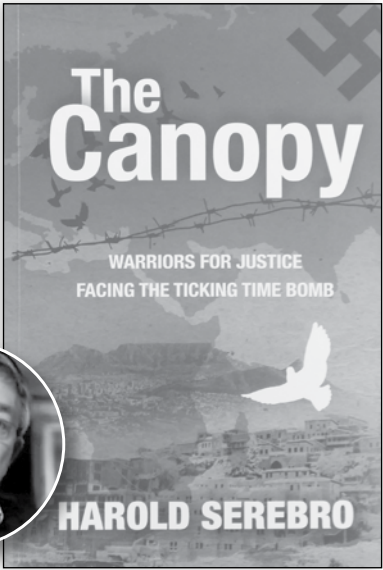
The **Isie Maisels Reference Library** is proud to host renowned author and physician Dr Harold Serebro as he launches his new book *The Canopy*.

The novel encapsulates a literary tour de force which takes us on a journey through World War II, the modern state of Israel and the threats posed by a nuclear Iran.

Dr Serebro has lectured internationally on the Holocaust and is often sought after for his knowledgeable opinions on global affairs.

Copies of *The CANOPY* can be purchased for R200 at the launch and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to SAFI (South African Friends of Israel) a division of the SAZF that promotes Israel to the broader community.

- **Date:** 15 November 2015
- **Time:** 5:00pm -6:30pm
- **Venue:** Beyachad: 2 Elray Street, Raedene.
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GOVERNMENT SHOULDN’T HAVE ‘TUNNEL VISION’ ON HAMAS

The visit of Hamas to a very friendly ANC was a real shame and an affront to the South African Jewish community. But having ties with Hamas need not be all doom and gloom, there could be some real benefit to the South African people. The main benefit I’m afraid, may never see the light of day.

We all know about the recent disastrous collapse of the scaffolding for the new Grayston pedestrian bridge, linking Alexandra township to Sandton. Over 10 000 people walk along Grayston Drive every day and the benefit of the bridge in terms of improving pedestrian mobility and safety, is clear.

The collapse of the bridge cost the lives of two motorists, injured more than 20 others and squandered who knows how many millions of rands.

Hamas must have some of the best Ivy League graduate civil and structural engineers as well as some of the best geologists in the world. I would have hoped that the South African government would have enlisted the help of Hamas in connecting Alexandra and Sandton.

With Hamas’ involvement, there would be no need for a multi-million rand bridge; we could tunnel right underneath the highway. The project would probably be completed within three weeks and you wouldn’t even know that they were there! Alas, some people only care about politics and until our government takes a more pragmatic stance, this project may remain dead and buried.

Craig Sacks
Johannesburg

SAD THAT NEW ZEALAND WASN’T PART OF SHABBOS PROJECT

While the Shabbos Project is always a huge and exciting event for both my husband and I and all our friends and family, with it being celebrated in 900 cities in 75 countries, I am deeply saddened by the fact that New Zealand was again excluded from the Project.

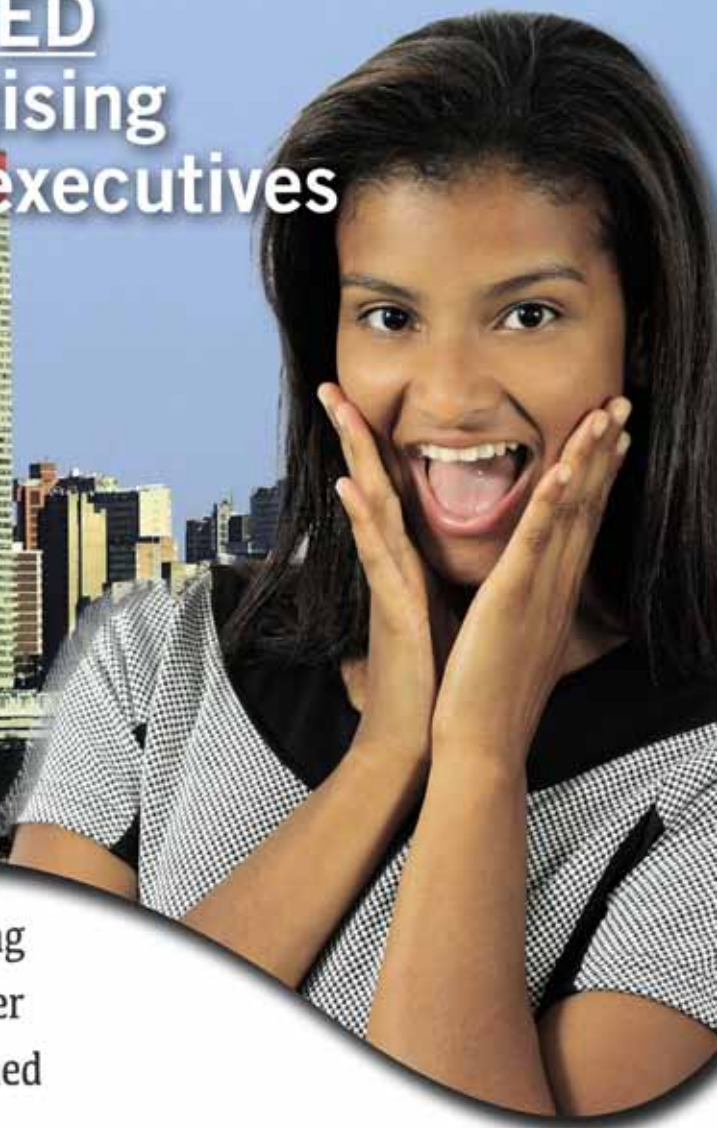
I tried in vain last year to have New Zealand included but was unsuccessful. After many e-mails to the people handling the Project, I really thought that this year, New Zealand, where my son and his family, and my daughter live, would be included.

Well, let’s hope that next year they will not be left out again.

Eunice Harris
Morningside, Sandton

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South African Jewish Report

COMMUNITY MUST FIGHT DRUGS, ALCOHOL ABUSE AMONG TEENS

It goes without saying that our wonderful Jewish community is not immune to the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, sexual abuse and the many negative things that unfortunately surround us.

These things are more prevalent in our community than we think and know. I hope that our community can ensure, through the many successful organisations, that we have the proper structures to deal with these issues when they occur.

What happens when those committing these acts are minors or underage? Underage drinking has for many years been a massive problem in our community. Personally, I have seen young barmitzvah and batmitzvah boys and girls getting drunk with their parents’ approval at their simchas.

What about the high school parties that young boys and girls host at their family homes, filled with alcohol and drugs? Parents today are turning a blind eye to the dangers and the effects of alcohol and drug abuse, all in the name of being cool and hip with teenagers.

Just last week I was witness to a young girl from one of our community’s high schools getting so drunk at a Halloween house party, that she woke up not knowing what had happened to her. These are 14-, 15- and 16-year-old kids, with parental consent, committing illegal acts that are imprisonable in our country.

The questions I have are:

- 1) What are the Jewish day schools doing to educate both learners and parents about these dangers?
- 2) How can parents allow this type of behaviour? Where have the morals gone?
- 3) Is there any organisation in the community that can assist youngsters with help?

Let’s not wait till a tragedy occurs through “having a good time”. We can’t wait till it’s too late.

Parents and the Jewish day schools have a massive responsibility to ensure that illegal and dangerous acts are not carried out by our Jewish youth.

Hanna Shpintzer
Edenvale

UK MEN SEEM TO BE KEEN CHALLAH BAKERS

An interesting bit of trivia which I could not help noticing in the photographs in last week’s Jewish Report, was that at the Challah Bake in the UK, there seemed to be as many men making challah as there were women!

If I am not mistaken, in Johannesburg I think I may actually have spotted one man - but with over 5 000 women and girls spread under the umbrellas and twinkling lights, over an enormous area at the Norwood Hyper, and my table being at the entrance point, I most certainly did not see it all.

Perhaps there were a few men dotted around?

Just as well the Johannesburg guys did not join in - I doubt whether double the number of participants could have been accommodated!

Mazelto v and grateful thanks to all involved in this amazing event.

Sonja Bulkin
Highlands north, Johannesburg

ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON ‘HYPOCRISY’ OF WHAT’S ALLOWED ON THE SABBATH

I would like to respond to Hilton Borach’s letter in last week’s Jewish Report, “Lots of hypocrisy on what’s allowed on Shabbat”.

I have often commented that although most of our Torah is oral and the written Torah is the tip of the iceberg. Therefore to those who never received the oral tradition or were not privileged to even peek at it and grasp its enormity and complexity, Shabbat and other mitzvot could look strange or hypocritical, as you call it.

But I maintain that nevertheless, G-d saw cars coming and of the 39 Melachos, incorrectly translated as work, only one was explicitly listed and that is the making of a fire (Leviticus 35:1).

As any engineer at Volkswagen will tell you, virtually all engines work by burning petrol/diesel and creating (harmful) by-products/pollutants, hence the term internal combustion engine.

With regard to driving to shul: Some rabbis only sanction it because the person would probably drive to other places and desecrate the Sabbath, but if not, the injection of a second soul he would receive if he keeps the Sabbath and the heavenly spiritual aid he would receive, would far outweigh any shul service.

My knowledge is limited as - well as this space permitted - but I am sure you can find books/information by people much more knowledgeable than me, at Jewish book shops or online, such as Aish, Torah.org or Jewish libraries such as Kollel and Chabad or shiurim such as those of Ohr Somayach.

Eli Knight
Johannesburg

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STUDENT PROTESTS: MOB LAW WON THE DAY

It is disappointing that SA Jewish Report could not find one person who recognises that the #FeesMustFall is nothing but the success of mob action and excellent mob control by some of the universities’ management.

The storming of the Union Buildings and Parliament by mobs is definitely not protest action, but the start of unlawful actions to gain what a small group want.

We can look forward to more of these actions as there are so many people who have rights to what they want. The silent majority flee to protect themselves from the mobs.

It will be interesting to see what the “Community Voices” will say if at the start of the 2016 academic year, transformation mobs storm the universities and call for the number of whites in the universities to be set at a maximum of eight per cent of the student body (eight per cent is roughly the white percentage of the South African population).

At Wits, if the student body is 35 000, then the total number of whites should be 2 800. This number may be less than white students already at Wits, thus no white first year intake.

South Africa is a democracy where actions required to satisfy all the different rights groups should be carried out within the framework of the law. Not mob law.

This is a good time for the Chief Rabbi’s Bill of Responsibility to be activated throughout our country.

Louis Mielke
Johannesburg

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE WE DON’T NEED ENEMIES

I would like to comment on an article, which appeared in the October 30 issue of the SA Jewish Report, headlined “Clinton was a true friend of Israel”.

I really think Israel would be honoured by everyone, if characters who are regarded by any decent, truthful and intelligent person as war criminals, criminals against humanity and criminals against peace, were not regarded as “Israel’s friends”.

I salute Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for reminding people about (Grand Mufti of Jerusalem) Haj Amin al Husseini’s role in the Holocaust. And I would like to mention that the leadership of what was called in the Second World War, “Al Hidayah” (“The Youth”, a faction of the movement, “the Young Muslims”, which recruited Muslims to the SS units formed by al-Husseini), later became the leadership of the SDA and of the Islamic regime in Bosnia-Herzegovina during the 1990s.

The regime of Croatia during the 1990s, as well as the terrorists in Kosmet (KLA) in Serbia, were sympathisers of Nazis and Nazi collaborators too. And for all those demons, the abovementioned “Friend of Israel” demonised, incited against, bombed, killed and maimed Serbs.

So really, I am disgusted at such “Friends of Israel”. And for the sake of honouring the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, (former US President) Bill Clinton should never be invited to any of his memorial ceremonies. Also, for the sake of honouring the memory of Rabin, his assassin, Yigal Amir, should receive amnesty, but with the clarification that it doesn’t justify the assassination.

Avner Eliyahu Romm
Jerusalem

Community

UJW fulfils mitzvah of ‘bringing light’

In numerous countries across the world, November 22 will be commemorated as Mitzvah Day, bringing together people of different faiths to celebrate their common humanity and their concern for the needy, the lonely, and those whose lives are difficult.

In South Africa, the Union of Jewish Women is playing a leading role, working closely with various religious groups.

“On Chanukah we celebrate the festival of lights. This is the opportunity to bring lights to families living in squatter camps in our area,” the UJW said.

The groups are working together on the theme of “Bringing Light to the People”, focusing on making a difference to many who live in abject squalor and poverty in squatter camps. “These families have no access to electricity, no lights, no heating, and are forced to rely on paraffin lamps which, while being fairly ineffective, are at the same time frighteningly dangerous and have resulted in tragedies too numerous to mention.”

The UJW says it has come up with an answer to this problem: specialised solar lights that can provide up to 60 hours of cost-free light and are charged by exposure to sunlight. In so doing, it also simultaneously protects the environment from the damaging effect of pollution.

Appealing to the generosity of the Jewish community, the UJW says: “For a mere R100 per unit, the lives of these families, of students battling to study by paraffin lamp, will be irrevocably changed, for the better.

“Your much appreciated donations will bring light into their lives.”

The UJW is also inviting schools to participate in the project, “by approaching and asking parents to donate towards this vital initiative”.



This solar light takes 12 hours to charge - using sunlight - and then runs for an incredible 60 hours!

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

New German ambassador hosts Holocaust survivors

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Last Sunday marked a significant date in the history of South African Jewry as Walter Lindner, the new German ambassador, and his wife Laura invited Johannesburg-based Holocaust survivors to lunch at the ambassadorial residence in Pretoria.

This event, held in collaboration with the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre (JHGC), was a first in South Africa. Eighteen survivors accepted the invitation to lunch.

Guests were treated to a three course meal and each had the opportunity to speak to the ambassador personally. The ambassador emphasised how meaningful this event was to him as he spoke to, among others, 97-year-old survivor Madeleine Lopato who presented him with a copy of her memoir.

Maud Perlov, another survivor, also presented the ambassador with a book which provided a biographical account of his family’s experiences.

Romanian survivor Lyonell Fliss encompassed the importance of this event for all involved as he thanked the ambassador and his wife in the name of all the survivors, for their gracious and warm hospitality.



German Ambassador Walter Lindner and his wife Laura, with Holocaust survivors and volunteers of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre at the ambassadorial residence in Pretoria.

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Herzlia rises to the JSE’s Investment Challenge 2015



OWN CORRESPONDENT

In February this year a number of grade 8s and 9s at Herzlia High School in Cape Town entered the 44th JSE Investment Challenge. This is an investment simulation in which teams are given R1 million to invest in shares of their choice and then see whether their share investment grows or decreases.

Although a lot has changed over the past 44 years that the challenge has been run, most notably the way in which shares are traded, a lot is the same.

One aspect that is unchanged is the need for patience. While some of the teams lost interest over the six months that the game is run, one team showed perseverance and motivation throughout the duration of the competition. Their reward for this was an invitation to the JSE’s annual prize-giving on October 23 at the JSE headquarters in Sandton. The team was flown up by the JSE for the day.

Samuel Finder, Ethan Morris, Darren Berelowitz, and Joshua Gordon were invited to the prize-giving not knowing what they had won. The JSE made the function a memorable experience. The Herzlia team walked away with 5th place in the “Speculator Category” of the competition, which attracted 405 teams from across the country. Their prize was R6 250 invested in Satrix accounts, to encourage real investing in the future.

Herzlia’s is also the youngest team ever to be placed in this competition.

‘Pink Trees for Pauline’ - from a school which cares



JODI STARKOWITZ

King David High School, Linksfield wrapped all the trees on the campus and on Club Street in aid of cancer awareness in a campaign called “Pink Trees for Pauline”. This is an initiative, brought by grade 11 learner Mati Leder and started by Carol-Ann van Jaarsveld who lost her mother and grandmother to breast cancer - both named Pauline - in Graaff Reinet in 2012.

King David is honoured to be associated with this event for the second year as it is a fitting reminder of the three special members of the KDHL family who sadly passed away last year from cancer, namely 2014 matric pupil Daniel Copans and teachers Warren Mendelow and Ronnie Mink.

The slogan is: “Wrapped in Colour, United in Hope”. It is a beautiful description of what the event encompasses. One wraps a tree with pink fabric to show one’s solidarity and support for those who have succumbed to cancer, or are still bravely fighting the battle. This further allows them to have hope that they are not alone in their darkest hour.

“We dedicated this year’s pink picnic in their name and have wrapped three trees, permanently, in front of the admin block, so their great legacy will always be engraved in our hearts.”

Sydenham Hebrew Pre-Primary does it again!



LESLEY BLOCH

Thanks to the generosity of the parent body during the month of Elul, the pre-primary was able to “Pay It Forward” and fulfil the wish-list of Bonono Crèche in Alexandra township. The school is now equipped with a new stove, a microwave, pots and pans, tables and chairs for the children. Tina and her team of teachers were overwhelmed with gratitude. “We at Sydenham hope to continue spreading kindness.”

A big YES to YC’s new learning initiative

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Yeshiva College is taking the “ye” out of yesterday and putting it into tomorrow, with the establishment of their new YES Centre. The launch of this initiative took place on October 28.

YES, an acronym for The Yeshiva Extension and Support Centre, will be a multi-storey building housed on the school campus. The centre will facilitate support for learners in need of remediation and extra guidance, through child- and adolescent-centred therapies.

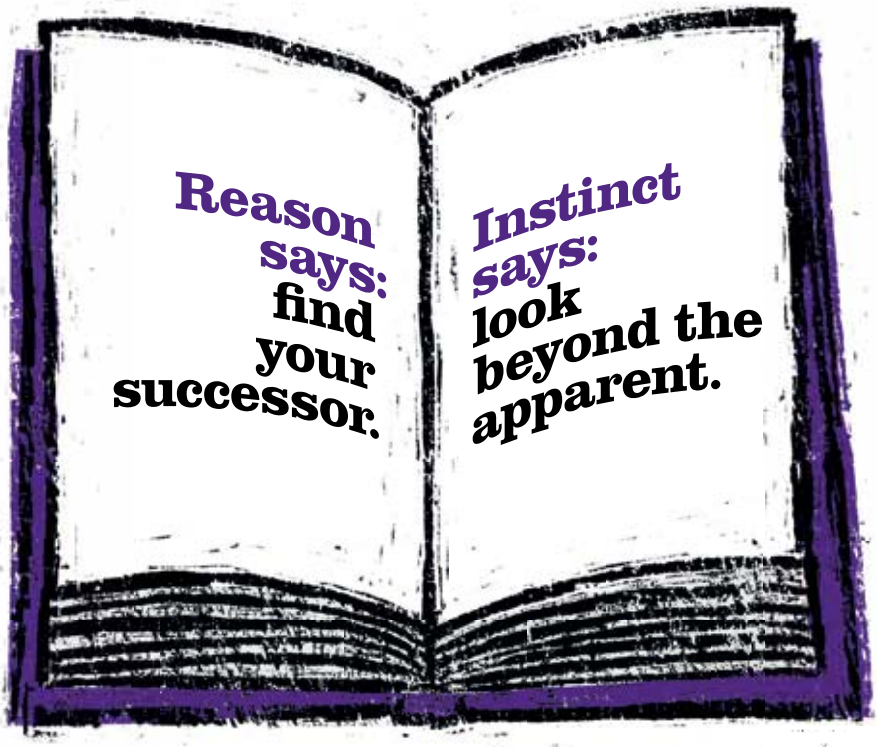
The centre will also offer various cultural activities such as Art, Drama and Music.

Rabbi Leron Bernstein, MD of Yeshiva College, told parents at the launch: “We are very excited that the centre will also function

as a hub for think-tanks, training and support for our teachers, thereby empowering them to better support and extend all learners across the board.”



The YES Centre team: Rabbi Leron Bernstein; Sheryl Cohen; Lisa Zimmerman; Luella Kramer; and Israel Bender.



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Jews play a major role in SA cultural life

MARGOT COHEN

Last Sunday evening, in a packed lecture held at the offices of fine art auctioneers Strauss & Co, Stephan Welz (long practising fine art expert and auctioneer) held the room rapt as he concentrated his attention on the phenomenal, and largely unsung, contribution made to local arts and culture by Jewish philanthropists.

He gave a detailed account of the too-often unacknowledged generosity and genuine philanthropy of a group of people to whom South Africa is greatly indebted. In fact, he argued, without the contribution of Jewish philanthropy, South Africa would be a considerably poorer country as far as arts and culture is concerned.

Among the most notable - appropriately as the Johannesburg Art Gallery celebrates its centenary this month - was the role played by Sir Lionel and Florence Phillips, who founded the Johannesburg Art Gallery and its foundation collection, and Max Michaelis, one of its biggest benefactors.

While Lady Phillips established the gallery, Michaelis donated £5 000 (between £500 000 and £4 million today) toward the purchasing fund, one of the largest donations. Michaelis is also responsible for the establishment of the Michaelis Art Library in Johannesburg, the Michaelis Art School at UCT, and a collection of Dutch and Flemish old masters in the Michaelis Collection, housed in the Old Town House in Cape Town.

The Phillipases, incidentally, were also instrumental in the establishment of the Kruger National Park and Kirstenbosch Gardens.

Other notable art philanthropists mentioned by Welz include Alfred de Pass, who donated more than 300 paintings and sculptures to

the South African National Gallery, and also donated his remarkable collections of Chinese ceramics, Egyptian bronzes, Babylonian artefacts, Persian enamels, Greek pottery and Roman glass to the South African Museum.

Another was Sidney Mendelssohn, who is responsible for the Library of Parliament, and who devoted many years to the compilation of his seminal and much sought-after South African Bibliography which was published in 1910 and became the “Bible” of all Africana book collectors and dealers.

Mendelssohn bequeathed his collection of 700 books and 300 prints, paintings and sketches to the Government of the Union of South Africa. Also worth mentioning,

Stephan Welz in front of lot 248, Cecily Sash, to be sold on November 9 at the Strauss & Co arts auction.



among many others, is William Fehr whose collection is housed in The Castle in Cape Town.

Welz also noted the significantly large number of Jewish authors producing books relating to South African art, besides the very large number of Jewish artists, among whom Irma Stern and William Kentridge stand out among the very best.

Given the small size of the Jewish population in South Africa - currently at 0,2 per cent of the population - Welz emphasised the magnanimity of the contribution of the Jewish community and how absolutely fundamental it has been to the artistic cultural heritage of South Africa.

What's On

Today (Friday November 6)

- UZLC hosts David Saks on “Is the Israel/South Africa Relationship in Danger?” Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.
- Chabad in Sea Point, St John's Road, hosts, from Monday to Friday, at 06:30 sharp, a “Businessmen's Minyan” Coffee and cake 07:15. Rosh Chodesh 06:15. Contact: 083-740-0505.

Saturday evening (November 7)

- WIZO Tzabar presents Nir Dishon and his singing group “Gvanim” with “Songs From Our Beloved Israel”. Venue: The World of Yamaha, 19 Eastern Service Road, Sandton. Time: 19:30 for 20:00. Cost: R250. Bookings: Nadine (011)-645-2515/wizojhb@beyachad.com, Nava: 082-789-9118 or Raya 083-377-2970.
- “Luck will be a Lady” at Beit Emanuel's annual fundraiser. Hit the jackpot with good food, laughter and hours of fun. Time: 19:30 for 20:00. Tickets R300 each. To book: Ilana (011) 646-6170.

Sunday (November 8)

- Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St John's College auditorium, Houghton. Dave Goldstein compiled the programme with a video on Frank Sinatra - a tribute on the 100th anniversary of his birth. After interval a further video Sinatra's greatest performances. Time: 14:15 sharp. Enquiries: Marilyn 072-243-7436 or Jack 082-450-7622.

Monday (November 9)

- UJW hosts Howard Dembovsky, national chairman: Justice Project South Africa on: “Why is the Death Toll on Our Roads Ever-increasing?” Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (November 10)

- WIZO Women Inspired hosts a cooking demonstration with Delores Fouché. Venue: The Home of Sheryl Kaplan, Houghton. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R150. Bookings and venue details: Joceline 082-441-4375, Lorraine 083-268-8016, Maureen 082-445-1515, Leslie 083-456-3911 or Merlene 082-410-4976.
- RCHCC screens the documentary in commemoration of Kristallnacht, “Night Will Fall”. 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: rhcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net

- UJW presents a video (audience choice). Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R20. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

Wednesday (November 11)

- SAZF's Jewish film festival today screens “My Old Lady”. about a down-on-his-luck New Yorker who inherits a Parisian apartment from his estranged father. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 19:30. Booking essential. Cost: R50 per ticket. Contact miriam@sazf.org or tel (011) 645-2531 or maxine@beyachad.co.za, or tel (011) 645 2557. Have

your ID number as well as credit card details available upon booking.

- UJW hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Dept of English at Wits, on “The Written Word Leaps Off the Page” - fourth in a series. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Sunday (November 15)

- SAZF hosts the launch of Harold Serebro's new book “The Canopy: warriors for justice: facing ticking time bomb”. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 17:00. The book will be on sale for R200. RSVP by November 6. Essential to register for security purposes. Contact: Maxine (011) 645-2557 or e-mail: maxine@beyachad.co.za

Monday (November 16)

- WIZO Johannesburg hosts Einat Wilf, a powerful spokesman on the Middle East. Time: 18:30. Cost: R100 (incl refreshments). Bookings and venue details: Nadine (011)-645-2515/wizojhb@beyachad.com
- WIZO Johannesburg presents “Who's Afraid of Einat Wilf?” An opportunity to meet a fresh voice on the Middle East. Time: 18:30. Cost: R100 (incl drinks and snacks). Bookings and venue details: Nadine: (011) 645-2515 / wizojhb@beyachad.com
- UJW hosts Prof Barry Schoub, executive director, National Institute of Virology on. “Triumph Over Epidemics. The remarkable story of the conquest of smallpox and polio - the Jewish role. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R35. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

Luzon now just an(other) insecure Guy

JACK MILNER

Anybody who follows professional soccer anywhere in the world will know the most insecure job ever, is that of a soccer coach. The returns are often very decent if you can produce the goods, but it’s quite rare for a coach to see out the tenure of his contract. You are only as good as your last result and if the fans want you out, then pack your bags, negotiate the best exit package and move on to the next job. Make sure your work contract is as “fire-proof” as possible. That is something Israeli coach Guy Lu-

zon has learned quite quickly. A year ago he was sacked from Standard Liege in Belgium after a little more than a year, but was then appointed manager of second tier Charlton Athletic in England. He was hailed as a hero when he started well at the club, but he has not had good results since the start of the season and last week the axe fell. Luzon was their fourth coach in two years, which in itself could be the problem at the club. But Luzon has hit back, claiming an “unbelievable” injury list meant his sacking after 10 months in charge was “not fair”. The Israeli suffered his 15th defeat in

charge of the Addicks (the team’s nickname) at the hands of Brentford and it proved to be one too many for the Charlton board. Shortly after the match Luzon explained to the press how his side would be back to their best just as soon as their lengthy injury list started to shrink. Later that day he was dismissed, along with his managerial team. Luzon told The Sun: “When a club doesn’t get the results, changing the coach is okay. But when the squad is not available, I think it is not fair. “In the last two months many of our squad were not available. Not because of me, the president or anyone, but because of injuries. They weren’t muscle injuries, they were unbelievable injuries. “I am very disappointed because I know I have the quality and in the squad we have the quality to play great football and get results as we did last season. But with our short squad it was really difficult for us to overcome this obstacle.”

The Charlton fans have voiced their annoyance after another unknown manager - from Belgium - was put in charge by owner Roland Duchatelet. From February 14 to April 3, Luzon’s Addicks took 15 points from a possible 18 and pulled off some memorable victories. Luzon says he will always have fond memories of Charlton and their fans “I don’t take the fans for granted; they were really great and supported me through all the games. I love them and loved being part of this great club.” Luzon was born in Israel in 1975 and was a graduate of the Maccabi Petah Tikva youth programme. He joined Maccabi Petah Tikva at the age of 10 and started playing for the first team at the age of 18, making his debut against Betar Tel Aviv in 1992. He played for Maccabi Petah Tikva for three years, until an injury in 1996 forced him to retire at the age of 21. He was offered a job to coach the Maccabi Petah Tikva youth team, under head coach Eli Ohana. He took over as manager from Ohana in the 2001/2 Israeli Premier League season, leading Maccabi to finish eighth. Luzon’s biggest success at Maccabi was winning the Toto Cup in 2004 along with placing second in the 2004/5 Israeli Premier League and winning through to the Uefa Cup second qualifying round.



Israeli-born coach Guy Luzon shouts instruction to his team at Charlton Athletic.

In August 2010, Luzon was appointed coach of the Israel national under-21 team. He competed at the 2013 Uefa European under-21 Championship because Israel qualified automatically as hosts. Luzon led the Israeli under-21 team to a third place finish in Group A, including a victory against the England under-21s. He was appointed manager of Standard Liege in May 2013, which was met with protests from some of the fans. However, he exceeded expectations, leading Standard to a second-place finish in the 2013/14 Belgian Pro League and qualifying for the 2014/15 Uefa Champions League, where they lost in the play-off round to Zenit Saint Petersburg. In October 2014 Luzon was dismissed from his job at Standard because of the poor results at the beginning of the season. He went on to Charlton Athletic but what was interesting was a tweet he made shortly after being axed from the club. “Disappointed Charlton have made my resignation public following an approach by Mr Roman at Chelsea FC. SpecialOne out, SpecialZon in. Bye, Adders.” Was that tongue in cheek or has Roman Abramovich really shown some interest in the young Israeli?

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