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PENINA  
TAYLOR'S  
RETURN TO  
JUDAISM / 16

ISRAELI AND  
SA JAZZ  
GROOVE  
TOGETHER / 8

LEON'S PERSONAL  
ACCOUNT -  
REVIEWED BY  
KADALIE / 13



SOUTH AFRICAN

# Jewish Report



www.sajewishreport.co.za

Friday, 15 August 2008 / 14 Av, 5768

Volume 12 Number 31

## Georgian conflict: some Jews make for Israel

AS THE conflict between Georgia and Russia moved towards an uneasy stalemate on Tuesday, the migration of refugees away from the devastated capital of the breakaway republic of South Ossetia, Tskhinvali spread further and more Jews emerged from the fog of war. **PAGE 11**

### UJW's Kosher Mobile Meals - lifesaver for many

THE UNION of Jewish Women's life-saving service of providing nutritious, cooked meals to those in our Jewish community who are unable to do so themselves, is a project very close to the heart of all the incredibly dedicated volunteers who pack and deliver the meals.

In a media release, Kosher Mobile Meals says it has been in existence for many years and is very much the flagship project of the Union of Jewish Women.

Volunteers come from all walks of life and include people of all ages - right up to octogenarians! They find their work extremely meaningful in this age of materialism.

For some of the recipients, the contact they have with these volunteers is their only window to the outside world.

Elaine Friedland... had just loaded her car with food parcels to be delivered. (PHOTO: ESTELLE CLINE)



SA Holocaust Foundation hosts exhibits of 'Hana's Suitcase' and Terezin art / 4

Habonim rebuts criticism vis-à-vis 'rights group' / 10

Jewish schools celebrate Women's Day / 3

Journalist Hazel Friedman gives life to 'initiate' Buntu Majalaza's memory / 8

Hermanus consecrates new shul and community centre / 21

Yad Aharon: Walking to feed hungry mouths / 6

YOUTH TALK / 18-19 SPORTS / 24 LETTERS / 14 CROSSWORD & BRIDGE / 20 COMMUNITY BUZZ / 7 WHAT'S ON / 20

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# Jewish Report

Published by  
S A Jewish Report (Pty) Ltd,  
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Tel: 011-886-0162  
Fax: 011-886-4202  
Printed by Caxton Ltd

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## PARSHA OF THE WEEK

# Comfort, comfort my people, says Hashem

HAVING EMERGED from the saddest season of the Jewish calendar, we enter the period of consolation. For the past three weeks we read the prophecies of doom relating to the destruction of the Temple and its consequences.

This week and for the remaining seven weeks of the Jewish year the readings of the Prophets speak of hope, rebuilding and redemption.

The traditional words of comfort that we extend to a mourner are: "May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."

It seems strange that we address personal loss and individual tragedy and pain by alluding to the national bereavement of Am Yisrael. How does the sadness and consolation of our nation assuage the grief of personal loss?

How can we expect the mourner who is consumed by his or her own sadness, to even begin to identify with public grief and to thereby find reassurance and comfort?

There are two profound aspects of consolation that can be found "amidst the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem".

Three times a day a Jew faces Yerushalayim in prayer as we have done for thousands of years.



**PARSHAT NACHAMU**  
Rabbi Dovid Hazdan  
Great Park Shul

We stand on the other side of history and geography, removed from our Temple - The Beit Hamikdash - by the extremes of time and place. Yet we face the Temple Mount - the space once occupied by the House of Hashem.

Every day of our lives we reaffirm the powerful effect the Beit Hamikdash still has on our lives. To this day it gives us direction, focus and purpose. Even though the Temple was removed from our midst two thousand years ago, its impact on our world extends way beyond the period of its physical presence.

The duration of its existence on earth brought fundamental change, its after-effects still reverberating and resonating through time and space.

We direct the mourner to see her/himself in the context of the mourners of Zion. Even as we grieve the loss of the physical presence of a loved one, we

need to acknowledge that people - like the Temple - live on beyond their lifetime.

We try and shift the focus to the immortal messages that they communicated by their word and by their example, that continue to be the inspiration and compass of our lives. We try and shift the thoughts to the spiritual dimension of the relationship that transcends the abyss of physical dislocation.

In this initial stage of consolation, the objective is for the mourner to accept and to come to terms with reality by looking deeper and finding the light that pierces through the enveloping darkness.

But there is a deeper dimension in the comfort that can be found among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. It is the power of hope and our belief in the rebuilding of the Temple that has inspired a spirit of optimism even as we might traverse the darkest annals of our history.

At our Seder table, "Leshana Haba'ah Birushalayim - Next year in Jerusalem" are the words of confidence that conclude the journey of our exodus from Egypt. It is the triumphant proclamation that encapsulates our deepest yearning and belief

## SHABBAT TIMES

August 15 / 14 Av  
August 16 / 15 Av

Erev Shabbat

Starts	Ends	
17:31	18:21	Johannesburg
18:00	18:53	Cape Town
17:15	18:06	Durban
17:35	18:26	Bloemfontein
17:31	18:23	Port Elizabeth
17:23	18:15	East London

### Parshat Nachamu

- Emunah - that Hashem will redeem us from our present exile and return us to Jerusalem with the Temple restored in our midst.

We trust that Hashem will answer the thousands of years of Jewish prayers and dreams by fulfilling the prophecies of consolation by removing the pain in a world redeemed.

On this Shabbat Nachamu, Hashem reassures us with the words of Yishayahu: "Comfort, comfort my people says Hashem."

May we each find consolation - not only by cushioning the pain by focusing on the strength and warmth that lessens the tears - but complete consolation in a world freed entirely from loss, pain, enmity, strife and depression.

A world in which all souls will be reunited with the coming of Mashiach our righteous redeemer.

# Mark Samowitz 'back home' at VP Shul

ROMY SALANT  
PHOTOGRAPH: LES SAMOWITZ

VICTORY PARK Shul welcomes Mark Samowitz home.

After an absence of seven years, Samowitz is back in South Africa - and in his previously held position as chazzan of Victory Park Shul in Johannesburg.

After living overseas for the past three years, performing in concerts in 11 states throughout the United States, for both adults and children, Samowitz has returned to his roots. "I am very excited to return to South Africa and contribute the experience I had overseas to the South African community," Samowitz told the *Jewish Report*.

Ten years ago at the age of 19 Samowitz took up the position of chazzan at Victory Park Shul, a position he held for three years. Afterwards, while doing articles in accountancy, he continued to conduct the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services at the Perth Hebrew Congregation in Australia.

In his past three years in America he has held positions as chazzan at the Beth Tfiloh Shul in Baltimore, the Boca Raton Synagogue in Florida and at Aish Hatorah in New York.

His experience abroad, included him winning the Jewish Singing Competition (CAJE Idol



The Victory Park Shul choir. Back row: Daniel Epstein; Adam Sachs; Michael Epstein; Dr David Friedland; Adam Pelkowitz; Jonti Hetz; and Philip Berelowitz. Front row: Daniel Bulafkin; Alon Berger; Mark Samowitz; and Jonathan Chaimowitz. Absent are Barri Strimling and Dr Selwyn Milner.

in St Louis last year) and performing the renowned Shooby Doob Shloimy children's concerts (which he co-created with Helen Heldenmuth) and his solo performance "Timeless moments" throughout America.

Longing for his South African roots and family, he eventually made the decision to return home. Samowitz brings a unique energy to Victory Park Shul whose youth attendance and services continue to grow.

He brings his overseas encounters and his experiences of working in large communities and with youth to create innovative

and uplifting services, to bring a youthful energy to the shul.

There is a choir of young adults, mostly former King David Victory Park learners in their 20s, who sing every Friday night and on special Shabbat days, adding a vibrant spark to the Shabbat services.

Samowitz remarks: "I am excited to be part of a dynamic congregation such as Victory Park Hebrew Congregation, to work with Rabbi Azriel Uzvolk and to be involved in the process of making shul a meaningful and spiritual experience."

Samowitz plans to be involved

in the broader South African community through continuing to perform concerts, working on producing Shooby Doob Shloimy DVDs and doing chuppahs, benching and horas for simchas. The congregation is happy to welcome him back as an important mentor in their community.

Rabbi Uzvolk told the Jewish Report: "I am delighted with Mark's appointment as chazzan at our shul. He brings a fresh energy, excitement and warmth to our community and I welcome the public at large to come and enjoy our dynamic prayer services."

## UPCOMING FEATURES 2008....

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# Commemorating the foundation of womanhood

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
SHELLEY ELK

"YOU STRIKE a woman you strike a rock", reverberated thematically through the talks given last Friday at King David Linksfield High School's celebration of Women's Day. August 9 was the 52nd anniversary of a women's march to the Union Buildings in Pretoria in 1956, to protest the hated pass laws. This march changed the history of women in South Africa.

Celebrating the role of women in society and in South Africa, KDL invited speakers Rebbetzen Mashi Lipskar, (teacher, lecturer, counsellor, and president of N'shei U'bnos Chabad), Rita Mkwanzazi, (former teacher, pastor, literacy trainer, facilitator at Girl Guides) Msapa Maringa, (traditional healer) and Sara Magkale (a social worker at MaAfrika Tikkun in Diepsloot Wings of Life community centre) who kept the learners spellbound with their perspectives on women's roles today in South African society.

Contextualising Women's Day, Rene Poznaniak (Jewish studies teacher at KDL) said: "In 1956 20 000 women of all ages marched to the Union buildings in Pretoria, to resist the pass laws." The dignity of the march was impressive with most wearing traditional clothes, ANC colours and saris - some women with babies on their backs.

Women stood in silence for half an hour, then sang freedom songs, and a new song, which became the credo of South African women: "If you strike a woman you strike a rock."

Magkale in her address said she

faced challenges working as a social worker. "I watch the strength of our women in South Africa, who wake up in a deeply poverty-stricken township. They look after children, some disabled, with illness or disease.

"They give life and hope and that gives me a reason to work and wake up and be part of this and be there for them. As little black girls we are groomed to look after our homes, houses, brothers and sisters, because it is preparation for when you are a woman.

"At social functions we don't have caterers, the women bring everything, pots, cutlery, to help at weddings or funerals, so it will go well."

Magkale said women were beautiful, interesting, and the treasure and lifeblood of every community and society. "I can't imagine any community without a woman, and the beauty and effect all of us have on the world. For that we should celebrate ourselves and honour every single woman and respect ourselves."

"Women are natural care givers, powerful and strong," said traditional healer, Msapa Maringa (26).

When it was dark she saw an opportunity to radiate her own light. "I am proud of what I am and what I do. I consult with ancestors, and use plants to cure diseases. My profession is undermined by many. It is not easy, I meet different people, who have challenges and problems. Because of who I am, I grab the bull by the horns. I am smart, wise and strong. I am different, and now I know why, because I am special, now I know G-d is by my side.



Emma Berkenfeld KDL's elected head girl for 2009, Rita Mkwanzazi (former teacher), Sara Magkale (social worker), Msapa Maringa (traditional healer) and Rebbetzen Mashi Lipskar (shlucha and teacher).

"I take each day as a blessing; I remember tears, but I never regret the day G-d created me and made me a woman. We should keep rising. When we fall, it is about how you rise against all odds. You can never bring down a woman. United together, we are strong."

"It is a privilege and honour to be a woman," said Rita Mkwanzazi. "African women fear G-d. The woman is the mother of a nation, and of a small family in each household."

Women were moulders of young lives. "She is a queen, she is special. In her walk she rules today and the distant future of the unknown. She is powerful and strong.

"Women make changes. We have 43 per cent women representatives in Parliament, because they have something special in them. We are the grinders - we grind situations; in 1956 we marched, we have Women's Day; women are geared to make it happen, cause changes, and commotion. We make noise, till someone pays attention. We need to empow-

er people till the women get respect."

Rebbetzen Lipskar, who has lived in South Africa for more than 36 years, said: "Women were created last, a few hours before Shabbat, so that everything was ready for them. She personifies G-d's purpose in the world in that the final result was thought of first. This exemplifies the intention in creation.

"Hashem desired a dwelling place among us to walk with us in this world. It is a privilege if we emulate Him."

She said Shabbat, likened to the woman, was the bride, *malka* or queen. Women were born refined, connected, with extra insight, intuition, *emunah*/faith. It was sad, she said, that "sometimes unlike our beautiful African sisters (here) we have lost touch. They have self-confidence, self-knowledge and this is also the heritage of every woman and Jewish women."

The home was the centre of the woman, who was the foundation of the home. *Akeret* was the essence of the home, a place of protection.

A woman set the tone in her home.

Solomon spoke of the wisdom of women who brought light, protection, upliftment to the family and others. The woman had an individual Divine providence.

The emphasis, said Rebbetzen Lipskar, was in the details, dress, kashrut and speech - to make Hashem comfortable and others comfortable and welcome.

Rebbetzen Lipskar explained that Hashem created woman from a bone, not dust. She was strong covered in a soft exterior. When she hurt, she might not like it, but would recover.

"We need to deal with strength encased in gentleness," she added.

Hashem spoke to the women first, asking if they would receive the Torah. He knew that if the woman embraced it, it would last, and continue for generations and generations.

It was the women who imbued generations with a sense of value, and importance in being in this world.

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# Silent witnesses to atrocities and pain

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

"THROUGH THE Eyes of Children", an exhibition of children's art from the Terezin concentration camp in Czechoslovakia, opened at the Baxter Theatre under the auspices of the South African Holocaust Foundation, in association with the Embassy of the Czech Republic, the Jewish Museum Prague, Waging Peace and the Frank Joubert Art Centre.

The exhibition, which will be on display until August 27, is on long-term loan from the Prague Museum.

The event also served as the launch of the South African edition of Hana's Suitcase, the story of two Jewish children who lived in Czechoslovakia and what happened to them when their country was occupied by the Nazis. The artwork of Hana Brady, the young girl of the title who was gassed at Auschwitz at the age of 13, is on display.

Also included in the exhibition are drawings of children from Darfur who escaped war-torn Sudan and live in refugee camps in neighbouring Chad. As a result of a partnership between the Cape Town Holocaust Centre (CTHC) and the Frank Joubert Art Centre here, drawings of children from disadvantaged communities are on display in a parallel exhibition.

Forty of these children will be coming to the Baxter daily "to engage with the exhibition and to have the opportunity to

respond creatively to what they see", according to Richard Freedman, director of the CTHC.

Ambassador of the Czech Republic Martin Pohl, noted the continued presence of racism, violence, xenophobia, poverty and crime. "The message we're being given today is still very, very important - we have to make choices and cannot turn a blind eye to evil.

"The denying of reality in some of the paintings is a most creative way of trying to triumph over the conditions," he added.

Former Cabinet minister, Professor Kader Asmal, a newly-appointed patron of the CTHC, said that the "extraordinary" paintings were "silent witnesses to atrocity and pain", though "deep down, there is a glimmer of salvation. Through these paintings we can give a name and provide a bit of humanity to these remarkable children who lost everything", he said.

Describing the Holocaust as "the crime of crimes" - the reason he had agreed to become a patron of the CTHC - he said there should be "no limit to our compassion and defending the right to innocence", the latter of which had been destroyed in the concentration camps.

"When we look at the paintings of the kids, we think of all the horrors of the treatment of the Jews, the gypsies, the homosexuals, the Slavs."

Consul-general of Canada, Chris Brown said the message the exhibition imparted was that any country that violated human rights would fail.

Fumiko Ishioka, director of the Tokyo



Holocaust survivor Miriam Lichterman, Fumiko Ishioka, director of the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Centre, Lara Hana Brady, Dr Tim Cole, Professor Kader Asmal and Holocaust survivor Ella Blumenthal.

Holocaust Education Resource Centre, started the Centre with some friends in 1997. "I was not a historian or a teacher, but we wanted to teach tolerance, respect and compassion and felt that the history of the Holocaust would be a good educational tool to open up (the children's) eyes and minds to the world.

"When I received Hana's Suitcase (from the Auschwitz Museum in response to her request for Holocaust relics), I was sure I wanted to make it a symbol of life, not death," she told the audience. "That's why I started the search (for Hana's family).

"Good luck and strange coincidences

brought me to (Hana's brother) George in Canada (the only member of his family to have survived the Holocaust). Thanks to the author (of Hana's Suitcase) Karen Levine, we can now share the story with so many children (in a country like) Japan which has no direct connection with the Holocaust and where many children have never heard of it."

Lara Hana Brady, Hana's niece who attended the event from Canada, said the children of Holocaust survivors had a responsibility "to let kids know that we must make the change. Kids are the leaders of today - tomorrow's too late," she said.

## An advertisement published by mistake

SA JEWISH Report has been informed by the UOS that an advert appearing on page 23 of the week before last's paper, in the Bridal Supplement, by a company "Food from

Heaven" is linked to a Jews for Jesus website. We were unaware of this at the time of publication and apologise for the appearance of this ad.

## Little Hana's suitcase becomes symbol of hope

ALISON GOLDBERG  
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

HANA'S SUITCASE is the incredible story of a young Czech girl's fatal passage to Auschwitz and her stay at Terezin. The historical details were unearthed by a young Japanese woman Fumiko Ishioka who runs a small educational centre for children in Tokyo where she has introduced Holocaust studies. Her centre has since been named the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Centre.

The exhibition, including the display of the suitcase, was opened in an event last week at Constitution Hill in Johannesburg, by the Constitution Hill Trust in partnership with the Johannesburg Holocaust Centre - which falls under the SA Holocaust Foundation.

Ishioka told the audience she was lucky to go to Auschwitz in 1999 from which she wanted to borrow something tangible. Hana's suitcase was sent by the vice director of Auschwitz to Japan and immediately Ishioka's students wanted to know all about the little girl who was among one and a half million children killed in the Holocaust.

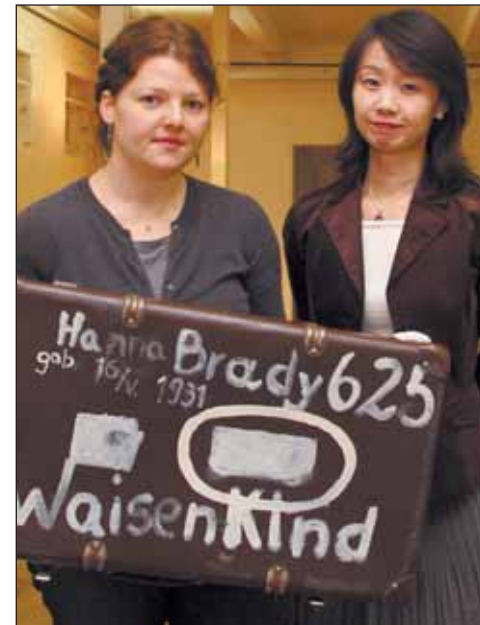
Ishioka, funded by private individuals, then visited the Terezin Museum, learning that the children were in special secret art classes from which over 4 000 pictures survived, including five of Hana's.

From a list of 90 000 names on the transport list to Auschwitz, Ishioka found Hana's ticked off name (meaning murdered) as well as that of her older brother George Brady who survived the Holocaust. His name was boxed.

From a meeting with another Holocaust survivor in Prague who knew George Brady, Ishioka wrote to him and in turn received a four-page letter and a picture of Hana which now graces the South African edition of the book about Hana's suitcase.

Brady came to Japan in 2001 and "shared with us all his happy memories - he was a real hero for us", recounts Ishioka.

Here Ishioka paused to say Japanese schools do not teach children about their own atrocities during the war in Asia. In her own words Ishioka says: "What I am trying to do is make a clear distinction between the war events and the Holocaust. By introducing the Holocaust I'm hoping



Fumiko Ishioka (right) with Lara Brady holding Hana's suitcase.

that kids in Japan learn about intolerance, prejudice, and discrimination within themselves and within their own community.

"My challenge is also to make them realise that it's important to learn and face history, which of course includes our own aggression."

Ishioka has visited over 400 schools in Japan and the book has been published in 35 countries. Together with Lara Hana Brady, George's daughter, Ishioka has visited schools in Israel, Canada and the US as well over the past eight years.

Speaking at the launch, the chief executive of the Constitution Hill Trust, Dr Ivan May, highlighted the significance of the exhibition which coincided with the 63rd anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic bombings at the end of the Second World War.

"The Constitution Hill Trust is happy to be having such an important event, as it offers a great insight into the Holocaust, which is one of the major events in world history," said May.

The event's venue, the Women's Gaol, is the site of Johannesburg's notorious Old Fort Prison Complex.

*Sara Karmely*

## Behind Closed Doors

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# A dream too soon, a vision too far

LIONEL SLIER

RAM FM, the independent English-language broadcasting station based in Jerusalem and Ramallah, has closed down.

It was both a dream too soon and a vision too far. It was the dream of Issie Kirsh, non executive director of Prime Media, that Johannesburg's successful Talk Radio 702 could be replicated in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Talk Radio 702 played an important part in the years leading up to the end of apartheid in South Africa. There were callers from both sides of the seemingly unbridgeable divide and - yes - people listened to what others had to say. They not only listened but also heard them, they heard their opinions and hopes.

Kirsh sent the legendary broadcaster, John Berks to Israel to help set up the station in Jerusalem and South Africans Mark Klusener and Andrew Bolton were stationed in Ramallah. The hope was that Israelis as well as Palestinians would call in and give their views and not only listen to each other, but also hear what the other had to say.

Now, alas, it is no more.

An item in the *Jerusalem Post* of August 11 2008, by Etgar Levokits, tells the story of the end. He quotes the station manager, Maysoun Odeh-Gangat, in a statement read on air: "Although we are aware that RAM FM established a platform for dialogue and understanding, the decision was taken by the board of directors following its inability to generate sufficient advertising revenues to sustain its ongoing operations."

— Advertorial —

Modelled on a Johannesburg radio station that provided a venue for reconciliation during apartheid, the music station (the name is short for both "Ramallah" and the Hebrew word for "high" (as in volume) was picked up in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv as well as throughout the West Bank and had a diverse audience of listeners ranging from IDF soldiers to Palestinian university students, as well as English-speaking immigrants, migrant workers and foreign diplomats.

Speaking to *The Jerusalem Report* in Johannesburg, Kirsh said that the listenership did not come up to expectations. "We needed three to four per cent of the population to be viable, but we reached only 1.1 per cent," he said.

"Our research was done in Hebrew and not included in the survey were those who do not speak it and many Anglo-Saxons and also three million Arabs. We were not generating interest in advertising so the board of directors took the decision to close it.

"It is a great pity," Kirsh said. "It is a great loss. I had to do what was important to me and I did it."

The last piece of music broadcast by RAM FM was John Lennon's "Give Peace a Chance".

• For 20 years and until its demise in 1993, a radio station on a ship, called "The Voice of Peace" run by Indian-born Abie Nathan, broadcast music and messages of peace throughout the eastern Mediterranean. After it was gone, its epitaph (provided by Justin Joffe), was: "Great radio stations never die, they stay forever in cyberspace." Issie Kirsh can take comfort from this.

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### OLMERT SEES LAND SWAPS IN DEAL WITH PALESTINIANS

JERUSALEM - Israel has offered the Palestinians land in the Negev in exchange for West Bank settlement blocs.

The idea was part of a draft peace deal that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert presented to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas this week, Ha'aretz reported on Tuesday.

Under the proposal, which was leaked to the newspaper, Israel would keep West Bank settlement blocs, turn the West Bank security fence into a border and evacuate settlers east of it.

In exchange for what would be, effectively, an annexation of seven per cent of West Bank land, Israel would cede a parcel of the Negev to the Gaza Strip. The Negev land would be equivalent to 5.5 per cent of the West Bank; the shortfall would be made up for by a road connecting Gaza and the West Bank, allowing for free Palestinian passage between the territories.

According to *Ha'aretz*, the Gaza annexation would take place only after Abbas re-established his authority over the Gaza Strip, ending Hamas rule there.

### 'FREE GAZA' VENTURE MAKES PLEA FOR FUNDS

GAZA CITY - Organisers of a protest sea expedition to the Gaza Strip made a last-minute appeal for funds.

The SS Free Gaza and Liberty are set to sail this week from the Greek island of Crete to test Israel's assertion that it no longer controls Gaza.

On Monday, the organisers sent an e-mail alert through friendly groups saying they had spent more than the \$300 000 raised for the venture.

Except for part of the diesel fuel, we have already paid these costs by running our personal credit cards to the limit, borrowing money and asking some of the Greek crew

The PA leadership has indicated a willingness to consider territorial exchanges, but other disputes remain. Both sides want sovereignty in Jerusalem, which Israel has vowed to keep as its undivided capital.

According to Ha'aretz, Olmert and Abbas agreed to defer the Jerusalem issue to future negotiations.

Israel also has demanded that the future Palestinian state be demilitarised, while the Palestinians want an armed force capable of defending against "outside threats", Ha'aretz reported.

According to the newspaper, Olmert's proposal included a "detailed and complex formula" for solving the issue of Palestinian refugees.

Israel wants the refugees resettled in a future Palestinian state, while the Palestinians want them to be granted a "right" to land that is now in the Jewish state.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will visit Jerusalem and Ramallah next week to try to move Israeli-Palestinian peace talks forward. (JTA)

to help," said the appeal, linked to a PayPal site. "Frankly, we're tapped out."

The California-based movement includes activists from 15 countries, including Israel.

The Free Gaza carries 26 passengers. A second ship, carrying 18 passengers, is called Liberty in honour of the American battleship USS Liberty that was bombed mistakenly by Israel in the 1967 Six Day War, leaving 34 American sailors dead and 180 wounded. Both will fly Greek flags.

The organisers plan to enter through the territorial waters of Gaza, bypassing Egyptian and Israeli waters - a route that has not been used since 1967. (JTA)

## Choral Extravaganza 11

Tuesday August 26, Linder Auditorium, 1945



THE JOHANNESBURG Jewish Male Choir (JJMC) has been on the cultural scene of the South African Jewish community for 23 years. The ethos of the JJMC is to preserve and present Jewish choral music in all its forms. Music has included the best of cantorial choral compositions, favourite Yiddish, as well as contemporary Hebrew songs.

The Choir has hosted many world-famous cantors from Israel, the North Americas, England, as well as Australia and South Africa. The Choir has in turn travelled to these countries to perform in concert.

The late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, z"l (a patron of the JJMC), in a submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, made reference to the fact that the JJMC has fostered relations with black choirs in the interest of inter-race and interfaith communication.

This year the JJMC has again "teamed up" with the Imilonji KaNtu Male Choir of Soweto. The combined choirs will present an exciting "concert with a difference".

The 45-man choir will be accompanied by a music ensemble under the baton of George Mxadana, ably assisted by the accomplished accompanist and musical director and arranger, Evelyn Green.

Proceeds of the concert will be distributed to the Community Security Organisation (CSO) and the Takalani Home for the Mentally Handicapped in Soweto.

The CSO is a network of highly trained volunteers whose dedication to the security of the Jewish community knows no boundaries. The activities of this organisation deserves the support of the community.

The Takalani Home for the mentally disabled, is located in Soweto. It currently caters for and houses 488 people ranging in age from three to 50.

Programmes to meet the physical and emotional needs are carried out as well as genetic counselling to families. These activities require financial assistance from the more privileged of society.

The programme will include the likes of the foot-tapping Yiddish folksong Tumbalalaika, Lewandowski's magnificent Ha'll'luka, the well-known The Lion Sleeps Tonight, the African-American spiritual Go Down Moses and Russian favourite, Kalinka.

The audience will be inspired when hearing Vukani Madoda, a song sung by mineworkers and Woza, a traditional African song. Spiritually uplifting will be the prayer in song, Avinu Malkeinu. In tribute to 60 years of the State of Israel, a medley of well-known songs depicting the Eternal City will be featured as well as other popular choral compositions.

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# 60 YEARS

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**SOCIAL SCENE**



Some of the Yad Aharon "team mates" before the start of the 8km walk.



Seven-year-old Yakira Shalpid stands under the sign that shows the number of kilometres she walked - another number seven.

# Walking to feed hungry mouths

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

FOR THE second year running, Yad Aharon had its own "team" participating in the recent Discovery/Radio 702 "Walk the Talk" with each individual participant being aware of the fact that every one of his or her steps was making a difference to the lives of someone else "out there" who were not as lucky and well-fed as they were.

This year's "team" numbered 150 (three times the size that it was last year) - due mainly to the success and enjoyment of last year's walk and the amount of canvassing for walkers and sponsors by Yad Aharon's events co-ordinators that went on prior to this year's event.

Sonia Margolias who works with her daughter in making Yad Aharon's projects and campaigns a reality and success said: "It is important to get young and old involved in our projects and this was a perfect example of where we could make this a reality.

"Educating families about the relevance of doing mitzvot is what this is all about."

The purpose of Yad Aharon's involvement in the walking was to pay the August food bill. Laureen Shalpid the events co-ordinator said their expenses were growing monthly and this was just one of the ways they could offset this.

The organisation had walkers in all four of the distances - 5km, 8km, 15km and 30km - with the largest contingent being in the 8km category.

There at Marks Park in Johannesburg, people from all walks of life, joined together in a camaraderie that comes from knowing that what they were doing was enjoyable, healthy and would help Yad Aharon to feed the hundreds of others less fortunate than themselves.

Many children also participated in the walk and although some obviously tired before others, they too wore the same bright sky blue T-shirts and caps as their friends and parents.

Their patron sponsor was Octagon Accountants and Financial Services whose director, Menachem Kay also joined in the event. He said he had been highly impressed with the turnout and was committed "to getting an even bigger team together next year".



Menachem Kay, director of Octagon Financial Services, with his wife Adi and daughters Dina and Elisheva.



The Shalpid family, Chaim, Laureen (Yad Aharon's events co-ordinator) Yakira, Ga'alya, Oriella with their cousin Jason Blachman, after completing the event.



Alice Friedman, managing director of Yad Aharon, with team mate Shelley Dayan.



Three Raichlins - Michelle, Tali and Hugh.



Ronit Beleli with her daughter Dani, Le'el Azaraf and Jesse Lemmer.



Marice Ossin, Ilana Stein and Simone Hope take a short break.



A view of the Yad Aharon contingent as they walk together.



## COMMUNITY BUZZ

### LIONEL SLIER

082-444-9832, fax: 011-440-0448,  
lionel.slier@absamail.co.za

### CALVINIA

From Selwyn Golin (cont):

"My high school days were spent at Wynberg Boys High in Cape Town where I was a boarder for five years and I always went home to Calvinia for the school holidays.

"After matric I came to Krugersdorp where my older brother, Julian, and his wife, Thyrsa lived. (Thyrsa was so named because she was born on a Thursday!) I studied pharmacy at the Johannesburg Tech and qualified in 1955. I worked at Adcocks for a few years then opened and ran Selgo Pharmacy in Braamfontein, Johannesburg at the same premises for 41 years. Selgo Pharmacy was sold at the end of 2006 and it is still a going concern.

"My family tree: My paternal grandfather was Nathan Golin and he came to South Africa from Lithuania when he was 10 years old. His wife was Rebecca. My grandfather on my mother's side was David Witters and his wife was Clara. They came from England.

"The shul in Calvinia in those days nearly always had a minyan and when the reverend wasn't available, my father, Benjamin Elias Goldin would lead the service. The Calvinia shul afterwards became a museum. The bimah from the shul is now in the small shul next to the Gardens Synagogue in Cape Town.

"Here are some names of Jewish residents: Dr Marin - our doctor; Mr Asher - our pharmacist; M and D Sack - shopkeepers; Helfet who was a motor dealer; Ben Berelowitz, son of the reverend. (Incidentally the wife of Dr DF Malan, prime minister of South Africa from 1948, was our local librarian).

"My father was the second last Jew to leave Calvinia together with my stepmother, both of whom we settled at Highland House Old Age Home in Cape Town. My father died aged 86. The last Jewish person to leave Calvinia was Mrs Blanche Dansky.

"My wife, Beulah and I, will be married for 50 years on August 31 2008. She was born in Johannesburg. Her father was Louis Miller from Lithuania. He had Hub Stores in Rokeby Street, Yeoville.

"Beulah's mother was born in Oudtshoorn. Her maiden name was Osrin. She was a sister of Solly Broude, married to Annie.

"Beulah and I have three children, all now living in Australia. Our son, Warren and wife Melanie with two children are in Melbourne; daughter Andrea and husband Larry Frankel and three children live in Sydney as does my daughter Lisa and husband, Howard Seligson and three children."

### JOHANNESBURG

Hermione Zunde continues with the story of her son, Steven, who in Baltimore donated a kidney in exchange for another person's kidney for his wife, Janice, who was dangerously ill. The surgery was successful.

"They were both in intensive care immediately and now life has returned to normal. We thank the wonderful rabbis who prayed for them, plus our two marvellous sons here, and all those who added their prayers.

"We are so proud of our children who went through this momentous surgery and so grateful for all who prayed for them. Baruch Hashem, - Hermione and David Zundelowitz.

"PS: Steven is the grandson of Golda and Ben Weinbren. Ben was a Labour City Councillor in Johannesburg for 12 years. (He died in 1964). Golda was the mayoress of Johannesburg in 1946. (She died in 1986). I am sure that Janice and Steven had a hand from their departed grandparents wherever they may be."

• When Golda Weinbren was the mayoress, the mayor of Johannesburg was Jessie MacPherson (Labour Party).

### KIBBUTZ TZORA, ISRAEL

From Jules Gordon:

"On Wednesday August 27, a reunion of former Arcadians is taking place on Kibbutz Tzora. A large crowd is expected from around the world. It is being arranged by Sharon Lipman, Dave Samuels and Alec Saul.

"There are many Old Arcs who have settled in Israel and who are kept in constant contact with all their 'brothers and sisters' throughout the world by means of regular e-mails sent out by Old Arc, David Sandler, who now lives in Perth, Western Australia. Many acquaintanceships of long-lost friends have been renewed by means of his network.

"David collated and edited the book '100 Years of Arc Memories' which is available around the world and, due to demand, he will be publishing a matching sequel in December.

"The Arc Movie 'A Journey Through Time', which was released locally earlier this year and is now available worldwide, will be officially launched in Israel at the reunion party. There is an indescribable 'Arc Spirit' - a bond of brotherhood and togetherness among all former Arcadians, no matter what their ages are or where they now live, so the reunion will be yet another happening to be added to Arc history."

• Arcadia in Parktown, Johannesburg became the home of the SA Jewish Orphanage when it was bought by the Jewish community in 1921. The Arcadia Children's Home is now situated in Sandringham Gardens.

### JOHANNESBURG

Lew Freeman celebrated his 90th birthday with friends at a Sunday thrash/brunch at the Killarney Country Club (originally the Transvaal Automobile Club). Lew has a long association with the Club where he has been a member for over 45 years.

He was chairman of the men's golf section in the sixties. He contributed to the club magazine for many years under the nom de plume of "Mashie-niblick". Old timers still call him by that name, apparently.

Lew was born in Johannesburg and attended Hospital Hill Primary School, then Parktown Boys High. He volunteered for the SA Air Force when war broke out and was a gunner in Number 24 Squadron under the command of Cecil Margo who had a distinguished war career and helped establish the Israeli Air force in 1948.

In his speech at the brunch, Lew told about a raid on German lines in Derner, near Tobruk, Libya where they were met by heavy opposition. When they returned to base they counted 48 holes in the SAAF planes.

After the war Lew started his own "Commercial and Residential Property Agency" and established himself as the leading agent of the SA Permanent Building Society.

In 1942 Lew together with his late wife, Joy, to whom he was married for 58 years, started the United Zionist Luncheon Club at the old Carlton Hotel in Eloff Street. Their goal was to invite guest speakers on a wide range of subjects every Friday. The Luncheon Club is still going strong and meets on Fridays at Our Parents Home. Lew is chairman and boasts that it has never missed a Friday lunch except for chagim, public holidays and the Xmas break.

Lew has been a member of the Oxford Synagogue for 50 years. He still plays bridge and golf regularly, partnered by Zara Jackson, whose late husband, Solly, coincidentally, was a navigator at the same Air Force squadron during the war.

His grandson told the people at the brunch that when Lew was promoted to lieutenant during the war, he did not go on his usual plane when it went on a raid. It never came back. "It was the hand of fate or of Hashem," he said.

• Incidentally a "mashie-niblick" was the golf club which is the equivalent to the number nine iron in today's set of clubs. It had a wooden hickory shaft. Read PG Wodehouse "The Clicking of Cuthbert", for confirmation!



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Members of the Israeli Jazz Orchestra, with leader Avi Lebovich at the extreme right. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY TARARAM)

# It's Israeli and it's all that jazz...

JOHN EDWARDS

JAZZ OCCUPIES a significant space in evolving post-apartheid South African identity. Three major jazz festivals take place annually in Cape Town, Grahamstown and Johannesburg. Each originated independently and each retains its individual character with regard to directorship, musical emphasis and commercial gain.

The Cape Town International Jazz and Johannesburg Joy of Jazz festivals are characterised by a balance of renowned local and global performers: Brazilian bossa nova maestro Sergio Mendes headlined at the Cape Town festival; American tenor saxophonist Joshua Redman performs at Joy of Jazz in August. The Standard Bank Jazz Festival in Grahamstown features comparably competent but lesser known performers and is distinct from the other festivals as it prioritises jazz education.

The 2008 programme featured an eclectic array of South African, European and, interestingly, Israeli jazz in the shape of The Human Factory, an ensemble led by saxophonist Amikam Kimelman, direc-

tor of the Rimon School of Jazz and Contemporary Music in Israel.

Earlier in the year, the South African Jazz Educators' Conference ran concurrently and collaboratively with the Cape Town International Jazz Festival. A highlight was the performance by a highly competent Israeli jazz ensemble from Thelma Yellin High School for the Performing Arts in Givatayim near Tel Aviv.

Israeli jazz is on the programme of Joy of Jazz - composer, trombonist and keyboardist, Avi Lebovich leads the Israeli Jazz Orchestra at the Dance Factory. This will be Lebovich's first appearance at a major jazz festival in South Africa, contrary to an earlier report in this paper where it was incorrectly stated that the Israeli Jazz Orchestra performed at the 2008 National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. The Orchestra will be fresh from performances at Eilat's Red Sea Jazz Festival, from August 25-28.

The presence of jazz musicians and educators from Israel at each major South African jazz festival this year is largely due to the efforts of Tararam, South Africa's cultural arm of the Israeli

embassy.

Tararam is keen to develop structures to encourage exchange between educational institutions and jazz festivals in Israel and South Africa. Such a process has evolved between America and Israel; the consolidation of this is in the relationship enjoyed by America's Berklee College of Music and Israel's Rimon.

Many of Rimon's staff are Berklee graduates and several prominent Israeli jazz musicians honed their performance in America before returning or emigrating to Israel.

Jazz enjoys significant status in Israel. Judaism embodies a vast musical tradition that encompasses liturgical and non-liturgical music systems. The mercurial, improvisatory essence of Jewish music is appropriate to the flexibility of the jazz idiom. Jewish American musicians have been instrumental in shaping the generic characteristics of jazz, as well as the evolution of a klezmer-influenced jazz style.

At first glance, Israeli jazz appears to be little more than a satellite of mainstream American jazz; a closer look provides evidence

of a variety of influences including Israeli contemporary and Jewish and Israeli folk music.

Here there is resonance with South African jazz which is similarly diverse, including a repertoire based on traditional Xhosa and Zulu folk songs.

Globally, jazz has socio-historical origins as a medium of cultural expression and political protest for the dispossessed and oppressed. In America and South Africa the music reflected emphatic rebuttal of segregationist legislation.

Interestingly, during her exile years in America, South African jazz diva Miriam Makeba chose to include an interpretation of an Israeli folk song in her repertoire.

The 2008 Red Sea Jazz Festival highlights several performances celebrating Israel's 60th anniversary. This gives the impression that Israeli jazz has been enlisted to promote national pride and identity.

Given that jazz is a collaborative music with a history of challenging musical and ideological boundaries, Israeli jazz could appear con-



The late Arnie Lawrence, groundbreaking Israeli saxophonist who forged links between Israeli and Palestinian jazz. (PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK VARTOOGIAN 1996)

tradictory in the face of conflict between Israel and Palestine. However, the endeavours of prominent Israeli jazz musicians indicate the contrary. The late Arnie Lawrence (1938-2005) is one such example.

An American globally renowned alto saxophonist and jazz educator, he emigrated to Israel in 1998 where his efforts at peacemaking included initiating regular jazz performances in Ramallah.

Israeli jazz is a welcome, overdue addition to South African jazz festival stages. It's hoped that South African funders favourably consider cultural exchanges between the respective countries.

• John Edwards teaches jazz studies at Rhodes University and performs acoustic jazz.

# A young woman gives 'life' to Buntu Majalaza's memory

JULIA COOK

THE PRACTICE of initiation ceremonies on young black men is an ancient tradition among many cultural groups in South Africa. However, in recent years, what should be a safe, noble practice that allows young men to prove themselves worthy of life and the title of adulthood, has been distorted by some individuals into a fatal practice for the sake of their own greed.

But to a large extent it is a "closed shop" to people on the "outside" as many of those who run these schools perceive any "untoward attention" as meddling in cultural affairs. It stands to reason that when the SABC's Special Assignment TV programme decided to put the spotlight on these ceremonies - after the unfortunate death of a young University of Cape Town graduate as the result of a botched circumcision - it would meet with resistance and even hostility, as the producer of this particular programme, found out.

Over the last 10 years alone, at least 300 young men have died as a result of botched circumcisions and the infections that sometimes result from the use of unhygienic

tools in the process. The exact number is obviously unknown as many cases are not reported to the authorities.

Hazel Friedman, award-winning journalist, author and writer on cultural affairs, and producer for Special Assignment, heard of the tragic death of Buntu Majalaza, a 25-year-old UCT graduate in organisational psychology who in December last year attended such a school to fulfill the cultural need to attain adulthood. Friedman was told about the case by SABC news reporter Abra Barbier.

Majalaza died from septicaemia two weeks after attending the school.

Friedman believed that this kind of serious issue deserved the attention of a thorough investigation rather than that of mere news reportage.

For many, the fatalities of such malpractices would be merely statistics; for Friedman, knowing the name, face and personal story of one of these victims, this became the death of a "real" person. She hoped that by producing a programme about this, it would also bring home the reality of these pointless losses to South African viewers.

However, she was only able to continue with her investigations once she had received the approval of Majalaza's closest friends and courageous community stakeholders. From her perspective, the story titled "Rights of Passage" was one that found the journalist, as opposed to the journalist finding the story.

While doing her research, she received full co-operation from the various government departments dealing with health and cultural affairs in both the Western and Eastern Cape. She also worked closely with Majalaza's friends, colleagues and spiritual mentors.

Moreover, the principal voices speaking out against the abuse of a noble ancient tradition were proud traditionalists who did not want to see this ritual besmirched through the avarice of sometimes corrupt individuals. She feels that without the input of these parties, she would never have had the gumption - particularly as a white woman - to trespass into a "hallowed" domain whose custodians are culturally conservative and exclusively patriarchal.

Because of the power exerted by this leadership and the culture

of secrecy surrounding traditional initiation, many members of the community were reluctant to speak out. This included members of Majalaza's family.

The inevitably controversial nature of this issue led to the episode being canned an hour before it was scheduled to air, as there had been a complaint from a member of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, who, incidentally, had not yet seen the programme, and had been worried that viewers might believe that these practices were the norm rather than the exception.

Although Friedman did not wish to comment to *SA Jewish Report* on this initial banning, an earlier report in the *Mail & Guardian* said she had been "outraged" at this decision, as she felt that the story "was absolutely respectful of tradition. It did not violate any secrets or undermine the role of any legal representative or any legal cultural custodians".

However, the programme did get aired - and naturally caused a stir and highlighted the danger of charlatans wiggling themselves into traditional cultural roles.

Friedman first became in-



Hazel Friedman Buntu Majalaza

involved with Special Assignment in 2001 when she was "still a dysfunctional freelance print journalist." She had just completed a series on substance abuse for the *Cape Times* and a Special Assignment producer, Anna-Maria Lombard, who was investigating the crack trade in Cape Town and needed someone to infiltrate a notorious crack den with a hidden camera, approached her. Friedman was selected due to her familiarity with the turf.

She began producing for Special Assignment in July 2004 on a freelance basis, which meant an average of two investigative documentaries a year. She only joined the team on a fulltime basis in September last year.

Although this show was highly successful, Friedman feels that she could never really do justice to so sensitive an issue. Majalaza had been loved by many, and was said to have touched the lives of everyone he met. To Friedman, his death was a pointless waste, as he had had so much to give to the people of South Africa.



# Dates for the Yiddish Film Festival in Joburg

THE LAST Yiddish Film Festival in Johannesburg was in 1941. "Certainly this one, in 2008, is a historic milestone," said Eli Goldstein, co-ordinator and co-chairman of the Yiddish Academy of South Africa.

The Yiddish Film Festival in Johannesburg, which runs from August 21 to August 28, will kick off with "Tevye" on Thursday August 21 at 20:00 at the Hyde Park Nu Metro.

**Thursday August 21**  
20:00 Tevye (Premiere)

**Friday August 22**  
10:00 Great Cantors of the Golden Age  
12:15 Living Orphan  
14:30 Green Fields  
17:30 American Matchmaker  
20:00 East and West  
22:15 Mamele

**Saturday August 23**  
10:00 Mamele  
12:15 Jolly Paupers  
14:30 Living Orphan  
17:30 Green Fields  
20:00 American Matchmaker  
22:15 Tevye

**Sunday August 24**  
10:00 Tevye  
12:15 Great Cantors of the Golden Age  
14:30 East and West  
17:30 Tevye  
20:00 Mamele

**Monday August 25**  
12:15 Green Fields  
14:30 Jolly Paupers  
17:30 American Matchmakers  
20:00 Great Cantors of the Golden Age

**Tuesday August 26**  
12:15 East and West  
14:30 Living Orphan  
17:30 Great Cantors of the Golden Age  
20:00 Tevye

**Wednesday August 27**  
12:15 Jolly Paupers  
14:30 Great Cantors of the Golden Age  
17:30 Mamele  
20:00 Green Fields

**Thursday August 28**  
12:15 Living Orphan  
14:30 American Matchmakers  
17:30 East and West  
20:00 Jolly Paupers

# Yiddish Film Festival on in CT

MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

THE YIDDISH Film Festival, an extension of the Yiddish Song Festival that has taken place in Cape Town for the last seven years, will serve as a window into a bygone era.

Veronica Belling, head of the Jewish studies library at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and expert on the topic of Yiddish theatre, says that Yiddish film enjoyed a very short life - essentially about 25 years between the two world wars and between America and Eastern Europe.

The main Yiddish movies were made up to about 1940. In fact, the years between 1936 and 1940 are known as the golden age of Yiddish film. Most of the festival films are from that period.

"Yiddish cinema was snuffed out by the Holocaust because the indigenous Yiddish culture was killed by that event, besides the fact that it wiped out half the audience and half the speakers," she explains.

One of the films to be screened - East and West - is from the silent period (the 1920s). Just over 60 Yiddish movies in total were made "so you're not talking about a huge phenomenon, but a very, very special one", she says.

Interestingly, the first English talkie, The Jazz Singer, had a Jewish immigrant theme. Joseph Green, a Polish emigrant considered to be the greatest Yiddish filmmaker, was an extra on the set.



The logo of the Yiddish Song Festival which has this year been extended to include a Yiddish Film Festival.

The thought then occurred to him to make a Yiddish talkie, says Belling. "As it is, everybody on the set of the Jazz Singer is talking Yiddish," he was reported to have said, referring to the predominance of Jews in the movie industry.

Whereas the silent Yiddish movies were mostly made in Russia, Poland and Austria, once the talkies started, New York became the centre of the industry.

The main actor in Tevye - the original play by Sholem Aleichem upon which Fiddler on the Roof is based and that opens the festival - is Maurice Schwartz who founded the

Yiddish Art Theatre in New York in 1919. "Tevye is considered to be one of his greatest performances," Belling comments.

The films were selected by Sharon Rivo, director of the The National Centre for Jewish Film at Brandeis University, and have been restored to perfect quality with English subtitles provided Molly Picon, acknowledged as the star of the Yiddish screen, is in two of them - East and West, a silent movie.

The story is of a "thoroughly modern" young lady from America whose father takes her on a visit to Poland to visit relatives who are ultra-Orthodox, she gets trapped into a marriage with one of them by accident.

Picon also stars in Mamele, a talkie described by Belling as "very frothy and schmaltzy but you get to hear her singing three beautiful songs".


Green Fields, considered to be the most artistic of the movies according to Belling, is based on a very famous Yiddish play. Unusually, she says, it doesn't deal with Jewish problems but is "just a love story".

She regards Jolly Paupers as "very special" as it stars a Jewish-Polish comic duo, in addition to the fact that they were two of the few actors who survived the Holocaust.

The Yiddish Film Festival takes place in Cape Town at the Labia Theatre from August 14 - 21 and in Johannesburg at the Hyde Park Nu Metro. Booking is through Computicket.

ד"ר

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## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

## Jewish Report

## Appearances and gestures

DOES IT really matter that the pretty nine-year-old Chinese girl in pigtails and the red dress who charmed the world last week, standing alone on the stage at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics and singing "Ode to the Motherland", was not actually singing, but miming the song previously recorded by a less attractive girl, whom the organisers had decided was not "flawless" enough to be the face of China at such an occasion?

To many people it does, and should matter - they have been fooled, even if they know the opening ceremony - and, indeed, much of the hoopla accompanying the Games - was mainly showbiz.

The integrity of appearances and gestures matters. In this digital age in which "virtual reality" is taking over our lives, it is necessary to insist that some aspects of life remain "real" - whether the little girl in red, or other things.

This is particularly true when behind the illusions lies a sinister reality, such as the Chinese censoring the use of the Internet by international journalists, who came to Beijing expecting free access to whatever sites they wished to go to. It was reported that certain "human rights sites", for example, were initially censored.

Ask the Iranians about the importance of gestures and appearances when it comes to dealing with Israelis.

In another case at the Olympics, an Iranian swimmer pulled out of a race in which an Israeli was taking part, saying he felt ill. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) publicly accepted the explanation, but many people doubted his story. A spokeswoman for the IOC said on Monday that the committee would take the swimmer at his word - his country could have faced sanctions had he pulled out of the race because an Israeli was scheduled to compete.

It is remarkable how significant even a handshake can be. Iranian and Arab diplomats have refused to shake Israeli diplomats' hands, even in the context of international meetings.

On Sunday, however, the captain of the Iranian basketball team made news when he shook hands with an Israeli basketball coach, David Blatt. Who knows what could flow from a handshake?

On another track, Israeli papers have reported that Israel has offered a peace deal to the Palestinians in which it would annex 7.3 per cent of the West Bank and keep the largest settlements. In return, the Palestinians would acquire land equivalent to 5.4 per cent of the West Bank in the Negev Desert. The proposed deal also covers Palestinian refugees and security arrangements, as well as the future of Gaza, but not the issue of East Jerusalem and the ring of settlements around it.

Formation of a Palestinian state - which would be demilitarised - would be dependent on Fatah taking back control of Gaza from Hamas, but Israel could develop the settlement blocs immediately.

Palestinian officials have rejected it. A spokesman said it was "totally unacceptable, because we insisted to the Israelis that the border can only be on the basis of 1967".

The latest talks have shown little visible progress and were further obstructed in July when Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced he would resign soon, due to multiple corruption allegations against him. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is also too weak to be able to implement a deal that would require compromise from Palestinians.

Sadly, we seem to have been down this road many times before, with "peace plans" being announced to great fanfare - only to quickly fade away as the harsh reality remains intact. It often seems the "peace process" itself is an illusion.

The broad outlines of an agreement have been clear for years. The question is: how long will it take - and how much more blood will be shed - before we get there, and Iranians and Arabs are able to shake hands with Israelis without the gesture being a news item?

## After 15 years: Will ANC pass voter test?

AFTER 15 years in office, the ANC can boast many genuine achievements. It should always be remembered, even by those who dislike the organisation, that it inherited a country that was financially bankrupt, traumatised by years of internecine violence and in a vast administrative muddle (inter alia, there were all those "independent homelands" that had to be reincorporated into the system).

Taking all of this into account, the party's record was on the whole rather a creditable one. Today, however, it would seem to have passed its sell-by date.

The flipside of the adage that "new brooms sweep clean" is that old ones just can't do the job right anymore. The same is true of governments; they have a shelf life. There comes a time when an administration simply runs out of ideas and no longer has the will or cohesion to put things right.

In democratic societies, when this happens, they are voted out of office. A new regime takes over and remains in power until it atrophies and loses the plot, usually being replaced by the very party - now revitalised and anxious once more to take up the reins after a lengthy spell in opposition - it originally unseated.

Under present circumstances, this cannot happen in South Africa. The ruling party is clearly in crisis, beset by internal power struggles, corruption and declining performance levels, but there is no viable alternative government waiting in the wings.

The Democratic Alliance is seriously compromised by its being seen as the party representing the interests of the diminishing white minority.

The Inkatha Freedom Party, the only other parliamentary grouping representing more than five per cent of the electorate, is limited almost entirely to its KwaZulu-Natal base. It means that despite its troubled state, the ANC will once again comfortably win the next elections.

The failure of our political culture to provide a realistic alternative to an increasingly hegemonic ANC may well pose the most serious long-term threat both to democracy



**BARBARIC  
YAWP**  
David Saks

and to good governance in this country.

Israel's problem seems to be the opposite. As opposed to the one-party state system that de facto exists here, it has altogether too many parties jostling for position, none of which can claim the backing of even a quarter of the electorate (Kadima is closest, with 22 per cent of the vote in the 2006 election. Labour was the next most successful, with a mere 15 per cent).

Throughout its history, in fact, Israel has been ruled by a succession of coalition governments, some of them (particularly in recent times) distinctly unstable. The system more or less works, on the other hand, and strong rumour of corruption is still enough to unseat a ruling prime minister, as the case of Ehud Olmert shows. Can one say the same about South Africa? The next few months might provide the answer, and it may well be the wrong one.

Why do employees bother to do their jobs properly? There are a number of possible reasons. One is because they might be motivated and genuinely enjoy their work. Or perhaps they are ambitious, hoping to work themselves up the corporate ladder.

But the most compelling reason, if one is realistic, is that they are afraid of being fired if they don't perform.

What applies to ordinary employees should surely apply to politicians as well. So long as there is a threat of losing their well-paid positions, elected officials will obviously perform their duties as well as they can. If they can expect to be reappointed regardless of how badly they do their jobs, then where is the incentive to

improve?

There is also a creeping danger of a political party that has been too long in power to regard itself as untouchable. Two public statements in recent weeks have shown how undemocratic are the views of certain prominent members of the ruling party.

One was ANC Youth League President Julius Malema's describing the Democratic Alliance, together with those opposed to Jacob Zuma becoming the country's next president, as "counter-revolutionary elements" that needed to be "eliminated". The other was Cosatu General Secretary Zwelinzima Vavi's now notorious assertion that he and his organisation were prepared to "lay down their lives and shoot and kill" for Zuma.

Such pronouncements have raised alarm bells countrywide, and for good reason. This is straight down the line Zanu-PF stuff.

The ANC's near impregnable electoral position can largely be attributed to the liberation mystique surrounding it. There is no room, however, for sentimentality in politics.

Winston Churchill became a 20th century icon through his courageous, forceful leadership during the Second World War, yet even before the war was won, both he and his Conservative Party found themselves turfed out by the British electorate - and by a landslide at that.

British voters may have revered their leader, but they also knew that choosing a government cannot be based on sentimentality and blind loyalty. They wanted a new kind of government to lead them in the post-war era, and they got it.

For the time being, elections in this country are genuinely free and fair. It is therefore the electorate that will be to blame if in the future South Africa ends up in the hands of a corrupt, inefficient, power-hungry administration more concerned with maintaining its political stranglehold than serving the people it supposedly represents.

## Habonim had nothing to do with rights delegation

**ILAN STRAUSS  
S'GAN MAZKIR KLALI HABONIM DROR  
SOUTHERN AFRICA 2008**

ADAM SACK, the Mazkir Klali of Habonim Dror stressed in this newspaper (July 17, 2008), that at no time was Habonim involved in the preparation or organisation of the recent Human Rights Delegation tour to Israel and Palestine, nor were we even informed of the event beforehand. I would like to stress this again and clear up certain mistruths.

Doron Isaacs was last involved in Habonim on a key leadership level and educational role in 2003. Since then he has had no major involvement in Habonim other than his committed effort to the campsite upgrade project. Doron is not a trustee of the Habonim Dror Foundation.

Over the past 78 years, Habonim has produced dozens of the finest leaders in South Africa and Israel. Some of the names that come to mind are the current Governor of the Reserve Bank of Israel - Stanley Fischer, people in academia and universities in Israel, like Gideon Shimoni and Gary Sussman, captains of industry such as Morris Kahn and Ron Lapid, and many chutzic pioneers.

Those who choose to insinuate that because of Doron's past career in Habonim, all Habonim graduates today subscribe to similar views and endeavours are extremely shortsighted.

I have been most distressed at some of the unbalanced press which has come out of the Human Rights Delegation's tour to the Middle East. This is not consistent with the text of their concluding statement. Habonim also thinks that more could have been done by the Human Rights Delegation to meet with people in government, the military, and larger, more well-known and respected centre-left and left-wing organisations in Israel such as the Council for Peace and Security and the people behind the

Geneva Accords. The Human Rights Delegation is partly correct in stressing that the situation will not be solved by not urgently addressing the plight of the Palestinians, but they would have been far more effective had they also taken more time to understand the security concerns and existential threats facing the people of Israel.

It is also extremely distressing to read how Habonim's connection to Israel, and its Zionist credentials have been brought into question. There is an oft-repeated misconception that Zionism is a uniform ideology. Just like Bnei Akiva is inspired by a Religious Zionism, Habonim is inspired by a Zionism which envisages a Jewish State with permanent borders, strong democratic foundations and steadfast social values. We are unashamedly pro-Israel but this does not mean that we are not pro-peace as well. The future of Zionism can not be played out in the West Bank, it needs to be played out in the Negev, in the Galil and in the areas within the Green Line. The occupation does not serve the interests of most Israelis and the continued building of settlements and illegal outposts makes peace even seem more distant.

Since 2007, the Va'ad Yeutz (advisory committee of former Habonim members living in Israel) has been reformed, with the body supporting us on our Israel programmes, helping us find shlichim and assisting us with our Zionist education.

Habonim is not a wealthy youth movement yet we have spent the last 18 months ensuring that we will have two fulltime Israeli shlichim working with Habonim and imbuing our movement with a Zionist ethos. We continue to dedicate the large majority of our fundraising efforts to sending people to Israel. This year I personally raised R300 000 to ensure that every single one of our 85 Shorashim participants and our 23 Shnat participants

could experience the magic of Israel. Next year, in spite of our bleak financial situation, we have chosen to send over 110 kids on our Shorashim programme alone. We believe this is an indispensable experience for the life of a 16-year-old Jewish child. Half of our Hanhagah (National Executive) of 20 people have spent a year or longer in Israel and we have several positions on the Hanhagah dedicated to Israel programmes and education, including a Bogrim Aliyah Pilot Tour to Israel in 2010.

Our Israel programmes have never been this large or at such a high standard and the growing numbers of Habonim bogrim studying or exploring Israel shows that Israel is high on the agenda.

Despite all of this, our Zionist credentials continue to be called into question. I implore those who wish to, to read our constitution and ideology; simply ask our offices for a copy and we will gladly send you one. In it, you will read that we are a left-leaning liberal Zionist youth movement who strongly supports and strives for a two-state solution and the creation of peace between Israeli and Palestinians. Habonim will never apologise for taking stands for or against various Israeli government policies which either bolster or clash with our vision for a democratic Jewish State.

Habonim is singled out yet again for little reason other than to slander it. With old accusations long proved false, the "new way" to slander Habonim has been by linking us to the Human Rights Delegation. After half a decade of hard work, Habonim is the largest Zionist youth movement in southern Africa today. Our ability to inspire channichim towards caring and taking action in Israel and South Africa is unparalleled and this will not cease even if our detractors wish it would.

Aleh ve'Hagshem,



## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# Jewish Georgians caught in the cross-fire

GRANT SLATER  
MOSCOW

VISSARION MANASHEROV left his city as the bombs were falling. One day later, on Monday, with bombs still falling, he returned to Gori, a city at the edge of war, to convince the few Jewish families still in the area to leave. The Russians were at their doorstep, he told them.

Manasherov, the community's leader and a local emissary for the Jewish Agency for Israel, said he fled to the Georgian capital of Tbilisi with a wave of 200 Jews, leaving fewer than a dozen patriots behind.

"I was the last to leave," he said. "But I went back. And we'll go back."

As the conflict between Georgia and Russia moved toward an uneasy stalemate on Tuesday, the migration of refugees away from the devastated capital of the breakaway republic of South Ossetia spread further and more Jews emerged from the fog of war.

Ossetians and Georgians fled north to Russia through a mountain tunnel or south to Tbilisi, while others boarded planes to Israel.

The evacuation effort has been a lightning, joint project of international Jewish organisations working in close conjunction with the Israeli government. The Israeli Embassy has become a hub of activity where leaders and refugees have shuttled to and from since the conflict began.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, one of the agencies working on the ground, estimates that more than 700 Jews have been displaced in recent days.

Jews caught on both sides of the conflict looked back at the damage with starkly different political viewpoints.

"Who's at fault? Who bombed whom? Who fired the first shot?" Manasherov said by telephone from the Israeli Embassy in Tbilisi. "War is war. It's hard to say who is right and who is at fault."

The conflagration began on August 8 when Russian tanks and soldiers poured into South Ossetia, which fought a war for independence from Georgia in the early 1990s. Russia said it was protecting

its citizens and peacekeepers from a Georgian attempt to secure the capital, Tskhinvali.

Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili had made the reunification of Georgia with its breakaway republics a central plank of his campaigns as he cultivated close ties with the West, sending soldiers to US-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as seeking entry to the Nato alliance.

Saakashvili's distance from Russia chafed at then-Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Moscow holds little love for the poster child of democracy in the former Soviet sphere.

Amid the uncertainty, Jewish rescue and relief agencies worked throughout the fighting and planned to continue their work to assist refugees in need.

The Jewish Agency helped evacuate 31 Georgians to Israel aboard special flights on Tuesday. The agency said others had applied to make aliyah and their paperwork was being expedited.

Alex Katz, the Jewish Agency's emissary to the former Soviet Union, accompanied Gori's community leader Manasherov to the city on Monday and saw columns of Georgian troops leaving the city.

"The situation is tense now - very, very tense," Katz said. "We are used to this as Israelis, but it is a very complicated situation now."

The JDC, meanwhile, has eight representatives in the region helping to locate and rescue local Jews, as well as provide food and medical relief in both Georgia and Russia.

Most of the more than 200 Georgian Jewish refugees who have made their way to Tbilisi are staying with relatives and friends there. Between 10 000 to 12 000 Jews live in Georgia, mostly in the capital.

The local Chabad community, headed by Rabbi Avraham Michaelashvili, organised a three-day blood drive for victims, and Chabad rabbis have worked to ensure safe passage for a group of 50 Israeli tourists vacationing on the Black Sea, according to reports from the Chabad website.

Georgian troops withdrew on Sunday from South Ossetia, a pro-Russian de facto state since 1992. Russia has issued passports to South Ossetian citizens for years



**A Georgian woman cries upon her arrival in Israel from her war-torn country on Tuesday.**  
(CREDIT: BRIAN HENDLER)

and served as a peacekeeping force in the region.

Before wave after wave of ethnic conflict shook the foundations of Tskhinvali starting in 1992, there was a growing Jewish community of more than 2 000 people in the city of 30 000.

The JDC listed the number of Jews in Tskhinvali at 19, as of one month ago. Nothing was heard for days from these refugees.

But the JDC representative in Vladikavkaz, the Russian regional capital closest to the conflict, said they had located five of the Tskhinvali Jews, including girls aged six and 16. The girls had made their way to the Russian city with the younger girl's grandmother after spending several days huddled in a basement without food or water.

On the Russian border, the representative said the Russian government was refusing help from international aid organisations and JDC was the only nongovernmental organisation operating in Vladikavkaz.

Mark Petrushansky, chairman of

the Vladikavkaz Jewish community, said emotions were running high on the Russian side of the conflict, stoked by sometimes shocking images on television of the aftermath in Tskhinvali.

Petrushansky said he saw television footage of a Jewish child he knew from a local school fleeing Tskhinvali with her grandmother to Russia. Incensed, he placed the blame on Georgia and Saakashvili for starting "this horrible massacre."

"The American agencies are broadcasting and we're watching these lies meant to manipulate people," he said by telephone on Monday.

Russian media have portrayed Saakashvili, the Columbia University-educated president who has courted US favour and sought Georgia's membership in Nato, as a puppet of the West. They have broadcast a loop of his interviews with Western news organisations such as CNN and pronouncements from his presidential desk in English.

Petrushansky also had heard

reports that Israel had provided weapons and military training to Georgia, which he likened to Germany under Hitler.

Israel has a longstanding defence relationship with Georgia and over the years has sold rockets, night vision and aerial drones to the former Soviet republic.

In contrast, soldiers and citizens in the midst of the fighting in northern Georgia have expressed a sense that the United States betrayed them by not providing more support as the conflict unfolded.

They see Russia's actions as heavy-handed, a return to the Soviet mentality in which neighbours are either puppets or enemies.

"Russia is in the middle of an act of aggression against Georgia," said Gregory Brodsky, the Jewish Agency's emissary to Tbilisi.

In Abkhazia, Russian forces have demanded that soldiers in the Georgia-controlled regions lay down their weapons - a sign that Russia may be ready to open a second front in the war. (JTA)

## Israel playing down Georgia ties

ROY EITAN  
TEL AVIV

AS RUSSIAN and Georgian forces battle over South Ossetia, Israel finds itself on the defensive.

Though a favoured armed supplier for the former Soviet republic, the Jewish state now appears to be at pains to play down these ties

rather than risk a crisis with Moscow.

It is more than just sound diplomacy.

With Russia widely expected to supply Tehran with advanced anti-aircraft missiles that could fend off a pre-emptive strike on Iranian nuclear sites, Israel has a vested interest in not appearing to be in

Georgia's corner and losing whatever lobbying power it has in Moscow.

With troops, tanks and warplanes clashing in the Caucasus over the weekend in the worst armed face-off Europe has seen in decades, the Russian media queried where their Georgian foes had acquired weapons and tactical wherewithal.

Israel's name came up.

The link is well known. Aside from Israel's prowess in military matters, it enjoys a personal rapport with a number of senior colleagues to Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, who has been trying to align his country with the West.

Saakashvili's defence minister, Davit Kezerashvili, is a Jew who spent several years living in Israel. So is another Cabinet minister, Temur Yakobashvili.

According to Jerusalem sources, the Georgian government, enriched by Caspian oil, has long sent emissaries on "shopping trips" to the arms firms in Israel.

In parallel, Tbilisi has employed

retired Israeli generals such as Israel Ziv and Gal Hirsch as consultants on how to build up Georgian armed forces.

The full extent of Israel's defence exports to Georgia is an official secret, but Jerusalem sources were keen to dispel the sense of a strategic alliance against Moscow.

"We have good relations with both countries and are loath to upset either," said one.

The sources insist that when Georgia-Russia tensions began spiralling several months ago, Israel decided to scale back its arms sales.

That move roughly coincided with the Russian air force's shooting down of a Georgian spy drone that, it emerged, had been manufactured by the Israeli firm Elbit.

Whereas previously Georgia was allowed to buy offensive weapons such as tactical missiles, the deals were limited to "purely defensive" systems, the sources said.

A sale of Israeli tanks to Georgia that was proposed by Roni Milo, a

former Tel Aviv mayor turned entrepreneur, was nixed by the Defence Ministry.

"When the issues in the balance included completing the construction of the nuclear reactor in Bushehr and supplying Iran and Syria with advanced defence systems, it was clear to everyone that with all due respect to the Israel Military Industries' profits, there are a few things that are just a bit more important," said Yoav Limor, an Israeli defence analyst.

Israel's annual military dealings with Tbilisi are worth approximately \$200 million a year, a defence source said, adding the figure was dwarfed by Georgian purchases from other arms suppliers such as the United States.

The Russian government has not openly accused Israel of arming its enemy, but there has been a menacing subtext to the rhetoric from Moscow.

But Israel Radio on Sunday quoted the spokesman for the Russian Embassy in Tel Aviv as voicing satisfaction with Jerusalem's policies regarding Georgia. (JTA)



**A war memorial in the Georgian city of Gori, which has come under attack by Russian forces.**  
(CREDIT: KNITWEAVE1/CREATIVE COMMONS)



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**Civic, Braamfontein:** In the Nelson Mandela, Veronica Paeper's balletic translation of Verdi's "La Traviata", until September 7. In the Tesson, new dance company Mzansi Productions, under the artistic direction of Esther Nasser, debuts with works choreographed by Nasser, Belinda Nusser and Timothy le Roux, until August 23. (011) 877-6800.

**Everard Read Gallery, Rosebank:** An exhibition of paintings by Kerry Evans and works from the studio of Alessandro Pappetti, until August 31. (011) 788-4805.

**Linder Auditorium, Parktown:** August 20, 21, JPO performs works by Mozart, Rodrigo and Beethoven, with soloist James Grace (guitar) and conductor Bernhard Gueller. (011) 789-2733. On August 26, the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir and Imilonji KaNtu Male Choir of Soweto perform, under the baton of George Mxadana, accompanied by Evelyn Green on piano. (011) 728-5570.

**Lyric Theatre, Gold Reef City, Ormonde:** "African Footprint", until August 17. (011) 248-5168.

**Market, Newtown:** In the Laager, "A Touch of Madness" from HC Bosman's writings, starring David Butler, until August 24. In the Barney Simon, "Ten Bush", by Mncedisi Shabangu and Craig Higginson, until August 17. In the Main, "Maru", by Bessie Head, directed by Phyllis Klotz, until August 24. (011) 832-1641.

**Montecasino, Fourways:** In the Studio, "Mooi Street Moves", by Paul Slabolepszy, directed by Moira Blumenthal, until August 31. In the Pieter Toerien, "A Handful of Keys" with Roelof Colyn and Jonathan Roxmouth, until August 16. In Teatro, Michael Flatley's "Lord of the Dance", extended by popular demand until August 31. (011) 511-1988.

**Ninth Street, Parkhurst:** Join Stanley Peskin for an audiovisual talk: On August 24, he explores Verdi choruses, with a focus on Aida, Il Trovatore, La Traviata, Nabucco and Don Carlo. 072-240-2997.

**Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton:** "Freak Country", a new dark comedy by Paul Slabolepszy, until September 6 (011) 883-8606.

**RCHCC, Oaklands:** Janet Pollock and Friends host an art exhibition, August 24-September 7. (011) 728-8088.

## An exploitation of gender dynamics and intolerance

**Show:** Maru (Main Theatre, Market, Newtown (011) 832-1641 or Sibikwa (011) 422-2132

**Cast:** Mandala Gaduka, Bronwen Howes, Mmabatho Mogomotsi, Koketso Mojelo, Thato Moraka, Sello Motloung

**Director:** Phyllis Klotz

**Until:** August 24

**Performances are at 12:00 and 15:00, Monday to Friday and at 15:00 on Saturday.**

REVIEWED BY CHRISTINA KENNEDY

PREJUDICE IS a complex beast. As many ethnicities around the world can attest, from South African blacks to Jews to the victims of the recent xenophobic violence, the origin of bigotry is frequently irrational and muddled, yet it can easily take on a life of its own and become entrenched.

Bessie Head's novel, Maru, evocatively and cogently addresses the multi-headed hydra that is group- or race-based hatred.

Born to a Scottish mother and a black father in South Africa, Head spent much of her life in exile in Botswana, where her books are set. Clearly, the tale of Maru is partly autobiographical, dealing with the prejudice encountered by a young woman of Masarwa (San) origin and her battle to integrate into a small and small-minded Batswana community.

Phyllis Klotz and the Sibikwa Arts Centre's theatre production of Maru, currently showing at the Market Theatre, reminds us of the rich treasure trove of stories this country's writers have pro-

duced. It is laudable that Maru remains a prescribed Matric setwork, giving schoolchildren an introductory taste of South Africa's literary canon.

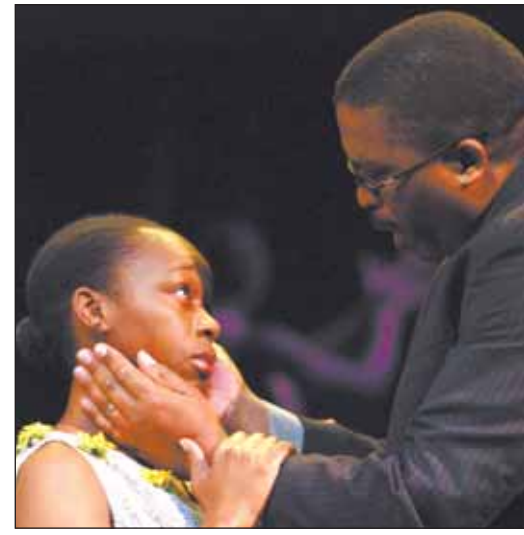
On stage, Head's words remain lyrical and elegant, her treatment of character nuanced, her narrative clarion-like in its exploration of racism and sexism, and her magical realism brought to the fore in broad swathes of colour.

Koketso Mojelo, who won a Naledi Theatre Award in 2005 for the year's most promising actress, plays Margaret, a "Bushman" orphan educated at a white missionary school. Sent to a village as a teacher, the intelligent and refined Margaret encounters cruel discrimination in a community accustomed to treating the San as slaves.

Despite being subjected to outrageous, dehumanising treatment, she quietly perseveres, sustained by her secret love and by her active imagination, while two community leaders, Maru (Sello Motloung) and Moleka (Thato Moraka), play a game in which she is the prize.

Disturbing issues such as men's "possession" of women and an outcast's concept of belonging, are raised, but ultimately the message is one of idealistic hope and love conquering prejudice.

Head's vivid imagery is brought to the fore through pounding percussive music and dance, and the text's darker moments are lightened by the exaggerated pantomime-like actions of some of the characters, such as the principal



**Koketso Mojelo (Margaret) and Sello Motloung (Maru).** (PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY THE MARKET THEATRE)

and his sidekick in their colonial popinjay ensembles.

The production is not without flaws: firstly, talented though she may be, Mojela does not resemble a young woman of mixed race and it is therefore difficult to imagine her as an outsider.

Secondly, Margaret's interior monologue is not always sufficiently brought to life; although we are aware that she is effectively voiceless and the victim of events unfolding around her, a more forceful presence would help us empathise with her plight.

Minor concerns notwithstanding, Maru held the learners in the audience captivated for 90 minutes; it is essential viewing for its delicate exploration of gender dynamics and intolerance.

## Nasser's Mzansi Productions is filling an old void

JONATHAN HURWITZ



**Mzansi Productions in rehearsal: Marc Goldberg and Tanya Fütter.** (PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK DE MERVELEC)

DANCE IN South Africa looks set to receive a much needed infusion of creative energy, when Mzansi Productions' 11 dancers step on stage at the Tesson this week.

Under the artistic direction of Esther Nasser, the new company could be poised to fill the void in theatre dance that has existed in our cultural fabric since the closure of the State Theatre Dance Company eight years ago.

"What we need in this country is a repertory dance company that can showcase the works of many choreographers, South African as well as from abroad," says Nasser, outlining her vision for the company.

Mzansi Productions' inaugural season offers just that, with an eclectic mix that includes new works by Nasser herself as well as by Timothy le Roux and Belinda Nusser, a South African dancer and choreographer working in Europe.

Twelve years as artistic director of the State Theatre Dance Company and, before that, many more at the coalface running her own independent dance companies, Nasser brings a wealth of experience and pragmatic passion to her new job.

"I want the company to provide a role model for dance in South Africa," she says. "Excellence and versatility have to be the keynotes."

"To communicate as dancers and to serve the range of choreography we hope to encompass, our dancers have to be able to move across a range of styles and techniques. This is the inter-

national trend.

"We have to reflect it and provide a destination for South African dancers to make their artistic homes here. We have lost too many dancers over the last eight years."

Mzansi Productions is the performing component of a new dance endeavour headed by former SA Ballet Theatre CEO Dirk Badenhorst. The privately funded project, which also comprises an extensive dance training division, is housed in magnificent custom-built facilities in Irene, south of Pretoria.

This means a degree of financial security for the dance company; Nasser still feels dancers are "at the bottom of the food chain" in the performing arts community.

"This makes the commercial lure of corporate entertainment very appealing; we have to find a balance: it is the theatre that provides the challenges and fulfilment dancers need."

Mzansi Productions plans to spread its performing base as widely as possible in South Africa and to connect with the international dance community. Nasser praises the work previously done in the country by the embassies of Israel, the Netherlands and the US in encouraging and supporting dance across the international divide. This is something she hopes will benefit the new company.

Mzansi Productions is at the Tesson Theatre, Civic, Braamfontein, until August 23. (011) 877-6800.

FELDMAN ON  
FILM

Peter Feldman

WAZ

**Cast:** Stellan Skarsgard, Melissa George, Selma Blair, Ashley Walters  
**Director:** Tom Shankland

WAZ is one of those thrillers which takes you to very dark psychological places and in the end of it all, you leave the cinema feeling distinctly uncomfortable.

Tom Shankland, making his directorial debut, certainly displays energy and style here, even though the production is a misguided one.

Stellan Skarsgard creates a character no different from the many stereotypes who have worked the crime beat in other films of its ilk.

He plays Eddie, a grizzled, cynical New York detective who is working on a case involving an

insane serial killer. With him, and serving as a counterpoint, is a young rookie Helen (Melissa George), who brings some fresh insight into her job.

The bodies have been carved with the letters W-delta-Z, which turns out to be part of a genetic survival theory being studied by a creepy scientist (Paul Kaye).

The killings are clearly not random, and can be traced back to a vicious assault on a woman (Selma Blair) by a group of thugs who subsequently walked free. And it seems Eddie is somehow connected to the group.

A central premise is that love is nothing more than an expression of survival, a theory that is constantly being tested in horrific ways.

The film oozes an edgy, kinetic visual tone, with rapid-fire editing and camera work that jars.

Trouble is, clichés abound in the narrative thrust, there are some perturbing plot holes and the torture-porn sequences are sickeningly used without adding anything fresh to the events that flow. It's like watching another version of "Saw".

Paul Kaye, as the crazed scientist, goes to great lengths to explain what is happening by propounding his own theories, but his dialogue is incompre-

hensible and, at times, inaudible.

The main members of the cast try to nail their roles but the pseudo-American accents slip from time to time, thus undermining the authenticity of the characters.

Meet Dave

**Cast:** Eddie Murphy, Gabrielle Union, Elizabeth Banks  
**Director:** Brian Robbins

Eddie Murphy fans may find their hero somewhat self-indulgent as he gets to play two roles in this comedy.

Seeking a way to save their doomed world, a crew of tiny, human-looking aliens arrives on earth in the perfect disguise - a spaceship in the guise of an ordinary man (which looks like the ship's captain played by Eddie Murphy).

With each miniature member responsible for operating a particular part of the body, the crew embarks on an adventure in Manhattan where they meet a family who teaches them a thing or two about humanity.



## TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

# 'On the Contrary' - a fascinating warts and all political exposé

RHODA KADALIE



ON *THE Contrary*, the autobiography of long-time opposition leader Tony Leon, is one of the most riveting political biographies that I have ever read. I was fascinated by his talent to pit the banal against the profound.

Do not be put off by its whopping 700 pages - It is a warts and all, unputdownable, racy, honest, funny, quite explosive in places and erudite book.

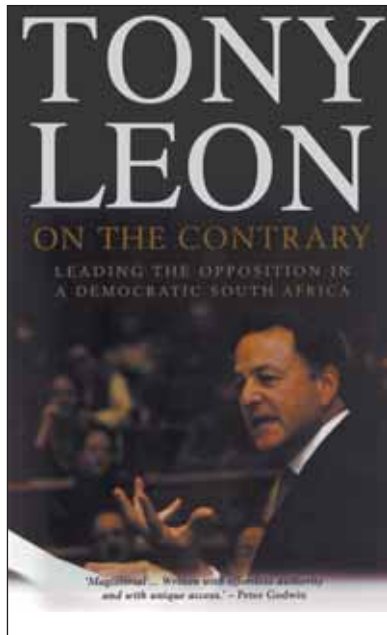
It hauls out anecdotes and vignettes from Leon's political life and paints them against a broad canvas of macro-political events in a most unlikely way. Like for example, the sad death of his mother, Sheila, against the marriage made in hell with the NNP; or about (first lady) Zanele Mbeki at the polling station in the 2006 elections discovering that she was not on the voters roll, and a Democratic Alliance councillor helping her to vote; or about his wife's disastrous birthday in a posh hotel while the DA was falling apart around the Marais and Morkel saga.

Leon's book is as much about his life as it is an authentic political biography of President Thabo Mbeki. As such it is one of the best chronicles of the transition, ruthlessly exposing the underbelly of the ANC beast. It deconstructs the rainbow myth by showing the mud and debris caused by the flood of political compromise and negotiation. His contest for the DP party leadership against the Houghton dynasty - Helen Suzman, Irene Menell, Zach de Beer, Colin Eglin and party colleagues - provides an equal opportunity exposé, if ever there was one.

This book is a welcome antidote to all the struggle hagiographies that exist. Many people are reinventing themselves; seminal events are being airbrushed out of history; and self-censorship is creating huge lacunae in our political history. This book will restore some of that, calling a spade a spade and exposing some of the lies for which we have become notorious.

This book deconstructs some of the myths created by the euphoria of liberation, of triumphalism, often obscured by the person of Nelson Mandela, in order to reconstruct the "truth". Having served with three presidents, since September 1989, Leon seems far too young to have written an autobiography, but as a walking Hansard, this book will become an important record in the annals of our political history.

Leon's perspectives on govern-



ment's mishandling of the HIV/Aids pandemic, Zimbabwe, the media, are as exhilarating as they are honest. The Long Aids Death March is a factual historical account of presidential madness.

The chapter, "Tangling with the Lady" on Winnie Mandela, reads like a murder thriller and reveals shockingly how the apartheid government was as complicit as the ANC government in covering up Winnie's crimes. In many ways Leon is an unlikely politician. He is not a zealot, not a gentleman; he is a "no bull\*\*t" man of integrity that one can trust.

This autobiography records an inspiring political career of erudition, argument, debate, political betrayal and leadership, and Leon's gift for transacting politics on a level that infuriated those who could not match or deal with his logic, becomes more self-evident.

In many ways Leon punched below his weight in Parliament, having had to deal with idiots like ANC chief whip Mbulelo Grootboom, when in May 2005, at the President's budget vote debate, to loud applause from ANC backbenchers, he declared: "One thing that you forget, you are here because of the magnanimity of the African National Congress. If we chose a path of the Nuremberg trials, all of you would be languishing in jail for the crimes of apartheid that were committed."

As Helen Suzman stated repeatedly: Parliament was far more interesting under apartheid than today, because the Afrikaner nationalists actually believed in the institution of parliament and respected the leaders of the opposition and protected them by allowing debate.

In many ways Leon gave Parliament respectability by engaging in clear articulate civilised sensible debate, always sticking to the

argument and trying not to be personal.

As a prophet not recognised in his own country, he predicted so presciently in 1999 that unless the ANC got its house in order, it shall reap what it had sown with devastating consequences. "And wasn't the means used in the struggle to replace apartheid - with its street committees, people's courts, necklacing, 'liberation before education', not in some instances as evil as the system it sought to replace?"

With the stabbings going on within the ruling party against political intolerance, these words of Leon have come back to haunt us.

For his youth, Leon has had a rich career in politics and the country is the richer for this autobiography in which he has straightened out some records.

As leader of the opposition in this country, there was much to be pessimistic about, but Leon remained the eternal optimist, and this is his most endearing quality, hence his favourite quote: "In this world, the optimists have it, not because they are always right, but because they are positive. Even when wrong, they are positive, and that is the way of achievement, correction, improvement, and success. Educated, eyes-open optimism pays, pessimism can only offer the empty consolation of being right."

"The one lesson that emerges is the need to keep trying. No miracles. No perfection. No millennium. No apocalypse. We must cultivate a sceptical faith, avoid dogma, listen and watch well, try to clarify and define ends, the better to choose means."

Leon's trajectory of dramatic sequential events shows that one cannot be in this game if one is not prepared to engage in some political gambling in moments of deep uncertainty. And this is what he tried to do by forming a coalition with the NNP. Many judged him for it, but he, more than anyone before him, and in the ANC, knew that no party will grow if one fills it with clones of oneself.

There is life after politics and I believe we haven't seen the last of this very talented politician. Already Leon has spent a semester at Harvard's Institute of Politics, where he received the kind of recognition so often denied him here.

This book will go down in history as one of the seminal works of a protagonist that has been there "in the thick of things".

• Rhoda Kadalie is a human rights activist and director of *Impumelelo Innovations Award Trust*, an NGO that rewards private-public partnerships in service delivery.

## Exciting Re-Vital in SA soon

ROBYN SASSEN

"DANCING IS not a hobby, it's a way of life," says Revital Pienica-Zvulonov, founder, commercial and artistic director of Re-Vital of Israel, a theatre dance group which visits South Africa next week, to help dance audiences celebrate Israel's 60th year.

Established in 1995 in Petah Tikva, the dance company is well-received throughout Israel

and has travelled widely internationally.

Pienica-Zvulonov started dancing at the age of four; she has been teaching the discipline of dance since she was 15.

A graduate of Wingate Institute for Physical Education and Sports, Pienica-Zvulonov has a distinctive style of choreography. Re-Vital of Israel has won awards for work on jazz shows.

Its primary conceptual focus is

to express Israel's story and traditional symbols and to highlight that which differentiates Israel from the rest of the world.

It comprises three dance groups, distinguished by age and versatility. The group visiting South Africa consists of dancers aged between 17 and 25, the cream of the Re-Vital project.

• Re-Vital of Israel performs at the Victory Theatre in Houghton, August 24. (011) 645-2510.

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The SA Jewish Community are invited to attend an evening with

**Rabbi Brian Walt**

of Rabbis for Human Rights

Rabbi Walt, who was born in South Africa, is one of the founders of Rabbis for Human Rights-North America and serves currently as the executive director of the organization.

Rabbi Walt is founder and rabbi emeritus of Congregation *Mishkan Shalom*, a synagogue in Philadelphia, PA, dedicated to the integration of Jewish practice and social justice. He was a student at the University of Cape Town in 1972-3 where he edited *Strike*, a Jewish student newspaper that explored Jewish values in the Apartheid society.

**Rabbi Walt will address the topic:**

*Jewish Values, Human Rights and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.* The talk will take place Thursday 21st August at 6:30 pm at Bet David - 3 Middle Road, Morningside - and will be followed by an optional dinner with Rabbi Walt (no cost to attend the talk, dinner is R 150 per person).

Join us for what promises to be an interesting evening.

Please contact Glynnis Kanar on (011) 783-7117 for bookings.

### LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN ISRAEL

**King David** matriculant who has practiced as a lawyer in Israel for the past 15 years offers services in dealing with banks, Government & Municipal departments, real estate matters, torts, and damages.

CONTACT RONIT MELLIN BEN-SHIMON  
TEL & FAX: 00972 3 778-4006 CELL: 00972 50 727-4546  
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### CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

A senior partner in an old established successful Sandton firm of chartered accountants is reaching the practice retirement age and wishes to offer his services on a permanent and full-time basis.

He would be interested in a financial or administration position with any successful group or company. The position sought is not necessarily that of the Chief Financial Officer.

KINDLY RESPOND BY E MAIL TO richardk@tuffsan.co.za IN ORDER TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS AND ARRANGE A MEETING



## LETTERS

The Editor, Suite 175, Postnet X10039, Randburg, 2125 email: carro@global.co.za

**Disclaimer**

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

**Guidelines for letters**

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

**DESTRUCTIVE BLANKET STATEMENTS DO NOBODY ANY GOOD**

ALMOST TWO years ago, Dennis Davis commented on the 2005 study "The Jews of South Africa 2005" in his article in the *Jewish Report*, entitled "More questions than answers" (September 15, 2006).

I responded in detail later that month in the *Jewish Report* in an article titled "Without questions there can be no answers" and acknowledged that "undoubtedly, there are questions which could be improved to provide more definitive answers eg the categories relating to frequency of shul attendance".

Unfortunately, Davis is targeting the survey once again and calling it "the flawed Kaplan Centre Survey". I understand that he feels strongly about issues relating to types of Judaism and that when one has a point to prove, it is necessary to pull out all stops to do so and to use whatever one has at one's disposal to

achieve one's goal.

However, this should be done in a responsible way without destructive blanket statements, especially since Davis himself acknowledged in his 2006 article that the survey report "is an important document in that it provides the community with insight into the key areas which concern its future in South Africa".

It is important to understand that the survey was designed to be as objective as possible and not to promote any particular point of view, as can be observed from detailed examination of the report and any articles relating to the results. Slating the survey as a whole because of one or two questions, is irresponsible.

**Shirley Bruk**  
Cape Town

**THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO EVERY STORY**

MR ZAMI Romm (on an unfortunate experience at The Barrio, Next Door, in last week's SAJR), there are two sides to every story.

I was not present at the Next Door restaurant of which you write, but being presented with the facts in the letter which you wrote in the *SA Jewish Report* and reading between the lines, I can only deduce the following:

You arrived to meet your friends late, so late in fact that they hadn't waited for you before they ordered their meal. Very bad manners on your part to start off with.

Restaurants book their tables according to their availability and what their kitchen can handle at any given time. It would appear, Zami, that not only did you put your friends out, but you put the kitchen of the restaurant out too.

The manager on being pointed out your frustration at the delay in receiving your late order of food (which judging from your previous bad manners and inconsideration towards your dear friends was not conveyed in the politest of terms) quite charmingly offered you free focachio.

You chose to turn down his offer, and I guess once again not in the politest of terms, judging from your letter. I do hope your friends were not too embarrassed by your behaviour.

Being in the service industry is a stressful and difficult business, and in particular when one has abusive clients. The customer is not "always right" and sometimes needs to take a look in the mirror.

Perhaps the time has come in business for people to be able to choose who they want to do business with, and this is obviously what the management of the restaurant did.

Management can choose not to deal with unreasonable and/or abusive customers, just as those customers can choose not to return to their restaurants.

Mr Romm, look in the mirror, and begin your new regime by arriving on time for your appointments and having consideration for your fellow man, whatever his position is.

**L Kinross**  
Johannesburg

**WHO WAS THIS MAX SCHLESINGER?**

RON OZEN wrote us the following note: "I have recently come across a couple of letters written to a Max Schlesinger, who lived, or had an office, at 705 Dundonald Mansions, Bree Street, Johannesburg during the late 1940s early 1950s and signed by Albert Einstein.

"The letters are written in German and are about an acceptable number of hours to be worked in a working week.

"I have tried to find out historical and social information about Max Schlesinger, but could only find information about Isadore and John Schlesinger of the Schlesinger group of companies.

If anyone can enlighten me about the work or political affiliations of Max Schlesinger, I would appreciate it.

"My e-mail is ronozen@gmail.com"  
Can any of our readers help?

**A DOUBLE TAKE ON JEWS IN SA TEAMS**

In the *Jewish Report* of July 4 I posed the question as to anyone remembering who the two Jewish footballers were who represented South Africa in the same team against an English premier club.

In 1952 Newcastle United toured South Africa, meeting our national team twice - in Durban and at the Rand Stadium in Johannesburg.

In our national team on both occasions were two outstanding Jewish footballers Hymie Kloner and Harry Miller from the East Rand, who if my memory serves me correctly, was a medical doctor.

How many other South African sports teams had more than one Jew in the

team?

When Australia toured South Africa in 1969/70, the Springbok cricket team captained by Ali Bacher also had wicket keeper Dennis Gamsy in the team for the last two matches of the series.

The South African water polo team of the late '50s and early '60s had three outstanding Jewish players in Leon Hahon, Aubrey Kaplan and Robert Schwartz. This team was coached and managed by one of the all-time greats of Hungarian water polo, George Brodie.

**Dave Berkowitz**  
White River

**CAN YOU SHED ANY LIGHT ON THE BEGACH FAMILY?**

ANDREA ENDERLEIN of Potsdam in Germany is asking for assistance in tracing the whereabouts of a Jewish family, who came from Leipzig, Germany and lived in Johannesburg (1963).

Leopold Begach, a survivor of a concentration camp, lived in South Africa. Begach's wife Edith (née Bloch) born on June 5 1890, was murdered in Riga. Their son Klaus Eberhard, born on February 29 1920 in Leipzig left that city before 1939.

Enderlein is trying to trace the whereabouts of this family or its grandchildren.

She believes that Klaus Eberhard Begach came to South Africa. She has also found information on a Klaus Begach (now Claude Beech): Kitchener Camp, Sandwich, England 1939. She thinks that maybe after this camp Klaus Begach came to South Africa and that his father followed him after the war.

Should you have any information, please contact Andrea Enderlein, genealogical research, Rudolf-Breitscheid-Strasse 208, 14482 Potsdam, Germany or phone. +49-331-710597.

**SA IS WORLD'S MORAL COMPASS**

IT IS such a coup that the UN Human Rights Commission has decided to locate the World Human Rights Teaching Centre in South Africa. Jody Kollapen heading the SA Human Rights Commission, is really so well qualified to help co-ordinate its activities from Johannesburg. We really are blessed.

Nobody can doubt South Africa's moral authority. If you read the papers, you will know that it is increasing by the day. South Africa is a guiding light. It is, to put it succinctly, the world's moral compass.

**Anthony Posner**  
Johannesburg

**DID YOU ASSIST IN ISRAEL'S 1967 WAR?**

I AM compiling memoirs for a book about volunteers to Israel who travelled there in June 1967 to help. Many Jews and gentiles participated, to help as nurses, drivers, farm workers, etc.

Time is passing quickly, and the record must be compiled before it is lost. If any readers are among those who went to help,

would they please contact me at VolunteerIsrael1967@gmail.com and if you are acquainted with someone who went, would you kindly forward this information to them.

**Michael Zimmerman**  
Illinois, USA

**THERE'S ANOTHER SIDE WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED**

THE COLUMN of Mr Justice Dennis Davis (*SAJR* August 8) refers: Any compassionate human recognises the suffering and injustice meted out to people. I acknowledge the suffering of the Palestinians and feel their pain.

However, never in the annals of modern history has any body of people, other than the Palestinians, received as much funding from the international community, nor for so protracted a time.

UNWRA, the United Nations refugee body that works only for three million Palestinian refugees, has on its own given \$13,5 billion to date, which figure does not include donations from other countries and organisations.

Ethiopia, for example, one of the poorest countries of Africa, and with a population of 75 million citizens, received only a fraction of what the Palestinians got.

Sadly the issue of the 850 000 Jewish refugees who were forced out of the Arab countries of birth and who abandoned property valued at \$700 million now approximately \$6 billion, has never received the prominence due to it.

At the same time 650 000 Palestinians who left Israel lost property worth \$450 million (now worth approximately \$3,9 million).

So it is evident that both sides suffered enormous pain and sadness - not only one side.

Why had the members of the human rights activists groups visiting Israel not been aware of the sobs of the Christians who were tortured out of Bethlehem?

Why where they not privy to the cries of Jewish children burned to death on blown-up buses on the way to school, or to the ongoing suffering of Sderot and the Negev civilian population who are still a target for rocket

attacks?

Why weren't the human rights activists sensitive to the deafening silence of the media who paid little attention to the plight of the beaten Jews forced out of their homes in Gush Katif, carrying with them the bodies of their loved ones, leaving behind abandoned shuls and their life creations?

These Israelis are still homeless, hopeless and jobless, three years later, without homes or compensation.

This was done to give opportunities to the Palestinians to begin developing their own state, to use the *Judenrein* land and promote tourism, to become independent, self-sufficient, to choose peace.

Tragically, the result was not a shower of flowers, nor a new chapter of goodwill. It was instead a shower of daily bombs, Hamas in power, a strengthening of the terror which was used also against their own suffering population, who are used as shields and kept in miserable conditions.

Rather than building hospitals, roads, work places and life enhancing infrastructures, they chose instead to invest their energy and efforts in terror and destruction.

That goes without questioning the apartheid ideology which excludes human rights from Jews from being citizens in the Palestinian autonomous region.

Any human rights activist who cannot acknowledge this and who chooses to see one side only of this intractable and terrible conflict, is, I would say, a human activist who has left the rights.

**Naomi Dinur**  
Senderwood  
Johannesburg

**WE GRIEVE WITH THE TWO SLAIN ISRAELI SOLDIERS**

TWO YIDDISH boys, young men in the prime of their lives, were ambushed and murdered, while guarding our Eretz Yisrael northern border, by those types who choose Islamic extremism to kill, so as to acquire martyrdom.

(How on earth - with "earth" being the operative word - can one make peace with types like this?)

Then they who laud death, detained our boys, the Israeli army reservists Ehud Goldwasser (31) and Eldad Regev (26) for two years to use the lifeless Israeli bodies to barter with.

Can one imagine how Shlomo Gold-

wasser, the father of Ehud and Karnit Goldwasser Ehud's wife, felt and suffered, such mental torture and anguish for two very long years, hoping for the best, yet fearing the worst, as well as the nearest and dearest of both families.

Mr Editor please put in print an address or advise those who choose to contact and wish to write handwritten letters to the bereaved, that we too feel their pain and that they are not alone in their time of the utmost tragic grief.

**Russell Sadowsky**  
Johannesburg

**COMPEL THE YOUNG TO COMPLETE GRADE 12**

A FEW letters in the August 8 edition of the *SA Jewish Report*, discussed the lack of appropriate education and the lack of moral values in South Africa. I would like to add, that in my point of view, first of all, there should be a law compelling every South African teenager to complete his or her studies up to and including grade 12 and write matriculation exams.

I am aware of the fact that there should be an improvement in what is learned in school. But the first thing should be a law of matriculation obligation, so that at least, the number of child beggars will be reduced, please G-d.

**Avner Eliyahu Romm**  
Sea Point, Cape Town

**CAN ANYONE HELP MICHELLE ESSERS?**

MICHELLE ESSERS in the UK is looking for the children of the following siblings: Ella Shapiro born 13/11/1916; Aaron Benjamin born 21/6/1917; Ann Nurick born 3/6/1920; Morris Hilliard born 13/4/1922. In 1958, one of the above had a

daughter - Marsha Lorna Furman.

Their parents were Dora (nee Kramer) and Louis Furman. In 1958 Dora and Louis lived at 62 Human Street, Krugersdorp.

If anyone can help, please contact Michelle on michelleessers@yahoo.co.uk



## COMMUNITY COLUMNS



**SAZF**  
**FED FOCUS**  
Avrom Krengel  
Chairman

## The Media - again

to present their findings and would not allow any interruptions during the programme, so there were no calls to the station and no challenges to their one-sided uncontextualised views.

There was a huge outcry in the community; and when members of the Media Team arrived home from Israel the following day, a letter was sent to the programme manager of Talk Radio 702 explaining the reasons behind their visit and offering themselves and Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein (who was happy to join them) to present an alternative viewpoint.

The response was immediate - very polite but definitely negative. Reasons given included: "With the exception of Steven Mullaholland, your delegation seems to comprise people who are of Jewish origin and/or have expressed opinions on the conflict before.

"In this regard we are averse to interviewing people whose opinions are known to our listeners. In addition, your delegation does not seem to comprise the profile or stature of the SAHR delegation" and: "In the week before the interview with the SAHR delegation, the Chief Rabbi, Dr Warren Goldstein was interviewed on David O'Sullivan's show while he was on his tour of Israel."

The Chief Rabbi's interview, for those who did not hear it, focused on the second bulldozer incident which happened during his visit there and did not touch on any of the issues raised by the group of 23 activists.

The Media Team has often been mentioned in this column. Their successes reflect the hours of hard behind-the-scenes work, dedication and research, constant telephone calls and e-mails. When these come to naught, it is because the media will not give the Team a voice, which is a huge problem for balanced media coverage of Israel. The Team was well received in Israel and its efforts in promoting that country's image in South Africa were gratefully acknowledged.

According to a top official at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the SA media is probably, other than Arab media, the most anti-Israel which makes the Team's job that much more difficult and challenging; and its successes that much more worthy. Its tenacity and dedication are to be admired.



**ABOVE BOARD**  
Zev Krengel,  
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

## Unity in diversity remains our guiding principle

RABBI DAVID Milston of Midreshet Harova in Israel made an interesting comment during his recent visit to South Africa. Speaking last Shabbat at the Mizrahi Shul, he said that there need not be uniformity among the Jewish people; what was essential was that there be unity.

This is a lesson we would all do well to take to heart. Within our community, there will always be divergences of opinion, be this on religion, politics, Israel and indeed, the very meaning of what it is to be Jewish. What is essential, however, is that despite these differences, we always feel that we are one people.

The SA Jewish Board of Deputies has always sought to be a broad tent, within which all members of the Jewish community feel they have a voice.

This inclusivity is reflected in our membership base, which includes the whole spectrum of religious opinion, from strictly Orthodox to secular, welfare bodies working for the betterment of Jews and others for the greater society, left and right-wing Zionist groupings and a wide range of cultural organisations.

While they differ in their aims and activities, all these have in common a deep commitment to SA Jewry and a desire to contribute to its continued growth and well-being.

On September 14, the Gauteng Council of the SAJBD will be holding its biennial conference. As usual, this will showcase the diversity of our Jewish community,

with delegates from our many and varied affiliate organisations taking part in the proceedings.

At the end of it a new council will be elected to represent Gauteng Jewry for the next two years.

The SAJBD fulfils many functions, but its core mission is ultimately to ensure that Jewish civil rights are upheld, particularly when it comes to addressing instances of anti-Semitism. This year's conference has a special focus on the modern-day face of anti-Semitism, both in its South African and its international manifestations.

There has been a significant upsurge in anti-Semitic activity the world over during the past decade, something that has impacted on South Africa as well.

Perhaps more than anything else, it is this uncompromising commitment to the protection of our community from all forms of anti-Jewish prejudice that all our affiliate organisations have in common.

We look forward to a lively debate on this crucial issue at our conference, not least because it enables us to receive feedback from our constituent bodies as to how we are carrying out our mandate and where we can improve.

In this spirit of unity in diversity, we look forward to a constructive exchange of different views as we map out the way ahead for Gauteng Jewry over the next two years.

## AROUND THE WORLD

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## BEREAVED SWIMMER SETS ISRAELI MARK

BEIJING - An Israeli swimmer who stayed in the Olympics despite the sudden death of his father, set a national record.

Alon Mandel finished the 200-metre butterfly in one minute, 59,27 seconds on Monday.

Mandel's father and longtime coach, Kostia Mandel, was killed tragically last week when he fell from a ladder while trying to put up a banner in support of

his son outside their Netanya home.

"It was very hard. It was a family decision to stay and compete, and I wanted to do this for my dad," Mandel said. "As an athlete I wanted to stay, but I'm a human being first of all."

Mandel's mother and sisters supported his decision to stay in China. Mandel is scheduled to return to Israel to join his relatives for the shiva mourning period. (JTA)



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# Long road from Judaism to Christianity - and back

ALISON GOLDBERG

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN Evangelical organisations are pouring billions of dollars into efforts to convert Jews into Christians and accept Jesus as the Messiah. Against this onslaught stands the organisation Jews for Judaism which rescued Penina Taylor and her family in Baltimore.

Taylor is a Jewish woman who herself had converted to Christianity and done the same missionary work for 17 years, before recovering her Jewish faith.

Taylor visited Johannesburg and Cape Town this week under the auspices of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues of Johannesburg. Earlier this year she had "mesmerised" UOS executive director and Jews for Judaism chairman, Darren Sevitz and Jews for Judaism Johannesburg director, Darryl Frankel with her "warmth" when they visited her in Jerusalem where she runs the Jews for Judaism Centre.

Jews for Judaism, Taylor explains, also has offices in Los Angeles, Baltimore, Toronto and Sydney.

The organisation is education-based as opposed to an activist one, and their mission, "To Keep Jews Jewish", often involves explaining why Jews don't believe in Jesus as the messiah, that there are answers to the missionaries and seminars in Jerusalem typically run for 12 weeks. The Centre also counsels families whose children or parents have converted to other faiths.

The area most affected by missionaries today is in Russia and has become a growing problem in Israel and South Africa. Taylor points out that South Africa has been found to be relatively untapped, but missionaries are having increased success here, so there is serious cause for concern.

Collective memory has in the past acted as a stalwart against missionaries in Israel, but their current successes she describes as "explosive".

The Christian Zionist Movement, Assembly of G-d and the Southern Baptists are among a thousand such groups proclaiming they are the best friends Jews have and the unfortunate result of

this apparent support is that Israel is more open than ever to allowing them to share their faith.

For Taylor who at one time served as a counsellor in evangelist Billy Graham's organisation, it was the amount of lies that were told to bring the case for Jesus that led her to return to Judaism and be followed by her family.

Even the Haredi have been targeted by missionaries and conversions are a sad statistic, the mother of four told the packed audience at a breakfast gathering at the Capri Hotel.

She and her husband made aliyah one and a half years ago and have adopted the surname Tal Ohr.

Taylor describes her upbringing in a typical secular Jewish home where Jewish ethnicity and history were much in evidence, and she even had a two year spell at a religious Hebrew primary school, but there was no reinforcement at home for what she learnt at school.

A "friend" introduced her in high school to Christianity to ward off what Taylor describes as depression, meaninglessness and drugs and her life became anything but typical.

Seeing their daughter and sister getting rid of drugs, her mother and sister and eventually her father too, converted to Christianity, remarrying her mother after 15 years. Her parents eventually discovered Messianic Judaism which practised Christianity in a very Jewish form.

Taylor herself adopted Jewish practices such as lighting the Shabbat candles and donning a head covering while going to church on Sundays.

But her Jewish soul and Christian faith were at war with one another, she found. After a three year stint in England she and her husband returned to the US, discovering a messianic congregation with her husband beginning to wear a kippah and tzitzit. All the while her father decided it was time to start a messianic congrega-



Penina Taylor

tion of their own to pull away from being described as Christians and Taylor started going to Hebrew bookshops and began to teach Torah observance.

This period lasted three years and included the study of the Shulchan Aruch, a rewrite of the Passover Haggadah and many other Jewish practices before deciding to leave the congregation and eventually disintegrated.

"We needed a place to chill out and refrain from leadership positions," says Taylor. "There we were looking for all intents and purposes like an Orthodox family with long skirts and long sleeves. No-one would believe we believed in Jesus." Eventually Taylor and her family joined the Seventh Day Adventists who worshipped on Saturdays and kept vegetarian.

Crunch time came when Penina and her family moved to an Orthodox Jewish suburb in Baltimore. They began to attend shul and were eventually recognised as Jews, but not before the director of Jews for Judaism was recommended to them by their local rabbi.

"What turned my world upside-down was the realisation that all of the supposed 'proofs' for Jesus being the messiah were based on scriptures that were taken out of context, mistranslated, fabricated or some combination of all of the above.

"When I realised that everything I believed for 17 years was based on a lie, it all came crashing down and I could no longer believe in Christianity. That's when I returned to the Jewish faith," says Taylor.

After two difficult years, Taylor's husband, who wasn't Jewish, decided that he too no longer believed Christianity to be true and after four years he decided to convert to Judaism.

After her husband's conversion, Taylor began to work for the Jews for Judaism Baltimore branch. Then the family made aliyah with Penina starting her own counter-missionary programme.

# Missionaries see special duty in 'saving' Jews

ALISON GOLDBERG

PENINA TAYLOR, director of Jews for Judaism in Jerusalem who spent much of her life with missionaries before rediscovering her own Jewish faith, told the *Jewish Report* that the missionary mindset was one of a sense of urgency.

"Missionaries are motivated out of a sincere desire to save souls, combined with their understanding that Jesus won't return until the majority of Jewish people accept him as our messiah.

"According to the New Testament, Christians must spread the Gospel to everyone, but are mandated to take it to the Jews first.

"Missionaries will do whatever

it takes to get us to accept him as messiah and often use an outpouring of love and kindness as a way to get us to listen to their message. Their complete commitment to this cause allows them to use whatever means necessary and redefining Judaism is not beyond the pale."

Having once been a Messianic Jew, Taylor knows what she is speaking about. She was especially brought out to South Africa by the Union of Orthodox Synagogues and has been engaging packed halls for the past week.

"Missionaries who specifically target Jews for conversion, will attempt to convince Jews that Christianity is Jewish and that by accepting their messiah we

become more Jewish.

"The truth is that this is a complete lie; Judaism and Christianity are two separate faith systems with two completely different understandings of G-d's nature, how He interacts with mankind, and the concepts of sin and atonement, to name just a few.

"Missionaries will often take advantage of Jewish ignorance of our Scriptures in order to convince us of the 'truth' of their assertions. The key to keeping Jews Jewish is in education and Jewish people should explore Judaism fully before looking towards other religions to find meaning and fulfilment", she concluded.

## AROUND THE WORLD

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### BRAD PITT TO PLAY JEWISH SOLDIER

LOS ANGELES - Brad Pitt will star as a Jewish American soldier in a film by Quentin Tarantino.

Pitt signed on to play a southern Jew who leads a team of eight Jewish

Americans in exacting vengeance on the Nazis in German-occupied France.

The film, "Inglorious Bastards", is due to start shooting in Germany in October. (JTA)

#### MIGRON TO BE RELOCATED

JERUSALEM - The biggest West Bank settler outpost will be moved. The Yesha settler council decided late Monday to move Migron, the biggest outpost erected in the West Bank without Israeli government approval, to a new, as yet undecided location.

The move follows months of wrangling between Yesha and Israel's Defence Ministry and High Court of Justice over the fate of Migron as well as other outposts.

Under the US-sponsored "road map" for peace with the Palestinians, Israel is obligated to remove all West Bank settler outposts. Enforcement has been patchy, drawing criticism from the Palestinians, the United States, and other foreign powers.

Peace Now, a left-wing Israeli watchdog group, decried the Yesha decision as a "time-buying" ruse, as it could take many months to find a new location for Migron's 45 families. (JTA)

# SA Jewish stalwart David Mann, dies at the age of 94

DAVID SAKS

ADVOCATE DAVID Kopel ("Dawie") Mann, who passed away in Australia last week at the age of 94, was a senior Jewish leader who represented the mainstream Jewish viewpoint to government and the Jewish world during the turbulent 1970s.

An executive member of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies from 1959, he served as chairman from 1970-1974 and thereafter, until the end of the decade, as president. He was also active on numerous other local and international Jewish bodies, including the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, World Jewish Congress, SA Jewish Trust, Hebrew Order of David, Oxford Synagogue (chairman), SA Jewish Ex-Servicemen's League (chairman: Johannesburg branch) and the Material Claims Commission Against Germany.

Mann was born to Isaac and Bertha Manaschewitz in Calitzdorp on January 28 1914 and educated at Boys High School, Oudtshoorn, the University of Cape Town and the University of Natal.

He was a captain in the 6th SA Armoured Division during the Second World War, serving in the North African and Italian campaigns.

In 1948, he married Rahlyn Woolf, with whom he had a son and two daughters. That same year, he joined the Johannesburg Bar and a year later began what would be a more than 40-year-long association with the SAJBD as a deputy of the Dr Herzl Lodge of the HOD.

Perhaps the most significant act by Mann during his years on the SAJBD was his condemnation of the apartheid policy, in a speech delivered at an SAJBD banquet in honour of



Prime Minister BJ Vorster following the latter's return from a state visit to Israel. Inter alia, he said: "I believe that there is a new sense of urgency abroad in our land, a realization that we must move away as quickly and effectively as is practicable from discrimination based on race or color, and that we

must accord to every man and woman respect and human dignity, and the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential".

While these statements could hardly be described as bold - the word "apartheid" was not used, for example, nor was the government taken to task on moral grounds - this represented a significant advance on the studiously apolitical stance that had characterized the SAJBD's approach to broader political events until then. Previously, the official SAJBD stance had been that "Jewish opinion on political and racial issues in South Africa showed the same diversity as non-Jewish opinion" and that it was "for individuals to take what course they chose".

By the mid-1980s, the SAJBD was explicitly condemning apartheid and even lobbying against certain of its laws, such as forced removals under the Group Areas Act. For some, such efforts were regarded as being too little too late, but others recognised them as a genuine attempt to make up for the organisation's long record of passivity prior to this.

Mann's daughter, Eileen, married Rabbi Selwyn Franklyn, who subsequently took up a rabbinical post in Sydney, Australia. Mann eventually joined her there in his late seventies, after retiring from his successful law practice.



# Women still treated as second-rate citizens

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

THE TREATMENT of girls as "second-rate" members of the religious community was prevalent in Judaism, Gwynne Schrire, secretary of the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative, said at an Interfaith Women's Day celebration at the Habibia Soofie Mosque in Rylands.

The event was hosted by the Muslim Judicial Council in partnership with South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID) (Western Cape), an organisation committed to improving the status of women by engaging role-players in the public and private sectors.

The proposed theme of discussion for the day was Talking Implementation: Strengthening the Relationship between religious leaders and women in order to improve the status of women in poor communities.

"Despite our Constitution, despite gender equity, despite female empowerment, I cannot see men being prepared to share religious power with the majority sex," Schrire stated, "and if religious leaders wanted to strengthen the relationship with women in order to improve the status of women in poor communities, it might help if women were appointed to religious leadership positions."

She said that in Orthodox Judaism too women were "not as equal as men" and did not count

when it came to conducting religious services. "Our role is after the service as the servers and makers of tea and cake.

"Women are not even allowed to touch the Torah in case we are unclean. I find this insulting.

"Another excuse is that men could not concentrate on prayer if they saw a pretty face," she said, referring to the separation of men and women during services. "It does not say much for men's self-control or discipline."

The lack of religious gender equality was due to the fact that Judaism had developed 4 000 years ago "when there was no such thing as Constitutions or Equality Courts", she added.

"The power is held in the hands of the men and, claiming divine sanction for their priestly power and position, they are not going to give it up."

She conceded that Jewish women did, however, have "some" power as the centre of worship was not in the synagogue but the home, where the mother played an important role.

Since the synagogue was "male dominated" and could not meet the need for a life beyond the walls of the home, women's groups developed in Europe from the 19th century onwards to fill this gap. The origins of social work have in fact been traced to these groups, one of whose "major tasks" was to alleviate poverty among other women, she said.

Quoting from a survey carried out by the University of Stellenbosch, Schrire said that 71 per



Sanaa Petersen, CEO of the Islamic Media Agency and advisory board member of SAWID (Western Cape), Anna Berkowitz, CT chairman of the UJW and member of the executive steering committee of SAWID (Western Cape), Caroline Davids, chairman of SAWID (Western Cape) and Gwynne Schrire, secretary of the CT Interfaith Initiative, at a Women's Day celebration hosted jointly by the Muslim Judicial Council and SAWID.

cent of South Africans trusted religious organisations, yet only half of them felt that they were providing adequate answers to the country's problems.

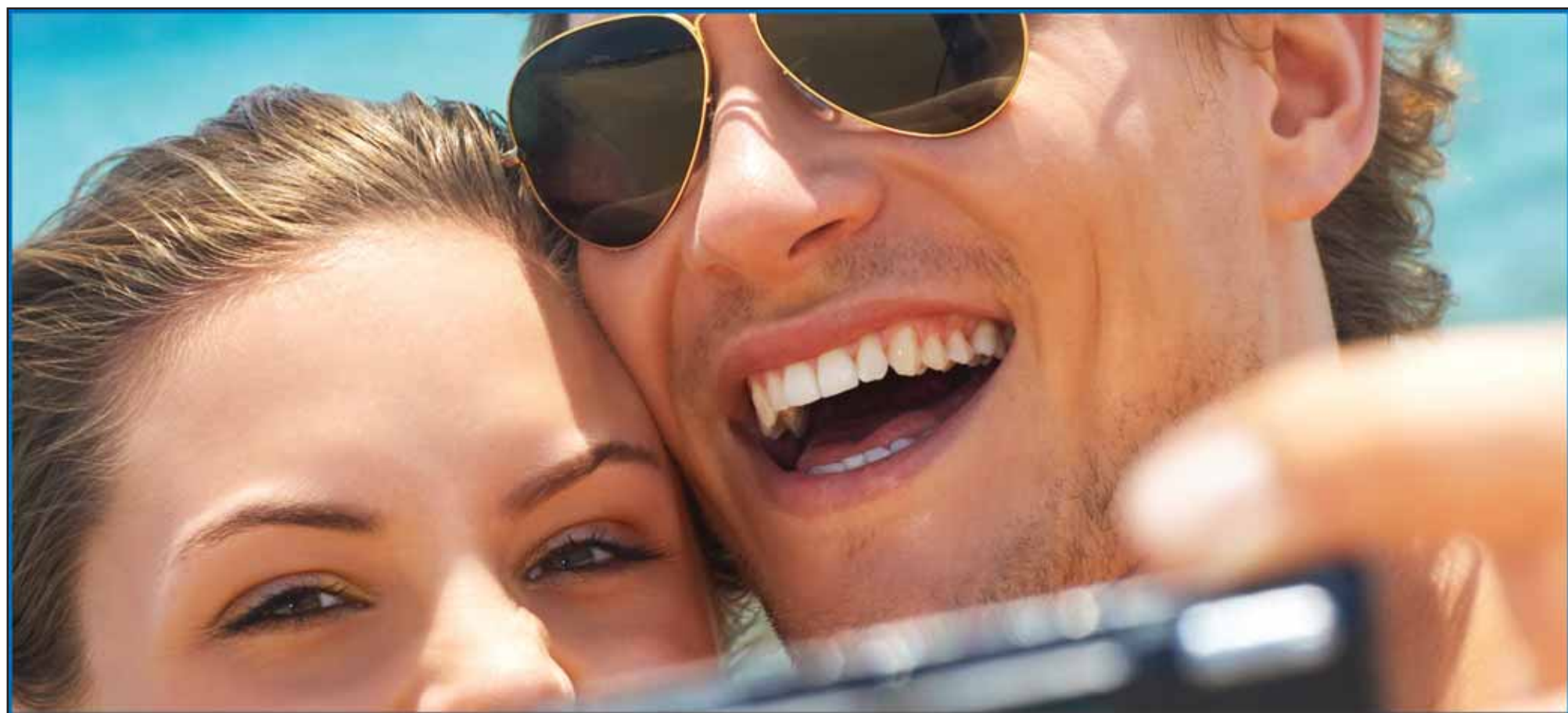
She proposed that religious leaders provide "more encouragement, funding and opportunities"

to women's groups so that skills could be imparted to other women.

They should also speak out against the evils confronting women. "There should be regular sermons from the pulpit or mimbar (pulpit in a mosque) against

xenophobia, against rape, against women abuse, against HIV/Aids.

"They should make the premises of their houses of worship available for support groups for victims of rape and spouse abuse and for drug counselling," she suggested.



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## YOUTH TALK

Shelley Elk jewishreport@yahoo.com

# Learning about women's roles in greater society

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY SHELLEY ELK



Rikki Tooch and Jessica Cohen saying the brochah over Shabbat candles at the King David Linksfield High School assembly last Friday, celebrating Women's Day. As part of an assembly celebrating the day, KDL learners heard about the unique roles played by four women guest speakers, Rita Mkwanazi (former teacher), Sara Magkale (social worker), Msapa Maringa (traditional healer) and Rebbetzen Mashi Lipskar. (See page 3)

# Importance of touching a heart before touching a hand

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH SHELLEY ELK

SUCCESS WAS based on more than intelligence and degrees. Emotional intelligence, self-motivation, happiness, vision and connecting with people, was part of "what it was all about", said international motivational speaker Justin Cohen at a recent "Sandton Youth Vibe" function.

Emotional well-being and "touching a heart before you touch a hand" enabled a person to connect with others, and succeed or thrive in life. Dealing with setbacks, and knowing oneself, enabled a person to reach out and give of oneself to others.

Cohen, also an author who has delivered motivational talks all over the world, deals with motivation, sales and customer satisfaction.

At his "Psychology of success" seminar, Cohen said "we are 'made for pleasure' and emotional well-being is what it is all about".

We were driven by purpose and passion, he said, explaining that "we were conceived in passion, and emerged a miracle, and the odds alone of one's existence are miraculous".

Postulating the question, "Does IQ determine who the people who have made the most difference in the world are?" he answers it himself: No, success is not based on qualifications, degrees, or IQ.

Of the top 10 richest people in the



world, said Cohen, only three had degrees. "Branson, never went to university, and Gates dropped out."

Some people debated whether a foetus was viable only once it graduated from university or medical school, he quipped.

Traditionally there were three keys to success, he said, citing IQ, qualification and experience.

But, he posed the question: "Who is thriving?" Again answering it himself, he said: "Those with emotional intelligence, or social intelligence;" two key areas interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligence.

Questions to consider were how one motivated oneself and if one could calm oneself under pressure.

Persistence and dealing with failure were important, because "how you deal with it, determines your future success". He encouraged people to embrace their setbacks, and "be prepared to suffer for what

you love".

Consistency and the ability to self-motivate were at the root of passion and a core reason behind anything we did, said Cohen, was because of pain and pleasure.

Discussing what he termed the "law of connection", he explained that the key to success in business was "nurturing, caring and listening" and that was why women made better managers than men.

"Love, respect and recognising the divinity in another - when you see people in that way, your own life tends to fall into place," he said in discussing the Jewish response to xenophobia.

"People then want to marry you, do business with you. They don't care how much you know, they want to know how much you care."

Self-confidence and love was the foundation which enabled a person to care for and "love your neighbour".

He added: "The audacity to see the invisible in ourselves is 'vision' and it enables us to share that with others."

In challenging situations, Cohen explained, one should ask: "What is good about this?" And: "What can I do about this?" Write down five possible solutions, before action.

Cohen concluded with four essential keys to success: Gratitude, choice, natural ecstasy which released serotonin, and action, emphasising that they (keys) must be taken on board and implemented.

# Aspiring with G-d to make the world a better place

OWN CORRESPONDENT

SANDTON SHUL last week Wednesday initiated a unique opportunity for the Aish UK contingent on tour in South Africa to meet and interact with local young professionals.

More than 120 young professionals from the UK and Sandton shul joined together for an inspiring evening of *achdut* in Av. The evening was organised by Yochi and Roseen Ress youth directors at Sandton Shul in conjunction with Aish UK, currently on tour in South Africa.

The British contingent was impressed by the hospitality showed towards them. The two groups mixed well and the evening continued with the South Africans following the Aish buses to their next destination.

During the evening, Rabbi Yitzchak Sandler director of Aish UK and former founder and educational director of Aish SA, presented the audience with much to think about with a talk entitled "Tikkun Olam - Human Responsibility", exploring how we can use the opportunity in Jewish living of partnering with G-d to make the world a better place.

Rabbi Sandler focused on trying to get the audience to ponder whether G-d exists. Stressing the point that it's not a necessity as to

whether we believe He exists, but whether in fact there is a G-d.

He asked the audience to respond to what the benefits would be if G-d existed as well as what the benefits would be if He did not. Rabbi Sandler highlighted that the very fact we question whether G-d exists and talk about the meaning or purpose life would have if G-d existed suggests that there must indeed be a Creator.

And the fact that we have objective standards in life as to what is right and wrong, such as for instance rape, murder and the Holocaust, were seen to be terrible crimes by everybody in the audience and this suggests that there must be a Higher Power than ourselves and society that sets the standards.

Rabbi Sandler left the audience with the power to decide for themselves whether G-d exists and if so, in what way we can put back into the world which is fast becoming challenged by us draining its resources.

The evening was a great success. There was an electrifying energy and buzz as the two groups interacted with one other and anticipate similar opportunities to connect.

With the New Year fast approaching, if any youth are looking to connect with Sandton Youth Vibe, please contact the shul office on (011) 883-4210.



Youth from Aish UK and Sandton Youth Vibe enjoying dinner and an evening of *achdut* at the Sandton Shul last week, where Rabbi Yitzchak Sandler, director of Aish UK, spoke about tikkun olam.

# Two Jews among Edenvale prefects

CARON MEYEROWITZ PHOTOGRAPH: COLIN MEYEROWITZ

prefects, namely Seth Meyerowitz in 2005 and Shaun Margolis in 2008. Both were top 10 achievers.

THERE ARE two Jews among Edenvale High School's recently announced prefects for 2009. The two are Jaimi Meyerowitz and Darryl Margolis.

A group of grade 11s were selected to go on a leadership camp three weeks ago and from that group, the prefects were chosen.

Meyerowitz is 2008 captain of the 1st squash team and mentor for a grade 8 class. Margolis is a top 10 academic achiever and a member of the Representative Class Learners (RCL).

Margolis's and Meyerowitz's brothers, who matriculated at Edenvale, were also selected as



Darryl Margolis and Jaimi Meyerowitz.



## YOUTH TALK

Shelley Elk jewishreport@yahoo.com

# Information day for prospective KDL grade 8s

MARC FALCONER, PRINCIPAL KDL HIGH SCHOOL  
PHOTOGRAPH: GARY BLOCK

KING DAVID Linksfield High School recently hosted its information day for the prospective grade 8s of 2009.

During the course of the morning about 120 pupils experienced something of high school learning: drama workshops, art practicals, film study, geography and natural sciences exhibitions, maths and creative writing lessons, and a plethora of extracurricular activities such as sport, drama, public speaking and theatre sports, as well as various Judaic activities.

Hebrew and Judaic music and food, both staples of King David Linksfield, and preoccupations for pupils, were very much in evidence.

In the evening approximately 200 learners - and their parents - packed the school hall to hear about the school's plans for the future, among them the desire to

enhance teaching by using technology much more creatively and engagingly.

Parents also heard about the pastoral care system, the school's readiness to deliver the new National Senior Certificate, the support and resources enjoyed by the staff of the Independent Examinations Board (IEB), the independent examining body of which most good private schools are members.

The parents and pupils also listened to the school band and heard the vocal ensemble sing the haunting Shema Israel and watched some samples of the matric drama monologues.

A busy day reflecting the myriad opportunities open to pupils of a school which seeks to develop, feed and grow each pupil to his or her potential and equip its school-leavers to take up their places anywhere in the world.

Applications for both King David High Schools close at the end of August.



Grade 7 learners from King David Linksfield and King David Sandton, taking part in a natural sciences lesson during the "Information Evening". The teacher in the photograph is Abigail Joffe.

# Conservation Week at Ohrsom Nursery School

NADINE HURWITZ  
PHOTOGRAPHS:  
NICOLE HOFFMAN

REGULAR THEMES and focused learning programmes are a regular occurrence at Ohr Somayach Sandton Nursery School. The theme during the past week was Conservation Week, in which the young preschoolers were taught about conserving our precious world for all to enjoy now and in the future.

The nursery school said in a media release that throughout the week, the children learned about developing a caring attitude towards the earth by learning to recycle and reuse materials for art and crafts, rather than throwing them away.

The school's Conservation Week focused on the Three Rs: Recycle, Reuse and Reduce. Thus, children were encouraged to bring all glass and paper items to school for recycling.

Furthermore, to reinforce the message of recycling, all class units were given special paper recycling bags which will be used for all paper waste in class in the future.

During the week, all class activities concentrated on the theme of conservation. The children made beautiful "faces" out of disposable items, for instance class dustbins were decorated and individual litter bags were created.

The children were then treated to an educational and fun-filled presentation on conservation, which focused on how to save our world and keep it clean.

The Conservation Week theme we celebrated, is indica-

tive of the school's philosophy of enhancing and stimulating the whole child. This encompasses not only the individual child, but also their relationship and responsibility to the world and those around them.

Ohr Somayach Sandton Nursery School caters for children from 15 months to grade O. For further information regarding placements, please contact Tova Goldstein the school director, on (011) 802-1210 or 082-574-9541.



Some of the boys in front of the recycling station.



Some of the Ohr Somayach Sandton Nursery pupils with goodies collected for Conservation Week.

# Oh, for some such delicious ice-cream!

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH:  
PRINCIPAL LYNDIA ROMAIN

KING DAVID Victory Park Pre-Primary Schoolers seem to believe "it's such fun having birthdays at school because we get yummy ice-cream to eat!"

Ben Grieve-Fitzell and Jo-Jo Joffe, enjoy their ice-cream in the school's garden.



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# WHAT'S ON

Shelley Elk carro@global.co.za

**NOTE:** Deadline for all entries is 12:00 on the Friday prior to publication.

**Key to organisations, venues, contact details and cost:**

- The Jewish National Fund (JNF) Choir, Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact Crystal Kaplan. 083-376-5999.
- The Jewish Women's Benevolent Society (JWBS) - Sandringham Gardens, 85 George Avenue Sandringham 2192. Contact Carolyn Sabbagh. (011) 485-5232.
- The Jewish Outlook Team. Contact Ryan Cane, Support line: 27 76 215 8600; e-mail info@jewishoutlook.org.za; website http://www.jewishoutlook.org.za
- Nechama Bereavement Counselling Centre - Room A304, 3rd Floor, hospital wing, Sandringham Gardens, 85 George Avenue, Sandringham, 2192. Contact (011) 640-1322.
- New Friendship Ladies Group - A group for single women - contact Lucille (011) 791-5226 or 082-927-5786.
- ORT and ORTJET South Africa - 44 Central Street, Cnr 10th Ave, Houghton. Contact (011) 728-7154.
- Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre (RCHCC) and Great Park Shul, Johannesburg. Contact Hazel, (011) 728-8088 or Rene Sidley (011) 728-8378. Cost usually R50, including refreshments.
- Second Innings, Johannesburg - Jewish Community Services - Donald Gordon Centre, 85 George Avenue Sandringham. Contact Grecia Gabriel, (011) 532-9616.
- The Israel Centre. Contact Debbie (011) 645-2560.
- The Simcha Friendship and Cultural Circle (SFCC), Johannesburg - Sandton Shul. Contact Sylvia Shull, (011) 783-5600.
- The United Sisterhood, 38 Oxford Road Parktown. Contact Helen (011) 646-2409. website:http://www.unitedsisterhood.co.za
- Society of Israel Philately (SIP) - daniels@wbx.oc.za. Contact Maurice (011) 485-2293.
- South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), Johannesburg - Beyachad, 2 Elray Street, Raedene. Contact Froma, (011) 645-2505.
- South African Jewish Board of Deputies (Jhb) - Beyachad, 2 Elray Street, Raedene. Contact (011) 645-2500 or (011) 645-2523.
- United Zionist Luncheon Club (UZLC), Johannesburg - Our Parents Home. Contact Gloria, (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.
- Union of Jewish Women (UJW), Johannesburg - 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053. Cost R10 for the Friendship Luncheon Club.
- Union of Jewish Women (UJW), Cape Town - (021) 434-9555, e-mail: info@ujwcape.co.za
- WIZO Johannesburg - Beyachad, 2 Elray Street Raedene. Contact Joyce Chodos (011) 645-2548 or Sandy Kramer (011) 645-2515.
- Bikkur Cholim - Jewish Society for Visiting the Sick, 7A Chester Road, Greenside East, Johannesburg. Joy Gafin (011) 447-6689.
- Tiyulim (Jewish Outdoor Club) - Contact Greg 082-959-9026 or Martin 082-965-7419.

- King David Schools' Foundation. King David Alumni info@kdsf.org (011) 480-4723.
- CAJE - College of Adult Jewish Education, Sydenham Highlands North Shul (011) 640-5021.
- JAFFA - Jewish Accomodation for Fellow Aged. (012) 346-2007/8.
- SAIJE - Sandton Adult Institute of Jewish Education, Sandton Shul (011) 883-4210. E-mail: saije@sandton-shul.co.za.
- CSO - Emergency phone number 086 18 000 18.
- UOS- Union of Orthodox Synagogues (011) 485-4865. E-mail: info@uos.co.za. Fax 086-610-3442

**Today, Friday (August 15)**

- **UZLC** is hosting Rev Leon Mayo, past spiritual leader of the Harare Sephardic Community on "The life of Leon Mayo".

**Sunday (August 17)**

- **Second Innings** hosts Prof Tertius Harmse who will talk on "The world energy crisis" at Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres.
- **WOW** is having an annual Women's Day luncheon - "Rejuvenation & inspiration - the power of women in the feminine era", from 11:30 to 14:30 at the Sandton Sun Hotel. RSVP Mandy 083-380-5268.
- **Tiyulim** will be going on a guided walk at the Modderfontein Nature Reserve, a 900 ha reserve 15 minutes from Balfour. Meet at Balfour Park (near the carwash) at 08:00. Members R20, non-members R30. Contact: Martin 082-965-7419.

- **Beyachad Library and Yiddish Academy Library** - Johannesburg, "Jews of Johannesburg" a book by Leibl Feldman at Beyachad auditorium, 2 Elray Street, Raedene. 10:15. Donation R30. Norma (011) 645-2567, e-mail: library@beyachad.co.za
- **RCHCC** presents a film about the Russian violinist David Oistrakh at 19:30. Cost R50 including refreshments.

**Monday (August 18)**

- **UJW, Johannesburg** hosts Sue Levy, psychoanalytic therapist, on "Psychic roots of xenophobia" at 09:30.

- Introductory course in Kabbalah with Rabbi Ari Shishler at **Chabad House** at 20:00.

- **UOS** is having a dinner, honouring Rosh Beth Din Rabbi Moshe Kurstag's 70th birthday and the tenth Yahrzeit of Rabbi M Aloy, at the HOD Centre, Orchards. Cost R1 000 per person.

**Tuesday (August 19)**

- **Second Innings, Men's Not Out Club**, is hosting Taffy Adler, CEO Johannesburg Housing Company, who will talk on "Reclaiming the city" at Our Parents Home at 14:15 for 14:30.

- **UJW, Johannesburg** is hosting Estelle Sher, presenting "Encore Rachmaninov" at 09:45 for 10:00 at 301 Eton place, Kernick Ave, Melrose North. Cost R20.

- **Our Parents Home** is holding its annual card afternoon at 13:30 for 14:00 at the Home, Corner Spring and High Roads Gardens. Bridge, Kalukie, rummy, Scrabble. Tickets R75 per person includes tea. Bookings/enquiries, Jennifer 083-303-6285 or Madeleine 082-553-6229.

**Wednesday (August 20)**

- **Second Innings** is going to the rhino and lion nature reserve in the Cradle of Humankind. Meet at the Oxford Shul parking, 08:30 for 08:45 departure. Cost R140 includes a two-hour guided tour, bus, and lunch. Contact Rita Miller (011) 887-9218 (before 18:00).

- **SFCC** is hosting Lila Bruk, dietician on "What you should know about your health-nutrition" at 10:00 at the Sandton Shul.

- **UJW, Johannesburg** is hosting Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer, English Department, Wits at 09:30 to 11:30, on "Reading contemporary poetry with pleasure".

- **Torah Academy Girls High School** presents "Together as One" at the Wits Theatre at 19:30. Tickets R70. Contact Lee (011) 485-3871 or 074-147-3435. Women and girls only.

- **WIZO Killarney branch** will be holding a book sale from 09:30 at Balfour Park Shopping Centre.

- **SAIJE** is hosting Judy Alter on "successfully surviving Sandton" at 20:15, Sandton Shul. Cost R50. Bookings (011) 883-4210.

- **RCHCC** is hosting Hugh Raichlin who will give an audiovisual presentation at 19:30 about his climb up Mount Kilimanjaro. Cost R50.

- **UJW Adult Education division, Cape Town** is hosting Bandi Biko on "Eluthandweni Home" (Place of Love). Venue: Stonehaven at 10:00 for 10:30. Cost R15.

**Friday (August 21-28)**

- **The Cape Jewish Seniors Association** and the **Yiddish Academy** present a Yiddish Film Festival at Hyde Park Nu-Metro. Bookings at Computicket. Info www.numetro.co.za or e-mail: yiddishacademy@gmail.com

**Friday (August 22-24)**

- **Tiyulim** is going to Makalani Bush Camp, near Hartebeespoort for the weekend. Self-catering. Accommodation limited. Members R400, non-members R420, includes Shabbat dinner. Contact Greg 082-959-9026.

**Friday (August 22)**

- **UZLC** is hosting Isaac Reznik on "My Judaism - my Zionism."

**Saturday (August 23)**

- **Wizo Tsabar film club** presents "The Debt" at 20:00,

at Beyachad. Bookings 082-496-1111.

**Sunday (August 24)**

- **SAZF** presents Re-Vital dance group from Israel who will perform at the Victory Theatre in Houghton at 15:30. Tickets R80 and R100 each. Bookings (011) 645-2541 or sharon@beyachad.co.za

- **Torah Academy Girls High School** presents "Together as One" at the Wits Theatre at 14:00 and 19:30. Tickets R70. Contact Lee (011) 485-3871 or 074-147-3435. Women and girls only.

- **RCHCC** invites the community to join them at 18:00 for an exhibition of art works by Janet Pollack and studio friends.

- **RCHCC** hosts Sue Slotar, executive director of Jane Goodall Institute of South Africa, who will introduce and answer questions to the video "Escape to Chimp Eden". Time 19:30.

**Monday (August 25)**

- **UJW, Johannesburg** is hosting Gavin Lewis, communications expert, at 09:30 on "The present situation - where is it going?"

- Introductory course on Kabbalah with Rabbi Ari Shishler at **Chabad House** at 20:00.

**Tuesday (August 26)**

- **WIZO Fortnightly Forum** will be hosting Prof Anton Harber, professor of journalism at Wits, who will discuss "Intolerance, racism and the media" in South Africa today at 09:30 at Beyachad, 2 Elray Street, Raedene. All welcome.

- **JJMC and Imilonji KaNtu Male Choir of Soweto** present a "Concert with a difference" under the baton of George Mxadana, accompanied by Evelyn Green. Proceeds to (CSO) and the Takalani Home for the Mentally Handicapped in Soweto. Venue: Linder Auditorium at 19:45. Bookings through Computicket. Enquiries 011-728-5570 or jjmc@mweb.co.za

**Wednesday (August 27)**

- **SFCC** is having an Israeli dancing lesson with Ora in the games room at the Sandton Shul at 10:00.

- **UJW, Johannesburg** is hosting Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer, English Department, Wits at 09:30 to 11:30, on "Reading contemporary poetry with pleasure".

- **Cape Town Holocaust Centre** presents "Voices from Theresienstadt" a one-off performance by Bente Kahan at Baxter Concert Hall at 20:00. Bookings at computicket/Baxter.

- **SAIJE** is hosting Stef du Plessis on "The price of success. Don't overpay for yours" at 20:15, Sandton Shul. Cost R50. Bookings (011) 883-4210.

## THE BRIDGE LOUNGE by Jeff Sapire

THE ITALIANS, who dominated world bridge from the late '50s through the early '70s, have re-emerged as one of the best teams around in the last few years. They have unbelievable systemic treatments and agreements, and their card play is superb. Observe Lorenzo Lauria at West on the hand below in a friendly teams match.

North dealer, EW vul

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 1043		♠ AJ9	
♥ J6		♥ Q87432	
♦ AJ87		♦ 10	
♣ 10542		♣ K86	
WEST (Lauria)		SOUTH	
♠ K765		♠ Q82	
♥ K9		♥ A105	
♦ K632		♦ Q954	
♣ AQ3		♣ J97	

West	East
1NT	2D
2H	2S
2NT	3NT
4H	All pass
Opening lead: C4	

West to bid 2NT. 3NT showed a slam try without two of the three top heart honours (is there anything these guys don't think of?), so West settled for 4H.

At the other table, the auction was much simpler: 1NT-2D; 2H-4H. On the same four of clubs lead, declarer won in dummy, played a heart to the king and continued hearts, ducking when the jack appeared, hoping that South had started with a doubleton ace. Eventually he took the spade finesse for one down.

Lauria looked deeper. On the same lead he won in dummy and played a diamond. When South covered with the queen, he ducked. South then erred by playing back a diamond which he ruffed in dummy. (This defence was helping declarer strip the hand for an endplay).

Now a heart to the king and another heart, also ducked when the jack appeared, as at the other table. North played another club which he won in hand. He ruffed a 3rd diamond and crossed to the ace of clubs. This was the position.

West	East	South
♠ K765	♠ AJ9	♠ Q82
♥ -	♥ Q8	♥ A
♦ K	♦ -	♦ 9

Lauria now ruffed the king of diamonds in dummy (North still had the ace) and exited with the queen of trumps to South's ace, who was now endplayed. He had to play a spade, giving declarer his tenth trick.

## CROSSWORD NO 83

BY LEAH SIMON

**ACROSS:**

- Masticate in niche wall (4)
- Scrape an alternative arrangement out of the organ (8)
- Write down the musical note (4)
- Zara upset about talc in former American prison (8)
- Suddenly realising that Penelope's collapsed (5, 7)
- I break crust in country surroundings (6)
- Poem for German military unit in a Russian port (6)
- Speechless in the library? (4, 3, 5)
- Sir puts a new version above (8)
- Nervous in crowded gymnasium (4)
- Music assistants get plastered! (4, 4)
- I find sibling - and goddess (4)

**DOWN:**

- Collude against tower (8)
- Lengthens former nurses (7)
- Everyone in old city in east - it's a great attraction (6)
- Begins controlling car mechanics' strike (6, 4)
- Always short - that is to say, creepy (5)
- Laments the proportions, we hear (4)
- List a stray somehow for ancient Greek heroine (10)
- The sight of felines could help motorists at night! (4, 4)
- Good man travels by horseback, taking big steps (3, 4)
- Hill is shot of it - it's intensely emotional (6)

- He's found in poor sonnet (5)
- Nu, doctor is devoid of feeling (4)

**SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 82**

**ACROSS:**

- Cads; 3. Maritime; 8. Part; 9. Distaste; 11. Cover to cover; 13. Tedium; 14. Mirror; 17. Good riddance; 20. Ceramide; 21. Cost; 22. Enhances; 23. Enid.

**DOWN:**

- Copy cats; 2. Derived; 4. Alison; 5. In two minds; 6. Issue; 7. Even; 10. Groundsman; 12. Arrested; 15. Run down; 16. Kindle; 18. Oprah; 19. Acre.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8		9				
		10				
11						
						12
13				14		15
				16		
	17	18				
19						
20					21	
22					23	



# Like good wine, they mature well!

AS WE indicated in the headline, like good wine our brides of yesteryear - and even some bridegrooms, mind you! - have matured well. This must be a good advertisement for the institution of marriage as we see the photographs literally pouring in, bringing back sweet memories.

But the response has been - and still is - so overwhelming, that the cut-off date has been brought forward to August 29, to give us the opportunity of publishing the huge number of photographs still streaming in.

The WIZO offices in Johannesburg are inundated with phone calls and wedding photographs, since WIZO's Glenlinks branch came up with the unique idea of having a competition for Jewish couples who have been married for 40 years or more.

The "Bride and Groom of Yesteryear" competition had really set the community abuzz, said Marcia Parness, honorary life vice president of WIZO.

Parness promises that the competition will be run again in the future. So, if you have that treasured wedding picture still on the wall or in an album and you want to beat the

September 12 deadline, better get a move on!

Every year, for the last number of years, WIZO, in conjunction with the *Jewish Report*, has run a highly popular Jewish Bride of the Year competition.

But this year WIZO Johannesburg's Glenlinks branch has come up with a novel and fun idea that instead of the (usually) young brides in the competition, they are running a competition for couples who have been married for at least 40 years.

Couples who qualify for the 40 year proviso and are resident in South Africa, are eligible to enter. All you need to do to enter, is a hard copy wedding photograph of you and your spouse, together with the details appearing in the entry form. Prizes are still being finalised, but it's guaranteed to be mouth-watering stuff!

Finalists must be present at the culminating function in Johannesburg on November 16 (at their own cost) where the winners will be announced. The venue will be announced later.

Entries for the competition close on August 29 and the final date on which photographs will be published is November 7.

"Judging," said Parness, "will be done by a panel who are not participating in the competition.

Finalists will be announced, and must be present at the function, where elimination will occur."

Chairman of WIZO Glenlinks, Alice Butkow, and Parness are co-ordinating the competition.

• Bookings are now open for the culminating function on November 16 at 10:30. The cost of the function is R180 per person or R350 per couple. Contact Sheila on (011) 645-2517.

#### Rules of the competition:

- Couple must be married for a minimum of 40 years.
- Resident in South Africa.
- Entries must accompany a hard copy photograph.
- Finalists must be present at the culminating function on November 16. Out of town finalists must note that travelling expenses are for their own account.
- Photographs can be delivered to the WIZO Johannesburg offices at Beyachad, 2nd Floor, 2 Elray Street Raedene. (for either Sandy or Sheila's attention).

#### Entry form:

• Bride and groom's name and bride's maiden name.

• Place of chuppah and date of wedding

• Contact numbers: cell, business, home

• E-mail address

• Postal address

• Signature of consent

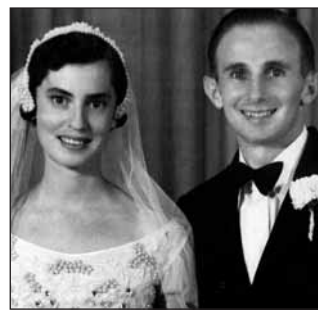
• Would you like your picture back: yes/no



**Richard and Thelma Utschuler - (nee Bloch) were married on January 3 1965 at Berea Shul.**



**Brenda and Ervine Katzer - (nee Lurner) were married on February 7 1965 at Berea Shul.**



**Fonyse and Woolf (Natie) - (nee Aremband-Isaacs) were married on January 4 1953 at Berea Shul.**



**Yossi and Esther Singer - (nee Mayers) were married on January 29 1961 at Berea Shul.**



**Mark and Bashia Kobrin - (nee Goldstein) were married on August 14 1949 at Wolmarans Street Shul.**



**Joseph and Sybil Pollack - (nee Millstein) were married on October 14 1945 at Wolmarans Street Shul.**



**Judy and Louis Harris - (nee Benson) were married on March 16 1952 at Berea Shul.**



**Ivan and Natalie Herman - (nee Kramer) were married on January 20 1957 at Wolmarans Street Shul.**



**Sigi and Evelyn Wachenheimer - (nee Poppert) were married on July 12 1959 at Schoowder Street Shul, Cape Town.**



**Monty and Helen Izikowitz - (nee Poliak) were married on January 9 1955 at Wolmarans Street Shul.**



**Sid and Shirley Tomson - (nee Balkin) were married on December 7 1966 at Pine Street Shul.**



**Sidney and Ruby Hoffman - (nee Klass) were married on July 24 1941 in the family home in Johannesburg.**

## Like a phoenix, Hermanus community has arisen

DAVID SAKS

LONG-TIME Hermanus resident Freda Auerbach will have been especially delighted to have been present at last week's groundbreaking ceremony for the town's new Jewish shul and community centre.

Now in her nineties, she is the only surviving member of the original Hermanus Jewish community which ceased to function in the mid-1970s. Few would have anticipated back then that Hermanus Jewry, in defiance of countrywide trends, would one day grow to the point that it could re-establish itself on an organised basis.

By the late 1990s, thanks to a renewed influx of permanent residents together with those who have holiday homes in the town, Jewish life in Hermanus was again up and running.

Last year, the congregation sold its 75-year-old shul in the town centre and purchased another property, located on the corner of Roberts Road and Jose Berman Avenue in the Eastwood neighbourhood, on which to erect a smaller community centre. The new centre will comprise a shul, succah, communal hall and a rabbi's house.

Among those who attended the groundbreaking ceremony last Tuesday, were Overstrand Mayor

Theo Beyleveldt, representatives of the Nederlandse Gereformeerde, Anglican and Catholic churches and the Baha'I faith community, as well as from the Overstrand Municipality and Lions Club.

Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader to the country communities, officiated while Hermanus Hebrew Congregation President Jonathan Lipman welcomed the speakers and guests.

In his address, Rabbi Silberhaft referred to the most recent weekly parsha dealing with the erection of the Mishkan (Tabernacle) in the desert. There the Jewish people, rich and poor alike, responded so enthusiastically to the call for



An architect-computer image of the new Hermanus complex

donations that a proclamation was needed to inform them to stop.

"I am hoping to see the same spirit duplicated here, but not by bringing monetary offerings, but rather personal involvement and regular attendance to services and

activities which will, please G-d, take place here in this new synagogue," Rabbi Silberhaft said.

It is expected that the building will be completed in time to hold full Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services this year.

## Yiddish is alive and well in Johannesburg

THE YIDDISH Academy Library in association with Beyachad libraries, will present the Johannesburg launch of "The Jews of Johannesburg", the English translation of Leibl Feldman's book "Yidn in Johannesburg".

In a media release the Yiddish Academy Library says this unique history of the Jews of Johannesburg prior to 1910 will be given by translator Veronica Belling.

"Join us to hear her tell of

how the Jewish community, among the founding citizens of Johannesburg, met and lived, and survived as a community. She will tell of our grandparents and great-grandparents struggling to preserve their Jewish identity, and what life was like during those early beginnings of Johannesburg as a rough mining camp, to the time of the Union of South Africa in 1910."

In addition, there will be a short

reading from the original Yiddish by Cedric Ginsberg, and a tribute to Leibl Feldman, the man, by his niece, Mona Berman.

Veronica Belling has been the librarian at the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research at UCT since its inception. She studied librarianship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and holds a BA honours from Unisa and a master's from UCT - among other qualifications.

Her love for Yiddish is evident in the subject of her thesis: The history of Yiddish theatre in South Africa from the late 19th century to the 1960s (currently in press as a book).

The Johannesburg launch of the book coincides with the announcement of the establishment of the Yiddish Academy Library, which will be housed next to the Beyachad Library at Beyachad in Johannesburg.

"To find out more, join us for tea, coffee and bulkes on Sunday, August 17, at 10:15, at Beyachad Centre, 2 Elray Street, Raedene. RSVP by calling (011) 645-2567. E-mail: library@beyachad.co.za There is a nominal donation of R30.00.

Books will be available for sale at the door

Although the actual launch is for the book, the event is also being held to promote the Yiddish Library. It is a work-in-progress."



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### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

A vacancy exists at Sandringham Gardens. Home for the aged, for a qualified occupational therapist who is registered with the HPCSA. Applicants must have no less than three years experience in working in a hospital environment as well as dealing with the elderly and intellectually disabled. Only short-listed applicants will be responded to.

Interested candidates please forward a current c.v. to [hr@jhbchev.co.za](mailto:hr@jhbchev.co.za), fax, 0866327774 or Private Bag X1, Sandringham, 2131.

### SOCIAL WORKER – SANDRINGHAM GARDENS

A social worker/counsellor is required at Sandringham Gardens – Home for the Aged. The successful applicant will be part of a multi-disciplinary team and must have experience in working with aged individuals and their families. Group work is an important aspect of this position. Registration with SACSSP or HPSCA is essential. Knowledge of Jewish culture and religion would be an added advantage. Only short-listed applicants will be responded to.

Interested candidates, please forward a current c.v. to [hr@jhbchev.co.za](mailto:hr@jhbchev.co.za) or Attention HR Dept, Private Bag x1, Sandringham, 2131, or Fax 0866327774

### HOMWORK SUPERVISOR – PART-TIME

Arcadia Children's Home in Sandringham, requires a homework supervisor. This position requires a qualified teacher, capable of working with children with special needs at primary and high school level. The requirements of the post include the supervision of homework and liaison with the schools. Knowledge of Hebrew and Jewish customs are a pre-requisite. Only short-listed applicants will be responded to.

Interested candidates please forward a current c.v. to [hr@jhbchev.co.za](mailto:hr@jhbchev.co.za), fax, 0866327774 or Private Bag X1, Sandringham, 2131.

### PHYSIOTHERAPIST – SANDRINGHAM

Sandringham Gardens, Home for the Aged, requires a physiotherapist registered with the HPCSA to work in the physiotherapy department. The candidate will be part of a multi-disciplinary team that provides acute and postoperative care for the residents. Only short-listed applicants will be responded to.

Interested candidates please forward a current c.v. to [hr@jhbchev.co.za](mailto:hr@jhbchev.co.za), fax, 0866327774 or Private Bag X1, Sandringham, 2131.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KEVIN ON 082 448 5114.

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The Shlicha will need to have extensive experience working with the Bnei Akiva movement and will be responsible for leadership development, strategic management, educational planning, fundraising and programming of the local Bnei Akiva activities in Cape Town.

It should be noted that this position will be filled simultaneously with the advertised Yeshiva of Cape Town position. Because of religious constraints, the two positions will be filled by a married couple.

Applications, in confidence, to be sent to: The Chairman, Bnei Akiva Cape Town, 30 Arthur's Road, Sea Point, 8005 South Africa. All applications must include at least 3 verifiable references.

The closing date for applications is August 23 2008.

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The successful applicant will be responsible for teaching, programming and event management as part of the educational team of the Yeshiva of Cape Town as well as having teaching responsibilities at a Jewish Day School.

It should be noted that this position will be filled simultaneously with the advertised Bnei Akiva position. Because of religious constraints, the two positions will be filled by a married couple.

Applications, in confidence, to be sent to: The Chairman, Yeshiva of Cape Town, 31 Arthur's Road, Sea Point, 8005 South Africa. All applications must include at least 3 verifiable references.

The closing date for applications is August 23 2008.



CONSECRATIONS

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We invite friends and family to show their support at the unveiling of Esme Maraney on August 17 at 10am.

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AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

LONDON JEWISH STATION CLOSES AFTER LAWSUIT

LONDON - London's only Jewish radio station shut down after losing a libel lawsuit.

George Galloway, a member of Parliament and vociferous critic of Israel, won £15 000 - about \$28 000 - in damages against the station, forcing it to shut down.

Galloway sued the station, Jcom, after a November broadcast in which an impersonator claiming to be "Georgie Galloway" used the phrase "kill the Jews, kill the Jews".

The station apologised for the broadcast, which was heard online by 36 people and in a small area of north London. (JTA)

RUSSIAN: US SHOULD FOLLOW ISRAEL ON GEORGIA

NEW YORK - The United States should emulate Israel and stop arms sales to Georgia, according to Russia's UN envoy.

"Israel, which has also been one of the arms suppliers, is reconsidering its sales in the arms area," Vitaly Churkin told CNN on Tuesday.

Churkin, who charged the United States with propping up the Georgian regime, was outlining areas where US-Russian relations might improve in the wake of the current conflict.

Russia invaded Georgia last week after Georgian authorities raided South Ossetia, a breakaway pro-Russian province.

Israel reportedly has suspended light arms sales to Georgia in recent days, in part because it is soliciting Russian support in isolating Iran until the Islamic Republic suspends its suspected nuclear programme. (JTA)

FEDS: JEWS TARGETED IN PONZI SCHEME

CHICAGO - US authorities have charged a Chicago-based firm with defrauding its mostly Orthodox Jewish investors.

The Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday accused WexTrust and its principals, Steven Byers and Joseph Shereshevsky, of deceiving more than 1 000 investors and diverting over \$100 million to unauthorized purposes.

According to the SEC, the Ponzi scheme "primarily" targeted Orthodox Jews. Shereshevsky lived in Norfolk, Virginia, and was known to be a supporter of many Jewish causes.

He is also a convicted felon who pleaded guilty to bank fraud in 2003. The SEC sought an emergency order to freeze assets belonging to the defendants and to place WexTrust's assets in receivership. (JTA)

ISRAELI REPORTER HURT IN GEORGIA

GORI - An Israeli journalist has been wounded in Georgia.

Yediot Achronot reporter Tzadok Yehezkeli suffered serious chest wounds on Tuesday while covering the fighting between Georgian and Russian forces in Gori, his newspaper said.

Yehezkeli, 52, was evacuated to a hospital in Tbilisi and was in stable condition. Several journalists have been killed or wounded in the war that erupted last week over Georgia's breakaway South Ossetia region.

On Monday, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili accused Russian troops of deliberately firing on members of the media. (JTA)

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# sport

## Bowlers support Hatzolah

JACK MILNER

ON SUNDAY at the Melrose Jewish Guild, bowlers will lend their support and wallets to assist Hatzolah, the Jewish medical emergency response group.

There will be an all-day bowls tournament in which all the funds raised will go to the organisation.

According to one of the organisers, Arthur Lederman, before the bowlers even take to the

greens on Sunday, more money has been raised than ever before at this annual event.

There will be a record 28 teams competing and there will also be a draw for a Kia motorcar as well as a Kruger Rand.

The tournament includes lunch as well as a post-match cocktail party and prize giving.

"The whole purpose of this event is only to raise funds and every cent goes to Hatzolah," explained Lederman.

# Shaun about to live the Olympic dream

JACK MILNER

FOR SHAUN Rubenstein his moment is about to come. All his hard work and dedication will come down to a few minutes of competition on Monday when the 24-year-old canoeist takes to the water at the Beijing Olympic Games.

It is a moment he has been working towards for such a long time that even for him it seems surreal. "It feels like I am living an absolute dream," he said in an interview with the *Jewish Report*.

"Everything here is really spectacular, from the athletes' village to the course on which I will be racing next week. And of course, the opening ceremony, which was the most incredible experience ever."

Shaun kicks off on Monday, August 18 in the heats for the 1000m K1 and on Tuesday in the heats for the 500m K2. The semifinals take place on Wednesday (1000m) and Thursday (500m) and if all goes according to plan, the 1000m final is set for Friday and the 500m final on Saturday. All of the events begin at around 09:30 SA time.

"My training has gone very well the last few weeks and I am starting to really look forward to start racing on the 18th. I really

hope I can produce the best races of my life. I am very motivated and fired up at the moment so one thing's for sure. I will be giving my absolute best come race day," said Shaun.

Despite the Olympics being so far away from home, Shaun will not be lacking in support. "I am really looking forward to next week because 17 of my family and friends will be flying over here to watch me race. They will all be wearing supporters' shirts that have been made up and I have no doubt the South African flags will be flying and the vuvuzelas blowing on race day. That will really be incredible!"

Both in the build-up and in his time in Beijing, Shaun says he has received a lot of support from friends and family around the world. "I have received so many messages of support from the community and I'm really sorry that I am unable to reply to everyone personally. But I really appreciate the support from everyone back home!"

According to the IOC rules, Shaun is not able to use his current blog during the Olympics due to sponsorship reasons. "I have a new blog set up that I will be blogging on during the Olympics. The website address is [http://www.shaunrubenstein-](http://www.shaunrubenstein-2008.blogspot.com/)



Canoeist Shaun Rubenstein with South African flag bearer, Natalie du Toit, at last week's opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games.

2008.blogspot.com/ and I also will be posting as much as possible on that site."

For Shaun, however, the highlight so far was without question, the opening ceremony. "We never got to watch the show they

put on, but walking into the stadium in front of 90 000 people is indescribable. I feel very privileged to be here and to be able to experience all of this. I am so happy to be here."

# Bullard to speak at Maccabi dinner

*Maccabi South Africa's Annual Sportsperson of the Year Dinner is probably the most important and prominent event on the Jewish sporting calendar.*

JACK MILNER

ONE OF the primary objectives of the Dinner is to announce the Maccabi Jewish sportsman or sportswoman of the year, as well as the runner-up. Recipients of this signal honour and prestigious award over the past years, have included Jewish sporting personalities such as Jody Scheckter, Mandy Yachad, Peter Lindenberg, Joel Stransky, Adam Bacher, to name but a few.

In 2009, Maccabi World will hold its 18th Maccabiah and world Jewry is well aware of the significance of the number 18, which denotes "Chai" (Life). Thus next year's Maccabiah will be of special importance in its celebration of Jewish sporting life.

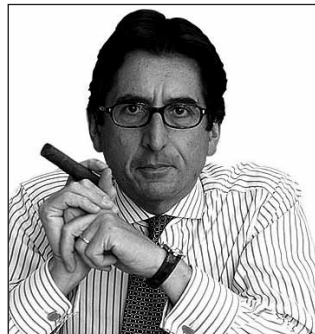
It is hoped that Maccabi South Africa's team will once again be commensurate with the quality and high standards we have come to expect from the competing nations.

But to send the best possible team to the Games requires funds. In this regard the Dinner has become Maccabi's major fundraiser. The Dinner is always well supported and this is not only a tribute to the efficient organisation of the event, but also to the calibre of guest speakers who over the past few years have included inter alia Rassie Erasmus, Kobus Wiese and FW de Klerk.

This year Maccabi is privileged to have as guest speaker the well-known and ever-popular journalist and former *Sunday Times* columnist, David Bullard.

No stranger to controversy, Bullard is renowned for his subtle humour, his fluent penmanship, his journalistic insight and no-holds-barred literary style.

Maccabi South Africa's Annual Sports-person of the Year Dinner takes place on Tuesday evening September 9 at the Sandton Shul Hall. Early booking is advised by calling the Maccabi South Africa office at (011) 645-2557.



David Bullard.



Kobus Wiese.



Rassie Erasmus.

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