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Chief Rabbi powers a Bill of Responsibilities

The idea is to generate a culture of responsibility that will start in schools and grow to incorporate all SA citizens. The goal is for learners to take on their Bill of Responsibilities which will be on the wall in every classroom. This project was presented at a meeting with President Thabo Mbeki, senior Cabinet ministers and the NRLF. **PAGE 4**

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Russia stays close to Hamas

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Tisha B'Av reflections

COMMEMORATING Tisha B'Av in Jerusalem is an exercise in paradoxes. We live in an era when the Jewish people have the good fortune of being able to live freely in our own state in the place our ancestors prayed about for millennia. But for most Jews living in this sacred land, there is a sense that 60 years since the state was established and 40 years since Jerusalem was liberated, somehow there is something rotten in the State of Israel.

URIEL HEILMAN ponders the mood in Israel on Tisha B'Av. In the picture, young Israelis read the Book of Lamentations.

(PHOTO: BRIAN HENDLER/JTA)

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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

The purpose of prayer

MOSHE REBEINU implored Hashem that he should be allowed to enter Eretz Yisroel. This is a good opportunity to discuss prayer in general.

G-d is all knowing and knows exactly what we need. In fact he knows better than our own selves what we really need. What then is the purpose of prayer, surely it cannot be to change G-d's mind?

The greatest challenge of faith is to see G-d's providential hand in this world of causality. Our world works according to cause and effect; almost everything can be explained without having to bring G-d into the picture.

The scientific method doesn't even entertain the possibility that G-d might be the true cause of what goes on in world politics, in our health and wealth and so on.

The goal of prayer is the realisation that we are living in G-d's world and at every moment we



PARSHAT VE'ESCHENAN

Rabbi Nitzan Bergman
 Ohr Somayach, Cape Town

are in His good hands. He is the true cause of everything that happens to us. The nature of cause and effect is most often the tool He uses, but we must never forget the Craftsman who wields them.

The wise sages of the Talmud tell us to pray before hard times come. When we are feeling really healthy we should pray our hardest for health. When everything is going well that's the time to pray. When we aren't well and things are tough, that's not the best time to pray.

This advice sounds very strange, what could be the reason for this? The reason is because the temptation in tough times is

to pray to G-d to change His mind. We don't want what He's given us so we beg Him to reconsider!

We ask G-d who knows exactly at every moment what the very best thing is for us to rather do things in the way we would like them!

That's not what prayer is about. Prayer is to remind us and educate us that we are in G-d's world, He is running it according to His infinite wisdom and whatever happens is the very best thing that could happen.

True prayer is easier to do when things are going well.

The world we live in values wealth more than anything else. Through prayer you can achieve true wealth. The peace of mind which enables one to deal in a positive and truly rich way with all of life's ups and downs, is attainable through prayer.

A practical example: The prayer for health in the shmonei esrei:

"Heal us G-d and we shall be

SHABBAT TIMES

July 27/ 12 Av
 July 28 / 13 Av

Starts	Ends	
17:21	18:12	Johannesburg
17:45	18:39	Cape Town
17:03	17:55	Durban
17:23	18:15	Bloemfontein
17:17	18:10	Port Elizabeth
17:09	18:03	East London



healed" I acknowledge that the true source of our state of health is you, G-d. I beg you to make us healthy, not to change your mind about the state of health that you know is the best for us, but to remind myself that you are the true source of our health and whatever state we do find ourselves in it is from you and therefore for the best.

Northcliff Hebrew Congregation turns 50

OWN CORRESPONDENT

ONE OF the pioneering shuls in the outlying northern suburbs of Johannesburg is the Northcliff Hebrew Congregation. Founded in the early 1950s to cater for the growing Jewish population of the Northcliff area, it initially met in the homes of various members, such as the Cohens and Reichenbergs.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services were held in the Plastic Theatre, a popular entertainment venue on Northcliff, which looks out to the Magaliesberg.

At that time the area was semi-rural. What today are major metropolitan arteries, such as Beyers Naude Drive, were then dirt roads. There were no streetlights, or gleaming shopping centres such as Cresta and the fire brigade was manned by volunteers.

Much of the original population of the Northcliff area, which was developed largely by the Cohen family, was Jewish.

As the Jewish population grew, the community began to develop its own unique character and expand beyond providing only shul services. A spirit of volunteerism and creativity permeated so many of the activities of the congregation.

A vibrant cheder, a large nursery school (it counted over 110 Jewish children at its height), a talented choir for Shabbat and Yomtov and an active ladies guild were all part of the vibe of the shul.

Of special note were the cultural activities that emanated from the shul. Semi-professional plays, mock weddings and talent shows, created a unique bond among its members. In a similar vein, the annual communal seder would attract over 200 people and was a labour of love.

On Rosh Hashanah, 1956, tragedy struck. The Plastic Theatre, where services were being held, and the

Torahs that were temporarily housed there, were destroyed in a fire. Arrangements were hastily made for that Rosh Hashanah, with Torahs being carried from the Greenside Shul to a home in Northcliff so that services could continue for the rest of Yomtov.

"After a fire one becomes wealthy," goes an old Yiddish saying. And so it was. Out of the huge setback of the fire came the inspiration to build a permanent home for the congregation.

Albert Herder, a leading non-Jewish citizen of the Northcliff area donated a large piece of land for the erection of a synagogue.

When completed, in June, 1957, the shul was debt-free - perhaps a first (and last?) in Jewish history!

Fifty years have passed since the erection of the shul - fifty years of nurturing Jewish life and families.

Numerous bar- and batmitzvahs, brissen, baby namings and weddings, have taken place, countless shul services and Torah classes and a steady stream of communal celebrations and activities.

Under the able leadership of a host of outstanding layman and the rabbinic guidance of Rev Isaiah Reichenberg, Rabbi Phillip Heilbrun, Rabbi Menachem Fohrman and for the last 13 years Rabbi Pesach Fishman, the shul has been an anchor of Jewry of north-western Johannesburg.

The Northcliff Shul has been an integral part in the lives of the numerous families and individuals who were enriched by it and who experienced some of the most important milestones and most memorable moments in their lives in its confines.

Over the years, the demographics of Johannesburg Jewry has changed. Many more shuls exist in the northern suburbs now than in the early decades of the Northcliff community.



A photograph taken at the opening of the Northcliff Hebrew Congregation on June 16, 1957, shows (then) Chief Rabbi Dr Louis Rabinowitz, Tim Teron and Albert Herder.

Many families have left the area, through retirement, emigration and semigration. Yet, at a time when other shuls of similar age and circumstances have closed or downsized, Northcliff has maintained a healthy equilibrium and vibrancy.

Many younger Jewish families have moved into this sought-after area and in the last decade the community has experienced a resurgence of new members and activities.

With a confident eye to the future,

the shul facility has undergone a number of significant and striking upgrades, especially over the past year. Among these, the interior of the shul front façade has been redone in Jerusalem stone, the hall has been refurbished, beautiful stained-glass creations by Tandi Weinstein on the themes of Shabbat, each Chag and Jerusalem, grace the 10 large windows in the hall and a utensils mikvah has been constructed.

To celebrate the past 50 years, to dedicate the now completed significant upgrades of the shul complex and to launch the community with renewed energy into the future a "Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration" is to be held. On Saturday evening, September 1 Chief Rabbi Goldstein and the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir will be joining us for this prestigious black tie occasion, highlighted by a rededication Maariv service and dinner.

* If you are a past member of the Northcliff community and would like to attend, please call Elana on 082-889-1861 or e-mail rabbif@iafrica.com

Keeping Bloemfontein up to speed



Michael Bagraim, national chairman of the Board of Deputies (right) and Wendy Kahn, executive director of the Board, visited the United Hebrew Institutions of Bloemfontein on July 17 to update them on the current events in South Africa. With them is Dr Mickey Hellman, Free Sate representative of the Board.



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SABC ME 'even-handedness' in the offing

DAVID SAKS

THE SAJBD is upbeat over prospects of genuine even-handedness by the SABC in its future coverage of the Middle East conflict, following its meeting last week with SABC Group Executive, News and Current Affairs, Dr Snuki Zikalala.

In the course of the meeting, described by SAJBD National Director Wendy Kahn as "very constructive", it was agreed that an independent monitoring organisation would be brought in to analyse the coverage of the Middle East conflict on SABC TV for a year.

This organisation would give quarterly report backs, which both the SAJBD and the SABC editorial staff would attend.

It was also agreed to arrange a meeting

between the SAJBD and the SABC editorial staff to give the latter an understanding of who the Jewish community was and its views on the Middle East.

The meeting was the second to have taken place between the Board and Zikalala this year. It came about as a result of a complaint laid by the Board against the SABC with the Independent Complaints Commission of South Africa (ICASA) based on reported comments made by Zikalala regarding why the Jewish journalist Paula Slier was not to be used as a reporter on Middle East issues.

According to last year's commission of enquiry into blacklisting and related matters at the SABC, Zikalala said regarding Slier: "From the movement where I come

from we support the PLO. But she supported what's happening in Israel."

"While we were prepared to go ahead with the hearing if necessary, we felt that first prize would be to first meet with Dr Zikalala to see whether our differences could be amicably resolved through constructive dialogue," said SAJBD National Vice-chairman Zev Krengel, who headed the Board's delegation.

Krengel stressed this principle during the meeting itself, pointing out that the true miracle of the South African transition to democracy had been how South Africans themselves had chosen negotiations over conflict. For his part, Zikalala said that the Jewish community were key stakeholders and pledged an open-door policy to prevent

an adversarial situation coming about.

It was the responsibility of the SABC to give views to all parties and to achieve editorial balance, and to that end both sides had to be given a platform.

Krengel pointed out that previous debates on the Middle East had presented extremely polarised views, which did nothing to promote genuine debate. He suggested in this regard that the SABC actively seek to use more moderate spokespeople from either side who would at least acknowledge the other point of view.

The Board was invited to bring any stories it believed to be newsworthy to the SABC news desk and given the assurance that if they were indeed newsworthy, they would be given a slot.

Portrait of a Kess leader of the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel



A photo from the "Ethiopia in Israel" exhibition and book launch by Ilan Ossendryver which will open on July 26 at Museum Africa in Johannesburg.

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SEF Code: 1093

Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (GDACE)
 Ref no: Gaut ref 002/05-06/840

The amended Draft Scoping Report for the abovementioned project will be available for public review, from **Monday, 30 July 2007 to Friday, 21 September 2007** on SEF's web site (www.sefsa.co.za), and at the following public venues:

Venue	Address	Contact Person	Hours
Huddle Park Golf Complex. Linksfield Golf Club	Club Street, Linksfield	Willem Froneman 082 048 6328	Tuesday - Friday 08h00 - 16h00
The Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club	1 Fairway Avenue, Linksfield North	Terry Wittwen 011 640 9402	Monday - Friday 8h00 - 16h00
Sandringham Police Station. Front Desk.	Cnr Modderfontein Road and Rietfontein Road at the entrance to Sizwe Hospital on the cnr of George Street and Club Street.	Client Service Centre 011 719 4821/2/3	Monday - Sunday 24hrs

* Kindly note that the amended Draft Scoping Report may not be removed from the abovementioned venues.

Please complete the viewing register on the overleaf of the report. Should you have any comments on the amended Scoping Report, please forward your comments by e-mail or fax to Strategic Environmental Focus, fax: (012) 349 1229 or e-mail: ctu@sefsa.co.za on or before **Friday, 21 September 2007**.

Two Public Open Days will be convened on **Saturday, 1 September 2007** from **13:00 - 17:00** and on **Wednesday, 5 September 2007** from **16:00 - 20:00** at the Linksfield Golf Club, Club Street, Linksfield.

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Chief Rabbi powers Bill of Responsibilities

ALISON GOLDBERG

CHIEF RABBI Warren Goldstein is spearheading an initiative to establish a Bill of Responsibilities together with the Department of Education and the National Religious Leaders Forum (NRLF) of which he is a member of the executive.

The project, which will include a national schools campaign and a draft Bill of Responsibilities - based on the Bill of Rights - is in the process of being drawn up. The idea behind this is to generate a culture of responsibility that will start in schools and grow to incorporate all South African citizens.

The ultimate goal within schools is for the learners to take on their Bill of Responsibilities which will be on the wall in every classroom around the country.

Learning about the Bill of Responsibilities would also form part of the Life Orientation syllabus. Through this training, the youth will learn to understand the Bill of Rights and how this translates into personal responsibility.

Rabbi Goldstein presented this project at a meeting with President Thabo Mbeki, senior Cabinet ministers and the NRLF. The idea was warmly endorsed by the president and religious leaders, with the president stressing the urgency of the matter.

The idea for a Bill of Responsibilities is "very much based on Judaism", which nourishes youths with a diet of duties and responsibilities from a young age, says the

chief rabbi. One may have a right to parental care but is duty bound to honour parents. Similarly, one may have a right to dignity but is called upon to respect one's fellow man in the same vein. There are numerous examples cited by the rabbi.

Once both drafts - the Department of Education has its own draft - have been fused, the bill will be offered to the public for comment.

"The Torah speaks in the language of tomorrow" expounds Rabbi Goldstein. The significance of the bill for South Africa in the 21st century is to transform the society into a better one, the country into a better place, its thrust comes from the Torah itself and to remind us that "G-d's wisdom is for all time".

Also on the agenda at the meeting with President Mbeki were a number of welfare projects to be run on the ground by faith communities, the matter of crime, an update of South Africa's role in the negotiation process in Zimbabwe as mandated by SADC (Southern African Development Community).

Indeed the week was a busy one for the chief rabbi who last Wednesday also attended an inaugural meeting of the Global Elders, an initiative led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former President Nelson Mandela to coincide with Mandela's 89th birthday on July 18. Also present were former US President Jimmy Carter, former Irish Prime Minister Mary Robinson, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, among other dignitaries.

MaAfrika to build 3 new Diepsloot centres

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY
 JOSH SCHEWITZ

OUTREACH AGENCY MaAfrika Tikkun is starting construction of three new community centres in Diepsloot near Johannesburg.

On the cards are an early childhood development centre; a youth development centre; and an administrative and palliative care centre.

The early childhood development centre will provide disadvantaged kids from the age of six with a daily meal as well as taking them off the street and providing sports and recreational facilities. Counselling and life skills development will also be provided.

The youth development centre will have a library and a computer centre to provide disadvantaged kids with the same opportunity to learn, as can be found "in the homes of Sandton kids" says Marc Lubner CEO of MaAfrika Tikkun.

The administrative and palliative care centre will provide disadvantaged elderly people with a place they can be cared for and supported.

"We have become intimately involved with the people of Diepsloot over the last six years. There is a great need for formal services and facilities in the community," says Lubner.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein who is the president of MaAfrika Tikkun, says: "The name of this organisation is drawn from the

Talmudic doctrine of contributing to the greater society around us which is called Tikkun Olam - meaning to fix the world.

"The world, we are taught, is in a state of disrepair, and is filled with human suffering, and it is our sacred duty to repair and heal it."

MaAfrika Tikkun is a Jewish founded and run charity. It is also an example of how Jews, Christians and Muslims can work together to alleviate poverty and suffering.

The ground that the centres will be built on, is leased from the Diepsloot Methodist Church. Pastor Rita Mkhwananzi attended the launch ceremony last week Wednesday and spoke about Cain and Abel and ended affirming that we are indeed our brother's keeper.

Sariah Khan is a Muslim woman who works for MaAfrika Tikkun. "As a Muslim working for this Jewish organisation, I just feel a tremendous amount of pride... it's about humanity. We (Muslims and Jews) can live and work together."



Grade 1 learners from Basa Primary School in Diepsloot.



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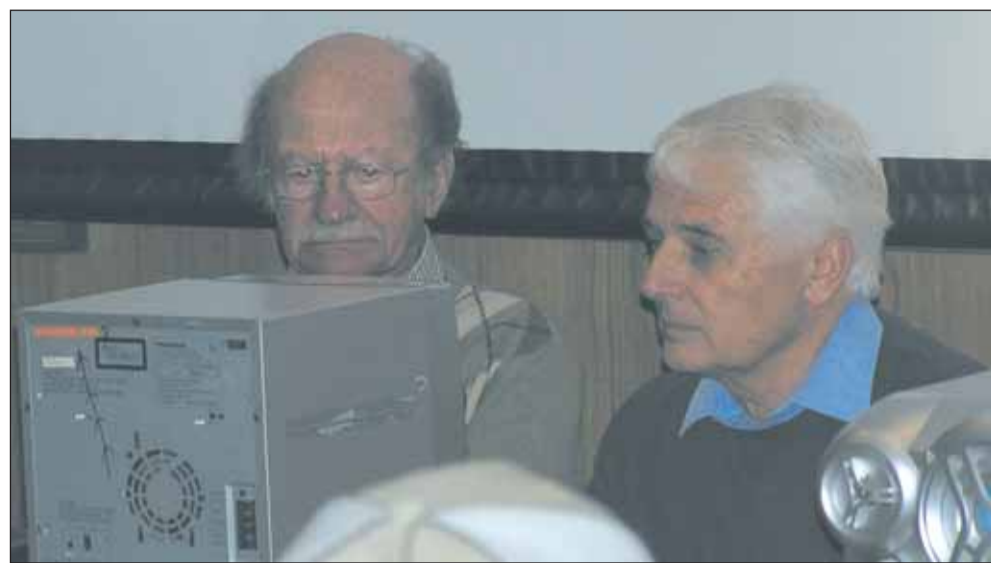


SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis jont@global.co.za



Barney Segal, the Big Band's publicist with Mike Kimmelman.



Dave Goldstein and Harry Fidler in charge of this function's selection of music and the playing of it.

Recreating era of the big band

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY
RITA LEWIS

HOW MANY times does one hear the words, "and they call this music" when "older" people hear modern-day music. But in turn, youngsters most times feel the "old" music is boring and slow and they just don't want to listen to it.

Barney Segal in charge of publicity for the Big Band Appreciation Society which held one of its meetings in Johannesburg recently, said the society would like to encourage more young people to join them so that could become acquainted with, and therefore get to appreciate, the type of music that the society played - Big Band music from the '30s and '40s.

Despite his wishes, there was no getting away from it that although the venue was almost full, there were few "young" people there, although those who were there really seemed to appreciate the rhythm and beat of the music.

Segal who joined the Big Band Appreciation Society around 1994, says they were then housed in Sable House in Braamfontein. They moved four years later to their present location at the Jeffrey Auditorium at St John's College in Houghton, Johannesburg.

Jack Mink, who has been chairman of the society since 2000, reiterated the need for more young blood. He said the society now met every second Sunday of the month and has as its motto: "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing" the famous words of a song which ably describes the type of music that is played.

He said different people took turns in playing and showcasing music of this genre - often taken from their own collections which have often taken years to accumulate.

At the last meeting, avid music collector and cognoscenti, Harry Fidler, brought along a selection of some of his favourite bands, singers and soloists including Tommy Dorsey, Don

Albert, Artie Shaw and Mel Torme. He said he had called his selection, "These are a few of my favourite things" - coincidentally one of his favourite songs.

Interspersed between the recordings, Fidler related amusing stories of the musicians whose music he was playing, including an anecdote about trumpeter Barry Banagan who often pitched up to performances drunk. Once asked how he always managed to play fantastically well even when he had really had had "one too many", he replied: "Because I practise playing drunk."

One unusual rendition played that day was a jazzed up version of Ravel's "Bolero" which Fidler had found in Brazil and brought home.

During the afternoon a video was shown on the life of clarinetist, Artie Shaw who experienced a great deal of anti-Semitism when his name was Arthur Ashavsky.

He left school at 15, taught himself orchestration and finally made it big after many years of getting nowhere.

* Enquiries should be made to Mink on (011) 782-7111.



Doreen Fidler and Alysia Rose.



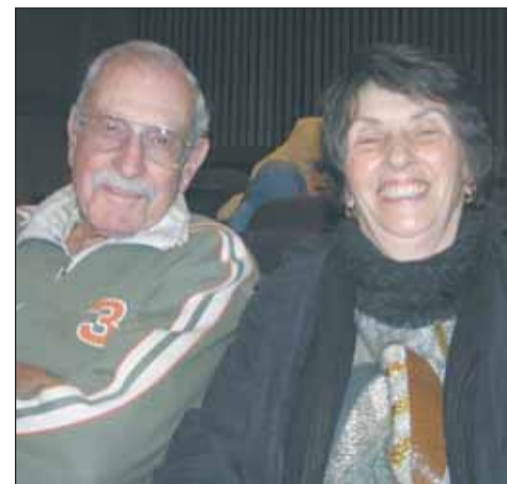
Two Jacks - Jack Gross and Jack Mink, the Big Band Society's chairman..



Trevor Derry and Liz Simmonds from the JHB Light Music Society enjoy their tea.



Leila Goldberg with Norma Silverman.



Zammy Freedman with Sylvia Zulman.

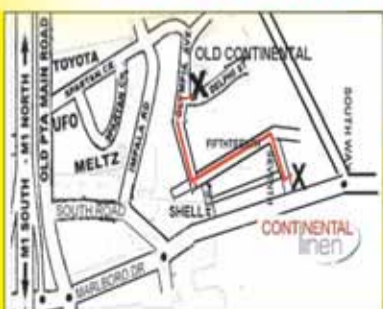


Lorna Sonnenburg and Lily Chemel enjoying the music.



Sara Goldstein and Ray Goldstein who are not related but who have been making and serving tea for the Big Band Society for some 30 years.

CONTINENTAL



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SPRINGBOK

The little dorp of Springbok is in the Northern Cape, 550 km almost due north from Cape Town on the N7. It is in the heart of Namaqualand which is well known for the late winter display of daisies which draws thousands of visitors every year to the nearby Goegap Nature Park.

A few kilometres north of Springbok is the small copper mining village of Okiep. (Okiep means "brackish water" in the local Khoisan language).

This month The Jewish National Fund presented its Golden Book Certificate to Jopie Kotze, an Afrikaner resident of Springbok. The illuminated address read: "In appreciation of your efforts in maintaining the Jewish Cemetery at Okiep and the Jewish historical sites in Springbok." It was presented to Kotze by Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, the country communities rabbi of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies.

"It is a great honour," said Rabbi Silberhaft.

The South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth in Book 2 of their projected five volume series of "Jewish Life in the South African Country Communities" give quite a lot of information about Springbok and Okiep. For instance, the first Jewish grave at the Okiep cemetery dates back to 1913. Also the Namaqualand Hebrew Congregation was founded in 1918 and closed down in 1972. One cannot speak about the Namaqualand and district Jews without mentioning the name of "Jowell" - a family which has always been prominent in the area.

JOHANNESBURG

The Victory Cinema on Louis Botha Avenue at the top end of Orange Grove, has just reopened after standing derelict for many years. It has been upgraded, revamped and modernised as a theatre. The opening show is "Africa Umoja", called a "spectacle of song and dance".

The original cinema was built in 1929 when tramcars still rolled down Louis Botha Avenue to the terminus at Gallagher's Corner. Its first name was the "Grove Kinema" and the "K" in the name was deliberate - it is not a misprint.

For many years it was the only cinema for people living in or near Orange Grove. Later on, the Royal and Astra cinemas were built further down the avenue.

After the war ended in May 1945 with the Allies victorious, the name was changed to The Victory Cinema, but somehow it was the poor relation of the two other cinemas or bioscopes as they were referred to in the local jargon.

Somehow the Victory lacked the plushness and comfort of the newcomers. Yet it struggled on gamely as an independently-owned cinema, attended by loyal patrons, until it gave up some years ago.

Now it has been given a new lease of life as a live theatre.

EAST LONDON

From "The Zionist Record" Friday, January 4, 1952:

"A tragic accident occurred on Wednesday last week when Morris Weiner, the 14-year-old son of Mr and Mrs Sam Weiner of Hendon Road, Yeoville, was drowned in the sea at the mouth of the Hickman's River, near East London.

"Morris was a pupil at Athlone High School in Johannesburg and he came to East London with the Hashomer Hadati camp. He came from an Orthodox and Zionist family.

"Morris was the grandchild of Lazar Katz, collector of the Johannesburg Old Age Home and nephew of Morris Kirson, son of the veteran Zionist, A Kirson. His mother was a cousin of the late Abraham Katz, one of the founders of the Hapoel Hamizrahi movement in this country who lost his life in 1937 while defending Hanitha (an early settlement in Israel)."

BRAKPAN

From E E Waner, President, United Hebrew Institutions of Brakpan:

"On July 29 2007 at the Brakpan Shul Hall at 14:30 we will be holding a joint birthday party for the following persons:

"The most senior is Jack Armband from Sandringham Gardens, who attends services every Saturday and who celebrated his 97th birthday on July 17. Next is Ike Hyman from Boksburg, who turns 94 on July 30. He reads Maftir every week at our Shul and has been doing it for the last 15 years.

"Monica Russell, our sprightly secretary, who still plays tennis every Wednesday morning, turned 80 on July 13. Bernard Epstein will be celebrating his 80th birthday in August this year. My aunt, Nettie Krost from Sandringham Gardens turns 88 on July 31 and my auntie Betty Josephson, from Our Parents Home turns 91 on August 1, 2007.

"Unfortunately, my late mother,

Edith Waner, who was 90, passed away last October. She would have loved to have been at this event.

"It must be the air and the life which is good on the East Rand that promotes long life. We wish them all a happy birthday and many more."

JOHANNESBURG

Here is a shocker! Gems of which Johannesburg Jewry can be proud are the I H Maisels Library and the S Rochlin Archives at Beyachad. Both are excellent but are woefully under-utilised, which does not reflect to the credit of the Jewish citizenry of the city, but they are there for whomever wants to use them.

Norma Shulman is an extremely helpful librarian and Naomi Musiker looks after the archives.

Despite the fact that there are some very valuable and irreplaceable books on the shelves, a pleasant informality exists. Perhaps too much so, because someone walked off with a copy of "My Book" by Brian Joffe, a beautiful and expensive book of photographs.

Of course anyone determined to do such a heinous thing can possibly succeed, but the question really has to be asked: Is this the way we want to see members of the community behave?

OUDTSHOORN

From Sylvia Shapshak:

"I remember Pauline Shear - or Harris as she was - and her brother, as small children when I lived in Pretoria and was married to Henry Woolfson's elder son. I knew Henry and his twin brother, Victor. They were fraternal twins and not a bit alike. They were the youngest sons, the second and third youngest of the family.

"Pauline's mother, Ada, was the youngest child. She is correct that Sam lived in England. Moss, the second son, lived in Johannesburg as did Victor. Victor had two children, a son, Paul and a daughter, Irma.

"Joyce who lived in (the then) Rhodesia, was killed in a car crash on the way back from a holiday in the Cape and was buried in the Pretoria Cemetery.

"Pauline's mother, Ada Harris, was an estate agent when I knew her. Her father was Austin and they lived in a Herbert Baker house.

"I hope this correspondence is closed."

CONNECTING PEOPLE:

Eugene Woolfson, grandson of Rev Meyer Woolfson e-mailed Community Buzz on June 25 with information about his family in Oudtshoorn. Masha and Charlie Berger would like to make contact with him. Their e-mail address is mashchas@mweb.co.za

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Lila Bruk, Registered Dietician

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Fat-free milk is much lower in fat while still being an excellent source of protein.

• Eat more vegetables.

Vegetables are an excellent source of fibre, vitamins and minerals. Therefore it is essential that veg-

etables form the basis of all main meals.

• Choose lean meats and chicken without skin.

Lean meat and chicken without the skin are excellent sources of lean protein. However, fattier cuts of meats and chicken skin provide unnecessary fat and therefore should be avoided.

• Drink water.

Water is the best way to hydrate your body and is essential for many metabolic processes (eg digestion). Coffee contains caffeine, which acts as a diuretic and thus causes the body to lose water. Soft drinks and fruit juice are also not ideal, as they have high sugar content.

• Take the stairs instead of the lift.

Incorporating small amounts of exercise in your daily routine is a great way to get enough physical

activity. Try to walk wherever you can rather than drive, and walk around a shopping centre as fast as you can, rather than strolling. Accumulate 30 minutes of physical activity per day and you'll soon be reaping the benefits!

• Snack on fruit instead of crisps and chocolates.

Fruit is the ideal snack! It's portable, healthy and filling. Pop an apple into your bag or keep an orange in your car to keep hunger pangs at bay and to prevent you from reaching for sugary or salty snacks.

• Eat more wholegrain starches.

Choose high-fibre starches (eg seed loaf, brown rice, bran flakes), as they are more filling and keep you sustained for longer than low-fibre starches (eg white bread, white rice, corn flakes).

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Limmud - an open forum for any Jewish topic

LIONEL SLIER

LIMMUD IS one of the most exciting and innovative educational organisations in the British Jewish community. In its 25 year history, more than 20 000 people have attended a Limmud event. The Limmud model of cross-communal Jewish education has been replicated in 13 countries.

Every year over the August Bank Holiday, Limmud holds a five-day residential conference at the University of Nottingham, known as the Limmudfest. More than 2 000 participants attend and there are 900 educational sessions with 350 presenters.

There are 13 Limmud communities around the world and on August 9, South Africa will be joining in. It must be noted that these international Limmuds operate independently of the original Limmud in Britain.

Limmud SA aims to provide a similar platform here. It will

enable people to experience the full richness that is found in a diverse Jewish identity embracing all aspects of Jewishness from culture, religion, history, philosophy, music and, of course, food.

Limmud means learning, particularly with an emphasis on adult education and development with the exchange of ideas and opinions on all subjects. It is in no way prescriptive and every point of view is open for discussion.

Limmud's mission statement, to which the South African group will adhere to, is to allow each Jew to take one step further on his/her Jewish journey. It will provide a space in which all Jews can explore the various facets of their identity.

Limmud SA will be holding, what they are calling a "Festival of Jewish Learning and Culture" at the Wits Medical School on Wednesday August 9, starting at 08:30 until 23:00 and even later.

The ninth is a public holiday - Women's Day - so a large attendance is expected.

There will be at least five sessions an hour covering a wide range of topics to get everybody engaged in a wide range of Jewish experiences and discussions.

Among the speakers will be international participants such as Prof Nathan Aviezer from Bar-Ilan University; Benjamin Pogrud of the Yakar Centre for Social Concern, Israel, who will be joined with Bassam Eid from the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group; Enoch Keki Mainah and Moshe Yasiira Madoi, Jewish teachers from Uganda; David Gerbi, psychoanalyst and author; and Mikhael Manekin talking about being a moral soldier on the West Bank.

Many prominent local speakers are also taking part and *The Jewish Report* will be publishing the full programme in next week's issue. Rebbetzen Ann Harris, widow of the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, will be one of the headline speakers.

Limmud states: "This will be an excellent opportunity for those attending to get exposure to world class educators as well as to hear individuals from this country who may not generally have had exposure.

"It also provides a platform for established and aspirant musicians, filmmakers and artists to share their creations (where Jewish-themed works of art sometimes struggle to find these platforms)".

Limmud has brought a cultural renaissance to Jewish com-

munities wherever it has existed and it can offer a space for creativity and Jewish learning to flourish in South Africa.

The day will be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to socialise, meet others and share interests, ideas and opinions. There will also be music, melody, theatre, drumming and dance - in fact a total Jewish cultural extravaganza. It must be emphasised that Limmud is for the whole family with programmes for children, teens and young adults. At lunch, for those who wish to take part, there is Chevruta Learning.

* For full details contact Coreen Horwitz. E-mail limmud-sa@gmail.com or telephone 076-480-2896 or Linda Mark 084-485-1289. The website can be visited at www.limmud.org.za

Apartheid Museum hosts White Rose exhibits

THE WHITE ROSE was a German student group which protested against the Nazi movement and the persecution of Jews. Its main members were convicted and executed.



Mr Zwelinzima Lucas Sizani, secretary of ANC Political Education with Holocaust survivor, Mija Abramowich at the White Rose exhibition.



Holocaust survivor, Mija Abramowich discusses a photograph at the White Rose exhibition at the Apartheid Museum with students Tarisha Adame (left) and Julian Darries from Fred Norman Secondary School in Ennerdale. (PHOTOGRAPHS: ILAN OSSENDRYVER)



Limmud UK remembered

ANN HARRIS

I'VE ONLY been to UK Limmud once - it started its meteoric rise to being the thing to do over the end of year holidays, after I left England.

But I was invited back some years later to present several sessions like "Observations on the Jews of South Africa", "Status of Women in Jewish Law" and "Tikkun Olam".

That year it took place at Manchester University and I found myself living for a few days in the city where I was born at a University I didn't go to.

My elder son, Michael, rabbi of the Hampstead Synagogue in London, also took part - he is one of the few Orthodox rabbis who have taken part in and been faithful to Limmud activities for many years.

So, there we were. It was a freezing, dark, miserable English winter. We decided to make the most of a wonderful opportunity! We piled into the university residences. My granddaughters, then primary school age, disappeared for the entire duration in a whirl of exciting children's activities. They have been devotees of Limmud ever since.



We presenters got on with the job. I was amazed at the numbers of people who turned up to listen to me: and not only listen, but question, argue, put up different points of view. Every session was an exciting adven-

ture.

Rabbi Michael, one of the foremost exponents of modern Orthodoxy in the UK, worked on texts with groups at every level and debated all aspects of Jewish faith and life with controversial zeal.

The quality of teaching and learning was generally of the highest standard and many eminent scholars and educators were willing to give of their time and expertise. The list of Limmud presenters over the years reads like a Jewish Hall of Fame.

The only hassle was - choice! There was so much of interest, often running parallel, that we didn't know what to choose first. And in addition to quality, what quantity of Jewish people wanting to be together for such an opportunity - that year there were about 1 000, now grown to well over 2 000.

On Shabbat, the participants organised several types of serv-

ice; everyone could find his or her own spiritual and educational level and feel comfortable.

On Motzai Shabbat, we presenters were asked to entertain. Oivey! Michael and I prepared a presentation on the life of the rabbi and his wife. It's something on which we are both experts.

About a hundred people listened to us tearing communal life into shreds - after all, lay people complain all the time, so why miss a chance to turn the tables? It brought the house down!

Of course Limmud can be controversial and has attracted criticism from many different viewpoints. But it is a genuine attempt to disseminate a wide variety of Jewish knowledge to the Jew and Jewess in the street and to help Jewish people from diverse backgrounds feel comfortable with one another.

There is no doubt of its resounding success in the UK. I am sure we can do it in South Africa.

* Ann Harris will be speaking on several topics at Limmud South Africa which will take place in Johannesburg on August 9 (Women's Day) at Wits Medical School, Parktown and in Cape Town on August 10-12 at The Strand Hotel. See www.limmud.org.za for more information on these events.

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PROGRAMME (this programme is for Johannesburg with many of the same sessions **and more** in Cape Town. It is subject to change)

09h00-10h00

- Session 1 : **David Bilchitz** - Must we obey G-d under all circumstances? A Literary and Philosophical Approach to Shaul and the Amalekites
 Session 2 : **Alan Lipman** - A History of Socialist Jewish Thinking
 Session 3 : **Ray Perkel** - The Enigma of Jewish Music in a Global Context: A mystical perspective
 Session 4 : **Allan Kolski Horwitz** - Contemporary South African Poetry And Jewish Identity - The Botsotso Experience
 Session 5 : **Rhona Lief** - Struggling to Embrace the New: Exploring the Apocrypha Texts and their insights into ancient Jewish Life
 Session 6 : **Ofer Dahan** - Topic tbc

10h10-11h10

- Session 1 : **Adina Roth** - Magic versus Religion: A Textual Look at their Differences and Similarities in the Epic Story of Bilaam
 Session 2 : **Immanuel Suttner** - The Twelve Tribes of Israel: Filmic Representations of Diversity in the State of the Jews
 Session 3 : **Louis Marcus Finn** - How does one Paint the Holocaust?: An Exploration of the Art of Eric Kahn and Erna Bodenstern
 Session 4 : **Natan Aviezer** - Have Scientists Discovered G-d? The Anthropic Principle and Jewish Belief
 Session 5 : **Moshe Singer** - Between the Lines: An anecdotal Journey through Jewish History with Antique Books
 Session 6 : **Meet 7 Visiting Young Israeli Leaders:** What kind of future do we see for Modern Israel?
 Session 7 : **Barney Hurwitz** - The Carter Regime and world opinion on Israel TBC

11h20-12h20

- Session 1 : **Dennis Davis** - Delving into Parshat Hashavuah: New Insights into Re'eh
 Session 2 : **Selma Browde** - Palliative Treatment for All: Past, Present and Future
 Session 3 : **Stephen Finn** - Forbidden Flesh- The challenge Vegetarianism poses for the Ethical Jew
 Session 4 : **Howard Sackstein** - Is Jewish Activism Dead?
 Session 5 : **Guy Lieberman and Tzemach Mendelow** - Exploring Kabbalah through a film lens: Meditation and Mystical Traditions in Jewish Life
 Session 6 : **Victor Gordon** - Harry and Ed: A Unique Friendship Without Which there would not have been a State of Israel
 Session 7 : **Charles Wallach** - Life & Death: If everything is foreseen how can we talk of free choice?

12h30-13h30

- Session 1 : **Jeremy Wanderer** - Exploring the Mysteries of Mt. Sinai through Text: Where did Revelation End and Interpretation Begin?
 Session 2 : **Mikhael Manekin** - Breaking the Silence: How can one be a moral Israeli Soldier in the West Bank?
 Session 3 : **David Gerbi** - Making Peace with Qaddafi TBC
 Session 4 : **Karen Lazar** - Resisting Labels: The Challenges Nadine Gordimer poses to a fixed Jewish identity
 Session 5 : **Miri Eitan** - Strictly Come Dancing: A Crash-Course in the Varieties of Israeli Dancing
 Session 6 : **Ronnie Mink** - Bonded in Death? Jews, Poles and the Memory of the Holocaust
 Session 7 : **Fran Buntman** - Liberated or Lite?: A South African Reflection on the Diversity of Judaism in the United States

13h30-14h20

Lunch and Chevrotah

14h30-15h30

- Session 1 : **Ronnie Gotkin** - Separating Fact from Fiction: Exploring the Complexities of Jewish Life under Islam during the Medieval Period
 Session 2 : **Geoff Sifrin** - The Jewish Press in South Africa: Challenges and Opportunities
 Session 3 : **Larry Benjamin** - The Crisis in the Middle East: Can Israel Survive?
 Session 4 : **Hayley Berman** - Judaism, Kabbalah and Psycho-analysis: Exploring the Interconnections
 Session 5 : **Enosh Keki Nainah and Moshe Yashiira** - How to be an Observant Jew in a Ugandan Village
 Session 6 : **Robert Jacobs** - Haggadah shel Pesach: Midrash in Action
 Session 7 : **Kim Lieberman** - Contemporary Art and Judaism: Exploring the Connections

15h40-16h40

- Session 1 : **Ann Harris** - Second-Class or Equal? Exploring the Legal Status of Women in Jewish Law
 Session 2 : **Marcia Leveson** - Exploring the Writing of Bertha Goudvis: Identity, Feminism and Judaism
 Session 3 : **William Kentridge Exclusive:** A Filmic Exploration of his Jewish Roots with an Introduction by Neil Dundas
 Session 4 : **Clive Engleberg** - Meeting a Partner in C21: Judaism, Romance and the Internet
 Session 5 : **Jocelyn Hellig** - Growing Jewish and Muslim Fundamentalism: is this a Response to Insecurity?
 Session 6 : **Avrom Krengel** - Maintaining a Delicate Balance: the Story of the Evolving Relationship between South Africa and Israel
 Session 7 : **Gila Sacks** - In Search of a Jewish Work Ethic

17h00-18h00

- Session 1 : **Ilan Baruch** - The Buoyancy of the Israeli Economy: an analysis
 Session 2 : **Kim Berman** - Can Art be a medium for Tikkun Olam? Transforming South Africa Through the Visual Arts
 Session 3 : **Tali Nates** - Never Again?- Lessons for Humanity: the Holocaust to Darfur
 Session 4 : **Farryl Roth** - Ancestral Judaism vs Traditional African - the musical link explored using real instruments
 Session 5 : **Lael Bethlehem** - Is the Jewish Family Being Re-defined? Same-sex couples, single parents, inter-marriage and multiple parenting
 Session 6 : **Mendel Kaplan** - Topic Tbc
 Session 7 : **Elliott Goldstein** - Limmud: An Emerging Model For Global Jewish Education

18h10-19h10

- Session 1 : **Nathan Aviezer** - On Contradictions Between Torah and Science: the Creation of the Universe
 Session 2 : **Benjamin Pogrund and Bassam Eid** in Conversation - Is South Africa's Unitary State a Model for Israel?
 Session 3 : **Enosh Keki Mainah and Moshe Yashiira** - Being Jewish in Uganda: the Unfolding Story of the Abayudaya
 Session 4 : **Karen Batley** - 'Uncovering the Jewish past: Excavating the Dura-Europos synagogue'
 Session 5 : **Gila Sacks** - Is Community Code for Conformity?
 Session 6 : **Chaya Herman, Joseph Gerassi, Ronnie Gotkin** in conversation - What kind of Jewish education do we want for our children?

19h10-19h40

Dinner

19h40-20h40

Limmud Jewish Cultural Extravaganza
 Steve Barnett and Musical Drumming
 Stand-up
 Abayudaya in Concert (Video Journey)
 Israeli Film

20h40-22h00

Farryl Roth
 Ray Perkel
 Israeli Youth Orchestra
 Theatre
 Guy Lieberman: Universal Face
 (Film on Kabbalah)

22h00-

Limmud Café
 Dancing
 Scrabble



Iran's fancy footwork around Israel issue

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in Legal and International Affairs Dr Seyed Abbas Eraghchi and Prof Hussein Solomon of the University of Pretoria.

JOSHUA SCHEWITZ

THE CONTROVERSIAL "Iran nuclear programme" was the hot topic of discussion recently when Iran's deputy foreign minister in legal and international affairs, took part in a discussion at the Centre for International Political Studies at the University of Pretoria, hosted by Prof Hussein Solomon.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister also mooted a "one state solution" for

Israel, saying that would mean that the country might not necessarily be "wiped off the map" militarily.

Dr Seyed Abbas Eraghchi spoke about the history of his country's nuclear programme, the development and achievements that have been made and the international reaction to it. He repeatedly emphasised that the programme was peaceful and that his country was trying to build confidence with the international community.

Iran has repeatedly stated that nuclear energy is its right and that it will not give up that right.

Iran was a signatory to the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) and the country had been trying to produce nuclear energy since the 1950s. Iran had invested millions of dollars in its nuclear programme and did not want to submit that easily to international demands that they stop the programme - which the United States inter alia saw as the precursor to producing nuclear arms.

A question put to him was why his country was investing so much in nuclear energy "for peaceful means", when they had such an abundance of oil and natural gas.

On March 24 this year, the UN instituted sanctions (Resolution 1747) against Iran, having expressed its doubts about Iran's protestations that its nuclear programme was solely for peaceful purposes.

The IAEA is still trying to verify the nature of Iran's nuclear programme. The IAEA has encountered co-operation as well as non co-operation from Iran.

Iran has at times suspended its nuclear programme and allowed access to its nuclear facilities. Most notably, it suspended its nuclear programme on November 14 2004 as part of the Paris Agreement.

But Iran restarted its nuclear programme in August 2005. UN officials saw this as a breach of the Paris Agreement. In February 2006 the IAEA voted overwhelmingly to refer Iran to the United Nations Security Council, as a result of the country's non-compliance and after traces of highly enriched uranium had been found by IAEA Director General Mohammad el Baradei at one of Iran's nuclear plants.

The UN Security Council set a deadline for Iran to cease all nuclear activity. When the deadline passed on March 24 this year, Resolution 1747 was passed by the Council. Iran is rationing petrol because it believes further international sanctions are going to target its petrol imports. Due to insufficient refining capacity, Iran imports some 50 per cent of its petrol, despite having one of the biggest crude oil reserves in the world. On top of it the country has very large natural gas reserves.

Dr Seyed adopted a very conciliatory note at the discussion, saying his country had been trying "to build confidence" with the international community.

When asked how Iran expected to build such confidence, considering that President Mahmoud Achmadinejad had repeatedly called for the absolute and total destruction of Israel, to quote the president: "to wipe Israel off the map", Dr Seyed was very diplomatic, saying that his country was free to voice its opinion and that opinion was a "one state solution".

Although he realised that most countries supported a two state solution, his country did not. The resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict into a one state solution, did not necessarily mean that Israel had to be destroyed militarily. Change could come through diplomatic means.

From Dr Seyed's answer it became evident that his country would not consider the Arab/Israeli and Palestinian issues solved if Israel still existed in its present form.

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DON'T LET WINTER CATCH YOU OUT

Our short-term insurance series takes a look at some of the problems that typically occur during winter.

The article is contributed by Howard Cohen, General Manager, Claims, at leading short-term insurer, Mutual & Federal.

HOWARD COHEN

Seasonal patterns affect many industries, including short-term insurance. The first rains of summer bring a spate of motor claims following the annual surge in 'bumper bashings' while the onset of winter often brings with it an increase in geyser problems.

Power failures, dips and surges can affect certain appliances, and geysers are notorious for giving out at the worst possible moment. The cost of geyser replacement can be annoying in itself, but associated costs are often much higher.

Water damage to walls and ceiling boards can be substantial while a major leak will also cause damage to furnishings, carpets, furniture and light fittings. The good news is that some simple precautions can extend the life of your geyser and minimise the damage in the event of failure.

The cost of electricity is going up and energy-saving is high on the national agenda. Energy efficiency is improved by installing insulation in ceilings. As electricity costs mount, this simple home improvement will increasingly be undertaken by prudent householders.

When fitting ceiling insulation, it is advisable - for a small additional outlay - to insulate the geyser and water pipes as well. The optimum method of guarding against geyser failure is planned maintenance through your own plumber. But few home-owners invest in this type of safeguard. This means it is up to the individual householder to take timely action to 'soften the blow' when a geyser gives signs of trouble.

One common danger sign is water boiling and bubbling in the geyser. You often hear rumbling in the ceiling - the usual spot for a geyser installation. Alternatively, steam may sputter out when you turn on hot water taps.

Don't ignore these warning signs. You can save a lot of money and inconvenience by heading off the prospect of a sudden burst. Four commonsense steps are advisable:

1. Switch off the geyser's electrical isolator on the main distribution board.
2. Turn off the water at the main meter box. Most homes have a stopcock fitted to the inlet side of the geyser.
3. If you can reach up without undue difficulty, look through



Howard Cohen
General Manager, Claims at
Mutual & Federal

the trapdoor in the ceiling. If the geyser is in plain view, it may be possible to see if the geyser, pressure-reducing valve or pipes are leaking. This may help your plumber identify the problem.

4. Contact your insurer or your insurer's helpline.

You will be given the names and contact numbers of reliable plumbers close to you.

Despite your best efforts, it may be impossible to save your existing geyser and a replacement may have to be installed. Ask the plumber who carries out the installation to also fit a drip tray and outlet

pipe. In the event of future problems, this will ensure the water is carried away and doesn't gush out into the ceiling. This simple expedient reduces the danger of water damage.

Leaking geysers are not the only problems to watch out for in winter.

The first reaction to a cold snap is to plug in electrical fires or bring out the gas heaters. Sometimes these appliances are quite old and last saw the light of day nine months earlier. They have not been cleaned for some time; they are dusty and may be in need of basic maintenance. Electrical cords may be in a tangle. Wires may be loose.

Don't just switch on and hope for the best. Make sure fires and heaters are clean and in good working order.

Long dry summer months also have an effect on gutter and down-pipe maintenance.

Leaves mount up and may block the gutters. When the rains come, the water can well up and spill over in the most inconvenient places. Water staining on exterior walls is one result. In some circumstances, the water could spill or seep into the roof and through the ceiling, damaging furnishings inside your home. If an assessor finds that this type of damage was caused by long-term neglect of obvious household maintenance, it is possible for a claim to be rejected. Problems can be solved by cleaning out the gutters during the winter dry spell.

That way, you ensure fallen leaves are not around to create a blockage. Our winters can be glorious. Simple precautions enable householders to enjoy them to the full.



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OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

URIEL HEILMAN
JERUSALEM

Tisha B'Av reflections

COMMEMORATING Tisha B'Av in Jerusalem is a bit of an exercise in paradoxes.

On the one hand, the remains of the Holy Temple whose destruction we lament on this national day of fasting and mourning, are just a stone's throw away, on the same hallowed ground where generations of Jewish soldiers died fighting for their land.

On the other hand, we live in an era when the Jewish people have the good fortune of being able to live freely in our own state in the place our ancestors prayed about for millennia. We read the Book of Lamentations and the Kinnot prayers that bemoan the destruction of the Jewish nation-state and our subsequent dispersion to the Diaspora, yet we have returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the Jewish state.

Today, our holy temple is the State of Israel.

In 1948, when Israel was founded, and again in 1967 after Jerusalem was returned to Jewish hands, some Jews saw the victories as the beginning of the Age of Redemption - the most crucial step toward transforming Tisha B'Av into a celebration of the reconstruction of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

But for most Jews living in this sacred land, there is a sense that 60 years since the state was established and 40 years since Jerusalem was liberated, somehow there is something rotten in

the State of Israel.

It's in the news every day, it's talked about at dinner table conversations, mocked by satirists, lamented by rabbis and analysed by pundits.

Sixty years on, the temple we have built seems on the verge of ruin.

The threats come from within and without.

Not far enough away from Jerusalem, the modern-day king of Persia, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, threatens to wipe Israel off the face of the earth, and he's building the nuclear capacity to make that happen.

Closer to home, Hamas is acquiring the weapons it needs to turn southern Israel into the firing range that northern Israel was for Hezbollah during last summer's war. Hezbollah, for its part, has restored the weapons arsenal it lost last summer and appears eager for another opportunity to humble Israel's no-longer-invincible military.

And from Durban to The Hague, from Geneva to New York, the nations of the world bear witness to the castigation and deligitimisation of Israel, at times lending their own voices to the clamour calling for Israel's destruction, either explicitly or implicitly.

At home in Israel, the sense of

ruin is palpable in other, more immediate ways.

The state built on socialist underpinnings now has one of the highest rates of poverty in the developed world. The leaders of the government we hoped would be a light unto the nations, have proven either grossly inept or corrupt. Even when found guilty by the courts, Israeli leaders seem impervious to punishment.

In the last month alone, former President Moshe Katsav escaped rape charges in exchange for a deal to plead guilty to sexual harassment and indecent acts; Omir Sharon, son of the former prime minister, had his jail sentence for a fraud conviction reduced by two months and postponed yet again; and just this week former Knesset member Naomi Blumenthal had her eight-month prison term for bribery commuted to two months probation and six months community service.

The preponderance of cases like these give the Jewish state the appearance of a place where power, not justice, prevails.

It's not only the government's corruption and ineptitude that has Israelis lamenting the ruination of the Jewish state. It's the people, too.

Secularists blame the Orthodox for ruining the state, siphoning off tax money to schools whose

kids who won't serve in the army, don't believe in the legitimacy of the state and will uphold the Orthodox stranglehold on issues like marriage, conversion and religion in Israel.

Orthodox Israelis say secularists are purging the state of its Jewish character through short-sighted education policies, unfair court decisions and lax immigration policies.

Settlers feel abandoned by a government that uprooted 9 000 Jews from the Gaza Strip during the 2005 disengagement and still contemplates trading away the West Bank for a false peace that will only hasten Israel's demise.

Left-wingers say the settlers have wrought Israel's moral corruption by turning the Jewish state into an occupying power that persecutes an entire people in order to survive.

It's not just about ideology, either.

Israeli drivers have turned the nation's roads into avenues of death, where fatalities from car accidents far exceed those from wars and where even a normal car trip becomes an exercise in rage and survival.

Real estate developers snap up Israel's few remaining open spaces and transform them into apartments, roads and office buildings while the government planning boards responsible for

land management authorise wide-ranging construction projects with alarmingly short-term vision, all in exchange for easy money. Even the walls of Jerusalem's Old City, a national treasure, are now blocked from view by a new mall that has gone up right outside the Jaffa Gate.

Thirsty cities divert water from Israel's few freshwater sources and turn a blind eye to wealthy corporations' dumping toxins back in. Some of Israel's most prized sites - among them the polluted Jordan River, the shrinking Dead Sea and the increasingly toxic Mediterranean shoreline - seem in various stages of ruin.

Israel's best and brightest are moving overseas to take higher-paying jobs, government-controlled food prices are rising and every day seems to be hotter than the last.

So what do we do about all these problems?

First, we lament. In our tradition, the collective "Oy vey" we express on Tisha B'Av is meant to be our wakeup call.

Then, we act, however way we can: We vote, we write letters to our representatives, we put a dime in the pushke, we volunteer, we make aliyah, we support worthwhile causes, we treat our fellow Jews and Israelis with human decency, we act like mensches even when no one's looking.

Will this fix the problems of Israel and the Jewish people? No. But it's a start, and we've got to start somewhere. Perhaps today it can start with us. (JTA)

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OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Jewish Report

What is it about Harry Potter?

IT WAS an unfortunate coincidence that the moment for the synchronised worldwide release of the new Harry Potter book fell in Israel on the Sabbath. Steimatzky, the biggest bookstore chain, held a gala event in Tel Aviv, drawing thousands of fans and provoking disapproval from rabbinical and government authorities, who threatened to fine the stores for violating Sabbath working laws.

In Israel, as in scores of other countries, the Harry Potter stories have been a phenomenal success. Well over 15 million copies of this new book have been sold worldwide since the weekend. In the US, 300 000 copies were being sold every hour on the day of the launch. The website of Gefen publishers advertises a set of the six previous books in Hebrew translation for \$170.

What is it about the Harry Potter story that has made it the biggest-selling book in history? Is it just a very successful marketing campaign of a child's story? Or is there something more important in it?

Some people sneer at it. MK Avraham Ravitz said: "The book and its poor content (serve) as education for teenagers in Israel and the world in this new age... We don't have to get carried away like monkeys and imitate the world in this kind of subculture, especially not while desecrating the holy Shabbat."

But Sever Plocker, a columnist on Ynet, the website of the largest mass-circulation daily in Israel, believes the books touch an instinctive longing in people - not only children - for a return to the idea that "good is good" and "evil is evil", contrary to the prevailing ethos of our time.

Harry Potter confronts the ideology of post-modernism, which has tried over three decades to convince us that there is really no difference between "good" and "evil" - both are simply "verbal constructions" deriving from different discourses. One person's values are no better than those of his enemies. Both are relative and therefore cannot be ranked.

The world has become a mad place, where suicide bombers flying planes into skyscrapers, blowing up buildings, restaurants, buses and trains in New York, London, Baghdad or Jerusalem, and purposely killing totally innocent bystanders, are lauded as heroes by millions. We live in the fear that terrorists might blow up entire cities and all their inhabitants with nuclear devices, or poison them all with anthrax, in the name of some twisted notion of their own truth.

This is "justified" by people who insist that everything is relative. Al-Qaida, too, has values and beliefs: what gives us the right to judge?

In Harry Potter's world, clear, old-fashioned good and evil does exist. Says Plocker: "Both Harry Potter and Jack Bower (the other hero) are magicians with a complex personality that at times deviates from the straight and narrow, makes use of methods that should be condemned, and comes close to the edge of evil - yet, despite this, both Jack Bower and Harry Potter carry the message of victory of good over evil as the ultimate choice."

In the Harry Potter stories the actions of the suicide bombers who flew the planes into the World Trade Centre and killed 3 000 office workers, and those who blew up bus No 18 in Jerusalem with its 30 random passengers, would be evil, simple and clear, with no ifs or buts or verbal acrobatics about the "desperation" of "oppressed" people which somehow makes it right for them to do that.

Cynics may dismiss the theme of the Harry Potter stories as naïve and simplistic, without relevance in a tough world. But it is that kind of sanity which the world seems to have lost and which his irresistible story seems to offer again. G-d knows, we need it.

There's a judge, then there's a rabbi...

A RECENT edition of the *Sunday Times* carried two seemingly unconnected articles. The one reported on the ongoing enquiry by the Judicial Service Commission against allegations made about the Judge President of the Cape, Mr Justice John Hlophe.

That issue has received much publicity. The other report described an issue that had not received any public airing, even though it has been discussed ad nauseum in the community - the sad professional demise of an important community rabbi, as prominent a figure within Orthodox rabbinical circles as Mr Justice Hlophe is within the legal community.

The reason I connect these reports is that they deal with the same question: what is the nature of accountability of public office bearers?

In the case of the judiciary, the question admits of an easy answer: in a liberal democracy, transparency and its corollary, accountability to the public, are cherished values which find powerful resonance in our Constitution. At some point, the Judicial Service Commission will inform the public of the outcome, whatever it is. That is the nature of our constitutional democracy.

By contrast, there are those within the community (including correspondents to this newspaper) who will argue that there is no way in which a theocratic view of life in general and Judaism in particular, can embrace these concepts.

In addition, it will be contended that the foundational concept within Judaism of lashon harah militates against any form of transparency and hence of public accountability of the rabbinate to the community they presume to lead.

There are a number of responses to these arguments, designed as they are, in favour of secrecy. The most obvious is that we do not live in an exclusively theocratic state.



THE JURY IS OUT

Dennis Davis

As the Catholic Church has discovered, the values of liberal democracy have powerful resonance in society. Those who assume public office including the clergy, do not have a free hand and can be held accountable for their nefarious actions which cause hurt and harm to innocent people.

Needless to say, the clergy in a secular state are bound to the criminal law; a paedophile is subject to the strictures of secular criminal law, no matter his religious station, as are those in the clergy or for that matter the rabbinate who seek to hide the crime from official scrutiny.

Lest there be any misunderstanding, even I understand that in the present case there appears to be no criminal act. My point is simply that secular law does not exempt the clergy.

But I want to suggest that Judaism does not offer so easy a hiding place for acts of religious leaders which harm the public. The principle of accountability is known in our tradition.

After all, did Abraham Avinu and Moshe Rabeinu not confront Hashem and hold Him accountable to His Own notion of divine justice? Did not Hashem say about Sodom: HaMechase ani Mavraham? - Do I withhold from Abraham what I intend to do?

These are powerful proof texts concerning the values of accountability and transparency. Ah, but I hear you say: None of us is Abraham or Moses.

True, but with the greatest of respect to

the rabbis, they are not G-d!

Turning to lashon harah: It must be accepted that it is a wide ranging doctrine which covers both falsehood and truth spoken about another person.

But as I ploughed my way through the magisterial text of the Chofetz Chayim on this vexed subject, it does appear that even the doctrine of lashon harah has limitations. For example, laws prohibiting verbal wrongdoing and embarrassment do not apply to dishonest and unscrupulous people whose actions are the antithesis of behaviour prescribed by Torah.

Speech, even of a defamatory nature, may be employed to expose wicked individuals and hypocrites.

To return to the present, it does appear that some measure of accountability is required from the rabbinical leadership concerning this case. The chief rabbi is quoted in the *Sunday Times* about reasons for the rabbi's services being terminated. But why was the gossip machine allowed to run riot before a non-Jewish newspaper publishes a report?

And how does one respond to suggestions that the Beth Din received complaints long before the present tragedy? Did they? If so, who dealt with them and why then was nothing done?

What is being done for the victims who include many young people who saw the rabbi as a role-model?

These are the questions which flow from values of accountability and reasonable transparency.

I accept that these are difficult challenges, particularly achieving a balance between community interest and individual dignity and privacy; hence my deliberate use of the word "tragedy".

But if Orthodox leadership is to be taken seriously about the imperative of family values and the need for a moral charter in this country, then this is a challenge that principled and courageous leadership must assume.

Russia's Hamas ties complicate ME role

PAUL ABELSKY
MOSCOW

RUSSIAN OFFICIALS are welcoming President George W Bush's call for an international peace conference on the Middle East, seeing it in part as a way to bolster its own role in the region.

But Russia's ties with Hamas put it at odds with most of the international community, raising questions about how influential it can be in any renewed efforts at Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

Starting with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's visit to Israel and the West Bank in late June, Russia has signalled that it sees the Israeli-Palestinian issue as central to its re-emergence as an influential player in world affairs.

In comments to journalists last week after Bush announced his latest initiative, Mikhail Kamynin, the spokesman for Russia's ministry of foreign affairs, referred to a similar proposal by Russian President Vladimir Putin two years ago in Cyprus.

Yet Russia has diverged from the United States with its ties to Hamas. Bush's appeal for renewed efforts on the Israeli-Palestinian front focused on bolstering Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas with financial and diplomatic support. He proposed a gathering in the autumn to bring together representatives of the Palestinian West Bank with Arab envoys and their Israeli counterparts.

In boosting Abbas, Bush is seeking to further isolate the militant Islamic movement in the wake of its takeover of Gaza last month.

Russia, in contrast, has continued to cultivate ties with the Hamas leadership both in the Gaza Strip and Syria, with the hope that it could help reconcile the increasing strains among Palestinians.

Andrei Krivtsov, deputy director of the information department of Russia's Foreign Ministry, told JTA that despite backing the Fatah-led government, Russia insists that any long-term settlement

must take into account the interests of the entire Palestinian people.

"It is necessary to address the concerns of all Palestinians, including those who voted for Hamas," he said. "We proceed on the assumption that Bush's call is not an excuse to neglect the other half of Palestine and to conduct talks with just one group. Any attempt at a comprehensive settlement must be inclusive in its approach."

Russia in recent years has tried to boost its role in the peace process beyond its membership in the so-called Quartet, which also includes the United States, the European Union and the United Nations.

After curtailing its military aid to Arab countries following the Soviet break-up and normalising its relations with Israel, Russia has sought to leverage its traditional contacts with the Islamic world by cultivating relations with Syria, Iran and Hamas.

Last spring, Moscow received a high-level Hamas delegation despite international pressure to isolate the group following its dominant showing in Palestinian parliamentary elections.

Russia has failed, however, to capitalise on its close links with Hamas and to make a convincing case to Israel and other members of the Quartet on the benefits of a continuing engagement with the group.

Following the eruption of hostilities in Gaza and Hamas' takeover of the strip last month, Russia has continued to argue in favour of involving the group's leadership to find the middle ground, even as this position has diverged from the international consensus.

In turn, Russian officials pressed Hamas to moderate its line and offer a broad acceptance of Israel, something the group has still forcefully declined to do.

During his June visit to the Middle East, Lavrov met with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and then Deputy Premier Shimon Peres. Russia's top diplomat bowed to Abbas' entreaty that he cancel

his planned meetings with representatives from Hamas.

At last week's Quartet meeting in Lisbon, which backed Bush's drive to reinvigorate the peace process, Lavrov insisted that a united Palestinian leadership is key to any progress in the talks.

He expressed support for the "legitimate" Fatah-led government, but said boycotting Hamas would only complicate the region's future.

Some Russian experts have objected to the appointment of Tony Blair as the Quartet's special envoy to the Middle East. After the Lisbon summit, Vladimir Anokhin, vice president of the Academy of Geopolitical Problems in Moscow, said the selection amounted to "the choice of just about the most inappropriate figure for the region".

Anokhin said Blair would simply channel US influence, and that Bush's proposed conference was a last-ditch attempt to regain American standing in the Middle East and promote a further split among Arabs by excluding Hamas.

Some experts say that Russian attempts to act outside the Quartet format may only undermine the country's efforts to advance its influence in the region.

Alexander Shumilin, director of the Moscow-based Centre for the Analysis of Middle East Conflicts at the Institute of USA and Canada, said moderate Arab leaders and other key players in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations did not see Russia as a serious power broker or even an ally in the peacemaking effort.

The ties to Hamas had effectively deprived the country of neutrality, raising suspicions among the other players in the process, he said.

"Russia has continued to press its mistaken line by pursuing a relationship with Hamas and other terrorist groups," Shumilin said.

"If Russia is interested in strengthening its position in the region and making a difference in the negotiations, the only option is to renounce the past approach and act within the Quartet's mandate." (JTA)

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Sad demise of ethnic particularity

CHANGES ARE happening so fast nowadays that few realise that we are living in the midst of a continuous revolution.

It is all most of us can do to keep more or less abreast of the latest developments, let alone digest their significance. Perhaps some time in the future when things have slowed down a bit, we will be able to look back and assess with hindsight how our world changed forever, but right now there is simply no time for such considered reflection.

One especially radical aspect of the revolution is the rapid demise of national and ethnic particularity within the developed world. The phenomenon is most apparent in Europe, where once almost homogenous national cultures are being diluted beyond recognition by the mass migration of profoundly different racial and ethnic groupings.

There is a sense of panic within the more conservative intelligentsia, particularly when contemplating the burgeoning Muslim populations whose value systems are so antithetical to the laissez faire, secular materialism of the largely post-Christian European societies.

A great deal of what is being written in this regard smacks of crude xenophobia, but on the other hand the actions of many Muslims themselves - including terrorism, violent riots, assassinations and intimidation - lend weight to those alarmist predictions.

If European Muslims resist being seduced by the temptations of the secular host societies and maintain their fiercely determined commitment to the precepts of their faith, we are indeed destined to witness a kulturkampf of epic proportions. If this proves to be the case, last year's Danish cartoon fiasco will have provided just a small taste of what is to come.

Wrote Paul Johnson in the May 5 007 issue of the *Spectator*: "I am beginning to think the English no longer exist. Westbourne Grove, just off which I live, I call Calcutta West, a throbbing hub of Afro-Asian activity now supervised by beady-eyed Polish overseers."

Johnson also comments on the surprising passivity of his countrymen in the face of a foreign influx that is changing their national psyche forever:

"...they don't seem to care much. They have given up. If there is still such an entity as the English, their salient characteristic is apathy."

What is true of England is equally true of France, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and many other European countries. Obviously, the increasingly globalised economy is at the heart of these changes, but the extraordinary lack of resistance from the host cultures is also due to the prevailing intellectual climate that is deeply hostile to even the concept of an over-arching national identity.

It has been suggested that it is this latter way of thinking that explains the Left's intensifying hostility to the State of Israel - not merely against its policies, but against its very existence as a "Jewish" state.

Certainly, certain detribalized Jewish leftists such as the academic Tony Jud, are doing much to propagate the view that Israel is an "anachronism" in today's melting-pot world.



**BARBARIC
YAWP**
David Saks

In reality, of course, such arguments are really a fig leaf for those who hate the idea of a Jewish majority state anywhere, Israel being one of the most multi-ethnic, multi-cultural countries in the world.

In addition to a Jewish population drawn from all over the world and a large Arab minority, there are hundreds of thousands of foreign workers from South-East Asia and elsewhere. Many of these are now de facto citizens of Israel.

The countries most likely to experience these large-scale influxes of foreign migrants are those whose economies and democratic institutions are most developed. This explains why South Africa is experiencing something very similar to what is happening in Europe.

No-one knows how many former residents of Zaire, Zimbabwe, Mozambique or Nigeria, to name just a few obvious examples, are now settled more or less permanently within our borders.

That South Africa has become a magnet for so many immigrants is certainly a testimony to its success. It is surely something to be proud of that so many of Africa's "huddled masses" have found a safe home within it. The downside is that its already overstretched resources are being subjected to additional demands that simply cannot be met.

South Africans are in effect being forced to carry the can for a host of failed African states, and risks in consequence becoming a failed state itself.

Obviously, everyone thinks of Zimbabwe, the quintessential Afro-fascist banana dictatorship whose continuing implosion is causing havoc on our northern borders and desperate economic refugees force their way across the border.

It is an escalating crisis that our government, blinded by its Struggle-era loyalties, seems unable to recognise. Naturally, Mugabe himself won't mind; it takes some of the pressure off him and enables him to evade facing the consequences of his disastrous policies.

What, however, is South Africa going to do with tens of thousands of destitute new immigrants, particularly given that most of its own citizens still live in poverty?

The politically incorrect solution would be recolonisation. South Africa could easily invade its wretched neighbour, overthrowing with ease the embattled Zanu-PF administration and annexing that beautiful land as a tenth province. It won't happen, but it might be the only way now to rescue that benighted country.

Speaking of Which...

Lionel Slier

IT WAS mealtime on the El Al flight. "Would you like dinner?" the flight attendant asked Shlomo. "Do I have a choice?" Shlomo asked. "Sure," replied the flight attendant, "Yes or no".

Hillel said: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And being for myself only, what am I? And if not now, when?"

Separate not thyself from the community. Trust not in thyself until the day of thy death. Judge not thy neighbour until thy art come into his place. (Ethics of The Fathers).

Then there was the Jewish woman who was excused jury duty. She insisted that she was guilty.

And the man who, before he gets up, reads the obituary column in the morning newspaper every day. If his name isn't there, then he gets dressed and goes out.

A notice on the front door of the hall: "Will those attending the Weight Watcher's meeting, kindly use the double doors at the side entrance?"

A man received a phone call from his wife: "The car is stuck. There is water in the carburettor," she said. "Where is the car now?" he asked. "In the river," she said.

An elderly man sent a postcard and on it he wrote: "Do not worry if you don't receive this postcard."

AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

'HEZBOLLAH HAS COMPLETELY REARMED'

JERUSALEM - Hezbollah has restored its military capabilities to their prewar levels. In an assessment to Israel Radio, a senior Israeli defence official said that Syria was transferring weapons to Hezbollah with the full awareness of Lebanon's army but behind the back of Unifil, the United Nations force in Lebanon.

The official said Hezbollah preferred things to remain calm for now, so it could continue to build its military capabilities

and restore the sites from which rockets were fired at Israel during last summer's war.

A preliminary report issued in April by the Israeli commission investigating the government's performance during the war pointed out that the government's main wartime goals were not prosecuted successfully, including delivering a crippling blow to Hezbollah and recovering the two Israeli soldiers abducted by the Lebanese militia. (JTA)

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ARTS MATTERS

COMPILED BY ROBYN SASSEN

Call 084-319-7844 or info@frodo.co.za at least one week prior to publication

Alexander Theatre, Braamfontein: "Rent", produced by Hazel Feldman with musical direction by Bryan Schimmel, until end September. (011) 340-8128.

Civic Theatre, Braamfontein: In the Nelson Mandela, "Fiddler on the Roof", directed by Genna Lewis until August 19. In the People's Theatre, "Babe, the Sheep-Pig", until August 11. (011) 877-6800.

Goodman Gallery, Rosebank, Johannesburg: "Mute! Scream! Mute!", photographs by Nontsikelelo Veleko, until August 11. (011) 788-1113.

Goodman Gallery, Woodstock, Cape Town: "Social Fabric", work by Eliza Kentridge, Billie Zangewa and Johannes Segogela. Until August 18. (021) 462-7573.

Johannesburg Art Gallery, Joubert Park: "DungaManzi: Stirring Waters" Tsonga and Shangaan art, curated by Nessa Leibhammer, Natalie Knight and Billy Makhubele, until August 18. "Africa Remix", a major show of contemporary African art, until September 30. (011) 725-3130.

Liberty Theatre on the Square, Sandton: The lunchtime

music concert features Jacques Fourie (violin), Elmarie van der Vyver (viola) and Anneke Lamont (piano) on July 27, and Ventura Rosenthal (harp) on August 3. Jo Watson's "The Ex-Files", until July 28. Patrick Mynhardt performs his "Boy from Bethulie": July 31 - August 4. (011) 883-8606.

Market, Newtown: In the Main Theatre, Sibikwa presents "Maru" directed by Phyllis Klotz, until August 4. In the Laager, David Harrower's "Blackbird", until August 19. In the Barney Simon, Craig Higginson's "Dream of the Dog", until August 26. (011) 832-1641.

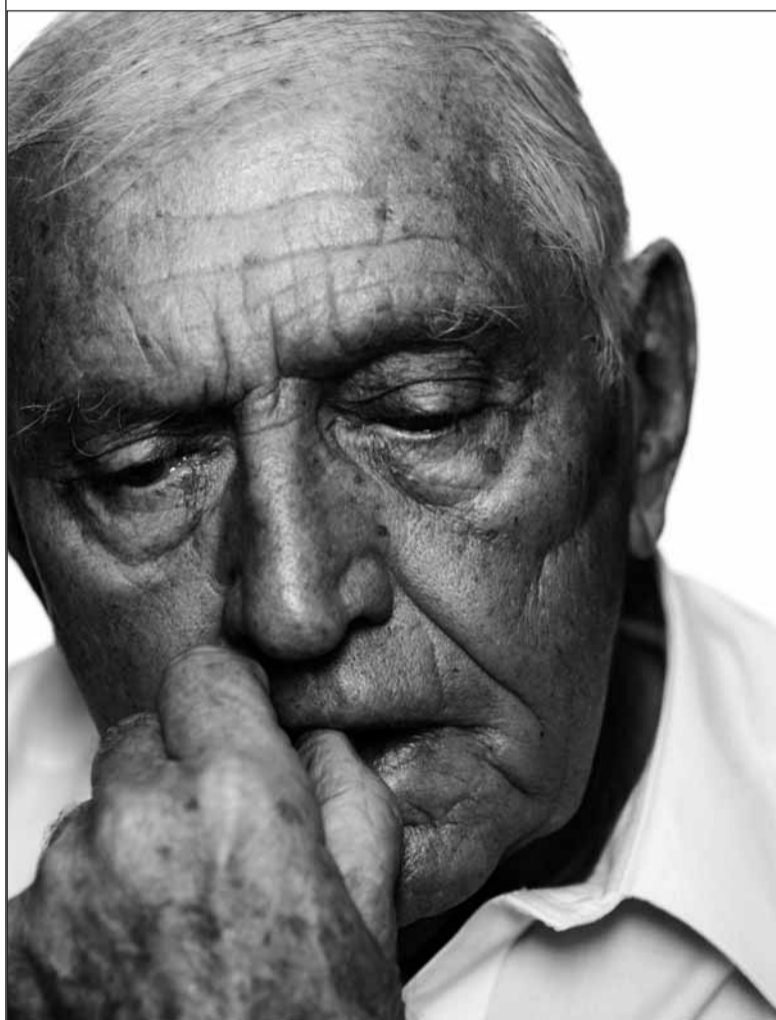
Montecasino, Fourways: "Liberocco" - pianist Rocco de Villiers plays tribute to king of bling, Liberace until September 2. In the Studio, "Good Evening", directed by Alan Swerdlow, until September 9. "The Lion King" in The Teatro, until September 9. (011) 511-1988.

National Children's Theatre, Parktown: "A Pocket Oliver Twist", directed by Joyce Levinsohn, until August 4. (011) 484-1584.

Villa Pascal House of Music, Durbanville, Cape Town: Balladeer Matt Stern performs a show about romance on August 1. (021) 975-2566.

Worldart Johannesburg, Central Johannesburg: Arlene Amaler-Raviv holds a solo exhibition, until August 31. 082-901-5045.

Patrick Mynhardt who performs his "Boy from Bethulie" this week at Liberty Life Theatre on the Square. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY LIBERTY LIFE THEATRE ON THE SQUARE)



Catch and Release

Cast: Jennifer Garner, Timothy Olyphant, Sam Jaeger, Kevin Smith, Juliette Lewis
Director: Susannah Grant

What do we actually know about the person with whom we are in love? This is the nagging question that emerges in Susannah Grant's production and causes undue problems for the lead character, Gray Wheeler, when her fiancé dies on the eve of their wedding.

His untimely death has forced her to face a lot of things about the man's past, including a relationship with a brassy massage therapist (an annoying Juliette Lewis), a son that may or not be his and a fortune she knows nothing about.

Director Susannah Grant, who makes her debut behind the camera with this one, never gets to grips with the issues at hand and prefers to gloss over it all. The end result is a disjointed romantic comedy that succeeds in serving nobody.

There are too many jumbled elements involved, including some absurd plot manipulations.

Jennifer Garner, as Wheeler, adds a dash of charm to her persona as she grapples with a severe situation.

Brought into the mix are a housemate Dennis (Sam Jaeger), who has loved her from afar, and a man named Fritz (Timothy Olyphant), in town for the funeral, with whom she eventually gets romantically entangled.

I liked the touch of having a scruffy Kevin Smith playing one of her dead fiancé's housemates because it adds a welcome dash of off-the-wall humour.

However, whatever way you look at "Catch and Release" it remains a formula-driven romantic comedy with few sparks.

The Simpson's Movie

Voices of: Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner, Nancy Cartwright, Yeardley Smith, Hank Azaria, Harry Shearer, Pamela Hayden, Tress MacNeille
Director: David Silverman

The Simpson's remain one of the world's funniest animated cartoons and their success can be gauged by the fact that this famous dysfunctional family



**FELDMAN
ON FILM**

Peter Feldman

have had 18 seasons on the small screen. They have garnered innumerable awards and *Time* magazine once described it as the "best television show of the twentieth century".

I suppose one needs the big screen to truly capture Homer Simpson's epic stupidity. In the first full-length animated feature, Homer is held responsible for a major catastrophe in Springfield involving his new pet pig and a leaky silo full of droppings.

As the ever reliable Marge discovers the blunder, a vengeful mob descends on the Simpson household. The family makes a narrow escape, but is soon divided by both location and conflict.

As the fates of Springfield and the world hang in the balance, Homer embarks on a personal odyssey of redemption - seeking forgiveness from Marge, the reunion of his splintered family, and the salvation of his hometown. Fans will enjoy it.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

The cast of "Rent" singing "La Vie Bohème."



A showstopping, soul-lifting experience

Show: "Rent" (Alexander Theatre, Braamfontein. (011) 340-8128)

Cast: Duane Alexander, Zane Gillion, Ilse Klink, Talia Kodesh, Thokozni Nzima, Aubrey Poo, Sivan Raphaely and Shaun V, supported by Grant Almirall, Genna Galloway, Lorri Glajchen, Keeno-Lee Hector, Chantal Herman, Anton Luitingh, Nobuntu Mpahlaza, Jonathan Swart and Jaco van Heerden

Band: Bryan Schimmel (keyboards), Rowan Bakker (piano), Jiggs Downing (bass guitar), Jean Gabriel (drums), Edwin Randell (second keys and second guitar), Ryno Zeelie (guitar)

Director: Anthony Rapp

Producer: Hazel Feldman

Choreographer: Jill Somers

Until: end September

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

BURSTING ONTO the stage at the beautifully refurbished Alexander theatre in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, "Rent" is a showstopper that will lift your spirits and raise your energy levels because of its sizzling slick performances and stunning music.

Written by Billy Aronson in 1988 with music composed by Jonathan Larson, "Rent" is fashioned along the lines of Puccini's "La Bohème" - bohemian disarray from late 19th century Paris is replaced with the brashness and scanty morals of mid-1990s New York; absinthe is replaced by cocaine, consumption by Aids.

Poverty's tale is universal and age-old as is love's.

The other difference is that cloying, mawkish love is ditched in the name of crazy, frenetic often brashly expressed love and friendship in the face of inevitable death.

It's a complicated story, jagged in the telling, but smooth in its spectacular appeal with visually satisfying choreography.

Benny used to be the loft-mate of Roger and Mark, in a fashionably industrial New York building. He marries a rich heiress and buys the building, demanding rent of his erstwhile friends.

He also used to be the boyfriend of Mimi, who takes a shine to Roger and subsequently reveals her HIV status. Collins is a friend of Mark and Roger. He is mugged in the street while visiting them, and meets and falls in

love with drag queen Angel, who also has Aids.

Maureen is a bisexual activist musician, vying for the case of the homeless in the district. She used to be Mark's girlfriend, but is now involved with Joanne, a lawyer.

The cast is strong and young. Several performances stand out - including Talia Kodesh as Mimi, the tragic beautiful young coke addict. She has a powerful singing voice, a convincing acting presence and boy, can she move!

Sivan Raphaely plays Maureen. She's slick, she's sexy and she has a singing voice that is both sincere and dramatic.

Zane Gillion as Angel, steals the show and holds it together with his fully camped up physical presence. His is the only ability to consistently articulate his words properly throughout the production. When he bursts on stage, you sit up and take notice.

The vocal range and sophistication of Aubrey Poo and Shaun V, as Collins and Roger respectively, is also top class.

While the balance of music and vocals is happy in this wood-panelled auditorium, where the acoustics are good and the space intimate, the production is hurt by articulation not always distinct; for this reason the story-line blurs.

This Aids-focused Rock opera was first penned at a time when it was avant-garde to acknowledge one's Aids status and sexy to be snorting cocaine, but the values of love, self-belief and humanity are credibly expressed and hold true.

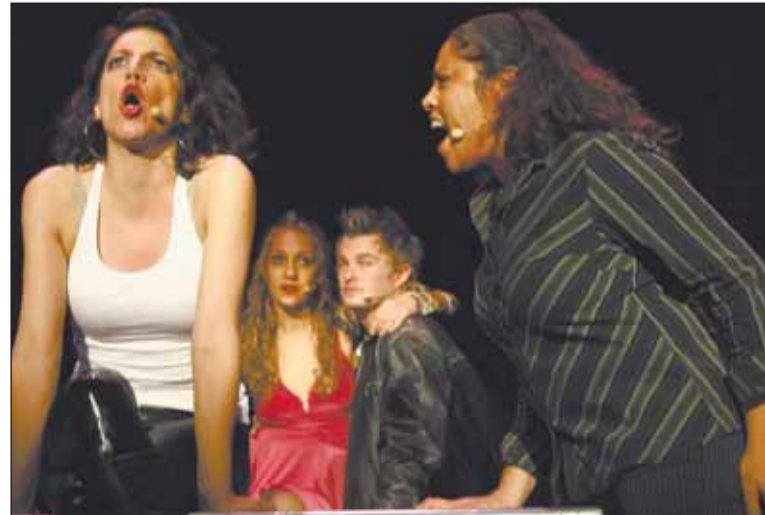
"Rent" takes on a tinge of nostalgia in terms of how universal the Aids pandemic has become.

It's a long show - close to three hours - but it's easy to lose yourself in the hurly-burly of a year - "Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes" as the song puts it - in the lives of these outcasts.

Under the musical direction of the incomparable Bryan Schimmel, this production is musically magnificent - the layering of tone and contrast in several ensemble pieces are sheer splendour in the manner in which performers harmonise polyphonically.

"Rent" is another "must-see" on Gauteng's entertainment calendar. If the Aids-narrative doesn't get you, the incredible performances of this talented cast will, and if that doesn't work, the utterly magnificent art deco space of the Alexander brought back to true glory (albeit with seating a tad tightly spaced), should.

In the foreground, Sivan Raphaely as activist musician Maureen Johnson, with Ilse Klink as lawyer Joanne Jefferson, her girlfriend. In the background, Talia Kodesh as HIV-positive cokehead Mimi Marquet with Shaun V as Roger Davis, her boyfriend. (PHOTOGRAPHS: RUPHIN COUDYZER)



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ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

A message which creates magic out of dust and blood

Play: "Reach" by Lara Foot Newton
Director: Clare Stopford
Cast: Aletta Bezuidenhout, Mbulelo Grootboom
Venue: Baxter Sanlam Studio, Cape Town

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

SOUTH AFRICAN audiences have recently been inundated by a spate of bad plays about violent crime, a topic that seems to be dominating national headlines and obsessing contemporary playwrights.

Lara Foot Newton, however, has avoided the emotional wallowing, tirades, anger and political sloganeering that can so easily destroy a dramatic work. Instead, she offers a subtle, superbly crafted play that finds its mark in understatement, restraint and extraordinarily powerful imagery.

"Reach", writes Newton, was written as a response to the upsurge of brutal homicides in South African cities - including the 2006 murder of actor Brett Goldin - and her own conversations with psychotherapist Tony Hamburger. Thus the scene is set.

Marion Banning (Bezuidenhout) is an elderly white widow, living alone on a homestead and still paralysed by grief after the slaying of her only son, Jonathan, by a group of gangsters seven years previously.

Emaciated, disorientated and no longer willing to engage with the world outside her windows, she spends her days and nights in an apathetic stupor, smoking, sleeping and writing (but seldom posting) long letters to her daughter, Anne, in Australia.

Enter 19-year-old Solomon Xaba, who approaches her home one day reluctant to intrude, but determined to fulfil the duty which he - as a terrified 12-year-old witness to her son's murder - has long been avoiding. This obligation, prescribed by his own ethnic values, involves giving Marion a message which Jonathan had asked him to take to her - the last words her child uttered on this earth.

Yet the encounter of these two people - the stricken mother and the guilt-laden youngster, who has himself lost his family - strikes chords that echo far beyond the relaying of Jonathan's message.

Both are deeply damaged individuals, weighed down by loneliness and disillusionment. Above all, both are afraid: of trusting themselves or others, of confronting the past and - particularly - embracing the future.

As they begin to explore each other's pain, their conflicting backgrounds recede, giving place to a more urgent connection than can be defined by cultural or socio-political context. Slowly, channels within and between them are opened, until both are led back to their common humanity: a place where healing, hope and courage are possible.

Bezuidenhout's reading of Marion Banning is impeccable. Wryly humorous, innately compassionate, bemused by the gentleness and candour of her young visitor, she is at once believable and utterly natural. Newton's marvellous script, with its central images of fragility and impermanence - eggs, veins, faded garments - is economical and almost unbearably moving.

Grootboom, as the diffident, generous Solomon, is the perfect foil

for Bezuidenhout's needy, disintegrating character. His view of her anguish is direct, untainted by race or sex, and driven by the same imperative which leads him to fix broken appliances, repair furniture, repaint walls and make the house a fitting place in which to return to life.

As the old woman and the teenager teach each other to give and receive, both are newly empowered.

Clare Stopford's direction is masterful, balancing and strengthening the play's poignancy with levity, regular alternations of pace and shifting points of focus. Neither character is allowed to dominate the other in a dialogue that challenges, teases and, ultimately, defies their shared pain.

Birrie le Roux's set is simple and suggestive, filled with symbols drawn from the play's theme: old blankets, unswept floors, dead leaves and neglected shelves.

On opening night, the production received - and richly deserved - a standing ovation.

Ultimately, Jonathan's message to his mother is one to all of us. Newton has created a vehicle which creates magic out of dust and blood, and reminds us of who we are, why we are here, and - most importantly - what we could be.

This play - true to its name - reaches our most vital core and offers upliftment, belief and exhilaration. It is a compelling reason for South African audiences to return to the theatre.

* "Reach" runs at Cape Town's Baxter Sanlam Studio until August 11, and thereafter at the Market Theatre in Newtown, Johannesburg, from September 10 to October 20. Bookings at Computicket.



Mbulelo Grootboom and Aletta Bezuidenhout in scenes from "Reach".



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Blackbird - what a zinger of a play!

Show: "Blackbird" by David Harrower
Cast: John Vine, Katie Wimpenny, with Chiara Milner
Director: Jeremy Herrin
Venue: Laager Theatre at the Market complex
Until: August 19

REVIEWED BY PETER FELDMAN

CHILD ABUSE and paedophilia are very real problems in the world today and attempting to confront such searing issues in a play, with warts and all revealed, shows a courageous playwright, indeed.

Scottish writer David Harrower has, through an exchange system between Live Theatre UK and the Market Theatre, resurrected his riveting work, "Blackbird" on South African soil. The play was first presented as part of the Edinburgh International Festival in 2005 and was later produced in London and in New York.

South Africans are fortunate to witness a play of this strength and depth, with two gifted UK performers at the helm. The pow-

ers at the Market should be congratulated for staging a work of such a deeply disturbing and controversial nature.

The moment you step into the claustrophobic Laager Theatre you are confronted by chaos. The set, which represents the staff room in a British factory, has garbage strewn all over the floor. It's a mess.

It's here that the two protagonists Ray (John Vine) and Una (Katie Wimpenny) face their worst demons, and it's in this confrontational state that the play's many layers are illuminated.

The play is only an hour long, but during this time a world of pain explodes in the faces of the older, more mature Ray and Una, the woman who has spent 15 years trying to track him down.

Ray and Una had a relationship, which devastated their lives and the lives of the people around them. Since then Ray has moved on. He has a new life, a new identity. He didn't think he could be found.

Una has thought of little else

but finding him; on discovering where Ray is, she sets out to confront him, with shattering consequences.

What unravels here is a gripping but unsettling drama that encapsulates the unresolved, misshapen, emotional mess that might accompany any suddenly interrupted relationship, legal or otherwise.

An important facet of this production is that Harrower raises a number of awkward and unsettling questions about the two characters and the ending is left largely in limbo.

There is a distinct air of uncertainty about Ray and Una. Was she a promiscuous 12-year-old, when their affair began, or was she just an innocent ensnared by Ray's darker intensions?

And has Ray managed to overcome his unsavoury sexual tendencies and is he now able to live a reasonably normal life?

Both imported performers are a joy to watch. They seize ownership of their roles and, at one stage in the proceedings audiences will be jolted at the sheer physicality of the performances. There is also a short walk on by Johannesburg schoolgirl, Chiara Milner.

UK director, Jeremy Herrin, keeps a tight rein on things and, in the process, has helped produced a zinger of a play.

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.

Jewish Report 'should take stand of silence'

I WAS distressed to see that editorial space was dedicated to the "disturbing incident" referred to in last week's paper.

The editorial begins with a claim that "As a responsible community newspaper, we are not interested in salacious details of the saga and the personalities involved", and yet, as one read on, the uncomfortable feeling set in that you were still undecided as to whether to grant the "disturbing incident" coverage - as demonstrated by the following: "...should it become necessary in the public interest to take a stand, we will do so."

One can understand your deemed necessity to defend the appearance of being amiss by not previously covering the matter. However, this understanding diminishes when one considers that your publication is the *Jewish Report*. As Jews we know that slander, particularly if it is true, is one of the worst transgressions a Jew is capable of.

If your assessment is correct that "... it would be naïve not to acknowledge that there is virtually not a Jewish family that has not discussed it", then this would be an even greater tragedy. We have just observed the saddest period in the Jewish calendar, culminating in Tisha B'Av, the day in which we mourn the destruction of

both our Temples.

The Chofetz Chayim of blessed memory, explained that the prime cause of our ongoing exile is evil speech (loshon hara). Thus, I am not suggesting that you do not take a stand. Rather, I am imploring you to take a stand of silence. That's a Jewish stand.

I challenge you and all families, schools and communities, to take this stand.

You state that members of the community desperately need leadership and guidance. I am quite sure that our many competent leaders will derive and pass on the lessons to be learnt without directly (or even indirectly) referring to the individuals involved. If we succeed in taking this stand, I believe that we will demonstrate the greatness of the South African Jewish community.

Our tradition teaches that a righteous person is not a person who never falls, but rather a person who falls and gets up again. If the *Jewish Report* takes a stand of silence on this issue, it will go a long way to ensuring that our community is one in which, should G-d forbid an individual fall, that individual will be allowed to get up again.

Bram Waks
Waverley
Johannesburg

Wallach article found to be 'distasteful'

I AM not a member of the Reform community, nevertheless I find your long detailed lead article (*SAJR* page 3, July 13) re Charles Wallach and Temple Emanuel, extremely distasteful.

Of what concern is it to the general Jewish community if the minister and his Temple are having a dispute over their contract? Is this not an internal matter which is the concern of the Temple's committee and congregation?

Such unwarranted publicity and transparency is known as "Marbeh Machloket B'Yisrael" - to incite and increase dissension in Israel.

For those who participate in such an exercise, the A-mighty reserves a spe-

cial "Blessing" - one he used for Korach and his followers.

Rabbi Azriel C Goldfein
Johannesburg

The Jewish Report is a newspaper for the ENTIRE Jewish community. We believe we handled a very sensitive - and newsworthy - matter with the utmost decorum and cannot for one moment agree that it only concerns "the Temple's committee and congregation". Should we adhere to this narrow role, we would be relegated to report on virtually nothing but "feel good" stories and tea parties. - Editor

Denzil Levy not only Grand Master

I REFER to the article on Dr Denzil Levy (*SA Jewish Report* July 20 July).

Dr Levy was not the only Jew in South Africa to have held the office of Grand Master of the Scottish Freemasons. The Grand Master always resides in Scotland.

Dr Levy was District Grand Master of the Eastern Cape, as was my brother-in-law Abraham Bernard Jacobs.

Dr Willie Spark.
Riviera
Johannesburg

Relevance is debate's keyword

I WISH to reply to Yossi Bogacz's letter in last week's *Jewish Report* to the effect that my reporting on CAJE's "The Great Debate" was "one-sided" and not fair because I had omitted to mention his contribution to the debate.

Frankly, on the first issue, I fail to understand how a report could be "one sided" when there was only one organisation's rabbis speaking on that particular evening - Ohr Somayach - represented by Rabbis Moffson and Shein.

The other two sessions of the "Great Debate" at which Chabad and Mizrahi were represented, were held on other evenings. Therefore each session was in itself, "one-sided".

I wish to point out that my brief for the *SAJR* was to report on the actual discussions at two of the three sessions of The Great Debate - which I did.

Unfortunately space in the paper is limited. As a result I did not cover the question and answer time at which Mr Bogacz spoke. Nor for that matter did I cover that section at the other of the two sessions attended by me - despite the fact that there were some very valid points made.

However, the comment made by Mr Bogacz that "The six million (Jews in the Holocaust) died because the Nazis had the power and the will to kill them and there

was no G-d to save them", (whether it be true or false), was not relevant to the subject matter of that evening's debate which was basically how the Yeshivish world of Lithuania and the Vilna Gaon had been transplanted anew in the modern world.

Neither was his comment: "For me the Holocaust is the ultimate proof that there is no G-d."

At no time during either of the sessions attended by me did I hear the words "Nazi" or "Holocaust" ever mentioned - either by the rabbis who spoke, nor by any of the attendees. Mr Bogacz's comments were therefore, according to my way of thinking, totally irrelevant to the discussion.

Whether or not G-d was there to save the Jews during the Holocaust or whether there is or isn't a G-d at all, are both subjects for another debate - for those who want to debate them.

Suffice it to say that if and when these subjects are ever mooted for public discussion and I am asked to cover them, I shall report on questions asked only if they are relevant to the topic being discussed and only if there is space allocated to me in the *SAJR*.

Rita Lewis
Fairmount
Johannesburg

Peace in our time?

THE LETTER by Smuts Ngonyama (of the ANC office) published in the *Jewish Report* on June 29, reminds me of (British wartime prime minister) Neville Chamberlain returning from a meeting with Hitler in Munich 1939, waving a peace of paper stat-

ing "Peace in our time".

Shortly afterwards Hitler attacked Poland.

H Cohen
Edenvale

Complaint on behalf of all Jews

I WISH to clarify a certain matter relating to the UOS's complaint to the Advertising Standards Authority regarding the deceptive and offensive public advertising of "Jews for Jesus".

As correctly reported in the *SAJR* (July 20), while the complaint was lodged in the name of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues, and the ASA did rule that the advertising is offensive to "Orthodox" Jews,

our complaint was not submitted only in the name of the Orthodox community, but on behalf of the overwhelming majority of Jews, who are offended by the aims and tactics of organisations such as "Jews for Jesus", irrespective of their level of religious observance.

Darren Sevitz
Executive Director
UOS

'Inaccuracies' in Jews for Jesus reporting

YOUR REPORT on the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) decision regarding the Jews for Jesus bus shelter advert was inaccurate on one point and incomplete on another. We'd like to take this opportunity to correct both.

One, we weren't ordered to "immediately remove" the advert. We are, however, taking it down at the end of the month, which is within the ASA's time frame to withdraw this claim and coincides with the end of our current contract.

Our plans to replace it with another advert will go on as scheduled.


Secondly, the "reversal" (which was not a reversal but the consideration of a new objection) of their ruling, affects only one

of the two adverts cited in the complaint. The one entitled, "Y'shua Who Do You Think He Is?" will continue to be used.


On another matter, we find it rather remarkable that an advertising organisation has taken it upon itself to weigh in on the theological debate over whether Jewish doctors who believe in Jesus can call themselves Jews.


If one followed the ASA's reasoning, first century Jews for Jesus like Peter, Paul and James could be charged with making false claims by embroidering "Jewish Apostles for Jesus" on their camel blankets.

Dr Michael Sischy
Director Jews for Jesus SA



Born on the Russian-Polish border in 1910.
Studied at Slonim and Mir Yeshivot.
Arrived in South Africa in 1937.
Spiritual leader of the old Benoni shul and Berea Hebrew Congregation for 27 years.
Associated with the Beth Din since 1940.
Acknowledged as the senior Rabbi of South African Jewry and universally recognised for his vast knowledge and love of humanity.
His contribution to the growth and strength of the South African Jewish Community was immeasurable.
Your presence will do honour to the late Rabbi Aloy of blessed memory





Harav Hagaon
Rav Yirmeyahu Aloy
זכר צדיק לברכה

Guest Speakers:
Dayan Boruch Rapoport
"Gelatin: Getting into the Thick of Things"
Rabbi Yossy Goldman
"Rabbi Aloy: The Rabbi, The Man, The Mentsch"

Date: 2 August 2007
Time: 8.00 pm
Venue: HOD - 58 Oaklands Rd

Refreshments will be served

Tel: (011) 485-4865

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Michael Bagraim,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

THE THEME of the Board's 44th national conference, now barely a month away, is "Challenges to Bridge Building". As this suggests, the aim is to examine the Jewish community's role within the greater society and how to address the kind of problems that undermine our endeavours to establish harmonious relationships with our fellow South Africans.

One of the highpoints of the conference, the full agenda of which will be made available shortly, is sure to be the participation of our distinguished guest David Harris.

David is executive director of the American Jewish Committee and widely regarded as one of the world's foremost Jewish communal professionals. He will be the keynote speaker at the opening night and will also be participating in the main conference in the opening session entitled "Being a Zionist in the Diaspora today".

We are very much looking forward to hearing his perspectives on the key issues facing world Jewry and to benefiting from his experiences as one of the foremost fighters against the evils of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism.

It is a reality that many leading figures in government and the media have very negative views about Israel, and this is one of the most difficult challenges we face as a community when it comes to building bridges.

These challenges are not insurmountable, however, as our recent experiences have shown. Without compromising on our support for Israel, we have exploited numerous opportunities to put our case at the highest levels.

Counting down to national conference

While it is sometimes necessary to take a confrontational stance, we far prefer a handshake to a clenched fist. This week's issue of the paper includes a report on our meeting with one of the most senior leaders in the media sphere, Dr Snuki Zikalala of the SABC.

We had laid a formal complaint against Dr Zikalala for his reported comment that the SABC's policy was to take a pro-Palestinian line, but we decided to meet with him to see if our differences could be dealt with without the necessity of going to a formal hearing. The positive results of the ensuing meeting would seem to have more than borne out the wisdom of this decision, and we are very hopeful that it will bear substantial fruits in the future.

Interacting with the various Jewish communities countrywide has certainly been one of the most satisfying features of my four years in the national chair. Also last week, together with our national director, Wendy Kahn, I paid my last visit in this capacity to the Bloemfontein Jewish community. Once again, I was impressed by how the members of this small and geographically isolated community have managed to keep fully in touch with what is happening in the wider Jewish world.

Instead of giving a routine report-back, we were fully engaged in answering questions and receiving feedback. It underlined how much Jews throughout South Africa have in common with one another. We are truly one family, sharing the same ideals and with the same staunch Jewish and Zionist loyalties.



WIZO South Africa
Jane Levitas

A column of WIZO South Africa

IT ALL started when an 8th grade pupil in the WIZO youth village, Hadassim, gave a presentation about the situation in Dafur, Sudan. "We were in shock," said one of his classmates. "We decided to do something."

The pupils split into groups: one to increase global awareness, another to pressure people of influence in Israel, and to raise funds.

They also set up a website in Hebrew with graphic photographs, and representatives of the class appeared on a popular TV show.

This is the second year that the children of Hadassim WIZO, have done something active in aid of society, rather than just learning theoretically about helping others.

Their efforts were rewarded when one of the Hadassim children spoke in English to more than a 100 children from the American School, who were so impressed that they decided to participate in joint projects with the Hadassim 8th graders.

WIZO Jerusalem was founded in 1933 and has varied activities in the historic capital of the Jewish people. Due to security and the financial situation, many families request help, which puts a great economic strain on WIZO Jerusalem.

Unfortunately, the strength of the Israeli shekel as opposed to the dollar and the decreased exchange rate, make it difficult for WIZO Israel to fulfil their commitments, yet they continue and even develop new initiatives such as the struggle for the empowerment and equality of women.

They focus on the low number of women in government, the murder of women, unemployment and its effect on women, especially on single-parent families.

WIZO Jerusalem's thousands of volunteers run a myriad services and activities, including 19 day-care centres and six

The many faces of WIZO

women's centres. Possibly the best-known of WIZO Jerusalem's projects is the WIZO Rebecca Sieff Family Centre in Beit Ha'Kerem.

This multifaceted centre services 300 children in its day-care centre, 120 youth in the WIZO Secondary School and hundreds more in the morning and afternoon enrichment programmes.

There are programmes for senior citizens; a Centre for the Prevention of Violence, for families and children at high risk.

The School for Women's Political Leadership, in partnership with the Jewish Agency, is an innovative project for the training and advancement of women's leadership. It prepares its graduates for quality leadership combined with social and political endeavours.

The first course of WIZO in Israel "To Prepare Women for Directorate Positions", has recently been opened in Jerusalem. In light of the lack of women in key positions, WIZO sees the establishment of the school as a special challenge which will enable women to gain the tools to join public directorates, to reach, and have influence in key decision-making positions.

Volunteers of WIZO Jerusalem try their utmost to answer the needs of the very special and diverse population of Yerushalayim Shel Zahav.

We were proud to learn that the WIZO Addisia Project has been awarded a prize by the mayor of Afula for its contribution to society. This project provides work for Ethiopian women who embroider beautiful articles, using skills that were handed down from generation to generation.

A closing message from Tova Ben-Dov, chairman of World WIZO:

The country is blooming and with it also the tourist industry. I invite you to come and join us, to visit Israel, and particularly the Galilee which suffered so much last summer, to breathe the wonderful air and enjoy the unique experience that is Israel.

Carmel School has its '73 & '74 reunion

DIANE WOLFSON
PRETORIA

THIS PAST weekend approximately 50 former Carmel School friends gathered in Pretoria to celebrate their "coming of age", as they turn 50, with a reunion of the classes of 1973 and 1974.

With many of the group travelling from as far afield as Australia, Canada, Israel and the United Kingdom, together with those still living in Pretoria and other cities in South Africa, the festivities began on Friday night with a communal Shabbat supper held at Jaffa old age home.

Shabbat lunch and supper Saturday night preceded the lunch held on Sunday at Wingate Park Country Club, ending a weekend of very little sleep, much laughter and the sharing of many memories which clearly have not dimmed over the

years.

There was much amusement at realising how some had not changed at all, while others could not be recognised (granted most of those now sport beards which they never had at school!)

Sharing of photographs, shouting of school war cries and watching an outstanding Powerpoint presentation portraying photos ranging from grade one until today with their families, was enjoyed by all, with much giggling and laughing.

A box of notes written by standard 3 and 4 pupils and which had been kept all these years, written in childish code, were read out to the amused group.

The main organisers of the reunion were Jenny Saunders (nee Frichol) and Melanie Fish (nee Lief).

* Anyone wanting to be kept informed about future reunions should contact

either <mailto:fishyfam@iafrica.com> fishyfam@iafrica.com or <mailto:saundersfam@absamail.com> or saundersfam@absamail.com



Allan Chasen; Ian Schwartz; Renee (Grevler) Michaelis; Renee (Isaacson) Schwabsky; Anne (Falkson) Nikfard; Allan and Michelle (Grusiner) Kopelowitz; Barry Sher; Clive Novis.



Hilary (Abratt) Jocum; Jeffrey Rink; Pam (Meyerowitz) Chasen, (obscured is Howard Yuter); Mark Cramer; Steven Bernstein, Lauren (Fasser) Krish; Vivienne (Levinson) Paiken.

Where are all our beautiful brides?

THE WIZO/SA Jewish Report bridal competition to select our Jewish Bride of the Year for 2006/2007, is going full steam ahead. The culminating function will be held in March 2008. Again, as in the past, there will be a host of delectable prizes.

Our competition for 2007 follows last year's highly successful format. The rules are as follows:

1. Entries close at the end of December 2007. All brides married from July 2006 until then, are eligible for entry.
2. Bride must be present in Johannesburg at the time of judging.
3. The top 25 finalists must be in Johannesburg for the final interview judging, at their own expense or they will be disqualified.
4. The winner must become an active member of WIZO for one year following the competition.

5. No photographers are permitted to send in photographs without the bride's written permission. The only photographs permitted for entry are those submitted by the bride herself. All entries MUST be signed by the bride herself.

6. Photographs will be printed within the time frame and discretion of the Jewish Report.

7. All photographs submitted will be judged with the original photograph, so no digital images are permitted.

8. Brides must specify whether they would like their photographs returned to them following the competition. The photographs will be available from the WIZO office at Beyachad in Johannesburg after the culminating function.

9. Very importantly: Please note, all photographs MUST be submitted to WIZO and NOT to the SA Jewish Report.

Send the photos to:
Sheila Levine
WIZO/SAJR Bridal Competition
PO Box 29216
Sandringham
Johannesburg, 2131

or hand-deliver to:
(WIZO at) Beyachad
2 Elray Street
Raedene
Johannesburg
2192

Entry forms can be downloaded:
www.lechaim.co.za

Please send in your photograph with:

Bride's first and maiden names

Place of chupah

Date of wedding

Name of photographer

Contact telephone number

E-mail address

Postal address

postcode

Cell number

Signature, consenting to the printing of this photograph

Would you like to get your photographs back? YES / NO

*Previous entrants who would like their photos back please arrange to collect them from WIZO offices at Beyachad.

Kfar Vradim - 1st time in South Africa



FOR MUSIC lovers across the spectrum - those enchanted by Broadway shows, by jazz through the ages, by the lyrics and tunes of Duke Ellington and George Gershwin, by the magic of the Beatles and Stevie Wonder - the Kfar Vradim Orchestra fulfils every dream.

Forty young musicians between the ages of 12 and 18 have joined together to form one of Israel's most exciting and innovative musical groups, performing in concert with songs and arrangements that have an eternal appeal for young and old.

In association with the Israel Centre and King David Victory Park High School's excellent choir, the South African Zionist Federation has arranged for the Kfar Vradim Orchestra to give a public performance in the King David High School hall, Craighall Road, Victory Park, on Monday August 6 at 19:30.

* Tickets at R50 each are available from the school - call Eida Schneiderman on (011) 446-7862 or from the SAZF offices - Froma on (011) 645-2505.

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Midrash Shmuel's rosh HaYeshiva visits SA

RABBI BINYOMIN Moskovits shlit"a, rosh HaYeshiva of Midrash Shmuel, Jerusalem, is on a visit to South Africa at the invitation of the South African alumni and friends of Yeshiva Midrash Shmuel.

Yeshiva Midrash Shmuel is home to approximately 200 students from across the globe, as well as a kollel of over 100 married students. The yeshiva is renowned for its high level of learning, its emphasis on Jewish outlook and ethics and developing

the ability of its students and preparing them to meet the challenges of today's world.

In a media release the yeshiva says it strives to provide a warm environment in which each student can discover, and reach, his potential. Since its inception 14 years ago, Midrash Shmuel has produced many outstanding Jewish educators and leaders



who have had a significant impact on Jewish communities throughout the world.

Rabbi Moskovits is officiating at the wedding of the son of Mr Mrs Hillel Braun who is a student of Midrash Shmuel.

* For further information, contact Rabbi David Solomon in Israel at +972 52 552 6640 or at midrashoffice@gmail.com

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Nili Amiel dies at age of 70

RITA LEWIS

IT IS not for nothing that Hebrew is called Lashon Kodesh - the Holy Language - for it is the language of the Torah, the Bible and the language spoken in the Holy Land.

Despite the fact that it is so widely spoken and understood, learning it is not an easy thing. The writing starts on the "wrong" side, the letters are totally different to anything else and any other letters in the world and the vowels too have to be recognised as they do not follow the pattern of the consonants.

Realising that learning the language was often a problem for English-speaking people, Nili Amiel who had been a teacher from the start of her career, decided to start a Hebrew ulpan in Johannesburg. Accordingly in 1985 as an adult education initiative, together with another teacher and friend, Ita Graiser the two set up a learning programme at King David Linksfield with Amiel taking the post of principal.

The two women have worked in close harmony together for 22 years, but that friendship and working relationship ended last month when Amiel died aged just 70.

Amiel was born in Tel Aviv, and like all Sabras she was conscripted into the Israeli army and given the task of training refugees from Arab countries.

After finishing her army service, she started teaching in ulpanim in Israel where she helped new immigrants to learn Hebrew, acclimatise to their new living situation

and be able to effect an easy absorption into Israeli society.

In 1965 she came to South Africa, with her then husband, Joseph Amiel and soon after began teaching Hebrew to matric learners at King David Linksfield High School where she became a legend over the years.

She taught at the school for over 20 years after which time she taught at the Torah Academy.

Her daughter recalled that she was an intense, wise, strong-willed, independent and courageous individual who supported all those who were part of her life. She was dear to so many people.

"She was a person with a big personality and a big presence."

As a friend, her strong morals and values as well as clear conviction as to what was wrong and right, made her a devoted and real person.

For her pupils, she created a love of Hebrew through her wisdom, and reservoir of knowledge. She was a teacher in every sense of the word and left many pupils with a lasting legacy.

In fact it was not only her pupils who appreciated her worth for in October 25, 1983 she received an "Outstanding Teacher" certificate from the University of Chicago presented by the dean of the College of the University of Chicago, Donald N Levine.

The certificate was accompanied by a letter which read:

"From conversations with our students over the years, we have found that during the high school careers of most of them, there was

at least one outstanding teacher who really made a difference - someone who introduced them to new vistas and realms of discovery, made serious intellectual demands on them for the first time, or knew how to channel a student's private interests into avenues for significant personal growth.

"Because we believe these important contributions rarely receive the recognition they deserve, the College has for several years asked entering students to help us identify and commend outstanding high school teachers.

"I am pleased to inform you that you have been nominated for our Outstanding Teacher Award by one of the students in this year's entering class. It is with deep admiration and appreciation that I will be sending you under separate cover, an Outstanding Teacher certificate."

Amiel was a lover of the arts and a prolific reader with books being her constant companion through life.

Although she had lived in South Africa for over 40 years, she was a Sabra through and through; she held Israel close to her heart, always wanting to return to her home.

According to her request to be buried in Israel, she was buried in Nachalat Yizchak Cemetery in Tel Aviv.

She is survived by her daughter Talia, son-in-law Paul, grandchildren Gabriel and Ethan and brother Shlomo Friedman.



Nili Amiel, past principal of the Hebrew ulpan in Johannesburg who died recently, photographed while on holiday with her grandchildren.



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Early detection vital in breast cancer

STAFF REPORTER

BREAST CANCER is the fifth most common cause of cancer death. This was revealed at a symposium held at the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre on the illness.

The panel of five doctors included Dr Paul Sneider who spoke on "Mammographic examinations and diagnosis", Dr Elgar Rogaly on "Surgical modalities", Dr Carla Norval on "Reconstruction", Dr Daniel A Vorobiof on "Medical treatment of early breast cancer" and Dr Edna Retter on "Radiation treatment".

Breast cancer survivor Molobatsi Ann Pooe-Shongwe told her personal story. She said that on May 18 last year, she said goodbye to her breasts.

"I felt the lump while taking a leisurely bath. I immediately went into denial and remained in that state for a few weeks before deciding to go and see my doctor. He, however, was away but his locum sent me for an ultrasound and he then assured me it was 'a good lump' because it was mobile and he told me to go home and have a good life."

She decided to go for a second opinion and that doctor too, assured her it was a "good" lump.

She was not happy and went back to her doctor who had, by then returned from holiday. He sent her to Dr Rogaly who did further tests and he confirmed that the "good lump" was, in fact, "a monstrous lump".

"I was in a state of shock and denial. I woke up, I believed,

healthy in the morning and by the end of that day I had the dreaded cancer. I started chemo, which was brutal. I lost my hair and felt nauseated and ill all the time."

From the onset, Pooe-Shongwe decided to get "involved with her cancer" and the options available to her.

"I read up and researched information and made it my business to know everything, to ask the doctors questions and not to abdicate the responsibility of my health to doctors who are fallible. After all, two confirmed my lump as benign."

"But there is hope at the end of the road, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Breast cancer is not a freight train. I am alive. I am a person living with cancer. I have joy and want no pity," she said.

Dr Sneider said every woman should have a mammogram done at least once a year.

The common belief, he said, was that if it was not genetic, women would not get it.

"This is a fallacy. Eighty per cent of the cases we see are spontaneous, with no genetic history."

Sneider said breast cancer was becoming more common but early recognition meant easy treatment. He also dismissed self-examination, saying early breast cancer could often not be felt and could only be found with a mammogram.

The main causes were obesity, alcohol abuse and genetics, especially in Ashkenazi Jews.

"The incidence is rising, with a quarter of a million new cases being diagnosed worldwide every year. The only weapon is early

detection, which has great success. Mammographs can detect small spots which cannot be felt," he said.

Sneider dismissed new "gimmicks" on the market to detect breast cancer. These include a new bra which is said, will prevent breast cancer. Another is a new plastic glove which allegedly penetrates breast tissue and detects cancer.

"This is false information and can kill. People should not be fooled. The only weapon against breast cancer is mammography," he said.

Mammographs were no longer painful as they had been in the past. New, modern equipment rendered the examination painless.

If an irregularity was detected, doctors used digital imaging, followed by a needle biopsy and finally a special investigation, all of which could be done on the spot.

"Most patients today leave the doctor's room with an immediate diagnosis," he said.

Patients who had a mammography once a year could expect a 30 per cent increase in life expectancy. The death rate was reduced by 38 per cent if there were annual tests, by 19 per cent if taken every two years and by 0 per cent if taken every three years. This was because lumps grew by 1mm every six years.

If breasts were bigger, cancer was harder to detect.

Women should start having mammographs from the age of 35, as earlier cancer was now being detected in younger women.

Some breast cancers took the

form of calcification, or chalk-like deposits which could not be felt from the outside. Those could be benign or malignant and again, could only be diagnosed through a mammography.

Sneider said some lumps which could be felt, were cysts filled with watery fluid. Those could be examined through a needle biopsy and were usually benign and would not turn into cancer.

Breast pain did not mean cancer, he stressed. "Most cancers are painless. Pain is usually associated with large, infected lumps which are benign."

Other advice he offers, is not to rely on friends' advice and experiences.

"We often get women coming in and asking us why they are not having what their friends had. No two cancers are the same. Women should do their own research so they can make a well-informed decision on their treatment. Remember it is your right to seek a second opinion."

Dr Carla Norval, plastic and reconstruction surgeon, said a woman's breasts were an integral part of her femininity. Restoring them after breast cancer surgery formed part of a woman's psychological well-being.

There were two methods available - using foreign material or the woman's own tissue.

"It is preferable to do reconstruction immediately, although it not always possible. Implants cannot be done if radiation is needed after the operation. Patients need to be guided by their doctors," she said.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

CONGRESSMEN WARN BUSH ON TERRORIST FUNDING

WASHINGTON - Two US congressmen are circulating a petition warning President George W Bush against allocating US money to a Palestinian government that could be funding terrorists.

On Monday, Representatives Steve Rothman (Democrat New Jersey) and Mike Pence (Republican Indiana) asked colleagues to sign a letter demanding that no money be handed over to Palestinian recipients "if there is a chance that those resources could be redirected to terrorist organisations such as Hamas".

Last week, Bush announced \$80 million in aid to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah security forces and \$194 million in humanitarian aid to the Palestinians.

As a condition of receiving aid, the letter asks that Fatah remove anti-Israel clauses from its constitution. The letter also urges the president to revoke aid to the Palestinians should a new Palestinian unity government include Hamas, unless Hamas renounces terrorism, recognises Israel and agrees to abide by previous Palestinian agreements with the Jewish state. (JTA)

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YOUTH TALK

Romy Salant jewishreport@yahoo.com

Mix of fun, learning and chilling

KEREN POKROY

AS A culmination to the first half of a very exciting and busy year, Bnei Akiva's July Winter Camp 2007 was a smashing hit. Yashar koach to Simi Tucker, rosh Winter Camp and her team for an unforgettable camp.

After much preparation and many hours of hard work by the camp executive and enthusiastic madrichim, all anticipated the unique winter camp experience.

Channichim and madrichim from Roim, Moledet and Shvut of the age groups 13, 14 and 15 years, met early

one Sunday morning ready to embark on the journey to Port Shepstone.

We arrived tired, yet excited and ready for a jam-packed week of fun. After meeting the Cape-tonians and being greeted by the exquisite sea view that is the South Coast, we settled into what was to be our home for the next week. Each day presented new thrilling adventures and time to bond with madrichim and channichim alike.

The daily outings were spectacular and gave everyone the chance

to have fun while forming long lasting relationships. From bonfires on the beach to paintballing, tubing to go-carting, and beach every afternoon, this winter camp was the ideal holiday. A delicious mix of fun, learning and chilling - Bnei Akiva has the recipe of the perfect winter holiday.

The week flew by, ending with a spiritual and uplifting Shabbat that left us all on a natural high. It was then, alas, time to return to the city. But all who participated remain with happy memories, revitalised for a new term.



Moledet girls in the stands cheering the go-cart drivers on.

New friends at Sandringham Gardens

GABY BLUMBERG

ON MONDAY June 25, six grade 7 girls from the Judaism Council, accompanied by Karla Green, the

Judaism Council facilitator, went to Sandringham Gardens.

We gave the residents chocolates and wished them a wonderful day.

We could see that the visit had made the day so much brighter for the old folk, and we had such fun making new friends and cannot wait to go back and visit again.



Gaby Blumberg, Jessica Lieberthal, Ashlee Zlotnick, Davida Kruger and Ashleigh Favish with a resident of Sandringham Gardens.



Karla Green (Judaism Council facilitator) Davida Kruger, Jessica Lieberthal, Ashleigh Favish, Gaby Blumberg and a resident from Sandringham Gardens.

Outreach alive and well at KDL

OWN CORRESPONDENT

OUTREACH IS an important daily component in the lives of all the pupils at King David High, Linksfield.

The Outreach Committee, together with a thriving Interact Club, are constantly involved in assisting less fortunate members of the broader community. In the recent extremely cold weather a massive collection of blankets, jerseys, jackets and scarves was made, much of which was donated to Turning Point, an organisation which shelters homeless children.

Every Friday afternoon, these children are entertained on our campus by members of the Interact Club, who are also involved with Impilo, a home for abandoned babies and a crèche called Toy-Toy.

Proceeds from a showing of Andre the Hypnotist, arranged by our Outreach committee, was



KDL learners with learners from Eastbank High School in Alexandria.

donated to various charities. Heaters and a stove were purchased for Turning Point and donations have been made to many charities from our weekly Shabbat collections.

As a result of enormous sales of Takkie Tax badges for the Quadriplegic Association, King David Linksfield was awarded a vacuum cleaner by Pick 'n Pay Hypermarket, which was subsequently donated to child welfare.

Another successful project was hair-spraying in support of Cansa, raising funds for cancer victims.

A dedicated group of learners visit Sandringham Gardens every Friday afternoon to bring cheer to the aged who live there.

At Pesach, a large collection of foodstuffs was made up for needy Jewish families.

In the new term, all our grade 10 learners will be involved in gemilut chasidim as part of their life orientation programme, and will all do a certain number of volunteer hours at one of the charities such as Selwyn Segal, CHOC, Reach for a Dream, etc.

By far the largest project is our tutoring programme with our adopted school Eastbank High from Alexandria. This projects sees 120 children bussed to our campus every Tuesday afternoon for academic support.



It's 'Me' and KDVP

KING DAVID Victory Park headmaster, Joseph Gerassi with the school mascot, "Me". "Me" was introduced to the school a few years ago with the motto: "Be like me, be proud of VP".

"Me" attends all school functions including open day and all sporting events.

When the gap depends entirely on you

LARA GREENBERG

TAKING OFF a gap year may mean moving into a fully organised programme where all your needs are taken care of, or it could mean putting a back pack together, climbing onto a plane and deciding what to do when (and wherever) you land.

With Israel by Choice, your gap year can be something in the middle. This programme, begins in February and depending on your choice, can run from between five to 10 months

Next year - 2008 - will be the fourth year that the Israel By Choice programme is being run and the participants will benefit from the experience and learning of the past two years.

Take a look at this excitingly different programme, look through the specific programme for 2008 and consider taking a year off that will affect every year that follows!

What is Israel By Choice? It's a five or 10 month programme starting in February each year. Targeted are high school graduates, who are not involved in a youth movement, from countries such as Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom, who want to spend a creative gap year in Israel, exploring the land, the people and their Jewish identity.

IBC is a leadership development programme, where through a wide range of experiences participants will gain a deeper insight into

Israeli society and the Jewish people. A dynamic and democratic environment will empower participants to participate in the design of their year and to make important choices throughout the programme.

A strong emphasis is placed on the individual experience, freedom and space, combined with the support and framework of the group.

The program consists of:

- * Option blocks where participants will choose where they want to spend their time volunteering, working or learning.

- * Stimulating seminars, covering topics of Jewish Identity, Israel society, Israel advocacy and Zionism, with participants encouraged to explore the issues in an open and dynamic environment.

- * Tiyulim are interwoven through the programme, bringing the group together for a wide range of challenging experiences as they discover Israeli geography, culture and history.

- * Different encounters with different aspects of Israeli society: different cultural groups, and social and cultural fault lines.

- * Experiencing the Mechina programme designed to produce Israeli leaders of the future in a specially designed version for South Africans and Australians.

If there are a minimum of 12 participants interested in the 10 month option, it will be made available.

What is unique about Israel By Choice?

A key aspect of IBC is empower-

ment. IBC provides an opportunity for participants to explore their own boundaries and interests. Participants are involved in the design and direction of the programme throughout the year. Individual responsibility and group processes create a different dynamic and framework.

Participants and staff of Yeladim Netivot work interdependently to facilitate these processes.

IBC places great importance on the interaction between participants and Israelis. This comes about through working side-by-side with Israelis on various volunteer options, or the unique relationship formed between participants and Israeli students at a pre-army academy through joint programmes, Shabbatot and tiyulim.

* For further information contact Debbie Diamond on 074-147-7235, debdiamond007@gmail.com

YOUTH TALK

New forum to nurture young talent

VICKY FRIEDMAN

FAME ACADEMY performing arts workshops took place at the newly opened Star Quality Performing Arts School in Rosebank this month. The school is the brainchild of professional actress and producer Lauren Wallett, who says the school is "a dream come true".

The school will cater for children of all ages, to train them in the performing arts and related disciplines such as drama, singing, dance, writing and poetry.

These holidays, kids from schools in Johannesburg, including King David Linksfield, King David Victory Park and Yeshiva College, learnt songs and dances from Little Shop of Horrors, Rocky Horror, Mary Poppins and Grease.

Vicky Friedman and Lauren Wallett, are both professional actresses who are committed to nurturing young talent and training the performers of tomorrow.

* For more information, see www.starquality.co.za, e-mail lauren@starquality.co.za or call 084-290-0298.



Back: Vicky Friedman, Cathy Hopkins, Erin Hrustinski, Cassie Shear, Nishlene Mohadeo and Steffani Ovadia, Lauren Wallett.

Second row from back: Kay-Leigh Sussman, Paige van Rooyen, Witness Malope, Amber Liebmann, Daniella Kofsky, Cayla Simpson, Haley Kobrin, Paula Levitt and Carly Friedman.

Third row from back: Alexis Ephron, Alessia Martini, Chelsea Selvan, Lindsey Katz, Romi Maloon, Tahye Munsamy, Talia Isenberg and Jessica Katz.

Front row: Cassidy Gordon, Julia Ziman, Miceala Tucker, Amy Isenberg, Jordi Rubenstein, Tori Rabinowitz, Taryn Selvan, Kelsey Grolman, Kimera Mohadeo, Daniela Martini and Donne Sussman.

Time for cuddling up

NADINE HURWITZ



Some of the Ohr Somayach Sandton pupils cuddling the rabbits at Drakes Farmyard.

FIRST TIME IN SOUTH AFRICA!!

The South African Zionist Federation and the Israel Centre in association with King David Victory Park High School and its superb choir, have pleasure in presenting

The KFAR VRADIM JAZZ ORCHESTRA

40 young musicians, aged between 12 and 18, from the north of Israel and the western Galilee, will be performing music from Broadway shows, jazz through the decades, Gershwin and Duke Ellington, the Beatles and Stevie Wonder.

The Orchestra has performed in the USA, Canada and Hungary; and at the opening of the Maccabi Games in Detroit.

Join us on Monday 6 August in the school hall of the King David High School, Craighall Road, Victory Park, at 19h30.

Tickets at R50 are available from the school and from the offices of the SAZF. Call 011 446 7862 (Eida Schneiderman) 011 645 2505 (Froma Sacks)



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YESHIVA COLLEGE

Yeshiva College, the Torah school of excellence, is a religious Zionist school in Johannesburg, South Africa with 920 learners from ages 2-18. Yeshiva College prides itself on its commitment to developing well-rounded learners with a strong emphasis on both Torah and secular studies. The Yeshiva College and the demands of delivering excellence in Torah education have grown tremendously over the past few years and, as a result, the Yeshiva has identified the need to create a new post.

The Rosh Yeshiva and Honorary Officers invite applications for the post of **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

The successful applicant will have:

- Excellent people and communication skills
- The ability to lead through teamwork, strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- A strong commitment to the ethos of the Yeshiva and to the community it serves
- The ability to foster and develop a positive working relationship with all the Yeshiva's stakeholders – our learners, educators and parents
- The ability to maintain, develop and implement an educational vision for the Yeshiva in line with similar schools internationally
- The ability to manage operations, including marketing, budgets and IT

In line with the Yeshiva's ethos, applicants should be practicing orthodox Jews. An educational or other qualification would be an advantage. It is intended that the post will commence at the beginning of 2008.

The salary package will be negotiable, commensurate with qualifications and experience.

All applications together with a curriculum vitae, relevant testimonials and the names and contact details of referees should be submitted in confidence to the Chairman of the Honorary Officers, Gary Herbert, at herbertg@worldonline.co.za.

Closing date for applications: 31 July 2007

WHAT'S ON

Shelley Elk carro@global.com

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

Key to organisations, venues, contact details & 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 South Africa - 44 Central Street, Cnr 10th Ave, Houghton. Contact (011) 728-7154.
- Partners for Life - Discreet Jewish introductions. Contact (011) 887-2073.
- 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 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

Please note that all contact and venue details can be found in the key.

Today Friday (July 27)

- **UZA Luncheon Club** is hosting Lionel Slier speaking on "Reflections on the Israel Now Tour, May 2007".

Sunday (July 29)

- **Singing sensation Caroline** is back in SA, at 14:00 at Linder Auditorium. Bookings Jolene 082-850-9779. Women only.
- **UJW Cape Town's Florentia branch** is hosting a card afternoon/luncheon at 7 Albany Road, Sea Point from 11:30. Cost R55. Contact (021) 434-9555.
- **Second Innings** is hosting Elizabeth Leaver speaking on "The Bronte Family - Stranger Than Fiction" at the Floreum, Emmarentia Botanical Gardens at 10:00.
- **RCHCC** is hosting a "Morning of Yiddish Entertainment" also featuring a DVD screening of Yitzhak Perlman's "In the Fiddler's House", at 10:30. Contact Hazel, (011) 728-8088 or Rene Sidley (011) 728-8378. Cost R50, includes refreshments.
- **Tiyulim (Jewish Outdoor Club)** is going to Premier Game Park, near Cullinan for a guided walk and exploration of old African ruins. Much wildlife and birdlife. Picnic and braai facilities available. Meet at Balfour (car wash) at 08:45. Members R65, non-members R70 + petrol. Martin 082-965-7419.
- **Friendship Forum** for Holocaust Survivors, second generation and members of the community affected by the Holocaust, will be hosting Hugh Raichlin. Audiovisual presentation on "A Trip to Der Heim... Lithuania Then and Now", at Our Parents Home at 14:30. Musical entertainment by Yochanan Ress. Tea and refreshments will be served.
- **Big Band Musical Society** will present audiovisual material of big bands from the '30s and '40s at St Johns College, Jeffrey Auditorium, St Johns Road, Lower Houghton. Dave (011) 885-3525 or Barney (011) 615-3412.

Monday (July 30)

- **WIZO Elphin Lodge branch** is screening the film "Zandman" at Beyachad at 11:00. Contact Sandy, (011) 645-2515.
- **UJW Adult Education Centre** is hosting Elizabeth Sidiropoulos on "David and Goliath" - SA and USA in the global picture, at 09:30 at 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost 15. Tel (011) 648-1053. info@ujw.co.za

Tuesday (July 31)

- **Women Inspired branch** is hosting Julienne Sackstein, speaking on "Marriage and Divorce", at 10:00. Cost R70. Venue: 29 4th Ave, Houghton. Contact Israel Seeff 083-375-1212.

Wednesday (August 1)

- **SFCC** is hosting Prof Hussein Solomon speaking on "Views of a Muslim Academic Who Has Been

Personally Affected by Islamic Fundamentalism" at Sandton Shul at 10:00.

- **WIZO Meir Szold branch** is hosting Linda Levy, on "The Power of Living Positively" at 10:00 at Beyachad. Tickets R25. Contact Sandy (011) 645-2515.
- **UJW Adult Education Centre** is hosting Dr Joanne Gordon, professor of theatre arts, Long Beach University, California on "Beyond Text - The Future of the Theatre" at 09:30 at 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost 15. Tel (011) 648-1053. info@ujw.co.za
- **Cape Town UJW adult education programme** is hosting Jennifer Chiappini on "Travelling Through Africa" at 10:00. Cost R12. Stonehaven, 7 Albany Road, Sea Point. Tel (021) 434 9555

Thursday (August 2)

- **RCHCC** in association with The Viktor Frankl Institute of SA presents a series of talks by a variety of experts in the field of logotherapy and existential analysis: "The Power of the Human Spirit?" They will be hosting a national Women's Day panel discussion, facilitated by Elma Bartlett, from 07:30. Cost R130 and R95 for students and pensioners.
- **CAP - Community Active Protection** - anti-crime initiative. Public meeting for residents of Oaklands, Orchards, Gardens, Cheltondale and Abbotsford at 19:30 at St Luke's Church, High Road Orchards. Call 082-233-2008. www.neap.co.za

Friday (August 3)

- **United Zionist Association Luncheon Club** is hosting Ivor Davis, speaking on "My Three Hobby Horses" - Zimbabwe, the Death Penalty and Ronnie Kasrils.

Sunday (August 5)

- **Chief Rabbi's weekly address** to the community at 20:00 on Radio 2000 (99.7 - 100.2 FM).
- **Second Innings** is hosting Dr Francois Durand speaking on "The Nature of Humankind" at the Gerald Horwitz Lounge Golden Acres at 10:00.

- **WIZO Glenliks and Etgar branches** are selling tickets for "Fiddler on the Roof" at 14:00 at the Civic Theatre. Tickets R330. Contact Sandy at (011) 645-2515.

Monday (August 6)

- **Israel Philately Society** is meeting in the boardroom of Waverley Shul from 19:30 for non-Israel competitive exhibits. Contact Maurice Daniels (011) 485-2293.

- Registration for the **Morris Rutstein-SAZF evening Hebrew ulpan** course at Yeshiva College, corner Long and Ridge Roads, Glenhazel at 18:30. Contact Miriam Garb (011) 645-2531.

- **SAZF, Israel House and King David Victory Park High School** present Kfar Vradim Jazz Orchestra from Israel, at the school hall, at 19:30. Tickets R50. Call (011) 446-7862 (Eida Schneiderman), (011) 645-2505 (Froma Sacks).

- **UJW adult education centre** is hosting Lisa Vetten - "An Overview of the Sexual Offenders' Bill" at 09:30 at 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost 15. Tel (011) 648-1053. info@ujw.co.za

- **Emunah Ladies Beit Midrash.** New semester begins. Call (011) 887-2910 or (011) 786-7718

Tuesday (August 7)

- **The Morris Rutstein-SAZF evening Hebrew ulpan course** begins at Yeshiva College, corner Long and Ridge Roads, Glenhazel. Contact Miriam Garb (011) 645-2531.

- **Our Parents Home** is hosting its annual card afternoon, 13:30. Bridge, kalukie, rummy, scrabble. Tickets R60 include tea. Bookings/enquiries, Jennifer 083-303-6285 or Madeleine, 082-553-6229.

- **WIZO Fortnightly Forum - Debbie Maroney**, counselor at Centre for Drug and Substance Abuse, and Dan Wolf, psychologist, STEP Centre for Drug and Alcohol Abuse, will discuss drug and alcohol abuse in the Jewish schools and community, and a recovering addict will share personal experiences at 09:30 at Beyachad.

Wednesday (August 8) - Friday (August 10)

- **Limmud Johannesburg.** Contact Coreen Horwitz 076-480-2896 or cocowitz@yahoo.com

Wednesday (August 8)

- **SFCC** is hosting Rabbi Michael Katz speaking on a subject of topical interest at Sandton Shul at 10:00.

- **UJW adult education centre** is hosting Dr Joanne Lorraine Chaskalson, on "The Novels of Jane Austin" (a series of five talks) at 09:30, 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost 15. Tel (011) 648-1053. info@ujw.co.za

- **Cape Town UJW adult education programme** is hosting Prof Howard Phillips on "The Oldest Jewish Document Query" at 10:00. Cost R12. Stonehaven, 7 Albany Road, Sea Point. Tel (021) 434-9555.

Thursday (August 9)

- **Women of the World** is holding its annual Women's Day Brunch, themed "Heaven Scent" from 10:00 - 13:00 at the Sandton Sun Hotel. For bookings and more information contact Mandy: 083 380 5268.

Sunday (August 12)

- **Second Innings** is hosting Prof Tertius Harmse speaking on "The Impact of Global Warming on Food Security in South Africa" at the Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres at 10:00.

- **Tiyulim (Jewish Outdoor Club)** is going to Ezemvelo Nature Reserve near Bronkhorstpruit for a game drive and guided 3km walk to view Bushman and Koi Koi cave paintings. Meet at 08:30 at Balfour Park (near car wash). Members R75, non-members R85. Contact Greg, 082-959-9026.

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE by Jeff Sapire

AT THE 2006 Yeh Bros Cup Final in Taiwan, France met Poland in the final, with a \$40 000 first prize up for grabs. I'm sure the players were thinking about this when this hand arose.

West's 2C opening was the Precision Strong Club system - at least 5 clubs with or without a major. North chose 3H, probably because he was vul and the suit was poor. East made a slam try of 4H, but West, who hardly had an opening bid in the 1st place, signed off in 5C. On the S7 lead he played safe by rising with the ace, and played ace and another club, making 11 tricks, for +600.

The Open Room auction, however, took off into outer space.

West	North	East	South
1C	4H	5H	P
6C	All pass		Opening lead: S9

After the French 1C opening, the Polish North decided that at equal vul with an 8 card suit, he would "put it" to the opponents. Here, the tempo of the auction pushed EW to 6C.

North tried a tricky S9 lead, but declarer decided to go for one of the two black king finesses. With the marked heart finesse to get rid of the diamond loser, he somewhat nervously put up the queen of spades. When it held he breathed a sigh of relief and played ace and another club, and when

NORTH

♠ K97
♥ K10985432
♦ J5
♣ -

WEST

♠ J832
♥ Q
♦ AK7
♣ Q10872

EAST

♠ AQ
♥ AJ7
♦ 986
♣ AJ964

SOUTH

♠ 10654
♥ 6
♦ Q10432
♣ K53

West dealer, both vul (Closed Room, France NS).

West	North	East	South
2C	3H	4H	P
5C	All pass		Opening lead: S7

the king of spades later came down in 3 rounds, he didn't even need the heart finesse.

In a way, the 4H bid backfired, because it pushed France into the slam. But none of the commentators (and hopefully his team mates too) were critical of the Polish action. France weren't complaining, though. They had just picked up a massive 13 imps, which helped them to the eventual 1st prize.

CROSSWORD No 35

BY LEAH SIMON

ACROSS:

- Chinese bean curd and soya food in front of union (4)
- Ask Edward whether cold refreshments come to large buildings (8)
- Style and energy in novel animation (4)
- Wind instrument found right in wine (8)
- Let damaged fruit open act? What rot! (12)
- Broken corset, in part (6)
- Get by with fruit inside. Cor! (6)
- Erecting a stadium to defend one's position (6, 1, 5)
- Owens bird in town, for purity (8)
- A lot are confused by high-pitched voice (4)
- Having finished, actors find inclement weather (8)
- Enquires about incomplete duties (4)

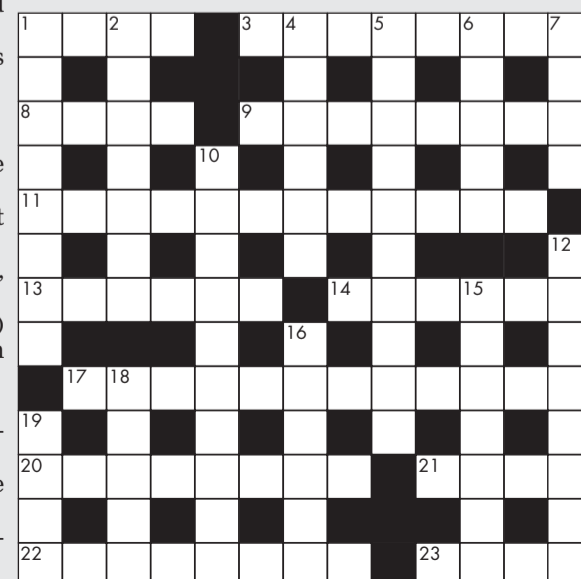
DOWN:

- Being very French, exceed the offence (8)
- Highly agitated - that's right, in fact (7)
- Everything in the German city? No, the American one (6)
- Elementary school is excellent! (5, 5)
- Make fraudster travel to African country (5)
- Place of the vision, we hear (4)
- Chides Toni for being pleasure-loving (10)
- Do they improve our outlook in the fall? (3, 5)
- I am like the French, with this illness (7)

- Find barrier in south - and precious stones (6)
- Egad! A return to the maxim (5)
- Fine choir conceals reflected sound (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 34

ACROSS: 1. Flee; 3. Proposes; 8. Oars; 9. Saratoga; 11. Balance sheet; 13. Legume; 14. Editor; 17. Branding iron; 20. Castanet; 21. Isle; 22. Meredith; 23. Isis.
DOWN: 1. Football; 2. Earplug; 4. Reaper; 5. Poached egg; 6. Shove; 7. Slay; 10. One man band; 12. Princess; 15. Thrusts; 16. Silent; 18. Riser; 19. Scam.



Bernitz heads victim ID team in Cameroon

DIANE WOLFSON
PRETORIA

A SOUTH Africa DVI (Disaster Victim Identification) team headed by Professor Herman Bernitz, recently travelled to Douala, Cameroon following the Air Kenya aircraft accident which claimed 114 lives, including those of at least nine South Africans.

Bernitz, is currently president of the World Association of Forensic Dentists.

The DVI team was tasked with the identification of the remains of the crash victims. Bernitz, who was at the time presenting a series of lectures and workshops on forensic dentistry in Barbados, was recalled to join the team. Also in the team were Prof A Ligthelm (forensic odontologist), Drs S Rossouw and L Liebenberg (forensic pathologists), a team of police fingerprint experts and a mortuary technician.

The DVI team was transported by courtesy of Air Kenya, and travelled to Cameroon via Nairobi. They worked side by side with two forensic pathologists from Kenya, and members of Blake Emergency consultants from the United Kingdom.

The extreme heat and humidity of this West African country added to the logistic problems of the exercise. As little English is spoken or understood in Cameroon, the team was largely dependant on the French translators supplied by the South African High Commission in Cameroon.

The high levels of co-operation between the respective government departments contributed to the smooth running of the operation. A high-powered Cameroon delegation which included the minister of



Prof At Ligthelm, Dr Linda Liebenberg, Prof Herman Bernitz, Dr Servaas Rossouw and Wayne Mitten.

health visited the mortuary to thank the South African team for the assistance given.

All possible methods for identifying the remains were utilised during the autopsies, which included fingerprinting, DNA sampling, dental examinations including X-rays and matching of clothing and other items such as rings, watches etc.

Toxicological and histological analysis were performed in selected cases as part of the forensic investigation. It should be realised that all the recovered remains were examined by the DVI team and not only those of the South African victims.

The identification of the remains should be finalised within the near future once all the ante-mortem records are available for comparison and matching. The successful identification of the remains and its handing over to the families, is an essential part of the mourning process and helps lead to closure.

The forensic team expresses its gratitude to all who contributed to the huge success of the expedition, and offer condolences to those who lost loved ones.

Ella's journey through hell and back

DIANE WOLFSON
PRETORIA

ELLA BLUMENTHAL, (pictured) one of the last remaining Holocaust survivors in South Africa, inspired a packed shul when she spoke to the members of the Pretoria Jewish community on Tisha B'Av this past week.

Her heart-rending story began in Poland. Blumenthal took the community with her on her journey, surviving the Warsaw ghetto, the train ride, daily life and experiences through the Maidanak, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps.

No one was left untouched by her fight for survival, her strength, both spiritual and physical, as she, together with her



niece, were granted miracle after miracle, until at last, they were liberated at the end of the war.

She firmly stated that her faith in Hashem had brought her through.

For many years unable to talk about her nightmare experiences, Blumenthal - who today turns 86 - is now in great demand as a speaker, sharing her story with the youth of today.

Accompanied by her son Henry and two granddaughters, Blumenthal was hugged and questioned for over an hour after her talk. She leaves for a trip to Israel this week.

The Pretoria Jewish community wish her a very happy birthday, and pray that Hashem will bless her with many good, healthy and happy years to come.

Play it again, and again, Sam!

MIKE WAKS
KLERKSDORP



Sam and Ev Kramer. Sam turned 90 in style.

THE KLERKSDORP Hebrew Congregation in conjunction with WIZO Klerksdorp hosted a braai two weeks ago to celebrate Sam Kramer's 90th birthday.

This was done in appreciation of Sam's stalwart, dedicated and committed service to the community. He does the davening and leining at the minyanim for Shabbat and for the High Holidays, the Friday night services and, if necessary, the unveilings and burial services.

Through thick and thin he is always there for the congregation.

We all wish him a happy 90th and many more in good health.

Advertorial

New state-of-the-art production line

AFTER THREE years of planning, a brand new sectional door production line has been commissioned for Wispeco Lux-A-Door at the Lux-A-Door production plant in Alrode, Alberton. Utilising international state-of-the-art technology, this plant represents the largest capital investment made by Lux-A-Door in South Africa.

The facility now hosts a brand new 120m long production line for producing steel panels for sectional doors. This is the first fully integrated production line incorporating a coil delivery line, woodgrain section, slitting line panel press and forming line. The line is computer controlled and custom doors can be produced at the simple touch of a customised computer screen.

The line will commence utilising imported steel feedstock pending the development by Mittal in South Africa of a steel that is of a suitable quality for the production of steel sectional doors.

The line has been enhanced in order to offer three new doors. The Statesman design is a traditional raised and fielded steel sectional door, the Federation is a new design not previously available in South Africa; it encompasses a raised and fielded panel with a centre emboss. The third is the Grange, a large raised and fielded panel enabling 10 and 20 panel doors to be produced for single and double doors respectively.

This new production line produces doors of an exceptionally high quality enhancing the product range offered by Wispeco Garage doors. A certain portion of the production capacity will be utilised for export orders.

The production line has been engineered to

produce both standard sized doors as well as highly customised products with the ability to vary height, width as well as number of panels per door. A range of toplights is also available for all the new doors.

This line completes the planned fixed asset investment undertaken by Lux-A-Door and completes three years of planned investment by the owners of Lux-A-Door, namely Duro Pressings (Pty) Ltd and B&D Of Australia.

This investment has reduced the need to import steel sectional doors into South Africa. As a world-class plant designed for meeting the total needs of the steel sectional door market in South Africa, it indicates a solid outlook to the future of the south African garage door market, and the future of South Africa by the investors who funded this significant project.

Wispeco Lux-A-Door now has the following facilities available to meet the growing needs of the steel sectional door market in South Africa: A complete component and hardware production line able to produce state of the art hardware for garage doors; a powder coating plant capable of producing and coating three colours simultaneously; a contemporary door line; a full range of automation for sectional garage doors including models with battery backup and EU safety certification; and finally, its new panel production line. This is completed by a full packing and assembly line.

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Fungus may provide low-cost alternative fuel

ILANA TEITELBAUM
TEL AVIV

SINCE THE popularity of (former US Vice-President) Al Gore's documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" - one of the top-grossing documentaries in the United States - it has become clear that concern for global warming is widespread in America.

In his film, Gore predicts a series of catastrophes that would result from the continued progress of global warming, including the melting of massive glaciers in the Himalayas.

Carbon emissions, produced by motor-vehicles, are the leading cause of global warming, and the quest for alternative fuels is now a hot topic worldwide.

Israeli researcher Dr Amir Sharon of Tel Aviv University is on the trail. He has discovered a transgenic fungus strong enough to convert even the most resilient plant parts into bioethanol, a chemical used for biofuel.

Strengthened with an anti-death gene, this fungus is resistant to harsh conditions such as heat and toxic substances - both of which are released while converting plant biomass into ethanol.

As a result, the production of ethanol using this transgenic fungus could be much more efficient than with conventional fungi.

Biofuel - fuel derived from plant biomass - has emerged as one of the most viable alternatives to oil. The US bioethanol industry is booming. In 2006, 13 per cent of the US maize crop was used for the production of ethanol.

But there are drawbacks to biofuel production - it is expensive and wasteful. Most bioethanol produced in the US is derived from the edible parts of maize crops. The stalks and leaves, comprising cellulose and known to scientists as cellulosic biomass, are much harder to convert into ethanol.

The cellulose is bound with a chemical called lignin, which causes the plant material to be rigid and difficult to break down. Consequently the production of bioethanol from cellulosic biomass is not carried out on an industrial scale in the US.

As a result, some grain crops that could be used for food production are being used for fuel production instead. The prevailing criticism is that there is not enough farmland to produce crops for biofuel and still maintain an adequate supply of food. Additionally, Americans consume nearly two billion litres of petrol per day, and that figure is growing.

Bioethanol only provides 70 per cent of the energy contained in a tank of petrol.

However, Sharon's new fungus, with its capability to convert inedible plant cellulose into ethanol, could have a significant impact on ethanol production. According to Sharon, fungus was normally very difficult to culture.

"It is spoiled. Fungus needs very specific conditions in which to thrive. These transfungi are much more resistant to

stress conditions, even oxidant chemicals like hydrogen peroxide or UV radiation, which usually harms the DNA and causes mutations, has little effect on the new transfungi," he told Israeli21c.

How does this apply to the production of ethanol? Since fungi require specific conditions for survival, the stress conditions produced during the conversion process eventually kill the fungi.

"When you apply the fungus to the plant material, degradation will release heat and toxic material, which usually kills it. But this transgenic fungus is more tolerant so it can withstand heat and toxins, making the plant degradation process more efficient," said Sharon.

Sharon discovered the unique properties of this fungus by accident.

"We were exploring ways to modify the germination of the fungus using anti-death genes... about a year later when we went to clean out the cold room, we were astonished to discover a bright fungal colony that should have died months before."

The unusual hardness of the fungus may also be important for the food and drug industries, which rely on the process of fermentation. More than 20 drugs, including penicillin, require fungi in the manufacturing process.

Sharon says: "Our fungus can grow for much longer in the fermenter - twice as long or more. This can allow for the production of many more fermentation units."

Doubling the efficiency of food and drug manufacture could mean significant cost savings for these industries.

According to David Zaks, an American expert on environmental issues who contributed to the popular website Worldchanging, Sharon's research bodes well for future cellulose conversions.

"This research is definitely an important step in providing the technology needed to do (the conversion of cellulose) on a more industrial scale. In the future we'll be able to do it with things like switchgrass," Zaks told Israel21c.

A graduate student of the University of Wisconsin, Madison at the Centre for Sustainability and the Global Environment, Zaks predicts that cellulosic ethanol is going to be "the next big thing".

"There are many different small-scale production companies that are going to be working on it," he explained. "There's a lot of money being put into this field right now to make it an important part of our energy future."

Sharon also sees biofuel as an important alternative to fossil fuels, both to prevent global warming and to supplement the world's supply of fuels.

"When we use plants (for biofuel) we're not damaging the environment because we're recycling carbon dioxide - releasing the same molecule that plants have already absorbed," he said. "We also need alternatives because in 30 or 40 years we'll have used up our supply of petrol." (Israel21c)

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Origins of Tour de France - the Jewish connection

BRIAN BETHLEHEM

THE DREYFUS case in France and the issue of anti-Semitic prejudice which it highlighted, provoked important responses by three journalists which had had a major influence on subsequent historical events.

In 1894 Capt Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish artillery officer in the French army, was arrested and tried for treason. He was completely innocent and yet convicted on the basis of "evidence" which was not disclosed at the trial, but shown to the presiding generals after the court martial proceedings.

Sentenced to life imprisonment, he was incarcerated on Devil's Island from 1895 until 1899. In January 1898, a court martial was held in which Commandant Ferdinand Esterhazy, by then known to be the guilty party, was tried but in an emphatic miscarriage of justice found not guilty.

Emile Zola, a journalist - and later one of France's foremost writers of fiction - responded by writing an open letter to the president of France in L'Aurore, entitled J'Accuse, arguably one of the greatest newspaper articles of all time.

The article resulted in a swing of public opinion in favour of Dreyfus and focused world wide attention on the Dreyfus case. In 1899 Dreyfus was retried and again found guilty, but pardoned. Esterhazy was never punished.

In 1906 Dreyfus was formally

adjudged innocent and awarded the Legion of Honour. Zola was asphyxiated in 1902 by fumes from a fireplace believed by some to have resulted from his chimney having been stopped up by right wing extremists.

Theodor Herzl, a Viennese journalist was in Paris in 1895 reporting on the Dreyfus case. He was shaken by the depth and prevalence of anti-Semitism in France and became convinced that a Jewish homeland would be a solution to the desperate situation world Jewry found itself in.

In 1896 he published *The Jewish State*, which had a profound influence on the eventual establishment of Israel in 1948.

Pierre Giffard, a newspaperman and humanist, committed to developing new technologies to improve humanity's lot, created Le'Veilo, a sports newspaper printed on green paper at the end of 1892. At that moment the Dreyfus affair broke.

Between 1894 and 1895 when Dreyfus was convicted, France was divided. The conservatives opposed Dreyfus, progressives like Giffard supported him.

Unfortunately for Le Velo its financial well-being depended on conservative industrialists like De Dion, Clement and Michelin who advertised in the paper. Giffard denounced the anti-Dreyfus faction.

De Dion and his friends founded a new paper, *Le'Auto Velo* (later *Le'Auto*, printed on yellow paper). Its direction was entrusted to Henri



A typical scene of the Tour de France through the French Alps

Desgrange, former cyclist who had established the first world hour record of 35,3km and an accountant named Victor Goddet.

Geo Levevre on Desgrange's staff, and lurching with Desgrange and Goddet on November 10 1902, proposed the idea of the Tour De France in several stages. The first Tour was to be held from May 31 to July 5 1903; prize money of 20 000 francs; the route: Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Nantes and back to Paris; distance: approximately 4 400 km.

By April 21 there were only 15 entries. Desgrange rescheduled the

race from July 1 to 18, halved the distance and the entry fee and increased the prize money.

Fifty nine riders started the first Tour; a third finished, some simply dropping out, others being disqualified for various infringements.

The race was won by Maurice Garin in 94hrs 33 mins, with the second placed man, Lucien Pothier, about three hours behind. During the race special editions of *Le'Auto* rolled off the press and were snapped up by an eager public.

Giffard, his paper now defunct, was invited to work for *Le'Auto* as a reporter and is remembered as a pioneer in the fields of cycling, foot racing (he organised the inaugural Paris marathon in 1896) and motor racing.

The Tour De France was conceived as a contest between combatants who embodied the spirit of France's mediaeval knights such as the Chevalier Bayard. It would take place in the magnificent arena of the mountainous French countryside, and would also sell newspapers!

The 104th Tour started on July 7. It remains a magnificent event despite continued problems concerning the use of performance enhancing drugs by some participants.

Said to be watched by more spectators than any other sporting event it is bound to again continue to amaze, enthral, and fascinate. This year this gruelling combat started in London.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

BLACK COLLEGE CONDEMNS ISRAEL BOYCOTT

NEW ORLEANS - Dillard University, a historically black college in New Orleans, has condemned the campaign by British academics to boycott Israel.

"It has come to my attention that an effort is under way to boycott Israeli academics," Dillard President Marvalene Hughes wrote in a letter to the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, which promotes black-Jewish ties.

"We find such efforts antithetical to the values of academic freedom and civility."

"Dillard University is an historical black university that unequivocally detests the effort to silence, isolate, discount and ignore academic values of free expression and open discourse."

The foundation distributed the letter for publication. (JTA)



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Kaplan speaks at Family Maccabi Stag

JACK MILNER

WITH THE Rugby World Cup just around the corner, Maccabi Stag will be hosting internationally respected rugby referee Jonathan Kaplan at their special breakfast at the Killarney Country Club on August 9.

Kaplan will talk about important rugby issues ahead of the World Cup in September and people attending will be given the opportunity to ask questions of the man who will be one of the whistle blowers.



The South African squad of 30 was announced last weekend - with no surprises. Andre Pretorius and Bobby Skinstad will, however, have to pass a fitness test.

This Maccabi Stag is an unusual stag in that wives and children will be welcome. August 9 is a public holiday, so everybody should be available. Stan and Pete will do the catering, so everyone can expect a great breakfast, which will run from 09:00 to noon.

* Anyone interested in attending can either call the Maccabi Office or contact Max Klass on (011) 485-1485.

Winning return for jockey Rael Zieve

JACK MILNER

RAEL ZIEVE made a winning return to racing at Kenilworth last week when he booted home Sporting Pop Star for the Mike Bass stable on his first ride back.

Zieve had given up riding some 18 months ago but as he said later: "Once bitten by the horse bug, it's hard to move away from it."

The 37-year-old jockey added that he was grateful he had taken the time off.

"It's probably easier to see things once you're outside of the box."

Sporting Pop Star had always been highly rated in the stable but had lost his form and as a result, he was allowed to go off at 10-1 in Race 6, a MR 78 Handicap over 2000m.

"I followed The Baptist and Star Of Destiny because I thought they were the two runners to beat, but he was always travelling," said the former Zimbabwean rider.

"He pricked his ears as he hit the front but you can't ask much more from him. He was carrying 60kg and a bit of a tired jockey."

Naval Crown finished a length behind with Shark Alley a further 0,25 lengths back in

third, with both The Baptist and Star Of Destiny dropping away in the straight.

Zieve said he had started riding work about two months ago. "I was weighing about 65kg and it's been hard to lose the weight in winter. I've also stopped smoking, which didn't make it any easier."

"But I feel good and I even kept going to the line," he quipped.

Jockey Rael Zieve on Sporting Pop Star, comes into the winner's enclosure at Kenilworth after the 37-year-old jockey made a winning return to racing following an 18-month break.



Mourinho welcomes Grant's appointment

CHELSEA MANAGER Jose Mourinho has said he has no problems with the appointment of Israeli Avraham Grant as the team's director of football.

It had been reported that Mourinho had not welcomed the decision by the Chelsea board to create the position for Grant, a former Israel national team coach who moved to Stamford Bridge from Portsmouth.

But over the weekend Mourinho spoke about the situation, insisting he felt Grant would make his life easier. "We have talked about how things are going to go with the structure and I am happy," Mourinho said.



Chelsea manager, Jose Mourinho.



Avraham Grant, Chelsea's new director of football.

"I will do the same thing; my work is exactly the same and will not change in any way. I have the same responsibilities, the same power and the same resources. My work will not change."

"Avraham makes my life easier, he is a good guy. He wants to help people, he does not want

to create problems for people.

"His job in general terms is to help people in different areas in the club. I am happy to have him in our structure. And, if I say I am happy, then I am happy. If I wasn't, then you would see me around the corner snarling."

Israeli teenage swimmer targets Olympics

TL AVIV - Nimrod Shapira Bar-Or. It's a mouthful, but remember the name. Over the last six days the 18-year-old has given Israeli swimming a long overdue boost.

Silver and bronze medals at the European Youth Swimming Championships in Antwerp have raised the hope that the teenager can take Israeli swimming to places it has only dreamed of reaching in the past.

A simple comparison between Bar-Or and other Israeli swimmers his age illustrates how far ahead he is of his Israel teammates. Not only was Bar-Or the only Israeli medal winner in Belgium, but he was also the only swimmer of the team to even reach the final of his event.

"My goal is to always finish one place higher," the teenager told the *Jerusalem Post*. "I was under a lot of pressure, but this is a professional sport and you get used to these kinds of things."

"I was very emotional when I stood on the podium, but seeing the flag fly high gives you the fuel to continue."

Bar-Or, who clinched the bronze

medal in the 400 metres freestyle last Friday, won the silver medal in the 200m freestyle on Sunday in a time of 1 minute and 50,36 seconds.

His time was the second fastest ever in Israeli swimming history and he now only trails Israeli record-holder Shay Livnat (1:49.62 min).

"I have to swim as fast as possible and I'm not concerned with what Livnat does. It depends entirely on me," Bar-Or said.

"Shay is an opponent like any other swimmer in the world. I believe in myself and I believe I'll book my place in Beijing. And should I get to Beijing I won't be going for a holiday, I'll be aiming to reach the final."

Bar-Or will need to knock almost an entire second off his personal best in his favourite event in the coming months to book his place at the Olympic Games, with 1:49.47 min the criteria time for the 200m free in Beijing.

"To cut a second off your time is a lot, but that's what I'm training so hard for," he said. "I have six months to accomplish the feat and I believe I will do it."

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