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SOUTH AFRICAN

# Jewish Report



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Friday, 8th June 2007 / 22 Sivan 5767

Volume 11 Number 21

## Primedia's Holocaust and genocide chair at Unisa



Iessie Kirsh and Tony Blair

LAST WEEK'S speech at Unisa by outgoing British Prime Minister Tony Blair, in which he focused on the violence and poverty in Africa, saw the inauguration of a new academic chair for the study of genocide. It could help in the future to prevent some of the violence and its development into actual genocide. In his speech, Blair spoke at length on British involvement in Africa, making a strong case for intervention when necessary. The international community, he said, had a responsibility to protect the victims of attempted genocide. **PAGE 6 & 8**

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## Washington rally to protest occupation



WASHINGTON: The US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation and United for Peace and Justice are co-sponsoring a rally on Sunday to "change those US policies that both sustain Israel's 40-year occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, and deny equal rights for all". Part of US Campaign's goal is to collect 100 000 individual signatures and a thousand organisational endorsements.

StandWithUs, a non-profit Israel education group, is organising a counter "Stand With Israel Rally". Participants will march parallel to the main demonstration. The Zionist Organisation of America also is planning a counter-rally. StandWithUs is equipping the counter-protesters with talking points about the Arab-Israeli conflict and signs with such messages as "Israel We Stand With You" and "Free the Palestinians from Hamas".

The American Jewish Congress' Western Region, the Endowment for Middle East Truth and conservative groups are supporting the Stand With Israel Rally. (JTA)

In the picture: Israeli troops and tanks enter the Sinai desert during the Six Day War in 1967. (Credit: Micha Han/GPO)

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## PARSHA OF THE WEEK

# Majority rules?

IN DEMOCRACIES as well as in Jewish law, majority rules. A Beth Din must always consist of an odd number of judges, lest there be a hung jury.

But, the fact is, sometimes the majority gets it wrong. This week's story of the 12 spies sent by Moses to the Promised Land is a case in point.

Only two of the dozen, Joshua and Caleb, remained faithful to their leader, to the purpose of their mission and to G-d's assurance that it was a good land. Instead of suggesting the best way forward, the other 10 came to the categorical conclusion that "we cannot ascend".

Now, the question is, why did the people not follow the two good spies, Joshua and Caleb? The obvious answer? They were outvoted, 10 vs 2 - no contest. Majority rules.

Tragically, though, they backed the losers. And the result was an extended vacation in the Wilderness for them and a national tragedy for all of us to this day.

The saintly Chofetz Chaim, was once challenged by a Jewish



## PARSHAT SHELACH

Rabbi Yossy Goldman  
Sydenham Highlands  
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cynic. "Rabbi," the fellow argued, "doesn't the Torah itself say that we must follow the majority? Well, the overwhelming majority of Jews today are not religious. So your religious Jews must come over to our way of thinking!"

The Chofetz Chaim replied with a story.

"Recently, I had occasion to be travelling by coach back home from an important trip. On route, the coachman distributed generous measures of vodka to his passengers to keep them warm and content. The coachman, too, helped himself to much more vodka than he should have.

"When we came to a crossroads, there was confusion as to which way to turn. Most people argued that the left road was the correct

path.

"I was one of the only sober passengers on board and I knew without a shadow of a doubt that we needed to take the road to the right. So I ask you, my friend, should I too have followed the majority? They were hopelessly drunk and their judgement impaired. Thank G-d, I prevailed."

All too often, the values and judgement calls of "The World" are simply wrong. No matter how outnumbered moral people may be, we will continue to follow the path of decency and sanity because so much of The World is intoxicated with all sorts of new ideas and their judgement is impaired. Moral issues must never be decided by referendum.

I remember a few years ago - I think it was at the time of the fictitious Jenin "massacre" - (former UN secretary-general) Kofi Anan questioned: "Can it be that the whole world is wrong and Israel is right?" Guess what. He was spot on. The whole world was wrong and Israel was right. There simply was no massacre.

My wife, Rochel taught high school for many years. Once, a former student approached her for guidance. She was now a young woman and everyone was telling

## SHABBAT TIMES

June 08 / 22 Sivan  
June 08 / 23 Sivan

Starts	Ends	
17:06	17:57	Johannesburg
17:26	18:20	Cape Town
16:46	17:38	Durban
17:07	17:59	Bloemfontein
16:57	17:52	Port Elizabeth
16:51	17:45	East London



her she was crazy for insisting that she be a virgin at her chupah. She sought my wife's affirmation that she hadn't lost her sanity.

All too often it is the world that is stark, raving meshugga, veering drunkenly out of control. It takes substantial strength of character to resist the pull of the drunken majority.

Please G-d; we will be men and women of stature, of spirit, even if it means being that lone voice in the wilderness. Otherwise, we may never get to our destination.

# South African heads world Bnei Akiva

LARA GREENBERG

SOUTH AFRICAN Zev Schwartz, a product of Yeshiva College, is World Bnei Akiva's new secretary general.

Elected in the Israeli summer, just as the Second Lebanon War broke out, Schwartz was in South Africa last year to meet with the local Bnei Akiva leadership and draw up plans which will help to improve all aspects of the movement over the next few years.

In all aspects, Schwartz is a Bnei Akiva success story and true role model.

He attended his first camp at the age of 11 and went on seven more, before taking the opportunity of going on the youth movement's gap year programme, MTA - and he never returned.

"Although I only officially changed my status just before starting university, I always say that I made aliyah on January 17 1985 - the day I went on MTA," Schwartz told *Jewish Report* and although he doesn't like to celebrate birthdays, this is one date which he treasures and celebrates every year.

After MTA, Schwartz stayed on at Yeshivat Har Etzyon in the Gush area, before joining the army programme, Machal Hesder, as a lone soldier.

After this, he went to Bar Ilan University where he obtained BA in Jewish History and Political Science and an MA in Political Science and Public Administration.

It was also at Bar Ilan that he met his Israeli wife. Towards the

end of his time at Bar Ilan, World Mizrahi approached Schwartz asking him to take on the young leadership portfolio as the organisation had seen a gap in young people making aliyah.

Schwartz then set up the Torah Metzion programme, where Mizrahi recruited, screened and sent bochorim to centres around the world to encourage the study of Torah within the communities.

Today there are 22 kollels around the world and Torah Metzion also works on 16 university campuses.

In Cape Town there is a yeshiva, which was set up via a local initiative by Rabbi Johnny Glass.

Schwartz was also active in the recent World Zionist Congress Elections where he was part of the "Vote Torah" which came in second place in America - behind Reform and overtaking Conservative, "for the first time in 100 years".

This meant that Bnei Akiva took three leadership positions in the Jewish Agency over their previous two and so, the head of World Bnei Akiva moved onto the Jewish Agency and Hagshama and Schwartz was asked to take over the leadership of Bnei Akiva.

It was an easy decision. "I grew up in and am here where I am today because of Bnei Akiva," Schwartz told *Jewish Report*.



Bnei Akiva, Schwartz has much planned. "My role is to make sure that all centres around the world are strong and stable."

He notes that he'd like to set up a strong parents committee, so that parents are also involved in the movement and can be role models for their children. This will lead to the idea of Mishpachat Bnei Akiva so that people are not only involved in the movement in their youth, but for life.

He also wants a much stronger emphasis placed on hadracha (leadership training) and to ensure this, he has appointed someone's whose sole agenda is to do this.

Schwartz is a great advocate of aliyah and says: "The younger you come, the easier your aliyah will be. In the end, all ways lead to Jerusalem and you can either take the long road which is short, or the short road which is long... the longer you stay where you are the harder it is to make aliyah."

But, soon after taking this position, Schwartz was called into the army to do his reserve duty during the war. Of the 24 days he was away from his new position, 13 were spent in Lebanon.

"It left a huge vacuum in the movement for that time", he said.

Now, back in his role at World

## Mourning the passing of Richard Lurie

The Chairman, Board and staff of the SA Jewish Report mourn the passing of Richard Lurie, one of the Jewish Report's patrons and constant supporters.



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# Many non-Jews are staunch friends of Jews

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

JEWES HAD to know that there were millions of non-Jews who worshipped and praised the G-d of Israel and that there were "Christians that love you and want to support you".

This was the message of Theo Abbenhuis, who, together with his wife Els, addressed a meeting of the Western Province Zionist Council.

The Dutch couple, who live and work in Jerusalem, are both international directors of the Ebenezer Emergency Fund that has thus far brought 120 000 Jews from the former Soviet Union (FSU) to Israel under the banner of "Operation Exodus".

The Ebenezer organisation was founded in 1991 during the first Gulf War after Theo saw Israeli children going to school with gas masks and thought: "What a crazy world we are living in."

Today this Christian ministry works in 25 countries, having



**A passionate Els Abbenhuis of the Ebenezer Emergency Fund, addresses a meeting of the WPZC.**

established bases in most of the republics of the FSU, assisting Jews who need help.

"The times and conditions in the FSU are very difficult now and I sense that it will become

more difficult for Jews to come out, so we try to encourage them while there's still time," he told the gathering.

The group also helps Jews to access the archives in order to prove their Jewish status. Since 2005, it has been focusing on outreach programmes informing them of the possibility of returning to the State of Israel and approaching Christian groups to support, pray for and stand with the Jewish people.

Theo recalled a 97-year-old the group had assisted, who had cried when his feet touched Israel's soil for the first time. When Ebenezer volunteers asked him the reason, he said: "It has taken me 97 years to come home - I always knew I would."

"It is such an excitement to live in this time and to see the fulfilment of the prophecy of the G-d of Israel," Theo said. "I'm not politically correct, I'm 'Tanach'-correct," he added, quoting several excerpts in Hebrew justifying his stance.

"We have such a good relation-

ship with the Jewish Agency," he added. "They know we don't want to convert people - we want to be a blessing and what a blessing it is to be in the midst of this, helping Jews around the world and to see those days described in the 'Tanach' - an amazing time!"

Churches needed to change their attitude and pray, said Els. "Know that in your time of need, there is a Christian community who will pray for you and help to get you home."

In response to a question about the slowing down in the rate of Ethiopian immigration, Theo said it took a lot of money and time to integrate them, especially the older generation and Israel's funds were stretched after the Lebanese war. "We're trying to get 300 in a month, but it's not enough," he said.

"We're hoping things will improve soon because conditions (in Ethiopia) are getting worse and worse. It's now or forget it."

The group was feeding 3 000 Jews a day in that country, he said.

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### HOUSE PASSES JERUSALEM RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON - The US House of Representatives has passed a resolution congratulating Israel on the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and urging the Bush administration to move its embassy there.

The non-binding resolution, passed in a voice vote on Tuesday, "commends Israel for its administration of the undivided city for the past 40 years, during which Israel has respected the rights of all religious groups".

It also called on the president to abide by the 1995 law mandating the embassy move. President George W Bush, like his predecessor President Bill Clinton, has waived the law every six months, citing national security reasons.

His most recent waiver was announced last Friday night.

The Senate is considering a similar Jerusalem resolution. (JTA)

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# SA grass still remains the greenest

STAFF REPORTER

SOUTH AFRICA is like a barmitzvah boy. So says Martine Schaffer, managing director of the Homecoming Revolution, who was the guest speaker at the Union of Jewish Women's 75th annual general meeting.

"Barmi" boys, she said, were often spotty with cute squeaky voices, nervous and exited at the same time.

"And everyone's watching. They know more or less what to do because they've had their lessons and prepared hard, but there is no way of knowing how it will go on the day. South Africa is just like that: young, adolescent and flawed - but still cute.

"It's trying to make its own way and doing well and badly at the same time. Everyone is watching. And even though South Africa has seen loads of other countries practise democracy with great success, it's different when it's you," she said.

Eighty five per cent of people who emigrate want to return to South Africa, according to Homecoming Revolution's records.

The Homecoming Revolution started four years ago and is sponsored by First National Bank. It has been acknowledged by President Thabo Mbeki.

Schaffer said she was often asked why she was so positive about the

country when crime and other things were bad.

"My answer is to ask what the value of your property has done over the past four years. I am usually told that it has doubled. With an economy that has never been stronger, this is no surprise," she said.

Among the many positive things, South Africa, of 230 countries in the world, ranks 25th in terms of the size of the economy measured in \$US.

In 2003, 85 per cent of South Africans were functionally literate compared to 63 per cent in 1994. In that year South Africa spent R10 billion on social grants, benefiting two million people, while in 2003, R34 billion benefited seven million people.

In 1994, South Africa exported just under R4 billion a year in motor vehicles and motor vehicle accessories. Today, they are worth R40 billion.

Other interesting facts, she says, are that South Africa has the eighth most developed banking system; the third-cleanest tap water in the world; there are 22 million cell phone users in the country and it has the eighth best ratio of women to men in Parliament.

Schaffer, who grew up in Durban and matriculated from Carmel College, says she comes from a traditional, Jewish upbringing. She, herself, spent time abroad in London and travelling the world. She

remained in the UK when she was offered a permanent job, being encouraged to do so by her parents because South Africa was at a sensitive political juncture.

"I went without real long-term intentions to stay, so I never officially immigrated, but I loved London and considered it my home."

Over the years, she returned on holiday and became encouraged by what she saw and became increasingly exited by the developments she saw.

After 15 years in London, her circumstances changed, which gave her the opening to return to South Africa on a six-month working holiday.

"Just before leaving the UK, I received an e-mail about the Homecoming Revolution and I decided it might be important for me to make contact with it." In 2002, she booked a one-way ticket home and got a job within three days. Two weeks later, at a business breakfast themed Proudly South African, she met Angel Jones, founder of the Homecoming Revolution and she introduced herself. A year later, she was offered the job as MD of the organisation.

The Homecoming Revolution, she says, is a non-profit organisation that encourages and helps skilled



Martine Schaffer.

South Africans living abroad to return and to "be part of making this wonderful country of ours even better, because we believe in this country and because we are fighting a global war for human capital. We want our people back."

For every one skilled person that returns, 10 jobs are created.

"The brain drain has been a cause of concern for many years. It started 30 years ago but is not unique to South Africa. It is a phenomenon which happens all over the world, with over one million Australians leaving that country in recent years.

"The fight for human capital is a global phenomenon. The bottom line is that we can no longer sit back and allow the developed world to take our skills," she said.

The organisation has spread across the world through public relations, marketing and word of mouth. It works closely with South African companies who are looking for skills.

"South Africans seem to have good reason for coming back. The main one people give for returning is family - at 47 per cent. After that, 34 per cent give emotional reasons for coming home, like a sense of belonging to South Africa and a love for the country.

## New light shed on a dark subject

SHELLEY ELK

INSTEAD OF sitting and doing nothing in the dark, during a power failure, Ralph Kushner and his wife Lesley, can now see what they are doing, watch TV, run their computers, and keep warm with an electric blanket on cold winter nights.

Kushner, an electrician working with appliances, became so frustrated because of the regular blackouts in Johannesburg, that he decided to do something about it. Some two years ago he began experimenting with some ideas and has since has invented a variety of home power stations/standby power supplies, and emergency lighting systems, and has since supplied homes, businesses, and apartment buildings with emergency lighting and power supplies.

A deep-discharge 600 watt battery, "the kind that is used for boats", can supply power for up to four LED globes, for up to seven hours. "It uses a negligible amount of power and because it has a day-night sensor, it only gets activated after dark and recharges itself when the power comes back on, said Kushner.

Lesley Kushner recalled how one evening, at about 19:00, she had guests over at her house, and as they were about to sit down to dinner, the lights went out. Their emergency power supply kicked in "and we sat down to eat with our guests, as if nothing was any different and later the guys sat down to watch TV."

Their entertainment system, TV, DVD, and DSTV decoder, run off a small mobile 600 watt emergency

power station, and could easily keep going for seven hours, explained Kushner.

He said that compared to a generator, his emergency power system was noiseless, didn't have any petrol fumes, and was also less expensive, but it could not run stoves, kettles, or irons and other heating appliances, because those drew too much power for the systems he had designed.

Businesses have bought power supplies from him, to run cash points, till points, PABX systems, and their computers.

Lesley Kushner told *Jewish Report* that businesses could continue to print invoices, and do stock takes, and send faxes during power failures.

A new portable lighting system, with six floodlights, Kushner's lat-

est invention, was bought by a business recently and was capable of lighting a large room, or office space and enabled them to continue operating during blackouts.

A 150 watt battery was all it took to be able to power a two way radio, floodlight and an additional light for a security entrance with a guard hut in a complex during a power failure, while a small computer and switchboard, could easily work from a 300 watt battery, explained Kushner.

The smallest system designed so far by Kushner was solar powered. "It is ideal for low-income users and in rural areas." The cost was only about R850 and it used three little LED globes and alleviated the need for using candles, explained Kushner.

A four system lighting kit which



Ralph and Lesley Kushner watching TV, powered by a standby power supply during a simulated blackout. Also pictured is an emergency lighting system with six spotlights.

comprised a control unit, a battery, four basic light fittings and lamps, as well as a power plug and switch, cost only about R900 and with installation cost, around R2 000, which made it quite affordable he said.

## Passing of Richard Lurie leaves a tremendous void

STAFF REPORTER

FROM TEA boy to president of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

This was the story of the life of Richard Lurie who died in Johannesburg last week.

Lurie was born in 1918 in Johannesburg. He was brought up single-handedly by his mother, a piano teacher, after his father, a mining engineer, died from the Spanish flu. Lurie was just six months old.

His son Alan, says he was "a completely self-made man making his way through his life alone, working from an early age and paying everything including his studies, himself," Lurie matriculated from King Edward High School two years early and worked part time at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).

He wanted to be a doctor and managed to raise funds for medical school but circumstances changed and he did a BA in maths and economics at the University

of the Witwatersrand.

He returned to the JSE where he was offered a job as a tea boy. He literally worked his way up from the lowest rung, eventually becoming president.

In 1946 Lurie became a practising member of the JSE and started his own account. In 1948 he married Lois in then-Rhodesia, a marriage which lasted 58 years.

Her father owned a milling company and wanted to bring Lurie into the business, but he resisted and they returned to Johannesburg, where they settled and had three sons, two of whom live in South Africa and one in Israel.

Lurie also became an investor in Protea Holdings and was known as the man who formed conglomerates in South Africa. He also started Lurie Johnston which was eventually taken over by FNB.

Lurie was president of the JSE in 1960, and again from 1972 to 1973 and from 1978 to 1981 - difficult periods in South Africa, says

Alan.

Lurie loved animals and farming and bought a farm which is today known as Innesfree Farm, close the M1 highway in Sandton, which became affectionately known as the Hollard Street farm. He had numerous dogs, cows and horses and grew vegetables and made cream, not commercially, but as a hobby.

People thought he was mad to live so far out of town in those days, said Alan.

One of his sons today runs a commercial farm in Balfour.

"Innesfree was the only farm in town, but we lived there for 40 years. We still have cows, dogs and horses and until the day he died, he would go and see all the animals every day and take them food," said Alan.

In 1990, Lurie donated all but two of the 25 hectares of the farm to the former Sandton Town Council to be used as a botanical garden. His mother and older



brother have the rights to live on the remaining land for the span of their lifetimes.

Lurie recently took on provincial government when it tried to run the Gautrain through Innesfree Farm.

"At his own cost, he hired professionals who drew up an alternate route which was eventually accepted," said Alan.

Lurie was a charitable man but would never make an issue of it and tell anyone what he was doing.

"We have been getting thank you notes from people we don't even know, thanking us for what my father did for them. Two women said our father had paid for their university studies and today they are both successful businesswomen. We did not know about this. He was a modest man who never wanted recognition for what he did."

Lurie was an avid reader and

would often read a book a night. In later years, he loved reading history and autobiographies.

"He loved quoting poetry and remembered poems from his school days. His last request while he was in hospital last week, was for a book of poetry." The farm was named after a poem by W B Yeats called "The Lake Isle of Innesfree".

Lurie, who was 89, died from complications from diabetes, an illness he suffered from for the past 50 years. But he was active until his death, checking the stock markets on a daily basis.

He retired from the JSE in 1990 but kept going to the office every day right until the end. "On the Monday before he died, he was still dealing. He had a phenomenal mind and left a wonderful legacy."

Lurie was a member of Temple Israel and later of Temple Emanuel.

He died leaving his wife Lois, 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

# For Anton, Gap was more than a job

LARA GREENBERG

THE STREETS of Johannesburg are emptier with the loss of Barend Schutte, known to all who worked with him and befriended him, as Anton.

For the past seven months, he has been one of the soldiers fervently fighting the war against crime in Glenhazel, through the Glenhazel Active Patrol (Gap).

His passion and dedication for his work gained him much respect from all who knew him but now, the tragic death of this 37-year-old in a motorbike accident on Monday afternoon, has left these same people reeling.

Mark Notelovitz, managing director of Core Tactical - the company which provides and runs Gap security - told *Jewish Report* that Anton was "just a really nice guy".

He added that although his exterior conveyed a rough and tough mercenary kind of appearance, he was, in fact, a very warm and sensitive person who just really loved his job and took everything about it very personally, as a result.

General manager of Core Tactical, Pieter Schoeman said that the moment he met Anton he realised that this was someone with the right morals for the position. He added that Anton was just the kind of man that anyone would have liked and hired, no matter what the job was.

An avid reader of history books, Anton had a rich work history which included time in the South African navy; work at Ubuntu security; and time in Africa, working for a number of private military companies. He started with Gap in November

last year - a week after the official launch.

Unit commander of Gap, Jaco Smith said Anton was a man who knew what his priorities were. Ever since they'd met he'd seen Anton as a very forthcoming and open-minded person who was always on the look-out for new challenges and could always be counted on to build team spirit.

A sentiment expressed by the head of the Incident Command and Control Centre (ICCC), on behalf of all the staff there, was that Anton was "an exceptionally passionate and dedicated professional" whose work was not his work but his life.

Anton is survived by his mother, father and brother.



**Anton (Barend Schutte), a man dedicated to and passionate about bringing safety and security back to the streets of Glenhazel.**

# New eiruv in Joburg's Corlett Gardens area

DAVID SAKS

SHABBOS OBSERVANCE in Johannesburg has been given a welcome boost with the establishment of a new eiruv encompassing the Corlett Gardens and Whitney Gardens areas.

The new eiruv extension borders the Lyndhurst and Waverley eiruv to the south and west respectively, extending all the way along Johannesburg Road (including where it becomes Pretoria Road) and branching northwards to encompass the areas bordered by the adjacent Whitney, Junction, Drome and Louw Roads.

The primary beneficiaries of the new eiruv are congregants of Chabad-Lyndhurst, whose premises fell within a pre-existing eiruv but whose members mainly lived outside of it.

Justin Shulman, a member of Chabad-Lyndhurst, also points out that elderly Jewish people today living within the newly enclosed area and their families, have also benefited since it is now easier for them to visit and receive visits from their children and grandchildren living elsewhere.

Shulman was previously involved in the establishment of the eiruv in Pretoria and in the last extension of the Lyndhurst eiruv.

The new eiruv, involved erecting poles across the bottom of

Johannesburg/Pretoria Road, at the end of Lane Road, the corner of Rocky and Rosen Streets, over the bridge along Johannesburg Road crossing the river, the corner of Whitney Road and Corlett Drive and across Bridge Road.

While ostensibly straightforward, the establishment of a halachically acceptable eiruv is in fact extremely complex. The necessary research and co-ordination for the new Corlett Gardens eiruv was carried out by Rabbi Alex Carlebach of Chabad of Lyndhurst, together with Rabbi Anton Klein from the Johannesburg Beth Din.

One of the key difficulties that had to be overcome was dealing with a section including the Jukskei River on the southern side of the area to be enclosed which was categorised as a "wild area" that could not be included in an eiruv.

The problem was overcome by erecting extra poles on the southern side of the river to exclude the relevant area.



# The UJW turns 75 in grand style

STAFF REPORTER

KOSHER MOBILE Meals had gone from strength to strength and was now feeding 150 recipients, said chairman of the Union of Jewish Women, Mickie Jacobs, at the organisation's 75th annual general meeting recently.

Kosher Mobile Meals was run by Glenda Goldberg who had streamlined operations and routes. "The recipients depend not just on the food, but on the presence of the 'hoppers' who deliver the meals twice a week. The social worker, Ingrid Woolf, looks after other aspects of recipients' care," Jacobs said.

The Union's Wednesday Friendship Club luncheon was "an oasis in the week" for visitors who enjoy the break from routines - a meal, entertainment and tea.

Crisis Projects, under Ora Morgan, Mandy Meyerowitz, and others dealt with the ever-increasing demands that HIV/Aids made on the Rape Crisis Project. About 50 families now received monthly food parcels, as well as clothing for change of seasons.

This was in addition to the regular work

for the Crisis Centre and the soup kitchens at the Hillbrow Polyclinic and HIV/Aids clinic.

Jacobs also paid tribute to Hilary Feinberg and the adult education division team for the series of talks and lectures they organised.

"The 75th UJW celebrations were a highlight this year with the hosting of 100 children from Pimville and Tembisa at the Oak Street premises. This gave children a respite from their often miserable and sordid everyday lives.

"Goodie bags were handed out, their faces painted and they enjoyed the jumping castles," she said.

Other UJW projects are the lending of rehabilitative appliances and equipment, Thembalethu which houses the various activities of the Alexandra Community Action Project and Bobba's Trip which allows people in need to visit relatives overseas.

The Naomi Project assists 20 children from pre-primary to matric with psycho-educational assessments, speech assessments and therapy, occupational therapy, remedial education, assessments for extra time in matric and play therapy.

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# Primedia Holocaust, genocide studies chair at Unisa

GEOFF SIFRIN

LAST WEEK'S speech at Unisa by outgoing British Prime Minister Tony Blair, in which he focused on the violence and poverty in Africa, saw the inauguration of a new academic chair for the study of genocide which could help in the future to prevent some of the violence and its development into actual genocide.

The new chair is sponsored by publishing group Primedia and will be called the Unisa Primedia Chair of Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Aside from the study of particular genocides in Africa such as Rwanda and Darfur, and other places such as the Armenian genocide, the new chair aims to form a bridge with the study of the Holocaust, which has had six decades in which to develop and is more established.

Research into these different genocide situations has remained largely compartmentalised until now.

Three of the key people behind the establishment of the new chair are the Primedia Foundation's chairman, Issie Kirsh, Patricia Lawrence, director of the Unisa Foundation, and Ilne du Toit, director of development and marketing at Primedia Education. Enthusiastic support has also come from the Unisa board of trustees chairman, lawyer Billy Gundelfinger, who is also a prominent member of the Johannesburg Jewish community.

The first incumbent of the chair will be Professor Abebe Zegeye, originally from Ethiopia. He will be visiting the Shoah Foundation at the University of Southern California. Dr Anthony Court, the senior research executive, will be doing some courses at Yad Vashem.

Kirsh told the *Jewish Report* that the scope of study and research would be broad and would encompass various South African and African scenarios: "From my viewpoint as chairman of the Primedia Foundation, I believe this kind of programme is essential, and through the combined efforts and tremendous enthusiasm of Pat Lawrence and Ilne du Toit, we have managed to create it.

"My wife Mushe has also always had a strong concern about issues to do with the Holocaust in terms of education and other aspects. She will be assisting in the development of the Unisa-Holocaust curriculum for secondary schools.

"I personally am very concerned about the alarming resurgence of anti-Semitism in recent times, including the Holocaust denial that is now occurring.

"Within the African context it has great meaning for me. For example, the situation in Darfur, where very little is being done - the UN is still not sending in support to help in any sufficient degree."

There will be a wide-ranging international scope through the chair. For example, working relationships were being established with bodies such as the Berlin Institute for the Study of Anti-Semitism, which assesses teaching strategies in instances of racism and anti-Semitism in Germany's schools and which has applications for the South African context.

There will be engagement with Israeli-based Holocaust and genocide scholars, such as those at the Truman Institute at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Yad Vashem, and bodies such as the Cape Town Holocaust Centre and the International Network of Genocide Scholars (INOGS).

There are plans to launch a journal of genocide studies as a platform for research output by African and international scholars.

Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Unisa Prof Barney Pitso, said in his address:



A graphic display at the inauguration of the Primedia chair.

"Africa needs to invest in our future. Genocide must never again be associated with our continent. There must never again be another Darfur."

A brochure outlining the new chair's mandate describes its ambitious goal: "By promoting ties between African intellectuals and academicians, the chair will contribute towards improved prospects for co-operation, understanding and peace in our often troubled but nevertheless increasingly optimistic continent."

"Africa needs to invest in our future. Genocide must never again be associated with our continent. There must never again be another Darfur."

Unisa, with a student body of some 280 000, is an excellent base. It is the largest university in Africa, with satellite campuses in South Africa and across the continent, and has the biggest academic publishing house in Africa.

The recently-opened campus in Addis Ababa offers a local platform for research in central and north-east Africa, such as the Darfur region of Sudan. The proximity to Namibia of Unisa's South African campus will help research into the genocide of African populations, such as the Herero by the colonial regime in German South West Africa.

Other examples which could fall into the research programmes are Belgian colonial rule in the Congo and, further afield, the

Armenian genocide.

Three major long term projects have been identified: compilation of an encyclopaedia of African genocide and crimes against humanity and human rights; investigating the establishment of an oral history programme to document the experiences of the Rwandan people during the genocide of 1994; and a teacher training project aimed at establishing a national programme of Holocaust and genocide studies for school pupils.

Study of the Holocaust and genocide has recently been formally incorporated into the South African school curriculum, partly as a result of efforts of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre. A cornerstone of this educational approach is that to promote an understanding of the Holocaust in Africa and to enable it to be used as a tool for reconciliation and genocide prevention, it must be placed in the broader, global context of genocide studies.

In his speech, Blair spoke at length on British involvement in Africa, making a strong case for intervention when necessary.

"Conflict in the African continent," he said, "has created millions of refugees, poverty and suffering. Failed African states are breeding grounds for extremism. What if we do nothing? Look at Rwanda."

He mentioned the example of Sierra Leone, where eventual intervention had put an end to the rampaging and killing. The international community, he said, had a responsibility to protect the victims of attempted genocide.

"The real challenge is a battle of values. If we don't act on poverty, democracy, etc, we will cede this space to people with other values, such as Islamic extremists. There are 250 million Muslims in Africa - they must be part of this battle for values."

The different possible outcomes, he said, are encapsulated by the tragic examples epitomised by Zimbabwe and Sudan, compared to those of successful countries such as Botswana and South Africa.



Patricia Lawrence, Issie Kirsh and Ilne du Toit.



Cherie Blair, Billy Gundelfinger, Issie Kirsh and Tony Blair

## AROUND THE WORLD

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### SA MINISTER CALLS ISRAEL AN OUT-LAW

CAPE TOWN - South Africa's deputy foreign minister has said that no other country has flouted international law as much as Israel.

At a reception for Arab ambassadors in Pretoria held on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the Six Day War, Aziz Pahad said that since the war, Israel had "been able to defy the international community with impunity", according to the *Cape Times*.

"The situation 40 years on is still bad," Pahad said. "Israeli violence against Palestine is continuing. The Israeli authorities continue to arrest and imprison Palestinian ministers and legislators."

The ruling African National Congress in a statement also expressed its solidarity with the Palestinian people, saying that South Africans needed to "join hands and act in solidarity with the people of Palestine as they struggle for the realisation of their basic human rights."

A coalition of pro-Palestinian organisations, including the ANC, under the banner "End the Occupation Campaign", has embarked on pickets, debates and rallies countrywide to mark the 40th anniversary of the war.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of the Palestinians' plight and would demand a boycott of Israeli products on the part of the government and the people, according to Mohammad Groenewald, spokesman for the Palestinian Solidarity Group. (JTA)

#### SYRIAN LAWMAKER TALKS OF WAR

DAMASCUS - A Syrian lawmaker has said his country wants war with Israel.

Mohammed Habash, who spoke to Al-Jazeera on Monday as part of Arab commemorations of the 40th anniversary of the Six Day War, said the Syrians wanted to use force to retake the Golan Heights.

"The Syrian street wants to restore the Golan," Habash said. But he noted recent peace overtures by Bashar Assad's regime in Damascus and said that if there was a new conflict, it would be Israel's doing.

"The Israeli government feels threatened and is liable to create new tensions, even war, just to survive," Habash said.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has played down talks of a new round of fighting with Syria after last year's inconclusive war against its Lebanese proxy, Hezbollah.

Israeli officials said that Habash's statements, unusual for a country that controls public discourse, indicated Syria was engaging in brinkmanship. (JTA)

#### ABBAS FEARS CIVIL WAR

RAMALLAH - Mahmoud Abbas says infighting among Palestinians could spill into civil war.

"On the internal front, the cause of everybody's concern is what is called the security chaos, or more precisely, standing on the brink of civil war," the president of the Palestinian Authority said in a speech on Tuesday, referring to recent street battles between his Fatah faction and the dominant Islamist group Hamas.

Abbas, speaking on the 40th anniversary of the Six Day War, called the conflict in which Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza Strip a "black date".

But he also sounded upbeat about efforts to achieve a state through negotiations with Israel.

"Despite all the difficulties, we are taking steps toward statehood, a target that is getting closer," he said. "We are ready to negotiate forthwith - fully, sincerely and responsibly."

Abbas is scheduled to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert later this week, after which the latter will fly to Washington for consultations with President George W Bush. (JTA)

# Candlelight protest against Israel, US



PHOTOGRAPHS: ILAN OSSENDYVER

A candlelight protest against Israel and the United States took place on Tuesday evening at the US Consulate opposite Killarney Mall in Johannesburg.

Some 100 people participated in the protest, which was part of a week-long series of events in Johannesburg and Cape Town, conducted by the End the Occupation Campaign, to mark 40 years since the Six Day War. A strong police presence watched over the event.

# Kabbalistic perspective on death

MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

"LIFE BEYOND Life" is a serious and scholarly attempt to remove "the veil of mystery" surrounding the hereafter. In this professionally produced DVD consisting of four 45-minute lectures, Rabbi Dr Lionel Mirvis gives a Kabbalistic perspective on issues around death that have engaged Man's mind since time immemorial.

Questions such as "What is death?", "Is the hereafter fact or conjecture?", "Is true communication possible with those who have passed on?" and "Does our way of life affect the departed?", are put under the microscope and illustrated through real-life stories by this retired congregational rabbi who now lectures and conducts seminars on Kabbalah internationally.

Rabbi Mirvis, who is dean of the Spiral Institute for Kabbalah, begins his lectures by stating that it is a fundamental principle of Jewish faith that there is life after death. Dealing with the topic of communication with "the other side", he demon-

strates by way of an example from the Talmud, his belief that the good one does in this life is known in the afterlife.

"We have reason to believe," he ventures, "that we can bring pleasure to our forebears who have

passed on. How many of us have guilt feelings over lost time that we can't recapture?"

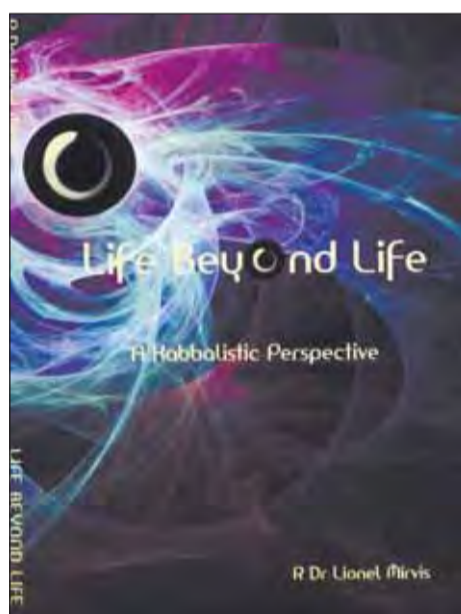
"We can still bring pleasure to those who have passed on by doing good now in this world. So let's think twice about the things that we do in our daily lives - we are doing things for those who are living, but also as part of the greater picture: the union of this life and the hereafter."

While the evidence shows that there is a two-way communication between this world and the next, resorting to a medium is "unwise" and forbidden in Jewish law, he says. "We should not disturb our near ones and dear ones on the other side.

"If they want to communicate with us they will do so. If not, they are resting in peace."

Rabbi Mirvis says this is the first time that a Jewish subject has been dealt with through this medium in South Africa. He feels it will appeal to Jews and non-Jews alike.

\* For further information and details of availability contact Rabbi Mirvis at [mirvis@mweb.co.za](mailto:mirvis@mweb.co.za)



The cover of the recently-released DVD "Life Beyond Life".

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## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

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## Jewish Report

## Genocide is different

NOTWITHSTANDING South Africa's violent past, there was never genocide here. Racism, oppression, cruelty, exploitation of human beings and a host of other ills that sometimes included murder, yes. But neither the white minority nor the black liberation movements had the intention to actually wipe each other out.

Whites saw blacks as a cheap and subservient source of labour. Most blacks saw whites as people who held a yoke around their necks, but whom they would one day share this country with.

In Rwanda in 1994, however, the Hutus were determined to physically eliminate the Tutsis, and succeeded - to the tune of 800 000 people.

The Nazis attempted during the Second World War to rid Europe of Jews and succeeded in murdering six million people. Some 1.5 million Armenians were eliminated by the Turks in 1915 (which Turkey denies to this day).

In the Darfur region of Sudan, the Janjaweed Arabs are doing everything they can to eliminate the African inhabitants and have already killed some 200 000 and made hundreds of thousands more into refugees.

Conquest and oppression of another people is not the same as a genocide - a crime which stands outside "normal" human conflict. It has now been recognised as a phenomenon which must be studied in its own terms and lessons learnt.

It is in this light that the establishment of a chair of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Unisa, sponsored by Primedia (reported on page 6), is so important.

There is always the danger in these media-saturated days, when much discourse takes the form of sound bites and catchy slogans, of words becoming cheapened and losing their essential meaning. This is sometimes true for the word "genocide", which is often used too freely and loosely in many contexts where the concept is not applicable.

The word is also used frequently for political expediency to discredit an enemy or opponent in a conflict. If every war and conflict is a "genocide", then none of them is a genocide.

There has been a tendency among Jews to resist allowing the Holocaust to be treated and studied as another genocide along with others. But the reality is that the Holocaust is one of many that occurred during the violent 20th century, beginning with the slaughter of the Armenians in 1915.

Nevertheless, the scale and "industrial" nature of the Holocaust - epitomised by the carefully constructed gas chambers at Auschwitz capable of killing thousands of people daily, like an assembly line producing death according to meticulously kept rosters and production sheets - make it chilling in a very particular kind of way.

There are special lessons to be learnt from the Holocaust. But this applies to any of the other genocides as well.

One of the saddest lessons common to most is that the victims usually wait in vain for other countries or powers to intervene to stop the slaughter.

Such was the case with Rwanda, when it was clear for about 100 days what was happening, yet the UN failed to act to stop it, even though it had the forces available which could have done so.

Similarly in Darfur today, where the facts of what is happening shout out for the entire world to hear, yet the powers that should be intervening are mouthing platitudes and empty declarations while the killing goes on.

If the new chair at Unisa succeeds, along with other such bodies like Yad Vashem, in shaming the world about past genocides and current ones through its research, publications and other activities, it might make it less possible for bodies like the United Nations, European Union, African Union and others to hide behind their excuses and platitudes.

If it manages to do this, it will have achieved something very worthwhile.

## A note coming from Israel

EXCITING ABOUT being in Israel is the range of views one reads in the press or hears from Israelis across the political spectrum. One is not subjected to the unvarying poles of opinion in South Africa: knee-jerk acceptance by the bulk of the Jewish community of every policy of the Israeli government, or a facile "grass roots" condemnation of Israel as an apartheid state.

While none can ignore the profound difficulties facing Israel now, here discussion of the situation has nuance, existential passion and, from many, much conscience.

Every Friday afternoon, for example, at Jerusalem's Paris Square, Women in Black protest against the now 40-year-old occupation. Liberal Israelis take responsibility for the mess that is Gaza. Its complex background precludes the faults and lost opportunities of neither side.

At the other end of the spectrum, right-wingers assert that everyone hates Israel, which is at war against an implacable enemy, and any and every measure may be taken to defeat the enemy.

No territory should be given up, even for peace. Why agitate about creating a Palestinian state when there already is one, namely Gaza? When Israel vacated it, leaving its agricultural infrastructure intact, all the Palestinians did was to destroy it.

A symposium on Tuesday evening, May 29, at Yakar's Center for Social Concern - under the joint auspices of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation - revealed, in microcosm, this range of attitudes.

Exploring the effects, on both Israelis and Palestinians, of Israel's conquest in the Six Day War, its underlying assumption was that Israel's subsequent occupation of these territories has been costly, not only to Palestinians but also to Israelis.

One of the two Israeli panellists, Prof Uriel Simon, a biblical historian, offered, against a considerable amount of heckling from members of the audience, a counter-theology to prevailing religious beliefs that the conquered territories cannot be



## ON BALANCE

Jocelyn Hellig

returned.

Israel is the Holy Land, but holiness does not require Jews to abandon their ethical values. Two people inhabit this territory, both with just claims to it.

Seeing the 1967 victory as a world-changing event, a "decision of history", it seemed, he said, to be a punishment for Arab aggression and gave Zionism an historical reassurance by reconnecting Israel, previously located in the "Philistine" part of the country, with biblical Israel.

The ultimate meaning of Israel's stunning victory in 1967, however, is that it is a G-d-given gift of "territorial currency" to pay for peace. Without the war peace with Egypt, following Israel's return of Sinai, would not have been possible. G-d's will must now be reinterpreted and followed by an appropriate response.

What, for example, would one do with a sudden windfall of a million Euros? Stop working, buy a new house, travel the world? People seldom think about the good one could do with such a gift. Israel must abandon extremism, an unfortunate outcome of the Six Day War, and make space for a Palestinian state.

Anshel Pfeffer, a political analyst for *The Jerusalem Post*, far from seeing the war as a watershed, claimed that it changed nothing. Forty years ago Israel was smaller and less prosperous, but things remain much the same.

The Moroccan outsider from Sderot, Amir Peretz, popular only months ago, was swept away by the Labour primaries in favour of the party's "old generals".

Despite peace with Egypt and Jordan, the

relationship with the Arabs is unchanged and, even there, there remains anti-Semitism.

Return to the pre-1967 borders will solve nothing because Israelis have not yet addressed the fundamental questions of who they are, what they themselves want to be, or what they want Israel to be. Until they do, and take responsibility, nothing can be settled least of all the borders.

The final speaker, Bassem Eid, director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, outlined the Palestinian experience of four decades of occupation.

He questioned Israelis celebrating, only days earlier, Yom Yerushalaim, given the neglect and misery of East Jerusalem. He spoke of the series of crushing disappointments the Palestinians have experienced and the blame that is constantly cast upon them by Israel, which refuses to discern, in Abbas, a partner for peace.

Unilateral disengagement had simply given Gaza to Hamas on a platter and Hamas is victimising its own people for no gain. It is responsible for the rockets on Sderot, not Abbas, and for each one that falls, more Palestinians will die, including innocent civilians.

While defence of national territory is legitimate, victimisation of others in the name of security is not.

He scorned the apartheid analogy as wrong and counter-productive. Having recently visited SA, he found local Muslims to be extraordinarily extremist and ignorant of the complex dynamics of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

There is much consternation here about the threatened boycotts from England and our own country, mainly because they are so mindlessly one-sided. The fear is not so much about giving back the territories, complicated as that will be, but that, even if two states are achieved, Israel will continue to be delegitimised.

Perhaps, some suggest, the academic boycott should be less hypocritical and go further, spurning the benefits of all the technological and medical advances that have their origin in Israel. How would the world function if every Israeli IT influence was eliminated?

## Task force on Israeli Arabs' plight

JACOB BERKMAN  
NEW YORK

WHILE THE plight of Israeli Arabs has long been a cause for the more liberal groups in Jewish communal life, a task force started last year has helped push the issue more into the American Jewish mainstream.

Nearly one in five Israeli citizens is Arab, yet this population of 1.2 million still is seeking equality in Israeli life. That creates a potentially explosive situation, says the executive director of the Interagency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues.

"Jewish-Arab relations in Israel is the most pressing domestic issue facing Israel today," Jessica Balaban says. "The 20 per cent minority cannot be ignored."

This week the task force is holding conferences in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco to raise awareness of the issue.

Israeli Arabs in the past several years have become increasingly discontent with the disparity between Jews and Israelis in terms of education, social welfare benefits and representation in government.

In October 2000, 13 Arabs and one Jew were killed during riots in Arab villages. The riots led to a report by the Or Commission and two subsequent reports warning that unless Israel works to create an equal society, the civil unrest could become rampant and more violent.

Tensions have mounted on both sides. Jewish Israelis chaff as prominent Arab Knesset members have met with Israel's enemies in Syria and Lebanon.

And in recent months, as groups such as the Israel Democracy Institute push for Israel to draft a constitution that codifies rights for all Israeli citizens, Israeli Arab groups have published four separate position papers on their rights.

The most eyebrow raising, titled "The Future Vision of the Palestinian Arabs", was drafted in December by 40 Israeli Arab

intellectuals. It denigrated Israel's history, and called for the right of return of Palestinians to Israel and changing the Israeli flag to feature something less inherently Jewish than the Star of David.

But Balaban said that paper and others spurred conversations, which led Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to announce last month that he will hold a conference focused on expanding dialogue between Israel's Jewish and non-Jewish citizens.

Progress has been made by the Israelis, especially in the months following the Lebanon war last summer. The government and the Jewish Agency for Israel stepped in to help Arab villages recover from Hezbollah rocket fire, and Jewish Israelis recognised that Arabs also were under attack.

Those involved in the cause say the American Jewish community must press for more advances, which is why the task force was formed in January 2006. It provides educational resources, as well as a vehicle through which organisations and foundations can convene on projects.

Among its some 66 members are key American Jewish organisations and private foundations. They include the Anti-Defamation League, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations and the United Jewish Communities; eight Jewish federations from major cities; and major private foundations such as the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Foundation, the Samuel Bronfman Foundation, the Everett Foundation and the Koret Foundation.

It has also been able to enlist the Reform, Conservative and Modern Orthodox movements.

"For the first time you have a broad range of American Jewish organisations working on addressing minority rights in Israel, and particularly Israeli Arab rights," said Larry Garber, president of the New Israel Fund and a member of the task force's steering committee.



**Sheik Mohammed Kiwan, imam of the town of Majed-El-Croum, and Rabbi Gavriel Va'aknin, of Carmiel, discuss interfaith dialogue among religious leaders in northern Israel. (Credit: Courtesy the Abraham Fund)**

"And there are a number of specific events that have happened as a result."

Supporting the Arab Israeli cause has not been an easy sell in Orthodox circles. When the Jewish Agency allocated money it received from the UJC's Israel Emergency Campaign to help Arab towns rebuild after the Lebanon war, some of the strongest critics were Orthodox.

But Nathan Diament, the director of public policy for the Orthodox Union, said the modern Orthodox community generally understood the need to help Israel's Arab citizens.

"I think people appreciate that the Jewish community overall raises funds to help people in need in Israel, and that part of helping Israeli society be a better society is dealing with all the segments of that society and we can't ignore that," Diament said.

Jewish philanthropy sectors in recent months have formally placed the issue on their agendas. At its general assembly in November, the UJC ran four sessions dedicated to the plight of the Israeli Arabs.

Also at the assembly, UJC passed a resolution urging Jewish federations to work with the Jewish Agency and the JDC to educate American Jews about the Israeli Arabs' situation, consider missions to Israel to engage with Israeli Arabs and help build an Israel that benefits all of its citizens. (JTA)

## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# World Jewish Congress election appears to be a 2-horse race

JACOB BERKMAN  
NEW YORK

SOUTH AFRICAN steel magnate Mendel Kaplan has officially entered the race for the interim presidency of the World Jewish Congress, setting the stage for a four-person contest that will be decided on June 10.

The outcome will end weeks of speculation over who will succeed the long-time president, Edgar Bronfman, who is stepping down following years of turmoil within the organisation.

The WJC, with regional operations around the world, is best known for securing billions in Holocaust restitution funds and fighting anti-Semitism. But its reputation has suffered as a result of political infighting and allegations of financial mismanagement.

Insiders say they are looking toward ending that chapter of the organisation and refocusing its energies on issues such as Iran and anti-Semitism.

Four candidates have handed in their declarations of candidacy to the office of the WJC secretariat, according to a WJC official.

In addition to Kaplan, the current chairman of the WJC's executive, they are Ronald Lauder, the cosmetics heir and president of the Jewish National Fund; Einat Wilf, an Israeli writer and activist; and Vladimir Herzberg, a Russian-Israeli nuclear physicist.

Lauder will run on a ticket with Matthew Bronfman, the chairman of the WJC's finance committee and the son of Edgar Bronfman, who has led the organisation for nearly 30 years.

The younger Bronfman is running for the chairmanship of the group's governing board, which will also be selected on Sunday.

Those in Wilf's camp say there is momentum surrounding the 36-year-old who wants to reform the WJC. Herzberg, who entered the race on June 1, appears a miracle long-shot at best.

The race appears to be largely a show-down between Kaplan and the billionaire ticket of Lauder-Bronfman.

There was much speculation that

Kaplan would run for WJC president when Edgar Bronfman announced his impending retirement in early May. Kaplan at the time verbally expressed to the WJC's steering committee his intention to run, and he was backed immediately by Pierre Bessnainou, president of the European Jewish Congress and a WJC steering committee member.

But late last week there was speculation as well that Kaplan might not run, as he had not submitted a written declaration of his candidacy to the WJC by the June 1 deadline that the WJC professional staff had requested.

Some observers suggested that he could have been put off by the Lauder-Bronfman pairing. Matthew Bronfman, according to sources close to Kaplan, initially had a deal in place to run on a ticket with Kaplan.

Bessnainou told JTA that he was "shocked" that Bronfman ultimately teamed with Lauder.

While other parties have launched media campaigns to drum up support for their candidates, Kaplan has remained elusive, refusing requests for media interviews.

Those around him laud the 70-year-old steel magnate as a staunch Zionist who has helped build up Jewish infrastructure in South Africa, where he lives.

Kaplan runs Cape Gate, a South African-based steel manufacturing firm that his father, Isaac, started in Lithuania during the 1920s, according to a long-time Kaplan associate, Isaac Joffe.

The company opened its first plant in Israel in 1975 because "we were all meshuga Zionists", said Joffe, a Cape Gate board member for 40 years. "We just felt these sort of businesses had to be in Israel."

Cape Gate, which is called the Yehuda Welded Mesh company in Israel, now has three plants there employing about 600 Israelis.

In the Jewish world, Kaplan is most heralded for his position as the board chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel. During his tenure from 1987 to 1996, the agency was instrumental in the immigration of more than one million immigrants



Ronald Lauder.



Mendel Kaplan

to Israel from the former Soviet Union and the emergency airlift of nearly 15 000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel in 36 hours in May 1991.

Kaplan helped plan the absorption of the new immigrants, according to Andrea Arbel, who wrote a book about Kaplan's term as chairman, *Riding the Wave: The Jewish Agency's Role in the Mass Aliyah of Soviet and Ethiopian Jewry to Israel, 1987-1995*.

*"The first thing the WJC should do is provide aid to Israelis struggling to make ends meet, and those in Sderot facing Qassam rockets. This organisation needs to come down from the sky, and come down to the level of the simple people here in Israel."*

Some who knew him during his tenure call him a strong leader. They echo Arbel, who said Kaplan "knows how to make a decision and get things done".

Herzberg is a former Russian nuclear scientist who moved to Israel in 1996. He is now a professor of economics at Ben-Gurion University. In 1999 he posed a long-shot challenge to Ariel Sharon for the head of the Likud Party.

Herzberg says he thinks the WJC should shift its focus to Israel.

"The state is in trouble. I know what it's like to live and struggle here in Israel," he told JTA in an e-mail exchange. "Lauder and others don't know the problems we face from firsthand experience."

"The first thing the WJC should do is provide aid to Israelis struggling to make ends meet, and those in Sderot facing Qassam rockets. This organisation needs to come down from the sky, and come down to the level of the simple people here in Israel."

Who will win the race for WJC president is anyone's guess.

The WJC executive committee will meet at 13:00 on Sunday at the organisation's offices in New York City to make its selection for interim president. The 23-member executive committee is made up of the steering committee and the WJC's vice presidents.

The WJC's 90-member governing board will meet at 16:00 that day at offices of the UJA-Federation of New York to either approve the executive committee's choice or hear further nominations from the floor and hold a multi-candidate election. The governing board is made up of the executive committee and delegates representing WJC member regions and organisations.

The interim president will serve until 2009, when the WJC holds its next plenary and selects a permanent president. At a plenary the election is conducted by a show of hands, though a secret ballot can be conducted if 100 or more delegates request it, according to a WJC official who asked not to be identified.

It is not yet known whether the June 10 election will be conducted via secret ballot, roll-call or show of hands, though Bessnainou has requested a secret ballot, according to the WJC official.

Lauder says he is looking forward to the competition.

"Mendel has been involved with the WJC for a long time, and this is exactly what I have been pushing for - an open and fair election," he told JTA through his special assistant, Warren Kozak. He added that his campaign was going "very favourably. But we won't know until Sunday". (JTA)

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF


### UN PROPOSAL 'CAUSE FOR ALARM'

GENEVA - A proposal for reforming the top human rights body at the UN has been deemed a "cause for alarm" by a Geneva-based watchdog group.

UN Watch said a proposal released on Monday by the Human Rights Council broke several key promises made last year and reneged on assurances that the council's establishment would mark a significant break from its discredited predecessor, the Commission on Human Rights. The council is preparing to hold a session next week to wrap up a year of reform negotiations.

"As a year of reform negotiations now enters its final week, the spoilers of reform, and their campaign to eviscerate the existing mechanisms of human rights protection, are ascendant," UN Watch Executive Director Hillel Neuer wrote.

Among the worrisome developments Neuer cited, were the failure to ensure council members are chosen on the basis of their human rights record, moves to eliminate special rapporteurs that investigate allegations of rights violations by specific countries and the continued practice of singling out Israel for particular criticism while ignoring rights violations by the Palestinians. (JTA)



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**Civic Theatre, Braamfontein:** In the Nelson Mandela, Australia's "Ten Tenors", until June 17. In the Tesson, Ben Elton's "Popcorn", until July 1. In the People's Theatre, "Babe, the Sheep-Pig", until August 11. (011) 877-6800.

**Goodman Gallery, Rosebank:** "Diary Pages" an exhibition by Harold Rubin, until June 16 (011) 788-1113.

**Johannesburg Art Gallery, Joubert Park:** "Dunga Manzi: Stirring Waters" Tsonga and Shangaan art from southern Africa, curated by Nessa Leibhammer, Natalie Knight and Billy Makhubele, until August 18. (011) 725-3130.

**Liberty Theatre on the Square, Sandton:** At lunchtime on June 8, Sempre Viva: Camelia Onea (violin), Kerryn Wiesniewsky (piano) and Polina Burdokova (cello) play work by Beethoven and Shostakovich. On June 15, a piano recital with Heloise Murdoch. Until July 7, Alan Swerdlow directs "Some Girl(s)". (011) 883-8606.

**Linder Auditorium, Parktown:** The Johannesburg Philharmonic's final week of season two features Beethoven's Leonore overture, Symphony No. 1 and Violin Concerto Opus 61. Soloist is Min-Jin Kym (piano); conductor is Conrad van Alphen. (011) 789-2733. On June 9, the Johannesburg Musical Society presents the Kerimov Trio playing Saint-Saëns's Piano Trio No 1, Schumann's Six Pieces in Canonic Form and Dvorak's "Dumky" Trio. (011) 728-5492.

**Market, Newtown:** In the Laager, Athol Fugard's "Victory", with Ameera Patel and Wayne van Rooyen, until July 1. In the Main Theatre, Taliep Pietersen and David Kramer's "Ghoema" June 13 - July 22. (011) 832-1641.

**Montecasino, Fourways:** "Menopause the Musical" in the Main Theatre until July 22. In the Studio, "Defending the Caveman" with Alan Committie until July 1. (011) 511-1988.

**National Children's Theatre, Parktown:** "A Pocket Oliver Twist", directed by Joyce Levinsohn. June 11 - July 28. (011) 484-1584.

**UJ Arts Centre, Auckland Park:** In the gallery, Sue Pam-Grant's solo exhibition, entitled "Inner Lining", until June 27. (011) 489-2556.

**State Theatre, Pretoria:** In the Arena, Sandra Prinsloo and Jeremy Crutchley under the direction of Janice Honeyman in "Doubt", until June 17. (012) 392-4000.

## A bleak show, but pure and harsh

"Diary Pages" by Harold Rubin. Until June 16. (Goodman Gallery, Rosebank. (011) 788-1113)

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

THE THING that grabs you by the heart in art made between the two world wars is its articulate honesty in reflecting on a world that has lost its grip on rationality. This is strongly evoked in Harold Rubin's work.

Indeed, he comes with his own legacy of irrational politics touching his life.

"Diary Pages" brings a Tel Avivian lilt to a German Expressionist ethos.

The 35 piece show focuses on women alone in a man's world. "Urban Landscape", a 9m long painting depicts women, in ugly, naked emotional turmoil. They are not contemporary; they're not mediaeval, as the horrifying female crucifixion might imply. They are backdropped by the crisscrossing scaffoldings of the city.

Astonishing size and workmanship aside, this piece reflects how war touches humanity. It's not about one war, rather, the crumbled values that any war offers.

It brings goose-bumps: it is so new and reflects values so old, so raw. There's something of Picasso's "Guernica" in the sharply turned heads with outstretched teeth; an echo of Grünewald's Isenheim Altarpiece in the fingers curled angularly in agony: one realises one is in the presence of greatness.

Several works deal with prostitutes. He



"Tel Baruch II" (2006) Mixed media on canvas. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY GOODMAN GALLERY)

names two after Tel Baruch, a suburb in Tel Aviv, where prostitutes work. Others deal with the pall of war, cast over families and land.

Rubin's line, whether in ink on paper, or acrylic on canvas, is sure and unforgiving. Almost caricaturist in its description of gesture, of human type, the work has an engaging sense of filigree to it.

Double-headed and masked figures with stiletto heels abound, but too much interpretation offers dangerous narrowness: "If I don't think too much, I allow directness to happen."

His music, like his art, is about improvised line, allowing a set of thoughts to

take him where they must.

A peer of Jonas Gwangwa and the late Kippie Moeketsi, Rubin imbibed the creative ethos of the 1950s. He played jazz clarinet. He made art with people associated with Polly Street. He went into exile in 1963.

Apartheid's pettiness touched him personally. His drawing "My Jesus", about religion's crass commercialism, resulted in a blasphemy trial. He was acquitted; the ordeal left its mark. "Religious humanitarianism in apartheid South Africa seemed farcical."

He said: "I went to Israel because I left South Africa. I am not a Zionist. Wherever I am, I am a stranger, but wherever I am is my home. I love living in Israel, with its nakedness and depression".

"Diary Pages" is a bleak show, but pure and harsh in its aesthetic excellence and its fierce yet understated indictment on society.

Filmmaker Yasmin Kainy, Rubin's step-daughter, is collaborating with him on an autobiographical film.

"A Magnificent Failure" develops an idea Rubin had after seeing Rembrandt's self-portraits in Amsterdam: "...when Rembrandt sat himself down to look at all he had created, he might have described it as a magnificent failure - you never really get there in making art. The process is realising it is your life. The results are not important!"

The film is scheduled for airing on Channel 2, in Israel by the end of the year.

FELDMAN  
ON FILM

Peter Feldman

## Goal 2

**Cast:** Kuno Becker, Stephen Dillane, Anna Friel, Marcel Lures  
**Director:** Jaume Collet-Serra

The first film, "Goal: The Dream Begins", was a crowd-pleaser. This sequel plots the further footballing fortunes of its key character, Santiago Munez, who leaves Newcastle United to join Real Madrid.

The story, which recycles many of the original clichés, is an entertaining enough excursion into the heady world of big league football in Madrid, and the trials and tribulations faced by its millionaire stars.

How close to reality this depiction is, is anybody's guess, but its star turn, Kuno Becker, as Muniz, is an athlete who gives the character some credence. He even gets to reunite with his long-lost mom.

Big name footballers, like David

Beckham, are woven into the plot and for those who enjoy football there are some exciting sequences on the pitch.

## Samoan Wedding

**Cast:** Oscar Kightley, Robbie Magasiva, Shimpal Lelisi, Jaheto Ah Hi  
**Director:** Chris Graham

We don't often see films from New Zealand and especially one that focuses solely on the Samoan community.

"Samoan Wedding" is a good-natured comedy that paints a vibrant portrait of the community and its various characters.

Set in Auckland, which boasts the largest population of second-generation Pacific Islanders, Chris Graham's breezy production follows the antics of a group of lifelong friends who have been banned from attending weddings in the town because of their unruliness.

This is a calamity because weddings are treated as a big traditional cultural event. The minister eventually relents, provided they bring a serious girlfriend and behave themselves. But finding a date is another matter altogether. And that's when the real fun begins.

## The Reaping

**Cast:** Hilary Swank, David Morrissey, Idris Elba, AnnaSophia Robb, Stephen Rea  
**Director:** Stephen Hopkins

Hilary Swank needs to fire her agent. Her decision to lend her name to a film of such utter nonsense does nothing for her reputation.

"The Reaping" offers a handful of interesting ideas and characters, but this doesn't last long as we are pitched into a spiritual battle between G-d and the Devil that defies all logic.

Swank plays a famous miracle debunker whose job is to disprove the existence of the supernatural. Her services are urgently required in the small bayou community of Haven where strange things have been occurring.

A river has turned blood red and locusts and frogs have rained from the sky.

There is also this young girl (AnnaSophia Robb) who has a connection to a satanic cult. It's sloppy filmmaking with few redeeming features. And it's not terribly scary.

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left to right) are played  
by Kyra Gladwin,  
Michelle Botha, Marissa  
Bosman, Belinda Chapman  
and Ruth Millson  
(understudy).

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## TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

# When a childhood dies in Libyan horror

*In the Country of Men* by Hisham Matar (Penguin, R110)

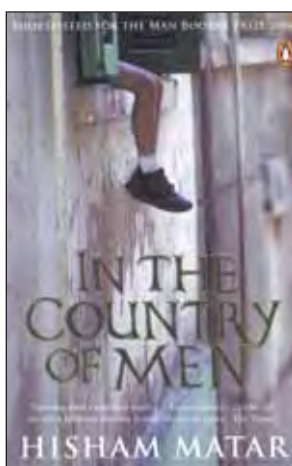
REVIEWED BY  
GWEN PODBREY

AFRICA'S DICTATORSHIPS come and go with depressing regularity, leaving decades of destruction behind them. Indeed, we are so inured to them that we barely register the real-time agony and suffering of those whose lives have been disrupted, or lost, in their wake.

So the window Hisham Matar opens into post-revolutionary Libya (or the "Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya", as it is officially known) is a bleak one indeed.

Colonel Muammar Qadafi's coup on September 1, 1969, which usurped the rule of King Idris, was welcomed ecstatically by most Libyans, who fully supported the drive to align Libya more closely with the Arab League and sever ties with the Western powers (particularly the United States) which they saw as unsympathetic to their aspirations.

Matar has drawn heavily on personal experience of the revolution. His father,



who fled the country to Egypt, was abducted there and brought back to Libya to answer charges of sedition. He has not been heard of since.

The book is narrated from the perspective of nine-year-old Suleiman Faraj el-Dewani, the son of affluent parents in an elite suburb of Tripoli, 1979.

He has learnt to negotiate an intricate circuit of tensions, resentments and unresolved issues between his mother and father, whose living arrangements all but preclude contact with each other.

His mother, Najwa, is a secret alcoholic (an offence punishable by flogging or imprisonment in a country where liquor is banned). Forced into marriage at the age of 14 by her brother and father, as a punishment for an innocent outing to a coffee bar where boys were present, she has never come to terms with her predicament - or with the fiercely chauvinistic tradition which imposed it on her.

But there is also his father, "Baba", who - while mostly absent from the house - brings both authority and awe into Suleiman's life.

Revered by his circle as an intrepid counter-revolutionary, whose library is filled

with banned literature extolling the virtues of democracy, this father exudes manhood and self-assurance in a way that keeps the world sane.

The glimpses which the book affords of a Libyan population drunk on cheap promis-

es, and betraying both themselves and each other, awaken disturbing memories in South African readers who lived through the apartheid era.

The prostitution of religious conviction, and its seemingly glib convergence with political racketeering, are equally discomfiting.

Shortlisted for the 2006 Man Booker Prize Matar's novel is an exceptional debut.

## 'Doubt' is top-notch fare for theatre aficionados

PLAY: *Doubt*

CAST: Sandra Prinsloo, Jeremy Crutchley, Tinarie van Wyk Loots, Ilse Oppelt

DIRECTOR: Janice Honeyman

VENUE: Arena at the South African State Theatre

UNTIL: June 17

REVIEWED BY PETER FELDMAN

JOHN PATRICK Shanley's award winning play "Doubt" is a superbly crafted piece of work propagating arguments that will remain with you long after you have left the theatre.

Its narrative thrust and intricate word-play allow Sandra Prinsloo and Jeremy Crutchley, two of South Africa's foremost performers, to display a depth and understanding of their characters that is breathtaking.

Shanley, whose incisive writing has left an indelible mark on American theatre, has conjured up a compelling work that examines its subject matter on all levels. It offers thought-provoking dialogue and a vibrant exchange of ideas and viewpoints that help illuminate many aspects of the human condition.

The play is set in a Catholic Church and convent school in the Bronx in New York in 1964 at a time, the playwright explains in his programme notes, when the whole world seemed to be going through some kind of vast puberty.

The old ways were still dominant in behaviour, dress, morality and world view, but what had been organic expression had become a dead mask.

Sandra Prinsloo, in one of her finest roles, portrays Sister Aloysius Beauvier, the principal of St Nicholas. She is an ice-cold individual who rules her little empire with an iron rod.

She sticks rigidly to the old school of teaching and discipline, ideals which fly in the face of the priest, Father Brendan Flynn (Crutchley), who has his own style in dealing with the students and with the life he has chosen.

She disapproves too of the warm and enthusiastic teaching style of novice nun, Sister James (Tinarie van Wyk Loots).

There is a clash of wills. Sister Aloysius believes Father Flynn is too easy and relaxed in his dealing with the students.

She also believes that he has shown inappropriate behaviour towards a 12-

year-old black student, the only one in the school, and should be dealt with accordingly. She had been told about his alleged infraction by Sister James and has placed her own, prejudiced spin on the matter.

The two characters confront each other on the issue and the audience is then presented with alternative points of view.

The boy's mother, Mrs Muller (Ilse Oppelt) is also brought into the argument and brings forth her perspective. Oppelt gives a confident and striking performance even though she is only on stage for a tiny part of the production.

Celebrated director Janice Honeyman has managed to elicit tip-top performances from her cast. Aided by superb Mannie Manim lighting and an evocative Brian Collins set design, this is one of the best drama productions I've seen this year.

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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.

Finally Chai FM is on it's way

IT IS with praise and gratitude to Hashem that I sit here writing this letter to you. Three years ago I began the process to obtain a licence for a fulltime, permanent, Jewish, community radio station - Chai FM.

Along the way I learned a few things: I learned that it's not just about obtaining the piece of paper at the end; it's what one learns during the process, and that life is a lot like starting a radio station.

I learned that passion for a cause will keep one going long after the caffeine has run out. I learned that joy is infinitely greater when working towards the "greater good". I learned that when one hands troubles over to Hashem, the solution will come and when it does it will surpass one's greatest expectations.

I learned that Jews come in all shapes, sizes and colours but we are all connected anyway!

I learned that miracles really do happen, to each of us; we just have to open our eyes and minds to the possibility. I have learned that help comes in the blink of an eye and often from the most unexpected places.

I learned that a prayer from the heart, in one's own words, is a powerful, effective tool. I learned that saying "NO" to one's children doesn't mean we don't love them; it just reinforces the boundaries they need to grow.

I learned that everybody has troubles and I would rather have mine than someone else's. I learned that in the battles we lose, we learn the tactics that enable us to win the war.

I learned how proud I am to be a part of this nation. I learned that Jews are like different instruments in an orchestra; we are capable of making something good when we recognise and love one another - no matter what. I learned how to fall in love with a community. Thank you for this gift.

This afternoon Chai FM was awarded a permanent radio licence on 101.9fm. We will be fully operational and on air in three months. Anyone wanting to be involved should email me, kathy@chai.co.za

Kathy Kaler  
Johannesburg

Jews also entitled to human rights

ONE MUST ask oneself what the radical Jewish left wants for the Jewish people - yes, their own people (even if they claim that Jews do not live in Israel, in their name).

Do they really think that the Arab majority under Hamas, that they want to create in a "unitary Palestine" will result in a liberal democracy where Jews will be safe and secure and free?

Would they care if Jews in Israel were subjected to a Rwandan - or Darfur-style genocide, after the international left had succeeded in dismembering Israel?

Don't the Jewish people have a right to an independent national expression without apologies to the world, which has and continues to hate and discriminate against Jews?

Considering the culture of hate inculcated in refugee camps and in the Palestinian Authority against Jews and considering the genocide by Arabs against minorities in Sudan, against the Kurd, and in Lebanon, we all know that the so-called unitary state of "Palestine" with an Arab majority, which leftwing commentators are now presenting as the solution, would lead to a second Holocaust.

Arab countries take up 10 per cent of the earth's land area, whereas Israel is the size of the Kruger National Park.

Those insulated academics who refer to the nation-state as an anachronism, are ignoring the message of recent history, which has seen the birth (or rebirth) of a plethora of nation-states from the ruins of enforced multinational, artificial entities.

Hence, in the last 18 years we have seen the independence of nation-states including the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Eritrea and East Timor.

Is the need of "Not In My Name" type Jews, to be loved by their friends on campus or at work so great that it has to erase any empathy for their own people and religion?

Do they believe that Jews who live in Israel have no human rights? Do they feel anything at all for the 123 Jewish children killed by Arab terrorists in Israel over the last few years?

Or do they feel they deserved to die because they were "Zionist children"?

Gary Selikow  
Johannesburg

For SAIPAC

ONE WONDERS why Dennis Davis persists in admonishing members of the Jewish Community for 'refusing to engage with the merits of arguments leading inexorably to a close-minded mediocrity! (SAJR 25 May 'be mindful of blood pressure')

To my mind we have many members of the community willing to 'engage the merits of argument in a debate to be conducted on current Israel policy'

If recent issues of SAJR readers like Jack Bloom, Sydney Chaskalson, David Kessler and Anthony Posner ( a real debating kind of a guy) seem ready to engage - not to mentaion the many media team members and top academic and community leaders. Where? When?

Debates with Ronnie Kasrils, Sheila Barsel ("not in my name"), Amos Oz (A Davis Favourite) Imam Omar (who seems open to constructive dialogue) and Na'eem Jeenah (Freedom of Expression) would be instructive one way or the other. (Even with the World Bank)

Internal community debates would be equally informative - with people of the 'not in my name' brigade perhaps challenge) to justify their criticism of Israel policy as well as learning a few 'home truths' to boot.

All of which underlines the importance of setting up a SAIPAC (South African Israel Public Affairs Committee) which would promote Israel's interests unapologetically - even, if needs be, at top government level

David Abel  
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## COMMUNITY BUZZ

LIONEL SLIER

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lionel.slier@absamail.co.za

### NAIROBI

Rachel Shapshak came to Africa in 1937 from Poland. She and her husband Avraham did well in Nairobi and bought two hotels.

Ivor Davis continues:

"Rachel was always the caring and hospitable Yiddisher mama. And she knew that there was a Jewish guest at the hotel, gefilte fish would be supplied 'on the house'. Although at times, a spot tactless, her Yiddish-accented Swahili was legendary and so was her business acumen.

"When I bought my first house in Nairobi in 1970, Rachel noticed that I had a big spare garage that I wasn't using. She exclaimed: 'Ivor, vot are you doink. Turn the garridge into a guest house and make some income.'

"For many years her son Charles had been running their Fairview Hotel which was right opposite the Israeli embassy. It was the most successful of Kenya's smaller hotels. After she passed away, her vibrant personality was conspicuous by her sad absence.

"Charles became president of the Nairobi Hebrew Congregation and he was re-elected each year for a dozen years.

"And what of little Maurice who was saved by his mother on that memorable train journey in Poland? He became one of Britain's leading surgeons in Portsmouth. I had written a story about the Jewish community in Kenya for *The London Jewish Chronicle* and it had the train story. The *Jewish Chronicle* approached Charles when they got my story and asked him whether he remembered the episode. 'No,' he said, 'but I have heard the story from my mother several times.'"

\* London-born Ivor Davis has spent over 50 years in Africa as a journalist, 33 years in Kenya and 12 in Zimbabwe. He now lives in Johannesburg.

### JOHANNESBURG

In 1903, two years after the end of the Anglo-Boer War, the Transvaal and Natal Jewish Board of Deputies was formed at a meeting held in the hall of the Wanderers Club (which has long since disappeared under the Johannesburg station expansion).

Lord Alfred Milner, the British governor of the Transvaal Colony, had been urging the Jews to form a representative body.

The newspaper, *The Transvaal Leader*, wrote after the formation of the Board: "In lands where Jews are harried and persecuted, the instinct of self-preservation draws them together until they become a class apart. But it is remarkable how, under free institutions, they merge into the political life of the country, without abandoning their own racial loyalty.

"The Jews will be loyal citizens of the country of their adoption, taking part in its political life on one side or the other as inclination dictates, uniting racially or religiously only on those few questions which directly affect themselves. We wish them well."

The following year the Cape Jewish Board of Deputies was

formed. In 1912, two years after the establishment of the Union of South Africa, at a meeting in Bloemfontein the boards joined together as The South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

### JOHANNESBURG

Recently, Temple Israel had a special service for Benny Stalson's 90th birthday. In the opening address Reeva Forman, who has done so much to keep the congregation going in trying circumstances, said it was miraculous that such a large attendance was present to honour their spiritual leader.

Rabbi Charles Wallach conducted the service. Stalson had specifically asked for him.

"From the late 1950s onwards there was much that I can reflect on in which Benny clearly played a major hand," he said. "In those days the United Progressive Jewish Congregation of Johannesburg consisted of Temples Israel, Shalom and Emanuel and Benny ran the show.

"Looking back now, it was the heyday of our movement with two more temples, Sinai and David on the horizon.

"He was one of the originators of the Alan Isaacs Camp in Margate, Natal South Coast, and he clearly saw early on that it was not enough. He dreamed up Mateh Sinai - a sort of Jewish scouts, which later became Maganim, the forerunner of Netzer.

"Benny loved his sport and the Montagu Country Club became our movement's sporting venue. It had been named for Lily Montagu, director of our World Union. She had initially sent Rabbi Weiler out here.

"After Rabbi Weiler made aliyah, several rabbis came and went and there was suddenly a shortage but Benny stepped into the breach, conducting services, marriages and the like and of course it is in this role that he is being recognised by the current membership of Temple Israel.

"May you know that in addition to those gathered here today there are countless others who, knowingly or not, thank you for having touched their lives."

In response Stalson said: "This temple means a lot to me. I saw it built, I was married here, my two daughters were educated here; they know their Hebrew and Judaism and I hope it will go on and on. My heart is full."

\* A reader sends this story: A few years ago at a parents'/teacher evening at the H A Jack Primary School, a teacher told him that she had asked her class of six-year-olds whether they could tell her where mutton came from. Total silence.

She then asked whether they could tell her where beef came from. Again total silence.

"Well, does anyone know where pork comes from?" she asked. To her surprise the hand of a little Jewish boy shot up.

"I know," he said in excitement. "It comes from a porcupine." At home later that evening he asked his six-year-old daughter whether she knew where beef came from. "Yes," she replied without hesitation, "from Pick 'n Pay."

\* *Community Buzz wishes it to be known that letters and communications sent in are deemed to be available for publication. All used will be acknowledged.*

*If letters are not to be published, this should be clearly stated. All letters are given over to the Beychad archives where they become part of our living history*

## COMMENT

# Reasons why kosher chickens cost more

AMI BOLNICK  
TENDERCHICK

There has been a lot of press and discussion on the elevated price of kosher chicken recently. I would like to outline some of the reasons. The purpose is to ensure transparency and dispel some of the misconceptions that exist.

Firstly, we pay fees for shechita to the Beth Din. At present this amounts to R2,30 per bird. These costs contribute to the running of the UOS as a whole. As a result, the money is used to provide valuable services to the Jewish community over and above kashrut supervision.

Secondly, in order to meet the demanding kashrut standards, specialised Beth Din staff check the lungs and tendons of the birds to ensure that they comply. This leads to a higher rejection rate than if this process were not conducted. It also leads to a much higher standard of kashrut.

However, the cost implications for our business are significant. For example, in 2006 we experienced an average rejection rate of 8,4 per cent per month. This amounted to a total of 56 456 birds being treifed over the year. Importantly, we are not able to simply package these birds for non-kosher use because:

a. The non-kosher market does not readily accept birds slaughtered through traditional shechita. As the birds are not stunned before killing them, the subsequent post mortem muscle spasms result in the majority of wing bones being broken and the wings taking on a reddish colour. These aspects are not desirable

to non-kosher butchers.

b. When a bird is rejected, the kashrut inspector cuts a deep incision across the length of the bird's back to easily identify it as being treif. We then have to cut the meat into chunks and sell it to the informal market as conventional non-kosher butcheries will not buy the meat in this form. Obviously, the prices are significantly lower.

c. We experience added costs in our farming techniques. In order to produce birds of better quality, as well as decrease the likelihood of being rejected for treif, we stock our birdhouses at a much lower rate than the industry standard. This allows for a much more humane environment for the birds and gives them more freedom of movement. In short, it makes for a healthier bird. More importantly, we use no growth hormones to artificially increase the size of our birds.

Specifically, we keep seven fewer birds per square metre than would be expected from a large chicken-farming operation. In addition, all birdhouses have open sides, allowing for fresh air and natural sunlight.

Although the end result is an appreciably better quality product, it does carry a significant cost. A conventional chicken-farming operation yields 22 000 birds more per house than we do.

d. We use a considerable amount of salt in the koshering process, specifically 48 tons of grade A salt in a single month - every month - which is trucked in from Upington to keep up with the volumes we need. This adds to our overheads proportionately.

e. Kosher processing of chick-

ens is a slow and onerous business. All birds have to be soaked for half an hour and then salted. This is followed by a waiting period of an hour, followed by further washing. In short, it takes almost two hours to process a single bird. It also requires much effort to carry out the process.

To make this more real, we compare ourselves to a similar non-kosher plant. With the same number of workers, we produce a ninth of their production. As a result we are carrying a labour cost of nine times that operation.

f. We lose production days being a kosher business. This means that no production takes place on Saturdays or on any of the Jewish holidays.

This means that this year we were closed for eight days on Pesach and will be closed for seven days during Succot. So too, we do not work on Rosh Hashanah, Purim, Tisha B'Av or Yom Kippur.

More importantly, the Basic Conditions of Employment Act does not provide for Jewish holidays to be taken as part of annual leave. As a result we have to pay our staff during this downtime in addition to their conventional leave entitlement.

With all of these factors in mind, we cannot avoid carrying a significantly higher cost structure in our business.

To conclude, I would like to assure our consumers that my company and its employees are committed to maintaining the high levels of kashrut which we adhere to in the kosher chicken production process.

The Johannesburg Beth Din hechsher is one we are proud to be associated with.

## COMMUNITY COLUMNS



### ABOVE BOARD

Michael Bagraim,  
National Chairman

*A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies*

WHILE THE situation in the Middle East has been relatively calm, anti-Israel activists have been stepping up their activities. This has culminated in a week-long, countrywide boycott campaign of Israeli goods.

The Board and SAZF have issued a joint press release condemning the boycott, describing it as being "a thoroughly immoral initiative aimed not at achieving a just and peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but at depicting the State of Israel as being solely culpable for the ongoing violence in the Middle East".

The effects of the boycott call are likely to be minimal. Historical experience has shown discriminatory boycotts of this nature to be dysfunctional, with purchasers voting with their feet by buying whatever products that suit them.

It is the principle of singling out Israel for special opprobrium, and browbeating other South Africans into endorsing that one-sided vendetta, that we

## A thoroughly immoral initiative

find so repugnant. When people judge Israel more harshly than they do any other nation, one inevitably suspects anti-Semitism of being at least one of their underlying motives.

Minister Ronnie Kasrils has been especially vocal during this time, exploiting his senior position in the South African government to denounce Israel and support the boycott call. His monomania on the subject of Israel has gone beyond any semblance of reasonableness, with perennially flawed reasoning, shamelessly selective use of information sources and generally vitriolic tone thoroughly undermining whatever merit his basic argument might have.

The last straw has been the friendly overtures he has made to the Iranian and Hamas governments, both of whom are viciously anti-Semitic and committed to Israel's violent eradication.

The real concern we should have is why the government have allowed Mr Kasrils free reign to pursue his anti-Israel campaign without ever contradicting his sentiments even when these have gone against stated government policy.

This indeed raises the disturbing question that Mr Kasrils is being used by our

government to unofficially express more hardline anti-Israel views (as well as vicious broadsides against the mainstream Jewish leadership), with the fact of his being of Jewish origin being exploited to deflect charges of anti-Semitism.

Next week, we read the Parsha of Korach, which among other things is a warning against the evils of sowing division among the Jewish people.

So serious is this sin that it is the only occasion in which Moses actually asked the A-mighty to punish the perpetrators, whereas on other occasions when the Jewish people sinned, he had pleaded for Divine mercy on their behalf.

Ironically, Mr Kasrils' attempts to split the Jewish community over the question of Israel has had the opposite effect. Indeed even many left-leaning Jews, whatever reservations they might feel about certain Israeli policies, have been alienated by the overly strident, palpably one-sided nature of his pronouncements.

Our community stands united in their common sense of outrage over Mr Kasrils' disgraceful antics, especially when these are represented as being somehow sanitised by his Jewish background.

## YOUTH TALK

Lara Greenberg jewishreport@yahoo.com

# It was the echo of Habonim laughter at Mini Machaneh



Maddies and channies alike had a great time at Mini Machaneh Kehilla.

ETAI MILLER

ON THE weekend of April 20-22, something was definitely amiss in our beloved Johannesburg. From about 16:00 an unusual silence graced the ears of many a Jewish parent. Only the fading echoes of laughter and ruach hinted at the apparent phenomenon.

Mini Machaneh Kehillah was under way as the jam-packed busses journeyed to the Magalies Retreat. Not a force on the earth was to hinder over 100 Habonim Dror chaverim on their travels...except of course for traffic. The busses, teaming with eager young minds, finally arrived as night fell.

Unloading luggage left the maddies in disbelief as it seemed that most of the channies were simply fleeing town after heisting all of Johannesburg's

candy stores.

The weekend was one filled with swimming, sports and obstacle courses, learning about values and community, Zionism and Judaism and of course sugar-high chill-out time. The various activities saw a social aspect that I personally find so unique to the Habonim Dror movement.

Inclusion, the interaction between madrichim and channichim, and channies discussing subjects and ideas from peulot - this is the magic that is Habonim.

The weekend culminated with channichim and channichot tucked into their sleeping bags enjoying the great Habo tradition of Gangerschlagt before the clean up, pack up and sad goodbyes that marked the end of what can only be described as a success, an experience and an absolute pleasure.

# Mitzvah of the Asher Yatzar brocha

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY LARA GREENBERG

RABBI SHMUEL Bloch, Rabbi Avraham Tanzer and Saul Maraney with the "Asher Yatzar" brocha.

One thousand copies were printed so that every learner at Yeshiva College would have their own personal copy.

The project was spearheaded by Rabbi Bloch and Maraney who saw the necessity to popularise the "important mitzvah of reciting the brocha", as Rabbi Tanzer stated in the letter which went to every child along with the brocha.

At the launch for the boys' high school, Rabbi Tanzer said this brocha reflected one's thanksgiving to Hashem for good health, without which "we can do nothing".



Rabbi Bloch added that this brocha helped to acknowledge Hashem as the creator of all phenomena - especially because the human body was a technological wonder that man was unable to create.

# Pretorian wins speech competition

DIANE WOLFSON  
PRETORIA

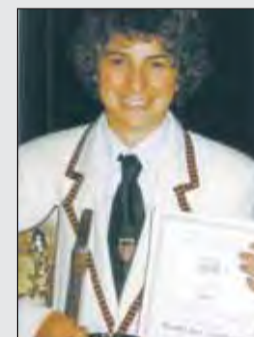
BRANDON FINN, a grade 11 learner at Crawford College Pretoria, has won the most prestigious schools' speech competition.

He won the award for the best speaker in English as well as the award for the best speaker overall, in a competition which

entailed his delivering a prepared speech plus an impromptu speech in each of the rounds.

There were 2 150 participants from 51 schools. Brandon was the only non-matriculant finalist this year.

Two years ago Brandon also won the best individual junior speaker award and last year his team won the grade 10 competition.



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# The 'open debate' focuses on Chabad

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
RITA LEWIS

IN INTRODUCING the second session of "The Great Debate" held this week at the Sydenham Highlands North Shul hall, Rabbi Yossy Goldman said the debate was an exercise in "nation building".

Explaining this, he said two rabbis from three different Jewish movements had not only agreed to participate in an open platform and discuss their philosophies and policies, but "Mizrachi, Chabad and Ohr Somayach (rabbis) had all appeared together on the same page of the programme".

He said there were other movements which could have been chosen to explain whether it was "all about coloured kippot and black hats" but "we chose the three most active ones".

Participating in the three session debate, which was part of the second semester of CAJE (The Johannesburg College of Adult Education) were Rabbis Laurence Perez and Doron Podlask of Mizrahi-Bnei Akiva: Religious Zionism, Rabbi Levy Wineberg and Michael Katz from Chabad-Lubavitch: Chassidism and Rabbi Larry Shein and Shmuel Moffson from Ohr Somayach: Litvish (in Session 3 to be held on June 11).

Recalling the many things which are today taken for granted but



Rabbi Yossy Goldman introduces "The Great Debate" watched by Rabbis Michael Katz and Levy Wineberg.

which were originally Chassidic institutions, Rabbi Wineberg, rosh yeshiva, Machon L'Hor'ah, Pretoria and rav of HaMa'or Centre, Johannesburg cited singing as being an integral part of everyday Jewish life.

"We sing at simchas, in shuls, at Lag B'Omer..."

"Imitation is known to be the best part of flattery, but when Chabad initiated this custom and others such as tefillah, they were criticised and called 'Die Freilicher' - meaning that they had nothing in their heads."

But there was a great deal of emphasis then on tefillah (prayer) just as there must be today.

There has to be a universal contribution to learning. It is no good to put the focus on one thing such as the black hat; there has to be a universal holistic system with

vibrancy, potency, interest.

Joy was another important part of Chassidus. "But why be joyous? What was the point?" he asked.

"That feeling of always being connected to Hashem, that is joy."

If a person studied, he understood that His presence was everywhere. That was joy.

However, there were certain basic things which had to be learnt in order to know who we are - how to keep Shabbat, kashrut, how to connect to Hashem. These were fundamental tenets which had to be learnt.

Discussing the diversity and separateness among Jews, he reminded the audience that 30 per cent of Lithuanian Jews came from Chassidic stock.

He said that walls were for separation - for keeping people out - but they were also for climbing over.

Jews had had many walls to contend with.

There were the walls of the Tsars, the walls of the ghettos and then freedom in the West where established Jews behind their walls, did not want their lives changed by other Jews.

Today, it was "possible to express ourselves as Jews virtually anywhere... Of course, we have the Holy Land... but we need to be (observant and knowledgeable) Jews here in South Africa," he said.

South Africa, however, was not the focus of the next speaker, Rabbi Michael Katz, whose emphasis was on the way Chabad had taken Judaism to almost every single country in the world.

Rabbi Katz, director of Chabad House and rabbi of Chabad of Illovo, spoke of how Chabad had made it possible to find a shul and even kosher food in way-out places such as Ho Chi Min City.

In fact, he said, Chabad was so active everywhere that at one time the then chief rabbi of Israel suggested that his country sponsor Chabad - in view of the good work they were doing for young Israelis who learnt so much and brought that knowledge back to Israel.

The phrase that "Where there is Coke there is Chabad" is well known, but so is "The sun never sets on Lubavitch", he said -

reminding us that Jews were intermingling all over the world and Chabad was catering for them all.

He recalled that exactly 23 years ago to the day, the eighteenth of Sivan, he and his wife Messody were married in London where (coincidentally) Rabbi Wineberg senior was present. He told the gathering that each of the four parents had come from a different part of the world.

"We have all been touched by Chabad, whether in London Morocco or wherever," he said.

Speaking about the Parsha Beha'alotcha, he said the concept of the Menorah in the Temple was not just to give light, but to spread that light from the inside outwards.

He said it had seven arms, each one on a different "derech" - pathway to the same task.

He said everyone, whatever his level, could send his light around the world - just as Aaron the High Priest could kindle the light in others.

Rabbi Katz said he believed the rabbis of Chabad had followed that same direction - while recognising people's differences, they also saw the spark in each person.

"South Africa is the place to be Jewish and flourish. The Rebbe saw that and Chabad has reached out in South Africa - going that extra mile to climb over the wall."

He added: "Please G-d we should see Moshiach here soon. He would enjoy it here because it is so beautiful, so strong, so committed."

## Arthur Ginsberg's indelible communal footprint

ISAAC REZNIK

IT IS with a profound feeling and personal privilege that I write this tribute about the late Arthur Ginsberg who passed away last week, after a long illness, and would have celebrated his 90th birthday in August this year.

I knew Arthur for more than 45 years, and he was instrumental and encouraged me to become involved in the then Federation of Synagogues. He had a long association with organised Jewish life.

Ginsberg retired from the Union of Orthodox Synagogues in August 1998, after celebrating his 80th birthday. He had served for more than 15 years; he was elected to the executive council of the Federation of Synagogues in 1962 and served as treasurer on two occasions.

The Jewish community owes an enormous debt of gratitude to him, for his role in the development of the kashrut department of the Johannesburg Beth Din.

He convinced large national companies to make their products available to the Jewish community, such as Nestles, Kellogs, Hullets, Beacon and Cadbury, all of which today bear the Beth Din certification mark.

Ginsberg was also very involved in soliciting advertising for the *Federation Chronicle* and subsequently the *Jewish Tradition* and also the *Kashrut Guide* published by the Union of Orthodox Synagogues. Through this activity he contributed significantly to the financial viability of these publications.

Another of his communal activities was that of being a member of the governing body of Our Parents Home.

His early background was an Orthodox one in which religious observance played a central part. His father attended the renowned Slobodka Yeshiva in Lithuania, and despite smicha having been conferred in him, he never entered the rabbinate.

He was a watchmaker and jeweller who never worked on

Shabbat or Yomtov. He was treasurer of the Doornfontein Gemilus Chesed and founder of the Lemaan HaShabbat Society.

No doubt this must have influenced Arthur in his younger years. He practised his trade in the predominantly Jewish suburb of Doornfontein.

Growing up in the suburb, Ginsberg was a pupil at Athlone High School, once described tongue in cheek as the first Jewish "day school" in South Africa.

After matriculating he qualified as a marketing consultant and became a Fellow of the Institute of Marketing. He then joined Chapelat Industries, one of the largest sweet manufacturers in the country, as marketing director.

He attended the Hamedrash Hagavoha which was opposite the Great Synagogue. Every afternoon after school he studied Hebrew, gemorrah and Hebrew literature with the great teachers such as Mr Lurie and Mr Sastokovsky.



His Jewish communal involvement began in his teenage years when he became a member of the Habonim Zionist youth movement. Being endowed with leadership qualities, he became a madrich and headed the branch of the movement at the Arcadia Jewish Orphanage. He also

organised one of the camps for which Habonim acquired a creditable reputation.

At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, Ginsberg was mobilised and served with the 1st Brigade in East Africa and Abyssinia, with the rank of sergeant. He returned to South Africa after this having taken ill in the field. He was discharged in 1943.

When his father died in 1959, he followed in Goldberg senior's footsteps by taking an active part in the Doornfontein Synagogue - the Lions Shul - where he became president, a position he held until his death. Life Presidency had been conferred upon him in 1995.

He is survived by his wife Anne and family, who had always encouraged him in his communal work. Anne is an indefatigable worker in the cause of abused children and also a devoted worker for Our Parents Home.

May his memory be for a blessing.

## With Lew's death a door to the Old Country closed

STAFF REPORTER

WHEN LEW (Levi) Raichlin died in Johannesburg in December last year, a door to the "Old Country" through the eyes of a keen observer and brilliant raconteur, was closed. Through his eyes his birthplace - in fact the birthplace of so many South African Jews, became so much more than a mere geographic entity.

With his tongue-in-cheek stories, ranging from Moses to the ubiquitous Abe, Lew, with his keen sense of humour, totally devoid of any malice, has left a legacy that will enrich the Jewish tapestry in South Africa.

Lew was born in Kraslavia, Latvia on July 10 1922. He emigrated with his family to Johannesburg in 1930.

He participated and excelled in various sports, including swimming, water polo and soccer. However, his love for boxing was legendary.

Lew attended Jewish Government School. After qualifying at the Technical College he entered the building industry and went to work in Newtown, a suburb of Johannesburg which in its heyday was unique. It was the mecca for the building trade. Later in life he became the proprietor of Allmat Timbers in Newtown.

In 1959 he married Gita (Gail) Rosenstein. They had two children, Hugh and Desiree (now Firer).

For a number of years, Lew was the chairman of the Association



of Latvian Jews, a "landsmanshaft" of particular charm and organisational ability. Meetings were held regularly and functions planned. An outstanding feature was the annual Day of Remembrance to commemorate those who had passed on.

Candles were placed for each town in Latvia from which members emanated and the names of those present were called out one by one to light a candle. A rabbi was always invited to the function, and a chazzan intoned Yizkor, followed by a communal Kaddish.

The emotions of those émigrés from the cities of Riga, Libau, Dvinsk and all the small Latvian

communities, was palpable. The atmosphere was made more poignant by the presence of some survivors of the Holocaust, including Maya Abramowitz and Celia Boruchowitz.

The Sydenham Highlands North Hebrew Congregation played an integral part in his life. Come fair weather or foul, Lew would be present in his seat.

No profile of Lew would be complete without reference to his talent and popularity as a raconteur. His stories of Moses wandering in the desert, told in Swahili and pidgin English, were unique. Who can forget the episode when Moses struck the rock and "soda water came..."

Another of Lew's gags which regularly brought the house down, was the story of Abe, the lone survivor of a wartime ship-

wreck, who finds refuge on a lonely island.

After the Israeli war of liberation, the captain of a passing ship notices smoke coming from the isolated island. He stops to investigate and meets Abe, who proudly shows him the house he had built which includes a lovely shul.

The captain was impressed. "Tov maod," he says, "one man on one island and he has his own shul!"

The captain looks through the window and notices another building and says to Abe: "Ma zeh?"

"Oh," replies Avraham, "that is another shul."

"Oh," says Abe, "I am a traditionalist. To that shul I don't go!"

Lew will be missed by his wife, children, grandchildren, family and many friends.



SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis jont@global.co.za

# A lassie's matric dance dream come true

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

THIS YEAR once again, a learner at one of the King David High Schools will be the recipient of a complete matric outfit - a personally designed dress, with shoes, makeover, hairdo - the whole works including a limousine to travel in, thanks to the generosity and caring of the Samantha Amy Brest Endowment Fund.

The fund will enable one learner's matric dream to come true - a dream that otherwise would never come to fruition, due to circumstances beyond her control.

The idea to assist a learner in this way came to Felicity Brest after she tragically lost her daughter Samantha. She realised that by the creation of the fund, not only could she do something that was constructive and helpful, but she would be able to keep the memory of her daughter alive in the way that she would have loved.

She said this second fashion show was "a merging of two of Sam's passions - the joys of fashion and the satisfaction of giving.

"One of the fondest thoughts of a girl's high school career is undoubtedly the memory of her matric dance - and the excitement and elation of the days that lead up to that special night."

Unfortunately not all girls were in the position to be able to create the dream of what a matric dance involved, on their own, she said. Some just did not have the means.

The Samantha Amy Brest Endowment Fund has changed all that.

"The money raised here will cover all that is necessary to make the evening one that will be forever remembered from the nails on her hands to the shoes on her feet."

The recipient of the gift will be chosen by staff at the school. Some 60 or so women attended the fashion show and breakfast which was held in the garden of the Brest family in Sandton.

The show was preceded by a welcome by former headmaster, Elliot Wolf who heads the Samantha Amy Brest Endowment Fund and a short talk by Tova Goldstein who gave a brief insight into the subliminal world of dreams.

The clothes which were mostly smart-casual and suitable for the young and trendy dresser, were loaned from some of the more popular boutiques.



Organiser of the event Felicity Brest with her daughter Tiffany.



Model Dale Marais with one of the beautiful outfits on show.

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Some of the models from the fashion show. Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Roxanne Lambert, Elena Goldis, Dayle Marais and Ciemone van der Venter.



Elliot Wolf, executive director of King David Schools Foundation with Ronel Zeff the Foundation's marketing officer.



Guest speaker Tova Goldstein with mother and daughter, Michelle and Ronel Zeff.

# Jewish Report Classifieds

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## Positions Available

### Deputy Nursing Manager

Our organisation requires an experienced Deputy Nursing Manager.

**Skills required:** The incumbent should be a registered nurse who has experience in geriatric nursing care, nursing management and has good clinical and interpersonal skills.  
**Responsibilities:** Assisting the Nursing Manager with the management of the Nursing Department as well as implement innovative ways of ensuring quality care is rendered.

### Junior Pharmacist

We require a qualified Pharmacist for our pharmacy, which primarily services a home for the aged. Requirements include previous relevant experience and registration with the Pharmaceutical Council.

The ideal candidate should be forward thinking, enthusiastic, motivated and have a passion for the industry. Exceptional communication and people skills are an essential requirement for this position.

Candidate must also be computer literate

### Occupational Therapist

Our organisation requires a qualified and experienced Occupational Therapist. The ideal candidate should be a registered OT, in possession of an OT qualification and have previous experience within a hospital environment. Experience in dealing with the elderly/intellectually disabled is a distinct advantage.

### Project Supervisor

Our organisation requires a Project Supervisor. This person must have a good knowledge of the building industry, and must be experienced in general maintenance, plumbing and electrical work. Attention to detail is a key requirement of this position.

Only candidates with a minimum of 5 years experience need apply. The incumbent must be computer literate.  
Own transport is essential.

### Enrolled Nurses

Our organisation in Sandringham Gardens requires Enrolled Nurses whose key responsibilities will be:

Assisting the Unit Manager to manage total quality nursing care of elderly residents, accurate reading, interpretation and administration of medication, keeping accurate records of resident's treatment, condition and progress, creating a safe, secure environment, manage the unit cost effectively with the Unit Manager and supervision of junior staff to ensure quality nursing care. The incumbent should be registered with the SANC as an enrolled nurse, experience or qualification in gerontology/geriatric nursing will be an advantage.

### Medical Doctor - Sandringham

The Eric and Sheila Samson Medical centre, catering for the needs of the elderly, frail patients, residents and intellectually disabled, requires a qualified and experienced, full time Medical Officer who is registered with the HPCSA.

### Occupational Therapy Assistant

Our organisation is looking for a qualified OTA to provide services to the aged and to work as part of a dynamic team. The ideal candidate must be in possession of the relevant qualifications, registered with the HPCSA and have some clinical experience incl. working in a hospital environment. Experience in running therapeutic groups for geriatrics and chronic psychiatry would be a distinct advantage.

### Registered Nurses - Day & Night duty

Our organisation requires Registered Nurses for day and night duty.

Psychiatry would be a benefit as well as previous experience with caring for intellectually challenged individuals. We need caring people who have good interpersonal and communication skills. The incumbent must be able to make a good clinical assessment and be able to manage medical emergencies.

### Unit Manager

Our organisation specializing in geriatric care requires a qualified and experienced Unit Manager to manage a long-term geriatric care ward. The ideal candidate must be registered with S.A.N.C. Gerontology course and or Geriatric experience preferable. Some night duty will be required.

### Senior Physiotherapist

Our organisation requires a qualified and experienced Physiotherapist to head up our dynamic physio team and be an active member of a multi-disciplinary team, responsible for current and new services. This full time position includes providing acute and postoperative physiotherapy for our aged residents as well as other clients.

### Switchboard Operators.

Our organisation is looking for experienced switchboard operators who can handle a large busy switchboard. They must be well spoken and fluent in English. Computer literacy is a key requirement. Only candidates with five years experience need apply for this position.

### Registered Nurses

Day & Night duty

Our organisation requires Registered Nurses for day and night duty. Please mark applications clearly for day and night duty nurses.

### Group Facilitator

To run a small group of intellectually challenged adults. A mature person with some teaching experience, who is artistic and creative, is required. Knowledge of the Jewish religion would be an advantage.

### Suitable candidates to forward a current c.v. to

hr@jhbchev.co.za or Attention HR Dept, Private Bag x1, Sandringham, 2131, or fax 0866327774

## NOTICES

### ANNIVERSARY

#### GOLDEN WEDDING KAHN - ELLIE AND JANETTE

Mazeltov on the occasion of your 50th wedding anniversary on the 9th of June.

May Hashem grant you good health and happiness and may your gold turn to Diamonds. We love you. Your children Melanie Alan and Lisa and your three Princesses Jenna Erin and Tyla. Also Mazeltov from Brad.

### COMMUNITY NOTICE

#### KASHRUT ALERT

McCain Young and Tender Broccoli Florets bears an unauthorised Beth Din logo and is NOT kosher. McCain have apologised for the error and have taken corrective action.

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## KDVP youngsters at Karate World Cup

JACK MILNER

THREE KING David Victory Park pupils recently had the memorable experience of participating in the fourth KWF Karate World Cup in Tokyo.

Dean Heyman, Daniel Katz and Natan Pollack, members of the Malcolm and Shane Dorfman Karate Institute in Johannesburg, were among a contingent of 70 South Africans who participated in the tournament.

"Dean and Daniel were top contestants in our national championships and as such got colours to attend the World Cup," explained Malcolm. "Natan went there as part of the development team. He didn't get colours but is allowed to participate."

To qualify for colours one has to win a gold, silver or bronze medal in the open section of the local KWF championships while to go as a development player one needs to earn a similar medal in the development section.

There are four age groups for juniors, 6 to 8, 9 to 11, 12 to 14 and 15 to 17.

Dean is already an old hand at this event, having participated in a previous World Cup in 2004.

"It is a good experience but the competition is hard," explained the 12-year-old. "I was a past South African champion in the 8 to 9 age group but I am nowhere near the level of these guys."

"I think it felt tougher the first time I went. This time I knew what to expect and I also knew some of the people who were there."

Dean started karate with the Dorfman's when he was just four years old and has now attained his brown belt. "I had high expectations of myself and I knew I had to work hard," he explained.

For 14-year-old Natan it was "a mind-



**Daniel Katz, Dean Heyman and Natan Pollack stand beneath the South African flag at the 4th KWF Karate World Cup in Tokyo.**

boggling experience". "The whole culture of Japan is so different. The city is so clean and people keep to all the rules very strictly."

And keeping kosher was not easy either. "I lived on tuna sandwiches from Subway."

Natan first started out in judo and when he stopped at the end of last year, he had attained his junior black belt. He started karate in 2001 but then took a break for a while before joining the Dorfman's and has currently attained his green belt.

At the World Cup he competed in the 12 to 14 section but admitted that the odds were against him. "But I did learn what the KWF is all about and I got to see Yahara Sensei, who is the head of the organisation."

At the tournament Shane Dorfman became the Open Grand Champion for the third successive world tournament. But that is a story on its own, and will follow in a later edition.

## A highly successful open rugby day

JACK MILNER

KING DAVID Victory Park had their open day last Wednesday in which they played a succession of rugby matches against De La Salle College, culminating in the match between the two first teams.

The two schools - "separated by one street" - have made this an annual event and the venue alternates each year. Last year at De La Salle, King David won the cup and this year they were hoping to retain it.

"The rivalry between the two schools has built up a tradition," explained King David headmaster Joseph Gerassi. "We now have a cup for the winning team and the match is always played in a good spirit."

Former South African tennis international Gordon Forbes tells how the British loved the saying: "He was better on the day." While playing league tennis in the UK, one pretty average Briton ended up facing the formidable Australian Lew Hoad and was back in the dressing room in less than 30 minutes. When asked how the match went, the British player replied: "Well, he was better on the day." By the way, De La Salle won 20-3.



**Joel Goldberg, King David Victory Park's 1st rugby team flyhalf, takes a punt at goal in their match against De La Salle College in their open day last week.**

I have to say that this rugby match reminded me of that story. Because after fly-half Joel Goldberg put King David into the lead with a well-taken penalty early in the game, it was all De La Salle. They were just "better on the day".

However, it is always been my contention that school sport is about commitment, effort, clean play and enjoyment. In that respect both teams were faultless.

On the positive side for King David, they are a young team with most of the players in grade 11, and can only improve from here.

## Rubenstein finishes 2nd in World Cup standings

SOUTH AFRICAN canoeist Shaun Rubenstein has completed the World Cup series in Europe, finishing in second position overall on the International Canoe Federation's (ICF) points table, the best placing ever by a South African.

Leading the standings is Canadian Adam van Koeverden with Swede Anders Gustafsson in third.

The final event of the series took place in Gerardmer, France, at the weekend in cold, windy and rainy conditions. Rubenstein placed fourth in the 1000m K1 A final, missing a medal by 0,3 seconds, while in the 500m K1 A final, the South African finished fifth to Van Koeverden, 1,74 seconds off the winner.

Rubenstein will now spend a few days in Duisberg training on the World Championship course, and has been invited to participate in a 200m series in

Germany at the weekend.

After that he will head back to Budapest where he will continue training with Akos Verescei from Hungary, and will also be joined by Ken Wallace of Australia.

"Finishing second in the World Cup rankings is really exciting," said Rubenstein. "It gives me great confidence leading up to Olympic qualifications that I can compete with the best in the world."

Speaking on his performance in France, Rubenstein added: "Most of the top guys were racing and once again I was right up there with them. Now I am finished racing until World Champs so I will go back to hard base training and will peak for that tournament."

The World Championships take place in Duisberg, Germany, from August 8 to 12.

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