

WE STOCK THE WIDEST RANGE, BEST FACTORY PRICES ON FURNITURE, APPLIANCES & BEDDING.

Now you can afford the life you deserve! Visit us today-you won't be disappointed.

HNT
YOUR COMPLETE HOME
DISCOUNT FURNITURE & APPLIANCE STORE

BRAMLEY GARDENS SHOPPING CENTRE
280 CORLETT DRIVE BRAMLEY GARDENS
TEL: (011) 887 5456/7/8/9 FAX: (011) 887 5480

CAP PROVES ITS METTLE WITH ROBBERS
PAGE 21

BOBBA'S FREE ISRAEL TICKET TO SEE FAMILY
PAGE 2



SOUTH AFRICAN Jewish Report 

www.sajewishreport.co.za Friday, 9 November 2007 / 28 Cheshvan 5768 Volume 11 Number 41

Golden icon Helen Suzman turns 90

HELEN SUZMAN, daughter of Lithuanian immigrants Samuel and Frieda Gavronsky, this week celebrated her 90th birthday. Her story is a Jewish and intensely South African one. She spent her political career in anti-apartheid opposition politics.

"There is no appreciation today of the role of the opposition. I never experienced the wall of hatred Tony Leon experienced when he rose to speak. Yes, there were sexist and anti-Semitic remarks directed at me, but nothing like that hatred. And the Speaker always gave me tremendous help.

"Also, when I was in Parliament, I had enormous press support from editors of very influential papers. In the same way today, the DA needs press support. The assault on press freedom is an assault on the effectiveness of the opposition."

At 90, she is as unafraid to call a spade a spade as she ever was.

SEE PAGES 8, 10



PHOTO: ILAN OSSENDERVER

Hellig: Remembrance through German eyes / 10

Social Scene: Garden tribute to a dedicated woman / 6

High stakes at the Annapolis parley

LESLIE SUSSER, JERUSALEM

IN THE FINAL run-up to the Annapolis peace parley, leaders on all sides are emphasising the burning need for success and the potentially huge price of failure. Although the focus is on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, all the main players see it as only a small part of a much bigger regional drama: the ongoing battle for regional sway between the moderate Middle Eastern camp, led by America, and the radicals, led by Iran.

The stakes are high: the price of oil, the future of Iran's nuclear programme and America's exit strategy from Iraq, are all part of the wider equation.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas are well aware of the stakes, but for domestic reasons, both are too weak to deliver a peace agreement that would spell unqualified success at Annapolis.

Instead, both are looking for a formula that papers over their political difficulties and keeps the momentum going. They have therefore agreed to redefine Annapolis as a launching pad for intensive negotiations rather than a forum for the end game.

For lack of choice, the United States is going along with the low-key approach. (JTA)

EL AL - ARE PRICES AFFORDABLE? / 4 LETTERS / 14 BEV BRYER'S SOWETO CHOIR'S ACCOLADES / 12 BEAUTIFUL BRIDES / 16

08611FIRZT
www.firzt.co.za

Even babies know where to go when it comes to selling your house...

Denese Zaslansky
FIRZT
REALTY COMPANY

Jewish Report

Published by
S A Jewish Report (Pty) Ltd,
Suite 175, Postnet X10039,
Randburg, 2125
Tel: 011-886-0162
Fax: 011-886-4202
Printed by Caxton Ltd

EDITOR - Geoff Sifrin
geoffs@icon.co.za

GENERAL MANAGER - Roni Lea

Sub-Editor - Paul Maree

Senior Reporter - Rita Lewis
jont@global.co.za

Editorial Assistant - Shelley Elk
carro@global.co.za

Sports Editor - Jack Milner
jackmilner@telkomsa.net

Youth Editor - Romy Salant
jewishreport@yahoo.com

Contributing Editor (Arts) -
Robyn Sassen info@frodo.co.za

Cape Town correspondent
Moira Schneider: 021-794-4206

Pretoria correspondent
Diane Wolfson

Manager: Sales and Distribution
Britt Landsman : brittl@global.co.za

Sales Executives - (011) 886-0162
Britt Landsman: 082-292-9520
Tammy Freedman: 082-820-0509

Freelance Sales Executives
Marlene Bilewitz & Assoc: 083-475-0288
Manuela Bernstein: 082-951-3838

Classified Sales
jrclassified@global.co.za

Design and layout
Graphic Descriptions
Nicole Matthysen

Subscription enquiries
Johnnic Publishing
Tel: 0860-13-2652

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Honourable Abe Abrahamson (Chairman),
Issie Kirsh, Dennis Maister, Bertie Lubner,
Herby Rosenberg, Russell Gaddin,
Marlene Bethlehem, Stan Kaplan,
Norman Lowenthal,
Mr Justice Meyer Joffe
(Chair, editorial comm)



KASHRUT

The following symbols will appear on advertisements and/or advertising features to indicate whether or not they are kosher. Where no Kashrut mark appears on an advert, the Jewish Report assumes no responsibility for the Kashrut status of that establishment or advertiser.

NK Non-Kosher **K** Kosher

Where no symbols appear, consult the Beth Din Kosher Guide or contact the advertiser.

Advertisements and editorial copy from outside sources do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and staff.

PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Smells nice!

WHEN YAAKOV walked into his father's tent, posing as his elder twin Esav, he took every precaution possible to make sure he would not be caught. His mother, Rivkah, had instructed him to pretend that he was Esav so that he would receive his father's blessings.

Because his skin was smooth while his twin's was hairy, he covered his arms in goat's skin. In addition, his mother also advised him to dress in Esav's special garment. This was a coat for which Esav had killed and robbed its previous owner, Nimrod, and he now wore on very special occasions.

Because of the high esteem in which he held his father, he often dressed in this garment when serving him food. Tradition tells us that this was one of the garments that Hashem made for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

This explains Yitzchak's comment when his son Yaakov came into his tent with the food that Rivkah had prepared. "Behold,"



**PARSHAT
TOLDOT**
Rabbi Yossi Chaikin
Oxford Shul

said the old father, "the fragrance of my son is like that of the field that Hashem has blessed." Quite literally, Yaakov had just walked in with the smell of the Garden of Eden clinging to him.

For sure, it was not the first time the blind Yitzchak had been near this special coat. But on all previous occasions it was the wicked Esav that had worn it. It seems that the holy aroma of Gan Eden was effectively neutralised by the sinful aura that always surrounded Esav.

The same coat worn by the righteous twin Yaakov, however, gave off a fragrance that brought great pleasure to the old man.

A couple of centuries ago an impostor climbed up the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem and blew the shofar. Rumour quickly spread

throughout the city that this was the Shofar of Mashiach, and everyone was running around quite excitedly.

When the news reached a certain Jerusalemite tzadik, Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Vitebsk, he opened his window, took a deep breath of the street air, and shook his head. "When Mashiach comes," he said, "one will be able to smell the G-dliness in the air. I don't feel it yet."

Why did the Reb Menachem Mendel need to open the window? Would the smell not have permeated through to his dwelling? The tzadik needed to feel the street air, because within his own home the smell of G-dliness was always present!

Each one of us has the ability to control the "smell" within our own house. It is done through the words that we speak, the way we address our spouse and our kids - gently, kindly, without raising our voice and without ever belittling or embarrassing and without ever speaking ill of others.

The fragrance in our home is controlled by the pictures we hang on the walls and by the movies that we watch. The scent is further

SHABBAT TIMES

November 09 / 28 Cheshvan
November 10 / 29 Cheshvan

Starts	Ends	
18:07	18:59	Johannesburg
17:51	19:52	Cape Town
18:06	18:59	Durban
18:19	19:11	Bloemfontein
18:00	19:23	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:12	East London



enhanced by the mitzvot we perform in the home - tzedakah, hospitality and general acts of kindness; by the prayers we recite; by the Torah we study.

We pray for the shofar of Mashiach to be heard, for real, speedily in our days. Until such time as the entire world will smell of G-d, we can make sure, however, that our own home smells good.
Shabbat Shalom!



Winning bobba...
Gertie Jacobs celebrates.

Bobba Gertie is getting ready for Israel

STORY BY SHELLEY ELK
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

AN EXCITED bobba from Johannesburg, will be able next year to visit her son and his family in Israel for the first time in seven years, thanks to the generosity of the Union of Jewish Women, winning the UJW's 2007 "Bobba of the Year" competition. There were a host of deserving applicants.

"I am so overwhelmed, it's incredible, this is the best thing I have ever won in my life. I won,

not only the ticket, but a set of luggage, spending money, shoes, tracksuit, tackies, massage pillow and flowers," Gertie Jacobs (70) told *Jewish Report* of the prizes that UJW and their sponsors had provided for her.

Jacobs, who still works, in a pharmacy, will be "winging her way to Israel early next year.

"I am planning to go in February for about a month, to Israel when I take leave, and to stay just 20km outside Jerusalem, to visit my son, Ezra Jacobs, who is a rabbi, my daughter-in-law Ragelli and their six children. I

have not seen them for seven years.

"The UJW phoned them in Israel to tell them the news, and my granddaughter answered the phone, and she was so excited, she was literally screaming."

Later her son called back, telling her how much they were looking forward to her visit.

Jacobs has not yet met two of her grandchildren.

Bobba of the Year Competition Convener and Chairman of UJW, Sandton Elaine Katz who was assisted by Jodie Kampf and supported by UJW Co-Chairmen

Estelle Kline and Arleen Samuels wished Gertie and her family Mazeltov and wished her well on her way.

This is the fourth year that the UJW has run this competition and they thanked all their sponsors for generous donations of prizes.

The Johannesburg branch of the UJW serves both the Jewish and wider communities.

• Please contact Tanya or Jody if you would like to get involved in one of their many outreach projects and be a part of their organisation.

plett & surrounds....nice place to holiday....great place to live!



erez shaked (083 3783472)
www.littleshak.co.za

little **shak** property
plettenberg bay



mickey shaked (082 3498653)
info@littleshak.co.za

Sustainability in education is the buzzword

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

THE RELATIONSHIP between Absa and ORT-Tech has been further cemented with the recent donation of R500 000 by the banking group to ORT's initiatives in the field of technology education. Absa does not, however, consider its financial contributions to constitute the full extent of its responsibility to education.

At the cheque handover, Absa representatives, NGOs and officials from the Department of Education, engaged in a discussion facilitated by Judith O'Connell, national programme manager of the National Business Initiative, during which the relationship between what she termed the three key players in the education arena - government, business and service providers like ORT - was put under the microscope.

Absa acknowledged that problems in education were not going to be resolved by simply "throwing money" at them. "Sustainability" was the buzzword around the table with agreement that checks and balances needed to be put in place to ensure that donations were utilised in line with identified needs.

O'Connell noted that for Absa to get the best return on its investment, it needed to work in partnership with ORT-Tech and the education department.

Edmund Jeneker, provincial general manager of Absa, said the outcome in terms of additional skills should be looked at in judging whether business had added



Edmund Jeneker, provincial general manager of Absa, Vagriuah Kariem (ORT-Tech), Nilly Baruch, Western Cape chairman of ORT and Alta Greeff, education director of ORT SA.

value to education. He noted that the country had in fact regressed on the skills front since 1994.

"Money is not the answer, it's being allowed to influence policy from the business and NGO side," he stated, with participants agreeing that role-players' efforts should be more co-ordinated.

Absa has for the past nine years supported ORT-Tech's work empowering educators in the fields of mathematics, science and technology, as well as in providing ongoing support in their classrooms. Over the past three years, over 3 000 educators have benefited from this initiative.

ORT-Tech has, with Absa's help, facilitated the Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) course for 455 technology educators in the Western Cape.

Beyachad Libraries have pleasure in inviting you to a book launch:

The Holocaust and Apartheid; a comparison of Human Rights Abuses
by Juliette Peires

The Nazi Holocaust and the South African Apartheid system are both notorious violations of human rights, and are frequently compared to each other, especially in South Africa itself. But are they indeed comparable? Join the Beyachad Libraries and Juliette Peires to find out, when she will talk about her book on:

Sunday 18th November - 17:00 for 17:50

2 Elray Street, Raedene

Bookings: (011) 645-2567

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served

Juliette Peires's record in Human Rights is well-established. She served as a parliamentary monitor, sending in reports to the Black Sash pre-1994. Later she obtained her masters degree in Jewish Studies with the aim of improving understanding between the various community groups in the "Rainbow Nation" in post-apartheid South Africa. This book is the outcome of her MA thesis. She also has degrees in Education, Science and Social Science, and was head of Mathematics at two Cape Town schools among other achievements



Book your Pesach 2008 Holiday

with Israel's leading operators of the finest Pesach programmes.

Over 30 years experience assures all our guests of a wonderful holiday.

We have teamed up with the **Crowne Plaza** and **Holiday Inn** hotels in three locations **Tel Aviv, the Dead Sea and Tiberias** offering Hotels of the highest standards and each

WITH A UNIQUE EXCLUSIVE PESACH PROGRAMME.

The very competitive prices include:

A full programme with accommodation, meals and Seders, entertainment, lectures with scholars in residence, children's programmes, sporting activities, optional spa and tours etc.



For further info contact your local travel agent or
ADELE: OPHIR TOURS SA. REP - 011 4851708 or 0824175429
email: aangel@yebo.co.za

Every Jewish person in the city is given the same dignified burial



- ❖ Regardless of circumstances, everyone is afforded equal respect in death - including those who are destitute and without family. In these cases all costs are borne by the Chevrah Kadisha.
- ❖ Cemetery staff are available for emergencies 24 hours a day on 011 321 0000 code 4284

Your community needs you
Help us to help those unable to help themselves

JOHANNESBURG JEWISH HELPING HAND
חברה קדישא



Tel: 011 532 9600 Fax: 011 532 9655 Email: chevrahgroup@jhbchev.co.za



BIKKUR CHOLIM
JEWISH SOCIETY FOR VISITING THE SICK

Dear fellow parent / grandparent / aunt / uncle, etcetera...

The Yomtovim are now over and the end of year is at hand.

We are all looking forward to our end of the year holiday, especially the kids, grandchildren, nieces and nephews; but sadly there are many kids whose parents cannot afford a holiday, or who desperately need a break. We, at the BIKKUR CHOLIM invite you to 'adopt' a child for December.

Make believe you have one more, and send a deserving Jewish child to our camp in Muizenberg.

Your generous support would really be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,
Gary Davidovitz
Chairman.

Our banking details are: Standard Bank, Jan Smuts Ave
Branch Code: 00 4205 • Account No.: 00 187 2753
Tel/fax: (011) 447-6689 • PO Box 85398, Emmarentia 2029

All donations are exempt from tax in terms of 18A of the income tax act 1962.

El Al's 'high fares' under the loop

RITA LEWIS

EL AL in South Africa says the fact that it had to add a fourth weekly flight to its Johannesburg-Tel Aviv route, is a clear indication of customer satisfaction - both as far as service and price is concerned.

But in the community, it is common knowledge that more and more Jewish passengers make use of airlines such as Ethiopian Airlines, Air Egypt or others, because of what is perceived as El Al's "take it or leave it" attitude, especially regarding its "pricey" flights.

In the words of Ros Buchris, general manager of El Al in South Africa, the extra flight - now making a total of two day flights and two overnight - would ease congestion for their passengers. It had been necessitated by the fact that the capacity of their carriers flying that route had, for some time, been totally insufficient.

She said that putting an extra flight on to their timetable was an indication of the fact that passengers were not only happy with the service given them by El Al, but also with the price they were being charged.

However, in discussions with different people returning from trips to Israel, it would seem that despite what Buchris said, more and more passengers appear to be taking other routes. This would seem to be for one reason and one reason only and that is cost.

One travel agent who asked to remain anonymous quoted a current price of some R9 017 for a direct flight to Israel as against R6 410 for one on Ethiopian Airlines.

Both these fares were quoted for the same dates and both were totally inclusive of airport taxes and fuel surcharges.

The question of the discrepancy in prices was the subject of an e-mail received from Sholem Golevy who says that the Johannesburg-Tel Aviv route is "the most expensive in the world".

Quoting prices from Tel Aviv to New York, Los Angeles and also Miami, Florida, he said the distance to these destinations was far further than that from Johannesburg to Tel Aviv, yet the prices were far less - and for more miles - which did not add up.

He gave the example of Tel Aviv to Johannesburg costing the equivalent of \$950 for eight hours of flying time while the journey from Tel Aviv to New York, a distance taking 11 hours of flying time, cost only R700.



One of El Al's Boeing 777s in the air above Israel.

Golevy said he had sent an e-mail to El Al - as well as to the *SA Jewish Report* - several months ago with this information and had also included the fact that the South African authorities were "losing foreign exchange", but, as yet he had not received a reply from the airline.

His e-mail included three points:

1. That in the 1950s, El Al flew to Israel from South Africa via Turkey and Tehran - "a very long flight that even with today's aircraft would have taken 22-23 hours". He said at the time the prices had been calculated accordingly.

However, after the Six Day War in 1967, "El Al started flying directly (to Israel and from Israel to South Africa) and the flying time was reduced to only eight hours. However, conveniently, El Al forgot to adjust the prices".

He said that "every price increase was calculated as a percentage to the original price" and over the years, that "had ballooned to today's prices".

2. El Al enjoyed a monopoly on this line.

3. There was a policy in place by the South African authorities which did not allow charter flights and other competition on flights to South Africa.

He maintained that the above "created a distortion" through which the South African public and especially the Jewish community was being exploited.

SA-based Buchris, who is El Al's general manager for Southern and Eastern Africa, said it was generally accepted that the cost of flying El Al was somewhat higher than with other airlines that were "Six Freedom Traffic" - in other words travelling to their destinations via an indirect route. She pointed out that with all carriers - not just with El Al - flying the "Six Freedom Traffic" way was for some reason, definitely more expensive than those with a stopover.

Her company, she said, had always had a policy of transparency and when a price for a ticket was quoted, it always showed the breakdown of the total fare, eg the price for the ticket, the fuel surcharge and the airport taxes.

However, El Al was always trying to help their passengers using different methods of assistance. For example, the duration of the validity of a ticket for a senior citizen was for an entire year rather than for a shorter period - as with a ticket for a non-senior citizen.

Also there were special "family fares" which ran around the clock. This meant with a family travelling with up to four children, the first child only paid 75 per cent of the normal fare, the second child, 60 per cent and the third and fourth children only 50 per cent of the fare.

Also during the year, El Al regularly put on "specials". One of these - which is imminent - would be a reduction in fares during mid-October to the end of November and carrying on again from mid-January 2008 to the end of March. She said these "L" Class specials "would be very price comparable to other airline carriers".

Israel interested in a stake in SALT

MOIRA SCHNEIDER, CAPE TOWN

AN UNDERTAKING that will increase scientific co-operation between South Africa and Israel was in the spotlight when Professor Hagai Netzer addressed a meeting of the Western Province Zionist Council.

Netzer, an astronomer from Tel Aviv University, was here to promote the purchase by Israel of an eight per cent stake in the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) project that South Africa has inaugurated at Sutherland in the Karoo.

Because of the cost of installing the telescope (\$55 million), South Africa held around 35 per cent of the shares and had called for partners to "solve the financial issue", he said.

"This will tighten our relationship with the South African astronomy community with whom we already have very good relations, but we need help in this; we want connections," Netzer appealed.

"We must come up with \$4,4 million to be incorporated - if we do, there's a very good chance that we will be, but we have to do it fast," he said.

Asked if local "antagonism" towards Israel might hamper his efforts, Netzer replied that "very fortunately we're dealing with scientists who speak to the point."

"In Europe, part of the decision is taken by politicians, but not here."

And what would be the benefit to humanity of this expenditure when millions were starving? Netzer replied that when the discoverer of the laser wanted to study the physics related to it, he was told it was "very nice, but completely useless. I can guarantee that things will come out of it, but I cannot tell you what," he said.

Describing the project as one of "tremendous significance for both Israel and South Africa and the relationship between the two countries", Jonathan Silke, president of the South African Zionist Federation, expressed the wish for "a successful outcome to the negotiations that would lead to further scientific co-operation with South Africa".



ISN'T IT TIME YOU
GOT BACK TO THE
BUSINESS OF LIFE?

You've put everything into your company, now get something out. Speak to Alliance business sales about selling your business. We take care of it all, so you get a healthy head-start on your handicap. Alliance business sales - yet another way we keep our clients ahead of the game. For more information call 0861 ALLIANCE or visit www.alliancegroup.co.za

ALLIANCE
group

IDEONICS - 082.466.7461



Israel Centre. Your 'free way' to Israel.
Launching www.israelcentre.org.za
011-645-2560/30



SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis jont@global.co.za



Seated under a display of woven baskets on the patio are Lilian Stein, 94 year-old Ethel Coll, Mina Sable, Joyce Tucker and Ros Rabinowitz.



Joan Charney and Leila Goldberg with their purchases of orchids and potted ferns.

What a beautiful setting for a party

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

THE RECENT meeting of the House and Garden Club was not only the opportunity to see a magnificent house and garden, but it was also the day on which 94-year-old Ethel Coll was presented with a beautiful engraved brooch - the "Brooch of Excellence" - which is given to people who have given dedicated service to the Union of Jewish Women.

The presentation was made by Mina Sable, the SA Union of Jewish Women national president, under whose auspices the club runs.

Sable said the "Brooch of Excellence" had been given to Coll in honour of both her 94th birthday and her continued invaluable services to the club - whose inauguration she had attended some 50 years before.

Holding up the brooch for all to see, she said the silver brooch was engraved with a circle of little women all working together - which was representative of the camaraderie of their own organisation and members.

Looking around at the beautiful surroundings and tastefully decorated patio, which was accommodating some 80 people, Sable praised Helen Slavin for being able to "source so many wonderful homes and gardens for the club to visit".

She said the money raised from these visits went to help those people who were unfortunately unable to get out to view them themselves.

While discussing what other causes benefited from the money raised by the club, Estelle Cline the co-chairman of UJW Johannesburg spoke of Kosher Mobile Meals which was the flagship of the UJW and had now been running for some 25 years.

She thanked the members of the House and Garden Club for assisting them financially with the project.

As is the custom, the owner of the home on show was asked to speak, to describe how the house had been when it was purchased, and in most times, altered as well as how the garden had been maintained and changed.

Claire Mitchell said she had bought her house some 19 years ago and had done five alterations to it, improving and enlarging it to achieve its present "feel".

Her designer, Sandra Bowler had "opened my eyes to eclectic designing" which included massive chandeliers, one of which was made up of four antler horns.

On the subject of the garden she said it was important to exchange ideas with other gardeners. She had gone through many books with photos of gardens to get ideas for her own. One of these ideas was the specially built Italian style swimming pool with a raised area behind it which took "truck loads and truck loads of fill".

She praised designer Pnina Hyman "for her incredible attention to detail" resulting in the unusual rectangular pool and surrounding gardens.



Valda Norwich holding her orchids, with Dinah Berman .



Mina Sable, SA Union of Jewish Women national president, pins a "Brooch of Excellence" to the jacket of Ethel Coll, who recently turned 94.



Visitors, Carol Pokroy and Ailette Kahn giving their entrance money to Merryl Hermann.



Owner of the house and garden on display, Claire Mitchell with her decorator, Sandra Bowler.



Elaine Feinberg and Estelle Cline the co-chairmen of UJW, JHB.

COMMUNITY BUZZ

LIONEL SLIER

082-444-9832, fax: 011-786-5036,

lionel.slier@absamail.co.za

THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS

From Gerald Phillips (Durban):

"I was a schoolboy during the years 1932-'38. My father, Aubrey Phillips, was a senior and respected member of SACTA (South African Commercial Travellers Association) and this period remains vividly in my memory.

"During the school holidays I would accompany him on several of his visits to the country where he represented, among other firms, The Union Flour Mills.

"One trip that I particularly remember was to Vryburg in the (then) Western Transvaal. We travelled over sandy and corrugated main roads and some almost non-existent country roads. We were not in large American cars but in a 1932 Chevrolet.

"Every few miles we would arrive at a broken gate and I had to get out of the car and open it. That was my job, and, having passed through, I had to nail onto the wooden pole alongside the fence, a sign made of tin and enamel which contained an advertisement for Blue Ribbon Flour or Inkosi Mealie Meal. This was alongside all the signs that had been put there by other travellers.

"When we arrived at whatever hotel we were staying for the night, just before the evening meal, all the other travellers would congregate in the lounge for a drink. When the gong sounded for supper (and in those days it was a gong) the travellers would decide who was the most senior and, accordingly, place him at the head of the table reserved for travellers.

"I would sit with them and for supper, bed and breakfast, my father was charged one shilling and nine pence (twenty-one cents in today's currency). I recall that after breakfast, when all the travellers commenced their rounds to their customers, there was no pushing in by anybody but a first come, first served principle was always applied.

"I was not around for the later years and the large American cars, but for the years that I accompanied my father, SACTA was indeed a noble profession."

From Gwen Heiman:

"I remember the days of the commercial travellers very well.

"My parents were Charles and Doris Whyte and they had the Settlers Hotel in the heart of the Springbok Flats farming area, which is still in existence today.

"Those who travelled in what was then known as the Northern Transvaal from Mondays to Fridays, representing and taking orders for the wholesalers, used to come to our place at night to stay over and leave again in the mornings to further their calls. They travelled great distances to get back to our hotel at night. They said that it was their home from home.

"I was very young at the time, but of the travellers that came to us, there is one name that I remember - and I can even remember what he looked like - and that was a Mr Slotow.

"The Semans - brothers married to two sisters - were my uncles and aunts and they had a hotel in Nylstroom where they were hosts to many commercial travellers.

"I also remember that there were frequent cattle sales in the kraals (I think that they were monthly) and Jewish buyers used to come from Johannesburg and Pretoria to attend and when the sales were over, which was sometimes in the afternoons, they would come into the hotel and my father would give them a private lounge which was next to the 'nursery' where my sister and I slept.

"They lost no time in starting a game of poker which carried on until 07:00 the next morning. I remember my mother being busy in the kitchen making all kinds of Jewish food and bringing it to them at intervals right throughout the night.

"After that they left and went back to from where they had come."

HEILBRON (CONT):

Max Strange, (now in Shanghai) at the age of eight was sceptical about his father's rugby stories and goes with him to his dad's old school, Heilbron Hoer.

"After knocking on the headmaster's door and hearing 'kom binne' we walked into his office. It was not that well lit as I recall, and, the 'Hoof' peered at the two visitors, and then, with a mighty roar, he exclaimed 'Dawie' as he picked up my Dad in a bear hug and almost squeezed all the oxygen out of him.

"I was quite alarmed at this unexpected display of affection but soon came to realise that it was quite genuine. The two of them exchanged pleasantries, all in Afrikaans, of course, and then, they focussed their attention on me. I managed to pick up a few words to the effect that 'my son does not believe that I played for the first rugby team'.

"Lampies then came over to me and grabbed me by my ear lobe and half dragged me to a wall where all the first team photos were neatly displayed. He lifted me off the floor as if I were no heavier than a packet of naartjies and asked me to read the names that appeared at the bottom of the photograph. There, much to my chagrin, I found the names of Gershon and Harry Strange, both older brothers of my father and then my father's name, Dave Strange, sitting cross-legged and holding the ball.

"Mr Lamprecht then put his huge arm across my shoulder and very kindly told me that I should always believe everything that my father tells me and that I should always remember that he was one of the finest players to represent the school's First Team. Wow! I was so proud of my father that I actually gave him a hug and a kiss and whispered that I was sorry for ever disbelieving him and that from that day on he and I became closer than we ever were before, if that were possible.

"We then drove over to Fred Lotzoff's garage where we spent the rest of the day, since his wife, Ray, was my Dad's first cousin and they were happy to have my Dad visit them and to meet me. Their daughter, Jackie, and I still correspond from time to time. She lives in Sydney and I live in Shanghai. Both are one helluva long way from Heilbron but the memories live on forever."

PRETORIA

From Stan Zway c/o Jaffa Retirement Home:

"It was with great interest that I read Sylvia Shapshack's article about the Pretoria Civil Guard during the Second World War. The Siskind family and my late parents, myself, Sylvia and her brother Victor, were the greatest of friends and we grew up together.

"The Civil Unit that Sylvia refers to was known as NVB (National Volunteer Brigade). Every evening after work my Dad would don his uniform, collect his .303 rifle and proceed to a vulnerable site such as the Union Buildings, a power station or the railway station, where they would stand guard for a four hour shift.

"My father took his task very seriously and told us stories of many humorous and serious incidents that he experienced.

"Incidents that come to mind during this period were that on the way to cheder at the Miriam Marks School, hooligans would taunt us, throw stones at us and shout at us: 'Weg met die Jode'. Those were days that I will never forget."

SALE

of air tickets to ISRAEL

We advise of our first-ever sale

- **Reduced airfares**
- **Reduced fees**
- **Big Savings**
- **All flights on El-Al**
- **Seats available on dates in October through March 2008**
- **Limited seats available**
- **Airline conditions apply**

WE KNOW ISRAEL!!!

And we care about the happiness of all our clients

NOBODY BEATS US FOR PRICE AND SERVICE

**Avoid disappointment
Call us NOW**

**sure executive
travel**

**PROMOTING
ISRAEL
FOR OVER
30 YEARS**



**GROUND FLOOR JHI HOUSE
11 CRADOCK AVENUE
CNR BAKER STREET, ROSEBANK
TEL: (011) 788-2050**



AMAZING TRANSPORT & WAREHOUSING

Specialising in

Office, household removals and storage

Mike Berman 082 877 1309

Jody Riback 083 271 0273

Tel: (011) 887-1882

**493 Louis botha Avenue, Highlands North
www.amazingtransport.co.za**

**Place your free classified
notice in November.**

**See classified page for
details.**

**15 NORTHFIELD AVE,
GLENHAZEL**

011 885 1500



TUESDAY SPECIAL

EAT AS MUCH PIZZA

AS YOU CAN!!

17:30-21:30 TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES CC

CK1985/000039/23

Specialist Sectional Title Administrators

Member: J.I. Gatz FCIS FCIBM Professional Accountant (SA) EAB
1117 Picbel Parkade, Strand Street, Cape Town 8001
P.O. Box 23103, Claremont 7735
or visit our website at www.biz-online.co.za

SECTIONAL TITLE ADMINISTRATION

Sectional Titles Act of 1986 as amended

**SEMINAR / WORKSHOP - THE RATES PERIL & THE
IMPACTS FACING BODIES CORPORATE & ALL SECTIONAL
TITLE OWNERS IN 2008**

The Property Rates Act No.6 of 2004 as it affects Sectional Title Owners
Commencing Date : Monday 19 & Tuesday 20 November 2007
Weekly

Time: 9.00 a.m. - 1.00p.m. two mornings
Duration: Two Sessions - Monday and Tuesday or
Wednesday and Thursday

Venues: Cape Town, Camps Bay, Newlands,
Pinelands, Fish Hoek

Cost: R400,00 per morning session, payable in
advance

Bookings: In advance as numbers are strictly limited
per Session.

Enquiries: Bruce Mackenzie

Telephone: 021 418 0245 / 6

Cell: 084 3060 451

or email jgast@iafrica.com

"Fresh thinking that creates value" - (Richard Lyons)

*Have you got old jewellery that
was once loved and for which you
have no more use. I buy jewellery,
watches, stamp collections
pre 1960, old documents, family
correspondence and old post cards.*

Please contact Frank Friedman

Johannesburg

Jewellery Expert on 0829006897



Our Helen, a fulfilled 90 years

GEOFF SIFRIN

THERE ARE many positive and outstanding aspects of the South Africa of 2007. Helen Suzman, is fully aware of them - but is equally aware of its problems.

Suzman, South African politics' emblematic liberal flag bearer, who turned 90 on Wednesday, is aware, for example, that post-apartheid South Africa has not fully lived up to its promise of bringing a much better dispensation, notwithstanding the euphoria and fanfare that accompanied this country's democratic elections in 1994.

Having waged a lifelong battle against the iniquitous apartheid laws - for many years a lonely (female) voice in Parliament in the midst of what can mildly be called "political bullyboys", Suzman is well-qualified to give a critical overview of what has happened on the political front in the country, since the first democratic elections: "Corruption and nepotism are much the same as they were then. And non-delivery of promises is a problem - the practical issues.

"Unemployment is still extremely high at 25-30 per cent. There are two million people living in shacks with no electricity, water or sanitation.

"But it is not quite as bad as then. All those laws - detention without trial and the others - are gone, and the rule of law still exists. There are two main threats today: to freedom of the press and the judiciary - two very important issues in the maintenance of democracy. I see it as a scary trend.

"We have a liberal Constitution, but it is the implementation that is not up to stan-



dard. There is no-one to see that a Constitutional Court decision is implemented. For example, the Treatment Action Campaign won its case on the distribution of anti-retroviral drugs in the Constitutional Court, but the government implemented it with very little enthusiasm - with the Minister of Health and the President in denial.

"The woman who wanted to do it properly - (former Deputy Health Minister) Madlala-Routledge - was kicked out of her job."

Suzman is concerned about the atmosphere of growing Pan-Africanism, in which she feels white liberals will find no place.

"White liberals have been airbrushed out of history. The role played by them is not recognised. If they were white communists, you'd find pictures of them at the Apartheid Museum. Unless a person was born before 1970, he never knew what the pass laws were and what white liberals did to get them removed.

"A black person had to be 16 years old before he had to carry a pass and the law was abolished in 1986. In my experience, older blacks do appreciate what white liberals did."

Events in Zimbabwe have provoked many people in the West to believe that Africanism is seen as more important to its proponents than good governance. "Yes, absolutely," says Suzman. "Mugabe is protected by all the other African countries. No black leader will turn on any other, regardless of the issue. Human rights have disappeared in Zimbabwe."

White liberals have had experiences of being called racist when they have criticised the ANC. "Yes, because they do criticise! You've got to have an opposition. There is no appreciation today of the role of the opposition, possibly because of the Parliamentary system - it is not the Westminster system under which I operated.

"I never experienced the wall of hatred

Tony Leon experienced when he rose to speak. Yes, there were sexist and anti-Semitic remarks directed at me, but nothing like that hatred. And the Speaker always gave me tremendous help - the role of an opposition was appreciated. There is still anti-Semitism in this country. I'm still getting anti-Semitic letters.

"Also, when I was in Parliament, I had enormous press support - Laurie Gandar (*Rand Daily Mail*), and later Joel Mervis (*Sunday Times*), editors of very influential papers. In the same way today, the Democratic Alliance needs press support. The assault on press freedom is an assault on the effectiveness of the opposition."

Suzman links the emigration of a huge number of people since 1994 to affirmative action and laments its effects. "People have emigrated because they cannot find jobs due to affirmative action. So, now we have a tremendous shortage of skills in this country. Affirmative action has partially succeeded - there had to be redress of grievances, to give blacks an extra chance. But, basically, if you want a country to run properly, it should be done on merit. And that's not happening, so you have emigration of skilled people.

"I would spend every brass farthing on training. Don't forget, we had 40 years - two generations - of Bantu Education, with black kids being deprived of maths and science. Bantu Education was, to my mind, the worst sin of apartheid, leaving aside the undermining of the rule of law.

"It is time to start phasing out affirmative action and Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) and run the country on merit. BEE has created a handful of billionaires, but has not helped the masses."

South Africa today has one of the highest rates of violent crime in the world. Suzman sees it as largely an economic problem because of unemployment. "Crime is not condemned in black society to the extent it would be condemned by whites. But that is not to say that blacks are more prone to violence than whites. There are simply more blacks in the country."

Suzman is a strictly secular Jew and will tell you so emphatically whenever the subject of religion or Judaism is raised. She has a strong sense of the place of Jews in the country. "Jews have certain characteristics. They are very aware of human rights, they take advantage of what can be offered in the country and they put great store by education - even the poorest realise that the education of their children is essential. This is an asset to the country, and particularly applies to Jews."

The rise of Islamist terrorism has moved some people to say we are at the beginning - or even well into - the Third World War. Suzman sees this as a distinct possibility.

"It could be going to it. I believe the rest of this century is going to be a war of the Islamist world against the West; ongoing conflict and hatred."

It was the great leadership of iconic figures like Nelson Mandela which so dominated South African politics over the past

few decades. What of the leaders of today?

"I don't consider (President Thabo) Mbeki a great leader. But he was good in not carrying out the Freedom Charter, which meant nationalising the industries and mines. (ANC Deputy President) Jacob Zuma has a populist approach, not an intellectual one. Mbeki has intellectualism, but he is not popular anymore.

"But you don't have to choose between Zuma's populism and lack of intellectualism, and the others' intellectualism. There is something in between - (Cyril) Ramaphosa, for example."

'I would spend every brass farthing on training. Don't forget, we had 40 years - two generations - of Bantu Education, with black kids being deprived of maths and science. Bantu Education was, to my mind, the worst sin of apartheid, leaving aside the undermining of the rule of law.'

Has South Africa become a non-racial country? "Oh, no, not at all. The minute you criticise the ANC, you are called a racist. The sentiment of racism is still there, even if the laws have changed. People are still seen as black, white, etc. The black middle class has to some extent become integrated with the white middle class - they can afford the same things - but it doesn't filter down.

"The winning of the Rugby World Cup did more for good race relations in this country than any politician since Mandela."

Regrets are a luxury Suzman doesn't really care about. But she did say maybe she should have stayed in politics just one more year, to first hand witness the repeal of the apartheid laws she had fought so vigorously.

At 90, Helen Suzman is still a refreshing figure with whom to spend an hour. She is as forthright, contentious and unafraid to call a spade a spade as she ever was, and has lost none of the acute moral judgement which made her an icon in South African and international politics.

'White liberals have been airbrushed out of history. The role played by them is not recognised. If they were white communists, you'd find pictures of them at the Apartheid Museum. Unless a person was born before 1970, he never knew what the pass laws were and what white liberals did to get them removed.'

YARMULKAS
MADE TO ORDER
FOR WEDDINGS,
BARMITZVAHS ETC

CONTACT: AFRICAN HAT & CAP
(011) 402-5938

JUST LETTING **GLENHAZEL KILLARNEY**
Property Rental and Management

PROPERTIES AVAILABLE

Web ref.	Property Description	Rent
K199	Orchards Cluster 3bed, 2bath, pool, mq	R13 500
K261	Sandringham T/Hse- dup 3bed, 3bath, garden, furn	R20 000
K260	Observatory T/Hse 3bed, 2bath, garden	R5 000
K259	Waverley T/Hse 2bed, 1bath, garden	R6 000
K257	Talboton Cottage 1bed, 1bath, -	R2 750
K255	The Gardens Hse 3bed, 2bath, pool, mq	R8 000
K244	Lyndhurst T/Hse 2bed, 1bath, -	R4 000
K246	Killarney Apt 2bed, 1bath, 4th floor	R4 500
K250	Killarney Apt 1bed, 1bath, 4th floor	R4 500
K218	Glenahzel Cluster 3bed, 2bath, garden, mq	R15 000
K117	Glenahzel T/Hse 1bed, 1bath, furnished	R4 500

PLUS MANY OTHER QUALITY PROPERTIES AVAILABLE

CALL US ON 011 454 5418 FOR A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
KILLARNEY@JUSTLETTING.CO.ZA
OR VISIT THE JUST LETTING WEBSITE AND CLICK ON KILLARNEY
FOR DETAILS OF ALL THE UNITS WE HAVE TO OFFER

AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

OLMERT WANTS SYRIANS AT ANNAPOLIS

JERUSALEM - Ehud Olmert has voiced hope that Syria will attend the Israeli-Palestinian peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland.

The Israeli prime minister said on Tuesday that while the main aim of the US-hosted event would be to discuss Palestinian statehood, it also could have a wider impact on Middle East diplomacy.

"I hope that Syria and other Arab countries will take part," Olmert told reporters.

"I very much hope that, should the process between

the Palestinians and us succeed, it will spur a similar process between the Syrians and us in the future," he said.

"The Americans are the ones extending invitations and I suppose that they will invite them, as well as many other countries."

Syria has balked at coming to Annapolis given Israel's rejection of the return of the Golan Heights as a precondition for peace talks. The United States has yet to issue details on the Annapolis conference. (JTA)

ISRAEL SEES IRAN BOMB IN 2009

JERUSALEM - Iran could procure nuclear weapons by 2009, a top Israeli intelligence analyst has said.

Brig Gen Yossi Baidatz, chief analyst for Israel's military intelligence, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee on Tuesday that if Iran's nuclear programme went unchecked, it could produce warheads by the end of 2009 or the

beginning of 2010.

Western powers believe Iran is two or three years further away from nuclear bomb-making capability.

Baidatz also said that the hard-line regime of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad looked strong despite its unpopularity at home and foreign pressure to abandon its atomic ambitions. (JTA)

IRAN LOBBIES INTERPOL ASSEMBLY

MARRAKESH - Iran is lobbying to keep six men suspected in the 1994 Buenos Aires Jewish community centre attack off Interpol's most wanted list.

The five Iranians and a Lebanese are accused in the AMIA centre bombing, which killed 85. No one directly involved in perpetrating the attack has ever been prosecuted in the case.

Iranian delegates to Interpol's general assembly in Marrakesh, Morocco, warned that the United States and Israel were using Interpol as a political tool, the Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

The Interpol General Assembly will vote later this week on the recommendation of its executive panel to "red notice" the men, marking them as wanted.

A "red notice" does not require a country to arrest or extradite the suspects.

Argentine prosecutors claim the attack was carried out by Hezbollah, but orchestrated by the Iranians.

Interpol, based in France, facilitates international police co-operation. (JTA)

PRAGUE NEO-NAZI RALLY BANNED

PRAGUE - A Czech higher court has banned a neo-Nazi march planned for Prague's Jewish Quarter.

The Young National Democrats march was scheduled for November 10, the anniversary of Kristallnacht. The far-right group plans to march the same day on a different route in the Old Town.

The Supreme Administrative Court in Brno ruled on Monday that the Young National Democrats had

failed to meet the proper legal conditions when applying for its permit, overturning lower court rulings last month that stated the demonstration could not be stopped.

Three counter-demonstrations by Jewish and anti-racism groups are planned for November 10, including a Shabbat celebration in front of the mediaeval Old-New Synagogue. (JTA)



Manoek
NATURALS

Master Furrier & Leather Specialists
Supplier of African Game Skins

Latest range of High-Fashion fur & leather garments for your year-end travel.

Garments custom made on request

Shop U28 Village Walk, Sandton Tel: (011) 783-7379
Shop 209 Musgrave Centre, Durban Tel: (031) 202-1115
Shop F4 Ushaka Durban Tel: (031) 337 1999

ALLIANCE group

AHEAD OF THE GAME

(011) 430 5555 • www.alliancegroup.co.za

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER @ 6:30 pm,
VENUE: AG STUDIO, 17 SCOTT STREET, WAVERLEY, JHB

SANDTON SQUARE
MICHELANGELO TOWERS FULLY FURNISHED AND SERVICED

UNIT 1705 MICHELANGELO TOWERS, 143 WEST STREET

- 2 Bedrooms (En-Suite)
- Dining room
- Hitech kitchen
- Lounge with plasma tv
- Gym, pool and sauna in complex
- Rental pool till end of April 2008
- Superb corporate / investment potential

WEB#: 4485

SANDTON SQUARE
RAPHAEL SUITE APARTMENT

UNIT 114, RAPHAEL SUITE

- 1 Bedroom (En-suite)
- Dining room
- Lounge with Plasma TV
- Gym, Pool & Sauna in complex
- Rental Pool potential
- Fully furnished and serviced
- Superb corporate/investment potential

WEB#: 4486

MORNINGSIDE
SPECTACULAR HOME SET ON 4000m²

387 SUMMIT ROAD

- 4 Bedrooms (En-suite) • Lounge • Dining room • TV room with built-in entertainment system • Pool • Large separate office
- Subdivided stand of ±1800m² for development

Marvelous Mansion with WFH potential.
VIEW: SUN 11/11, 2 - 4 pm

WEB#: 4479

VAAI RIVER
TIME SHARE UNITS AT FIVE STAR HOTEL

RIVIERA ON VAAI HOTEL

Units 104 & 105 • Garden suite rooms • Every weekend of the year including Christmas & Easter holidays

WEB#: 4489

BEDFORDVIEW
THE ULTIMATE IN STYLE AND LUXURY

UNIT 1 EAST BRIDGE

- 3 Bedrooms • Open plan lounge and dining area • Underfloor heating throughout • Wooden deck with built-in braai • Single garage

Stylish duplex townhouse.
VIEW: SUN 11/11, 2 - 4 pm

WEB#: 4487

RIVONIA, SANDTON

6B CHADBROOK, BEVAN ROAD, EDENBURG

- 4 Bedrooms (En-suite) • 3 Entertainment rooms • Sauna
- State of the art finishes • Landscaped garden • Rim flow pool

VIEW: SUN 4/11, 2 - 4pm

WEB#: 4475

ORANGE GROVE
LIVE HERE! WORK HERE! PLAY HERE!

28 10TH AVENUE

- 4 Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Large kitchen
- Playroom
- Guest cottage or work from home potential
- Plenty off street parking

Large renovated home.

WEB#: 4476

ORANGE GROVE
GREAT HOME WITH LOADS OF POTENTIAL

109 9TH STREET

- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Large kitchen
- Cottage • Pool

Renovated home.

WEB#: 4478

HOUGHTON
NEWLY RENOVATED FAMILY HOME

48 7TH AVENUE

- 4 Bedrooms
- Study
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Modern kitchen
- TV room
- Pool

Elegantly renovated home.
VIEW: SUN 11/11, 2 - 4 pm

WEB#: 4477

BEDFORDVIEW
THE ULTIMATE IN STYLE & LUXURY

UNIT 13 EAST RIDGE

- 2 Bedrooms • Loft / Study / Lounge
- Open plan lounge / Dining room
- Underfloor heating throughout • Great views • Single garage

Loft/Penthouse apartment.
VIEW: SUN 11/11, 2 - 4 pm

WEB#: 4488

Gary Serebro 082 875 5191 & Warren Aronson 082 529 1020

TERMS: R10 000 REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE PAYABLE BY CHEQUE WITH POSITIVE ID.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Jewish Report

The 90th birthday of an icon

HELEN SUZMAN, the daughter of Lithuanian immigrants, Samuel and Frieda Gavronsky was born in Germiston in 1917, and this week celebrated her 90th birthday. Her story is a Jewish one, in which Jews from Lithuania came to this country seeking to escape the anti-Semitism and poverty of Eastern Europe and established businesses and made good.

Her story is also an intensely South African one, in which white people growing up and living in a country where the black majority of its citizens were oppressed by law, had the choice of becoming involved - politically or otherwise - in trying to change the system, or simply benefiting from their "privileged" status. Suzman made a clear choice when she was at Wits University doing a B.Com degree, and became active in the SA Institute of Race Relations.

In 1947 she prepared evidence for the Fagan Commission on laws restricting the mobility of blacks. In 1953 she was elected United Party MP for Houghton. She remained in parliament for 36 consecutive years, until 1989, consistently using her position to oppose apartheid laws and expose the injustices they caused.

Her choice of engaging in opposition politics had a profound impact on this country. Through her parliamentary career, she became an internationally recognised icon of the fight against racism and served as an inspiration to others worldwide.

In 1959 she was one of 11 United Party members who broke away to form the anti-apartheid Progressive Party. For 13 years, from 1961-'74, she was the lone MP of the Progressive Party in parliament and often the sole anti-apartheid voice.

In 1967 she visited Nelson Mandela and his comrades in the Robben Island Prison, and achieved many improvements in prison conditions there and elsewhere. In 1993 she was one of 11 South Africans appointed to the Independent Electoral Commission, charged with overseeing the country's first democratic elections.

She has received numerous awards, including: 22 honorary doctorates, from inter alia Oxford, Harvard, Columbia, and Brandeis, the UN Award of the International League for Human Rights; two separate nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize; Dor L'Dor award of B'Nai Brith International; the American Liberties Medallion of the American Jewish Community.

In 1989 she became an Honorary Dame Commander of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire, conferred by Queen Elizabeth II.

Suzman makes no bones about her self-definition as a "secular Jew" and her non-participation in synagogue life. But she epitomises, in many ways, the most essential qualities of what it is to be truly Jewish - to be concerned about human dignity and freedom and be willing to stand up and be counted for these beliefs, to be kind to the "stranger", to participate in and help mould the life and structure of the society for the better.

When she was interviewed for this paper (see story on page 8), tired out from the numerous interviews she had given over the past few days and fragile through age, she was surrounded by her daughters, spoke fondly to her three dogs that obviously dote on her, and on the side table was a bunch of flowers from Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, and warm letters of congratulation from Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk.

She had also received a letter of a different kind ten days previously - an anti-Semitic letter telling her that the Jews were responsible for most of the ills in the world, and that it was good that so many of them had been killed in Europe.

Sadly, in this country her contribution to changing the political order and removing the grotesque legal system of apartheid, has been downplayed of late. She mentions in the interview how white liberals have been virtually "airbrushed" out of our history. But history is made of sterner stuff and one is confident that Helen Suzman's legacy will comfortably survive those of her "airbrushers".

In the historical record of this country and the world during the second half of the 20th century, she will always be one of the great names who will be referred to for inspiration.

Happy birthday, Helen Suzman. You have the warmest and best wishes from all of us.

Remembrance and reconciliation

A MOVING photographic exhibition, "Absence and Loss", opened at the Goethe-Institut this week, featuring the many Holocaust memorials, large and small, in Berlin.

On display until the end of November are art photographs by the prize-winning British photographer, Marion Davies, the hosts of the event being the Goethe-Institut and the Gauteng Council of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies - who, together, have mounted functions three Novembers running.

Two years ago, the Johannesburg "Seeking Refuge" Exhibition - an extension of an initiative by the Cape Town Holocaust Centre - traced, through 35 individual narratives, the experiences of German Jewish refugees who fled Nazi Germany for Johannesburg. It drew record crowds, particularly for the ancillary events held over the month of November.

A year later, a DVD, which recorded the last public function of that programme was officially launched in which refugees addressed, among other things, what they felt about the exhibition having taken place at the Goethe-Institut, the cultural arm of the country that had so cruelly uprooted them.

While a sense of ambivalence prevailed, some refugees showing hostility, there was a palpable sense of progress, evidence of a mutual recognition by those whose countrymen had behaved so abominably, and by those who had suffered so grievously, that times had changed and that yesteryear's enemies are not the enemies of today. Mutual contact and co-operation had somehow reinstated the basic humanity of people on both sides.

Distrust in the wider community remains, however, as an e-mail to the organisers reacting to the current project showed. "While there may be some place to show how many Jews the Germans and others saved... and how they are remembering the Holocaust... and its victims, I think it will be far more profound and beneficial from a



ON BALANCE

Jocelyn Hellig

Jewish perspective", opined the writer, "to concentrate on the enormous rise in neo-Nazi organisations and the risk it poses to Jews in Europe and elsewhere".

"Why," he asked, "should Jewish organisations clear the conscience of Germans as well as those Jews who would prefer to forget about the Holocaust/anti-Semitism when anti-Semitism is rising rampantly throughout Europe, including Germany?"

Is it a matter of clearing consciences or of communicating with one another in an attempt to build a better future? Does the necessity to fight anti-Semitism - in whatever form - mean that attempts at reconciliation must be spurned?

Why should one activity preclude the other? Besides, there is a huge difference between the actions of individuals and those of governments. There is little more dangerous for Jews than government-sponsored anti-Semitism.

The current exhibition reveals the many initiatives by Germans to acknowledge and take responsibility for the atrocities perpetrated in their name, while also remembering the millions of victims, both Jews and other targeted minorities. It is an essay on the way Germans are engaging with the void left by their once-thriving Jewish community.

The photographs are haunting, like that of "The abandoned room" in the Koppenplatz, depicting an empty table and overturned chair, painfully portraying sudden disruption and loss, or the little brass plaques, the "Stolpersteine" or "stumbling stones", inlaid into Berlin's pavements - often with the help of schoolchildren, which mark the houses in which victims once lived.

Most monumental are Berlin's Holocaust Memorial and its Jewish Museum, both of which are dedicated specifically to Jews. The Memorial, evocative of a giant graveyard, which occupies five acres of prime real estate in the heart of Berlin, commemorates the "Murdered Jews of Europe", while the Museum, with its stark, angular architecture by Daniel Libeskind, celebrates the achievements of Germany's Jews, lamenting the incalculable loss, not only to the Jewish world, but to German culture itself.

The exhibition's ancillary programme will feature two panel discussions: "Holocaust Memorials and Memory" and "Memorials and Memory in Africa" (on November 15 and 26 respectively). A film, (on November 21), "Two or three things I know about him", directed by Malte Ludin, examines his father's Nazi wartime record and his family's persistent failure to acknowledge it. Ludin and his producer, Iva Svarnocovawill, will be present to lead the discussion afterwards.

Depicting neither the horror nor pain of the victims, the exhibition explores the traces they have left in Germany and the manner in which contemporary Germans are interacting with those traces as they become part of everyday life - apparently inconspicuous but always present, waiting to be reckoned with.

Exhibitions such as this and the co-operation between Jewish and German organisations that often lies behind them are essential in our time. This one, with the inclusion of other victims, is timely in view of the genocidal universe we inhabit.

Given the German government's readiness to commemorate - not national glory as most nations' monuments do - but a shameful crime, as well as its consistent support for Israel, it is time for us to move forward.

All three functions mentioned above will be held at the Goethe-Institut at 19:00. For further information, contact Shirley at (011) 645-2583 or Kaja at (011) 442-3232.

Closing the door to communal conversation

IN LAST week's edition of this newspaper, a correspondent, Joseph Hasson, drew attention to the irony of Dr Max Price who was "blacklisted" by the Jewish Board of Education and who has now been appointed vice chancellor of the most prestigious university in this country, namely UCT; I might add, the first Jew to hold this post.

He attributes the exclusion of Price and other similarly talented Jewish intellectuals to the hegemony of what he classifies as an intolerant Orthodoxy.

Mr Hasson has raised a critical question: Are we pushing away the very brightest and best from any meaningful communal participation?

It is a deeply troubling question which does not admit of any easy answer. There may be a whole host of reasons why the Max Prices of our community are not to be found in communal institutions; for example committed Orthodox members may well see their world in purely Jewish communal terms, whereas others have a broader range of concerns, including secular interests.

However, I suspect that Mr Hasson has hit upon a sensitive and important area for inquiry.

Let me illustrate: During the Limmud events earlier this year, a host of Jews not normally seen at Jewish community occasions participated with enthusiasm. A few weeks later, the Board of Deputies held its annual conference.

Although it elected a young, dynamic new chair, it was notable that the conference was attended in the main by the older members of the community, loyal and dedicated troopers all. However, there were relatively few young dele-



THE JURY IS OUT

Dennis Davis

gates; indeed one of these delegates asked me with a bemused look as to how I had lasted at the BOD for so long. In short, what was the point of participation.

Very few rabbis attended. The stark contrast between the inquiring talent at Limmud and all too many communal functions, was truly troubling.

I do not want to be mistaken: I accept readily that among the minority, albeit increasing, of the community who are strictly Orthodox, there are many fine inquiring minds. But the fact remains, Max Price is not alone: he represents a significant section of the community who struggle with a conflation of their Jewish identity with but one rigid outlook, hostility to Reform Jews, lack of gender equality, intolerance of gays and lesbians, hatred of Palestinians and the use of the censure of anti-Semitism to describe each and every critic.

We are a small and ageing community. We can ill afford to exclude a significant group, let alone among the most gifted. But, alas, that is what the current crop of Orthodox leaders do and consistently so.

With much fanfare we have been informed that the chief rabbi intends to hold meetings to canvass critical social issues. Commendably the first event featured the chief rabbi and Dr Frank Chikane (director-general in the

Presidency) who examined questions of reconciliation.

This is a bold and imaginative initiative to enhance the quality of Jewish public discourse. But will any Jew who fails to pass the Orthodox security check be admitted to participate? Will the Jew who next year becomes UCT's vice chancellor be invited to debate education including Jewish education?

In his commentary on last week's parashah, Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (of the UK) wrote of prayer as a form of conversation. He said: "In true conversation I open myself up to the reality of another person. I enter his or her world. I begin to see things from a perspective not my own. In the touch of two selves, both are changed."

When we engage in true conversation, we commence the possibility of tikun olam - the repair of the world - and the divide of our own community; sadly not Judaism itself, but a prevailing strain thereof feels so insecure that it will not engage with its own who may differ. Insecurity lies so much at the heart of the fundamentalist enterprise that this kind of conversation is not possible.

In short Mr Hasson, Dr Price may be allowed readmission, to an extent, in that he now occupies high office; others with billions may likewise receive an entry card so long as they remain wealthy. But for the majority of this community who are like Dr Price, but hold neither high office nor huge wealth, their talents, perspectives and promise, will never be allowed to engage in weighty communal conversation as defined by Rabbi Sacks, so long as an anti-modernist form of Orthodoxy holds sway.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

Too much talent?

NECHEMIA MEYERS
REHOVOT

ISRAELI ACADEMICS argue that a refusal to pay them decent salaries is speeding up the brain drain, which has already taken thousands of Israelis to American universities and science-based industries.

This argument has some validity but it is a half-truth, as is evident whenever an academic post opens up here. For while academic salaries in Israel are half those in the United States, when a local post becomes available, applications flood in from Israelis now in the US. And most are people who have doctorates from the best universities in the States, places like Harvard and Yale on the east coast and Stanford and the University of California on the west coast.

But there are relatively few such offers. For Israeli universities are cutting down on their tenure-track teaching staff, replacing them with people who earn much less and can easily be fired if their services are no longer required. This saves money but lowers standards.

Even if this policy were changed, a problem would remain, as Israel already has more people with a post-second-

ary education than most advanced countries and fewer suitable jobs for them.

According to the latest figures available, 45 per cent of all Israelis between the ages of 25 and 64 have such an education, whereas the figure for the United States is 39 per cent, 37 per cent for Japan and 35 per cent for Sweden.

In the job market, however, the situation is different. Despite the high proportion of Israelis with an advanced education, only 29 per cent of the local workforce is employed in positions where that education is relevant.

In the United States the figure is 32,7 per cent, and in Switzerland 37,7 per cent.

So what does Israel do with so many bright youngsters? Should it train ever larger numbers of them, knowing that many will be forced to seek employment overseas? Or alternatively, should it perhaps be cutting down on its investment in education, rather than greatly increasing it as striking teachers and university lecturers are now demanding?

When I put this question to a leading Hebrew University professor this week, his answer was crystal clear. "We should invest even more in training top people, even if we can't promise jobs to all of them. Enough of them will stay to ensure that we remain a centre of excellence."

More Arab academics too

More and more Israeli Arabs are earning advanced academic degrees, though not in all university faculties.

Arab youngsters tend to avoid subjects like engineering because they are likely to find it difficult to get jobs in the defence sector, a major employer of engineers. At the same time, many opt to study medicine or pharmacy, where such a problem doesn't exist.

This fact was highlighted in a recent *Ha'aretz* article with the tongue-in-cheek headline: "Is there a doctor in the house?"

It was topped by a photograph showing five female and seven male doctors from the Galilee Arab village of Kara. This community holds the Israeli record for the number of physicians in proportion to its population.

READ THE JEWISH REPORT

e-paper on our website:
www.sajewishreport.co.za

Exhibition Jewish Johannesburg 120

The Jewish community of Johannesburg celebrates its 120th birthday this year

To mark this important occasion, the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, in association with the Union of Jewish Women and in partnership with the City of Johannesburg, has pleasure in inviting you to view an exhibition on the pioneering years of Jewish Johannesburg.

The exhibition will be on show at the beautiful and historic Arcadia premises, formerly the home of the Jewish orphanage.

Date: Sunday 25 November, from 9am to 1pm & from 2pm to 5pm

Venue: Villa Arcadia complex at Hollard, 22 Oxford Road, Parktown Ridge
(Please note: Entrance is in Federation Road)

RSVP: Viewing is by appointment only.
Please phone Shirley on 011 645 2583/23



BIRNAM TRAVEL

Pesach in Israel 2008

8 Full Nights

Date: 18th - 26th April

Location: Daniel Luxury Hotel (Dead Sea)

Price from: \$ 3 830 for 2 people sharing
*airfare not included

Full board on Shabbos + Chag
Half board on Chol Hamoed

Specials to Israel till end November 

218 CORLETT DRIVE, BRAMLEY, 2090

TEL: (011) 887 2062 FAX: (011) 786 5295

info@birnamtravel.co.za
www.birnamtravel.co.za



BIRNAM TRAVEL

Glatt Kosher Cruising

2008 Tour

Begins: 21st January (Spain)
Ends: 31st January (Genoa, Italy)

Prices from
\$ 2 100 - \$3 500 per person sharing
*airfare not included

Book Now

Specials to Israel till end November 

218 CORLETT DRIVE, BRAMLEY, 2090

TEL: (011) 887 2062 FAX: (011) 786 5295

info@birnamtravel.co.za
www.birnamtravel.co.za



TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

ARTS MATTERS

COMPILED BY

ROBYN SASSEN

Call 084-319-7844 or

info@frodo.co.za at least one week prior to publication

Artscape, Cape Town: "Rent: The Musical". November 10-December 15. (021) 410-9800.

Civic Theatre, Braamfontein: In the Nelson Mandela, "Peter Pan" until December 30. In the People's Theatre, "The Jungle Book". (011) 877-6800.

Dance Theatre, Newtown: "Attachments 1-7", with Mazarakis and Morris, until November 11. (011) 833-1347.

Eton Place, Melrose: "Musicals in Concert", with Yael Benjamin, Barry Levin, Bronwen Hirschowitz, Lesley Stephenson and Michael Watt (piano), November 15. 083-377-2337.

Goethe-Institut, Parkwood: "Absence and Loss" an exhibition by photographer Marion Davies, November 9-30. (011) 442-3232.

Goodman Gallery, Rosebank: "What will come", recent work by William Kentridge, November 10-December 14. (011) 788-1113.

Intimate Theatre, Cape Town: "Jutro", with Keren Tahor and James Cunningham, until November 18. (021) 480-7105.

Liberty Theatre on the Square, Sandton: Until November 17, "Porra: The Returnsh". (011) 883-8606.

Linder Auditorium, Parktown: On November 10, Philippe Quint (violin) and Francois du Toit (piano) perform in the Percy Baneshik Memorial Concert. (011) 728-5492.

Lyric Theatre, Gold Reef City, Ormonde: "Hairspray: The Musical", until March 2008. (011) 248-5168.

Market, Newtown: In the Barney Simon, "Bafana Republic", until December 16. In the Main Theatre, "Joe Barber 4" until November 25. In the Laager, "Grimm Tales" until December 16. (011) 832-1641.

Montecasino, Fourways: In the Main Theatre, "It's a Dad Thing", until November 11. In the Studio, "Defending the Caveman" until November 11. In Teatro, "Lion King", until January 20. (011) 511-1988.

RCHCC, Oaklands: On November 13, "Hidden and Revealed", poems by Immanuel Suttner launches. On November 18, a show by Terry Kalinko opens and Gerald Zwirn presents "A tribute to Luciano Pavarotti (1935-2007)". (011) 728-8088.

SA Jewish Museum, Cape Town: "Between Hearth, Heim and Home" by Leora Farber, until November 16. (021) 465-1546.

State Theatre, Pretoria: In the Drama, BTA performs Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" and more. November 7-17. (011) 880-3587.

Yeshiva Shul Hall, Glenhazel: Salon Soiree, November 11 with Helen Heldenmuth, Roz Basserabie and Pat Flaumm. 082-568-6010.

Success of Soweto Gospel Choir is sweet music



David Mulovhedzi (principal musical director and co-founder), Lucas Bok (musical director/choir master) and Beverly Bryer (executive producer/director and co-founder) receiving their Grammy Award. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY DEBRA ANNE COMMUNICATIONS)



Members of the Soweto Gospel Choir in performance. (PHOTOGRAPH: RUPHIN COUDYZER)

ROBYN SASSEN

BEV BRYER, co-founder, director and executive producer of the Soweto Gospel Choir (SGC) bubbles with enthusiasm when she talks of the choir's runaway international success.

Bev boasts over 25 years in entertainment in South Africa and Australia. After several publicity and events co-ordinator gigs, including collaboration with Debbie Rakusin in 1997 to produce "African Moves", she formed her own company, Eventsco, in August 2002.

She was soon approached by Australian producers/promoters International Concert Attractions and Hocking & Vigo, with the idea to form an African Gospel Choir.

She ran with it. "The choir was formed from scratch, drawing hopefuls from community groups and church choirs. By October 2002, we had a choir. Two months later, it had recorded its first CD, and embarked on a tour of New Zealand, Australia and Edinburgh."

SGC drew five star responses at the Edinburgh Festival. Today it is considered the world's top choir. "SGC is beyond African gospel. It blends African classics with a multicultural, multiracial perspective." The choristers' spontaneous harmonies must be heard to be believed.

The choir has grown from 36 to 52 choris-

ters. The original plan was to keep half of the group touring internationally, and the other touring locally, but the demand has been such that both groups are getting international exposure, performing for illustrious audiences; collaborating with the pick of international and local greats, from Diana Ross and Jay Leno to the Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Vusi Mahlasela and Johnny Clegg to Danny K.

"It doesn't really feel like a reality. I never believed that this could possibly have happened". When they won the Grammy Award in 2006, "the whole country was suddenly celebrating."

"A 'choir' is difficult to market because it is not obviously about entertainment, and leads one to think of church."

SGC's popularity has to do with various dynamics, once of which is the upsurge in opera. With tenors travelling the world and projects like the Black Tie Ensemble, opera is becoming young and hot. Bev knows one or two local rabbis and shul choirmasters who look to the quality of SGC's work for inspiration.

SGC is proactive in developing marketable skills. There are producers, directors and choreographers in the making. "I am seeing them develop before my eyes," Bev comments with motherly pride.

She has noticed a physical difference in how SGC's choristers have grown. She

remembers watching a self-conscious young woman or man, who wouldn't willingly lift their eyes from the ground, and who lived in a shack, be transformed into someone with posture and pride and one able to not only have built their own home, but able to support their parents. SGC's ethos is about "putting back into the community". It gives 50 per cent of its proceeds to Nkosi's Haven (an Aids orphanage), to whom it has donated over R4 million, so far.

Directing the SGC is not without stress. "I was never this thin in my life!" Bev exclaims.

She acknowledges that as the stakes get higher, so does the pressure; while each award adds a feather to the choir's cap, it also raises critical expectations. SGC constantly reinvents itself, to be accessible, entertaining, not overtly religious, but also without losing its "gospel" identity.

Bev's friends have encouraged her to write a book. She smiles: "I don't have time! We didn't set out to achieve this success. It just happened and is continuing to happen all the time!"

From September 19-23, the SGC performs at the Nelson Mandela Theatre in Braamfontein in Johannesburg and at the Durban Playhouse in KwaZulu-Natal, on September 28 and 29, before touring to Singapore, Holland, Spain and the UK, much of which is already sold out.

The lion will roar longer now



ROBYN SASSEN

DUE TO the huge success of the Disney musical, "The Lion King" bookings are now open until January 20, 2008. Already 400 000 tickets have been snapped up by eager audiences.

As a way of thanking the South African public for the support, the producers Lebo M and Pieter Toerien, are offering special discounted ticket packages for the festive season.

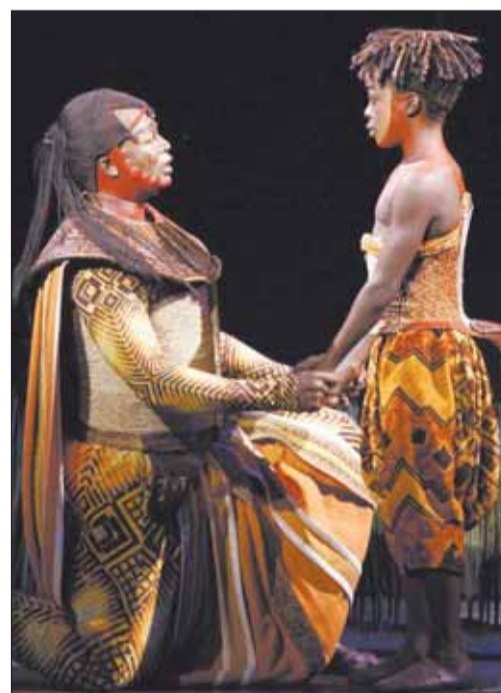
The Lion King is also drawing audiences from around South Africa and there are special show, flight and accommodation packages available for out-of-town visitors.

The show, which has already been seen by 35 million people around the globe since its debut in 1997, has been playing to packed houses at the Teatro at Montecasino in Johannesburg since it opened there in June.

This production has also served as a potent issues-based charity platform. The Campaign Against Canned Hunting has been donated a limited number of tickets to "The Lion King".

One hundred per cent of funds go directly towards efforts to protect the African lion from the canned hunting industry. This special performance is on November 14. Phone 082-765-6850 for further information.

Nala (Tsolo Moledi). (PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN HOGG)



Young Simba (Linda Dlamini) and Mufasa (Sello Maake ka Ncube). (PHOTOGRAPH: PAT BROMILOW DOWNING)

Time again for Percy Baneshik Memorial

ROBYN SASSEN

IT IS the time of the year when the Johannesburg Music Society honours arts critic Percy Baneshik (1915-1999), whose contribution to the local artworld was wide-ranging, sincere and enriching.

Percy was self-educated after suffering from polio as a child. In 1935, he joined what was then known as the African Broadcasting Company as scriptwriter, advancing to the

position of news editor, in which capacity he served throughout the Second World War.

During this time he wrote several plays, including the script and lyrics for the musical "Eureka!" by Bertha Egnos. After resigning from the SABC he wrote for various publications, including the *Rand Daily Mail*, the *Sunday Times* and the *Sunday Express*, and became the founding editor of *The Star Tonight*.

In 1974 he garnered the Pringle Award of the English Academy of South Africa, for the best

drama review of the year.

Those who knew Percy or regularly read his work were seduced by his genuine charm, unshaken courage and insight. His presence in the art community did not end with his death; the annual gala concert hosted in his memory by the Johannesburg Musical Society attests to this.

The concert will be held on November 10, with a free after party for the entire audience. (See Artsmatters for details.)

