

LETTERS

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HIGHLIGHTING BRASCH'S ROLE IN SYNAGOGUE MUSIC

YOUR ARTICLE in your January 20 edition on the passing away of Doris Brasch, omitted to mention her work in the music of the synagogue.

Annually, when the Reform Movement had its special service to which the State President was invited, the honour of accompanying Doris' exquisite voice at the organ, often fell to me, in my capacity as organist-choirmaster to the various Reform shuls.

On those occasions, Doris would be engaged to join the relevant shul's choir and

to sing a number of the solo items as well.

Incidentally, it was these very State President services which occasioned the bombing of Temple Israel in Paul Nel Street, Hillbrow (the mother synagogue of the Reform Movement in South Africa), as came to light many years later at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Michael S Levy
Northcliff
Johannesburg

Looking for...

LOOKING FOR FILM FOOTAGE OF WALD'S 'SHECHINAH WINGS'

DO YOU have any wedding footage taken in Berea Shul between the 1950s and the 1980s? Filmmakers of a documentary on the life and work of late Johannesburg-based artist Herman Wald, are keen to feature your footage if it shows Wald's 6m copper sculp-

ture "The Wings of the Shechinah" – the two wings that flank the Aron Kodesh - in the background. Please contact Lisa Chait: 072-377-6211 or e-mail lisachait@gmail.com. All transfer or copy costs will be covered by the filmmakers.

WHO CAN HELP WITH DUBOVSKY INFORMATION?

STANTON DUBO from Florida in the US, is looking for information on his Dubovsky family - Miriam (also known as Mary or Ester) Dubovsky, Isaac Dubovsky and Zelig Dubovsky.

"I am searching for information about these relatives who were born in Lithuania between 1875 and 1920 and came to South Africa.

Stanton Dubow's e-mail address is szbow32@gmail.co

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Mary Kluk,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

IN ORDER to safeguard our democratic institutions, civil society needs to be constantly vigilant against anything that might undermine them. Such has been the case regarding the controversial Protection of State Information Bill. As an organisation that is committed to doing its part on behalf of the Jewish community, in safeguarding this country's democratic tradition, the Board has involved itself from the outset in the national debate over this.

We were among the civil society organisations that made an official submission to Parliament in which we pointed out the Bill's flaws and suggested ways in which this could be remedied.

Since then, our senior researcher, Steven Gruzd, has represented us on the Right to Know Campaign Gauteng Working Group, as well as on the Gauteng branch of the recently established Press Freedom Commission (PFC).

On Tuesday, he made a presentation on our behalf at the PFC's hearings in Johannesburg. This was extremely well received and has since attracted considerable favourable comment, including in the Twittersphere.

Standing up for our 'Right to Know'

It has been gratifying for us not only to be playing a constructive part in the ongoing debate, but also that our contribution, as the Jewish community's representative body, is being so widely recognised.

As things stand, the Bill, having been passed in Parliament on so-called "Black Tuesday" last year, is now being considered at provincial level. Hopefully, sufficient pressure will be maintained to ensure that the Bill is appropriately amended so as to remove the serious objections that civil libertarians have identified in the original legislation.

We will continue to remain actively involved, where necessary drawing on legal advice to ensure that our contribution to the process is reliable, well-considered and expertly formulated.

The YouTube-sphere welcomes our 'Travelling Rabbi'

The multifaceted work carried out on behalf of our far-flung Jewish brethren throughout southern Africa by Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader to the SA country communities and CEO of the African Jewish Congress, was the subject of an enthralling documentary – "Shalom the Beloved Country" - that was shown on SABC2's Issues of Faith programme last year.

Rabbi Silberhaft has now launched a YouTube channel - www.youtube.com/user/TravelingRabbi - which among other things, features all five parts of the documentary. It is already proving to be extremely popular, not just locally but worldwide, and I thoroughly recommend having a look yourselves to learn about the kind of inspirational work our esteemed "Travelling Rabbi" is doing.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

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Be my valentine

Compiled by Marlene Bilewitz. Contact (011) 023-8160, Cell 082-475-0288 or e-mail: marlene@sajewishreport.co.za

Rediscover love with Valentine specials

BY MARLENE BILEWITZ

LYNNE BACKOS, CEO and travel expert par excellence, can always be relied on to select the right destination for the right occasion.

She has chosen four out of many fabulous weekend "get-aways" for you to ensure a truly romantic Valentine experience. Lynne's philosophy is: "Never miss an opportunity to celebrate or say I love you."

The following destinations are offering bonus packages which could include discount vouchers for restaurants or sight-seeing attractions, Avis car hire and airline levies.

Protea Hotel Knysna Quays (2 nights)

One of the best hotel locations in the heart of the Garden Route on the Knysna Waterfront.

From R952pp self-drive or from R3 705pp fly-in ex-Johannesburg.

Exciting viewing - dolphin and whale watching, complimentary parking, Wi-Fi, discount voucher at Drydock Food Co + 20 per cent discount at Mon-keyland, Birds of Eden & Knysna Elephant Park.

Valid until February 29, 2012. Weekends only.

Clifftop Exclusive Safari Hideaway - Limpopo (2 nights)

Capture the essence of love in the malaria-free Welgevonden Private Game Reserve – 250km from Johannesburg.

From R3 995pp self-drive.

FULL BOARD – Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily + 2 game drives + fly-in packages include airline levy and Avis car hire.

Valid until February 29, 2012.

Fly-in packages - weekends only.

Misty Hills Country Hotel, Conference Centre & Spa – Gauteng (2 nights)

The perfect romantic retreat in Muldersdrift – 25 minutes from Johannesburg, from R2 059pp self-drive

Breakfast daily + African Escape Spa Experience: Full use of spa facilities (pool sauna and steam room, aroma spa bath, hot stone full body massage, deep cleanse facial, African scalp massage. Early check-in and late check-out, subject to availability.

Valid until February 29. Weekends only.

The Polana Serena Hotel in Mozambique (2 nights)

Savour beautiful sea views from the stunning pool of this exquisitely refurbished hotel in Maputo.

Ex-Johannesburg from R4 655pp.

Breakfast daily + a romantic themed buffet dinner on February 14, including sparkling wine, live music and a ladies gift.

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- Return flights • Return transfers
- Accommodation and meals as specified
- All prices are per person (pp) sharing
- Apply to fix your holiday price with our unique foreign exchange guarantee

For more information and other exciting tours and cruises,
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