

LETTERS

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PESLA LIS MAY BE OLDEST SA HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

IN YOUR edition of June 9, 2006, there is an article written by David Saks, headlined "SA's oldest Holocaust survivor passes on". It is an inspiring article about a clearly wonderful woman, but she is not the oldest survivor.

My mother, Pesla Lis, turned 96 on December 5, 2011. Until July last year, she lived in her own flat and regularly went to the Marais Road Shul in Sea Point, Cape Town. Due to her increased lack of mobility, she was moved to a facility in Wynberg six months ago.

Although, sadly, her memory has largely failed, she is still able to talk about her child-

hood in Poland and about her experiences growing up. She is featured in the Holocaust Museum in Cape Town.

It was distressing to see her presence wiped away in your article. I am sure that there are other survivors, too, who had similar reactions. Just in Sea Point, I know of others - Miriam Lichtenstein and Ella Blumenthal, for starters. To my knowledge, they are both still alert, alive and active.

Rena Lis
New York

PROGRESSIVES NEGLECTED ON PAGES OF JEWISH REPORT

I FULLY agree with what Saul Schlesinger had to write. I think Samuel Kornblum is out of line. He wants proof, well here we have it. We all know that there is not a Progressive on your Board and that is because the Chief Rabbi will not tolerate it.

Another proof is that we hear not a word of what is going on in the Progressive shuls. In Milnerton a new Progressive shul was built - no pictures of this beautiful shul, nor an article.

We do not read about the money that is

given to various organisations. We do not read about the late Rabbi Dr David Sherman z"l who led his congregation to anti-apartheid fame. He was a great leader.

We need to read more about the Progressive Movement in South Africa. We are all over the country. We only do good things.

Don't forget we are Jews.

Cedric Braudo
Green Point, Cape Town

SAUL SCHLESINGER SHOULD HEED QUOTE ON SCRIPTURES

THE LETTER by Saul Schlesinger which appeared in the SAJR (December 9) refers.

His letter remind me of a quote by a good friend of mine: "When my neighbour quoteth the scriptures I counteth my sheep", when responding to holier than thou persons who repeatedly quote sources (scriptures, religion or others) to support

their arguments.

Without debating the merits of Schlesinger's viewpoints (sufficient correspondents have been published) the above quote immediately enters my thoughts.

Myron Robinson
East London

FOR THE RECORD

MILLER IS CHAIRMAN AND NOT FREEDMAN

IN OUR report in the paper of December 2, 2011, "GRJA gives Jews a sense of community" it is stated that Marc Freedman is the chair-

man of the UHI of Oudtshoorn. This is incorrect; Clifford Miller has been the chairman for the last seven years. We regret the error.

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Mary Kluk,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

THE START of the secular new year is a time of new beginnings and in particular for our school leavers now taking their first steps in forging their own life's pathways as independent adults. Once again, all our Jewish day schools produced consistently outstanding results, and Jewish candidates figured prominently among the country's top achievers.

I congratulate all concerned, and wish all matriculants every success in their future endeavours. For many, this involves further study, whether at university, Technicon or some other institution. With the university term about to start, the SA Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) is hard at work preparing for orientation week, where it is hoped that as many Jewish students as possible will sign up as members.

SAUJS provides a crucial bridge between Jewish school and home life and the senior Jewish establishment. It creates forums where students can continue to build on their Jewish identity while at the same time preparing them for future leadership roles within the community.

The SAJBD works closely with SAUJS, helping to address problems of anti-Semitism or anti-Zionism on campus, resolving problems of examinations being scheduled on Yomtov, arranging on-campus events or in other areas.

I strongly urge Jewish students to join SAUJS and involve themselves in its multi-faceted activities. It is through the

A time of new beginnings

continued commitment and enthusiasm of our youth that our community's future success will be assured.

For Durban Jewry, an exciting new chapter has commenced with the opening of a Jewish day school in Umhlanga. The school caters for pre-school through to grade five and will offer the best of both Kodesh and secular education.

Umhlanga now also has a Kollel, whose initial five families will no doubt be very much involved in the school and in the activities of the broader community. It has been a real privilege for me to have been involved in this whole initiative, one that marks a resounding vote of confidence by the Durban community in the future.

Just as we look to imbue our youth with a knowledge of and commitment to their Jewish heritage, so can we also look back on what past Jewish leaders have achieved. This year, as well as being the 100th anniversary of the African National Congress, also marks the centenary of the united SA Jewish Board of Deputies.

It was in August 1912 that the various provincial branches of the Board came together to form a national body, which ever since has served as the umbrella representative body for the entire Jewish community. We are currently considering various ways in which we can best celebrate this important milestone, both for our organisation and for those whom we represent.

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