

Ariella Blumberg (left) and Kabahah Friedman open their Purim gift at Chabad
(PHOTO: ILAN OSSENDRYVER)



Dressed to kill at Sandton are Yonatan Asayag, Lian Shachar and Dani Lang as a beautiful spotted dog. (PHOTO: JOE YUDELOWITZ)

SA Jews celebrate Purim with utter abandon

STORY BY RITA LEWIS

LAST SUNDAY I was very nearly killed by a fully grown lion.

No, I was not in the game reserve but driving sedately down Louis Botha Avenue in Johannesburg, minding my own business. He (the lion that is) was driving a BMW and swung in from a side road nearly colliding with me.

Realising what he had done, he touched his head with his furry paw acknowledging his error and drove on.

I was trembling all over and slowed down somewhat to get over my fright. However, a further shock awaited me when a fully uniformed French gendarme in another car and obviously in a hurry to get somewhere, hooted and hooted at me to move over and then nearly rammed me as he passed.

I don't know any French men here, but he waved at me as he passed - as though he knew me!

I wondered what was going on and whether I was in fact dreaming.

Suddenly, another car with a woman driver wearing a massive red top hat drove past with three youngsters in the backseat all singing their heads off - obviously members of some royal family (judging by their gold crowns and velvet outfits).

As though a bell had rung in my head, I remembered that this was Purim - a time of celebration for Jews everywhere - a time to dress up, to eat, drink and be merry - for (as

the saying goes) tomorrow we WON'T die.

It was fantastic to see so many people driving and walking along to hear the Megillah Esther being read in their local synagogues, community centres and elsewhere.

Car after car passed with everyone peering out of the windows to see how everyone else was dressed.

This year there were few of the usual Batmen, Hassidim, Queen Esthers or King Ahashveroses, prevalent in yesteryears.

Someone has obviously been busy turning out new costumes; pirates, cowboys even realistic easy-to-slip on velvet Torah covers for boys. What will they think of next?

After the megillah readings (telling the miraculous story of how the Jews were saved from extinction by the Jewish Queen Esther), celebrations, parties, seudas (celebratory meals) followed.

These offered entertainment: prizes for the best costumes etc. Mizrahi Shul even made a competition for the first group to find their way through an amazing set-up of the city of Shushan made up of 10 life-size models of all the characters in the megillah. These were painstakingly made by Margaret Malka Rawicz who also organised the race.

One couple, Jonathan Zwick and Mandy Schneider even had the bright idea of getting engaged on this festival.

With the vast movement of people, it was dif-



Rabbi Levi Medalie organiser of the event with Rabbi Gidon Fox of Pretoria Hebrew Congregation. PHOTO DIANE WOLFSON

ficult not to take cognisance of the number of shuls and venues where the megillah was read but it was many.

In the two shuls of the HOD Centre (in Orchards Johannesburg), there were three separate readings overlapping each other on Sunday morning).

There was a palpable feeling of excitement in the air and often amazement at the number of children and adults participating in the fun of dressing up and just enjoying themselves.

But obviously all the participation was not just in Johannesburg. From what was reported, it was much the same in the other main cities of the country where Jewish people trawled the streets wearing their

Purim costumes with gay abandon, celebrating their freedom.

After this Purim, one thing is certain: This South African Jewish community is indeed one that everyone should be proud to belong to.



(PHOTO: ILAN OSSENDRYVER)



Young adults from Marais Road Shul, Sea Point, CT, having fun. PHOTOGRAPH BY CRAIG FRANK

Left: Seven professional dancers who came to help WIZO Tzabar's guests. (PHOTO: JOE YUDELOWITZ)



Margaret Malka Rawicz with some of her lifelike models (PHOTO SUPPLIED)



Above: Larine Rosenberg, Carli Bassin, Meira Friedland and Jenna Reichman have fun at Sandton Shul. (PHOTO: JOE YUDELOWITZ)

Left: Josh Alter. (PHOTO: ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

YOUTH TALK

Alison Goldberg youthsajr@global.co.za

Yom Perach at KDVP worth a bit of stress

MICAH FRIEDMAN
PHOTOGRAPH: YAEL GORDON

AFTER LONG hours of preparations, a little stress and tons of fun this year's Yom Perach was a great success.

Every year the matric dance committee of King David High School Victory Park

organises a day known as Yom Perach. Learners and staff are given the opportunity to send gifts and cards to one another to show their appreciation and gratitude.

On February 22 our school celebrated this day with roses, teddy bears, brownies and cupcakes. Yom Perach was a great hit and everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly.



Ashley Brook; Aimee Flowers; Galit Seligman; Kim Garrun; Danielle Hertz; Micah Fineberg; Roxy Kopping; Dr R van Zyl; Vivienne Jonker; Ricky Stock; Michelle Schewitz; Jessica Kaplan; Kelly Brook; and Geena Bennun.

Purim at Pine Street Shul delights everyone

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH BY HAILEY FOX

SIENNA HO, Jaxon Cohen, Hannah

Schneider and Ari Schneider, enjoyed the costumes and the goodies at Pine Street Shul's Purim party last Sunday. Jaxon is a pupil at Pine Street Play School.



A fun Purim take at KDL Primary on Soccer World Cup

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY YONIT WEIL

FOR PURIM each class at King David Linksfield Primary represented a different country participating in the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup.

They decorated the doors of their classrooms and incorporated elements of the respective countries they drew, the countries' dance and culture in the show and Purim parade. The performances were vibrant and colourful. A lot of fun was had by all.



The grade 6 learners who represented New Zealand, are doing their own version of the "Purim Haka".



The hanhagah (national executive) visits King David Victory Park in February to get the channichim excited for all the upcoming events for 2010.

Excitement builds for Habo mini machanot in CT and Jhb

MIA CANDY
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

WITH THE arrival of March every year come the much anticipated mini machanot in Cape Town and Johannesburg. The posters are up, the forms are flying in and the excitement is growing.

Mini machanot are weekend camps which give channichim access to the Habonim magic on the campsite throughout the year, rather than having to wait until December.

For many channichim, attending a mini machanot is their first experience of being away from home, their first introduction to Habo, and what better way to do that than under the nurturing care of our experienced madrichim?

The first mini machanot of 2010 are happening from Friday March 19 until Sunday March 21 in both Cape Town and Johannesburg. In Cape Town, mini machanot Chibur Le'Enoshut (connection to humanity) is being run by the trio of Josh Lazarus (rosh Mini Mach), Lee Lobel (S'ganit) and David Idesis (rosh

Chinnuch/Education). In Johannesburg, mini machanot Koach Hanoar (the strength of the youth), is headed up by Tali Lanesman (rosh), Daniel Fisher (S'gan) and Kim Harrisberg (rosh Chinnuch).

Both mini machanot are open to channichim from garinim (grades 3 and 4) up to sollelim (grade 9). Shomrim (grade 11) will be on site working as meyasdim (kitchen team) to ensure healthy and nutritious meals, and in Johannesburg they will have the chance to be madrichim for the youngest age group.

At the same time, the sayarim (grade 10s) will be attending their own shorashim preparation seminar. With Human Rights Day, Pesach and Habonim's 80th anniversary celebration all coming up soon, there is no doubt that both mini machanot will offer dynamic, relevant and inspiring activities for all age groups.

For more information call the bayit in Johannesburg on (011) 786-7046 or Cape Town (021) 464-6763. To sign up using our quick and easy online form, go to www.habo.org.za/signup

First-ever outdoor assembly at KDL

KEREN LUNTZ
PHOTOGRAPH: GARY BLOCK

LAST WEEK Friday, King David Linksfield High School hosted its first-of-its-kind outdoor assembly. The school gathered outside the tuck-shop area and were treated to a visit by Deputy Chief of Mission Ya'acov Finkelstein who spoke of the importance of the youth and how crucial it is for learners to become politically aware and socially involved. He encouraged them to read newspapers, write in and voice their opinions on issues that affect them.

Other guests included visitors from Yad Aharon, who announced grade 10s Sasha Goldstein and David Cohen as winners of

their 2009 creative writing contest. The reason for the outdoor assembly, however, was only discovered later when dignitaries, guests and staff initiated the new science labs at the school. The traditional ceremonial ribbon was cut, and all collected under the thatch lapa for a treat of tea and snacks.

The science labs are an asset that were made possible by the generosity of Macsteel's Oscar Goldstuck (who died recently) and learners are eternally grateful for the facility.



Deputy Chief of Mission, Ya'acov Finkelstein

KDVP tots celebrate Purim with lots of verve

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
LYNDA ROMAIN

LAST WEEK Friday the whole King David Victory Park Pre-Primary School dressed

up to celebrate Purim.

We all had such fun at the carnival, ate delicious hammantashen, sang songs and exchanged mishloach manot with our friends.



Nathan Cohen; Daniel Koonin; Ben Grieve Fitzell; Jamie Nowitz; and Daniel Melmed.

YOUTH TALK

Alison Goldberg youthsajr@global.co.za

Song and dance in KDL Pre-Primary's Purim do

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY VAL ARONSON

THIS AERIAL shot shows King David Linksfield Pre-Primary and grade R. The children looked bright and colourful - they sang songs and danced and there was a very happy, cheerful atmosphere in their Purim celebrations.



TA Kids in Purim Mode

PHOTO: SUZANNE BELLING

PREPARING FOR Purim at Torah Academy Nursery School, the children show off their masks, handwork and costumes in anticipation of the festival.



Purim at Yiddish Folk is truly double fun

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY SHEVA MESSIAS (PRINCIPAL)

PURIM WAS taken very seriously by twins Ethan and Jesse Goldberg at Yiddish Folk Nursery School.

Jesse dressed up as King Achashverosh and Ethan who at such an early age, has a passion for Yiddishkeit, dressed up as a rabbi.

Capable dad, Stephen Goldberg, built a bima which was brought along to school to complete the outfit and Ethan was then able to "read" the megillah to his class.



TA 'makeover' in tribute to Soccer World Cup

OWN CORRESPONDENT PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

WHILE OUR country is gearing up for the 2010 Fifa World Cup with the implementation of new roads and infrastructure, Torah Academy has instituted its own "Extreme Makeover".

The first of several fundraising events in this regard, is a business breakfast with former Manchester United and Kaizer Chiefs goalkeeper, Gary Bailey. It will take place on Wednesday, March 24, at 07:30 for 08:00 at the HOD, 58 Oaklands Road, Orchards in Johannesburg.



Gary Bailey, well-known sports commentator.

Besides being a gifted soccer player, Gary also holds a BSc degree in physics and an MBA from Henley in Oxford. He is regularly seen on Supersport as commentator and is an exceptional orator.

Corporate tables for R5 000 a table and/or individual seats at R500 each, will contribute towards this fundraiser to ensure the successful continuation of Torah Academy and the improvement of its campuses.

For more information, contact Adrienne Kay on 082-600-8059 or e-mail adik@octagon.za.com



The grade 8 learners at KDVP - Shanna Sulman; Ashleigh Solomon; Leora Hodes; Amy Strous; Naomi Lubinsky; Jessica Dorfman; Eve Kollenberg; Kerryn Joffe; Nicole Sacks; Talia Isenberg; and Ariella Gimpel.

Purim fun - the KDVP way

SHARI WEINSTEIN PHOTOGRAPHS: YAEL GORDON

KING DAVID High School Victory Park celebrated Purim with their annual Purim ball on February 28. It took the form of a foam party and each grade was given their own unique colour with which to be creative.

For three and a half hours, Purim was celebrated in a fun, foamy, wet and joyous way!



Joshua Hazan.



Children from Minnie Bersohn Pre-Primary School enjoying the variety of Purim festivities.

Purim at fever pitch at Minnie Bersohn

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHELLE VINOKUR

AT MINNIE Bersohn Pre-Primary School in Johannesburg, one could feel the Purim festivities in the air. All children came to

school dressed up as a variety of characters and all enjoyed a fun morning at school.

Swapping of mishloach manot and enjoying delicious hamantaschen, were some of the highlights of the day.

Fun and laughter at Northcliff Shul

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE TIPPETT



A zany moment of laughter therapy with Bill Gee at Northcliff Shul's Purim do.