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**Jewish Report** 

www.sajewishreport.co.za Friday, 16 July 2010 / 5 Av 5770 Volume 14 Number 26

**How seriously should the 'cultural intifada' against Israel be taken?**

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**NETANYAHU HINTS AT FLEXIBILITY ON JERUSALEM**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses a Jewish gathering in New York on July 7. (MICHAEL PRIEST PHOTOGRAPHY) **SEE PAGE 10**

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## PARSHA OF THE WEEK

### Are we really independent?

TENS OF thousands of Jews will converge on Jerusalem's Western Wall next Monday night and Tuesday as our people mark Tisha B'Av, our National Day of Mourning. On this day in history, both our Holy Temples were destroyed and a host of other calamities occurred throughout the centuries.

Some may wonder, why do we still mourn? Don't we have a sovereign state of Israel? Isn't Jerusalem united under Jewish rule today?

The fact is that no Israeli rabbis have ever suggested that Tisha B'Av be deleted from our calendars. Nor have the staunchest, most zealous Zionists ever proposed doing away with the custom of breaking a glass under the chuppah.

This tradition has always reminded us that our personal joy is incomplete until our nation's joy is re-established. And that requires the total restoration of our national life, including Jerusalem rebuilt.

Thank G-d, since 1967 we are again able to visit the Western Wall.

In fact, according to halacha, when we visit the Wall we should rend our garments like a mourner because we are witnessing the site of the churban, the destruction of our holy temple.

So the reality is that although we have a Jewish State operating in



**PARSHAT DEVARIM**  
Rabbi Yossy Goldman,  
Sydenham Highlands  
North Shul

our eternal homeland, the national state of exile is more than just geographical. Exile, galut, is a state of being and not a place on the map.

It does not mean the Diaspora, as if to suggest that only Jews living outside the borders of Israel are in exile.

Until the era of Redemption arrives and the Temple is rebuilt the exile isn't over. You might live in an apartment in the old city of Jerusalem overlooking the Western Wall but you, too, are in exile because the entire Jewish people is still in a state of exile.

It is not only a question of place; it is a question of time. At this time in our history, the redemption has not yet arrived. We still pray three times a day that the Temple be rebuilt speedily in our time. And until those prayers are answered, I'm afraid we are all still in galut.

Sure, it would have been wonderful if David Ben-Gurion's announcement in 1948 spelled out not only a

"Declaration" of Independence, but also real, practical and total independence.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proudly proclaims that Jews may buy any property they wish in any part of Jerusalem, East or West and thank G-d he did.

But while we proclaim our sovereign rights, President Barack Obama is still on a mission and we are still very dependent on America, on Europe, on public opinion, on the media and even, to a degree, on the United Nations.

We are certainly not yet independent of Hamas, Hezbollah or Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who threaten our very existence.

When Jewish lives are being lost to terrorist armies, when our neighbours still dream of driving us into the sea, when they still deny us our basic legitimacy, when the international media challenges our right to defend our citizens, can we claim that we are really and truly independent?

Thank G-d we have an army, navy and air force. Thank G-d they are fighting valiantly to thwart our mortal enemies' murderous machinations. But true independence means that our national security is no longer threatened and that a genuine and lasting peace has been achieved. No wonder Moshiach is called the Messenger of Peace. Who else can we turn to for that long-awaited dream?

And so we still observe Tisha

## SHABBAT AND FAST TIMES

July 16/5 Av  
July 17/6 Av

Devarim Chazon

Starts	Ends	
17:16	18:07	Johannesburg
17:38	18:32	Cape Town
16:57	17:50	Durban
17:18	18:10	Bloemfontein
17:09	18:04	Port Elizabeth
17:02	17:56	East London

Tisha B'Av

July 19/8 Av (Erev Tisha B'Av)  
July 20/9 Av

Starts	Ends	
17:32	18:00	Johannesburg
17:55	18:23	Cape Town
17:13	17:41	Durban
17:34	18:02	Bloemfontein
17:26	17:54	Port Elizabeth
17:19	17:47	East London

B'Av. And unless Moshiach comes before that day, we will fast and sit on low chairs in the manner of mourners. We will mourn the destruction of our temple and the state of exile it created. And we will pray for the full return to Jewish sovereignty and total independence.

A time when our cities and towns will be free of enemy rockets and our children will feel safe and secure. May that time be now.

## Tisha B'Av - commemorating the destruction of the Temples

RITA LEWIS

THIS COMING Tuesday, the Jewish people will be observing the fast of the 9th of Av or Tisha B'Av in Hebrew. Fasting will start at sunset of July 19 and end at nightfall on the following day, Tuesday, July 20.

The fast commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, which occurred some 656 years apart, but on the same day of the Hebrew calendar, 586 BCE and 70 CE.

As the Temple is the singular item which represents the reconciliation of the spiritual relationship between G-d and man, the date of the destruction of both - as well as the other tragic occurrences - has caused the day to be known as "the most painful day in the history of the Jewish people".

Naturally on such a day there can be no pleasurable activities. Accordingly therefore, as well as the prohibition on eating and drinking, no leather shoes may be worn and there are no sexual relations allowed.

Washing and bathing is also forbidden, although in some extenuating circumstances, washing in cold water may be permitted.

Sitting is generally on low stools and it is not customary to greet others or indulge in idle chitchat.

The Book of Lamentations (Eicha) followed by the Kinnot, a series of liturgical lamentations, is

traditionally read (in shuls or at home).

In Sephardi communities it is customary to also read the Book of Job.

Throughout the years and especially today, the word "Jerusalem" can still evoke a variety of emotions in people of various nations.

This is despite the enigma that lies at its heart - the Holy Temple that gave the city its eternal meaning, but which has been missing for so many centuries.

The destruction of both the Temples has made an indelible impression on the psyche of the Jewish people. The centrality and importance of the Temple in Jewish life is not just a memory to be recalled when the occasion arises, but a fire which refuses to be extinguished - a factor often mentioned in our prayers and liturgy.

There are three main references to the Temple in the Bible: The Tabernacle (which was the forerunner of the Temple) is described in detail in the Book of Exodus/Shmot; King Solomon's Temple is described in both Kings and Chronicles; and the Temple which is destined to be built in Messianic times, is described in the Book of Ezekiel.

In the Oral Tradition, there is much exegesis surrounding the above sections of the Bible as well as an entire tractate (Middot)

describing the Second Temple.

After all the Biblical and Talmudic research into sources, instructions and effort put into the building of the Temples: the restrictions, dimensions and thickness of walls, heights and lengths of curtains and their appearance, the numbers of hooks to be used etc, as well as the actual order of the service, the ingredients of the incense, the Song of the Day sung by the Levites etc, all of which are stated in the Torah, the only things that remain are just the Western Wall Tunnels and the Holy Western Wall itself.

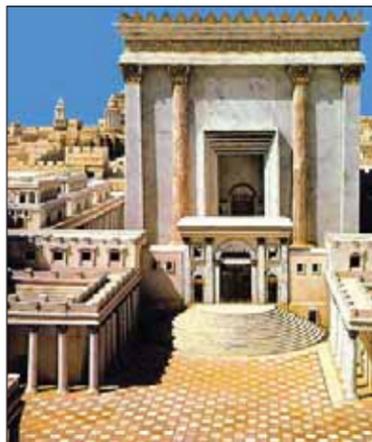
There has been much re-enactment of the tragedy throughout the ages.

Some religious Jews, when building a new home, ensure that a part of the wall opposite the entrance remains unplastered as a constant reminder of the tragedy.

Hillel, a renowned sage, practised the custom of eating matza and bitter herbs together on the seder nights during Passover - in the same manner that pilgrims ate in Jerusalem while they were in the shadow of the Temple.

Through the ages during the wedding ceremony when a couple get married, (at the supposed highest point of happiness) the groom breaks a glass under the chuppah to symbolise the loss and destruction of the Temple.

It is believed that at this



A model of King Solomon's Temple which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE.

moment of greatest happiness when many a person sheds tears of joy, he cannot and should not feel complete while the Temple is still in ruins.

On Tisha B'Av, we shed tears of pain for what has been lost, but great joy and happiness can also be expressed in tears.

Why should the different emotions cause the same reaction?

On a purely physiological level, "strong emotion causes the tear ducts to constrict and to release tears. The body does not differentiate between the emotions causing the tears."

Jews are told that the Temple was destroyed because of the causeless hatred that had spread throughout the nation.

Perhaps this is a message Jews the world over should take to heart today - and look forward to the building of the Third Temple - "speedily in our days".



## Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2010

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# Rabbi David Rosen - no stranger to SA shores

DAVID SAKS

AT THE time of his departure from South Africa in 1979, Rabbi David Rosen's status was that of a successful young congregational rabbi who had for the previous four years headed up with distinction the large and prestigious Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation in Cape Town.

When he arrives in Johannesburg next month to take part in the SAJBD Gauteng Council conference, it will be as one of the world's best known and most honoured Jewish religious leaders. The intervening 30 years have seen his rapid rise through the ranks in the sphere of international interfaith relations.

Rabbi Rosen is keynote speaker at the opening night of the Gauteng Council conference, to take place on August 28 at the Great Park Synagogue in Johannesburg. His subject is: "Is Religion the Problem or the Solution?"

At the main conference the following day, he will be participating in the opening session, entitled "Interfaith Interface", giving his perspectives on the international interfaith scene. His programme while in the country, likewise put together by the SAJBD, further includes taking part in workshops and meeting with other interfaith leaders in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

Rabbi Rosen was born in 1951 in



Berkshire, England, the third son of the renowned educator and founding principal of England's Carmel College, Rabbi Kopul Rosen. Already in Cape Town, as a young man still in his twenties, he involved himself in interfaith work, being a founder and first chairman of the Inter-Faith Forum, the Council of Jews, Christians and Muslims.

In his subsequent position as chief rabbi of Ireland (1979-1985), together with the Christian primates of Ireland, he founded the Irish Council of Christians and Jews.

Rabbi Rosen relocated permanently to Israel in 1985 to take up the position of dean at the Sapir Centre for Jewish Education and Culture in Jerusalem, subsequently becoming professor of Jewish Studies at the Jerusalem Centre for Near Eastern Studies.

Parallel to his academic career, he continued his involvement in interfaith work, serving as the Anti Defamation League's director of Interfaith Relations in Israel, as the ADL's co-liaison to the Vatican and, from 1997, as director of the ADL Israel office.

In 2001, he assumed responsibility for the interfaith activities of the American Jewish Committee, and today is the Director of the AJC's Department for Interreligious Affairs and of its Heilbrunn Institute for International Interreligious Understanding.

Among the important positions Rabbi Rosen has held, are those of international president of Religions for Peace, honorary president of the International Council of Christians and Jews and on the executive of the World Council of Religious Leaders.

As a member of the Permanent Bilateral Commission of the State of Israel and the Holy See, he was involved in negotiating the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican.

He has further been involved in promoting better relations between Muslims and Jew, among others, through serving on the advisory committee of the World Congress of Imams and Rabbis and on the World Economic Forum's C-100, a council of 100 leaders whose purpose is to work for improved relations and co-operation between the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds.

In November 2005, Rabbi Rosen was made a papal Knight Commander of the Order of St Gregory the Great for his contribution to promoting Catholic-Jewish reconciliation. This year, he was made a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth II for his contribution to interfaith relations in the Middle East and between Israel and the UK.

For more information on the SAJBD Gauteng conference and Rabbi Rosen's visit, contact Shirley on (011) 645-2583 or e-mail her at beagle@beyachad.co.za

# Jews give Fifa World Cup a huge thumbs up

ALISON GOLDBERG

ALTHOUGH NUMBERS are small compared to the total number of foreign visitors to South Africa, feedback from foreign and expat Jewish visitors to South Africa for the Fifa World Cup which came to an end on Sunday evening, has been disproportionately positive.

Visitors have made full use of a website set up by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, www.jewish2010.com where SABJD National Director Wendy Kahn reports that between May 29 and June 28 the site had 1 669 hits from a multitude of countries which totalled 9 333 page views and since the beginning of the year, 10 500. The site offers information on kosher restaurants and delis in the main cities of South Africa, on travel and accommodation, tour guides and museums.

Through the site she says there have been visitors looking for B&Bs, home hospitality for Shabbats, names of shuls and kosher facilities. Most of the site visits have emanated from South Africa, Israel and the United States, followed by Argentina, the United Kingdom, Germany, Mexico, Australia, Ukraine and Russia - in that order.

Sales by Chabad of customised AmaJuda makarapas have been good and the hats have been seen at soccer matches.

The SAJBD says it had TV and print press coverage by Mexico, Israel, America, Germany, UK, Brazil, Argentina and Australia.

"We also advertised many events such as King David Schools' Foundation's Fete, the JNF's Peace Team visit, themed dinners at shuls and restaurants and activities organised by Bnei Akiva (fan park at its Linksfield bayit), SAUJS (handed out free vuvuzelas to all its members and organised screening of two games), Chabad (Shabbat dinners inter alia), and pre-Ellis Park game tours and le'chaims at the Lions Shul (Jewish Johannesburg tours)."

Sydenham Highlands North Shul Associate Rabbi Yehuda Stern, who has per-



sonally hosted an American couple and an Argentinian, said they had never seen a shul the size of Sydenham's nor a service of its kind with its chazzanut.

A member of the Jewish Report's board of directors, Howard Sackstein, also pitched in for his Israeli guests organising a Shabbat dinner at a shebeen in Soweto called Shastozi (meaning hideaway) where his friend Craig Lyons has a share.

About 100 Jews descended on the shebeen at the defunct Orlando Power Station's cooling towers, on the eve of the quarterfinal match between Uruguay and Ghana. Says Sackstein: "It's probably the first Shabbat dinner held in Soweto and one which may not have been approved by my rabbi, but it was loved by all. Craig organised Nussbaum braai packs and we made hamotzi over challoh and kiddish over wine.

"Most of the guests were local and returning Jews to South Africa for the Cup. Among the Israelis was former Israeli ambassador to South Africa, Alon Liel. Someone said that only in South Africa could something like this have happened."

Calls to local travel agents produced much the same response - low activity owing to the fact that Fifa's overseas travel and accommodation arm, Match, organised that end of things. El Al said they had been busy for June and July but most of the bookings had been done in Israel by Fifa's agencies.

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followed by Tisha B'Av video - Donation R30

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# When own prejudices colour a play's review

ROBYN SASSEN

CUE, THE Grahamstown National Arts Festival's daily independent newspaper, has been run for 22 years by freelance and teaching journalists and has served not only as a publication with arts-aware clout, but also as an incubator for young writers. This year, it sparked controversy through a throw-away comment in one of its reviews.

The Timekeepers, a Holocaust-based play, which opened this week in Sandton, was written by Dan Clancy and is performed and directed by Israeli professionals. It has been on the boards since 2002, to international critical acclaim.

Roy Horovitz, one of Timekeepers' actors, described a "biased and cowardly response from Cue that had less to do with the play than with the reviewer's conception of Israel".

Toward the end of the review headlined "On the Edge of Uncomfortable", Cue contributing editor, Theresa Edlmann wrote that "this production's appearance at the Festival is due to funding by the Israeli government at a time of international calls for cultural and academic boycotts of Israel. This adds to the sense of edginess."

In a letter to Cue, Horovitz commented on how an artist's nationality is irrelevant to an artwork. "Bringing Timekeepers to South Africa isn't due to funding by the Israeli government," he wrote, "it is due to the work done by the Festival and its director, Ismail Mahomed."

"The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported the Festival's efforts by providing the airfares. The local organisers cover all the production's expenses, including artists' fees, accommodation, per diem, car rental and so on."

According to Horovitz, the letter was only published at the insistence of the Festival's director, Mohamed. It was significantly edited and was accompanied by a response penned by Cue's executive editors, Gillian Rennie and Peter Frost, explaining that "the job of a reviewer is to illuminate; that includes contextualising any piece of work."

"The Timekeepers," they continued, "exists within the larger context of an ongoing high profile debate about a cultural boycott of Israeli work. The play's performance on this country's National Arts Festival makes it a work South Africans are invited to take seriously. Omitting any mention of the debate around a cultural boycott, would not only have been remiss of the reviewer, but unprofessional."

"The Embassy of Israel is prominently indicated in the Festival's official programme as a supporter of the work, and it is therefore fair comment to note their involvement."

Horovitz alleges that he was approached by Edlmann after the publication of this "Right to Reply", on July 2. She apologised for her review. Horovitz agreed to accept her apology if she publicly retracted her initial comment; she did not.

He then wrote a second letter to Cue, reiterating that "there is a big difference between mentioning the fact that the Israeli Embassy supported the production, and claiming that the production is part of the Festival 'due to funding from the Israeli government', as if it was all about the Israeli money, without the Festival covering most costs; as if there were no artistic calculations behind the festival director's decision to include it; and as if it were not highly acclaimed internationally." Horovitz's second letter was not published.

Horovitz raised the situation in a question-and-answer session after each performance of his play. "We aren't afraid of political debate," he said to an audience. "We are proud Israelis with things to say; we took offence because the reviewer could not separate our nationality from the piece. It was not relevant to the play; it misled readers."

Confirming that the Israeli Embassy assisted only with the cost of transport for the artists, Mohamed told of the Timekeepers' "sold out" status during the festival, adding that some performances yielded standing ovations.

He added: "As a leading arts festival, we select work for our Main programme based on the artistic merits of work. When we received a proposal to stage the internationally acclaimed Timekeepers, we knew we would bring festival audiences an outstanding play that would provoke dialogue about the arts from this region which is torn by conflict."

• See Christina Kennedy's review of The Timekeepers on page 12.

# Helen Zille for WoW's Annual Breakfast

WOMEN OF the World will once again be hosting its very popular National Women's Day Annual Breakfast from 09:30 to 12:30 at the Sandton Sun Hotel. The cost is R500 per person.

This year the event takes place on Sunday August 1 and is sure to inspire and pamper every woman who will be there.

Debbie Rakusin, who choreographed some of the opening of the 2010 Fifa World Cup, will present an all-new special dance show for the occasion.

This year, the 2010 Woman of the World Award will be presented to Helen Zille, premier of the Western Cape. First as mayor of Cape Town and then as premier, Zille has managed to inspire her public servants to greater levels of competence, ethics and professionalism, WoW says in a media release.

"Now you can come and see for yourself what makes this intriguing political phenomenon tick."

Helen Zille says it like it is: "There is a common South African citizenship.

All citizens are equally entitled to the rights, privileges and benefits of citizenship; and equally subject to the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.

"Importantly and understandably, after centuries of oppression, as a society we have given special emphasis to the first. This administration believes the time has come to start giving additional traction to the second injunction as well."

Zille started her career as a political correspondent for the Rand Daily Mail.

From 1999 to 2001 she served as minister of education in the Western Cape. During this period she made 500 school visits in a campaign to encourage discipline among teachers and improve teaching conditions.

When the ANC gained power in the province in 2001 she became leader of the opposition in the Western Cape legislature, where she remained until she was elected as a member of the National Parliament in 2004.



Western Cape Premier Helen Zille.

On March 15 2006 she was elected as mayor of Cape Town, and resigned from parliament. Two years later, in 2008, she was voted "World Mayor" in a poll of over 800 cities around the world.

On May 6 2007 she was elected as leader of the Democratic Alliance and in May 2009 she became premier of the Western Cape.

# Sifrei Torah to be restored in Israel

LESLIE HARRIS

THE CHEVRAH Kadisha has given the Beth Din and the UOS 10 Sifrei Torah which are damaged and cannot be repaired in South Africa.

Instead of burying them, as would

usually be the case, the Beth Din has arranged to send them to an organisation in Israel that specialises in repairing sifrei Torah and distributing them to needy communities.

The community is invited to attend

a special mincha service at Sandringham Gardens at 17:00 on Sunday, July 25, where the Sifrei Torah will be handed over to a rabbi from El Al, who will accompany them to Israel. El Al will fly the Sifrei Torah to Israel for free.

# Rabbi Kurtstag's proud 40-year tradition



LESLIE HARRIS

ORTHODOX Judaism is all about continuity. Torah and Jewish learning is passed down from generation to generation.

That proud tradition is being upheld in Johannesburg, where Rabbi Moshe Kurtstag, rosh Beth Din, has been giving a gemara shiur for 40 years. He said that over the years some people had left or gone on to learn fulltime in yeshivot in Israel and others had joined.

The shiur recently completed Masechet Beitzah. Seen with Rabbi Kurtstag at the siyum to celebrate the event are (from left) Benjy Adelsky; Ruven Bilchitz; Leslie Harris; and Sam Coblentz.

## AROUND THE WORLD

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### WHITE HOUSE SAYS OUTREACH TO MUSLIMS NOT NASA'S JOB

WASHINGTON - Reaching out to Muslims is not the task of NASA, the White House spokesman has said.

During a press briefing on Monday, Robert Gibbs said that NASA administrator Charles Bolden's statement during a June 30 interview with Al Jazeera that he was charged to reach out to the

Muslim world, was incorrect.

"That was not his task, and that's not the task of NASA," Gibbs said.

Gibbs said that (Pres Barack) Obama had not spoken to Bolden since the interview in an effort to clear things up. Asked if anyone at the White House had spoken to Bolden,

Gibbs replied: "I'm sure people - people at the White House here, talk to NASA all the time."

The White House and NASA last week stood behind Bolden. Bolden also has asserted on previous occasions that he was charged by Obama with outreach to Muslim countries. (JTA)

#### US LAWMAKERS SEEK ACTION AGAINST CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM

WASHINGTON - US members of Congress have signed a letter expressing concern about how the federal Department of Education is responding to anti-Semitism on college campuses.

The Zionist Organisation of America lobbied for the letter, which was signed by 36 lawmakers and sent last week to Department of Education secretary Arne Duncan. The letter raised questions about the department's Office for Civil Rights' enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In 2004 ZOA requested that the civil rights' office investigate anti-Semitic incidents at the University of California, Irvine. In 2007, after looking into the alle-

gations, the office concluded that it could not take action because the incidents were not based on students' national origins.

The lawmakers' letter denounced this decision, saying that the Office for Civil Rights was not abiding by its own policy statement.

The office's policy statement says it will enforce Title VI for groups that exhibit both racial and ethnic characteristics, such as Jews. Title VI ensures that recipients of federal funding, including public and most private universities, keep their programming free from racial and ethnic discrimination.

University of California President

Mark Yudof said the ZOA's claims were exaggerated.

"[I will] do everything in my power to protect Jewish and all other students from threats or actions of intolerance," he said in a July 6 statement.

The letter was written following a briefing for congressional staff about anti-Semitism on college campuses organised by Robert Klein (Democrat Florida), co-chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Anti-Semitism.

Speakers at the briefing included representatives from ZOA, The American Jewish Committee and Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life. (JTA)

# Prof Barry Schoub - keeping a firm hand on viruses and pandemics

ALISON GOLDBERG  
PHOTOGRAPH: PHIL SILBERMAN



Professor Barry Schoub addressing the SFCC.

EVERY 15 to 50 years an influenza virus will cross the species barrier, from animal to human, and spread worldwide to become a pandemic. Such was the case with the Spanish flu pandemic from 1918-1919 which resulted in some 50 million deaths worldwide, followed by the Asian flu pandemic in 1957 and then the Hong Kong flu pandemic in 1968.

This being winter, influenza was the topic of Professor Barry Schoub's address to the Simcha Friendship and Cultural Circle recently on pandemics and viruses.

Schoub is executive director of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases and professor and head of the Department of Virology and Communicable Diseases Surveillance at Wits University.

The flu virus, he explained, was first isolated in 1933 and had been intensely studied ever since. In nature it was a virus of birds, particularly aquatic birds such as geese.

The virus could then pose a danger to humans if it spread when wild birds came in contact with domestic animals such as chickens and pigs, the latter susceptible to both the bird and human virus.

The swine flu epidemic, which occurred recently and was first observed in Mexico, had become a human virus and was now one of three seasonal strains of influenza for which vaccines were produced.

Interestingly, mature citizens were relatively immune to swine flu or the H1N1 virus as it is known, but not to other seasonal influenza strains. Most of the severe cases of swine flu had been found in young children and young adults. Also affected had been people living with HIV and pregnant women.

Aside from these categories, people who should be vaccinated against flu annually, were those with underlying chronic illnesses such as lung or heart disease, diabetics, adults over 65 years of age, children with severe asthma and people who lived in the same household or were involved in their management, such as healthcare workers.

Of a total population of 45 million people in South Africa, only about one million received the flu vaccine annually.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), had 125 sentinel laboratories around the world reporting to it, which continually analysed influenza viruses to see how they were changing. The flu virus changed regularly and the vaccine had to be updated every year to match the new strains.

Owing to technical problems there had been a worldwide shortage of flu vaccines earlier this year. These had been ordered to respond to the swine flu epidemic. Then some of the companies which manufactured flu vaccines, had started to produce

single strain swine flu vaccines and now there was a surplus of those.

Schoub added that fewer and fewer companies were manufacturing vaccines. This was because quality control was very expensive and profits were slim.

South Africa imported all its vaccines, though this had not always been the case. In late 1945 it had been one of the first countries to produce a polio vaccine.

At this stage the National Institute for Communicable Diseases had been known as the Poliomyelitis Foundation and had then been a non-governmental organisation.

A plot on the Sandringham-Edenvale border had been chosen - at the time far from residential areas - with the purpose of raising enough money to find a vaccine to respond to the polio epidemic. This was the same site occupied today by the Institute.

In 1976, following the outbreak of Marburg disease (a viral haemorrhagic fever), the government had taken over the Foundation and had renamed it the National Institute for Virology (NIV) to deal with all viral diseases nationally.

In 2001 the NIV had joined up with the microbiology laboratories of the National Health Laboratory Service, which investigated lab specimens for the public sector, to establish the National Institute for Communicable Diseases [NICD]. The NICD now fell under the umbrella of the National Health Laboratory Service and shared a campus with it.

"With a staff of about 350, including medical staff on the campus, our main function as the Institute is to carry out surveillance and monitoring of infectious diseases both nationally and regionally, respond to outbreaks, teach at all universities and train technologists and these also include people from all over the continent," says Schoub.

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## Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein and MaAfrika Tikkun have again joined forces for Mandela Day!



This annual event is a call to the South African Jewish community to spend **67 minutes** giving to others in honour of Nelson Mandela's 67 years of service to humanity.



**Date:** Sunday 18 July  
**Time:** 11h00 - 12h07  
**Place:** Great Park Synagogue, Johannesburg  
Gardens Synagogue, Cape Town

Play your part by bringing blankets (or buying blankets there), nearly new clothes, toys and non-perishable foods.

You can drop off your parcels any time between 11h00 and 12h07.

The items collected on Sunday July 18 will be distributed via MaAfrika Tikkun's Community Centres in Alexandra Township, Diepsloot, Orange Farm and Hillbrow in Gauteng; and Delft and Mfuleni in the Western Cape.

For more information please contact:  
MaAfrika Tikkun on 011 325 5914  
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or e-mail office@chiefrabbi.co.za

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**TIME:** 7:30pm  
**PLACE:** Beyachad, 2 Elray Street, Raedene

RSVP by 23 July 2010  
Contacts: saz@beyachad.co.za  
011 645 2510/12

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM THURSDAY 29 JULY - 27 AUGUST 2010  
WEEKDAY TIMES: 9am - 4pm







## SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis jont@global.co.za

# Putting a personal face to trials and tribulations of traumatic past

The Chevra's CEO, Michael Sieff with Tzivia Graumann.



Sonya Marcus is hugged by her daughter Layla Sacker (here from Australia for the occasion) while her son Hershy Marcus looks on.

Mother and son, Sonya and Hershy Marcus.



Russian Doctor Tsipra Boudnitski; Flora (Bluma) Hovsha; and Ettie Eliasov.



Author Hazel Frankel with Tzivia Graumann.



Tsipra Boudnitski holds her special volume of "Memoirs" with her contribution in it.



Close friends, Sonya Marcus and Bella Wainer.

## STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

AN IDEA mooted by the Chevrah Kadisha's Brenda Solarsh, backed by Tzivia Grauman, came to fruition when author Hazel Frankel completed her "Memoirs", a 150 page book of "true and touching stories" related to her by 26 residents of Sandringham Gardens and Our Parents Home in Johannesburg.

For many people, stories and tales from the Holocaust, however horrific and unbelievable, are somehow heard in a two dimensional manner. They are of unknown, nameless and blameless people who come from faraway climates (where most people have never been to) and who lived in an era long past.

Although their trials, tribulations and torments were for nothing else than the "crime" of being born Jewish, we don't know them. We don't know the places they lived in and we can't really imagine what they went through during their efforts just to survive.

With the launch of the new book last week describing their lives and circumstances, many of those perceptions changed.

Although the book documents the lives, memories and experiences of people who lived through that same era of the 1930s and '40s, these stories have been related to Frankel by members of the South African Jewish community who all came from different parts of Europe - with most of them not speaking the language, knowing nothing about the country

and having few (or no) relatives here.

The difference between this book and most others on the same subject, is that these contributions are from people known by the community; people who live "around the corner", who shop "at the local supermarket", whose children "went to school with our children" and so on.

Seeing the project to fruition - making it financially possible - were resident Sonia Marcus, members of her family and the Sacker family. In their speeches both Solarsh, the group social services manager of the Chevrah Kadisha and Tzivia Graumann, the Chevrah Group Communications Manager, paid tribute to Marcus and the Sacker family for their generosity.

Marcus' rav, Rabbi Alex Carlebach, spoke of seeing people all around us but not knowing what is inside any of them. "We cannot evaluate what they have been through." People were like diamonds; without magnifying them it was impossible to see which ones were flawed.

Speaking about Marcus he said: "She doesn't realise what a diamond she is."

Frankel spoke of the interviews she had had with each of the contributors who were aged between 80 and 101 and how they shared with her the often heartbreaking stories.

"The narrators gave their stories orally and each story is unique, telling of the conditions that led to their immigration, who accompanied them on their journeys and what awaited them here.

"The common fact is their Jewish identity and all but one is of Ashkenazi descent."



Some of the contributors of their stories show off their copies of "Memoirs".



Colin Datnow, the Chevra's chairman, with Rabbi Alex Carlebach.



Representatives of the Marcus and Sacker families who sponsored the book.

## COMMUNITY BUZZ

### LIONEL SLIER

082-444-9832, fax: 011-440-0448,  
lionel.slier@absamail.co.za

### PRETORIA

Sammy Marks continued:

At the end of 1884, Sammy Marks visited England where at the age of 40, he married Bertha Guttman one of the daughters of his old friend Tobias (who had first advised Marks to go to South Africa). She was 18 years younger than he was. Everything seemed to indicate that it was an arranged marriage.

Eight children were born of the marriage, five sons and three daughters. One girl died in infancy and one son, Montie, died at the age of 12 while at school in England.

From the remaining six, Marks had only four grandchildren, but not one male descendant.

Marks paid a lot of attention to his brothers and sisters and their children and helped whenever he could.

In 1883, Marks had bought 902 margin (773 hectares) of the farm Swarttruggens which bordered on Hatherley (see previous issues) east of Pretoria. On the farm was a simple house which had been damaged by enemy fire during the First War of Independence. Marks and Bertha lived here until the new house was finished.

In 1885 he started building his mansion which he called Swartkoppies Hall. According to legend, Marks drew the plan himself with a piece of charcoal on a plank. It was not built in any special architectural style.

In 1909 the family moved to Parktown in Johannesburg where the company had its headquarters. Swartkoppies became a country retreat.

The 1880-'81 First War of Independence was fought between the British and the Boers of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (Transvaal). The war is best remembered for the rout of the British troops at Majuba. At a treaty in 1881, President Paul Kruger's Republic was recognised as an independent state. This lasted only 20 years.

### DORDRECHT

This town is in the Eastern Cape on the slopes of the Stormberg Mountains, almost 80 km north of Queenstown and is named after a town in Holland. It has the dubious reputation of having bitterly cold winters.

From Ivan Nurick:

"Interesting facts about Dordrecht include one that about three km outside Dordrecht on the road to Queenstown, one finds the farm of

Dr L A P A Munnik, (known as Lapa) who was a doctor there and became MP for Caledon.

"He then became Administrator of the Cape and later a Cabinet Minister, but to generations of Ikeys he is best known as the cheerleader of 1948, 1949, 1951 and of the unofficial interspersivity of 1973 between UCT and Stellenbosch.

"On another road one comes to Moordenaars Kloof. In 1901 a Boer troop of about 1 500 men came through there and four scouts were ambushed by the British and three were killed. One got away. His name was Jan Christiaan Smuts.

"On another road, to Jamestown and Aliwal, one finds Vogelvlei, the farm of the Birch brothers, who were the leading horse breeders in South Africa for about 25 years. On a Sunday afternoon in 1971 we took our children to see Sea Cottage and King Willow at the farm, both Durban July winners. Ernest Birch played cricket for Border and his grandson, Andrew, is now in the Warriors cricket squad.

"Marais Steyn, prominent United Party and later Nat MP, was from Dordrecht. There was a very extreme rightwing family in Dordrecht, the Bekkers; five of the siblings won Springbok rugby honours, namely Jaap, Martiens and Dolf, Daan in boxing and the sister, Connie, in athletics.

"The prominent Jewish families included the Sterns, Aufrichtig, Weinstein, Lichtenstein and Kursan.

"I agree with the article on Solly Ozroveh, from the Weeshuis at Ugie. One could add that he was also a well-known rugby referee in the Western Province. We definitely regard Ugie, about 110 km from Indwe, as being part of our area."

• Students of the UCT (University of Cape Town) were familiarly known as Ikeys due to the high number of Jews in the student body.

### ROBERTSON

This little dorp is in the Breede River Valley, 46 km from Worcester and is named after Dr William Robertson (1805-1879), the first minister of the Dutch Reformed Church in Clanwilliam and Swellendam (1834-1879).

From Rabbi Stuart Serwater:

"Regarding country communities: In 1996 the Cape Board of Jewish Education reopened the Robertson Hebrew School, which had closed down over 30 years earlier.

"From 1996 to 1999, this school functioned in the quaint Robertson Synagogue, catering to the Jewish children of Worcester, Robertson, Klaasvoogds Rivier and Ashton.

"During those three years, I drove the 320 km round-trip from Cape Town to teach these monthly classes, which were exciting for both pupils

and parents, being the only Jewish activity in that area.

"The Robertson Synagogue, built in 1896, was sold only last year to a Christian family who have beautifully restored it - and made it their residential home!

"Over 20 years ago I did my basic training in the South African Army in the same unit as the great-grandson of the most recent rabbi of the Robertson Hebrew Congregation, the late Rev S J Josefowitz, who ministered there for 50 years until 1972.

"The Rev Josefowitz was the teacher of the late amazing blind Cantor Abe Immerman of Cape Town, when both lived in Zastron, in the Orange Free State; he must have been an amazing teacher to have taught so much to Cantor Immerman!

"Keep up your fascinating reporting on country communities! In so doing, you are keeping alive memories of people and places long since faded into history."

### JOHANNESBURG/YEOVILLE

Rona Elterman, now of Pretoria, writes:

"Sorry to advise you that the article appearing in the issue of June 25 has many discrepancies. Either my brother Barney gave the incorrect information, or the writer made errors.

"Next to the swimming baths was the Yeoville sports ground on the corner of Fortesque Road. Opposite on the south side was the Apollo Cafe, but next door was Emdins (ladies outfitting and haberdashery) and later the bicycle shop.

"Opposite on the north side was Flying Service Dry Cleaners, then Garden Butchery (Mr Rudman), then Yeoville Watchmakers owned by Lazar Freiman (my dad) who died on August 1 1950. I carried on the business for about a year more.

"The barber was originally at the back portion of my dad's shop but then moved next door and was owned by Sam Schneider who was deaf. Further down was Imperial Fish Shop and the garage.

"The Yeoville Pharmacy, owned by the Sapires, was on the north side, but on the other side of Kenmere Road. Also in that block were the Barclays Bank, Squires Outfitters, the Ozens Fruit and Vegetable. I can't remember all the other shops.

"The Yeoville Cinema was in Bedford Road, as was the bootmaker, Mr Glazer. There was also a home industries shop owned by two women. Mr Kagan the watchmaker, had his shop in Rocky Street, on the Bellevue side.

"My information is pre-1950s, and as I spent more than half my youth in that area, I am pretty sure that my information is more accurate."

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## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### STUDY: RUSSIAN AREAS NOT RULED BY NAZIS DOING BETTER EVEN NOW

LOS ANGELES - Areas of Russia that were not under Nazi rule are faring better economically even today than areas that had been occupied, according to a new study.

The study by three American academicians shows that the economies in large areas of Russia under Nazi rule 65 years ago lag substantially behind neighbouring areas that were spared Nazi occupation and where most of the Jewish middle class survived.

In cities and districts where Jews were largely wiped out, not only do residents earn less than in the rest of Russia, but they are politically less reform minded and cling more to old communist loyalties.

Professors James Robinson of Harvard, Daron Acemoglu of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Tarek Hassan of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business have opened up a new research field in the area of Holocaust studies.

Their conclusions in "Social Structure And Development: A Legacy Of the Holocaust In Russia" - a five-year study

### MOROCCO COULD ARREST ISRAELI OFFICIALS FOR GAZA WAR

JERUSALEM - Lawyers reportedly have filed a case in Morocco to arrest senior Israeli officials involved in the Gaza war.

The lawyers from three countries filed the complaint with the chief prosecutor in Rabat on Monday, the French news agency AFP reported.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, former Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Defence Minister Ehud Barak are named in the complaint. They are accused of

### ISRAEL RAZES PALESTINIAN HOME IN EASTERN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM - Israel on Tuesday razed several buildings, including an inhabited Palestinian home, in eastern Jerusalem.

The demolition, including the home in the Beit Hanina neighbourhood, were the first in eastern Jerusalem in eight months.

The inhabited house, home to a family of seven, was built without a city permit, Jerusalem municipality officials told Reuters. Four other uninhabited homes in the Jabel Mukaber and Issawiya neighbourhoods, as well as a partially built factory, also were demolished.

Israel's previous demolitions of eastern Jerusalem homes were condemned

### PRES OBAMA NOMINATES LEW TO RUN OMB

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama nominated Jacob Lew, an Orthodox Jew, as director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Lew, who held the top OMB post under President Bill Clinton, is a deputy secretary of state for management and resources. He would succeed Peter Orszag, who also is Jewish.

His current position parallels with in the State Department the OMB mission of prioritising government spending.

"As the budget director who left the next administration a \$237 billion sur-

### COMIC BOOK WRITER HARVEY PEKAR DIES AT 70

CLEVELAND - Jewish comic book writer Harvey Pekar, who chronicled his life in the autobiographical American Splendor series, has died at the age of 70.

Pekar died early Monday morning in his Cleveland-area home. He had prostate cancer, asthma, high blood pressure and clinical depression, according to reports.

The American Splendor series, which began in 1976 and had its most recent issue in 2008, was made into a movie of the same name in 2003.

Pekar's writing about his everyday life, which a Plain Dealer tribute on

of the long-range economic impact of the extermination of Jews in some areas occupied by the Nazis during the Second World War - are based on research by political scientists and economists.

Drawing mainly on detailed Russian census data, supplemented by reports of Nazi death squads, the three professors studied the demographics and economies of 48 oblasts, or administrative districts, across Russia, of which 11 in western Russia were overrun by the German army early in the war, with the subsequent extermination of 1 million Soviet Jews.

Although making up only a minute fraction of the total population of the prewar Soviet Union, Jews predominated in the productive middle class. In some of the oblasts under German control, Jews made up 1 per cent of the population but represented 70 per cent of the physicians.

Concretely, the study found that in 2002, per capita gross domestic product in the 11 Nazi-occupied oblasts lagged 23 per cent behind the nationwide GDP. (JTA)

leading the attack on Gaza during the month-long war during the winter of 2008-09.

Morocco and Israel do not have formal diplomatic relations, though the Arab country does receive Israeli officials.

Livni cancelled a trip to Britain in December 2009 after a British court issued an arrest warrant following a complaint alleging war crimes filed by attorneys representing pro-Palestinian activists. (JTA)

internationally. In recent months, the Obama administration has called on Israel not to demolish Palestinian homes built without a permit.

The Netanyahu government has kept Jerusalem from razing homes in an effort to move peace talks with the Palestinians forward and to prevent a showdown with the Obama administration.

The demolitions come a day after a Jerusalem municipal committee approved the construction of 32 homes in the eastern Jerusalem Jewish neighbourhood of Pisgat Zeev, part of a reported development of 250 housing units. (JTA)

plus when he worked for President Clinton, I have no doubt that Jack has proven himself equal to this extraordinary task," Obama said on Tuesday in announcing the nomination, which as a Cabinet-level position must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Lew reportedly has clashed with his counterpart at the State Department, James Steinberg, who is also a deputy secretary.

Orszag reportedly is leaving to facilitate his move to New York, the home of his fiancée, ABC News reporter Bianna Golodryga. (JTA)

Monday called "the working-class, everyman heroics of simply making it through another day, with soul - if not dignity - intact", was widely admired.

Pekar, a Cleveland native, collaborated on American Splendor with the acclaimed comic book artist R Crumb. The two met in 1962 when Crumb was working for American Greetings in Cleveland.

Pekar, the son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, served in the US Navy. He worked as a file clerk at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Cleveland until his retirement in 2001. (JTA)

# Lael Bethlehem's myriad monuments dotted all over Johannesburg

STAFF REPORTER  
PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF JDA

EVERY TIME anyone drives or walks past the artworks in the City of Johannesburg, especially in Braamfontein, they can think of Lael Bethlehem, chief executive of the Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA), who this week resigned to join the private sector.

So said her proud mother, communal leader, Marlene Bethlehem, at her daughter's farewell party earlier this week.

Bethlehem said her daughter had left a proud legacy, especially in improvements in the inner city, having played a large part in its rejuvenation and in the establishment of the rapid bus transit system, Rea Vaya, which, despite problems with some taxi drivers vehemently opposed to it, has proved to be a huge success.

In her farewell speech, Lael Bethlehem said the last few weeks had been "an incredible journey".

She added: "We have shown that we can build infrastructure, organise complex logistics, create incredible music, and play soccer. We have also reminded ourselves that we are friendly and hospitable, that we know how to party, and perhaps most importantly, that we are all on the same side.

"The triumph of the Fifa World Cup follows on from other important successes, including the start of the Gautrain and the launch of the Rea Vaya system. It is so exciting to be a South African, to travel on the Rea Vaya to Soccer City, to have a drink in the newly renovated Vilakazi Street precinct, or to walk the pleasant and safe streets of the inner city of Johannesburg. These are the fruits of democracy, and how lucky we all are to be alive to enjoy them," she said.

Lael has been head of the JDA for the last five years, and described it as "a labour of love. Not only for me, but for everyone who works here. We have the enormous privilege of seeing the city changing around us, and of participating in that change.

"In the last five years, the JDA has not only led the regeneration of the inner city, but we have also made a significant contribution to the development of Johannesburg's township areas, and we have delivered major infrastructure projects," she said.

The agency has upgraded hundreds of inner city blocks, renovated 10 inner city parks, built two brand new parks, built three new public transport facilities and renovated another three, built one brand new museum, a brand new library, two new public buildings, three trader markets, a dance studio, a fashion square, a cricket oval, six five-a-side soccer fields, and many public art works throughout the city, she said.

"We have restored a number of heritage buildings. We have done a tremendous amount of work in preparing the Ellis Park and Nasrec precincts for the Fifa World Cup. In between all of that, we have built infrastructure for the Rea Vaya project which includes the stations and roadways. We have been involved in many aspects of the design of the BRT" she said.

The JDA has projects in the Baragwanath area in Soweto, Vilakazi Street, Orlando East, Orange Farm, Diepsloot, Hillbrow, Yeoville and throughout the CBD.

"We have done all of this as part of an overall strategy to bring investment back into the city, and to draw attention to the extraordinary opportunities that exist in Johannesburg," she said.

Wherever the JDA has undertaken projects, it has been encouraged by the way in which private investment has followed its work. These private investors take many forms, including corporate giants like Anglo Gold Ashanti, banks, property developers like the Johannesburg Land Company, entrepreneurs like Lion Share and City Property, Housing developers like Afcho, non-profit organisations like the



Lael Bethlehem, chief executive of the Johannesburg Development Agency, speaking at her farewell function last week.

Johannesburg Housing Company, individuals, many of them supported by Trust for Urban Housing Finance, and even trade unions like Numsa who recently developed a "magnificent head office" in Newtown, she said.

"This work has been done by an amazing team at JDA," she said, in paying tribute to her colleagues.

Lael praised the "outstanding political leadership" in the executive mayor of Johannesburg, Amos Masondo, whom, she said, had given tremendous priority to both inner city and township development.

She also paid tribute to members of the mayoral committee (MMCs), especially Rehana Moosajee, MMC for Transport, with whom she has worked very closely with regards to the Rea Vaya bus rapid transit project.

"The process of regeneration and development has a long way to go and will depend on the city making progress with various initiatives. Some of the most important of these are to make effective plans for bad buildings, to resolve the future of buildings currently in city ownership and to find a way forward for illegal occupants of derelict properties," she said.

She thanked her family for their support - her parents Brian and Marlene, who have been enthusiastic supporters of the JDA's work and always interested in what the agency was doing. "They have given me a great example of what it means to be a South African. Most importantly, thank you to my partner Emilia Potenza, and our daughters Lulu and Thembela," she said.

"I take my leave from the JDA as a proud South African, a proud resident of this great city and secure in the knowledge that this important organisation will continue to serve the people of Johannesburg and will indeed go from strength to strength."

Lael's assistant, Adam Goldsmith, who has been working with her for the past five years, said he was lucky to have worked with her.

"She knows what she wants and gets what she wants. She has an infectious strength," he said.

Neil Fraser, a consultant who was instrumental in the rejuvenation of the inner city, but who has now retired, said Lael faced a "David and Goliath" situation in her job.

"Wow, what a big task she had! Lael has the unbelievable ability, strength and compassion to have dealt with her tasks. Welcome to the private sector - it is the loss to the public sector," he said.

## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# Alarm over Israeli conversion bill

JACOB BERKMAN  
NEW YORK

OPponents of a controversial bill that could give the Orthodox rabbinate the final say over conversions in Israel, are trying to keep the bill from moving ahead in the Israeli Knesset after its surprise introduction and passage by a Knesset committee.

For months, Israeli lawmakers have been discussing a bill that would put more power over conversion into the hands of Israel's Orthodox-dominated rabbinate by giving local rabbis the ability to perform conversions and giving the Chief Rabbinate oversight and control over the whole process.

The bill, sponsored by Yisrael Beiteinu Knesset member David Rotem, gained steam on Monday with its approval in the Knesset law committee by a 5-4 vote. It now must pass three readings before the full Knesset, to become law.

Opponents are desperately trying to stall the process, at least until the Knesset starts a two-month break next week.

"They have to bring it to the Knesset now for a first reading, and we have to make sure that it will not happen," the chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Natan Sharansky, told JTA.

Sharansky is leading a coalition against the bill that includes the

leaders of the North American Jewish federation system and the non-Orthodox Jewish religious movements in the United States.

Rotem's bill originally was intended to ease the conversion process within Israel and make it easier for non-Jewish Israelis of Soviet extraction to obtain conversions and marry within Israel.

Despite its intent, opponents warned that the bill would consolidate control over conversions in the office of the Chief Rabbinate and drive a wedge between Israel and the Diaspora by carrying the risk that non-Orthodox conversions performed in the Diaspora could be discounted in Israel.

In addition, they said the bill would affect the eligibility of converts for the Law of Return, which grants the right to Israeli citizenship to anyone who is Jewish or at least has one Jewish grandparent.

The opponents urged Rotem to revise the proposal. They believed they had a deal in place with Rotem to hold off on the bill pending more discussion after Rotem came to the United States in April to discuss the bill with them, and after a number of meetings between Sharansky and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Several top Israeli officials, including the justice minister and minister for Diaspora affairs, had agreed to work with Sharansky on

altering the bill.

But Rotem caught Sharansky and the Diaspora leaders by surprise by bringing the bill to a committee vote this week; Sharansky was given only a day's warning. The move set off a maelstrom of criticism from the Diaspora.

The CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America, Jerry Silverman, called Rotem's action a "betrayal".

In a letter of protest from the president of the Union for Reform Judaism that was signed by 14 other organisations, including various arms of the Conservative movement, Rabbi Eric Yoffie wrote: "Rotem's actions are contrary to the assurances we received in meetings with him and with others over the last several months."

In an interview with JTA, Rotem was unapologetic about moving ahead and said: "This bill will pass, no doubt.

"I never promised anything," he added. "I told them all the time in the meetings that if I will see there is a majority, I will bring it to a vote. No one can say I promised anything."

In their discussions with Rotem, Diaspora leaders expressed concern about an item in the bill that would have taken away the right to automatic citizenship for anyone who comes to Israel as a refugee but then converts to Judaism.



David Rotem, chairman of the Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, pushed a controversial conversion bill through the committee by a 5-4 vote on July 12. (PHOTOGRAPH: FLASH90 / JTA)

Rotem removed that item before pushing the bill through the law committee.

Now, he says, the bill has no effect on American or Diaspora Jews and that this is solely an Israeli matter over which non-Israeli Jews should have no say.

"I don't know why they wanted to have discussions," he said. "I came to the US; I spoke to leaders; I explained this is nothing that touched the American community. It has nothing to do with Jews in the Diaspora. It is only an Israeli matter."

Since Monday, Sharansky has engaged in a number of discussions with Israeli lawmakers, including Netanyahu. The Jewish Agency chief said he believed the bill would not come before the Knesset this week, and hoped it would not be on the agenda before the two-month recess provided a chance to alter or scuttle the bill.

Sharansky said he was pushing for Netanyahu and his Likud Party to publicly oppose it. "If it is clear Likud will not support it, it will not

pass," Sharansky said.

The Jewish Federations say that Silverman and federation lay leaders met with Israel's President Shimon Peres on Monday. Peres, pressed for more dialogue on the proposed bill that would give American voices greater credence.

"A discussion that bears consequences on the entire Jewish people should include different voices - from within Israel and from without. The legislative process should include an open public discussion that will lead to an understanding. It should be conducted with tolerance, with open hearts and open minds.

"It is important for us, for the unanimity of the moment, that we have to keep the pressure on," Rabbi Steven Wernick, the executive vice president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, told JTA.

"I think it would be an error to think that in the political society as dynamic and hyper-dynamic as Israel is that we are done with this," he said. (JTA)

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## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

## Jewish Report

## Politics, courage and cowardice of artists

ELVIS COSTELLO may not be the world's most important singer, but his recent cancellation of a performance in Israel under pressure from anti-Israel groups, should not be taken lightly. It is part of a growing international movement to establish a cultural boycott of Israel as part of a broader boycott involving academia, trade, diplomacy and other areas.

The article on the facing page reports on some of the latest cultural developments, such as actress Meg Ryan's decision not to come.

The anti-Israel lobby hopes to develop this into something similar to South Africa's cultural isolation during apartheid. There are crucial differences. Firstly, there was universal agreement that the apartheid evil should be shunned. Israel, in contrast, is not apartheid and is a vibrant cultural centre - home to major Israeli artists and a favourite destination for numerous international Jewish and non-Jewish artists.

Secondly, the Internet and television make a total boycott impossible today - although these media also give boycotters more power to spread their message.

During apartheid, South Africa was an insignificant cultural backwater - notwithstanding a few great local artists like Johnny Clegg - even lacking the consolation prize of television until 1976.

Anti-South African sentiment was so universal that an artist's choice was virtually made for him to exclude the country from his itinerary. For example, in 1961 the British Musicians' Union forbade its members to perform in South Africa; in 1963, 45 prominent British playwrights signed a declaration announcing that they had instructed their agents to insert a clause in future contracts automatically refusing performing rights in any theatre "where discrimination is made among audiences on grounds of colour", the declaration also receiving adherence from playwrights in other countries; until the 1990s, the British actors' union, Equity, imposed a boycott on the sale of TV programmes to South Africa; the country was banned from the Olympic Games until 1992.

South Africans used to be over the moon when a third-rate artist or an old one at the end of his career, would break the boycott and come to perform at Sun City or elsewhere.

Some good artists did, however, choose to come on condition they could confront apartheid through their art, which was a risky thing to do under the sinister eye of the regime.

Choosing to boycott Israel, however, rather than engaging with it, is a cop-out, whether one goes as a fan or a critic of Israeli society and policies. Israel is an open society and international artists are free to perform, praise and condemn as they wish, as Israeli artists do. True art should be about communication and expression and Israel is a fertile platform for this.

But it is unfortunately true that an international artist in an early career today faces a dilemma when pressured not to perform in Israel by powerful groups purporting to occupy the moral high ground: does he or she risk their advancement by standing against them?

Often these young artists know little about the Middle East aside from stereotypes and they have no particular interest in this tiny speck on the map called Israel. Their financial earnings simply do not justify the risk of performing there.

Other artists have objected to their performances in Israel possibly being "politicised" in ways they cannot control through merely being in that context.

The boycotters also hope to affect how Israeli cultural exports are viewed in other countries. The story on page 4 of how a newspaper reviewer brushed aside the artistic merits of an Israeli play at the recent Grahamstown Festival, insinuating that its presence there was merely Israeli "propaganda" - even though it was set in a Nazi death camp - exemplifies this.

A cultural boycott will not break Israeli society, and anyway will never fully succeed. But it must be fought vigorously.

Despite modern telecommunications, when important artists cancel a concert appearance in Israel, it matters tremendously to the morale of Israelis - particularly since Israel is no way morally comparable with the white supremacist regime of apartheid South Africa, and lives in a totally different kind of neighbourhood.

By the same token, an artist's decision to perform there regardless of the pressure - like Elton John recently, who declared: "Ain't nothing gonna stop us from coming, baby!" - goes even further to make that point.

We cannot be passive about the boycotts and complain about a raw deal. We must fight this phenomenon and not allow it a foothold as part of the attempts to deligitimise Israel in other areas.

## Netanyahu hints at some flexibility on Jerusalem

URIEL HEILMAN  
NEW YORK

IT WAS an otherwise wholly unremarkable stump speech before a friendly audience in New York.

On the evening of July 7 at Manhattan's Plaza Hotel, the Israeli prime minister addressed a roomful of more than 300 Jews on the subjects of Iran, his government's eagerness for direct peace talks with the Palestinians and the swell meeting he had just had with President Barack Obama at the White House.

But then, in an off-the-cuff remark to a question on Jerusalem from the audience, Benjamin Netanyahu dropped a hint that his government's insistence on Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem might not be iron-clad.

"Everybody knows that there are Jewish neighbourhoods in Jerusalem that under any peace plan will remain where they are," Netanyahu said in response to the question read by the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Malcolm Hoenlein.

The implication of Netanyahu's remark - that other neighbourhoods of Jerusalem may not remain "where they are", becoming part of an eventual Palestinian state - was the first hint that the Israeli leader may be flexible on the subject of Jerusalem. Until now, Netanyahu has insisted that Jerusalem is not up for negotiation.

While the prime minister surely did not intend the gathering under the aegis of the President's Conference to serve as his forum for opening up negotiations over Jerusalem, the impromptu remark before an audience of prominent New York Jews and a handful of elected officials, cast a slim ray of light on what Netanyahu thinks might be the Israeli capital's

ultimate fate.

He reiterated the point last Sunday in an interview with Chris Wallace on Fox News Sunday.

"Are you willing to put East Jerusalem as a possible capital of the Palestinian state on the table?" Wallace asked, according to a transcript provided by Fox News.

Netanyahu responded: "Well, we have differences of views with the Palestinians. We want a united city. They have their own views. We can - this is one of the issues that will have to be negotiated. But I think the main point is to get on with it."

The remarks on Jerusalem were significant because Netanyahu's true intentions regarding the peace process remain largely opaque, the subject of much debate from Washington to Ramallah. Netanyahu was a latecomer to the two-state position - endorsing the idea of an eventual Palestinian state only a year ago, after much prodding by the United States - and the governing coalition he has assembled is comprised largely of rightwing parties that do not believe in the current Palestinian Authority as a partner for negotiations.

In public, Obama declared last week that he believed Netanyahu was genuinely committed to seeking a two-state solution.

"I believe that Prime Minister Netanyahu wants peace. I think he's willing to take risks for peace," Obama told reporters following his Oval Office meeting with Netanyahu.

"And during our conversation, he once again reaffirmed his willingness to engage in serious negotiations with the Palestinians around what I think should be the goal not just of the two principals involved but the entire world, and that is two states living side by side in peace and security."

Privately, however, some US administration officials have expressed doubts

about Netanyahu's ability to make good on that vision. Other Obama supporters have questioned Netanyahu's commitment to that goal, and the Palestinian Authority leadership says Netanyahu's interest in negotiations is not serious.

"Words, not deeds," was the assessment of chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, who dismissed Netanyahu's lip service to the peace process in an interview with The New York Times following the Obama-Netanyahu meeting. "We need to see deeds."

Netanyahu insists he is serious about peace talks, and that it is the Palestinians who are playing games.

"You either put up excuses or you lead," the Israeli leader said in his New York speech. "I want to enter direct talks with the Palestinian leadership now."

"I think we can defy the sceptics," he said, recalling the doubters who abounded when Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin began talking to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in the lead-up to the Camp David Accords, and when President Richard Nixon visited China. "This is a challenge I'm up to."

Was it hyperbole or a sign of the legacy Netanyahu hopes for himself?

If Netanyahu is interested in following Begin and Nixon's model, leading a conservative government to a historic rapprochement with a long-time foe, eventually he will have to include Jerusalem in negotiations with the Palestinians; they won't sign a peace deal without it. If not, Netanyahu is trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the sceptics.

"This is going to be a very, very tough negotiation, but I'm prepared to negotiate," Netanyahu insisted last week. "But I cannot engage between someone who won't sit at the table." (JTA)

## Campaign to bring in thousands more Falash Mura gains steam

URIEL HEILMAN  
NEW YORK

AFTER MONTHS of fits and starts, advocates for Ethiopian aliyah are hoping that a visit to the African country this week by Israel's minister of immigrant absorption, will help set in motion a process that will bring

some 7 500 additional Ethiopians to Israel.

So far, the Israeli government has committed to checking only 1 800 of them for aliyah eligibility and bringing those who qualify to Israel.

But advocates for Ethiopian aliyah want a total of 8 700 Ethiopians checked for eligibility - all those they

say have been waiting in the Ethiopian city of Gondar and are part of a list compiled in 1999 of potential immigrants. These advocates have been pressing their cause with Israeli government officials.

"It could either be done by a Cabinet resolution or the Knesset could adopt legislation," said Joseph Feit, a leading board member at the North American Conference for Ethiopian Jewry, or NACOEJ, the US Jewish group that has been leading the campaign for Ethiopian immigration.

"The hope is the government will adopt a resolution and the legislation forcing the issue will not be necessary."

NACOEJ has led a campaign for the 8 700 Ethiopians for about three years and, before them, for tens of thousands of other Ethiopians who have immigrated to Israel since the early 1990s. That's when Israel began accepting Falash Mura - Ethiopians claiming to be descendants of Jews who converted to Christianity generations ago or claiming to have links to such people, but who now seek to return to Judaism and immigrate to Israel.

The Israeli government has declared an official end to mass Ethiopian immigration several times. Each time, however, aliyah from Ethiopia resumed after pressure by advocates convinced a key government official - usually the prime minister - to reopen the gates. (JTA)



In a demonstration in Jerusalem supporting expanding Ethiopian immigration, Ethiopian Israelis hold up photos on January 10, of family members remaining in Ethiopia. (PHOTOGRAPH: MIRIAM ALSTER / FLASH90 / JTA)

## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# 'Cultural intifada' as Costello, Meg Ryan and others cancel Israel plans

MARCY OSTER  
JERUSALEM

ACTRESS MEG RYAN'S decision to cancel her appearance at this week's Jerusalem Film Festival didn't garner the same attention in Israel as British rocker Elvis Costello when he nixed his Israel concert this spring.

Both, however, were a reminder to Israelis that in the eyes of much of the world, Israel's politics and culture are inseparable.

The cancellations were part of a string that Israel has experienced over the past few months, including appearances by the indie rock band The Pixies, singer Devendra Banhart, alternative rockers Gorillaz, the British band the Klaxons and American soul singer Gil Scott-Heron. In February, rock legend Carlos Santana withdrew from a sold-out performance reportedly due to pressure from pro-Palestinian groups.

Israelis have taken to calling this a "cultural intifada" - borrowing a term used by the Palestinians to describe their uprisings against Israel.

"Intense pressure is being applied on foreign artists not to come to Israel," prominent Israeli promoter Shuki Weiss, who has brought such top-name acts to Israel as Madonna and Pink Floyd's Roger Waters, told the Israeli business daily Globes.

After The Pixies cancelled last month, Weiss called it "cultural terrorism".

"I am full of both sorrow and pain in light of the fact that our repeated attempts to present quality acts and festivals in Israel have increasingly been falling victim to what I can only describe as a form of cultural terrorism which is targeting Israel and the arts worldwide," Weiss wrote in a statement.

The most recent high-profile cancellation, by Ryan, came right after Israel's deadly May 31 interception of the Gaza-bound, Turkish-flagged aid flotilla, which left nine passengers dead. A day later, Ryan's staff e-mailed the Jerusalem Film Festival to say she would not be able to attend. Reports that actor Dustin Hoffman also cancelled an appearance at the festival were unfounded; Hoffman had never been scheduled to attend the event.

When Costello cancelled his two concerts in Tel Aviv at the end of June, he said the decision was "a matter of instinct and conscience".

In a message posted on his website, Costello wrote: "There are occasions when merely having your name added to a concert schedule may be interpreted as a political act that resonates more than anything that might be sung and it may be assumed



British singer Elton John performs in Ramat Gan, Israel, on June 17. (PHOTOGRAPH: FLASH90 / JTA)

that one has no mind for the suffering of the innocent."

The cancellations have frustrated Israel's music lovers, producers and friends.

Israeli filmmaker Joseph Cedar, whose 2007 movie *Beaufort* received an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film, told JTA that the refusal of artists to perform in Israel was a kind of collective punishment of the culture-loving public - often the very public that was "extra critical of Israeli policies".

Cedar said that while he believed a boycott was "a legitimate way for an artist to express his political views", they should be political views the artist has consistently and publicly held.

Some artists appear to be concerned that their performances in Israel will be perceived as a political endorsement of Israel's policies.

When Banhart cancelled a pair of Tel Aviv performances two days before their mid-June dates, a message posted on the artist's website read: "We were coming to share a human and not a political message, but it seems that we are being used to support views that are not our own."

"We will be overjoyed to return to Israel on the day that our presence is perceived and reported on as a cultural event and not a political one."

Asked what the Israeli Sport and Culture Ministry is doing to stem the tide of cancellations, a ministry spokesman said: "Nothing."

The cultural boycott of Israel has spread beyond the borders of the Jewish State. Last month in Spain, a float sponsored by the Tel Aviv municipality was banned from Madrid's gay pride parade. One reason for the withdrawal cited by organisers: Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai had not condemned the Gaza flotilla incident.

The same week, a popular Bob Dylan fan site began blocking users inside Israel in

what the Danish site operator called a "cultural boycott" in response to the flotilla incident.

Israel has faced similar situations. During the second intifada in the early 2000s, numerous artists cancelled appearances in the country due to security concerns.

Still, many acts are going through with their scheduled performances. Some, like the British rock group Jethro Tull, are taking pains to draw distinctions between culture and politics.

After coming under pressure from pro-Palestinian groups such as the US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, Jethro Tull reaffirmed that it would be playing three concerts in Israel in early August.

Front man Ian Anderson said in a statement linked to the concert dates that he had "long maintained the position that culture and the arts should be free of political and religious censorship and a distance kept between them".

Anderson also said he would donate his concert proceeds to charities promoting coexistence.

Others have been more unabashedly warm toward Israel. In mid-June, Elton John, who has donated money to Israeli causes, played before an enthusiastic crowd.

"Shalom, we are so happy to be back here! Ain't nothing gonna stop us from coming, baby," the singer told the crowd. "Musicians spread love and peace, and bring people together. That's what we do. We don't cherry-pick our conscience."

Musicians Rod Stewart and Rihanna also performed in Israel last month. And on Sunday, Ynet reported that American singer Missy Elliott announced that after pressure to cancel her July 15 show in Tel Aviv, she would arrive in Israel a day early to tour the country with her entourage of dancers and crew. (JTA)

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### POLISH ARTIST BURNS BARN TO REMEMBER POGROM

WARSAW - A Polish performance artist burned down a barn to commemorate a Nazi pogrom.

Rafal Betlejewski's act in a central Polish village last Sunday night was commemorating the 1941 Jedwabne pogrom in which at least 340 Jews were locked in a barn and burned alive. Betlejewski said the performance was part of his crusade against anti-Semitism.

"Poland is a completely different country than it was 80 years ago when there was a big and significant Jewish minority, which participated in Poland's cultural, social and scientific

development," Reuters quoted Betlejewski as saying before the performance.

"These people are gone after the Holocaust and later waves of emigration, and I miss them more and more. This performance is addressed to Poles first and foremost, to those ignorant who know nothing about Jews' input in Poland's history."

More than 1 000 people attended the ceremony, according to the French news agency AFP.

Polish and Jewish groups criticised his performance, Reuters reported. (JTA)

### ISRAELIS FILE \$1.2 BILLION SUIT AGAINST AL JAZEERA

JERUSALEM - A group of Israelis has filed a \$1.2 billion lawsuit in US federal court against the Al Jazeera news network.

Ninety-one Israeli plaintiffs, civilians who were injured during the month-long 2006 Second Lebanon War or are relatives of victims, are charging in their suit that the Qatar-based network's war coverage was designed to help Hezbollah. Al Jazeera has offices in New York.

The suit filed on Monday in Manhattan Federal Court says that Al

Jazeera, in violation of the Israeli military censorship rules, reported during live coverage the location of missile strikes on Israel, enabling Hezbollah to better aim ensuing missiles.

One plaintiff, a resident of Safed, was struck twice by missiles - on his house and on his car - on the first day of the conflict, Ynet reported.

Hezbollah fired about 4 000 rockets into Israel during the Second Lebanon War. One hundred and fifty nine Israelis and 1 200 people in Lebanon were killed. (JTA)

### GAZA-BOUND LIBYAN SHIP SETS COURSE FOR EGYPT

JERUSALEM The captain of a Gaza-bound Libyan aid ship told Israel's Navy he will dock at an Egyptian port.

The ship altered its course on Tuesday for the El-Arish port, according to Navy officials, Ynet reported. The ship's true destination was not clear at the time, the Navy said.

Egyptian officials said the boat was given permission to dock in its port. The aid cargo would then pass into Gaza through the Rafah crossing.

Youssef Sawani, a director of the foundation sponsoring the ship, had told Al Jazeera last Sunday that the ship was planning to reach Gaza.

Originally named the *Amalthea* but renamed *Hope* for the voyage, the ship left on Saturday night from a port southeast of Athens. Israel's Navy reportedly made contact with the ship for the first time on Tuesday afternoon.

The ship, sponsored by the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation and organised by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's son Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi, is carrying 2 000 tons of food and medi-

cine, 15 volunteers who want to express solidarity with the Palestinian people and 12 crew members, according to reports.

Organisers said aid on the ship included sacks of rice and sugar, maize oil and olive paste, mostly donated from Greek companies and charities.

Israel's Foreign Ministry reportedly had advised the military not to intercept the ship until it entered Gaza territorial waters. The recommendation was made on Monday in a report distributed to the defence establishment and the Prime Minister's Bureau, the Israeli daily Haaretz reported on Tuesday.

According to Haaretz, the same recommendation was made in advance of the May flotilla from Turkey that tried to breach Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza. The recommendation reportedly stems from an effort to avoid the possibility of breaking international law.

The Israeli Navy boarded one of the Turkey-flagged ships, and the ensuing violence resulted in the deaths of nine passengers. (JTA)

### US HOLOCAUST MUSEUM PRAISES GENOCIDE CHARGES

WASHINGTON - The US Holocaust Memorial Museum has praised the International Criminal Court for including genocide charges against Sudan's president.

The ICC on Monday issued a new arrest warrant, including three counts of genocide, against Omar Al Bashir.

The museum issued a statement on Tuesday calling the ICC's decision "an important step towards holding leaders accountable for such egregious crimes". This is the first time the court has accused a sitting head of state of genocide.

An arrest warrant for Bashir issued in March 2009 included five counts of crimes against humanity and two counts of war crimes, but the ICC's pre-trial chamber rejected the application to include charges of genocide.

### ALLEGED LEBANESE SPY FOR ISRAEL SENTENCED TO DEATH

BEIRUT - A Lebanese court has sentenced an alleged spy for Israel to death.

Tuesday's sentence, on charges that the man spied for Israel and the information he obtained assisted Israel during the summer 2006 Second Lebanon War, comes on the same day that a Lebanese cellphone executive was charged in a military court with spying for Israel.

The appeals chamber later overturned the ruling, and the pre-trial chamber decided on Monday to include three counts of genocide against the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups.

The museum, which has been monitoring and raising awareness about Sudan since 2000, cautioned that the Sudanese government might retaliate against innocent civilians in response to Monday's decision, and said the United States and international governments must ensure this does not happen.

The museum partnered with Google Earth to create Crisis in Darfur and World is Witness in 2007. The programmes enable users to visualise and better understand the civil war and humanitarian situation in Darfur. (JTA)

Ali Mantash is the second Lebanese citizen to be sentenced to death for spying for Israel, according to Reuters. The conviction and sentencing of Mantash are part of a wide-scale espionage investigation that has led to the arrest of 50 people since April 2009.

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied that the men are connected to Israel or spied for the country. (JTA)

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**Baxter Theatre, Cape Town:** "The Girl in the Yellow Dress", by Craig Higginson, directed by Malcolm Purkey, until July 22, (021) 685-7880.

**Gerstein Art, Percelia:** The Football and Africa exhibition curated by Natalie Knight, until July 31, including work by Israeli artist David Gerstein, (011) 887-7660.

**Joburg Theatre, Braamfontein:** In the Mandela, Le Grand Cirque Fantazie, until August 8; in the Fringe, E-Boys choreographed by Esther Nasser, July 22-31, (011) 877-6800. In the People's Theatre, Cinderella, until August 1, (011) 403-1563.

**Johannesburg Art Gallery, Joubert Park:** William Kentridge's I Am Not Me; The Horse Is Not Mine, a film installation based on Shostakovich's opera The Nose, until August 1, (011) 725-3130.

**Linder Auditorium, Parktown:** Johannesburg Musical Society presents the Musaion Trio: Malcolm Nay (piano), Zanta Hofmeyr (violin) and Heleen du Plessis ('cello), performing works by Schubert, Shostakovich and Beethoven, on July 25, (011) 728-5492.

**Market, Newtown:** In the Barney Simon, Dorothy Ann Gould and Michael Maxwell in Fugard's Hello and Goodbye, until August 22; in the Laager, Zakes Mda's And The Girls In Their Sunday Dresses, with Lesego Motsepe and Hlengiwe Lushaba, directed by Princess Mhlongo, until August 22. (011) 832-1641.

**Montecasino, Fourways:** In the Studio, Hats Off, directed by Alan Swerdlow, until August 1; in the Pieter Toerien, Alan Committie Defending The Caveman, until August 1. (011) 511-1988.

**Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton:** Dan Clancy's The Timekeepers, directed by Lee Gilat, until July 24; Misty Brodiaea's exploration of San culture, Son of the Wind, July 28-31. The Friday lunchtime concerts feature Michael Watt (piano) and Kristel Birkholtz (violin) on July 16, and Bethine van Schoor ('cello), Annalien Ball (piano) and Camelia Onea (violin), on July 23 (011) 883-8606.

**Space at Anstey's, Anstey's Building, central Johannesburg:** Urban Arts Platform presents a sunset of live music, spoken word poetry and visual art on July 18. E-mail Leigh Nudelman at lnudels@googlemail.com

## Purkey chuffed about 'Yellow Dress' rave reviews

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR of the Market Theatre in Johannesburg, Malcolm Purkey says The Girl in the Yellow Dress was very well received at the Grahamstown Festival where the new South African play had its world premiere last month. It also received a "rave review" in Cue, the National Arts Festival's daily paper.

Purkey speaks of the directorial challenges of what is described by the media release as "a dark, witty and sexually-charged psychological drama". The play is ostensibly about a beautiful British teacher who teaches a young Congolese man English.

Purkey says it is a "very densely language-driven play" and because of this and the fact that it "seems fairly technical around the grammar, the art of the directing is to make sure that there are two characters there who are living beings engaging with each other, using the language as one would in everyday life, even if it seems, in Celia's case, grammatical and in Pierre's case, is a second or third language.

"The challenge is to engage with every single moment and look for

the humanity in it and what each character wants of the other in that moment."

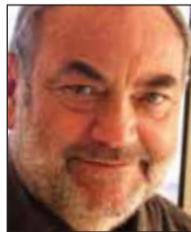
A joint venture with the Live Theatre in Newcastle - one of the Market's primary British partners - and the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow, one of the implicit agreements was that it would be a co-production in the true sense. So, for example, the two-hander's female lead is Marianne Oldham, a Bristol Old Vic Theatre School graduate who plays Celia, while Wits honours drama graduate Nat Ramabulana takes the role of Pierre.

Purkey describes the collaboration, including input from some of Britain's top dramatists, as a model that can only benefit theatre in this country. "South African theatre's been governed by improvisation, workshop and playmaking, with very few writers," he says.

"We have to encourage the next generation to experiment with writing."

Asked whether it was difficult getting two actors from such apparently different backgrounds to relate to each other, Purkey said.

"If you've been through a drama school, you learn similar lan-

Artistic director  
of the Market  
Theatre, Malcolm  
Purkey.

Market in October/November.

This is the second time that Purkey has directed a play written by the Market's literary manager and dramatist, Craig Higginson, someone he describes as "an emerging writer of great significance". The first was "Dream of the Dog", which took London's West End by storm, starring South African export Janet Suzman.

"I think that the material is fresh. Why the play seems interesting to me is because, yes, we normally have race relations plays and state of the nation plays, but there are very few that deal with Europe and Africa in this particular way and are set in this way (in Paris).

"I think people are oversensitive at the level of politics - if something tries to deal with some of our truths, they're often taken as

guages about drama and how it works. What has been really wonderful about the production and the directing thereof is that the two actors have found a way to connect.

After its Cape Town run, the production goes to the Edinburgh Festival, followed by runs at Live Theatre and Citizens Theatre, then to Sweden before returning to the

Marianne Oldham and Nat  
Ramabulana in "The Girl in the  
Yellow Dress". (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY  
THE FAMOUS IDEA COMPANY)

clichés."

"(Theatre is) still oppositional because we still have a state that is full of idiocy and perversity, but we definitely have a much freer situation.

"We are in a very interesting, fragile democracy with a powerful Constitution and our theatre and arts should engage with those questions," he emphasises.

The Girl In The Yellow Dress is at the Baxter Flipside until July 22, (021) 685-7880.

## Blending humour with poignancy to just the right degree

**Play:** *The Timekeepers (Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton, (011) 883-8606*

**Writer:** Dan Clancy

**Director:** Lee Gilat

**Cast:** Roy Horovitz, Pinhas

Mittelman and Omer Etzion

**Until:** July 24

REVIEWED BY CHRISTINA KENNEDY

INJECTING HUMOUR into sombre subject matter can be a precarious tightrope to navigate, but the Israeli production *The Timekeepers* gets the balance just right.

The subject matter in question here is the Holocaust, with the play set in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Against such a highly-charged backdrop, an engaging human drama unfolds that blends humour with poignancy to just the right degree, without ever descending to the level of poor taste or discomfort.

Written by American playwright Dan Clancy, *The Timekeepers* premiered in Tel Aviv in 2002 and it has since toured Israel and has been performed around the world in both Hebrew and English adaptations.

Having sold out its limited run at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, this exceptional

play is now treading the boards at Daphne Kuhn's Theatre.

On the face of it, it sounds like a potentially provocative play: an elderly Jewish man meets an outrageously camp young German man in a concentration camp, and an unlikely friendship blossoms. But it is handled so sensitively and interpreted so masterfully, that audiences will be swept along with these two characters who manage to salvage humour and humanity from the shadow of the crematoria.

Mittelman plays Benjamin, a Jewish watchmaker who goes about his task of fixing timepieces for the Nazis at the concentration camp. Into his quiet universe bursts Hans (Horovitz), a flamboyant gay German who is not averse to turning a few sexual tricks for his Nazi captors to hustle a few more slices of bread.

Hans doesn't know the first thing about fixing watches, and he persuades the initially hostile Benjamin to teach him the trade. In return, Hans undertakes to prod his Nazi lover for news about Benjamin's family.

A tentative, hesitant bond begins to develop, strengthened by their mutual love of opera - despite Benjamin being a Verdi fan and

Trying a watch for size, Hans (Roy  
Horovitz) and a kapo (Omer  
Etzion). (PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY  
OLD MUTUAL THEATRE ON THE SQUARE)

Hans an avowed Puccini adherent.

Seemingly as different as chalk and cheese, these two men gradually discover that they have more in common than meets the eye. Both are the victims of prejudice: one is a Jew, and has to wear a yellow Star of David sewn on to his striped prison garb; the other is a "queer", distinguishable by his pink triangle.

"War or no war, we're both hated," says one of them resignedly.

Their arguments and banter to try and make the most of their plight, are highly entertaining, and the audience warms to the elderly man

who is worried about his wife and children and the over-the-top screaming queen who is not as shal low as he seems.

These light moments contrast sharply with the horror inflicted on them by their guard, Kapo (Etzion), a tyrannical higher-ranked prisoner. It also underscores the fact that in a conflict situation like war, there are many types of victims - and that victims also have their own inbuilt intolerances and prejudices based on a "fear of otherness".

The actors' performances are finely tuned and perceptive; the playwright and director ensure that the text is comfortably poised between unspeakable terror and comedy without trivialising the Holocaust.

This internationally acclaimed play has been compared to Roberto Benigni's cinematic masterpiece *Life is Beautiful*, in which Benigni's character uses his fertile imagination and humour to try and shield his young son from the horrific reality of a Nazi concentration camp.

Similarly, *The Timekeepers* tackles a delicate issue with wry wit that illuminates the piece's canny human insights, making for a deeply engrossing, enriching and rewarding theatre outing.

FELDMAN  
ON FILM  
Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

Shrek Forever After (3-D version)

**Voices:** Mike Myers; Cameron Diaz; Eddie Murphy; Antonio Banderas; Jon Hamm; Kathy Griffin; Kristin Schaal

**Director:** Mike Mitchell

When filming sequels, one of the most difficult tasks is to re-discover the spirit and magic of the original. Occasionally it turns out that the second or third episode in a franchise is better than the first.

This is the fourth instalment of the Shrek saga and, while some may be disappointed

by some of the devices used by director Mike Mitchell and his team, the overall feeling remains an appealing one. The last Shrek was "medi-ogre" to say the least, but with this one the Jolly Green Ogre gets his grumpiness back.

The story opens with Shrek (once again voiced by Mike Myers) in a deep depression. He is feeling over-domesticated and has lost the roar factor, one that once upon a time would send villagers running away in terror. Now they run to him and ask him to sign their pitchforks and torches.

To regain his ogre mojo, he strikes a dark deal with the impish Rumpelstiltskin (Walt Dohm), which means that for one day he'll go back in time when everything made sense.

When the pact goes awry, Shrek is forced to confront what life would have been like in *Far Far Away* had he never existed.

Puss in Boots (Antonio Banderas) has become fat and lazy, Donkey (Eddie Murphy) is being forced into cart-pulling duties and the nefarious red-headed Rumpelstiltskin is ruling the king-

dom. Also, his beloved Fiona (Cameron Diaz) has become a warrior woman full of fight and venom and he's a stranger to her.

The story, which interestingly enough borrows its storyline from *It's A Wonderful Life*, has an escape clause allowing Shrek back to his old life. It requires him to find Fiona and share a kiss of true love with her, but given her fiery disposition it may be an impossible task. She doesn't believe in "true love".

There is no place for the story to go in the "real" world (where he is comfortably married with children) so the filmmakers opted to play the alternative reality card. The turn-around makes for a fascinating dichotomy and, while it's not as impudent as the original, some of its comic jabs find their targets. The animation remains eye-catching and rich in detail but has not leapt forward in the last nine years.

There has not been a great deal of excitement about the release of this version, but there is nothing really to dread about it, either. There is still life in the old boy.

## TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

# Khumalo's pen is as sharp as his insight

*Zulu Boy Gone Crazy* by Fred Khumalo (KMM Review Publishing, R174,95)



Beneath its acerbity, Khumalo's writing reveals a humane, whimsical streak. He is happy to laugh off pretensions and tolerate idiosyncrasies, provided they do no harm. The brandophilia of the Black Diamonds, for example, who can now afford to upgrade from the Florsheim shoes beloved of

previous generations.

Khumalo, whose own fashion sense was informed by a youth spent in the trend-obsessed American Dudes gang, admits to harbouring a residual love for the white socks, black winklepickers and pink silk shirts of Michael Jackson.

"I still moonwalk, swirling and slithering all over the place - my kids sometimes think I've put butter on the soles of my shoes," he writes.

He is less indulgent towards today's clumsy hybrid of Zulu and Western courtship rituals: the point at which lobolo meets Louis Vuitton.

"When a white person gets married to his beloved, he will invite some members of the immediate family and friends. They have a quiet thingamajig at a church or a magistrate's court, after which they crack a couple of wine bottles and, if they feel like it, have a small braai... Whoa! Get the African couple!" howls Khumalo, lamenting the many elaborate pre- and post-proposal ceremonies, the days of feasting, the necessity for both a traditional and an ostentatious Western ceremony (in the finest gown, to impress the bride's friends and, especially, her enemies) - and the enormous bill, which leaves the newlyweds ready to begin their life together "broke and angry with each other".

Chief among his political targets are President Jacob Zuma, with his seemingly interminable procession of wives and his populist rhetoric. In one of the funniest pieces, Khumalo - while spending a month lecturing in France - is moved to nostalgia by the number of strikes in that country: "I felt a glow of joy when I saw them burning tyres in the streets. It felt

like home and I wanted to join them."

Yet there is something pathetically insipid about the Gallic idea of protest, muses Khumalo. What they need is a South African to show them how it's done. Inspired, he begins translating Zuma's notorious "Umshini Wam" into French for them - only to realise that "Ma mitraillette, ma mitraillette, passez-moi ma mitraillette" just doesn't have the same... well... ring.

Another prime target is Julius Malema ("he who was dropped on his head as a child"), leader of the ANC Youth League and its spokesman, Floyd Shivambu.

In the column "I'd Like a Word, Floyd - Kno' What I'm Sayin'?", Khumalo attacks the meaningless, vacuous rhetoric generated by the organisation, and in "There are Many Rooms in Hostel Blame" he ridicules the rivalry, allegations and counter-allegations regularly paraded before the nation by the ruling party.

Then there is Khumalo's delight in the now-famous comment of former ANC Chief Whip (and now its national spokesman) Jackson Mthembu in the Mpumalanga Legislature: "I got fokol from Bantu Education" - which sent "the DA chihuahuas scurrying for their pens and paper so that they could write to the media about what they termed 'unparliamentary speech'".

Not all the pieces are satirical. There is a deeply moving eulogy to writer, actor and journalist John Matshikiza, as well as a bitter-sweet reminiscence of childhood Christmases, when Khumalo's parents would blow their entire year-end bonus on new furniture from Town Talk. Both they (and the store) knew it would be repossessed by the end of January - but it was good for a brief, intoxicating feeling of achievement.

Khumalo's inclusion of colourful township slang into his writing and his ability to wrap deadly truths inside cheerful, self-effacing banter, make his columns as entertaining as they are illuminating.

More than this, though, in a country which sometimes appears to have lost the plot completely, it is his reassuring sanity which grounds us and reminds us that there are still South Africans left who aren't out to lunch.

## Celebrating Africa with joy

**Exhibition:** "PACE 2010: Pan African Craft Exhibition" (Gauteng Craft and Design Centre, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton)

**Curators:** Adam Levin and Andile Magengelele

**Until:** July 31

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

THE DEBATE between what art is in relation to craft and where they fit in economic and social value, has always been fraught with potential for offence and ideological conflict.

It's a terrain rich with political potholes. But when an exhibition like this comes about, it cannot but leave you smiling, whatever you might think of art, craft or the greyish area in between.

PACE 2010 is one of the few really lovely visual shows spawned by the Fifa World Cup. It celebrates Africa with freshness and unbridled joy and mostly a lack of contrivance.

Curators Adam Levin and Andile Magengelele introduce design into the mix and in doing so, scupper and dribble with how both fine art and craft can take themselves too seriously. Doing that, they have made this exhibition - positioned as it is almost in hiding in the former Sandton Civic Gallery, between the Sandton Municipal Library

Lekgotla restaurant - really worthwhile.

While the white cross-hatched structures dividing the space into pristine faux organic surrounds feel contrived, you've got to look not only at the objects on display, but also at their juxtapositioning and at the fruit salad of their roots.

The space embraces economic hierarchy. As you enter, to your right, you will see an area of objects for sale. An array of handbags - from knitted industrial plastic to sleek leather and fur - catch your eye. A catastrophe of vessels - made out of everything from paper to ceramic - are ranged in piles or hung vertically.

To the left of the gallery's entrance, another path is beaten. A chair, made by House on Fire in Swaziland has a sculpted black Napoleon, almost crude in its rendering, for its back; his distended right index finger indicates where you must go. The humour and funkiness in this piece overrides a technical lack of finesse; its manic quirkiness sets the tone for the whole show.

"I love you more than Harmattan paw-paw", a contemporary Ghanaian djembe drum declares in raised block letters. Work by Durban-based Marisa Fick-Jordaan resonates and converses with objects that speak of



**Black Napoleon Chair by House on Fire (Swaziland). (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BUZ PUBLICITY)**

the Belgium comic character Tintin, from the Cote d'Ivoire.

Designer Ronel Jordan has created a Ndebele chair. A laser-cut lamp of metal by Gerhard Kleyn of Amatuli Fine Art, casts light on heavily adorned Kuba baskets in leather and kowrie shells from the Congo.

The effect of this is not disrespectful to the originating cultures; rather it's about a lust for levity and the poetic licence of a designer to mix and match, nip and tuck, quote and jive across cultural references.

Segueing the serious with the flippancy, Levin and Magengelele play into moments made beautiful by their unexpectedness.

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## LETTERS

The Editor, Suite 175, Postnet X10039, Randburg, 2125 email: carro@global.co.za

**Guidelines for letters:** Letters up to 400 words will get preference. Please provide your full first name and surname, place of residence, and a daytime contact telephone or cell number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.

**Disclaimer:** The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report

## TURN ON TO CNN TO VIEW THE SECOND HOLOCAUST

ONCE MORE David Saks (SA Jewish Report, July 9) has provided us with an excellent piece on the absurdity of the so-called "one-state solution" favoured by leftwing extremists and Islamists such as the demand by Islamists and leftwing fanatics that the solution to the conflict must be one unitary "Palestine".

This would take place after millions of Arabs had been brought into Israel under the so-called "right of return", namely those who claim descent from Arabs who fled Israel during the hostilities that the Arabs started during the 1948 War of Independence.

Together with the West Bank and Gaza Arabs, the Arabs would constitute a majority and the Jews an unprotected minority. The Jewish control of the one tiny safe haven for Jews, would erode and the Jews would be a threatened minority - the very fate that the establishment of Israel sought to end. We know that minorities are most often persecuted and in many cases subjected to genocide in Arab countries. The most likely outcome of the "one-state solution" would be a Rwanda-style genocide of the Jews in Israel - a Second Holocaust.

If this happened, those who howl about the rights of the Palestinians would simply turn on CNN and enjoy the show.

Do not forget about the hatred and determination to kill, instilled in Palestinian children through the Palestinian education system and Hamas-run programmes. The Israel-haters - Islamic, leftist or neo-Nazi - arguably enjoy the murder of Jewish women and children in Israel, who they believe deserve to die just for being Israeli, just as Hitler believed Jews deserved to die just for being Jews.

## HAS BERNBERG MUSEUM BEEN DEMOLISHED ILLEGALLY?

YOUR REPORT in the edition of July 9 on the demolition of the old Bernberg Costume Museum gives rise to a number of questions: was the building older than 60 years? I strongly suspect that it was. If this is the case, was a permit for the demolition obtained from the Provincial Heritage Authority, as is required by the National Heritage Resources Act, (Act 25 of 1999)?

## FOND MEMORIES OF STORK CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG

THANKS TO various readers who responded, and who all had fond and happy memories of the Stork Club, Dorchester and Churchills in Johannesburg in the 1940s and '50s.

One reader said: "The Stork Club was the top night club in Johannesburg, if not in South Africa." Others remembered some of Johannesburg's great musicians, bands and

## FAIR SKINNED PEOPLE MAY BE REPLACED BY BROWN SKINNED INDIANS

IN YOUR editorial "Build it and they will come", you ask the question: "...has this turnaround shown what we are capable of when we set our minds to it? And if we set our minds to tackling poverty with similar dedication, can we not succeed there too?"

There is a route to success. I quote RW Johnson (Business Day 7/7/10) commenting on the success of the stadiums: "Nobody bothered about the skin colour of the architects, surveyors, engineers and contractors who built the stadiums or the Gautrain - we used the best available" An article by Beth Shirley (Business Day 6/7/10) states: "Unskilled officials undermine projects", such as municipal managers

## HYPOCRISY WOULD'VE MADE REBBE CRINGE

RABBIS WHO drink their congregants under the table, who force alcohol on others, and one particular rabbi who gets a kick out of running around with a contraption called a "funnel" pouring beer down people's throats. They are an embarrassment to the Lubavitcher Rebbe and Chabad as an Orthodox outreach movement.

## LOOKING FOR...

## INFORMATION ON LADISMITH GORDONS REQUESTED

"ADA" IS looking for anyone that is related to or knows any descendants of the Gordon family, originally from of Ladismith, Cape

## FOR THE RECORD

## Sorry, 'Next Door', for running non-kosher pizza pic

IN THE issue of SA Jewish Report of July 9, 2010, in the Kosher Shopping and Dining supplement, we ran a picture with the "Next Door" advert that was not supplied by the client, but that we merely used to "enhance" the copy. The pizza depicted, unfortunately contained meat - which we did not

How well did the "unitary state" work in Lebanon, where hundreds of thousands of Christian Lebanese were massacred by the PLO and Syrians and went from being a majority in 1975 to a minority today?

How well did the Animist and Christian Nilotic blacks in Darfur and Southern Sudan fare in Sudan, where millions have been massacred, or the Kurds in Iraq where 800 000 were butchered by Saddam Hussein?

We all know how minorities fare in Arab countries and what makes anyone think the Jews in the suggested "unitary Palestine" would fare any better, given the amount of hate in Palestinian society for Israel's Jews?

Ask any minorities in Islamic Arab states such as Copts, Assyrians, Druze, any Christians in Islamic states, etc how they have fare under Arab rule.

Why, out of a massive landmass under Arab control covering about 10 per cent of the planet, and 22 Arab states - is it regarded as such an injustice that a number of Arabs should be a minority in a Jewish state?

Jewish statelessness had led to the slaughter of six million Jews during the Holocaust.

The meaning of Israel is clear: The Jew has experienced too much death, and a portion of the Jewish people decided that they would die quietly no more (especially after Hitler's Holocaust). So it is. And no argument, no clever political talk, no logic and no parading of right and wrong, can change this fact. The Jews returned to Israel because it was their ancient land.

**Gary Selikow  
Johannesburg**

I strongly suspect that no such permit was obtained. If not, does the owner of the property - the Johannesburg City Council - imagine, like so many other branches of government, that it is above the law? I strongly suspect that it does.

**William Gaul  
Parktown, Johannesburg**

singers of the time - Charles Berman's orchestra, Harold Roy's orchestra, Silva Bera, Maureen Donne, Jimmy Rayson and Alfred Herbert's African Jazz and Variety, etc.

**Barry Bloch  
Toronto  
Canada**

who have three years' experience or less.

I can't see affirmative action being overruled - (it appears in the Constitution). However, I foresee the problem will resolve itself; most fair skinned skilled people will emigrate and be replaced by Asian immigrants (predominantly of Indian origin) as they qualify for affirmative action privileges.

A positive for a white-free economy is that their replacements (such as from India) will work for significantly lower wages, which is beneficial for the economy or what's left of it.

**John Brenner  
Johannesburg**

The sheer hypocrisy is absolutely astounding that many of the very people who abuse alcohol on a regular Shabbos or Yomtov, are the ones running a drug rehabilitation programme.

**Leon Forman  
Johannesburg**

Province.

She can be contacted at (011) 646-9538 or e-mail perltx@mweb.co.za

## ONLY ME SOLUTION IS FOR PALESTINIANS TO 'RELOCATE' TO ARAB LANDS

AS A non-Jewish outsider, perhaps the editor might allow me to voice my opinion about the land between the Jordan River, the Mediterranean, the Golan Heights and the Egyptian/Gaza border.

For over 6 000 years there has been war across this land, although the Hebrew/Jews have always laid claim to it.

Firstly, (there had been wars) by the Egyptians, then the Hittites, the Assyrians, Persians, Macedonian Greeks, the Romans and various Crusader armies.

In 600 AD Muhammad and his Muslims attempted to replace the Hebrew Jehovah with his Islamic beliefs, invading this land. The Ottoman Turks occupied, overran and administered the whole of what was then the Muslim empire.

The Sunni and Shiites ever since have been fighting as to who is his legitimate heir or khalif, I understand.

After 400 years, in 1917, the Ottoman Turks were evicted by General Allenby and his British Army. Unfortunately for them the Turks had sided with the Kaiser's Germany. As part of the First World War, post-war settlement administration of the Middle East lands was allocated to France and Britain. This disputed land was allocated to Britain; all the other parts were separately dealt with.

After the Second World War (1939 - 1945) with the German and Russian anti-Jewish pogroms, as many survivors and others relocated to this land, challenging the British occupation/administration, with all that that implied. There was no other option.

Because of Arabic Muslim population pressure as a result of their anti-contraception and anti-family planning, serious confrontation was inevitable.

Currently the Arab Muslims and their allies, particularly the Iranians, have

loudly and publicly declared their genocidal intension to eradicate the Jewish occupants

Because the Jewish technological, industrial, financial and agricultural productivity is so different from that of the Muslims - in favour of the Hebrew/Jewish community - as well as the historic circumstances, integration is now impossible and confrontation inevitable.

Furthermore, the current Muslim population is entirely dependent on financial subsidisation from the Muslim oil exporting lands and Egypt. Because of the constantly made threats to exterminate the Jewish population, this confrontation is not amenable to any political solution other than the complete separation of both parties. Years of political to-ing and fro-ing has proved useless.

Because the Muslim Arabic population calling themselves Palestinians, are now obviously proved to be a violent, unruly, obstinate and unproductive people nobody wants, it is the threat throughout all this business, coupled with an excessive, unsustainable population increase. They are a population which their supporters will do anything to keep out!

The best solution is that this land be an entirely Hebrew Jewish country. The so-called Palestinian Muslims of Arabic origin, should be offered the option to relocate to the vast Muslim Arab lands. This would save themselves an insurmountable financial burden.

This is not radical but will end the conflict which must otherwise be settled by nothing less than Armageddon and total annihilation of one or other side, with all the danger involved.

**Dr W M Pitt Fennell  
Randburg**

## HENCE THE 'THREE-STATE SOLUTION'!

NOBEL PEACE Prize winner and 15 year patron, F W de Klerk, said on June 30 at a Peres Centre for Peace" conference, as reported in the SA Jewish Report of July 9: "All problems are solvable with the right approach."

David Saks and a university honours student agree in the same issue that the "one-state solution" appears doomed to fail.

The "two-state solution" for the Middle East was not feasible, Alon Liel, former Israeli ambassador to South Africa stated, also in the same issue.

Tony Blair, former British Prime

## ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS HAVE AGENDA TO EXTERMINATE JEWS

WHEN I read about the recent accusations against Israel, I cannot but smell a dead rat in it! The fanatical extremists in the worldwide Islamic community have a set agenda to exterminate Jews, which they are pushing, even by creating confrontation in this way with Israel.

It seems like a repeat of the Holocaust happening under the noses of the international community, with the international community sitting on their hands! Will the world again be silent when humanity is disgraced by a second round of acts against the Jews and in a larger scenario, against Israel in a Holocaust way?

Since the day the two sons of Abraham came into life, the older brother Ishmael allowed an unwarranted offence to grow in his heart towards his younger brother Isaac. Instead of dealing with the offence in a G-dly manner, Ishmael allowed the offence to grow into bitterness and hatred in his heart. This was perpetuated till this very day.

Generation after generation of Ishmael's descendants took part in it. They even propagated this hatred to other national and ethnic groups around the world who decided to embrace Islam! How evil can this get?! To harbour an offence towards your neighbour is against the teachings of the Qur'an. However, this teaching is ignored in

Minister, is known to say: "There is a third way." Hence, the "three-state solution"!

This "solution" is for Egypt to be granted a United Nations mandate to again administer Gaza as pre-1967, and for the official Palestinian state - Jordan - to administer 17 per cent to 21 per cent of the West-Bank initially (London Foreign Office ME desk).

Details of this proposal are available on [www.millenniumproject.com](http://www.millenniumproject.com)

**Dr Gerald Levin  
Bureau for African Synergies  
Johannesburg**

favour of living in hatred towards the Jews and towards Israel and seeking the destruction of Israel.

Isn't it time for "older brother Ishmael and his descendants" to step up to the block and do the right thing for a change? Aren't the conditions in Gaza, the West Bank, etc the own making of Ishmael's descendants and the Islamic world?

Aren't the Jews entitled to a place under the sun on this very earth? The vast majority of the Middle East belongs to the Arab/Islamic nations, while Jewish Israel, the size of a postage stamp on a football field, is not allowed to have land. This seems to be obviously wrong!

Aren't we blessed when we are giving to others? How about the descendants of Ishmael and the Islamic world start giving to Jewish Israel based on this principle? It will be a joyous day when the Arab/Islamic nations will open their doors and hearts for the resettlement of all non-Jews in Israel, such as in Gaza, the West Bank, etc to their countries and to return these areas in Israel to the Jewish people of Israel.

As a non-Jew, my voice shall never be silent when the well-being of the Jews is threatened, as the majority of the international community was silent during the past 2 000 years.

**Herman Kleynhans  
Pretoria**

**WHY IS ISRAEL SINGLED OUT FOR SELECTIVE MORALITY?**

LETTER COLUMNS in newspapers... radio talk shows so obsessed with the plight of Palestinians in Gaza, or so they claim... in reality isn't this simply a ruse to demonise Israel?

Anything that Israel does is magnified out of all proportion; on July 8 an insignificant news bar scrolled at the bottom of the e-news channel reporting on 12 civilians killed by a botched bombing raid in Afghanistan by the US, barely made the news. If this had happened in Gaza, the West Bank or Lebanon, we would have seen screaming headlines claiming another massacre by Israel - and how the media would milk such a story!

It seems that it is politically incorrect to print or discuss human rights abuses in Arab and Muslim (or African) countries. Strangely enough, while we of course expect a reaction from the Muslim community, Jews among us seem more virulent and vicious in attacking Israel.

It is ever so fashionable around the dinner tables of our liberal, intellectual, politically correct brethren to do a bit of Israel bashing, garnishing support from J Street in the US.

After CNN reported on the invaluable work done by the Israeli medical team in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake there, a British member of the House of

Lords eluded to accusations about body part harvesting by the team. On being questioned about her remark she answered: "The IDF and the Israeli Medical Association should establish an 'independent inquiry immediately' to clear the names of the team in Haiti." It's no wonder Baroness Jenny Tonge was sacked by the Liberal Democrats.

In Iran Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, a mother of two, "convicted" of adultery in 2006, was forced to confess and has already suffered 99 lashes and heaven knows what else, languishing in an Iranian prison. She is currently under sentence of death by stoning.

According to Amnesty International she will be buried up to her chest and stones large enough to cause maximum pain will be hurled at her - but not kill her immediately. Death must come very slowly. This is nothing new in Iran.

Saudi Arabia's method of execution is beheading by sword. Pakistan ranks third in the world after China and Iran with over 3 000 people on death row and until recently many were under the age of 18.

In Gaza those accused of spying for Israel are simply shot without recourse to any legal process, not even a "kangaroo court".

Girls as young as 10 and 11 forced into arranged marriages. According to the latest

**NETZER APPEALS FOR EQUAL TREATMENT IN KING DAVID SCHOOLS**

NETZER SOUTH Africa has been without equal representation in the Jewish community for nearly a decade. Affirming that no body or organisation should have a monopoly over Judaism, we call for equal treatment of the movement in the King David Schools.

It is because of the Progressive Jewish aspect of Netzer's ideology that the Jewish Board of Education sees fit to exclude Netzer from equal access to the King David Schools.

While the other Zionist youth movements may run activities and promote their events in front of all learners, Netzer has harsh boundaries that prohibit its members from doing so.

At the beginning of 2008, the King David Schools held an open day where institutions of higher education and youth movements could present post-matric study and gap-year options. Shortly before this event, Netzer was uninvited on the grounds that it was a Progressive movement.

Even after letters of protest from both Netzer and the South African Union for Progressive Judaism were sent to the Board and the schools, no response was given.

Only six months later was a letter sent to Netzer, stating that its involvement in the Jewish day schools was to be limited according to the Board's requirements. These requirements are still imposed upon Netzer's activities:

Netzer madrichim may run activities in a closed classroom, but this activity is for already-Netzer-affiliated channichim.

**HEREDITARY DISORDERS OF BLOOD COAGULATION FACTORS AMONG JEWS**

FACTOR XI (plasma thromboplastin antecedent) deficiency is frequently found among Ashkenazi Jews.

This is picked up on routine bloods such as partial thromboplastin times. The prothrombin time is usually normal. There is no excess bleeding after trauma; yet (they) still bleed excessively after next surgery.

In terms of treatment or therapy, the factor XI level must be kept at greater than 30 per cent with fresh frozen plasma 5-20 ml/kg/day. The inheritance is autosomal recessive. In Israel the incidence is eight per cent among Ashkenazi Jews.

Factor XI deficiency is also known as Rosenthal Syndrome or Haemophilia C.

Certain procedures carry an increased

risk of bleeding, such as tonsillectomies, dental extractions and childbirth. Nosebleeds may be severe as may menorrhagia.

Sometimes the child may bleed excessively, for instance at circumcision.

But they do not bleed as severely as haemophiliacs (factor VIII deficiency) and rarely present with haemarthroses. Bleeding is usually from mucousal surfaces.

Factor XI concentrate is available but is difficult to obtain. The amount of factor XI in fresh frozen plasma is minimal and for this reason large volumes of fresh frozen plasma have to be given.

Ashkenazi Jews are usually of European descent and Sephardi Jews are usually of Spanish descent. But non-Jews may present

**HEARSE CREW DID NOT TREAT BODY WITH ANY RESPECT**

I WAS at Pick n Pay, Park Meadow, recently. As I was coming out a shop I happened to witness a gentleman aged 59, collapse. He unfortunately passed away, having suffered a major heart attack. His birthday was meant to be yesterday (Thursday).

They had summoned an ambulance which took 30 minutes to get to the scene. It was too late as this gentleman had already passed on. His wife and daughters were with him.

The hearse arrived two and a half hours later. The man had been left lying there for two and a half hours under foil paper. When the hearse arrived, the crew were totally undignified and showed a total lack of respect towards the dead. They showed no

compassion.

They uncovered the foil to make sure it was him and left him uncovered. They put him in a plastic bag and tied a knot as if it were a piece of meat. No sheet, nothing.

His two daughters were in a state of anxiety and shock and were taking it very, very hard. To let two young daughters be exposed to this, really, it is cruel and inhuman.

For the hearse to arrive more than two hours later and not explain why they are late and show hardly any compassion to the family who are in a state of grief and in shock... Where is the respect and dignity for the dead?

I am really so sad for these poor daughters

UN Report there are more than 50 million young girls forced into marriage and a life of misery and servitude in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

The official marriageable age for girls in Iran is nine years old!

Please don't mention these things around the dinner tables of the politically correct lest they dampen their appetites - demeaning and slandering Israel is a far more savoury topic over a glass of good wine.

In April this year the UN elected Iran to its Commission on the Status of Women. Iran joins the likes of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Belarus, China, Cuba, and Libya - all great beacons of women's and human rights!

Is the plight of the people of Gaza more urgent than the plight of our own people here at home suffering under abysmal healthcare conditions, condemning children to a life of hopelessness due to our failed education system?

Our government is quick to recall its ambassador from Israel, yet wines and dines Mugabe while denying entry to the Dalai Lama.

Yes, we live in a politically correct world gone mad!

**Allan Wolman  
Norwood, Johannesburg**

"Orthodox only". Jews of Progressive, Conservative, Traditional and secular streams are alienated and made to feel illegitimate in their Jewish identities.

In a community that is so vibrant and home to many different Jewish schools of thought, Orthodoxy cannot be considered the only "real" Judaism.

Before King David adopted its strictly Orthodox education policy, the school was a largely secular environment which incorporated lively and necessary Jewish aspects. No Jewish stream hatefully imposed itself on another.

Today, however, the majority of the schools' pupils and families are still secular (and possibly with Orthodox affiliation, but secular nonetheless) but the Board insists that Orthodoxy is the only legitimate means of education. We cannot stand for this.

A place of education should be one that preaches open-mindedness, tolerance and inclusiveness - in the spirit of open and democratic education - not one of closed-mindedness, bigotry and exclusivity.

Even if the school chooses to adopt an Orthodox Jewish education policy, it cannot limit other streams of Judaism in its informal sector, specifically with regard to youth movements.

**Russell Cohen (Maskil)  
Wendywood  
Johannesburg**

*This letter has been slightly shortened. - Editor*

with the disorder, largely due to assimilation.

There are two predominant mutations, type II and III (using an older classification system). The type III mutation is an amino acid substitution (Phe283Leu) resulting in a missense mutation. This results in impaired dimerisation and secretion of the FXI molecule.

The second is the type II mutation which causes premature chain termination and results in very low levels of circulating FXI.

The type II mutation also has been found in Iraqi Jewish and Israeli Arabic descent. Both mutations are thought to originate from a common founder, one occurring before and one after the divergence of the Jewish people.

**Dr H D Solomons  
Highlands North, Johannesburg**

and the mother. I really am heart sore and I hope that no-one else will have to go through this type of disrespectful and inhuman behaviour ever again. I am horrified at what I witnessed and very angry with this funeral company.

I would like to end off by wishing this poor family long life, strength and may they know no further tragedies. I would just like the two young daughters especially to know that my thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time and I share my pain and grief with them. May this person have eternal rest.

**Joel Klompas  
Bramley, Johannesburg**

**ABOVE BOARD**

**Zev Kregel,  
National Chairman**

*A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies*

**Take a bow, South Africa!**

AMONG THE many international figures who have showered praise on South Africa for its wonderful World Cup achievement, is London Mayor Boris Johnson. Writing at first-hand in the Daily Telegraph (a conservative publication that hardly can be accused of excessive political correctness), he described the first African World Cup as "a joyous success", one which would breed confidence for the future.

The sheer number of visitors would help to "open the eyes of the world to South Africa and its potential for trade and investment". What was more, the much feared impact of crime had been negligible; there has not been a single serious incident of crime or violence in any of the fan parks.

In short, Johnson wrote, Fifa had taken "an inspired decision to give the World Cup to South Africa, and South Africa responded brilliantly".

It has been a heady few months, and I am delighted that our community - from the rabbonim, educators, communal leaders down to the youth - made itself so much a part of it. This week, the country returned to "normal", but the positive energy generated by its resounding achievement is still with us.

It is this energy that all of us, each in his or her own way, should seek to harness in our efforts to help build a better South Africa for all.

**SA Jewry's relationship with government**

Footballing metaphors abounded in the presentation given by our National Director Wendy Kahn, on the above topic to the Union of Jewish Women on Monday. They were a most effective way of conveying our own thinking and strategising when it comes to interacting with government.

"Make sure you play the ball - if you don't you can't be part of the excitement! Keep on the field ñ it's much better to be a participant than a spectator" - these exhortations relate to the importance of always being engaged, in touch and involved.

What happens when difficulties and disagreements ensue? Accept in such cases that "the pitch is not always smooth, and sometimes the decisions against us are unfair, but that shouldn't keep you from playing".

Finally, we should "blow our vuvuzela, make a noise and declare ourselves as proud Jewish South Africans".

Wendy identified the big positives about being Jewish South Africans, in which regard government and our democratic institutions play a key part. These were the consistent upholding of our civil (in particular religious) rights, consistently low anti-Semitism levels and the excellent access the Board has to government when issues of importance to the Jewish community need to be addressed.

What does prove more of a challenge is calling for government to have an even-handed approach to the Middle East situation. Although government has been consistent in its call for a two-state solution and its commitment to retaining diplomatic ties, it is something we continue to watch carefully.

It is here, of course, even more so than in areas where consensus already exists, that the process of constant engagement is most important. It is only by being on the field of play that we can have an opportunity to express a contrary view, thereby hopefully influencing what takes place in the future.

*This column is paid for by the SAJBD*



Kaleidoscope Kids jumping and bumping thanks to jumping castles lent to them.

## Kaleidoscope Kids warm the hearts of those in need

ALISON GOLDBERG  
PHOTOGRAPH: CHANA RIVKA LEWIN

KALEIDOSCOPE Kids is a well-known holiday fun school run by Chana Rivka Lewin, who has been a nursery school teacher at Torah Academy for many years. She has been a valued "Friend of Yad Aharon & Michael Tzedokah Food Fund" for many years and the organisation has benefited from numerous Kaleidoscope Kids' initiatives.

July 1 was no exception. Lewin spent many months planning a collection of soup greens and vegetables for Yad's recipient needy families and her decision to ask parents to send money donations with their children meant that Fruit and Veg City at The Wedge, in Rivonia, could put together a colourful and nutritious array of vegetables which would make a perfect winter soup.

Thanks also go to the little "campers", Daniel and Yakira Levy for their donation in memory of their mom Devorah Leah and to Shimi and Ayelet Block for their contribution in the name of their zaida, Tzvi Ben Tzion.

The children enjoyed a cup of soup and noodles and an ice cream while being treated to an educational puppet show, illustrating the benefits of planting and growing one's own produce and ways to give to others with a happy heart.

This worthwhile project was duplicated on July 6 under the auspices of Kaleidoscope Kids at Chabad of Sandton and Alice Friedman of Yad Aharon was there to thank the children for performing the mitzvah of chesed with so much simcha! Representatives from Fruit and Veg City arrived again, with a car load of bags of potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, butter-nuts, carrots and giant marrows.

This collection was largely sponsored by Chantal Solomons and Saul Ezakowitz in

the name of their mother, "Granny Pam", renowned for her kindness and generosity. Friedman, MD of Yad Aharon, remarked that, even though a person passed on and left the physical world, acts of chesed sensitively celebrated and perpetuated the memory of the departed.

What better mitzvah to do so than by assisting Jewish brethren who had fallen on hard times? she asked.

"Kol hakavod to Chana Rivka for encouraging her little 'campers' to also contribute to the project, thereby instilling in them the love of giving from a young age," she said.

In keeping with the upcoming theme of Mandela Day on July 18 (to commemorate Nelson Mandela's birthday), giving to others, Kaleidoscope Kids at Chabad in Sandton was also treated to an even more super warm-up than expected. Bumpy Jumpy Castles loaned them a jumping castle for their enjoyment.

Lewin says jumping castles integrate harmoniously with very essential educational benefits of fantasy play and gross motor activity, which were afforded to the young jumping Jacks.

Yad Aharon & Michael currently assists over 560 families in the community, with weekly fresh produce parcels. Initiatives such as these enable Yad Aharon to "stretch" that little bit further and supplement their standard food boxes with much-needed "extras" which their recipient families regard as "treats".

Lewin is currently working on devising an interactive booklet on the subject, which she hopes to distribute nationally.

As for Brian Mervis, he will gladly make little children's dreams come true as they bounce with food fun into some very exciting jumping castles, like wishful wizards. He may be contacted on 082-227-8537. To order or find out more log on to [www.bumpyjumpycastles.co.za](http://www.bumpyjumpycastles.co.za).

## Great Pretoria soccer treat for Arcadia children's Home

DIANE WOLFSON  
PRETORIA

THE CHILDREN at Arcadia Children's Home in Johannesburg were treated to a day's outing and being spoilt in Pretoria recently.

A member of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation who wishes to remain anonymous, bought tickets for the 14 youngsters from the Home as well as for their carers, to the USA football game at

Loftus Versfeld and gave each one a USA scarf, vuvuzela and money for refreshments at the game.

Although the donor had asked the PHC to arrange lunch at the shul prior to the game, which he would also sponsor, Evan Seligmann, vice president of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation announced that the shul would provide the lunch as their contribution to Arcadia.

This outing was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



## ORT SA GFL learners are well on their way

LISA MORALEE  
PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

ORT SA's integrated Geared for Life learners are a third of the way to obtaining a tertiary qualification, which is a fantastic accomplishment, considering that their average age is 16. In light of this achievement, ORT SA held an "end of year" celebration for these learners.

The Geared for Life programme piloted in September 2009, whereby 200 grade 10 pupils began year one of the three year programme. The rationale behind the programme is to split a one year tertiary qualification over the final three years of high school.

Although the learners did not have a full year to complete the coursework, they put in a great effort to stay on track with the programme. The "end of year" celebration was held earlier this month to acknowledge their achievement thus far.

These pupils attend the following schools: Waverly Girls High; Sandringham High; Torah Academy; Yeshiva College; and King David Linksfield. The programme is also

run in Alexandra high schools.

The Geared for Life programme is sponsored and accredited by Services SETA and is run by ORT SA's skills development department. "We also work closely with the GDE (Gauteng Department of Education)," says ORT SA's skills development HOD, Tracy Mayhew.

"Geared for Life gives learners the upper hand, as they obtain a National Qualification Framework certificate (NQF 4) alongside their matric certificate." The tertiary subjects include marketing, project management, nail technology and paralegal. Learners also gain valuable experience as each qualification is 70 per cent practical and 30 per cent theoretical.

Certificates are only awarded on condition that participants complete matric.

"The rarity of having experience at a matric level will increase these learners' employment opportunities," says ORT SA CEO, Brad Rosmarin. Keeping with ORT SA's philosophy of "Educating for Life", the programme prepares learners for the world of work at a young age.



## Holocaust and Genocide Centre: Launch of twinning programme

ONE AND a half million children died in the Holocaust. These children did not have a chance to live full lives and achieve their hopes and dreams.

The Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre is dedicated to the memory of victims of genocide and education that teaches about the consequences of prejudice, racism and discrimination and an understanding of the dangers of indifference, apathy and silence.

The Centre said in a media release its new envisaged "Twinning Programme" will assist bar-/batmitzvah boys/girls to learn about the Holocaust in a personal way, by researching and honouring the life of one child who did not have a chance to reach this joyous milestone, because of the events of the Shoah.

Natanya Joseph is twinned with Naomi Posinova, who died in the Holocaust in 1944 at the age of 12.

### In memory of Naomi Posinova

Naomi Posinova was born in 1932 on January 4, in Prague, Czechoslovakia. She was an only child but part of a large family. Max, her father was a hat maker and owner of a plastics factory. Rachel, her mother was a housewife.

Prague was a large urban city and home



Naomi Posinova



Natanya Joseph

to one of Europe's oldest Jewish communities. Jews contributed greatly to the economy of the city and played a great role in its rich cultural life. In March 1939 the Germans occupied Prague. Jews were not allowed to work in their professions, their homes were taken away and they were not allowed to take part in religious, cultural or other forms of public activities.

Children could not go to public schools; Jews could not use public transport or telephones. From October 1941 to March 1945 the Germans deported 46 067 Jews from Prague to the death camps.

In August 1942, Naomi and her parents were sent to the Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia where Naomi's father made caps and her mother worked in a children's home. Even though children over 10 were forced to work, Naomi managed to continue studying.

The camps were horrible. There was terrible overcrowding, not enough food and very few decent toilets. Every day there were "selections" and those chosen were sent to Auschwitz and Treblinka. In 1944 Naomi and her parents were selected to go to Auschwitz. Soon after they arrived Naomi and her mother were sent to the gas chambers.

Naomi was 12 years old.

# Build, Buy or Renovate



A supplement compiled by Marlene Bilewitz. Cell 083-475-0288, (011) 023-8160 or e-mail: marbil@global.co.za

## 'There's no place like home' remains a true adage

BARRY BILEWITZ

IN THE MIDST of battle, Richard III wasn't too interested in the type of mount he could be supplied with; he just needed one desperately. So desperately in fact, that according to Shakespeare, he was willing to offer his kingdom for it. He wanted a charger or warhorse.

Nowadays most couples aren't too concerned with the type of horse they may own. But they do know what they like when it comes to the style of house they live in, or would like to live in. The choices are many, from Cape Dutch to post-modern.

The most popular dwelling before the arrival of European settlers to this country, was the round rondavel-type dwelling, made from materials which could be easily obtained locally. What makes the rondavel structure so practical is that no internal struts are required for the



## Floors Direct Illovo, proud of its wooden floors



FLOORS DIRECT is proud to introduce its brand new showroom in Illovo, offering the very best in wooden flooring, carpets and blinds.

"We are thrilled about our new showroom and look forward to introducing our stylish wooden flooring products to the community," says David Eckley, store manager of Floors Direct Illovo.

This national chain offers the latest styles and colours in laminate, engineered, solid and bamboo flooring and stocks top carpet brands such as Belgotex, Nouwens, Crossley and Van Dyck.

Wooden floors are an asset in any home and Floors Direct offers products that are beautiful, fashionable, cost effective and affordable. Kronotex laminates, a reputable manufacturer of laminates in Germany, are available at Floors Direct and come with the Floors Direct lifetime guarantee.

Floors Direct has knowledgeable salespeople and offers free professional onsite assess-

ments and quotations. They provide samples on request, which you can take home to view in the room where you intend to lay the floor.

At Floors Direct you'll find all the tools you need to install a wooden floor, from plastic underlays, profiles, skirtings, protective felt pads for your furniture to cleaning and maintenance products to keep your brand-new floor in top condition.

Other services the company offers include matching profiles, technical expertise, professional installations as well as DIY-friendly, quick and easy installations.

Floors Direct is a member of the Southern African Wood & Laminate Flooring Association. Visit the Illovo showroom to browse the displays over a cup of their delicious coffee.

Contact Floors Direct Illovo on cell no 083-264-7064 or visit the store at 40 Central Avenue, corner Oxford Street and Central Avenue, Illovo. For a store closest to you, contact 0861 1 FLOORS nationwide, or visit their website [www.floorsdirect.co.za](http://www.floorsdirect.co.za)

roof. The poles running radially from the top of the roof to the top of the wall, are supported by circular purlins - a horizontal member in a roof - which prevent the poles from sagging or putting a splaying pressure against the walls.

These rondavels can still be found all over southern Africa, especially in under-developed areas. More modern versions are usually utilised as outbuildings on farms and as luxury accommodation in game lodges, to blend in with the rustic environment.

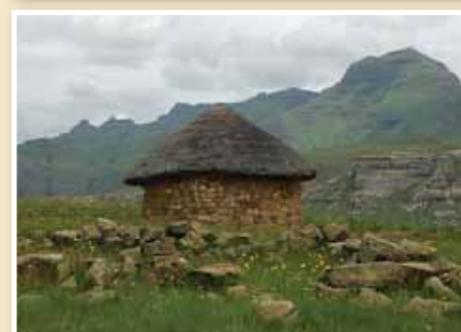
Cape Dutch was the first prominent style used in the country by settlers brought out to the Cape by the Dutch East India Company. Influenced by diverse styles - from mediaeval Dutch to Malay, it is distinguished by whitewash walls, central gables over the entrance and reed-thatch roofs.

British-born Herbert Baker incorporated Cape Dutch aesthetics into some of his Edwardian creations in the late 19th and early 20th century designs.

Art deco swept the world from the 1920s to the 1930s, although this movement in style started in 1910, it was named after Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes in Paris, 1925. In South Africa we can see many fine examples of this type of design in many of the houses of Lower Houghton and even in the central business district of Springs on the East Rand. There has been a strong revival in art deco buildings - in 2005 Old Mutual's magnificent building in Cape Town, now called Mutual Heights, was revamped into residential and holiday apartments.

The new art deco DaVinci Hotel on Sandton Square, boasts 166 rooms situated below 54 apartments and four penthouses and the Argyle - also in Sandton - offers luxury urban living in the bright elegance of the Roaring Twenties.

The Cape was ceded to the British Empire after the Napoleonic wars which ended in 1815. With the British influence, Georgian architecture began to establish itself in Cape Town and five years later, started to spread to the Eastern Cape with the arrival of the 1820 Settlers.



Georgian is a very symmetrical, rectangular or boxy style, which has been widely disseminated to the former British colonies. Recently, there has also been a revival in this style, especially where large residential properties in upmarket suburbs have been subdivided, as the Georgian shapes tend to optimise the number of dwellings that can be erected within the property boundaries.

Other imported styles used by architects for South African residences are "American Ranch" - popular in the 1950s and '60s, Bauhaus (International Style), Tuscan, Mediterranean and French Provencal.

Major styles have evolved into more specific - usually regional - designs such as Spanish and Eastern Mediterranean. The profusion of choices can be bewildering.

The most important criterion then, is not what style is currently the most fashionable, it is how comfortable your home can feel to the body and mind of you and your family - and of course, your pocket.

**BUILD, BUY OR RENOVATE**

# Introducing daylight - Tony Sandell Roof Windows

*Tony Sandell Roof Windows, established in 1989, is the sole South African manufacturer of centre pivot roof windows and has 22 years' experience in the roof windows industry.*

TSRW HAS developed a roof window which is specifically suited to the harsh South African conditions. To date we have fitted over 40 000 roof windows nationwide.

Previously marketed as SOLIS, TSRW is known to most South African architects who have supported and specified our product over the past two decades.

With the recent upsurge in "Green Building" practices, TSRW finds itself in an enviable position to be a leader in servicing the residential market. By specifying roof windows, the architect is introducing natural light into an otherwise dark area, thus saving on electricity as well as allowing extra ventilation when needed.

Glazing options include anti-sun grey (ASG), PVB laminates and Low E Double Glazing. Further special glazing requirements can also be met.

Along with the advent of properly insulated homes (through regulation and choice) the roof window has become an important aid in the regulation of temperature within the home. There is a strong trend in South Africa towards loft conversions (green rooms) as property prices soar.

Roof windows are uniquely suited to such loft areas as they provide all the advantages in one - light, ventilation, view,

cost efficiency.

At TSRW our handcrafted sub-frames are solid hardwood for increased durability and finished in natural varnish or white. The exterior frames are clad in corrosion and fade resistant charcoal aluminium (PVF2 coated), which together with the flashing kits are all roll-formed and pressed. All joints are double sealed to ensure a completely waterproof seal. Screws and hinges are stainless steel.

A wide range of standard sizes is available, with specials made to order. In addition to specific mechanical aluminium flashing systems for slate, roof sheets and tiles, TSRW offers special flashings for flat and low-pitched roofs, as well as thatch.

TSRW offers a full range of fixed skylights with built-in ventilators, condensation outlets, and ceiling trim grooves.

A full range of hand and crank operated blinds is available, as well as electric openers for out of reach roof windows.

Our nationwide team of agents can supply and fit roof windows in all major centres and beyond. TSRW offers a world-class product, manufactured right here in South Africa. Our 2 500m<sup>2</sup> premises in Ottery, Cape Town, boasts the finest purpose-built roof window and skylight machinery in South Africa.



## Introducing daylight...

**Tony Sandell Roof Windows is South Africa's biggest manufacturer of roof windows and skylights with over 40 000 windows fitted nationwide.**



Patented stainless steel hinges to withstand South Africa's harsh conditions



Precision craftsmanship



No project too big



UV protected glazing



Perfect for thatch roofs



Withstands bad weather



Any size or spec



Garden roof

1. Long Beach, Kammetjie
2. TSRW's patented stainless steel hinge
3. TSRW factory Sunset Industrial
4. Dolphin Beach resort
5. Spier Wine Estate
6. Obz Junction projects
7. Bishops court slate roofs
8. Thatch installations
9. Any size or spec by architects



## BUILD, BUY OR RENOVATE

# On World Cup high, embrace opportunities left in its wake

*With the Fifa World Cup and soccer mania behind, there is a sense of anticlimax as we hang up our vuvuzelas.*

**WENDY MACHANIK**  
CEO, WENDY MACHANIK PROPERTIES

ONE WOULD of course hope that in the eyes of the world South Africa has now taken on a new meaning, no longer a crime-stricken cauldron, defined by felony and hijacking. We have proved that as Africans we can measure up to the best, and what a show we produced!

The soccer dust settled; we return to sensibility. Speaking of sensibility: Property is top on the investment trail...

For South Africans, the World Cup was more than just a show. I believe it left a common thread of camaraderie. I have never seen a country unite and mobilise with one heart under one team and then when Bafana Bafana bowed out, we did it again, uniting with one front under Ghana.

bling infrastructure, which will fuel the private sector to return to development. Now government needs to turn its attention to the power shortages, which are still a major issue for all sectors of business and particularly the construction industry.

Statistics show that gross fixed capital formation must remain between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of GDP for an economy to grow and South Africa is around 21,5 per cent and targeted to reach 24 per cent by 2014, according to Minister Pravin Gordhan in his 2010 budget speech.

This will increase confidence in the private sector and build a healthy middle class, one of the greatest challenges South Africa has yet to face - but government can only do so much.

The signs are all there for South Africa to carry the momentum ignited by frenetic World

Now, South Africa, let us again mobilise this same patriotism as we are reminded of our responsibility to the voiceless, homeless millions who are yet to experience the dawn of the "new

South Africa".

I believe this World Cup has brought much more than soccer to our shores. Looking forward to a prosperous future.



**Wendy Machanik .**



**Well done South Africa on hosting a truly beautiful game - from all at Wendy Machanik Properties.**

The question begs: Will these tourists come back and visit our sunny country? I believe they will. The trend of owning investment properties overseas is undoubtedly the way to go. And as every foreigner will tell you, real estate in South Africa is remarkably inexpensive and a safe investment, long term.

Madiba's great African dream of homeownership for all, is becoming more of a reality as the government turns its focus to its commitment of affordable housing, engaging in infrastructural investment programmes of epic proportions.

Government proved it was feasible when the Gautrain was up and running ahead of schedule for the World Cup.

Government plays an important role in terms of fixed capital investment by establishing, ena-

Cup euphoria. We need more meaningful public-private sector partnership engagement, with government creating an enabling environment.

A prime example is the redevelopment programme in Johannesburg's inner city, where the entire landscape has changed, giving way to a renewed metropolitan milieu.

The question on everyone's lips is: Will the World Cup bring foreign investment to South Africa?

I believe a large percentage of the estimated one million overseas visitors, who discovered the secret of our motherland, with its magical, wild African spirit, will return. It is with this in mind that I urge government and the private sector to embrace this opportunity of optimising South Africa's amazing wealth and talent.



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WENDY MACHANIK PROPERTIES
WWW.WMP.CO.ZA



**Your strengths are activities that make you feel strong and when an activity makes you feel strong, you'll spend more time on it, and get even better.**

*"You learn the most where you know the most, and you'll grow the most where you're strongest"*

**Do what you're good at...**

*Says Wendy Machanik, CEO of Wendy Machanik Properties.*

When companies say, "our people are our greatest asset" - What they really mean is "Our people's strengths are our greatest asset." Yet most managers approach boosting performance backwards, focusing on trying to get employees to improve on their shortcomings, rather than build on their strengths.

**An individual's strengths encompass 4 elements:**

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# The art of stylishly mixing old and new

*Successfully mixing old and new is not as difficult or as daunting as it seems, says Andrea of Andrea's Attic.*



**Art Deco swing door from Afrox Building in downtown Johannesburg. Photograph courtesy of Flycatcher Castle in Graskop, Mpumalanga.**



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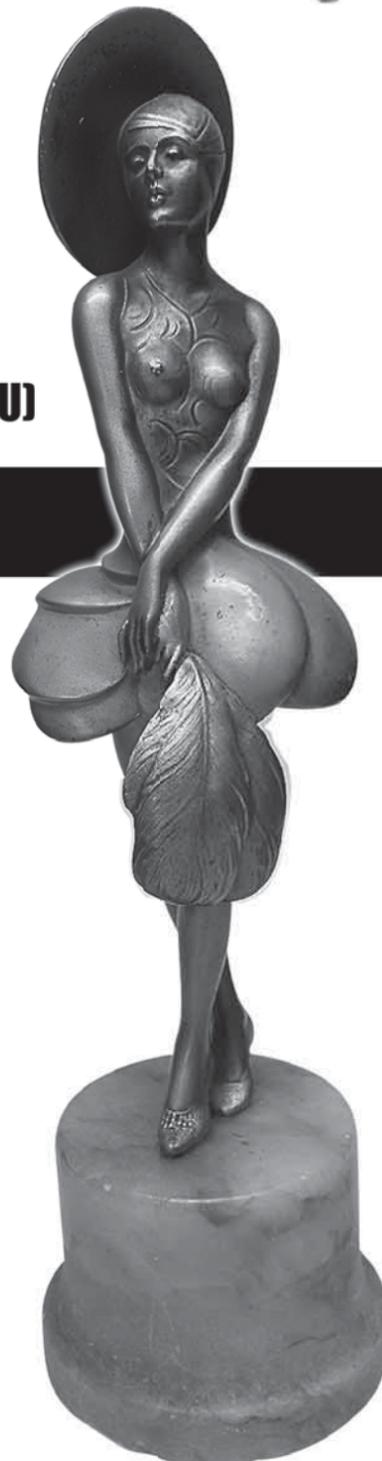
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WHILE MODERN society dictates that we have microwave ovens, flat screen TVs, computers and designer furniture, we all remember with fondness eating at Grandma's table, playing with toys on a thick rug and sleeping on a soft oversized bed.

Many of us have old items that we have inherited, are family heirlooms, or that were given to us at important and significant times of our lives, such as birthdays, weddings or anniversaries.

Combining these items with functional pieces is more often than not a necessity in our lives. Also, older furniture is usually of better quality than modern, mass-produced composite items. So why not use these items for everyday purposes?

Take for instance a 1950s Murano vase, a Royal Doulton dinner service and Victorian ginger jar to name but a few. Often these can be purchased at prices similar to new items. However, older items can give a sense of occasion, be good collectors' items and you can get good value when you use them.

Similarly, renovating that old table, re-enamelling an old bath, re-framing an old picture, putting an old frame on a new picture, using an old Victorian sideboard as a plasma stand, combining an old oak table with modern chairs, are all ways of re-inventing your living space.

This can be fun, innovative, creative and stimulating. So, next time you are decorating, why not re-paint, re-condition, restore or renovate that old solid, sentimental and paid for piece of furniture? You will be surprised at how easy it is to effectively combine items of yesteryear with pieces of the future.

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An Artist's impression of a typical interior view



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## BUILD, BUY OR RENOVATE

# At HNT, best value at best prices at all times

MARLENE BILEWITZ

AS ONE ENTERS the doors of HNT Furnishers, one is instantly aware of the fact that this store is here to offer the best value at the best prices, no extra trim or superfluous glamour - just real good value for money, with the very best service, knowledge, advice and attention possible.

The atmosphere is friendly and warm, supported by an accumulative 200 years of experience in furniture and home appliances from the three owners, Hilton Sawitsky, Nathan Fine and Tony Sacks, ably assisted by Mendel Meyer and Leonard Lees, whose patience is endless and friendly.

This owner-run business has all the ingredients to make one want to travel from far and wide as it is possible to fit out an en-

tire household from all the items in the same store.

There are 2 000 square metres of showroom floor space which is covered by furniture from display cabinets and coffee tables to lounge, dining room and bedroom suites; a huge range of best home appliances ranging from mid to top of the range brands and a wide variety of beds and base sets covering all the top name brands available.

Says Nathan: "If we haven't got what you want, tell us and we will get it for you." They have been known to assist with arrangements for those who are emigrating, giving advice on what electrical appliances can be used where, as well as introducing and advising on what shipping company to use.

Do yourself a favour and visit HNT Furnishers in Midways Mall, Bramley Gardens, where there is a 24/7 sale, 365 days a year.



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**Celia Gluckman receives a 100th birthday kiss from her daughter-in-law, Esther.**

## Centenarian Celia shows you can't keep a good gal down

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE BELLING

DRESSED TO the nines for the interview, feisty Celia Gluckman, who turned 100 yesterday (July 14), attributes her longevity to being a descendant of Russian peasants.

"I can't prove it but, my mother always thought so and I share her opinion," said this London-born resident of Our Parents Home in Johannesburg. She has been living there since 1992, but is sad that many of her peers and friends have since passed on.

"I don't feel any different from when I was 20, except that if I could get up and go, I'd get up and go," she laughed.

Had she led a particularly healthy lifestyle? Celia pooh-poohed the idea, saying she had smoked for several years.

But, according to her daughter-in-law, Esther, she was an active sportswoman. "And a knitter," chipped in Celia, who made many of the garments on sale in aid of Our Parents Home.

She misses her husband Maurice, who also came from England, but whom she met and married in South Africa.

"We had a hardware store on the Queen Elizabeth Bridge for many years and I was also secretary to the late Rabbi Moses Cyrus Weiler, a highlight of my life.

"My husband and I used to go on cruises. We went everywhere and visited Israel many times."

Mentioning the Queen Elizabeth Bridge jogged her memory.

"She (the Queen) had better send me a letter or a telegram - as well as being South African, I am still a British citizen!"

Whenever she can obtain transport to Saxonwold, Celia visits her "baby" sister, Nina Lakier, two-and-half years her junior.

She spends most of her time watching television or sharing her exceptional sense of humour with the matron and staff and enjoying visits from Esther, her son, David, and grandchildren Wayne (18) and Shoshana (14).

"I am just an ordinary person - you can't learn anything from me, you might as well write about the man in the moon," she said. "You can say I love pickled cucumbers!"

On second thoughts, she added her philosophy: "Don't expect other people to do what you expect them to do.

"I suppose I am still in this world because 'they' wanted me here. I am not ready to die, but I suppose nobody is ever ready for that."

# At 102 - audit of a full life

ROBYN SASSEN

LAST WEEK, one of Johannesburg's oldest soccer fans, celebrated a significant milestone. Victor Toker, once a first division soccer player in Benoni on the East Rand, and an ardent fan of the British Premier League, turned 102.

Celebrated by his nephew, (former Johannesburg mayor) Eddy Magid, Toker lives in Our Parents Home in northern Johannesburg and a small interruption from watching World Cup soccer replays, on July 7, enabled this photograph of Eddy and his son Harold with the birthday boy, to be taken.

Born and bred in 1908 in the then close-knit Jewish community in Benoni, Toker had six siblings. He attended Benoni High School and Maritz Brothers College in Johannesburg. A member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of South Africa, Toker worked,

until his retirement, as an accountant and auditor in public practice.

His nephew recalls that only two or three years ago (when he was about 100 years old), his uncle used to amuse himself by reading auditing textbooks. "It was important," he told Eddy, "to keep up to date."

Eddy recalled that his uncle also loves the Judge Judy series on TV. "He watches it very carefully, and then we debate her rulings."

A captain in the Technical Services Corps during the Second World War, Toker is described by his family as a straightforward gentleman. "He's a legend in our family," Magid fondly describes him.

"He lives a clean and honest life. He always worked very hard and picked himself up by his shoestrings without any assistance from anyone."

Toker has two children, Patricia and Martin, and five grandchildren.



**Eddy and his son Harold with the birthday boy, Victor Toker.**



## Even Jerusalem mayor is a soccer fan of note

Mayor Nir Barkat together with members of his family flew into Cape Town and then Durban to watch the semi-final soccer matches. He does not get a lot of spare time, but when he does, he watches soccer at home, he says.

While in Cape Town Nir and his wife Beverly had dinner with Beverly's uncle and aunt, Colin and Ev Plen.

Pictured are Nir and Beverly Barkat with Evelyn and Colin Plen.

## Too white for the Struggle...

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY MOIRA SCHNEIDER CAPE TOWN

WHEN WRITING her memoirs, Radical Engagements: A Life In Exile, Lorna Levy decided to try and describe "frankly" the experience of being white in a black struggle, an issue she said was seldom confronted as people were too embarrassed to do so.

Addressing the adult education division of the Union of Jewish Women, she traced her move to radical politics as a "fairly ordinary girl" from a middle-class Jewish family in Johannesburg in the late 1950s.

With a background in the trade union movement, she left South Africa for London in 1963, but experienced a rude awakening while attending a women's peace conference in Moscow at that time.

"I found that I was not accepted by the African delegation of the ANC of which I was supposed to be a member. Why? Because I was white," she stated.

Referring to the PAC's view that the ANC was ruled by white communists, Levy main-

tained that the ANC, for its own credibility, "didn't want whites to be visible. It was a very upsetting experience, to put it mildly," she remembered, "and for me it was a turning point.

"When (husband and fellow-activist) Leon joined me in London (on his release from 90-day detention), I decided there was no longer a place for me in the liberation movement because I was white." For the next 20 years, Levy set about creating a new identity for herself, becoming a Labour councillor, a mother to Emma, a passionate gardener and a photographer.

"It also meant that I had to block out the past because my new friends and colleagues didn't have a great deal of interest in what went on before. It was very difficult to change identity," she recalls.

"I was somebody who had been displaced quite abruptly - I had never been to jail, never been banned, my position seemed to be so much easier than other people's. (In addition) there had been no closure to my life in Johannesburg - I had left possessions, I couldn't say goodbye to anybody.



**Sara Pascall, chairman UJW adult education division (left), guest speaker Lorna Levy and Sandra Sternberg.**

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### TZACHI HANEGBI IS CLEARED OF MOST CHARGES

JERUSALEM - A senior Israeli lawmaker was found innocent on charges of fraud and breach of trust, but guilty of perjury after a four-year trial.

Tzachi Hanegbi of the Kadima Party heard the decision Tuesday morning in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court. He was cleared as well on charges of election bribery and trying to illegally influence voters.

He faces a prison sentence of up to seven years for perjury and false oath charges stemming from his testimony on 69 political appointments he made while

serving as environment minister as a member of the Likud Party under former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Hanegbi in 2004 was accused of making dozens of political appointments, including creating fictitious jobs. He was indicted and went on trial in 2006.

If his conviction is found to involve moral turpitude, Hanegbi could be banned from the Knesset for seven years. He is seen as the main challenger to Tzipi Livni's party leadership. (JTA)

"At one level I tried to erase the past, but it was always there. When famous people we knew hit the headlines, we were reminded of it, but there was a certain aloneness."

Twenty years later, however, during a period of "tremendous turmoil", here in the 1980s, she turned back to South African politics. "You can never take South Africa completely out of South Africans," she mused.

Levy joined the ANC in London, becoming secretary of that region. In the early 1990s, the organisation sent her to The Hague and Oslo to train for the diplomatic corps, but "sadly, no job materialised in the end because I'd held political office in England".

She received no support from her colleagues on the issue, she remembers, adding: "Even Thabo Mbeki didn't help." Later, after she had settled in Cape Town, Levy was invited to join the foreign affairs department in Pretoria, "but it was too late for me - I couldn't face another move".

Coming back was not without its difficulties either. "We had changed into completely different people," she reflects.

"I'd left as a kid and come back as an old woman, and to a different country as well."

Since living here, she has been active in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its reparations committee, parliamentary monitoring for Idasa and has been the driving force since 1998 against the commercial development of the Sea Point beachfront. "I suppose I am an activist - I always find something to connect myself to," she says.

"I see issue-based politics as the way to go. We've got a very vibrant civil society in South Africa," she notes, listing the Treatment Action Campaign, Equal Education and Seafront for All.

"I have little confidence in the established political parties."

Despite being "very upset" at corruption in the ANC, Levy says she does not feel disillusioned with the party. "I have to say I never thought it was going to be easy," she states.

"Africans have 300 years of no education, no experience - it takes a long time to change things. I think we're going through a bad patch."

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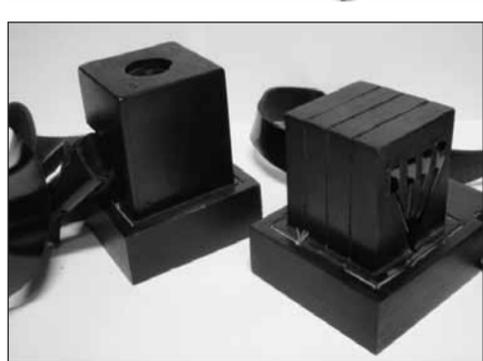
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# Keren Hayesod honours Wapnick for gift of Sderot park

**STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY DIANE WOLFSON PRETORIA**

PRETORIAN ALEC Wapnick and the Wapnick family were recently honoured by Keren Hayesod in Israel for their generous donation of a beautiful equipped park in the playground of the Shaar Negev Primary School in the grounds of the Sapir College, some kilometres outside of Sderot.

This is the second such park donated by Wapnick in recent years.

Irit Barash, head of the English-speaking Countries of Keren Hayesod, Israel, welcomed the large gathering, including the Wapnick family who had travelled in from South Africa and Israel for the occasion.

The grade two pupils entertained the

gathering with Israeli songs. Barash showed appreciation on the family and on Alec in particular, for the most meaningful development of this particular park.

The area was hard hit by Katyusha rockets and there are numerous shelters scattered in the grounds and built into the classrooms.

The children have been trained to access the shelters within seconds of the activation of the red alert sirens.

Eliyahu Segal, the Shaar Negev Regional Council administrator, outlined the intentions of the region to expand facilities in their aim to improve and persevere with living and working conditions in this beautiful region of Israel.

He expressed the gratitude of all concerned to the family and to Keren Hayesod



**Lisa and Alec Wapnick in the park of the Shaar Negev Primary school in Sderot in Israel.**

for their support.

Alec Wapnick dedicated the park to the memory of his parents and to Simon, his late brother, who passed away seven years to the day of the dedication of the park.

The emotional proceedings ended with Alec and his daughter Lisa unveiling the plaque and cutting the ribbons in the official opening of the much appreciated playground.

# Google selects ORT SA's HOD

LISA MORALEE

ORT SA's head of Educator Development, Ariellah Rosenberg, has been accepted to attend the next Google Teacher Academy. This prestigious event will be held in London on July 29.

Only 52 applicants worldwide were

accepted to attend this Academy and Rosenberg was the only South African accepted onto the programme.

"Google Certified Teachers are exceptional K-12 educators with a passion for using innovative tools to improve teaching and learning, as well as creative leaders and ambassadors for change."

Rosenberg has "a passion to assist and go that extra mile, even if there is only a small impact or change", says an ORT SA colleague.

The Google Teacher Academy is produced by Google, in collaboration with CUE and WestEd, both educational non-profit organisations. Google Teacher Academy is a free professional development experience that is designed to help K-12 educational leaders get the most from innovative technologies. "Each Academy is an intensive, one to two-day event where participants get hands-on experience with Google's products and technologies, learn about innovative instructional strategies, and receive resources to share with colleagues."

**ORT SA's Ariellah Rosenberg has been selected to attend the Google Teacher Academy. (PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER)**



**Ariellah Rosenberg (centre front row) with her Educator Empowerment Team. (PHOTOGRAPH: LISA MORALEE)**

# A meeting place for Holocaust survivors and their families

**STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY MOIRA SCHNEIDER CAPE TOWN**

THE FRIENDSHIP Forum is holding a workshop with a difference at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre early next month. The idea of the Forum - which was established earlier this year - is to provide a meeting place for Holocaust survivors and their families, as well as Eastern European immigrants and their families, where they can reflect on the past, according to social worker Debby Silver.

Silver supervises the group of professionals trained for the project. Workshop participants are being asked to bring a memento of "deep significance" to them and The Friendship Forum is holding a workshop with a difference at the Cape Town to explain why this is so.

"We all carry stories from our parents and grandparents," she says. "So anybody

who has an object - it could be candlesticks, a brooch, a ring, a diary, a photograph or a document.

"By telling the story, you are also honouring the person who is no longer here. There are stories that haven't been told - they unite us, enrich us and inspire us," she explains of the purpose of the exercise, which is also intended to provide emotional support.

Those attending do not have to share their tales, but can just listen if they prefer. There will be trained professionals on hand for anybody who wishes to talk privately at the event.

"We would like, in time, to start a group for second generation immigrants - people who may, even unwittingly, be carrying the pain of parents or grandparents," Silver adds. "Most of us are the children or grandchildren of immigrants, but they never talked about times gone by."

The Forum, which has a Johannesburg



**Dr Evelyn Kaplan, her mother, Holocaust survivor Ella Blumenthal and psychologist Tracey Farber at a gathering held last year to discuss the formation of a support group for Holocaust survivors and their descendants.**

counterpart, is connected to the CTHC. It has a programme of activities designed for the rest of the year.

The workshop will be held at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre on Sunday August 8 from 14:30 until 16:30. Enquiries should be directed to Debby Silver at 082-450-1124.

# Klezmer music and good food on the menu

RITA LEWIS

AN ENTIRELY new concept - music wise - will be offered to the Jewish public on August 10 when the Chazzonus Club will be putting on an entirely different event at the Gerald Horwitz Lounge at Golden Acres.

Following on to their successful concert last year, this Second Grand Annual Concert will be featuring a three-course meal as well as a selection of klezmer

music played by Avi's Klezmers.

Four chazzanim, Avron Alter, Barry Braun, Chilly Chrysler and Ezra Sher, will be performing their individual styles of chazzanut to some well-known and new pieces.

It is believed that this will be a world-first when Avi's Klezmers will get together with the chazzanim for a most exciting rendition of the bensching (at which benschers will be available and guests will be invited to join in).

The music has had to be completely rewritten by Avi Kanar to facilitate both the Klezmer Group and singers, each of whom will be performing alone and together.

The concert is being performed in memory of the late Ivor Bloom who was a friend and member of the Chazzonus Club.

It will start at 18:30 for 18:45 and will cost R200 per person, or R1 950 per table - all proceeds will go to Sandringham Gardens.

Tickets are available on (011) 485-2645.

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## Diamond magnates and the Durban July

JACK MILNER

THERE WERE a number of sporting victims of the 2010 Fifa World Cup and one of those was the Vodacom Durban July. Virtually since its inception, The Durban July was raced at Greyville on the first Saturday in July. As a result of the World Cup, a decision was taken to move this year's race to July 31.

The new date has caused quite a few disruptions in the KwaZulu-Natal racing calendar and has given trainers quite a few problems in trying to keep their runners at a peak right through the season.

Although the final field will only be announced this week, there will be

quite a bit of Jewish interest in the race.

Anton Marcus, who is about to be crowned South African Champion Jockey at the end of the month, rides Fort Vogue from the Mike Bass yard. He is the trainer of Pocket Power, who will also be taking his place in the final field.

Fort Vogue is second favourite for the race and there has been a constant dribble of money for this horse who ran fourth in the J&B Met at Kenilworth in Cape Town earlier this year.

Favourite for the race is Irish Flame, who has recently joined the Mike de Kock yard. The son of 2003 winner Dynasty was recently bought

by Larry Nestadt, Bernard Kantor and Gary Barber for an undisclosed sum. But since joining De Kock, Irish Flame has won the Grade 1 SA Derby, the Grade 1 Daily News 2000 and the Grade 2 Gold Circle Derby and has earned his place at the top of the bookmakers' boards.

The Oppenheimer family is sure to be well represented this year. Bridget, wife of the late De Beers and Anglo American chairman Harry, still has five horses in the reckoning, namely last year's third-placed Forest Path, as well as Bulsara, Service Ace, Bouquet-Garni and Noblewood. Her daughter, Mary Slack, could be represented by Happy Valley, also trained by De Kock.

Bridget, fondly known as the "Queen Mum" of South African racing, received the winner's sash for the sixth time in 2007 after the victory of the Charles Laird-trained Hunting Tower.

Five of the Oppenheimer victors, Tiger Fish (1959), King Willow (1965), Principal Boy (1975), Greys Inn (2004) and Hunting Tower (2007) were also bred by themselves.

## Young Yoni Nathan lands international soccer contract

YONI NATHAN (pictured), a 19-year-old former King Davidian, has just landed a one year soccer contract in Netherlands 1st division team, FC Dordrecht, commencing August 1.

Chabad House in Johannesburg said in a media release: "Yoni would like to be a source of inspiration and encouragement to his younger peers, whom like him, have big personal aspirations.

"Thus, he has personally pledged to lay tefillin every day while embarking on this new chapter in his life. He has also undertaken to attend shul as regularly as possible while he is abroad."

Yoni is pictured here laying tefillin at Chabad in the Mall, the day before departing for FC Dordrecht.



**Irish Flame, owned by Larry Nestadt, Bernard Kantor and Gary Barber, is currently 4-1 favourite for this year's Vodacom Durban July.**  
(PHOTOGRAPH: JC PHOTOGRAPHICS)



## Benayoun lashes out at Benitez for 'lack of respect'

ISRAELI MIDFIELDER blames his old coach for transfer to Chelsea. Yossi Benayoun launched a scathing attack on his former Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez, claiming the Spaniard tried to break his spirit and treated him with a lack of respect.

The 30-year-old Israel captain left Liverpool for Premier League champion Chelsea in a £5.5 million move earlier this month and last Sunday blasted Benitez in uncharacteristic fashion. "Everyone asks me why I left Liverpool," Benayoun told the News of The World. "There is only one reason - Rafa Benitez.

"I agreed to join Chelsea before Roy Hodgson was appointed Liverpool's new manager. It's a dream for me that such a fantastic club has given me this opportunity.

"But I want Liverpool fans to know the truth and for them to know I made up my mind to leave a long time ago because of Benitez. He never treated me with the respect I deserved. If I played well, I never felt he gave me credit.

"When I scored, I still expected to be out of the team the next game. And when the fans wanted me to play, Benitez told me he could not understand why."

Benayoun, who made 134 appearances during his three seasons with the Reds after joining from West Ham in May 2007, added: "There are many examples of him treating me badly. On two occasions early last season, against Fulham and Lyon, the fans booed when I was subbed. They thought I was playing well but Benitez told me he was surprised the fans booed because I was not good enough. It was as if the fans' reaction



**Former Liverpool midfielder Yossi Benayoun has lashed out at Rafa Benitez.**

worked against me. The situation got worse afterwards.

"He told me I was a better player as a substitute instead of starting in the team. Then, when we played Birmingham after I hadn't started a game for a month, he didn't tell me I was starting until two hours before the game. He tried to destroy my confidence. You can't treat a player like this and expect him to be happy.

"I felt so unhappy but, out of respect to the club, I never spoke out. The players and the people at the top of the club knew how I felt. I don't want to

speak on behalf of other players at Liverpool, but people know what happened to Albert Riera and Xabi Alonso. It was the same for me.

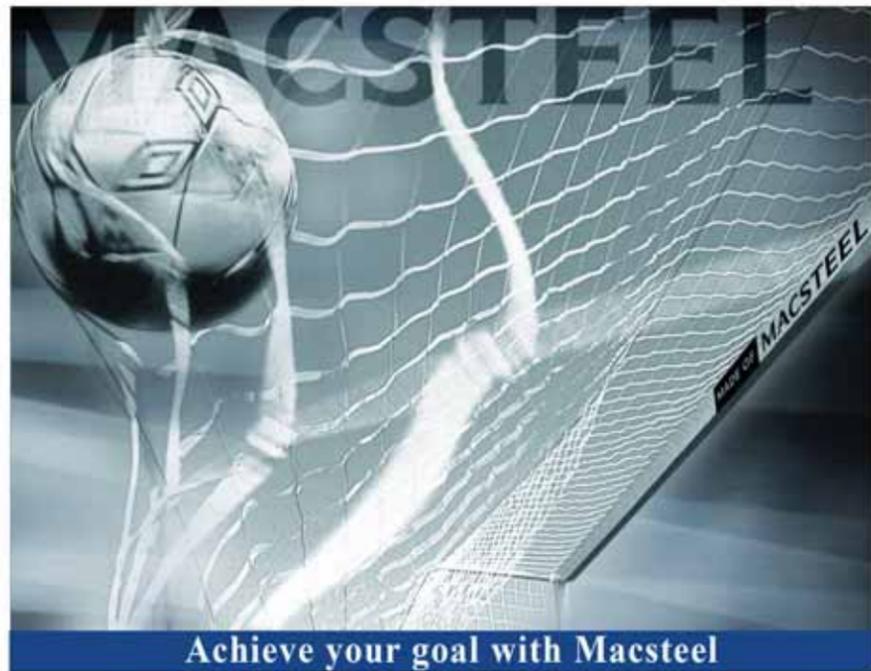
The midfield magician went on to reveal that Benitez essentially pushed him out of the club at the end of last season.

"On the day before the final game of last season at Hull, Benitez pulled me to one side after training and said: 'You will not be in the squad for this game. Thank you for your three years of service, now you can call your agent to do a deal with another club.' That's when Chelsea made an offer and the deal was done before Benitez left."

Benayoun understands that he will have to work extremely hard to break into Chelsea's lineup.

"I'm not stupid. I know Chelsea have many great players and it will be hard to play in the team every week," he said.

"But what's important for me is I know I will be treated with respect. Carlo Ancelotti is a fantastic manager and he knows how to treat players."



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