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VOLUME 29 No 4 MAY 2012 5772

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Community leadership attend AIPAC conference



Cape Board Media & Diplomatic Liaison Dan Brotman and SAZF (Cape Council) Chairman Ben Levitas on Capitol Hill with members of AIPAC's New Jersey delegation.

For the first time in recent history, the South African Jewish community sent two delegates to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference in Washington DC, which was held in March.

SAZF Chairman Ben Levitas and Cape Board Media Liaison Dan Brotman

attended the conference, which was the largest in AIPAC's history. Keynote speakers included President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Shimon Peres, Senator Joe Lieberman, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell.

See more on page 4

CJSA visits School for the Blind



CJSA members at 'The Blind Spot'.

Cape Jewish Seniors Association members spent three days at Goudini Spa in Rawsonville and were privileged to go on a tour of the Worcester School for the Blind.

The group visited the industrial workshop where blind and partially-sighted young

adults make the most incredible items, which are for sale on the open market.

This photo is taken outside 'The Blind Spot', which is their retail shop on the premises.

The Cape Jewish Seniors Association hopes to enjoy many such outings in future!

Board meets with young DA leaders

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies (Cape Council) recently held a pivotal meeting with young leaders of the Democratic Alliance.

The Board met with Parliamentary Leader Lindiwe Mazibuko, MP Gareth Morgan and Mazibuko's Chief of Staff Russel Brueton.

Together they had a broad and in-depth discussion covering local and national politics; the party's policies and plans; the DA's approach to Israel and the local Jewish community, and much more.

While the three politicians at times gave a sober picture of South Africa's present and future, they also provided optimism and vision for resolving the country's challenges.



DA Parliamentary Leader Lindiwe Mazibuko and Cape Board Chairman Li Boiskin.

See more on page 13

A Signal Hill success!

Temple Israel's congregations from across Cape Town recently enjoyed its first 'Signal Hill Challenge'.

The day began with a blast of the shofar, heralding a hike from the Green Point Shul up to Signal Hill and back again.

Everyone participated in the hike that showed off Cape Town at its best, which was followed by exciting activities and a delicious lunch.

Mazel tov to all the hikers for completing the challenge!

See more on page 9



Simona Stone and Zoe Amato at the top!

Habonim march for human rights



Habonim chaverim marching on Human Rights Day.

While most of us were relaxing on our public holiday, local Habonim Bogrim took to the streets of Khayelitsha on Human Rights Day.

Habonim was joining Equal Education members, school pupils, staff, parents and leadership to march for equality and

Minimum Norms and Standards for School Infrastructure across South Africa.

Habonim is motivated by a belief that human rights for all citizens are attainable through sustained activism and pressure on the government.

See more on page 27

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see page 9

**70th Annual General
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Thursday 31 May
Fire & Ice Hotel
9.30 for 10 am.
see page 16

GARDENS SHUL
Friday Night Live
4 May
6.00pm
see page 7

HERZLIA AGM

Wednesday 23 May
8.00 pm
See page 17

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UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN

MAY AED

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MAY BRANCH EVENTS

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| 31 Executive | Annual General Meeting | 9.30 for 10am |
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Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting	Ends
4 May/12 Iyar	Achare Kedoshim	5.44	6.36
11 May/19 Iyar	Emor	5.38	6.30
18 May/26 Iyar	Behar Bechukotai	5.33	6.26
25 May/4 Sivan	Bemidbar	5.30	
26 May/5 Sivan	Erev 1st Day Shavuot	6.23	
27 May/6 Sivan	2nd Day Shavuot	6.23	6.22

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TaliVision

Simcha and celebration



As I write this, Jews around the world have recently celebrated the chaggim of Purim and then Pesach.

On both of these festivals we gather with family and friends, and immerse ourselves in these essential historical stories of the Jewish people. We also embody the Jewish joke and mantra "They tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat!"

Indeed, food has always been an essential factor in Jewish celebrations and simchas, as well as in moments of sorrow. "Food is a definite connector and an integral element in Jewish family and cultural life, whether for a celebration or in times of need," say the authors of *Savour*, an exciting new local cookbook. This month, we review this wonderful collection of recipes, and its pages that capture how food connects to family and so much more. "We come together over food, and although eating is essentially physical, there is a strong spiritual component," say the authors.

We also have a special treat for you this month, as you could win a copy of *Savour*, worth R350! Simply send us your favourite Jewish recipe, and you will be entered to win this fantastic prize (See page 8). We hope this story will compel you to sit with family and friends around a table, not only sharing a meal but also food for thought.

Talking about treats, our interview with the founder of the Israeli chocolate wonderland, Max Brenner, is just one reason to make a trip to Tel Aviv soon! (Page 8). From the 'Hug Mug' to much more, it is easy to see that the Jewish connection to food is thriving in the Holy Land.

But as much as we enjoy sharing meals, simchot and celebrations with each other, it is essential to be 'celebrating' with those beyond our tables. To celebrate means

we are invested in something, and that we put our emotions and energy into an idea because it is meaningful to us. On page 4, Brenda Stern discusses how the Jewish community should not only be present in South Africa, but also that we should have a presence — that we should be emotionally, energetically and intellectually invested in South Africa. Only then will we truly be part of a wider 'celebration' — the small and monumental moments of the miracle of this country and its people.

"We have a presence when we are actively engaged with the issues and challenges that confront our country," writes Brenda. "We as Jews will benefit enormously from a more secure sense of belonging, and South Africa will benefit from our continued positive presence." It is our responsibility to share our joy with each other, but also extend it beyond our community. As they say, joy is doubled when it is shared.

It is clear in this issue of the Chronicle that many individuals and organisations in our community are conducting activities like this every day. From the Cape Jewish Seniors' visit to the Worcester School for the Blind; the Board of Deputies' meeting with important local politicians; the Union of Jewish Women's contribution to crèches; the wonderful work of Atlantic Hope; ORT's initiatives and Herzlia's outreach, we can see that our community is certainly present and celebrating with South African society.

On a personal note, some of you may have noticed that my surname has changed in this issue, and I feel that I should explain why. On 1 April I married Sean Feinberg, and it was the most wonderful simcha. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the community members and leadership who wished us well, which meant a lot to us. In sharing our joy, I would like to wish all our readers abundant blessings and simchot — may you all enjoy celebrations for many years to come!

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ANALYSIS

Lessons learned from AIPAC

By Dan Brotman

Being an effective pro-Israel activist in South Africa is no easy feat.

We do not yet have a strong American-style 'lobbying culture', which is partially because our democracy is only 18 years old. The historic relationship that existed during apartheid between the regime and the Israeli government; and between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the ANC, makes many South African leaders view Israel negatively by guilt of previous association.

The SA Jewish Board of Deputies and Zionist Federation in Cape Town made the decision to send our first (albeit small) delegation to this year's policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), which took place in Washington in early March. While we cannot replicate AIPAC in South Africa because of our vastly different political systems, I left the conference having identified elements from the AIPAC model that could work here. Most important, the conference opened my eyes to the possibility of growing a pro-Israel lobby in South Africa. In no particular order, here are the six most important lessons I learned from the AIPAC Policy Conference:

- The pro-Israel lobby must be streamlined. AIPAC is known among American policymakers as *the* pro-Israel voice, which is its strength. When too many organisations are doing the same lobbying, it dilutes this voice. Policymakers must know exactly whom to approach when talking about Israel. In South Africa, the Board of Deputies lobbies the government on issues important regarding Jews, but it is a separate entity to the Zionist Federation. It's hard to imagine today, but there may come a point when we as a community come to the conclusion that there is a direct correlation between one's ability to express one's Zionism in South Africa and one's ability to be comfortable as a Jew in this country. It would then make sense to have one united organisation that speaks on behalf of both the Jewish community and pro-Israel South Africans.
- People are influenced not only by numbers, but also by effort. Jews in the United States constitute only 2.1% of the population; and 15% of American Jews live in only 30 congressional districts. Nevertheless, the pro-Israel lobby in the United States is stronger than ever. This is because of AIPAC's philosophy that every American Jew and his or her allies can personally lobby local representatives. Direct and indirect lobbying can take many forms. Not only is our Jewish population much smaller than that of the United States, but we are essentially concentrated only in Joburg and Cape Town. It is thus essential that we build relationships and work with members of Parliament from provinces that have few or no Jews.
- Individual relationships matter. Pro-Israel activists must engage individuals from various communities who can potentially influence a large following of people.



Dan Brotman, ex-Capetonian AIPAC lay leader Clive Lipshitz, Congressman Steven Rothman of New Jersey and SAZF Cape Council Chairman Ben Levitas.

It would be worthwhile for us to do a comprehensive audit of all members of Parliament to see with whom we have a relationship, either directly or through a key contact. We also must empower community members to build such relationships with members of government in order to broaden our network.

- Trips to Israel and follow-up are the best return on investment. AIPAC organises trips for rising leaders and policymakers, and this facilitates building a broad coalition of non-Jewish support for Israel. Nothing is more powerful than being able to talk about Israel in the first person, but this happens only if members of your constituency follow up with you after the trip and encourage you to speak publicly about your experience. Without follow-up, a visit to Israel is a one-off trip with little return on investment.
- Support young and future decision makers. The key is to form relationships with young rising stars who will one day become policymakers. For example, form a relationship with an SRC president or with a young person who has volunteered for a political party or his or her local councillor. Chances are that this person will one day be sitting in higher office.
- Pro-Israel voices come in many colours and speak different languages. As only 8% of South Africans speak English as a first language, we must build relationships with pro-Israel activists who can speak to their communities in other languages. This principle is also true of political parties thought of as 'hostile' or 'anti-Israel'. There are always individuals within the party who are the exception. Find these people and support them as they talk about Israel. They know best how to speak to their colleagues in the party's language.

A country like South Africa, which is struggling to create jobs and attract foreign investment, stands only to benefit from a strong relationship with Israel. At the same time, South Africa's liberal constitution and expertise in conflict resolution could be of great assistance to Israel, which now and then needs to balance its security needs with maintaining a pluralistic democracy. AIPAC has been incredibly successful in building an effective lobby. Both South Africa and Israel have much to gain if we can apply its lessons here.

Dan Brotman is the Media and Diplomatic Liaison of the Cape Board. You can follow him on Twitter at @DGBrotman.

This article was originally published in the *Jewish Daily Forward*.

CAPE TOWN JEWISH COMMUNITY VISION: 2025

AN INITIATIVE OF THE NACHUM GOLDMANN FELLOWSHIP

OPINION

By Brenda Stern

We need to have a presence, not just be present



Brenda Stern

Are we South African Jews? Are we Jewish South Africans? Are we even African?

This identity issue confronted me during a recent relief mission I organised to the Congo. On 4 March, a munitions factory exploded in the middle of an urban area in Brazzaville, killing over 400 Congolese people, injuring almost 2000 (known) people and displacing over 14 000 from their destroyed homes.

Why did I, as a Jew, feel the need to organise a medical relief mission to Congo? Simply put — I was following the example set by the Jewish state, Israel. Within less than 48 hours of the tragedy, Israel — through the exceptional efforts of the Israeli Embassy in Pretoria and Magen David Adom South Africa — arranged over 40 tonnes of aid, which was shipped to the Congo. This was aid to a country with which Israel has no diplomatic relations. As in almost every disaster in the world, from Haiti to South Sudan, Israel is the first responder.

What example does this set for us as South African Jews? A perfect example, I submit. A perfect example of Tikkun Olam, a living embodiment of the Torah injunction of *Nefesh v'Nefesh* that, 'She who saves one life is as if she has saved the whole world.'

Our South African history should have taught us that we are all responsible for the dignity and well-being of our fellow human beings. But we have not always, as a community, behaved in a way consistent with our Jewish values and teachings with regard to our fellow South Africans. Even today, we unfortunately do not always do so consistently. However, there are so many sterling examples of Jewish outreach and community cooperation that we as a Jewish community can still be proud of our contribution as South Africans.

Here to stay

But there is a nagging question, one which confronted me when trying to enlist the help of certain Jewish leadership in our humanitarian shipment. The question is, is it sufficient for us just to have a presence in South Africa, or do we have to be fully present as South Africans? There is a difference. We are present through our shuls, our schools, our youth movements and SAUJS, our formal communal structures, our welfare and social organisations.

We have a presence when we are

actively engaged with the issues and challenges that confront our country during its transition

from an unequal system to one which needs to provide for all her citizens. This engagement can, and with respect, must manifest in real ways. Charitable and outreach activities are critical and make a difference, but unless they are motivated by a deep connection to bettering the lives of others in a sustainable manner, they are in danger of being seen as paternalistic and superficial.

Equally, when we remove any reference to the Jewish origins and contribution from the mission statement of a major outreach

programme, we are in danger of making ourselves comfortably invisible.

A perfect example of a conscious strategic policy of ensuring that we have a sustainable presence is the South African Jewish Board of Deputies Cape Council's strategic plan. It is to be welcomed

and applauded for many reasons: it identifies both Jewish citizens' needs — and duties — for the future; and it makes a clear statement that we as a Cape Town Jewish community are planning for the future, and planning to be part of South Africa's future. It is not a crisis-planning document but rather a confidence-building document.

It seeks to ensure that the valuable contribution that Jews have made to South Africa since they first arrived in this country continues and evolves to meet present-day needs. It says to the Jewish community, and the wider South

African community: "We are here to stay and be present." While our support and commitment to Israel is inviolate, we have no conflict between that and our commitment to South Africa's future.

So whether it is the Peer Mentorship Programme about to start at the University of Cape Town, which is based on the principle of 'each one, teach one'; or the interfaith initiatives; or the programme of parliamentary engagement that is so critical; the Cape Communal Leadership must be applauded, and supported, for being present, now and in the future.

We as Jews will benefit enormously from a more secure sense of belonging; and South Africa will benefit from our continued positive presence B"H.

Brenda Stern is the founder of SPeAK (Shalom, Peace, Khotsa), a community dialogue forum.

"Outreach activities are critical, but unless they are motivated by a deep connection to bettering the lives of others, they are in danger of being seen as paternalistic and superficial."

"While our commitment to Israel is inviolate, we have no conflict between that and our commitment to South Africa's future."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PO Box 4176 Cape Town 8000 or e-mail: chron@ctjc.co.za

In the last Cape Jewish Chronicle (April 2012), Zapiro was given a platform. He was falsely portrayed as an asset to our Jewish community.

What was omitted is that he openly shares platforms with ardent antisemites, produces antisemitic and anti-Zionist cartoons reminiscent of the Nazi era, and stands with anyone who calls for boycotts of Israel. He is the shame and disgrace of many in the community, and it is with this in mind that many in the community feel that the Cape Jewish Chronicle has failed us.

The Chronicle has in fact been most short-sighted and has disappointed and offended the very community that supports it. While one does not deny Zapiro the right to express his views, one has to ask if it is ethical for our community paper, the Cape Jewish Chronicle, to be promoting and giving him a platform in light of his harmful and irresponsible cartoons and anti-Israel attitude.

Adrienne Judes, Group 18

I agree with the sentiments expressed by Adrienne Judes. The Chronicle should have been much more cognisant and sensitive to the fact that Zapiro is, in the opinion of many, a disgrace to the Jewish community for his attitude and his anti-Israeli/antisemitic cartoons. He only has his self-interest at heart and is unconcerned about the negative effects his work produces. I would not have sent in my subscription payment if this article had been published before I paid.

The same can be said of the Jewish Museum which gave him a platform to display his work.

*Yours sincerely,
Allan Huth*

I know you would not do anything to purposely harm the best interests of Israel and the Jewish community, but one feels disappointed — even allowing for the freedom of speech and the featuring of a prominent Jewish personality. Zapiro can justifiably be considered to be an enemy of Israel; who oversteps the red line between legitimate criticism and malicious intent by portraying Israelis as Nazis.

It was an unfortunate (if unintended) error of judgment on the part of the Cape Jewish Chronicle which has offended members of the community, and an editorial expression of regret would be appropriate in the circumstances.

*Regards,
David Abel*

Thank you for taking the time to write to us. We appreciate that you care about the content in the Chronicle and understand that some readers may have felt upset about the interview, while others approved of it. Everyone has a right to share their thoughts, which is why we felt it is essential to publish letters that express these varied sentiments.

The Chronicle has an essential role to be an open forum for diversity and a space for all community members. Zapiro's work was displayed in an extended exhibition at the South African Jewish Museum; he is a regular participant in communal events like Limmud; he sends his children to Herzlia and, as discussed in the interview, he sources much of his identity and inspiration from Judaism. The article was on the arts page, not the political pages, and was a discussion about his art and Jewish identity.

If we are to cut someone out simply because of their views on one aspect of the Jewish experience, no matter how sensitive, then we are operating from a place of fear and will never evolve into a mature and confident community.

The Chronicle stands by the article and will remain a space where diversity and all members of the community are welcomed. — Editor

Opinions expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board or its sponsoring bodies. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed. However, by agreement, the name may be withheld in the publication. Letters are published subject to space being available.

As a committed Zionist I must disagree with the much respected David Abel and Adrienne Judes, both of whom are assets to the Jewish community.

But so too is Zapiro, and we *kleib nachas* as he is one of the foremost cartoonists in the country with international recognition. But the moment he draws something we do not like, we have a problem.

It would be a sad day if the Chronicle started to ban people from its pages whose views some do not like. We do not want to go back to the days of a censorship board.

What is the problem? The problem is that his views do not conform to those of the majority of the members of the South African Jewish community. However there has always been a minority of members of the Jewish community who share his views, who have not been Zionist, from Reverend Bender up, including Bundists and activists. Even our Zionists have fought over the views of different Zionist parties, and as a Revisionist, David must remember the fights. If it was fine for Hillel and Shammai to hold different opinions and live in harmony, so too it should be okay for us to accept that we can hold different opinions and live in harmony.

We must separate lauding Zapiro for the cartoonist that he is and in whom we take pride, as a person of integrity who holds certain views, views that others in the community hold, but with which we disagree.

And in the new South Africa we are allowed to disagree with each other.

Gwynne Robins

Your arts and culture column portrays Zapiro in a flattering light as someone following a 'moral conscience.'

While the media in South Africa is universally hostile to Israel in its reporting, and indeed gives a free platform to Zapiro and his antisemitic cartoons portraying Ariel Sharon devouring Palestinian children and the Prime Minister of Israel Bibi Netanyahu as a liar, why does the CJC honour this man in its columns?

Does the editor and/or editorial board not have sufficient Jewish self-respect to disassociate from people who disseminate calumnies and hatred against Israel? There is plenty of anti-Israel media that is only too happy to give maximum publicity to an anti-Israel Jew, and indeed Zapiro is an icon in those circles.

Maybe the CJC lacks a 'moral conscience' and should do some serious introspection.

Ben Friedman, Raanana

Heartbreak, hope and healing

"I believe that children are our future," sang the late Whitney Houston. Yet in South Africa today, the suffering of children puts their futures in jeopardy. Marilyn May has decided to fight this scourge and began the organisation Atlantic Hope.

Tell us about Atlantic Hope and the work that you do?

Atlantic Hope is a safety house for vulnerable babies, providing temporary and immediate placement within a safe and loving environment. We serve as an immediate and temporary safe haven for newborns and infants who have been abandoned, removed from their parents care, or are awaiting adoption. We provide vital care to these infants while legal and life decisions determine the child's future. We are legally approved to house up to five babies at one time.

What we have achieved so far?

In the limited time that Atlantic Hope has been operating, 11 babies have been placed in our home, which is also my home. We provide them with developmental, physical and emotional care. Not only are their medical needs prioritised, but their emotional needs are also met with love and affection in a stable environment.

Why did you decide to start this organisation?

In 2010, my brother and best friend Barney Reznik passed away. It was one of the saddest experiences of my life and I was devastated. I spoke to Rabbi Feldman of the Gardens Shul, and learned that Jewish tradition encourages people to dedicate themselves to a project in honour of their lost family member, so I did this by starting Atlantic Hope.

The idea for Atlantic Hope came from an experience I had volunteering at New Somerset Hospital. I was moved by the plight of babies whose parents had either abandoned them or placed them for adoption. Because of the window period enforced by the New Child Care Act, the process for adoption can only be started after sixty days. Too often these infants are left alone for days and weeks waiting for the bureaucratic process of placement.

I couldn't imagine anything more perfect than dedicating myself to a project that ensures the care and safety of our most precious South African citizens. The passing of my brother inspired me to start an organisation that recognised the importance of life.

Why do you think it is important that the community knows about Atlantic Hope?

Atlantic Hope aspires to provide vulnerable babies with the best possible start to life, but we are often fighting the legacy of inequality in South Africa. Over time, the inability to achieve country-wide goals has made us turn to smaller non-profit organisations like Atlantic Hope, and those smaller organisations are supported by our local communities. Atlantic Hope reveals some of the most fundamental problems facing South Africa, and offers a way forward. The right to life is not just a South African ideal, but one that the Jewish people of the world hold dear to their hearts.

Tell us a 'story of hope' that you have been involved with:

Baby T was born on 2 August 2011. Her mother indicated that she was going to give



Marilyn May with a child at Atlantic Hope.

the baby up for adoption, but before the paperwork was done, the mother left without letting the staff know. On Friday 19 August, Baby T was placed in our care on Form 36, a document that gives authority to social workers to place the child into temporary safe care. After the child had been with us, the social workers were lucky enough to find her mother and assigned a social worker to assist her. They assessed the home situation in terms of the best interest of the child and an arrangement was soon reached to reunite Baby T

with her biological family! Atlantic Hope remains in touch and continues to assist her family with essentials. It's stories like these that really keep us going.

What are the biggest challenges the organisation faces?

Funding! The cost of a baby, as many people only find out once they have one, is expensive. We estimate that the outlay of essentials to support a healthy baby is approximately R3600 per month. The state currently provides R390 per baby per month. Many of the children that come to us frequently have severe medical dependencies; they are not the average healthy bay but we hope to help them get there with love and care.

Since the health of the babies is our main concern, a large proportion of funds are used for their medication. We have established partnerships with a local baby clinic, a GP practice and a paediatric practice, each of whom kindly offer medical advice, and care and consultations free of charge. But it's not enough. As we expand, we hope to take on more infants that need our help. We would never want to have to turn away a child because we don't have the funding — that would break my heart.

What have been Atlantic Hope's biggest achievements?

We have been caring for babies for almost two years. We measure our achievements by the joy we receive from watching our infants flourish and develop. The greatest joy is being able to see the child being placed in a more permanent and loving environment, either with family or adoptive family.

How can readers assist Atlantic Hope?

We are most grateful to those individuals who are able to share their success financially, in order for us to cover the costs of taking care of these young ones. Volunteers are needed — a helping hand is so valuable. We also need medical practitioners who are able to provide reduced rates on medical supplies. Contributions of specific goods, including baby formula and clothing; prams and car seats; cots; compactums; bottles and sterilising equipment; disposable nappies and blankets are hugely appreciated.

Anything else you would like to add?

With the help of the Jewish community, among other donors, we have been able to sustain ourselves for two years, but each month is a struggle. We aim to create a network of funders in the future who we can count on to keep Atlantic Hope running for infants in our Cape Town community. We thank all those who have provided or want to provide us with support.

For more information, visit www.atlantichope.co.za

GARDENS SHUL PRESENTS

#41

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KIDS: Toy Kingdom Voucher

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Explore

ARTS AND CULTURE

Savouring with all the senses

'This book will allow you to eat your words... literally', say authors Marc Hirschowitz, Karen Alsine and Estelle Sacharowitz, who have created a cookbook unlike any other. Here, they tell us about this delicious concoction of taste, sight and celebration.

There is an indelible connection between food and language, and therefore between food and people. We are social beings, made to interact, share and converse. We often achieve this through food or eating. If anything, the Jewish people have always connected, celebrated and symbolised ideas through food.

Savour takes us on an enticing journey that engages more than just our sense of taste. Featuring over 200 recipes catering for any occasion, this is a cookbook with a difference. One word captures the essence of each chapter (think 'Chill', 'Sizzle' or 'Love') with recipes demonstrating the inherent evocation of that word.

The recipes are easy to replicate, simple to make and, of course, irresistibly edible. There is a strong focus on the presentation of each dish, supported by mouth-watering, full-colour photography.

"*Savour* is a visually engaging, inspiring cookbook," say Estelle and Karen. "It incorporates culinary and emotional

facets, both of which aim to encourage readers to want to be in the kitchen. Preparing, cooking and presenting food need not be complicated — sometimes the simplest dishes are the most delicious.

In addition, "food is a definite connector and an integral element in Jewish family and cultural life, whether for a celebration or in times of need," say the authors. "We come together over food, and although food and eating are essentially physical and primal elements, they have a strong spiritual component." Although not sold as a strictly kosher book, all the recipes in *Savour* are respectful of kashrut. There is no mixing of meat and milk, and all the recipes can easily be cooked kosher. For example, scotch fillet is used instead of fillet, and all other recipes follow suit.

The emotional element

In terms of favourite Jewish recipes, "I have a few in *Savour*," says Estelle. "The chicken liver paté is delicious and reminds me of childhood Shabbat dinners; the chicken soup is a fresh take on the traditional dish with fine julienne vegetables and a thin broth; and of course, who can resist boullas, freshly baked and filled with cinnamon and sugar. Yum!"

Savour is different to other cookbooks for three reasons: "Firstly, the book contains 200 recipes. There really is something for

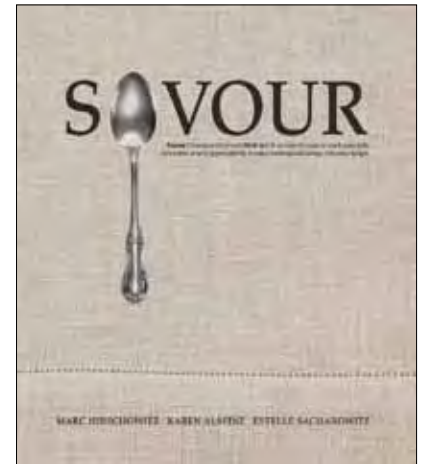
everyone and every occasion. Readers can prepare an entire meal from the book, or choose one small element. Each recipe has been carefully chosen to reflect trends in food, consumer needs and accessibility of ingredients. "There is nothing obscure or unattainable," says Karen. "Cooking from this book makes you appear to be a real pro in the kitchen!" adds Marc.

Secondly, detailed attention has been paid to the visual element. Each chapter has its own unique 'look and feel' to reflect the recipes and their associated emotive element. "Sometimes people need a reason to step into the kitchen, and a gorgeous photograph of the end result may be the perfect motivator!"

Thirdly, the book has a somewhat quirky character. Not only does a word capture each chapter — such as 'Love' or 'Nurture' — but the photographs reflect this.

"The question to ask is what do you *feel* like eating?" says Karen. "The answer lies in mood or emotion — something chilled on a hot summer day (this chapter contains cold soups, ice creams, sorbets and granitas) or wholesome and vegetarian (try 'Nurture' for vegetables, lentils, tofu, and the beloved potato...) or look at 'Sip' for a fabulous cocktail. Some recipes contain quick tricks; others offer inspiration.

"For many, cooking can be therapeutic



— being involved in a creative activity can be self-nurturing and offer an opportunity for time-out from everything unnatural: the pace at which we live; the artificial ingredients found in most bought food; and the disconnect evident in our lifestyles," says Estelle. "Preparing a recipe is about bringing together various elements, which when combined, result in something delicious... something worth savouring — whether this is the food itself or the process in making it, or the conversation that will follow as you sit down with someone and talk over good food. *Savour* it!"

Lamb with pomegranate reduction

Extracted from *Savour* by Marc Hirschowitz, Karen Alsine & Estelle Sacharowitz (Random House Struik)

You can use ready-made pomegranate reduction if you prefer.

Lamb:

1.8 kg shoulder of lamb, trimmed and washed
1 cup olive oil
Sea salt and crushed pink peppercorns to taste
Pomegranate arils for garnishing

Pomegranate reduction:

2 cups pomegranate juice
1 cup treacle sugar
2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar

1. Preheat the oven to 200 C.
2. Place the lamb in a roasting pan. Rub with the olive oil, sea salt and pink peppercorns. Roast, uncovered, for approximately 40 minutes, turning regularly.

3. Make the pomegranate reduction by boiling all the ingredients in a saucepan until the mixture reduces.
4. Remove the lamb from the oven and add the pomegranate reduction. Cover with foil, shiny-side facing inwards. Lower the temperature to 180 C and roast the lamb for a further 1 hour, turning and basting every 20 minutes.
5. Garnish with pomegranate arils before serving.

Serves 4-6



WIN!

Win one of two copies of *Savour*, worth R350 each! Email your favourite traditional recipe to editor@ctjc.co.za by 1 June, and you could win one of these beautiful cookbooks!

From an IDF base to chocolate headquarters

By Matt Robinson/JointMedia News Service

Max Brenner brings Israeli ingenuity to an international passion. Here he shares his experiences, and discusses his love of all things chocolate!

It was not until his tour in the Israel Defense Forces that Oded 'Max' Brenner even came in contact with a kitchen.

"At first, I had no interest in cooking," says the founder of the Max Brenner international chain of chocolate-inspired restaurants. "All I wanted to do was write."

However, after serving in the IDF, Brenner took pastry-making courses that were subsidised by the Israeli government. Though his dream still involved the pen more than the pan, Brenner found himself working in pastry shops (apprenticing to the legendary likes of George Maushagen in Germany, Fauchon in Paris and chocolatier Michelle Chaudun) to support his writing. It was at that time that he said he "fell in love with the happiness chocolate brought people. I wanted to bring that back to Israel and around the world," he says.

Upon his return to Israel, Brenner opened a small retail chocolate shop with a workshop in the back. It was there that his Wonka-esque proclivities began to come to the fore. Having experienced the branding brilliance of Thierry Mugler and Jean Paul

Gaultier in Paris, Brenner said he came to see chocolate as "an emotional product that should be experienced through all senses." The result was the 1996 founding of Max Brenner — derived from Oded's last name and co-founder Max Fichtman's first name — in Ra'anana. Oded has since adopted Max as a middle name.

The popular chain — easily identifiable with his face on the logo, accompanied by the slogan 'Chocolate by the Bald Man' — has locations in Israel, Australia, the Philippines, Singapore, Philadelphia, Las Vegas, New York, and Boston, with more sites in the works.

Chocolate: A love story

The restaurants look like chocolate factories gone haywire (with décor including pipes filled with chocolate, and almost every fixture in some shade of brown), and the menu — with items ranging from the 'after party' Belgian

waffle and the 'guilt free' omelette to a full bar of slider sandwiches and the signature Brenner Burger — maximises choice while always keeping the chocolate in your mind.

To wash down your food, Max Brenner restaurants offer everything from custom-made 'Hug Mugs' of (yes) hot chocolate, to 'chocolate aphrodisiacs', to fruity (and chocolate-free) smoothies, mojitos, and margaritas, to a do-it-yourself pot of chai tea. The menu offers the reminder of 'first food, then chocolate', leading to dessert choices including a peanut butter sundae and a chocolate pizza, among other items.

Keeping in line with Brenner's ambition of being a writer, his chain's menu and website are full of stories to explain, share,

and promote his pro-chocolate, pro-people philosophies. Brenner also wrote a book, *Chocolate: A Love Story*.

Brenner designs his own store not so much as a Parisian chocolatier or patisserie, but like an upscale atelier. He offers customers access into his research

and development lab and even lets them dip spoons into the mixing bowls to get the first licks of his latest creations.

"Customers were more interested in the workshop than shopping in the front area," Brenner said. "I then realised that

people want to experience chocolate with their emotions and fulfill their dreams."

When asked to identify his favorite meal to prepare, the man behind the cacao craziness gave a surprising answer: pasta.

"I love the smell, the simplicity, the comfort it creates both in cooking as well as eating," he said, noting that the element of fresh-made food is what makes his pasta "totally me."

Nonetheless, chocolate remains what inspires most of Brenner's menu — and what inspires him on a personal level.

"Chocolate inspires endless creativity," he said. "It is the fuel of life for me."

Visit the Max Brenner restaurant on your next trip to Tel Aviv, or www.maxbrenner.com for more information.



Oded 'Max' Brenner.



The Max Brenner 'Hug Mug.'



Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation

CONSIDER THIS

The Sages of Old composed blessings for all kinds of things.

There is a blessing before food and another for afterwards. A blessing for putting on a hat, for seeing lightning, and for meeting a king. There is even a blessing for going to the loo. But there is no *brachah* for menstruation. You might point out that the Sages of Old were male and therefore did not get a 'monthly visitor', but they still wrote blessings for women to say over candles; challah and yes, upon immersing in the mikveh on the completion of their period. So why nothing for the moment the period arrives?

Undoubtedly menstruation is not an easy

topic for anyone to discuss. Besides for our innate fear of blood and bleeding, the arrival of one's period has strong implications in different ways. For the young girl it is their introduction to womanhood. For the young woman it is confirmation of not being pregnant — either a relief or a heartbreak depending on circumstances. For the mature woman it is a sign of the potential to bring new life into the world, and for the post-menopausal woman its absence is often mourned. On the biological level it is nothing less than a miracle — a woman's womb growing what it needs to support a fertilised egg, and when an egg does not implant, seeing it is not needed, the body lets it go. Miraculous mechanics.

Judaism, like many ancient religions,

recognised that this blood allows us to connect with something deeper. Blood connects us with life and with death in the most primal of ways. It makes us confront our own mortality. And menstruation connects blood, death, life, and the potential for making new life, all into one.

Many Jewish couples practise niddah, a ritual separation of partners during menstruation. This can be experienced as a deep and meaningful way for couples to build their relationship through a regular phase of non-physical loving.

Revolutionising brachot

Which brings us back to why there is no *brachah* for the onset of menstruation. One woman decided that there was a gap in her praying/blessing life that needed to be filled. Now a rabbi, thirty years ago Elyse Goldstein turned what she felt was a very negative blessing into one that celebrated her being a woman. In some siddurim, the morning blessings contain a *brachah* that blesses God *shelo asani ishah*, 'for not having made me a woman' (women say instead, 'who has made me according to Your will'.) Books have been written both criticising and in defence of this *brachah*, written by Rabbi Meir in the Mishnaic Period, and space does not allow me to do it full justice here. Suffice it to say that our new siddur, *Mishkan T'filah*, does not contain that blessing. Instead it has replaced that with the blessing to be said by both men and women, *she-asani b'tzelem Elohim*, 'for having made me in the image of God'.

By Rabbi Greg Alexander



Rabbi Elyse Goldstein did the following: She took the words of the morning blessing and adapted them into a *brachah* for menstruation, rephrasing the words to say: "Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has made me a woman — *'she'asani ishah*'. In her words, she explains, "Saying the blessing becomes a revolutionary moment, for this change in wording — the negative into the positive — affirms my holiness and sanctity within the context of menstruation, not despite it."

Progressive Judaism has fought long and hard to make Judaism more egalitarian in issues of gender, class, power and education. We have ensured that boys and girls prepare equally for their bar or batmitzvah and both are called up to the Torah. Women have access to study in yeshivot and can become rabbis or service leaders, cantors, sofers or mohels. However, our bodies, and our experience of our bodies is very different, and being egalitarian does not mean ignoring difference. In fact, if done appropriately, celebrating difference is another way of ensuring that we end up more empowered.

In the words of Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, "See menstrual blood, then, as women's covenantal blood — just as the blood of *b'rit milah* (ritual circumcision) is men's. For women too have a *b'rit* (covenant) inscribed in our flesh as an 'everlasting covenant' (Genesis 17:19): not just once, at eight days old, but every single month."

Signal Hill challenge!

A gorgeous late summer day greeted our intrepid participants in the inaugural Temple Israel Signal Hill challenge on Sunday 25 March.

At 9am, with a blast of the shofar, the challenging journey from our Green Point Shul to the top of Signal Hill, and back, began. Individuals and families from all three congregations enjoyed the ruach and camaraderie of one of our major fundraising and community events.

After all that hard work, walkers and their supporters enjoyed a delicious braaied lunch and activities. We would like to thank

our sponsors, everyone who participated, the event committee, staff and volunteers for making it such a wonderful day.



Daniella Beswick and Abigayle Cohen enjoying the wonders of illusionist Larry Soffer's show after the race.



Smiling faces as the challenge begins!



Participants snaking their way up Signal Hill.

B'Sha'ot Tovot ...



Juliette Sandler
Rose-Innis
batmitzvah
19 May



Nicole, Noa and Alon Smily halfway up Signal Hill.

LAG

B'OMER

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UNION OF ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUES OF SOUTH AFRICA

Bar or mitzvah?

By Rabbi Levi Silman



Boris was a young man who just arrived in America from the Soviet Union.

He was ambitious and was looking for the best way to start a new business. Walking down the streets of New York City he saw a busy business. People were running in and out and the line to get in went around the block. What was their secret? Then he noticed a large sign hanging over the entrance that read: 'Going out of business.'

"That's brilliant! When I open my shop I will have that sign above the door" he thought. Boris then walked to another part of the city and saw almost the same thing. People were hustling and busting all around. He looked around and saw balloons, clowns, giveaways and a huge banner: 'Grand opening!' 'Amazing!' he thought. "This is how you do business. But wait a second; if I put up both signs at the same time won't my business be doubled?" Poor Boris, it was too late when he realised that you can't just open and close a business on the same day and still expect people to come by.

We can all feel sorry for Boris but for many, this was the way it is with a bar or batmitzvah. A barmitzvah is all too often the first and last time a 'barmy boy' puts on Tefillin. A batmitzvah can be the first and last time a Jewish girl says a Dvar Torah. How sad. This milestone in a young boy or girl's life is wasted away. While it's important to also make a party for friends and family, we almost forget what is primary and what is secondary.

Is it a Bar or is it a Mitzvah? See an article by Rabbi Yossi Goldman in *Jewish Life* — 'Barmitzvahs: Magic or Tragic?'

The good news is that as of late, many shuls have started programmes to educate our young Jewish boys and girls about how to make this once-in-a-lifetime occasion more meaningful. Furthermore, guidelines have been put in place with regards to shul attendance; having a kosher pair of Tefillin and a kosher caterer at the party.

For the business to succeed there needs to be a grand opening. This is the birth and Bris of a Jewish baby (many would argue that this begins long before the birth). And please G-d the business thrives and only grows from there. Mazel Tov!

IN AND AROUND CAPE TOWN ...



Gillian Cress, convenor of the KOCOSA 'Get Sorted for Pesach' function, addressing the audience.



Rabbi Desmond Maizels giving advice on kashering for Pesach at the KOCOSA Pesach function.



Chana, Shneur and Mendel Silman at Marais Road Shipwrecked Purim Party.



Adam Zartz, Josh Friedman, Ariel Katzen and Jesse Soller at the Marais Road Young Adults Purim Party.



Rabbi Silman with Brynn and Darroll Goldblatt at the father and son 'Barmy Army' event.



Ralph Sher, Ronnie Chorn, Marc Cohen and Sidney Bilski enjoy whisky tasting at Café Riteve.



Lenny Chiat (winner of the Chivas Regal draw) with Marc Backhouse at the Milnerton Hebrew Congregation whisky tasting.

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TALKING TACHLIS

Abusive language demeans our community

By David Jacobson

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

I remember singing this innocently as a child and having my parents intone it to me as some kind of mantra. It was only as I grew up, grew wiser and somewhat more worldly that I realised just how far off the mark that childish rhyme is, and, in many respects, how incredibly 'un-Jewish' it is. Words corrupt. Words hurt. Words are dangerous.

A clear example of this has been the recent slew of emails that have been doing the rounds within certain sectors of our community, having a real go at a very senior Cape Town journalist. These are not emails aimed at engaging in respectful and intellectual debate, but are rather aimed purposefully at vilifying people and utilising barbaric language to achieve their defamatory aims.

I find this type of behaviour distasteful, despicable and I distance myself entirely from such language. No matter on what side of the political fence you sit, to resort to petty 'name calling' and to use racist and offensive language is utterly unacceptable. It is unacceptable when such slurs are hurled at the Jewish community and it is equally unacceptable when members of the Jewish community deem it fit to hurl such slurs at others.

"To use racist language is utterly unacceptable."

It is the right of any member of our community to attack any idea or ideology he or she finds offensive. We have been engaged in the 'idea-bashing business' ever since Avram first bashed the idols in his father's shop and distanced himself from the prevailing ethics of the time. The Talmud is filled with robust debate. That is the Jewish way. The Jewish way is not to resort to vindictive vilification that assumes a self-righteous monopoly on 'the truth'. In my experience, this self-righteousness is

generally the province of both the extreme left and extreme right, who seem to operate in a space of intellectual tyranny that would rather shoot down the person who holds an opinion than attempt to deal with the opinion itself.

I am deeply disappointed that more Jewish leaders do not speak out on such matters. I would like to see our communal leaders, our rabbis and other Jewish role models all categorically distance themselves from hate speech and racist language. Silence is a form of insidious complicity. One does no good to the cause of Zionism or Judaism by trying to create villains of 'the other'. On the contrary, great harm is done to our community when in the name of an ideology that we all cherish, words are used that demean others. All we end up doing is simply demeaning ourselves.



We want to hear from 'Jews who do'

By Steven Gruz

At the 2011 National Conference of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe remarked on the resourcefulness, talent and success of South African Jewry in building enduring institutions.

He appealed to the Board and the community to strengthen government's efforts in addressing the challenges of education, skills development and job creation facing South Africa. Responding to this call to action is one of the Board's major projects for 2012. And we want to hear from you!

We have embarked on research to highlight and learn from the most successful endeavours in these fields by Jewish organisations and individuals around the country, and plan to present our findings to government in August 2012. Interviews in Johannesburg have yielded an impressive array of inspiring and innovative initiatives.

To name just a few: the Mitzvah School at Bet David, Sandton, has been teaching matric to learners from Alexandra township for 26 years. The Union of Jewish Women has a project at the Alexandra Lutheran Church to teach sewing and baking skills and create businesses. Volunteers in

the Chevra Kadisha's Second Innings project for active seniors teaches literacy and numeracy every week to struggling learners in 12 former Model C schools. The King David Schools Foundation enables Jewish day schools to undertake many meaningful and sustained outreach projects. Ronen Aires' Student Village helps to advise and guide students at universities.

The range of efforts and depth of commitment by Jewish people to make a difference in South Africa is remarkable and humbling. Many committed Jewish individuals, involved in everything from e-learning to entrepreneurship; employment to empowerment — responded to a public call on the website of the National Board: www.jewishsa.co.za.

But for this to be a truly national project, we look forward to hearing about the efforts of 'Jews who do' in the areas of education, skills development and job creation in the Western Cape, no matter how big or small. We value your ideas on how we as a society can better tackle these tasks. Please get in touch with Gwynne Robins at the Cape Board, on sajbd1@ctjc.co.za

Steven Gruz is Senior Researcher and Diplomatic Liaison at the SAJBD in Johannesburg. He is coordinating the national team working on this project.

Board affirms the Jewish mantra: Education, education, education!

Getting a good education should be the right of every South African. However we all know that this is not always the case in South Africa, owing to the prohibitive cost of tertiary education. As a community, we are in the very fortunate position of being able to assist those less fortunate to get the kind of education that can ensure and assure their future.

We are delighted to inform you that for 2012 the bursary sub-committee of the Board awarded over ONE MILLION RAND in bursaries to:

- 28 new students
- 39 renewal students
- 5 post-graduate students.

Every year, we aim to make sure that every young Jew has the opportunity and privilege of receiving a top-class education. With the rising costs of tertiary education and increasing indigence among many members of our community, the burden upon community structures is becoming ever greater.

With this in mind, if any member of the community is able to assist with the bursary fund in any way, it would be greatly appreciated. It would help us enormously in 2013 and, more importantly, you will be helping young Jews propel themselves into the future with confidence. If you are able to assist, please contact Jodi on sajbd2@ctjc.co.za or call the Executive Director, David Jacobson on 021 464 6700.

SAJBD welcomes new staff members

Life at the Board is never 'as usual'. Each year has seen demands on us grow, and we have set high standards in terms of our delivery.

"In order to achieve these goals and to fulfil our mandate, it is imperative that we hire people who are professional, capable and ambitious and who see working for the Board as a good career option," explains Executive Director David Jacobson. Gone are the days when Jewish communal bodies were seen as 'sheltered employment'. "Our work is simply too important, and the community expects the Board to operate professionally and efficiently," continues Jacobson.

As part of an office restructure aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Cape Board, two new professional appointments have been made in the last two months.



Gina Flash



Jodi Goldberg

We are pleased to announce that Jodi Goldberg has been appointed as Office Manager/PA and Gina Flash as PR and Communications/Project Manager. "Both Jodi and Gina come with lots of corporate experience in their specific fields, and we have high expectations of their abilities," says Jacobson. "They are bright, positive and ambitious young Jewish professionals and are going to add immeasurably to our thinking and working capacity."

FIND THE PERFECT JOB

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Cape Board meets with DA parliamentary leaders

By Dan Brotman

On 15 March, the Cape Board discussed challenges facing the country with three young South Africans who are changing the face of the Democratic Alliance.

Parliamentary Leader Lindiwe Mazibuko (32), MP Gareth Morgan (35) and Mazibuko's Chief of Staff Russel Brueton (24) met with the Cape Board for the first time ever to discuss the party's plans for 2014, as well as some of the policies it has implemented in the Western Cape since coming to power in 2009.

The meeting was divided into three parts: Firstly, an introduction to the work of the Board of Deputies by Chairman Li Boiskin; then remarks by Mazibuko on the state of the nation and challenges facing the DA; and finally a Q&A session with Jewish communal leaders around the table. Boiskin emphasised the Cape Board's strategic goal for 2012 to become more involved in nation-building initiatives throughout the Western Cape, as well as its desire to form strong relationships with all political parties in South Africa.

Mazibuko began by saying she is fearful of an ANC that is becoming more resistant to Mandela's vision of reconciliation. "The government has failed to enrich the country, and is now blaming the Constitution for this failure," she said. Other worrying trends she cited include the ANC's growing tolerance for members who do not adhere to the values of the Constitution; its push to redraw the provincial borders; and its resistance to enforcing anti-corruption legislation. She also spoke of some in the ANC who are proposing 'sunset clauses' on certain provisions of the Constitution, including the 'willing buyer, willing seller' property clause, which prohibits forced land redistribution.

Mazibuko believes that the average South African voter does not make the link between voting and service delivery; and that while 85% of South Africans believe that the ANC is corrupt, the same 85% also trust the party. The majority of the population is able to reconcile this contradiction because the liberation struggle and the rampant corruption within the party occurred at two different times in history. Because of this dissonance between the ANC of the past and the party of the present, the DA's strategy for 2014 will focus more on voter education. The party's greatest challenge will be to

convince the masses that voting is not an emotional tie, but rather a policy-based decision. "One can still vote for the DA for the future, while having a place for the ANC in your heart as part of the past," explained Mazibuko.

Past and future

Having witnessed the effects of corruption when civil servants dabble in business, the DA enacted the Business Ethics Act in the Western Cape, which makes it illegal for civil servants and members of the party's structure (i.e. branch chairmen) and their family members to do business with the provincial government. The ANC has so far been unwilling to enact similar legislation in the remaining eight provinces it controls. Mazibuko believes that the rule of law, which enforces anti-corruption legislation, is eroding under ANC-rule. She does not know how long it will take for voters to make the connection between voting and outcomes, as "ten years of corruption does not wipe away one hundred years of history" in the eyes of the masses.

On the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Mazibuko says that the DA's position does not drastically differ from that of the ANC. She sees US President Barack Obama's role as bringing both sides to the negotiating table to recognise that both have sovereignty in the region. Like the ANC, the DA supports a two-state solution, with Jerusalem as a shared capital. When SAUJS Chairman,

Josh Benjamin, asked Mazibuko whether she believes that Israel is an apartheid state, she explained that while the Israelis have more resources than the Palestinians, the analogy is unfair. According to her, this is because both sides have experienced a similar proportion of suffering, which was not the case between blacks and whites during apartheid. On the Iran nuclear issue, Mazibuko said that in addition to lessening our dependence on Iranian oil, South Africa must follow the US' lead and impose stiffer sanctions, in addition to halting any arms sales to Iran.

The meeting concluded with a brief discussion on her remarks from the day before at UCT on the university's race-based admission policy. Mazibuko said that having attended private schools during apartheid (including Carmel College in Durban), she is "deeply offended" by UCT's admission policy. "I do not like being told that I am 'disadvantaged' because I am black", said Mazibuko. She believes



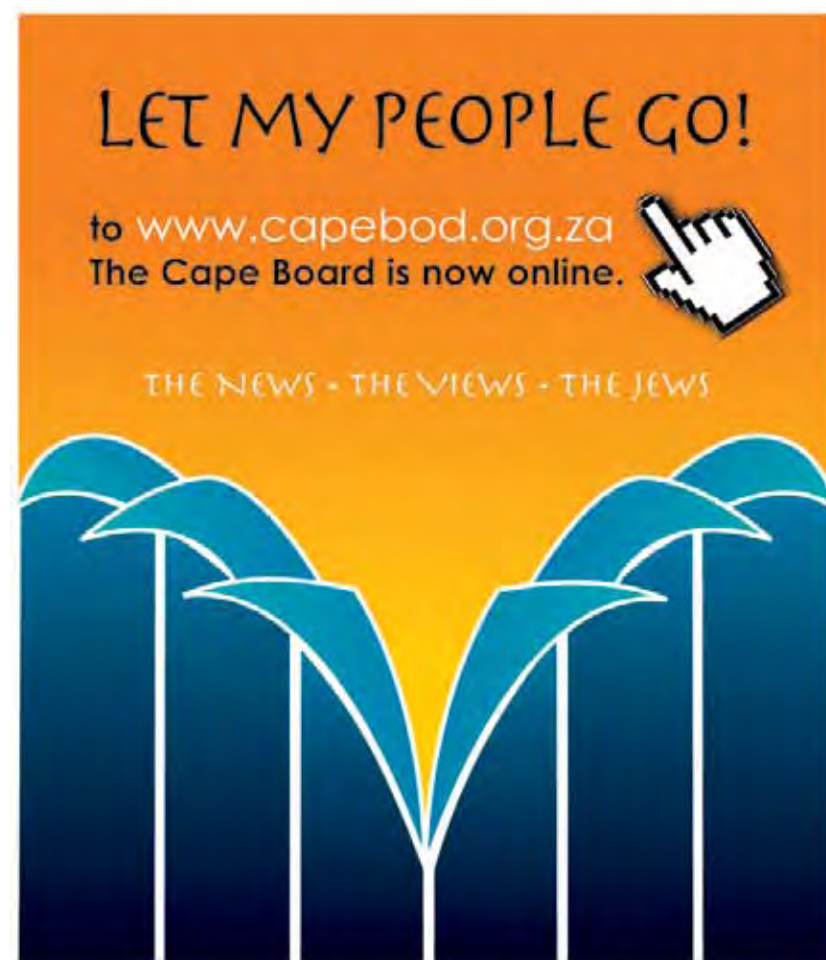
DA City Councillor Errol Anstey, Russel Brueton, MP Gareth Morgan, DA Parliamentary Leader Lindiwe Mazibuko and Cape Board Chairman Li Boiskin.

that Vice-Chancellor Max Price's thinking emanates from the apartheid-era, when all race groups were seen as homogenous. "To insinuate that because of a different skin colour that you have different opportunities creates a victim mentality for both whites and blacks," she said. "When blacks get things because they are black, it robs them of the satisfaction of

achievement through hard work. Max Price is forcing people to define themselves as 'capable' or 'incapable'."

As a politically non-partisan organisation, the Cape Board thoroughly enjoyed the dialogue with Mazibuko, Morgan and Brueton. We look forward to engaging with a wide spectrum of South African political parties in 2012.

"One can still vote for the DA for the future, while having a place for the ANC in your heart as part of the past."



QUESTION FOR NEXT MONTH:

Do you think it is acceptable that most Jewish children in Cape Town attend a predominantly white private school?

E-mail your response (maximum 2 sentences) to: danb@ctjc.co.za

"Are we a community under siege, and if so, by whom?"

"We as a community are under threat by a very real and tangible disease, called apathy. As soon as an event is connected to the community, people immediately switch off and almost make an effort not to attend."

Dean Horwitz, 24, Constantia



"We as Jews always seem to be under threat by the outside, and that applies to Cape Town now. Respect for differences within the community is needed so that we can work together and strengthen from within."

Daniela Peiser, 39, Sea Point



"The signs that the upsurge in international antisemitism has reached our shores is patently there for all but the wilfully blind to see. The distorted and hostile anti-Israel left-wing media coverage is used, intentionally or not, to whip up animus against the West in general, and Jews in particular."

Rodney Mazinter, 73, Camps Bay



"Affirmative Action, antisemitism, apartheid-not-over, assimilation, AIDS. Israel isolation, Islamist radicals, immigrant waves, info bills, inept politicians. Of course we're under threat — but less so, it feels to me, than at any other time in the last 100 years."

Glen Heneck, 54, Tokai





SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION (CAPE COUNCIL)

Israel Apartheid Week — demeaning the South African experience



The eighth annual Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) launched globally during the month of March.

Nowhere else was this campaign to demonise and delegitimise the state of Israel felt more than in South Africa. The overarching purpose of IAW is to ensure that public perception of Israel is that it is indeed an apartheid state. If this can be achieved, as it was in apartheid South Africa through international pressure and the boycott, disinvestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign, it is the first step in bringing down the entire 'illegitimate' state.

The South African apartheid regime employed racist ideology that saw the separation of all racial groups, with whites as the sole beneficiaries. The IAW campaign attempts to make the same claim about the Israeli government's treatment of the Palestinians, ignoring any Jewish historical and religious claims and attachments to the land. Notwithstanding this, the 'photocopying' tactic has achieved successes in convincing uninformed members of society worldwide that the Israeli government is a militaristic one that seeks to barricade the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank and does so willingly for economic and political reasons.

The IAW South Africa campaign makes this argument even more believable through the collaborative effort of organisations such as Open Shuhuda Street, The Palestinian Solidarity Committee and COSATU. These organisations have managed to garner the support of key individuals that now weigh in and give credence to the Israel-apartheid analogy; including Rev. Edwin Arrison, Rev. Alan Boesak, former ANC Minister Ronnie Kasrils and human rights activist Terry Crawford-Browne.

Purporting to be facilitators of peace; the aforementioned serve only as a predetermined jury that blame Israeli 'aggression' and subjugation of the Palestinians as the root cause for the continuing conflict.

Combating propaganda

During IAW South Africa, lectures and panel discussions were conducted on university campuses countrywide, focusing on Israel as an 'apartheid state'. Palestinian documentaries were showcased for the



An 'Israeli Apartheid Week' poster.

same purpose. Supplementing this was a carefully coordinated marketing campaign on websites and university campuses that consisted of graphic visuals displaying Israeli brutality towards Palestinians. Even makeshift 'walls', used to illustrate the security barrier in Israel, appeared on various campuses.

This message of despair was carried through onto various radio stations and appeared in the print media. To counter this, the Jewish communal structures worked together to minimise the exposure given to IAW. Print and radio mediums were utilised to counter

IAW efforts; while SAUJS challenged anti-Israel efforts on campuses and organised pro-Israel initiatives of their own.

Acclaimed South African apartheid human rights activist Benjamin Pogrund and human rights activist and outspoken Palestinian critic, Bassem Eid, also toured the country. They visited university campuses, the Cape Town Press Club, the South African Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA) and other media; and thereby provided valuable insight into both the Israeli and Palestinian perspectives and the complexities of the conflict.

While attempts were made to outdo the previous years in terms of reach, impact and persuasion, this year did not stimulate public attention as was hoped by the organisers. Key speakers did not arrive at their intended lectures; and rallies that were planned for thousands saw a handful of participation. Guest speakers were posed difficult questions by attendees, which evoked emotionally-charged answers that often skirted around the issue. This reinforces the need to counteract Israel's detractors and moreover to educate those who are susceptible to buying into this skewed and demonic discourse.

A view from the Chair

By Rodney Mazinter, Vice-Chair of the SAZF Cape Council



The United Nations is an enigma. Forty percent of UN Human Rights Council resolutions are against just one country — Israel.

It is therefore natural to assume that this country is not a very nice place — on a level perhaps with North Korea or Syria; whose dictators kill their own people, or maybe like Iran, which threatens to annihilate another country.

But actually, Israel, which has been condemned more times than all repressive countries on earth combined, is a democracy — the only one democracy in the Middle East. These are the thoughts that came to me as I listened to the outpouring of propaganda from the recent BDS 'discussion' panel at UCT.

Are all these condemnations of a tiny, embattled country really justified? Whether or not you agree with how Israel is handling its many challenges; when you make a basic comparison, such as the number of deaths Israel is responsible for with the number of condemnations it received from the UN, and then make that same comparison with other countries, it paints a surprising picture. Israel: 46 000 deaths, including war casualties — 223 condemnations. Nigeria: 1 million deaths — 0 condemnations; North Korea: 2 million deaths — 10 condemnations; Sudan: 2.25 million deaths — 45 condemnations; Cambodia: 3 million deaths — 14 condemnations; Syria: 6 000 killed and counting — 0 condemnations; China: unknown millions killed — 0 condemnations. The count in Iran, Zimbabwe and others too numerous and painful to mention, but

they haven't received condemnations. You start to get the picture.

What can explain the enormous variance?

Patently, either rank antisemitism or cynical expediency. In 1975, this unbalanced voting bloc concocted a resolution that Zionism is a form of racism. The idea of Zionism — the movement trying to protect Jews from racism being redefined as racism — is grotesque. This contrived irony explains why in a dysfunctional world, with so many failed countries, Israel is the perennial handy scapegoat and whipping boy.

But today the UN has a new tool for attacking Israel at the UN: The Durban Review Conference on Racism. This sub-organisation has been charged with finding the 'real' root of racism, and after the initial hate-fest held in Durban where the US and other democratic countries either did not attend or walked out; that paragon of human rights, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, revealed that Zionism is not only racist but the personification of apartheid and is the cause of all the world's problems. This year, representatives from over 140 different countries descended on New York to listen to speakers who tried to convince them about the secret, racist Jewish campaign for Jewish worldwide domination.

Just such a mini-meeting was foisted on unsuspecting students last month at UCT. But history teaches us that this sort of hate promotion will lead to a conflagration that will inevitably consume the entire world.

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 4th & 5th AUGUST 2012



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IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
⇒ ARE YOU A LEADER?

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Aliyah and interactions for SA students

Higher Education Expo 2012

The 2012 Higher Education Expo was a great success, with over 60 individual meetings taking place.

Young people were able to find out information about studying, gap years and more in Israel. These photographs are of the student breakfast at UCT; the parents' meeting at Herzlia High School and the delegates themselves.

If you missed out and want to know more, call the Aliyah Department on 021 464 6718 or email aliyah@ctjc.co.za



Delegates and organisers at the Higher Education Expo: Stephanie Miller and Kayda Prodders of IDC; Shaliach Yaniv Nachmias; oleh Josh Friedlander; Dan Ginsberg of Israel by Choice; Serge Losenkov of Student Authority; Jolyn Levin representing Real Life Israel; and Shana Beinart of the Israel Centre.

Student Exchange — the beginning of a wonderful friendship



Members of the Carmel Zvulun student exchange programme outside Parliament in support of Israel.

Twelve Grade 9 students and two teachers from the Carmel Zvulun School at Kibbutz Yagur in Israel recently came to Cape Town on a student exchange programme.

They were partnered with fellow Grade 9 pupils in Cape Town and participated in joint activities, informal meetings and exciting tours of the city. Most importantly, this was an opportunity for Cape Town pupils to interact and share experiences with Israelis of their own age.

It was a learning opportunity and this student exchange was truly the beginning of a wonderful friendship. The Cape Town students will be making a reciprocal visit to Carmel Zvulun in October, so watch this space for more on that exciting trip.

See more on page 23



Delegates and attendees enjoying the Higher Education Expo Breakfast at UCT.



Shaliach Yaniv Nachmias with Lee Nojman of Na'ale at the parents' meeting.



Kayda Prodders of the IDC addresses the audience at the parents' meeting.



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Family Announcements

RECUPERATION — THANK YOU

TANIA JACOBSON

A sincere thanks to all my family and friends who were so supportive during my stay in hospital and are still there for me while I get on my feet again.

I embrace you all.
With much love.

Tania Jacobson

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

SHIRLEY RABINOWITZ

We have been overwhelmed by the unbelievable outpouring of love, support, sympathy, caring and kindness shown to us on the passing of our beloved Shirley.

We sincerely appreciate your attendance at the funeral or prayers, visits, telephone calls, emails and letters.

The magnificent tributes paid to Shirley by all of you are of great comfort to us in this very sad time.

We shall love and remember her in our hearts and cherish the memory of a wonderful wife and mother.

Bennie, Susan and Lesley.

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

VIVIAN MERVYN RUBIN

We wish to thank and extend our heartfelt appreciation to our family, friends, Rabbonim, Ohr Somayach family and greater Jewish community for the support shown to us during our very sad time.

Our sincere thanks also for the many letters of condolence from family, friends and organisations. Your support has been a great source of comfort to us, knowing his memory will be cherished by all who knew him.

Sandra, Russel and Gill,
Gary and Tanya Rubin and
Lara and Brett Osrin.

To place a family announcement
phone Tessa 021 464-6736
(mornings)

ERRORS, OMISSIONS AND CORRECTIONS

The Cape Jewish Chronicle regrets any errors or omissions that may occur in the paper and, where possible, will attempt to rectify these in a subsequent issue, should such a measure be deemed appropriate. No repeat advertisement or credits will be given for small typographical errors which do not appreciably lessen the value of the advertisement. The appearance of an advertisement does not necessarily indicate approval by the Editorial Board for the product or service advertised, and it takes no responsibility for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of the reliance upon the information contained therein.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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GLENDALE GREETING SERVICE

Letters can be sent to your loved ones and friends for birthdays, wedding anniversaries and chaggim or any special occasion. Make use of this service which is available world wide.

TINS: If your tin needs collecting please phone the office

10 Galway Road Heathfield PO Box 40 Bergvliet 7864
www.glendalehome.co.za email: hazel@glendalehome.co.za
tel: (021) 712-0270 fax: (021) 712-0873

Glendale activities now on you-tube: www.youtube.com search Glendale Cape Town.

Notice is hereby given that the 70th Annual General Meeting of the Cape Town Branch of the Union of Jewish Women

**will be held
on Thursday 31 May 2012**

**at the Fire & Ice Hotel
at 09.30 for 10.00 am**

Members and interested parties are cordially invited.

PAY it forward in MAY

**Do a mitzvah in May and pay
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- Direct deposit to ABSA Heerengracht branch, Acc no 405 545 9012, Branch code: 632005
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Chabad Friendship Circle Matzah Bake programme

Mixing flour and water can produce matzah. But throw into the mix the Chabad Bachurim, Meir Fellig and Mendel Robbins, a group of teenage volunteers and special needs children, and you have a Friendship Circle matzah morning.

The Friendship Circle is an organisation run by Chabad for children with special needs, powered by volunteers who are inspired to share their time in a warm and fun environment. The organisation enjoyed a fun-filled day where the children mixed and baked their very own matzah and were entertained by a magician.

Today, at least 1 in 12 children has some form of special needs. It may be cerebral palsy or autism, learning disabilities or ADHD. The common thread between most disabilities is the fact that they make children feel different to their peers. It may be a wheelchair, the inability for a child to verbalise his thoughts, or simply struggling to read and write that can cause a chasm between a child and the rest of the children at school, at summer camp or at the local youth group.



The Friendship Circle Matzah Bake!

Even more painful than the stares, the impatience and the difficulties in communicating is the phone that doesn't ring, the empty afternoons longing for companionship, a playmate or just someone to talk to. For a child with special needs, loneliness and isolation can very often be a regular part of life. The Friendship Circle fills these gaps and adds quality and value to the lives of these children.

For further information on the Friendship Circle and the work we do, please contact Avigail Popack on 083 775 0030 or 021 434 3740 or visit our website: www.friendshipcircle.co.za



Children and volunteers watching a magic show.

Dear Rebbetzin Popack,

A picture says a 1000 words...

This is my special-needs daughter, Liora, with 'friend' Natalie Bentel...

There are few words for the special magic between them.

Thank you to Meir and Mendel, and your Friendship Circle, for making a difference in a little girl's life (she is 15).

Kind regards,
Sharen Silbowitz



UNITED HERZLIA SCHOOLS
בתי"ס המאוחדים הרצליה

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the UNITED HERZLIA SCHOOLS will take place on 23 May 2012 at 8.00pm in the Middle School Atrium, M.H. Goldschmidt Avenue, Highlands Estate.

Motions duly proposed and seconded must be lodged at the office of the Director - Finance and Administration by Wednesday 9 May 2012.

Nominations for office bearers, duly proposed and seconded must be lodged at the office of the Director - Finance and Administration by 4:00pm on Monday 14 May 2012. The nomination form must be signed by a proposer and a seconder. A CV of not more than 120 words must be attached to the nomination form and can be faxed to 021 461 2367.

Nomination forms and a proposed CV format are available from the Director - Finance and Administration at the Max & Nina Lipsitz Administration Centre, M.H. Goldschmidt Avenue, Highlands Estate, Telephone 021 464 3309 or email admin@herzlia.com

Parents and current donors to the UJC are members of the UHS and are eligible to vote.

PARENTS, BENEFACTORS AND DONORS OF THE SCHOOL PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS AN INVITATION. RIGHT OF ADMISSION RESERVED.



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The Union of Jewish Women

Tea under the old Ficus tree

On Monday 5 March, the Kensington Crèche committee, its principal and staff had very special visitors for tea.

The guests were Ann Sussman and her cousin Jenny Sieff from London; Cynthia and Ivan Kapelus from London; and Pamela and Terence Kirk of California. They were joined by Phyllis Friedlander and Grace Spitzglass, the long-standing treasurer of Kensington Crèche.



Ann Sussman with the tree she planted many years ago.



Cynthia and Ivan Kapelus and Pamela and Terence Kirk in front of the Grade R classroom, renovated by the Solomon Family Trust.

Ann Sussman was the Chairman of the Kensington Crèche Committee for 45 years. The buildings and playground are all a tribute to her work. The crèche was a life-long project, which ensured that staff were loving, caring and efficient; and that the children received nutritious meals and excellent teaching and care. Ann's late husband David encouraged Kensington Crèche in all its endeavours and gave his generous support. He was always a welcome guest at all the 'end of the year' parties.

Dr Mary Solomon, Chairman of the Toni Saphra group and who established the

Solomon Family Trust with her late husband, Julius; was unable to join us. Her daughters Cynthia and Pamela represented her. Mary and the Toni Saphra group had many benefactors, with Victoria Hospital and Kensington Crèche benefitting. Mary's husband Julius generously supported her projects. Mary, in her personal capacity, gave the crèche gifts and saw to it that the Solomon Family Trust would undertake the renovation project for the Grade R classroom.

Julius will be remembered for sponsoring the 'bobba trip' for grandmothers who could not afford to visit their families overseas. We were honoured to have these wonderful people with us.

Simcha Group Quiz Evening

The Gitlin Library team won first prize at the Quiz Evening held by the UJW Simcha Group at Stonehaven on 12 March.

Seven teams competed in an event enjoyed by close to 50 participants. Pictured are the winning team: Andy Rodgers, Janine Sher, Mark Rodgers, Mandy and Devis Iosifzen, Jocelyn Poswell (obscured) and Barry Gur.



Yad Sarah has moved

Yad Sarah is known for its loans of medical and rehabilitative equipment to members of the Cape Town community on a non-profit basis.

This often enables sick, disabled, elderly and recuperating patients to live at home. It is a voluntary service provided by the Union of Jewish Women and has recently moved back to Stonehaven, Sea Point, after being very successfully run by Reggie and Daphne Gevint for many years. We are very grateful to them!

Yad Sarah is open from 8.30 am — 1.00 pm Mon — Fri at Stonehaven. Enquiries: 021 434-9555 (mornings only)



BREAKING NEWS

HEBREW MONUMENTS



DIRECTORS: CANTOR IAN AND HELENE CAMISSAR

OFFERS A FULL CEMETERY SERVICE

GARDEN SERVICE

In the last few weeks we have taken over the gardening company of James Shelley who has been servicing Pinelands 2 for the past 6 years. James is retiring and we wish him all the best for the future.

Our company has secured the services of the same efficient staff.

We grass the area around the grave. We plant trees and plants to beautify the plot. Our prices are very reasonable. We offer a full maintenance plan for cutting, watering, weeding and cleaning of the stone. We already have many satisfied clients.

MEMORIAL STONES

Our company is pleased to announce that we have acquired the latest cutting equipment in producing memorial stones.

We are making even more fortified foundations by securing the slab with iron rods.

All our stones are prepared with much care and are erected to the best specifications. We offer top quality granite and marble.

Our prices are very competitive and now we have added a website so that you can choose a stone for your loved ones.

REPAIRS

Unfortunately after some years, stones do slant to the side. Kerbing gets buried under the sand and stones need to be repainted.

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Lately we have tiled a lot of graves to the delight of our clients. Repairs and tiling are not expensive, so why not repair the graves of your loved ones. Our repairs are done quickly.

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BREAKING NEWS



Highlands House Golf Day 2012

Highlands House held its annual Golf Day on 23 February at King David Golf Club.

The event, which is now a fixture on the community scene, was enjoyed by all participants.

Bernard Osrin, who addressed the crowd, thanked Larry Sive, Herbert Maltz and the Highlands House staff for the smooth running of the event.

We thank the donors and sponsors for their ongoing support of our Home and our residents in their twilight years.



Crowe Horwath four-ball: Philip Krawitz, Joel Berkowitz, Mike Kovensky and Cecil Gelbart.



Colin Gordon, Michael Terespolsky, Michael Liebrecht and Larry Sive.



Dennis Fabian, Bernard Osrin, Hugh Herman and Raymond Hofmann.



Greg Nates, Stuart Hendler and Les Levy.



Hungry golfers enjoying dinner.



Highlands House staff hard at work at the registration table.

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Dynamic and inspiring BZA Campaign Launch

Bnoth Zion WIZO launched its 2012/2013 Biennial Women's Zionist Campaign on Monday 2 April.

The event was held at the Sephardi Hall with the dynamic and trail-blazing Galia Albin as our campaign emissary.

Galia has helped BZA WIZO and the women of Israel 'open doors' by strengthening Jewish and Zionist identity

and helping forge bonds between Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora.

Her achievements in the field of media and culture have raised the profile of women in the business and social world.

Galia's talk encouraged us to play a role in ensuring the future of women in Israel. WIZO are so fortunate that our projects will be strengthened by the contributions we received at this prestigious event.



Galia Albin with Patricia Fine, Tessa Scher, Sheila Kaplan, Tamar Lazarus, Bella Silverman and Myra Osrin.

Bnoth Zion Association Wizo & Union of Jewish Women of South Africa

Join us for a Morning of Song, Laughter & a Delectable Tea in the Country....

FEATURING

Coloratura Soprano
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and the

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Nik Rabinowitz



DATE: 31st May 2012
PLACE: Forest 44 - La Pineta
TIME: 9:30am for 10:00am
TICKETS: R150

BOOKINGS: Brenda Wittenberg: 021 8520573
Danalina Fienberg: 021 8510229
Kayle Nocky: 021 8533217
BNOth ZION WIZO: Lee - 021 4646729

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Bnoth Zion WIZO Golf Day 2012

The 8 March was a sunny, gusty day at King David Golf Club. It was Purim, as well as Bnoth Zion WIZO's annual Golf Day!

Golfers were greeted by a bevy of 'Queen Esthers' easing their paths off to the first tee. All agreed that the Golf Day was an unparalleled success, with an enjoyable atmosphere, good food and a great prize-giving.

Thanks must go to all the sponsors, prize givers and especially the golfers for their generosity and commitment to our beneficiaries.



Bellerive/Stenham 4 ball: Mark Sacks, Alisdair Neilson, Jonny Osrin and Grant Querido.



Ladies' team who came second: Mandy Allan, Nicolette Dunbar, Eileen Farrel and Rob Thyse.



Men's team who came first: Howard Spiro, Mike Rautenbach, Aubrey Luck and Rob Berry.



Donne Querido running the show!



The ladies' committee.

We thank our sponsors

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Torah meets technology.

In 1312 Moses received the Torah on Mount Sinai and the Jewish people started the education process.

Teaching and learning methodologies have evolved over time, but the Jewish people's love of learning has remained the same. Using technology as a way of imparting our Jewish values and lessons is another exciting educational method in nurturing life-long learning in the world today.

The 2012 academic year started with every classroom in the HERZLIA system being equipped with the relevant technology for each phase. This includes a

Smartboard in every classroom up to the end of Grade 9, data projectors and computers in every classroom in the school system, a video conferencing facility in our media centre and WiFi access across many of our campuses. Every teacher at HERZLIA is being trained in the use of technology through an ITC training programme (EPICT) aimed at enhancing their technological skills.

At HERZLIA we are striving to make education exciting, accessible and relevant through the extensive use of technology - rising to meet the challenges of the new academic curriculae.



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HERZLIA IN FOCUS

CONSTANTIA

A special visit from Mr Goodacre

A group of Grade 3 pupils from the Extension Group, read an anthology of stories compiled by Jim Goodacre, a past Principal of Constantia. Here he is seen chatting to Tane Ressel, Joseph Zelezniak and Emma Rabinowitz. Unfortunately Doron Sumeruk and Gabriel Gottlieb were ill and could not attend the discussion.



Sharing and caring

We invited the Grade 3 pupils from Constantia Farm School and Highlands Primary for a day of fun and activities.

When everyone arrived we were very nervous but we welcomed them. We went to the field where we had a healthy lunch and played games. We split into groups and while the girls watched a movie the

boys swam, then we swapped. After that we all had a party! We gave the Farm School children stationery and books, because they have much less than we have. It was a day of sharing and caring and a chance to make new friends. It made us feel warm inside to do this mitzvah.

A report by Joseph Zelezniak, Katelyn Hendrickse and Emma Rabinowitz



Purim celebrations

Constantia and Highlands pupils with their new friends from Constantia Farm School and some of the stationery and books they collected for their visitors.



Grade 1s Daniel Woolfson, Joshua Hung, Elijah Zar, Devlin Morris, Jonathan Woolfson, Samuel Sossen and Talya Osovatz dressed up for Purim.

WEIZMANN

Learning about a healthy lifestyle

The Grade 5 boys have been learning about a healthy lifestyle in Life Orientation. As a part of the section on Physical Exercise, the boys went on an

outing to the Point Virgin Active. They were shown around by ex-Weizmann student Dylan Wakefield who is currently working as a fitness instructor at the gym.



Daniel Hammerson, Dylan Wakefield, Nadav Mazor, Zaccary Beilinson, Eytan Labe, Devin Skop, Liam Durrant, Zac Bagraim, Dean Kopping and Shai Kohen. Front: Jayden Solomon.

Experi-Buddies

In an attempt to encourage the development of young scientists, Experi-Buddies are running a programme as a part of our extra-murals to show the children that the world of science can be fun.



Gregory Schapiro, Jordan Arelisky and Tal Eisenberg with the ladies from Atom Ant.

Excellence in various disciplines

Jemma Bagg (gr 6) received a Certificate of Distinction in her tap dance exam and a trophy for Spirit and Endeavour from the Waterfront Theatre School.

Alon Katz (gr 6) has been selected to participate in the SA Regional Level 2 Age Group Swimming Championships in George.

HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

Buddy Day 2012

One of the most popular 'privileges' enjoyed by Grade 6 pupils is the chance to be a big buddy to a Grade 1. Buddy Day saw a hall full of excited pupils eagerly waiting to hear who they would be paired with. Time was spent getting to know each other and having photos taken in preparation for buddy books that will be written by the Grade 6 pupils.



Zac Cohen interviewing his buddy, Zachary-Levi Herskovitz in preparation for his Buddy Book.

Recycling theme for Purim



The theme for Purim 2012 was recycling. The pupils looked wonderful in their costumes and the teachers also made a special effort to dress up!

Miss Chiat and Zak Norval dressed in their 'recycling' outfits for Purim.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Herzlia placed third in the MySchool competition

Herzlia Middle School achieved 3rd place nationally in the annual MySchool SO Competition. The growth for Gross Funds raised

over the past year was a whopping 241%. The prize was R5000 cash from MySchool and a R5000 donation to a local under-resourced school.



Seen at the Friday assembly are Jacqui Paton (Community Organiser MySchool) and Lizbe Botes (principal) handing over the donation cheque to Mr Meyer, the principal of Klipfontein Primary School.

Pi Day Interhouse Contest

Pi Day was celebrated by holding an Interhouse Contest. The three houses were represented by a pupil from each grade and each contestant recited as many digits of Pi that he/she could remember. The total number of digits remembered per team was multiplied by 3,14159. Gideon won by scoring a massive 430 points as their Grade 9 team member, Sherryn Berkovitz, recited a record 109 digits of Pi.



Pictured are Sabrina Cohen, Ryan Berelowitz, Sherryn Berkovitz, Ethan Shirk and Zach Levin.

Carmel Zvulun School Exchange Programme

We have launched a unique and exciting programme, which involves the exchanging of youth delegations between the Herzlia Middle School and the Carmel Zvulun regional school in Israel. The objective is to introduce Herzlia pupils to Israeli pupils of the same age, which will help to strengthen the bridges between the two communities.

The first stage of the programme was welcoming a group of twelve Israeli Grade 9s, who were hosted by Middle School families. During their visit, they joined our pupils in their daily activities; learnt about the Jewish community; and shared some of their experiences of Israel. A group of our pupils will visit Israel later this year.



Alon Ashel: The children dressed up and ate homentashen, which were baked at school. JIPSY dramatised the Purim story for the children. Here, India and Kitty Harris are pictured in their Purim outfits.



Dafna: Nurse Mel, Pirate Max and Puss in Boots Kirsten enjoying the Purim festivities at Dafna.

HIGH SCHOOL

Exchanging ideas to create awareness



LEAP drumming session: Shannon Pincus and Zena Kruss van der Heever drumming with Nosipho Qongo and Babalwa Mene.

- A group of Herzlians met with a group of pupils from Chatham Hall (Virginia USA). Every year pupils from Chatham Hall visit South Africa and engage in a programme of outreach, education and ecology.
- Pupils from Blackburn College (UK), paid a return visit to Herzlia, following the very successful Interfaith Programme that three gr. 10 pupils attended last year and which is ongoing this year.
- Partnership with LEAP2: There have been two very successful meetings between the group of

twelve Herzlia High School pupils and four Middle School pupils with their counterparts from a LEAP 2 School. The first was at the LEAP campus in Pinelands for a session of drumming; while the second took the form of a picnic and guided tour at the Green Point Urban Park.

Subsequent to these meetings, we heard that a number of pupils from LEAP had lost their belongings in a terrible shack fire in Langa. Herzlia pupils and parents responded magnificently to the call for assistance.

Sports news in brief

Ariel Rubin (gr. 11) qualified to represent Western Province Aquatics at the SA Open Water Swimming Championships.

Miron Sarembock (gr. 11) was invited to compete in the South African National Aquatics Championship in Durban.

These Herzlians completed the Argus Cycle Tour: **Gary Glezer, Jarryd Glezer** (gr. 10); **Daniel Marcus, Adam Rosendorff, Ariel Rubin, Levi Todes** (gr. 11); **Justin Snitcher, Nicholas Stevens, Michael Isaacs** (gr. 12), and **Paul Schooling** (staff).

Jamie Jacobson (gr. 10) was placed 5th in the surf-ski section in the U16 age-group at the Western Province Life Saving Championships, and will be competing in the South African Lifesaving Championships.



Gan Aviv: Everyone got into the spirit of Purim and the children were unrecognisable in their outfits! Here, cousins Liam Chin and Nina Markovitz are seen in their costumes.

ORT Cape offers exciting initiatives

Generous donations by Shelley Friedman through the George Elkin Trusts have enabled ORT Cape to continue its good work in underprivileged communities.

ORT-Tech ran an exciting, stimulating and innovative Robotics Programme at the recent Design Indaba in Cape Town. For two days, children were captivated and intrigued by building and programming Robotics. The event also gave ORT exposure, as many delegates stopped to ask what we were doing.

A Robotics Club started at the Iziko National Museum on the 18 April. The workshops will run weekly as an extra-mural programme for children aged 12 to 16 years. Our holiday programme, for ages 6 to 11 runs every school holiday and continues to be very popular. Over 120 children, from over 50 different schools, have had the opportunity to attend these workshops over the last 10 months.

New projects being launched this year include a Grade R accredited teacher training course; more Robotics Clubs in the rural areas around Cape Town; and the supporting of school websites, computer and media rooms.

ORT-Tech is partnering with Hector Petersen Secondary School in Wallacedene — a school catering for over 1000 learners from Grade 7 to Grade 12.



A participant enjoying the Robotics workshop

This school increased their Matric results by 15% in 2011 — a remarkable achievement! The teachers spend many hours at school after the normal school day to support the learners. We will continue to campaign for funding and sponsorship to assist and uplift schools like these, which are run well with a dedicated team of staff and learners.

Help us make a difference in the lives of children who have the ability to excel despite the challenges they face. For information, visit www.orttech.org.za or e-mail info@orttech.org.za

Purim at Astra Centre



Visiting Israeli soldiers, from the Hope for Heroes Foundation, joined in the fun.



Jeremy and Ruth Chaitman, sponsors of the Purim party.



Sylvia Leiserowitz and daughter Ruth Chaitman enjoying the entertainment with Astra workers.



Gabriel Shai entertaining the crowd.

Purim day — what a happy holiday!



It certainly was for the 60 residents of Glendale Home!

Besides for our usual Mishloach Manot from Chabad House, this year Phyllis Jowell School decided to 'adopt' Glendale Home and provide each one of our residents with beautiful and personalised bags of goodies.

The residents were so excited to each receive colourful gifts just for them. The

happiness was tangible throughout the Home and many residents were still talking about their bags for days afterwards. All the residents were extremely grateful.

Besides all the 'nush' inside the bag, the residents each received a tin of coloured pencils.

Purim was definitely full of smiles at Glendale Home. Thank you to Phyllis Jowell School and Chabad House for making our residents' Purim a Chag Sameach!

New friendships and fun for CJSA

At the recent Goudini CJSA break, one of the biggest 'headaches' was placing everyone in bungalows where they were happy.

We had to take numerous things into account — ability to climb

staircases; who shares with whom and which couples to place together. Thankfully almost everyone was happy.

We had five bungalows filled to capacity with people from different branches; each with different likes, dislikes and needs. But it all worked out and in one of the bungalows where members had not met before, instant friendships were formed

and they said that it was like 'they have known each other for ever'. So much so, that the group have met since the break and enjoyed a lovely morning reminiscing over their escapades.

Also, most important and taken very seriously were the Kalooki schools, which certainly added to the enjoyment of the week.



Bobby Rabin, Sarah Daitsch, Adele Galgut and Shirley Elvey (back) and Alma Reiss, Joe and Ruth Mink (front).



Henny Bernstein, Rosebeth Becker, Hazel Ginsberg and Joan Freedman concentrating hard on their game.



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Fiction

ROTH Joseph, **Right and Left**. Joseph Roth has been described as one of the greatest writers of this century. With tragic foresight, *Right and Left*, first published in 1929, evokes the nightlife, corruption, political unrest and economic tyranny of Berlin in the 1920s.

BARON Alexander, **The Lowlife**. Harryboy Boas is a gambling man. He lives in the respectable streets of Hackney and keeps to himself. Until, that is, a new family moves into his building. Step by step, the ordered life he has led begins slowly to unravel.

KREITMAN Esther, **Diamonds**. The story of an Orthodox Jewish diamond merchant in Antwerp on the eve of the First World War. Diamond workers vie with each other to gain his favours, but he is hard to please. His wife accepts his dictatorial ways but his children suffer. As the Kaiser's army closes in, panic ensues and the family flees to London...

BEAUMAN Ned, **Boxer Beetle**. A collector of Nazi memorabilia. A nine-toed gay Jewish boxer. A 1930s aristocrat with a yen for eugenics. Ned Beauman's time-travelling debut takes the cast list from the film Tarantino never made, and adds perhaps the creepiest McGuffin of all time: A swastika-marked beetle, the Anophthalmus Hitleri.

OZICK Cynthia, **Foreign Bodies**. At the core of the story is Bea Nightingale, a divorced schoolteacher whose life has been on hold during the many years since her brief marriage. When her estranged, difficult brother asks her to travel to Europe to retrieve a nephew she barely knows, she becomes entangled in the lives of his family.

STEIN Leigh, **The Fallback Plan**. A charming, smart and hilarious debut novel about the tricky period after college. Just graduated, Esther Kohler's post-graduate plans include: returning to her parents' house; taking old prescription tranquilisers; hanging out with her unrequited high school crush; and re-reading her favorite children's books.

SCHWARTZ Adam, **A Stranger on the Planet**. In the summer of 1969, twelve-year-old Seth lives with his unstable mother, Ruth, and his brother and sister in a two-bedroom apartment in New Jersey. His father lives with his new wife in a ten-room house and has no interest in Seth and his siblings. Seth is dying to escape from his mother's craziness and suffocating love and his father's cold disregard.

HOROWITZ Anthony, **The House of Silk — The New Sherlock Holmes Novel**. It is November 1890 and London is gripped by a merciless winter. Intrigued by a man's tale, Holmes and Watson find themselves swiftly drawn into a series of puzzling and sinister events, stretching from the streets of London to the teeming criminal underworld of Boston.

Non-fiction

SCHWARTZ Avraham Tzvi, **Hearts On Fire — Inspirational Thoughts on Selected Verses From the Psalms**. King David fought to become one of Jewish history's great heroes. Within the words of his Tehillim (Psalms), we follow his struggle towards eternal greatness.

HALPERN Justin, **Sh*t My Dad Says**. 'At 28-years-old, I found myself living at home, with my 73-year-old father. As a child, my father never minced words, and when I messed up, he had a way of cutting right through the bullsh*t and pointing out exactly why I was being an idiot. When I moved back in I was still, for the most part, an idiot. But this time, I was smart enough to write down all the things he said.'

CLEVELAND William L. **A History of the Modern Middle East**. A penetrating analysis of modern Middle Eastern history, from the Ottoman and Egyptian reforms, through the challenge of Western imperialism, to the Iranian Revolution and the Gulf War.

SIDELSKY Barry (Dov) and SIDELSKY Colin, **Mandela's Boss: The Sidelisky — Nelson Mandela Connection**. This is the story of a prominent white Jewish lawyer in South Africa who believes in the abilities of a young black law clerk, later to become the country's president.

Children

SNICKET Lemony, **The Latke Who Couldn't Stop Screaming: A Hannukah and Christmas Story**. A particularly irate latke is the star of *The Latke Who Couldn't Stop Screaming*, but many other holiday icons appear as well.

DIAMOND GOLDIN Barbara, **A Mountain of Blintzes**. The Jewish holiday of Shavuot is near. But this spring Sarah and Max are worried. Their pockets are empty, so how can they afford to make a special treat like the traditional mountain of blintzes?

DEMBARRE GREENE Jacqueline, **The Secret Shofar of Barcelona**. Musician Don Fernando longs to hear the sounds of the shofar on the High Holidays, but, like the other secret Jews in Inquisition-era Spain, he must hide his religion. When he is asked to perform a symphony celebrating the new world, he and his son Rafael devise a daring plan to usher in the Jewish New Year in plain sight of the Spanish nobility!

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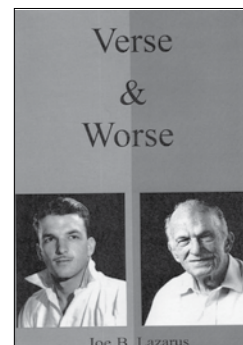
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BOOK OF THE MONTH

Verse & Worse

by Dr Joe B. LAZARUS

Witty and profound, wistful and funny, erudite and lighthearted, these beautiful verses yank your heartstrings. A prescription for a wide spectrum of life's challenges, these lyrics are music for the soul. Bearing witness to the fact that "... an old mind is not a blank page / and that verse good and clear can be born year by year — From a man who has reached my ripe age", this precious collection, which spans the life of a medical doctor and poet, is for sale at the library.



PAST EVENTS

A heartfelt thank you to our guests and supporters who attended Gavin Bonner's *Tellin' Tales!* A special thank you to the Cape Jewish Senior Association, the South African Jewish Museum and Café Riteve for their support. Gavin's CD *Of Beasts and Kings, Skins and Strings* is available for sale at the library. For more information visit: www.gavinbonner.com



Support the Jacob Gitlin Library by buying our NEW BOOK BAGS!

CD & DVDs

BONNER Gavin, **Of Beasts and Kings, Skins and Strings**. A collection of stories and poetry from around the world with a soundtrack featuring some of South Africa and the UK's finest classical, jazz and traditional musicians. www.gavinbonner.com

YUSTMAN Odette & OLDMAN Gary, **The Unborn** (2009). Plagued by merciless dreams and a tortured ghost that haunts Casey Bell's waking hours, she must turn to a spiritual advisor. With his help, Casey uncovers the source of a curse dating back to Nazi Germany — a creature with the ability to inhabit anyone or anything, and is getting stronger.

PHOENIX Joaquin & PALTROW Gwyneth, **Two Lovers** (2009). Leonard is a charismatic but troubled young man who moves back into his childhood home following a recent heartbreak. While recovering, Leonard meets two women in quick succession: Michelle, a mysterious and beautiful neighbour, and Sandra, the caring daughter of a businessman.

IVGY Moshe (Director), **And on the Third Day**. Set in a futuristic Israel, diseased with rampant violence and political anarchy, *And on the Third Day* portrays a society in crisis, ruled by institutional corruption and infused with sexual perversion.

AUDIO BOOKS

(Produced and kindly donated by Tape Aids for the Blind: www.tapeaids.com)

PIATKA Naava, **No Goodbyes — A Father-Daughter Memoir of Love, War and Resurrection**. When Naava Piatka interviews her Holocaust survivor father, she is amazed to hear such intimate, graphic revelations of family drama, political upheaval, seduction, divorce, mass murder, betrayal and ultimate creative triumph.

SHULMAN Max, **Potatoes Are Cheaper**. During the Great Depression, Morris Katz and his cousin Albert enter the University of Minnesota. Their goal is to meet rich, Jewish women and marry them, ensuring that they will be taken care of for the rest of their lives. The two men are not brilliant thinkers, yet each has his skills...

DELATTRE Lucas, **A Spy at the Heart of the Third Reich — The Extraordinary Life of Fritz Kolbe, America's Most Important Spy in World War II**. This book is a chilling addition to the literature of espionage. In 1943, a young official named Fritz Kolbe from the German foreign ministry arranged to meet with Allen Dulles, then an OSS officer in Switzerland, and later the director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

STORYTIME FOR CHILDREN

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A Shabbat morning service on a Caribbean island

By Raymond Effune

My wife and I recently spent a Shabbat morning service in the beautiful historic synagogue on the island of St Thomas — an historical and artistic gem in the middle of the Caribbean.



The congregation was started by 9 families in 1796. The present synagogue was built in 1833 by Sephardi Jews and is located on 'Synagogue Hill' in downtown Charlotte Amalie. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1997, the synagogue, whose real name is Beracha Veshalom Vegmiluth Hasidim (meaning 'Blessing and Peace and Loving Deeds'), has a unique claim to fame — the building is the longest in continuous use now under the American flag; and also the second-oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere (the oldest is on Curacao).

The St. Thomas Synagogue has a number of remarkable features, not least of which are the mahogany benches and the magnificent — most likely Dutch — chandeliers. The peripheral chandeliers have since been electrified but the central ones are still lit by candles on important holidays. Originally, all the chandeliers were lit with oil.

But what is truly unusual is the white Caribbean sand that covers the floor. This relates to the time of the Spanish Inquisition when Judaism was forbidden,

and Jews who were caught 'backsliding' were tortured and killed. As a result they gathered in cellars with sand floors to muffle the sounds of the services.

The synagogue is headed by Rabbi Stephen Moch and is part of the American Reform organisation. The Shachrit service was conducted with both Ashkenazi and Sephardic melodies. After the service we went across the street to a 'brocha' in a house belonging to the congregation. This house overlooks the island and the harbour, with beautiful views all around.

On the way to the shul we noticed a Nelson Mandela Boulevard, which was there long before Cape Town had one.

While visiting this island, we also went to what the National Geographic magazine termed one of the ten best beaches in the world. They obviously have never been to our Cape Town beaches!

More information can be found at www.StThomasSynagogue.com.

Where are they now?

Members of the Cape Town Jewish community have been dispersed across the world, succeeding in numerous fields in various countries.

In an effort to reconnect them to the community, and to track their many 'success stories', we have asked these expats to tell us about their lives, families and achievements. Each month, we will feature a different interview.

Name:

Fay Albert-Poliak

Tell us about what you have been doing over the last 5-10 years:

Raising a family, working and living in Hollywood, Florida.

Why have you chosen to live there?

Great Jewish community and reasonable work available!

What are the best aspects about where you live?

We live near the beach and airport.

What are the most challenging aspects?

The suburban community and having to drive too much.

What do you do, and why are you passionate about your work?

I'm a pathologist. I enjoy the challenge, working with other physicians and the good lifestyle.

What are some of your achievements?

B"H three great kids!

Tell us about your family:

We are the proud parents of three kids — 'menschen',



Fay with her family.

who all studied or are studying at 'Gush' and at universities in the northeast of the United States.

What would you like to say to the Cape Town Jewish community?

Enjoy the beauty of Cape Town and learn as much as you can about where you came from and where your kids are going.

Anything else you would like to add?

I would love to hear from fellow classmates of matric 1974.

To take part in 'Where are they now?' please email the Chronicle at editor@ctjc.co.za to ask for a questionnaire.

NECHAMA BREAKFAST TALK WITH JOANNE JOWELL

Joanne Jowell reviews her book *Finding Sarah: A True Story of living with Bulimia*

Women of all ages and stages enjoyed a Nechama breakfast morning with guest speaker Joanne Jowell.

Joanne is the author of the book *Finding Sarah: A True Story of Living with Bulimia*. We were privileged to hear Sarah's story, which described her battle with bulimia and her eventual ability to re-enter mainstream life.

Joanne shed light on a difficult topic in a very meaningful way, hopefully leading to action by individuals in their own spheres of life.

Thanks go to our promotions team Terry Locketz, Hayley Pogrud, Cindy Moritz, Karen Friedman, Hazel Kosviner and Pat Herman; our sponsors and also to Shana Isserow, Merle Rubin and all at the Gardens Shul.



Tracey Franco, Marc Lipshitz (Psychological Services Co-ordinator of Nechama), Lisa Lipshitz and Vanessa Frankl.



Sosie Groner, Stephanie Treger, Nikki Wohlman and Rosie Popack.



Joanne Jowell (speaker) and Avigail Popack (Executive Director of Nechama).



Nicole Sherman, Susan Sherman and Dafna Sher.



Cindy Moritz, Nadine Pincus, Karen Shandel, Lynne Hirsch and Claudia Codron.



The fundraising team with Joanne Jowell.



BNEI AKIVA

From 'Cake Boss' to Hadracha Tour and much more!

This month has been very busy, with lots of exciting things happening in Bnei Akiva Cape Town!

We have had visits from our national chairman, our national shaliach, our Rav Tenuah as well as a visit from Israel by Ilan Oz. We have also had the launch for our Grade 10 Israel programmes, and commemorations as well as celebrations with all of the 'Yoms'.

At the end of last month we had a very exciting visit from our Rav Tenuah, Rav Ramon Widmonte and his wife Julie, who joined us for Shabbat. We had a Friday night dinner with them at the bayit for our madrichim, followed by a *tisch* with some of our channichim from Grade 11 joining in. That Shabbat we hosted a Seudah Shlishit at the bayit for the Middle School.

The day afterwards we had a visit from our national chairman Daniel Winer, and enjoyed an awesome pizza-making afternoon with him at the bayit. Our national shaliach Rav Natan Alexander also visited us.

We have launched our Hadracha Israel tour which will be running from 23 June — 16 July for Grade 10s. We also had the

privilege to have Ilan Oz come all the way from Israel to be at the parents' meetings for Hadracha.

Our madrichim and channichim took part in the commemorations on Yom Hashoah and Yom Hazikaron. Everyone enjoyed the celebrations for Yom Ha'atzmaut at Weizmann, where our madrichim sold colourful candy.

Gurim had an amazing time at their fun and exciting 'Cake Boss' tochnit at the bayit. Our 'Bnei Post' newsletter, which is distributed every second Shabbat, has been a huge success. Our branch events in Sea Point, Claremont and Constantia have been awesome, with more and more of our Gurim channichim coming every week! Look out for our awesome holiday programmes for the Primary and Middle schools in June/July.

If you wish to be added onto the Bnei email list to hear about all our events and activities please email capetown@bnei.co.za. For any queries, suggestions, or feedback, please don't hesitate to contact the office either by email or phone (021-4392740).

*B'vrikat Torah V'Avodah
Josh Todes*



HABONIM DROR

Jews and human rights

Wednesday 21 March saw South Africa unite in celebration of Human Rights Day.

The public holiday serves as a commemoration to the 69 people brutally murdered by apartheid security police in a protest against pass laws in Sharpeville, more than 50 years ago.

Today however, the day's meaning extends beyond commemorating their passing — it serves as a reminder of how much we as a country have achieved since then. Today, every South African citizen has full and equal rights, protected by the world's most progressive Constitution. Furthermore, significant gains have been made in the expansion of the country's healthcare and education systems. I was privileged enough to attend the Soweto Derby football match (Kaiser Chiefs/Orlando Pirates) at FNB Soccer City, some five days before Human Rights Day. Being part of a crowd of 87 000 screaming fans of all races and cultures, in one of the world's greatest sporting arenas, can only give one a feeling of pride and hope for our country's future.

Yet despite my euphoria that day, we must acknowledge that there is still a mountain to climb to amend the injustices of the past. The ANC-led government has been held back by corruption and maladministration within its own ranks. Land reform and service delivery have been painfully slow. Last year, it was confirmed by the World Bank that South Africa bears the world's highest Gini Co-efficient — meaning that we are now officially the world's most unequal society, overtaking Brazil for the first time.

At Habonim Dror Southern Africa (HDSA), we believe that concerted action is required to redress the unacceptable

levels of inequality, poverty and crime in South Africa, and offer our members continuous involvement in South Africa's leading civil society organisations. Most recently, our Bogrim in Cape Town joined Equal Education on their Human Rights Day March for Minimum Norms and Standards for School Infrastructure. This campaign aims to pressure government to formulate a policy for the improvement and standardisation of infrastructure in all South African schools. In Johannesburg, several of our Bogrim participated in the 'Run Jozi' event on the same day, which aimed to unite the citizens of Johannesburg against crime and poverty.

HDSA is motivated by a belief that human rights for all the citizens of South Africa are attainable through sustained activism and pressure on the government. It is here that I wish to emphasise our movement's involvement in civil society is guided by a passionate belief in Jewish values. More than most, the Jewish community is familiar with the experience of disempowerment and oppression.

Jews worldwide have never let human rights abuses go unnoticed. Although some Jews in apartheid South Africa were known to sit back when confronted with the atrocities of the NP government, the community was disproportionately involved in the struggle, with figures like Rusty Bernstein, Ruth First, Joe Slovo, Albie Sachs, Arthur Chaskalson and many more showing their commitment to an equal and just society. Today, HDSA calls upon the South African Jewish community to continue that struggle. Through united and sustained action, we can contribute to the attainment of human rights, equality and good governance in South Africa.

Raphael Chaskalson



NETZER

Finding our feet, walking our path

Netzer Cape Town has never stopped moving, but these past few weeks have been especially busy, and we're all loving the complete immersion into Netzer life.

Purim was a blast, as it is every year, and we all had a great time getting into the spirit of the festival. We also recently held the first of our Hadracha (leadership) training programmes. It was very inspiring seeing the energy and ideas from new leaders, and it gives us great hope and inspiration for the future.

We have been planning our mini-machaneh, Mini-Machaneh Gehava (pride), which will be run from 4 — 6 May. We are incredibly excited and anticipate a very successful weekend, with loads of new madrichim and activities. We will also be having our Mazkirut seminar, where the leadership of Netzer South Africa will meet to start planning our annual summer machaneh. I cannot believe that we are already planning our next camp when I still have the last camp song in my head! But the fact that we are planning so far in advance is simply a guarantee of the high

standard Netzer will be maintaining and improving upon for machaneh. We are feeling confident and having fun along the way — what more could we ask for!

On a more serious note, we were, as I'm sure the rest of the community and world were, shocked to hear of the horrific murders of the three schoolchildren and a rabbi at a Jewish school in France. While Netzer does not take a political stance, as our ideology dictates, we are all compassionate human beings. It is in this capacity that we condemn such an awful act. We extend our sympathies to the families, and to anyone who has suffered or is suffering from the acts of others. We, at Netzer, will continue to strive for peace and harmony in the world. As idealistic as that might sound, it is what we believe in. We have to, or else no one will, and then the hope for peace in the future is lost.

So we will always keep our faith in humanity, and keep fighting for what we believe in. We hope you will do the same. Maybe, if we can all come together in this one united goal, we will eventually all reach our aims of peace in the world.

Nina Hoffman



Hagshama presents Larry Joe Live

On Thursday 22 March Hagshama hosted 'Larry Joe Live' in the Gardens Shul Hall.

Larry Joe is an ex-inmate who is managed by Aron Swartz, the founder of the band Freshly Ground. Larry's incredible story of transformation was told through his experiences and his music.

Everyone in the room was truly moved by his ordeal and his talent. Larry and Aron's energy and enthusiasm were infectious, and one kept thinking of how a positive attitude towards life can go so very far.

Larry's story is inspiring for Hagshama: we are also trying to bring a dream into reality. A huge thank you to Larry and Aron for the great show and more importantly for the values of which that they reminded us.



Larry Joe and Michael Kay.



Guests enjoying Larry's performance.

SIMCHA SNAPS

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Ed accomplishes his 13th Argus

Celebrating his 'barmitzvah' cycle ride, sprightly Ed Wittert has recently surprised even himself by completing his 13th Cape Argus Cycle Tour — at the age of 76!

Having entered the very second 'Argus', held in 1979, Ed discovered "a new and wonderful world of freedom and physical challenge," which has led him to almost 24,000 kilometres over his 33-year-stint.

This passion even brought him — and his bike — to Sydney, Australia, to where his two daughters, Desiree Isaacson and Gillian Diamond and their families have emigrated. "Many times, especially when my grandkids were school-going and left to my own resources, I revelled in thoroughly exploring that most exciting, beautiful city," he says.

Besides his umpteen falls and scrapes, Ed can find many a humorous story to tell. Amongst these, he recalls a particular amusing incident, when he first started riding in Sea Point. This was indeed a tale with a twist, when he suggested that his late friend, Al Burke, (Grand Bazaars buyer) come ride along with him, and his other pal, Raymond Godfrey, (Clicks Stores buyer). The result was that they were both "horrified at the thought" and said it was "most unethical", — resulting in rides



being organised with Al on Saturdays, and with Raymond and his Team Clicks, on Sundays!

In his latest Argus Cycle Tour, Ed found the heat — and the addition of Boyes Drive — most exhausting. Like everyone else, he couldn't wait to find a friendly and efficient physio to "iron out some leg-cramps", at the finish-line. A few ice-cold beers later, Ed, with wife, Gerda, joined in celebrating with grandson Gareth and his dad, Roy Benson. When asked how long he took, Ed just smiled and repeated the Argus mantra: "Everyone who completes it is a winner!" Adds Ed: "Accept it as a personal challenge — and achieve your own personal victory."



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