

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

# Stay for the fish

I am grateful to Stan the Good Shabbos Man, who kindly gave me his book a few weeks back, for this joke he published on his website:

"An airplane was about to crash. There were five passengers on board but only four parachutes. The first passenger said: 'I am Ronaldo, the world's number-one soccer man. Fifa needs me, I can't afford to die.' So he took the first pack and left the plane.

"The second passenger, Hillary Clinton, said: 'I am the wife of the former president of the US. I am the most ambitious woman in the world. I am also New York senator and a potential future president.'

"She took the second parachute and jumped out of the plane.

"The third passenger, "Bob" Mugabe, said: 'I am president of Zim-BOB-We and I have 13m helpless people who always look to me for guidance. Above all I am the cleverest president in African history, and Africa's people won't let me die.'

"So he put on the pack next to him and jumped out of the plane.

"The fourth passenger, a wise old rabbi, said to the fifth passenger, a 10-year-old boy: 'I am old and have lived a fruitful life. God will decide my fate, so I will let you have the last parachute.'

"The boy said: 'It's OK, there's a parachute left for you. Africa's cleverest president has taken your tallis bag.'

I like that joke. Stan's a *mensch*. So on the evening Stan gave me his book, Arnold Garber, who runs an innovative business called Compu-Clearing Outsourcing, walked over and asked me: "Why don't you ever review any kosher restaurants? All these years no kosher restaurants. Why?"

Obviously, I get this all the time but, before I could come back with a smart riposte, I had agreed to lunch with Arnold.

Which led to other learnings, among which is that Jacob Zuma better smell the coffee. Our Jews are beginning to leave. Just last week, a plane carrying 100 Jewish immigrants landed at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv on the first specially chartered *aliyah* (Jewish immigration to Israel) flight from SA, a German press agency reported.

The report went on to say that according to

the Jewish Agency, the body which manages immigration to the Jewish state, the number of SA Jews interested in making Israel their home is set to double in 2008. From 178 last year, their number is to reach more than 300.

Now, obviously I want to blame Thabo Mbeki for all this — he is the president, after all, and all this is happening on his watch — but the poor man is too busy protecting Robert Mugabe from sanctions. It's a tough job.

Arnold and Alan Greenstein, group MD of Sasfin Bank who joins us for lunch, tells me that the number of Jews in SA has fallen from 250 000 years back to only 80 000 today. Which presents Zuma with a little problem (looks like there won't be anyone around when he takes over), but the rest of us gourmands with a big problem: the number of kosher establishments is diminishing fast.

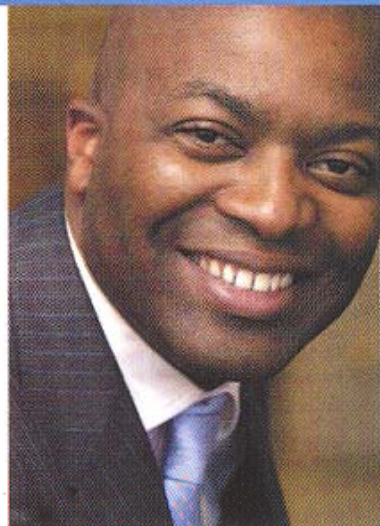
Metzuyan has been going for a little while and is cool, calm and nicely done. It is just behind the Fornos Bakery and is not too busy at lunchtime. On Thursday evenings it is full of families and getting a table inside can be a mission. On weekday lunchtimes you can spot many captains of industry. There must have been Ribn in the room just on the day I was there. And the indefatigable Jack Bloom, DA MPL, eats there.

Now, dear reader, don't be worried about the prospect of kosher food. It is exactly like any other food, except that it is prepared according to Jewish law, meaning the food is ritually correct or pure. Plus, dairy products and meat may not touch and will not appear in the same meal.

So the menu is exactly as those you find in other restaurants. There is wine and other drinks and there is absolutely no reason why you should not have fun. Which is what we did.

I cannot speak for Arnold and Alan, who both recommended the place, but I found service at Metzuyan excellent and attentive. I had kingklip in a sizzling Chinese-style sauce and it was brilliant. One usually finds fish that comes in such elaborately prepared dishes overcooked, but not this time. It still had its consistency and taste.

A very fine establishment indeed. ■



I want to blame Mbeki [for the fact the Jews are leaving] but the poor man is too busy protecting Mugabe from sanctions

## \*\*\*\* Metzuyan on the Square

Shop 7 Baker Square, Baker Street, Rosebank  
Tel: (011) 880-4153

\*\*\*\*\* Mensch

\*\*\*\* Fabulous

\*\*\* Good

\*\* Schmuck

\* Bob