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Mixed reception for Naledi Pandor as international affairs minister

TALI FEINBERG AND NICOLA MILTZ

here are mixed feelings about President Cyril Ramaphosa's appointment of Naledi Pandor as minister of international relations and cooperation late on Wednesday night. Some believe she has the perfect mix of statesmanship and wisdom for the position. Others feel she is not neutral about the Israeli-Palestinian situation.

Pandor has replaced Lindiwe Sisulu in this role. The latter has been moved to the position of minister of human settlements.

Political analyst Ralph Mathekga told the SA Jewish Report that Pandor's statesmanship could have been what Ramaphosa was looking for in the role.

"If your growth strategy is foreign investment, you need a good diplomat. She is an extremely well-respected minister that has headed up a number of very stable portfolios," he said. "She has a good reputation in the party. Her placement shows that this portfolio might be becoming more important to the president."

However, Mathekga is concerned that the department of international relations and cooperation (Dirco) has two deputy ministers, which he believes is not needed, especially if government is trying to cut costs.

Besides that, he views the new cabinet as having "lots of continuity and no major upsets". However, he does not think the rand will respond positively as there is still general pessimism about economic growth.

Meanwhile, political analyst Daniel Silke told the SA Jewish Report that the appointment of Pandor was an "important shift" from an international relations point of view.

"Remember, Pandor was a close ally of Cyril Ramaphosa in the run up to Nasrec in December 2017," he said. "She was effectively his running mate in the contest against

Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. It is a prestigious appointment for a close supporter and confidant. Therefore, it is more likely she will reflect more of the Ramaphosa worldview than Sisulu did in recent years."

But, one could only speculate, he said. "One would hope that she would have a more evenhanded approach to some of South Africa's foreign-affairs dilemmas, like dealing with the Venezuela issue, or the ongoing tension between the United States and Iran, and the Israel/Palestine question.

"Her closeness to the president is the key issue here. In her, he has a right-hand person. Her appointment could signal a return to a great role for South Africa on the international stage that has been missing in recent years."

However, political analyst Sara Gon disagrees, saying that Pandor is vehemently anti-Israel.

Pandor was one of the first members of the African National Congress to officially call for a downgrade of South Africa's embassy in Tel Aviv. In February 2018, she stood up during a debate about the State of the Nation address in Parliament, and said, "The majority party has agreed that government must cut diplomatic ties with Israel." The comment was unexpected, and some MPs expressed their shock at the

Pandor was given a standing ovation as she left the podium. Her statement that government would definitely cut diplomatic ties with Israel was reiterated on parliament's official Twitter account.

The only positive that Gon can see in this move is that "other countries aren't rushing to do what South Africa has done to its embassy". So, if Dirco continues on this path, it might be left out in the cold. This is especially so if it is pandering to Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) while also trying to support a twostate solution. If others are not on verge of

downgrading, South Africa might be an outlier."

Ultimately, Gon thinks that Sisulu was not replaced because of her actions in downgrading the Israeli embassy, because then, Pandor would not have been chosen to replace her. Rather, she thinks it might have been because she was perceived as not diplomatic enough.

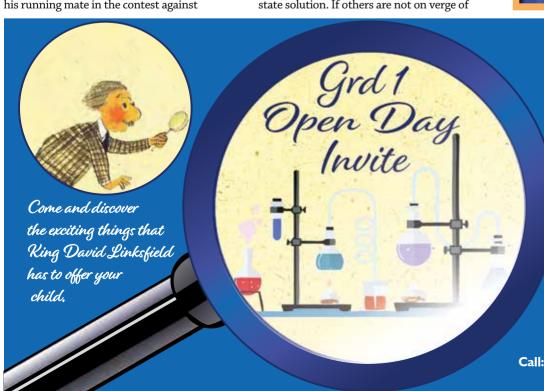
She explains that Pandor is married to a Muslim and converted to Islam, which she takes incredibly seriously.

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) remains cautiously optimistic. SAJBD Vice-President Zev Krengel said, "We will have to wait and see. Naledi Pandor has been to our conferences and

our functions. We know her well, and we have spent time with her. We just want any minister to be free and fair, and treat Israel like any other state. We hope it will be like this with the new minister. It is a great new cabinet. The president has brought it down, and kept the economic cluster the same. We have to be excited, and we are."

Said National Director Wendy Kahn, "The SAJBD is encouraged by the announcement of President Ramaphosa's cabinet, and in particular the consolidation of several of the ministries. We commit ourselves to working with him and his executive towards the creation of our country's 'new dawn'."





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UK Labour probed

The United Kingdom's foremost government watchdog on racism has officially launched an investigation into Labour's anti-Semitism problem.

The move, announced on Tuesday, is unprecedented in that it focuses an official government inquiry on racism and hate speech into one of the county's oldest parties, which used to be regarded as mainstream and

The Equality and Human Rights Commission for months studied Labour's spiralling anti-Semitism problem before launching the probe.

The commission's investigation will evaluate the Labour Party's handling of many acts of anti-Semitic discrimination, including those detailed in the dossiers that Campaign Against Antisemitism, a Jewish community watchdog group, has provided since July 2018, the campaign said.

The commission is vested with tough powers designed to force organisations to comply with equality and human-rights laws. It may compel the Labour Party to reveal details of its handling of anti-Semitism in recent years, including internal communications such as text messages

SodaStream holds iftar

SodaStream hosted a Ramadan breakfast at its factory in the southern Israeli town of

The iftar meal on Monday was attended by Bedouins and Jewish Israelis as well as the company's Palestinian employees and other Palestinian guests. The meal was also attended by United States ambassador to Israel, David

Friedman.

In October 2014, SodaStream announced it would close its factory in Maale Adumim and move to southern Israel in the face of pressure from the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement (BDS). The company now has more than 1 400 employees in the Idan Hanegev industrial park near Rahat, one-third of them Bedouin Arabs from the surrounding area.

Neo-Nazi party warns Israel

An accused neo-Nazi running for president in Argentina's general elections on 27 October warned that he would expel the Israeli ambassador.

Alejandro Biondini, a veteran far-right ultranationalist leader, is the presidential candidate for the Patriotic Front party. Biondini has openly espoused anti-Semitism, and his admiration for Adolf Hitler.

His previous party, New Triumph, was banned by Argentina's electoral court in 2009. In November 2018, a federal judge in Buenos Aires granted approval to Biondini's new party, the Patriotic Front. The DAIA (Argentina's Jewish political umbrella organisation) condemned the judge's decision, saying that the party was a "neo-Nazi and ultranationalist movement, a danger to an egalitarian society".

Israeli technology secures HP

HP has started installing malware protection software on its new computers using an Israeli company's technology.

Technology from Tel Aviv-based Deep Instinct is used to create HP Sure Sense that comes on the latest EliteBook and ZBook lines,

The deal is valued at \$150 million (R2.2 billion) over four years, the Israeli business news website Calcalist reported.

Kushner in Middle East

White House senior adviser Jared Kushner is in the Middle East to garner support for his Israeli-Palestinian peace plan, and will visit

Kushner, White House Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt, and special Iran envoy Brian Hook were in Morocco on Tuesday, and were scheduled to visit Jordan and Israel during the

The visits come ahead of the Trump administration's economic summit scheduled for next month in Bahrain. The meeting aims to encourage capital investment in the West Bank, Gaza, and countries in the region. It reportedly is the first step in the administration's peace plan, scheduled to be rolled out in coming

The Palestinians have announced that they will not attend the meeting.

All briefs supplied by JTA

Shabbat times this week

Starts	Ends	
17:06	17:57	Johannesburg
17:28	18:22	Cape Town
16:46	17:39	Durban
17:07	18:00	Bloemfontein
16:59	17:53	Port Elizabeth
16:52	17:46	East London

Torah Thought

Jubilee addresses contentious land issue

The book of Leviticus, which we have just finished reading, reviews a sequence of ordinances and sacred rituals. Toward its end, we are presented with two sets of regulations defining the shemita (seventh year) and the yovel, the jubilee or 50th anniversary.

These two concepts complete the sacred temporal cycle: from the weekly Shabbat, to the sanctification of the lunar month, to the festivals of a single year. Then come seven groups of seven years each, re-enacting the shemita, and finally the yovel as the fiftieth year of jubilee

The yovel is described as liberating in its effect: U'kra'atem dror ba'aretz (And you shall declare liberty in the land for all its inhabitants; it is a jubilee for you) (25:10). This means that people

> who had been uprooted are entitled to return to their families on their original ancestral land.

Land ownership is a contentious topic in contemporary South Africa, but let's try to understand the original background of

these commandments. The borders between the different ancestral domains of the tribes of Israel are discussed at length, mainly in the Book of Joshua.

After the dramatic achievements of the generation who took possession of the land, we observe an Israelite presence in the shape of a loose confederation of twelve tribes, based in the central hill country on both sides of the Jordan Valley. The conditions were hard. In addition to the usual harshness of agricultural life, the Israelites had to face external enemies such as the Philistines from the coastal plain, the economically and culturally developed Canaanite city-dwellers, and the inhabitants of the dangerous desert frontier. Nomadic tribes, such as the Midianites, might charge in on their camels, spreading terror and threatening the seasonal crops.

Under these difficult conditions, one can understand how the passing of generations led to the division of a family's inheritance into smaller and smaller plots. If this process was compounded by misfortune, farmers might become destitute and be forced to sell their land. This would have constituted an act of despair. Once the land was no longer theirs, they had lost the principal means of production. Farmers were obliged to become

hired workers, and if that arrangement failed, slaves to their fellow-Israelites.

The prophets repeatedly rebuke their society for taking advantage of the poor, and treating them as though they

lacked dignity. They were particularly concerned with people who had lost their land. However, the system of shemita and the yovel was meant to serve as a remedy for such suffering. Slaves were to be freed in the seventh year. The land had to return to its original owners every fiftieth year. Poverty was not to become a lasting burden from generation to generation.

Rabbi Sa'ar Shaked, Beit

Progressive

Synagogue

Emanuel

This is perhaps the reason for the Book of Numbers opening with a comprehensive census in which all members of the tribes are counted and acknowledged. They are all given a place within the community of Israel. The Torah uses an interesting word: vayityaldu (they counted the generations to ensure that everyone was recognised by the Eternal). This notion is highlighted in the words of Hosea in the Haftarah: they shall all be called b'nei el chai, (children of the



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 $\textbf{Proofreader} \ \text{Kim Hatchuel} - \text{kim@a-proofed.co.za} \cdot \textbf{CEO} \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{Ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{Ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{Ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Britt Landsman: } 082\ 292\ 9520 \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{Ceo@sajewishreport.co.za} \cdot \textbf{Advertising} \ \text{Dani Kedar} - \text{Dani$ – britt@sajewishreport.co.za • **Design and layout** Bryan Maron/Design Bandits – bryan@designbandits.co.za • **Distribution**: Sandy Furman Subscriptions Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860 525 200 • Board of Directors Howard Sackstein (Chairperson), Herby Rosenberg, Dina Diamond, Herschel Jawitz, Shaun Matisonn, Benjy Porter. Advertisements and editorial copy do not neccessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff and board of directors. Tel: 011 430 1980.



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SA JEWISH REPORT 3 31 May - 7 June 2019

BDS-SA head cleared of sexual harassment, but matter still simmers

NICOLA MILTZ

n independent investigation into allegations of sexual harassment levelled at the head of Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions South Africa (BDS-SA) Muhammed Desai may have cleared him of wrongdoing, but the seedy affair is far from over.

Desai, the director of BDS-SA, has been mired in a string of sexual-harassment allegations which have ruffled feathers within the Palestine solidarity movement, causing disunity and antagonism within its ranks.

This week, things came to a head after the release of a much-anticipated report by an independent investigator appointed by BDS-SA following the allegations of sexual harassment which surfaced in March this year.

Advocate Smanga Sethene from the Johannesburg Bar this week cleared Desai of sexual harassment allegations.

His findings were released in a report which said the allegations against Desai were "unfounded". Furthermore, he found that there wasn't "rational basis in law to take any disciplinary action against" Desai, sending shock waves through pro-Palestine and gender-activist circles.

"Within the social-justice sector, this is another example of the prevalence of sexual harassment, and the lack of seriousness that sexual harassment is taken. This matter needs to be

pursued."

The allegations go back to the night of 21 March at Sips Restaurant in Melville, Johannesburg. The Daily Vox reported that visiting American academic and pro-Palestine activist, Professor Sang Hea Kil, alleged that Desai sexually harassed her and two other

Johannesburg to attend a conference on Palestine, hosted by the Afro-Middle East Centre (AMEC), a research institute on Middle Eastern affairs.

The conference was followed by a study tour for 18 participants. The three women were part of that group.

On the night in question, Desai allegedly harassed the three women with hugs, kisses on cheeks, high-fives, light touches, and alleged "predatory" behaviour which was described by them as "invasive" and "annoying".

Before returning to the United States, Kil laid a charge of sexual harassment at the Brixton Police Station.

According to Kil, Desai appeared visibly drunk when he and his BDS-SA colleague, Rashaad Dadoo, 22, "crashed" their table at the restaurant. Desai's behaviour was repeatedly inappropriate, she said, making unwanted physical advances which made her feel uncomfortable.

According to her statement, Desai was "deeply drunk, very loud, and annoying".

"I told him at one point I was old enough to be his biological parent, and point blank told him my age was 46. He said he was 33, and suggested that my age was no problem. I told him I wasn't interested in people who were much younger than I was. His interest didn't wane, only increased."

At one stage, Kil said she "felt two hands touch her shoulders in a light massage".

Meanwhile, Desai has consistently denied all the allegations against him.

The advocate's report said, "Mr Desai admits he had consumed alcohol on the night in question and during the alleged incident. However, he denies ever sexually harassing any of the complainants. He contends... none of the complainants communicated her discomfort to him during or after the hugs and/ or high-fives."

Sethene said it was not clear why Kil "could not sternly inform Mr Desai to refrain and desist

from what she considered to be an inappropriate predatory sexual behaviour".

This week, lawyers representing Kil from the Women's Legal Centre (WLC) expressed "great disappointment" in the investigation's findings.

disappointed in the legal findings, but was even more disappointed with its analysis.

"It shows a clear bias in favour of the perpetrator, and the investigator places the burden and onus on women to address sexual harassment and sternly resist it."

with a commitment to Palestinian solidarity and gender justice to actively distance themselves from the position adopted by BDS-SA". They condemned the lack of a

victim-centred approach. The issue reached fever pitch this week when Na'eem Jeenah of AMEC expressed his

dissatisfaction at the outcome on

Jeenah, who assisted the three complainants in the matter, said there was no resolution.

public radio.

Speaking on Afternoon Drive with Joanne Joseph on 702, Jeenah claimed he was aware of ten women who accused Desai of sexual harassment. One of the women was an intern at BDS-SA, he said, who he said had become

"Personally, I don't think in any good conscience I could allow this matter to rest," said Jeenah.

He refused to comment further when approached by the SA Jewish Report.

In response, Desai said, "The South African criminal justice system has cleared me, and an independent investigation has cleared me. It is unfortunate that you have people like Na'eem Jeenah suggesting that this issue is not over."

Jeenah said that throughout the ordeal, BDS had not contacted him to provide or ask for developments on the case.

"BDS-SA has not communicated with us. We found out like everyone else on its website and social media."

When the police closed its case on the basis of it being a "false case", Jeenah said he did not understand why, and questioned what that meant.

He said none of the three complainants had been interviewed by the advocate handling the independent investigation.

Jeenah told 702, "Within the social-justice sector, this is another example of the prevalence of sexual harassment, and the lack of seriousness that sexual harassment is taken. This matter needs to be pursued."



They said the WLC wrote to the board of BDS-SA to seek clarity on the terms of reference for the investigation, but received no response.

"Without advising us, our client was approached for the first time on 20 May 2019 via email by the investigator of her complaint. She was also advised that the investigation was taking place urgently, and was asked to confirm the content of her statements. No new or further questions were posed to her, and she was not given the option of an interview," the WLC said.

On 27 May, Kil was advised via her attorneys that the investigation had been completed, and that the findings were that no disciplinary steps needed to be taken against Desai as his behaviour didn't constitute workplace misconduct.

The WLC said it was

It said it was a case in point of the importance of taking a victimcentred approach to dealing with sexual harassment.

"The report favoured an approach that heavily criticised as well as questioned the motives and the behaviour of the complainant against the standard of the 'perfect victim', implying and creating a narrative in many instances that the victims are over-reacting, or seeking attention." This it said "has damaging effects on the victim".

BDS-SA, however, welcomed the findings, and noted that the report was critical of the board for the "delay in pursuing the matter".

From the outset, BDS-SA has been criticised by members within the Palestine solidarity movement for its handling of the matter. A statement issued on 8 April on behalf of several solidarity groups called on "organisations

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Desai did not respond to a request for comment at the time of going to print.



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Bringing magic to those who need it most

TALI FEINBERG

the victim of an armed hijacking in Johannesburg. But, instead of it making her leave South Africa, the experience motivated her to embrace this country and its challenges.

She started Magical Moments, a non-profit organisation which offers "fairytale" experiences to abused, abandoned, disadvantaged, impoverished, neglected, orphaned, underprivileged, and vulnerable children in Johannesburg. The organisation was recently presented with the Community Support Award from the South African Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom.

"In spite of the fact that we already had permanent residence visas for Australia, I decided to take a four-month sabbatical from my career in the hospitality industry to reflect on the meaning of life and life purpose," says Friedman, about the time after the hijacking.

"This led to the creation of Magical Moments, because reaching out to children in an impactful way resonated with me. I recognised that giving children hope and love was a way to change a life. It was this sense of purpose, and knowing that I am making a positive impact

on the country that made it a logical choice to relinquish the Australian visa and opportunities. I recognised that it was better to move towards your passions than run away from your fears. I turned what would ordinarily be seen as a traumatic event into a catalyst for change."

The work of her organisation is simple but powerful. It is all about treating kids to delightful experiences that they would otherwise never have had the chance to enjoy. We may take such "fairytale" adventures for granted, but for children living in poverty and fear, they are truly magical.

"I create extraordinary days for a broad profile of children

in the greater Johannesburg region, focusing on early childhood development experiential activities. The children get to play and heal, and like magic, transformation takes place. In a weary world, I create true-life fairy tales that begin with 'once upon a time' and end with 'happily ever after'," says Friedman.

The children arrive at the organisation's magnificent World of Wonder in Sandhurst, and step into their Secret Enchanted Garden and Palace of Dreams. "They do art, music, dance, pottery, and sports activities, with much freedom to play, climb, jump, and run, in a safe and stimulating environment.

"The themes and activities change from season to season, and we vary the experience for the children who return regularly. We are therefore able to assess change, transformation, and development from their first visit. They are more engaged, responsive, and spontaneous, caring and embracing, less fearful, and more receptive," she says.

The organisation has reached out to more than 145 day care centres, feeding schemes, homes, and organisations, having a positive impact on hundreds of thousands of children and their minders.

"In addition to showing children a different aspect life so that they can aspire to something more than they know, they also learn to wish. Therefore, I am a true fairy godmother extraordinaire," says Friedman with a smile.

It has not been without its challenges, however, as Friedman handles all the logistics, administrative duties, responsibilities, event planning, co-ordination, social media, experience fulfilment, and operations. All services are offered by volunteers.

"The most stressful aspects have been to engage with certain suppliers, vendors, and children's venues that were not welcoming of the children. The business side of operating the organisation is the biggest challenge due to the fact that we don't have any permanent staff," she says.

In the beginning, the organisation operated from a home office, taking children on outings or creating an experience at the day care centre or organisation. But in March 2018, Friedman was able to obtain and create her own venue in Sandhurst. "The realisation of this dream is undoubtedly the biggest success and most gratifying achievement in my lifetime," she says.

There have been other high points. In April 2019, Friedman attended the graduation ceremony of one of the organisation's beneficiaries. "I met Salem in Hillbrow when she was eight years old. To bear witness to this auspicious occasion is as magical as a reallife fairy tale can get. At the age of 20, Salem completed her first degree in the humanities and this year, through my intervention and support, returned to university to further her studies in in psychology and anthropology," says Friedman.

"Salem is aiming to do her honours and



master's degrees in psychology. She says she is studying psychology because she was inspired by me and wanted to be of service to humanity. She has chosen this as a way of recognising and honouring the work that I do. She has returned over the years as a volunteer, and completed the circle of receiving and giving."

Magical Moments is different to the myriad other non-governmental organisations out there for a number of reasons. "I seek out children in need on foot, walking through dangerous environments, where no one else dares to go. I include the children of domestic workers, gardeners, and unskilled labourers who live or work in the leafy suburbs. Their children live in backyard rooms, unseen and unheard. These children slip through the cracks, but are as deserving, and have potential," says Friedman.

She feels "delighted, honoured, elated, and proud" to have been awarded by the South African Chamber of Commerce in the UK. "This Community Support Award is testament to my never giving up because it got too hard. I had to believe in myself, in my own magic, in my dreams and my vision, beyond the multiple detractors who deemed it not possible. This award is for those of us who go about making a profound difference in the world, both in South Africa and in the UK, without fanfare or spotlight."

To South Africans who want to make a difference but feel overwhelmed, her advice is to "just start. anywhere. Start with kindness. At home, in your family, in your closest community, and then spread that love out into other communities, across the wide divide, and extend that reach."

SA JEWISH REPORT 5 31 May - 7 June 2019

Sandton drive renaming in overdrive

NICOLA MILTZ

nti-Israel lobbyists are demanding that the City of Johannesburg speed up the controversial name change of Sandton Drive to Leila Khaled Drive.

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions South Africa (BDS-SA) has accused the Democratic Alliance (DA)led executive of the city, and in particular, Mayor Herman Mashaba, of "preventing the implementation of this street name change". It has planned a protest for this Friday at the Johannesburg City Council to demand that the name be changed.

In a statement issued this week, BDS-SA said, "In 2018, the Johannesburg City Council adopted a motion to rename Sandton Drive [where the United States consulate is located] after Palestinian icon Leila Khaled."

Khaled, 74, is a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and has visited South Africa several times. She is known as the poster girl of Palestinian

facebook

militancy for her role in hijacking TWA flight 840 from Rome to Tel Aviv in 1969 and El Al flight 219 in

Member of the mayoral committee for community development, Councillor Nonhlanhla Sifumba, told the SA Jewish Report that the DA did not agree with the motion at the time because it did not conform to the prescripts of the policy for naming and re-naming which was reviewed in November 2017.

She said although Sandton Drive was situated in the city, it was a provincial road, and Gauteng province was responsible for initiating public participation through the city.

She said the protest action must be "politically motivated".

"They clearly do not understand council processes... hence my only conclusion is that it might be politically motivated. Somebody somewhere is pushing an agenda. It's a very emotive and sensitive issue, and requires a full understanding of council policy and processes."

Ward councillor for the affected area, Martin Williams, said there had not yet been public participation on the matter. He said city policy required that the process of naming and/or renaming must be undertaken in a consultative manner, and this must be clearly demonstrated before a final decision can be taken.

Some of the minimum requirements for public consultation, according to Williams,

Consultation with ward councillors; the placement of public notices on site and at prominent strategic positions such as schools, clinics, and libraries or multipurpose centres; the placement of municipal notices in local newspapers; and at least one public meeting, to name a few.

Williams said that city policy stated that place re-naming should be done "sparingly", in order to eliminate unnecessary expenses, including costs for businesses and other stakeholders.

According to the policy document, "The naming of features after exceptional people is recognised as being a way of honouring outstanding individuals for their contribution to the development of the city and the country, and should be done sparingly and with careful consideration."

People's names should be used "only in rare cases", the document says.

Councillor Thapelo Amad of the minor Al Jama-ah political party, which holds one seat out of 270 seats

in the Johannesburg City Council, brought the motion before the council last year. It was opposed by DA Councillor Sergio dos Santos, who said it would be wasteful expenditure.

An amendment to the motion was

then tabled and accepted, calling for renaming the road after Khaled. The DA did not support the motion, but was outnumbered when the Economic Freedom Fighters and African National Congress voted in favour of it.



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Jewish Report

The true meaning of 'sitting on shpilkes'

ill he capitulate, or find a way to an agreement, or won't he? When is he going to announce who he will choose for his cabinet? These were just some of the frustrating questions that rattled me and our editorial staff throughout Wednesday. As you may or may not know, the *SA Jewish Report* is published late on Wednesday.

It just so happens that the future of the Israeli and South African government was hanging in the balance on this particular Wednesday. It was big stuff.

And we waited ... with an empty front page.

Newly inaugurated South African President Cyril Ramaphosa was taking a very long time to announce his cabinet.



And Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

- whose Likud party won the Israel elections – was
battling to create his coalition government. In the
strange horse-trading that is so typical of Israeli politics,
things fell apart because Yisrael Beyteinu, a right wing
secular party, would not agree to a condition made by
the ultra-Orthodox parties. Lieberman, the leader of
Yisrael Beyteinu, would not agree to the ultra-Orthodox
condition that they do not have to serve in the army.
However, it seems to go way deeper. Read Paula Slier's
column alongside this editorial.

The upshot of this is that Netanyahu had until midnight on Wednesday to come to an agreement with his proposed coalition or Israel would head for a snap election. And for most of Wednesday, nobody seemed to

be budging as the hours passed.

For us, this was nerve-wracking. To say I was sitting on *shpilkes* was an understatement. Our front page sat empty.

For the Israeli story, Paula wrote three pieces, giving us different options. The first would be used if Netanyahu managed to come to an agreement with Lieberman before we went to print. The second piece was for a snap election, and the final piece was if no decision was made before midnight, and the second election was to come into play anyway.

As for the South African situation, I thought it was going to be a breeze when I woke up on Wednesday morning to hear on 702 that President Cyril Ramaphosa was going to have a press conference at 16:00. Everyone expected him to announce his new cabinet then. It seemed obvious because until then, he is the only member of the cabinet. He is the only leader of government. So, none of the government ministries or departments have a head, which means little movement in any big decisions in the country.

But as our journalist began preparing for this announcement, and started making enquiries and setting up interviews, it seemed there was no certainly about the time of the announcement.

In fact, there was total silence about any announcement. There was a clear indication that he might not say one word to the public on Wednesday, and that this would carry on later in the week.

So, the daily newspapers and online media put out speculative articles about who would be – or should be – in Ramaphosa's cabinet, and why he was taking so long to make his decision. And, we waited in hope, as our front page sat bare.

Now, while I was sitting on *shpilkes* in the offices of the *SA Jewish Report*, the world out there wasn't so happy either. Nobody likes to be kept waiting for vital information, especially when a country's future is at stake.

"The delay in the cabinet announcement unnerved investors counting on Ramaphosa's reform policies," was the introduction to the story headlined, "Rand rocked by ... uncertain politics" on *Moneyweb* on Wednesday afternoon.

BusinessLive led with "Rand at seven-month low as SA awaits cabinet announcement". And so it went on.

The Israeli media relayed what it dubbed "the coalition crisis", which it feared would send the country back to the polls at a huge cost to the country. It would also mean that there would be no clear government to take the country forward until snap elections, which could take place only in six months' time.

Headlines littering the media were "Netanyahu and Lieberman's political fight just got out of hand", "Netanyahu's darkest, deepest fear just came true", and "Snap elections loom ahead of midnight deadline for coalition efforts". As well as Israel is doing economically and on other fronts, no country can afford to waste taxpayers' money on an additional election. It's that simple.

So, while these two massive scenarios played out around the leadership of these two countries, we at the *SA Jewish Report* kept going back to this empty page, hoping for some kind of resolution before we had to send the newspaper to print. The clock was ticking...

It felt like time had slowed down, and we waited for word. Then, after 17:00, we heard that Ramaphosa would announce the cabinet at 20:00.

So, we held the front page...

You may ask yourself why we make such a big deal about what we put on the front page of our newspaper, and why we should wait to make sure that you have the latest news. "You are only a community newspaper," some would say.

But that's just it. We are your community newspaper, and we want to make sure that you have the most up-to-date news as possible. We will do whatever we can to make sure that you have that.

We carefully consider what goes into this new spaper... and what doesn't. This extends to every article we run.

This is just a tiny insight into the goings on in this newsroom. I hope you enjoy the fruits.

Shabbat Shalom! Peta Krost Maunder Editor

Netanyahu loses election he's already won

sraeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lost an election he had already won. For the first time in the country's history, a party (in this case Netanyahu's Likud) was unable to form a majority coalition after parliamentary elections.

Following the 9 April poll, Netanyahu was given 42 days (that included an extension) to put together a new government. Not for one moment did anyone think he wouldn't succeed. But suddenly, former ally and Defense and Foreign Affairs Minister Avigdor Lieberman became a wild card. Without Lieberman's Yisrael Beytenu ("Israel is our home") party's five seats, Netanyahu had only 60 out of 120 Knesset (parliament) mandates. He needed 61 to hold a majority.

An immigrant from Moldova in the former Soviet Union, Lieberman has been pushing for years for ultra-Orthodox Jews to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). This put him at odds with the religious parties Netanyahu also needed as part of his coalition. As things currently stand – and how religious parties would like them to continue – ultra-Orthodox Jews are exempt from national service, unlike the rest of the Jewish population in Israel.

But this was a smokescreen. The real reason for the stalemate was a political power fight between Lieberman and Netanyahu for Israel's top job. Lieberman wanted the position of prime minister, which would have meant that should Netanyahu travel abroad or for another reason be unable to perform the duties of premier, it

would be Lieberman who would have had to step in. No doubt he was hedging his bets that if Netanyahu went on trial over the pending corruption charges that have been brought against him, he would automatically become the next prime minister.

Lieberman has also been much firmer on Gaza than Netanyahu, repeatedly calling for a full-scale invasion to topple its ruler, Hamas. Netanyahu was against this because of the massive use of force and inevitable casualties it would entail.

Many observers believe that Lieberman was counting on Netanyahu's time in power coming to an end. He presumably identified this moment as his best chance at the premiership. His supporters backed him on the ultra-Orthodox conscription issue, and so he could mask his play for power in more palatable terms, even though he essentially prevented a right-wing government from coming to power.

This does not mean that Netanyahu and the right-wing bloc won't win again come September, the month new elections are slated to be held. In fact, the latest polls this week showed the right would get even more votes than it did in April, but there are risks. Arab-Israelis, who voted in historically low numbers in the past election, could turn out en masse, boosting the left. Alternatively, right-wing supporters might stay at home and view the second elections to be held in six months with a growing sense of apathy.

What's more, the country now needs to spend a lot of money that could have been used for other projects to arrive essentially at the same position.

The treasury estimates that new elections will cost 475 million shekels (R1.9 billion). This excludes the loss to the economy of an election-day holiday, estimated at more than \$1 billion (R14.6 billion). There's reportedly no money in the budget for this, so the cash will need to come from spending less on other activities.

DATELINE: MIDDLE EAST

Paula Slier

Likud supporter and former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Ayalon, said that in spite of his years of zigzagging, Lieberman had worked over the years to foster an image of himself as a "bulldozer", but in practice had no real record to speak of.

"According to my assessment," said Ayalon,
"Lieberman has reached the understanding
that, as a member of Yisrael Beytenu, he has no
chance of making it to a position from where
he can replace Netanyahu as prime minister."

The timing was far from ideal. On Thursday morning, Jared Kushner, senior advisor to American president, Donald Trump, arrived in Jerusalem to see Netanyahu. Kushner is in the Middle East seeking support for an "economic workshop" that Washington plans to host at the end of next month in Bahrain as part of Trump's Middle East peace plan. The administration has offered Palestinian businessmen billions of dollars in investment if they come on board, but the Palestinians and several other countries, most notably Arab states and Russia, have said they will shun the event. Israel has indicated it will attend.



Kushner planned his trip to the region in advance on the assumption Netanyahu would by now have formed his new government. His arrival in Jerusalem unintentionally sent the message that it was "business as usual" no matter what happened in the Knesset.

This isn't actually Trump's position. Taking to Twitter on Monday, the American president expressed support for Netanyahu.

"Hoping things will work out with Israel's coalition formation," he tweeted, and "Bibi [Netanyahu] and I can continue to make the alliance between America and Israel stronger than ever. A lot more to do!"

What remains to be seen is whether Trump will be willing to put his highly touted "deal of the century" on hold should new elections need to be held. (He clearly did so without admitting it earlier in the year, waiting until Netanyahu had won the April vote before advancing – at least publicly – with it.)

The irony is that while the White House allowed Netanyahu to set its schedule vis-à-vis the United States' plan, it's now found out that it was Lieberman who was setting Netanyahu's.

As for the left-wing Blue and White party headed by former IDF chief, Benny Gantz, and journalist-turned-politician Yair Lapid, which came second to Likud in April, the maximum number of seats, including the support of the Arab parties, it could garner was 55 out of 120.

Red Riding Hood and the big bad internet

nce upon a time, there was a girl called Little Red Riding Hood. Or Lexi. Or Esther. She kissed her mother, who stood at the garden gate, or went shopping, or watched her favourite TV programme.

"Be careful," her mother said.
"Look out for the big bad wolf." Or words to that effect.

But the enthusiastic child soon forgot her well-meaning mother's cautions.

Full of good intentions, she made her way through the forest on her own. Enticements popped up everywhere, and she became a little distracted. Entranced by her discoveries, she didn't notice that wicked eyes were watching her every movement.

Children don't see those red gleaming eyes, not when they're tapping away at their iPhones, connecting on Instagram, or hooking up to the internet.

It's a big bad world out there. Always has been, always will be. Not most of the time, and not in most places, but when bad things happen to children in our community, we don't easily forget them. They stain our memories in red technicolour.

Of course, the dangers are never just "out there", and they don't have to resort to "huffing and puffing" to get into our houses. We invite them into our homes through social networks, via smart phones, tablets, and computers.

A Pew Research Centre study from 2018 reported that 45% of



American teens say they use the internet "almost constantly", a figure that has nearly doubled from the 24% who said this in the 2014-2015 survey. Another 44% say they go online several times a day.

Ninety five percent of American teens own their own smart phones or have access to one. With apps being developed for toddlers, the iPad is the latest must-have for the wired generation and our offspring.

Social media connects us to the world, informs us, and sets up opportunities for learning, creating and sharing. We can't – and

> shouldn't – wish this away as there are important benefits to using social networks in a sensible way.

The trick, I believe, is to treat your child's first exposure to social media the same way you would their first date. For the first date, you will probably feel comfortable discussing the possible risks and setting limits for behaviour. You probably will not think twice about checking up on what they're getting up to, such as arriving a little early at the house party or keeping in touch with the hosting parents.

It's the same with children's flirtations with

social media. Remind them there's a reason why it's called "social" – it's not private and confidential. Tell them Google never forgets. A single inappropriate image or comment posted online could be around

forever. Just one phone number or address given to a stranger disguised as a friend can set in motion a chain of events over which they have absolutely no control.

Just as it's not prying to keep a careful eye on your children's relationships, and what they're doing while hanging out at the mall, it's not intrusive to monitor their use (or misuse) of the internet and apps like Tik Tok and WhatsApp.

In checking up on what your child is doing in cyberspace, you will discover no more or less than the public knows.

Tell your child that if he or she wants privacy, then good old fashioned conversation and letter writing are the way to go. Anything else belongs as much to you as to the cyber world out there.

One way to set up clear rules with your child is to sign a cell phone or social-media contract with them. These are available on the internet, and make it very clear what your child's responsibilities are as a user of social media, and what steps you are entitled to take to monitor and safeguard them.

Of course, your child is probably so desperate to have a cell phone that he/she will sign any document. But it's a process. And this type of contract sets out clearly the limits you are prepared to place on time spent in

cyberspace, what
may or may not be
downloaded, when
phones may be used, and when
they have to be turned off.

However, the most important way we can protect our children is by educating ourselves about the possibilities and probabilities lurking out there on the web. Not only should we check the websites that our children are visiting, but with younger children, we can dictate which sites they may visit, and use some of the technologies available to limit their access to content we deem inappropriate.

By the time our children reach adolescence, we have to rely more on building trust with them and a little less on monitoring. We need to have helped them navigate the realities of virtual communication and virtual relationships with their real possibilities for exploitation, bullying, and betrayal. We need to warn them about predators disguised as promises, and help them to manage the temptations of instant connection. Hopefully, then, they will be able to travel more safely down the digital pathways of their social networks.

- Judith Ancer is a Johannesburgbased clinical psychologist.
- A version of this piece originally appeared in the Sunday Times.



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Adoption under threat in SA

GILLIAN KLAWANSKY

abriella Trapido urged moms on Joburg Jewish Mommies to change their Facebook cover photograph to one that said, "What if I told you that there would be no more adoptions in South Africa in 2020?" It calls on people to sign a petition over National Child Protection Week (2 to 9 June) to stop the proposed Children's Amendment Bill that may render adoptions all but impossible.

Trapido, who with her husband adopted a son, is working to have the bill withdrawn.

They believe that while National Child Protection Week is a commitment by government to uphold the rights of children who could be adopted, these are being threatened with this amendment.

They are perturbed by a statement by the spokesperson of the social development department, who said, "The placement of children into unrelated families through adoption is no better for children who can't be reunited with a biological family than institutional care." Even more worrying is the department's proposed Children's Amendment Bill which states that no fees shall be payable for adoption services.

Non-governmental organisations subsidised by the government which need to raise funds to make up significant deficiencies will not be allowed to do so. It means private social workers, doctors, and lawyers are forbidden to charge fees.

Adoption would then solely be in the hands of already drastically under-resourced government workers who can't sustain the need.

The National Adoption Coalition of South Africa (NACSA) says that this will drastically

reduce the amount of adoptions, which have already declined over the past few years.

"We're very concerned because we believe that if they go ahead with these amendments, it will slow adoptions down to an absolute trickle," says Sue Krawitz, the founding member and former chairperson of NACSA. Krawitz is a social worker, director, and the co-founder of Impilo Child Protection and Adoption Services, which is based in the heart of Jewish Johannesburg.

"This is very concerning because the number of children that come into the system continues to increase. We know that there are about 3 500 children abandoned every year. What is going to happen to these children?" she asks.

"They're going

to sit in institutions. No child should grow up in an institution, every child needs a family. As much as the government tells us they've got the social workers they need, they're not yet prepared and trained to do these adoptions. Adoption is a specialist field no matter how you look at it.

"We believe adoptions should be done by specialists in partnership with government," she says. It suggests the government is overlooking

the realities involved.

"For example, children have to have medicals for adoption. In Gauteng, the provincial hospitals won't do those medicals. They have to be done privately. Who's going to do those medicals for these children? We don't feel that they've thought this through. We believe they didn't negotiate and consult widely enough on this - if at all. It will wipe out private practitioners completely. They have an important role to play."

In justifying the changes, those behind the bill say the facilitation of adoptions should not be a business, and is the mandate of childprotection services. They also contend that those who cannot afford adoption fees are prevented from adopting children should they wish to.

Two petitions have gained traction to mobilise citizens to fight the proposed changes. The one Trapido is promoting was set up by

blogger Tom Jordi on childrenmattersa.org. Jordi is a passionate adoption advocate who runs the Fatherheart Fund to help support adoptive and foster parents.

He and his wife are parents to one biological and three adopted children. On the website, he posted a video to raise awareness of the threats posed by the bill. Jordi has teamed up with adoption advocate Robyn Wolfson Vorster to raise awareness and garner support.

They're also working with Cape Town-based

children's rights attorney, Debbie Wybrow, who started a similar petition on change.org. "We got together to raise awareness, and see how many people we could get to agree with us that this needs to be stopped and reworked. On Monday, both petitions together had 50 000 signatures. Once the speaker of parliament is sworn in within the next week or so, we will send a letter and the petitions to him or her requesting that that bill be sent back. The bill is flawed in its entirety, not just in regard to adoption."

Says Jordi, "The amount of time and effort that's gone into raising

this awareness could have been better used in partnering with the people who make the rules and laws, and asking, 'How better can we serve these kids?"

There have also been contentions that the revisions are motivated by the desire to limit interracial adoptions. "There is a concern in some circles that the culture of this child can be lost," says Jordi, "but the reality is that if you have an abandoned child, don't they have a right to a second option? Culture isn't DNA, culture is family. To dictate what culture somebody should have based on a colour or start in life is just as prejudicial as many of the horrible things that have happened in this country in the past."

Says Trapido, "I may not be able to adopt more children if this bill is passed. The criticism of those adopting kids of a different culture also hits home because my son is black, and we are white. You're telling me that my child would have been better off in an orphanage than a loving home? I believe you're not born with a culture; you are born into a culture. My child was born into a Jewish culture, and he'll be brought up Jewish."

Trapido mentions the red tape that already exists in regard to adoptions. "It took a long time to adopt our son, and for us, it actually was quicker than for many others. We started in 2015 and a year later, we were matched with my son. Yet, the adoption was finalised only last month. If this bill is passed, it will probably take even longer."

She also stresses the value of the private sector. "When it's done through a private social worker, you get that one-on-one connection, and they're able to place you with the right child. We were handed my child when he wa three months old, and the second we held him, he smiled," she says. "If it's up to overloaded government workers, all they'll be doing is getting through their adoption workload.'





It's men. Hallelujah.





TALI FEINBERG

ost people don't know that even in the city itself, most people don't celebrate Yom Yerushalayim (Sunday 2 June) today, says Ittay Flesher, an educator and journalist living in Jerusalem.

As someone who hails from Australia, Flesher understands that diaspora communities may see the day like any other chag (holiday). But in Jerusalem itself - and in Israel - it remains a controversial event that many people refuse to celebrate.

"Commemorating the date when Israel won control over the Old City from the Jordanians in the 1967 Six-Day War, including Judaism's holiest sites, it also marks the start of military rule in the West Bank and the beginning of a new stage of the Israel-Palestinian conflict," writes Jessica Steinberg in the *Times of Israel*.

"I cannot celebrate Yom Yerushalayim. It's not because I don't feel immense pride in our stunning victory against what seemed insurmountable odds in the Six-Day War, ensuring our survival. I do. It's not because I am not happy that our capital was reunited, I am," says Paul Mirbach, an ex-South African Israeli living on Kibbutz Tuval.

"It's because of what this day has come to mean over the past fifty years. It symbolises the day when we became oppressors of another people. It symbolises the beginning of the erosion of our sense of justice and our moral fibre. So, I acknowledge this day with mixed emotions."

Another reason the day isn't celebrated in Jerusalem is because the majority of its population are Arab Palestinians. "Of the 874 186 residents of East and West Jerusalem today, 38% are Arab Palestinians, and 27% are Haredi Jews.

"For Palestinian residents of Jerusalem, the Jewish celebration, flag waving, and racist chants that some religious Zionists hurl at Arab shopkeepers as they enter the Old City waving flags make this an especially sad and angry day for Palestinians," says Flesher,

pointing out that most people who take part in this parade don't live in Jerusalem.

In fact, just last week, Israel's Supreme Court turned down a petition to change the route of the parade so that it went around, rather than directly through, the Muslim Quarter of the city. This means that tensions can flare up on the day.

"For Haredi Jerusalemites, whose representatives now dominate the Jerusalem municipality, the day is also no cause for celebration, although few would protest the day as would the Palestinians. According to a Jerusalem Post poll, only 13% of Haredim see Jerusalem day as special. This is connected to the fact that the day is not of Biblical origin, and the rituals around it for religious Zionists are not endorsed by Haredi rabbis, who are largely non-Zionist in Jerusalem," says Flesher.

"Unlike other Jewish festivals that have existed for thousands of years, Yom Yerushalayim is a modern day. For the same reason most Haredim don't observe new Zionist festivals such as Yom Hashoah, Ha'atzmaut, and Hazikaron, they generally don't observe Yom Yerushalayim as well," he says.

So, how should we observe Yom Yerushalayim if we want to celebrate it? "In past years, alternate groups have been finding new ways to mark the day," says Flesher. He feels that diaspora communities could host more introspective events that ask questions, engage with the issues, and promote the diversity of Jerusalem.

"For a day meant to mark the unification of the city, the march and other events can seem to highlight the capital's divisions, and many Jerusalemites seek other, more tolerant ways to mark the date," says Steinberg in her article.

She spoke to the Jerusalem Tolerance group, which hosts the Jerusalem Day of Diversity, a two-day event that is meant to reclaim the festival as one of tolerance, rather than division. Four years ago, Michal Shilor, one of the organisers, noted the utter lack of any events revolving around Jerusalem Day despite the number of tolerance organisations in the city.

"Everyone was scared to touch it," said Shilor, 28. She said they wanted to take the 36 hours around the national day, and do something with them. They thought they would have ten or 15 events, and ended up with 80.

Tens of thousands of people attend everything from conversations about Jerusalem taking place in people's living rooms, to a women's gospel choir at the Davidka station, to joining the now well-known "flower march" organised by fellow organisation Tag Meir, which hands out flowers to residents and the businesspeople of the Old City.

"We're creating a new narrative for this city," said Shilor. "It isn't perfect, but it's from a huge range of people who live here and create this day together, tagging it as a city of global tolerance."



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LIMMUD JOHANNESBURG **10** SA JEWISH REPORT 31 May - 7 June 2019

The danger of wearing a kippah in Germany

TOBY AXELROD - JTA

t's dangerous to identify publicly as Jewish in Germany, including wearing a kippah, says Germany's commissioner on anti-Semitism.

In a wide-ranging interview, Felix Klein told the Berliner Morgenpost on 24 May that he could not recommend that Jews wear a kippah anywhere and anytime in Germany. He also said public servants must be better educated to combat anti-Semitism.

Recent government statistics show a 20% rise in the number of anti-Semitic crimes reported in the past year, with a total of about 1 800 in 2018. The vast majority of crimes for which a perpetrator or motive is known were attributed to the farright wing.

In the controversial interview published in newspapers of the Funke Media Group, Klein – appointed to his position in the interior ministry last year - was asked about the safety of wearing the traditional Jewish head covering.

"My opinion has unfortunately changed on that point," he answered. "I can't recommend that Jews can wear a kippah everywhere and any time. Sad to say."

He said that it was urgent that the government do a better job of preparing public servants. "There is a clear definition of anti-Semitism [the International Alliance for Holocaust Remembrance definition, which Germany adopted in 2017] and it must be taught in police academies. It also must be included in the training of teachers and lawyers."

The comments have prompted numerous strong reactions from Jews here, including rabbis who always wear a head-covering.

"Klein's intentions are good, but we know that hiding our identity has never been the solution," Yehuda Teichtal, a Berlin community rabbi and head of the city's Jüdisches Bildungszentrum Chabad Lubawitsch, told JTA in a telephone interview.

"Of course we have to take security precautions, use our heads, and not walk into a place that could be dangerous," said Teichtal, who in 2017 did a "kippah walk" through the city's Kreuzberg neighbourhood, a district with a large Muslim population.

Klein's advice is "coming from a very, very strong place of honesty. And in the next sentence, he immediately advises what should be done about it," said Josh Spinner. Berlin-Based chief executive of the Ronald Lauder Foundation, in a telephone interview.

An observant Jew, Spinner has worn a baseball cap instead of a kippah on the street for years.

"Of course anti-Semitism has increased," he said, adding that it is not due to one factor alone, but to a combination.

Klein's comments also prompted a counter statement by **Bavarian Interior** Minister Joachim Herrmann, of the conservative Christian Social Union party. "Everyone can and should wear a kippah, wherever and whenever he wants to," Herrmann said on Saturday, pointing out that, "If we give in to hatred of the Jews, we leave



the field to right-wing ideas. "While it is possible generally to wear a kippah in public in Germany without harm, it has long been the sad truth that safety is unpredictable. There are certain areas where there is a higher risk of animosity, but verbal assaults and threats can come anywhere, including in middle-class residential

neighbourhoods," Deidre Berger, a long-time director of the American Jewish Committee office in Berlin, told JTA. "This has been going on for

years, as we know from polls and criminal statistics, without a strong

public response. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that this problem has been recognised and identified by Germany's top co-ordinator of anti-Semitism affairs. It is unthinkable that Germany would be a country where Jews worry about wearing a kippah," she said.

Klein's suggestion that Jews not wear kippahs in public "shocked me deeply", Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said in a statement.

"Responsibility for the right to religious belief of every member of the German Jewish community is in the hands of the German government. Fears about the security of German Jews are a capitulation to anti-Semitism and an admittance that, again, Jews are not safe on German soil," Rivlin said. "We will never submit, never lower our gaze, and never react to anti-Semitism with defeatism. We expect and demand that our allies act in the

Theresa May still a 'true friend' to Britain's Jews

CNAAN LIPHSHIZ - JTA

heresa May, who announced her resignation on Friday as prime minister of the United Kingdom (UK), will be remembered as one of her country's shortest-serving and least popular leaders.

Blamed by supporters of Britain's departure from the European Union for delivering what they consider half measures, she was loathed also by opponents of that plan for her efforts to push it forward.

Ultimately, her desperate balancing act came to an end following the umpteenth failure in Parliament of one her many proposals for a compromise.

"It is and will always remain a matter of deep regret to me that I have not been able to deliver Brexit," May said in her announcement outside 10 Downing Street in London.

She is leaving with "no ill will, but with enormous and enduring gratitude to have had the opportunity to serve the country I love", May said at the conclusion of her speech, her voice cracking and tears filling her eyes as she uttered the final three words. She turned around abruptly, and headed back toward the prime minister's residence, the sounds of her footsteps fading.

To her many opponents, May's resignation could not have come soon enough. But for many British Jews, the departure of May, who probably will be succeeded by another member of her Conservative Party after she steps down on 7 June, means goodbye to one of the friendliest prime ministers in UK history.

"Prime Minister May followed a line of what you might consider leaders who are attentive and friendly to the Jewish community as well as to Israel," said Jonathan Arkush, the previous president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Yet May, he said, "distinguished herself" even against that

The board's current president, Marie van der

Zyl, published a glowing endorsement of May on Friday, calling her a "true friend" to the community, and recalling how the UK under May has taken unprecedented positions in favour of the Jewish people and Israel.

Her cabinet led the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Agency's definition of anti-Semitism, which some anti-Israel activists reject for the ways it connects anti-Israel activity to anti-Jewish sentiment. It also has blacklisted the entire

Hezbollah group rather than just its military wing.

In 2017, the UK under May said it would vote against a permanent article against Israel on the United Nations Human Rights Council. Last month, the rest of Europe followed in Britain's footsteps.

Last year, Prince William ended a decadeslong unofficial boycott on official visits to Israel by senior members of the

British Royal House. May's government had a central role in facilitating the visit.

May has even clashed with the foreign office over Israel, imposing her own policies and successfully "diluting its institutional hostility toward Israel", said Jonathan Hoffman, a North London-based blogger and former vice chair of the Zionist Federation of Britain.

Diverging from the foreign office's attempts to appear impartial on the Balfour Declaration

a seminal document in the history of Zionism

- May embraced it openly during the statement's centennial anniversary in 2017.

But one of her greatest gifts to British Jewry may

have been what she appeared careful not to do: namely to use the anti-Semitism crisis raging with the opposition Labour Party for the benefit of her own Conservative Party.

Accusations of anti-Semitism directed at Labour officials exploded following the 2015 election of the far-left politician Jeremy Corbyn to lead the party. It was a traumatic turn of events for many British Jews, who had considered Labour their political



Prime Minister Theresa May announces her resignation

Corbyn is an anti-Israel stalwart who has defended an anti-Semitic mural, and said British-born "Zionists" don't understand irony. He attracted thousands from the far left to join Labour. Discourse within the ranks became so toxic that many Jews, including prominent Jewish legislators, left the party.

Through it all, May resisted the temptation

to exploit the issue for political gain, Arkush said. British Jews will find a friend in virtually all Conservative politicians likely to take May's place, Arkush said. They include Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, Home Secretary Sajid Javid, and Environment Secretary Michael Gove.

As for Hoffman, an economist, he said he won't support anyone committed to Brexit, which he calls "a tragedy if it happens". He and many other Britons want a second referendum on the issue.

If not for Brexit, Hoffman said he would have supported May. "But right now that's a bit ridiculous," he said, "because British politics is all about Brexit - that's the only thing on the agenda.'

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Aliyah Expo gives guidance on settling in comfortably

JORDAN MOSHE

hen you make aliyah, your behaviour will determine the service you receive. People want to help you, but if you shout and misbehave, it will have a negative impact on how people treat you.

Befriend the doctor's receptionist, ask her about her family and her simchas, and she is sure to help you in your hour of need.

This is just some of the advice shared by social worker Tova Rubenstein at this year's Aliyah and Higher Education Expo. Rubenstein was invited by the Israel Centre to South Africa to discuss the aliyah process with community members this week

Emigrating to Israel is no walk in the park, with cultural differences, linguistic challenges, and employment availability being only some of the difficulties one can encounter. The consultations and lectures offered this week offered expert insight into what it really takes to make it in the Holy Land, and perhaps went some to softening the landing.

"Information is definitely power," says Rubenstein. "We base our lives on what we know. We know how things operate around us, how to go about our lives – how to obtain a medical script, make a doctor's appointment, or pay a bill. When we don't know how to do these things, it can be very frustrating, and we

can feel stupid."

Rubenstein made aliyah from Johannesburg 17 years ago with her husband and children after working in education for 13 years. When she arrived in Israel and found that her skills were not in demand, she fell back on her early training as a social worker 13 years after arriving. Today, she offers an advocacy and care-management service, helping olim (immigrants) to navigate their absorption, and understand the social welfare and medical offerings.

She stresses that anyone making aliyah needs to be aware of their rights, and create a network of connections to help make absorption easier.

"You need a community," she says. "It could be a shul or even a cycling club. You need to look out for people in a similar situation, build a network, and be willing to ask questions. There is no such thing as a stupid question regarding aliyah.

"Israelis pay 28% of their wage to a medical tax and national insurance," she says. "You pay in and take out when you need it at different points in life, be it for frail care, maternity, or disability."

Medical services are offered by four different service providers, all of which fall under the umbrella of the national health insurance scheme. They offer the same basic basket of services such as general practitioners, certain medications, specialist consultations, and immunisations. You have the freedom to choose the provider you like best.

She stresses that you need to take into account any pre-existing conditions, and read the fine

print when it comes to medical expenses. "Supplementary packages sometimes give discounts or returns on certain expenses," she says.

At the Aliyah Expo

Alongside healthcare, education is another area of concern for many *olim*. Revital Dotan, the representative of the Israeli education department says that as culturally different as the school system may be, its role in the aliyah process for youngsters is crucial.

"Children in Israel are determined to go to school, but more for their friends than the actual lessons," she laughs. "The sense of community that school offers children in Israel is very unique, and can be important in helping children to integrate into society."

She explains that the schooling system offers three different streams: state, state religious, and ultra-orthodox. The type of environment in which you want your child to learn is a decision that must be taken well in advance. "The streams are very different and cater for different needs," she says. "You need to know what sort of school you want for your child, and make a

decision before-hand."

Whatever stream you choose, there are numerous accommodations made for new student *olim*. Every student *oleh* receives ulpan classes as part of his schooling, taking lessons during school hours.

They are allowed the use of dictionaries in exams, their spelling errors are overlooked (no marks are deducted) and they get extra time and have their exam questions read aloud if they need it

In the event of failing one matric subject, students have the chance to rewrite one final exam. "You don't need to retake the whole year or wait a long time to rewrite," explains Dotan. "If you fail one subject, that is the only one you will need to improve on and rewrite. It happens within a few months, and after you pass, you can continue with tertiary studies."

Dotan stresses the importance of early aliyah when children are involved. "The sooner integration into the education system happens, the better," she says.

Israel Centre director brings sabra chutzpah to SA

JORDAN MOSHE

he new director of the Jewish Agency and Israel Centre in South Africa lived in a caravan with her family in the Negev for nine years. Liat Amar Arran also left the security of her parents' home while still at school and moved to an undeveloped area in Israel to help less fortunate people.

Arran is not your average Israeli, and she plans to give South Africans a sense of the diversity and fascination that Israel offers.

She arrived to take up her position three months ago, and has already revolutionised the aliyah process, brought out a Knesset facilitator to engage with the community,

with the community, and arranged a course in Israel advocacy.

"When I arrived, I told my children that we must learn to look after ourselves," she says. "There is no IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] to rely on, and no soldiers who can swoop in to help you if you are in trouble." Nevertheless, her gung-ho spirit drove her and her family forward, allowing her to embrace the community and fall into her role from the get-go.

Arran and her husband, Zvika, made the decision to come to South Africa last year after devoting many years to a well-established professional career in Israel. "We needed a change," she says. "We considered travelling the world and because we had children, we needed to travel with purpose. We wanted to be

involved in the wider Jewish world."

After consultation with the Jewish Agency, the couple decided to go on shlichut [commission] and looked into various options. "We were offered the opportunity to come to South Africa right away, or wait a year to go to Los Angeles," says Arran. "I was originally against coming to South Africa because another shaliach told me it wasn't a good move for my children." Her husband, however, encouraged her to try it, so she decided to visit South Africa in July last year.

Arran met the communal leadership, and immediately felt the community's devotion to Israel and Judaism.

Although she is aware of the race and poverty related problems we face, she saw an opportunity to address these and involve herself in

the community.

The couple and their four children moved to Johannesburg in January this year.

"The shaliach has potential that is not always used, and is able to reach people on the fringes, Jews and non-Jews. It starts by establishing a firm connection in the mainstream, and then branching out. I'll never tell anyone that they are not welcome or relevant," she says.

Her *chutzpah* (audacity) and enthusiasm are her defining traits. When she was in Grade 11, Arran told her parents that she was "moving to another city as a volunteer to work with students in the high school and engage with them on the problems they faced." So, she relocated to Kiriyat Gat with five

Continued on page 15>>

Israeli medical technology shatters boundaries

JORDAN MOSHE

A device that shatters kidney stones with shock waves. A completely paperless record system for hospitals. A wound dressing infused with copper ions to speed up recovery. These are just some of the marvels that the Israeli medical industry has to offer the world, and they may soon be available to us in South Africa.

Sixteen med-tech companies from Israel were in South Africa to showcase their innovation at the Africa Health Exhibition hosted in Johannesburg this week. They were introduced at an exclusive pre-exhibition cocktail evening in Sandton on Monday evening, hosted by the Israel Trade Office to South Africa.

"We want to create increased collaboration between Israeli and South African companies," said Israeli ambassador to South Africa, Lior Keinan. "We would love to see more Israeli innovation come to South Africa, and reach the rest of the continent."

One of the companies in South Africa is Haifa-based Oneg HaKarmel, which has invented a sleeve which drains the blood from any limb and shifts it through the body. Known as the HermaShock, the sleeve is able to transfuse a patient's own blood from an arm or leg and redirect it elsewhere in cases of shock.

Another Israeli medical marvel on show is the VIVI CAP1, a reusable replacement cap for an insulin pen that can maintain the necessary temperature in any climate. The cap doesn't need to be charged nor refrigerated but simply slipped onto the pen.

The BreathID breath test can determine a bacterial infection in the stomach by breathing into a mouthpiece. The device detects H. pylori bacteria, a germ that can infect your digestive tract and cause ulcers. Blood tests and biopsies are typically used to diagnose the infection, but the BreathID automates the detection process, allows for ten samples to be tested at once, and records results automatically.

Keinan spoke of other exciting technology Israel has to share, all of which can benefit people at all levels of society.

"Countries sometimes lack the necessary infrastructure," he said, "With the necessary technology and Israeli innovation, we can improve life for everyone."

keep falling on my head.



31 May – 7 June 2019 SA JEWISH REPORT 13

Stransky weighs in on Rugby World Cup

MIRAH LANGER

hile South Africa could win the Rugby World Cup, it probably won't, was the prediction recently made by former Springbok player Joel Stransky.

"Can we win the World Cup? The answer is absolutely, yes we can, and the reason is we have so much talent in this country. If you look at the squad that is going to the World Cup, how good they are, they have the ability, and on any given day, they can produce the result that counts," said Stransky. However, he said, "Will we win the World Cup? The answer is probably not."

Stransky offered a number of reasons for this, including that South Africa had drawn a difficult lot, which meant it would need to beat New Zealand, its fellow top contender, twice.

He was speaking at a function organised by the Dr Herzl Lodge at the Hebrew Order of David in Orchards, Johannesburg, earlier this month. The event was in support of Stransky's charitable foundation, Lumo Hawk. The lodge raised enough money to buy a mobile auto refractor that would be used to test the eyesight of underprivileged school children.

Stransky suggested that World Cup success could also be hindered by the fact that "rugby in our country sadly is not in a good state of affairs". While the talent in the country was "pouring out", there were other problems.

As an example, he said that the money earned from television rights was not sustainable enough to build strong teams, especially with the country having so many

unions. In particular, said Stransky, the national system needed to be strong enough to ensure that players were not tempted to play overseas.

"To see our players playing overseas means we cannot possibly have a strong rugby [logistical system]," he said.

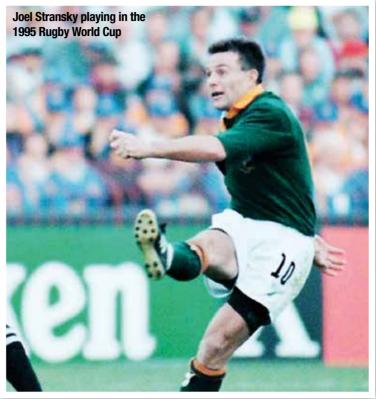
Picking players who were working overseas for the national side was only a short-term solution. "If you don't have a strong system at home, your youngest [players] come through in a weak system. They become only as good as they system they are playing."

This has ripple effects. "If they come through a weak system, without that competition, with no senior players passing the baton and mentoring the younger guys, they will be just average players."

The changes in rugby needed to come "from the top", he suggested. The game, like many other sports, had become "fraught with politics".

"The only way to solve this is to get rid of the blazer brigade, and bring in businessmen to run the game. We need financially astute people who understand the game, and who understand finances to make sure that the game can grow and succeed."

Stransky said there were some similarities in the position of this year's team and the one that won the World Cup in 1995. Stransky was a member of this team, and gained fame for his winning drop goal in the final.



"[This year's] team will come out of a country that is experiencing a little uncertainty. Hopefully it will have settled down a little by then, but we are still in that period of uncertainty now as our president puts our cabinet together, and then sees where we are going to go.

"This rugby team will come out of a society that is divided. Maybe, like cricket and soccer, it can play a role in uniting a nation around a sports team again. That's what we were very fortunate to do in 1995."

To win, the team needed a little bit of luck and a catalyst – "a magic moment" – like in

1995, when then President Nelson Mandela become iconic in his support of the team.

Special moments that inspired success were still possible today. "You need something that inspires a player, whether it be a person, a tackle, or a break at the right time that propels you to greatness."

During the event, Stransky, who comes from a Jewish background, also shared an anecdote about an encounter with Danie Craven, a famous rugby player and administrator. Craven, he said, was an advocate of the idea that "in every Springbok team, you need to have a policemen and a Jew".

Shortly, before South Africa re-entered the international sporting arena, as apartheid came to an end, Stransky was injured.

One day, he met Craven in a lift. He said to me, "You need to get yourself back to full fitness because we are now re-entering

international rugby and need to have a Jew in the Springbok team.

"I looked at him. I wasn't quite sure how to take it, because as a player, you don't want to be selected on your race, colour, or belief, you want to be selected because you are the best.

"So I said to him, 'Doc, surely this fallacy of having a Jew on the team can't be the truth?"

He said, "No, absolutely, we have to have a Jew on the team."

"I said, 'Why?"

"He said, 'Well, we need to have someone to blame when things go wrong!"

Most Jews of Polish, Lithuanian & Latvian origin are entitled to EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND ACCORDINGLY, AN EU PASSPORT

A common misconception is that South African Jews of Ashkenazi heritage are of Polish, Lithuanian & Latvian descent, and that only those who are able to prove their eligibility for Polish, Lithuanian & Latvian citizenship are able to obtain a European passport. The fact is that most South African Jews do qualify for European

Destroyed Warsaw, January 1945

European citizenship which will result in them obtaining a EU passport.

Ashkenazi: It is important to understand that until 1918, all of Eastern Europe was divided between three empires: Russia, Prussia, the Austro-Hungarian empire.

Neither Poland nor Lithuania and Latvia existed until 1918.

At the end of the WWI, the territory was divided, and countries like Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, and others were born/reborn. Only then did residents became citizens of these countries. As a result, people who, for example, were born in Riga (nowadays Latvia) could actually be Polish, Lithuanian or Latvian.

Horesh advises that eligibility for a Lithuanian

Latvian or Polish passport depends on the city from which your grandparents (or their parents) hailed.

Horesh says many South African Ashkenazi Jews of Lithuanian origin have been refused Lithuanian citizenship because their heritage is actually Polish. They would, accordingly, be entitled to Polish citizenship and a EU passport.

After World War II, the borders in Europe

changed, resulting in cities changing nationality. The resultant effect for descendants of Jews who were born in Vilnius, for example, is that their application for Lithuanian citizenship will be declined, but an application for a Polish passport may very well be successful.

Sephardi: the descendants of Sephardi Jews (who were exiled 500 years ago) are most likely eligible for a Portuguese passport. If applicable, Horesh is able to obtain an official certificate confirming such eligibility, on the basis of which an application for European citizenship can be made and will most likely be successful. Portuguese citizenship enables one to enter the Unites States without the need to apply for a visa.

In addition, Horesh is filing many applications for descendants of Sephardi origin who arrived in South Africa from Greece, Turkey, and North Africa.

Descendents from other countries in the Middle East – even Holland – are also potentially eligible.

Horesh resides in Israel, but has spent seven





years in Poland, and is recognised as a leading lawyer in the field of European citizenship, with a full understanding of local immigration laws.

Living in Israel – a four-hour flight from Warsaw and Vilnius – offers him quick and easy access to Poland, Latvian and Lithuania, Accordingly, he is able to work closely with local professionals who assist him in tracing the documentation required for successful applications for European citizenship.

In addition, and as a result of his close ties with Portuguese authorities, to date he has had a 100% success rate with applications for Portuguese citizenship.

Horesh is available to discuss your specific details. He is often in South Africa, and can meet you in person to discuss your specific needs.

citizenship, whether they can prove their Polish, Lithuanian & Latvian lineage or not, and most South African Jews of Sephardic heritage are also eligible for European passports.

Adv. Avi Horesh has in-depth knowledge of the applicable legislation and in his experience, the majority of South African Jews have ancestors who were illegally deprived of citizenship. As their descendants, these Jews are eligible for

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History is always relevant, says acclaimed author

JORDAN MOSHE

istory will always be relevant because the past has lessons and a warning for us, says acclaimed British historian Simon Sebag Montefiore.

"History is always important partly because it is about the present," he says. "There are definitely lessons that can be applied to us. History is like reading intelligence reports. It's about finding information which is reliable, and out of that, what's right and what's relevant to you now."

Montefiore, the author of several books, was in South Africa last week to promote his most recent book, Written in History: Letters that Changed the World.

His visit, arranged by Jonathan Ball Publishers, included a launch at Bookdealers of Blubird last Thursday evening, where the author discussed his book with local historian David Saks.

The SA Jewish Report caught up with Montefiore before the event, gleaning insight into his work and life. This London-born Jewish historian claims both Sephardi and Ashkenazi ancestry, and describes himself as a "Jewish mongrel". The husband and father of two explains, "the Montefiores are from Spain, Italy, and Mexico, and the Sebags are from Morocco".

"My mother's family were from Lithuania. They bought tickets for New York in 1904, and when they were dropped off only two days later, they found that they were in fact in New Cork. They had been tricked." They would move on to New Castle and then London, the residence of the Montefiores by that point as well.

As for Montefiore himself, his dream was to make a great fortune, write many books, and become foreign secretary in a few years. After completing his degree, he worked as a banker, foreign-affairs journalist, and war correspondent covering the conflicts that unfolded in the last days of the Soviet Union.

"I started writing books in about 1995, so I've been living on writing for almost 25 years," he says. "It is erratic but independent, and I like not working for somebody. My dream never came to pass, except the part about writing."

Montefiore explains that it is actually very difficult be a writer. "Very few people can write a first book that is an international hit," he says. "I wrote and published two novels while I was at university, and the first didn't do very well. After those, I moved on with history books, which proved successful, and so went ahead with that."

After the success of his first historical work, Catherine the Great and Potemkin, Montefiore forged ahead and wrote about other Russian subjects close to his heart, including Stalin.

In 2011, he published *Jerusalem: The Biography*, having wanted to pen a book on the topic for years. This subject should come as no surprise, considering that his great-great-uncle, Sir Moses Montefiore, built the first Jewish residential settlement and alms house outside the old walled city of Jerusalem. This area is now known as Mishkenot Sha'ananim, and features the famous Montefiore windmill.

"My family had played a part in the establishment of the new Jerusalem, and I had visited there often as a boy, so I really wanted to write something special about it," he says. "I wanted to write a history of the Middle East through Jerusalem and its history. It was a great project, and it wasn't a proper history, but I did it."

Because he has based all his major works on historic correspondence, Montefiore's publisher suggested that he undertake a collection of letters, bringing him to publish his latest book.

He says, "I have a library at home with an amazing



collection of things. My daughter and I spent two weeks collecting letters, finding more than 300, and we narrowed it down to 100."

He explains that his aim was to present as much diversity as possible. "Chronology is boring and predictable, so I chose themes. I wanted to find delightful things, a delicatessen of letters to give everyone something they can dip into and enjoy. The book has letters from everywhere - Asia, South America, Africa. It's all in the mix - that's what history is."

Montefiore is concerned about the current status of British politics. Although he believes the limbo over Brexit is dangerous, he believes it may prove to be a good thing.

"Though I wanted to stay in the European Union, I think Britain will be fine in the end," he says. "There was no real reason to leave, but the decision was made based on emotion over rational thought. In a couple of years though, I think Britain will be fine, and the decision may prove to be a good one."

He acknowledges that although Britain has been good to Jews in recent history, the political situation for Jews in the United Kingdom has declined. "At the moment all is fine, but Corbyn may be prime minister by end of the year, and I'd feel uneasy." He points out that the British Labour Party is ruled by a hardleft, Leninist league that's anti-Semitic, making it a dangerous time to be Jewish in England.

"History is relevant again," he says. "All history of the past is really history of the present as well. We have to pay special attention to history. We need to re-educate everybody about the Holocaust, yet everyone is bored with the subject."

"It's very difficult, but I think that the spirit of resistance present in civil society will challenge anything which appears dangerous."

Montefiore concludes with the belief that in spite of all of its challenges, it's wonderful to be Jewish. "It's a blessing, but it isn't always easy," he says. "While I'm more of a cultural Jew, my Judaism has given me a great cosmopolitanism in my work and an angle of understanding. Because of their roles in history, Jews are almost always in my books, either onstage or offstage."

Singing in the.



Hart to Heart

odger Hart sees vivid colour in nature, and finds myriad possibilities where mere nortals would lumber through jungles of doubt. This is possibly because he is a senior geologist who has a healthy obsession with leaving town to find his colour palette.

Hart is an artist of nature, and the style of his dramatic landscape paintings are clearly derived from such diverse sources as traditional aboriginal painters of Australia, San rock artists, and JH Pierneef. That's not a bad place to start, but combined with a sense of adventure, he has created a style that is distinctly his own.

This is not to say that all the paintings in his exhibition, Trance Form, at the Art House Gallery in Melville, are about the natural world. One or two reference his city life. Going as far back as the early 1980s, there is a painting of his cat in the shadow of Hillbrow Tower, as well as a composition of scantily clad women he once saw at a club while dining with his wife in Joubert

Hart worked at the nuclear physics research unit at the University of the Witwatersrand in his toiling years, but now regards himself as a full-time visual artist. "What I used to do," he says, "is use nuclear techniques to interrogate rocks."

He was appointed professor to prove that the renowned Vredefort crater, a Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) world heritage site, was actually caused by a meteorite. "It's the biggest known crater," Hart says; "but there could be another one under the Sahara Desert for all we know.

"This country is amazing, there are places here that tell us about the beginning of time. So, in Barberton, north of the Kruger Park, for

example, there are these very old volcanic lava rocks, probably the oldest in the world. And when you look at these, you can tell how the first rocks on earth came into being. It's a place where you can trace the process of earth from the beginning of time to now.

"At 4.5 billion years old, they were in contact with sea water, and what you find in the cracks, where the sea water filtered into the rocks, are single-cell forms, showing life going back almost to the beginning of time."

So, a level of deep exploration has led Hart to go beyond the surface of things. Yet in his artistic style, there is a naiveté at play, something to do with the way he improvises his perspective, forcing it into a rather flat picture plane.

His paintings are just one tributary of his creative life. The other is sculpture. Created of various factory made metals, gauzes, plaster, beads, and shreds of waxed African print, there are creatures aplenty making a menagerie of the wild. It's an inedible delicatessen of animals in psychedelic hues.

Hart also creates prints on an iPad. In a process he attributes to the artist David Hockney, he begins with a pencil drawing, which he colours with his finger in a digital process. This is then printed on paper or light fabric.

In these ways, Hart's art works are an urban thing.

"One of our big mistakes in the evolution of humankind is that we separated this urbanism [from] the natural world. As humankind, unless we learn to make space for animals and walk with them again, we are doomed."

The show's curator, Nira Sklair, said in her opening address, "Geology is still one of the most visual sciences as it is inextricably bound to the understanding of spatial relationships.

Without spatial thinking, there is no geology.

"It can be well said that the origins of geology are located in a land of convergence between art and science."

All of Hart's forces and fears converge to make his current exhibition an intriguing journey into the creative process of one individual in our midst.

• Trance Form by Rodger Hart runs at the Art House Gallery, 67 4th Avenue, Melville, Johannesburg, until 13 June.



Israel Centre director brings sabra chutzpah to SA

>>Continued from page 12

other girls, living in a commune while volunteering in the community and helping other students.

Arran was born and raised in Be'er Sheva to parents of Tunisian origin who chose to settle in the Negev in the 1950s to contribute to building the state. They were both pioneers in their own right: her mother spearheaded socialservice initiatives, and her father founded the community's first newspaper.

After school, Arran joined the army, and as part of her service in 1996, she was sent to Russia in an undercover operation to engage with Russian Jewry for three months. Returning to Israel, she studied biology and psychology at Hebrew University, constantly engaging in volunteer opportunities. "I never just studied," she laughs. "There was always something else I was doing."

Arran did a master's in psychology at Ben-Gurion University, worked as a psychologist, served at a Jewish youth camp in Los Angeles, and also pursued a PhD. For 16 years, she

involved herself in teaching at various levels as well. Arran married Zvika in 2006. The couple chose to move to a young settlement in the north of the Negev to live in a caravan, moving into a house only three years ago. She completed her PhD, worked to facilitate discussions between numerous groups in Israel (including Muslims, Druze, Bedouins and Christians), and served as the head of a mentalillness rehabilitation centre.

In South Africa, Arran is responsible for activities that give a face to Israel in Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban.

Arran is eager to assist people who want to make aliyah – mentioning that aliyah from South Africa has increased almost 20% this year. "It's easier to go to Israel than to America or Australia, but it certainly isn't simple."

She looks forward to furthering her engagement with different sectors of the local and wider community, planning interaction with non-Jewish schools, and increasing the activities of her office.

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1923 to 1964 = R4 1931 = R10 000 Up to R50 000

What's okay to speak about?

s Jews, we are governed by the strict laws of *lashon hara* (evil tongue), but are also given clear instructions about when we are not only authorised to – but are in fact obligated to – speak out.

Examples include warning someone against doing business with a dishonest person, and/or marrying someone who is problematic.

We also love to gossip.

Add to this the complexities of anti-Semitism, and the potential damage that speaking out might cause. Further still, add the discomfort of the fact that Jewish media personalities live in the very communities that they are sometimes obligated to write or speak about, and who understandably have strong reactions to what they publish. It is understandable that it is very difficult – if not impossible – to plot the way forward.

It also explains why we are rarely invited out for Shabbat lunch.

I debated this issue with Jewish author and journalist, Mandy Wiener. She has engaged closely on the Martin Levick, Genesis Capital situation that has been thrust into the public arena over the past few weeks. A number of publications have dealt with the case, one of which is *News24*, for which she writes.

She asked me why I had not spoken about this story on my morning show on *ChaiFM*. I had reasons of course, but as I verbalised them, I realised that they didn't sound nearly as good as they had sounded in my head. They included the questions of whether it was in the public interest, rather than just interesting to the public; whether the matter was *sub-judice* (under judicial consideration and therefore prohibited from public discussion); and what had happened to "innocent until proven guilty?"

Although they might have sounded solid, my excuses fell short. Levick is well known to the community, many members of the same community work for various Genesis Capital companies, and an alarming number of litigants and lawyers are Jewish. This is a big story, and the potential fall-out will have a significant impact on the community – be it individuals, charities, schools, etc. To suggest

TAKING

Geoff Sifrin

ISSUE

that it is not in the interest of the community is not to understand the story.

The "innocent until proven guilty" argument is also precarious. First, the matter has been heard by a court, and a provisional sequestration has been granted. Papers have been filed, and are available for all to see. To suggest that no one should engage on this matter would mean that we could hardly speak of any matter including state corruption, Jacob Zuma, and alleged offences. We all know where South Africa would be if that were the case.

It became clear to me that I was making excuses because I simply didn't want to speak about it. The thought made me uncomfortable, so it was easier to avoid it.

Which is why I invited Mandy on to my show, and had a robust, fair, and balanced discussion. I gave the parties a heads up that I would be doing so, and invited them on to the show at a later stage to clarify anything that they thought was not accurately portrayed. It turned out that they were comfortable with the discussion,

and that no clarification was needed.

There is an assumption that "the media" cares only about the story and not about the people involved. Whereas I am certain that there are those cases, my experience over the past week has shown me how far from reality this is – certainly in the case of the Jewish media. And that makes me proud.

I don't represent the SA Jewish
Report, and I don't represent ChaiFM

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INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman

even though I contribute to them both. But there are two things that I can say with certainty. First, when events like this take place, it is enormously painful to those who are responsible for reporting on it, and second, no article is written or discussed on radio without agonising over it.

----- A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies------

L'hitraot to an esteemed colleague

🖥 his week, we bade farewell to one of our most valued colleagues. Shirley Beagle joined the staff of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) in 2002, and soon made herself indispensable to the organisation. She became the administrative backbone of the board, the behindthe-scenes planner and co-ordinator who made things happen, and who consistently went beyond the call of duty to ensure that everything proceeded as planned. For this, she was a deserved recipient of the Eric Samson Mendel Kaplan Award, presented to her at the board's last national conference in 2017.

An especially admirable aspect of her work was the assistance she provided to Holocaust survivors wishing to claim under various compensatory and relief funds. Her unique qualities of professional competence combined with dedication and caring were just what was needed for this sensitive, complex, and (especially for more elderly people) often intimidating process. Typically, she achieved consistently excellent outcomes. She has further been the liaison between the SAJBD and the survivor community in Johannesburg.

As the Board's events co-ordinator, Shirley was responsible for the nittygritty of organising our national and Gauteng conferences, Yom Hashoah, and the various public functions organised by the board from time to time, including collaborations with the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre and foreign embassies. As important was the contact she maintained between the board and its affiliate bodies, keeping them abreast of what we are doing, updating the database as required, and following up with affiliation fees. In due course, she became responsible for producing the ever-popular Guide to Jewish Southern



Africa, a comprehensive directory of all Jewish communal organisations and establishments in South Africa and other sub-Saharan African countries.

Her thoroughness, attention to detail, and sheer persistence, combined with her hands-on understanding of our communal structures, made her the ideal person to head up this project. In recent years, Shirley has seen to the subscription and advertising side of the board's Jewish Affairs journal. Thanks to her, Jewish Affairs actually produced a healthy net profit during that time, despite its small subscriber base and the formidable difficulties that all printed publications face today in terms of attracting advertising.

Fortunately, Shirley has agreed to come in occasionally as needed, so her services will not be entirely lost to us. On behalf of the SAJBD, I thank her for all she has contributed, and wish her everything of the best as she prepares to embark on the next stage of her life.

Dawn of a new era

We congratulate Cyril Ramaphosa on his inauguration as South Africa's sixth democratically elected president, marking what we all hope will be positive new era for our country. Only posterity will show whether or not South Africa has turned a corner. For now, it is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to help make that happen.

 Listen to Charisse Zeifert on Jewish Board Talk, 101.9 ChaiFM every Friday from 12:00 to 13:00.

This column is paid for by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Wear your kippah to the bundestag!

Blank spaces in a newspaper can speak as loudly as words. In 1985, South
African anti-apartheid newspaper, the
Weekly Mail, was bombarded one day
by the powerful security police acting as state censors, who used red pens to cross out numerous words or lines, and whole pictures and stories to prevent publication. Rather than simply comply, however,

the paper printed the issue with heavy black lines crossing whole sections, and censored pictures removed completely, leaving blank spaces.

It was a provocative move, and the editor thought the

paper might be shut down by the government. But when the security police arrived the next morning, they saw that the paper had essentially complied with the law. Those massive black lines and blank spaces were a graphic, powerful representation of censorship, displaying to all the world how much had been hidden from them.

The power of a publisher has also been used in profoundly negative ways, such as *Der Stürmer*, a vehemently anti-Semitic German tabloid published by Julius Streicher from 1923 to the end of World War II. A significant part of Nazi propaganda, it often ran caricatures of Jews with Stars of David and hooked noses, accusations of blood libel, and sexually explicit, anti-Catholic, anti-Communist, and anti-monarchist propaganda.

The newspaper originated in Nuremberg during Adolf Hitler's attempt to establish power. From 1923, its circulation grew, reaching a large percentage of the German population, and peaking at 486 000 in 1937. In 1933, Streicher was calling for the extermination of the Jews in *Der Stürmer*. During the war, he regularly authorised articles demanding their annihilation. After the war, he was convicted of crimes against humanity, and executed.

Ever since, the publication of the Star of David in a

German newspaper, whether positively or negatively, evokes shivers in the spines of Jewish readers with a sense of history: might this presage bad things, if German sentiments revert to what they once were? These sensitivities were aggravated this week when a mass-circulation German tabloid touting conservative

values and famous for its past images of topless women, placed an item of potent Jewish symbolism on its front page. The publication, *Bild*, said its intention was to protect Jews. It has achieved worldwide acclaim for its imagination.

It was reacting to advice by Germany's commissioner on anti-Semitism that Jews shouldn't wear a skullcap in public in certain places because it is dangerous. So, *Bild* published a blue cut-out-and-use skullcap on its front page, urging readers, non-Jewish and Jewish, to wear it. It thumbed its nose at anti-Semites, saying, in its editor's words, "the kippah belongs to Germany". Like the *Weekly Mail* 34 years previously, it was standing against powerful right-wing forces.

A daily tabloid, *Bild* is a powerful paper. In 2018, it printed 2.2 million copies every day across Germany. Founded by journalist Axel Springer in 1952, it has been a major shaper of mass opinion in Germany ever since. It is hardly a conventional political paper, although it plunges into hot political topics. Its trademark identity for 28 years was the pictures of topless women on its front pages; its headlines are large and provocative, its articles short and hard hitting.

The use by Germans of the Star of David will always conjure up frightening images of the yellow ones Jews had to wear in Nazi Germany. Gestures like *Bild*'s front-page kippah mimic the cheekiness of the *Weekly Mail*'s blank pages in the 1980s. But in an era when the anti-Semitic pot is boiling, right-wing populist papers might print their own yellow Stars of David on their front pages.

Have you ever seen the?



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Yeshiva College pupil reaches final of bible quiz

Yeshiva College Grade 11 pupil Matan Kaplan successfully reached the international finals of the Chidon HaTanach World Bible Quiz Competition. Held at the Jerusalem Theatre on 9 May, the quiz brings together dozens of Jewish youth aged 14 to 18 from around the world.

The contestants meet in Israel for a two-and-a-half week

bible camp, peaking at the Independence Day quiz. The final round of the quiz was televised on Israeli National TV on Yom Ha'atzmaut. Dignitaries including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were present.



Hot potatoes and miracles at Sydenham Lag B'Omer



Enjoying the festivities, from left: Orli Crouse, Devyn Toker, and Kobi Saloner
Lag B'Omer was celebrated Sydenhamstyle last week with a bonfire, funfire facts, and fire themed science experiments. People sang and danced around the fire while eating roast potatoes. The children heard about Rabbi Akiva and Shimon Bar Yochai's role in promoting Torah study at this time, and the miracles that took place.

Herzlia Grade 12s show their metal

Herzlia High School came third out of 27 schools in the Minquiz Competition at Stellenbosch University on 16 May. Minquiz is recognised as South Africa's premier annual national science competition for Grade 12 pupils.

Grade 12 pupils Ben Zieff, Shai Kohen, Harold Cohn, and Joseph Sweijd excelled in the competition. Cohn was the overall winner in the individual round. The team won a cash prize for the school, and Cohn has been invited to represent it at the National Minquiz competition in June.



Ben Zieff, Shai Kohen, Harold Cohn and Joseph Sweijd with physical science teacher Mardel Pretorius

KDVP 1st team makes history

King David High School Victory Park (KDVP's) 1st rugby team last week won the Pirates Rugby B League Championships, making history for the school. It is the first year that KDVP has played in the Pirates B League. The team beat St Peter's 6-3 in the final to win the league.

The high school has three teams (U14, U15 and the 1st team). Starting at the beginning of the season in March, the boys train three times a week, sometimes starting at 06:00 in the morning. This season, our 1st team played a friendly match against Northcliff. All the teams played against Greenside, Roosevelt, De La Salle, Redhill, and St Peter's.

Letters

CELL PHONE ADDICTION THE HEIGHT OF RUDENESS

Howard Feldman's column "How long can you go without your cell phone?" (*SA Jewish Report* 17 May 2019) touched a nerve. I applaud him for taking this initiative, and hope that this – by no means the first article I have read on the subject – gave food for thought.

I have an issue with cell phones. It has caused me considerable discomfort, and it is a huge effort to "mind my own business" about them. I am overcome with annoyance and embarrassment at seeing parents scrolling and tapping away, their brightly lit and visible screens displaying Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp etc, from time to time during school assemblies, school concerts, and recitals – in full view of the children and people sitting around them.

Of course I realise that the phones cannot be switched off at these events because parents need to photograph and video their kids in action, but the appalling bad manners leaves me speechless!

By setting the example that you need not resist using your phone anywhere, anytime, with complete disregard for someone whose performance or presence does not interest you, the future looks bleak for inculcating the values of basic consideration and *menshadik* (admirable) behaviour which said schools are attempting to achieve.

Maybe I'm wrong. Perhaps the kids are so used to seeing a screen in front of their parents at any given moment, they actually don't notice it's there. **– Anonymous**

ANC'S ISRAEL POLICY NOT ONLY ANTI-SEMITIC, IT'S IN A TIME WARP

The Jewish Board of Deputies did what it was elected to do by opposing Minister Lindiwe Sisulu's decision to act on the African National Congress's (ANC's) 54th National Conference resolution "to immediately and unconditionally downgrade the South African embassy in Israel".

The board's mandate is to guard and protect the interests of the Jewish community, and the downgrade of relations with Israel most certainly has an impact on the well-being of the community.

While the ANC feels "deep regret and disappointment" at the stance of the board, as a Jew, I feel betrayed and violated by the language used in the ANC's statement.

The ANC says it speaks on behalf of the people of South Africa. The results of the past election clearly show it just scraped a majority, which certainly doesn't give it the right to speak on behalf of the country, particularly on the question of Israel and Palestine. Certainly, with 80% of the population being Christian with close spiritual ties to the Holy Land, it is an arrogant claim.

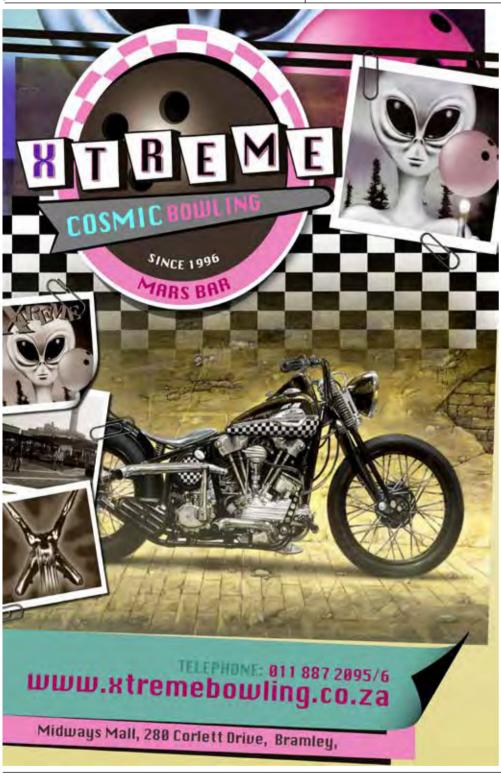
The ANC makes no apology for viewing the Israel/Palestine issue through the eyes of the Boycott Divestment Sanctions (BDS) movement that has "captured" South Africa's foreign policy.

It refers to the "colonial occupation of Palestine". What can this possibly mean? The statement doesn't refer to the West Bank or Gaza, it refers to "Palestine". In this context, "Palestine" can mean only the whole territory from the Jordan River to the sea.

South Africa is one of the few democratic states that doesn't recognise Hamas as a terrorist organisation in spite of its anti-Semitic charter which proudly proclaims its objective not only to destroy Israel, but to kill every Jew in the process. It's hurtful to see the ANC embracing a movement dedicated to the destruction of my people.

And what does "colonial" mean, if not the foreign invader, the Jew. Just for the record, Jews have been living in the land the Romans renamed "Palestine" continuously since the beginning of history.

Even today, the Palestinians are refusing to take part in a peace conference in Bahrain. They have torpedoed every chance of making peace because the compromise that would be required would require them to recognise Israel, and that is anathema. Instead of the ANC encouraging its allies, the Palestinians, to negotiate and compromise, it encourages them to resist the "colonists". The ANC is frozen in a time warp of liberation struggle. – Ben Levitas, Former Chair SAZF Cape Council





Purple. Purple.

31 May – 7 June 2019 SA JEWISH REPORT 19

Winter the bleakest time for the homeless

Supporting the poor and homeless is important throughout the year, but never more so than in winter.

You may have a home with heating, thick duvets to snuggle up to, and a hot, home-cooked meal on a cold winter's night. However, those sleeping on the streets, or who are too poor to feed their families, don't have the same luxury.

The reasons for homelessness and poverty vary as widely as the individuals who find themselves without shelter or resources. Among them are illness, injury, business failure, loss of a job, chemical addiction, mental illness, or a falling out with family members.

According to the Western Cape government, there are about 4 862 homeless people in the greater Cape



Town area, an estimated 700 of which live in the central business district (CBD).

Kerry Hoffman, the director of non-profit organisation Souper Troopers, says, "Making a difference can be overwhelming for some people. Campaigns like this winter appeal allow everyone to do so."

The winter appeal is also calling for donations of kosher non-perishable and canned foods for vulnerable members of the Cape Town Jewish community who rely on the Jewish Community Services Food Bank for food.

"We are fortunate that Jewish Community Services has a food bank

providing dry kosher food to ensure that there are as few hungry people in our community as possible. Because it relies solely on donations, we appeal to people to add an extra can of food to their grocery trollies, and help keep tummies full this winter." The winter campaign is supported by the Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID), which works with several government partners to improve the lives of street people in the CBD. Says Pat Eddy, the manager of the CCID's social development department,

"The campaign gives people an opportunity to show that they care about the lives of those who are less fortunate, especially during the winter months when life on the street is very hard. Making a contribution,

however small, goes a long way to support the dignity of the homeless."

 Donated goods can be dropped off at the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies, 87 Hatfield Street, Gardens, or the Union of Jewish Women, 7 Albany Road, Sea Point.



Greenside paints town fire red



Jacob Morris and friends enjoy a massive bonfire lit by Greenside Shul on Lag Ba'Omer - one of the most loved events on the shul's calendar. The extended community enjoyed a delicious braai, roasting marshmallows, and fabulous Israeli music while being captivated by the bonfire, one of the biggest in Johannesburg. A popular attraction for the children is the fire engine that arrives every year towards the end of the event to become a giant jungle gym and then to help extinguish the beautiful blaze.

Sunday (2 June)

 Jaffa morning market including stalls, food, games for children, bric a brac, books, and a deli. Time: 09:00 to 13:00. Venue: 42 Mackie Street, Baileys Muckleneuk, Pretoria.
 Contact: 012 346 2006

Monday (3 June)

- The Union of Jewish Women (UJW) hosts
 Dr Michelle Adler, senior English lecturer at
 the University of Witwatersrand School of Law
 on Every Inch a King Lady Florence Dixie,
 Cetshwayo, and the Zululand Restoration Debate.
 Time: 10:00. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton.
 Donation: R40. Contact: UJW office
 011 648 1053
- ORT SA CareerHub presents international career expert Lorraine Silverman on What it takes to find the work you love. Time: 08:30 to 11:30,

44 Central Street, Houghton. Cost: R200. Bookings: ora@ortsa.org.za

Tuesday (4 June)

 The Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC) opens the exhibition, Through the Lens of My Camera: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors in Johannesburg by photographer Julian Pokroy.
 The opening will include testimony from Holocaust survivor Veronica Phillips. Time: 19:00.
 Venue: 1 Duncombe Road, Forest Town. RSVP to dowi@jhbholocaust.co.za or 011 640 3100.
 Free admission, donations welcome.

Wednesday (5 June)

 ORT Jet presents Shavuot Cooking with Delores Fouche. Time: 17:00 to 20:00. Venue: Food by Flavours, 103 Algernon Road, Norwood.
 Cost: R250 per person.
 Booking: samantha@ortjet.org.za

Thursday (6 June)

- Join ORT2Talk with Saskia Band of The Florist.
 Auction of demo arrangement. Time: 18:00 to 19:30. Venue: ORTSA, 44 Central Street, corner 10th Avenue, Houghton. R100 per ticket. Booking: ora@ortsa.org.za or 011 728 7154
- Hebrew speakers meet at 10:45 at Beyachad building, 2 Elray Street, Raedene.
- Join the Women's International Zionist Organisation (WIZO) every Thursday for a Lunch & Learn shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz. Time: 13:00 at Beyachad. Contact: WIZO office 011 645 2515

Most South African Jews of Sephardi origin are entitled to EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND ACCORDINGLY, AN EU PASSPORT

A common misconception is that South African Jews of Ashkenazi heritage are of Lithuanian descent, and that only those who are able to prove their eligibility for Lithuanian citizenship are able to obtain a European passport. The fact is that most South African Jews do qualify for European citizenship, whether they can prove their Lithuanian lineage or not, and most South African Jews of Sephardic heritage are also eligible for European passports.



Adv. Avi Horesh has in-depth knowledge of the applicable legislation and in his experience, the majority of South African Jews have ancestors who were illegally deprived of citizenship. As their descendants, these Jews are eligible for European citizenship which will result in them obtaining a EU passport.

Ashkenazi: It is important to understand that until 1918, all of Eastern Europe was divided between three empires: Russia, Prussia, the Austro-Hungarian empire. Neither Poland nor Lithuania existed until 1918.

At the end of the WWI, the territory was divided, and countries like Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, and others were born/reborn. Only then did residents became citizens of these countries. As a result, people who, for example, were born in Riga (nowadays Latvia) could actually be Lithuanian or Polish.

Horesh advises that eligibility for a Lithuanian or Polish passport depends on the city from which your grandparents (or their parents) hailed.

Horesh says many South African
Ashkenazi Jews of Lithuanian origin
have been refused Lithuanian citizenship
because their heritage is actually Polish.
They would, accordingly, be entitled to
Polish citizenship and a EU passport.

After World War II, the borders in Europe changed, resulting in cities changing nationality. The resultant effect for descendants of Jews who were born in Vilnius, for example, is that their application for Lithuanian citizenship will be declined, but an application for a Polish passport may very well be successful.

Sephardi: the descendants of Sephardi Jews (who were exiled 500 years ago)



are most likely eligible for a Portuguese passport. If applicable, Horesh is able to obtain an official certificate confirming such eligibility, on the basis of which an application for European citizenship can be made and will most likely be successful. Portuguese citizenship enables one to enter the Unites States without the need to apply for a visa.

In addition, Horesh is filing many applications for descendants of Sephardi origin who arrived in South Africa from Greece, Turkey, and North Africa.

Descendents from other countries in the Middle East – even Holland – are also potentially eligible.

Horesh resides in Israel, but has spent seven years in Poland, and is recognised as a leading lawyer in the field of European citizenship, with a full understanding of local immigration laws.

Living in Israel – a four-hour flight from Warsaw and Vilnius – offers him quick and easy access to Poland and Lithuania, Accordingly, he is able to work closely with local professionals who assist him in tracing the documentation required for successful applications for European citizenship.

In addition, and as a result of his close ties with Portuguese authorities, to date he has had a 100% success rate with applications for Portuguese citizenship.

Horesh is available to discuss your specific details. He is often in South Africa, and can meet you in person to discuss your specific needs.

I will be in Johannesburg from June 13th till June 19th, and then in Cape Town till June 24th My South African phone number is +27 64 745 5273 • Email me on adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com

20 SA JEWISH REPORT 31 May – 7 June 2019

What are Israel's chances in European soccer?

LUKE ALFRED

he list of world-class Israeli footballers is not a long one. Eyal Berkovic? Probably not. Yossi Benayoun? Likewise. Ronny Rosenthal? Much loved, but hardly Johan Cruyff or Franco Baresi, not even Neymar. So, yes, the list is probably shorter than many care to admit.

One might, indeed, need to go back to the 1970s to find a player with a compelling claim to be top of the list. His name was Mordechai Spiegler – sometimes spelled Shpigler – and he played internationally for Paris Saint-Germain.

Later, he played briefly alongside Pele at New York Cosmos, so could clearly mix it with the best of them in what was a golden age for Israeli football.

Spiegler's resume makes for interesting reading. Essentially a forward, but capable of playing elsewhere, he captained the Israeli Olympic side to the 1968 Games in Mexico

City, where they reached the quarter-finals.

Two years later, Israel played in their one and only World Cup, a showpiece event once again being hosted by Mexico, where he scored Israel's only World Cup goal in their 1-1 draw with Sweden, a beautifully struck left-footed drive from way outside of the area that curled beyond

the Swedish keeper's despairing lunge.

There is debate about Spiegler's international goal-scoring record because some of his goals appear to have been scored in friendlies that weren't sanctioned by FIFA. And, yes, it's true, that some of these goals were scored against the small fry of the international game like Hong Kong, Ceylon (as it then was) and Ethiopia, but he also scored goals against Uruguay, Switzerland, Northern Ireland, and Yugoslavia.

In playing 83 times for his country, he was the real deal.

The "age of Spiegler" (and other Israeli players of the same age like Itzhak Shum) is again being evoked in contemporary football circles. In Haifa in March, Israel beat Austria 4-2 thanks to an Eran Zahavi hattrick to go to second place in qualifying Group G for next year's European

Championships.

For the first time ever, these championships will neither be hosted nor co-hosted, being spread across 12 European cities next European summer, a one-off gesture of "romance" to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the competition, according to UEFA (Union of European Football Association) boss

Michel Platini.

Israel hadn't beaten Austria in 20 years of trying, the win probably having something to do with the inside knowledge of their Austrian coach, Andreas Herzog. This aside, even the usually sober *Times of Israel* felt compelled to dub it "one of the best from the national team in recent years".

Both the Austria game and Israel's Euro opener against Slovenia (a 1-1 draw) were played in Haifa, but the real test of their pedigree will come next week, when they play two

away games in quick
succession: against
Latvia on 6 July
and, 72 hours
later, when they
take on group

Poland, in Warsaw's National Stadium.

The two qualifiers are unlikely to be definitive, but they will be clarifying. Both Israel's opening games were at home, and two away games in four days is a tough ask. We will know in ten days' time whether Herzog and his team's quick start to their campaign provide cause for genuine optimism, or whether the national side will simply fade into mid-table obscurity as the year progresses. This is exactly what they did during the Euro qualifying campaign in 2016.

Log-leaders Poland will provide them with a stern test. The Poles kicked off their campaign with a priceless 1-0 away win against Austria in Vienna in March, following it up with a 2-0 home victory against ties were played away. Their game against Israel is at home, in Riga, where they might give a better account of themselves, although the Israelis will, of course, be hoping otherwise.

Coach Herzog surely had in mind maximum points from such a tie when he said after the draw for the qualifying group was made last year that while Poland and Austria were obvious favourites, the group contained space for the dreams of others. "It's not an easy group," he said at the time. "But it's a group where a lot of teams have chances where, if they play at the highest level, they can get some wins."

One of Herzog's first big decisions after taking charge as national coach was to recall Zahavi for Israel's Nation's League campaign – this after he had "retired" from the game after throwing the captain's armband to the ground in disgust after Israel's defeat by Macedonia in

September 2017.
With the China-based Zahavi scoring four goals in Israel's two Euro qualifiers so far, Herzog's decision has been thoroughly vindicated. The coach is a self-confessed Zahavi fan, and will be hoping he can add to his four goals in either Riga or Warsaw, but preferably both.

With it, Zahavi could well climb to the top of the Spiegler list.

Contact us for more information

Tel + 972 50 446 -9515
WhatsApp +27 82 608 0168
trevorstamelman@gmail.com
www.israel-properties.com





THE ABSA JEWISH ACHIEVERS AWARDS 2019 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ABSA BUSINESS ICON AWARD

Awarded to a Jewish person who has achieved iconic status within the business community.

ABSA BUSINESS AWARD

Awarded to a Jewish person who has played a critical leadership role in building a thriving business.

ABSA PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Awarded to a Jewish professional who has achieved national recognition and acclaim in their profession.

ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

Awarded to a Jewish person who has a proven track record in entrepreneurial ventures.

EUROPCAR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Honouring the leadership, impact, achievements, success and overall contribution of distinctive Jewish women in business or in the broader South African community.

- in honour of Helen Suzman

Awarded to a Jewish person who has contributed in an extraordinary manner over a long period of time.

KIA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Awarded to a Jewish person who has served the Jewish community with remarkable distinction.

ART, SPORT, SCIENCE AND CULTURE AWARD

Awarded to a Jewish person who has excelled in any of these spheres.

HUMANITARIAN AWARD - in honour of Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris

Awarded to a Jewish or non-Jewish person who has contributed substantially to the betterment of the lives of the people of South Africa.

The awards will be held on 8 September 2019 at a glittering banquet. All money raised at the event goes to fund the free publication and distribution of the *SA Jewish Report* newspaper.

Nominations close at 17:00 on 14 July 2019

Nominations are open to the public and should be sent via email to nominations@sajewishreport.co.za

NOMINATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

- The nominee's name, telephone number and email address
- The award for which the nominee is nominated
- A short motivation for the nomination

