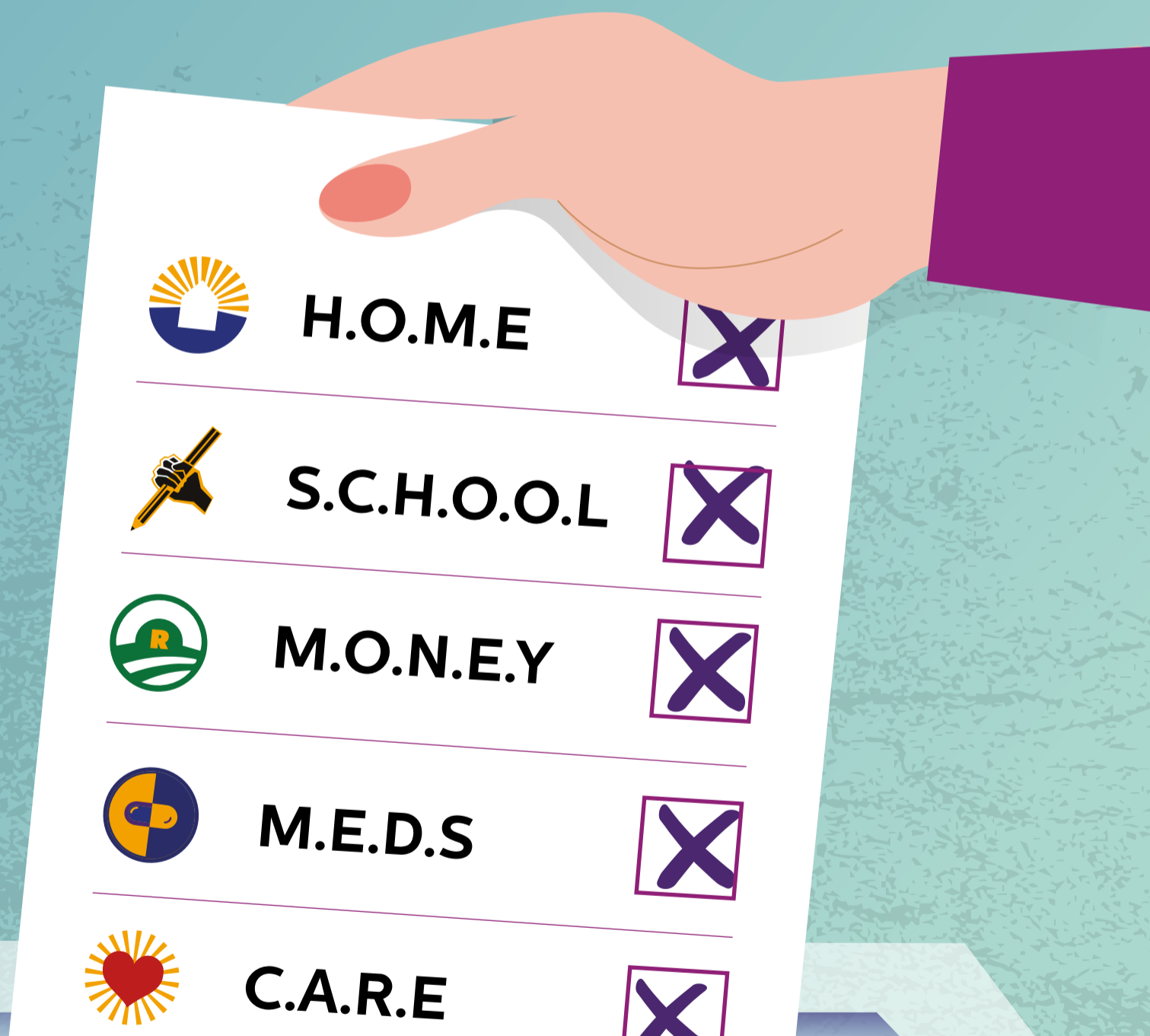


VOTE FOR FREEDOM *THIS PESACH*

For Jews facing financial
and emotional challenges



LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends

VOTE FOR FREEDOM

As Jews, we are eternally searching for freedom. Throughout history, we have stood courageously against those who attempt to deny us. The story of Pesach reminds us of our slavery, the gift of our exodus, and our freedom to 'choose'.

So many in our community are currently feeling trapped; physically and emotionally. The scarcity of psychological and financial freedom and the resultant absence of choice cause considerable pain and hopelessness.

If we were to distill the essence of the Chev into a few words, we could say that our purpose is to **ease the pain of fellow Jews** by:

- providing financial assistance
- offering emotional support
- caring for people in our residential facilities
- rescuing children from compromised situations
- extending educational subsidies

By doing so we provide them with a measure of freedom and a safe space in which to breathe and hope.

But **freedom** always comes with **responsibility**.
They are inherently linked.

The Chev relies upon those who can, to partner with us to relieve the pain and suffering of others. Sharing the load ensures that **No Jew is Left Behind**.

We need your help to help them.

May the **Festival of our Freedom** bring peace and relief to Jews here, in our Holy Land, and across the globe.

Wishing you a joyful Pesach.



Saul Tomson

Chief Executive Officer
Chevrah Kadisha Group



ChevrahKadisha

russelkaplan
auctioneers



South African Krugerrand,
1 troy oz. fine gold
SOLD R42000



Cartier Juste
un Clou bracelet
SOLD R125 000

Pair of French Empire-style
servers/console tables
SOLD R25 000



Christian Dior
monogram saddlebag
SOLD R24 000



Late 19th century Zanzibar
brass-bound teak chest
SOLD R28 000

Mid 19th century Polish,
silver three piece tea service
SOLD R16 000



Lucky Madlo Sibiyi, Figures
SOLD R40 000



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
DOWNLOAD OUR APP

Sell with us on auction

Accepting art, antiques, objets d'art,
furniture, and jewellery for upcoming
wunderkammer auctions.

For more information 011 789 7422 • info@rkauctioneers.co.za • www.rkauctioneers.co.za
Bram Fischer Centre, Lower Ground, 95 Bram Fischer Drive, Cnr George Street, Ferndale, 2194

188
days

South African Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

Volume 27 - Number 12 | 11 April 2024 | 3 Nisan 5784

www.sajr.co.za

Israel-haters call for probe into Jewish organisations

TALI FEINBERG

Local Israel-hating extremist groups have called on the South African justice ministry to probe "the activities of groups such as the Israel Centre, Jewish Agency for Israel, and their roles in advocacy of aliya". They have also insisted that the South African Police Service and the National Prosecuting Authority "investigate Zionist organisations like the SAZF [South African Zionist Federation] and SAJBD [South African Jewish Board of Deputies] for their support of the Israel apartheid state".

The Palestinian Solidarity Alliance (PSA), Media Review Network (MRN), and

Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) put out a statement in this regard on 7 April, also calling for the arrest of Colonel Golan Vach, who was visiting South Africa to take part in the Israel Centre's Aliyah Expo.

In the statement, these organisations claim that the Aliyah Expo was "a mere cover to recruit mercenaries that will assist Israel to kill Palestinians".

"The South African government's anti-Israel stance could embolden those who want to cause harm to Jews," says a security specialist, speaking on condition of anonymity. "A lot of the anti-Israel rhetoric we see on social media encourages groups and individuals to 'take matters into their own

hands'. This may result in radical elements seeing this as a call to action. Although the vast majority of South Africans want nothing to do with hurting Jews, we cannot ignore the fact that there's a small minority who do."

"The BDS [Boycott Divestment Sanctions] coalition clearly feels that it's open season on any Jews who support Israel, regardless of what the Constitution says about freedom of religion, association, and belief," says SAJBD National Director Wendy Kahn. "The Jewish community won't be intimidated by them. They are a fringe group who make a mockery of democratic values."

The PSA, MRN, and PSC said that

"recruitment" for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) "may be underway" in South Africa, and that Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni recently confirmed that individuals participating in the war "are a threat to the interests of the republic, and will be prosecuted".

The Israel-hating co-operative claimed Vach was "at the centre of this recent wave of recruitment", and that "the Zionist state is desperate to bolster its troops, with South Africa as one of its hunting grounds".

The statement demanded that Vach be "arrested to face trial in South Africa", saying he was "aided and abetted by South African Zionist groups bent on selling Palestinian

land to willing racist buyers here. This event [the Aliyah Expo] was held recently in Cape Town, resulting in the disturbance of peace and harmony in the community."

The organisations neglected to mention that it was their supporters who disturbed peace and harmony in the community as they viciously targeted a synagogue and motorists in its vicinity, while holding up blatantly antisemitic signs [see page 3].

"We call on Police Minister Bheki Cele to intervene urgently by probing Vach's purpose and role in South Africa," read the statement. Meanwhile, Vach has already left South Africa.

SAZF Chairperson Rowan Polovin notes that "Colonel Golan Vach has led the IDF's renowned national rescue unit of the Home Front Command with distinction, contributing significantly

to global humanitarian aid and disaster-relief efforts. It stands ready to assist in emergencies anywhere, including in South Africa. It's tragic that antisemitic groups seek to demonise citizens of the world's only Jewish state."

In fact, Vach was at the Aliyah Expo to speak on the topic "Make aliya as a unified group". A private citizen, he's chief executive of Israela, which works with the ministry of absorption and the Jewish Agency in bringing together families and accompanying their absorption process.

Speaking to the SA Jewish Report from Israel, Vach said Israela had been running this model in France for more than 30 years, which had resulted in about 2 000 French Jewish families making aliya, with 98% remaining in Israel. Three years ago, the programme expanded to South America, and it's now reaching out to potential olim in South Africa, Canada, and Australia.

Vach's organisation realised the power of people making aliya as a community, which provided support and familiarity. The organisation works with several families from similar backgrounds to make aliya together, and helps them find a place in Israel that matches their values and is able and willing to receive olim. The organisation then provides support to the families as they integrate.

Dafi Kremer, the director of the Israel Centre, says Vach's meetings were cut short following threats from hostile organisations, "in spite of the great demand for the programme that Golan directs. We will hold Zoom meetings with Golan to allow more people interested in making aliya to hear about his special programme that allows immigrants to be absorbed into an English-speaking communities with broad Israeli

Continued on page 13>>

Raw reminder

Israeli President Isaac Herzog gives Rwandan President Paul Kagame a gift to remind him of the plight of the hostages



Photo: Maayan Toaf GPO

Modern & magnificent Range of Pesach gifts



Join us for a pre-Pesach shopping event

11 April, 4-7pm

Discounts on Pesach gifts, fun activities for kids

113 George Avenue, Sandringham | www.selwynsegalgifts.co.za
selwyngifts@jhbchev.co.za | 0116406413 | 0116407173





Dukes Gold & Diamond Exchange

We buy all your gold jewellery, Krugerrands, diamonds, luxury watches & gold coins.



072 048 6812
www.dukesgde.co.za
info@dukesgde.co.za

Appliance Repairs on Site

Fridges, Dishwashers, Washing Machines, Stoves Tumble Dryers & more

Call Jason
082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532

FREE QUOTATIONS

ETERNAL MEMORIALS

Rabbi Ryan Goldstein
083-458 9965
RabbiRyanG@gmail.com

"I will help you through this difficult time in your life with all the necessary tombstone requirements"

Continuing Rabbi Sher's z"l Legacy

ANTIQUE SHABBOS CANDLESTICKS

082 566 4155

ART CLASSES FOR KIDS

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
3:30 PM TO 4:30 PM

YEDIDYA FALKSON 0820669057

THE FALKSON SCHOOL OF ART

FRANK SOLOMON HEARING CENTRE

Have a love at first sound experience.

Phonak Audéo™ Paradise

There's nothing like the sound of Paradise

- Experience exceptional sound performance
- Connect seamlessly to Bluetooth® devices
- Rechargeable so you'll always stay connected
- Remote Support for the ultimate in convenience

AFFORDABLE RANGE FOR PENSIONERS

Hearing Aid Batteries Reduced to R40

Contact us today on our new number
(011) 728 7016
082 953 4628

Fairmount
6 George Ave,
Sandringham

Treatment approved by the American ENT Association

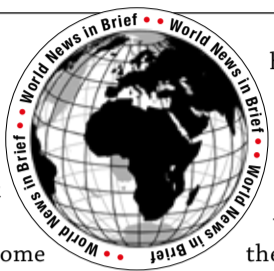
Germany gives Holocaust survivors extra stipend

Holocaust survivors in Israel relived their trauma on 7 October, when Hamas's attack was the deadliest day for Jews since the Nazis were defeated. Some were injured, hid for their lives, and were displaced from their homes, in echoes of their experience as children.

Now, they will get a lump-sum payment from the organisation that negotiates reparations from Germany as a show of solidarity.

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany announced on Tuesday, 9 April, that it was allocating €25 million (R502.7 million) in a one-time payment for survivors in Israel. The "Solidarity Fund for Israel" will yield about €220 (R4 424) for each of the roughly 120 000 survivors in the country.

The payment follows a different one-time stipend given in December to Israeli survivors who were evacuated from their homes following the 7 October attack. It also comes on top of the total amount that Germany agreed to pay survivors and related organisations this year – more than \$1.4 billion, the most ever – in a reflection of the



high costs of caring for elderly survivors.

"Immediately following the horrific attacks of 7 October, we began working to ensure that every survivor was safe, then secure in a location where they could be comfortable, and to ensure that they had financial support while the conflict continued," said Claims Conference President Gideon Taylor. "This additional payment is a message of solidarity."



Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld on *Curb Your Enthusiasm*

Finale of *Curb Your Enthusiasm* reunites *Seinfeld* duo

Those who might have described *Curb Your Enthusiasm* as a kind of *Seinfeld* on steroids got a fitting conclusion on Sunday, 7 April as the last episode of Larry David's landmark 12-season sitcom was essentially a reprise of the much-maligned *Seinfeld* finale 26 years ago. Except for one thing.

In the finale, which aired on HBO and Max, Larry stands trial on the charge he was arrested for in the season premiere – handing a bottle of water to a friend waiting to vote in violation of Georgia law. In the fashion of the *Seinfeld* finale, the trial involves a procession of people Larry had wronged over the years take the stand.

But in the end, Larry's most famous Jewish character saves him. Jerry Seinfeld shows up to support Larry during the trial, only to catch one of the jurors, out at a restaurant. So although Larry is found guilty, the judge declares a mistrial and he's released, free to nitpick forever about the finer points of 21st-century etiquette.

• All briefs supplied by JTA

The miraculous month of Nissan

Torah Thought



Rabbi Levi Lipskar
The Shul @ Hyde Park Chabad

The month of Nissan has special significance in Jewish tradition and is emphasised in the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

Nissan isn't merely a month on the calendar, but a time of profound spiritual potential, capable of transforming individual lives and the collective reality of the world. Nissan marks the beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere, a season of renewal and rebirth. It's the month in which the Jewish people were liberated from slavery in Egypt, the month of the exodus, and the month in which they received the commandment to observe the Passover holiday.

These events aren't just historical occurrences, but timeless lessons about the power of Nissan to bring about miraculous change. One of the key teachings of the Rebbe concerning Nissan is the concept of redemption. He emphasised that just as the Jewish people were redeemed from Egypt in Nissan, so too can individuals experience personal redemption during this month. Nissan is a time for introspection and spiritual growth, a time when the barriers that hold us back can be broken, and we can break free from our own personal "Egypt".

Central to this message is the idea of seizing the opportunity for positive change. The very energy of the month, infused with the miraculous events of the exodus, provides a unique opening for spiritual elevation. During Nissan, the heavens are particularly receptive to prayer and good deeds, and miracles become more accessible to those who seek them. We should harness the power of Nissan through increased Torah study, prayer, and acts of kindness. These actions not only bring personal blessings, but contribute to the broader transformation of the world. Every positive action performed during Nissan has the potential to tip the scales of destiny in favour of

redemption and salvation.

There's an emphasis on the importance of joy during the month of Nissan. Joy is a catalyst for miracles, and by cultivating a spirit of happiness and gratitude, individuals can draw down blessings from above. This emphasis on joy is reflected in the Passover holiday, which is celebrated with festive meals and songs of praise, commemorating the miraculous events of the exodus.

In addition to personal redemption, Nissan has the power to bring about global transformation. The month of Nissan is a time when the world is ripe for redemption, a time when the forces of darkness can be overcome by the light of spiritual truth.

In the aftermath of the tragedy of

7 October, the message of Nissan becomes even more poignant – a reminder that even in times of darkness, the light of redemption is never far away. This inspires us to respond to such events with increased acts of kindness, prayer, and unity, believing in the ultimate triumph of goodness over evil.

The month of Nissan is a time of miracles and transformation. It's a time when individuals have the opportunity to break free from spiritual bondage and experience personal redemption. By seizing the unique spiritual energy of Nissan through Torah study, prayer, acts of kindness, and joy, individuals can not only change their reality, but also contribute to the redemption of the world.

Shabbat Times brought to you by

Spencer Schwartz from You Realty
Residential Property Sales and Rentals + Auctions

	Starts	Ends
Johannesburg	17:36	18:25
Cape Town	18:09	18:59
Durban	17:22	18:11
Bloemfontein	17:41	18:31
Gqeberha	17:40	18:30
Plettenberg Bay	17:49	18:39
East London	17:31	18:22
Jerusalem*	18:30	19:45
Tel Aviv*	18:46	19:47

Spencer Schwartz • 084 524 4616 • spencer@yourealty.co.za

You. HOUSE-IT Realty

We've got you covered. Sales. Rentals. Auctions.
Call Spencer for honest, reliable, and trustworthy service

*Israel is one hour ahead of South Africa

Aliyah Expos defy protesters at the gates

LEE TANKLE

Seeing a little girl, about eight years old holding a placard saying, “One Zionist One Bullet” outside Beyachad in Johannesburg, where the annual Aliyah Expo was being held on 7 April, was disturbing, say participants.

“This child encapsulates all that is wrong with the anti-Israel lobby,” says Wendy Kahn, the national director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD). “It inculcates hatred for Jews in children.”

However, as much as protesters tried to destroy or incite violence at the expos in Johannesburg and Cape Town last week, they failed dismally, said the SAJBD, which described the expos as a huge success.

Though the protesting groups were fairly small in number, they did their best to instigate violence, vandalise passing cars, and even tried to forcefully enter the community centres, damaging the property in their stead, according to eyewitnesses.

“Their vandalism of cars shows them to be the thugs that they are,” Kahn said. “Fortunately, their attempts to block people from entering Jewish community events were thoroughly unsuccessful, and the events proceeded without disruption.”

The protest in Cape Town occurred outside the Marais Road Shul. A small group of less than 20 anti-Israel protesters arrived at the shul, where the Aliyah Expo was being held, in the late afternoon with posters calling for the end of Zionism, and quickly turned aggressive, according to eyewitnesses there.

“At some point, the protest escalated and one girl showed up with a microphone and started yelling typical anti-Zionist chants,” said the shul’s rabbi, Pini Hecht.

“I did notice one or two of the protesters being more aggressive and antagonistic to people coming in,” Hecht said.

“The protesters chased a vehicle down the road and when it came to a stop, they smashed the side mirror and back lights of the car,” said Daniel Bloch, the executive director of the Cape SAJBD. “Then the vehicle drove off. How they knew that person was a ‘Zionist’ is unclear, as the driver was simply driving down the road. We’re investigating the matter further. Members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) were on the scene to ensure the safety of everyone inside.

“As far as we know, the Aliyah Expo was a success,” said Bloch. “Of course, anti-Israel activists will claim that the Zionists were aggressive, and tried to run them down.

However, we know this is absolute nonsense. The protesters were standing in the road blocking things. So, cars probably had to slow down and edge forward slowly to get protesters to move out of the way – hardly trying to run anyone down,” he said.

“In spite of the efforts of these hoodlums to intimidate and bully, it had no effect on the community, and regular services resumed as the

children, waving Palestinian flags and holding signs saying, “One Zionist One Bullet” and “Free Palestine”.

Jevon Greenblatt, the director of operations at the CSO, said, “A relatively large and aggressive group of protesters arrived and attempted to instigate a confrontation. The protesters damaged several passing vehicles, vandalised property with spray paint and

to move away from the community centre, Greenblatt said.

In spite of the protesters, the expo went on without a hitch, and attendees and delegates were unfazed by what was happening outside of the walls. In fact, few were even aware of the protests.

According to the CSO, there were no major incidents. Perpetrators of threats and vandalism



were filmed, evidence was gathered, and the CSO will be handing this evidence to the relevant authorities.

Said Greenblatt, “It’s unfortunate that in such a highly charged environment, there are those who choose to come to Jewish areas in an attempt to escalate already heightened tension and potentially cause conflict.”

Said Kahn, “What the BDS [Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions organisation] and anti-Israel lobby groups need to understand is that irrespective of people’s political views, our Constitution upholds our right to hold events of our choice.”

“In spite of this incident, which isn’t the first nor will it be the last, we have a message for our community,” said Bloch. “While these anti-Israel thugs will continue to try and intimidate and threaten, as a community, we must remain united and take strength from the fact that our Jewish way of life continues.

“Go to shul, frequent your usual social areas, visit our Jewish institutions, and continue to live as proud Jews and proud Zionists. We do ask that members of the community refrain from engaging with these obnoxious individuals,” he said.

“They aren’t interested in engaging in dialogue. Their only interest is to scream, swear uncontrollably, intimidate, incite violence, take your photos, and as we have now seen, vandalise and assault. It would be like speaking to a brick wall. What will frustrate them more is if you ignore them and don’t engage.”

shul held its daily Mincha *minyán*.”

In Johannesburg, the Community Security Organisation (CSO) was informed that the Palestinian Solidarity Youth Alliance (PSA YL) as well as other anti-Israel activists knew that the Aliyah Expo, organised by the Israel Centre and Jewish Agency, was to be held at the Beyachad Community Centre. It’s still a mystery how they were made aware of the venue, as the information was given only to those who registered to attend, according to organisers.

That afternoon, the centre was confronted with a barrage of Israel haters, including

anti-Zionist slogans, attempted to force their way into a communal facility, and subjected community members and security personnel to verbal and physical threats.

“Together with SAPS and other security companies that operate in the area, the location of the protest as well as the surrounding areas were thoroughly secured.”

The CSO ensured the safety of all those at the expo by not allowing anyone in or out of the community centre until all protesters had left the scene, and did whatever it could to de-escalate the situation by getting protesters

JAWITZ PROPERTIES | *Leading* REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

FOR SALE

SYDENHAM | R 2 299 000

4 2 Web Ref: JRL16261

Asking more. 4-Bedroom family home. 2 Bathrooms. Lounge with gas fireplace, 2 dining areas, family room and built in bar leading out to patio, jacuzzi, garden and swimming pool. Huge gourmet eat in kitchen with walk in cold room/pantry. Garaging for 4 cars. Staff accommodation and security.

Joel Harris: 082 926 0287
Lauren Shalpid: 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

GLENHAZEL | R 2 199 000

4 2 Web Ref: JRL11460

4-Bed home in a 24-hour guarded enclave. 4 bedrooms. 2 Full bathrooms and guest toilet. Large eat-in kitchen with separate scullery. Lounge & dining room opening out to patio & garden. Huge playroom/TV room. Patio with built in braai overlooking pool and garden. Staff accommodation, double garage and single carport. Off street parking.

Joel Harris: 082 926 0287
Lauren Shalpid: 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

WAVERLEY | R 4 399 000

3 2 Web Ref: JRL14786

Beautifully maintained simplex in a unique estate of 4 homes. Three merged receptions accessing a private patio and pool in a spacious garden, 3 bedrooms plus study/playroom/4th bedroom, 2 full bathrooms and guest cloakroom. Direct access double garage, staff quarters and excellent security. A peaceful, private, perfect choice.

Chrissie Hammer: 082 568 0440

FOR SALE

STRATHAVON | R 2 999 000

4 2.5 Web Ref: JRL17273

Spacious family duplex with 3 living areas, covered patio, private garden, and pool. Well-appointed kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, staff accommodation. Double garage, off-street parking. Secure community near N1 freeway, amenities & schools. Call now!

Jeremy Craig: 076 246 4900
Linette Oosthuizen: 082 572 5314

Israel travel warning – a further blow to SA tourism

TALI FEINBERG

Israel's foreign affairs ministry issued a travel warning for South Africa in early April, recommending that Israelis reconsider travel to South Africa against a backdrop of anti-Israel statements by senior South African officials.

"Israeli citizens staying in the country [South Africa] should avoid gatherings as much as possible and be attentive to the local media and the announcements of the foreign affairs ministry," read the ministry's statement.

The warning has led to the few Israelis who planned to visit South Africa to cancel their trips. Israelis and Jews from around the world have for the most part lost interest in coming to South Africa on holiday since 7 October, no matter how beautiful the country.

Since that date, tour guides who usually welcome hundreds of Israeli and Jewish tourists to South Africa's shores have experienced a dramatic decline in this client base.

The travel warning may have been the last straw in ending Israeli and Jewish tourism to South Africa. It's a blow that the South African economy doesn't need, yet the African National Congress government has actively encouraged with its sustained campaign of hatred against Israel.

"I'm an Israeli tour guide. My client base used to be 99.9% Israelis. Now, I've got no work," says Dafna Lemel Sher in Cape Town. "I would be fully booked. If there were 31 days in the month, I could have taken 31 tours. Now, everybody has cancelled. It's gone from 100 to zero. My Hebrew-speaking colleagues have very little work. That's all we did – guide Israelis. It's because South Africa took Israel to The Hague, and the issue with people that have served in the army.

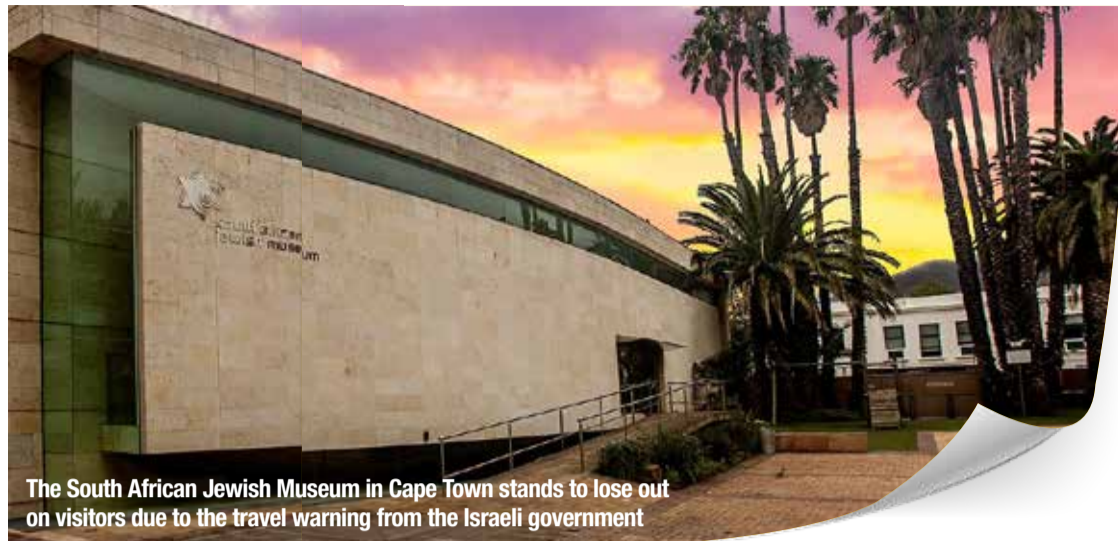
"Israelis aren't interested. They are anti-South Africa, although we're trying to tell them it's not the people, it's the government. I have to accept the situation and look at other avenues, guiding other people, but not in Hebrew. People used to book me six to eight months prior to their trip, but now I don't have anything in the future."

A tour guide in Johannesburg who asked to remain anonymous says, "I've experienced a dramatic drop in people coming on trips, especially from Israel. Most of the time, I've take people from Israel around Johannesburg, but they're non-existent at the moment. A tour operator who works in Israel also told me that there has been a massive decline. People are scared to come here, and people are upset with South Africa. Thousands and thousands of dollars are being lost in tourism.

"It's a blow which our South African government doesn't seem to care about. I know people that were supposed to have a wedding in South Africa that have changed their mind and are having it in Israel. I've also noticed that a lot of Jewish people from the United States and England aren't coming out as well. They know that we have a great Jewish way of life here, there's good kosher food, and all the amenities for Jewish travel, but they would rather spend their money somewhere else. I'm not even getting any tours from Germany or Australia. It's been a massive decline."

Oren Tadmor, a tour guide in Cape Town, says, "Before 7 October, I was extremely busy, working literally every day. It came to a standstill on 7 October. They look at what the government has done, deciding to go somewhere else. It has affected my business tremendously. I've looked into Jewish markets around the world, and the response to South Africa at the moment is reasonably negative. "On South African-Israeli WhatsApp groups, whenever anybody asks about coming to South Africa, everybody jumps at him or her and says, 'Why would you want to go to a country that hates Israel so much?'"

All this has had ramifications on the South African Jewish Museum (SAJM) in Cape Town. "The events of 7 October have had a direct impact on the SAJM," says Director Gavin Morris. "In the immediate aftermath, a



The South African Jewish Museum in Cape Town stands to lose out on visitors due to the travel warning from the Israeli government

large number of visiting school groups cancelled their pre-booked outings. These cancellations were, in some cases, from schools that had been attending our education programmes year on year. None of these schools specifically mentioned the events in Israel and Gaza, and no reason other than generic unforeseen circumstances was given for their cancellation.

"Furthermore, the museum was forced to shut on four separate occasions due to pro-Palestinian protests held directly outside the campus," says Morris. "The museum's social media pages have been overwhelmed with vitriolic, antisemitic trolls.

"Apart from the school cancellations and protest action, we have experienced a distinct drop off in visitor numbers as well," he says. "Our numbers were tracking upwards and our August and September numbers were the highest they had been since the COVID-19 pandemic. By comparison, our October through February figures were some of the worst we have experienced during what is traditionally our busiest period. With Cape Town experiencing high tourist numbers during this period, I can only assume that the drop off in visitors is directly linked to events in Israel and Gaza."

The museum's largest tourist demographics are in Israel and America, Morris says. "Our Israeli visitors almost entirely disappeared. From conversations with our American visitors, it seems that there's anger among American Jews at South Africa's decision to approach the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. Those visitors that we did have from America had pre-booked their holidays ahead of the ICJ case. Many felt that their Jewish compatriots would be unlikely to visit South Africa in response to our government's position.

"Whereas previously our school programme would

already be fully subscribed, bookings began very slowly this year. Thankfully, over the past couple of weeks, we have experienced a steady albeit slow increase in bookings.

"The museum is one of the most high-profile public Jewish spaces in the country," says Morris. "The intense level of emotion that events in Israel and Gaza has triggered has made it clear that the purpose of the museum cannot be more important. The museum shares the history of our community. We show how our community has been a part of the country for generations, and that we belong here as much as any other community.

"It's important for our compatriots to know our history and how we helped shape the country's history. We provide an opportunity for South Africans to learn about not only our community, but about our religion, culture, and connection to Israel. We're a uniquely valuable resource in countering rising antisemitic and anti-Zionist propaganda in South Africa.

"Those within our community facing antagonism towards Israel or Jews in their professional spaces are welcome to contact us. We can arrange a tour and conversation to help counter pejorative perceptions about our community. We believe knowledge is the best antidote for hate."

Rowan Polovin, South African Zionist Federation national chairperson, says "Israel regularly issues travel warnings to its citizens due to dynamic international security considerations. The irresponsible and reckless anti-Israel rhetoric by the South African government continues to impact how the international community perceives South Africa in terms of a safe destination for tourists and investment."

Amidst rising antisemitism, Israeli expats aren't going home

STAFF REPORTER

Almost 70% of Israelis living in the diaspora say that antisemitism in the country they now live in has increased to a greater or moderate extent since 7 October. But though they, much like the Jewish communities in the countries they live in, are horrified by what happened on 7 October, they are mostly not planning to return to Israel.

That's according to research done by Mosaic United with a sample of 2 021 Israelis who are at least 20 years old and have been living in the diaspora for at least three years. They live mostly in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany.

While respondents in Australia and France believe the increase in antisemitism to be great, those in Germany and other parts of Europe say it hasn't increased dramatically. However, in Canada and Spain, like Australia, they have a sense that antisemitism is noticeable around them.

As many as 30% of Israelis said antisemitism in their adopted countries was so bad, they had hidden Jewish symbols outside their homes, and for as many as 25% of them, they had stopped speaking Hebrew in public.

About 20% of them reported personally experiencing antisemitic incidents since 7 October, while more than 22% reported such an experience happening to close family members.

Despite not wanting to go home, as many as 85% of them believe it's their role to defend Israel, and 56.1% say their identification with Israel has increased since

7 October, while 38.2% believe their identification remains unchanged, and 5.7% say it has weakened.

A substantial 64.2% believe that Israelis have to take an active role on behalf of Israel in the countries in which they live, while another 20.9% believe they need to do this only to a moderate extent.

However, only 49.8% believe they are well prepared to lead a discussion on the situation in Israel or advocate on behalf of Israel, while 34.7% believe they are moderately equipped, and 11.8% feel mildly equipped, according to Mosaic United.

For Israelis abroad, according to the research, almost 80% support Israel on social media networks, while almost 70% donate money to help. Sixty-two percent make sure to participate in pro-Israel rallies and marches. About the same number participates in Israeli and Jewish community events.

About 57.3% of them have chosen to participate in public diplomacy (*hasbara*) activities, and almost 30% have initiated activities to support Israel, but less than 10% have opted to go to Israel to volunteer.

Nevertheless 82.6% of Israelis living abroad feel emotionally connected to Israel. Only 1% plans to return to live in Israel in the coming months, but almost 30% are considering returning at some point in the future. However, more than 60% don't intend to return to live in Israel.

Less than 10% of the children of Israelis living in the diaspora have returned to Israel or enlisted in the Israel Defense Forces since 7 October, and almost 70% of them don't intend to return or enlist.



JEWISH
WOMEN'S
BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY
Proud Sponsor of: 011 485 5232

T"01

The Jewish Women's Benevolent Society wishes all our loyal supporters & friends a Chag Pesach Sameach 2024

Thank you for your continued commitment to helping us enhance the lives of the most vulnerable members of our community.



Free delivery in Johannesburg for more than six bottles

Delicious JWBS L'Chaim Kiddish Wine makes a perfect gift. R210 per bottle

For more details call: 011 485 5232
Visit our website www.jwbs.co.za
Email gloria@jwbs.co.za

BECAUSE WE CARE, WE STRIVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
BECAUSE YOU CARE, YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

 Jewish Women's Benevolent Society

Herzog highlights horror of genocide in Rwanda

LEE TANKLE

Israeli President Isaac Herzog flew to Kigali in Rwanda this week to commemorate 30 years of the Rwandan genocide with President Paul Kagame.

“Three decades after these atrocities, the world must look squarely at the terrible crimes, and recognise the true horror of genocide – the deliberate attempt to annihilate a people,” Herzog said at the commemoration. Herzog was the first Israeli leader to visit Africa since the 7 October massacre.

“The world mustn’t allow the politicisation of genocide, it mustn’t allow the belittling of the horror of such crimes and the degrading of the memory of the victims of genocide.

“Jewish people know all too well what it means to be threatened with annihilation,” he said.

“We know all too well what it means to be the victims of genocide, terror, and hatred against our people. Even today, as we are erroneously and falsely accused of modern blood libels, we remain the target of a vicious and evil regime in Tehran, with its proxies across the region, whose stated aim is the destruction of the Jewish nation.”

Herzog said this in a statement after his visit to Rwanda, where he met global leaders including former United States President Bill Clinton, and European Council President Charles Michel.

He went to Rwanda at the invitation of Kagame to commemorate three decades since members of the ethnic majority Hutu nationalists murdered members of the ethnic minority, the Tutsis.

On 6 April 1994, a plane carrying former Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana and Burundi President Cyprien Ntaryamira was shot down over the capital city Kigali, leaving no survivors. Within an hour of the

crash, the presidential guard, together with members of the Rwandan armed forces (FAR) and Hutu militia groups known as the Interahamwe (those who attack together) and Impuzamugambi (those who have the same goal), set up roadblocks and barricades and began slaughtering Tutsis and moderate Hutus with impunity.



Among the first victims of the genocide were the moderate Hutu Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana and 10 Belgian peacekeepers, killed on 7 April.

This catapulted a campaign by Hutu nationalists across the country lasting 100 days and resulting in 800 000 people, mainly of Tutsi descent, being murdered.

In commemorating the years since this

genocide, Herzog was able to show the world the strong partnership between the two nations, particularly in light of the accusations that Israel has been committing genocide. While there, he was also able to advocate with global leaders for the release of the hostages held by Hamas.

The president participated in a special wreath-laying ceremony at the central monument and in

there are no double standards. That’s why we condemn in the strongest terms Hamas’s terrorist attack in Israel, and call for the unconditional release of the hostages.”

The spokesperson for the Israeli presidency said, “Commemorating the genocide is obviously of tremendous importance to Rwanda. So, it was important for us to be there for them. Since it was a commemoration of 30 years since the genocide, as the Jewish people and the Jewish state, we know all too well what it means to be the victims of genocide.

“We need to stand in solidarity with the victims of those crimes, and to promote awareness of the dangers of hatred and ideology that leads to these sorts of crimes, especially against the background of Israel being erroneously and blatantly falsely accused of genocidal crimes.

“It’s important for us to be there and highlight what genocide is and what it means to be the victims of a nation which is deliberately seeking to destroy another people or its own people.”

The spokesperson emphasised that while Herzog was there to commemorate the Rwandan genocide, he also took the opportunity to continue to press for the release of the hostages taken by Hamas with immediate effect.

Herzog gave Kagame a gift of a necklace with a military identity tag, which had engraved on it “My heart is in Gaza”, saying, “This is for the release of the hostages, for which we all pray and want them back as soon as possible.”

Said the spokesperson, “It was an opportunity to stand alongside friends and highlight the true moral message of what it means to stand against genocide and what genocide truly is. It’s an opportunity to prevail on the world stage once again the very urgent need to bring the hostages home.”

Life is more than a balancing act.

Empowering the Jewish community with interest-free loans, helping to build lives on a solid foundation.

CREDIT CARD DEBT • DEBT RELIEF • CARS • MEDICAL • HOUSE • SCHOOL FEES • LIVING EXPENSES • SIMCHAS



Together with the Rambam Trust, we'll help you overcome life's financial obstacles, building a stronger and more resilient community. Learn more about our interest-free loans during these challenging times. T's & C's apply.

Full confidentiality and privacy guaranteed.
0114585441 • rambam@mweb.co.za
rambam.co.za


RAMBAM
CHARITABLE TRUST

Unity Community Responsibility

EVERY VOTE COUNTS IN THE 2024 LITHUANIAN CITIZENSHIP REFERENDUM

INJURE
CITIZENSHIP EXPERTS

Dear Esteemed Client,

As a valued member of the Lithuanian diaspora with reinstated citizenship, you play a crucial role in our democratic processes. On May 12, 2024, Lithuania faces a pivotal moment with a referendum held alongside the presidential election. This referendum asks if individuals born as Lithuanian citizens should retain their citizenship upon acquiring that of another friendly country, addressing dual citizenship issues for post-1990 emigrants and strengthening our global community.

Current laws limit dual citizenship, affecting those who emigrated after Lithuania regained independence in 1990. Your citizenship, through descent, bypasses these constraints. The proposed amendment aims to modernize our approach to national identity, reflecting inclusivity and forward-thinking.

With 74% support in a previous referendum, the push for dual citizenship is strong. However, success requires over 50% of all eligible voters' approval. Despite past shortcomings, optimistic campaign efforts indicate a promising outcome this time.

All Lithuanian citizens abroad, aged 18 and over, must register to vote, regardless of previous registrations, at www.rinkejopuslapis.lt (scan QR code below for your convenience). This is essential for both in-person and postal voting. Particularly for South Africa, the postal voting registration deadline at the Pretoria Embassy is April 20th. Other locations have specific deadlines, with details available online.

This referendum is more than a policy change; it's about cherishing our heritage and ensuring global Lithuanians maintain their homeland connection. Your vote signifies the importance of Lithuanian identity and our collective unity.

Should you need assistance or have queries, I am ready to help. Your active participation and encouragement within our community are invaluable.

With the deepest respect and anticipation for our shared democratic engagement,

Adv. Dainius Ambrazaitis
IN JURE Law Firm, Vilnius, Lithuania

CONSULTATION@INJURE.LT

www.LithuanianPassport.com



Contradictory world of Israel haters

I woke up in the early hours of the morning before this newspaper was put to bed wracking my brain for an inspiring front-page story with a happy ending. I also wanted to run a front-page story that would take us away from antisemitism and Israel hatred because, frankly, it's unpleasant and depressing.

We did have a couple of leads that appeared to have nothing to do with either – and they had happy endings – but in the end, they didn't work out.

And the truth is that we cannot wish away antisemitism and Israel hatred.

However, having said that, I have to say that despite the ugliness of our haters and the things they say about us, I found myself vaguely amused at these angry people protesting outside aliya expos.

Let's face it, aliya expos are about helping Jews to emigrate. I know it's to Israel – and our haters don't like Israel – but they make it so clear they don't want us around either. So, surely they should be out celebrating that some Jews are interested in leaving the country! They should be encouraging aliya expos, because that means more Jews may leave South Africa. As I understand it, they would be very happy for us to take our skills, intelligence, and know-how elsewhere.

Surely, it would make them happy that these Zionists, whom they claim to despise, are taking their ideas, innovation, and businesses and restarting in Israel? Surely, they would be grateful if Jews closed the organisations that raise funds to help the more needy in South Africa, and launched elsewhere?

So, I suggest that they stop protesting against aliya expos, and help put them together. It would be the answer to their problems. They would no longer have a need to protest against everything we do or say. Then, more of the Zionists they so love to hate would be offshore, and they could heave a sigh of relief.

Perhaps our haters didn't get the memo about what aliya means? But surely they understand what a protest is? Then why take little children along when they're going to get violent, harass people, and damage vehicles? Seriously, what are they trying to teach their children? That violence pays and hatred is a solution to anti-Israel problems? It's really sad, I have to say. We should all be protecting our little ones from hatred where possible, not thrusting them onto the frontline.

I understand that Gazan children don't have that luxury, nor did Israeli children on 7 October, or when they repeatedly have to run from missiles. But our South African children – Jewish, Muslim, Christian, or any religious persuasion – really don't need to see adults misbehaving for any reason. Or so I believe. But then, I accept that our haters may not agree with me because we probably don't agree on a lot, not least of all supporting a Jewish state.

What I realise, though, is that truth isn't a strong point for our haters, because they seem to take up the age-old adage of "never let the truth get in the way of a good story". And I thought that was specific to bad journalists!

Consider this: these extremists are now calling on the police, the justice ministry, and the National Prosecuting Authority to investigate the Israel Centre, the South African Zionist Federation, South African Jewish Board of Deputies, and so on. I'm not quite sure what they hope to achieve because there's nothing secretive about any of these organisations. What you see is what you get. I can vouch for that because we deal with them a lot. But then, no matter how many years I've been a journalist, because I'm a Jew and I believe in a Jewish state, they may not trust me.

What exactly do they think they would find by investigating Jewish communal organisations? For the life of me, I cannot imagine. But I'm astonished that they would expect the police, justice department, and prosecuting authority to waste their time and minimal budget on something so ridiculous. Frankly, I would imagine that most people would rather that they fought crime, corruption, criminals, and tried to find ways to avoid these major problems from emerging in the first place.

But, no, our haters are so obsessed with hating us, they would rather these organisations pause in fighting the real problems in the country and focus on us. Seriously!

Then, we look at their call for the arrest of Colonel Golan Vach, a man celebrated for his personal contribution to global humanitarian aid and disaster-relief efforts. As the head of Israel's National Rescue Unit, he has saved countless lives all over the world, including after the earthquake in Turkey last year, for which he was personally acknowledged by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

He has led rescue missions to Haiti, Brazil, the Philippines, and Mexico, among other countries where there was a dire need. He's an international hero, yet our haters want him behind bars because they insist that he was in South Africa to recruit young boys as soldiers. This is so bizarre and ridiculous, it would be amusing if our haters didn't push it out on social and general media and get thousands to believe it.

They lambast Vach because he killed two Palestinians, but these two terrorists were trying to kill him and so he defended himself, killing them. What exactly was Vach supposed to do? Let them kill him? I don't believe so.

So, while what they are saying is amusing, and would otherwise be comical, unfortunately it's not because their fiction becomes fact when they tell others about it. Because much like people believing the lies Hamas sprouts, they are happy to believe those who hate us even if there's no reality to what they are saying.

Having said all of that, at the *SA Jewish Report*, we'll continue to search for stories with happy endings for you.

Shabbat Shalom!

Peta Krost
Editor



Israeli youth give us hope

OPINION

NATIE SHEVEL



We live in challenging times. This week marks six months since the start of the Israel-Gaza war. The news is incessantly miserable and depressing, and each day can seem bleaker than the one before.

We're hurting and mourning yet persistently trying to rise beyond, to rationalise, and normalise our new, surreal reality.

The everyday greeting of asking someone, "*Ma nishma?*" [How are you?] has become a double entendre, a loaded question fraught with duality and risk.

The world and the communities we live in appear increasingly hostile and threatening, and we're all relentlessly recalibrating our relationships with and perceptions of our external friendships, communities, and neighbours.

And, regardless of our political persuasions and opinions, we're also gravely concerned by the hubris, arrogance, and failure of leadership and governance that brought about this disastrous and unprecedented challenge to our people and our national sovereignty, existence, and confidence, and the alarming lack of political accountability.

Since that Black Shabbat on 7 October, as a country, nation, and people, we're consistently hurtling from one crisis to another, living constantly in a dangerous "red zone" mindset of "fight-flight-freeze, frantic-fearful-frustrated", as opposed to a healthier "blue-zone" mindset of "flow-flourish, peace-possibility, calm-connect, create-confident".

And yet, in spite of all this, we have to try and move beyond the "red zone" if we're to survive and eventually thrive, personally and collectively.

It's about having optimism and hope – optimism as a transient belief that we'll be okay, and hope as a sense that action will lead to better times.

I'm massively inspired by the optimism and hope of this phenomenal, misjudged, and underestimated generation of young people in Israel, who so quickly, selflessly, and admirably showed up to fight and volunteer, most often without a formal call to arms, with a singularity of purpose and unity, for this country, nation, and people's future, and the victims' welfare and resilience.

Yes, this same generation has grown up in the shadow of increasingly volatile political polarity; a progressively violent culture of political and social discourse; an absence of public accountability and responsibility; corruption; in the shadow of the threatening climate crisis; the COVID-19 pandemic; the threat of a "legal coup/restructure"; 7 October; and now this vindicated yet damned war.

It has experienced a government that went "missing in action", abandoned the residents of Israel's northern and southern periphery, the hostages and their families, and which didn't look well enough after them and their families and livelihoods while they served and sacrificed.

They've lost friends and family at the Nova festival, in Gaza Envelope communities, and up north, and they find themselves going from one funeral to another, comforting each other and each other's broken, bruised, and grieving families.

And yet, in spite of all this, perhaps because of it, they constantly show us mind-boggling energy and power of purpose, action, volunteerism, sacrifice, selflessness, humility, hope, resilience, and leadership by example, a spontaneous and intuitive craving and call for positive change, to redefine the meaning, purpose, and culture of public discourse and leadership regardless of political, social, or economic backgrounds or persuasions.

And as we contemplate the Pesach seder in a few weeks, with all of its wonderful ritual and storytelling to relate, *m'dor l'dor* (from each generation to the next) our peoples' redemption from slavery, the symbolism and embodiment of this generation's selfless commitment and leadership isn't lost on me.

It reminds me why and what we and they are fighting for, sacrificing for, that this fight is for our beloved children and their friends, abductees and their families, and the soldiers, the grieving families of the entire region, for positive change and a better future of us all – our nation, people, and country.

And so, in spite of the all-encompassing grief, sadness, and sense of helplessness, I choose optimism and hope, picking myself up each time, looking forward, choosing life not victimhood, and continuing to believe in and actively working for a better future, to be worthy of them, this inspirational next generation.

This is the least we can do for the memory of the victims, for those who have sacrificed, and for those we're still waiting for after 188 days!

B'sorot tovot – may we be blessed with good news!

• *Natie Shevel is the chief operations officer of Ronson Foundation Services Ltd, which helps the underprivileged in the Jewish community. He is an honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for charitable services and strengthening links between the United Kingdom and Israel.*

Wits graduation shows SA's true potential

OPINION

BENJY PORTER



In an era where South Africa's challenges often cast a long shadow over its narrative, moments that illuminate our collective spirit and resilience carry profound impact. Recently, at a graduation ceremony at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), I was reminded of the enduring hope and unity that defines our nation.

Set against the majestic backdrop of the Great Hall, the ceremony was a masterful fusion of tradition and modernity. Every detail, from gown fittings to photography, was managed with remarkable efficiency. The choir's performance, blending the traditional *Gaudeamus* with South African national anthems and a joyful African song of gratitude, resonated with everyone present.



The speeches delivered insight and realism, yet were infused with hope. They acknowledged the myriad challenges we face, but underscored the crucial role of the younger generation in shaping our nation's future. The expressions of gratitude for the support systems that have underpinned graduates' journeys highlighted the communal effort behind individual successes.

A conversation with a couple beside us, whose

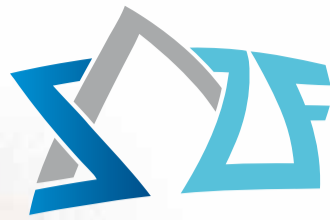
own educational journey ended at Standard 6 (Grade 8) but who were there to celebrate their daughter's graduation, served as a powerful reminder of the transformative power of education in South Africa. This story, like many others shared that day, bridged gaps in background and belief, highlighting our shared aspirations for our children's futures. The communal joy in celebrating each graduate's name being called was a testament to the supportive and inclusive spirit that unites us.

As the ceremony concluded, transitioning from the solemnity of traditional academic processions to the electricity of James Brown's *I Feel Good*, an amazing scene unfolded outside the Great Hall. Family members unable to secure tickets had gathered in circles, singing and dancing to celebrate their graduates. This vibrant display wasn't just deeply moving, but reflected the strength and warmth of our national character.

Wits is a remarkable institution and a national jewel. This graduation ceremony served as a microcosm of our society's hope, resilience, and vibrant culture, a society truly blessed by its people, yet faced with political challenges.

As we approach the elections and navigate our country's future, let's cling to the hope and aspirations we hold and refuse to succumb to cynicism and negativity. The youth, brimming with promise and potential and deserving of better governance, is pivotal in shaping the future. With Hashem's help, it's a future we can all contribute to, creating an environment where the next generation can thrive as it rightfully should.

• *Benjy Porter is an entrepreneur, community, and family man.*



SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION

YOM HAZIKARON TOGETHER WE REMEMBER

SUNDAY 12 MAY
6:30PM

COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S FALLEN
AND VICTIMS OF TERROR

EVENT IS FREE OF CHARGE
REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT SAZF.ORG/76
Right of admission reserved



SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION

YOM HA'ATZMAUT TOGETHER

We Stand

#TOGETHERWITHISRAEL

MONDAY 13 MAY | 4PM | R80

TICKETS AT SAZF.ORG/76

LIVE PERFORMANCE BY AWARD WINNING POP GROUP

Right of admission reserved



MANY MORE SPECIALS IN-STORE

121⁹⁹
 FARBRENGEN PURPLE GRAPE JUICE 946ML

98⁹⁹
 STEINZ RED GRAPE JUICE NO PRESERVATIVES 1L

89⁹⁹
 CAPE JEWEL ASSTD 750ML EACH

83⁹⁹
 KUM BA YOH! ASSTD 750ML EACH

166⁹⁹
 TELMA BEEF FLAVOUR SOUP TUB 400G

119⁹⁹
 OSEM SOUP CONSOMME 400G

104⁹⁹
 OSEM KETCHUP 750G

19⁹⁹
 THE CHOCOLATE TREE WHITE VINEGAR 750ML

Pesach Kasher V'Sameach

59⁹⁹
 COCA COLA SOFT DRINK 6 X 300ML

ביחד נניצח גיבוש ישראל

From matzah to wine, we have everything and more for a meaningful Pesach celebration

DEALS GALORE, VISIT US TODAY!

159⁹⁹
 SYDNEY BACK 'MEVUSHAL' ASSTD 750ML EACH

44⁹⁹
 JERUSALEM MATZOS Kosher for Passover

879
 TENDERCHICK GRADE A WHOLE P/100G

54⁹⁹
 GEFFEN CANDLE MEMORIAL GLASS 7DAY GLASS 1'S

104⁹⁹
 OSEM KETCHUP 750G

168⁹⁹
 HAND MADE SHMURA MATZA 3 PIECE 200G EACH

24⁹⁹
 GEFFEN 48HR MEMORIAL GLASS CANDLE

116⁹⁹
 AFRICAN GOLD OLIVE OIL EXTRA VIRGIN 500ML

94⁹⁹
 GEFFEN CARLO MAGNO RED WINE VINEGAR 500ML

59⁹⁹
 JERUSALEM MATZO MEAL 450G

84⁹⁹
 CHEVINGTON CHEESE ASSTD 200G EACH

116⁹⁹
 AFRICAN GOLD OLIVE OIL EXTRA VIRGIN 500ML

94⁹⁹
 GEFFEN CARLO MAGNO RED WINE VINEGAR 500ML

R275
 PASSOVER FOUR QUESTIONS FINGER PUPPETS EACH

R295
 PASSOVER SEDER DELUX PLAY SET EACH

LAMBERTS BAY FOODS KOSHER FOR PASSOVER
34⁹⁹
 10MM GOLD SEAL PREMIUM FRIES 1KG
 EXCLUSIVE TO KOSHERWORLD WHILE STOCK LAST

63⁹⁹ Pesach Schmaltz 250g
44⁹⁹ Tomato sauce 400ml

Hometown Pharmacy
 087-803-4000 082-711-4342
 HOMETOWNPHARMACY@PROPHARM.CO.ZA

98⁹⁹
 GEFFEN CRISPY-O'S CEREAL PLAIN & CHOCOLATE 187G EACH

83⁹⁹
 THE SOUL TREE MATZA GRANOLA 300G

89⁹⁹
 NESCAFE CLASSIC COFFEE ORIGINAL 200G

108⁹⁹
 BERKIES TEIGLACH BITES CHOCOLATE 175G

69⁹⁹
 BERKIES NUT CLUSTER 250G

144⁹⁹
 THE SOUL TREE COCONUT DESICCATED 1KG

184⁹⁹
 THE SOUL TREE COCOA POWDER KFP 1KG

34⁹⁹
 MONTAGU APPLE WEDGES 100G

44⁹⁹
 MONTAGU MANGO STRIPS 100G

83⁹⁹
 THE SOUL TREE MATZA GRANOLA 300G

64⁹⁹
 STEINZ HONEY 375G

49⁹⁹
 SELATI SUGAR WHITE 2.5KG

78⁹⁹
 BERKIES KICHEL 200G

128⁹⁹
 AMYS TEIGLACH 300G

21⁹⁹
 OK DISHWASHING LIQUID LEMON 750ML

17⁹⁹
 OK APC LAVENDER 750ML

44⁹⁹
 MONTAGU MANGO STRIPS 100G

83⁹⁹
 THE SOUL TREE MATZA GRANOLA 300G

64⁹⁹
 STEINZ HONEY 375G

49⁹⁹
 SELATI SUGAR WHITE 2.5KG

78⁹⁹
 BERKIES KICHEL 200G

128⁹⁹
 AMYS TEIGLACH 300G

21⁹⁹
 OK DISHWASHING LIQUID LEMON 750ML

17⁹⁹
 OK APC LAVENDER 750ML

79⁹⁹
 MONTAGU WALNUTS 200G

83⁹⁹
 THE SOUL TREE MATZA GRANOLA 300G

64⁹⁹
 STEINZ HONEY 375G

49⁹⁹
 SELATI SUGAR WHITE 2.5KG

78⁹⁹
 BERKIES KICHEL 200G

128⁹⁹
 AMYS TEIGLACH 300G

21⁹⁹
 OK DISHWASHING LIQUID LEMON 750ML

17⁹⁹
 OK APC LAVENDER 750ML

22⁹⁹
 MONTAGU SEEDLESS RAISINS 200G

83⁹⁹
 THE SOUL TREE MATZA GRANOLA 300G

64⁹⁹
 STEINZ HONEY 375G

49⁹⁹
 SELATI SUGAR WHITE 2.5KG

78⁹⁹
 BERKIES KICHEL 200G

128⁹⁹
 AMYS TEIGLACH 300G

21⁹⁹
 OK DISHWASHING LIQUID LEMON 750ML

17⁹⁹
 OK APC LAVENDER 750ML

NEW CHECKERS STORE NOW OPEN 90' ON RIVONIA VILLAGE



164⁹⁹
 HASHAHAR BAKING CHOCOLATE 400G

119⁹⁹
 OSEM CAKE ASSORTED 250G EACH

81⁹⁹
 SPRINGBOK BUTTER UNSALTED 500G

39⁹⁹
 OSEM CHOCOLATE & VANILLA PUDDING 95G EACH

48⁹⁹
 OSEM BAMBA 100G

179⁹⁹
 OSEM BISSLI MULTIPACK PIZZA & ONION 28G 6'S EACH

17⁹⁹
 OK APC LAVENDER 750ML

KOSHER AT EVERYDAY PRICES

Offers valid till 17 APRIL 2024 or while stocks last

IN A HURRY? FRESH BLOOMS, CONVENIENTLY READY FOR YOU.

CONCIERGE SHOPPING SERVICE orders@kosherworld.co.za

1 Long Avenue, Glenhazel 011 440 9517 | www.kosherworld.co.za

Actual offers may differ from visuals shown. KosherWorld is available at selected Checkers stores. We reserve the right to limit quantities. While stocks last. E&OE.

Aliyah Expos reveal A-Z of immigration to Israel

LEE TANKLE

Walking into the Aliyah Expo in Johannesburg and Cape Town last week was like taking a trip into a real-life encyclopaedia for aliya, say participants, with information on just about any aspect of making a home in Israel.

The smorgasbord of information left people feeling sated in spite of not being thrilled about the protesters shouting outside the building.

"In spite of the gathering of angry and misinformed protesters outside, the Cape Town and Johannesburg Jewish community walked with their heads held high, with dignity, through the hate, to be welcomed into a space of warmth, safety, joy, and optimism," said Ziva Taitz, the head of the aliya department at the Israel Centre on the expos held in Cape Town on 4 April and Johannesburg on 7 and 8 April.

"It was a place where people could make plans for a future in which they can grow and flourish. This is a microcosm of what Israel represents to us. It holds our core values as a resilient and spirited people," she said.

"In the face of adversity and isolation, with certain groups trying to hold us back, intimidate us, and ultimately destroy us, we continue to move forward. While we're returning to our ancient homeland, it's not a move back into the past but toward the future, not only geographically but spiritually in our journey of making aliya," Taitz said.

Attendees of the expo were given information about what the process is like and how to kickstart their journey. They were introduced to various elements of the process, including programmes offered to *olim* upon their arrival, educational opportunities, career opportunities, and everything in between.

"There's something here for everyone making aliya, seeking to make aliya, or even contemplating the prospect of making aliya," one attendee said.

"I came today to assess my options in terms of the processes and benefits of an *oleh*," another said.

Attendees were able to roam the halls and talk to various representatives from private companies; universities; the Nahariya, Arad, and Haifa municipalities; educational programmes; the ministry of aliya and integration; as well as delegates from the Jewish Agency and Telfed.

In addition to having private talks with the delegates, attendees could attend lectures on specific fields, ranging from basic information about documents and eligibility for aliya, to programmes for medical practitioners and the experience of working in Israel, and how the country's tax system works.

Said Dorron Kline, the chief executive of Telfed, "During the days of the expo, I interviewed 82 family units, gave three public lectures with more than 100 participants, and spoke at various other community functions. The amount of information that the South African Jewish community has received to make the aliya dream become reality is tremendous.

"A poignant incident during my many interviews was a young gentleman who came to see me with no idea of how to make his dream of aliya into a reality," Kline said. "After a 20-minute discussion, he left with a seven-year plan detailing all he needed to do to make his life successful in Israel."

One of the most popular lectures was given by members of the aliya and integration ministry specifically directed at South African medical practitioners, giving them information about the opportunities they may have in Israel. This was an important part of the expo, as in the words of incoming Israel Centre Director Dafna Kremer, "Israel is looking for doctors because there are lots of injured people that need medical help. We're also aware that in South Africa, the level of academic studies in medical schools is high."

The venue was covered with reminders of the war in Gaza, with hostage posters plastered on the walls, and attendees given pins with yellow ribbons.

"Ever since 7 October, South Africa hasn't necessarily felt like home," one attendee said. "That date sparked a feeling in me that I wanted to be in Israel, surrounded by people who have similar values."

Many attendees, although not having a set date for aliya, were interested in looking at all the options they had to make the leap.

"This is the first step in my aliya journey, and now I feel like I can start planning for this big change," said another attendee.

"We can now expect a big increase in aliya from South Africa," said Kline. "But it's not enough. We want those who make aliya to be better educated about the process, making the chances of a successful and smooth absorption that much higher."



Photo: Ilan Ossendrywyer

Aliya for bighearted, not fainthearted

PERSONAL STORY

SHELLEY BERMAN



My husband Ian and I are in our mid-sixties, and made aliya five years ago. I feel honoured to have been invited by the Jewish Agency to share my story at the Aliyah Expo, and hopefully inspire others.

Our daughter and son-in-law, Gila and Robin, had made aliya with our two little grandsons, and were settled and happy in Modi'in. We wanted to join them, but felt so overwhelmed at the thought of such a drastic move. We also couldn't face the thought of leaving Alon and Sarah, our son and daughter-in-law, who were still in South Africa.

We visited Gila and Robin in Modi'in three times in the two years prior to our aliya. On each visit, we started to feel more comfortable and less afraid of the unknown, as life in Modi'in started to become more familiar and attractive.

When Alon and Sarah announced that they had decided to leave South Africa, we realised it was time for us to take the giant leap forward. We sold our home quickly and easily, and started planning our aliya. Careful planning was one of the key elements to making aliya successfully.

Gila found an apartment for us to rent, and we signed the lease based on her good judgement. It's a lovely apartment, and we're happy there. Knowing where we would be living and how much space we would have enabled us to plan our packing carefully and helped us to decide what to leave behind and what to take in our container.

We were also in a position to plan our finances fairly accurately because we knew how much money we would need to cover rent, utilities, and day-to-day living expenses. Knowing all of this in advance helped to make the process less stressful, and prevented any unpleasant and unexpected surprises after our arrival.

We settled in quickly, and soon dealt with all the official bureaucratic matters, like opening a bank account, converting our drivers' licences, and applying for biometric identity documents.

People were welcoming and helpful every step of the way.

We signed up for ulpan, and spent the next six months working on our Hebrew. Even though most Israelis can speak some English, it's essential to learn Hebrew as it helps to integrate into Israeli society.

We joined a shul with an Anglo community, and feel quite comfortable there, even though most of the people are younger than we are.

One of our biggest concerns was whether we would find work. Fortunately, Ian and I were lucky enough to find jobs without too much difficulty. He works for Super-Pharm, a pharmacy, healthcare, and home-products store. I'm an English teacher, and teach at a girls high school in Tel Aviv. Teaching Israeli teenagers has been an eye-opener, and is very different to what I was used to, but it's a wonderful school, and I enjoy teaching there.

Dealing with the bureaucracy of *misrad hachinuch* (the education ministry) was challenging. In spite of the fact that I managed to get my South African degrees recognised, I was still required to do a year of *staj* (internship) and complete a one-year *staj* course through a college of education in order to get my teaching licence. I completed this during my first year at the school, and eventually sorted out all of the bureaucratic issues with the help of Telfed.

Alon and Sarah made aliya with their three children two and a half years after us, and Gila and Robin had their third child shortly after we arrived. We're all happy in Modi'in, and

enjoy the wonderful quality of life that Israel offers. My grandchildren can ride their bikes freely in the streets, and I can walk to the 24/7 supermarket, at midnight, without looking over my shoulder.

Of course, living through the war has and continues to be stressful and utterly heart-breaking. Though we can never ignore the horrors of the war, I still feel safe in Israel. I have the utmost respect for our brave Israel Defense Forces heroes who are there to protect us. Nowhere else in the world do Jews have that safety net, that protection.

The war has brought out the best in Israeli society. Just the slogan coined, "*beyachad nenatzeach*" (together we will win) sums up the overwhelming feeling of unity.

Israelis from all walks of life have banded together to volunteer, help, and provide support wherever they can. It's humbling and empowering to be a part of such a society. Tragically, so many soldiers have died, yet even in our grief, we're unified. One soldier is one too many. One family's pain is the nation's pain. We're a nation in mourning, but we mourn together, and we'll ultimately be victorious together. Aliya isn't for the fainthearted.

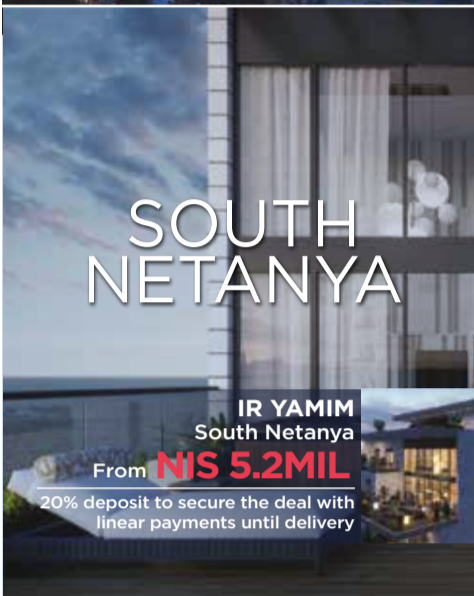
I'll never make light of the enormity of the undertaking. It's without doubt the most difficult thing I've ever done. But, to quote the words of singer Tom Petty, "What lies ahead, I have no way of knowing, but I'm not afraid anymore." *Am Yisrael Chai! Ein li erez acheret!*

• Shelley Berman spoke at the Aliyah Expo about her personal experience of emigrating to Israel from South Africa.



SELECT

From our diverse range of projects across Israel



SOUTH NETANYA

IR YAMIM
South Netanya
From **NIS 5.2MIL**
20% deposit to secure the deal with linear payments until delivery



RA'ANANA

GEULA, KIRIYAT SHARET
Ra'anana
From **NIS 2.5MIL**
20% deposit to secure the deal with linear payments until delivery



FLORENTIN SOUTH TEL AVIV

BENBINISHTI 7
FLORENTIN
From **NIS 2.93MIL**
20% deposit to secure the deal with linear payments until delivery

CONNECT

Let's start a conversation.



Scan the QR code



JULIAN NATHAN Managing Director
NICCI RAZ Head of Marketing & Sales

Contact us:
✉ info@hold.co.il ☎ +972 58 631 9754
Visit our website: www.hold.co.il

HOLD REAL ESTATE

SECURING YOUR FUTURE IN ISRAEL

Disclaimer - Specific apartments and prices are subject to availability, and advertised materials are as of the date of advertising. Prices and availability could change and vary from time to time without prior notice. We cannot guarantee a specific apartment or price without signing a registration form.

Balanced stance on Israel costs editor her job

TALI FEINBERG

The editor of the prestigious *South African Medical Journal*, Dr Bridget Farham, has lost her job for trying to ensure balanced coverage of Israel's war against Hamas and refusing to publish two articles critical of Israel which made no reference to the 7 October attacks. Even after being made to resign, she stands by her decision.

Now, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) is calling for her immediate reinstatement, following her ousting by the South African Medical Association (SAMA). "Dr Farham's forced resignation comes after a torrent of abuse meted out from pro-Palestinian SAMA members, and after facing criticism from SAMA itself," the SAJBD said on 9 April.

"This was in response to a sober editorial, in which she stated that there was "no moral equivalence" between Hamas's invasion of Israel on 7 October and Israel's retaliation.

"The unprofessional and unfair treatment of Dr Farham by SAMA is an unacceptable form of bullying that attempts to cancel anyone who dares to express a different view, in spite of academic rigour," said the SAJBD. "By forcing Dr Farham to resign, SAMA has brought itself into disrepute, and has damaged the proud reputation of an organisation that claims to unify doctors with diverse backgrounds and exists 'to serve its members' best interests and needs in all healthcare-related matters'. Not only is it not fulfilling its mandate, it's behaving in a manner contrary to what we would hope to see from a medical professional body."

"The main reason I wouldn't publish the

opinion pieces on Gaza and Israel was that the authors refused to mention 7 October, saying that it was simply in the context of 75 years of Israeli oppression," Farham told the *SA Jewish Report*. "There was email discussion about this, but no further submissions were offered that met this criteria."

Farham, who isn't Jewish, said, "Obviously, I was shocked by the events [of 7 October], but what prompted me to reach out to Jewish friends was the realisation that being attacked in Israel in this way meant that Jewish people would feel threatened again."

Farham explained her reasoning for not publishing the two pieces in an editorial, titled "Israel, Gaza and moral equivalence", where she stated, "I've been accused of moral cowardice for declining two submissions that are frankly heavily biased towards Palestine, and neither of which mention the events of 7 October 2023. I watched the events of 7 October with complete horror. An Israeli friend, whose family was displaced from the southern Gaza border on that day, let us all know that he was safe. My many Jewish friends and colleagues were in a state of complete shock."

"Reading the news, acts of antisemitism



Dr Bridget Farham

around the globe massively increased immediately after the event, even before Israel launched its 'self-defence' barrage of missiles into Gaza," she wrote. "That alone tells me that antisemitism lies very close to the surface, and the feeling that there's no longer a safe homeland is completely understandable."

Her editorial went on to say, "Now, 160 days into the war, I'm once again watching in complete horror as Israel goes, to my mind, far beyond the right to self-defence." She wrote that she has "mixed feelings about South Africa's petition to the ICJ [International Court of Justice] accusing Israel of genocide, mainly because it has been remarkably silent about similar events in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and not because I feel the case was completely without merit."

"The same person who accused me of moral cowardice for not publishing her submission on the weaponisation of health system destruction also said that she and many others feel that the events of 7 October can be justified by 75 years of Israeli oppression," wrote Farham. "This is where I cannot agree. Nothing justifies the horror that was meted out to families on the southern Gaza border that day. Just

as nothing justifies Israel's continuing destruction of Gaza and its people. There's no moral equivalence."

Farham said she received emails attacking her personally in letters to the editor. "I was quite prepared for responses, but didn't expect them to be personal attacks on my integrity as an individual. I would have published any formally submitted correspondence, however unpleasant."

In the end, Farham withdrew the editorial and "issued my own apology for offending people. In retrospect, this was a mistake. I should have stood by the editorial, but the editorial staff were also receiving unpleasant emails, which is why I decided to retract," she said.

"I was then alerted to emails being sent to the chief executive and board of the South African Medical Association, and meetings taking place about what had happened, and warned by the head of publishing that an official apology was going to be issued by SAMA. As a matter of courtesy, I would have expected the board to contact me, which it didn't."

SAMA issued an arbitrary head office public apology without consulting her. Farham then agreed to "a mutual parting of ways" after the SAMA executive cited "reputational damage" as its main concern.

"Fellow medical editors, the South African National Editors Forum [SANEF], and many local academics have sent me messages of support," Farham says. "Loss of editorial independence is a serious issue in publishing, both academic and otherwise. Do we really want to return to the censorship of the apartheid days?"

This support included a strongly worded

letter to SAMA Chairperson Dr Mvuyisi Mzukwa from the editors emeritus of the journal and former University of Cape Town deans of medicine, Professors Daniel Ncayiyana and JP van Niekerk. They said the correct approach would have been to encourage and publish appropriate rebuttals. They told Mzukwa that when equivalent bodies of SAMA in other countries acted against their editors "on quasi political grounds", it had a detrimental effect on the journal's owners. They reaffirmed their allegiance to editorial responsibilities as outlined in the press code of conduct by the Press Council of South Africa.

The executive director of SANEF, Reggy Moalusi, said it was "an unfortunate development that the SAMA board had to interfere with Dr Farham's editorial. We're always of the view that editors should be allowed to take independent editorial decisions and be allowed to do their work. It's clear from the editorial that she was taking no sides."

Says Farham, "I'm sad to leave the journal, which is one of the most important journals in Africa, but I'm putting this behind me and moving on. I'm already a consultant scientist for the WHO [World Health Organization] African regional office, and I've received interest in my skills from elsewhere."

"The rise in overt antisemitism following the 7 October attack is to be strongly condemned," Farham says. "It just shows how close to the surface this remains. I hope the local Jewish community can continue to rise above the hate, as it has done in the past, and continue its interfaith activities."

A film by BRETT MORRIS and HYLTON TANNENBAUM

JUST NOW JEFFREY

ONLY IN CINEMAS
03 MAY 2024

TORONTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024 **BEVERLY HILLS FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024**

BIOSCOPE FILMS in association with MOONLIGHTING FILMS presents "JUST NOW JEFFREY"
Starring JULIAN ROBINSON, DINO VAVATZANIDIS, ROB VAN VUUREN, NIK RABINOWITZ, NICKY REBELO and NATASHA LORING
Casting BONNIE LEE BOUMAN Make Up & Hair GALE SHEPHERD Costume Designer DANIELLE KNOX Production Designer KERRY VON LILLIENFELD
Sound Design & Original Score ALUN RICHARDS Editor GORDON MIDDLEY Director of Photography EBRAHIM HAJEE Producers DANIEL KAPLAN, SHIREEN HATTINGH and NALEDI KGOPE Executive Producers TONY HERBERT, GRANT HERLITZ, DANIEL RUBENSTEIN, JEFF LIVINGSTONE, BRETT MORRIS, HYLTON TANNENBAUM and DANIEL KAPLAN
Written & Directed by HYLTON TANNENBAUM & BRETT MORRIS

Logos: MEDIA, MOONLIGHTING FILMS, DOLBY DIGITAL, THE BEHREMY, DINISTER STUDIOS, STRANGELOVE, BIOSCOPE

We are closed 18 April to 2 May

WE ARE NOW KOSHER

CHEF JACOB

MEAT RESTAURANT

BETH-DIN OF SOUTH AFRICA
JEWISH ECCLESIASTICAL COURT
בית דין דתומית דרום אפריקה

KOSHER CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that
Chef Jacob – Meat
situated at
99 5th Avenue Highlands North, Johannesburg
is under the supervision of the Beth Din of South Africa.

This certificate is valid from:
27 March 2024 / 17 Adar 2 5784 - 31 December 2024 / 30 Kislev 5785

Union of Orthodox Synagogues of South Africa

We are open Monday to Wednesday for events and pre-orders
THURSDAY 5:00pm - 2:00am
FRIDAY 10:00am - 2 hours before Shabbat
99 5th Avenue, Highlands North • Moshe 076 542 4040

Pandor's threat to SA soldiers in IDF not credible



ROBERT LIPSCHITZ

OPINION

Foreign Minister Dr Naledi Pandor recently threatened South African citizens serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), telling a Palestinian solidarity event, "I've already issued a statement alerting those who are South African and who are fighting alongside or in the Israel Defense Forces: we're ready, when you come home, we'll arrest you."

But though Pandor may help determine foreign policy, she has no power to create criminal liability within South Africa. In fact, there's no "law on the books" that the South African government could use to prosecute a citizen for enlisting in a foreign military.

A recent article by Michelle Nel in the *SA Jewish Report* ("South Africans fighting for Israel in Gaza: what does the law say", 4 April 2024) presented a differing viewpoint. Nel referenced the two relevant pieces of legislation, first, the Regulation of Foreign Military Assistance Act, 1998, and second, the Prohibition of Mercenary Activities and Regulation of Certain Activities in Country of Armed Conflict Act, 2006. The 2006 Act, while it was passed and formally enacted in 2006/2007, only "comes into operation on a date determined by the president by proclamation in the Gazette". (See s16.) Once it does, it will replace the 1998 Act. (See s14.) This hasn't yet happened, which means South African law is based on the 1998 Act.

"Enlisting in a foreign army" without permission, is explicitly prohibited by the yet-to-be-promulgated 2006 Act, but not the 1998 Act. The latter prohibits only unapproved "military assistance" like "financial, logistical, intelligence, or operational support" services; "recruitment" services; "procurement of equipment" services; or "mercenary services", which is defined as fighting for profit.

The core concern might be that the South African government would try to read "enlisting in a foreign army" in the 1998 Act's catch-all provision which prohibits any unapproved "action that has the result of furthering the military interests of a party to the armed conflict". This may seem like a plausible proposition, and it's the one adopted by Nel – after all, enlisting in an army furthers



the military interests of the relevant country. However, any attempt by the government to squeeze "enlisting in a foreign army" into this general provision will fail for three independent reasons of increasing force.

First, the 1998 Act is clearly concerned with regulating actions of a transactional or for-profit nature, and the relevant activities are explicitly mentioned. If the government wanted to prohibit such a major action like enlistment, it would need to mention this explicitly. It does this, for example, with mercenary activity, which is defined as "participation in an armed conflict for private gain", yet no similar prohibition exists for fighting out of duty or national obligation, in other words, not-for gain. It's noteworthy that there's no evidence of any South African having been arrested let alone successfully prosecuted for enlisting in a foreign army. However, thousands of South Africans have been fighting in foreign armies, including the Israeli and British armies, every year since the legislation was introduced.

Second, the fact that the 1998 Act doesn't prohibit enlisting in a foreign army was explicitly recognised in the Parliamentary Bill that established the 2006 Act. The Bill states that the purpose of the new 2006 Act is "to amend

the Regulation of Foreign Military Assistance Act, 1998, so as to provide for the regulation of enlistment of South African citizens with foreign armed forces". In other words, enlistment in a foreign army wasn't regulated under the 1998 Act, and that was one of main purposes of the 2006 Act.

Third, the 2006 Act states that "a citizen of the Republic or a person ordinarily resident in the Republic who, at the time of the commencement of this Act, had already been enlisted in an armed force, must within six months of the date of the commencement of this Act, apply for authorisation". In other words, while it was legal to enlist in a foreign army before the 2006 Act came into operation, soldiers have six months to get authorised once the Act is promulgated.

That's case closed.

Note when the 2006 Act is finally promulgated, it will raise serious constitutional issues. In 2010, the United Nations Human Rights Council published a detailed review of the 2006 Act and explicitly focused on the new enlistment prohibition. The report notes that "1 000 South Africans are presently enlisted in the British army" and highlights various challenges which the Act

will probably face on constitutional grounds. Nel pointed to section 198(b) of the Constitution, which states that "the resolve to live in peace and harmony precludes any South African citizen from participating in armed conflict, nationally or internationally, except as provided for in terms of the Constitution or national legislation". This principle sets up a weighting where various rights and considerations will need to be balanced.

Is it permissible under the Constitution for the state to prohibit a dual citizen from serving in the army of another nation to which they also hold citizenship? Recall that South African courts recently overturned the ability of the government to withdraw citizenship from persons who had acquired citizenship in another country. The courts may be equally suspect of the government's power to reach into another country and stop a citizen of that country from fulfilling their national duties, including the duty to serve. These tricky constitutional problems probably play no small part in the government's reticence to promulgate the 2006 Act.

But, regardless of how the Constitution is interpreted, one cannot be arrested for violating a principle of the Constitution. To criminally prosecute a citizen, the state requires legislation that specifically criminalises the relevant activity. With the near certainty that the courts would find that the 1998 Act doesn't prohibit enlisting in a foreign army, it would be a fool's errand to bring a case against IDF soldiers, and the government is highly unlikely to do so.

Pandor may be pandering to her audience, but her threats of arresting South Africans fighting in the IDF aren't credible. South African citizens enlisted in the IDF can find significant comfort that not only are they on the right side of history, they are also on the right side of the law back in South Africa.

• Robert Lipschitz is a professional economist who regularly works in competition law and economics. He's not a lawyer, and this doesn't constitute a professional legal opinion.

Israel property buoyant in spite of war

SAUL KAMIONSKY

The demand for property from people arriving in Israel has never been greater, said Marc Reiss, who heads up private and international banking activities in Israel, during a recent talk on the Israeli real estate market and economy.

"It's incredible at this period of time [in the midst of war]," Reiss said in Sandton on 8 April.

One reason for the huge demand in spite of the Israel-Hamas war is, Reiss says, "what's happening in the United Kingdom. You'll be familiar with the hundreds of thousands of people on the streets of London every single Saturday and Sunday, making it a no-go area for Jews.

"In New York, interest in Yeshiva University has spiked to 400% this year. Why? People are feeling intimidated to go to major universities in New York."

Reiss said that until three years ago, with the strong shekel, "People were coming to Israel because they wanted opportunity. Israel is a growing country. Antisemitism has helped people make the decision. But many people are coming to Israel now because they want a better standard of living than they feel they can get in Europe. It probably is one with the other."

Selwyn Hare, an owner of and broker in Home in Israel, said the average sales of property in Israel had gone up 6% from 1 January 2023 to 1 January 2024. He said the building index in Israel would affect only the price of the building of the apartment, not the land.

"Through the building index, you'll be affected to only 60% of the value of your property, which brings the cost down. In the meantime, the building index has also plateaued."

There are many critical pieces of information people need to know before they move to Israel or buy property, Reiss said, "so it makes a big difference to know what you need to do to transfer money to Israel.

"It's not because it's in Israel," he says, "because all banks are the same globally – you need to be able to show where the money comes from as well as the contract and proof that taxes

have been paid. This is the world standard, and Israeli banks are no different."

There's no doubt that people are feeling troubling times, Reiss said, but "at the same time, there's a tremendous inspiration from Israel too. It's our kids and all our kids' friends who are defending us while we sleep."

And no matter how down people are, he said, the shekel is strengthening. "On 10 October, the dollar to the shekel was 4:1. Today, it's about 3.70. It goes against all intuition," Reiss said. "The shekel strengthened or re-strengthened against initial weakness against the dollar from 10 October."

Reiss said that four weeks ago, Israel's treasury achieved its aim of raising \$8 billion,



Selwyn Hare

Property investment from overseas is on the rise in Israel



Photo: Ian Ossandwyer

even though credit rating agencies Moody's and Fitch Ratings brought down Israel's rating about six weeks ago.

In what was Israel's first dollar bond transaction in public markets since the war erupted with Hamas, the holy land sold \$8 billion of international bonds, he said. This was its biggest sale of dollar notes on record.

The government reportedly issued \$2 billion in notes due in five years; \$3 billion maturing in 10 years; and \$3 billion due in 30 years. The offering was said to reel in at least \$34 billion worth of investor demand.

Reiss said this record sale was a good example of "the old adage, 'If you believe in something, put your money where your mouth is.' There were 400 investments in the bonds from 36 different countries. That says a lot more about what people think about Israel right now than the credit agencies."

Reiss said he expected an excess of demand over supply for property as soon as "things start working themselves out and the war finishes, when about 300 000 soldiers come back into the workforce.

"Property prices remained rather flat in the past year, and we've experienced a lot of demand, irrespective of the way people are transferring money and what they need to do.

People are looking to buy property in Israel because these prices will go up in a year or two, and there's pent-up demand. There are a lot of people bringing money into Israel and a lot are putting it into property."

Hare spoke about urban renewal options in Israel including a neighbourhood transaction which entails vacating existing residential areas to make room for the construction of extensive new buildings in the area. Existing tenants can exchange their old apartments for new ones in a modern neighbourhood with enhanced environmental infrastructure. "This project is going to take five years," Hare said. "They knock down the neighbourhood, and then rebuild from scratch."

Another option focuses on strengthening existing buildings. Hare said this approach is "basically mutton dressed up as lamb but remains mutton".

"In the other option, they knock the building down and it's rebuilt. The people who are moved out get apartments in that project, so everything is upgraded, and everybody is happy. The advantage for the developers is that they don't have to buy the land, so they have no initial costs. They are in no rush; they don't have to sell. These are the two types of developer we have – ones whose builders must build, and ones who aren't in a rush. Developers like Africa Israel are the top developers in Israel doing different types of projects like this."



Marc Reiss

Twinning Project kicks off rehabilitation in Africa

NICOLA MILTZ

As the whistle blew signifying the start of the much anticipated friendly between football stars SuperSport United and the inmates of Kgoši Mampuru II correctional centre in Tshwane recently, a member of the stadium sat back and watched with pride.

It was a vision come true for South African born Hilton Freund, chief executive of the Twinning Project, a global social-upliftment charity that twins prisoners with their local football club. The project originated in the United Kingdom (UK) in 2018 as the brainchild of football legend David Dein MBE, an international football ambassador and the former co-owner of Arsenal Football Club. The idea behind it is to use football as a catalyst for change by providing football-based programmes that offer real opportunities to prepare prisoners for release.

Launching the initiative for the first time in Africa following in the footsteps of top international football clubs in the UK, America, Italy, and Australia, SuperSport United, the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, and the FIFA Foundation kicked off the Twinning Project last week at Kgoši Mampuru II correctional centre.

"I'll always be South African," said Freund, who lives in London and has been involved in the initiative from the start.

"My feet left, but my heart stayed behind, so bringing the project to this country is meaningful.

"The ultimate goal of the Twinning Project is to provide upskilling educational opportunities to those serving custodial sentences, which will ultimately lead to more socially productive behaviour and create safer communities through the reduction of reoffending," he said.

"Football has the power to change lives, provide hope, and create opportunities and, together with my football partners, it's a privilege to bring our work to South Africa."

In the UK, professional football clubs such as Arsenal, Manchester United, Chelsea, Everton, and Liverpool to name a few have partnered with His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service to offer this innovative initiative designed to drive social change.

"Having seen the success within the criminal justice environments in the UK and the United States on the back of its collaborations with



Hilton Freund, Justice Minister Ronald Lamola, and SuperSport United CEO Stan Matthews

the English Premier League and Major League Soccer respectively, I thought, why not bring it to Africa?" Freund said. "When I approached FIFA, it was incredibly supportive of the idea. So, now the Twinning Project is expanding globally, bringing Africa onboard with this phase of expansion launched in South Africa."

SuperSport United Chief Executive Stan Matthews said it was a proud moment to be the first professional club in Africa to partner with the Twinning Project.

"This initiative will assist with the rehabilitation of offenders using the power of sport, which for me ticks all the right boxes," he said.

"On the field of play, we think we're punching above our weight, but it's also important for us to contribute meaningfully off the field. Changing lives for the better is one of the things we've tried to do through football and our club. We've done projects before with Kgoši Mampuru prison, which have worked well, so when we were presented with the opportunity of partnering with the Twinning Project, the idea resonated.

"It puts us in a global elite club of clubs partnering with prisons. We're the first club in Africa to do so, which is exciting, in keeping with our nickname 'matsantsantsa' [the trendsetters], and hopefully, we'll be flag bearers for more clubs in the Premier Soccer League and the Motsepe Championship to partner with local prisons, make a difference to

society, and use football and sport to uplift and inspire people.

"By engaging in football activities, inmates have the opportunity to develop teamwork, leadership, and discipline, which are invaluable qualities if they are to reintegrate into society successfully," said Matthews.

According to Freund, initially, 16 offenders will be selected, all of whom are relatively close to the end of their prison term and haven't been involved in any violent or sexual crimes.

"Professional coaches from SuperSport United and football club staff, supported by prison physical-education teachers, will engage with the prisoners to deliver accredited coaching and employability-based sessions," he said.

The football-based education consists of

several weekly guided learning hours over a period of four weeks. By the end, the prisoners will have some coaching skills and will be exposed to all aspects of a football club from coaching, to catering and stewardship.

"This will take place three times in the year, totalling 48 prisoners, many of whom have received no formal training in their lives before this. It's empowering," he said.

Currently, 73 Premier League and English Football League clubs have partnered with the Twinning Project.

The recent friendly match turned into a thrilling encounter between the two sides, kicking off immediately after an address by dignitaries such as Justice and Correctional Services Minister Ronald Lamola, Freund, and Matthews.

The *matsantsantsa* legends featured some players who won championship and cup competitions, such as Sibusiso "Sense" Mahlangu; Katlego "Killer" Mphela; Cavann "Shakes" Sibeko; and Raymond "Wewe" Seopa.

Other legends in the United team included Aubrey Lekwane; Desmond Chauke; Japie Motale; Thapelo Liau; and 1996 Bafana Bafana gold medallist Edward "MaGents" Motale.

The final score was 1-1 at regulation time, with forward Mphela scoring for United, and the match decided on penalties. The inmates won 2-1 on penalties.

Freund is also in talks with Kaiser Chiefs Football Club and Mamelodi Sundowns in this initiative.

"Football unites the world. The Twinning Project helps inmates improve their mental and physical health and well-being, and to obtain a qualification that can boost their life chances. Ultimately, the idea is to give people a second chance and turn their lives around."

Israel-haters call for probe into Jewish organisations

>>Continued from page 1

support." She says 26 representatives who deal with aliyah and integration came to the expo.

Regarding calls for his arrest, Vach says he found them "hilarious".

"They say I must be arrested because I admitted that I killed two Palestinians. What they didn't mention is that I killed two terrorists that shot at me. So, what's the problem? That I should have let the terrorists kill me? That all Jews should cease to exist?"

Vach witnessed the protests outside the Aliyah Expo, and says he feels sorry for those involved, as their behaviour gives insight into their "inner world". In places where radical Islam dominates, the basic principles of society are being eroded, he says. "Even if they knew how many Muslims I rescued [in the Turkey earthquake and other disasters], it would make no difference to them because they are blind with hatred.

"The worst thing South Africa has done is to create this toxic environment for Jews so that they will want to leave," he says. "I feel sorry for the country, as Jews contribute so much to society."

Vach says he found a warm, welcoming community in South Africa, and thanks every person who played their part in hosting him and others. "In Israel, the South African Jewish community has a very good name, but coming to

South Africa exceeded expectations," he says. "I felt at home after a few minutes."

He believes the South African Jewish community is "ready to come home", and that Israel will benefit from its contribution. "I hope Jews will return not as a result of hatred in South Africa, but from the deep connection to their ancient homeland."

Vach, who has seen much devastation in his rescue work, in October 2023 described the [Nova] festival as "the most difficult scene I've witnessed in my life. I've had 20 years of natural disasters. I was a combat officer in Lebanon and in Hebron. I've seen everything, and this was something else."

In their statement, the organisations said Vach had lied about the atrocities he witnessed, including a decapitated baby.

In response, Vach says many of the bodies he found were so shrunken from being burned, it was difficult to know if they were babies or children. Either way, many heads were missing from bodies, and many bodies were unrecognisable. "Terrorists burned, raped, shot, took heads off. But if you want to focus on if it was a baby or a child, if its head was attached or not, and ignore the pure evil that took place, then we know exactly where you stand and the kind of person you are," he says.

Newly built simplex home with meticulous attention to detail

Offers from **R2, 150, 000.00**

Show day on 14 April and 5 May at 14h00 - 16h00

Close to some of the finest private schools: The new Torah Academy Girls, Yeshiva College, Hirsch Lyons, Maharsha School, Sydenham Shul, Kollel, Torah Academy, and more.

THIS HOME OFFERS THE FOLLOWING:

- Large open plan living and dining rooms
- Open-plan kitchen
- Three bedrooms (master bedroom en-suite)
- Two modern bathrooms
- Study / fourth bedroom
- Tiled patio (ready for a sukkah)
- Large double automated garage with plumbing and electrical (for Pesach kitchen)

135 10th Avenue, Sydenham
Contact Barry on 082 450 1800 for a private viewing

Promoting understanding between Israelis and Arabs

GILLIAN KLAWANSKY

The author of *The Only Jew in the Room*, which chronicles his journey as the first and only Jew to study at Al-Qasemi, an Arab Islamic Sufi College in Israel, Israeli-born Avi Shalev first began learning Arabic when he lived in South Africa between the ages of 14 and 22. Now a retired lieutenant colonel in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), his insights into Israeli and Arab life give him a unique perspective on the war in Gaza.

“What we failed at in 1973 – the Yom Kippur War – and we failed at again in October 2023 is understanding the Arab mindset. As Jews and as Israelis, this is something we find very difficult,” Shalev said, addressing South Africans at a webinar hosted by The Base Shul on 27 March.

“Understanding Arabs is our biggest challenge, and because we’re so technologically advanced and skilled here, we tend to invest all our capacities in sophisticated technologies. We thought that artificial intelligence would solve the problem of understanding our neighbours, our enemies. The failure on 7 October 2023 is an indication that it’s not enough. This intelligence failure will probably be studied for years in Israel and all over the world because of its epic proportions.”

During the webinar, facilitated by Peregrine Holdings Chief Executive Robert Katz, Shalev shared his experiences of both the IDF and Al-Qasemi. Now 52, he lives in Modi’in in Israel, and has four children, two serving in the IDF and a third about to follow suit. His book, originally published in Hebrew as *The Al-Qasemi Diary* was recently translated into English with the title

The Only Jew in the Room.

From 1985 to 1993, Shalev lived in South Africa, where his father had business interests. Shalev completed his schooling at Greenside High School, a BCom at the University of the Witwatersrand, and an Honours at the University of South Africa. It was also in Johannesburg that he began to learn Arabic informally with some Indian-Muslim neighbours. At the age of 22, he returned to Israel as a lone soldier. He spent six years in the research division in Israeli military intelligence, and a further 18 in civil administration in Judea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

Speaking of his intelligence work, Shalev said his unit’s focus was twofold: understanding the capabilities and intentions of Israel’s neighbours and enemies, two very different intelligence issues. Though Israeli intelligence is good at collecting information, which illustrates the enemy’s capabilities in terms of weapons, training, and technology, it’s less skilled at understanding its intentions, he said.

He engaged with this challenge through 24 years in the military, and during the six years that followed, through studies fuelled mainly by “intellectual curiosity”. Upon retiring six years ago with a military pension, he decided to do a Master’s degree in Islamic Studies at Berlin University.

“There, for the first time in my life, I actually studied with Muslims, with Palestinians from the West



Avi Shalev

Bank, Muslims from Pakistan, Arabs from Lebanon, and also Europeans and Americans. It was an incredible experience, but it made me realise that I had been studying Muslims, Palestinians, and Arabs from the Israeli intelligence perspective, from a Western perspective.”

Even at Berlin University, while highly acclaimed, his lecturers mainly came from Jewish or European backgrounds. “We are always doing the same thing,” he said, “teaching ourselves about Arabs and Muslims when they weren’t in the room. We were learning about them, not with them.”

That’s why he decided to find an Arab, Islamic institution to study

with Arabs as equals. Al-Qasemi, in Baqa al-Gharbiyye, an Arab-Muslim town in Israel on the border with Samaria in the northern West Bank, is one of three Arab colleges in Israel where Arabs study education. Al-Qasemi is unique because it’s also Islamic, and was set up by Sufi sects, which practice a mystical stream of Islam, similar to Judaism’s Kabbalah. During his studies there, Shalev documented his experience, which ultimately formed the basis of his book. He has also since worked at an Arab school and an Arab college.

“I was the first Jew, the first Israeli Jew, to study in an Arab-Muslim institution in Israel, which amazed me. It’s telling about our efforts to understand Arabs,” he said. “Cultural understanding is maybe the greatest challenge that we as Israelis face regarding Arabs, because we don’t understand the Arabs, and they don’t understand us.”

Israelis who want to learn about Arabs and Islam mainly go to mainstream Israeli universities, where they learn from Jewish lecturers, thinkers, and researchers, which perpetuates this divide. Welcomed at Al-Qasemi, Shalev was among Arab students, mainly religious and conservative Muslim women, who came from the Negev (desert) in the north, most of

whom didn’t speak Hebrew in spite of having Israeli identities and passports.

While some students wouldn’t speak to him and were suspicious of his motives, Shalev says others were friendly and helped him through the challenge of studying, reading, and writing in academic Arabic. His book examines what it means to be a Palestinian Israeli – Israeli Arabs view themselves as Palestinians living in Israel, he said – and looks at overarching themes of understanding the other, and why Israelis have such difficulties understanding Palestinians and vice versa.

Though Shalev isn’t too optimistic about the future with regards to Gaza, he says a positive factor is that we have a better understanding of who we’re dealing with. “It’s incredible that Hamas has remained to this day completely committed to the annihilation of Israel, irrespective of the price,” he says. “This was a major blunder on the part of Israeli intelligence, because few believed that it would go so far. Today, we understand that Hamas has invested absolutely all its resources, and it’s not shy to say that, as far as it’s concerned, it’s investing only in jihad and the responsibility for the welfare of Gazans is on the international community. Sometimes it’s better to be a realist than an idealist.”

Ultimately, any way forward, comes with understanding, he said. “For Israelis to understand Gaza, they really have to understand the people, the language, the culture, the hopes, and aspirations. It doesn’t mean they have to accept all of this, but they really have to understand it.”

A total eclipse of the mind

It’s difficult to imagine a world so devoid of challenge that I would be intrigued by a solar eclipse. It’s equally difficult to imagine a scenario that my “to do” list was so magnificently complete, that I would, even for a fleeting moment, consider writing, “Buy solar eclipse glasses x4”, and thinking that there was even a sliver of chance that I would have the time, interest, or capacity to put it into action. Or that I would be able to find three like-minded and blessed people to hand them out to.

I genuinely have no understanding what the fuss is about. And why anyone would care that for a limited period, that day would be turned to night. Or something.

Which is why it’s fortunate that this week’s eclipse wasn’t visible in the “global south” as it was in other parts of the world. South Africans were last treated to this occurrence 22 years ago, on 4 December 2002, and won’t see another total solar eclipse for some years – until 25 November 2030, to be exact.

It’s perhaps the rarity of the event that makes it enticing, especially considering that a world of darkness is something that we experience every 24 hours. Nightly, as it were. I further find it hard to associate sudden and unexpected darkness with something positive and exciting. But that might be the fault of Eskom, which has traumatised a whole nation by inflicting it with an irrational fear of sudden darkness.

For Americans, it might well be fun. But for South Africans, it could trigger their anxiety to such a degree, they might never recover. For residents of the United States, the consequence of being ill prepared for the eclipse is potentially damaged eyesight. For South Africans, it’s an emotional abyss of mental health.

INNER VOICE
Howard Feldman



It’s only now that the solar eclipse is over that I have the courage to say what I should have said weeks ago. Eclipses are boring. They happen in silence, without any drama, without any form of musical accompaniment, and without consequence. No-one gets hurt, no-one benefits, and no-one dies. Witness an eclipse or not, the result is the same. It’s like watching the Oscars. You think that there will be something of interest. But honestly. There isn’t.

And they make you buy and wear ugly glasses. I surmise that because of how dull eclipses are, there’s a need to weave mythology into their occurrence. Because in of themselves, it’s such a non-event that we seek meaning from the past. It is, I believe, the first example of “confirmation bias”, a term coined by English psychologist Peter Wason, and is the tendency of people to favour information that confirms or strengthens their beliefs or values, and which is difficult to dislodge once affirmed. Although we associate confirmation bias with social media and news reporting in the modern world, I believe eclipse watchers have been doing this since before Pharaoh buried himself in a triangle.

I don’t mean to be the eclipse hating guy. But in a world of such immense darkness, I would rather us celebrate the hell out of the moments of light. I would rather bask in the sunshine than focus on the moon. I would rather we spoke about the living rather than the dead. I would that we didn’t have to protect our eyes, and that we rejoiced not the arrival of dusk, but the breaking of a new and beautiful dawn.

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Stop kvetching, start voting

Just seven weeks remain until the national and provincial elections, the sixth since the holding of the first all-inclusive elections that launched our non-racial democracy. Terms like “watershed” and “at a crossroads” are commonly bandied about during election season, but for South Africa this time round, they really do ring true to an extent perhaps never seen over the past 30 years.

Since 2009, one of the flagship initiatives of the Board has been its #MakeUsCount pre-election awareness and education campaign. These are aimed at getting community members to identify with and participate in the democratic process, from ensuring that they are registered on the voters roll to engaging with the competing parties and making sure to come out to vote on polling day. We’re particularly proud of the role played by the interfaith and multinational observer teams we have run over the past 15 years to assist the Independent Electoral Commission in ensuring that the elections are free and fair, as well as in practical, logistical areas where required.

The message we tirelessly seek to push during these times is that elections provide ordinary citizens with the opportunity – indeed even the duty – to take their future and that of their society into their own hands. All too often, people feel voiceless and disempowered, but by exercising their right to choose those who will govern them, every one of them is able to make a difference. This is something we are trying hard to convey to our own community. Perhaps never before has it been so necessary to overcome the feelings of disillusionment and hopelessness and make ourselves heard as South African Jewish voters. This year’s #MakeUsCount

ABOVE BOARD
Karen Milner



campaign commenced as usual with a voter-registration drive aimed at getting first-time voters to register and for those already on the roll to check that their details were correct and up to date. As one of our taglines for this put it, “You can’t kvetch until you check.” Our efforts have extended to reaching out to South African citizens living abroad, who while no longer resident in the country, are still able to participate in choosing their leaders.

With the registration process now behind us, we’re looking to involve the community in learning about the various competing parties to enable them to make an informed choice on election day. In Johannesburg in coming weeks, we’ll be arranging what will be billed as an ‘Election Indaba’ that provides a platform for the various parties to engage with the community and present their positions on the core issues of the day. In Cape Town, the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies will seek to repeat its previous success in working with eNCA to hold a televised multiparty debate, scheduled for 19 May. In addition to the usual questions of service delivery, safety, and security, foreign policy will be a major topic for debate this time round.

For regular updates on what’s happening and upcoming events, I encourage everyone to go onto our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter/X accounts.

• 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

Ex-SAUJS leader fights antisemitism in UK workplace

GILLIAN KLAWANSKY

South African lawyer Jaden Cramer, 30, has made it his mission to help Jews persecuted at work in the United Kingdom (UK) since the 7 October massacre in Israel. And for this, he has been invited to the House of Lords to be acknowledged for his contribution.

Cramer, who now lives in the UK, dealt with the case of a company director who shared multiple antisemitic and pro-Palestinian posts on LinkedIn and directly to company clients. The director did this in the full knowledge that the chief executive, the other two directors, and some clients were Jewish. Cramer assisted the chief executive to exit said director of the company while working to protect the company's rights and reputation.

In another case, an individual worked alongside colleagues who posted vehemently antisemitic propaganda on X and other platforms to the point where the worker felt unsafe to attend the office.

There are also cases in which Jewish employees have received content released by human resources and diversity, equity, and inclusion teams that is biased, untruthful, and makes them feel targeted or scared to say anything different. Cramer has drafted grievances and communication emphasising the duty of care and need to provide a safe working environment.

"Especially in the employment context, there's a complete power imbalance between the big company and the small employee, and you can often feel lost," said Cramer, the founder of Singularity LPO, a legal process outsourcing company where he employs or contracts South African lawyers to do work in the UK. "Addressing this power imbalance is part of what I do day to day as I engage with companies on behalf of employees and employees on behalf of companies."

Cramer, who served as national director and then national political officer of the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) between 2014 and 2017, aims to help British Jews working in companies where they feel they are being discriminated against in light of the war in the Middle East and resulting rise in antisemitism.

Through his advocacy, Cramer was connected to the Blue and White Club in the UK, the young professional division of international non-profit Israel education organisation StandWithUs.

After 7 October, with the help of Cramer, the club compiled a workers' guide explaining employee rights especially around discrimination, and clarifying what can and can't be done and said.

"From there, it developed into a subcommittee where I would be fed people who approached the Blue and White Club with these kinds of workplace issues," Cramer said. "I've helped young Jewish professionals by providing advice, legal and factual information, and counsel during the toughest times post 7 October so they could hold their ground where they felt Jews were being marginalised." There have also been instances, he said, of threats to personal safety and criminal law infringements. As



Photo: AlexanderSmith - Suiv-30

Jaden Cramer

Poland and Israel on the March of the Living tour. In Grade 10 at King David High School Linksfield at the time, Cramer became increasingly involved with Israel advocacy from that point on. After matriculating in 2011, he lived in Israel for seven months where he completed a kibbutz ulpan.

Subsequently completing his BCom LLB degree at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), he became UJ treasurer then the UJ chairperson of SAUJS, later serving as national director and national political officer, attending numerous international conferences.

"There was always a strong anti-Israel sentiment on campus in South Africa," he said, "and the false narrative of apartheid Israel was always an emotional buzzword that was particularly relevant in any discourse in the country."

"I was on campus for five Israeli Apartheid Weeks and experienced everything from shouting, swearing, and tearing down

posters, to outright antisemitism with slogans like, 'Shoot the Jew' to physical altercations. Coping with anti-Israel or antisemitic hate hasn't been difficult as I believe in holding the moral high ground and simply fighting the facts and looking for solutions, encouraging peace and dialogue."

Cramer feels strongly about helping Jewish employees tackle discrimination, especially in the lingering stress and trauma that came after 7 October. "It's hard for people to express their distress or discomfort in a way that makes sense and that's also legally correct," Cramer said. "It's a weird feeling to sit there at your desk, living your normal life, when you know that for a lot of people, life will never be the same again."

In acknowledgement of his work through the Blue and White Club, Cramer was invited to the Emerson Fellowship Graduation Ceremony at the House of Lords. The Emerson Fellowship, the flagship international programme run by StandWithUs, puts students through a rigorous pro-Israel advocacy training course

on university campuses.

"At the graduation, the new generation of Israel advocates are welcomed into the fold," Cramer said. Cramer is proud to be part of the current guard, who serve as inspiration for those aspiring to a life of Israel advocacy.

"There's this community of people who share the idea that we should all be able to stand up for Israel, that Israel is a beacon of light within the Middle East," Cramer said. "Often, it feels like a very lonely task, like you're surrounded by hate and you're the only one who's seeing sense. Even from within the community, there's so many different views, and you can often feel like it's a losing battle."

That's why bringing together successful Israel advocates who are also highly regarded professionals and those who aspire to follow their example is so important. "It's so that the new generation, especially can see that there's a safe place for them to express their views and be protected," said Cramer. "They see that you can still hold these views and succeed. You're not alone."

Muizenberg life and legends – good book material

Barry John Cohen is launching two books in Cape Town this week, one an autobiography and the other on the life of boxing legend Cedric Kushner. The SA Jewish Report caught up with him.

What drew you to writing books?

I had to close my golf museum at the Waterfront during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as an interest in an English language school in Vietnam. At my age, there was no work. We were still locked up. So, I started to write for financial reasons.

How would you describe your style of writing and subject matter?

I have no real writing style. I see myself more as a technician than an author, and I enjoy the research. I simply tell a story that flows in simple language the reader can understand.

How do you choose ideas/topics?

What you know, understand, and what interests you should be the topic you focus on when choosing a subject matter.

What does it take for you to write a book?

Each book is different insofar as the length of time it takes to complete. You must do research first, and once I'm well under way, it's hard to stop until completion. Readers like information, so footnotes help to make the book interesting.

What's behind you launching two books in South Africa at the same time?

I'm launching four books at the same time. I'm not sure how it occurred. One was a book I had written and which was waiting for the outcome of a trial. Meanwhile, I got stuck into the Cedric Kushner story as it was easy because of my background and because I knew him. My autobiography was quick and easy, and helped pass the time, likewise the story of golfer Papwa Sewgolum because I had the knowledge and interest.

What did Kushner mean to you, and why did you write about him?

Kushner in my time was a local icon who appeared to be a thug. He was popular, and captained the Muizenberg Spurs rugby team. When they played Muizenberg Old Boys, up to 20 000 would go and watch. He was just a larger-than-life character who did crazy things.

What went into putting together your book about him?

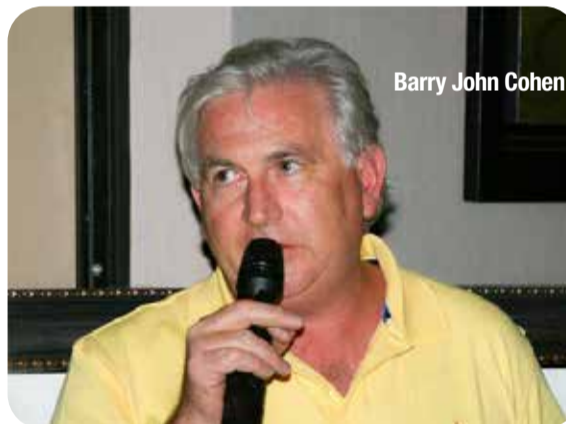
As I'm presently in Australia, all I could do was trawl the internet for stories and photos, as well as write to all the Muizenberg friends for their incredibly funny recollections, as per the last chapter. I did make contact with some American friends, but they weren't that helpful. Numerous Muizenberg friends sent stories, as they wanted his story told.

How different was the process of the Kushner book to that of *Journey of a Muizenberg Boy*?

Both Kushner and *Journey of a Muizenberg Boy* were topics I knew about. My career, inter alia, was music and sport, and writing them was like having a few beers at a pub and having a good chat with mates.

What's your relationship like with Kushner's family?

Cedric was with my sister at school and three to four years older than me, but always friendly when I saw him in the street or at the snake pit, and let us younger kids join in playing touch rugby on the beach. It's only through the book that I've interacted with his older brother and sister.



Barry John Cohen

As a boy from Muizenberg, why did you settle in Australia?

I left Muizenberg first for New Zealand and then Australia in 1978 to join my sister and brother-in-law, but returned in the early 1990s on holiday and stayed, returning to Australia with my kids 18 months ago.

What was it like coming back here?

I love the wildlife of Africa. There's so much beauty. There was so much hope when Nelson Mandela came to power. Sadly, the goodwill has disappeared, even more so where the Jewish citizens are concerned. But if you ignore it and have the funds, it can be a great place to live.

What do you make of South Africa now?

Unfortunately, most political parties have lost their way, including the Democratic Alliance. I'm fortunate to have a number of really good prominent political friends who would make great leaders. The upcoming election may be a turning point depending upon possible coalitions and their ability to place trusted and knowledgeable persons in prominent positions, but I don't think Jews will return.

Describe your relationship with the South African Jewish community.

I was never a regular shul goer after my parents departed, but lately, I formed a friendship with Rabbi Ryan (Newfield) and Muizenberg Shul, and went to some services. My kids went to Herzlia, but I'll say no more!

Do you still see yourself as South African, or as Australian?

I'll always be South African. When you've been a part of SuperSport and toured with the Springboks and then founded the Golf Hall of Fame and Museum, it's in your

DNA. I'm in Australia as my two kids settled there.

When you look back at your childhood in Muizenberg, what are the experiences you remember?

Those of us who grew up in Muizenberg had the luckiest childhood ever. We had everything and it cost nothing. Even collecting bottles and selling them at Crowders for pocket money. The beach, the holiday romances, the crowds we hung out with, the families all friends, touch rugby, playing cricket in the street, the Pavilion, surfing, and of course, the Empire bioscope. There's an unbroken bond whether you were five years older or younger, and we all know where we are around the world and if we're lucky, we stay in touch.

What do your family think of your books?

There are actually seven books, and my kids haven't read one! Renee, still in Hout Bay, read one. But I've had fantastic reviews from publications and readers alike, which has surprised the hell out of me.

Whose writing do you admire the most and why?

My books all have an element of research or my own knowledge, which is why I don't regard myself as a real author. A real author, like those who write fiction, requires imagination, or there are really good novels based on history like those by Conn Iggulden, Wilbur Smith, or Bernard Cornwell. They are the real authors.

What's next?

I've done my time in law, sport, entertainment, and non-profit organisations. At the age of 72, with kids of 23 and 25, who in their right mind would employ me? Maybe I'll start painting again, or if I'm fortunate, write a book or two. There's talk of a major movie based on my Papwa book. Wouldn't that be fun?





THE GOLD AVENUE



WE BUY

DIAMONDS | GOLD JEWELLERY
LUXURY WATCHES | KRUGERRANDS

WITH AN IMMEDIATE EFT OR CASH PAYOUT



CONTACT US TODAY
www.thegoldavenue.co.za
076 393 5429
[thegoldavenuesa](https://www.instagram.com/thegoldavenuesa)
010 109 0080
Illovo, Sandton



A Happy Pesach

TO ALL OUR

JEWISH CUSTOMERS



Selati
Kosher
White Sugar
2,5 kg

49⁹⁹



Illovo
Kosher
Golden Syrup
900g

49⁹⁹



Nescafé
Kosher
Classic Coffee
(Excl. Decaf and Doy)
200 g
Assorted

89⁹⁹
each



Jerusalem
Matzo Kosher
Squares for
Passover
300 g

46⁹⁹



Clover
Mooi River
Salted
Choice Butter
Brick
500 g

74⁹⁹



Lancewood
Smooth or Plain
Kosher Cottage
Cheese
250 g

45⁹⁹
each

Chag Sameach

All products advertised are
Kosher for Passover



Specials available at:

Bedfordview SUPERSPAR
Blairgowrie SPAR
Dowerglen KWIKSPAR
The Wedge SUPERSPAR
Lyndhurst SUPERSPAR
Pineslopes SPAR
Sandringham SPAR
Norwood SPAR
Blackheath SPAR
Polofields SUPERSPAR

(011) 450-1474
(011) 787-0282 /0204
(011) 453-1938
(010) 006-5067
(011) 346-2977
(011) 467-2448
(011) 640-6403
(011) 483-1229
(011) 476-1001
(010) 055-3136

HEROES

COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

HELP PROVIDE PESACH ESSENTIALS TO FAMILIES IN NEED

HOW TO ENTER:

- 1 BUY A PESACH PRODUCT
- 2 FILL IN YOUR DETAILS ON THE ENTRY FORM
- 3 DROP OFF THE PRODUCT TOGETHER WITH THE ENTRY FORM AT A SCHOOL OR PICK N PAY COLLECTION POINT

or

DONATE PESACH PRODUCTS ONLINE



STAND A CHANCE TO WIN A CUSTOM-MADE MARVEL JUNIOR BIKE

CYCLE LAB



WWW.JHBCHEV.CO.ZA

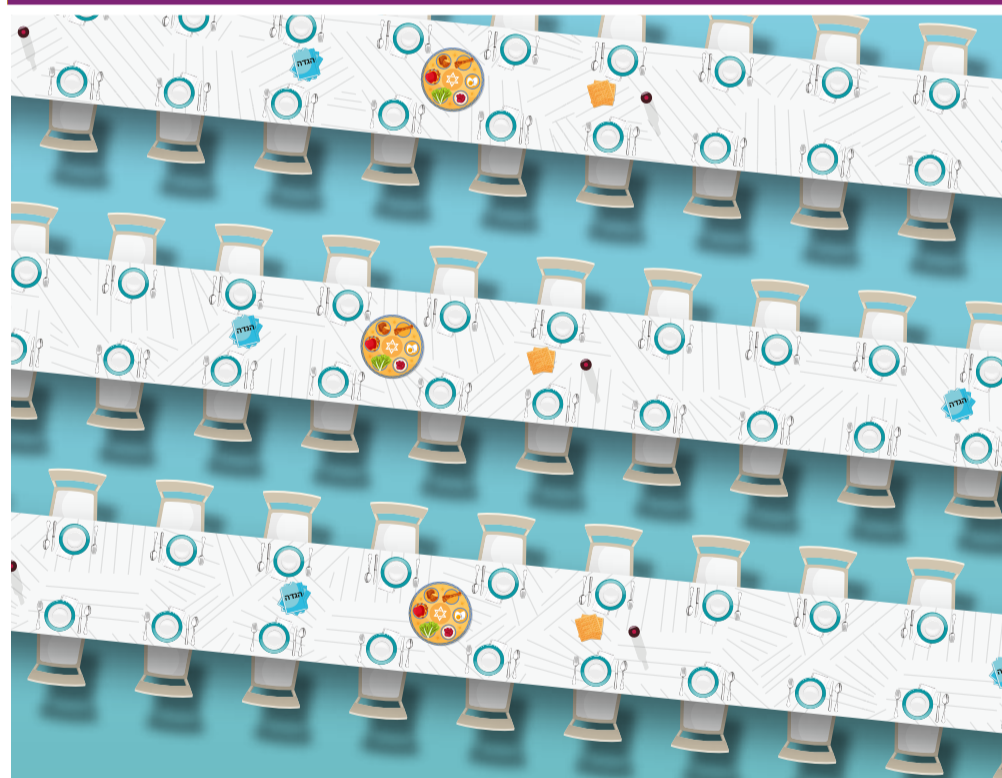


Pesach e-cards

Send love to friends and family all over the world



www.jhbchev.co.za



There's always room for one more at our table

Why be alone for the Seder when you're invited to ours?

22 April 2024

NO CHARGE

hospitality@jhbchev.co.za | 011 532 9637

RSVP by: Sunday, 14 April



PESACH PACKING DAY

SUNDAY 14TH APRIL | 10AM - 12PM
THE DAVID LOPATIE CENTRE

[85 GEORGE AVENUE, SANDRINGHAM]



♥ The Chev



EVENTS@JHBCHEV.CO.ZA





Making a difference one sip at a time



- Delicious variety of brews and freezo's
- Tasty meals, salads, and mouth-watering confectionary
- A beautiful garden setting with a kiddies play area



Monday - Thursday 07:00 - 18:00
 Friday 07:00 - 16:00
 Sunday 08:00 - 18:00
 Closed for Pesach

The David Lopatie Centre Garden
 113 George Avenue, Sandringham
 (next to the Selwyn Segal Gift Shop)

In proud partnership with

