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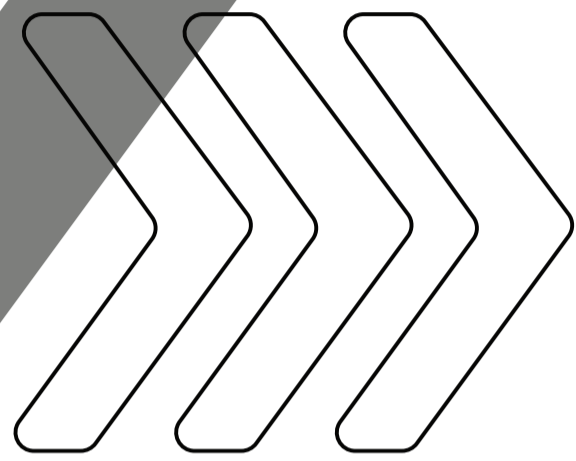


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SA bucks global trend of antisemitism

NICOLA MILTZ

In spite of an alarming global increase in antisemitism, South Africa appears to have settled since the initial stages of the war in Gaza, which resulted in a dramatic and concerning rise in incidents.

Although the situation here is far from ideal, it contrasts with the disturbing cases of antisemitism, often violent, that continue to surface daily in many parts of the world.

"Since March, things have stabilised to the point where we can say we're back to 'normal,'" said David Saks, the associate director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD).

"This after reaching unprecedentedly high levels of antisemitism in the two months immediately following the 7 October attacks and over the ensuing three months still continuing to manifest at a much higher level than in previous years," Saks said.

It's possibly in part because of the recent South African national elections and its aftermath, which may have distracted from the Middle East, he said.

The number of incidents of direct antisemitic behaviour

that have reached the Board's attention over this period has been more or less the same as previous years, he said.

"Reported incidents of late have also been less serious, generally being in the form of verbal insults or hate messages posted on community members' social media sites," Saks said.

Over the past three months, there have been no reported incidents of physical attacks such as assault and vandalism.

"Relative to our counterparts abroad, South African Jewry actually has things quite easy," said Saks.

"For some time, tension in the Middle East has led to increases in antisemitic attacks, particularly in Europe and more recently in the United States," said Marina Rosenberg, the senior vice-president of international affairs at of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a global leader in fighting antisemitism, "However, we've not experienced anything like the tsunami of anti-Jewish hate unleashed worldwide

following the Hamas atrocities of 7 October.

"There has been a disturbing normalisation of antisemitism on a global scale, spanning across the extreme right and left. The sheer number of incidents indicates that this issue can no longer be dismissed as negligible or fringe," she told the *SA Jewish Report*.

"South African Jews live in a paradoxical space," said Karen Milner, the national chairperson of the SAJBD. "In recent months, the government has shown extreme hostility towards Israel, making

South African Jews feel very uncomfortable and disappointed. However, we haven't experienced high levels of antisemitism on the ground."

She experienced the exact opposite on a recent trip to the United States to attend an American Jewish Committee conference, where she and her colleagues found themselves caught up in an anti-Israel, and anti-Joe Biden protest outside the White House in Washington. D.C.

"We experienced the most vicious anti-Israel, antisemitic, massive protest outside the White House. The level of hostility and aggression was disturbing," she said.

"In the US, you have a sympathetic government which has tried to support its Jewish community in its support of Israel, combined with a level of viciousness on the ground unlike

Continued on page 3 >>



The family of Inbar Shem Tov, one of the 364 people killed at the Nova festival massacre on 7 October, keep their child's memorial tidy
See stories on pages 8 and 9



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Far-right politician fined for Nazi phrase

A German court has fined a prominent far-right leader for once again using a phrase associated with the Nazis, as Germany's growing far-right flank shows an increasing comfort with invoking Nazi-aligned phrases and ideas.

Björn Höcke, a leader of the Alternative for Germany party, or AfD, was ordered to pay €16,900 (R335 605) for chanting the first two words of the slogan, *Alles für Deutschland* (Everything for Germany) in front of a pub crowd in December, and goading the crowd to finish it.

It was the second time in a few short months that Höcke, the party leader of the state of Thuringia in what was once East Germany, had been fined for using the phrase. In May, judges fined him about \$13 000 (R240 531) for an earlier use of the phrase in 2021. Nazi stormtroopers had engraved the phrase "Everything for Germany" on their daggers.

AfD gained seats in the recent elections for the European Parliament, alarming local Jewish leaders.

Höcke was first elected in 2013, and has become a lightning-rod figure in Germany as his ideas and his party have become ascendant. The provocateur once faced expulsion from the AfD after calling the Berlin Holocaust memorial a "monument of shame" in 2017.

But Höcke loyalists soon rose to key leadership roles within the AfD, ensuring that the populist party, which has been winning elections nationwide, would continue to back him going forward.



Israel's Labor and Meretz merge into new party

Israel's Labor and Meretz parties announced on Sunday, 30 June, that they would unite ahead of the next election in a bid to revive the country's left and maximise its share of Parliament.

The new party, called the Democrats, is the latest attempt to stem the more than 20-year decline of the Israeli left. Labor, which governed Israel for its first three decades, is now the smallest party in the Knesset. Meretz, to Labor's left, didn't receive enough votes in the most recent election to enter Knesset at all, effectively wasting the votes it got.

The merger hopes to avoid that result in the future and win the left a larger bloc of seats. The new party will be led by Yair Golan, a former Israeli general and Meretz legislator who gained acclaim for rescuing several people during Hamas's invasion of Israel on 7 October. He has become an outspoken critic of the right-wing government's management of the war.

But the war poses a challenge for the new party, whose members have for decades been identified with dovish policies and support for a Palestinian state, an idea that has increasingly fallen out of favour with Israeli voters.



Left-wing Israeli leader Yair Golan (centre) alongside protesters outside the home of United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in December 2023

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Rabbi Pini Pink Chabad of Greenstone

Parshas Korach tells the dramatic story of Korach's rebellion against Moshe and Aaron. Korach, a Levite, challenges their leadership, claiming, "The entire congregation is holy, and G-d is among them. Why do you elevate yourselves above the assembly of G-d?" He's joined by Dason, Aviram, and community leaders in this insurrection. Korach's argument resonates with a fundamental truth that every Jew possesses intrinsic holiness. However, his approach and ultimate misunderstanding of divine leadership lead to his downfall.

Korach's assertion that "the entire congregation is holy" isn't incorrect. Each Jew indeed carries a spark of divinity, and the potential for holiness resides within every individual. This is a core tenet of Jewish thought, emphasising the inherent value and potential of every person. Yet, Korach's error lies in his failure to acknowledge the unique roles and responsibilities assigned by G-d.

The Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, whose *yahrzeit* we mark next week on Gimmel Tammuz, explained that while every Jew is equal in their intrinsic connection to G-d, this equality doesn't negate the presence of different roles within the community. Just as a body comprises various organs each with a distinct function essential to the body's overall health, so too different individuals fulfil different roles. This diversity doesn't contradict equality but rather expresses it as each role is vital and valuable in its own right.

Moshe and Aaron's leadership was divinely ordained. Their positions weren't self-assumed but commanded by G-d. Korach's rebellion, therefore, wasn't merely a challenge to human authority, but a direct confrontation with divine will. By challenging Moshe and Aaron, Korach was questioning G-d's choices, demonstrating a fundamental lack of acceptance of G-d's wisdom and plan.

True peace isn't the absence of distinction but the harmonious integration of diverse roles and functions. The Rebbe teaches that Korach's idea of equality, which sought to abolish the distinctions and roles established by G-d, undermines this harmony. Authentic unity is achieved when each individual recognises and respects the unique contributions of others, working together towards a common goal.

We learn a profound lesson about unity and leadership. True unity doesn't come from erasing differences but from appreciating and valuing them. Each person has a unique role and purpose. By recognising and respecting these roles, we contribute to a harmonious and unified community.

Furthermore, the story underscores the importance of divinely ordained

leadership. Leaders play a crucial role in guiding and maintaining the community's spiritual and moral compass. Challenging or undermining this leadership without just cause can lead to discord and fragmentation.

As we approach the 30th *yahrzeit* of the Rebbe, we reflect on his profound impact and enduring legacy. The Rebbe's leadership exemplifies the harmonious integration of diverse roles, emphasising that every person has a unique and valuable purpose. His ideals and lessons continue to inspire and guide us, demonstrating the power of divinely ordained leadership in fostering a cohesive and thriving community. Let's strive to embody the Rebbe's teachings by appreciating the intrinsic holiness in every individual and working together towards a unified and purposeful community.

Torah Thought

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Pandor out, Lamola in: same same, but different?

STEVEN GRUZD

If the Jewish community and its supporters were hoping for a more Israel-friendly minister of international relations and cooperation than Dr Naledi Pandor, they might be disappointed.

A full month after South Africans went to the polls, President Cyril Ramaphosa finally announced his new Cabinet for the Government of National Unity (GNU) on 30 June. Speculation was rife that Pandor might continue in her role in spite of publicly announcing her desire to retire in January, and not making it into Parliament for the African National Congress (ANC). In the end, Ramaphosa plumped for former minister of justice and constitutional development, Ronald Lamola. While he may be a new face, he's no fan of Israel either.

Lamola's tenure in the justice ministry was mostly out of the public eye. He did, however, appear on the Jewish community's radar as a leader of South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). In January, he said that Nelson Mandela would be smiling in his grave due to South Africa's exploits in The Hague.

Later, he told the BBC that there was no antisemitism in South Africa, drawing a sharp rebuke from the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD). The Board collects statistics on antisemitism, and has reported a strong uptick in incidents in South Africa since the 7 October 2023 attack on Israel by Hamas.

Deputy Minister Alvin Botes – also notorious for his anti-Israel positions – will continue in his role. The relatively unknown and young Thandi Moraka, who was previously in the Limpopo provincial legislature, has been appointed as a second deputy minister. She was a former deputy secretary-general of the ANC Youth League from 2015 to 2019.

Community leaders remain cautiously hopeful. SAJBD President Zev Krengel said, "It's just unbelievable to see the end of Pandor, who most probably was the most antisemitic minister we have seen in this country, ever. So to see her gone is a great thing for the community. Minister Lamola has made some very unpleasant comments, but my view is that he's more of a listener. He's younger. He doesn't always preach, lecture, and scold as Pandor used to do. And maybe there can be some form of understanding that South Africa's best contribution to the Middle East conflict is to be a peace partner that sees both sides and doesn't take one side against another. So I'm cautiously optimistic. The GNU is

a great thing for South Africa. To have many pro-Israel ministers around the table, it's the first time we've actually seen that since 1994."

Krengel said it was "highly unlikely" that there would be a major policy shift with regard to Israel, but "there could be a surprise for us all".

Rolene Marks, the spokesperson for the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), said Pandor's departure "represents a positive development. Her tenure was marked by engagements with regimes that sponsor global terrorism such as Iran, cordial relations with autocratic leaders, and an obsession with bashing Israel on the international stage. However, the appointment of Ronald Lamola ... raises concerns that the anti-Israel stance of the previous administration will persist. As minister of justice, Lamola supported South Africa's case at the ICJ, which included unsubstantiated allegations against Israel. It's therefore unlikely that the new government will withdraw this unfounded case.

"Despite these apprehensions," Marks said, the SAZF noted that the new coalition "includes ministers from the Patriotic Alliance and the Inkatha Freedom Party, both of which have demonstrated a more balanced or supportive stance towards Israel. The SAZF is hopeful that this diverse representation will lead to improved relations and a reduction in the hostility that characterised Pandor's tenure."

Analysts are predicting continuity in the GNU. "I don't see any drastic changes in foreign policy" said Gustavo de Carvalho, senior researcher at the South African Institute of International Affairs, including strong support for the Palestinians. "Historically this was one of the [issues] where there was little deviation. It has been a consistent position for the past 30 years, arguably the most critical non-African foreign policy file in South Africa."

Professor Hussein Solomon at the University of the Free State agreed. "Lamola has already made it clear that he will continue in terms of foreign policy," he said. "He was also there at the ICJ, so I don't expect a change in terms of the Middle East policy. My sense is this GNU isn't going to work, frankly. Let's see if it's



still around in December."

"I anticipate the potential for increased clarity in South Africa's foreign policy positions and relations," said De Carvalho.

SA bucks global trend of antisemitism

>>Continued from page 1

anything I've ever experienced in South Africa," she said.

South African Jewry for the most part continue to live without fear, unlike many people around the world who exercise caution when wearing kippot and Stars of David in public, for example, Milner said.

"Hostility from the former ruling party, the African National Congress [ANC], isn't reflected among ordinary people on the ground in South Africa," she said.

Overall, a total of 78 incidents were recorded during the first six months of 2024. According to Saks, this is significantly higher than normal, when incidents for the entire year generally average between 60 and 70, and is due to fairly frequent attacks against the community in January and February.

"What sets South Africa apart is the normalisation of anti-Zionism and related antisemitic rhetoric at the highest levels of government and among the elite, which emboldens antisemitic actions," Rosenberg said. "Few other countries, share this characteristic – Colombia, Ireland, and Chile are some examples.

"Unfortunately, South Africa has become a trendsetter in erasing distinctions between anti-Zionism and antisemitism," she said.

"The South African government's unprecedented decision to bring the false charge of genocide against Israel to the International Court of Justice is a prime example. We should be cautious of this growing hostility, and work to distinguish legitimate political critique from hate speech, ensuring the safety and inclusion of Jewish communities."

There are additional tools to measure antisemitism, Rosenberg said. "Another indicator is how populations view Jews," she said, citing the ADL's recently released

"Unlike the previous administration, which could afford to present more ambiguous positions on certain topics, the current political landscape demands a more transparent approach. The ANC will have less capacity to determine foreign policy priorities entirely on its own. This means probably giving more autonomy to the department of international relations and cooperation [DIRCO]. And Parliament should become more involved, primarily through the International Relations [IR] Committee. It will be interesting to see whether the IR portfolio in Parliament will be given to another party."

Many in the Jewish community were hoping for change and perhaps even someone from another party, but this ministry was too important to the ANC to compromise. The new DIRCO team should be given a chance, but expectations for a radical turnaround on Israel policy are unrealistic.

J7 Survey of antisemitic attitudes conducted across seven countries with large Jewish communities – the US, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Australia, Canada, and Argentina.

"Nearly 40% of respondents in J7 countries believe in six or more antisemitic conspiracy theories," she said.

"A majority of respondents [56%] believe the age-old antisemitic trope that Jews are more loyal to Israel than their country of residence. The percentage of respondents who think that 'Jews are responsible for most of the world's wars' is at an all-time high."

Other important indicators are how Jews feel, and how governments respond to antisemitism.

"In South Africa, antisemitism skyrocketed 631% between October and December 2023 compared to the previous year. Since the Durban Conference in 2001, South Africa has experienced notable trends of antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment, reflecting in government rhetoric and strategies implemented post-7 October," she said.

The fact that for the first time since 1994, representatives of the Jewish community were excluded from government and the ANC's pre-election interfaith events – including the ANC's refusal to take part in an election debate organised by the Board because it was being held in the Old Synagogue section of the South African Jewish Museum – was indicative of a souring attitude towards South African Jewry on the part of the previous administration, said Saks.

"We'll wait to see whether this was an aberration or a sign of things to come. I would anticipate the former, now that we've entered a new political era," he said.

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So GNU – now what?

OPINION

HOWARD SACKSTEIN



He was, of course, late again. President Cyril Ramaphosa's much awaited Cabinet announcement didn't start on time, but no-one was surprised.

The announcement of the Cabinet signalled important messages. Democracy had withstood the onslaught of a bruising election and an African National Congress (ANC) loss. The ANC was willing to share power, and it was doing so with predominately "white" parties such as the Democratic Alliance (DA) and the Freedom Front Plus (FFP). More importantly, it demonstrated that the ANC would move the country away from the extremism and populism of Julius Malema's Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) party. Sanity had prevailed, and South Africa had avoided the iceberg, at least for now.

Looking tired, Ramaphosa rattled off the names of South Africa's next executive, cobbled together as an unwieldy coalition of 11 parties, each pursuing their own positions, power, access to resources, and patronage for their supporters.

South Africa's Government of National Unity (GNU) looked like a hybrid animal somewhere between a buffalo and an antelope, akin to a wildebeest or what the Khoisan refer to as a Gnu.

The president, deputy president, 32 Cabinet ministers, and 42 deputy ministers constitute a hugely bloated executive, pandering to the needs of all of the coalition partners. The ANC had kept all of the juicy Cabinet positions and government departments that would drive desperately needed economic growth for itself. Many of the ANC's corrupt and incompetent ministers had returned to the Cabinet in superficial disguise, some in military camouflage, some in petrol-attendant outfits, but it looked a little like putting lipstick on a pig.

To have the DA's leader, John Steenhuisen, miraculously appear as minister of agriculture and the FFP's leader, Pieter Groenewald, manifest as minister of correctional services, seemed like sidelining potential talent.

If nothing else, Ramaphosa is a realist. Coalitions are formed from necessity not desire. After his disastrous first

term as president and leading his party to a devastating election implosion, Ramaphosa needed to keep the ANC in power, making as few concessions as possible, creating a stable government, and steering it away from the dangers of parties that wished to repeal the Constitution, destroy the independence of the judiciary, and lead the country to inevitable economic collapse.

For that, he needed 201 seats in South Africa's 400 seat National Assembly. Given his difficult circumstances, Ramaphosa outsmarted his opponents. In the 2024 election, the ANC suffered a crushing blow, being decimated by a 17.5% decline in electoral support and dropping to a mere 159 seats in the National Assembly. Years of corruption, greed, and incompetence had finally taken its toll on the once mighty ANC, and the myth of invincibility surrounding South Africa's liberation movement was finally shattered.

In spite of the ANC losing 17.5% of voter support, the DA fared poorly, attracting almost none of that support, improving its electoral performance by a mere 1% and stealing its new voters not from the black middle class, but from right-wing Afrikaners, who abandoned the FFP to return to the bleached seats of the DA. The DA landed up with 87 members in Parliament.

The ANC needed an additional 42 seats to remain in power. The president feared the radical and reactionary views of the MK and EFF parties together with the instability those parties would bring his government.

The horse trading for positions and power began. The DA negotiated poorly, constantly changing its position, from not desiring Cabinet posts to changing the number of ministries it wanted in Cabinet. Knowing that Steenhuisen was desperate to "save South Africa" from what he termed a "doomsday coalition" of the ANC, EFF, and MK, his hand was significantly weakened. A divergence of views existed within the party between those desiring the DA to be a "super

opposition" controlling oversight of the executive through Parliament, and Steenhuisen's wish to govern the country.

The ANC strategy was simple. As long as it had the ace of the DA in its back pocket, it could ensure that it was never subject to the extravagant demands of the EFF and MK. But Ramaphosa feared dependence on the DA from both a political and perception perspective. The optics of a GNU was more palatable to the ANC than coalition with the DA itself.

In order to neuter the leverage of the DA, the ANC needed to build a grand coalition of smaller parties which could provide it a 201 seat majority in Parliament even without the DA. The inclusion of the Inkatha Freedom Party, the Patriotic Alliance, the FFP, and the rats-and-mice smaller parties, got the ANC into a cobbled-together coalition of 201 of the 400 seats in Parliament, even without the DA. This move neutered the DA, diminished its leverage, and forced it to accept a lesser role in government.

As we find our way in the new political reality, here are 10 things to look out for in these uncharted waters:

- The GNU agreement requires "sufficient consensus" between the coalition partners on government's programme of action, consensus being 60% of coalition support. Whether this makes the country ungovernable is an interesting question;
- The ANC and its leaders used the coffers of the country as a personal piggy bank to loot and pillage the wealth of the country. Whether the new coalition can stem the tide of greed and corruption is an important question;
- The ANC retaining Cabinet responsibility for mining, transport, foreign affairs, housing, and trade – all previously unmitigated disasters. Attracting foreign investment and stimulating the economy will be a significant challenge;
- For the DA, being in Cabinet gives it Hobson's choice. Being in the tent has muted its ability to challenge and criticise the government. Retaining its support while being a partner to the ANC will be onerous;
- Ramaphosa's future is in doubt. Having proven himself an ineffective leader and presiding over the ANC's electoral decline, Ramaphosa's future looks bleak. He seems determined not to be removed from office, to appoint his own successor, and to become chairperson of the G20 in 2025, allowing him a dignified exit thereafter;
- The greatest loser was the EFF. The party suffered a significant decline in the polls, lost its mantle as the radical opposition, and will ultimately lose its

privileged position as coalition partner in Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, and eThekweni, thereby depriving it of key sources of revenue to fund the activities of the party and the lavish lifestyles of its leaders;

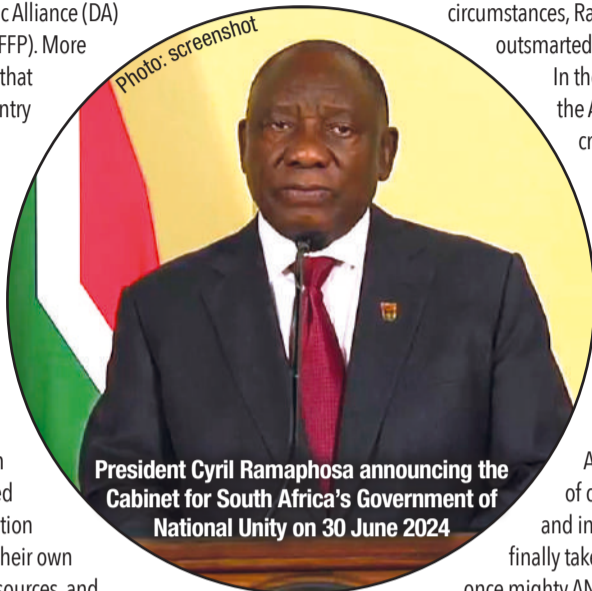
- MK's election success may be short lived. It provided a new home for many Zulu speakers, but achieved little electoral success beyond the ethno-cultural confines of the Zulu nation. Its leader, Jacob Zuma, is 82, albeit in far better physical and/or mental shape than Joe Biden and Donald Trump, but he won't remain vital and active forever. MK has five years to transform itself into a real party, with real leadership and support beyond its exclusive Zulu mandate;
- For many of the rats-and-mice parties, being part of a GNU may well spell their death knell. Patricia de Lille's GOOD party proved the point when she joined the previous Ramaphosa administration. Being in Cabinet deprives you of a platform, and many of the smaller parties may not survive another election;
- The role of opposition in the new Parliament will fall to the MK party as official opposition and the radical fringe disrupting EFF. With the DA in government, the role of loyal logical opposition will fall to Mmusi Maimane's Build One South Africa and Herman Mashaba's ActionSA;
- Coalitions don't last forever, and none of the ANC's election partners will want to fight the next elections stymied by their association with the ANC. At some point, the coalition must crumble, and the partners must return to their role as opponents, albeit probably keeping the ANC in power through a supply and confidence agreement.

There are forces desperate to scupper the GNU. At least one media house, funded by the Public Investment Corporation in questionable circumstances during the Zuma years, seems hell bent on painting the GNU as a capitulation to the white monopoly capital. One hopes that South Africans are smarter than to fall for another Bell Pottinger style disinformation campaign.

But countries aren't built by disinterested presidents. To build a country, we need some real leadership, something we haven't seen in quite a while.

Sitting in our game vehicle watching the migration of the GNU through the African savanna, let's buckle our seatbelts, this is going to be bumpy. We may as well sit back and enjoy the ride.

• Howard Sackstein is the chairperson of the SA Jewish Report, but writes in his personal capacity.



President Cyril Ramaphosa announcing the Cabinet for South Africa's Government of National Unity on 30 June 2024

French Jews squeezed from far-right and left

NICOLA MILTZ

"It's not a good time for French Jews," says a French Jewish businessman who has strong ties to South Africa and lived in Johannesburg many years ago.

Father of three, Laurent Lamy, 56, who lives in Paris, told the SA Jewish Report French Jews were in a vulnerable, confusing space.

"Things are bad, and it's getting worse and worse," Lamy said this week.

The uncertainty follows the latest French legislative elections on 30 June, which dramatically altered the political scene, potentially having massive implications for the French Jewish community.

The far-right National Rally party, under controversial politician Marine Le Pen, zoomed ahead after the first round of voting at the weekend, raising the prospect that a party with staunch antisemitic roots will command a majority in Parliament.

Le Pen's party got about 34% of the vote, followed by a coalition of left-wing – and anti-Israel – parties, the New Popular Front, which got 29%.

President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party, Renaissance, came in third with 22%.

The results were unfortunate for Macron, who called the snap election less than three weeks ago following National Rally's strong showing in elections for the European Parliament. In that election, the far-right parties had gains across the continent.

Macron's hopes to impede the far-right's rise backfired.

National Rally was founded more than 50 years ago by Le Pen's father, Jean Marie Le Pen, who has repeatedly been convicted of antisemitic hate speech and accused of being a Holocaust denier. Le Pen has steadfastly tried to distance herself and the party from him to revitalise its image and attract more voters.

The party vehemently opposes immigration, and has supported Israel following the Hamas massacre of 7 October. Having said this,

French Jews remain sceptical. Many Jews also regard the far-left coalition with enormous suspicion.

The left-wing coalition, known as the New Popular Front, comprises various factions with a history of anti-Israel sentiment. It poses risks for France's foreign policy, relations with Israel, and the well-being of its Jewish community, say political insiders.



National Rally party leader Marine Le Pen with party president Jordan Bardella

The New Popular Front includes Jean-Luc Mélenchon's France Unbowed; the Greens; Socialists; and Communists. These factions, particularly under Mélenchon's leadership, have a history of strong anti-Israel rhetoric. Mélenchon's party has been particularly vocal in its criticism of Israel, accusing it of human rights violations, and it has been a staunch supporter of Palestinian causes, often framing his viewpoint in a way that critics argue crosses the line into antisemitism.

As the country grapples with a fragmented political scene, the rise of both far-right and far-left forces raises questions about the future of Jewish life in France and the country's stance toward the Middle East.

This, together with rising antisemitic incidents, is cause for concern, say many.

Following the success of the National Rally Party in Sunday's first round of French parliamentary elections, Grande Synagogue of Paris Chief Rabbi Moshe Sebbag cast doubt on the future of Jews in France, and said the youth should immigrate to Israel or other safer countries.

"Le Pen may have perfect speech regarding Israel, but history tells you a different story when people like this get into power," said Lamy.

Though Macron's primary objective is to prevent the far-right National Rally from gaining more power, aligning with the extreme left, he said, would be like committing treason for Jews, who have been alienated by its vehement anti-Israel stance.

"It's about power and politics," said a French-speaking Johannesburg businessman who recently made aliya and wishes to remain anonymous.

"The far-right wants to get into power and will do and say anything. Traditionally, it hated the Jews but right now, it hates the Arabs more. It's a very uncertain time.

"My family carry on with their daily lives, but the situation is troubling for them," he said.

Said Lamy, "I've been living in France since 1970, and this is the worst time I've had in my life as a French Jew. I live in a safe neighbourhood, but there's hatred all around. For the first time, I fear for my kids, especially if they wear a Star of David".

French Jews are still reeling from the rape of a 12-year-old Jewish girl by two teenage boys in a suburb of Paris on 29 June, which led Jewish groups to take to the streets to protest rising antisemitism.

The second round of voting on 7 July, in which the top two candidates in each constituency face each other in a runoff, will determine the makeup of France's National Assembly, the lower house of Parliament. Sunday's results suggest that the National Rally could get an absolute majority, allowing it to choose the country's prime minister. Le Pen's candidate is Jordan Bardella, 28. If elected, he will replace Gabriel Attal, who took office only in January and has Jewish ancestry.

Financing terror in the Rainbow Nation

OPINION

PROFESSOR HUSSEIN SOLOMON



While South Africans remained engrossed in the formation of a Government of National Unity, the Financial Intelligence Centre has just released details of South Africa's National Terrorism Financing Risk Assessment (TF NRA) for 2024. It makes for sombre reading.

The TF NRA is an interdepartmental product approved at Cabinet level, and consists of inputs from several government agencies and the private sector. Two years ago, the NRA deemed terrorist finance to be a moderate risk. The 2024 TF NRA however, has South Africa at high risk.

While their relative candour is laudable, truth be told, South Africa isn't at high risk of terrorist financing, South Africa has been at the core of global terrorist financing for more than two decades. This, I made clear in my book *Jihad: A South African Perspective* more than a decade ago. While the 2024 assessment speaks about South Africa's unique vulnerabilities, none of this is new. In 2008, the Combating Terrorism Centre at Westpoint Military Academy was already pointing to our 4 862km of land borders and 2 798km of coastline as a security threat. The creation of the Border Management Authority (BMA) on 21 July 2021 to beef up our land and maritime borders seemed to have no effect to the masses entering our territory. The estimated five million illegal immigrants in the country speaks to this failure of control.

The authority's failure is related to it being under-resourced, not properly trained, nor using technology effectively to control borders. However, even if the BMA was effective, it simply wouldn't be able to stem the tide of undesirables entering our borders because of another vulnerability identified by the TF NRA – the abuse of South Africa's refugee and asylum system as well as legitimate identity documents acquired by terrorists or terrorist sympathisers through corrupt Home Affairs officials. Again, this isn't some new vulnerability. In my book, I describe the case of Libyan national and Al Qaeda financier Ibrahim Tantouch, who bribed his way into South Africa in 2005.

The 2024 TF NRA also speaks of the danger of unregistered charities engaged in terrorist financing. Again, this isn't something new. While in South Africa, Tantouch established two charities – the Afghan Support

Committee and the Revival of Islamic Society – ostensibly to assist orphans. Following investigation, it was found that the orphans were either dead or non-existent, and both charities were merely Al Qaeda financing fronts. The assessment also speaks of how natural resources, remittances, and diasporas may be used for terrorist financing. Again, this isn't a risk, but has been a reality for years. Hezbollah has been involved in raising funds through diaspora communities in Africa and remittances for decades, and has funded its operations through blood diamonds, also in South Africa.



Cryptocurrency and crowdfunding platforms have been used to finance terrorist organisations

To be frank, with the exception of raising concerns around crypto asset platforms and crowdfunding and their potential as vehicles for terrorist financing, there's nothing in this report which can be construed as new. If anything, recent cases suggest that South Africa has become more integrated into global terrorist networks. Following the collapse of their caliphate in Raqqa, Islamic State has shifted its operations onto the African continent. From the Sahel to East Africa and onto the Democratic Republic of the Congo and northern Mozambique, Islamic State operations have expanded exponentially – ever closer to South Africa's borders. Meanwhile, South Africa has emerged as the locus of Islamic State funding for all its African franchises. It should perhaps be emphasised that the country's seeming inability to curb such terrorist financing contradicts both its national legislation and its international commitments, as the

TF NRA makes clear. Under the circumstances, the 2024 assessment is absolutely correct when stating that the country, "... is considered to be a hub or transit point for financial flows between terror suspects in the region".

South Africa's vulnerability according to the TF NRA and the reason why groups like Islamic State feel comfortable operating in the country relates to the nexus between organised crime and corruption and the intimate ties which have developed between terror groups and organised crime syndicates. Islamic State, the assessment notes has been quite adept at raising funds through criminal activities – from kidnapping and extortion to smuggling. Contrary to concerns expressed about so-called "ungoverned spaces" from Western capitals, terrorist groups thrive in a functional but corrupted state, one where politicians and key government functionaries can be easily bribed, one where in spite of the anti-terrorism rhetoric prevailing or existing counter-terrorism legislative frameworks, these are rarely or ineffectively implemented.

In this context, licit commerce is subverted for nefarious ends, and terrorism goes undetected. South Africa fits the bill. On a scale of 1 to 10, South Africa scores 7.18 on the Global Organized Crime Index. The country is also slipping on all indicators pertaining to corruption and transparency. It was for this reason that South Africa was greylisted by the Financial Action Task Force in February 2023, given its inability to curb money-laundering and terrorist finance. Given the current high-risk conclusion from the TF NRA, it's highly likely that South Africa will remain on the grey list next year when its case is to be reviewed.

All this was avoidable. In spite of its public pronouncements and enactment of new legislative frameworks aiming to curb terrorist financing, the African National Congress government has been unable to implement any of it effectively. The formation of a new government will hopefully result in the appointment of skilled professionals, especially in the intelligence and security cluster, who are appointed on the basis of what they know as opposed to who they know.

• Professor Hussein Solomon is senior professor at the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, University of the Free State.

Here's to next 25 years of newsmakers and achievers

LEE TANKLE

This is a mammoth year for the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards and the *SA Jewish Report*. We celebrate 25 years of the newspaper, the awards, and the *SA Jewish Report's* contribution to the South African Jewish community locally and internationally.

Robbie Brozin accepting the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award



Photo: Ilan Ossendryver

The Absa Jewish Achiever Awards this year won't just recognise 10 outstanding achievers, but the remarkable achievements of the South African Jewish community over the past 25 years. This year, this most loved event on the Jewish calendar will honour 25 years of the South African Jewish community's contribution to post-apartheid South Africa.

"For 25 years, the *SA Jewish Report* has been working for the community, delivering news, access to information,

and community events," says Howard Sackstein, the chairperson of the *SA Jewish Report* and the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards.

"While we honour 10 unique and outstanding individuals, we will take a nostalgic look at 25 years of winners," said Sackstein. "We'll consider the women and men who contributed to

art, sport, science, entrepreneurship, business, and humanitarian and community work.

"This will be a time to sit back and reflect on such a remarkable achievement for our community and a milestone for South Africa and what we do for the country," said Sackstein.

"Over the past 25 years, we have almost created a catalogue of what a community can do for a country," said Sackstein, "how you can grow it, celebrate excellence, and push people further and

higher to achieve greatness.

"To experience what will be phenomenal and different this year," Sackstein said, "you are going to have to come and see for yourself. You should know that it will be nostalgic, emotional, and meaningful."

This year's nominees will be among the greatest the community has to offer. "Nominees will be held in the same high esteem as the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Robbie Brozin, not only for his incredible work with Nando's but also for his work in reimagining what Johannesburg could look like," said Sackstein.

"We recognise people like media personality Mandy Wiener; or Sir Mick Davis, who has built one of the largest mining empires in the world; business mogul Sol Kerzner; Wendy Fisher for her humanitarian contribution; or Marc Lubner for his humanitarian contribution to South Africa," said Sackstein. "We've recognised in the past people like musical legend Johnny Clegg and internationally acclaimed artist William Kentridge; and entrepreneurs like Brett and Mark Levy from Blue Label.

"We want to keep on highlighting people of the same calibre year after year, and the only way for us to do so is to have the community nominate those whom it believes are giants in the community."

Twenty-five years is a remarkable feat for any newspaper in a world where print is mostly not popular or profitable, Sackstein said, so it's "important that we

take this look back at 25 years of success to keep our community moving forward".

He said that after 25 years of the Jewish Achiever Awards – no small feat – he's repeatedly asked whether everyone remarkable in our community has already been recognised, but "every year, we come up with new names, new individuals, new innovators, and new entrepreneurs who are driving our community and the country further".

"We look for the unique, the great, those who never accept mediocrity but who strive for greatness," said Sackstein, "We're looking for people who have had impact and significance in their field.

"Whether that be a remarkable young person for our Rising Star category or an exceptional woman in the Europcar Women in Leadership category. They can be entrepreneurs, humanitarians, community service people, or business leaders. We want the cream of the crop."

Thirty judges spread across 10 categories spanning business, leadership, humanitarian efforts, sport, art and culture, community service, women in leadership, and finally youth, will sift through all the nominations, interview the candidates, and create role models for the community.

Sackstein urges everyone to identify and celebrate the greatness in our community and the contribution these people have made to South Africa by nominating them, starting this week. To nominate, go to <https://bit.ly/ja2024nom>

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The tribe has spoken

We're all too quick to shrug our shoulders and say there's nothing we can do when we're unhappy about something. As South Africans, we even apologise when we haven't even done anything wrong.

We invariably don't complain to the people in charge when we get abominable service, and then go back for more because it's convenient. However, back home, we whinge and moan about the service until the cows come home. How on earth do we expect anything to change if we don't address it with the right people?

If we get bad service, we need to complain to management and if it doesn't do the right thing, we shouldn't return. We need to vote with our feet. Go elsewhere. And if we don't complain, we have no right to expect things to change or be different. It's a bit like tripping over something once, and then repeating it again and again. If you did it once, and learnt your lesson, you wouldn't make the same mistake twice. Right?

I remember before our elections, people were going on about how it was inevitable the African National Congress (ANC) was going to win again because that's what happens in South Africa. Well, it didn't get its majority, and won only 40% of the vote, so clearly South Africans have learnt their lesson. We may take a while, but we do eventually learn. Change can happen if we demand it.

And now we have a new Government of National Unity (GNU), which at this stage looks positive. Consider the position of minister of international relations and cooperation, one always relevant to us and our relationship with Israel. We were hoping beyond hope – I know I was – that Dr Naledi Pandor wasn't going to be brought back into that position. In this case, our wish was granted. But I guess one must be careful what one wishes for, considering that the new minister, Ronald Lamola, recently blatantly denied there was any antisemitism in South Africa. As the saying goes, "There are none so blind as those who will not see."

I guess we need to give him a chance to do his job. Here's hoping he will prove to be much better at it than we expect. And if he isn't, it's up to us to stand up and not let him get away with it.

In one week, I went to a protest in Tel Aviv, in which the people were demanding that the hostages be brought home and the government is changed, and a protest in Johannesburg. The latter was far smaller, in which residents demanded that the local powers that be fix our water problem after nine days without water in our suburb.

In both instances, there was a great sense of camaraderie among protesters. The police, who were initially mostly sympathetic, got frustrated with the protesters because they felt they were pushing the line.

However, in both cases, there was a sense among protesters that they were at least doing something in demanding change. They all felt proud to stand up and be counted and not just accept something they found offensive. Many pointed out that others feel the same but are too complacent to come out every week.

There was clear sense of community at both protests, with the bond being their sense of joint injustice at the situation and determination to fight for change. The communities looked very different, and they were, but the sense of purpose was the same.

In Israel, I felt the deep despair of Israelis about their situation. No matter how much Israelis love their country – and they do – they are *gatvol* of being at war. For so many of them, they are angry that the government has let the war go on for so long and allowed the damage it has wrought on the Israeli people.

As one wise man I met on the Gaza border said, "It's time we stopped arguing about everything and found our way to secure Israel's future. We'll never totally agree with one another. Let's say you will always be convinced of 11, and I will always believe in five. The good thing is we both have numbers, and can agree on that. So, we should be focusing on what we agree on, and trying to find a way forward with that. Then, in a decade, once we have fixed our country's problems, we can look at the difference between five and 11, and solve that."

This made total sense to me. He also said the best leaders are those who wake up every morning concerned only with their country's people and what works best for them. Not leaders with big egos. Not leaders with an axe to grind. Not leaders with something to prove to others. Israel, he said, needs a leader whose sole purpose is the betterment of his people – all the people in his country.

Israelis, for the most part, don't believe they have that right at the moment. Hence, the inevitable protests around the country many times a week.

South Africa's new government gives us hope. The ANC is still predominantly in the driver's seat, but the Democratic Alliance, Inkatha Freedom Party, Patriotic Alliance, and other parties are also in government, and this is a good sign.

However, we still have suburbs that don't have water for upwards of nine days. We still have potholes and failing infrastructure. Will this change? Will we allow it to stagnate and not move forward?

The truth is, it's up to us! We voted the GNU in, and we need to ensure that it lives up to its promises. Will its leaders wake up every morning with their only concern being our welfare? We don't know yet.

I can't see President Cyril Ramaphosa suddenly changing his spots, but perhaps with the other parties keeping things clean, he just might live up to previous expectations.

If not, we need to take to the streets and protest. Or find some other way of making our voices heard. The tribe has spoken, as said in reality television show, *Survivor*. Let's see what happens next.



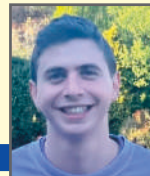
Shabbat Shalom!

Peta Krost
Editor

After much hard Labour, British Jews have options

OPINION

JACK LUBNER



If you've caught a glimpse of the general election campaign in Britain this week, you might have noticed the word "change" splashed across your screen. The Labour Party's messaging is dead simple: after 14 years of Conservative government, it's time for change. A change of government, a change to our political culture, and – if polls are to be believed – a dramatic change to our party system, the likes of which is historically unprecedented.

But underpinning all of that is the dramatic, fundamental, and irreversible change to the Labour Party itself under Keir Starmer's leadership.

I know how much the party has changed because I have seen it firsthand.

I first joined the Labour Party in 2016 as a 15-year-old, believing, as I do today, that Labour is Britain's best vehicle for progressive change.

But as a Jewish member, I was appalled at then-leader Jeremy Corbyn's approach to antisemitism and the rising tide of anti-Jewish racism within the party membership.

What was the right thing to do? Was it better to leave on a point of principle or stay and fight, even if it seemed futile?

Unbeknown to me, an organisation named the Jewish Labour Movement (JLM) – Labour's Jewish affiliate of 100 years – was grappling with the same question. Its answer, however, was resolute: you don't solve anything by walking away.

In September 2017, I went to my first major Labour Party event as a volunteer with JLM. It was the annual Labour Party conference, held along the Brighton seafront. For many Corbyn-supporting delegates, the event was one of jubilation – the party had performed unexpectedly well in the snap election held just a few months previously.

But for the Jewish members gathered there, it couldn't have been more different.

A fringe event flirted with Holocaust denial; someone handed out leaflets quoting Reinhard Heydrich. In one especially toxic episode, I was physically harassed and had antisemitic abuse shouted at me. Looking back now, I'm not sure why I didn't leave and never come back.



What I experienced wasn't unique and paled in comparison to the abuse experienced by other Jewish members and MPs, especially women. We felt we had to choose between our community and our party.

But JLM and its allies across the Labour movement dug their heels in and fought like hell. We fought for the soul of the Labour Party, the Jewish community, and the country.

Over the following two years, we resolved that if the Labour leadership couldn't be trusted to police its own party, then someone else would have to do it for them.

So, we compiled thousands of pages of evidence, helped in the end by incredibly brave party staffers who were prepared to blow the whistle on what they were seeing in the dysfunctional disciplinary processes.

Our submission was considered by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, set up under Tony Blair's Labour government. After many months of deliberation, it made an unprecedented ruling: Labour had broken the equality law in its treatment

of Jewish members. The party was given a set of legally binding actions to follow.

In the intervening period, Labour had suffered its worst defeat since 1935 under the leadership of Corbyn. The country had comprehensively rejected Labour's implausible policies, the anti-Western stance of its leadership and, of course, its antisemitism.

Out of the ashes of that defeat, a new leader came along, elected by a landslide and promising change.

In Starmer's first speech as Labour leader, delivered by video message due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he promised to tear antisemitism out by its roots. He said the test for success would be whether those Jewish members who had to leave the party felt safe enough to return.

But ultimately, it was actions not words which would count.

Starmer set to work straight away. The dysfunctional disciplinary system, which had been subject to political interference, was replaced with an independent process. Finally, members who had engaged in antisemitism began to be expelled en masse. Organisations that engaged in antisemitism denial were proscribed.

Corbyn, having been leader of the party just months before, lost the Labour whip after downplaying the extent of antisemitism in the party. Starmer meant business.

Three years later, in February 2023, the Equality and Human Rights Commission announced that Labour had been taken out of special measures. Having fulfilled all of the report's obligations, it now had a clean bill of health.

Luciana Berger, a Jewish Labour MP who had been bullied out of the party in 2019, decided it was time to return.

Candidates who were unsuitable to be MPs were barred from running, and the leadership rules were changed to prevent a future hard-left leadership.

But Starmer recognised that changing the Labour Party was about more than just structural change, it was about culture too. And an organisation's culture is set from the top.

Because of his leadership, and the hard work of Jewish members and MPs over many years, the Labour Party of 2024 is unrecognisable to the party of 2019.

I think the moment this truly hit home for me was when I returned to the party conference in 2023. As we were gearing up to a giddy final pre-election conference, the unthinkable happened.

Hamas's appalling terrorist attack on 7 October took place the day before the conference started. As we watched the harrowing scenes unfold, our blood ran cold, and we worried for our future.

But the atmosphere inside the conference and the support for Israel was remarkable. When a moment's silence was held in the conference hall for the

hostages and the victims of Hamas's attacks, you could have heard a pin drop.

At the Labour Friends of Israel vigil two days later, the entire leadership and shadow Cabinet were present. One thousand party members showed up, and another thousand queued outside.

Amidst some of the worst days imaginable, we saw that our party had our back.

So as Britain's Jews prepare to vote on Thursday, 4 July, the choice on the ballot paper couldn't be more different to 2019.

Where Corbyn was once Labour leader, he has now been expelled and is running as an independent. Where hard-left fantasies once adorned the pages of Corbyn's manifesto, Starmer's plan puts fiscal discipline and credible policies first.

But most of all, where once we had to vote as British Jews, at this election, our community has a choice again.

• Jack Lubner is the South of England organiser at the Jewish Labour Movement. Recently, he was elected national chairperson of Young Labour.

New UCT Council must repeal lame-duck anti-Israel resolution



TREVOR NORWITZ

OPINION

Six months ago, I resigned as chairperson of the University of Cape Town (UCT) Fund, where I had served my *alma mater* for more than 20 years. I did so because the UCT Council, the university's highest governing body, issued a statement on the war between Israel and Hamas which was so detached from reality and so morally repugnant, I could no longer in good conscience be associated with UCT.

deplorable, but it is highly irresponsible of them to seek to put the new council and the incoming vice-chancellor in a difficult situation.

Regarding the substance of the resolutions, which were recommended by the UCT senate – or at least those members who showed up to vote – it's unfortunate that so many of UCT's senior academics are ignorant, misinformed, intellectually dishonest, morally bankrupt or antisemitic, or some combination of all of the above.

The widespread ignorance or misinformation is obvious but inexcusable given the amount of information available. Supporting the genocidal terrorists, mass murderers,

and rapists of Hamas over the state of Israel is all you need to show utter moral degradation. The intellectual dishonesty is evident in their misleading and amusingly ironic straw-man argument against "the attempts to curtail academic freedom by labelling criticism of Israel or Zionist policies as antisemitism" and their mischaracterisation of the widely-accepted International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, which explicitly states that "criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic". It's a shame that this is what much of the UCT academic body has sunk to, but I'm hopeful that when the current tidal wave of antisemitism has passed, many of those who supported this perversity will come to their senses.

pursue their intended function *as fora* for education, research, debate, and learning, and are refraining from taking stands on political issues not directly related to their institutional functions. If UCT does the opposite, will it then weigh in on other global political situations, or will it continue to reserve all of its vitriol for the nation state of the Jewish people?

If not repealed quickly, these resolutions will almost certainly add fundraising challenges, and perhaps even have legal implications, potentially resulting in UCT being added to the list of Boycott,

Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) supporting organisations under many United States state anti-BDS laws. I'm no expert on South African discrimination law, but one has to wonder if they would pass muster under those too.

Let's hope for the sake of UCT and education in South Africa that the incoming council members are wiser and more moral than their predecessors.

• Trevor Norwitz is a lawyer in New York City and teaches at Columbia Law School. He grew up in Cape Town and attended UCT, and was Chair of the UCT Fund from 2004 to 2024.



Anti-Israel protesters calling for an academic boycott of Israel in March 2024

Last Saturday, the council adopted two resolutions, one a potpourri of anti-Israel invective, Hamas propaganda, calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and rejection of the definition of antisemitism most widely accepted by Jewish and many other people; and the other effectively amounting to a blanket boycott of all Israeli academic institutions.

Since my resignation, I have remained engaged with senior administration officials at UCT, and I believe these recent council resolutions don't reflect the majority position of UCT's leaders but resulted from the opportunistic hijacking of the UCT Council by a minority of lame-duck members. It's a sad example of the depths to which those who hate Israel will stoop. There's hope, however, that the new council, which has just this week taken its place, will set UCT on a more rational and moral course. I strongly urge it to do so.

As I understand it, these anti-Israel resolutions were added late to the agenda for the very last meeting of the current council – which happened to coincide with a Springbok rugby match – and were passed by a narrow majority of a bare quorum, a

minority of the full council, most of whom are likely not returning to the newly elected council. In other words, those on the outgoing council who support Hamas over Israel opportunistically pushed through these undeniably highly contentious – and I would say morally despicable – resolutions, purporting to speak for the entire university. They effectively tossed in a few hand grenades on their way out the door. Not only is this procedurally



Support for Hamas on display at the University of Cape Town

One of the first actions the newly constituted council must take is to repeal these disgraceful resolutions. And it must do so before the new vice-chancellor takes up his position in October. It's most unfair to expect him to start his leadership of UCT with a suicide belt strapped to him. Aside from the obvious problems noted above, these resolutions distinguish UCT negatively in the academic world. Most universities are adopting policies that will

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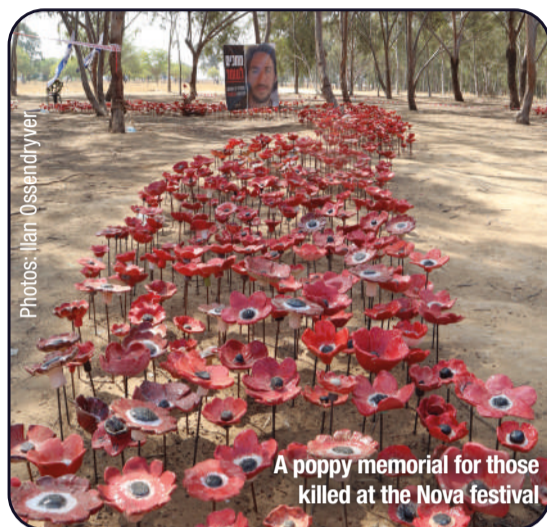
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One-man mission to tell story of Nova

PETA KROST

Being at the site of the Nova festival is nothing short of heartbreaking. Every step you take, you are walking on land on which young people were brutalised, raped, and murdered, but no matter what happened, they were terrified beyond anything they had experienced before.



A poppy memorial for those killed at the Nova festival

There were more than 3 000 mostly young people there on the night of 6 October, dancing and partying for peace, and they were attacked at 06:30 the following morning, leaving 364 people dead, many of whom had been raped and tortured.

Walking through the full-of-life-and-joy photographs of each of those who were murdered on 7 October is tragic, but so important. Each photograph is a tribute to a life cut short in the worst attack on Jewish lives since the Holocaust.

For Amir Chodorov, an Israeli photographer and former fighter pilot in his mid-60s, the event changed the course of his life. He wasn't there on 7 October, but was so affected by what happened, he changed his life mission to ensure that each of those killed at Nova was properly memorialised for who they were until that fateful day.

He's in the process of creating a memorial that allows people

to visit the site without a guide and understand everything that happened on that day.

Chodorov believes each person needs to have their story told to show who they were in the way their family wants to tell it. He's also determined to create a collage of all those who were killed to show them as a unique community, as a group which will forever share the end of its story.

This is already up, but changes are still being made.

"Because they aren't all soldiers or kibbutzniks, they aren't recognised as a community, and it's important for people to understand them as a community," he said. He showed that among those killed were people from the richest and poorest families

in Israel. "There were lesbian, Muslim, Bedouin, gay, Orthodox – everybody was here on this field," he said.

So, he contacted every family who lost someone there to get photographs for the collage. "Not all of them had up-to-date photographs as they may not have got their family members' phones back as most of them were destroyed or taken to Gaza," Chodorov said.

In the process, he got to know the families and, in some cases, was the person who brought mothers to the Nova site for the first time. Whatever they asked for, he tried to make happen. If they wanted their daughter to be next to her cousin in the collage, he did it. If they wanted to remove a scar in the photo, he did it.

He watched more than 450 videos of their last minutes, and gleaned an understanding of those who had been there and what really happened to the point that he has given insight and support

to the families.

Said Chodorov, "When someone tells you it was a nature party, you think about drugs and everyone being high, but it wasn't like that. There were three party areas, not one, the police were here, and everything was very much under control until Hamas descended.

"I discovered how many heroes there were here. People who could have got away, but came back to save others. The number of people who did this in their jeans and T-shirts, with no weapons, they could have got away, but they kept coming back to save lives."

Chodorov continues to help families that want to have their own unique memorial for their lost loves. He gives them advice, but believes they need to create whatever it is that will resonate with them.

He has created a large map showing the area, explaining what happened where in English and Hebrew. Then, in designated areas, he has put up signs with explanations of what happened on 7 October.

He has done it all on his own, from concept to graphics, getting the material from families,



A memorial to a couple who were killed at the Nova festival in the place their bodies were found. The saplings, planted in memory of those who were killed, are in the background.

printing it in his studio, and then hanging it at the site. He has also helped people plant memorial saplings to their loved ones. "Now it's starting to look like a young forest," he said, smiling as he overlooked this area.

One of the most shocking things



Amir Chodorov explains the background to his Nova festival massacre collage

about Nova, Chodorov said, is that there was nowhere for revellers to hide when running from Hamas terrorists because much of the land is just brown earth and a few sparse trees. There is no long grass or bushes.

He showed the *SA Jewish Report* the tiny shelter where about 28 or 30 people squashed to evade the terrorists, who then threw a grenade into it, killing most of them, leaving a handful alive among shattered bodies until they could escape.

He discovered that while many in Israel questioned where the police were on that day, there was in

festival," he said.

When the police understood what was happening, they realised that they needed to go out in force against Hamas to try and get them to retaliate, otherwise they would think they had no opposition. So, with their handguns against hundreds with automatic weapons, they rushed towards the terrorists, fighting. They called on police at the nearby town of Ofakim to come help. Then, they did all they could to get revellers out in the right direction to find safety. Twenty police officers were killed on this day, and Chodorov has memorialised them too.

He told the *SA Jewish Report* the story of a woman called Sharon, who called her brother, Eli, who was in Yavneh, and told him what was happening and that she needed his help. He rushed to Nova, and was killed with her. "There are so many similar tragic stories."

Chodorov said he had learnt that there were two phases of the 7 October attack. First, Hamas terrorists arrived, killing everyone in sight, as many as possible. The second phase, he said, was civilians from Gaza who came to steal whatever they could, rape as many women as possible and then kill them. "They tied them to the trees, raped them, and shot them."

No matter what he did in his life before this, this experience had been a total restart, Chodorov said, and all he wants to do is tell the stories of each of these innocents whose lives were taken on 7 October.

Holidays in 'What the hell!' – my volunteering experience

PERSONAL STORY

I felt strange being almost the only tourists in Tzfat in the north of Israel in the middle of June, but I wasn't expecting to be flagged down by a journalist from *Yediot Acharonot* looking to interview tourists during the war. "Aren't you worried about your safety?" he asked. I replied, "You clearly aren't worried about your safety either. You aren't wearing a bullet-proof vest!"

Tzfat was full of locals going about their daily lives, minus the throngs of tourists who usually clog up its winding medieval streets seeking the mystical Tzfat experience. Now mostly closed and eerily silent, it still has its mountain light filtered through blue glassed-doors and ornate metal gates, perhaps with extra-fervent longing by shop owners and guides for more tourists. Even the custodians of the famous synagogues were unusually chatty.

It was only two days later, while picking cherries at the evacuated Manara kibbutz in the northern panhandle, that I realised how crazy I might be to self-guide my family around Israel during a war. It seemed like the ideal way to achieve a number of conflicting goals. First, to show my 19-year-old daughter the sites in the north not covered by her Taglit Birthright trip. Second, to volunteer without



Preparing a barbecue for soldiers in Re'im

having to do the day-after-day agricultural grind of an organised group from abroad.

Finding places that need volunteers isn't hard. You join the social media feeds for Swords of Iron Volunteer Opportunities and Leket Yisroel, and they link you to WhatsApp groups for farms short of workers. The group for Kibbutz Manara posted impassioned messages calling for the harvesting of cherries in June before the year's crop was lost. The

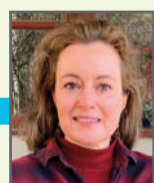
instructions said to drive to Ko'ah Junction by 09:00, then call for an escort. Atop a winding road up the Naphtali cliffs were two intersecting high concrete walls guarded by a soldier from the Israel Defense Forces who barely glanced up from his phone. After a while, a battered Subaru swung through the concrete barriers. Out stepped a tiny woman who, except for her wrinkled, tanned face and wiry physique, looked like my sister. She stared at us, and

we shared one of those only-in-Israel moments of recognition: maybe we were related?

We followed her to the kibbutz orchards, a scenic mountain road with views over the Huleh Valley, Mt Hermon, and, unmistakably on the left, views of Lebanese villages. I tried not to think: if you can see them, they can see you! The cherry groves were in the shadow of the mountains so were safe from Hezbollah rockets, I reassured myself. The work was shaded and pleasant in an atmosphere of insect-buzzy summer warmth. I was enjoying the rhythmic, bucolic mellowness, when a new thought intruded: drones! Why hadn't I thought of drones flying over the ridge and finding us here!

More hours passed, and I was ready for my escort to safety down the hill, but our kibbutznik gave us a big container of cherries to take home and a huge thanks and returned to her work. I sped along the potholed road along the Naphtali cliffs trying not to think of drones and we stopped at the Aroma Café at Ko'ah Junction for a well-earned iced coffee. Sitting down, I noticed we were the only non-military people there. The place was full of big men in

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EMMA GORDON-BLASS

Kibbutz Nir Am calls on South Africans to help rebuild

PETA KROST

"Many people compare 7 October to the Holocaust, but in fact, that day launched Israel's second War of Independence, and so much is riding on what we do from now to save our country," said Ron Maoz on Kibbutz Nir Am on the Gaza border this week.

"We need to reunite our people and connect with communities outside the country to rebuild our country," said Maoz, who was in a top marketing and business development position until 7 October.

On that day, he packed in his job to drive down south to help "save the country" on the Gaza border. "I understood that if we didn't do it, no-one would."

Maoz spent the first few weeks "bringing in gear and food and other necessities for soldiers and pulling people out of the area". He helped take 55 000 "refugees" from the south, and settle them in 70 hotels in Tel Aviv.

He has since dedicated his time to help rebuild Kibbutz Nir Am, just one kilometre from the Gaza border, which had been targeted for destruction on 7 October. However, despite it being miraculously saved from Hamas infiltration, it's now a ghost town with its inhabitants housed in Tel Aviv.

Nir Am, with the assistance of the Jewish Agency for Israel, is partnering with the South African Jewish community to help reignite its future after the devastation of this war on the areas on the Gaza border.

"It was pure luck that Hamas didn't manage to get onto our kibbutz," said Noam Rodman, who is part of the kibbutz's security leadership. "We later found out that they had a Nahkba Force [elite Hamas unit who first crossed the border on 7 October] far bigger than the one that attacked the devastated Kibbutz Be'eri [4km further from the border], but they weren't able to carry out their plan."

Initially, the kibbutzniks didn't pay too much attention to the ongoing missiles overhead, which numbered more than usual on the morning of 7 October. However, when they heard the automatic weapons shooting nearby, they realised they had a problem.

"We heard automatic weapons going off without stop, and we know that when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] shoot, they shoot one bullet at a time. So, we knew something was very wrong, and we rushed to the shelter where we keep our weapons and prepared to fight off anyone who came near our kibbutz," said Rodman.

Hamas operatives managed to get into the kibbutz's chicken hatchery, killing one worker and kidnapping another. The Druze worker who was kidnapped was Samer Talaka, 22, who was later killed by friendly fire with three other escaped hostages.

"Only two Hamas operatives managed to get onto the kibbutz, but they didn't get past us," said Rodman proudly.

Another "bit of luck" was the fact that the electricity had been taken out by a missile, jamming the main gate closed, said Rodman. "We have footage of Hamas trying to get in, but eventually giving up and going on to Sderot [a border town that was ravaged by Hamas on 7 October]."

Hamas operatives were also stopped from getting into the kibbutz by Golani soldiers, who fought off the oncoming marauders nearby. After a fierce battle, killing one soldier who dived onto a live hand grenade to save his unit, Hamas redirected its killing mission to other kibbutzim and Sderot.

However, 11 out of 12 Gazan men who worked on the fields adjoining the kibbutz were slaughtered by Hamas that Saturday morning as they worked. One was rescued by the kibbutzniks. These Gazans were from one Palestinian family who had worked for the kibbutz for many decades.

On the bodies of Hamas operatives who were killed nearby, they discovered maps of the kibbutz, showing exactly who lived where, how many in each family, their ages, and other vital information. "We believe the family who worked for us may have been forced to give this information, but they still came to work on a day they probably weren't allowed to. Whether we will ever hire Gazan workers again we cannot say now," said Rodman.

Despite this kibbutz being virtually untouched, the sense of security that withstood all the years of living so close to Gaza is gone. Today, out of 650 kibbutzniks, there is a maximum of 30 there at any given time.

In the middle of the night of 8 October, buses arrived at the kibbutz to relocate people to hotels in Tel Aviv. There were still Hamas operatives around, but kibbutzniks had to be evacuated for their safety, said Avi Kadosh, one of the seniors on the kibbutz. Thereafter, they will be moved a little closer to Ashkelon, he said.

Kibbutz Nir Am has a high percentage of young families, with more than 200 children, although it was founded in 1943 as one of the first kibbutzim in the area. It's best known for its factory producing silver cutlery and pots. "We have 95 percent paradise here, and 5 percent hell," said Kadosh. Despite being the kibbutz with the most hits from rockets over time, there have been no physical injuries to date, he said.

"We may not have had people killed here, but our people have been damaged by 7 October. Our children were at school with children murdered or orphaned that day," said Kadosh. "Our kibbutzniks need a lot to be able to want to come back home."

Also, some family members want to return to the kibbutz and others don't, which causes huge distress within family units. "We ultimately need to bring back our kibbutzniks to start the healing process," said Kadosh.

To do so, Maoz said, they need to build three main circles of trust. The first is security, which must be built alongside the army, police, fire department, and Nir Am's own security infrastructure. "Nobody can come back and not worry about terrorism as things stand right now," he said. "We need to build trust in our country's leadership on all levels, the government, municipality and others because people have lost this trust. The third is to build trust with each other. We all need to work together to heal on the kibbutz and the country.

"We then need to ensure we have the best opportunities for our children's education and future. The goal is for all the families to come back and more families to build Nir Am, but they must believe they have something worthwhile to return to."

Maoz said the South African community could help with different kinds of therapists, teachers, people knowledgeable in agriculture, and generally people who want to contribute.

"We want to reignite this community because this kibbutz is based on that. Walls can be built, but strong communities aren't so easy to recreate," said Maoz. "Right now, the community is fragile, and we want to connect with South Africans to help us recreate what this kibbutz once was and can be again."

Maoz said the kibbutz wants to build a swimming pool as a communal gathering place, and student dorms as there is a college nearby. "We need to build industry on the kibbutz and bring in new blood, and we could certainly use help and support," he said.

Should you be interested in finding out more about helping Nir Am, please email Ronli Dorfman at ronli@sazf.org.



Ron Maoz on Kibbutz Nir Am



Noam Rodman on Kibbutz Nir Am

>>Continued from page 8

uniforms, bristling with bulky automatic weapons, yet sipping and chatting like regular joes. During a break in customers, I noticed the barista go outside to give a bowl of water to a stray kitten. It meowed indignantly, hoping for more than just water, but later drank thirstily.

Driving back, my daughter spotted a huge cloud of smoke in the distance. "Is that in the Golan?" she asked. I had hoped to show her my favourite ancient sites and hikes in the Golan, but now I realised, with the Yehudiya nature reserve burning from falling shrapnel, we would need to change our itinerary to sites further south. Back at our hotel, an acrid haze hovered over our lake swim. The hotel itself was mostly occupied by evacuees from Kiryat Shemona, bringing with them their dogs and houseplants, and family squabbles about hanging out too late with friends and finishing homework. In the mornings, they used the breakfast buffet to prepare hasty school lunches, their expressions weary of living like permanent holiday makers.

The next day, Israeli news reported a fire at Kibbutz Manara from falling shrapnel from Hezbollah rockets. I noticed its WhatsApp group was no longer calling for volunteers but now advertising that its orchards were open for people to come pick for free. So much work preparing the harvest and now just giving it away! Still, a kibbutz even further

north, named Nimrod peaches, continued to beg for volunteers.

Returning to the middle of the country, life was oddly "normal". Lots of people shopping, going to restaurants, and even small crowds at museums. Many visitors from overseas looking for ways to volunteer but not sure how. On a bus ride to a food-preparation gig with J17 to support vegan soldiers, I met a French woman heading to a museum. "I've been trying to volunteer, but I don't know where to look," she said. This seemed to be a common problem among visitors – how to find places that can accommodate people who can't stand for hours in the hot sun.

But there are plenty of indoor volunteer opportunities. Eran's Angels, which packs goods for evacuated families, operates from an enormous space below the Tel Aviv Expo and welcomes drop-in volunteers. Similarly, Israel Support Bridge organises donations from abroad in its cool Petach Tikvah warehouse. The Swords of Iron Volunteer Opportunities group posts indoor opportunities every week, including meal preparation for soldiers, visiting soldiers in hospitals, attending funerals, and so on.

And don't underestimate how spending time with family and friends in Israel is a boon to their spirits. My super-secular relatives, who complain

endlessly about Israel turning into a theocracy and the power-hungry, crooked Bibi, were pleased by our visit. They reminded me of that kitten complaining mightily but still lapping up soul-nourishing support from family abroad.

Be wary of "barbecue with soldiers" opportunities asking for large upfront donations that are quasi-businesses. These barbecues are popular with volunteers, and great for "Insta"-bragging. I helped at one near Re'im in the Negev, organised by a synagogue in Tel Aviv – no donation required – an eye-opening view into the dusty and grimy reality of soldiers' life on base. It was the one time I felt uneasy that volunteering was as much for social media bragging as it was for the benefit of the soldiers. Not that they didn't enjoy the lavish spread, but they were encrusted with sweat and dust, and waited half an hour while we got everything camera-ready.

Volunteering in Israel in this difficult time was meaningful both for my family and for the Israelis we spent time with, and they definitely need visitors to support their ailing tourism industry. But if you can't go there, standing up for Israel at home and fighting for its legitimacy is the volunteering Israelis most need you to do.

• Emma Gordon-Blass is an ex-South African who lives and writes in North Carolina.

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Parents unite to delay phone ownership

GILLIAN KLAWSKY

"But Josh has one!" is no longer a valid argument for children trying to convince their parents to give them smartphones. King David Primary School Linksfield's #DelayistheWay initiative is an attempt to mitigate peer pressure around devices by uniting parents to delay their children's ownership of cellphones and use of social media.

"The peer pressure is overwhelming. It's starting very young. Parents don't want to give phones, but don't know what to do," said educational psychologist, author, and mom, Ashley Jay, at the launch of the school's foundation phase #DelayistheWay initiative, aimed at parents of children between Grades 1 and 3.

Jay has teamed up with fellow King David Linksfield mom Sarah Hoffman, a social media lawyer and the co-founder of Klikd, which helps parents and kids navigate social media safely. A WhatsApp group has been formed, and volunteers have been appointed to act as representatives of the campaign for each of the grades involved.

Early device ownership started as a professional problem for both Jay and Hoffman, but as parents, they became worried about it on a personal level.

"Regardless of our qualifications, we're two moms who want to try and change the status quo of what it means to be a kid," says Jay. "We want to nurture that childhood experience."

While the pair have the school's full backing, they decided that it's more powerful to have a parent-led movement in tackling the issue of kids and devices. Similar programmes have been successful at Yeshiva College and at numerous schools overseas.

#DelayistheWay is an important component of King David's "Cool to be kind" initiative, says Rabbi Ricky Seeff, the general director of King David Schools. The initiative has gained momentum through various formal and experiential lessons and projects since its January launch.

King David has now partnered with Klikd on a curriculum aimed at tackling digital citizenship and social media skills development. "The cherry on top has been to see our parents partnering with us and initiating a project to delay the use of cellphones," says Seeff. "The buy-in from parents in earlier grades is essential, and we couldn't be prouder of the momentum it's gaining."

The thinking behind #DelayistheWay is that if parents team up as a collective, they can alleviate the peer pressure their children are facing by explaining that they aren't the only ones without their own phones. "The power of collective parenting is that the child doesn't feel alone or excluded," Hoffman told a Klikd webinar held by King David primary schools centred on managing kids and devices. "There's huge power in a small collective of like-minded parents."

What are parents saying no to? "We're delaying personal phone ownership until Grade 6. We're not saying they must never use a phone, they just don't need their own ones yet," says Jay. "They can play games at clearly defined times on your device, but on multi-player platforms, they may play only with friends they know in real life. There should also be device-free times like mealtimes and playdates. You're allowed to put in boundaries, and they're allowed to be upset with you," Jay stresses.

The initiative also delays the use of social media. Jay warns of the dangers of social media algorithms, which serve only to

reinforce children's fear or self-esteem issues. "In addition, cyber bullying is a major issue in our schools," she says. "There's exclusion, passive aggressiveness, and with social media, our kids can't disconnect."

This delay also gives parents time to educate their children on the etiquette of online communication by leading by example. "We must teach them how to speak to someone nicely when they are sending a message," says Jay. "It's also about setting fair social boundaries around device usage. Even adults sit on phones during a wedding speech, for example, which is so disrespectful. If we're doing that, what can we expect our kids to be doing at parties and playdates?"

Far from improving, the screen-time conundrum parents face today is getting worse, say Jay and Hoffman. The two advocate acting as early as possible. "Start

teaching them healthy social media and device-ownership habits when they're still young, when it's easier to teach them such skills," Jay says.

"It's not about raising kids with no



technology skills, we're trying to teach them certain life skills that don't involve a screen while they're children," she says. These skills are centred on emotional regulation;

outdoor play; interacting with peers; face to face interaction; and so on, the kind of experiences children need before diving into the online world. It's all about creating a fair balance and building them up to the stage where they can handle having ownership of their own device.

Indeed, overexposure to electronic devices and social media too early can result in what's known as the "displacement effect". "This occurs when continuous onscreen consumption displaces other activities that are crucial to a child's emotional, social, and cognitive development and skillsets," says Jay. At different stages of childhood, such activities promote skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, self-reflection, and resilience.

"Social interaction is essential for understanding and relating to others'

emotions and viewpoints," Jay says. "They need the in-person, real-life experiences that teach them to read emotional cues and to show empathy, which is crucial for building strong, healthy relationships." This is especially important in today's world where emotional intelligence is vital.

If your child is already on a device, it's ok to explain why things have changed, experts say. "You can't be held hostage in your own home," says Hoffman. "Let your child know that parents can change their minds, and that you're acting together with other parents." Be a fair authority, and explain your thinking as well as the accountability and responsibility they need to show you before they can own a device.

"Ultimately, the greatest offset against any online harm," says Hoffman, "is you as a parent." #DelayistheWay is about connected, engaged, and informed parents who are in it together.

Movement – a great way to relieve stress

GILLIAN KLAWSKY

The war in Israel and South Africa's hostile response; rising global antisemitism; the increasing demands of everyday life. It's not hard to understand why our stress levels are skyrocketing. That's why we are increasingly seeking alternative ways to deal with our anxiety – through movement.

Whether you're moving through the water, in a dance or Yoga studio, or in a "smash room", you're not only getting a workout, you're also significantly diminishing stress.

"More and more people have been seeking new and different vehicles to relieve their stress as well as to increase the level of joy that they experience in their lives," says physiotherapist and aquatic exercise instructor Stacey Lewis. "Water, especially the swimming pool, creates images of fun and playfulness, which is an element that we sometimes miss in today's stressful world."

Not for old fogies in bathing caps, aquatic exercise is gaining popularity. "It's a myth that aquatic exercise classes are just a 'gentle float' for octogenarians," says Lewis. "One can get a real workout and release plenty of stress and pain-relieving endorphins in the water while simultaneously cushioning your joints." You also get the added social benefits that come with exercising in a group and, most importantly, the benefit of completely switching off from technology.

Aquatic exercise boosts physical and mental health, says Lewis. "It's been found to have beneficial effects on neuromuscular conditions, arthritis, chronic pain, athletic conditioning, and even balance, and there's evidence that aquatic exercise has a positive effect on anxiety and depression."

Not only does exercise improve cardiovascular health, it also relieves stress by helping to release endorphins. Water adds another dimension in that it causes the release of endocannabinoids, which also contribute towards stress relief, says Lewis. "What's more, exercise in warm water relaxes the muscles and has been shown to assist with sleep."

Adding music to the mix elevates the mood-enhancing nature of aquatic exercise, she says. "Exercising to music has been shown to activate the brain's limbic system, which has a spin-off effect of triggering the release of serotonin, the feel-good hormone."

Also marrying music with exercise, Nia is about finding joy and connection through movement, says Kim Hatchuel. The co-owner of Johannesburg-based Nia studio, Studio Kairos, Hatchuel says that the fitness classes she'd tried before

always felt either too rigid or too demanding. "What I found in Nia was way more holistic, and nurtured my body and my mind. This wasn't just a fitness class or a way to burn calories; it was a community."

All about moving in ways that feel good, Nia is a mix of dance arts (modern dance, jazz, and Duncan Dance), martial arts (Tai Chi, Tae Kwan Do, and Aikido), and healing arts



(Feldenkrais, Alexander Technique, and Yoga), Hatchuel says. "Nia is done barefoot, which made me feel more grounded and connected to my movements, aligning with its emphasis on joyful and expressive movement."

This improves balance, stability, and alignment as the feet can spread out naturally. "Without the

restriction of shoes, the feet and ankles can move more freely, which strengthens the muscles, tendons, and ligaments in the feet and lower legs," she says.

Nia also focuses on mindfulness, encouraging participants to immerse themselves in the present, reducing anxiety. "Mentally, Nia became my sanctuary," says Hatchuel. "The practice of mindful movement and deep breathing reduced my stress levels. I found myself feeling more joyful and



emotionally balanced. The creative expression allowed me to release pent-up emotions, leaving me with a profound sense of peace."

Creating a sense of peace is also core to Yoga and Pilates. "Pilates and Yoga are both low-impact exercises designed to teach people how to move correctly to better function in our daily movements," says Kelly Fullerton.

Fullerton, the owner of Dynamic Posture Pilates, which offers Pilates and Yoga classes, says Pilates involves a series of stretching, strengthening, and breathing exercises that engage your core muscles, thereby releasing tension. Yoga, on the other hand, activates the body's relaxation response and revolves around holding poses and practicing breathing techniques and meditation to improve flexibility, balance, and strength.

"Creating mind-body awareness, both practices can be highly effective for stress management due to their focus on physical postures, breathing techniques, and mental concentration," Fullerton says. "By focusing on the moment, participants unlock their full potential, reduce stress, and improve their overall well-being," she says. "Engaging in these practices provides a mental break from stressful thoughts and situations."

Regularly doing Yoga or Pilates can also improve sleep quality, which is key to stress management. "Both practices also promote self-awareness," Fullerton says, "helping you recognise stress triggers and develop coping strategies. The mental toughness and resilience developed through movement can be applied to other areas of life, helping individuals to approach challenges with a growth mindset and overcome obstacles with greater ease."

While Yoga and Pilates are slow and intentional ways to exercise and relieve stress, sometimes one needs a less sedate outlet. The growing popularity of venues that allow participants literally to break things is testament to the need for a purely physical form of stress release. One such venue, founded by Janice Ogin, is the Smash Room, which allows participants to smash broken appliances in a controlled environment.

"There's no judgement. You can just let out all of that frustration that has built up over time," says Ogin. "We encourage people to let go of the negative energy that can make them sick. Once you have smashed something up, you feel incredible. It helps you to let go of the past, offering a new beginning."

Undoubtedly therapeutic, the act of smashing something releases endorphins, giving one the energy needed to face the world again. Offering both a physical and mental workout, participants smash at their own pace during 30-minute sessions. The Smash Room offers a form of release, not violence, says Ogin, who is working to dispel misconceptions.

"You take what you need from it," she says. "We've had people doing it for fun, as is the case with team building or birthday parties, to those navigating the stress and trauma of rape, bullying, or breakups. There's so much pressure on everyone these days, from school to the workplace. The Smash Room provides an escape to let go of such pressure and negativity."

History of SA Jewry trends in Israel

LEE TANKLE

Mark Wade is happy but surprised to hear that his documentary series on the history of South African Jewry, *Legends & Legacies: A Story of a Community* is the third most-watched programme on the streaming platform IZZY Stream Israel. This after just three weeks on the platform.

Legends & Legacies is more popular than the documentary *Screams Before Silence*, a film documenting the sexual violence carried out by Hamas on 7 October airing on the same platform. His series is among the likes of *Shtisel* and other Israeli productions.

"When I was told that it was the third most-watched show on the site, I was more surprised than anything," said Wade, the series' producer.

"I'm pleased that it's out there internationally and being received so well because people can see how South African Jews made an incredible contribution to our country starting from nothing," he said.

"This is the first – and probably last – time that South African Jewish history has been documented in such a way. I'm frankly surprised that it's so popular," he said.

"Most of the other programmes on the platform are mainstream," said Wade, "so the fact that this is a documentary and a historical documentary no

less and has been watched to the extent that it has, shocked me."

The programme emerged from Wade wanting to discover more about his wife's family who were Jewish refugees from the Island of Rhodes. It led him to start to explore the history of South African Jews in spite of not growing up Jewish himself, being raised by an Afrikaans mother and French father, and later converting.



Alan Swerdlow during filming in Cape Town

"In many ways, I was looking at the South African Jewish community as an outsider looking in as opposed to being within the community with an established knowledge and history. So I came up with this weird and wonderful idea of wanting to put that history in the story

of the Jewish community in South Africa as a whole."

Five years ago, when Wade decided to embark on this project, he knew it was going to be an uphill battle. He struggled to get funding as many saw the documentary as a "glamour project" that no-one would be interested in.

Fortunately, Wade received funding from the Kirsh Foundation, and brought Alan Swerdlow, a renowned South African stage, television, and film actor, director, radio presenter, and theatre reviewer into the project, working on the research and scripting, and presenting the series.

The duo spent six months doing research. "We started with a little library of two or three books, but after a lot of searching, stealing, and rummaging, we landed up with a small library of 80 books on the South African Jewish community to build our documentary," said Wade.

Wade and Swerdlow went on a countrywide road trip to film the documentary and start to build the story. "We went from Cape Town to Pretoria, going to little villages in the Karoo, through the Free State visiting old communities, synagogues, and schools to build our story by filming hours of footage."

The series of eight episodes, each lasting an hour, documents the history of the South African Jewish community not in chronological order but rather by answering questions.

"It was amazing to see that most of the Jewish people who arrived in South Africa did so as penniless refugees who in their time in this country have actively helped to make it better," said Wade.

The first few episodes of the series cover where

the South African Jewish community came from and how they arrived at the foot of Africa; how the Jewish community moved from hawkers to captains of industry; the establishment of communal institutions from graveyards to schools; how the Jewish community integrated into South African civil society; and the way the community engages with the political realities of South Africa.

The second half covers the thinkers; philosophers; writers; people of science; medicine; and the leaders of the South African Jewish community. It covers Jewish involvement in the theatre and arts scene, and what it did for the community.

The final episode showcases an informal gathering of Jewish family and friends while they contemplate the present and future of South Africa's Jewish community.

The series was completed in June 2022, and it took another nine months for Wade to get the series licenced and distributed.

"I was introduced to a local company called Indigenous Films, and with it we were able to get a licensing deal with Amazon Prime," said Wade, "Unfortunately, this deal allowed the series to be distributed only to Africa, where it has had its home for 18 months.

"I was frequently contacted by ex-South Africans overseas asking how they could see the programme, and that's when I found out about IZZY, which would stream the series internationally," said Wade.

The programme has been on the platform for only three weeks, premiering in June 2024, when Wade was notified that it was the third most popular series.

"I feel proud to know that people are tuning in to find out more about the history of South African Jewry," Wade said. "People who have left South Africa have written to me saying that the series brought so much nostalgia to them and their childhood in South Africa."

"It shows that we mustn't forget our history and where the South African Jewish community comes from," he said.

Sklair dives into first world championship, sets new record

SAUL KAMIONSKY

South African freediver Thalia Sklair won the female category overall at the AIDA (International Association for the Development of Apnea) Israel National Pool Championship at the beginning of June, enabling her to represent Israel at the AIDA Freediving World Championship in Kaunas, Lithuania, later in the month.

Sklair, 37, who lives in South Africa, was the only Israeli athlete at the world championship, where she recorded two personal bests and set new Israeli national records in all three disciplines she competed in. This included breaking her own static record set two weeks earlier at the Israeli championship.

Going to Israel and competing in Tel Aviv during the war gave the South African-Israeli some anxiety the night before she left Johannesburg.

Sklair said she felt a sense of fear heading to the AIDA Freediving World Championship in Kaunas, her first world championship, as the only representative of Israel. She set two of those national records by holding her breath while swimming for 150m, and attained the other record by holding her breath for more than six minutes underwater.

"I couldn't be prouder to do it for Israel," said Sklair. "There was a lot of pressure, mostly that I put on myself, but after the first dive, support poured in exponentially from across the globe from family, childhood friends, divers I know, and divers I don't know, saying how they were so proud to see Israel being represented at worlds. It was such an honour. But next time, I really hope to go along with some teammates and do it together."

That said, this King David Linksfield alumnus wasn't alone outside of the pool. "To my surprise, Kaunas is full of Israelis. There is, of course, a strong link to the past there," she said, referring to the fact that the Jewish presence in Kaunas dates back to at least the 16th century. "But there are also some really good medical schools in Lithuania, so I discovered that many Israelis go there to study medicine. Hearing Hebrew on the streets made me feel relaxed and like I wasn't alone after all."

A possible reason why no other athletes represented Israel at the championship may be the costly and time-

consuming commitment it takes to get there. "Just the competition entry fee alone is a minimum of €400 [R7 953]," Sklair said, "never mind nine months of coaching; the right nutrition; flights; accommodation; and medical fees if need be. The only reason I was able to take myself to this championship is that I committed to this competition last year while working onboard a vessel where I had minimal living expenses, so I used those savings for this one competition."

A new world record was set in women's static apnea at the world championship when Heike Schwerdtner from Germany held her breath for more than nine minutes. "This is huge news in the freediving world, as the last record was set by the late Natalia Molchanova in 2013 and no-one has been able to come close until now," Sklair said. "I was competing with some of the best athletes in the world."

Sklair said she performed better at the world championship than in Israel because of the pressure of it being her first world championship, the piece of mind from being told the "safeties" in Kaunas had trained for months, and the support from her coach, Budimir Buda Šobat. He's an experienced world champion athlete who competed in Lithuania and knows the inner workings of these competitions. "Progress in free diving is very personal, so it's vital to have someone there who knows where you're at," she says.

Coming first at the Israeli national championship in Tel Aviv was a bonus for Sklair. "The real gain was being a part of the development of the sport in the country.

I hope this inspires other divers to train apnea and take the sport more seriously," she said. Her static result of six minutes and nine seconds was a new national record, and ultimately, it's what won her first place. She ended more than 30 points ahead of second-placed Liat Shalom.

Sklair felt anxious before she left Johannesburg, but she ended up experiencing more anxiety in Johannesburg than in Israel. "Flying into Tel Aviv was quite an emotional experience. All the sadness hit me again, but I was also so happy to be back. Israel will always be home.

"I've been staying on Kibbutz Ein Gev in the north, and when Lebanon attacked over Shavuot, we had tremors and blasts from the rockets over a few consecutive days and nights and there were fighter jets flying constantly overhead. It made training all the more focused as you have to stay calm no matter what when you hold your breath. I saw smoke north of the Kinneret where some rockets had landed."



Thalia Sklair



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Riches to rags: book about a Joburg boy gone bad

A new book, *High Times: The Extraordinary Life of a Joburg Dope Smuggler*, by **Roy Isacowitz** and Jeremy Gordin is being launched this week. The SA Jewish Report spoke to Isacowitz about it.

What made you choose Michael Medjuck as the subject of your book?

Michael visited Israel in 2014, shortly after his release, and we discussed writing a book about his adventures. Nothing came of it for several years. I was still working as a journalist on *Haaretz*, and Michael needed to get his life together after more than 21 years in prison. Neither of us was ready. We revived the idea in 2020, and began doing online interviews. Those continued throughout the COVID-19 period, resulting in more than 70 hours of recorded interviews, though I still didn't have definite plans to write a book. Then, in early 2022, Jeremy threw out the idea of a book about Michael – I had told him a lot about Michael – during a meeting with someone from Jonathan Ball Publishers (JBP). She was intrigued and, after talking to her colleagues, asked if I could put something in writing. Apparently it went down quite well. Those contacts went on for most of 2022, with me keeping Michael in the picture, until Jeremy and I signed the contract with JBP in September 2022.

How did you meet, and how well did you know him?

I've known about Michael since I was seven or eight years old. He was a year above me at King David Linksfield, and the sort of popular kid who most other kids know about. We probably met each other during that period, though neither of us remembers it. I moved from King David to Northview High in about 1964, and became a close friend of Ronnie De Jong, who had known Michael since kindergarten. Ronnie kept me informed about Michael's adventures through the 1970s and beyond. Our first actual meeting which both of us remember was when he visited Israel in 2014, though I had known of him for most of my life.

What was it about him you found fascinating enough for a book?

It was the dichotomy between where he came from – Jewish Joburg; King David vice-head boy – and where he ended up – in America's toughest prisons. It was the similarity in our backgrounds and disparity in our fates. The scope of his adventures and the rags-to-riches-to-rags quality of his story. The subject matter: big-time dope smuggling; a massive operation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and experiences in some of America's worst prisons. The fact that he came out of it relatively sane and normal. It's the stuff of fiction, yet it's all true.

How would you describe the book?

I'll be satisfied if people think it's a great read. I certainly didn't write it as a morality tale – the dangers of drugs – or as a testimony to the dangers of overweening hubris. Readers will take from it what they want. For me, it's the fascinating and often exciting story of a special human being who, in spite of his faults, has lived life to the full.

The book is written by you and Jeremy, but Jeremy is no longer with us. Did you write it with him before he was killed?

Jeremy was instrumental in getting us the contract with JBP. Though I was the one who had met and interviewed Michael, I thought it would be fun if we wrote the book together. We'd been vaguely planning to do something together for a long time. Our division of work was that I would do the writing, he would do the interim and final editing, and we would



Michael Medjuck and Roy Isacowitz

do the planning and brainstorming together. I began writing in December 2022 and was in touch with Jeremy daily. When he was murdered in early April 2023, only about one-quarter of the book had been written.

What was your relationship like with Jeremy?

Jeremy was my closest friend. We met when we were 13-14 years old, and never looked back. He came to Israel to study in Jerusalem because that's what I had done the year before. We shared an apartment in Jerusalem. I became a journalist and joined the *Financial Mail* in Johannesburg, because that's what Jeremy had done a couple of years before. Our interests were uncannily similar – from literary taste to politics, women, and the people we disliked, we were on the same wavelength. It was a once-in-a-lifetime friendship.

How did you conduct the interviews with Michael?

Mainly online. We got together in Vancouver in November 2022 for some face-to-face interviews and for me to get a feel for where he had come from, and Michael came to Tel Aviv in late-September 2023 to go through the manuscript together.

How do you feel about what he did that landed him in jail?

I didn't express an opinion in the book, and I'm not going to do so now. Marijuana and hashish are now sold legally on the streets of Vancouver, which is vindication of a sort for Michael. He did many things that were foolish, but he also did things that were courageous. He got through times and experiences that many of us wouldn't have survived.

Why do you think he did it?

Hopefully, readers will be able to figure that out for themselves. There's no simple answer. It has to do with his experiences growing up, the particular chemistry of which he is made, and the period during which he and I came of age. He's the sort of character who will leap without a second thought while most of us are still testing the water with our toes. He's impetuous, and seems to have got through life without being infected by petty bourgeois concerns.

Do you believe he regrets it? If so, why? If not, why not?

Yes, he has many regrets, particularly regarding the effects his actions had on his children. He also regrets hurting his wife as he did. And he regrets wasting almost 22 years of his life in prison. That said, I doubt he regrets having lived life as he did.

You obviously spoke to others who knew Michael from school or childhood. What was he like back then?

I go into that in some detail in the book. Michael was a legend. Everyone who knew him then still remembers him. He was popular with both girls and

boys, and he was a born leader who took people into very uncomfortable territory.

What made you choose the title of the book?

It was the outcome of a process of discussion with the publisher. It wasn't the one I originally proposed, but I deferred to its judgement and knowledge of the market. I like it and think it works.

Are you in contact with Jeremy's family about the book? What do they think about it?

We're in regular contact both in regard to the book and because we're very close. His son, Jake, spent a week with me in Tel Aviv last September, and I had lunch with his daughter, Nina, in Cape Town about two months ago. We agreed that his name should stay on the book.

Deborah, Jeremy's wife, read the book last week and said she enjoyed it.

Who are you are hoping to appeal to?

I didn't have an audience in mind when writing. I think several of the book's ingredients: deep-sea adventure; big-time smuggling; cops and robbers; the travails of doing hard time, appeal to a wide variety of people, so I'm hoping it will do well. Michael was a ground breaker and well-known to the Dolls House crowd in the 1960s and early 1970s. I think they'll enjoy the book.

What are you hoping your readers will take home from it?

That it's a great read. They don't have to like what Michael did or agree with his moral choices. He came from where we come from, and his story reverberates.

SA team at Argentina championship – a Jewish affair

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Of the 14 South African bridge aficionados selected to play in the World Bridge Championships in Argentina in October, seven are Jewish.

Former information technology consultant Sharon Izerel and financial analyst Diana Balkin were two of those who played their cards right for six gruelling days of bridge to qualify for the South African bridge team going to compete in Argentina.

Their fellow Johannesburg-based Jewish players in the team are bridge teachers Val Bloom and Sharon Lang, and ex-professional bridge, poker, and backgammon player Neville Eber. Cape Town-based entrepreneur Alon Apteker and his son, United States-based Noah, a qualified electrical engineer, also made the grade.

They competed in the trials for the South Africa men's, women's, and mixed teams.

Eber and the Aptekers qualified for the men's team. Izerel, Balkin, and Bloom qualified for the women's team, while Lang qualified for the mixed team.

"We have played with or against each other in many tournaments and often socialise together," Izerel says. "The vibe is excellent. In fact, I'm proud to be on the same team as Sharon, who was a pupil of mine," says Bloom.

Besides Izerel and Noah Apteker, the others have all qualified for the championships before and have travelled to play in overseas tournaments.

The South African teams will be pitted against many world champions and professional bridge players in the championships, held every four years in the Summer Olympics year. "It will be tough to do well, but we'll do the best we can," Izerel says.

About 40 countries are sending teams to compete in the Centro de Convenciones de Buenos Aires. "In general, the standard overseas is extremely high," Bloom says. "Unfortunately, we're out of the loop," says Bloom, because it is tricky for them to get to various international tournaments.

"In addition, we're a small bridge-playing nation, resulting in far fewer top players and effective local competition. However, we thoroughly enjoy and benefit from participating in the championships, the highlight of the bridge calendar."

Izerel and Balkin, who only started playing as a partnership two and a half years ago, have been playing in a tournament almost every day in preparation for the championships.

"We're also having lessons once or twice a week online with our bridge teacher, Tim Cope, who is refining our bidding, play, and defence," Izerel says. "We have compiled a comprehensive set of notes to refer to, and are continually updating and improving our system. We also read as many bridge articles and books as possible."

Izerel started playing bridge about 22 years ago. "I was immediately captivated by this wonderful game of skill and strategy," she says. She competes in most of the big annual tournaments throughout South Africa. "Since my kids are grown up, I now have a lot of time to concentrate on my bridge," she says.

Balkin started playing bridge in her 20s. "I have previously represented South Africa twice in the women's team, and once in the senior's team [60+ years]. I've also represented South Africa at the Commonwealth Games."

While bridge in South Africa is predominantly played by older people, "we have a few younger stars in Noah Apteker and Rob Stephens", Balkin says, pointing out that school and university

students should be encouraged to take up the game. "As a matter of interest, in the last world championships, two young Israeli women were on the winning team."

On Thursday mornings, Balkin, Eber, Bloom, and Bernard Donde teach about 90 bridge players while enjoying tea and biscuits.

Bloom started playing bridge at university when invited to join a game in the canteen. Bridge has allowed her to travel the globe, both as a member of the South Africa women's team and the senior team. "Locally, I'm honoured to have won various titles in all formats, pairs, and teams," she says.

Eber, a self-described "natural games player", took to his card-playing occupation easily. He found backgammon and bridge mentally stimulating. "They were financially lucrative. I played for enjoyment and to supplement my income."

He has been playing bridge, a subculture that tickles his interest, since the age of 18. "I enjoyed the social side and the drive to improve and hopefully become the best."



Sharon Izerel, Diana Balkin, Neville Eber, Sharon Lang, and Val Bloom will represent South Africa at the World Bridge Championships in Argentina in October 2024

He started playing at the University of the Witwatersrand. "I won the very first tournament I played in. In my second year, I won the South Africa pairs championships. Since then, I have won the South Africa championships at least 20 times with various partners. I have represented South Africa in world championships probably 20 times minimum on the open team."

Eber, the leading master point holder in South Africa for at least 30 years, says playing in good competitions often is the best way to keep sharp.

More than 20 years ago, Alon and a few of his friends took up Eber's offer to teach them bridge.

Alon went on to win 15 national titles. Internationally, he has represented South Africa 10 times and was part of the team that got to the semi-finals of the world championships in Shanghai in 2007. He has won international events, the highlight being when he and his regular partner, Craig Gower, and a pair of Swedish teammates, won the prestigious HCL International in Delhi in 2018 against "a strong field of world-class international players".

Noah got interested in the game through watching Alon while growing up. Noah and his older brother, Jude, then joined a group at school to learn formally when the Gauteng Bridge Union sent a group of bridge teachers, including Balkin, to their school.

Noah, whose friends would joke that he was playing bridge against their grandmothers, has won three South African national titles, winning his first teams title aged 16. Internationally, he has played at the World Junior Teams championships for both the U26 England (2017) and the U26 United States (2023) teams. Noah has a British passport as his mother was born in England, and was eligible to play for the United States due to studying in Philadelphia for the past four years.

SA deserves medal for ‘darkness-defying’ humour

It's hard to imagine a more colonialist endeavour than the Olympic Games. It was, after all, the invention of Greece, one of the greatest land-capturing nations in history, that gifted the competition to the world. I'm told that back then, naked men competed against each other for the win. Which is probably one of the primary reasons that curling was introduced officially only in 2006. That and the fact that frozen lakes weren't that commonly found in the hills of Athens.

If the Canadians were able to decolonise the Olympics successfully with curling, essentially a housekeeping game that requires little more than a few stubborn stones and a very determined broom, there's little reason that South Africa shouldn't introduce a few options as well.

The 2024 Paris Olympics will kick off later this month. In its need to remain relevant, new sports are constantly evaluated and admitted. Tokyo 2020's 339 events in 33 sports, the most in Olympic history, included the Olympic debut of sports such as skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing, and karate, as well as events such as BMX freestyle and 3x3 basketball.

Paris will introduce Breaking, more commonly known as breakdancing, which is a style of dance that originated in the Bronx in the 1970s. Over the decades, it has evolved into a competitive sport, complete with international events, a judging system, and world championships.

All this is precedent enough to allow South Africans to propose a sport that they excel at, in order to achieve an easy gold. A sport that comes naturally, where we have had



INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman

practice and are able to show how it's done.

And no. Corruption isn't a good option. Because as talented as we might be, it's unlikely that those who are most practiced will be willing to take a hiatus from running the country in order to compete. More so because they will be reluctant to share their talents with the world. And because time, for them, is literally money.

Competitive Time Keeping, too, isn't a good option. Because we're terrible at it. And have become accustomed to waiting and waiting for the president.

Creative Electricity is worth considering. This could allow for categories like Illegal Connections; 100m Copper Carrying Dash; and Pre-paid Code Corruption. Other sports worth considering would be "Pothole

Dodging" with the finals taking place in the evening during a bout of loadshedding. Tyres and rims to be supplied by the Olympic committee.

Braaiing, as a men only, non-gender-neutral event would be a natural contender. This might be divided into Fire Construction, Marinades, and Mansplaining. The salad event would be dropped due to lack of interest.

The above aside, if South Africans were to win a competition, it would be in humour and optimism. Spend a little time on X following any event, and the true nature of this funny, kind people is evident. South Africans have the gift of laughing in adversity, and in allowing second chances. They find the lighter side of the dark, and time and time again, shake off the dust and move forward in hope.

South Africans might not bring home all the medals. Which hardly matters. Because they are already gold.



A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Here's hoping for a GNU dawn



ABOVE BOARD

Karen Milner

On Sunday evening,

30 June, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the long-awaited executive of the incoming Government of National Unity (GNU). The South African Jewish Board of Deputies welcomes this announcement as we believe the GNU is a testament to the strength and maturity of South Africa's democracy. It's also particularly exciting that we will have a government consisting of a number of parties, putting an end to the single-party hegemony that has thus far characterised our democracy.

Of particular interest to our community is the new leadership of the department of international relations and cooperation. While it's a relief to see that Dr Naledi Pandor won't be returning, the appointment of Ronald Lamola as the new minister brings a sense of unease. Lamola's previous statements on antisemitism have been troubling, even suggesting that, in spite of bona fide evidence, the rise in antisemitism in South Africa was a "figment of [our] imagination".

In February, we protested outside Lamola's offices and handed him a memorandum detailing the numerous antisemitic incidents and our methodology for recording them. Unfortunately, we have yet to receive any response from the minister.

In spite of this troubling history, the Board hopes that the new government will provide opportunities for constructive dialogue on issues concerning our community. Likewise, we offer Minister Lamola an open invitation to engage with our special community. We remain a proud community of South Africans, and are committed to working with the new government to better the lives of all South Africans. Once again, South Africa has proven itself to be a fascinating country, full of contradictions and paradoxes. It's not for the fainthearted but it's been quite a ride. Exciting times to come.

• 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

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Rooms with a Torah view at Hirsch Lyons

Hirsch Lyons Primary School learners and teachers put together a *Torah through the ages* fair on Thursday, 27 June. From Morocco to the shtetls, visitors embarked on a creative journey through each beautifully decorated classroom.



Aliya Mogilevsky serving French onion soup

Letters

SAKS – OUTSTANDING SPOKESPERSON FOR THE COMMUNITY

As a loyal South African citizen and member of the South African Jewish community, I feel a deep sense of gratitude to all categories of leadership within the South African Jewish community and worldwide for their sterling and spontaneous efforts to navigate a path of dignified response and support for Israel and the Jewish community at large in response to perverse criticism and warped reporting.

Whether with the quill or by bold oratory, esteemed rabbis, members of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, journalists, radio personnel, and academics – I trust I haven't inadvertently omitted any category worthy of mention – have courageously taken up the cause with fearless disregard for their reputations and sometimes personal safety.

To mention names would potentially be unfair and risky, but I'll stick out my neck and name but one: David Saks, who for me, and many others is the unheralded jewel in the crown of South African Jewish reporters and purveyors of fact.

David has relentlessly pursued truth and accurate reporting of history and events from long before the eruption of the current explosive violence in the Middle East and misrepresentations of its cause and effect. Whether as editor of *Jewish Affairs*, a journal without peer as a repository of personal experiences of historical value, as a writer on modern Jewish history in South Africa such as the role of Jews on both sides

in the Anglo-Boer War, or as a journalist in the media, David's pieces on any topic, regardless of political or other import, can always be trusted and relied on for relentless objectivity, telling accuracy, and unbridled honesty.

He's also an accomplished ghost editor and writer for other media personnel.

We're truly blessed with such treasures! They guard the community's interests at the furthest frontiers of the national and political spectrum, and in the case of esteemed rabbis, of the religious spectrum too.

– Steven Mark Katzew, Johannesburg

HEADLINE ABOUT SCRABBLE CHAMPION MISLEADING

The headline, "Gruzd's 'preparing' launches him into Scrabble top spot" (SA Jewish Report, 20 June 2024) is potentially misleading.

To assert that Gruzd has been launched into the "top spot" could give the impression that he has become the South African national Scrabble champion. This isn't correct. The championship he won puts him in line for that position, but I believe Dr Trevor Hovelmeier is still national champion, a ranking which he has held for several years.

– Michael Levy, Johannesburg

Sunday 7 July

- The Jewish Women's Benevolent Society hosts a talk by journalist Paula Slier. Time: 18:30. Contact: jnml.io/FrontLineStories or office@jwbs.co.za
- Second Innings hosts a talk by clinical psychologist Leonard Carr on *Thriving Against the Odds: Facing Life's Challenges with Resilience and Adaptability*. Time: 10:00. Cost: R50 (R20 members). Contact: 082 561 3228
- New Beginnings hosts a talk by Dr Margaret Malka Rawicz on her book *Walking the Exodus*. Time: 09:45. Cost: R50. Contact: lynarch@worldonline.co.za

Tuesday 9 July

- Chabad Longevity Club presents *Breathing, Stretching and Movement* with Dr Helen Kennedy. Time: 09:45. Contact: 011 440 6600 or rak@chabad.org.za

Wednesday 10 July

- Chabad Longevity Club hosts a talk by Dr Adam Stern on cholesterol. Time: 12:30. Contact: 011 440 6600 or rak@chabad.org.za

Thursday 11 July

- Chabad Seniors hosts *Seniors Fun Physiotherapy* with Talya Drutman and Caron Shapiro. Time: 09:45. Contact: rak@chabad.org.za

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18⁹⁹

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38⁹⁹

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28⁹⁹

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69⁹⁹

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26⁹⁹

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38⁹⁹

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42⁹⁹

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