

Horst Kleinschmidt - address on 8 May 2026, memorial meeting held at the Masque Theatre, Muizenberg.

This is my tribute to an incredible friend! Terry Bell (1942-2026).

Terry, we shall miss you, as much as we still miss Barbara. For over 20 years our Friday sun-downers, at the thatched-roof 'Homestead' in Amberley Road, here in Muizenberg, was the place where we tanked up; tanked-up not least to debate how we interpreted the previous weeks' politics, augmented by you with parallels in history and philosophical teachings that no-one could tell better than you.

You were always incisive, clear, fearless, honest and outspoken.

Of the qualities Terry possessed I want to add one, you, who are in attendance today, need applaud also: His care for the homeless, for the vast and increasing community around us who are left to sleep rough, who go hungry, or who need help. - They all knew that the knock on the Homestead door would be answered by Terry. He assisted and helped countless individuals over their next hurdle. Terry's kindness, they knew, was coupled to being treated with dignity and respect.

But let such caring for others never be construed as charity! Terry was quick to remind us: yes, we need to help, in this cruel and unequal world, but behind such helping stands the much greater project of egalité and of justice - that which is brutally absent in our neighbourhood, in Cape Town, in our country and in the world.

Let us today pick up the baton that was Terry's voice for socialism! We need to assert that voice and regain the ground that capitalism, neo-liberalism, militarism with the armaments industry, and unparalleled personal greed is busy making into the new normal. If we, the old ones in our midst, during our youth believed we were on a possible, a probable trajectory to a better world, - that hope has been devastatingly dashed! The road ahead looks darker than ever! Let us explain to those suffering that it is Trump that is the global enemy - and Trump accolades in our own country who have made us the most unequal country in the world! But let me immediately add - Terry never accepted defeat! He would stand here and call on us never to give up! Organize and educate. And we, the oldies amongst us - let us stand

ready to teach what to learn from history but also make clear what mistakes we made!

Terry's labour column was testimony that the working class, the disaffected, the unemployed who need to be united; Let us speak with one clear voice! A better and equal world is possible!

Never have we - globally - been further from equality, here in our country and in the world imposed on us by what they call democracies. USA democracy has given us war and death, over the ages, again and again, with now 50 invasions into other countries - since 1945!

Let stand united and in solidarity to stop the evil Trump-Netanyahu axis - and all their accomplices - to stop the untold destruction, hate, ecological disaster, the genocide - and the killing of untold thousands of children! Children! Children, the core of Barbara and Terry's call that gives us hope! >>

Terry would say to us today: Shout it out aloud, 'Go to hell Brent Bozell III', stand up and support BDS campaign against Israel, stop Gencore, who with Patrice Motsepe and that 'struggle icon' Jill Marcus, export coal to Israel! Let us tell the US to stop the re-colonization of Venezuela, AND RIGHT NOW: let us be firm in our solidarity with Cuba! - Stop the war against Iran and compensate those you have done evil to in Palestine, and let us fight those who derive mineral/economic benefit from the wars in the DRC, Sudan and beyond.

So:

Terry Bell would call us to action, today! He would call on us to stand up and challenge the inequality caused by the avarice which the old white elite in cahoots with the new black elite are imposing on our country! Let Terry's challenge inspire us - let the dream of an equal and just society once more make gains in the way we did in previous decades!

Viva Terry! Viva!