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Netanyahu Sends Condolences to Russia Following Deadly Bombing



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) and Russian President Vladimir Putin.
Photo: Haim Zach/GPO.

BY BARNEY BREEN
-PORTNOY

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent his condolences to Russia following Monday's deadly subway explosion in St. Petersburg that killed at least 10 people and injured about 50 others.

"On behalf of the government of Israel, I send condolences to

President Putin and to the families of those who were murdered, following today's bombing on the St. Petersburg subway," Netanyahu said in a statement. "The citizens of Israel stand alongside the Russian people at this difficult time."

Monday's bombing occurred around 2:30 p.m. on St. Petersburg's subway system on a train between the Technology Institute and Sennaya Square stations. A second bomb was later found at a nearby

station and was disabled by police before it exploded. Both bombs contained shrapnel, according to initial news reports. Russia's Interfax news agency reported that two people are believed to be behind the bombing, and authorities are searching for the suspects.

"The reasons for the explosion are unknown, so it's too early to talk about it. The investigation

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Israeli Education Minister: World, Led by Trump, Must Respond to 'Chemical Massacre' in Syria

BY BARNEY BREEN-PORTNOY

A member of the Israeli government is urging a global response to a suspected chemical weapons attack that took place in a rebel-held town in the Idlib Province of northwestern Syria on Tuesday.

"Children are choking to death," HaBayit HaYehudi party leader and Education Minister Naftali Bennett tweeted,



Habayit Hayehudi leader Naftali Bennett. Photo: Mati Milstein / The Israel Project via Wikimedia Commons.

referring to the incident in Khan Sheikhoun, where at least 58 people were killed and dozens of others were wounded. "The world must act against the chemical massacre in Syria. I call upon President Trump to lead this effort."

Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon stated, "The world cannot be silent in the face of the horrific massacre in Syria and allow this devastation to repeat itself. The UN must act immediately to put an end to the use of any chemical weapons and ensure their removal from Syrian

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The Mortara Affair

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat TZAV
פרשת צו

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 7:09pm | Shabbat Ends: 8:10pm



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Opinion.

Rasmea Odeh's Exit, Stage Left

RUTHIE BLUM
TEL AVIV

Convicted Palestinian terrorist Rasmea Odeh received a standing ovation this weekend in Chicago from an enthusiastic crowd at the national conference of the organization Jewish Voice for Peace.

Luckily for Odeh — who took part in the bombing of a Jerusalem supermarket in 1969, which killed Hebrew University students Leon Kanner and Eddie Joffe — the Jewish state she and her radical leftist buddies in the US Jewish community would see eradicated let her out of jail as part of a prisoner exchange. Still, she has expressed no gratitude to the liberal society that set her free in 1980, or to the one that has enabled her since then to roam around freely, spewing her vitriol and inciting violence. On the contrary, the proud member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who feels no remorse for the innocent boys she killed, also defied the country that took her in as in immigrant — concealing her terrorist past in order to enter the United States.

Not only that. Last month, Odeh's three-year battle with the US government, which was sparked by her being convicted of immigration fraud, came to a happy end with a plea bargain according to which she would

be stripped of her American citizenship and deported, but serve no jail time.

The Rasmea Defense Committee, a vocal group of avid supporters, had the nerve to respond to this piece of luck and ill-deserved generosity by saying that her decision to accept the deal was difficult, but it was the best she could hope for under the “current racist political climate” of President Donald Trump, in which her “prospects for a fair trial are slimmer than ever.”

It is bad enough that Odeh only spent 10 years in an Israeli prison. Worse still that she is getting off the hook for her subsequent crime. But the fact that she has been elevated to some kind of sainthood, lauded by feminist, black and other self-described human rights activists is as shocking as it is shameful.

To add insult to injury, Jewish Voice for Peace pressured the management of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the venue rented for the hate-filled conference, not to allow a pro-Israel group to rent a separate room in which to hold a memorial service for Odeh's victims. This is a classic case of what renowned law professor Alan Dershowitz calls “free speech for me and not for thee.”

Yes, as long as Jewish Voice for Peace and its non-Jewish counterparts — such as Students for Justice in Palestine and Black Lives Matter, which use it as a cover for their antisemitism — have the microphone, anything goes. Even glorifying cold-blooded murder. But when an organization like StandWithUs wants to present an opposing viewpoint, any underhanded



Rasmea Odeh. Photo: Justice4Rasmea.

tactics to prevent it from doing so are kosher.

Ultimately, StandWithUs prevailed and conducted a vigil for Kanner and Joffe during the conference, albeit in a different building of the Hyatt complex. But it was a quiet ceremony, unlike that of Jewish Voice for Peace, which cheered Odeh when she said, “We need you to continue resisting Trump's agenda and to continue challenging the Zionists and to continue providing your solidarity and support to the Palestinian and Arab national movement.”

Odeh, who was 21 when she played a key role in the terrorist attack, failed to mention

that if not for Israeli policy, she would have spent the rest of her life behind bars. Instead, she has been a liberated woman since the age of 32. The now 69-year-old also left out the fact that the U.S. justice system — yes, in Trump's America — can take credit for her ability to trade jail for Jordan, where she will undoubtedly be hailed as a heroine.

Good riddance, Rasmea; too bad you can't take your sycophants with you. But, as you surely know, Jordanian law forbids Jews from becoming citizens.

Ruthie Blum is the managing editor of *The Algemeiner*.

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DAN CALIC
NEW YORK

Have you ever wondered why the United Nations is so anti-Israel? Did you know that the UN Human Rights Council has passed more resolutions against Israel than all other countries combined?

Take a look at the rest of the world.

The Syrian civil war has been raging since 2011, with close to 500,000 deaths. Hezbollah has built an arsenal of approximately 150,000 rockets in Southern Lebanon, which is a flagrant violation of UN resolution 1701. North Korea continues its rogue behavior, with provocative missile launches and grotesque human rights abuses. Iran launches missiles with “Israel must be wiped out” painted on them, and is the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism. And yet the UN is silent.

But the UN is not silent when it comes to Israel.

Keep in mind that Israel is 8,000 square miles in size, roughly the size of New Jersey. Its population, including more than 1 million Arabs is just over 8,000,000. The Jewish population of Israel is approximately 6.5 million. Israel represents less than one tenth of one percent of the entire world.

So why does Israel and its ongoing conflict with the Palestinians garner so much attention from the UN? A closer look inside the make-up of the UN provides the answer.

First, let's examine the most anti-Israel body within the organization — the UN Human

Rights Council (HRC). Since 2006, the HRC has passed no less than 60 resolutions against Israel. That's a sustained average of almost one every other month for the past 10 years. In 2016 alone, the HRC passed 20 resolutions. Incredibly 10 of those were passed on a single day. Meanwhile, in 2016, a total of 4 resolutions were passed against countries in the rest of the world. This seems almost absurd, until you look more closely at the HRC.

There are 47 member nations that comprise the HRC. Keep in mind that its focus is “human rights.” Yet look at some of its members — China, Cuba, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Qatar, Burundi, Bangladesh, UAE, etc. Shouldn't members be beacons of protecting human rights? Yet these countries are some of the worst offenders.

The actual structure of the HRC is quite telling. The council divides the nations of the world into five regions: Africa (13 members); Asia (13) Latin America/Caribbean (8); Western Europe (7); and Eastern Europe (6).

The US is part of the Western Europe region.

Now here's where the rubber meets the road. Every nation where Muslims make up 50% or more of the general population is in one of two regions: the African or Asian region. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that when those two regions vote as a block, their 26 votes comprise an automatic majority of the HRC's 47 members.

The US is home to the United Nations, and puts up roughly 22% of the UN's yearly budget. Yet on the HRC, the US doesn't even have its own region — it's buried as a member of the Western Europe region, which has only 7 member nations. It can be easily out voted by the Muslim

dominated African and Asian regions.

Once you understand how the HRC is structured, it's clear why they ignore many other obvious problematic areas, and devote so much attention to Israel. Israel is in the heart of the Middle East, and has been a thorn in the side of the Arab Muslim world since the moment it was reborn in 1948. The existence of a sovereign Jewish state on land that most of the Muslim world considers holy represents a huge obstacle to their goal of “liberating” all of Israel and turning it into Palestine.

And the problem isn't limited to the HRC.

The UN Department of Political Affairs has an entire division devoted to Palestinian affairs. No other people, or nation, enjoy such a distinction. Plus, there are other anti-Israel UN agencies. UNESCO, for example, is in the business of revising history by passing resolutions reclassifying Jewish holy sites, such as the Cave of the Patriarchs and the Temple Mount, as Muslims holy sites. This is in outright contradiction to documented historical fact.

There's also the UNRWA, which is the only UN refugee agency created exclusively

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The Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council.
Photo: US Mission Geneva/Flickr/File.

World News.

Mossad Agents Cheered 9/11, Claims Jewish Academic at Anti-Israel Conference in Ireland

BY RUTHIE BLUM

A controversial conference that wrapped up in Ireland on Sunday included 9/11 conspiracy theories, according to live-stream footage from the event.

The three-day conference in Cork — “International Law and the State of Israel: Legitimacy, Exceptionalism and Responsibility” — featured academics from various countries, including Israel, who had gathered to call the Jewish state’s right to exist into question.

In the question-and-answer period of one of the panels on the third day of the event, which, as *The Algemeiner* reported, was held at the University College Cork (UCC), American-Jewish professor emeritus Joel Kovel, former Alger Hiss Chair of Social Studies at Bard College and author of *Overcoming Zionism*, stated: “There are so many facts that aren’t known, and then they’re lost to memory. Did you know that, as the towers were burning on 9/11...the five painters who were cheering on the process from across the river...were Mossad agents?! And they were arrested and disappeared from the face of the earth.”

David Collier of the blog *The Great Divide*, who attended the event, wrote that this section of Kovel’s talk “will no doubt take the headlines, but in truth, his entire speech could be classified as a horrific antisemitic attack.” Collier said, as well, that the audience “seemed to appreciate [Kovel’s] suggestion that the world is ecologically doomed unless you can remove Israel from the Middle East.”

According to the UK’s *Jewish News*, “Palestinian academic Dr. Ghada Kharmi elsewhere provoked controversy by using a Nazi term — ‘untermensch’ (inferior people) to describe Israel’s treatment of Palestinians.”

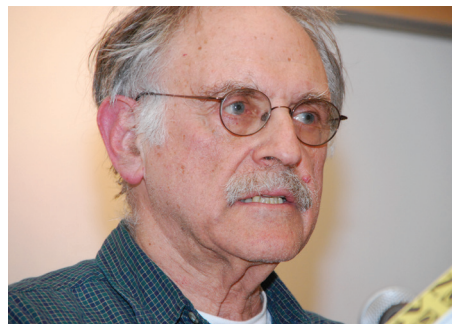
As *The Algemeiner* reported in December, upon the announcement that

the conference would be held at UCC, the university said that while it would not be taking any official part in the event, it would provide space on campus for its final day.

In a separate development, one of two pro-Israel speakers invited to the conference, which began March 31, backed out after learning that former UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Richard Falk — co-author of a widely criticized report released last month by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which called Israel an apartheid regime — was invited to deliver the keynote address.

Professor Alan Johnson, senior research fellow at the Britain Israel Communications & Research Center (BICOM), said in a statement, “I had agreed to participate in an academic conference to present a paper in defense of Israel’s right to exist. But by inviting a speaker who espouses antisemitic conspiracy theories the conference is now objectively an attempt to normalize antisemitism and I cannot attend such an event.”

“International Law and the State of Israel” was originally scheduled to take place last year at the University of Southampton in Britain, but the school rescinded its invitation after it came under a barrage of criticism.



Joel Kovel. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Muslim Baroness Calls Government to Prosecute British IDF Soldiers

BY JNS.ORG

A prominent British Muslim former politician has called on the UK government to prosecute British citizens who volunteer to fight in the Israeli military.

Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, a former Conservative Party cabinet member who resigned from her post in 2014 because the UK government did not condemn Israel’s Operation Protective Edge in Gaza that year, said she is seeking to eliminate a loophole allowing Brits to serve in state armies like those of Israel or Pakistan.

“If you go out there and fight for any group, you will be subject to prosecution

when you get back. If you go out and fight for [Bashar] Assad, I presume, under our law, that is okay. That can’t be right,” Warsi said in an interview with Middle East Eye. According to Warsi, anyone who serves in the IDF should be treated as a foreign fighter, much like those who have gone to fight for the Islamic State terror group.

“The only reason we allow the loophole to exist is because of the IDF, because we are not brave enough to say if you hold British citizenship, you make a choice. You fight for our state only. That has to go out strong,” Warsi said, adding, “Let’s just shut down this loophole. If you don’t fight for Britain, you do not fight.”

Report: Hamas Arresting ‘Israel-Collaborators’ in Wake of Military Wing Commander’s Assassination



Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades. Photo: Pinterest.

BY RUTHIE BLUM

In the wake of last month’s assassination of a senior Hamas commander in Gaza, the terrorist organization’s security apparatus launched a massive campaign to round up and arrest “Israel-collaborators,” the Hebrew news site Walla reported.

Based on reports from Lebanon, published in the Palestinian media, Walla said that, thus far, many suspects have been apprehended in the ongoing campaign, aimed at identifying those responsible for the assassination of Mazen Fuqaha, of the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades. Hamas blames Israel for the targeted killing.

Hamas officials were quoted as saying that they are committed to meting out harsh punishments for those discovered to have cooperated with Israel in the mission. However, one said, those who turn themselves in will receive lighter sentences.

On Sunday, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman — who has neither confirmed nor denied Israel’s part in the

assassination — was quoted by Walla as saying, “Let Hamas look to itself for the culprits. We are not seeking adventures; we deal responsibly with our security issues and do what we have to do.”

As *The Algemeiner* reported, Fuqaha was killed outside his Gaza City home on March 24 by a bullet to the head. Fuqaha, who had been sentenced to life in prison for planning a suicide bombing on an Israeli bus in 2002 — which left nine dead and 38 wounded — was released in the 2011 swap for abducted IDF soldier Gilad Schalit, held for five years in Hamas captivity.

In a statement vowing revenge for Fuqaha’s death, a spokesman for the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades said, “...the enemy will pay a price for this crime that is equal in size to the assassination of our martyr leader. He who plays with fire will be burned by it.”

According to the Hebrew news site nrg, Hamas spokesman Fauzi Barhoum accused the Mossad of being behind the killing, warning, “The response will be shocking and will hit the heart of Tel Aviv.”

Continued from Page A1
Massacre

territory. This is the UN’s true purpose and it must fulfill this fundamental responsibility.”

Zionist Union chief Isaac Herzog — the head of Israel’s opposition — tweeted, “What is taking place in Syria is a crime against humanity. The United States and the world must lead an aggressive policy to protect the innocent. Legitimizing the Assad regime means supporting a murderous regime.”

Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Yadlin — an ex-IDF intelligence chief and the current director of the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) — declared on Twitter, “It is time Assad pays for his war crimes. Another chemical attack and the world stays silent!”

Continued from Page A1
Condolences

will show what happened,” Putin said during a meeting with Belarussian President

“Israel should lead a clear ethical agenda against Iran-Assad-Hezbollah’s war crimes,” Yadlin continued. “This concerns Israel, not only ethically [but] strategically as well. Obama has left a void in 2013, into which entered Russia, ISIS, Hezbollah. Israel should establish a more active policy against the negative developments [on] its northern border.”

Israel has largely tried to stay out of the war that has raged in Syria for more than six years now, with the exception of direct responses to cross-border fire in the Golan Heights region in a number of instances and reported occasional air strikes targeting Hezbollah-bound shipments of advanced weaponry.

Alexander Lukashenko. “Naturally, we always consider all options — both domestic and criminal — primarily [for] incidents of a terrorist nature.”

World News.



Temple Mount Sifting Project work in October 2016. Photo: Miriam Alster/Flash90.

Temple Mount Sifting Project Halted After Backer Pulls Funds

BY JNS.ORG

The Temple Mount Sifting Project, an archaeological initiative to uncover rare artifacts buried in soil removed from the Jerusalem holy site in the 1990s, has been halted due to budget constraints.

The project issued a statement on its closure Sunday, citing “lack of funding and differences between the directors of the Sifting Project and the Ir David Foundation.”

A year after the sifting project commenced, the Ir David Foundation had agreed to finance the operation, and did so for 12 years before pulling the funding in March.

A spokesperson for the foundation, Ze'ev Orenstein, said “about 12 years ago the Ir David

organization helped save the earth that was excavated from the Temple Mount...since that time the group voluntarily funded the sifting, processing and research of the earth to the tune of millions of shekels. We hope that a way will be found for this national and international project to continue.”

Throughout its duration, the project involved the participation of more than 250,000 volunteers who helped sift through the salvaged Jerusalem dirt to uncover tens of thousands of small archaeological objects and fragments.

One of the project's rarest finds was a half-shekel coin dating back to the first year of the Jewish revolt against Rome in 66 CE.

Israeli Reporter: Hamas Removing Clauses in Charter Calling Jews ‘Descendants of Pigs, Apes’ Just a ‘Matter of Semantics’

BY RUTHIE BLUM

Hamas' announcement Sunday that it had removed key clauses in its charter — such as calling Jews the “descendants of pigs and apes” — was merely a “matter of semantics,” according to a correspondent for Israel's Channel 2.

In a televised editorial on Tuesday from Washington, DC, Ohad Chemo explained what he considered the motive behind the tactical move on the part of the terrorist organization that rules the Gaza Strip.

According to Chemo, there were a few main reasons for Hamas' new direction, after 30 years in existence. Chief among these, Chemo said, was the group's feeling of political isolation — its treatment by the world as a

“leper” — and desire to return to the “family of nations,” at least among Arab states.

But, he added, since open expressions of Jew-hatred in its charter are used by Israel to point to the group's true nature, and not let it say that it is simply against the establishment of the Jewish state, Hamas reached the conclusion that it had to start making a distinction between Jews and Zionists — though stopping short of recognizing Israel's right to exist.

Last month, Chemo said, Hamas officials in the West Bank told him that “anyone who does not understand that the State of Israel is a fact of reality is stupid.”

However, Chemo added, “In public, [the leadership is] not willing to say that. There is a wide gap between Hamas in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza, and this is but one example.”

is charged with upholding dignity and security for all the nations of the world, big and small. Yet, is it acting with equal vigilance in enforcing these noble principles when it comes to Israel? The answer is a resounding no! One could make a strong case that the UN has a separate anti-Israel agenda from its overall mission, effectively making it the largest anti-Israel organization in the world (unofficially, of course).

However, now that Donald Trump is president and Nikki Haley is the US

Continued from Page A2
UN-Fair

for one group of people: the Arab Palestinians. It runs schools in the Gaza Strip and in Judea and Samaria that openly teach students to commit jihad against Israel and the Jews.

Then there's the UN Security Council, which recently passed a resolution naming Israeli “settlements” as the main obstacle to peace. The resolution completely ignored Arab Palestinian terrorism.

The United Nations as an organization

Indian Intellectual: Lack of Angry Arab Response to Reported Upcoming PM Modi Visit to Israel Due to Sunni Back Channel Cahoots With Jewish State Against Iran

BY RUTHIE BLUM

The editor-in-chief of one of India's most widely circulated English-language dailies claimed on Sunday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reported upcoming visit to Israel in the summer is of major significance, both by virtue of its historical nature and in the lack of an angry response to it on the part of the Arab world.

In an op-ed in the *Hindustan Times*, Bobby Ghosh wrote:

This is nothing short of astonishing to anyone who, like your humble servant, grew up in the India of the 1970s and 80s, when it was routine for New Delhi to join the Arab chorus of condemnation for Israel at Tel Aviv's every turn. Whether it was because of India's need for Arab oil, or because there were so many Arab members of the benighted Non-Aligned Movement, or because the Jewish State was tied to the US while New Delhi was chummy with the USSR, or simply because so many in this country genuinely sympathised with the Palestinian cause, a succession of Indian governments avoided diplomatic relations with Israel.

He continued: “If you'd told me then that an Indian PM would one day be making an official visit there, I'd have laughed you out of the room. But that prospect is no longer surprising: The two countries began building close ties in the 1990s, and are now locked in a tight embrace of economic, defence and security interests.”

But what about the Arab world? According to Ghosh, there are three main reasons for the “absence of even a murmur of protest” from that corner.

One, he said, has to do with the understanding and “resigned acceptance” that India and Israel have a common enemy in Islamist terrorism.

Another, he claimed, involves “Palestine fatigue,” either because the problem appears “interminable and intractable,” or due to more pressing issues, such as the carnage in Syria.

But the most striking of the reasons cited by Ghosh is the fact that many Arab governments themselves — such as Saudi Arabia and Bahrain — would “like an accommodation with the Jewish state.” Indeed, he said, both of those Sunni-majority countries have been reported to be engaging in back-channel communications with the Israeli government, a phenomenon that has increased since the signing of the nuclear deal between Shiite Iran and world powers in July 2015.

This, he noted, is in spite of their having



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu with his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, in New York City in September 2014. Photo: Avi Ohayon / GPO via Flickr.

no formal relations with Israel, or even recognizing its right to exist.

“For six decades, their propaganda machines have portrayed the Jewish State as an abomination, and have normalised anti-Semitism among their citizenry,” he wrote. “The rulers of these states cannot now afford to be seen breaking bread with Israel, and so can only play a form of diplomatic footsie — or rely on sympathetic intermediaries to ferry little notes between them.”

He concluded, “If Modi does hear from Arab rulers before his visit to Israel, it may very well be in the form of requests to convey cautious felicitations. And it's just conceivable that [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu will want Modi to carry a message for Saudi King Salman, who is expected to visit New Delhi later in the year.”

Last month, as *The Algemeiner* reported, Netanyahu met in Jerusalem with Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval to discuss Modi's Israel trip, which could take place in June. This, the report said, was part of blossoming ties between Jerusalem and New Delhi.

Last November, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin traveled to India, just over a year after his Indian counterpart, President Pranab Mukherjee, visited Israel. And in February, it was reported that Modi had approved a \$2.5 billion deal to acquire an Israeli aerial defense system for his country's military.

Netanyahu and Modi met for the first time in New York City in September 2014 on the sidelines of a UN General Assembly gathering.

Following Modi's Israel visit, Netanyahu is expected to make a reciprocal trip to India by the end of next January. In 2003, the late Ariel Sharon became the first and so far only Israeli prime minister to travel to India.

In addition, Air India — the country's flag carrier — announced it was planning to renew direct flights between New Delhi and Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile, last week, India inked a \$1 billion deal to purchase Israeli anti-tank missiles.

the US may consider taking punitive action against the UN and some of its internal agencies — in the form of reducing or eliminating financial support — due to its anti-Israel activities. There have even been discussions about the US withdrawing from the Human Rights Council.

We are in the early stages of a long overdue new era. It's about time someone “Trumpets” support for Israel.

Moreover, Trump has indicated that

U.S. News.

Columbia, Vassar Among US Universities With Highest Incidence of Antisemitic Activity, New Report Claims

BY RACHEL FROMMER

New York's Columbia University experienced the highest overall antisemitic activity last year among more than 100 US schools studied, a report released Tuesday by a campus watchdog group revealed.

According to the AMCHA Initiative's second annual report, Columbia also had the largest increase in such episodes, with 29 more incidents in 2016 than in the previous year. Vassar College came in at a close second, according to the report. In total, the campuses studied experienced a 40 percent spike in antisemitic behavior, with 433 episodes recorded last year by AMCHA.

"Jewish students are bearing the brunt of vast and profound campus intolerance," lead researcher and AMCHA founder Tammi Rossman-Benjamin told *The Algemeiner*. "Jews are being targeted at heightened levels, but this has to be understood in the context of a more general problem. If administrators could understand and correctly frame the issue of antisemitism as one example of a culture of campus intolerance, they could respond to it better, and help all students — Jewish and non-Jewish — have a healthier university climate for free speech."

Rossman-Benjamin added that she is particularly "frightened" by another finding in the report.

"Homicidal expression — condoning or calling for the murder of Jews, using language and imagery linked with the Holocaust — is rising at a troubling rate," she said. "By what we are seeing in the first quarter of 2017, this year will be even worse. Compared with this time in 2016, we've already documented a huge uptick in such incidents, especially in the appearance of swastikas."

According to AMCHA, there was a small decrease in the total number of schools at which all antisemitic episodes occurred, with heightened activity concentrated on select campuses, including New York University, University of Chicago, University of Wisconsin Madison, University of Minnesota and Ohio State University.

California universities — including the University of California (UC) system, the University of Southern California and the Claremont Colleges — were listed by AMCHA as among the top 15 schools with the highest incidence of overall antisemitic activity, targeting of Jews, antisemitic expression and BDS activity. Chicago-area schools featured prominently, as well, based on those four markers.

The report also offers universities six recommendations to reduce intolerance, including reviewing, updating and enforcing policies to ensuring free speech and equal rights on campus, and employing "appropriate disciplinary measures" when those rights are violated.

A Columbia spokesperson told *The Algemeiner*, "Jewish life and learning is flourishing at Columbia as it has been for decades. This report falsely suggests otherwise by citing allegations of antisemitism such as an op-ed in Columbia College's student newspaper critical of the Israeli government's policies. Columbia remains committed to freedom of speech, respectful of all members of our diverse community, and vigilant in condemning antisemitism."

Many of AMCHA's top offenders appeared on *The Algemeiner's* list of the "worst" campuses for Jewish students in 2016.

AMCHA's report comes nearly a month after an American higher-education-reform group labeled BDS "one of the greatest threats to academic freedom in the United States today."



Vassar College Photo: Wikimedia



A student's apartment door, branded with a swastika. Photo: Facebook.

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Opinion.

American Jewish Committee Lobbied US to Cover Palestinian Authority's Unpaid Bills



RAFAEL MEDOFF/
JNS.ORG

Amid growing Congressional concern about the Palestinian Authority's (PA) misuse of US financial aid, a major mainstream American Jewish organization has been quietly lobbying Congress to cover the PA's unpaid bills at a Jerusalem hospital.

JNS.org has learned that for the past several years, senior officials from the American Jewish Committee (AJC) have been pressing US officials, including members of Congress, to pay millions in unpaid bills that the PA has racked up at the Lutheran-sponsored Augusta Victoria hospital in eastern Jerusalem.

At the beginning of 2014, the hospital was more than \$19 million in debt, due to "non-payment of fees for patients that are referred to the hospital by the Palestinian Authority," according to a Lutheran World Federation press release. The statement added that the PA "pledged to pay for the

treatment of these patients but it has not been able to uphold its commitments." At the end of 2014, the PA made a payment of \$263,000 and left the remaining \$16.6 million unpaid.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) — the country's largest Lutheran denomination — enlisted the AJC to ask Washington to foot the PA's bills.

Rabbi David Rosen, AJC's Jerusalem-based International Director of Interreligious and Intergroup Relations, said that he and other leaders from the organization have lobbied members of Congress and US officials to pay the bills. Rosen also said that he has spoken to the US ambassador and consul general in Israel about the hospital's financial problems.

Perhaps in response to the lobbying, the US sent Augusta Victoria hospital \$13 million in 2014, another \$13 million in 2015 and an unspecified amount in 2016.

The AJC's role

Reverend Richard H. Graham, bishop of the Lutherans' Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, told JNS.org that although he and other Lutheran representatives have also urged the US government to provide the funds, he believes that the AJC's intervention was the decisive factor.



The US Capitol building in Washington, D.C. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

"If it had been a matter of just 'the Lutherans want something to be done,' I don't think it would have happened," he said. The AJC "reminded congressmen" that covering the PA's bills to the hospital was "very important" not only to Lutherans, but also "to Jewish people," the bishop explained.

Graham also praised Rosen for pressing the Israeli government to make tax changes

that would have affected the hospital.

The AJC has not issued any press releases concerning its role in the lobbying effort. The group's Associate Director of Interreligious and Intergroup Relations, Emily Soloff, declined to comment on the matter.

Reverend Graham took part, along with

Continued on Page A8

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SCHEDULE		
Date	Time	Activities
4/10	12-2 pm	Pick up packages
	8:00 pm	Doors Open
Sedar I	8:30 pm	Ancient Secrets of Judaism
4/11	1:00 pm	Meal/Seuda
	2:00 pm	Q & A: Judaism
	8:30 pm	Doors Open
Sedar II	9:00 pm	Exodus: Legend or History
4/12	1:00 pm	Meal/Seuda
	2:00 pm	7 Wonders of Our Jewish Nation
	9:00 pm	Meal/ Seuda
	9:30 pm	Defending The Faith
4/13	2:00 pm	Meal
	2:00 pm	Spectacular Children's Show: Arkaidy the Clown & animal show.
	7:30 pm	Meal
	7:30 pm	Popular Aish HaTorah Speaker: Q&A National Revelation (SINAI)
	9:00 pm	Shomer Shabos Singles Program With Live Music, Matchmakers & Smorgasboard. SYAS successful Shadchan Goldie (The Shadchan with a Heart.)
4/14	1:00 pm	Meal
	1:30 pm	What is kosher food?
	9:00 pm	Meal/ Seuda
	9:30 pm	The Power of Prayer

For Opportunities To Get Involved:
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SCHEDULE cont.

Date	Time	Activities
4/15	1:00 pm	Meal / Seuda
	1:30 pm	The Deeper Beauty of Shabbos
	9 :00 pm	Meal / Seuda
	9:30 pm	Oral vs. Written Torah
4/16	1:00 pm	Meal
	1:30 pm	"Friend or Foe: Torah & Science"
	8:30 pm	Meal/ Seuda
	9:00 pm	Why Bad Happens to Good People?
4/17	1:00 pm	Meal / Seuda
	1:30 pm	Moral Relativism & Torah
	8:45 pm	Meal/ Seuda
	9:15 pm	Post Holocaust – 2 Million
4/18	2:00 pm	Meal / Seuda
	2:30 pm	Jews Vanished- Why ? Solution?
	6:00 pm	Meal/ Seuda
	7:00 pm	Open Forum

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March 20, 2017

For almost 50 years, the Beth Shifra organization, located in Brooklyn, NY, has provided year-round, daily free meals to those who are most needy in the New York Jewish community. I am personally familiar with the outstanding work that they do under the leadership of Rabbi Chaim Prussman, and urge you to help Beth Shifra in any manner possible, including publicizing their work in your shul or organization.

During the Pesach holiday, the organization sponsors Kosher for Passover sedorim, food packages, lectures and programs to hundreds of people who would otherwise be unable to celebrate the holiday.

This year, Beth Shifra is sponsoring free Kosher for Passover Seders and daily meals from Monday April 10th through Tuesday April 18th at the White Shul located at 2102 Avenue T (East 21st Street) in Brooklyn. Passover food packages will be distributed on Monday, April 10th at the synagogue between the hours of 12:00-2:00 PM.

Please take the time to help a hungry family celebrate Passover. Join in making this year a memory of a lifetime for those in need by publicizing the wonderful work of Beth Shifra.

In the merit of helping the hungry and poor, may you only receive the choicest blessings from Heaven.

Sincerely,

Dov Hikind
Member of Assembly

Please beware of Non-Jewish missionary organizations (often using Jewish-sounding names) offering free "Seders", Passover food giveaways, etc., especially in Churches.

— WE BELIEVE —
**GREAT
FOOD**

— STARTS WITH —
**GREAT
INGREDIENTS**

—
NOTHING ADDED
BUT HARD WORK
AND DETERMINATION
—



Pomegranate

הג כשר ושמח

Impressions.

Continued from Page A6
Bills

31 other Lutheran bishops, in an April 2014 lobbying mission to Capitol Hill to advocate for the hospital. According to an ELCA press release at the time, the bishops spoke to lawmakers about both the hospital funding, and the church's other views concerning Israel. The ELCA has called for ending US aid to Israel unless the Israelis stopped all Jewish construction in the disputed territories and in portions of Jerusalem.

The AJC's Rosen acknowledged that the PA "mismanages" its finances, is "riddled with corruption" and is wrong to spend funds on weapons and payments to terrorists. Nevertheless, he said, the AJC considers it a "Jewish moral responsibility" to seek US funds to cover the PA's bills at Augusta Victoria.

That position is disputed by the Coalition for Jewish Values, a Baltimore-based national organization of Orthodox rabbis, which said in a statement: "There is no moral responsibility to pay the bills of a regime such as the PA, which has enough funds to pay its own bills but refuses to do so in order to use its money to pay salaries to terrorists."

'Enabling bad behavior'

Some longtime observers of Israel-Diaspora relations have also expressed misgivings about the AJC's actions.

"This is an old story of the US and others enabling the Palestinian Authority to divert funds to [honor] terrorists and [delegitimize] Israel, rather than taking care of its own people," Gil Troy, an American presidential historian and professor at Canada's McGill University, told JNS.org.

"If the choice was between a hospital that does good work going bankrupt, bravo to the AJC and US government for making sure it doesn't," he added. "But given the context, one worries that this is a case of naive Jews and naive Americans enabling bad behavior on the part of the anti-Israel elements within some churches, and enabling the even worse behavior of the Palestinian Authority."

Australian-Israeli activist Isi Leibler, a former World Jewish Congress chairman and a columnist for the Jerusalem Post and Israel Hayom, told JNS.org that "On a variety of recent issues, the AJC has moved dramatically away from its previous policy of not getting involved in domestic Israeli affairs, and they now seem to be pandering to their most far-left elements."

The ELCA, for its part, has just launched an effort to influence the Trump administration's policies toward Israel. The Lutheran denomination, together with other US churches recently sent a "briefing paper" to administration officials and all members of Congress, charging that "Israeli violations of human rights and international law have continued without consequence." The churches urged the US to "apply Leahy vetting processes" when considering aid to Israel. The Leahy amendment prohibits US military assistance to countries deemed to be violating human rights.

Members of Congress are currently reviewing the question of US aid to the PA, which has ranged from \$100 million to \$500 million annually since 1994. The recently introduced Taylor Force Act, spearheaded by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), would cut off US aid to the PA unless the PA stops paying imprisoned terrorists and the families of deceased terrorists. The legislation is named after a US Army veteran who was murdered by a Palestinian terrorist in Jaffa in March 2016.

The Mortara Affair and Christian-Jewish Relations

BY JEREMY ROSEN

The story of Edgardo Mortara is a scandalous example of Christian theological cruelty and arrogance towards Jews.

In the 19th century, six-year-old Edgardo Mortara was seized by the Church from a Jewish family in Bologna, Italy. Bologna's inquisitor, Father Pier Feletti, had heard that Edgardo had been secretly baptized as a baby by a Catholic woman working in the family's home, when she thought that he was about to die from an illness. As a result, the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition declared Edgardo to be irrevocably a Catholic, and ordered that he be taken from his family and brought up by the Church.

An appeal was made to Pope Pius IX to reject the decision, and return Edgar to his distraught parents and siblings. But, despite a public outcry in Europe and the US — and a desperate campaign by the boy's family — the pope refused. On the contrary, he kept the boy firmly in his care, and out of the public eye. It became a matter of principle, a desperate attempt by the papacy to assert its declining power as secularism began to erode its authority. It was the equivalent of the sexual scandals that have undermined the moral authority of Catholicism today. In all such cases, the Church's priority was protecting its own interests at the expense of human suffering.

Father Feletti was prosecuted for his role in Edgardo's seizure after pontifical rule in Bologna ended in 1859. But he was acquitted, because the court determined that he was simply following orders (yes, there were shades of Nazism). The Pope continued to act as a father to Edgardo, who trained for the priesthood in Rome until 1870, when the city was captured by the Kingdom of Italy and the Papal States were brought to an end. Edgardo then left Italy for France, where he was ordained three years later at the age of 21. He stayed outside of Italy most of his life, and died at the age of 88 in Belgium.

Many felt that the Vatican's actions in Edgardo's case epitomized all that was wrong with the Papal States, and pontifical rule. Some historians consider the event to be one of the most significant of Pius IX's papacy, and some say that it accelerated the end of papal rule over parts of Italy.

But the case also shows how entrenched antisemitism was in the Vatican, and how the Church's theology taught contempt for Judaism and Jews. This hatred continued until Pope John XXIII began to change Catholic teachings.

Two things brought this sad affair back to my mind. The first was hearing that Steven Spielberg is working on a film about the incident. The other was receiving a copy of *Writing for Justice: Victor Sejour, the Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara, and the Age of Transatlantic Emancipation* by a descendant of Edgardo Mortara, Elena Mortara. Until reading the book I confess that I had no idea who Victor Sejour was.

At the same time as the Mortara affair was occurring, black Americans were being deprived of their rights in the United States — even though they had just been freed in the Civil War. In France, many of the intellectuals who fought against antisemitism also fought for the emancipation of blacks in the United States.

These two issues were combined in the work of a remarkable man.

Victor Sejour was an American-born black poet and writer who moved to France, and became a celebrity. Among the many plays he wrote was a fictional adaptation of the Mortara affair, in which the abductee was a young girl. The play was so successful in its day that it was translated into five European languages. It was called *La Tireuse de Cartes* ("The Fortune Teller") because the mother of the abducted child, disguised herself as a fortune teller to find and stay close to her lost daughter.

The theme of inhumanity in the Church was also explored by the recent TV series, "The Young Pope." The series is beautifully shot and directed, and centers on what happens when the conclave of cardinals appoints a compromise candidate as pope — a young American idealist, played by Jude Law. The series deals courageously with the conflicting demands of spirituality, honesty and politics at the largest religious institution in the world.

Law's character is a man struggling with the position and his conscience. He tries to be honest with himself and others, and struggles for a purity and honesty; this, of course, conflicts with the interests of the cardinals and the establishment of the Church.



Vatican City. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

The series shows exactly how and why a pope could allow himself to become so inhuman — and why the Vatican failed in its Christian mission, and rallied around the pope over the Mortara affair. Even today, we witness how the good intentions of Pope Francis are often thwarted by a more traditional curia. And it saddens me that Israel's chief rabbinate shares exactly the same pathologies of political intrigue, vested interests and power plays.

I have always resented religious authority, precisely because it invariably subordinates individuality, sensitivity and compassion.

Leaders, regardless of what other talents they may have, are invariably involved in trying to root out dissent and all kinds of challenges. They often betray their integrity for the sake of their position, while convincing themselves that they are doing the best to preserve the dignity of the institution. The best of leaders are rarely willing to be honest and admit to doubts. Of all the major rabbis that I am aware of, the great Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik was the only one to confess publicly to such personal, human limitations.

In the end, all governments and powers — religious or secular, Left or Right — are or become corrupt. Failure of moral authority and a dearth of courageous leaders is a disease that has infected the majority of human institutions. Elena Mortara's fascinating, well-documented and scholarly study is a very welcome and eloquent description of the problem, and a plea for change.

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: NRIA 423 THIRD MANAGER,LLC .Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 12/12/2016 Office location Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY Shall Mail copy of the process to: Gabor & Marotta LLC, 1878 Victory Blvd, Staten Island NY 10314. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ 4/7/14/21/28; 5/5/12

Notice of formation of limited liability company. (LLC) Name: GRR PARTNERS, LLC articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/01/2016. Office location Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail process to the LLC c/o United states corporation agents Inc. 7014 13th Ave. Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ 3/3/10/17/24/31; 4/7

143-145 PROSPECT LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/17/2017. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 15 Powell Lane, Staten Island, NY 10312. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.
AJ 3/3/10/17/24/31; 4/7

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: Union Street capital 248, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/22/2017. Office location Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be Served. SSNY Shall mail process to: Gabor & Marotta LLC 1878 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314 Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ 3/10/17/24/31; 4/7/14

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: NRIA 248 Union manager,LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 02/22/2017. Office location Richmond County SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be Served. SSNY Shall Mail process to: Gabor & Marotta LLC. 1878 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ 3/10/17/24/31; 4/7/14

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: NRIA 140 Luquer, Manager LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on: 02/24/2017. Office location Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to GABOR & MAROTTA LLC 1878 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ 3/10/17/24/31; 4/7/14

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: LUQUER STREET CAPITAL 140, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/24/2017 Office location Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY Shall mail process to GABOR & MAROTTA LLC 1878 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ 3/10/17/24/31; 4/7/14

Notice of formation of a limited liability company (LLC) Name: Best Spanish NYC, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/27/2016 . Office location Kings County SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY Shall Mail process to best Spanish NYC, LLC 101 Ocean Parkway #3c Brooklyn, NY 11218 purpose: all lawful activity
AJ 3/10/17/24/31; 4/7/14

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: 3211 CRUGER AVE LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/03/2017. Office location Bronx County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY Shall Mail process to WANG & CO accounting LLC PO Box 103, Glen Cove, NY 11542 purpose: all lawful activity
AJ 3/10/17/24/31; 4/7/14

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT-COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR LSF9 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST, Plaintiff, AGAINST LINWOOD ROBERTS, et al. Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly entered January 9, 2017 I the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on April 20, 2017 at 2:30 PM premises known as 125 HALSEY STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11216 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Block 1838 and Lot 73 Approximate amount of judgment \$591,230.91 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment. Index #508270/2013 JANET LISA BROWN, ESQ, Referee, Aldridge Pite, LLP - Attorneys for Plaintiff - 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747
AJ 3/17/24/31; 4/7

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION; Plaintiff(s) vs. JOYCE CARTER; VINCENT COLLINS; et al; Defendant(s) Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York, 12524, 845.897.1600 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about January 26, 2017, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. On April 20, 2017 at 2:30 pm. Premises known as 4812 SNYDER AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11203 Block: 4720 Lot: 5 ALL that certain piece or parcel of land, together with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough

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of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, designated as Lot 6 in Block 4720 on a certain map or plan of lots called Rugby surveyed by Wood Harmon and Co. in May 1900 and Fred L. Bartlett filed 08/04/04. As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment \$448,240.29 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 503281/2014 Marc M. Dittenhoefer, Esq., Referee
AJ 3/17/24/31; 4/7

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NA, Plaintiff against ZISEL BRIEGER: LARRY BRIEGER, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on December 2, 2016. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY. on the 20th day of April, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the building improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Said premises known as 1252 58th Street Brooklyn, NY. 11219. Tax Account Number SBL #: 5704 - 28. Approximate amount of lien \$622,641.64 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 16371-11. Salvatore Scibetta, Esq., Referee. Fein, Such & Crane, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1800 Rochester, NY. 14614 (585) 232-7400
AJ 3/17/24/31; 4/7/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, Plaintiff AGAINST FREDERICK L. GRANT, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated August 02, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on April 20, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 660 WARWICK STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 4078, LOT 45. Approximate amount of judgment \$653,662.17 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 6144/2013. William D. Bowman Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221
AJ 3/17/24/31; 4/7/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, Plaintiff AGAINST LISA COBHAM, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated January 03, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on April 20, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 128A COOPER STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, and County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 3440, LOT 23.

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Approximate amount of judgment \$599,880.18 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 505080/2015. Mark A. Longo Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221
AJ 3/17/24/31; 4/7/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank, National Association, as Successor Trustee to Bank of America, N.A., as Successor By Merger to LaSalle Bank, N.A. as Trustee for the Certificate-holders of The MLMI Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-AR1, Plaintiff AGAINST Cheryle E. Williams; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated December 5, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on April 20, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 297 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being, Block: 1675 Lot: 42. Approximate amount of judgment \$754,004.40 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 20070/2013. Meryl L. Wenig, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: March 2, 2017
AJ 3/17/24/31; 4/7/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") a corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, Plaintiff AGAINST Karen Wood a/k/a Karen L. Wood; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated May 31, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on April 20, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 102-19 Seaview Avenue a/k/a 10219 Seaview Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block: 8305 Lot: 1. Approximate amount of judgment \$465,843.41 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 7831/2013. Jay D. Cohen, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: February 28, 2017
AJ 3/17/24/31; 4/7/

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: GAO GE ZI LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 03/02/2017. Office location Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY Shall Mail process to: Mingqin Ren 239 Little Clove Rd., Staten Island, NY 10301. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ 3/17/24/31; 4/7/14/21

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: GOODSCOMPANY LLC . Articles of organization filed with the Secretary

LEGAL NOTICE

of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/13/2017. Office location in Kings County SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY Shall mail process to Mauricio Orantes 135 Rogers Ave. 3L Brooklyn, NY 11216 . Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ 3/17/24/31; 4/7/14/21

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.; Plaintiff(s) vs. SEAN O. SEATON AKA SEAN SEATON; et al; Defendant(s) Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York, 12524, 845.897.1600 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about January 3, 2017, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. On April 27, 2017 at 2:30 pm. Premises known as 678 PENNSYLVANIA AVE, BROOKLYN, NY 11207-6944 Block: 4298 Lot: 27 LL that certain lot, parcel or tract of land, situate and lying in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings and State of New York. As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment \$459,953.94 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 10654-13 Mark A. Longo, Esq., Referee
AJ 3/24/31; 4/7/14/

Notice of Qualification of RED HOOK INDUSTRIAL CENTER, LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/07/17. Office location: Kings County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 02/23/17. Princ. office of LLC: 68 Ferris St., Brooklyn, NY 11231. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: 2711 Centerville Rd., Ste. 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State, Div. of Corps. John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity.
AJ 3/24/31; 4/7/14/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust Mortgage Pass- Through Certificates, Series 2005-4, Plaintiff AGAINST Renee Belmar; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated January 26, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on April 27, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 1355 Saint Marks, Brooklyn, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 1357 Lot 70. Approximate amount of judgment \$884,029.91 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 511225/2014. Shmuel Taub, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: March 2, 2017
AJ 3/24/31; 4/7/14/

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS CSAB M O R T G A G E - B A C K E D PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, Plaintiff, Against Index No.: 500644/2015 H. RICHARD ADELMAN, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered on 2/6/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 4/27/2017 at 2:30 pm, premises known as 1146 39th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218, and described as follows: ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Kings County Treasurer as Block 5585 and Lot 26. The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$890,086.65 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 500644/2015. Gregory Cerchione, Esq., Referee. SHELDON MAY & ASSOCIATES Attorneys at Law, 255 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 Dated: 2/23/2017 File Number: 27393 MNB AJ 3/24/31; 4/7/14/

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: MCA FUNDING LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/04/2017. Office location kings county SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY Shall mail process to Joshua Golomb 2559 Nostrand Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11229. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ 3/24/31; 4/7/14/21/28

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR FREMONT HOME LOAN TRUST 2006-3, Plaintiff -against- PETRONILLA HUNT, NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, PETRA DOUGLAS Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly dated JULY 21, 2016, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at ROOM 224 F/K/A ROOM 274 OF KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201 on April 27, 2017 at 2:30 PM premises known as 713 ESSEX STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11208-4407. ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of KINGS, City and State of New York. Block: 4316 Lot: 56 Approximate amount of lien \$482,628.79 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment Index # 11924/2010 STEVEN Z. NAIMAN, ESQ., REFEREE STEIN, WIENER AND ROTH, L.L.P., ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF ONE OLD COUNTRY ROAD, SUITE 113 CARLE PLACE, NY 11514 DATED: March 17, 2017 FILE #: WELLS 69038 AJ 3/24/31; 4/7/14/

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC Bank USA, National Association as Trustee for Mortgage Securities Corp. Mortgage Loan Trust, Series 2007-1, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Plaintiff AGAINST Patsy Carter; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated January 3, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on May 4, 2017 at 2:30 PM, premises known as 388 East 57th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 4767 Lot 15. Approximate amount of judgment \$599,692.48 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 6390/2013. Steven David Cohn, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: March 1, 2017 AJ 3/31; 4/7/14/21

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee of Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust Inc. Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2007-FS1, Plaintiff AGAINST Leonie Beresford Peters a/k/a Leonie S. Peters, Fitzroy Peters, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 1/3/2017 and entered on 1/24/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on April 27, 2017 at 02:30 PM premises known as 301 East 91st Street, Brooklyn, NY 11212. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 4646, LOT: 74. Approximate amount of judgment is \$463,426.49 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 504490/2015. Steven Naiman, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ 3/31; 4/7/14/21

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Adjustable Rate Mortgage Trust 2006-3, Adjustable Rate Mortgage-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-3, Plaintiff AGAINST Sharifa Small, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 9/12/2016 and entered on 9/27/2016, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on April 27, 2017 at 02:30 PM premises known as 166 Stuyvesant Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11221. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 1620, LOT: 50. Approximate amount of judgment is \$973,919.86 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 012554/2009. Jerome D. Cohen, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN &

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GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ 3/31; 4/7/14/21

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC; Plaintiff(s) vs. OSCAR CORDNER; ROSETTA CORDNER; et al; Defendant(s) Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York, 12524, 845.897.1600 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about August 10, 2016, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. On May 4, 2017 at 2:30 pm. Premises known as 36 OAKLAND PLACE, BROOKLYN, NY 11226 Block: 5127 Lot: 61 All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment \$812,122.62 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 20542/09 Sylvia E. DiPietro, Esq., Referee AJ 3/31; 4/7/14/21

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, Green Tree Servicing LLC, Plaintiff, vs. Alicia Dick, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on December 02, 2016, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on May 04, 2017 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 443 Miller Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 4041 and Lot 23. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 13700/14. Philip L. Kamaras, Esq., Referee Berkman, Henoch, Peterson, Peddy & Fenchel, P.C., 100 Garden City Plaza, Garden City, NY 11530, Attorneys for Plaintiff AJ 3/31; 4/7/14/21

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS PNC BANK, N.A., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO NATIONAL CITY BANK, Plaintiff against JUDY FRIEDMAN; CHAYA FRIEDMAN; JACQUE FRIEDMAN; AARON FRIEDMAN, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on January 17, 2017. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. on the 4th day of May, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Said premises known as 1774 50th Street, Brooklyn, NY. 11204. Tax account number: SBL #: 5460-37. Approximate amount of lien \$ 225,790.72 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 502947/14. Jageshwar Sharma, Esq., Referee. Fein, Such & Crane, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1800 Rochester, N.Y. 14614 (585) 232-7400 AJ 3/31; 4/7/14/21

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS YUNG CHING LAU, Plaintiff, Against Index No.: 511939/2014 ANGELLA CRAIG A/K/A ANGELLA JEFFERSON A/K/A ANGELLA CRAIG JEFFERSON et al, Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered in the Kings County Clerk's Office on 3/16/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 5/4/2017 at 2:30 pm, premises known as 4515 Avenue D, Brooklyn, NY 11203, and described as follows: ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Kings County Treasurer as Block 4962 and Lot 44. The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$865,286.19 plus interest and costs. The Premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 511939/2014. Mark Longo, Esq., Referee. Richland & Falkowski, PLLC, 35-37 36th Street, 2nd Fl., Astoria, NY 11106 Dated: 3/20/2017 PB AJ 3/31; 4/7/14/21

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Nationstar Mortgage LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST Aftab Ahmed; Arshad Ahmed a/k/a Arshad Ahmad; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated February 9, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on May 4, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 17 Brighton 3rd Lane, Brooklyn, NY 11235. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Section 26 Block 8663 Lot 296. Approximate amount of judgment \$515,145.79 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 507531/2014. Jacob Gelfand, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: March 22, 2017 AJ 3/31; 4/7/14/21

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR LSF8 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST, Plaintiff against GLENDA BENT A/K/A GLENDER BENT; LEELA BENT, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on February 6, 2017. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. on the 4th day of May, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Said premises known as 1349 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. 11203. Block: 4970, Lot: 70). Approximate amount of lien \$ 458,901.91 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 502674-13. Philip Kamaras, Esq., Referee. McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, P.C. Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 145 Huguenot Street -

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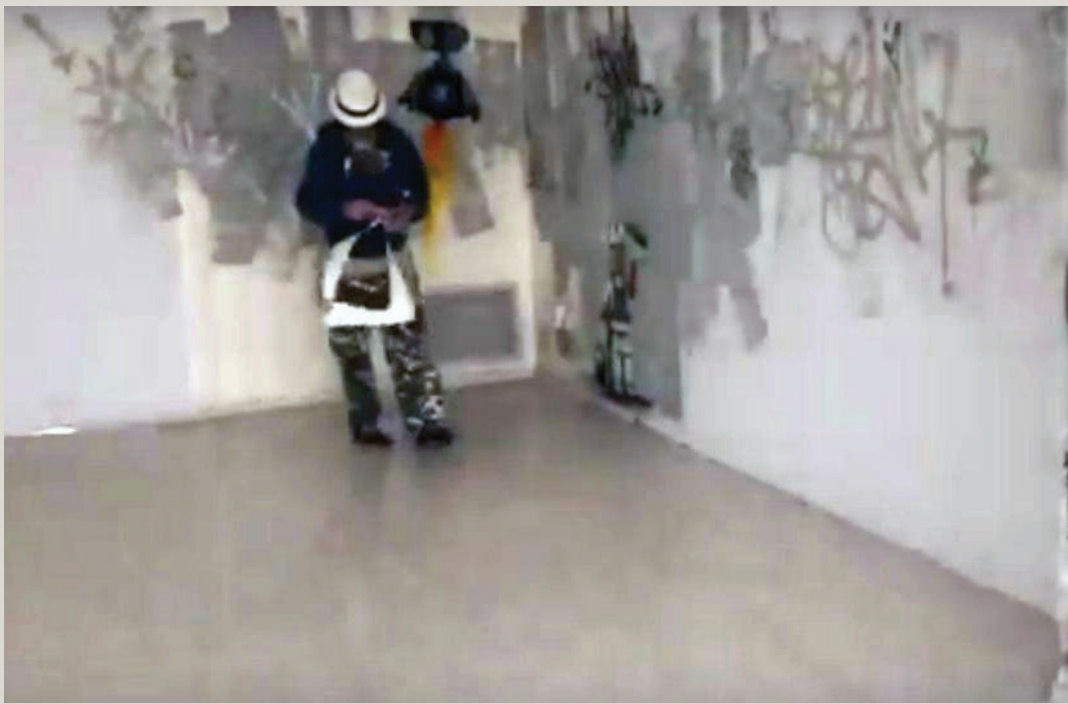
Suite 210 New Rochelle, New York 10801 (914) 636-8900 AJ 3/31; 4/7/14/21

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: DEREK BRAHNEY LLC . Articles of organization filed with secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 01/24/2017. Office location Kings county. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY Shall mail process to the LLC C/O United States Corporation Agents 7014 13th Ave. Suite 202 Brooklyn New York 11228. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ 4/7/14/21/28; 5/5/12

File No 2016-2454. CITATION SURROGATE'S COURT, Queens COUNTY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: To the heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees of THOMAS F. JASORKA aka THOMAS FRANCIS JASORKA deceased, if living and if any of them be dead to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. A petition having been duly filed by Dennis O'Fallon who is/are domiciled at 91 5th Avenue. Floor 4. New York. New York 10003 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court. Queens County at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard Jamaica, New York, on May 25th, 2017, at 9:30 o'clock in the fore noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Thomas F. Jasorka, aka Thomas Francis Jasorka lately domiciled at 61-41 Saunders Street Rego Park, New York 11374, United States admitting to probate a Will dated February 8, 2015 a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Thomas F. Jasorka deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that: Letters Testamentary issue to Dennis O'Fallon Dated, Attested and Sealed, March 27th, 2017 HON. Peter J. Kelly Surrogate Lee J. Coulmar Acting Chief Clerk Esther P. Levinson Ronald A. Spirn. P.C. 483R Central Avenue. Cedarhurst New York 11516 (516)596-8670 NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you. AJ 4/7/14/21/28

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST Roger Wagner; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated January 19, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on May 11, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 442 Amber Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block: 4518 Lot: 121. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,028,687.30 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 19707/2012. Henry J. Achiron, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: February 22, 2017 AJ 4/7/14/21/28

Social.



Graffiti artist Banksy may have been spotted at a mall in Israel. Photo: The Sun/Screenshot.

Report: Banksy, World's Most Mysterious Graffiti Artist, Spotted in Israeli Shopping Mall

BY RUTHIE BLUM

A woman passing by a soon-to-open exhibit at an Israeli shopping mall — featuring the “Art of Banksy” — claims to have caught the elusive British graffiti painter on camera, the UK’s *The Sun* reported on Sunday.

The man in the cellphone footage, according to the woman who filmed him, “is maybe around 40... He’s not Israeli for sure.”

The man is seen in an art studio at the Arena Mall in the Herzliya Marina, where the exhibit is going to be held, and when he notices the camera, he covers his face with his hand.

“I’m not what you’d call a huge fan,” the woman said. “But I was saying to myself, ‘Oh my god, it’s him. I think it’s Banksy.’”

The world-famous yet anonymous street painter shot to the headlines last month — yet again — but this time for opening *The Walled Off Hotel* in the Palestinian Authority-governed city of Bethlehem, which he designed and owns.

As *The Algemeiner* reported, the hotel is located next to the West Bank security barrier — built by Israel more than a decade ago as part of an effort to thwart Palestinian terrorist attacks — on which Banksy painted murals in the past. And, according to Banksy’s website, it is “not aligned to any political movement or pressure group. The aim is to tell the story of the wall from every side and give visitors the opportunity to discover it for themselves. We offer an especially warm welcome to young Israelis. Absolutely no fanaticism is permitted on the premises.”

In a statement, Banksy said, “It’s exactly one hundred years since Britain took control of Palestine and started re-arranging the furniture —

with chaotic results. I don’t know why, but it felt like a good time to reflect on what happens when the United Kingdom makes a huge political decision without fully comprehending the consequences.”

Artists 4 Israel Executive Director Craig Dershowitz praised the endeavor, telling *The Algemeiner* that the global graffiti artist community is “overwhelmingly in support of peaceful coexistence and examining the conflict with new eyes. Rather than the black-and-white, zero-sum game that so many activists see on both sides, artists see the many colors.”

In a subsequent op-ed, Middle East expert Reuven Berko, former Arab affairs adviser to the Jerusalem Police, took the opposite position, writing, in part:

In the context of the Middle Eastern bloodbath, the millionaire graffiti artist Banksy is characterizing his crazy Walled Off Hotel in Bethlehem as “overlooking the worst view in the world.” In a display in his hotel, the activist artist portrays the lives of the Jews and the security fence that protects them as a “bad view” of the despicable occupation, and Israel as one of England’s mistakes (referring to the Balfour Declaration). The hotel masquerades as a tourism project to promote Palestinian artists and encourage dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis who are represented on one wall as a soldier and a terrorist engaged in a pillow fight...Banksy is trying to attach the stigma of apartheid and racism to Israel, tear down the wall, and make it easier for the Palestinians to carry out killing and murder sprees against the “apartheid” state.

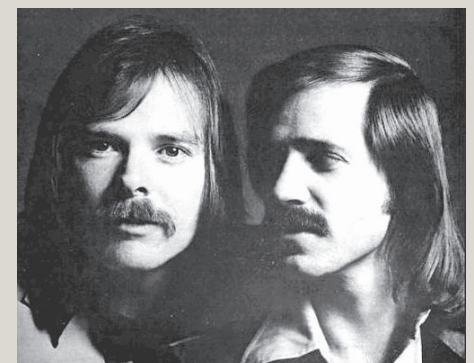
This is not the first time that a member of the public in one country or another has recorded a purported “Banksy sighting.”

John Ford Coley Set to Rock Israel’s Golan Heights in April

BY JNS.ORG

Grammy-nominated rock artist John Ford Coley is scheduled to headline a special concert dubbed “The Texan ‘Eclectic’ Rock Show” in Israel’s scenic Golan Heights April 13, at the Kfar Haruv Peace Vista overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

Coley’s Golan Heights rock concert will



John Ford Coley (right) and England Dan. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

feature songs from throughout his career, and performances by American songwriter Shakeh and harpist Susan Mashiyama. Proceeds from the concert will be donated to ILAN Israel, a nonprofit that assists special needs children and their families.

“I have always been in love with Israel, even as a young child,” Coley said in a statement. “It fascinates me, captivates me, and stirs my imagination and soul. When asked to do this show for ILAN, I got excited to do something so worthwhile for children.”

The concert will coincide with the release of Coley’s new double album, “Eclectic,” which includes a new instrumental track dedicated to Holocaust survivors called, “Quiet Victory.”

Coley is best known for his role in a rock duo with Danny Wayland “England Dan” Seals and has earned multi-platinum, platinum and gold records around the world, as well as No. 1 hits in Israel.



Photo: Facebook

Tradition.

Why Civilizations Die



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON, UK

In her recent “The Watchman’s Rattle”, subtitled “Thinking our way out of extinction”, Rebecca Costa delivers a fascinating account of how civilisations die. Their problems become too complex. Societies reach what she calls a cognitive threshold. They simply can’t chart a path from the present to the future.

The example she gives is the Mayans. For a period of three and a half thousand years, between 2,600 BCE and 900 CE, they developed an extraordinary civilisation, spreading over what is today Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Belize with an estimated population of 15 million people.

Not only were they master potters, weavers, architects and farmers. They developed an intricate cylindrical calendar system, with celestial charts to track the movements of the stars and predict weather patterns. They had their own unique form of writing as well as an advanced mathematical system. Most impressively they developed a water-supply infrastructure involving a complex network of reservoirs, canals, dams and levees.

Then suddenly, for reasons we still don’t fully understand, the entire system collapsed. Sometime between the middle of the eighth and ninth century the majority of the Mayan people simply disappeared. There have been many theories as to why it happened. It may have been a prolonged drought, overpopulation, internecine wars, a devastating epidemic, food shortages, or a combination of these and other factors. One way or another, having survived for 35 centuries, Mayan civilisation failed and became extinct.

Rebecca Costa’s argument is that whatever the causes, the Mayan collapse, like the fall of the Roman Empire, and the Khmer Empire of thirteenth century Cambodia, occurred because problems became too many and complicated for the people of that time and place to solve. There was cognitive overload, and systems broke down.

It can happen to any civilisation. It may, she says, be happening to ours. The first sign of breakdown is gridlock. Instead of dealing with what everyone can see are major problems, people continue as usual and simply pass their problems on to the next generation. The second sign is a retreat into irrationality. Since people can no longer cope with the facts, they take refuge in religious consolations. The Mayans took to offering sacrifices.

Archeologists have uncovered gruesome evidence of human sacrifice on a vast scale. It seems that, unable to solve their problems rationally, the Mayans focused on placating the gods by manically making offerings to them. So apparently did the Khmer.

Which makes the case of Jews and Judaism fascinating. They faced two centuries of crisis under Roman rule between Pompey’s conquest in 63 BCE and the collapse of the Bar Kochba rebellion in 135 CE. They were hopelessly factionalised. Long before the Great Rebellion against Rome and the destruction of the Second Temple, Jews were expecting some major cataclysm.

What is remarkable is that they did not focus obsessively on sacrifices, like the Mayans and the Khmer. Instead they focused on finding substitutes for sacrifice. One was gemillat chassadim, acts of kindness. Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai comforted Rabbi Joshua, who wondered how Israel would atone for its sins without sacrifices, with the words, “My son we have another atonement as effective as this: acts of kindness, as it is written (Hosea 6:6), ‘I desire kindness and not sacrifice’” (Avot deRabbi Natan 8).

Another was Torah study. The sages interpreted Malachi’s words (1:11), “In every place offerings are presented to My name,” to refer to scholars who study the laws of sacrifice. (Menachot 100a). “One who recites the order of sacrifices is as if he had brought them” (Ta’anit 27b).

Another was prayer. Hosea said, “Take words with you and return to the Lord . . . We will offer our lips as sacrifices of bulls” (Hos. 14:2-3), implying that words

could take the place of sacrifice. “He who prays in the house of prayer is as if he brought a pure oblation.” (Yerushlami, Perek 5 Halacha 1).

Yet another was teshuvah. The Psalm (51:19) says “the sacrifices of God are a contrite spirit.” From this the sages inferred that “if a person repents it is accounted to him as if he had gone up to Jerusalem and built the Temple and the altar and offered on it all the sacrifices ordained in the Torah” (Vayikra Rabbah 7:2).

A fifth was fasting. Since going without food diminished a person’s fat and blood, it counted as a substitute for the fat and blood of a sacrifice (Berakhot 17a). A sixth was hospitality. “As long as the Temple stood, the altar atoned for Israel, but now a person’s table atones for him” (Berakhot 55a). And so on.

What is striking in hindsight is how, rather than clinging obsessively to the past, sages like Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai thought forward to a worst-case-scenario future. The

great question raised by Tzav, which is all about different kinds of sacrifice, is not “Why were sacrifices commanded in the first place?” but rather, given how central they were to the religious life of Israel in Temple times, how did Judaism survive without them?

The short answer is that overwhelmingly the prophets, the sages, and the Jewish thinkers of the Middle Ages realised that sacrifices were symbolic enactments of processes of mind, heart and deed that could be expressed in other ways as well. We can encounter the will of God by Torah study, engage in the service of God by prayer, make financial sacrifice by charity, create sacred fellowship by hospitality and so on.

Jews did not abandon the past. We still refer constantly to the sacrifices in our prayers. But they did not cling to the past. Nor did they take refuge in irrationality. They thought through the future and created institutions like

the synagogue and house of study and school that could be built anywhere and sustain Jewish identity even in the most adverse conditions.

That is no small achievement. The world’s greatest civilisations have all, in time, become extinct while Judaism has always survived. In one sense that was surely Divine Providence. But in another it was the foresight of people like Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai who resisted cognitive breakdown, created solutions today for the problems of tomorrow, who did not seek refuge in the irrational, and who quietly built the Jewish future.

Surely there is a lesson here for the Jewish people today: Plan generations ahead. Think at least 25 years into the future. Contemplate worst-case scenarios. Ask what we would do, if . . . What saved the Jewish people was their ability, despite their deep and abiding faith, never to let go of rational thought, and despite their loyalty to the past, to keep planning for the future.

Nowadays, it’s a shortage of blood that’s really a plague.



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