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White House Says Trump Position on Syria Unchanged



Syrian Democratic Forces and US troops during a patrol near Turkish border in Hasakah, Syria, Nov., 2018. Photo: Reuters / Rodi Said / File.

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

The White House sought to make the case on Monday that President Donald Trump had not changed his position on withdrawing US troops from Syria, a day after his national security adviser outlined conditions for a withdrawal that could take months.

Trump's abrupt announce-

ment last month that he was bringing home the roughly 2,000 troops in Syria, saying they had succeeded in their mission to defeat Islamic State there, sparked concern among officials in Washington and allies abroad and prompted Defense Secretary Jim Mattis to resign.

In recent days, Trump administration officials have applied the brakes, making clear the withdrawal will not happen

quickly. The president himself said last week that the United States would get out of Syria slowly "over a period of time."

"The president hasn't changed his position, as he mentioned his primary goal is to ensure the safety of our troops and the safety of our allies as well," White House spokeswoman Mercedes Schlapp told *Fox News* on Monday. "And so the Department of Defense will

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New Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib Condemned for Deploying 'Dual Loyalty' Canard

BY BEN COHEN

Newly-elected Michigan Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib came under fire on Monday for tweeting that fellow legislators who supported a bill to strengthen US security measures in the Middle East "forgot what country they represent" — invoking, in the eyes of many observers, the classic antisemitic canard that Jews care only for their own community and the State of Israel, and not the countries in which they reside as loyal citizens.



Michigan Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib embraces House Speaker Nancy Pelosi at the first session of the US Congress in 2019. Photo: Reuters / Jonathan Ernst.

Tlaib was commenting on an earlier tweet from Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) complaining that the first bill during the current US government shutdown "is legislation which punishes Americans who exercise their constitutional right to engage in political activity." Sanders was referring to those parts of the bill — primarily focused on measures enhancing security cooperation between the US, Israel and Jordan, as well as prosecuting war crimes committed by the Assad regime against its own citizens in Syria — that would penalize the implementation of economic and commercial

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The BDS Fight Boils Over

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat BO
פרשת בא

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 4:31pm | Shabbat Ends: 5:35pm



the **algemeiner**

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Opinion.

Jew 'Obsession' of New York Times Undermines Its Credibility, a German Says



IRA STOLL
BOSTON

A "news analysis" in Sunday's New York *Times* by the newspaper's deputy Washington editor, Jonathan Weisman, predicts, as the headline puts it, "American Jews and Israeli Jews Are Headed for a Messy Breakup."

The article maunders on about "the distance between Jews in the United States and Israeli Jews" and "the divide between American Jews and Israeli Jews."

Weisman is wrong in so many ways that it makes it a challenge to explain adequately. For starters, though, just to give a sense of just how inept he is, consider that he had managed, in the article, to misquote even the Yom Kippur sermon of his own rabbi, Daniel Zemel of Temple Micah in Washington, D.C.

A correction now posted online with the *Times* article indicates: "An earlier version of this article misattributed a quotation. It was the Israeli Yaniv Sagee, not Rabbi Daniel Zemel, who said: 'For the first time in my life, I feel a genuine threat to my life in Israel. This is not an external threat. It is an internal threat from nationalists and racists.'" Weisman managed that blunder even though the text of the sermon was posted on the synagogue's website, with

the quote clearly attributed. If Weisman isn't a reliable guide even to his own rabbi's Yom Kippur sermon, why should he be believed on other matters? Actually, he shows plenty of other signs, too, of being in way over his head.

He gives far too much credit to the 1885 "Pittsburgh Platform" of Reform Judaism, which he describes as "a new theology for an American Judaism, less focused on a Messianic return to the land of Israel and more on fixing a broken world, the concept of Tikkun Olam.... For a faith that for thousands of years was insular and self-contained, its people often in mandated ghettos, praying for the Messiah to return them to the Promised Land, this was a radical notion. But for most American Jews, it is now accepted as a tenet of their religion: building a better, more equal, more tolerant world now, where they live."

The idea that the pursuit of justice or tolerance or engagement with the non-Jewish world came to Judaism only in 1885 is ahistorical, to say the least, as even the most casual review of the Bible, the Talmud, or Jewish history readily discloses. "Insular" — defined as narrow-minded or prejudiced — is one of the *Times*' favorite insults to hurl at unreformed Jews, though that does not make it accurate.

As for the Pittsburgh Platform's view of Israel, even Reform Jews revised the Pittsburgh Platform in Columbus in 1937, in San Francisco in 1976, in Miami in 1997, and in Pittsburgh in 1999. As the 1997 document makes clear, "By

1937 the CCAR had reversed its stand on Jewish peoplehood, and declared in its 'Columbus Platform' that 'Judaism is the soul of which Israel [the people] is the body.' The document further states: 'We affirm the obligation of all Jewry to aid in its [Palestine's] up-building as a Jewish homeland by endeavoring to make it not only a haven of refuge for the oppressed but also a center of Jewish culture and spiritual life.'" Far from guiding American Judaism as Weisman erroneously claims, the Pittsburgh Platform hasn't even guided Reform Jews, who realized it went too far in the direction of universalism and non-Zionism.

The *Times* as an institution might be more credible in its dire warnings of a split between Israel and American Jewry if the newspaper hadn't been telling the same false tales for nearly 40 years.

"Discord Among U.S. Jews Over Israel Seems To Grow," is the headline over a *Times* news article from July 1982. A front-page *Times* article in 1978 reported what the *Times* called "a degree of unease with [Israeli premier Menachem] Begin and an almost unprecedented willingness to express it." The 1978 *Times* article contended, "American



The Israeli-American Council's "Celebrate Israel" festival in Los Angeles earlier this year. Photo: Facebook.

Jews are beginning to accept that questioning of Israel does not mean betrayal."

However, the rift the *Times* has been fruitlessly predicting for decades simply isn't borne out by credible polling data. Elliott Abrams of the Council on Foreign Relations wrote in November 2018 about the results of a recent J Street poll: "the J Street survey suggests that there is no great crisis in relations between the American Jewish community and Israel.... the results of the survey suggest that the relationship between Israel and American Jews is stronger than prophets of doom constantly suggest."

A 2018 American Jewish Committee Poll, while accompanied by a press release stressing differences over some issues, found

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The Israeli Right Must Unite Before History Repeats Itself



BOAZ BISMUTH
JNS.ORG

Many people attribute what Republicans call "The Eleventh Commandment" to the late US President Ronald Reagan. During his campaign for the governorship of California in 1966, seeking to unify the party ranks, he said: "Thou shalt not speak ill of a fellow Republican."

Two years prior to that statement, Reagan, who would go on to serve as the 40th president of the United States, saw the party's moderate faction lend a hand to the conservative camp's downfall, culminating in Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater losing soundly to Democrat Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

The Republican crash that year also gave the Democrats a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress. Reagan, who had already set his sights on the White House at the time, followed that election closely and concluded that friendly fire within the party was a primary culprit in Goldwater's trouncing.

During the gubernatorial race, Reagan himself was widely criticized by moderate Republicans in California but he chose, per his custom, to respond with a smile. Beyond his economic and diplomatic legacies, Reagan also left behind a bevy of clever and humorous quotes; among them, as stated, the Eleventh Commandment.

2.

But why go all the way back to the US of the 1960s to see what political infighting can cause. The Israeli lesson from 1992 should be enough. The splinter on the Right that year triggered a seismic political shift and ushered the Oslo Accords into the Middle East. It's safe to assume that former Prime Minister Menachem Begin would have said "Never Again" about this as well.

I was reminded of Reagan and his Eleventh Commandment on Saturday night last week when the two stars of Habayit Hayehudi, ministers Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked, announced the formation of their new party, the New Right. Some believed their press conference was the end of Habayit Hayehudi, while others saw it as a clear expression of intent from the Bennett-Shaked duo about the day after Netanyahu. Still others, meanwhile, were left even more confused by these elections, in which apparently there's more than meets the eye; in just the first week since they were declared, two new parties have been established and two others have disintegrated. And this is just the beginning.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
Photo: Reuters / Ronen Zvulun / File.

We must also consider, of course, the attorney general's impending decision on whether to indict the prime minister. Beyond our interest in the timing of his decision and whether he makes it before or after the elections, there is the decision itself. And the decision itself — one way or another — is extremely significant. Does the attorney general believe the judicial system should be an active player in a people's democratic elections? I doubt it.

3.

I, on the other hand, saw in the Bennett-Shaked press conference the potential damage to the conservative-right camp, which represents the majority of Israelis. (Those who disagree with me can look at the election results in Israel since 1977, and how four years ago the two-state paradigm was no longer part of the elections to the 20th Knesset. You can also read a report published by the Israel Democracy Institute determining that in 2018 people who defined themselves as right-wing accounted for 52 percent of the voting population. Centrist voters comprised 22 percent and left-leaning citizens accounted for just 20 percent.)

The last thing right-wing voters want today is division. Bennett sounds like someone who wants a joining of forces on the Right.

Without question, the 2019 election season is off to a confused and confusing start. Existing factions have already fallen apart and others will come together by February 22, when the parties officially submit their lists of candidates. Some things, however, we can already say for certain: The majority of the Israeli public has adopted the conservative,

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World News.

Malaysia Blocks Entry to Israeli Swimmers for World Championship

BY JNS.org

Malaysia has denied Israel's Paralympics swimming team from entering the country to partake in the World Para Swimming Championships in July.

The event, to be held in the Malaysian city of Kuching, is crucial as the outcome will affect the competition of the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo, which will host more than 600 swimmers from 70 nations.

Israel and Malaysia currently have no diplomatic relations. The latter's leader, Mahathir Mohamad, labeled Jews as "hook-nosed" last October and condemned Israel for creating

chaos in the Middle East.

"For some time now, we have been trying to guarantee our participation in the world championships," Israeli Olympic Committee chairman Nisim Sasportas told Ynet.

"In principle, everyone says that it will work out, but we have still not received an invitation or visas. We are continuing to apply pressure," he continued. "We have letters of support from the International Paralympics Committee, the European Paralympics Committee and the Olympic Athletes Committee, and hope that they allow the athletes and their security entourage to participate."

London Mosque Cancels Holocaust Exhibit Following Protest

BY ISRAEL HAYOM/JNS.org

A London mosque has canceled an exhibit on the rescue of Jews by Albanian Muslims during the Holocaust.

The editor of the UK Muslim news site *5 Pillars*, Roshan Salih, had led the calls for a boycott of the Centre for Islamic Understanding in London's Golders Green neighborhood, according to a report in the *Jewish News of London* on Friday.

Citing the exhibit's ties to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and museum in Jerusalem, Salih said, "Commemorations must never be done in conjunction with Israeli oppressors or their supporters."

In a statement announcing the cancellation of the event, the mosque said: "The aim of the program was to show Muslims in a good

light by telling the story of Muslim Albanians who saved Jews in World War II."

It said mosque officials "did not know of the international connections some organizations had or of the political affiliations. ... Once that was made clear the event was canceled."

Salih welcomed the event's cancellation, saying the mosque "is to be commended for responding to community concerns."

Karen Pollock, who heads the London-based Holocaust Educational Trust, said it was "a great shame" the event had been canceled.

"What would have been a positive initiative to highlight the role of Albanian Muslims who saved up to 1,800 Jews from the Nazis during the Holocaust has been canceled due to a targeted campaign against this mosque and its members," she said.

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Trump Position

come up with its operational plan to safely withdraw our troops."

"It takes time to take the troops out because we want to make sure that our troops are safe in this process," she said.

Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron discussed the two countries' commitment to destroy Islamic State and "plans for a strong, deliberate, and coordinated withdrawal of US troops from Syria" during a telephone call on Monday, the White House said.

On Sunday, White House National Security Adviser John Bolton added a new condition to the US withdrawal from Syria, saying Turkey must agree to protect the United States' Kurdish allies.

Trump reiterated on Sunday that the United States would pull its troops out of Syria but suggested the move might not happen soon.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told *CNBC* on Monday that the Syria drawdown is a "change of tactics" but reiterated that it does not alter the US commitment to defeat Islamic State and counter Iran's influence in the region.

Islamic State has been beaten back from large areas of territory it once controlled in Syria.

But Trump's announcement of a US pullout left many questions open, including whether Kurdish fighters who had been operating in northern Syria alongside US forces would be attacked by their long-time enemy, Turkey.

Allies were also concerned that the withdrawal could leave the United States with few options to prevent a resurgence of Islamic State.

As to whether Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan could be trusted not to turn on America's Kurdish allies in Syria, Pompeo said "Erdogan made a commitment to President Trump" that those who fought with US troops against Islamic State would be protected.

He told *CNBC* that Bolton was visiting Turkey this week "to have a conversation with the Turks about how they will effectuate that in light of the US withdrawal."

Erdogan warned in an opinion piece in *The New York Times* on Monday that the US withdrawal from Syria must be planned carefully and with the right partners, saying Turkey was the only country "with the power and commitment to perform that task."

On Dec. 19, the day he first announced the pullout, Trump said in a video message, referring to the US troops, "They're all coming back and they're coming back now. We won."

Controversy Erupts in Iraq Over Reported Secret Dignitary Visits to Israel



Iraqi Air Force planes fly past during Iraqi Army Day anniversary celebrations in Baghdad, Jan. 6, 2018. Photo: Reuters / Thajer Al-Sudani.

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

The revelation that three groups of Iraqi dignitaries traveled in secret to Israel last year has sparked controversy in their home country.

The trips were first reported on, by the Israeli news channel *Hadashot*, on Sunday.

The visitors were said to be "influential Shiite and Sunni personalities" who met with Israeli officials and academics, and visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem.

According to *Arab News*, the first deputy

speaker of the Iraqi parliament, Hassan Karim Al-Kaabi, has demanded "an investigation ... to identify those who went to the occupied territory, particularly if they are lawmakers."

"To go to the occupied territory is a red line and an extremely sensitive issue for all Muslims," he was quoted as saying.

Iraq has technically been in a state of war with Israel since the Jewish state's founding in 1948.

Israel's support for Kurdish independence has also been a source of tension between the two countries in recent years.

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'Dual Loyalty'

boycotts targeting Israel.

Tlaib responded by introducing the "dual loyalty" accusation — leveled against Jews or those perceived as Jews across several centuries, often with devastating consequences — to make the point that "boycotting is a right."

On of Tlaib's thousands of respondents noted that while he, too, disagreed with the bill, he was nonetheless shocked by her casual display of antisemitism.

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) responded by showing a photo of Tlaib hugging a supporter draped in the Palestinian flag — a cause that Tlaib, a supporter of the boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign (BDS), has promised to champion in Congress.

In a statement, Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said, "Though the legislation discussed is sponsored by four non-Jewish Senators, any charge of dual loyalty has special sensitivity and resonance for Jews, particularly in an environment of rising antisemitism."

Greenblatt continued: "It is a long-standing antisemitic trope connected to the idea that Jews are more loyal to Israel than their own country, or that US legislators — for some conspiratorial reason — are more concerned about issues related to Israel than US national interest."

The former national director of the ADL, Abraham Foxman, asked why Tlaib had so far been spared the "bipartisan outrage" her

remark deserved.

In an email exchange with *The Algemeiner* on Monday, Foxman — who now heads a center for the study of antisemitism at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York — highlighted the broader context in which Tlaib made her statement.

"It seems that criticism of the anti-BDS legislation by Sen. Sanders and Jeremy Ben-Ami [president of the left-wing group J Street] may have helped legitimize the congresswoman's outrageous statement," Foxman said.

Another commenter reminded Tlaib that the right to use boycotts as an instrument of political pressure applied only within the borders of the US.

The "dual loyalty" canard is similarly un-American, having originally emerged as one of the key tropes of modern European antisemitism. The stereotype of Jews as inherently disloyal famously helped to falsely convict the French Jewish army officer, Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, of treason in 1894, while the denunciation of Jewish communists as "rootless cosmopolitans" without national loyalty symbolized the rise of antisemitism in the Soviet Union under Stalin.

Over the last decade, the trope has become a firmly established favorite of both the far-left and far-right on social media. Indeed, former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke also took to Twitter on Monday to make a point not dissimilar from Tlaib's about the Middle East bill.

At the time, the White House declined to offer a timeline for withdrawal. However, one US official said then that Washington aimed

to withdraw troops within 60 to 100 days and a second official said they could leave even sooner.

World News.



The late Moshe Arens. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Israeli Statesman and Right-Wing Stalwart Moshe Arens Dies at 93

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

Longtime Israeli diplomat and politician Moshe Arens — who served as the Jewish state's ambassador to the US and several terms as defense minister and foreign minister — died on Monday at the age of 93.

Arens was born in Lithuania in 1925. He moved with his family to the US just before the outbreak of World War II and served in the American army. He moved to Israel in 1948 and became an Irgun envoy. He was a founding member of the right-wing Herut party (which merged into the Likud party four decades later).

In 1951, Arens returned to the US, where he studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology.

Later in the 1950s, Arens became a professor at the Technion in Haifa.

An aeronautics expert, Arens helped develop the Jewish state's air capabilities. He was the deputy director general of Israel Aircraft Industries from 1962-1971.

He entered the Knesset as a Herut member in 1973. In the early 1980s, he was appointed as Israel's ambassador to the US, a role he filled for a year, before returning home for his first stint as defense minister.

Arens also served as foreign minister from 1988-1990, before going back to the Defense Ministry in 1990-1992 (when the First Gulf War occurred) and 1999.

His last of six terms in the Knesset ended in 2003.

Also a noted historian, Arens penned the book *Flags Over the Warsaw Ghetto*.

Arens was current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's primary mentor in the 1980s, helping pave the way for Netanyahu's rise to political power.

In a statement on Monday, Netanyahu describe Arens as "my teacher" and "an outstanding student" of the late Revisionist Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky.

"In this framework he knew my father, who was present at his wedding to his dear wife Muriel," Netanyahu added. "Since then there has been an abiding bond between our families."

"I watched Misha do amazing things to build up the standing of the State of Israel time and again — as ambassador in Washington, foreign minister, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and defense minister," said Netanyahu, referring to Arens by his nickname. "In recent years

he dedicated himself to endlessly watching over the documentation of the full story of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising."

"Several weeks ago I visited Misha in his home," Netanyahu noted. "He was lucid as always, sharp as a razor, marvelous in the splendor and nobility of his soul, an exemplar. There was no greater patriot. Moshe Arens' great contribution to our people and our state will be remembered forever."

"Rest in peace Misha; you were very dear to me," the prime minister concluded. "I loved you as a son loved his father."

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said on Monday that Arens' passing was "sad and painful."

"He was one of the most professional and significant defense ministers of the State of Israel," Barak stated.

Barak called Arens "exemplary," saying he was "always optimistic about our ability to overcome any obstacle with our own power."

Former IDF Chief of Staff Benny Gantz said, "Arens was a man of truth, a patriot, and a statesman. He was the kind of public figure that everyone respected."

Gantz added that Arens "always stood for the flag when the country needed him."

Education Minister Naftali Bennett recalled Arens as "a path-breaking defense minister."

"I loved you so much, Misha," Bennett said. "Moshe Arens was a Zionist to his bones. He dedicated his entire life to fortifying Israel's security, in science, aeronautics, as defense minister, as a diplomat, as a writer, and as a historian."

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin stated, "Misha was one of the most important leaders of the Herut movement. A man of honor who never flinched from the fight. Misha was one of the most important ministers of defense the State of Israel ever had. He was not a commander or a general, but a devoted man of learning who toiled day and night for the security of Israel and its citizens."

Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (CoP) Chairman Arthur Stark and Executive Vice Chairman and CEO Malcolm Hoenlein lamented Arens' death as "a national loss for Israel and world Jewry and a personal loss for us."

"Arens was known for his integrity, thoughtfulness and deep devotion to the Jewish state and Jewish people," they said.

The poll found, "American and Israeli Jews hold rather similar views regarding the importance of the U.S. Jewish community and the State of Israel for the future of the Jewish people.

Bernie Sanders Blasts Anti-BDS Bill as 'Absurd'

BY JNS.org

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) slammed an anti-BDS bill introduced last week by Republicans as "absurd."

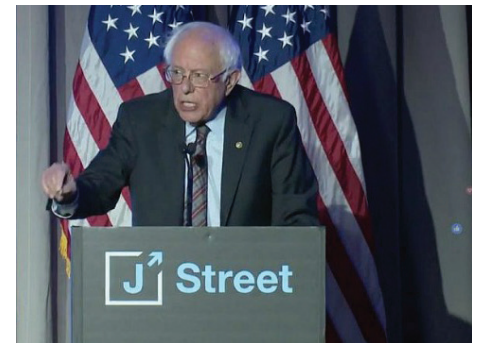
"It's absurd that the first bill during the shutdown is legislation which punishes Americans who exercise their constitutional right to engage in political activity," he tweeted. "Democrats must block consideration of any bills that don't reopen the government. Let's get our priorities right."

— Bernie Sanders (@SenSanders)

January 6, 2019

US President Donald Trump has refused to sign over the past few weeks any legislation funding the remaining six government agencies, including the State Department and Homeland Security, that were not funded last summer, as long as \$5 billion is not allocated to build a border wall with Mexico.

The proposed anti-BDS legislation is one of four bills combined into one—the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act—introduced on Thursday by Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Jim Risch (R-Idaho), Cory Gardner



Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont speaking at J Street National Conference in Washington, D.C.
Photo: Screenshot.

(R-Colo.) and Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.).

"I am proud to sponsor this legislation, which enhances our alliances in the Middle East, condemns the heinous human-rights abuses of the [Bashar] Assad regime, and takes a strong stance against the anti-Israel and antisemitic BDS movement," said Gardner. "This bill greatly enhances our national security, and I urge its quick and bipartisan passage into law."

78% of Israelis and 69% of U.S. Jews agree that a thriving Diaspora is vital for the long-term future of the Jewish people, while 15% of Israelis and 17% of American Jews disagree. 79% of U.S. Jews and 87% of Israelis agree that a thriving State of Israel is vital for the long-term future of the Jewish people, while 17% of U.S. Jews and 6% of Israelis say it is not vital."

Said the American Jewish Committee, "On the basic relationship between Israel and the largest Diaspora community, 20% of American Jews and 30% of Israelis think the ties will be stronger in five years, while 15% of U.S. Jews and 19% of Israelis think they will be weaker. The view that the ties will be the same as today is held by 60% of American Jews and 40% of Israeli Jews."

The American Jewish Committee Poll went on: "American and Israeli Jews were asked how they view one another in the context of 'family.' 40% of Israeli and 39% of American Jews view each other as extended family. 28% of Israeli and 12% of U.S. Jews view one another as siblings. 10% of Israeli and 15% of U.S. Jews consider each other as first cousins. And 22% of Israelis and 31% of American Jews consider the other as not part of their family."

As the American Jewish Committee put it in a tweet, "the overwhelming majority of American and Israeli Jews disagree with Weisman's gloomy take on the ties between them, viewing that relationship as essential to both their own Jewish identities and the future of the Jewish people."

That doesn't mean anyone should be complacent about the relationship; it takes work and listening, like any relationship, to sustain. One reason the relationship is as strong as it is is that far-sighted philanthropists such as Michael Steinhardt, Charles Bronfman, and Sheldon and Miriam Adelson have supported the Birthright Israel program. Millions of American Jews have made personal financial sacrifices to send their children to Jewish schools and camps that educate them about Israel. The Israeli government and people also work hard to sustain this relationship, through the work of individual diplomats and emissaries and tour guides and camp counselors and through the

Israeli government's support of Birthright.

But it all does mean that the *Times'* publication of this article is enough, in combination with its long and lousy track record on Israel and Jewish topics, to make readers wonder what in the world the paper's problem is.

One of the most recommended *Times* comments on the article came from a reader in Germany, who observed, "The New York *Times* is obsessed with Jews and Israel. This, at a time when Saudi Arabia and its Arab allies in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Sudan, and the UAE have been waging a three-year long war in Yemen that has killed 80,000 people, starved to death 85,000 children, and leaves million on verge of starvation. This, while the Myanmar ethnically cleansed Rohingya. This, while China has created a gulag system for Uyghurs and effaced Tibetan culture. This, while the world's 40 million Kurds have no international support for a homeland of their own. So while on a nearly daily basis, The *Times* runs stories of Israel's alleged evils or something about American Jewry, millions of people in other ethnic and religious groups face death, cultural annihilation, or suffer without any consideration. The *Times* vocally prides itself on objectivity in its reporting, but how can anyone take that seriously when Israel and Jews are given such high-intensity coverage, while all these other ethnic groups, to cite only a few examples, combined receive only a fraction of that attention?"

It's an excellent question.

Another good question would be why the *Times* seems so institutionally invested, over such a long period, in this fact-free fantasy about a breakup between Israel and American Jews. Is it because if American Jews abandon Israel, that would make the Jewish state easier to destroy? Is it because, as leftists, they are embarrassed by Jewish nationalism? Is it because they are insecure as American Jews and fear antisemitism or accusations of dual loyalty, as if antisemitism didn't long predate the existence of the modern state of Israel? It's a question worthy of further investigation. But one thing is clear — it's much more about the *Times* and its personnel and readers than about anything going on in the reality of the relationship between American Jews and Israel.

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'Obsession'

underlying strengths on the topic of relations between American and Israeli Jews:

U.S. News.

University of North Carolina Asheville Defends Decision to Host Tamika Mallory as Keynote Speaker, Drawing Criticism

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

“As has been our custom, the university’s invitation to an individual speaker at a university event in no way implies endorsement of that speaker’s comments, critiques, views, ideas, or actions,” Chancellor Nancy Cable and Interim Provost Karin Peterson wrote.

They indicated that efforts “are currently underway to create opportunities for our campus and the Asheville community to engage in dialogue around the keynote address, as well as many topics emerging from the activities planned for the week.”

Yet C4CHA director Liora Rez objected to the university’s response, telling *The Algemeiner* on Monday that Mallory’s past comments and “allegiance” to Farrakhan “incites violence against and creates a dangerous environment for Jewish students.”

Rez pointed out that a local Women’s March chapter in Charlotte, North Carolina had already distanced itself from the national organization while criticizing its leaders, while an Australian social service agency cancelled an appearance by Mallory in June, days after she framed Israel’s founding in 1948 as a “human rights crime.”

“As organizations and individuals condemn Mallory and distance themselves from her hateful vitriol, UNC Asheville provides a platform for her and lends its authority toward legitimizing her anti-Semitism,” she added in a statement. “Anyone who propagates hateful messages is free to express their opinions as they wish, but should not be given a public platform at an educational establishment to do so.”

The opposition to Mallory stems from a long-running concern that she and other leaders of the Women’s March maintain or tolerate antisemitic views. Mallory has called Farrakhan — who has denounced “Satanic Jews” and called gay relationships “degenerate crap” — the “GOAT” or “greatest of all time” in an Instagram post shared in 2017.

She has repeatedly attended his rallies, and served as an organizer and speaker at the Justice or Else demonstration hosted by Farrakhan in 2015 — an experience UNCA noted in announcing her appearance, without mentioning the Nation of Islam leader’s role. Mallory likewise attended a February rally in which Farrakhan claimed that “the powerful Jews are my enemy,” among other comments criticized as being antisemitic and homophobic.

While the Women’s March organization issued a statement in March saying that Farrakhan’s comments “about Jewish, queer, and trans people are not aligned with the Women’s March Unity principles,” it was criticized by some for not fully and explicitly denouncing him. Similar objections were raised when Mallory published an essay the following day, in which she argued — without naming Farrakhan — that it was “impossible” for her “to agree with every statement or share every viewpoint of the many people who I have worked with or will work with in the future.”

Mallory and other Women’s March leaders further rejected claims that they had made disparaging remarks against Jews, as recently alleged by former colleagues who spoke to *The New York Times* and *Tablet Magazine* — one of whom says she was pushed out of the organization in part due to her Jewish identity.

The controversy has led multiple local Women’s March groups to distance themselves from the national organization, which will host its flagship march in Washington, DC on January 19. The National Organization for Women — which supported the 2017 and 2018 Women’s March — said in December that it will “withhold direct financial support until the current questions regarding leadership are resolved.” And thousands of people have signed a petition called for the resignation of Mallory and her colleagues — demands echoed in November by Teresa Shook, who first proposed the idea for the Women’s March following the election of US President Donald Trump.

Several organizations have also cropped up in response to concerns over the Women’s March leaders’ affiliations, among them the Women’s March For All offshoot and Zioness, a liberal group founded in support of Jewish women who felt unwelcome in progressive spaces due to their Zionist beliefs. The latter plans to lead three teach-ins



Women’s March leaders Tamika Mallory, Bob Bland, Carmen Perez and Linda Sarsour. Photo: Screenshot.

in Washington, DC; New York City; and Los Angeles ahead of the January 19 marches.

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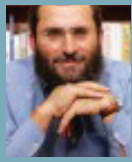
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Opinion.

Can Anyone Replace Nikki Haley?

SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

Nikki Haley left her post as Ambassador to the UN on December 31, and there was a palpable sadness upon her departure. The UN had been a cesspit of anti-Israel hatred for so long, then along came Haley, who stood up for American values and the Jewish state.

Can anyone replace her?

President Trump, who deserves enormous credit for nominating Haley and supporting her ferocious pro-Israel posture, plans to nominate State Department Under-Secretary for Public Policy and Public Affairs Heather Nauert. As State's chief spokesperson for the past two years, Nauert has shown the steely reserve of Haley, and then some. She was charged with going before the media and the world to explain President Trump's reversal of the Iran nuclear deal, and many other issues.

In consecutive briefings, Nauert made it unmistakably clear that the hatred and discord being sewn by Iran would be met with the strongest sanctions, and any countries seeking to violate these sanctions will be held

accountable. Nauert also used her platform to give a voice to those suffering under the brutal rule of the mullahs. In a tweet last October, Nauert again stood up for the people of Iran, calling on the Islamic Republic to embrace the type of religious tolerance introduced to the world by Cyrus the Great, who assisted his Jewish subjects in erecting the Second Temple in Jerusalem, then under his control.

She tweeted, "The Iranian regime should learn a few lessons from his leadership and stop persecuting #Bahais, Christian converts, #Gonabadi Dervishes and other minority groups in #Iran," shedding light on crimes entirely ignored by Obama during his negotiations with Iran. When members of the Gonabadi Dervish community were murdered at the hands of the Iranian government — one in a summary execution, and the other at the hands of his interrogators — Nauert used her platform to make both their sacrifice and the true face of their murderous government known throughout the world.

With regard to the horrific civil war still playing out in Syria, Nauert has been at the front line of the administration's efforts to stem civilian deaths in Syria, and make Bashar al-Assad pay a price for his use of poison gas against his own people. When reports emerged that Assad had used poison gas in Duma in April 2017, Nauert conveyed that the

United States would "use all efforts available to hold those who use chemical weapons, in Syria and otherwise, accountable."

"Russia," she insisted, "with its unwavering support for the regime, ultimately bears responsibility for these brutal attacks."

Nauert has also emerged as one of the world's leading advocates for Syria's White Helmets, a group of a few thousand volunteer rescue workers who have saved more than 70,000 lives since the Syrian civil war began. The White Helmets have been targeted across Syria for their work, with seven members being executed this past spring as they slept, awaiting the next emergency call. Beyond facing unthinkable physical dangers, the White Helmets are also being globally maligned by pro-Assad forces and periodicals, such as Sputnik and Russia Today, each of which has accused the group of having terrorist connections simply because they operate in rebel-held areas. Through all this, Nauert has repeatedly employed her powerful platform at the State Department to voice American backing for the struggling organization.

The ability to convey American values with courage and conviction on the floor of the UN is the most important qualification for America's ambassador. Adlai Stevenson is best remembered for his bold confrontation with the Soviet ambassador at the height

Former US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley speaks to the Security Council.
Photo: US Mission to UN.

of the Cuban missile crisis, during which he declared his adversary to be standing "in the courtroom of world opinion." Daniel Patrick Moynihan is best remembered for his heroic defense of the State of Israel in a speech where he railed against the "Zionism is racism" resolution of 1975. And Nikki Haley will be remembered in UN lore for standing up for a small and righteous American ally that the amoral body bullied and picked on for decades.

Heather Nauert, no doubt, will follow in the path of her distinguished predecessors, serving as a voice of the oppressed and an American hammer against tyranny. She will, I predict, be a worthy successor to Haley and distinguish herself in her own steely way.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, "America's Rabbi," whom *The Washington Post* calls "the most famous Rabbi in America," is the international bestselling author of 30 books, including his most recent, *The Israel Warrior*. Follow him on Twitter @RabbiShmuley.

How Israel-Haters Use a False Framework to Spread Their Hate

ELDER OF ZIYON
NEW YORK

In *The New York Review of Books*, anti-Zionist author Antony Loewenstein wrote an article called "Exporting the Technology of Occupation." The key paragraph is:

Over more than half a century of occupation, Israel has mastered the arts of monitoring and surveilling millions of Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel itself. Israel is now packaging and selling this knowledge to governments that admire the country's ability to suppress and manage resistance. Israel's occupation has thus gone global. The country's defense exports reached a record \$9.2 billion in 2017, 40 percent higher than in 2016 (in a global arms market that recorded its highest ever sales in 2017 at \$398.2 billion). The majority of these sales were in Asia and the Pacific region. Military hardware, such as missiles and aerial defenses, was the largest sector at 31 percent, while intel, cyber, and information systems comprised 5 percent. Israel's industry is supported by lavish domestic spending: in 2016, defense expenditure represented 5.8 percent of the country's GDP. By comparison, in 2017, the American defense sector absorbed 3.6 percent of US GDP.

The article decries how Israel is making so much money by selling weapons and cybersecurity software that, Loewenstein implies, are solely created to crush Palestinians.

The reason the story sounds reasonable is because Loewenstein frames Israel's existence in terms of how Palestinian Arabs view it. And when you use a flawed framework, it is easy to make anything look bad.

But the real reason for Israel's defense and cybersecurity tools isn't because of its supposed desire to repress the Palestinian people. It is because, over the decades, Israel's enemies (including the Palestinians) have sought to destroy it, and in many cases Israel had to create its own defenses from scratch.

So when Hamas shoots rockets into Israel, Israel creates Iron Dome (a notable example not mentioned in the article). And of course Israel would like to export Iron Dome to other countries.

When Hamas and Iran (via Hezbollah) dig tunnels into Israel, Israel has to devise new methods to detect and stop them. One day, that technology may be commercialized.

Israeli spies, like those of every other country, look for new ways to hack phones and computers. Whether that technology should be exported to repressive regimes is a reasonable question, but it is hardly unique to Israel; every Western power exports weapons and cybersecurity software to other countries that may or may not use them in the most moral of ways. (Loewenstein's main example is the rumor that Saudi Arabia used software from an American-owned Israeli cybersecurity company to track Jamal Khashoggi's movements. Given that Khashoggi voluntarily entered the Saudi embassy where he was murdered, it seems unlikely that the Israeli software was responsible for his death. But that's Loewenstein's main example of the evil of Israeli security tools.)

In short, for 70 years Israel has been a country under siege from its neighbors near and far. It needed to develop ways to defend itself. This is the primary job of every nation. To twist that into a horrible plot of how Israel

is oppressing Palestinians and using that know-how to profit from it is an inversion of reality. But when one looks at the world through "occupation glasses" — where Israel is

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thealgemeiner
PRESENTS
**THE CHANGING ARAB
MILITARY THREAT TO ISRAEL**
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THE EDITORS
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Opinion.

'Sand and Death' or Opportunity Knocks?



BEN COHEN/JNS.ORG
NEW YORK

"Sand and death." With a phrase that sounded strangely poetic, US President Donald Trump prophesied what lies ahead for the armed forces of the United States should this country maintain a military presence in Syria indefinitely. Given Trump's past utterances on the same subject, these off-the-cuff remarks in the White House Cabinet Room on Jan. 2 were hardly shocking, but what came right after was, shall we say, unexpected.

Iran's experience of sending its troops into Syria had left the Tehran regime with a similarly bleak perception of its neighbor, Trump suggested.

"Iran is no longer the same country. Iran is pulling people out of Syria," the president said. "They can do what they want there, frankly, but they're pulling people out, they're pulling people out of Yemen. Iran wants to survive now."

That last point should not be dismissed as out of hand, even if it was as part of a stream of consciousness on foreign policy that also contained preposterous claims (e.g., that the Soviet Union, which invaded Afghanistan in 1979 to prop up the Communist regime in Kabul, did so "because terrorists were going into Russia.")

Trump is correct — as he made sure to remind us — that Iran's economy has suffered severely since he became president. The reimposition of tough sanctions has come at the same time that Tehran has invested massively in its regional proxies stretching from Yemen to Lebanon, and cutting through Iraq and Syria. Iran's regime has also been experiencing the only pushback it really understands in the form of frequent Israeli airstrikes on its military convoys and facilities in Syria.

In terms of its relationship with their subjects, Iran's rulers are also experiencing a degree of turmoil. When Trump said there were "riots every week in every country,"

Continued from Page A6
False Framework

viewed as nothing more than a single-minded oppressor of a group of people — then the story writes itself.

The readers of such trash usually don't understand that the Israel being written about is a funhouse mirror reflection of reality, because the cherry-picked facts are mostly correct; it is the context and framework that are far off base.

Continued from Page A10
Their gods

way you will ever realise the wrong you did, namely, if you yourself suffer what you did to others.

This too helps explain the difference between the two words the Torah regularly uses to describe what God did in Egypt: *otot u'mo'otim*, "signs and wonders." These two words are not two ways of describing the same thing — miracles. They describe quite different things. A *mofet*, a wonder, is indeed a miracle. An *ot*, a sign, is something else: a symbol (like tefillin or circumcision, both of which are called *ot*), that is to say, a coded communication, a message.

he likely meant the student-led anti-regime demonstrations that ebbed and peaked in 2018, and which have picked up again in the last two weeks following a horrible bus crash in which 10 students from Azad University were killed and 27 injured.

And even within the regime, there are some clerics who are talking up the notion that Iran is in the midst of a "crisis." Arguably, the most interesting of these figures is Hassan Khomeini — grandson of the Islamic Republic's founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini — who spoke on Dec. 29 of the "continuous fragmentation of society" under the Islamist regime, "spreading hatred, grudges, hypocrisy, double standards, and dishonesty."

Hassan Khomeini's anxiety is based on his fealty to the governing concept of *velayat-e-faqih* ("guardianship of the jurists") introduced by his grandfather. At the same time, given that his family has been marginalized under the present ruling clique, Khomeini Jr. is also engaging in political maneuvering, so it may suit him to present the Islamic Republic as facing collapse. But as far as the Iranian regime itself is concerned, where others see "sand and death" and imminent collapse, they also see opportunity knocking.

In a speech in Tehran on Jan. 3, Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, painted a rosy picture of a multipolar world in which "it is a big mistake to think that there are superpowers."

As a real-world example, Zarif boasted of Iran's enhanced status in Syria, alongside Russia and Turkey. But he also cast a broader eye over the opportunities presented by a world composed of multiple powers, advocating the efficacy of propaganda as a means of inspiring "resistance" among one's rivals.

"The factor that brings about victory is creating public hatred of the invaders," noted Zarif in a nod to the trusted method of propaganda merchants since Josef Goebbels. That is a clear message that even if we assume Iran is presently retreating, it's not going to do so quietly. And once the United States is out of the way, it is quite conceivable that the surge of power that Tehran has enjoyed over the past decade will be reinvigorated.

It is the job of editors to separate the propaganda from the reality, but unfortunately *The New York Review of Books* employs editors that seek such anti-Israel propaganda to begin with.

Elder of Zion has been blogging about Israel and the Arab world for a really long time now. He also controls the world, but deep down, you already knew that.

The significance of the ninth plague is now obvious. The greatest god in the Egyptian pantheon was Ra or Re, the sun god. The name of the Pharaoh often associated with the exodus, Ramses ii, means meses, "son of" (as in the name Moses) Ra, the god of the sun. Egypt — so its people believed — was ruled by the sun. Its human ruler, or Pharaoh, was semi-divine, the child of the sun god.

In the beginning of time, according to Egyptian myth, the sun god ruled together with Nun, the primeval waters. Eventually there were many deities. Ra then created human beings from his tears. Seeing, however, that they were deceitful, he sent the goddess Hathor to destroy them; only a few survived.

That's the inherent problem with dividing the world (as both Trump and Zarif do) into zones of influence based on geographic proximity. As is depressingly usual in the Middle East, the Kurds will again be the first victims of this new shift in the power balance; in order to ward off a threatened genocide at the hands of Turkey, Syrian Kurds may



US President Donald Trump participates in NORAD Santa tracker phone calls from the White House in Washington, Dec. 24, 2018. Photo: REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst/File Photo.

have to turn to Russia, to the Assad regime in Damascus, and ultimately, to the Iranians for military and political assistance. When you realize that assistance would come from a power that, even now, is repressing its own Kurdish minority of more than six million people, you get some sense of the political price America's Kurdish allies will have to pay for yet another abandonment.

Continued from Page A2
Unite

right-leaning ideology. For precisely this reason, the various leaders on the Right must not allow their fight for seats to foment a crisis of ideology. Similar to 1992, history will not forgive us.

Benjamin Netanyahu, like many other Likudniks, wasn't a fan of the move by Bennett and Shaked. He justifiably voiced his concern from Brazil that the New Right would hurt the entire right-wing camp by possibly preventing the national-religious party (Habayit Hayehudi) from reaching the Knesset threshold — effectively flushing good votes down the drain.

4.
Either way, every poll indicates that Israeli citizens see Netanyahu as the most experienced and preferred candidate. Most Israelis also agree with the positions of the right-wing parties, which not only consider Jerusalem the eternal capital of Israel but also refuse to view the two-state solution as a magical remedy to the ills of the Middle East. Polls also indicate that Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked is the most popular among Israelis, and we can assume the reforms she has pushed forward in her ministry have greatly contributed to her approval ratings. What this tells us is that right-leaning voters want to shift the scales of national sovereignty from the judicial branch to the legislative branch.

While the Left today seems more reliant on archaeology than ideology as it seeks to forge something out of nothing, it's impera-

It's often said that Jews are a civilizational equivalent of the proverbial canary in a coal mine, and that is true of the Kurds as well. In a region that has seen the periodic mass slaughter of thousands of Kurds during the last 30 years — from Saddam Hussein to ISIS — their fate is intimately tied to that of the region as whole. The tremors of Trump's

decisions now, if they are actually implemented, will be felt long after he has departed the White House.

Ben Cohen writes a weekly column for JNS on Jewish affairs and Middle Eastern politics. His writings have been published in Commentary, The New York Post, Haaretz, The Wall Street Journal, and many other publications.

tive for the Right to present a united, common front. Bennett and Shaked's proper place is in the Likud. Likud ministers lambasted them, wondering why they didn't want early elections. Is it possible that someone blocked them from joining the Likud? Regardless, this shouldn't legitimize their attacks on it. Quite the opposite. As Israel Hayom columnist Dror Eydor wrote last week: "The evil spirit of 1992 is seeing a resurgence... which led to a loss of tens of thousands of votes and put the government that passed the Oslo Accords into power." A poll conducted by Israel Hayom last Friday shows that up to 15 mandates on the Right (which also applies to former Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beytenu party) are up in the air because of this split.

We have a very heated and unclear election campaign ahead of us. (Almost) nothing should surprise us. Let's hope for a pleasant surprise, such as a merger between the old Right (Likud) and the New Right. And let's also hope to see Habayit Hayehudi accept into its ranks the deep, radical Right.

What Reagan identified in the 1960s, Israel experienced first-hand in the 1990s. If Netanyahu, Bennett, and Shaked decide to unite, there's a good chance the bloc will benefit. This isn't a sure thing. But even if they choose otherwise, please do right by right-wing voters and remember the Eleventh Commandment: "Don't speak ill of your brothers and sisters on the Right."

Boaz Bismuth is a correspondent and columnist for Israel Hayom.

The plague of darkness was not a mofet but an *ot*, a sign. The obliteration of the sun signalled that there is a power greater than Ra. Yet what the plague represented was less the power of God over the sun, but the rejection by God of a civilisation that turned one man, Pharaoh, into an absolute ruler (son of the sun god) with the ability to enslave other human beings — and of a culture that could tolerate the murder of children because that is what Ra himself did.

When God told Moses to say to Pharaoh,

"My son, My firstborn, Israel," He was saying: I am the God who cares for His children, not one who kills His children. The ninth plague was a divine act of communication that said: there is not only physical darkness but also moral darkness. The best test of a civilisation is to see how it treats children, its own and others'. In an age of broken families, neglected and impoverished children, and worse — the use of children as instruments of war — that is a lesson we still need to learn.

Shabbat shalom

Impressions.

The BDS Fight Boils Over on Campus and Elsewhere

BY ALEXANDER JOFFE

In December, the BDS movement continued to be a prominent political and campus issue, fully integrated into larger questions of antisemitism, free speech, and the nature of the university.

At Temple University, faculty member Marc Lamont Hill was fired from a job as a *CNN* commentator after protests regarding his appearance at the United Nations, where he endorsed Palestinian violence against Israelis and called for a “free Palestine from the river to the sea.”

After the *CNN* move, Temple University trustees stated they were examining whether Hill’s statements were cause for dismissal from his academic position. This produced an enormous outcry from BDS supporters and others, including neo-Nazi David Duke, and a petition in support of Hill signed by almost 3,000 people. Most observers noted that Hill’s statements were protected speech, but a few commented that a private company would be within its rights to dismiss him for hate speech. The chair of Temple’s board of trustees commented that Hill had caused “immeasurable harm” to the institution.

Hill later commented that he supported a one-state solution, but, more implausibly, that his call for a Palestine “from the river to the sea” did not call for the destruction of Israel. He then attacked those who criticized his support for Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, saying, “Why is only one set of people untouchable? ... And why does every black leader have to ritually denounce Farrakhan in order to sustain a position? That doesn’t happen to anyone else.”

Hill went on to blame Israel for police violence in the US, saying, “The New York City police, they’re killing us, but they’re being trained by Israeli security forces. ... They’re being trained — New York City police and in other cities as well. So here’s a connection between the two. I can’t stop one without the other, there’s a relationship.”

Fallout also continued over the Pitzer College faculty decision in November to end the school’s exchange program with Haifa University. The university president condemned the decision, saying: “To deny Pitzer students who want to study at Haifa University the opportunity to study abroad and to enter into dialogue and promote intercultural understanding at the altar of political considerations is anathema to Pitzer’s core values.”

Pro-BDS faculty members responded ironically that the president’s comments were “anti-democratic” and had the effect of silencing untenured faculty members. More implausibly, they suggested that Jewish students did not feel unsafe at the college’s programs in Morocco, Turkey, and Lebanon. Shortly after the vote, a mural decrying antisemitism at Pitzer’s sibling institution Pomona College was defaced with pro-Palestinian messages.

To preempt future faculty BDS efforts at their schools, the 10 Chancellors of the University of California system issued a statement that reaffirmed “our longstanding opposition to an academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions and/or individual scholars. Our commitment to continued engagement and partnership with Israeli, as well as Palestinian colleagues, colleges, and universities is unwavering. We believe a boycott of this sort poses a direct and serious threat to the academic freedom of our students and faculty, as well as the unfettered exchange of ideas and perspectives on our campuses, including debate and discourse regarding conflicts in the Middle East.”

The Temple and Pitzer cases raise important questions about the nature of free speech versus hate

speech, and about faculty behavior and faculty governance. The increasingly categorical opposition to Israel expressed by a small minority of faculty members has profoundly changed the campus environment. It has also changed the essential power relationship between administrations — which have responsibilities to students, state legislators, donors, and other stakeholders, as well as to abstract ideals of academic freedom — and faculty members, who increasingly see themselves as having no responsibilities besides their own politics.

Elsewhere on campus, the student government at New York University adopted a BDS resolution after a contentious debate. In response, the administration stated that it had no intention of boycotting Israel. At Ohio State University, another resolution was defeated. At Maynooth University in Dublin, however, the student government approved a BDS resolution.

Observers have noted that overtly antisemitic acts on campus have increased in response to the upswing in faculty and student BDS activities. After the NYU vote, a BDS supporter posted threats on social media that caused the campus Hillel to be closed.

In other campus-related news, the BDS campaign against Birthright continued to expand. Reports in left-wing media sources alleged that Birthright enrollments had dropped sharply in response to BDS campaigns. These reports were later denied by Birthright officials, and may be plausibly interpreted as an information operation designed to pressure Jewish students not to participate in the program. Media coverage lauding the small number of IfNotNow related students (13 out of some 40,000) who walked off Birthright trips (and then participated in pre-planned tours of the “territories”) continued, as did J Street U’s petition campaign demanding that Birthright be opened to Palestinian students.

A new line of attack was also opened, alleging that Birthright was attempting to silence dissent by adding language in their contracts prohibiting participants from behavior to “coerce, force or suppress opinions, hijack a discussion or create an unwarranted provocation.” Overall, the attacks on Birthright are a reflection of the program’s long-term success at connecting young American Jews to Israel, and the Jewish BDS movement’s exclusive focus on the “occupation” as a means of destroying it and the American Jewish connection to Israel and to Israelis.

In the economic sphere, the most significant development was the announcement by the British bank HSBC that it was divesting its holdings in the Israeli technology firm Elbit. Describing the move as related to its corporate social responsibility investment policies, the bank stated it “strongly supports observance of international human rights principles as they apply to business,” but added that it does “not take positions on political issues.” The BDS movement had targeted the company for many years.

The extent of the bank’s holdings in Elbit was very small, and in early January the company issued a clarification stating the move was in response to its long-standing policy regarding cluster munitions rather than “human rights” or Israel generally. In the meantime, the BDS movement celebrated the bank’s decision, which, if indeed limited to Israel, represents a major victory.

Fallout also continued over Airbnb’s decision to de-list rental properties belonging to Israelis across the “Green Line.” After the move was widely condemned, and with word that several US states would apply local laws forbidding companies from boycotting Israel, Airbnb held discussions with Israeli authorities. But conflicting reports emerged, with Israeli authorities claiming the company had reversed its decision and Airbnb stating this was incorrect and it was still seeking

ways to implement it. Later, an Airbnb official toured the areas in question with Israeli officials and the company continued to issue conflicting statements, possibly to mislead American regulators.

The state laws that are being used to challenge the Airbnb boycott have themselves come under fire. A lawsuit filed in Texas alleges that an individual’s First Amendment rights were restricted by a law prohibiting state contractors from boycotting Israel. But as legal commentators quickly pointed out, the Texas law prohibits the state from contracting with businesses including individual proprietors that boycott Israel, on the same terms as other anti-discrimination laws. Contractors must certify that their businesses do not boycott Israel, but their ability to speak about Israel is unimpeded. That the media and BDS supporters have deliberately misconstrued this distinction is not surprising. But the fact that certain state laws single out Israel instead of presenting general prohibitions on discrimination is a problem that will open the laws to legal challenges. In contrast, a brief by the Arizona Attorney General presented in response to a challenge to the state’s anti-BDS law made the claim that the BDS



The student center at Temple University. Photo: Jeannine Keefer.

movement against Israel aids terrorism.

In the political sphere, the emergence of a pro-BDS caucus in the House of Representatives has begun to change the debate over the issue. Reports indicate that Senators Bernie Sanders and Dianne Feinstein will now oppose the “Israel Anti-Boycott Act” in order to generate a “real debate” on Israel and its “settlement” policies. This appears to be an effort by the Democratic leadership to move the terms of the debate over Israel and BDS to the left in order to maintain control of the issues. Opposition to the legislation also came from some mainstream media outlets including the editorial board of *The New York Times*.

Misconstruing the legislation, and similar laws at state levels, as prohibiting speech rather than addressing discrimination in commercial behavior, is a deliberate tactic that has spread from the BDS movement to the broader political sphere. In the case of Sanders and Feinstein, this misrepresentation is ostensibly directed at free speech and designed to put pressure on Israel over “settlements,” when in fact the BDS movement aims for the elimination of Israel as a whole.

Pushing back against these stances on the anti-boycott legislation, a group of Republican Senators issued a letter demanding that the Congressional leadership express bipartisan opposition to BDS. At the same time, incoming Representative Rashida Tlaib has indicated that she will not be participating in the now traditional AIPAC tour of Israel for incoming members of Congress but will instead tour “Palestine” with the leading BDS group Jewish Voice for Peace.

The strategy of equating BDS with progressivism generally was formally stated by the head of Jewish Voice for Peace, meaning the stage is set for the BDS caucus to

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Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: ASHOKIDS, LLC. Articles of organization Filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) 10/25/2017 Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be Served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: United States corporation agents, inc 7014 13th Ave. Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose : all lawful activity
AJ; 12/14/21/28; 1/4/11/18

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AJ; 12/21/28; 1/4/11/18/25

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings U.S. Bank NA, successor trustee to Bank of America, NA, successor in interest to LaSalle Bank NA, as trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Washington Mutual Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, WMALT Series 2006-8, Plaintiff AGAINST Eric D. Garnes, individually and as surviving joint tenant of Delia Curtis, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 10/10/18 and entered on 10/18/18, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on January 24, 2019 at 02:30 PM premises known as 245 E 46th 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 County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 4851, LOT: 40. Approximate amount of judgment is \$780,358.49 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 505910/2015. Steven Z. Naiman, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706
AJ; 12/21/28; 1/4/11/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Necta Dupuy; Frantzy Dupuy; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated October 18, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on January 24, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 8610 Avenue N, 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 NY, Block 8083 Lot 5. Approximate amount of judgment \$703,916.99 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold

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subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 1128/13. Steven Naiman, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: November 21, 2018 59329
AJ; 12/21/28; 1/4/11/

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC AUCTION Supreme Court of New York, KINGS County. WILMINGTON TRUST, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR MFRA TRUST 2014-2, Plaintiff, -against- ELIECER TORRES; ARTURO TORRES; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE SCHAEFFER LANDING NORTH CONDOMINIUM; CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK; KINGS SUPREME COURT; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; MIKE BLACK; MRS. BLACK (FIRST NAME REFUSED), Index No. 20760/2013. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated, September 20, 2018 and entered with the Kings County Clerk on September 26, 2018, Jeffrey R. Miller, Esq., the Appointed Referee, will sell the premises known as 440 Kent Avenue, Unit 14A, Brooklyn, New York 11211 A/K/A Two Schaefer Landing, Brooklyn, New York 11211 at public auction at 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on January 24, 2019 at 2:30 P.M. 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 known as Block: 2134; Lot: 1272 will be sold subject to the provisions of filed Judgment, Index No. 20760/2013. The approximate amount of judgment is \$999,811.56 plus interest and costs. FRIEDMAN VARTOLO LLP 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff.
AJ; 12/21/28; 1/4/11/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS MTGLQ Investors, L.P., Plaintiff AGAINST Calvin Dillon; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated January 25, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on January 24, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 668 Riverdale Avenue, 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 NY, Block: 3842 Lot: 19. Approximate amount of judgment \$328,323.14 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 1131/2013. Steven Naiman, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: November 19, 2018
AJ; 12/21/28; 1/4/11/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY CITI BANK, N.A., Plaintiff against ALIZA SHREM, et al Defendants Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523 Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered January 17, 2018, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at Kings County Supreme

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Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on January 24, 2019 at 2:30 PM. Premises known as 2238 West Street, Brooklyn, New York 11223. Block 7151 Lot 71. 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. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$441,324.93 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 5872/2012. Cash will not be accepted at the sale. Doron Leiby, Esq., Referee 11582
AJ; 12/21/28; 1/4/11/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY EMIGRANT BANK F/K/A NEW YORK PRIVATE BANK AND TRUST F/K/A EMIGRANT SAVINGS BANK, Plaintiff against ORCHID JOAZARD, et al Defendants Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Fein, Such & Crane, LLP, 28 East Main Street Suite 1800, Rochester, NY 14614 Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered October 31, 2018, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on January 31, 2019 at 2:30 PM. Premises known as 1270 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233. Block 1567 Lot 19. All that tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$570,846.46 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 5551/2011. Shmuel D Taub, Esq., Referee XCHJC350
AJ; 12/28; 1/4/11/18

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS NP154, LLC, Plaintiff, Against Index No.: 509194/2017 SHERRILYN LEWIS, et al, Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered 12/3/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, on 1/31/2019 at 2:30 pm, premises known as 611 East 37th Street, 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, Block 4954 and Lot 58. The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$86,014.95 plus interest and costs. The Premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 509194/2017, Zvi Aryeh Storch, Esq., Referee. Richland & Falkowski, PLLC, 35-37 36th Street, 2nd Floor, ASTORIA, NY 11106 Dated: 12/6/2018 PB
AJ; 12/28; 1/4/11/18

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, GOSHEN MORTGAGE LLC, AS SEPARATE TRUSTEE FOR GDBT I TRUST 2011-1, Plaintiff, vs. NELFA GUZMAN, ET AL., Defendant (s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on November 16, 2018, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 7, 2019 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 50 Pine Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of

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land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings and State of New York, Block 4117 and Lot 42. Approximate amount of judgment is \$1,075,461.07 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 7351/13. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee's attorney, or the Referee. Richard Alan Klass, Esq., Referee Peter T. Roach & Associates, P.C., 6901 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 240, Syosset, New York 11791, Attorneys for Plaintiff
AJ; 12/28; 1/4/11/18

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff AGAINST Dolores E. Clarke and Milton B Clarke, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated February 09, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on February 07, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 941 ASHFORD 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 4403, LOT 54. Approximate amount of judgment \$419,490.04 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 506248/2015. Gregory T. Cerchione, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 59904
AJ; 1/4/11/18/25

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS HSBK BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, FOR THE HOLDERS OF THE J.P. MORGAN ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2006-A5 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, Plaintiff against ISAAC SHOUELA, A/K/A ISAAC SHOUELA, ELI SHOUELA A/K/A ELI SHOUELA, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on September 25, 2018, 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 7th day of February, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain lot, 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, known and designated as Lots Numbers 63 and 64, Block 6826, on a certain plan of lots called "Brooklyn Harlem" (temporary Name) surveyed for Wood Harmon & Co., March 1902 by Samuel H. McElroy, C.E. and C.S. and filed in Kings County Register's Office, March 23, 1902, and bounded and described as follows, to wit: Easterly at East 21st Street, 40 feet as shown on said plan; Southerly by Lot 62 in Block 100 feet as shown on said plan; Westerly by lots 26 and 25 in said Block 40 feet as shown on said plan; Northerly by Lot 65 in said Block 100 feet as shown on said plan. Said premises known as 1946 E. 21st Street, Brooklyn, NY. 11229. (Block: 6826, Lot: 27). Approximate amount of lien \$ 1,153,565.15 plus interest and

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costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 20507-13. Bartholomew M. Verdirame, Esq., Referee. Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 10 Bank Street - Suite 700 White Plains, New York 10606 (914) 949-2574
AJ; 1/4/11/18/25

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Adjustable Rate Mortgage Trust 2005-11, Adjustable Rate Mortgage Backed Pass Through Certificates, Series 2005-11, Plaintiff AGAINST Abraham Brander; David Brander; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated December 5, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 7, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 872 Bedford Avenue, Unit 4, Brooklyn, NY 11205. 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 1900 Lot 1704. Approximate amount of judgment \$292,175.02 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 511965/2014. Leonard Spector, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: December 21, 2018 60115
AJ; 1/4/11/18/25

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: Upper Level F & R Cleaning Service LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 10/18/2018. 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 copy of the process to: Fatima 2080 Wallace Ave. Suite 429 Bronx, NY 10462. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 1/4/11/18/25; 2/1/8

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings CitMortgage, Inc., Plaintiff AGAINST Amarnauth Ramotar; et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 5/11/18 and entered on 6/11/18, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on February 14, 2019 at 02:30 PM premises known as 97-24 Drew Street a/k/a 442 Drew 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 County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 4185, LOT: 43. Approximate amount of judgment is \$405,883.49 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 504301/2014. For sale information, please visit Auction.com at www. Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832. Betty Lugo, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706
AJ; 1/11/18/25; 2/1

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL CREDIT SERVICES NEW
Continued on Page A10

Tradition.

Against Their gods



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

The ninth plague – darkness – comes shrouded in a darkness of its own.

What is this plague doing here? It seems out of sequence. Thus far there have been eight plagues, and they have become steadily, inexorably, more serious. The first two, the Nile turning blood-red and the infestation of frogs, seemed more like omens than anything else. The third and fourth, gnats and wild beasts, caused worry, not crisis. The fifth, the plague that killed livestock, affected animals, not human beings.

The sixth, boils, was again a discomfort, but a serious one, no longer an external issue but a bodily affliction. (Remember that Job lost everything he had, but did not start cursing his fate until his body was covered with sores: Job 2.) The seventh and eighth, hail and locusts, destroyed the Egyptian grain. Now – with the loss of grain



added to the loss of livestock in the fifth plague – there was no food. Still to come was the tenth plague, the death of the firstborn, in retribution for Pharaoh's murder of Israelite children. It would be this that eventually broke Pharaoh's resolve.

So we would expect the ninth plague to be very serious indeed, something that threatened, even if it did not immediately take, human life. Instead we read what seems like an anti-climax:

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand towards the sky so that darkness will spread over Egypt – darkness that can be felt." So Moses stretched out his hand towards the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived. (Exodus 10:21–23)

Darkness is a nuisance, but no more. The phrase "darkness that can be felt" suggests what happened: a khamsin, a sandstorm of a kind not unfamiliar in Egypt, which can last for several days, producing sand- and

dust-filled air that obliterates the light of the sun. A khamsin is usually produced by a southern wind that blows into Egypt from the Sahara Desert. The worst sandstorm is usually the first of the season, in March. This fits the dating of the plague which happened shortly before the death of the firstborn, on Pesach.

The ninth plague was doubtless unusual in its intensity, but it was not an event of a kind wholly unknown to the Egyptians, then or now. Why then does it figure in the plague narrative, immediately prior to its climax? Why did it not happen nearer the beginning, as one of the less severe plagues?

The answer lies in a line from "Dayeinu," the song we sing as part of the Haggadah: "If God had executed judgment against them [the Egyptians] but had not done so against their gods, it would have been sufficient." Twice the Torah itself refers to this dimension of the plagues:

"I will pass through Egypt on that night, and I will kill every firstborn in Egypt, man and animal. I will perform acts of judgment against all the gods of Egypt: I

(alone) am God." (Exodus 12:12)

The Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, struck down by the Lord; and against their gods, the Lord had executed judgment. (Numbers 33:4)

Not all the plagues were directed, in the first instance, against the Egyptians. Some were directed against things they worshipped as gods. That is the case in the first two plagues. The Nile was personified in ancient Egypt as the god Hapi and was worshipped as the source of fertility in an otherwise desert region. Offerings were made to it at times of inundation. The inundations themselves were attributed to one of the major Egyptian deities, Osiris. The plague of frogs would have been associated by the Egyptians with Heket, the goddess who was believed to attend births as a midwife, and who was depicted as a woman with the head of a frog.

The plagues were not only intended to punish Pharaoh and his people for their mistreatment of the Israelites, but also to show them the powerlessness of the gods in which

they believed. What is at stake in this confrontation is the difference between myth – in which the gods are mere powers, to be tamed, propitiated or manipulated – and biblical monotheism, in which ethics (justice, compassion, human dignity) constitute the meeting point of God and mankind.

The symbolism of these plagues, often lost on us, would have been immediately apparent to the Egyptians. Two things now become clear. The first is why the Egyptian magicians declared, "This is the finger of God" (Ex. 8:15) only after the third plague, lice. The first two plagues would not have surprised them at all. They would have understood them as the work of Egyptian deities who, they believed, were sometimes angry with the people and took their revenge.

The second is the quite different symbolism the first two plagues were meant to have for the Israelites, and for us. As with the tenth plague, these were no mere miracles intended to demonstrate the power of the God of Israel, as if religion were a gladiatorial arena in which the strongest god wins. Their meaning was moral. They represented the most fundamental of all ethical principles, stated in the Noahide covenant in the words "He who sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed" (Gen. 9:6). This is the rule of retributive justice, measure for measure: As you do, so shall you be done to.

By first ordering the midwives to kill all male Israelite babies, and then, when that failed, by commanding, "Every boy who is born must be cast into the Nile" (Ex. 1:22), Pharaoh had turned what should have been symbols of life (the Nile, which fed Egyptian agriculture, and midwives) into agents of death. The river that turned to blood, and the Heket-like frogs that infested the land, were not afflictions as such, but rather coded communications, as if to say to the Egyptians: reality has an ethical structure. See what it feels like when the gods you turned against the Israelites turn on you. If used for evil ends, the powers of nature will turn against man, so that what he does will be done to him in retribution. There is justice in history.

Hence the tenth plague, to which all the others were a mere prelude. Unlike all the other plagues, its significance was disclosed to Moses even before he set out on his mission, while he was still living with Jethro in Midian:

You shall say to Pharaoh: This is what the Lord says. "Israel is My son, My firstborn. I have told you to let My son go, that he may worship Me. If you refuse to let him go, I will kill your own firstborn son." (Ex. 4:22–23)

Whereas the first two plagues were symbolic representations of the Egyptian murder of Israelite children, the tenth plague was the enactment of retributive justice, as if heaven was saying to the Egyptians: You committed, or supported, or passively accepted the murder of innocent children. There is only one

Continued on Page A7

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE

Continued from Page A9

YORK, INC., Plaintiff against MARCO FUENTES A/K/A MARCOS FUENTES; WILFREDO A. FUENTES; JANE FUENTES (REFUSED FIRST NAME), et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on February 28, 2018. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY. on the 14th day of February, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situated, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Said premises known as 205 29th Street, Brooklyn, NY. 11232. (Block: 665, Lot: 52). Approximate amount of lien \$ 893,360.06 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 505007-15. Bruno Codispoti, Esq., Referee. Stern & Eisenberg, PC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff Woodbridge Corporate Plaza 485 B Route 1 South – Suite 330 Iselin, NJ 08830 (732) 582-6344 *For sale information, please visit www.auction.com or call (800) 280-2832* AJ; 1/11/18/25; 2/1

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR TO LASALLE BANK, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR MERRILL LYNCH FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-2, Plaintiff AGAINST ANNISA DANCE and RUSSELL DANCE, et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated February 01, 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 February 14, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 686 WORTMAN AVENUE, 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 New York, BLOCK 4546, LOT 100. Approximate amount of judgment \$844,763.15 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 511425/2014. David J. Hernandez, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 60105 AJ; 1/11/18/25; 2/1

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Nationstar Mortgage LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST Ernest L. Spence; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated March 3, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 14, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 602 Hegeman Avenue, 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 NY, Block 4325 Lot 5. Approximate amount of judgment \$979,521.00 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 508760/2014. Steven Naiman, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for

LEGAL NOTICE

the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: December 4, 2018 59666 AJ; 1/11/18/25; 2/1

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 February 14, 2019 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) 430-4792 Dated: December 5, 2018 59448 AJ; 1/11/18/25; 2/1

"Notice of Formation of a Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC). The name of the PLLC is: Family Health Care PLLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: 12/11/2018. The County in which the Office is to be located: KINGS. The SSNY is designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the PLLC is: 2116 BATH AVE, BROOKLYN, NY 11214. Purpose: any lawful activity. AJ; 1/11/18/25; 2/1/8/15

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A CHAMPION MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff AGAINST Karine Grunfeld, et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated October 10, 2018 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 February 14, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 1421 EAST 23rd STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11210. 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 7677, LOT 51. Approximate amount of judgment \$540,641.29 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 515262/2015. Jeffrey R. Miller, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 59944 AJ; 1/11/18/25; 2/1

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that a license, (serial# 1314070) for wine and beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell wine and beer at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 1195 Castleton Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10310. Tu Tipico Dominicano Corp. AJ; 1/11/18

Social.



Actor Michael Douglas accepts his award. Photo: Paul Drinkwater / NBC Universal / Handout via Reuters.

Jewish Winners of 2019 Golden Globes Include Michael Douglas and DJ Mark Ronson, Among Others

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Jewish actors, composers and songwriters were among the winners at the 2019 Golden Globes, which were held on Sunday night in Beverly Hills.

At the awards ceremony, co-hosted by Jewish actor Andy Samberg and actress Sandra Oh, composer Justin Hurwitz took home the honor of Best Original Score for a Motion Picture for the film *First Man*, a biopic about legendary astronaut Neil Armstrong.

Actor Michael Douglas accepted the award for Best Actor for a TV Musical or Comedy for his role as Jewish acting coach Sandy Kominsky in the Netflix series "The Kominsky Method."

In his acceptance speech, Douglas thanked the show's Jewish creator, Chuck Lorre, and recognized his Jewish co-star and "dancing partner" Alan Arkin. Douglas dedicated his win to his father Kirk Douglas, and garnered laughter from the audience when he raised his newly received award and shouted, "Alte kakers rule!"

Michael also said the best advice he ever got from his father was to exhibit "stamina and tenacity. He was out of the school where you get your best shot, you walk

away after you've done the best you can. Then f-k it!"

"The Kominsky Method," which is about the relationship between two aging Jewish men in Hollywood, won the Best Television Series, Musical or Comedy award.

Additional winners included actress Patricia Arquette, who received a Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actress in a Limited Series or a Motion Picture Made for Television, for her performance in "Escape at Dannemora," which is based on the true story of a 2015 prison break in New York state.

Joe Weisberg — writer, executive producer and series creator of "The Americans" — accepted the Best Drama Series award for the sixth and final season of his show, and songwriter, producer and DJ Mark Ronson was part of a team, which included singer Lady Gaga, to win the award for Best Original Song for "Shallow" from the movie *A Star is Born*.

Ronson told Lady Gaga in his acceptance speech, "You took a heartfelt, honest tune and you gave it emotional resonance that we could've only dreamed of. Seriously, the way you weaved the lyrics into the film and the narrative of your beautiful heartbreaking film is why we're standing up here tonight, I believe."

Continued from Page A8
BDS Fight

challenge Congressional leaders on BDS and Israel.

An exposé also revealed the manner and extent to which the Women's March has been taken over and exploited by a cadre of BDS-supporting antisemites. The reports detailed how the original founders were pushed out by Linda Sarsour, Tamika Mallory, Carmen Perez, and others; how Jews associated with the organization were subjected to antisemitic abuse and harassment, including claims of "Jewish privilege" and the "Jewish role in the slave trade"; and how the new leadership employed the Nation of Islam for security and manipulated finances for personal gain.

First reported in *Tablet*, the story was met by a bizarre series of denials from a public relations firm

employed by the Women's March, and was then followed up by a report in the *The New York Times*. In response, several local affiliates of the Women's March have broken away, donors have withdrawn support, and a rival national organization has been created.

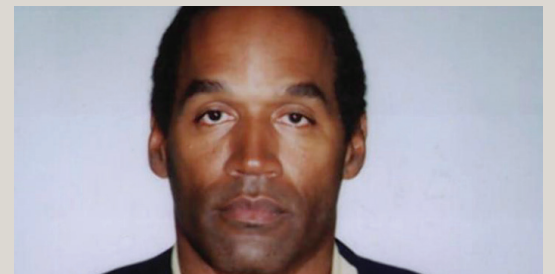
The pattern mirrors to some extent the situation in academia where organizations such as the American Studies Association have been taken over and weaponized as tools of BDS. In the case of the Women's March, the current leadership's ties to the Nation of Islam and Louis Farrakhan are a particular feature, which also links it with figures such as Marc Lamont Hill, as well as campaigns against police exchanges with Israel spearheaded by Jewish Voice for Peace and the Black Lives Matter movement. The success of that program was also seen in December when the Vermont State Police and

Former O.J. Simpson Lawyer Blames Holocaust Victims for 'Suppressing' Free Press

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

A lawyer who once represented notorious former football player O.J. Simpson implied in a recent interview that Jewish influence led the press to censor favorable coverage of the athlete after his famous murder trial in 1994, the *New York Post* reported on Sunday.

"Some of the people who claim that most of their lives they've been subjected to horrible kinds of prejudice and extermination during World War II are now behaving in exactly the same totalitarian spirit by



A mug shot of O.J. Simpson. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

suppressing the one thing this country has to be proud of when all is said and done, and that's an unfettered free press," claimed former criminal defense attorney F. Lee Bailey on an episode of the "Morano Whenever" podcast. Bailey was a part of O.J. Simpson's defense team when he was accused of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown and her friend Ron Goldman. He was acquitted of double murder in 1995.

Bailey was disbarred years later after he refused to hand over assets that a subsequent client of his had agreed to forfeit to the government. Bailey declined to comment on his recent remarks, the *Post* said.

the Northampton, Massachusetts police department canceled scheduled police training in Israel. The fact that the training sessions related to counter-terrorism, not everyday policing, has been ignored.

The larger BDS-related goal is alienating African-Americans from Jews through blood libels about police training in Israel. A corollary program is to alienate other groups by alleging that American Jews epitomize "whiteness," which is to say, accusing them of racism if they do not acquiesce to BDS and antisemitism. The racialization of BDS, using the African-American community as a tool against Israel and Jews, will intensify in 2019.

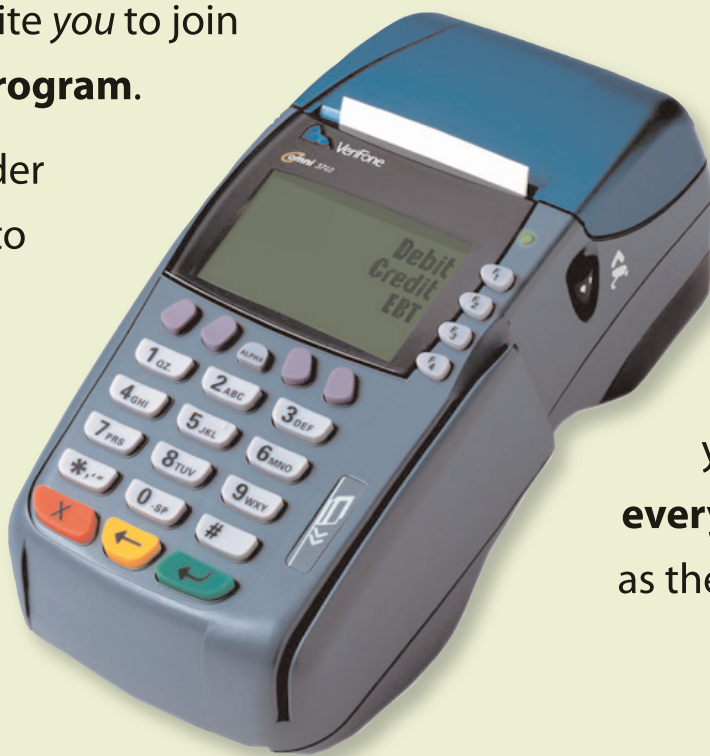
Dr. Alex Joffe is an archaeologist and historian specializing in the Middle East and contemporary international affairs. Educated at Cornell University and the University of Arizona, he is currently a Shillman-Ginsburg fellow of the Middle East Forum, a research scholar at the Institute for Community and Jewish Research, and a contributing writer for *Jewish Ideas Daily*. His web site is alexanderjoffe.net. A version of this article was originally published at SPME.

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