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El Paso's Jewish Community Stands in Solidarity Following Deadly Shooting



Well-wishers at a memorial site for the victims of the shooting massacre in El Paso. Photo: Reuters/Callaghan O'Hare.

BY JNS.ORG

The Jewish community of El Paso, Texas, is offering support to the Hispanic community following Saturday's deadly attack at a Walmart in the city that borders the southern United States.

El Paso, America's 22nd-largest city with an estimated population of 682,669, is more than 80 percent Hispanic or

Latino, according to the US census.

Of the 22 people now confirmed dead by gunfire on Saturday at a Walmart adjacent to the Cielo Vista Mall, at least seven were Mexican citizens, and of the 26 injured in the attack, at least nine were Mexican nationals.

El Paso's Jewish community of 5,000 strong have been encouraging people to donate blood and participate in a fundraising campaign for victims of the

attack, Rabbi Stephen A. Leon, the emeritus rabbi of B'nai Zion, a conservative congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Theological Seminary, told *The Jerusalem Post*.

On Sunday night, they attended a large municipal inter-faith-prayer vigil.

"As soon as we know who the victims are, we will reach out to

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Netanyahu Expresses Solidarity With Egypt After Deadly Car Bomb

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned on Monday an attack in the Egyptian capital of Cairo in which 20 people were killed.

"Last night, terrorists detonated a car bomb near a hospital in central Cairo, killing 20 and wounding dozens of innocent Egyptians," the Israeli leader said. "We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the innocent victims, and wish a speedy recovery to the injured."

"We stand by the Egyptian people in their battle against terrorism," Netanyahu emphasized.



People extinguish a fire from a blast outside the National Cancer Institute in Cairo, Egypt, Aug. 4, 2019. Photo: Reuters/Shokry Hussien.

In 1979, Egypt became the first Arab country to ink a peace deal with Israel (as part of which the Sinai Peninsula — which had been taken control of by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War — was given back), though the relationship has at times been strained over the years, particularly when there have been outbursts of violence in the unresolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Ties have steadily improved since President Abdel

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The Amazing Story of Hannah Senesh

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat DEVARIM
פרשת דברים

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 7:44pm | Shabbat Ends: 8:45pm



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P.O.B. 208 East 51st St, Suite 185
New York, NY 10022
Tel: (718) 771.0400 | Fax: (718) 771.0308
Email: editor@algemeiner.com
www.algemeiner.com



Opinion.

Is This the End for Netanyahu?



ISI LEIBLER
JERUSALEM

Although Benjamin Netanyahu has now become Israel's longest-serving prime minister, projections suggest that MK and former defense minister Avigdor Lieberman will achieve his objective and bring about Netanyahu's political demise. If, as appears almost certain, Lieberman's strident anti-haredi positions gain him additional seats, he will continue to hold the balance of power. His role is strengthened with polls predicting another deadlock with neither Netanyahu nor Blue and White head Benny Gantz able to cobble together sufficient seats to form a government.

On top of that, should Netanyahu be indicted, it is likely that Likud would be divided as to whether he can retain his position as party leader.

Paradoxically, Netanyahu is currently at the peak of his achievements. He courageously overcame the stormy, confrontational era of former US President Barack Obama with subsequent events totally vindicating him. He has managed to expand the alliance with the United States to an all-time high, while simultaneously developing an unprecedented positive relationship with Russia's President Vladimir Putin (despite his support

of Syria). He has advanced relations with India and deftly penetrated barriers and created relationships in South America, Africa, and Asia, including China. He has also broken through what seemed an insurmountable barrier and developed covert and even not so covert associations with the Saudis and moderate Sunni states. Israel today, largely due to Netanyahu's diplomacy, has better relations with the international community than at any time since its inception.

In addition, he can take much of the credit for Israel's booming economy and for the country being ranked as one of the world's most successful high-tech innovators. Under his leadership, the IDF has achieved new peaks and is capable of defeating any threat from Israel's adversaries. But after Netanyahu's 13 years in office — extraordinary longevity for any elected leader — many Israelis seek a change. This attitude is exacerbated by a media that has unceasingly demonized him personally as well as politically in a manner unprecedented in any democratic country. His hedonistic lifestyle, which the court is unlikely to deem a crime, has intensified public opposition.

His constant kowtowing to extremist haredi demands, particularly outraging Israelis with his concessions on draft exemptions, has created a backlash, and according to the polls, diverted many voters to Lieberman's party since he is perceived as the only one standing up to haredi extortion. Unless the merger with the New Right led by Ayelet

Shaked can change the environment, a Netanyahu government including haredim will ensure that religious extremism will intensify, even beyond their efforts to enforce total gender separation and imposing obstacles to conversion.

Even more critical has been the exclusion of all secular elements from their core educational agenda, making most graduates unfit for anything other than the most menial work. Their ever-expanding population will lead to dire consequences when the state is economically unable to finance the increased demand for social services for those unable or unwilling to engage in productive labor.

To make matters worse, formerly moderate religious Zionism has now become largely dominated by "national haredim" who, while fully supportive of national goals, ally themselves with the extremist haredim on questions of religious observance.

Netanyahu has also been accused of eliminating those with the potential to displace him as head of the party. Getting close to the prime minister is likened to a moth attracted to a flame and leads to destruction. A striking example of his petty-mindedness was his decision to sack Shaked and Naftali Bennet from their cabinet positions and his frenzied efforts to destroy them.

Under current circumstances, even if Likud gains more seats than Blue and White, and Netanyahu overcomes his legal problems, if none of the opposition parties or enough individual MKs can be seduced into joining



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on April 4, 2019. Photo: Kobi Gideon/GPO.

him, we could face an ongoing deadlock. Neither side may be able to obtain a majority. Lieberman's Yisrael Beytenu party could double its previous electoral strength because of the attractions of its anti-haredi stance.

The only solution is for Likud to propose a national unity government, offering Gantz a rotating premiership with Netanyahu retiring at the end of his term. But this will fail if Blue and White remains true to its pledge not to consider serving under Netanyahu under any circumstances.

If that happens, the president could step in and invite Gantz to form a government. Likud would then have no alternative but to oblige Netanyahu to step down. And once he does, Likud under a new leader would negotiate a unity government with Blue and White — with or without the inclusion of Yair Lapid's Yesh Atid. This should pose no obstacles because Gantz shares the same basic policies as the current government in relation to security and defense.

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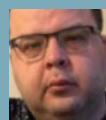
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Hamas Just Violated Twitter's Rules. Now What?



SIMON BUTLER
NEW YORK

I recently received an intriguing notification from Twitter about a number of accounts that I had reported to the platform for antisemitic hate speech and other wrongdoings.

The message listed the handles that Twitter found in violation of its policies. Among them was @HamashInfoEn, which carried the name "Hamash Movement." That's right. Hamash Movement — aka Hamash. The terrorist group that threatens Israel on a regular basis. The account calls itself an "official account."

The Twitter notification sent to me points out that the group violated its "rules against hateful conduct." Given that Hamash has directed thousands of Palestinians to riot on the Israeli border, murdered many innocent Israeli civilians, and launched innumerable rockets toward the Jewish state, "hateful conduct" may be the least of its offenses.

But Twitter's finding brings up some major questions: Does this mean the platform will suspend and/or deactivate the @HamashInfoEn account — and why, for that matter, is Hamash allowed to have a Twitter account in the first place?

The fact that Twitter acknowledged the problems with the Hamash account indicates its efforts to address hateful content — antisemitic and otherwise. Yet the idea of an



Hamash fighters take part in a rally marking the 31st anniversary of the terror group's founding, in Gaza City, Dec. 16, 2018. Photo: Reuters / Ibraheem Abu Mustafa.

organization dedicated to the destruction of a country (which Hamash is) operating openly on social media is troubling.

Did Twitter vet the account when it joined? And when you consider that Hamash is deemed a terrorist organization in the United States, and Twitter is an American company, the mind boggles further. Why is it even legal to be on the platform?

Then there's the question of monitoring. Let's say this Hamash account is deactivated. Is that better or worse for the world overall?

Some publications, such as The Jerusalem Post, follow @HamashInfoEn — presumably to see what it is saying. It's likely that the account is being scrutinized by intelligence organizations as well to determine what Hamash is up to. So this brings up the additional dilemma of whether it's better for hateful content to be out in the open, or whether it should be shut down.

I'm of the opinion that it's better to suspend such accounts, even if they're observed by powers beyond my ken. My feeling, however, is that the @HamashInfoEn account will stay on Twitter for a while, though the site's finding may set a precedent — that not all anti-Israel hate will be tolerated. Perhaps this might even lead to Twitter looking at Hamash' account more carefully.

I hope that will happen. Meanwhile, I'm pleased that at least something was done. Whether more prominent bad online actors will be addressed accordingly, though, remains to be seen.

Simon Hardy Butler is a writer and editor living in New York City. During his career, he has written for publications ranging from Zagat to Adweek. Currently, he is a columnist for The Jewish Advocate. His views and opinions are his own.

World News.

Post-Mass Shootings, Tlaib Labels Palestinians 'Activists' and Israel 'White Nationalist'

BY JNS.org

In the aftermath of the Saturday shooting at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) took issue on Monday with CNN host Jake Tapper in that Palestinian rhetoric is similar to US President Donald Trump's when it comes to intolerance of the other.

Tlaib argued that Palestinians are not responsible for terrorism or vitriol, even as she has lambasted the president's use of words and called Israel a white-supremacist nation.

"Comparing Palestinian human rights advocates to terrorist white nationalists is fundamentally a lie. Palestinians want equality, human dignity & to stop the imprisonment of children," she tweeted. "White supremacy is calling for the *domination* of one race w/ the use of violence."



Comparing Palestinian human rights advocates to terrorist white nationalists is fundamentally a lie. Palestinians want equality, human dignity & to stop the imprisonment of children

White supremacy is calling for the "domination" of one race w/ the use of violence. twitter.com/SanaSaeed/stat...



Sana Saeed @SanaSaeed
This is the height of unethical journalism @jaketapper - you invoke Palestinians & Arabs as a comparison to white nationalist violence in the US?
This is blatant anti-Arab bigotry & Islamophobia. @CNN needs to take action.

Tlaib's comments were in response to Tapper saying on CNN's "State of the Union" Sunday program that "either tone matters or it doesn't."

"You hear conservatives all the time rightly so, in my opinion, talk about the tone set by people in the Arab world. Palestinian leaders talking about ... and the way they talk about Israelis, justifying in the same way you're doing," he said. "No direct link necessarily between what the leader says and the violence against some poor Israeli girl in a pizzeria," apparently a reference to the 2001 bombing at a Sbarro restaurant in Jerusalem, where 15 civilians, including a pregnant woman, were killed.

"But the idea that you're validating this hatred and yet ... you can't compare the ideology of Hamas with anything else," continued Tapper. "But at the same time, either tone matters or it doesn't."

Patrick Crusius, 21, has been charged with opening fire in a crowded Walmart in the Texas border town of El Paso on Saturday, killing 22 people and wounding dozens more. Crusius published a manifesto prior to the attack decrying the "Hispanic invasion of Texas."

The El Paso attack was followed just hours later by another mass shooting outside a Dayton bar. Police identified the shooter as 24-year-old Connor Betts. Nine people were killed, including the gunman's sister, and 26 wounded in that attack before the shooter was killed by police. His motive is still unclear.

On Monday, Trump condemned the hatred behind the El Paso shooting.

"In one voice, our nation must condemn racism, bigotry and white supremacy," he said, adding that "the perils of the Internet and social media cannot be ignored, and they will not be ignored."

Fearing PR Blow, Hamas Asks Gaza Border Rioters Not to Fly Swastika Flag

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

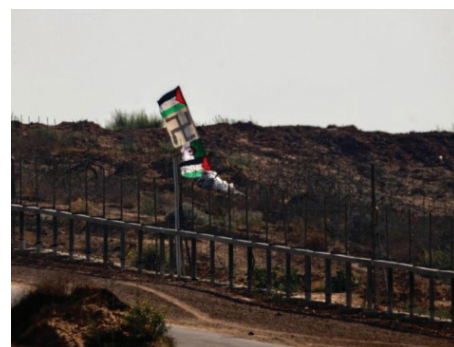
The Gaza Strip-ruling Palestinian terrorist group Hamas has told rioters on the border with Israel to not to fly the Nazi swastika flag after a photo of them doing so was tweeted by the IDF last Friday.

The flag was flown on the border fence as part of the Hamas-orchestrated "March of Return" riots that have become a near-weekly occurrence since March 2018.

The IDF tweeted the image of the swastika flag sandwiched between two Palestinian flags, calling it "a symbol of murder and sheer hatred."

"In the face of this hatred," the army added, "stand IDF soldiers, alert and determined, ready to defend Israel."

In response, the Israeli news site Mako



A Nazi swastika flag raised on the Israel-Gaza Strip border, Friday, Aug. 2, 2019. Photo: IDF.

reported, Hamas issued a message to rioters asking them not to fly the swastika, "so that the Israeli occupation cannot take advantage of it."

PA, NGOs Angered After UN Doesn't Single Out Israel for Violating Children's Rights



PA President Mahmoud Abbas addressing the UN General Assembly. Photo: UN.

BY ISRAEL HAYOM/JNS.org

Top Palestinian officials and several pro-Palestinian groups leveled harsh criticism at the United Nations over the weekend after the latest report by UN Secretary-General António Guterres on children and armed conflicts failed to single out Israel for condemnation.

According to a report by *The Jewish Press*, the UN chief called for an investigation into the deaths of 59 Palestinian children in 2018, but stopped short of explicitly condemning the Jewish state.

"I am extremely concerned by the significant rise in the maiming of and injuries caused to children across Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, including by tear-gas inhalation requiring medical treatment," Guterres said, adding no specific censure.

He did, however, level harsh criticism at Syria, where 225 attacks on schools and medical facilities took place; and at Afghanistan, where 254 schools and hospitals were targeted last year.

"Increased numbers of attacks were also verified in the Central African Republic, Colombia, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen," said Guterres.

Palestinian Ambassador to the United Nations Riyad Mansour lambasted the decision.

"The UN secretary-general should include Israel in the 'list of shame' and add it to the countries that commit horrendous acts, especially against children," he said.

By not including Israel on the list, the United Nations was "undercutting efforts to put an end to the criminal violations against children around the world," Mansour added,

noting that the decision further undermined the credibility of the list.

Absolving Israel from any kind of accountability further endangers the lives of Palestinian children, warned Mansour.

"We call on the international community to save an entire generation. The difficult circumstances, humiliation, panic and trauma caused by the detention of the Palestinian child are impeding society and aim at weakening it," the Palestinian Mission to the United Nations said in a statement.

Palestinian Authority Minister of Social Development Ahmad Majdalani also admonished Guterres, saying that the UN chief "seems to have heard nothing of the violations committed by the Israeli occupation government against Palestinian children on a daily basis."

He asked how Israel had "managed to get itself excluded" from the report.

The Jewish Press noted that Jo Becker, children's rights advocacy director for the NGO Human Rights Watch, was also critical of Guterres's decision not to shame Israel in his report.

"The UN secretary-general simply refuses to hold to account all warring parties that have inflicted tremendous suffering on children," Becker said in a statement, further suggesting that "by listing selected violators but not others, Secretary-General Guterres is ignoring the UN's own evidence and undermining efforts to protect children in conflict."

NGO Save the Children blasted the UN chief, saying, "This decision shows that the secretary-general has placed politics before children and that states with powerful friends can get away with destroying children's lives with impunity."

Continued from Page A1
El Paso

them," he said. "As Jews, our job is to make the world a better place. We have to fight the fight even stronger."

The retired rabbi from El Paso added,

Continued from Page A1
Solidarity

Fattah al-Sisi took power in Cairo in 2013, after ousting his predecessor, Mohamed Morsi, an Islamist affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Israel and Egypt share a number of regional interests — including the contain-

"We feel grief, but also frustration: Why do people do such evil acts? I was at that mall just a few days ago with my grandchildren. Other than for the fact that the shooting happened on Shabbat, it could have been us. It could have been anyone."

ment of Iran and combating ISIS.

However, normalization of the relationship with Israel remains a sensitive topic for much of the Egyptian public.

Sisi met with Netanyahu in New York on the sidelines of a UN General Assembly session in September 2017.

World News.



The entrance to Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

88 US Senators Call on Poland to Pay Holocaust Victims for Property Stolen by Nazis

BY JNS.org

A bipartisan group of 88 US senators signed a letter on Monday to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, asking him to “act boldly and with urgency to help Poland resolve this issue comprehensively” of compensating Holocaust victims whose property was stolen by German Nazis.

Crediting Pompeo with raising the issue in a statement in February about the matter, the senators said they were “deeply troubled” with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki responding that the issue has been “resolved.”

“Now is the time, while the last Holocaust survivors are still alive, to back up our words with meaningful action,” wrote the senators. “We encourage you to pursue bold initiatives to help Poland to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.”

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), Pat Toomey (R-Pa.), Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) did not sign the letter.

JNS has reached out to those senators for comment.

The letter came less than a month ahead of US President Donald Trump’s planned visit to Poland on Sept. 1 to mark the 80th anniversary of the beginning of World War II. It would be Trump’s second visit to Poland since July 2017.

Poland is the only affected nation that doesn’t have legislation dealing with confiscated restitution from the last century. In March 2018, 59 US senators called on Poland to pass and enact such a law.

In May, Morawiecki said that were Poland to pay restitution for those whose property was stolen in the Holocaust, it would violate “international law and would also be a posthumous victory for Hitler;” therefore, “something like this will never happen.”

Eric Gallagher, the Washington representative of the World Jewish Restoration Organization, told *Haaretz* that the letter “demonstrates once again that the United States Congress has not forgotten about Holocaust survivors and remains steadfast in pursuing justice for them.”

Approximately 90 percent of Poland’s Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

Foreign Minister: Israel Has Joined US-Led Coalition to Secure Gulf From Iran Threats

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

Israel is playing a role in a US-led coalition to secure the Persian Gulf from the threats posed by Iran, the Jewish state’s foreign minister revealed on Tuesday.

The Israeli news site Mako reported that Foreign Minister Israel Katz confirmed the cooperation at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Katz said Israel was a participant in a dialogue on the Gulf situation with the US and its allies, and was also involved in intelligence

operations.

He said that such collaboration was very much in Israel’s interest, as it helped curb Iran’s power and aggression while strengthening burgeoning ties with Gulf Arab states.

Tensions have spiked in the Gulf in recent months, with Iran seizing foreign merchant ships, in particular a British tanker.

Following the incident, Britain announced that it would join the US coalition to secure the strategic waterway, something Katz described as being of great importance.

distorted perception that Israel is governed by an “extreme” right-wing government but enjoys the overwhelming support of the Israeli people.

There remains one problem with such a

Continued from Page A2
The End?

Most Israelis would be relieved by such an outcome, which would help unite the nation and bring an end to haredi extortion. Such a merger would also destroy the current

Israeli Embassy, Leading Jewish Group Slam Antisemitic Column by Prominent Belgian Writer

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

The Israeli Embassy and a leading Jewish organization in Belgium have joined the growing criticism of an antisemitic column written by a prominent Belgian writer.

Dimitri Verhulst wrote in the leftist newspaper *De Morgen* on July 27, “Being Jewish is not a religion, no God would give creatures such an ugly nose.”

He also said, “Because God has His favorites and they have their privileges, Palestinians were driven out of their homes in 1948 to make a place for God’s favorites.”

He further claimed “talking to the Chosen is difficult.”

The Israeli Embassy in the country tweeted on Monday that it was “deeply shocked by the publication by the daily newspaper @demorgen of an article conveying antisemitic stereotypes written by Dimitri Verhulst.”

“This #antisemitisme is not an opinion but a crime,” it added.

De Morgen itself reported that the Forum der Joodse Organisaties (Forum of Jewish Organizations or FJO), which represents the Jews of Antwerp and its surroundings, said Verhulst’s statement “directly and straightforwardly targets the entire Jewish people in an antisemitic manner.”

“This is a step too far,” said Hans Knoop of the FJO. “Criticism of Israel is legitimate. Anyone can criticize Israel. How far you



Belgian writer Dimitri Verhulst. Photo: Matej Batha.

can go in this is subjective. But with Dimitri Verhulst it is clear: he is targeting the Jewish people as a people.”

“He talks about them as the chosen people,” Knoop pointed out, “and according to him, that election leads to Jews being able to expel Palestinians and oppress other people.”

“These are allegations that do not focus on the policy of the State of Israel, but on the Jews as a people and thus cross a line,” he added.

The FJO expressed support for a police complaint against Verhulst, saying, “The border with regard to freedom of expression is very clearly indicated in Europe. Freedom of expression is limited and is therefore not absolute. Dimitri Verhulst too will have to respect the limits of freedom of expression.”

“What he has done is simply antisemitic: insulting the Jews as a people,” said Knoop. “And with that we think that a line has been crossed.”

The chief rabbi of the Netherlands, Binyomin Jacobs, has also harshly criticized Verhulst’s statements, calling them “pure antisemitism.”

Beresheet May Have Unleashed a Horde of Water Bears on the Moon, Report Says

BY CTECH STAFF

When Israeli spacecraft Beresheet crashed on the Moon in April it may have left more than just rubble on its surface. The spacecraft was carrying a DNA bank containing 30 million pages of information, human DNA samples, and thousands of tardigrades, microscopic creatures better known as water bears, American entrepreneur Nova Spivack told *WIRED* magazine in an interview published Monday.

Spivack heads the Arch Mission Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to archiving human knowledge as well as information on earth species and spreading them through space. The DNA bank on Beresheet was one of

the Arch Mission Foundation’s projects.

Water bears are considered extremely resilient and are assumed to survive all environmental conditions, including those in space. The water bears sent to the moon were dehydrated and in a dormant state in which all metabolic processes are stopped. These animals can potentially be revived in the future, Spivack said.



A tardigrade or “water bear.” Photo: Aditya Sainiarya via Wikimedia.

solution: Does Gantz possess the qualities to lead the country? Could he, like Netanyahu, successfully walk the diplomatic tightrope between Trump and Putin? Gantz displays neither charisma nor a strong leadership image. A big question mark hangs over his ability to effectively lead the country over the next 12 months, when critical decisions will need to be made.

And if not Gantz, who in either party does have the qualifications to lead? The brutal truth is nobody!

This is why, despite the fact Netanyahu does not endear himself to most Israelis, at the same time polls show that even today many

consider him the only competent candidate for prime minister. Indeed, there are many who detest him but would still opt for him to retain the reins of leadership over the coming crucial year.

So, while many are predicting that this is Netanyahu’s last hurrah, they could be wrong. Today the odds are against him but on previous occasions he used his extraordinary political skills and overcame what seemed to be hopeless situations. Don’t write him off yet!

Isi Leibler is an Israeli writer and columnist. His website can be viewed at www.wordfromjerusalem.com. He may be contacted at ileibler@leibler.com.

U.S. News.

After Latest Mass Shootings, 'Threat to the US Is Greatest From Extreme Right,' Former ADL Chief Abe Foxman Says

BY BEN COHEN

US President Donald Trump's condemnation of white supremacy on Monday was "absolutely necessary, but it was just an opening salvo and certainly not enough," a veteran American Jewish leader told *The Algemeiner* following the president's comments on the two mass shootings over the weekend in which 31 people were murdered.

"It was the first time that the president clearly condemned hate and white supremacy," said Abraham Foxman, the national director emeritus of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), during a longer conversation about the context of Saturday's deadly shootings at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas and a nightclub in Dayton, Ohio. "But then, he got political and it was intellectually dishonest."

Speaking at the White House on Monday morning, Trump declared that with "one voice, our nation must condemn racism, bigotry and white supremacy."

Continued Trump: "These sinister ideologies must be defeated. Hate has no place in America."

Foxman argued that these laudable aims were, however, compromised by the president's own understanding of the problem.

"No one thought he was going to blame himself [for the shootings] — that was never an expectation," Foxman said. "But to then blame the internet, and the news media, and mental illness, and not talk about the availability of guns or the lethality of these weapons, that was intellectually dishonest."

While Trump did talk up certain gun-control measures — such as "red flag" laws that would enable law enforcement to seize weapons from suspect individuals — the US leader declined to address his own record of harshly anti-immigrant rhetoric. Trump also raised hackles with a series of tweets earlier on Monday morning in which he suggested that the US Congress combine legislation for stricter background checks on gun owners with "desperately needed immigration reform." In a manifesto posted online shortly before the attack, the El Paso shooter, a white supremacist, justified the atrocity as a "response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas."

For Foxman, the true test of Trump's intentions lies in the measures the administration is willing to take against extremists on the far right in the wake of the weekend's massacres.

"Politically, this administration has shied away from law enforcement focusing on the far right, perhaps this will be a moment of change," Foxman said. "Hopefully, these two tragedies will help us refocus."

Foxman also reflected that historically, concerns over the First Amendment of the US Constitution meant that monitoring the activities of the far right was the preserve of non-governmental agencies like the ADL, rather than the US government. But with the expansion of government surveillance powers to combat terrorism heralded by the 2001 Patriot Act, Foxman said, the challenge in combating the far right today wasn't so much "constitutional" as "political."

"After 9/11, we realized that if you couldn't protect life, you couldn't protect liberty or the pursuit of happiness," Foxman said. "Protection of life is the number one priority, which means you have to recalibrate the balance between civil liberties and national security."

In terms combating of the far right, an effort involving both government and the private sector was needed, he said.

Government agencies had to recognize that "the threat from white supremacists needs to be on a higher level, because the threat to the United States is greatest from the extreme right," Foxman asserted.

"We have been successful in preventing and controlling the extreme left and the jihadists, but we haven't done the same job with the extreme right," Foxman said. "Maybe this will be a turning point for the government to become more active and more pre-emptive."

Pressure was also needed on the technology sector — which provides the platforms for extremists to spread conspiracy theories and violent incitement — to face up to its own responsibilities, Foxman pointed out. "We have to be very aggressive in challenging that whole industry over their responsibility to act," he said, with the ultimate aim

of preventing far right groups from securely using the internet.

The influence of the internet had transformed the nature of extremism, so that traditional labels like "neo-Nazi" were no longer as precise as was once the case, Foxman noted. An ADL analysis published on Monday pointed out the juxtaposition of the El Paso shooters' racist loathing of Hispanic immigrants with "derogatory comments about corporations and automation and ... concern about the state of the environment." It continued: "These are somewhat unusual — though not unheard of — themes for a white supremacist statement."

Foxman emphasized that such combinations were the result of the unprecedented opportunity provided by the internet for extreme left and far right to learn from each other.

"Today, there's a preference for conspiracies over ideologies," Foxman said.

He continued: "The extremes of left and right reinforce each others' conspiratorial view of the world. It's no longer limited to the narrow subject matter that an ideological extremist group decides is important. Extremists today cherry-pick their conspiracies and their enemies."



Mourners at a memorial site for the victims of the massacre in El Paso. Photo: Reuters / Callaghan O'Hare

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Opinion.

Is the New Testament Antisemitic?

SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

The debate I'll be holding this Thursday in New York City with my friend and public antagonist Dr. Michael Brown has stirred considerable controversy, both among Jews and Christians. The debate will center around whether the New Testament contains blatant antisemitic statements.

Anyone who has read the Christian Bible will no doubt be alarmed by the demonization of the Jewish people that served for many centuries to enforce antisemitic acts and attitudes practiced throughout Christendom. Historically, the countless Christian massacres and persecutions and the omnipresent antisemitic attitudes purveyed by preachers and popes alike were defended as following naturally from Christian scripture, which above all else blamed the Jews for murdering Jesus.

And yet in our time Christian evangelicals have emerged as the foremost allies of the Jewish people in general and the State of Israel in particular. To the contrary, the political left, many of whom denigrate Christianity, espouse an irrational hatred of Israel that is utterly out of step with their liberal values.

How can this be? Because Christians and Catholics today are reinterpreting Scripture away from a literalist interpretation of Jews as the enemies of Christ and are going even further in stating that one can only understand Jesus through the lens of his Jewishness. It was to bolster this movement that I published my 2012 book *Kosher Jesus* that fostered heated debate throughout the world.

Still, many in the Jewish community have questioned the efficacy of making even sound arguments to those they assume won't accept them, especially if by doing so we provide a platform to those who seek openly, as Dr. Brown errantly does, to bring Jews to Jesus. Others have pointed toward the history of such exchanges: Jewish-Christian debates like these, *The Jerusalem Post* pointed out, were instigated by the church to confirm Christian doctrine and disgrace that of the Jews, often to the peril of Jewish communities in the Middle Ages.

I disagree with these assertions. The enlightenment took us out of the Dark Ages, where the Church ruled, antisemitism reigned, and Jews lived in constant terror. Today, there is a global movement on the part of our Christian brothers to discover the Jewishness of Jesus and we in the Jewish community should be leading the way. And I say to my friend Mike Brown, respectfully, that his ongoing desire to convert Jews to a belief in Jesus makes him a dinosaur in the

Christian community.

I believe Jews should make the case for our God, our values, our State, and our people. We must state these truths and defend our people even among our closest friends, as Christians are today, and even when those ideas are cradled in their most sacred books.

Our Christian brothers and sisters are beginning to address antisemitic attitudes and verses that are a part of the New Testament. In his *Removing Anti-Jewish Polemic from our Christian Lectionaries: A Proposal*, Norman A. Beck lists about 450 examples of explicitly antisemitic verses throughout the Synoptic Gospels (Matt, Mark, and Luke) and the Acts of the Apostles. Jews are referred to as vipers and poisonous snakes, hard-hearted and hypocrites, thieves and robbers, and the blind guiding the blind. We are told that they reject the commandments, reject God's purpose, and plotted on multiple occasions to kill Jesus and eventually did. The Gospel According to John makes these assertions: God's word and God's love are not with the Jews; none of the Jews do what is written in the Torah; they know neither Jesus nor the father; and they are descendants of their own father, who is not God but Satan.

Whenever unnamed Jews appear, they do so almost always as villains. When unnamed Gentiles appear, they almost always heed the words of the gospels and say random things like "Truly this was the son of God!" as one Roman centurion exclaims at the crucifixion as Jewish crowds revel in Jesus' pain. Romans, known by historians for their unfettered willingness to kill, are shown repeatedly in the New Testament as trying to save Jesus and his followers, notably Paul. Even in cases where the gentiles ignore the apostles or try to kill them, as occurs in Iconium and Antioch, we are told on both occasions that the Jews had first "stirred up the other Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers."

The Jews in Christian scripture represent, in reality and in metaphor, the shadows in the contrast of good and evil. The righteousness of Jesus and his followers is held against the backdrop of Jews who seek to stifle his message and kill him if need be. In the words of Jonah Daniel Goldhagen, in his book *Moral Reckoning*, "The antisemitism of the Christian Bible is not incidental to it but constitutive of its story. ... The Christian Bible presents its Christian faithful with a relentless and withering assault on Jews and Judaism ... presented as the ontological enemy of Jesus and therefore of goodness." The scholar William Nicholls put it more plainly: "No uncritical reader of the New Testament could easily come away with any but the most negative opinion of Jews."

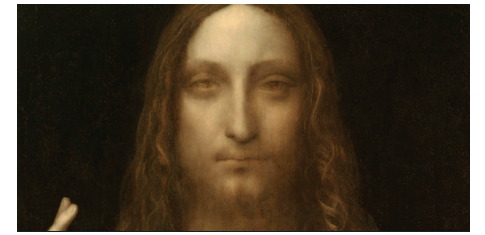
Just about all of the Gospels directly or indirectly accuse the Jews of actually killing God, which would seem ridiculous if it hadn't

visited so much actual death and persecution on Jewish communities across Europe over the past 2,000 years. Mark depicts Jesus being condemned before the Jewish supreme court, the Sanhedrin, on the night of the Seder — though they would never convene for a capital case on a night or on a holiday — before being sentenced to death for blasphemy and handed over to the Romans. The Roman governor Pontius Pilate tries repeatedly to have Jesus spared, but the Jewish crowds beg for his execution. Matthew adds that Pilate, whom historians tell us was a monster recalled to Rome for murdering unarmed Samaritan demonstrators, tried to save Jesus' life and physically washed his hands of Jesus blood as the braying Jewish crowds screamed for the Messiah's innocent blood to "be upon our heads and upon our children's." Luke does away with both the Jewish and Roman trials entirely — mentioning no crime, witnesses, or formal condemnation — which, Nicholls points out, converts the Roman Crucifixion into a Jewish lynching of Jesus.

Worse than killing God once, the Jews are accused of being something like serial killers, but for prophets. Jesus repeatedly refers to the historical Jewish crimes of killing divine messengers, such as Zachariah; and Luke, Matthew, and John each mention a separate Jewish attempt on Jesus' life even before the crucifixion. The most damning target of the Jewish prophet-killing obsession isn't even Jesus, it's Paul. While the Jews try to kill Jesus no more than four times, they try to kill Paul no less than nine — in Damascus, Jerusalem, Iconium, Lystra, Thessalonika, Corinth, twice again in Jerusalem, and on the road from Caesarea (the Romans, of course, were there to save him.) Those aside, the New Testament depicts the Jews killing Stephen, approving Herod's killing of James, and instigating plots to kill Lazarus and Peter.

As bad as what the New Testament has to say about Jews is what it has to say about Judaism, which is depicted throughout as old and defunct and in need of replacement. Jesus, in Matthew, tells the Jews that "the kingdom of God will be taken away from you [Jews] and given to a people that will produce its fruit [the Christians]." John takes the metaphor terrifyingly further, calling the Jewish people a fruitless tree waiting to be axed, "cut down and thrown into the fire."

Given this narrative in the New Testament, how can Christians today be Israel's greatest friends? Because how we understand the *written* verses of any Bible comes down to their oral interpretation. And Christians today, guided by the Hebrew Bible's assertion that all nations are blessed through the Jews and Israel, reject any demonization of the Jewish people. They are reinterpreting New Testament verses by claiming they are later interpolations added to distance Christianity from Judaism and Jesus from the Jewish people, or holding

A detail of Leonardo Da Vinci's painting *Salvator Mundi*. Photo: public domain.

that the Jews in the time of Christ were mostly righteous except for a few bad apples.

In Judaism the Torah, the written law, cannot exist without the Talmud, the oral law. Both were given at Sinai. In our faith, we've been taught that the "Torah is not in the heavens," but is here on earth in the interpretation of authorized Jewish scholars who trace the tradition in an unbroken chain back to Moses. It's a key Jewish concept, not only because it involves man as God's partner in the understanding of Judaism but also because it makes the interpretation of faith man's distinct moral responsibility. No longer can we or any others blame God when evil sprouts and flourishes. Rather, it's because we, as people, have allowed it to through fraudulent interpretations of our faith.

Ultimately, the question of whether the New Testament is or is not antisemitic is itself a game of interpretation. But that fact does liberate modern Christians from their responsibility to both recognize and theologically disarm those parts of their Bible that — either directly or by implication — look negatively upon the Jews.

It's not much to ask. After all, the Vatican did so in Vatican II, and went even further in an officially sanctioned 1985 statement that said, amazingly, "Some [New Testament] references hostile or less than favorable to Jews have their historical context in conflicts between the nascent Church and the Jewish community. Certain controversies reflect Christian-Jewish relations long after the time of Jesus." It might not seem significant, but the statement sees all of the New Testament's antisemitic verses as late elaborations and not original truths. They essentially admitted that many of these verses were read into the story long after the death of Jesus and therefore entirely irrelevant to the original and the modern Christian faiths.

The Catholic Church, in particular, has a lot more to answer for. However, it's high time Christian leaders outside the Catholic camp begin to do the same. With antisemitism resurgent in America and across the globe, and with our evangelical brothers especially joining in its condemnation, the Jewish community should work with our Christian brothers to ensure that any antisemitic verses in one of the most widely read Bibles on earth be formally repudiated and be re-interpreted clearly, securely, and anew.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach's book Kosher Jesus is widely regarded as one of the most influential books on the Jewishness of Jesus. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @ RabbiShmuley.

J Streeters Duped on Alternative Tour of Israel

STEVE FRANK/
JNS.ORG

Non-profit advocacy group J Street has recently been campaigning against Birthright Israel, an educational program that sponsors free 10-day heritage trips to Israel for young Jewish adults. Over 600,000 young adults have participated in the program since its founding in 1999.

J Street charges that Birthright trips lack Palestinian voices, fail to incorporate the Palestinian narrative, and neglect to visit Palestinian sites in the West Bank. As an alternative to the traditional Birthright tour, J Street recently sponsored a trip to Israel for 28 participants who visited Palestinian sites in the West Bank and heard from spokesmen for the Palestinian cause.

According to *The New York Times*, "In the West Bank settlement of Har Gilo" the J Streeters "received a harsh history lesson from a veteran opponent of the occupation. Then they toured an impoverished, water-starved Palestinian village that Israeli settlers want

to demolish, and visited the city of Hebron, where repeated outbreaks of violence have turned an entire Palestinian business district into a ghost town."

The J Street trip and the *Times* article about it were highly criticized in a pointed piece in *Commentary* magazine. The *Commentary* review noted that there was not a word in either the trip or the *Times* article "on the murderous Palestinian antisemitic violence that necessitates Israel's policing of such places [as Hebron] to begin with," "no mention of the kleptocratic Palestinian leadership that's consigned generations of

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Opinion.

Continued from Page A6
J Streeters

Palestinians to certain ruin,” and “no mention of the fact that the Palestinians have, again and again — and again — refused to make peace with Israel when it was offered.”

However, there was one particular failing of the J Street trip that has not received the attention it deserves.

A favorite stop of anti-Israel activists escorting celebrities on tours of Israeli “oppression” in the West Bank is the now-shuttered Shuhada Street in the Old City of Hebron. Shuhada Street is a half-mile long road in Hebron that used to be the thriving market center of the city, frequented by Palestinians and Israelis daily. Today it is a virtual ghost town, largely shut down by the Israeli military for security reasons. A visit to Shuhada Street is designed to underscore



Palestinian protesters clash with Israeli security forces in the West Bank city of Hebron on March 15, 2019. Photo: Wisam Hashlamoun.

alleged Israeli apartheid and the cruelty of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

However, as discussed at length here, the tale of Shuhada Street is a myth. Shuhada Street was a highlight of J Street’s alternative tour and the group fell for the myth. To date, no one has pointed out that the J Streeters were duped on their visit to Hebron.

The *Times*’ fawning article on the J Street tour featured a picture of Shuhada Street with the following caption: “The students toured what were once Hebron’s main market streets, now a graveyard of abandoned storefronts and apartments.”

The effect of the visit on the student participants was dramatic. As the *Times* reports, two participants said they were “reconsidering” their beliefs about the Jewish state. One stated that he “came in here a very ardent Zionist,” but that he was “starting to doubt ... whether Zionism is even worth pursuing anymore.” Another participant described walking “in stunned silence through the post-apocalyptic streets of Hebron, where severe restrictions on movement have shuttered most Palestinian storefronts.”

These reactions were similar to those of others who have been escorted through Shuhada Street by pro-Palestinian activists. Pulitzer prize-winning American Jewish author Michael Chabon called it “the most grievous injustice I have ever seen in my life.” Hollywood actor Richard Gere likened the situation in Hebron to segregation in the Jim Crow-era American South. Jeremy Ben-Ami, the head of J Street, has said of Shuhada Street: “It is impossible to be a Jew and not feel shame at the way Palestinians are treated in the center of Hebron.”

However, what is generally missing from such pro-Palestinian activist tours (the J Street tour was no exception) are the following salient facts:

- The Jewish connection with Hebron is deep and dates back almost 4,000 years to when Abraham, the father of Judaism, came to the land of Israel and settled in the city. Abraham purchased a plot of land, known as the Cave of the Patriarchs, as a burial plot. The site is the final resting place of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah — the Patriarchs and Matriarchs of the Jewish religion.

As a result, Hebron is considered to be the second holiest city for Jews after Jerusalem.

- Present-day Hebron is divided into two parts. The Palestinian Authority (PA) controls 97 percent of the city, and forbids Jews to enter. The Israelis control three percent of the city, including the site of the Cave of the Patriarchs, which is open to people of all faiths, since Muslims and Christians also claim descent from Abraham.
- Unlike other Palestinian cities in the West Bank (Ramallah, Nablus, Jericho), where Jews are prohibited by law from living or even visiting, 85 Jewish families reside near the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. Jews have suffered violence, including massacres, by Arabs in Hebron since the 1920s. Suicide bombings and shootings caused the Israeli authorities to largely shut down Shuhada Street as a security measure, resulting in its present abandoned condition.
- In place of the now shuttered fruit and vegetable stalls on Shuhada Street, a new, thriving Arab commercial district exists less than a mile away, surrounded by almost 200,000 Palestinians (and no Jews, who are forbidden to enter this Palestinian-controlled area). The new commercial district includes an ultra-modern, nine-story indoor mall, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Domino’s Pizza franchises, and all the accouterments of a modern, sophisticated commercial area. Very few outsiders can or do visit this part of modern Hebron. The J Street tour was no exception. In lamenting the demise of the old market on Shuhada Street, none of the J Street tourists seemed at all aware of the prosperous new commercial market nearby.

The J Streeters were unaware that “Shuhada Street ... is not the main thoroughfare of Hebron as claimed. It is a comparatively small road in the Old City. Hebron is a large, thriving city, with massive factories, businesses, and shopping malls. Hebron is the most prosperous city and main center of economy for the PA, with more than 40 percent of the PA economy produced there. There are 17,000 factories and workshops in all areas of production. There are four hospitals, three universities, and an indoor 4,000-seat basketball stadium.”

- The myth of Shuhada Street, which the J Street alternative tour completely bought into, is a metaphor for the larger Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Like the rest of the Palestinian narrative, the myth of Shuhada Street as a symbol of supposed Israel apartheid and oppression (just down the street from a modern mall where Jews are prohibited) is grounded in misrepresentations, omissions, and facts taken out of context. It lies at the heart of the Palestinian propaganda machine. This myth must be exposed.

At the end of the day, the J Street tour is not an alternative tour. It is an alternative reality, based on alternative facts. This too must be exposed.

Steve Frank is an attorney, retired after a 30-year career as an appellate lawyer with the US Department of Justice in Washington, DC. His writings on Israel, the law, and architecture have appeared in publications including *The Washington Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Times of Israel*, and *Moment* magazine.

Who’s Responsible for Denying Hadar Goldin a ‘Decent Burial’?



JONATHAN S. TOBIN
JNS.ORG

Five years ago, Hadar Goldin, a 23-year-old Israeli soldier, was killed during Operation Protective Edge. The purpose of that campaign was to silence the barrage of Hamas rockets and missiles from Gaza into Israel, as well as to prevent the terrorist group from using tunnels for kidnapping and murder raids. At the cost of more than 2,000 Palestinians killed, the vast majority of whom were terrorists, and 73 Israelis (67 Israel Defense Force soldiers and six civilians) slain, as well as many thousands of wounded on both sides and devastating damage inside the Gaza Strip, a temporary halt to Hamas’ atrocities was achieved.

But for Goldin’s family, the nightmare continues. The question is, whose fault is it that their boy’s body continues to be held hostage by Hamas? The answer to that question speaks volumes about the international hypocrisy concerning Palestinian terrorism and intransigence. It also speaks to the terrible dilemma that Israel faces as it attempts to quarantine the Hamas terrorist state in Gaza without unduly harming civilians or launching another war that may not achieve more than what happened in 2014.

After UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and US Secretary of State John Kerry announced a ceasefire, Hamas gunmen ignored the call for a cessation of hostilities and attacked an Israeli patrol led by Lt. Goldin on August 1, 2014. He was killed and his body was spirited away by the terrorists.

Along with the body of Oron Shaul, another Israeli soldier killed a few days earlier, and two living Israeli citizens (one an Ethiopian-Israeli and the other a Bedouin), Hamas continues to hold Goldin’s corpse hostage.

That this is a gross violation of international law, as well as of common decency, is of little concern to a group like Hamas, which uses civilians as human shields, and schools and hospitals as places to hide their fighters and munitions.

But the dilemma facing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is what he can or should do to gain their release.

For five years, the Goldins have led a protest aimed at forcing someone to do something to get their boy a “decent burial.” They blame the international community that continues to enable Hamas rule in Gaza for their tragedy. And they believe that the United States and the United Nations, under whose auspices the ceasefire ruse was used to kill their son, is particularly responsible for what happened, and are frustrated that neither the world body nor the Obama or Trump administrations has been either willing or able to free their son’s body.

But the main focus of their anger has been Netanyahu.

In one sense, this is a familiar story for this prime minister.

Whenever an Israeli is held captive by terrorists, the country has rallied around the cause of redeeming the hostage. Such efforts are deeply rooted in Jewish tradition where

the mitzvah pidyon shvuyim or “redemption of hostages,” is something that Jews have regarded as priority since ancient times. That is compounded by the way Israelis identify with any soldier held prisoner in a country where almost everyone serves. That has led Israeli governments to conduct lopsided exchanges in order to gain the freedom of Jewish hostages.

In the latest such instance in 2011, public pressure to free Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier who had been held hostage since 2006, led to Netanyahu agreeing to a deal that exchanged 1,027 prisoners, including many with blood on their hands.

Such deals are a gift to Hamas and demonstrate the advantage Israel’s enemies have over a country that prizes the lives of its children more than the implications of such exchanges for their security.

Yet as much as the Goldins want Netanyahu to act, they are not appealing for another such travesty. Rather, they believe that he is negligent because he has not used the leverage Israel has over Gaza. Goldin’s parents want Netanyahu to use the daily flow of food, fuel, and medicine into Gaza from Israel as his own bargaining chip. They want the prime minister to withhold all but essential humanitarian aid to force Hamas to hand over their son’s body.

Are they right?

It’s hard to argue with their appeal. But Netanyahu has to weigh the costs to Israel — not merely of the international criticism that will come if he tries to hold up the flow of goods to Gaza, but also the possibility that doing so will start another war that will lead to more bloodshed. Even if he were to seek to re-occupy the entire strip, that wouldn’t guarantee that Goldin’s body would be found.

Given the potential implications for Israel and the possibility that other soldiers would have to die in order to bring Hadar home, the cautious Netanyahu has not acted on their suggestion and thus is the focus of their anger, which has once again been given a public airing on the anniversary of their son’s death and abduction.

The real problem is a world that has consistently sought to restrain Israel from eradicating the Hamas state in Gaza and has stood by while those terrorists have turned the Strip into a fortress built with international aid.

As with the case of Gilad Shalit, it’s easy to second-guess Netanyahu’s decision, no matter which choice he makes. Yet as much as it can be argued that he harmed Israel’s deterrence by freeing killers in order to save one live Israeli hostage, it’s even harder to argue that he should risk an escalation that would also create more suffering on both sides merely in order to redeem a body.

The Goldins should have the sympathy and the support of not only Israelis and Jews, but of all decent people. But as long as the price of redeeming their son’s body remains so high, we shouldn’t be surprised that Netanyahu — and any possible successor — will refrain from paying it, no matter how much they would like to end this tragedy.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor of JNS—Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter @jonathans_tobin.

Impressions.

A Modern-Day Jewish Exodus Story

BY DAVID HARRIS

A new Netflix movie, *The Red Sea Diving Resort*, has been released. It tells the story of an audacious Mossad operation to rescue Ethiopian Jews some 40 years ago.

In the early and mid-1980s, I saw up close some of the remarkable Israeli efforts, supported by the United States government and a few American Jewish groups, on behalf of Ethiopian Jews.

It's one of the most powerful and uplifting stories in modern Jewish history, yet, like the successful campaign to save Soviet Jews, it is little known in today's world and barely referenced in Jewish institutions.

For the life of me, I can't understand why. These were modern-day exoduses on an epic scale and against all the odds.

In the case of Ethiopian Jews, it involved a community believed to date back to the era of King Solomon — that is, nearly 3,000 years ago.

For most of that time, these Jews thought they were alone in the world as they prayed daily to Jerusalem. They were often treated harshly by their Christian and Muslim neighbors in Ethiopia, yet they persevered, secure in their faith and, largely via oral tradition, determined to pass along a proud identity to their children.



A kes praying at a memorial service for those who died during the Ethiopian aliyah. Photo: Wikicommons.

They lived in isolated regions, mostly in Gondar Province. As I witnessed, their villages were poor, mostly without access to electricity, with huts built of dung, twigs, and mud, and with no public transportation.

But in the late 1970s and 1980s, something historic began to happen. Israel had become fully aware of the Ethiopian community, and, via a few brave Ethiopian Jews who had earlier made their way to Israel, understood that a mass emigration was possible.

Yet how could it be pulled off? Ethiopia was run by a thuggish Marxist regime, led by Colonel Mengistu, and allied with the Soviet Union. Mengistu had no interest in letting the Jews go simply because they wanted to leave.

Furthermore, the closest neighboring country to Gondar Province was Sudan, which was overwhelmingly Muslim and becoming increasingly radical after the fall of a relatively moderate regime that was one of only two Arab nations to back Egypt's 1979 peace deal with Israel.

In this seemingly impossible situation, Ethiopian Jews began to go on foot to Sudan, trying to blend into the larger refugee movement fleeing oppression and famine, and hiding their Jewishness and desire to

Continued on Page A11

A New Play Tells the Amazing Story of Hannah Senesh

BY ALAN ZEITLIN

For her Off-Broadway debut, Lexi Rabadi knew it wouldn't be easy. She had to portray an iconic figure whom she'd never heard of, learn to speak in a Hungarian dialect, sing in Hebrew, have scenes where she played someone twice her age, and memorize lines for a one-woman show that would go on for 90 minutes.

No problem.

"The most admirable quality is that she's able to find herself in this world that seemingly has lost its mind, and the whole rest of the world is either hiding from fear or acting out of hate," Rabadi said.

Rabadi added that while she isn't sure if she would be brave enough to risk her life as Senesh did, she connected to the character, who wanted to bring justice to the world, and also see her homeland.

Rabadi, whose father grew up in Jordan, was



Lexi Rabadi as Hannah Senesh. Photo: Victor Nechay.

In *Hannah Senesh: A Play With Music and Song* at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan, Rabadi nails the role of a woman who comes to the decision that she must risk her life for the cause she believes in.

Written and directed by David Schechter and produced by the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, the play is based on the poems and diary of Senesh, who emigrated from Hungary to Palestine in 1939.

In 1944, after joining the British Army, she parachuted into Yugoslavia with the intent of helping partisans and Jews, and finding her mother. Despite learning that Hitler had occupied Hungary, she crossed the border, was caught, and was killed by a firing squad at the age of 23.

Rabadi, 25, said that "the only place where I felt myself putting pressure on the outcome of this process was just to tell her story, do it justice, and pass on the legacy in the right way."

The Pace University graduate said she believes Senesh's story should be taught in schools because of the heroic nature and courage of the real-life character.

able to see where he lived.

"It was absolutely unforgettable," she said. "I always heard my dad tell stories. He lived there until he was 17. ... Being there was the first time it shifted everything into focus. My father grew up here on this matted down dirt ground under this blazing sun, in a one-room house and a one-room school. This is part of his story, which makes it inevitably my story. The part where Hannah first steps foot in Palestine, I always think of walking down the streets of Jordan where my father grew up for the first time, feeling that this was where I belong. These are my people."

Rabadi said she doesn't prescribe to any religion, but is spiritual. She also sings in the play, and has the voice of an angel.

Rabadi throws herself into the role full-throttle, and in one scene where she does perfect push-ups, sit-ups, and runs in place, we can be transported to a world where she is trying to prepare herself for something that nobody can be truly prepared for.

This is a play to salute. Go see it. You won't be sorry.

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC) Name: 432 HENRY ST, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on May 2, 2019. Office Location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 175 Van Dyke Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231. Purpose: to engage in any and all business for which LLCs may be formed under the New York LLC law. AJ; 7/5/12/19/26; 8/2/9

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Credit Suisse First Boston 2006-1, Plaintiff AGAINST Shira Frank, Avraham Frank, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 4/26/2017 and entered on 5/11/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on August 22, 2019 at 02:30 PM premises known as 799 East 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11230. 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: 6496, LOT: 53. Approximate amount of judgment is \$573,284.05 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 3261/2009. Jeffrey R. Miller, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ; 7/19/26; 8/2/9

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff -against- RIFKA GRUNBAUM, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated May 14, 2018, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Court-house 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY on September 5, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the southerly side of Beach 46th Street, distant 320 feet westerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the southerly side of Beach 46th Street with the westerly side of Surf Avenue; being a plot 112.43 feet by 127.16 feet by 121.88 feet by 138 feet. Block: 7038 Lot: 61. Said premises known as 4601 BEACH 46TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY Approximate amount of lien \$1,404,855.36 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. 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 or the Mortgagee's attorney. Index Number 21292/2013. PHILIP L. KAMARAS, ESQ., Referee David A. Gallo & Associates LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 99 Powerhouse Road, First Floor, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577 File# 5025.2122 AJ; 8/2/9/16/23

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: HEALTHY TEXTURES HAIR CLINIC LLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 06/28/2019. Office of 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 process to: The LLC 869 Albany Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11203. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 7/19/26; 8/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of a limited liability company(LLC) Name: ZAHN STUDIOS LLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 05/01/2019. Office of 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 process to: ZAHN studios LLC 97 Diamond St.#2R Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: All lawful activity AJ; 7/19/26; 8/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: JEFFERSON BLVDMR LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 12/04/2018. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC 132 Jefferson Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10312 purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 7/19/26; 8/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: SIMO INTERIORS LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 04/08/2019. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it maybe Served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to:Simo Interiors LLC 4 Downing St. #1A Brooklyn, NY 11238. purpose: all lawful activity. AJ; 8/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC) Name: PIXEL CHURCH LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on :06/28/2019. 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: Steve Cox 1746 E. 13th Street APT 1E Brooklyn, NY 11229. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 8/2/9/16/23

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, Trustee of the SRP 2013-9 Funding Trust, Plaintiff AGAINST Jason Dorset a/k/a Jason H. Dorset; Louisa Dorset; 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 September 5, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 374 East 96th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11212. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 4670 Lot 156. Approximate amount of judgment \$206,897.96 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 502684/2015. Jeffrey R Miller, Esq.,

LEGAL NOTICE

Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: July 29, 2019 64743 AJ; 8/2/9/16/23

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Selene Finance LP, Plaintiff AGAINST Mary Gomes a/k/a Mary A. Gomes a/k/a Maryann Gomes; Dayne Gomes; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated March 15, 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 September 12, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 133 Millford 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 4189 Lot 8. Approximate amount of judgment \$446,679.50 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 512354/2015. Doron A. Leiby, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: June 27, 2019 64162 AJ; 8/9/16/23/30

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST JOSEPH CAMPISI, RYAN SARACO, et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated June 06, 2016 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 September 12, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 1934 PROSPECT PLACE, BROOKLYN, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 1465, LOT 30. Approximate amount of judgment \$524,555.47 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 5843/13. EDWARD M. RAPPAPORT, ESQ., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 64182 AJ; 8/9/16/23/30

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST SAMONIE LEWIS, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated October 31, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, on September 12, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 702 A HALSEY STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 1668, LOT 9. Approximate amount of judgment \$792,080.71 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 22398/2012. BETTY LUGO, ESQ., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 64429 AJ; 8/9/16/23/30

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS UMB BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS LEGAL TITLE TRUSTEE FOR MART LEGAL TITLE TRUST 2015-NPLL, Plaintiff, Index No.: 006140/2013 Against DANIEL P. JONES, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly dated 5/31/2018, 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 9/12/2019 at 2:30 pm, premises known as 1322 East 70th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234 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, and City and State of New York and designated on the tax maps of the Kings County Treasurer as Section 25 Block 8369 Lot 383 The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$771,281.68 plus interest and costs. The Premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 006140/2013. 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 or the Mortgagee's attorney. Jageshwarm (Mr.) Sharma, Esq., Referee. Leopold & Associates, PLLC, 80 Business Park Drive, Suite 110, Armonk, NY 10504 Dated: 7/23/19 YW AJ; 8/9/16/23/30

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION ("FANNIE MAE"), A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, V. PABLO OTERO; ET AL. NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 29, 2019, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings, wherein FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION ("FANNIE MAE"), A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is the Plaintiff and PABLO OTERO; ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the KINGS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 360 ADAMS STREET ROOM 224, BROOKLYN, NY 11201, on September 12, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 631 HENDRIX STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11207: Block 4075, Lot 1: ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEGIN IN THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN, COUNTY OF KINGS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 509571/2014. Gregory T. Cerchione, Esq. - Referee. RAS Boriskin, LLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. AJ; 8/9/16/23/30

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT- COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR BNC MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-2, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES,

LEGAL NOTICE

SERIES 2006-2, Plaintiff, AGAINST MINERVA A. ALAR AKA MINERVA A. ALAR AKA MINERVA ALAR, et al. Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly entered on January 14, 2019, 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 September 12, 2019 at 2:30 PM premises known as 137 Glen St, Brooklyn, NY 11208. 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. Section 1, Block 4167 and Lot 49. Approximate amount of judgment \$661,922.99 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment. Index #500792/2014. Steven Z. Naiman, Esq., Referee, Aldridge Pite, LLP - Attorneys for Plaintiff - 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747 AJ; 8/9/16/23/30

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC AUCTION Supreme Court of New York, KINGS County. WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, AS TRUSTEE FOR NORMANDY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2015-1, Plaintiff, -against- SHOSHANA 1 TRUST; ALEXANDER ROSENBLUM; BERTHA ROSENBLUM; ETHEL ROSENBLUM; MALKA ROSENBLUM, PERL FORSENBLUM; SAUL ROSENBLUM; STEVEN BERGER; MARIAN BERGER; ISSAC BERGER; WENDY BERGER; KATIE BERGER; SOLOMON SCHLUSSEL; RAIZE SCHLUSSEL; CHANA SCHLUSSEL; ELIEZET SCHLUSSEL; LEWIS SCHLUSSEL; JOSEPH SCHLUSSEL, Index No. 13171/2010. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated, July 1, 2019 and entered with the Kings County Clerk on July 10, 2019, Jack Segal, Esq., the Appointed Referee, will sell the premises known as 1462 51st Street, Brooklyn, New York 11219, at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on September 12, 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 and State of New York known as Block: 5657; Lot: 31 will be sold subject to the provisions of filed Judgment, Index No. 13171/2010. The approximate amount of judgment is \$841,206.87 plus interest and costs. FRIEDMAN VARTOLO LLP 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff. AJ; 8/9/16/23/30

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF KINGS NYMT LOAN TRUST 2013-RP1, Plaintiff, vs. PATRICIA CHARLES-GITTENS, LANCE CASSIUS GITTENS, et al., Defendants NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT In pursuance of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the office of the County Clerk of Kings County on October 17, 2017, I, Yolanda A. Corion, Esq., the Referee named in said Judgment, will sell in one parcel at public auction on September 12, 2019 at Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, County of Kings, State of New York, at 2:30 PM, the premises described as follows: 3316 Clarendon Road Brooklyn, NY 11203 SBL No.: 4950 - 7 ALL THAT TRACT OF PARCEL OF LAND situate

Tradition.

The Teacher as Hero



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

Imagine the following scenario. You are 119 years and 11 months old. The end of your life is in sight. Your hopes have received devastating blows. You have been told by God that you will not enter the land to which you have been leading your people for forty years. You have been repeatedly criticised by the people you have led. Your sister and brother, with whom you shared the burdens of leadership, have pre-



ceased you. And you know that neither of your children, Gershom and Eliezer, will succeed you. Your life seems to be coming to a tragic end, your destination unreachd, your aspirations unfulfilled. What do you do?

We can imagine a range of responses. You could sink into sadness, reflecting on the might-have-beens had the past taken a different direction. You could continue to plead with God to change His mind and let you cross the Jordan. You could retreat into memories of the good times: when the people sang a song at the Red Sea, when they gave their assent to the covenant at Sinai, when they built the Tabernacle. These would be the normal human reactions. Moses did none of these things – and what he did instead helped change the course of Jewish history.

For a month Moses convened the people on the far side of the Jordan and addressed them. Those addresses form the substance of the book of Deuteronomy. They are extraordinarily wide-ranging, covering a history of the past, a set of prophecies and warnings about the future, laws, narratives, a song, and a set of blessings. Together they constitute the most comprehensive, profound vision of what it is to be a holy people, dedicated to God, constructing a society that would stand as a role model for humanity in how to combine freedom and order, justice and compassion, individual dignity and collective responsibility.

Over and above what Moses said in the last month of his life, though, is what Moses did. He changed careers.

He shifted his relationship with the people. No longer Moses the liberator, the lawgiver, the worker of miracles, the intermediary between the Israelites and God, he became the figure known to Jewish memory: Moshe Rabbeinu, “Moses, our teacher.” That is how Deuteronomy begins – “Moses began to expound this Law” (Deut. 1:5) – using a verb, *be’er*, that we have not encountered in this sense in the Torah and which appears only one more time towards the end of the book: “And you shall write very clearly [*ba’er hetev*] all the words of this law on these stones” (27:8). He wanted to explain, expound, make clear. He wanted the

people to understand that Judaism is not a religion of mysteries intelligible only to the few. It is – as he would say in his very last speech – an “inheritance of the [entire] congregation of Jacob” (33:4).

Moses became, in the last month of his life, the master educator. In these addresses, he does more than tell the people what the law is. He explains to them why the law is. There is nothing arbitrary about it. The law is as it is because of the people’s experience of slavery and persecution in Egypt, which was their tutorial in why we need freedom and law-governed liberty. Time and again he says: You shall do this because you were once slaves in Egypt. They must remember and never forget – two verbs that appear repeatedly in the book – where they came from and what it felt like to be exiled, persecuted, and powerless. In Lin-Manuel Miranda’s musical Hamilton, George Washington tells the young, hot-headed Alexander Hamilton: “Dying is easy, young man; living is harder.” In Deuteronomy, Moses keeps telling the Israelites, in effect: Slavery is easy; freedom is harder.

Throughout Deuteronomy, Moses reaches a new level of authority and wisdom. For the first time we hear him speak extensively in his own voice, rather than merely as the transmitter of God’s words to him. His grasp of vision and detail is faultless. He wants the people to understand that the laws God has commanded them are for their good, not just God’s.

All ancient peoples had gods. All ancient peoples had laws. But their laws were not from a god;

they were from the king, pharaoh, or ruler – as in the famous law code of Hammurabi. The gods of the ancient world were seen as a source of power, not justice. Laws were man-made rules for the maintenance of social order. The Israelites were different. Their laws were not made by their kings – monarchy in ancient Israel was unique in endowing the king with no legislative powers. Their laws came directly from God Himself, creator of the universe and liberator of His people. Hence Moses’ ringing declaration: “Observe [these laws] carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people’” (Deut. 4:6).

At this defining moment of his life, Moses understood that, though he would not be physically with the people when they entered the Promised Land, he could still be with them intellectually and emotionally if he gave them the teachings to take with them into the future. Moses became the pioneer of perhaps the single greatest contribution of Judaism to the concept of leadership: the idea of the teacher as hero.

Heroes are people who demonstrate courage in the field of battle. What Moses knew was that the most important battles are not military. They are spiritual, moral, cultural. A military victory shifts the pieces on the chessboard of history. A spiritual victory changes lives. A military victory is almost always short-lived. Either the enemy attacks again or a new and more dangerous opponent appears. But spiritual victories can – if their lesson is not forgotten – last forever. Even quite ordinary people, Yiftah, for example (Book of Judges, Chapters 11–12), or Samson (Chapters 13–16), can be military heroes. But those who teach people to see, feel, and act differently, who enlarge the moral horizons of humankind, are rare indeed. Of these, Moses was the greatest.

Not only does he become the teacher in Deuteronomy. In words engraved on Jewish hearts ever since, he tells the entire people that they must become a nation of educators:

Make known to your children and your children’s children, how you once stood before the Lord your God at Horeb. (Deut. 4:9–10)

In the future, when your child asks you, “What is the meaning of the testimonies, decrees, and laws that the Lord our God has commanded you?” tell them, “We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand....” (Deut. 6:20–21)

Teach [these words] to your children, speaking of them when you sit at home and when you travel on the way, when you lie down and when you rise. (Deut. 11:19)

Indeed, the last two commands Moses ever gave the Israelites were explicitly educational in nature: to gather the entire people together in the seventh year to hear the Torah being read, to remind them of their covenant with God (Deut. 31:12–

13), and, “Write down for yourselves this song and teach it to the people of Israel” (31:19), understood as the command that each person must write for himself a scroll of the law.

In Deuteronomy, a new word enters the biblical vocabulary: the verb *l-m-d*, meaning to learn or teach. The verb does not appear even once in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, or Numbers. In Deuteronomy it appears seventeen times.

There was nothing like this concern for universal education elsewhere in the ancient world. Jews became the people whose heroes were teachers, whose citadels were schools, and whose passion was study and the life of the mind.

Moses’ end-of-life transformation is one of the most inspiring in all of religious history. In that one act, he liberated his career from tragedy. He became a leader not for his time only but for all time. His body did not accompany his people as they entered the land, but his teachings did. His sons did not succeed him, but his disciples did. He may have felt that he had not changed his people in his lifetime, but in the full perspective of history, he changed them more than any leader has ever changed any people, turning them into the people of the book and the nation who built not ziggurats or pyramids but schools and houses of study.

The poet Shelley famously said, “Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.”[1] In truth, though, it is not poets but teachers who shape society, handing on the legacy of the past to those who build the future. That insight sustained Judaism for longer than any other civilisation, and it began with Moses in the last month of his life.

Shabbat Shalom

LEGAL NOTICE

Continued from Page A9

in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. The premises are sold subject to the provisions of the filed judgment, Index No. 7009/2014 in the amount of \$381,340.16 plus interest and costs. Brettanie L. Hart Saxton, Esq. Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP Plaintiff’s Attorney 500 Bausch & Lomb Place Rochester, New York 14604 Tel.: 855-227-5072 AJ; 8/9/16/23/30

TCB 730 BROADWAY LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/26/2019. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Zaheer A Bukhari, 730 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11206. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. AJ; 8/9/16/23/30; 9/6/13

File No. 2015-1342 Probate Citation Surrogate’s Court Queens County Citation THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: Ronald Gist, if living and if dead, to his heirs at law, next of kin and distributes whose names and places of residence are unknown and if he died subsequent to decedent herein, to his executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places

LEGAL NOTICE

of residence are unknown, and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributes of Emma Gist, decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot, after diligent inquire, be ascertained. /MARK A. Annunziata, G.A.L. A petition having been filed by Margo Arthur, who is domiciled at 111-22 134th Street, South Ozone Park, NY 11420. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate’s Court, Queens County at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd, Queens County, Room 62, Jamaica, New York, on September 26, at 9:30 o’clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree/order should not be made in the Estate of Emma Gist lately domiciled at 111-22 134th Street, in the County of Queens, State of New York, admitting to probate a Will dated September 14, 2004, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Emma Gist, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that: Letters of Testamentary issue to Margo Arthur. Dated, Attested and Sealed July 31, 2019 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate James Lim Becker, Chief Clerk Attorney for Petitioner: Corey A. Washington Esq. Address of Attorney: Washington George PLLC 29-28 41st Avenue LIC NY 11101 Tel. No.: 917-546-6734x201 NOTE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW, YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW APPEAR FOR YOU. AJ; 8/9/16/23/30

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC AUCTION Supreme Court of New York, KINGS County. MVMF III FIN TRUST, Plaintiff, -against- JOSEPHINE JEAN PIERRE; PHENICIEEN JEAN PIERRE; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR MORTGAGEIT INC.; PRA FUNDING, LLC; CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; KINGS SUPREME COURT; NEW CENTURY FINANCIAL SERVICES; CAVALRY PORTFOLIO SERVICES, LLC, ASSIGNEE OF CALVARY SPV I LLC, ASSIGNEE OF SPRINT; ARROW FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC; MIDLAND FUNDING NCC-2 CORP; NYC ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; NYC TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; NYC DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PARKING VIOLATION BUREAU; EMMA JEAN PIERRE, Index No. 6953/2009. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated, January 3, 2017 and entered with the Kings County Clerk on January 26, 2017, Elena K. Makau, Esq., the Appointed Referee, will sell the premises known as 689 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11230 at public auction in Room 224 at Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on September 12, 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: 5240; Lot: 80 will be sold subject to the provisions of filed Judgment, Index No. 6953/2009. The approximate amount of judgment is \$1,476,235.56 plus interest and costs. FRIEDMAN VARTOLO LLP 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff. AJ; 8/9/16/23/30

Social.



Olivia Newton-John in an interview with i24News. Photo: Screenshot.

Actress and Singer Olivia Newton-John Talks About Jewish Roots, Mother's 'Words of Wisdom'

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Australian singer and "Grease" star Olivia Newton-John opened up about her Jewish roots in an interview with *i24News* published on Sunday.

"My mother was very proud of her Jewish tradition and talked about it a lot," said the four-time Grammy winner, 70, who added that some of her closest girlfriends now are Jewish.

Newton-John's mother, Irene Born, was the daughter of Jewish Austrian Nobel Prize-winning physicist Max Born. Newton's grandfather was close friends with Albert Einstein and Irene in fact translated a book of letters between Max and Einstein that was published

as "The Born-Einstein Letters 1916-1955."

Newton-John told *i24News* that her grandfather helped German Jews escape to England during World War II and she regretted not meeting him before he died.

The cancer fighter, who was diagnosed with the disease last year for the third time in three decades, also said that when she was approached to get involved in the building of the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research and Wellness Centre in her hometown of Melbourne, Australia, she was at first hesitant, but her mother encouraged her to take part in the building process. She told the publication, "My mother basically said her words of wisdom: if you can help someone, do it."

'Batwoman' Showrunner Confirms Hero Will Be Jewish in New TV Series

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

The showrunner for the new "Batwoman" television series, set to air on the CW network this fall, said on Sunday that the hero will be Jewish.

Participating in the show's panel on the Television Critics Association press tour, executive producer Caroline Dries confirmed that the DC Comics character, whose name is Kate Kane, will be presented on the series as "a Jewish woman," *Deadline* reported. Dries added that even though the character's religious background is

"not a huge thing" in relation to her overall story and the show's plot line, creators are looking for ways to make her Jewish identity clear on screen.

In the comics, Batwoman's faith is a notable part of her character and in one DC Comics special from 2006 she celebrates Hanukkah.

It was previously revealed that "Batwoman" will be the first superhero television series to center around an openly-lesbian main character.

Australian actress Ruby Rose will play the main character in the show, which will premiere Sunday, Oct. 6.

Continued from Page A8

Exodus

reach Israel.

Along the way, thousands perished. The trek was unimaginably hard, the routes incredibly dangerous, and the challenges for the elderly, the infirm, and the very young especially daunting. And still, they were determined to reach their Promised Land.

One aspect of the massive rescue operation to bring these Ethiopian Jews to Israel was largely kept under wraps all these years, until a major story appeared in the press recently, followed by the Netflix production.

The film has the nail-biting feel of *Argo*, the fast-paced account of the CIA operation, with Canadian help, to rescue six American diplomats in hiding in Tehran after the 1979 takeover of the US embassy in Iran's capital.

As breathtaking as that effort was, the plan to move thousands of Ethiopian Jews across Sudan to a Mossad-run "diving resort" on the Red Sea, and then transport them to Israel, over a span of years, was of a totally different magnitude.

Yes, the film has some of those seemingly inevitable — and avoidable — Hollywood embellishments, as if a real-life thriller can't stand on its own two feet. But the core story it tells is true, gripping, and moving.

What comes through loud and clear is the lengths to which Israel went, and the risks it took, to save Jews.

If anyone seeks to understand the real meaning of Israel, here it is. Unlike the Holocaust, when there was no Israel, no Mossad, and no IDF to come to the aid of trapped Jews, there was an Israel, a Mossad, and an IDF for thousands of Ethiopian Jews.

And if anyone seeks to understand the real meaning of faith, here it is as well. Those Ethiopian Jews stayed true to their beliefs for nearly three millennia, never wavering, never doubting that one day they would see Jerusalem. Now they have.

Of course, once in Israel, the process of integration can be long and arduous, just as is the case with any newcomers who travel vast geographic and cultural differences to settle in a new country. It takes a generation or even two, and is not always a smooth and linear journey. Recent Ethiopian social protests underscore the point.

But anyone who saw Ethiopian Jews in their impoverished villages in Gondar Province, and now sees a growing number of Ethiopian Jews in universities, in the diplomatic corps, in the IDF as officers, and in other spheres of Israeli life, can't help but marvel at a story of literally biblical dimensions that happened in our era.

As one African-American leader said at the height of the rescue: "This is the first time that Africans have been taken out of Africa for freedom and not for slavery."

How true — and how inspiring that it was Israel that did it!

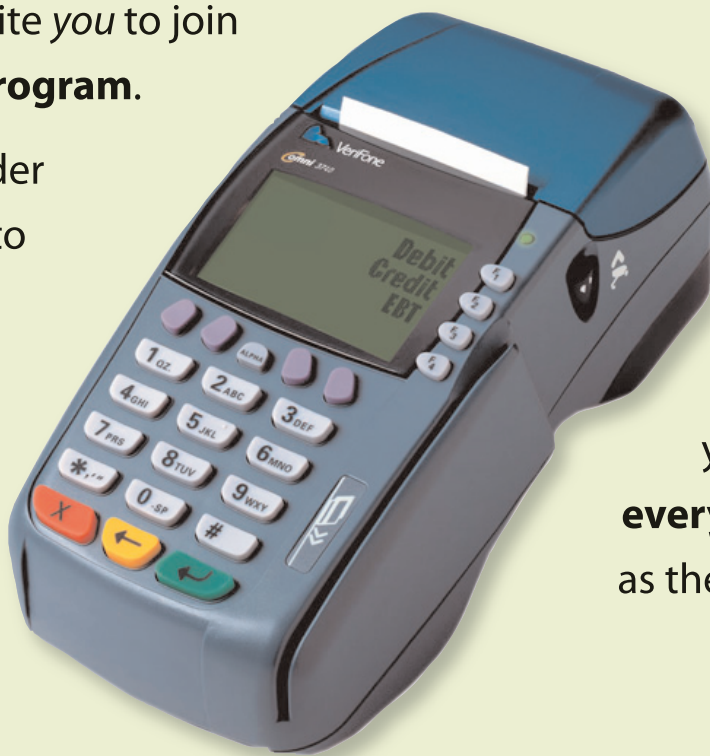
David Harris is the CEO of the American Jewish Committee (AJC). Follow him on Twitter @DavidHarrisAJC.

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Contact Kutty for details:

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