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Netanyahu Corruption Trial Scheduled



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, July 14, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Ronen Zulu / File.

BY REUTERS
& ALGEMEINER STAFF

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's corruption trial will start on March 17, two weeks after Israel holds its third national election in less than a year, the Justice Ministry said on Tuesday.

Netanyahu, the first sitting Israeli prime minister to be charged with a crime, has denied

any wrongdoing in the three corruption cases against him.

In addition to his legal battle, Netanyahu, who heads the right-wing Likud party, is fighting for his political life in a March 2 election, after inconclusive ballots in April and September.

In a statement, the ministry said Netanyahu, in power for the past decade and Israel's longest-serving leader, will be required to attend the Jerusalem District

Court for the first session to hear an indictment against him. A three-judge panel will hear the case.

Netanyahu has denied any wrongdoing in three corruption cases. Charges, which were formally filed with the court three weeks ago, include bribery, breach of trust and fraud.

Netanyahu, 70, is accused of wrongfully accepting \$264,000 worth of gifts, which prosecutors

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Jewish Mission to Saudi Arabia the Result of 'Two Decades of Effort'

BY ALEX TRAIMAN/JNS.org

A delegation of 30 Jewish American leaders was hosted by senior government officials last week in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for a four-day summit organized by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the first such specifically Jewish delegation to the Sunni Muslim kingdom in nearly three decades.

The mission to the Saudi Arabia took place just a week after a report that efforts are underway to organize a breakthrough public summit between Israel's prime minister and Persian Gulf leaders in the coming months. The mission



Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman and CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Photo: YouTube screenshot.

also takes place just two weeks after the rollout of US President Donald Trump's "Peace to Prosperity" vision for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians—a plan that is believed to be supported by numerous Gulf States.

"We had an open dialogue. We met with high level officials and raised our concerns," said Conference Chairman Arthur Stark. "They raised their concerns, and we hope and believe that this is a step in a long and productive relationship, that mirrors other visits that we've had to Gulf

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America's Founders and the Jews

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat MISHPATIM | Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
פרשת מִשְׁפָּטִים | Shabbat Begins: 5:19pm | Shabbat Ends: 6:19pm



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Opinion.

New York Times Focuses on 'Gentrification' as Cause of Antisemitic Attacks



IRA STOLL
BOSTON

The *New York Times* has a news article reporting on antisemitic violent attacks against Orthodox Jews in New York.

The *Times* article offers one explanation for this phenomenon: gentrification.

"Most of the antisemitic incidents in New York have not been perpetrated by jihadists or far-right extremists, but by young African-American men," the *Times* reports, citing the chief executive of the Anti-Defamation League, Jonathan Greenblatt. Then the newspaper adds, "Local leaders said that phenomenon grows out of tension in areas where longstanding African-American and Jewish communities have been squeezed by gentrification."

Only one leader is quoted by the *Times* on this point:

"You have this mixture of African-Americans and Hasidic people, and then you have gentrification," said Gil Monroe, an African-American pastor at Mt. Zion Church of God 7th Day who lives in Crown Heights. "All of this is colliding in Crown Heights and it leads to young people committing crimes where they live."

"Sometimes people want to blame different groups for the fact that they are being priced out of the neighborhood, but the Jewish community is not to blame for that because the Jewish community is being priced out too," he said. "That's why they went to Jersey City."

Well, it's nice of the *Times* to report on these problems, and it's nice of Monroe to acknowledge that the Jews are "not to blame." But the "gentrification" explanation for the outbreak of antisemitism fails to satisfy, for a variety of reasons.

First of all, if it is really "gentrification" that young African-American men are upset by, why don't they beat up the gentrifiers, that is, the wealthier new arrivals to these neighborhoods, the hipsters or the yuppies, rather than Orthodox Jews who have been there for a long time?

In addition, these neighborhoods — Williamsburg and Crown Heights, in particular — have been gentrifying for decades. Yet, though there was a program in Crown Heights in 1991, the current outbreak of antisemitic violence seems relatively sudden and recent.

What are some possible explanations for the wave of antisemitic violence other than "gentrification"?

It's possible that the *Times* attention to the topic is an example of something I noticed

back in February 2017 under the headline, "Trump's Big Achievement: Making *The New York Times* Care About Antisemitism." I wrote then, "Of all the possible consequences of a Trump presidency that have been warned about or hoped for, a heightened attention by *New York Times* editors to antisemitism probably falls in the category of unexpectedly positive developments (though here, too, to the extent that it inaccurately depicts Jews primarily as victims, we may want to be careful what we wish for)."

It's possible too that the outbreak of antisemitism (or the attention to it) is a result not of Trump but of Democratic Party politicians, such as Ilhan Omar, a Democratic representative from Minnesota who is from Somalia. She openly advocates a boycott of Israel and has said American political support for Israel is "all about the Benjamins," a reference to \$100 bills.

Maybe the violence has something to do with the bail reform that went into effect in New York on January 1. That is a possibility that the *Times* explored in a different article but makes no mention of in this one.

Perhaps the hate is being spread from local mosques, of which there are several.

And if "gentrification" is the cause of the tension, one wonders, too, why the Hispanics aren't attacking, as they did in the early 1990s? Or, for that matter, why aren't the Orthodox



The New York Times logo.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Jews, who also face gentrification, attacking random people on the streets?

Usually when a neighborhood gentrifies the consequence is *less* street crime, not more.

Ascribing motives or causation for antisemitism, which is essentially irrational, is always a risky endeavor. But I myself was priced out of a Brooklyn neighborhood a few years ago, and it never occurred to me to beat anyone up over it, least of all a visibly Orthodox Jew. So attributing the anti-Jewish violence solely to "gentrification" seems inadequate.

Ira Stoll was managing editor of The Forward and North American editor of The Jerusalem Post.



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Remembering the Failure of the Arab League Blacklist



MITCHELL BARD
NEW YORK

The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) has just published a database of companies operating in Judea, Samaria, and eastern Jerusalem. The intention is to create a blacklist of companies that can be targeted for boycotting.

The HRC's action is outrageous and deserves condemnation, but hysteria is unwarranted. The BDS movement's campaign to destroy Israel will fail. To understand why, let's recall the history of the Arab League boycott.

Like the BDS movement, the Arab League boycott was fundamentally antisemitic. We know this because it was instituted in 1945 *before* the establishment of Israel, and because it explicitly said that "Jewish products and manufactured goods shall be considered undesirable to the Arab countries." All Arab "institutions, organizations, merchants, commission agents, and individuals" were called upon "to refuse to deal in, distribute, or consume Zionist products or manufactured goods." As in the case of BDS, the terms "Jewish" and "Zionist" were used synonymously.

Today, some members of Congress are resisting legislation targeting the BDS movement, but as far back as 1959, the Senate adopted an amendment opposing foreign aid to countries that discriminate against Americans on the grounds of religion. The primary

motivation for this and other early legislative efforts was the Arabs' policy of refusing visas to American Jews and, more specifically, the Saudis' refusal to permit Jews to be stationed at the United States' base at Dhahran.

In 1960, Congress adopted the Douglas-Keating "Freedom of the Seas" amendment, which said "the peace of the world is endangered" when nations receiving US aid "wage economic warfare against other nations assisted under the Act; including such procedures as boycotts, blockades, and the restriction of the use of international waterways." Five years later, Congress adopted a broader regulation that held that US policy opposed "restrictive trade practices or boycotts fostered or imposed by countries against other countries friendly to the United States."

Israel and its allies are justifiably upset that the HRC released a blacklist of 112 companies. This is trivial, however, compared to the scale of the Arab League blacklist.

In 1975, Senator Frank Church disclosed that 1,500 American firms were on Saudi Arabia's blacklist. He did not investigate how many international firms were being blacklisted, and the number that refused to do business with Israel to avoid being blacklisted was unknowable. Nevertheless, publication of the list made the public aware, for the first time, of the scope of the Arab boycott. Particularly shocking were revelations of US government complicity — perhaps the most serious of which was the admission that the Army Corps of Engineers excluded Jewish soldiers and civilians from projects it managed in Saudi Arabia.

That same year, Saudi Arabia denied Rep. Henry Waxman a visa because he was Jewish. After the State Department intervened, he was allowed to join colleagues from the House Armed Services Committee on a fact-finding mission. King Saud told the delegation "the Jews have no business in Saudi Arabia. ... They are our enemies. Jews from America and around the world support Israel. Friends of our enemies are our enemies." (Almost 20 years later, the Saudi tourism website said it would deny visas to "Jewish People" until that generated bad publicity.)

All sorts of dire predictions were made about the loss of American business and jobs, the price of oil, and an antisemitic backlash if anti-boycott legislation was adopted. Arab officials threatened retaliation. Nevertheless, in 1977, Congress passed legislation encouraging, and in some cases requiring, US companies to refuse to take actions that support restrictive trade practices or boycotts fostered or imposed by any foreign government against a country friendly to the United States or against any American.

The Washington Post wrote: "No realistic person would assert that an anti-boycott law will not cost something. ... But if there is a price to keep foreigners from compelling Americans to trample on their own basic values, surely it is worth paying and, as surely, thoughtful and responsible Americans will be willing to pay it."

Congress ignored what turned out to be idle threats, such as the Kuwaiti finance

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World News.

Israeli Candidate Gantz Charges Netanyahu Not Serious About 'Historic Opportunity' Presented by Trump Peace Plan

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

Former IDF Chief of Staff Benny Gantz — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's top political rival — endorsed the recently-unveiled Trump Middle East peace plan on Monday, calling it a "historic opportunity" that Netanyahu was not sincere about pursuing.

At an English-language Tel Aviv International Salon event, Gantz — who heads the centrist Blue and White party — said, "I think we have a moral, national obligation to promote peace."

"We may send our kids to fight again," he noted. "We must be able to look in their eyes and say we have tried everything else, now we have no alternative, you must fight."

He stated regarding Trump's proposal, "I think it's a strong vision, a historic opportunity to restart negotiations from a more realistic perspective."

"We have to give up some of our dreams and hopes, they [the Palestinians] have to give up some of their dreams and hopes, and there we can start really negotiating," he added.

"I think that we should try and promote it to the degree it's possible, and together with the different countries around us," Gantz said.

He did express reservations, however,

about two aspects of the US initiative — the potential transfer of some Israeli Arab communities bordering the West Bank to a future Palestinian state and land swaps that would expand the Gaza Strip into parts of the Negev Desert currently part of Israel.

Gantz asserted that Netanyahu was not serious about pursuing negotiations with the Palestinians on the basis of the Trump plan.

"I'll tell you what's the difference between Netanyahu and myself," he said. "We all talk about peace, but we mean it. We all talk about promoting the political process with our neighbors, but we mean it."

Gantz also addressed the upcoming US presidential election in November and accused Netanyahu of undermining support for Israel among Democrats.

"It's very important that we will emphasize the importance of a bipartisan relationship between Israel and the United States," he said.

"This is something that unfortunately Netanyahu neglected, and he went with the Republican Party, but we don't care if the American president is a Republican or a Democrat," Gantz continued. "If he's a good president for the United States, by definition he is a good president for the State of Israel."

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Trial

said included cigars and champagne, from tycoons, and of dispensing regulatory favors in alleged bids for improved coverage by a

Continued from Page A2
Arab League

minister's statement, "We will boycott and we will continue to boycott, and we will never import anything from the US." The Arab League responded equally bombastically by saying it would take a stand against the law "which Israel and world Zionism are trying not only to enforce on the US, but also in some countries of western Europe."

In signing the anti-boycott bill into law, President Jimmy Carter said, "My concern about foreign boycotts stemmed, of course, from our special relationship with Israel, as well as from the economic, military, and security needs of both our countries. But the issue goes to the very heart of free trade among nations." Carter said the bill was intended to "end the divisive effects on American life of foreign boycotts aimed at Jewish members of our society. If we allow such a precedent

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Jewish Mission

States where the embrace of Israel is clearly already there."

The Saudi Kingdom provided security for the delegation. Members of the delegation ate strictly kosher food throughout the visit and participated in daily Jewish prayers.

While the specific contents of the conversations remain off-the-record, the mission reflects warming relations between Saudi Arabia and the State of Israel, as well as the Trump administration as it tries to reboot negotiations in an attempt to solve the

popular news website.

He could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted of bribery and a maximum three-year term for fraud and breach of trust.

to be established, we open the door to similar action against any ethnic, religious, or social groups in America."

Carter was prescient, as the BDS movement, now with the assistance of the UN, targets American companies and Jews. Opponents of anti-BDS legislation should not allow American values to be trampled.

Today, most people are unaware that the Arab boycott still exists, though few Arab countries enforce it and several Gulf states now have discrete economic relations with Israel. The lesson is that Israel has grown and thrived for almost 62 years despite a boycott which, at one time, was applied to thousands of companies around the world; it is not going to be destroyed by the BDS movement, even with the support of the UN and the blacklisting of a relative handful of companies.

Mitchell Bard is Executive Director of AICE and Jewish Virtual Library.

longstanding conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, and address the threat from Iran.

"You've been reading the tea leaves this week," Stark told JNS during a press conference in Jerusalem. "[US] Secretary [of State Mike] Pompeo will be in Saudi Arabia. You can read the public statements of Saudi officials regarding the peace plan and other public statements they've made. So we're hopeful that things will continue to change in a direction that we will be pleased with."

While no Saudi officials were present at the peace proposal's White House rollout, the press conference was attended by the ambassadors from

Irish MP Blames Mossad 'Interference' for Corbyn's Defeat in UK General Elections



UK Labour party leader Jeremy Corbyn leaves his house in London, Aug. 6, 2018. Photo: Reuters / Toby Melville.

BY KARYS RHEA

A newly-elected Irish parliamentarian recently claimed on Twitter that Israel's foreign intelligence agency was responsible for UK Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn's resounding defeat in the UK general elections last December, *The Sunday Times* reported.

Reada Cronin, 46, is a Sinn Fein representative from Kildare North in the Dail Eireann — the lower house of the Oireachtas.

"Mossad. Interference. In. The. British. Election. Brits. Being. Led. By. The. Nose," read one of her tweets.

"Mossad have involved themselves in dirty tricks in elections not too far away," charged another.

Responding to one commenter who dismissed her view as conspiratorial, Cronin

Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

"It sends a signal that the general Arab world is tired of the Palestinians refusing to move forward," newly appointed Conference CEO William Daroff told JNS.

"It was very moving—the fact that they were there," Stark added of the Gulf diplomats. "And as many of them have stated, they would like to see this to be a start of a negotiated deal."

In addition to the peace plan, other topics likely raised in the discussions include regional security, and Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and regional hegemony.

Said Stark: "There's a commonality of concerns and commonality of interests for Israel and for these Arab countries. Everybody's very concerned about Iran."

Israel as an 'economic model' for the Middle East

In addition to diplomacy and security, Gulf States are beginning to turn towards Israel as an economic model for prosperity in the Middle East.

"I think gradually you see signs of embracing of innovation, signs of embracing modernity and so forth," said Stark. "That's part of what is starting to be heard within the leadership, and they look towards America, they look towards Israel as shining examples of what can be."

While most of the Saudi leaders present preferred not to be identified in the press and meetings were held off the record, one took place with Mohammed al-Issa, the secretary-general of

wrote, "When the Nazis come back, and they're on the march, it'll be Jeremy Corbyn will stand with you. You are a disgrace to your forefathers."

Additional tweets that have since been deleted asserted that the Mossad's alleged actions were "blatant as f***," and that Corbyn was a "principled man" who was a victim of "lies, deceit, fake news, and the sinister activities of the Mossad Secret Service."

The Israeli Embassy in Ireland called Cronin's remarks "paranoid, hate-driven conspiracy theories," and urged her to retract them.

A Sinn Fein spokesperson issued a statement assuring that Cronin's tweets "do not represent the views of Sinn Fein."

Cronin has since backtracked on her assertions, characterizing them as "throw-away remarks."

the Muslim World League and an ally of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Al-Issa recently led a delegation to Auschwitz to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and extermination camp.

According to Conference Executive Vice Chairman Malcolm Hoenlein, who has led the conference for the past 35 years, delegations to the Muslim world are "a long-term investment on the part of the conference."

"This is more than a two-decades-long effort," he told JNS. "Now, there are reasons why there is this change in the climate, perhaps contributing to accelerating this relationship. But it's very sensitive."

Hoenlein noted that the members of the Conference of Presidents visited Qatar two decades ago, saying, "We have visited the Muslim States of central Asia over the last 20 years. We've had visits to many other Arab countries, including Morocco and Egypt."

Much of the diplomacy takes place over time and under the radar "by building meaningful relationships across the board," he noted. Responding to why specific details of the summit remain off-the-record, Hoenlein added that "loose lips sink ships, as we've seen in many ways, in this region that we have to. We want to be responsible and constructive players."

"We have had success," he added. "We do not always advertise it, we don't make the pronouncements that some others do. We look for the long-term results, and we get it."

World News.



The Tel Aviv skyline at night. Photo: Gilad Avidan via Wikimedia Commons.

Israeli Venture Capital Firm Grove Raises \$120 Million in Commitments for Second Fund

BY MEIR ORBACH/CTech

Israel-based venture capital firm Grove Ventures Capital (GP) has raised \$120 million in commitments for its second fund, the company announced Tuesday. Grove II will invest in early stage Israeli deep tech companies, the firm said. The firm's intention to raise a second fund was first reported by *Calcalist* in July. Grove has already made two investments from its second fund that will be announced in the upcoming months, the company said.

"I am sure some funds do a better job than we do on fintech or cyber, so we chose to focus on deep tech, a field where it takes

companies long to mature," Dov Moran, managing partner at Grove, said in a Monday interview with *Calcalist*. "I told investors we do not have companies that will be ready for an exit in two or three years, but I had no trouble raising commitments," he added.

"Israeli investors are very good in a lot of fields, such as enterprise software, where I cannot succeed because I do not have the connections nor the expertise," Moran said. "Each fund must find its strong suits," he added. "Traditional funds do not do so well with chips, because it is an industry that requires a lot of technical know-how and connections," he said.

Moran believes the coronavirus could

Report: Egypt Dissuades Israel From Targeting Hamas Leaders Opposing Ceasefire

BY ISRAEL HAYOM/JNS.org

Israel considered assassinating two high-ranking Hamas leaders due to their opposition to the parameters of the ceasefire agreement currently in place, senior Egyptian sources and officials in Gaza told the London-based pan-Arab media outlet *Al-Araby Al-Jadeed*.

According to the report, the Egyptian security delegation mediating between Israel and Hamas persuaded Israel to stand down.

The two terrorist leaders Israel allegedly planned to target were Yahya Sinwar, leader of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and Marwan Issa, the deputy leader of Hamas's military wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades.

Arab media outlets reported that Sinwar avoided meeting with members of the Egyptian delegation in Gaza out of fear that

Israel would assassinate him.

According to reports, those close to Sinwar confirmed that during the Egyptian delegation's recent visit to Gaza, the Hamas leader didn't attend the meeting in his own bureau because of fears that Israel would exploit the opportunity to kill him.

Sinwar's aides said the Hamas leader even rejected an Egyptian guarantee that Israel would not try assassinating him. According to the reports, Sinwar's absence from the meeting enraged the Egyptian officials who had come to Gaza.

Several hours later, as the Egyptian delegation was leaving the coastal enclave, Arab media outlets reported that Hamas had instructed its senior operatives to avoid using phones. Some reportedly even went underground in fear of Israeli attempts to target them.

have as much impact on the economy as a world war. "I know one thing, if you invest in trends, you will not last," he said.

The current fund brings Grove's commitments to \$230 million. Tel Aviv-based Grove invests in companies focused on chips, internet-of-things (IoT), artificial intelligence, and cloud infrastructure, with the intent of leading innovation in various sectors including industry 4.0, digital health, and smart transportation.

Among Grove's portfolio compa-

nies are battery-free sensor startup Wiliot; open-source API marketplace RapidAPI, incorporated as R Software; infrared imaging startup TriEye; and industrial equipment sensor startup 3D Signals.

Before founding Grove in 2015, Moran was the CEO of M-Systems, the company that invented the USB flash drive. M-systems was bought by SanDisk in 2006 for \$1.6 billion. Additional partners in Grove are Sigalit Klimovsky, Lotan Levkowitz, and Omri Green.

BETH SHIFRA

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www.bethshifra.org

20 Adar I, 5779/ February 25, 2019

In years past, Beth Shifra maintained a Free Soup Kitchen all year round, open seven days a week, serving free meals three times a day, without charge. During the week of Pesach, Beth Shifra sponsored free Kosher for Pesach Sedorim and daily meals around the city for thousands of people. We are personally familiar with the outstanding work that they do under the leadership of Rabbi Chaim Prussman, and urge you to help Beth Shifra with any support that you can, including publicizing their inspiring work in your Shul or organization.

This year, 2019/5779, Beth Shifra is sponsoring free Kosher for Pesach Seders and meals daily from Friday, April 19, through Saturday (Shabbat), April 27, at The White Shul, 2102 Avenue T & East 21 in Brooklyn. Free Kosher for Passover food packages will be offered on Thursday, April 18, at the White Shul, 2102 Avenue T & East 21 in Brooklyn from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. We proudly invite you to join us in making this year a memory of a lifetime for those in need.

Take the time now to have the merit and joy of helping a hungry family celebrate Passover. Please help Beth Shifra with any assistance that you can, including publicizing their good work in your Shul or organization. May all those that participate in this holy effort be blessed from Heaven.

On behalf of the Igud/RAA Presidium and of the Beth Din, I extend greetings of Torah.

These are some of the FREE programs Beth Shifra ran for the Poor and Russian Families.

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- Free Summer Camps • Nursery schools
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- Chess Tournament • Free Bar Mitzvahs and Mezuzas by Rabbi Zalmen
- Several English Classes (Green Cards)
- Work Release Programs • Release Hours
- Free Flee Market • Homeless Shelter

"We urge you to do whatever you can do to help Beth Shifra, תבא עליהם ברכה, רבבי אביגדור מילר ז"ל"

RABBI AVIGDOR MILLER ZT"ל

Published in Jewish Press '84

Meir Kahane speaks The Summer of 84'

GREETINGS FROM RABBI MEIR KAHANE BETH SHIFRA

I have always said that in Heaven there is a great Synagogue. And as with all synagogues there is an East wall at which, like in all synagogues, sit the truly distinguished. But, unlike all synagogues where the truly distinguished are distinguished for their money and external attributes, in this great synagogue, we will be stunned to see whom the Almighty - the great Gabbai, warder, of Heaven - seats at the East Wall and who is relegated to the "ordinary" rows.

In every generation there walk in our midst the greatly simple, whose quiet task in life is to be simply great. They are famous in their anonymity. No reporters know their names and no television or cameras record their faces and words. They walk in the streets in perfect tranquility for no one knows that they are people to be touched. They are touched only by the greatness of their deeds.

I rarely use this column to specifically praise someone and urge their support time and space are too precious. But I stand in tribute and ask you to do the same even as you write a generous check, for a simple tzadik (and are there any other?).

His name is Chaim Prussman and no one at Time magazine has ever heard of him. But I tell you that he is famous in the streets of Heaven. Daily, he walks and talks and worries and lives the pain of Jews. In the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn, where he lives, he sees the talons and fangs of the missionaries ripping away the souls of Jews, simple Jews, mostly from the Soviet Union. With meals and gifts and money they buy and destroy Jewish souls. There are synagogues and organizations and rabbis and leaders but no one stood up to cry out and do, except a little Jew named Chaim Prussman.

With no funding from government or any group Chaim Prussman manages through sacrifice and G-d's help to give the poor Jews:

- a) The only traditional Talmud Torah and nursery school programs offered FREE to underprivileged families, including transportation.
- b) Special religious classes held in local public high schools.
- c) Free Bar Mitzvah lessons.
- d) Assistance for Bar Mitzvah celebrations.
- e) Shabbaton activities.
- f) Trips and rallies celebrating Jewish holidays.

Without your generous support, Beth Shifra cannot compete with the \$0.5 breakfasts and S.010 chicken dinners of the missionaries.

Chaim Prussman is the kind of Jew for whom I stand daily and salute. I urge you to stand, salute and then sit. And write a check. Make it out to Beth Shifra and Save a Jew. And then, in the Great Synagogue of Heaven, you may - as a reward - sit close to Chaim Prussman at the East Wall. Beth Shifra. A monument to simple greatness. Support it. Today.

לשנה טובה

Rabbi Mendy Mirocznik Executive Vice - President, Rabbinical Alliance of America

July 17, 2018

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

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

In 2019, they will be sponsoring free kosher for Passover Seders and daily meals from Friday. Pesach food packages will be distributed on Thursday, April 18 at the synagogue between the hours of 12:00-2:00 PM.

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

Dov Hikind
Member of Assembly

Bogus Purim Service Broken Up

Reprinted from the Jewish Press • Friday, March 20, 1987

A group of missionaries in Brighton Beach who rented Public School 225 on the premise they were holding a social," attempted to hold a bogus "Purim Megilla" reading. The missionaries widely advertised their program in Russian as well as English throughout the Manhattan Beach and Brighton Beach area in an effort to entice young people to their service.

However, when the real purpose of the "service" was discovered, groups from Boro Park, Flatbush, Crown Heights and Monsey descended on the area to help the

staff of the Beth Shifra Institutions break up the rally.

Since many of the protesters missed the Megilla reading, the staff of Beth Shifra held to Megilla readings, so those who were instrumental in breaking up the rally could observe the Mitzva properly.

The Beth Shifra rally, held at the Jewish Center of Ocean Parkway, was termed a huge success by the children and parents who attended. There was a live band and a puppet show to entertain the children.

Tzedaka Donations: : Beth Shifra P.O. Box 700 Bklyn, NY 11229 (718) 449- 1397

U.S. News.

Pro-Israel Activists Urge Durham Jewish Federation to Drop Mayor With BDS Ties From Event

BY SEAN SAVAGE/ JNS.ORG

A group of pro-Israel activists in North Carolina is calling on the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill to rescind an invitation to Durham Mayor Steve Schewel to speak at a Feb. 20 event, citing the mayor's role in a 2018 city council resolution banning police training with Israel.

"We believe the Federation's promotion of Schewel is part of a systemic problem plaguing Jewish institutions today—that is, the normalization of pro-BDS rhetoric that is jeopardizing the Jewish people and silencing strong Zionist voices," according to a letter obtained by JNS from the North Carolina Coalition for Israel and Fight Back Now.

"We therefore implore the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill to rescind its invitation to Schewel to introduce this event. Moreover, we urge Jewish Federations in the United States to implement policies prohibiting BDS activists from being given a platform by the organizations," the group said.

Schewel is scheduled to offer a "special introduction" for an event titled "Ignited Talks: The State of Black Durham" at the Levin Jewish Community Center at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 20. "It's long overdue that our Jewish leaders and institutions actively defend us from the toxic BDS advocates and sympathizers who are making this country so hostile to Zionists," said Kathryn Wolf, a Durham resident and executive director of Fight Back Now, a non-profit advocacy group battling the "Deadly Exchange" campaign nationally.

"We live in a region in North Carolina that is rife with anti-Zionism," she continued. "It's a daily struggle to confront the constant barrage of pro-BDS speakers, seminars and events here. When our leaders undermine us by elevating BDS proponents, it's hurtful, of course, but more important, it's harmful."

The Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill told JNS in a statement that Schewel is not hosting the event, but that "he and Durham City Council Member Mark Anthony Middleton are introducing two important speakers and advocates—Henry McKoy, former North Carolina Assistant Secretary of Commerce, and Camryn Smith, co-director of Neighborhood Allies of Durham—about their research on the state of African-American-owned businesses and barriers to the success of those businesses in Durham today."

"The focus of this event is specifically on the growth of commerce by folks of color in Durham and how the city's growth and gentrification affect those folks (which is why the Mayor and City Council Member are there). Many Durham business owners of color will be in attendance: a partnership that is unprecedented in our community. To focus on Mayor Schewel is to detract from an important, impactful issue in Durham."

The Durham City Council voted in April 2018 to approve a policy banning its police from engaging in international exchanges where officers could receive "military-style training" in foreign countries.

The resolution was adopted after a coalition of groups, dubbed "Demilitarize! Durham2Palestine Coalition," which includes the anti-Israel Jewish Voice for Peace that supports the BDS movement, in addition to other Muslim, pro-Palestinian and civil-rights groups, urged its passage in order to prevent any partnership the city's law-enforcement might enter into with Israel's military or police.

Pro-Israel groups say the "Deadly Exchange" campaign by JVP incorrectly conflates Israel with issues of racial bias or police mistreatment of minority communities in the United States.

Last year, a federal lawsuit was filed by the North Carolina Coalition for Israel and Rabbi Jerome Fox against the City of Durham that accuses "the city of promoting antisemitic rhetoric and violating open-meetings laws."



A view of the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill building. Photo: Screenshot via Google.

Top Rabbi: Social Media Companies Must Do More to Combat Hate

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Social media companies must do more to combat online hate, a top European rabbi said on Friday.

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt — president of the Conference of European Rabbis — said, "The internet has created a vast arena in which those who hold a deep hatred towards religious groups, for instance, are able to share their views with others."

"More worryingly," he continued, "they

use a variety of platforms such as instant messaging to share dangerous tactics in their attempt to attack — both verbally and physically — those who do not subscribe to their way of thinking or choice of lifestyle."

"The evidence is clear: hate and prejudice is commonplace on social media," Goldschmidt stated. "The Halle synagogue on Yom Kippur and the mosque attack in Christchurch, New Zealand are prime examples of digitally inspired attacks."

Goldschmidt went on to urge governments around the world to regulate social media to avoid its misuse.

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Opinion.

The Power of Jewish Values

SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

Today, the Jewish people are once again facing an upsurge in antisemitism. Beyond that seemingly eternal struggle, the Jewish people, especially those in the New York area, have at least three other priorities: Repairing and strengthening Black-Jewish relations; advancing Holocaust memory as the world begins to forget; and ensuring the security of Israel, as it is beset on three sides — Hamas to the West, Hezbollah to the North, and Iran to the East.

I've been especially alarmed at the deterioration of relations with my brothers and sisters in the African-American community. I and many others have worked for years to help build these relationships. Now, extremists who are not representative of the larger African-American community are attacking Jews in the streets of New York, and radicals have turned the civil rights movement on its head by attacking the State of Israel in the name of Palestinian rights.

The hijacking of Black Lives Matter has been accompanied by the equally specious intersectionality debates on campus, where Jews are accused of being beneficiaries of "white privilege," even as we remain the most

persecuted minority in the history of the world. These activists are also equating Israel's government with the disgusting Afrikaner regime in South Africa.

As preposterous as those comparisons are, even more absurd is the suggestion that Jews, who have faced persecution and annihilation for centuries and are comprised of people who are as much a rainbow coalition as any you will find in America, are in any way at odds with the black community. When I took Al Sharpton to Israel in 2001, what most surprised him was seeing massive numbers of African-Jewish refugees, from Ethiopia and elsewhere, finding sanctuary in Israel.

As antisemitism has spiked around the world, including here in the United States, Holocaust memory has become more important than ever. The challenge is becoming greater as fewer survivors remain as witnesses to give first-hand testimony to the horrors of their experience. Now, we must increasingly rely on the government to ensure that future generations are taught the lessons of the Shoah. It is heartening that more states are making Holocaust education compulsory.

Nowhere is preserving the Holocaust more important than in Poland, where three million Jews, 90% of the Jewish population prior to the war, were murdered. For all of the controversy that has sometimes surrounded the actions of the government, Poland has done a tremendous job of ensuring that the sites of persecution and murder are

maintained to ensure the evidence of those crimes kept alive, so future generations will know why we can never be silent when confronted by genocidal threats such as those emanating from Tehran.

Finally, it would be nice to say that Israel is secure today, but that, sadly, is not the case. In addition to direct threats, Iran's tentacles stretch across the Middle East, as it seeks to surround Israel with its proxies. Hamas, with its genocidal charter against Israel, continues to fire rockets aimed at Israel's civilian population, and incendiary balloons and kites to literally set the land on fire. Hezbollah, another genocidal enemy, is building terror tunnels and amassing hundreds of thousands of rockets on Israel's northern border. Fatah continues to educate the next generation of Palestinians to hate their Jewish neighbors and engage in terror.

Israel can defend itself, but the US-Israel relationship is vital to ensuring its security. The United States is the only country that can be counted upon to protect Israel's interests in negotiations, and to have a role in promoting peace. The bipartisan support Israel enjoys has made it possible to obtain billions of dollars in military aid and support for the development of life-saving weapons systems such as Iron Dome.

Ultimately, however, it is the values that Americans and Israelis share that guarantees the special relationship will endure. They are values that were articulated by the greatest



The Israeli flag at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Photo: Hynek Moravec via Wikimedia Commons.

American of the 20th century, Martin Luther King, Jr., who re-imagined the Hebrew Bible as a liberation manifesto and offered its prophets — Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Micah — as trumpets of human liberty and dignity.

Jewish values make the Jewish people a light unto the nations. And it's specifically values that America needs today more than ever if we are to unite a fragmented nation and project American light into a world growing increasingly dark with the rise of human-rights abusing dictatorships like Russia and Turkey.

The Biblical mandate of the Jewish people is to "repair the world under God's sovereignty." We do this primarily by influencing the world with our values and recognizing those individuals who have done their utmost to live by, inspire, and promote values-based leadership.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, whom The Washington Post calls "the most famous Rabbi in America," is the international best-selling author of 33 books, including the upcoming Holocaust Holiday: One Family's Descent Into Genocide Memory Hell. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @RabbiShmuley.

Can Democrats Survive Bernie Sanders?

DAVID SUISSA/
JNS.org

The Democratic Party is in a pickle. If their leading candidate, Bernie Sanders, wins the nomination, they'll have to pray against all odds that a far-left socialist can be elected president of a capitalist country.

On the other hand, if Sanders loses the nomination, his rabid followers are likely to blame the Democratic establishment and forsake loyalty to the party altogether — as many of them did in 2016.

This is not mere speculation. In a chilling column last week in *The New York Times*, David Brooks reported that only 53% of Sanders voters say they will support whoever is the Democratic nominee. In the last election, he writes, they actually helped Trump in three key states:

"In 2016, in Pennsylvania, 117,000 Sanders primary voters went for Trump in the general, and Trump won the state by 44,292 ballots. In Michigan, 48,000 Sanders voters went for Trump, and Trump won the state by 10,704. In Wisconsin, 51,300 Sanders voters went for Trump, and Trump won the state by 22,748.

"In short, Sanders voters helped elect Trump."

If you vote Democrat, as most Jews in America do, this is a serious conundrum. How did the party end up in such a lose-lose mess?

Here's one theory: They got so hung up on bashing Trump that they lost sight of the

big picture.

The big picture is, first, that America doesn't need an economic revolution. Trump may be a disaster, but he's not an *economic* disaster. Even one of Trump's biggest critics, economist Paul Krugman of the *Times*, acknowledged that fact in a recent column:

"Let's be honest: The US economy is running pretty hot these days. Growth in GDP and employment has been good, though not spectacular; the unemployment rate is near a historic low ... it is indeed a strong economy."

That hardly sounds like a crisis situation. And yet, if you listen to Democratic candidates over the past year, you'd think the economy and the country were going to hell in a handbasket.

Why? For one, they hate Trump so much that they're incapable of giving him credit for anything. So, since everything Trump has done must be bad, everything he's done must be fixed — even the arguably good stuff.

That's a lot of fixing.

But for independent swing voters who will decide the election, it's not magical and transformational "fixing" they want. They're sick and tired of vicious partisan battles. They're tired of the hysterics. They want healing. They want simple, normal stuff without the useless drama.

They want a straight shooter who will level with them, someone to say: "Yes, our economy has improved, and I'm delighted about that. But there are still many areas that need strengthening. I will put forward reasonable, practical policies that meet our shared goals. I will seek compromise whenever possible. And I will tell the truth about the trade-offs of each policy.

"My priority will be to restore the dignity of the White House; to heal our collective wounds; to rebuild trust in government; to focus on what unites us; to encourage compassion for our fellow Americans; and to renew the sense that we're all in this together. I will be the president of all Americans, even those of you who don't vote for me."

Those words can't come from someone caught in the throes of war. In its relentless focus on taking down Trump, the Democratic Party has overlooked the power of a unifying message. Yes, the goal is to replace Trump — but how and with what? Bashing Trump is a tactic, not a strategy. And promising radical changes to the country and the economy is a strategy, but the wrong one.

The lesson of the Trump presidency is that character counts at least as much as policy. America doesn't need a policy revolutionary. It needs decency. It needs a mensch in the White House. A mensch with the wisdom to hear all voices and the spine to make difficult decisions.

Bernie Sanders is no mensch. He's a cranky idealist hell-bent on pushing his utopian socialist agenda — and "healing the

country" is not on that agenda. He's exploiting the rage at Trump to trigger the kind of class warfare that spreads even more animosity and division.

Sanders is just the most extreme expression of a phenomenon that has plagued the Democrats: They've allowed their fury at Trump to turn them into a crisis party. In their near panic at the prospect of losing another election, they've thrown the kitchen sink at Trump and American voters hoping something will stick.

But in the process, they've missed the real crisis: We are a deeply divided nation in desperate need of a courageous leader who will embrace the challenge to Make America One Again.

I know: I'm dreaming. Being a dreamer these days is a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it.

David Suissa is editor-in-chief and publisher of Tribe Media Corp and The Jewish Journal. He can be reached at davids@jewishjournal.com.

This article was first published by the The Jewish Journal.

The EU Offers a 'Birthright' Trip to Palestine

SHERI OZ
NEW YORK

Birthright Israel has been offering free educational trips to Jewish youths since 1999. The purpose is to help Jewish young adults

from around the world reconnect with their Jewish roots.

The European Union must have thought this was a great idea — as they are offering free flights and accommodations to young European photographers for a one-week visit to "Palestine." They call it the EU Photo Marathon, and it is open to those aged 21-35.

The lucky European photographers

Continued on Page A8

Opinion.

Does Churches for Middle East Peace Leader Really Want Peace?

A Short History of Palestinian Rejectionism



DEXTER VAN ZILE
BOSTON

Earlier this month, Mae Cannon, executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), an anti-Israel propaganda organization supported by mainline Protestant churches in the United States, told supporters that sometime in the next few days, her organization was going to issue an "action alert."

The alert would tell CMEP supporters to express their opposition to the "Peace to Prosperity" proposal put forth by the Trump administration on January 28, 2020. Cannon made this declaration during a February 5, 2020 podcast organized by Jer Swigart from the Global Immersion Project, another so-called "peace" organization — which, like CMEP, brings activists to the Holy Land, who then agitate against Israel when they get home, all under the guise of peace.

"This is a critical moment for the church in terms of the way we respond to this moment in world history," Cannon said during the podcast. "I've been crying a lot about this deal."

Prior to the podcast, Cannon issued a statement condemning the Trump plan because it suggested that a number of villages south of Haifa become part of the future Palestinian state. Israeli Arabs, who have regularly complained about their minority status in Israel, have made it perfectly clear that they do not wish to become part of the Arab majority in a state run by the Palestinian Authority. Cannon declared that the proposal to shift these villages to the Palestinian state is "meant to maximize the amount of land under Israeli control while minimizing the number of Palestinians living on the land."

With her condemnation of the proposal to transfer the "triangle" villages into the future state of Palestine, Cannon implicitly acknowledged something she doesn't want to admit publicly — no one in their right mind would want to live in a future state of Palestine, because the people who would likely govern the country are corrupt, violent, authoritarian, and inept. But this hasn't stopped CMEP and so many other



Tourists walk in Manger Square outside the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Dec. 2, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Mussa Qawasma.

Christian "peacemakers" from carrying water for unaccountable Palestinian elites, who use anti-Israel sentiment to distract rank-and-file Palestinians from their thieving ways.

In her *cri de coeur*, which was posted on the Palestinian Authority's website, Cannon declared, "The plan presented by President Trump and further fleshed out by Prime Minister Netanyahu is nothing less than a recipe for endless oppression and injustice."

Maybe the plan is insufficient for the Palestinians. But why couldn't Cannon and the organization she leads tell the Palestinian Authority to make a counter-offer? Why couldn't CMEP forcefully condemn Mahmoud Abbas for calling Donald Trump a "son of a dog" and the Grand Mufti of the Palestinian Authority for declaring that opposition to the plan is a religious obligation? She has also called Evangelical support for Israel "idoltrous."

What would she call Islamic hostility towards Jews? Does she have a churchly word for that? At the Christ at the Checkpoint Conference in Oklahoma in 2018, she condemned antisemitism in the Christian peace movement. If it's a bad thing for peace-making, is it a bad thing for statehood?

Maybe Cannon needs to remember what she said in 2018 about the demands for peace: "Throwing mud at peace negotiations does not bring peace closer. It just adds yet more burdens to negotiate for peace, and more pretext for those opposed to peace."

What's changed, Dr. Cannon? Do you want peace, or do you want another round of violence that you can use to mournfully virtue-signal?

Dexter Van Zile is Christian Media Analyst for the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA). His opinions are his own.

Creation means seeing the universe as God's work. Revelation means seeing Torah as God's word. Redemption means seeing history as God's deed and God's call. But within these broad parameters, we must each find our own understanding, guided by the Sages of the past, instructed by our teachers in the present, and finding our own route to the Divine presence.

Judaism is a matter of creed as well as deed. But we should allow people great leeway in how they understand the faith of our ancestors. Heresy-hunting is not our happiest activity. One of the great ironies of Jewish history is that no one did more than Maimonides himself to elevate creed to the level of halachically normative dogma, and *he became the first victim of this doctrine*. In his lifetime, he was accused of heresy, and after his death his books were burned. These were shameful episodes.

"We will do and we will understand," means: we will do in the same way; we will understand in our own way.

I believe that action unites us, leaving us space to find our own way to faith.

Shabbat Shalom



EDY COHEN
JERUSALEM

Taking into account all the peace initiatives proposed to end the conflict between the Jews and the Palestinian Arabs over the last 83 years, we must consider the possibility that the Palestinians — or at least their leaders — do not want to establish their own state.

Their sight is currently set on the big prize — the entire State of Israel — and they are playing for time. In the meantime, they plan to continue to subsist on monies donated by the Arabs and the Europeans. Many of the Arab states have grown disenchanted with this enterprise, and their assistance, particularly from the Saudis, has been discontinued in recent years.

President Donald Trump has also reduced the flow of US support. Only the Europeans remain committed to the implausible Palestinian narrative.

The Jerusalem Mufti Hajj Amin Husseini, the leader of the Palestinian Arabs from the early 1920s to the late 1940s, said in his testimony to the British Peel Commission, established in January 1937 to find a way forward for cooperation between Arabs and Jews in Palestine, "Most residents of Jewish lands will not be awarded citizenship in our future country." The Mufti suggested that the Jews be deported from Palestine. Rejecting the idea of a Jewish state, he promised that if such a state were established, every last Jew would be expelled from a Palestinian Arab state.

In November 1947, the same Mufti refused to adopt the UN partition plan that offered to establish two states, one Jewish, the other Arab. The Mufti rejected a two-state solution until the day he died, a choice ordinary Palestinians may well regret. Had he agreed to the UN plan, they would have gained a much larger area than what is on offer today.

The successor to the Mufti, Yasser Arafat, continued to reject any legitimacy to the State of Israel, refusing even to acknowledge its existence. For many years, he raised the PLO banner of a military and terrorist struggle against Israel. In addition to masterminding decades of bloody terror in the streets of Israel, Arafat was responsible for devastation across the Middle East, including a civil war in Lebanon (1975-1991) and Jordan's Black September (1970). He also threw the PLO's support behind Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1991.

When Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, Arafat's PLO called for Egypt to be boycotted. The Arab states adopted that boycott and prevented Cairo from participating in the Arab League from 1977 until 1989. Most Arab ambassadors in Egypt were recalled and Arabs visiting Egypt were considered either traitors or spies.

The Palestinians responded to Israel's attempts to implement the Oslo Accords by sending waves of suicide bombers into the streets and buses of the cities of Israel, a blatant violation of their commitment to the agreements and a clear statement of their rejection of the idea of peace with Israel. At the July 2000 Camp David summit, Israel Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered Arafat a series of far-reaching concessions as part of a comprehensive peace arrangement.

In return, Arafat was asked to end the conflict. The PLO summarily rejected the

Israeli proposals and never offered a counter-proposal. Instead, the PLO-dominated Palestinian Authority (PA) initiated a massive premeditated wave of violence. Arafat's war of terror (the so called "al-Aqsa Intifada") was unparalleled in the scale and relentlessness of its terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians. A total of 1,184 Israelis were murdered.

In August 2005, the government of Israel, headed by Prime Minister (PM) Ariel Sharon, carried out the unilateral evacuation of all Israeli villages from the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank. In response, the Palestinians have been launching missiles and rockets on Israeli towns and villages from the Gaza Strip for years, some reaching as far as Tel Aviv.

Instead of using the enormous Israeli concession as an opportunity to achieve peace, the Palestinians used it to empower Iranian-backed terrorist organizations. In June 2007, Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip in a violent coup. Ever since the Hamas takeover, the villages of southern Israel have been subjected to a more-or-less nonstop downpour of rockets and missiles fired from Gaza. The number of rockets/missiles and mortar shells fired into Israel from Gaza since 2007 is in the tens of thousands.

In 2008, Israeli PM Ehud Olmert offered Arafat's successor as PLO Chairman and PA president, Mahmoud Abbas, a sweeping peace proposal. Abbas rejected it outright. He claimed that "the gaps are too wide," meaning there was too great a distance between what the Palestinians demanded and what the Israelis were offering. "I will wait until all the Israeli settlements have been frozen," he said.

According to Saeb Erekat, chief negotiator for the Palestinians, "We are not in a market or a bazaar. I came here to determine the boundaries of Palestine from 1967 without budging an inch, without removing one stone from Jerusalem or any of the holy places to Islam or Christianity in Jerusalem."

The Palestinians refused Olmert's offer because they found his unprecedented territorial concessions insufficient and because they insisted on the right to manage the holy sites in Jerusalem in place of the Jordanians.

The Palestinian leadership rejected the current US proposal a year ago, before they had seen it. They also refused to participate in the economic conference held in Bahrain at the end of June 2019 and prevented other Palestinians from participating.

As soon as the plan was published, it was a given that Abbas would oppose it strongly. "We say a thousand times no, no, no to the Deal of the Century," he said. "We refused this deal from the beginning and we were right. Two days ago, they said to listen. Listen to what? Shall we get a country without Jerusalem for every Palestinian, Muslim, or Christian child?" he asked.

Mahmoud Abbas is now calling the deal a conspiracy that "will never pass. ... Our strategy focuses on the struggle to end the occupation. The plans to eliminate the Palestinian agenda will fail and fall away."

As has been said many times, the Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity. Their leadership claims that every suggestion is a conspiracy and every initiative a trap. Making peace takes courage. Will a Palestinian Sadat ever arrive?

*Dr. Edy Cohen is a researcher at the BESA Center and author of the book *The Holocaust in the Eyes of Mahmoud Abbas* (Hebrew). A version of this article was originally published by *The BESA Center and Israel Today*.*

Continued from Page A10
Will Do

of the Lord in majesty.

What unites Jews, or should do, is action, not reflection. We do the same deeds but we understand them differently. There is agreement on the *na'aseh* but not the *nishma*. That is what Maimonides meant when he wrote in his Commentary to the Mishnah, that "When there is a disagreement between the Sages and it does not concern an action, but only the establishment of an opinion (*sevarah*), it is not appropriate to make a halachic ruling in favour of one of the sides."

This does not mean that Judaism does not have strong beliefs. It does. The simplest formulation — according to R. Shimon ben Zemach Duran and Joseph Albo, and in the twentieth century, Franz Rosenzweig — consists of three fundamental beliefs: in creation, revelation and redemption. Maimonides' 13 principles elaborate this basic structure. And as I have shown in my Introduction to the Siddur, these three beliefs form the pattern of Jewish prayer.

Impressions.

Continued from Page A6
'Birthright'

— selected from candidates who submit portfolios along with their application forms — will join young Palestinian photographers and tour areas across the “West Bank.” Their aim, as stated on the website, is “to capture different aspects of Palestinian life. The group will visit communities and places where the EU and its Member States have been working to support the Palestinian people.”

So I guess they will not be visiting Jewish communities. After all, many of these people believe those communities should be razed and the Jews there sent packing.

I cannot wait to see what photographs will come out of this week-long event. Will they have someone throw rocks at IDF soldiers or taunt them in the way made famous by the Tamimi family? That would surely produce some excellent images of the “occupation army” at work. Maybe Ahed Tamimi, the most well known of the clan, will be on hand to show the eager Europeans how it is done.

Or perhaps they will photograph Jewish members of left-wing NGOs joining Arabs in trying to claim all of this land as their own.

I wonder if they will photograph the extravagant



Young Argentine Jews visiting Israel on a Birthright tour joined Argentina's Ambassador to Israel, Mariano Caucino, to commemorate the 24th anniversary of the AMIA bombing. Photo: @argenisrael/Twitter.

castle-like home that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas built for himself with foreign humanitarian aid, the fancy high-rises in Ramallah, or the modern indoor mall in Hebron selling luxury goods.

On the other hand, the organizing committee may prefer, instead, to take the photographers to poverty stricken neighborhoods for photo ops to help maintain the impression that the Arabs in the Palestinian Authority are all suffering terribly under Israeli oppression — and that it is all Israel's fault.

In addition to their portfolios, candidates for the trip must include a letter expressing their reasons for applying, and how they intend to use the material for propaganda purposes afterward: “Please include your motivation behind your participation and the means to be employed to ensure a wide dissemination of the outcome of this visit in Europe.”

I would love to read the motivation letters. Would we see overt or covert Jew-hatred (disguised as hatred of Israel in the latter case)? Perhaps it will be more about love for the underdog, in this case, the poor Arabs who have not been successful in getting rid of the Jews — and who justify terrorism, incitement, and hate education as a response to Israel's existence.

As Matan Peleg, CEO of Im Tirtzu, said, “This is yet another instance in which the European Union is using the hard-earned taxes of its citizens in order to slander and delegitimize Israel. Instead, the EU should be asking what happened to the millions of Euros they gave to the Palestinian Authority, other than going toward paying the salaries of terrorists.”

Sheri Oz is a retired psychotherapist, now dedicating her time to exploring the mutual interactions between domestic and regional politics and Israeli society.

America's Founding Fathers and the Jews

BY HAROLD BRACKMAN

Around Presidents' Day every year, there are well-meaning declarations that America's founding fathers were friendly to Jews and Zionism.

Friendly quotations are easy to find, but private attitudes tell a different story.

Unexcelled benevolence was true of President George Washington.

On August 18, 1790, congregants of America's

Adams wrote two important letters to Mordecai Manuel Noah, the American Jewish diplomat, journalist, and early Zionist.

In 1808, he criticized Voltaire, the antisemitic Enlightenment philosopher: “How is it possible [that he] should represent the Hebrews in such a contemptible light? They are the most glorious nation that ever inhabited this Earth. The Romans and their Empire were but a Bauble in comparison of the Jews. They have given religion to three-



The House of Representatives Building and the East Portico of the US Capitol. Photo: Flickr.

oldest synagogue, Touro Synagogue of Newport, Rhode Island, warmly welcomed President Washington's visit to their city.

Responding that same day, Washington promised the synagogue more than mere religious tolerance because: “It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights.” His letter declared “the Government of the United States ... gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.” He also invoked the Hebrew Bible: “May the Children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid.”

Compared to this, President Thomas Jefferson offered abstract support for religious liberty combined with Deistic disdain for Jews and Judaism: “Jews hold ideas that are degrading and injurious to Jesus ... possess imperfect and immoral ethics, and ... their social behavior is repulsive.”

Perhaps most interesting is the contrast between second president John Adams and sixth president, his son John Quincy Adams.

Respected by virtually everyone but liked by almost no one, John Adams was an exacting man whose philosophy combined Enlightenment beliefs with a bedrock Puritan faith rooted in lifelong Bible reading.

quarters of the Globe and have influenced the affairs of Mankind more, and more happily, than any other Nation ancient or modern.”

Then, in an 1819 letter to Noah, he wrote: “Farther I could find it in my heart to wish that you had been at the head of a hundred thousand Israelites ... & marching with them into Judea & making a conquest of that country & restoring your nation to the dominion of it. For I really wish the Jews again in Judea an independent nation.”

However, he added the caveat that “I believe ... once restored to an independent government and no longer persecuted they [the Jews] would soon wear away some of the asperities and peculiarities of their character & possibly in time become liberal Unitarian Christians.”

John Quincy Adams was brought up on Bible reading, but had a less charitable attitude towards Jews. He reiterated his father's hope for the “rebuilding of Judea as an independent nation.” Yet, as early as the 1790s, he complained in his diary about Jewish money changers in London, and publicly recoiled from the Jews of Frankfurt because the “word filth conveys an idea of spotless purity in comparison with Jewish nastiness.”

Historian Harold Brackman is coauthor with Ephraim Isaac of From Abraham to Obama: A History of Jews, Africans, and African Americans (Africa World Press, 2015).

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CINE MAGIC SUNSET PARK STUDIOS LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/03/2020. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 11 Kent Street, Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7/14/21

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: 22 NORTH 6TH STREET 8B LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY)on 10/07/2019. 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 process to: 22 North 6th Street 8B LLC 16 Melbourne Road great neck NY 11021 . Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7/14/21

Notice of location of limited liability company(LLC) Name: SKY CASTLES CONSTRUCTION LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 10/24/2019. 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 process to: Legal-corp Solutions,LLC 11 Broadway Suite 615 New York, NY 10004. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7/14/21

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: 6 MILDRED PLACE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 06/27/2019. 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 process to: Anderson registered agents 7014 13th Avenue,Suite 210 Brooklyn, NY 11228.purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/21/28

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: SOMETHING FRENCH,LLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY)on 10/10/2019. 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 process to: Osher Battal 2247 E. 66 street Brooklyn, NY 11234. Purpose: All lawful activity AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/21/28

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, FOR THE HOLDERS OF THE J.P.MORGAN ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2006-A5 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, Plaintiff against ISAAC SHOUELA, A/K/A ISAAC SHOELA, ELI SHOUELA A/K/A ELI SHOUELA, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on September 25, 2018, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse,

LEGAL NOTICE

360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY. on the 5th day of March, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, known and designated as Lots Numbers 63 and 64, Block 6826, on a certain plan of lots called "Brooklyn Harlem" (temporary Name) surveyed for Wood Harmon & Co., March 1902 by Samuel H. McElroy, C.E. and C.S. and filed in Kings County Register's Office, March 23, 1902, and bounded and described as follows, to wit: Easterly at East 21st Street, 40 feet as shown on said plan; Southerly by Lot 62 in Block 100 feet as shown on said plan; Westerly by lots 26 and 25 in said Block 40 feet as shown on said plan; Northerly by Lot 65 in said Block 100 feet as shown on said plan. Said premises known as 1946 E. 21st Street, Brooklyn, NY. 11229. (Block: 6826, Lot: 27). Approximate amount of lien \$ 1,153,565.15 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 20507-13. Steven J. Baker, Esq., Referee. Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 10 Bank Street - Suite 700 White Plains, New York 10606 (914) 949-2574 AJ; 1/31; 2/7/14/21/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. GLEN R. EDMONDS, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on August 21, 2018, and a Decision and Order filed on December 6, 2019, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on February 27, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 429 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 1677 and Lot 48. Approximate amount of judgment is \$713,853.33 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 1597/2015. Philip L. Kamaras, Esq., Referee Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523, Attorneys for Plaintiff Cash will not be accepted. AJ; 1/31; 2/7/14/21/

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: BRIDGETTE'S DINING & EVENT HALL, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 01/23/2020 . 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 process to: Bridgette's Dining & Event Hall,LLC 200 Utica Avenue store Brooklyn, NY 11213 purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 1/31; 2/7/14/21/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank, National Association, as Successor Trustee to Bank of America, N.A., as Successor By Merger to LaSalle Bank, N.A. as Trustee for the Certificate-holders of The MLMI Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-AR1, Plaintiff AGAINST Cheryle Williams a/k/a Cheryle E. Williams a/k/a Cheryle E. Dent a/k/a Cheryl E.

LEGAL NOTICE

Dent; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated December 5, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on March 12, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 297 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block: 1675 Lot: 42. Approximate amount of judgment \$754,004.40 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 20070/2013. Meryl L. Wenig, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: January 29, 2020 67721 AJ; 2/7/14/21/28

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings Citibank, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST Arthur Breuer, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 8/9/2018 and entered on 9/10/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 12, 2020 at 02:30 PM premises known as 1144 51st Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219. 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: 5654, LOT: 24. Approximate amount of judgment is \$402,986.71 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 508190/2013. Jeffrey R. Miller, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ; 2/7/14/21/28

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR PRETIUM MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. SERAFIN VASQUEZ, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on February 6, 2019, and an Order Pursuant to CPLR 2004 Extending The Time to Set Sale filed December 19, 2019, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 12, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 293 Powell Street, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 03763 and Lot 00111. Approximate amount of judgment is \$850,187.63 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 21054/13. Julie A. Clark, Esq., Referee Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523, Attorneys for Plaintiff Cash will not be accepted. AJ; 2/7/14/21/28

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-FF11 MORTGAGE PASS-

LEGAL NOTICE

THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-FF11, V. WILLIAM BLAGROVE, ET AL. NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 29, 2018, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-FF11 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-FF11 is the Plaintiff and WILLIAM BLAGROVE, 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 March 12, 2020 at 2:30 PM, premises known as 1603 E 95TH ST, BROOKLYN, NY 11236: Section , Block 8298, Lot 29: ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 510180/2014. Jeffrey Miller, Esq. - Referee. RAS Boriskin, LLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. AJ; 2/7/14/21/28

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: KOZIE DESIGN LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/02/2019. Office location: Bronx county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.SSNY shall mail copy of process to:Legalinc Corporate Services Inc.1967 Wehrle Drive Suite 1 #086 Buffalo ,NY 14221 purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 2/7/14/21/28; 3/6/13

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: JAMONIX GLOBAL LLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on: 01/27/2020 . 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 process to: Matthew Rogers 26 Bergen St., Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 2/14/21/28; 3/6/13/20

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC)Name: MIKEGEEZ FITNESS BOUTIQUE LLC . Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on : 01/29/2020 . 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: MIKEGEEZ Fitness Boutique LLC 318 Nelson Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 2/14/21/28; 3/6/13/20

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY CITIBANK, N.A., Plaintiff against ALIZA SHREM, et al Defendants Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523 Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered January 17, 2018 and amended November 15, 2018. I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11201 on March

LEGAL NOTICE

19, 2020 at 2:30 PM. Premises known as 2238 West Street, Brooklyn, New York 11223. Block 7151 Lot 71. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$441,324.93 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 5872/2012. Cash will not be accepted at the sale. Doron Leiby, Esq., Referee 11582 AJ; 2/14/21/28; 3/6

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County of Kings Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB et al, Plaintiff v Kirk Gibson, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to the provisions of the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, Index # 2427/2008., the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction, at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, N.Y; on March 26, 2020 at 2:30 PM, all that parcel of land, with the improvements erected thereon; premises known as 729 Macon Street, Brooklyn, NY a/k/a Block 1493, Lot 66. Approximate amount of judgment is \$1,065,650.42 plus interest and costs. Aaron Tyk, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive Williamsville, NY. 67256 AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST MARCUS SMITH, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated December 15, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on March 26, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 570 RALPH AVENUE, 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 1387, LOT 47. Approximate amount of judgment \$571,443.47 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 4836/2014. DANA JENKINS, ESQ., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 68115 AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings U.S. Bank NA, successor trustee to Bank of America, NA, successor in interest to LaSalle Bank NA, as trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Washington Mutual Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, WMALT Series 2006-8, Plaintiff AGAINST Eric D. Garnes, individually and as surviving joint tenant of Delia Curtis, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 10/10/2018 and entered on 10/18/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 26, 2020 at 02:30 PM premises known as 245 E 46th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 4851, LOT: 40. Approximate amount of judgment is \$780,358.49 plus interests

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Tradition.

We Will Do and We Will Hear



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

Two words we read towards the end of our parsha – *na'aseh ve-nishma*, “We will do and we will hear” – are among the most famous in Judaism. They are what our ancestors said when they accepted the covenant at Sinai. They stand in the sharpest possible contrast to the complaints, sins, backslidings and rebellions that seem to mark so much of the Torah's account of the wilderness years.



There is a tradition in the Talmud that God had to suspend the mountain over the heads of the Israelites to persuade them to accept the Torah. But our verse seems to suggest the opposite, that the Israelites accepted the covenant voluntarily and enthusiastically:

Then [Moshe] took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do and hear [na'aseh ve-nishma] everything the Lord has said.” (Ex. 24:7)

On the basis of this, a counter tradition developed, that in saying these words, the assembled Israelites ascended to the level of the angels.

Rabbi Simlai said, when the Israelites rushed to say “We will do” before saying “We will hear,” sixty myriads of ministering angels came down and fastened two crowns on each person in Israel, one as a reward for saying “We will do” and the other is a reward for saying “We will hear.”

Rabbi Eliezer said, when the Israelites rushed to say “We will do” before saying “We will hear” a Divine voice went forth and said: Who has revealed to My children this secret which only the ministering angels make use of?

What, though, do the words actually mean? *Na'aseh* is straightforward. It means, “We will do.” It is about action, behaviour, deed. But readers of my work will know that the word *nishma* is anything but clear. It could mean “We will hear.” But it could also mean, “We will obey.” Or it could mean “We will understand.” These suggest that there is more than one way of interpreting *na'aseh ve-nishma*. Here are some:

1. It means “We will do and then we will hear.” This is the view of the Talmud (Shabbat 88a) and Rashi. The people expressed their total faith in God. They accepted the covenant even before they heard its terms. They said “we will do” before they knew what it was that God wanted them to do. This

is a beautiful interpretation, but it depends on reading Exodus 24 out of sequence. According to a straightforward reading of the events in the order in which they occurred, first the Israelites agreed to the covenant (Ex. 19:8), then God revealed to them the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20), then Moses outlined many of the details of the law (Ex. 21-23), and only then did the Israelites say *na'aseh ve-nishma*, by which time they had already heard much of the Torah.

2. “We will do [what we have already been commanded until now] and we will obey [all future commands].” This is the view of Rashbam. The Israelites' statement thus looked both back and forward. The people understood that they were on a spiritual as well as a physical journey and they might not know all the details of the law at once. *Nishma* here means not “to hear” but “to hearken, to obey, to respond faithfully in deed.”

3. “We will obediently do” (Sforno). On this view the words *na'aseh* and *nishma* are a hendiadys, that is, a single idea expressed by two words. The Israelites were saying that they would do what God asked of them, not because they sought any benefit but simply because they sought to do His will. He had saved them from slavery, led and fed them through the wilderness, and they sought to express their complete loyalty to Him as their redeemer and lawgiver.

4. “We will do and we will understand” (Isaac Arama in Akeidat Yitzchak). The word *shema* can have the sense of “understanding” as in God's statement about the Tower of Babel: “Let us, then, go down and confound their speech there, so that they shall not understand [yishme'u] one another's speech” (Gen. 11:7). According to this explanation, when the Israelites put ‘doing’ before ‘understanding,’ they were giving expression to a profound philosophical truth. There are certain things we only understand by doing. We only understand leadership by leading. We only understand authorship by writing. We only understand music by listening. Reading books about these things is not enough. So it is with faith. We only truly understand Judaism by living in accordance with its commands. You cannot comprehend a faith from the outside. Doing leads to understanding.

Staying with this interpretation, we may be able to hear a further and important implication. If you look carefully at Exodus chapters 19 and 24 you will see that the Israelites accepted the covenant three times. But the three verses in which these acceptances took place are significantly different:

1. The people all *responded*

together, “We will do [na'aseh] everything the Lord has said.” (Ex. 19:8)

2. When Moses went and told the people all the Lord's words and laws, *they responded with one voice*, “Everything the Lord has said we will do [na'aseh].” (Ex. 24:3)

3. Then [Moses] took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do and hear [na'aseh ve-nishma] everything the Lord has said.” (Ex. 24:7)

Only the third of these contains the phrase *na'aseh ve-nishma*. And only the third lacks a *statement about the people's unanimity*. The other two are emphatic in saying that the people were as one: the people “responded together” and “responded with one voice.” Are these differences connected?

It is possible that they are. At the level of *na'aseh*, the Jewish deed, we are one. To be sure, there are differences between Ashkenazim and Sefardim. In every generation there are disagreements between leading *poskim*, halachic authorities. That is true in every legal system. Poor is the Supreme Court that leaves no space for dissenting opinions. Yet these differences are minor in comparison with the area of agreement on the fundamentals of *halachah*.

This is what historically united the Jewish people. Judaism is a legal system. It is a code of behaviour. It is a community of deed. That is where we require consensus. Hence, when it came to doing – *na'aseh* – the Israelites spoke “together” and “with one voice.” Despite the differences between Hillel and Shammai, Abaye and Rava, Rambam and Rosh, R. Yosef Karo and R. Moshe Isserles, we are bound together by the choreography of the Jewish deed.

At the level of *nishma*, understanding, however, we are not called on to be one. Judaism has had its rationalists and its mystics, its philosophers and poets, scholars whose minds were firmly fixed on earth and saints whose souls soared to heaven. The Rabbis said that at Sinai, everyone received the revelation in his or her own way:

“And all the people saw” (Ex. 20:15): the sounds of sounds and the flames of flames. How many sounds were there and how many flames were there? Each heard according to their own level of understanding what they were experiencing”, and this is what it means when it says (Ps. 29:4) “the voice of the Lord in power, the voice

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LEGAL NOTICE

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and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 505910/2015. For sale information, please visit Auction.com at www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832. Steven Z. Naiman, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings M&T Bank, Plaintiff AGAINST Dennis Sam, et al,

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE

Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 12/11/2019 and entered on 1/27/2020, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 26, 2020 at 02:30 PM premises known as 566 Van Siclen Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 4073, LOT: 51. Approximate amount of judgment is \$859,142.81 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 501945/2012. Kent D. Arthur Sr., Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings CitiMortgage, Inc., Plaintiff AGAINST Gwendolyn Rossi, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 2/4/2019 and entered on 2/11/2019, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 26, 2020 at 02:30 PM premises known as 756 East 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236. 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: 8006, LOT: 62 and 63. Approximate amount of judgment is \$657,122.50 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 507529/2013. Randolph Jackson, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings CitiMortgage, Inc., Plaintiff AGAINST Amarnauth Ramotar; et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 5/11/2018 and entered on 6/11/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 26, 2020 at 02:30 PM premises known as 97-24 Drew Street a/k/a 442 Drew Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 4185, LOT: 43. Approximate amount of judgment is \$405,883.49 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 504301/2014. For sale information, please visit Auction.com at www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832. Betty Lugo, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: PEACHES PRIME LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 02/04/2020. 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 process to : peaches prime LLC 590 Fulton Street Brooklyn, NY 11217. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A Plaintiff, vs. GLORIA DEBLANCO, et al., Defendants 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 May 23, 2019, I, Aaron Tyk, Esq., the Referee named in said Judgment, will sell in one parcel at public auction on March 26, 2020 in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, County of Kings, State of New York, at 2:30 P.M., the premises described as follows: 437 Forbell St Brooklyn, NY 11208 SBL No.: BLOCK 4290 LOT 12 ALL THAT TRACT OF PARCEL OF LAND situate 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. 501627/2016 in the amount of \$550,398.66 plus interest and costs, subject to the HPD Liens recorded against the mortgaged premises. Kirstin M. Bolduc, Esq. Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP Plaintiff's Attorney 500 Bausch & Lomb Place, Rochester, New York 14604 Tel.: 855-227-5072 68065 AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for RASC 2006-EMX6, Plaintiff AGAINST Norma Tirado; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated December 7, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on March 26, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 281 Ashford Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 3984 Lot 7. Approximate amount of judgment \$865,788.92 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 4148/2013. Gregory T. Cerchione, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: February 13, 2020 67905 AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff, vs. IAN SMITH, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee's Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on March 14, 2019, and a Decision and Order filed February 4, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 26, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 398 Amboy Street, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 3585 and Lot 1. Approximate amount of judgment is \$775,434.60 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 506946/2016. Aaron Tyk, Esq., Referee Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523, Attorneys for Plaintiff Cash will not be accepted. AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

Social.



Avi Issacharoff and Lior Raz, showrunners of Israeli television series 'Fauda,' smile during an interview with Reuters in Tel Aviv, May 30, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Amir Cohen.

'Fauda' Season 4 Announced by Show Co-Creator in Tel Aviv

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

The hit Israeli show "Fauda" will get a fourth season, its co-creator Avi Issacharoff announced on Wednesday at the English premiere of season 3 in Tel Aviv.

The screening was held at the Israeli Museum of Art, where the first two episodes of season 3 were shown with English subtitles, with the season set to begin streaming on Netflix in the spring.

Following the premiere there was a Q&A session with Issacharoff, where he elicited loud applause after revealing that the cast and crew was "working right now" on developing season 4 of the show.

"Fauda," which debuted in 2015, is about a secretive Israeli security unit working undercover in the Palestinian territories.

Its first season centered on the hunt for a Palestinian terrorist thought to be dead while season 2 centered on ISIS. The past two seasons took place mostly in the West Bank but season 3, which is already on air in Hebrew on Israeli television, focuses on the Gaza Strip.

Issacharoff said at Wednesday's event, "Some of the episodes that you are gonna see in the third season, I'm sure that it will remind you of things that really happened in reality."

Season 3 of "Fauda" is expected to debut on Netflix in a few weeks after it finishes airing on Israeli television, which will happen in mid-March, according to *i24News*.

"Fauda" was ranked by *The New York Times* in December as one of the 30 best international television shows of the decade.

Leadership of 'French Oscars' Resigns Amid Polanski Controversy

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

The management of the "French Oscars" resigned en masse on Thursday after weeks of controversy centered on director Roman Polanski, whose latest film "An Officer and a Spy" leads nominations ahead of the 2020 awards ceremony.

The resignations come just two weeks before the Cesar Awards, France's equivalent of the Oscars, which featured 12 nominations for Polanski's movie about Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish French officer unfairly accused of spying for Germany in the 1890s.

"To honor those who made films in 2019, to regain

serenity and make the cinema festival a celebration, the board of directors of the (film academy) made a unanimous decision to resign," the French film academy said in a statement.

Feminist groups had decried the nominations and called for a boycott of the film. Dozens of film industry personalities — including "X-Men" actor Omar Sy and Berenice Bejo of the 2011 film "The Artist" — had denounced the academy's "opaqueness" in an open letter.

Polanski launched his new film in France last year just days after a French actress accused him of having raped her in 1975, when she was 18 years old, during a ski holiday in Gstaad, Switzerland.

Polanski, now 86, has denied the accusation.

Gal Gadot Turns to Hebrew During Roundtable Discussion With 'Wonder Woman 1984' Cast

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Israeli actress Gal Gadot turned to Hebrew after she fumbled to express herself in English during a roundtable discussion with her fellow "Wonder Woman 1984" cast members and director Patty Jenkins.

During a segment for *Entertainment Weekly*, Gadot talked about filming the "Wonder Woman" sequel when she by accident said "ambitious" instead of "ambition." She didn't notice the mixup but her castmate Chris Pine did and made a facial reaction,



Gal Gadot, left, and the rest of the 'Wonder Woman 1984' cast. Photo: Screenshot.

and as a result the whole cast, including Pedro Pascal and Kristen Wiig, as well as Jenkins, began laughing.

Gadot then said straight into the camera in Hebrew, "I'll simply speak in Hebrew because then people will understand me more."

Jenkins afterwards implied that the moment brought back memories for Pine, most likely a reference to Gadot mixing up some English words in the past.

The French-Polish director fled the United States after pleading guilty in 1977 to having unlawful sex with a 13-year-old girl in Los Angeles.

Accusations against Polanski predate the sexual harassment scandal that embroiled Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein in 2017. But Polanski's history came under renewed scrutiny as the #MeToo movement against sexual abuse and harassment grew in response to the allegations against Weinstein, who is on trial for rape and sexual assault in New York.

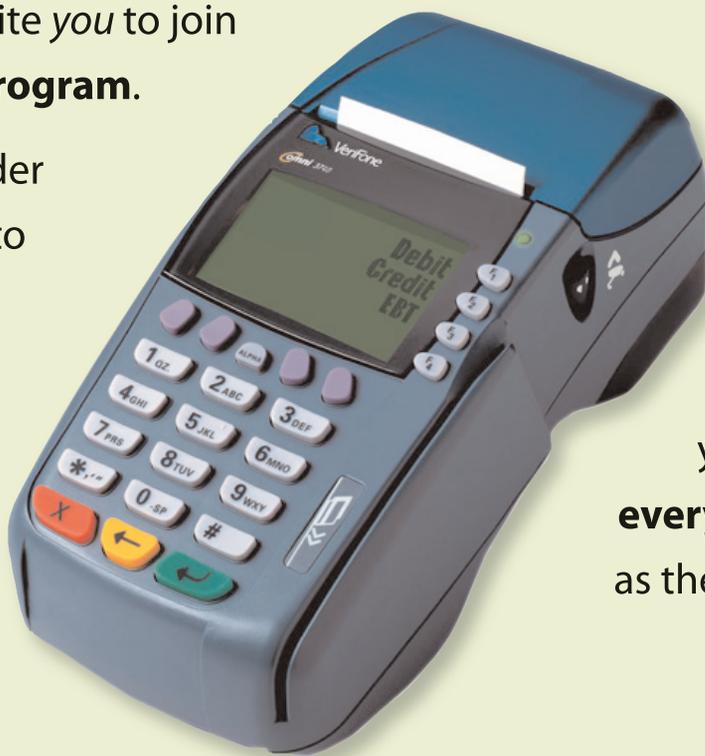
Polanski was expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 2018.

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