

Opinion.

THE TIMES
DREAMS
PEACE
A2.



Tradition.

CROSSING
THE
SEA
A10.



PALTROW
WANTS
TO
VISIT
ISRAEL
A11.

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Israel Criticizes EU Over Rejection of Trump Middle East Peace Plan



EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, in Strasbourg, France, Jan. 14, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Vincent Kessler.

**BY REUTERS
& ALGEMEINER STAFF**

The European Union rejected parts of US President Donald Trump's peace plan for the Middle East on Tuesday, prompting an angry response from Israel which has strongly backed the American proposal.

The plan, announced by Trump last week with Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his side, was rejected outright by the Palestinians.

The EU, which often takes time to respond to international developments because of a need for unanimity among its 27 members, had said last week that it needed to study the Trump plan before it would give its verdict.

It made its conclusions public on Tuesday in a statement from EU foreign policy chief Josep

Borrell, who said Trump's plan departs from "internationally agreed parameters."

"To build a just and lasting peace, the unresolved final status issues must be decided through direct negotiations between both parties," Borrell said, noting the issues of the borders of a Palestinian state and the final status of Jerusalem were among those still in dispute.

Continued on Page A3

Jewish Groups Call for Action Against Portuguese Cartoonist

BY BEN COHEN

Two blatantly antisemitic cartoons published recently by one of Portugal's leading weekly news magazines have sparked condemnation from international Jewish groups.

Vasco Gargalo, a popular Portuguese cartoonist, published the offending images in the weekly magazine Sabado.

Both cartoons featured caricatures of the current prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu. In the first image — published on Nov. 15 — a scowling Netanyahu was seen wearing a kippah and sporting a Nazi-style Star of



Portuguese cartoonist Vasco Gargalo's antisemitic caricature of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Photo: Screenshot.

David armband as he pushed a coffin draped with a Palestinian flag into a gas chamber. The words "Arbeit Macht Frei" ("Work Makes You Free") that were originally fixed to the gates of the Auschwitz extermination camp were shown above the gas chamber entrance in the cartoon.

In the second image — published a week later on Nov. 22 — Netanyahu was depicted as an octopus, a creature whose tentacles have long been a favored symbol for antise-

Continued on Page A4

Trump's Pragmatic Peace Plan

page A8



ShabbatCalendar

Parshat BESHALLACH פרשת בשלח Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting Shabbat Begins: 5:03pm | Shabbat Ends: 6:04pm



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Opinion.

The New York Times Dreads Peace



JEROLD AUERBACH
BOSTON

When President Donald Trump's peace plan was released, assuring Israel of sovereignty along the Jordan River, the security of settlements in Biblical Judea and Samaria, and the entirety of Jerusalem including the Old City under Israeli jurisdiction, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (and Israelis in general) had every reason to exult.

But *The New York Times* had every reason to lament. Reporter Megan Specia, a story editor based in New York with little evident familiarity with the Middle East, Israel, or Palestinians, reported on the plan and its deficiencies (January 29). Her conclusion, that the proposal "strongly favors Israeli priorities," is indisputable, as is her perception that it is "a sharp departure from decades of American policy." Worst of all, as the *Times* has repeatedly complained, "is American recognition of Israel's claim over the Jordan Valley and all Jewish settlements in the West Bank." After all, she writes in an endlessly reiterated *Times* cliché, "Most of the world regards the settlements as illegal." They have "steadily encroached" on land, by implication, that is Palestinian — unidentified by Specia as the Biblical homeland of the Jewish people.

In their familiar duet of complaints about Israel, Prime Minister Netanyahu and

settlements, Jerusalem Bureau Chief David Halbfinger and his colleague Isabel Kershner sadly concluded that a viable Palestinian state is now "quickly slipping away." Rather than focus on the decades of Palestinian intransigence that have obstructed that possibility, they predictably (for the *Times*) blamed President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu for imposing their will on beleaguered Palestinians. President Mahmoud Abbas, they suggested, should "try to weather the storm" in the hope that Trump and Netanyahu will be defeated in forthcoming elections. That is also the *Times'* endlessly reiterated hope.

The *Times* drumbeat continued. On the Opinion page, Nathan Thrall, widely praised for his plea (in *The Only Language They Understand*) to force compromise on Israel and the Palestinians, offered his own laceration of the Trump plan. It "gives Israel cover to perpetuate the status quo of occupation and sovereignty," he complained, thereby "depriving millions of stateless people of basic civil rights and dispossessing them of their land."

Thrall, clearly not enthralled by Zionism or Israel, refers to an "indigenous Palestinian population" whose rights to the Biblical Land of Israel have been ignored. He does not acknowledge that this "indigenous Palestinian population" did not assertively define itself in national terms until after the Six Day War in 1967, when the Jordanian land on the West Bank where they lived was returned to the Jewish people. He is convinced, without offering a shred of evidence or confronting evidence to the

contrary, that Israel "illegally established settlements" in Biblical Judea and Samaria.

Thrall ignores more than a century of internationally recognized Jewish entitlement to that land, beginning with the Balfour Declaration (1917) and reinforced by the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine. He seems unhappy that after World War I the British government promised the Jewish people a national home in "Palestine," then constituting the land east and west of the Jordan River. Nor does he mention that Colonial Secretary Winston Churchill, ignoring the Mandatory promise, gifted eastern Palestine across the Jordan River to King Abdullah for what became the Kingdom of Trans-Jordan.

Thrall's complaint about "illegally established settlements" is without legal basis and contradicted by history. Article 80 of the United Nations Charter (1945) preserved the right of the Jewish people to "close settlement" throughout the remaining portion of their homeland west of the Jordan River (now known as the West Bank).

According to UN Resolution 242 following the Six Day War, once "a just and lasting peace in the Middle East" was secured, Israel would be required to withdraw its armed forces from "territories," not from "the territories" or "all the territories." As Undersecretary of State Eugene V. Rostow, who was instrumental in drafting the resolution, unequivocally stated: "The Jewish right of settlement is equivalent in every way to the right of the existing [Palestinian] population to live there."



The New York Times logo.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

In his eagerness to inflate the crime of settlement, Thrall erroneously cites "more than 600,000 settlers in occupied territory." His claim is doubly false: the latest data, according to the Israeli Interior Ministry, cites 450,000 settlers. And Judea and Samaria are not "occupied"; they comprise a fundamental component of the historic Land of Israel that was liberated in the Six Day War.

Thrall embraces Senator Bernie Sanders, whose (unnamed) proposals "would begin to reduce American complicity in Israel's violation of Palestinian rights." But what for Thrall (and Sanders) may be heroic assertiveness is more accurately identified as left-wing bias, an appropriate characterization of New York *Times* coverage of Israel ever since the birth of the Jewish state 75 years ago.

Jerold S. Auerbach is the author of Print to Fit: The New York Times, Zionism and Israel, 1896-2016, cited by Ruth Wisse and Martin Kramer as a Mosaic Best Book in 2019.

The Palestinians' Bluff Has Been Called



MELANIE PHILLIPS
/JNS.org

Donald Trump's Middle East "deal of the century" offers the Palestinians a state. They have rejected it and threatened instead to ramp up violence against Israel. No one can be surprised. They have rejected every offer of a state previously made to them in 1937, 1947, 2000, 2008, and 2014.

So is this latest deal anything more than Groundhog Day for the Middle East all over again? Yes, because this isn't a deal. It's an ultimatum.

Israel intends to enact its part in the plan unilaterally by declaring sovereignty over the Israeli settlement blocs and the Jordan Valley. The big change is that despite the subsequent crossed wires over timing, the United States will accept this.

That's because this isn't a "peace process" in which both sides must progress in tandem with each other — a process that gave the Palestinians an effective veto even while they continued to wage their war of extermination against Israel.

For the first time, here's an American plan that puts the security of Israel first and foremost. It's therefore the first time that the United States has unequivocally supported Israel's future existence. For if a country cannot defend itself against enemies sworn to liquidate it, that country can't survive. Yet until now, even US administrations supposedly sympathetic to Israel imposed upon it requirements that undermined its security

and defense against attack.

Other supposed allies, such as Britain or the European Union, have also paid mere lip service to Israel while denying the validity of its claim to the disputed territories in Judea and Samaria. Yet its claim to these territories is legal many times over, both under international laws of self-defense and through the international community's decision in the 1920s to designate the whole of Palestine as the homeland of the Jews alone.

By denying Israel's right to all the land, Britain and the rest of the West have effectively undermined the Jews' entitlement to any of it. The Trump plan has now swept aside that appeasement of evil, started by the British in the 1930s, and which has been pursued by the American and Western foreign-policy establishment ever since.

Yet this proposal is far from being one-sided. On the contrary, it generously provides the Palestinians with a route to a state of their own consisting of most of the disputed territories (with sovereignty less limited than the conditions imposed by the allies on Germany after World War II). It is a highly detailed map for a two-state solution.

This has produced cries of dismay



Israeli police clash with Palestinian worshippers on the Temple Mount, August 11, 2019. Photo: REUTERS/Amr Awad.

from Israelis for whom a Palestine state is anathema, and who view this as yet another reward being dangled for continued Palestinian terrorism and war. But this reward is entirely conditional upon the Palestinians giving up the very thing which forms their identity and without which they are nothing: their aim to liquidate the State of Israel.

Trump is telling the Palestinians to suck this up — or lose, because the Israelis are going to get what they need to survive regardless. Jared Kushner, one of the architects of this plan, says it's the Palestinians' last opportunity for a state. But this assumes they want a state — which, of course, they don't. That demand has always been a ruse to destroy Israel.

That's why the Palestinians have always refused previous offers of a state and turned to violence instead, whereupon Israel has been pressured to offer them still more concessions. And that's why the "peace process" has been in fact an engine of perpetual conflict.

Now the Palestinians' bluff has been called. Once again, they are responding with threats of more violence, because there are no circumstances in which they will ever accept the right of the Jews to their own ancestral homeland. Increasingly shunned by the Arab world, their one hope of keeping alive this war of extermination lies in the support they continue to receive from the liberal West: Britain, the EU, and increasing numbers of US Democrats.

They robotically pump out the lies that the Palestinians tell: The lie that they, and not the Jews, are the indigenous people of the land. The lie that Israel illegally occupies that land. The lie that the Israelis oppress and persecute the Palestinians, whose only crime

Continued on Page A7



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World News.

Israel Thwarts Attempt to Smuggle Weapons to Hamas by Sea

BY JNS.org

The Israel Navy thwarted an attempt three months ago to smuggle weapons into the Gaza Strip from the Sinai by sea, the Israel Defense Forces announced in a statement on Tuesday.

According to the IDF, the navy, in participation with the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet), intercepted a vessel attempting to bring weapons to Hamas in Gaza. Israeli forces detained two operatives aboard the ship, who revealed that they were transporting weapons to Hamas's naval commando unit.

"The foiling of such smuggling attempts helps prevent the continued arming of the Hamas terror organization in the Gaza Strip, and directly damages the capabilities of the group's naval commando unit," the IDF Spokesperson's Unit said in a statement. "The navy works to monitor and stop terror activities and smuggling in early stages, to prevent the strengthening of terror groups in the Gaza Strip by sea."

The ship is the third intercepted by the navy and Shin Bet in the past 18 months.

Hamas is alleged to have some 1,500 frogmen, and to have used its naval commando forces to attempt to infiltrate Kibbutz Zikim during "Operation Protective Edge" in 2014. The attempt failed and the attackers were neutralized by IDF forces.

Israel has blockaded the Gaza coast since Hamas overthrew the Palestinian Authority and took power there in 2007.

Fishing boats and other vessels are allowed to sail up to 10 nautical miles from the coast.



An IDF ship patrols off the coast of Gaza, during "Operation Protective Edge" on July 28, 2014. Photo: Edi Israel/Flash90.

Report: Hamas Weighing Renewal of Weekly Gaza Border Riots

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

Hamas is considering restarting the regular violent riots it had orchestrated on the Israel-Gaza Strip border in recent years, the Hebrew news site Walla reported on Tuesday.

The so-called "Great March of Return" protests began in March 2018 and followed a consistent pattern in which Hamas would bring thousands of rioters to the border area every Friday, where they would demonstrate, attempt to provoke and attack IDF soldiers and infiltrate into southern Israel to commit terror attacks.

The riots were also intended to produce images of Palestinian casualties in order to use the media to damage Israel's global standing. Furthermore, the unrest provided cover for flying explosive and incendiary devices into Israeli territory on kites and balloons.

At the time the riots began, Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar said, "We will take down the border and tear out their hearts from their bodies."

In recent months, the violence has become less intense, amid rumors of a long-term truce talks brokered by Egypt.

According to Walla, however, Sinwar may now renew the riots in hopes of forcing concessions out of Israel and pushing the Egyptians to support his hardline demands.

Sinwar, the report said, considered the riots a success, as they put Hamas back on the political map and forced Israel to negotiate. The riots were only quelled because Hamas hoped they had accomplished their goal of bringing political and economic benefits to Gaza.

This was undermined, however, when Ismail Haniyeh — the head of the Hamas Political Bureau — traveled to Tehran last

month for the funeral of Iranian Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani.

Egypt, which views Iran as a regional adversary, was outraged by the visit, and its relations with Hamas have cooled considerably as a result. Haniyeh has remained abroad for now because Egypt has refused to authorize his return to Gaza.

Therefore, Sinwar believes that restarting the riots could bring Egypt back into Hamas' corner. In addition, Sinwar thinks that with Egypt out of the picture, Israel might feel free to assassinate him as it did Islamic Jihad commander Baha Abu al-Ata three months ago. So he wants to escalate the tensions on the border without provoking a massive Israeli response.

The *Algemeiner* reported on Sunday that terrorist groups in Gaza already feared more assassinations, with Islamic Jihad leaders going underground after the group launched several rocket barrages into southern Israel.

It was also revealed that IDF retaliatory strikes against Hamas following the rocket fire dealt a blow to the terror group that was much more severe than was generally known.



Palestinian rioters shout during clashes with IDF troops on the Israel-Gaza Strip border, April 6, 2018. Photo: Reuters / Mohammed Salem.

Palestinian Archbishop Condemned for 'Blood Libel' After Accusing Israel of Poisoning Him



Palestinian Greek Orthodox Archbishop Attalah Hanna. Photo: Screenshot.

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

A Palestinian cleric who has vocally supported terrorist violence against Israelis was denounced by a prominent Jewish interfaith organization on Monday for his recent claim that he had been deliberately "poisoned" by the Israeli authorities.

The International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) said in a statement that there was "no evidence" that Archbishop Attalah Hanna — who heads the Sebastia Diocese of the Greek Orthodox Church in Jerusalem — had been exposed to a "chemical substance" after Israeli forces allegedly fired a tear gas canister into his church in an incident on Dec. 19.

Furthermore, the IJCIC statement strongly criticized the World Council of Churches (WCC) for endorsing Hanna's version of events in a message of support it issued on Jan. 2.

IJCIC said it was "deeply disappointed that the World Council of Churches (WCC) has supported Archbishop Attalah Hanna's recent baseless accusations against the State of Israel."

The statement continued: "There is no evidence that Israel tried to poison him, as he alleges, or that there was any 'violence' done against him, as WCC seems to assume. In light of the disputed accounts of the source of his illness, it would have been appropriate to urge Israeli law enforcement agencies to vigorously investigate the matter and ensure full protection for all."

Appointed to his position on 2005, Hanna has made several statements supporting Palestinian terrorism against Israel and has compared Israeli residents of the West Bank

to ISIS members.

Accusing Israel of engaging in a "plot" against the Orthodox Church last June, the Archbishop stated that "our enemies have created ISIS and similar terror organizations in order to harm the Christian presence in the Arab world."

After last month's incident, Hanna claimed in an interview with Jordanian television that Israeli forces were attempting to silence him.

"What happened could be an assassination attempt, or an attempt to keep me sick throughout my life," Hanna said in the Jan. 2 interview. "I cannot be certain that Israel is behind this incident, but indications show that it is behind it."

These allegations brought a robust response from the Israeli Foreign Ministry, whose spokesperson charged Hanna with promoting a classic antisemitic canard.

"The accusations are redolent of the blood libel," said the ministry's spokesman, Lior Haiat.

Archbishop Hanna was simply continuing his "despicable defamation campaign against Israel," Haiat noted.

IJCIC also criticized the WCC for playing down Hanna's extremist views.

"Archbishop Hanna is not merely 'a strong critic' of Israel, as the WCC stated," the group said. "He has called for the creation of a Palestinian state 'from the river to the sea.' The archbishop has declared that 'Zionism is a racist, terrorist movement,' and referred to the Israeli government as 'money changers in the Temple.'"

Said IJCIC: "An individual like Hanna who espouses these views should not automatically be believed when he makes accusations against Israel without evidence."

Continued from Page A1
Rejection

Steps by Israel to annex Palestinian territory, "if implemented, could not pass unchallenged," Borrell said.

Israel responded sharply to the remarks by Borrell, a Spaniard in office since the start of December.

"The fact that the High Rep of the EU, Josep Borrell, chose to use threatening language towards Israel, so shortly after he assumed office & only hours after his meetings in Iran, is regrettable &, to say the least, odd," tweeted Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Lior Haiat.

"Pursuing such policies & conduct is the best way to ensure that the EU's role in any process will be minimized."

EU policy in the Middle East tends to be cautious, as the bloc includes members with varying degrees of sympathy toward Israel and the Palestinians. Some EU members have already recognized a Palestinian state, although the bloc as a whole says this is a matter to be resolved in peace talks.

The EU condemned Trump's decision in 2017 to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, saying Washington had compromised its position as a mediator for peace.

World News.



Russian President Vladimir Putin during the Fifth World Holocaust Forum at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial museum in Jerusalem, Jan. 23, 2020. Photo: Abir Sultan / Pool via Reuters.

Controversy Over Russian President Putin's Holocaust Speech in Jerusalem Continues in Wake of Yad Vashem Apology

BY BEN COHEN

The controversy over Russian President Vladimir Putin's speech at the World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem last month continued to simmer on Tuesday, as Yad Vashem took the unexpected step of apologizing for the pro-Russian slant of the event.

In a letter on Monday to the Hebrew-language edition of the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, Yad Vashem — the Jewish state's

national memorial to the Holocaust— expressed regret for the historical “inaccuracies” and “partial” facts contained in videos that were shown at the Forum on Jan. 23.

Critics of the videos said that the content focused on the Soviet Red Army's role in defeating Nazi Germany at the expense of Britain, the United States and the other allies. Nor did the videos mention the August 1939 pact between Nazi Germany and the USSR that resulted in the wholesale partition of Poland.

Continued from Page A1
Portuguese

mitic agitators of supposed Jewish world domination. In Gargalo's cartoon, the Israeli leader was enclosed by a large Star of David as he gripped large bags of money marked with US dollar signs.

Other crudely anti-Israel cartoons by Gargalo in the last year included one in March that showed Netanyahu in the act of defecating on missiles marked with the Palestinian flag and the name of the terrorist organization Hamas.

A political cartoonist, Gargalo's caricatures

“We apologize for the very unfortunate incident that happened,” Yad Vashem said in its letter. “Sadly, videos at the event, and particularly the one intended to summarize key points of World War II and the Holocaust, included inaccuracies and a partial portrayal of historical facts that created an unbalanced impression.”

In a nod to the torrid arguments over Holocaust responsibility that have erupted within and between several Eastern European countries, Yad Vashem also underlined its commitment “to the historical truth as far as possible, and to carrying out research that contradicts the attempts at blurring and distorting political discourse in various countries.”

Yad Vashem's statement drew a furious response from at least one mass circulation newspaper that is fiercely loyal to Putin's regime.

Writing in *Moskovskij Komsomolets*, columnist Alexander Rozensaft launched a scathing personal attack on Prof. Dan Michman, a respected Holocaust scholar who heads the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem. Accusing Michman of being a puppet for Polish President Andrzej Duda — who did not attend the Forum after his request

are generally based on the main international news stories of the week. Apparently not fazed by controversy, his recent cartoons have also attacked Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whom he accused of committing genocide, US President Donald Trump and the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, Jewish groups have highlighted Gargalo's reliance on historically antisemitic tropes in his attacks upon Israel. Both the Washington, DC-based B'nai B'rith International and its partner B'nai B'rith Europe took to Twitter on Monday to demand Gargalo's dismissal.

to speak was refused — Rozensaft asked why the professor felt the need to “repent.”

“It turns out [Michman] was haunted by the events of 1939,” Rozensaft asserted, before giving the official Russian explanation for the Nazi-Soviet Pact.

“The real situation that year was as follows: In response to the occupation of Poland, the Red Army came forward to meet the Nazi forces, who did not want to let the Nazis to the borders of the USSR,” Rozensaft claimed. “In parallel, Soviet soldiers rescued nearly a million Polish Jews by moving them from places destined for destruction to the interior of the USSR. There, by the way, my late grandmother, evacuated from Poland by Soviet soldiers, was saved too.”

Most historians say that no more than 300,000 Jews, and not one million, were moved to the Soviet interior from Poland — including a significant number who were forcibly deported by the Russian authorities.

Poland's pre-war Jewish population stood at 3 million, 90 percent of whom perished in the Holocaust.

BETH SHIFRA

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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.

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



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

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- High School Programs In Public Schools
- 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, RABBI AVIGDOR MILLER ZT”L

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.

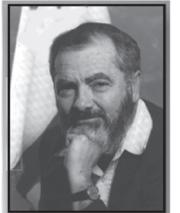
d) Assistance for Bar Mitzvah celebrations.

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

Bogus Purim Service Broken Up

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

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

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.

U.S. News.

Democratic White House Race Off to Messy Start as 'Inconsistencies' Delay Iowa Results

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

The US Democratic presidential nominating race got off to a chaotic start in Iowa on Monday, as the results of the state's caucuses were delayed for hours while party officials double-checked "inconsistencies" in the initial count.

Voters poured into more than 1,600 schools, community centers and other public locations for the caucuses in Iowa, the first state to choose a November election challenger to Republican US President Donald Trump.

But the Iowa state party delayed the results as it performed "quality checks" after finding "inconsistencies" in the reporting of the data from the caucus sites, sparking frustration in Democratic campaigns and criticism from Republicans.

It was unclear when any results would be released.

"In addition to the tech systems being used to tabulate results, we are also using photos of results and a paper trail to validate that all results match and ensure that we have confidence and accuracy in the numbers we report," state party spokeswoman Mandy McClure said.

She said the underlying data and paper trail were sound.

Iowa voters were meeting to render judgment on a field of 11 Democratic contenders led by front-runners Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont and former Vice President Joe Biden, who have battled for the top in recent Iowa opinion polls.

Long lines and heavy crowds were reported in some locations, but doors to the caucus sites closed and the process began at 7 p.m. (0100 GMT on Tuesday).

"It's definitely going to delegitimize whoever wins," a source in former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg's campaign said of the delay in results, adding it would dampen the immediate benefits of a strong night.

Biden's general counsel, Dana Remus, told Iowa state party officials in a letter that there were widespread failures in the party's system of reporting results.

"We believe that the campaigns deserve full explanations and relevant information regarding the methods of quality control you are employing, and an opportunity to respond, before any official results are released," Remus said.

Republican Brad Parscale, Trump's campaign manager, called it a "Democratic Party meltdown," on Twitter. "They can't even run the caucus and they want to run the government. No thank you."

But Republicans in Iowa have had their own history of chaos with the caucuses. On the night of the party's 2012 caucuses, Mitt Romney was declared to have won by eight votes. But the party said two weeks later that Rick Santorum was the actual winner by a 34-vote margin.

Mostly white, rural Iowa is the first test in the state-by-state battle to pick a Democratic nominee to face Trump in the Nov. 3 election. After more than a year of campaigning and more than \$800 million in spending, the results in Iowa were expected to begin to provide answers for a party desperately trying to figure out how to beat the businessman-turned-president.

Voters are pondering whether to back someone with appeal to independents and disaffected Republicans, like moderates Biden, Buttigieg and Senator Amy Klobuchar of neighboring Minnesota, or someone who energizes the party's liberal base and brings out new voters, like progressives Sanders and fellow Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

Claiming victory

At the caucus sites, voters gathered in groups by candidate preference in a public display of support. If a candidate did not reach a threshold of support of 15% of voters, the total needed to be considered viable, that candidates' supporters were released to back another contender, leading to a further round of persuasion.

But with no results to celebrate or mourn, the candidates all came out to speak to supporters and claim victory.

"I am here tonight to tell you: If you have hope that America can be better than it has been these last few years, then this campaign is for you," Warren told her supporters.

Even if one candidate wins by a commanding margin in Iowa once the results are announced, Democrats may still lack clear answers as the race moves on to the other three early voting states of New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina later in February.

Whoever remains in the race by Super Tuesday on March 3, when 15 states and territories vote, will also confront billionaire former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who is skipping the early states in favor of focusing on states rich in delegates to the Democratic National Convention in July.

Sanders, who finished in a virtual dead heat with eventual nominee Hillary Clinton in Iowa during his first presidential run in 2016, has surged in many Iowa polls to move just ahead of Biden.

Warren and Buttigieg remain within striking distance, and many polls show a big bloc of undecided Iowa voters, creating the potential for upsets and late surges.

Iowa state party officials were expecting a record turnout, exceeding the nearly 240,000 voters who attended the caucuses in 2008

amid the excitement over Barack Obama's first presidential candidacy.

Beating Trump was the prime consideration for voters as they entered the caucus, according to a poll of 1,512 Iowa Democrats conducted by the National Election Pool, with 62% saying they want someone who can beat Trump and 36% wanting a nominee who agrees with them on major issues.

The entrance poll also found 57% backed a government-run healthcare plan similar to the Medicare for All proposals of Sanders and Warren, a potentially good sign for them.

Republicans were also holding Iowa caucuses on Monday, with Trump, who has around 90 percent support in his party, declared the projected winner by various media outlets.

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Opinion.

The Rebbe and Trump on Achieving Peace



SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

Perhaps no one had more public conversations about the development of the Trump peace plan with its chief architect, Jason Greenblatt, than I did. We held approximately seven public events in New York, one in Los Angeles, and even one in Warsaw, Poland. Still, I knew next-to-nothing of what was actually in the plan. That's how closely guarded it was by Jason and all those who worked on it.

I knew the people writing it were all fully committed to Israel's security. From Jason, to Jared Kushner, to David Friedman, to Avi Berkowitz, these were all individuals deeply devoted to the safety of the Jewish people. Many, like Jared, were from families devastated by the Holocaust who understood the genocidal threats confronting Israel.

Still, I was a little bit worried about the plan. Every preceding peace proposal had put all the pressure on Israel to make concessions. Then, there was the fact that the President Trump — while undeniably the best friend Israel has ever had in the White House — so badly wanted the “deal of the century” that there was the possibility the burden would be placed on the reasonable party — Israel — to compromise. Pressure would be brought to bear on Israel to give up land.

All previous land-for-peace deals have ended in catastrophe, like Oslo, that led to thousands of Jews blown to smithereens, and the evacuation from Gaza which led to a Hamas terror state, three wars, and thousands of rockets. But most of all, my concerns for what would be contained in the plan were based on the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who staunchly opposed territorial concessions on Israel's part.

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, in his biography *The Rebbe*, summed it up well: “The Rebbe argued again and again that Israel's conceding land would not only not bring peace, but would instead actually endanger Israel's survival and

put the lives of innocent civilians at risk. ... Israel's succumbing to pressure would subject her to ever greater and continuing demands for the return of yet more land. Not only would doing so not ensure Israel's security, it could earn her contempt from those, including the United States, who could come to believe that Israel could be pressured into acting against her own interest. ... How sad, the Rebbe argued, that some Jews were now willing, ‘for the sake of peace or for the illusion of peace,’ to surrender portions of the land “in the ill-conceived belief that our enemies would thereby be appeased.”

Rabbi Chaim Miller, in *Turning Judaism Outward*, writes, “From 1967 until as late as 1991, some of the most emotionally charged sermons delivered by the Rebbe on a consistent basis were devoted to what he referred to as *Sheleimut ha-Aretz* (the integrity of the land), a sustained polemic against any territorial concessions on the part of Israel. Over one hundred and twenty-five sermons were devoted to the topic, and the central argument remained consistent throughout.”

Could I support any plan that demanded territorial compromise on Israel's part when the Rebbe's predictions about how land-for-peace would lead to thousands of murdered Jews turned into heart-breaking prophecy?

For a long time the Trump peace plan was delayed as Israel went through successive elections with no result. One wasn't sure it would ever be published, especially after Jason left the administration.

Then, last week, I was at Auschwitz, Poland, attending the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of the extermination camp — a solemn occasion that I was not going to miss — when I received an email inviting me to the White House ceremony announcing the plan next day. Logistically, there was no way I could attend, and for a while I felt like I had to choose between the Jewish past and the Jewish future, between remembering the six million martyrs of the holocaust and being present at the White House where the contours of the Jewish state was being determined by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel.

The next day the details of the plan were published and the original reports said it was a two-state solution and that a Palestinian state would be created on 70% of the ancient Biblical lands of Judea and Samaria. A four-year ban on settlement expansion made me even more uneasy.

Then I read the plan in its entirety. As Jason had promised, it was a radical break from previous administration's peace plans which had put the onus of compromise on Israel. The Trump plan was first and foremost about Israel's security. There would be no Palestinian state unless the Palestinians met non-negotiable criteria that included the end to all incitement against Israel — especially in Palestinian schools and media — and the end of the Hamas terror organization. Even then, any Palestinian state would be completely demilitarized and Israel would retain army surveillance posts and the right to enter any time it felt its security compromised. Israel would be responsible for all external security for a Palestinian entity but would also bear all costs.

As for the settlement expansion ban, it would apply in the areas that would be marked for a Palestinian state but would not effect existing Israeli settlements, which Israel would annex.

And why would the Palestinians agree to all this — a state-minus? The plan rests on the belief that the Palestinians, like people everywhere, seek economic improvement and a better way of life. A massive economic investment of \$50 billion would promise to transform the Palestinian economy and create unlimited opportunity and one million jobs.

It's a compelling and bold plan that dismisses so many of the previous obstacles like the perpetuation of permanent Palestinian refugee status. The Trump plan does not infantilize the Palestinians like so many previous plans and is not guilty of Europe or the UN's “soft bigotry of low expectations” that always exonerates Palestinian aggression. And then there is the hope that even if the Palestinians reject the deal — and thus far they have — other Arab governments might embrace it leading to the possibility of Israel establishing diplomatic relations and peace

Like De Leon, Sanders is a Jewish socialist. But the differences appear stark. Sanders is an American-born perennial candidate and officeholder, not a Marxist theoretician. De Leon's faith in the coming classless society appears to have morphed for Sanders into his loathing of billionaires. Nevertheless, Sanders is a true believer in something very much like De Leon's signature doctrine: “Impossibilism,” or knee-jerk rejection of anything short of revolutionary change.

De Leon believed that practical economic and political reforms — for example, union campaigns for higher wages or governmental social welfare legislation — were worse than useless. He wanted Revolution Now. He cheered for recessions and depressions, expecting they would accelerate the final collapse of capitalism.

Bernie Sanders early in his career joined the Socialist Workers Party, claiming that “the source of war in the Mideast ... is the existence of Israel.” As a campaigner, Sanders talks vaguely about Scandinavian-style democratic socialism; yet as a Vermont mayor, he honeymooned in the Soviet Union, admiringly visited Nicaragua's Sandinista regime, and



Menachem Mendel Schneerson — the Lubavitcher Rebbe — at the Lag BaOmer parade in Brooklyn, New York, May 17, 1987. Photo: Mordecai Baron via Wikimedia.

treaties with the Gulf states.

All of this is a best case scenario and Jason and the president deserve immense credit for a bold new plan that strongly advocates for Israel's interests and peace.

But, as the Rebbe warned, much can also go wrong. The Palestinians might agree to a limited state while in actuality aspiring to much more. Will they not ultimately agitate, or even start a new intifada, to rid themselves of any hint of Israeli military control? Would an amoral world's sympathies not lie with the Palestinians if they launched a terror wave against Israel with the argument that their state has no dignity without full autonomy? And from Gaza we learned that even an area that is supposed to be demilitarized can acquire a vast arsenal through illegal smuggling and tunnels. And what of the fundamental Torah argument that the Land of Israel — in its entirety — is gifted to the Jewish people not by world leaders but by God Himself, an argument embraced by the President's Evangelical Christian and Orthodox Jewish base?

And hovering over the plan is the sad truth that for 70 years Israel's genocidal enemies have been largely immune to economic incentives, as their hatred for Israel eclipses even a love for their economic future.

All these are questions that no doubt even the Trump administration would concede are valid.

What can certainly be said for now is that the Trump peace plan continues to demonstrate the president's passionate and unprecedented commitment to Israel's security while also presenting — as the Rebbe would no doubt argue — significant and unacceptable risks.

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.

Bernie Sanders and the Last Hurrah of Jewish Socialism



HAROLD BRACKMAN
LOS ANGELES

I view Bernie Sanders from the perspective of a historian knowledgeable about Jews and the American Left. Historically considered, he is the ideological heir of a forgotten leftist sectarian named Daniel De Leon.

Born in 1852 to a Sephardic Jewish family in Curaçao in the Dutch West Indies, De Leon studied in Europe before coming to the US. He received an advanced degree from Columbia University, but was denied a tenured teaching

position. Then De Leon found his passion in radical politics. First involved in milder socialist movements and a radical mayoral campaign to topple Tammany Hall, De Leon moved on to lead the militant Socialist Labor Party (SLP).

Supporting the unionization of mass production workers, De Leon championed the International Workers of the World (IWW) — before denouncing the IWW as insufficiently revolutionary. This move was typical of his “rule or ruin” doctrinaire Marxism.

De Leon died in 1914, but the SLP lived on, and his posthumous influence grew abroad. Lenin complimented him for influencing the Bolsheviks.



US Senator Bernie Sanders and US Senator Elizabeth Warren speak on the first night of the second 2020 Democratic US presidential debate in Detroit, Michigan, US, July 30, 2019. Photo: REUTERS/Lucas Jackson.

lauded Castro's Cuba. Sanders in those days disdained FDR's reformist New Deal. Now he hires young campaign staffers who identify as anarchists or Marxist-Leninists.

Sanders, as a congressman and US senator, has typically preferred radical purity to shaping practical legislation with a chance to pass. Daniel De Leon would have approved.

Sanders has, belatedly, rediscovered his Jewish roots. For the first time, he now reminds voters about his relatives killed in the Holocaust, and that as a young man, he

Continued on Page A7

Opinion.

Trump's 'Take It or Leave It' Mideast Gambit



THANE ROSENBAUM/
JNS.org

For an American president who has turned the White House into a Rose Garden-variety reality TV show, with a steady dose of *West Wing* chaos, a special counsel investigation without collusion, and a Senate impeachment trial where Joe Biden and John Bolton became quid pro quos for each other, how did Donald Trump's "deal of the century" manage to come about in virtual silence and without scandal?

Only within the frenzied Trump administration could the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which ordinarily commands more headlines and causes more headaches, be reduced to a negligible footnote. The president moved the US embassy to Jerusalem; defunded UNRWA, along with any aid destined to reward Palestinians for murdering Israelis; shut down the PLO offices in Washington, DC; and blessed

not accepting Trump's team as honest brokers and choosing to skip the economic summit last summer in Bahrain that was largely for their benefit, everything that has taken place was done in their absence.

And no one seemed to miss them.

The many-decades' strategy of rejectionism has failed miserably, and the world has grown tired of it. Even an unpopular American president has not rallied nations to the Palestinians' defense. Their moment as the world's most favorite refugees has passed them by. And even with all of the kangaroo-court resolutions condemning Israel in the United Nations, Israel has, improbably, never been more admired and sought after globally. Quietly, yes, but many countries now wish to be Israel's secret friend.

And the message to the Palestinians is this: The delegitimization game only plays well on campus, or with Roger Waters and a few talentless rock bands. No one else is buying it, or rather, choosing to boycott Israel. Israel innovates too superbly, and its people are far too industrious to be rejected.

This is what years of refusing to negotiate



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020, in the East Room of the White House to unveil details of the Trump administration's Middle East Peace Plan. Photo: Shealah Craighead/White House.

Israel's decision to extend sovereignty over the Golan Heights and its intention to annex the Jordan Valley as well.

And all of that scarcely merited the world's attention. Indeed, with the Persian Gulf states pleased that Trump was taking the hard line against their common enemy, Iran, and Israel starting to resemble a strategic partner, the Palestinians had outlived their usefulness as a blemish on the democratic bona fides of the Jewish state.

In Gaza, the weekly "March of Return" protests along the border with Israel in 2018, and more sporadically in 2019, were almost never the big news of the day. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority was becoming an afterthought — even to its own people.

For their part, the president's "ultimate deal"-makers — senior adviser and presidential son-in-law Jared Kushner, Middle East Special Envoy Jason Greenblatt, and US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman — operated out of the spotlight and, unlike so many of all the president's other men, avoided firings, scandals, and jail sentences.

They were far more likely to blow shofars than whistles.

And this is the reason why the Palestinians — famous for missing exponential opportunities — should seriously consider this deal. It is their only way to reenter a conversation that no longer includes them. By

with Israel has gotten you. Magical thinking that the world would simply grant Palestinian statehood and impose conditions on Israel has achieved the exact opposite outcome. By waiting too long, a state-in-waiting, attached with too many strings and a wholly discontinuous map, is now being foisted on you in a "take it or leave it" gambit with no leverage or allies of your own.

Palestinian petulance has run its course. The Trump administration has done them a favor by speaking honestly, "Do you want a state, or do you wish to remain as perpetual refugees and terrorists? Choose. You can't be both."

A people who so quickly gather in "Days of Rage," or to stab Israelis or mow them down in cars, is not ready for prime time on the world stage. Your future will depend on whether you want a future. And that can only be demonstrated by building infrastructure, universities, and hospitals, rather than rockets and terror tunnels.

Intifadas do not lead to peace with a neighbor who is not planning on leaving the neighborhood. As real estate industry executives, the Trump administration's deal-of-the-century troika made nation-building a priority. Yes, Israel got more land to ensure its safety, but the Palestinians and Arab states receive \$50 billion, which is a lot of garbanzo beans for the kind of building that will lead to true Palestinian prosperity.

Continued from Page A10
Sea

Rashbam was telling us that if we have these feelings we should not feel ashamed. Even the greatest people have felt fear. Courage is not fearlessness. It is, in the words of a well-known book title, feeling the fear but doing it anyway.

Sometimes the only way to do this is to know that there is no way back. Franz Kafka in one of his aphorisms wrote, "Beyond a certain point there is no return. This point has to be reached." That is what crossing the Red Sea was for the Israelites, and why it was essen-

tial that they experienced it at an early stage in their journey. It marked the point of no return; the line of no retreat; the critical point at which they could only move forward.

I believe that some of the greatest positive changes in our lives come when, having undertaken a challenge, we cross our own Red Sea and know that there is no way back. There is only a way forward.

Then God gives us the strength to fight our battles and win.

Shabbat Shalom

Continued from Page A2
Bluff

is to want their own state and whose claim to the land must therefore be given at least the same status as that of Israel.

The morally bankrupt equivalence between victim and aggressor has kept this war going. It has now been repudiated by the Trump peace plan.

But the war of extermination against Israel will stop only if the rest of the West now ends its tacit support for it.

It will end only if the West stops funding it and instead makes all aid to the Palestinians conditional on ending their institutionalized incitement to violence against Jews, the salaries they pay the families of those who murder Israelis, and their glorification of terrorism.

It will end only if the "human rights" community that wages "lawfare" against Israel is now exposed as the sham that it is for hijacking the language, eviscerating the concepts of law and justice, and grotesquely turning "human rights" into murderous wrongs.

Perhaps the Trump plan's most important achievement is to put on record the truth about the Jews' unique rights to the land of Israel. As it states, the areas that Israel is being asked to yield to the Palestinians nevertheless constitute "territory to which Israel has asserted valid legal and historical claims, and which are part of the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people."

As for the loud protests that Israel is being allowed to "annex the West Bank," professor of international law Eugene Kontorovich has tweeted that the United States is not proposing to recognize Israeli annexation of the territory: "It is recognizing that Israel has always had a legitimate claim on this land." In other words, the application of Israeli sovereignty is to be based on its preexisting rights to the land.

The most intractable element of these preexisting Jewish rights is Jerusalem, which

Continued from Page A6
Last Hurrah

spent a few months at Israeli kibbutz Shaar Ha'amakim. His shrill condemnations of Bibi Netanyahu as a "racist," and his menacing threats of an aid cutoff to Israel tell a different story. Israel-haters like Linda Sarsour and Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) are campaign surrogates. Jewish Democrats prefer Biden three-to-one.

During a different era, De Leon not only rejected Zionism but dismissed movements

Israel will never allow to be divided again but to which the Palestinians lay claim as their state's intended capital. The plan audaciously resolves this apparently insoluble conundrum by stating that the Palestine capital should be located "in all areas east and north of the existing security barrier," including Kafr Aqab, the eastern part of Shuafat and Abu Dis, and which could be named Al Quds.

In other words, the Trump team has simply redefined Jerusalem to exclude those Arab areas of the city beyond the security barrier. This would enable the Palestinians to tell themselves their capital is Jerusalem, while Israel will have ceased to regard that area as Jerusalem at all. Of course, the Palestinians would never agree to this. "Al Quds" to them centers on their illegitimate appropriation of the Temple Mount — the most sacred site in Judaism.

But the plan states the all-important historical truth denied by the Palestinians because it vitiates their entire claim to the land — that Jerusalem was the political center of the Jewish people under King David, and has remained their spiritual center and the focus of their religious beliefs for nearly 3,000 years.

The Trump plan won't bring peace; however, it restores the truth and justice that are essential prerequisites of peace. Crushing the lethal and poisonous fantasies about Israel and the Jewish people, as well as taking a hard-headed approach to Palestinian intentions, it replaces illusions with reality.

That's no small achievement. Now it's up to the rest of the world.

Melanie Phillips, a British journalist, broadcaster and author, writes a weekly column for JNS. Currently a columnist for The Times of London, her personal and political memoir Guardian Angel has been published by Bombardier, which also published her first novel The Legacy in 2018. Her work can be found at www.melaniephillips.com.

to end the persecution of Jews as distractions from fighting for the Socialist Revolution. Buoyed by utopian hopes for an unlikely youth revolution at the polls, Bernie Sanders' resurrection of De Leon's "Impossibilism" under a different name may prove the last hurrah of Jewish socialism in America.

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).

The Trump administration treated the Palestinians like New Yorkers savvy enough to know when they are being offered the insider's price on a new condominium with free amenities. The problem, however, is that Palestinians have never been swayed by money — or land, for that matter. They didn't seem to mind when Jordan occupied the West Bank and Egypt occupied Gaza. Instead, they were always fixated on dead Israelis in a vanquished Jewish state.

Now, after rejecting too many earlier

peace deals that would have netted them more land and immediate sovereignty, they are going to have to choose a different road to save yet another generation from stagnation and dependency. After all, a continuous strategy that finds glory only in dead Jews is not a fulfilling national project.

Thane Rosenbaum is a novelist, essayist, law professor, and Distinguished University Professor at Touro College, where he directs the Forum on Life, Culture & Society. He can be reached via his website.

Impressions.

Trump's Impossibly Pragmatic Peace Plan

BY MITCHELL BARD

The peace plan released by the president is the most sensible ever devised — and, simultaneously, the least sensible. Jared Kushner was right about two things: First, that all previous paradigms for pursuing peace failed; and second, that his team adopted a dramatically new one. As expected, a great hue and cry came from the Palestinians, the antisemites, Israel's critics, the Arab lobby, the failed peace processors, many liberal Jews, and Democratic presidential candidates. We are also hearing the usual specious doomsday predictions of a new intifada and the Arab/Muslim world erupting.

For those who haven't been paying attention, the Palestinians have been engaged in an intifada along the Gaza border for nearly a year, unrelated to anything Trump has done. The Palestinian leaders who have brought their people nothing but misery and refused deals that would give them a state in 94-97% of the West Bank are their usual splenetic selves.

Most of the Arab world, however, is unwilling to get worked up over the Palestinians. One critic, Elie Podeh, said Israel's ties with the Gulf states would suffer in the same paragraph where he admitted, "The UAE, Omani and Bahraini ambassadors took part in the launching of the plan and Saudi Arabia released a mild statement in response to the launch."

Similarly, contrary to fears about Jordan and Egypt, neither has any incentive to abandon their peace agreements with Israel. The Jordanian people, the majority of whom are Palestinian, may be upset, but the king must feel relieved that Trump didn't call for Jordan to become the Palestinian state.

One of the most ludicrous criticisms, also expressed by Podeh, is that the plan will "strengthen the positions of those refusing peace" and "weaken the moderates on the Palestinian side." What moderates? Is he seriously afraid the people who want to destroy Israel will now really, really want to destroy it?

The fact that the Palestinians threaten and the critics of the plan expect violence only underlines the Palestinians' intransigence. Why should the response be violence rather than diplomacy? Sadly, we've seen this before when Clinton proposed a state in 97% of the West Bank. Instead of offering a counter-proposal, the Palestinians launched the second intifada. What did that accomplish?

The most novel and important shift in the Kushner paradigm is to put the onus on the Palestinians. After decades of following the Arabist playbook of pressuring Israel (though presidents such as George W. Bush placed an onus on both sides), Trump is now saying the Palestinians must take a host of steps if they want statehood, that their expectations are unreasonable, and that Israel's claims are legitimate. It never made sense that the stronger party, which captured the territory in a defensive war, and that has legitimate political, historical, and religious claims to the West Bank, would be the one to make all the concessions.

The plan also allows for acting now to change the status quo rather than waiting for the Palestinians to agree to negotiate. Obama was the most pro-Palestinian president ever and he couldn't get Abbas to negotiate with Netanyahu, despite eight years of criticizing Israel, condemning settlements, and proposing statehood in most of the West Bank. The people who led that failed effort are among the

loudest critics of Trump. Unlike them, however, Trump will not allow progress to be held hostage by Palestinian intransigence.

Until now, the Palestinians have assumed that time is on their side. Meanwhile, the settlement population grew from 200,000 at the time Arafat rejected Clinton's deal to more than 450,000 today. Perhaps the annexation of the Jordan Valley and some or all of the settlements will finally disabuse them of this delusion.

Trump's vision of a Palestinian state would cover about 70% of the West Bank. This is sensible given the facts on the ground. Clinton recognized

the refugees would go, discusses limitations on how many could enter Palestine, threats posed by refugees hostile to Israel, and the need to resettle some refugees outside Palestine.

The pro-Israel right is upset about the plan giving the Palestinians any state at all, but this is again sensible. Given Israel's demographic dilemma, it cannot annex the entire West Bank. Hence, there is a need to provide the Palestinians there and in Gaza with self-rule. The plan recognizes the reality that more than four million Palestinians live in the area and are not going anywhere. As it is, 98% of Palestinians are already under the direct rule of their



Thousands of Palestinians in Ramallah protest against a social-security law established by the Palestinian Authority that has them concerned over the distribution of funds, Oct. 29, 2018. Photo: Nasser Ishtayeh/Flash90.

(and the Palestinians agreed) that Israel would not remove the large settlement blocs where about 80% of the Jews lived, and foresaw the Jews living outside them moving inside the negotiated border of Israel. Today, however, approximately 70% of the settlers live in the blocs and Israel would have to remove roughly 135,000 people. We saw how difficult it was to evacuate 9,000 from Gaza; there is zero chance Israel would or could remove 15 times that number.

Ceding the Jordan Valley to Israel is yet another recognition of reality. Going back to the Labor Party's Allon Plan (yes, long before Netanyahu was prime minister), Israel has always insisted it must control the valley to defend its eastern border.

Since the Israeli electorate rejected Ehud Barak's idea of dividing Jerusalem 20 years ago, it has been clear that Israel would insist on the city remaining unified, and that the Palestinians would not be given sovereignty in the Old City. If the Palestinians were to have a state, the capital would be where the Trump plan puts it, in Abu Dis, just outside the municipal boundary. Mahmoud Abbas agreed to just that solution in an agreement he negotiated with Yossi Beilin in 1995. The Palestinian parliament was built there and remains standing waiting for Palestinian legislators to fill it.

The plan also tells the Palestinians that their demand for the return of refugees to overrun Israel is another pipe dream. No Israeli government would ever accept it. Trump acknowledges the bogus criteria used by UNRWA to define refugees and, unlike previous plans that mostly ignored where

leaders. Now, if the terms of the deal are fulfilled, the Palestinian Authority could be recognized as a state.

The plan also places Israel's security concerns first, and recognizes the threat a Palestinian state could pose. Israel was never going to accept a state that was not demilitarized, or a plan that did not allow its forces freedom of action to interdict weapons transfers and respond to terror threats. The question is whether Israel could enforce this given its inability to completely prevent Hamas from obtaining weapons.

The positions outlined in the Trump plan are all sensible given the facts on the ground and the terms Israel can accept. What makes the whole plan the least sensible one is that it ignores the views of the Palestinians. Moreover, the UN and Europeans will try to sabotage it, and a Democratic president is likely to reverse it.

As I wrote before the plan was released, it will fail, but it has reset the baseline for negotiations. Instead of working from the assumption that Israel will withdraw from more than 90% of the West Bank, the starting point for talks will be 70%; and instead of contemplating a mass evacuation of settlers, only those in small, isolated settlements are likely to be in play. Jerusalem is off the table as are the refugees. Most important, the Trump plan introduces a degree of realism missing from prior initiatives that will hopefully carry over into the future.

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

Legal Notice.

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Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: LAW OFFICE OF MAARIA MAHMOOD, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 12/12/2019. 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: Law Office of Maaria Mahmood, PLLC 615 W. 186th street New York, NY 10033. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 1/10/17/24/31; 2/7/14

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: KING HI CLOTHES & ENTERTAINMENT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 04/08/2019. 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: Haakim Wasiym Bell P.O. Box 802 bronx, NY 10451. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 1/10/17/24/31; 2/7/14

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

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR BANC OF AMERICA ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2006-7, V. JEAN SCHICK A/K/A JEAN SHICK; ET AL. NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 21, 2018, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings, wherein WELLS FARGO BANK N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR BANC OF AMERICA ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2006-7 is the Plaintiff and JEAN SCHICK A/K/A JEAN SHICK; 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 February 20, 2020 at 2:30 pm, premises known as 615 HENDRIX ST, BROOKLYN, NY 11207: Block 4075, Lot 7: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN, COUNTY OF KINGS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 4267/2008. Doron Leiby, Esq. - Referee. RAS Boriskin, LLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff.
AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7

ADMINISTRATION CITATION File No. 2018-2423 SURROGATE'S COURT QUEENS COUNTY CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent, TO: The heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees of MARGARET FRIESON a/k/a MARGARET L. FRIESON, deceased, if living, and if any of them be dead to the heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence TOMMY C. FRIESON DIANE FRIESON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF QUEENS COUNTY A petition having been duly filed by SN SERVICING CORPORATION, as servicer for ELL 09-2009, LLC, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, who is domiciled at 323 Fifth Street, Eureka, California, 95501 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Queens County, at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435 on March 5, 2020 at 9:30 o'clock in the fore noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of MARGARET FRIESON a/k/a MARGARET L. FRIESON lately domiciled at 91-31 175th Street, Jamaica, New York 11432, in the County of Queens, State of New York, granting Limited Letters of Administration upon the estate of the decedent to Tommy C. Frieson, Diane Frieson, or any other distribute, or if they fail to qualify to the Public Administrator of Queens County, and if permitted to renounce the right to Letters, then to Petitioner's nominee Oscar Prieto upon duly qualifying, that the quality of the representative under the foregoing letters be limited to accepting service of process on behalf of the estate of the deceased in a foreclosure action on a first mortgage held by the petitioner, its successor and/or assigns, dated October 21, 1998 and recorded at Book 5087, Page 1052 in the Office of the Queens County Clerk on January 19, 1999 in the original principal balance of \$56,100.00, on the Decedent's real property located at 139-38 232ND STREET, LAURELTON, NY 11413. HON. PETER J. KELLY, Surrogate James Lim Becker, Chief Clerk Dated, Attested and Sealed, January 8, 2020. Name of John J. Ricciardi, Esq. Attorney for Petitioner: Gross Polowy, LLC Tel. No. 716-204-1700 Address of Attorney: 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 412, Westbury, New York 11590 Note: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed, you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you. 67694
AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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 SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Trustee for Nomura Asset Acceptance Corporation Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-AF2, Plaintiff AGAINST Roberto Martinez; Deborah Martinez; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated July 4, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 20, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 938 Herkimer 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 1714 Lot 12. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,100,693.49 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 504322/2014. Steven Naiman, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: December 20, 2019 67254
AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff AGAINST ABBEOLA AARON AKA ABBEOLA O AARON, ALVIN ASHBY, MARCIA CROAL, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated May 18, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on February 27, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 1091 E 96TH 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 Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 8184, LOT 31. Approximate amount of judgment \$412,546.22 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 501950/2012. LEONARD C. SPECTOR, ESQ., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 67335
AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/

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 SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Bruno Brancalone; Maria Brancalone; Robert Goldschmidt; Antonella Goldschmidt; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated July

LEGAL NOTICE

14, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 27, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 2051 West 10th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11223. 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 7096 Lot 62. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,227,564.11 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 15699/2013. Shmuel Taub, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: November 20, 2019 66817
AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Necta Dupuy; Frantzy Dupuy; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated October 18, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 27, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 8610 Avenue N, Brooklyn, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 8083 Lot 5. Approximate amount of judgment \$703,916.99 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 1128/13. Steven Naiman, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: January 15, 2020
AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/

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, 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)

LEGAL NOTICE

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-ARI, Plaintiff AGAINST Cheryl Williams a/k/a Cheryl E. Williams a/k/a Cheryl E. Dent a/k/a Cheryl E. 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 improve-

Continued on Page A10

Tradition.

Crossing the Sea



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

Our parsha begins with an apparently simple proposition:

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the land of the Philistines, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt prepared for battle. (Ex. 13:17-18)

God did not lead the people to the Promised Land by the coastal route, which would have been more direct. The reason given is that it



was such an important highway, it constituted the main path from which Egypt might be attacked by forces from the north-west such as the Hittite army. The Egyptians established a series of forts along the way, which the Israelites would have found impregnable.

However, if we delve deeper, this decision raises a number of questions. First: we see that the alternative route they took was potentially even more traumatic. God led them around by the desert road towards the Red Sea. The result, as we soon discover, is that the Israelites, when they saw the Egyptian chariots pursuing them in the distance, had nowhere to go. They were terrified. They were not spared the fear of war. Hence the first question: why the Red Sea? On the face of it, it was the worst of all possible routes.

Secondly, if God did not want the Israelites to face war, and if He believed it would lead the people to want to return to Egypt, why did the Israelites leave *chamushim*, "armed" or "ready for battle"?

Third: *if God did not want the Israelites to face war, why did He provoke Pharaoh into pursuing them?* The text says so explicitly. "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for Myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." (Ex. 14:4). Three times in this one chapter we are told that God hardened Pharaoh's heart (Ex. 14:4, 8, 17).

The Torah explains this

motivation of "I will gain glory for Myself." The defeat of the Egyptian army at the Sea would become an eternal reminder of God's power. "The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." Egypt may come to realise that there is a force more powerful than chariots, armies and military might. But the opening of our parsha suggested that God was primarily concerned with the Israelites' feelings – not with His glory or the Egyptians' belief. If God wanted the Israelites not to see war, as the opening verse states, why did He orchestrate that they witnessed this attack at the Sea?

Fourth: God did not want the Israelites to have reason to say, "Let us return to Egypt." However, at the Red Sea, they *did* tell Moses something very close to this:

"Was it because there were no

graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" (Ex. 14:11-12)

Fifth: God clearly wanted the Israelites to develop the self-confidence that would give them the strength to fight the battles they would have to fight in order to conquer the Holy Land. Why then did He bring about a state of affairs at the Sea where they had to do exactly the opposite, leaving everything to God:

Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." (Ex.14:13-14)

The miracle that followed has so engraved itself on Jewish minds that we recite the Song at the Sea in our daily Morning Service. The division of the Sea was, in its way, the greatest of all the miracles. But it did not contribute to Jewish self-confidence and self-reliance. *The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.* The Egyptians were defeated not by the Israelites but by God, and not by conventional warfare but by a miracle. How then did the encounter teach the Israelites courage?

Sixth: The parsha ends with

another battle, against the Amalekites. But this time, *there is no complaint on the part of the people*, no fear, no trauma, no despair. Joshua leads the people in battle. Moses, supported by Aaron and Hur, stands on a hilltop, his arms upraised, and as the people look up to Heaven, they are inspired, strengthened, and they prevail.

Where then was the fear spoken of in the opening verse of the parsha? Faced by the Amalekites, in some ways more fearsome than the Egyptians, the Israelites did not say they wanted to return to Egypt. The sheer silence on the part of the people stands in the strongest possible contrast to their previous complaints about water and food. The Israelites turn out to be good warriors.

So why the sudden change between the opening of our parsha and its close? In the opening, God is protective and miracle-working. At the close, God is more concealed. He does not fight the battle against the Amalekites; He gives the Israelites the strength to do so themselves. In the opening, the Israelites, faced by the Egyptians, panic and say that they should never have left Egypt. By the close, faced by the Amalekites, they fight and win.

What had changed?

The answer, it seems to me, is that we have perhaps the first recorded instance of what later became a key military strategy. In one of the more famous examples, Julius Caesar ordered his army to cross the Rubicon in the course of his attempt to seize power. Such an act was strictly forbidden in Roman law. He and the army had to win, or they would be executed. Hence the phrase, "to cross the Rubicon."

In 1519, Cortes (the Spanish commander engaged in the conquest of Mexico) burned the ships that had carried his men. His soldiers now had no possibility of escape. They had to win or die. Hence the phrase, "burning your boats."

What these tactics have in common is the idea that sometimes you have to arrange that there is no way back, no line of retreat, no possibility of fear-induced escape. It is a radical strategy, undertaken when the stakes are high and when exceptional reserves of courage are necessary. That is the logic of the events in this week's parsha that are otherwise hard to understand.

Before they crossed the Red Sea, the Israelites were fearful. But once they had crossed the Sea, there was no way back. To be sure, they still complained about water and food. But their ability to fight and defeat the Amalekites showed how profoundly they had changed. They had crossed the Rubicon. Their boats and bridges were burned. They looked only forwards, for there was no return.

Rashbam makes a remarkable comment, connecting Jacob's wrestling match with the angel to the episode in which Moses, returning to Egypt, is attacked by God (Ex. 4:24) and also linking this to Jonah on the stormy ship. All three, he says, were overcome by fear at the danger or difficulty

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE

Continued from Page A9

ments 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

REFEREE'S LEGAL NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff - against - RIFKY GRUNHUT, A/K/A RIVKY GRUNHUT et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on December 3, 2018. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction, in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on the 13th Day of February, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. 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, City of New York, County of Kings, State of New York. Premises known as 1139 42nd Street, Brooklyn, (City of New York) New York 11219. (Block: 5592, Lot: 64) Approximate amount of lien \$772,321.00 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 11902/2013. Mark Longo, Esq., Referee. Davidson Fink LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1700 Rochester, NY

that confronted them, and each wanted to escape. Jacob's angel, Moses' encounter and the tempest that threatened to sink Jonah's ship, were all ways in which Heaven cut off the line of retreat.

Any great undertaking comes with fear. Often we fear failure. Sometimes we even fear success. Are we worthy of it? Can we sustain it? We long for the security of the familiar, the life we have known. We are afraid of the unknown, the uncharted territory. And the journey itself exposes our vulnerability. We have left home; we have not yet reached our destination.

Continued on Page A7

LEGAL NOTICE

14614-1990 Tel. 585/760-8218 Dated: January 14, 2020 AJ; 2/7/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR PRETIUMMORTGAGE 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-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

Social.



Gwyneth Paltrow and Erel Margalit speak at an event in New York City, Feb. 3, 2020. Photo: Shahar Azran.

At Launch of New York Cyber Center, Gwyneth Paltrow Says She Would Like to Visit Israel

BY GARY SHAPIRO

Something that a Kabbalistic rabbi once told Gwyneth Paltrow has always stuck with the actress: "Jerusalem is the energetic center of the world. If a good deed is done in Israel, its power is amplified across the world."

Paltrow spoke as part of a fireside chat on Monday evening with Dr. Erel Margalit, the Israeli high-tech entrepreneur, who is founder and chairman of the Jerusalem-based global venture capital firm, Jerusalem Venture Partners (JVP). The occasion was the launch of the JVP International Cyber Center in Manhattan's SoHo district.

The center will help cybersecurity startups connect to investors, companies, business people, entrepreneurs and educational institutions in New York City.

The New York City Economic Development Corporation partnered with Jerusalem Venture Partners to bring the center into existence.

Women and business was one thread of Paltrow's conversation with Margalit.

The 47-year-old Paltrow, who is Jewish, said the data analytics team of her lifestyle company goop.com mainly consisted of women. And Margalit noted that half of the partners in his company were females.

Margalit said that, speaking as a father of three daughters, what Paltrow did as part of the #MeToo Movement was extremely courageous and had an effect on many people around the world.

Paltrow commented, "At the time I didn't know if speaking up was going to change the culture at all," she said, adding that it helped create boundaries in the workplace.

Paltrow stated, "It was time for the conversation to come to the forefront."

She was also struck by how many good men started to take inventory of their professional lives.

"They asked themselves questions like, 'Did I ever say or do something untoward?'" she said.

Margalit asked Paltrow about being an entrepre-

neur starting her company goop.com. She recalled that she initially "lacked confidence to anoint myself as a business person."

"I didn't try to monetize the company for a long time," she continued.

Margalit's conversation with Paltrow was part of a program that included remarks by James Patchett, president and CEO of the New York City Economic Development Corporation, and Vicki Been, deputy mayor for housing and economic development.

Margalit made the case for the need for the cyber center, which is already home to 28 start-ups. "If New York is the business center, it also needs cyber protection and can become technology hub of the world."

Margalit began JVP as the field of venture capital was taking off in Israel. JVP manages funds worth \$1.4 billion dollars.

"We created over 140 companies, had 12 IPOs on NASDAQ, and created some of the best companies Israel has to offer in technology and innovation," he said.

One major business success was helping arrange the \$4.8 billion sale of Chromatis to Lucent Technology in 2000.

Amid the crowd at Monday's event was Aaron Pollack of Nanit, an artificial intelligence-powered baby monitor that helps parents track their baby's sleeping and breathing motions. Its technical team is based in Tel Aviv while its business office is located in New York. He said that investor JVP had been "incredibly supportive and helpful."

Michael David, president of the New York-Israel Chamber of Congress, said, "We're the city of New York partnering with thought leadership from Israel. It's a win-win."

He added, "This is a modern version of being a light unto the nations."

Paltrow has never been to Israel before but said that she would like to visit the country.

This prompted Margalit to invite her to Israel, and he mentioned that the last sentence of the Passover Haggadah was "Next year in Jerusalem."

Jon Voight Voices Support for Netanyahu, Endorses New Middle East Peace Plan

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Hollywood legend and longtime pro-Israel activist Jon Voight voiced support on Sunday for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu in the country's general elections next month. He also cautiously endorsed the newly-unveiled United States plan for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

In exclusive comments to The Algemeiner, Voight called it the first such proposed deal "with feet on the ground."

He added, "It's the first one that's taken a respon-



Jon Voight. Photo: Screenshot.

sible approach. Much truth has been spoken in it and we have to accept the truth before we can make amends, and much harm has been done to Israel over the years. Many lies have been put in place and attacks have taken their toll. Much blood has been spilled."

The deal was announced by US President Donald Trump and Israel's Netanyahu at the White House last week. The plan envisions a demilitarized Palestinian state in much of the West Bank while preserving Israeli security control over the Jordan Valley and other strategic areas.

In endorsing Netanyahu in the upcoming election, the third in a twelve-month period, Voight said, "We send our prayers and we want people to know that Prime Minister Netanyahu loves his country as much as the people do. He will continue to protect Israel and the people of this Holy Land, for this is where Moses left his ring, his love for the people of Israel."

"So let us stand with Netanyahu as we have with the president of the US, President Trump," he declared, "for these men are men of honor, men of truth and men for the people of their countries. We ask all to see this truth. We ask all to open their hearts, and we say God bless all."

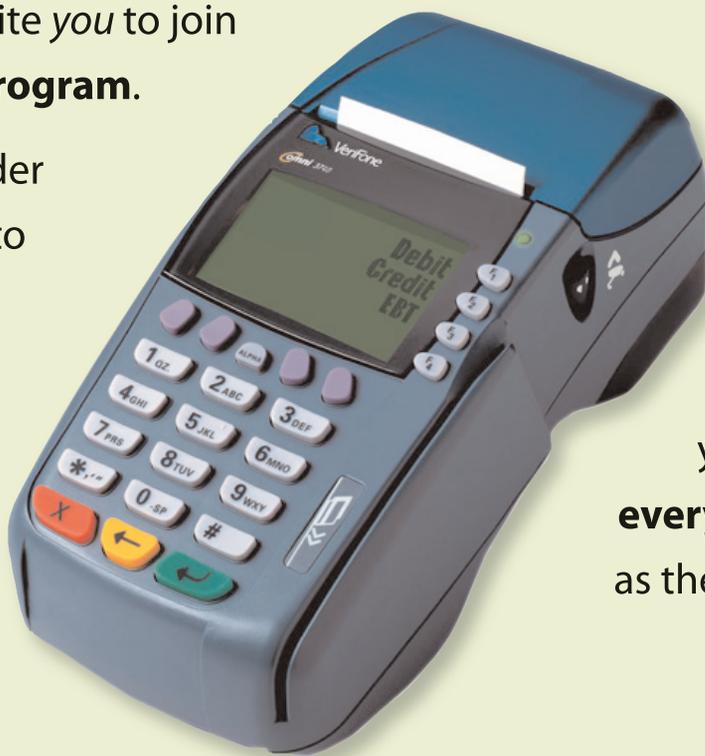
It's not the first time Voight has provided a political endorsement of Netanyahu. Ahead of voting in Israel in the March 2015 general election the father of Angelina Jolie also released a video voicing support for the veteran Israeli leader.

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