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## Netanyahu Defends 'Vigorous' Response to Anti-Israel UN Resolution



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.  
Photo: YouTube screenshot.

## Dermer: We Have 'Clear Evidence' Obama Arranged Passage of Anti-Israel UN Resolution

BY BARNEY BREEN-PORTNOY

Israel has "clear evidence" the Obama administration orchestrated the passage of the anti-Israeli settlement UN Security Council resolution on Friday, the Jewish state's DC envoy told CNN on Monday.

"We will present that evidence to the new [Trump] administration through the appropriate channels," Israeli



Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer. Photo: Screenshot.

BY BARNEY BREEN -PORTNOY

Israel is a country with national pride and we do not turn the other cheek," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Monday, as the Jewish state continued to institute punitive measures against the countries that backed the anti-settlement UN Security Council resolution

adopted on Friday.

The prime minister rebutted media criticism of the actions Israel has taken since then, saying, "This is a responsible, measured and vigorous response — the natural response of a healthy people that is making it clear to the nations of the world that what was done at the UN is unacceptable to us."

Furthermore, Netanyahu went on to say, "There is no alternative to a determined response

because it is, in effect, creating the basis for a different approach in the future. Therefore, to describe our protest as a world war is ridiculous. I suggest — enough of this Diaspora-think. I tell you that there is no diplomatic wisdom in being ingratiating. Not only will our relations with the nations of the world not be harmed, over time they will only improve because the nations of the world respect strong

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Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer said in an interview with CNN's Don Lemon. "And if they want to share it with the American people, they're welcome to."

Talking about what transpired on Friday — when the US abstained from voting on the resolution that was approved by a 14-0 margin — Dermer said, "It's an old story that the United Nations gangs up against Israel. What is new is that the United States did not stand up and oppose that gang up. And what is outrageous is that the United States was actually behind that gang up."

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## Reflections on Hanukkah

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### ShabbatCalendar

Parshat Mikerz  
פרשת מקץ

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting  
Shabbat Begins: 4:15pm | Shabbat Ends: 5:19pm



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## Opinion.

## The Shame of Aleppo



BERNARD-HENRY LÉVY  
PARIS, FRANCE

"The pyramid of martyrs haunts the earth." Remembering Aleppo, this line from René Char's wartime poem comes back to me like a slap in the face. And I feel shame.

Not for Vladimir Putin, that vulgar little czar, that kapo of a gangster state who, between photo shoots and displays of testosterone, sent his planes to bomb the ruins of a city: To him, Aleppo was nothing more than another theater for his furious narcissism, and he was just playing his role.

Nor for Bashar al-Assad, behind whose leaden silhouette lies the vilest, darkest, most craven soul of our time: Men of his sort long ago resigned from the human race; eventually he will have to answer to humanity for his crime.

No, I am ashamed of myself because I pleaded, cried in the wilderness, wrote countless columns and screeds — only to find myself face to face with my impotence, choking on my anger.

But I am also ashamed of you — of all of us — because today, at the close of 2016, there are still people who are treated as game, chased because they still have two arms, two legs, a head and have not yet been converted into the heaps of bone, gut and muscle that

the Syrian government and its allies seek to reduce them to; shame because, in the face of this cruel game, we have done next to nothing and had precious little to say.

I am ashamed because, on this earth, there are people who can no longer think or hope or love, people to whom all that is left is to tremble and run and then, the next day, to tremble and run again, people who have nothing but their own bodies with which to shield their children from the fire and gas that will soon consume them all. And, in the face of this spectacle, we are witnesses who will not even acknowledge that we are playing the game of "see no evil, hear no evil." Are we no longer moored to reality? Have we become habituated to the forced suffering of others? Do we see it as a circus in which, from the stands, we allow ourselves the guilty pleasure of watching the struggle of ordinary people, not gladiators, and forget to offer a thumbs up? Or is it just the relief one feels at being safe and warm at home, as the rain pelts down outside? Except, in this case, what is pelting down are bombs.

I am ashamed of the rote reports on the radio during the days of Aleppo's agony: the anesthetized commentary, the unvarying "analysis." I am ashamed of the apathetic experts, the pseudo-scholars ever careful not to betray a hint of anger or urgency. I am ashamed because there comes a moment when the redundant platitudes (death, death and more death) convert the speakers — and the listeners — into accomplices.

I am ashamed of the United Nations, whose resolution was introduced just as the curtain was falling, when little remained to be done but to count the dead and, soon enough, to sort the "refugees."

I am ashamed of this new League of Nations and its Chamberlains who chatter while, in Aleppo yesterday and in Idlib tomorrow, our brothers and sisters in humanity are blasted with bombs, riddled with bullets and drained of their blood.

I am ashamed of the cold Chinese and Russian monsters of the so-called Security Council who, as the planes leveled one neighborhood after another, block by block; as each target exploded and collapsed; as men, women and children clung together in a terrifying communion; and as the few who survived these oceans of blood were executed or sent off to torture chambers, had the audacity to veto the ceasefire resolution.

I feel shame and sadness for the others, those who tried to salvage some honor by delivering yet another speech of condemnation and indignation; I feel shame for the honorable ambassadors who tried, within the vile bunker that the UN's New York headquarters has become, to reach the icy men and prevent them, this time, from raising their plump little hands to say no, there's nothing wrong, really, with skewering or shredding tens of thousands of bodies.

What goes through the mind of a participant in such a process? Who feels the queasiest, the functionary of death who votes without qualm to continue the killing, or the man of good will who stands against it but must come to terms with failure? How does one live when, after a night spent watching the vetoers (that is, the bombers) block once again, in a ritual as rigid as a session of



Children in Aleppo during the bloody Syrian civil war. Photo: UN.

torture, your last appeal, you discover, as you make your way home in the early hours of the morning, that your step is heavy not from ordinary fatigue, but from the human pulp clinging to your sole or hem?

I feel the shame of Barack Obama and the "red line" policy that he abandoned on August 30, 2013, in a palinode that shocked his allies. Little did he realize how truly he had spoken: His line was indeed red — the red of a trail of blood.

I am ashamed of Donald Trump, who showed his colors even more clearly in declaring that those young people destined to die, those who, up to the last minute of the fall of the city, posted their reports on YouTube and somehow found the strength to send us their humble "thanks," will be objects of a deal — that was the word he used, a deal — with his buddy, Putin.

I am ashamed that a narrow majority of

Continued on Page A3



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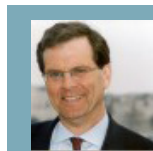
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## Do the Palestinians Really Want a State?



DAVID HARRIS  
NEW YORK

In all the focus on the December 23rd vote at the UN Security Council — where 14 nations supported a resolution critical of Israel, and the US broke with longstanding policy and abstained instead of vetoing the measure — the question of underlying Palestinian motives has not been addressed.

It should be. In fact, it's the key to the whole exercise.

First, the Palestinians have rejected one offer after another for a peaceful settlement in the past nearly 70 years. Second, and more tragically, their misguided actions now make any chance of an accord even less likely.

Friday's UN Security Council resolution is a case in point.

If the goal was to increase the chance of Palestinian statehood alongside Israel (and not in its place), the effort was an abysmal failure, despite the lopsided vote. Those diplomats who rushed to applaud the outcome — and I'll set aside that thuggish countries like Venezuela that don't bring a shred of good will to the table — should think twice about what they actually achieved.

If they wanted to excoriate Israel, a longstanding vocation of too many UN member states, then they can thump their chests. But for those truly committed to advancing prospects for peace, they took a big step backwards, once again falling into the Palestinian trap.

Three things should be abundantly evident by now.

First, while Israeli settlement-building is unquestionably a highly contentious matter, the core issue in the conflict has always been the refusal by the Palestinians and their supporters to recognize Israel's legitimacy and to negotiate in good faith towards a lasting peace deal. That was true in 1947-8, when a two-state solution was proposed by the UN; in 1967; in 2000-1; in 2008; during the 10-month (2009-10) settlement freeze that Israel adopted under Prime Minister Netanyahu in response to an American request; and in 2013-14, the most recent attempt at direct, bilateral talks facilitated by the US.

Evidence abounds for this consistent pattern of rejectionism. One particularly striking comment, as true now as then, came from an unlikely source. In 2003, the Saudi ambassador to the US was quoted in The New Yorker as saying: "It broke my heart that [PLO Chair] Arafat did not take the offer (of a two-state deal presented by Israel, with American support, in 2001). Since 1948,



Mahmoud Abbas addressing the UN. Photo: UN.

every time we've had something on the table, we say no. Then we say yes. When we say yes, it's not on the table anymore. Then we have to deal with something less. Isn't it about time to say yes?"

Instead of obsessively and relentlessly focusing only on Israeli actions, why aren't UN Security Council members asking the Palestinians to explain seven decades of avoiding a settlement of the conflict on terms satisfactory to both parties?

Second, the Palestinians clearly would rather avoid the bargaining table and seek instead to internationalize the conflict. That may produce some short-term victories, given that the UN is dominated by the Arab League, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement. But where has it gotten the Palestinians? Exactly nowhere — if, that is, the real aim is a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

To the contrary, this approach has only convinced many Israelis that the Palestinian leadership has no real interest in finding a solution, only in waging a struggle.

And third, shouldn't the responsible members of the international community push the pause button and look more closely at how peace might best be attained?

Israel has enduring treaties with Egypt and Jordan. In both cases, these were reached not through the UN, but rather via face-to-face talks. Israel made unprecedented territorial concessions of land it obtained in the 1967 war of self-defense, but it did so confident that Egyptian President Sadat and Jordan King Hussein had made sincere decisions to abandon war with the Jewish state.

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## World News.

# Report: 'Near-Euphoric' Palestinian Officials: 'UN Resolution Enables Boycott of Settlements, Anti-Israel Lawsuits at ICC

BY RUTHIE BLUM

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas reacted with "near-euphoria" to the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2334 — the Hebrew news site nrg reported on Tuesday — saying it "proves that the world rejects [Israeli] settlements as illegal, and [acknowledges] they were established on our occupied land, including east Jerusalem."

According to nrg, PA Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki said that, because of the resolution, "It will now be possible to impose a boycott on the settlements, and even employ legal sanctions against companies that work with [them]."

Al-Maliki, who nrg said is considered one of the PA's key promoters of international anti-Israel activity, specified a number of options that Friday's Security Council vote have made available, among them using the threat of personal lawsuits filed with the International Criminal Court in The Hague as leverage on Israeli decision-makers.

In interviews with the Palestinian press, Al-Maliki said, "We are working on shaping a vision that sees 2017 as the year of the end of Israeli occupation."

Al-Maliki's sentiments were echoed by Fatah Central Committee member Mohammad Shtayyeh, a former Palestinian negotiator and close adviser to Abbas, who was quoted by the Chinese news outlet Xinhua as saying that the PA intends to assemble a team to document Israeli land expropriation, settlement construction, the "illegal use of water resources... and other illegal Israeli uses of Palestinian territory."

Shtayyeh said that the team in question would be created with the help of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as part of the implementation of Friday's UN resolution. He also called on the international community to cooperate in the effort to "fight the settlements," by submitting periodic reports to the UN secretary-general and other means.

Shtayyeh went on to say that despite the fact that the Security Council resolution is not



PA President Mahmoud Abbas at the United Nations. Photo: UN.

binding, it was adopted according to Chapter 6 of the UN Charter, and thus opens the door to presenting a new anti-settlement resolution in the framework of Chapter 7, through which the Security Council can also decide to impose international sanctions on Israel. "The resolution enables us to implement an international boycott and encourages us to request that European countries to take steps against dual citizens who live illegal [areas]," he said.

Referring to the fact that the United States abstained from the 14-0 vote, Shtayyeh lauded the American administration for changing its tradition of vetoing [anti-Israel] UN resolutions and praised President Barack Obama for "offering something to the Palestinians" at the end of his term.

Shtayyeh continued: "Israel used to say that Jerusalem is its united capital, and that the 1967 borders are not the final borders, thereby claiming ownership of Palestinian territories, but now the world has determined otherwise." He then called on the European Union to view and adopt the French initiative as a "continental effort," and said that doing so would demonstrate that only multilateral negotiations can succeed — rather than the failed bilateral ones the US has promoted over the years.

In a reference to the harsh response the resolution elicited in Jerusalem — with Prime Minister Netanyahu reprimanding the countries that supported it — Shtayyeh concluded that the "insanity" exhibited in Israel's political corridors comes from a grasp of the significance of its adoption.

Dermer went on to say. "We are deeply disappointed by this decision that was made [by the Obama administration]."

Hasmoneans in a revolt against the Greeks, culminating with the miracle of the oil and the rededication of the Temple."

"The battles that took place as part of the revolt happened right here, on both sides of the 'Green Line,' in the hills of Modi'in," the prime minister noted. "The Hasmoneans purified the Temple and lit the menorah on the Temple Mount, which the same countries that supported the UN decision decided to call 'occupied Palestinian territory.'"

Netanyahu continued, "How is it possible to offer us best wishes for Hanukkah and at

# Israeli Defense Official: 180 Palestinian Shooting Attacks Across West Bank Thwarted in 2016



Israeli security forces at the scene where a Palestinian terrorist stabbed an IDF reserve officer in Judea and Samaria on Sept. 18, 2016. Photo: Gerson Elinson/Flash90.

BY JNS.ORG

Israeli security forces have foiled about 180 Palestinian shooting attacks across the West Bank in 2016, a senior defense official revealed Sunday.

The military and Shin Bet security agency have been collaborating closely to prevent such terrorist attacks, the official told the Hebrew news site Walla. According to the official, most of the terrorist cells behind the attacks were not affiliated with any major groups.

" Hamas is encouraging terrorist attacks, but these cells don't receive their orders from it. There's an atmosphere of violence, and

much of it is inspired by the Islamic State group and the terrorist attacks in Europe," the official said.

The Israeli defense establishment's data indicates that terrorist cells operating across the West Bank target Israel Defense Forces posts, as well as bus stops and hitchhiking stations. Terrorists also ambush Israeli vehicles traveling on the area's roads, or target them in drive-by shootings. Security forces have become more effective in dealing with this threat and "no longer try to cover large areas, but rather operate according to more focused intelligence and security assessments," the official told Walla.

*Continued from Page A2*  
**Aleppo**

those whom I must continue to call my fellow citizens appear to deem Assad — this killer with the face of your son-in-law, this assassin at first considered to be meek and mild, this man who, many thought, would not be king (let alone a tyrant), this modern version of Edward VIII, one who does not abdicate but stays on the throne and delivers his country to Hitler, this monstrous yuppie, this jet-setting Pol Pot — as the lesser of two evils when juxtaposed with ISIS.

I am ashamed of French presidential candidate François Fillon and those members of the Chamber of Deputies who insist on explaining to us, based on their sordid calculations of the value of lives, that the slaughter in Aleppo is part of the price we must pay to vanquish terrorism.

I am ashamed of all that because we no doubt have the television coverage, the public discourse, the representatives and the candidates that we deserve.

We are defeatists mistaking ourselves for people of peace.

We are sated Europeans too ready to disavow our own values as the first great crime against humanity of the 21st century, which is to say the first great crime against each and every one of us, rushes to its climax.

We are participants in a contemporary hecatomb, and, as was the case with the cries from the death camps a lifetime ago, few, so few, have found the courage to insist that we must make war against war and bomb the bombers.

The pyramid of martyrs indeed haunts the earth. And the earth groans under its weight. That is where we stand.

*Bernard-Henri Lévy — French philosopher, filmmaker, and activist; defender of Israel and of Jewish values — returns to New York on January 11 for a conversation with Charlie Rose at the 92nd Street Y. On the previous day, Random House will publish The Genius of Judaism, an English translation of Lévy's best-seller, L'Esprit du judaïsme.*

the same time deny our deep connection to the Western Wall in Jerusalem and other places in our land?"

"In spite of the opposition of the UN Security Council, we were here and we will remain here," he concluded.

In a Facebook post published on Tuesday, Netanyahu maintained his verbal assault on the UN, saying the global institution had "no legal justification for its decisions, only ignorance and malice."

*Continued from Page A1*  
**Arranged**

"I think it was a very sad day and really a shameful chapter in US-Israel relations,"

*Continued from Page A1*  
**Vigorous**

countries that stand up for themselves and do not respect weak ingratiating countries that bow their heads."

On Sunday, as The Algemeiner reported, Netanyahu said world leaders who issued Hanukkah greetings after supporting the "shameful" resolution do not understand the holiday's meaning.

The point of Hanukkah, Netanyahu explained in a message posted on his Facebook page, is to "remember the victory of the

## World News.



IDF soldiers during a drill. Photo: Wikipedia.

## 'City' of Military Training Bases Is Latest Game-Changer in Southern Israel

BY JUDY LASH BALINT/  
JNS.ORG

A not-so-quiet demographic and geographic revolution is taking place in Israel these days. After years of planning, concrete efforts are underway to shift populations — particularly educated and younger sectors of Israeli society — away from the overcrowded and overpriced center of the country. The new destination is the southern Negev region and its wide-open spaces, ushering in the 21st century version of pioneering Zionism.

The Israeli military will also be moving.

At the expansive new Israel Defense Forces (IDF) city of training bases that rises up out of the Negev on Route 40, base commander Col. Avi Motola explains how the region will be affected as the IDF closes old training bases scattered throughout Israel and centralizes training at this ultra-modern facility under his command. With 10,000 soldiers from every part of Israel's armed forces, the base — known in Hebrew as Ir HaBahadim and named for late Prime Minister Ariel Sharon — functions like a small town.

"They call me Mayor Motola," quips the commander as he encourages visitors to view the six dining halls, two synagogues, convention center, sports facilities, extensive housing, schools of medicine and military logistics, and a range of state-of-the-art simulator facilities that train combat medics and military drivers.

Training commander Major Kobi Assulin is responsible for what he calls "the most advanced training in the world to produce professional soldiers in the shortest time." The base uses an array of the latest high-tech educational techniques, taught by proficient soldier-teachers in their mid-20s.

The transient young inductees who complete their ultra-sophisticated training at the base will move on to regular service in combat units on all of Israel's battlefronts. It's the more mature career officers and training staffers who will have a role in changing the face of Israel's southern sector.

Motola points out that 65 percent of Israel's population currently lives in the center of the country, between Tel Aviv and Hadera. The city of Beersheva and the Negev region comprise around 60% of Israel's total land area, yet contain only 9% of the country's population. Traditionally, many Negev towns were perceived as downtrodden, "peripheral" areas.

"Encouraging high-level career personnel to come and populate the Negev is a great contribution to the country," Motola asserts.

Over the next five years, two additional

massive bases are expected to be completed in the Negev — one dedicated to intelligence, the other to communications. "The IDF ultimately sees itself relocating the majority of soldiers to the Negev," Motola says.

The need for support staff for the 10,000 soldiers — mainly consisting of food and maintenance services workers — will provide jobs for hundreds living in nearby towns like Yeruham. Building supplies and construction labor for the bases are also based in the Negev.

The ambitious initiative is based on the vision of Israeli founding father Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, who stated in 1955, "Israel's capacity for science and research will be tested in the Negev...and this effort will determine the fate of the state of Israel."

There are two main anchors of the current Negev plan, which was adopted into law by several Israeli government resolutions. The first was Resolution 546, passed in 2013, which called for the transfer of IDF bases to the Negev. The second was Resolution 5154, adopted a year earlier, which designated Beersheva as a "priority area in order to establish it as the Negev Regional Metropolis."

With the implementation of the plan and the leadership of a dynamic mayor, 45-year-old Ruvik Danilovich, Beersheva has undergone a swift transformation from a "dry, hot and neglected backwater" — as Ishay Avital, the city's foreign press liaison, describes it — to "the rising star of Israel."

The rise in Beersheva's fortunes is obvious to anyone visiting the city, with its hundreds of new high-rise apartment blocks, brand new River Park and amphitheater, new stadium, revitalized and restored Old City, new performance halls and 15 shopping malls.

But it's the Advanced Technologies Park that's the centerpiece of its economic revitalization. After the IDF moved its prestigious Computer Services Directorate to the Beersheva-based Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) in 2013, the foundation was set for a joint initiative between the Beersheva municipality and the university.

According to BGU spokesman Ehud Zion Waldoks, the three elements of academia, industry and the government/army led to a unique opportunity for a "collaborative research ecosystem." BGU's student body of 20,000 includes 8,000 engineering students, which will ultimately produce one-third of all the engineers in Israel. As a result, several prominent international companies — including Dell, T-Mobile, IBM and Oracle — have opened operations in Beersheva's Advanced Technologies Park, which is connected by a walkway to the university and

## Netanyahu: World Leaders Who Wished Us Happy Hanukkah After Backing 'Shameful' UN Resolution Don't Understand Holiday's Meaning

BY JNS.ORG

World leaders who issued Hanukkah greetings after backing the "shameful" anti-settlement UN Security Council resolution last week do not understand the holiday's meaning, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared on Sunday.

The point of Hanukkah, Netanyahu said in a message posted on his Facebook page, is to "remember the victory of the Hasmoneans in a revolt against the Greeks, culminating with the miracle of the oil and the rededication of the Temple."

"The battles that took place as part of the revolt happened right here, on both sides of the 'Green Line,' in the hills of Modi'in," the prime minister noted. "The Hasmoneans purified the Temple and lit the menorah on the Temple Mount, which the same countries

that supported the UN decision decided to call 'occupied Palestinian territory.'"

Netanyahu continued, "How is it possible to offer us best wishes for Hanukkah and at the same time deny our deep connection to the Western Wall in Jerusalem and other places in our land?"

"In spite of the opposition of the UN Security Council, we were here and we will remain here," he concluded.

As reported by The Algemeiner on Sunday, US Secretary of State John Kerry drew a flurry of ire and scorn in response to a Hanukkah greeting he tweeted on Saturday, less than 24 hours after the US allowed the resolution to pass.

A similar greeting posted by the White House on Twitter on Saturday also attracted a slew of responses critical of the American abstention from the Security Council vote.

## Conservatives From Around the World Convene in Jerusalem, Express Hope for 'Trump Administration

BY DEBORAH DANAN /JNS.

Conservative leaders from across the globe convened for a policy conference in Israel, where they expressed hope for a "new day" of "truth versus political correctness" under the Trump administration.

At this week's Jerusalem Leaders Summit at the Waldorf Astoria, where politicians from the Knesset, US Congress and the Indian and European parliaments discussed the state of conservatism, many speakers blamed "the Left" for using false rhetoric and stifling free speech.

Joel Anand Samy — co-founder of the International Summit Leaders think tank, which co-hosted the program — said the fight against this attitude would be the new battlefront for the 21st century.

US Rep. Dave Brat (R-Va.) blamed President Barack Obama and other American liberal leaders for failing to "define what the truth is," and said the administration's attitude has led to an increase in acceptable animosity toward Israel.

Soroka Hospital.

With Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's 2013 designation of Beersheva as "the cyber capital of the Eastern Hemisphere," the plan to implement that vision is forging ahead. The National Cyber Center, which will integrate the cyber industry with cutting-edge research and development as well as a strong academic base, is expected to be operational in Beersheva within the next few years.

Foreign press liaison Avital notes the substantial foreign interest in Beersheva from countries like Taiwan and China, in addition to the significant outside investment pouring

Mischaël Modrikamen, the leader of Belgium's People's Party, said similar problems plague Europe, where matters of national security must include honest conversation about Islam and immigration, but "leaders don't say things as they are."

Modrikamen also criticized his fellow Belgian politicians for routinely condemning Israel for a litany of perceived crimes — including Jewish settlement activity and a "disproportionate response" to Palestinian terrorism — before quickly turning to Israeli intelligence for advice on how to improve transportation security, following the deadly March 2016 Islamist bombings at a Brussels airport and metro station.

"This is pure hypocrisy," he said.

Talk of a "revolution" — which began with the United Kingdom's Brexit vote to leave the European Union, and continued with Trump's surprise US presidential election win and the rise of right-wing political parties in Europe — was echoed by various speakers at the Jerusalem summit.

into the city.

"There are Israeli and foreign investors, and it's not just out of Zionism — it's very good business," says Avital.

Both Avital and Waldoks believe that forward-thinking development will encourage college graduates to remain in Beersheva. In fact, the city's population is already one of the youngest in Israel, with more than 50% of residents under age 40.

"Bibi mentions Beersheva all the time," Avital says. "Like him, we believe the future of Israel is here."

## U.S. News.

## Ex-State Department Negotiator: Everyone Loses From Obama Administration's Abstention From Vote

BY BARNEY BREEN-PORTNOY

The Obama administration's decision to abstain from Friday's UN Security Council vote on an anti-Israeli settlement resolution was "ill-timed" and "ill-advised," a former US State Department Middle East negotiator told *The Algemeiner* on Sunday.

"I can't divine a single positive element of consequence of this resolution," Aaron David Miller — a vice president at the Wilson Center think tank in Washington, DC and a CNN global affairs analyst — said. "I don't think it's going to lead to anything of real value and it will create all



Former State Department Middle East negotiator Aaron David Miller.  
Photo: Wilson Center.

kinds of problems."

Furthermore, Miller said, "there are very clear losers here."

"The Palestinians will lose because I think this will likely accelerate settlement building, no constrain it," Miller explained. "And [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu lost, because he failed to stop the resolution despite deploying both President-elect [Donald] Trump and [Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah] el-Sisi, who I suspect he has embarrassed mightily. And I think that's going to create the perception that in fact Netanyahu's whole effort to legitimize the settlement enterprise has not succeeded."

As for the Obama administration, Miller said "they are getting hammered mercilessly" over the resolution, and the US Congress is threatening to defund the UN.

Miller downplayed the notion that President Barack Obama decided to abstain from the vote because of a "personal animus" against Netanyahu. Instead, he believes Obama saw this as a last chance to "put himself on record" as stating that the "settlements are a problem and [Netanyahu] never got the memo."

However, Miller said there is still a "second shoe to drop" before Obama vacates the White House, in the form of a speech by Secretary of State John Kerry on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, which could be delivered as soon as this week.

"I think it will be an effort to lay out American views on elements of a two-state solution and what each side has to do to create an environment for serious negotiations," Miller said. "Whether or not it will break new ground of any substance, I don't know."

In any case, according to Miller, Kerry's speech "won't change anything."

"The reality is the Israeli-Palestinian peace process is not ready for prime time," he said. "It's missing several key ingredients and unless those ingredients are restored, it's hard to imagine that this is going to go anywhere other than south."

Once Trump takes office on Jan. 20, Miller pointed out, he "can't reverse the Security Council resolution, but he can certainly through his actions and political statements basically walk away from it."

"I think this may well prompt the Trump administration to go ahead with what it was inclined to do anyway, which is to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem," Miller continued.

Turning to the controversy surrounding Trump's recent pick of attorney David Friedman to serve as the next US envoy to Israel, Miller said, "American ambassadors generally don't guide and direct US foreign policy. It's usually the other way around. And I suspect once [Secretary of State nominee Rex] Tillerson and [Secretary of Defense nominee James] Mattis get into this, Friedman's voice may be muted somewhat."

"The Trump administration has to figure out what its policies regarding the Israeli-Palestinian issue will be," Miller continued. "So far, all we have is inclinations and proclivities. Governing is about choosing, and the question is what kind of choices the Trump administration is going to make."

Continued from Page A2  
Palestinians

Every poll in Israel has shown that a majority of Israelis are supportive of a two-state accord with the Palestinians, but, at the same time, deeply skeptical of Palestinian sincerity. And why shouldn't Israelis have doubts? Palestinian Authority President Abbas, in the 11th year of his four-year term, talks out of both sides of his mouth, claiming he wants a deal, but then resorting to incitement, refusing to sit down with Israeli leaders, trying to corner Israel diplomatically and presiding, if that's the term, over a deeply divided West Bank-Hamas polity.

Instead of infantilizing and coddling the Palestinians, isn't it time to see their actions for what they truly are, and to help create conditions for tangible progress?

When Palestinian leaders emerge who grasp the legacies of President Sadat and King Hussein, extend the front, not the back, of their hand to Israel, and recognize that the legitimate concerns of Israelis must also be addressed in the peace process, then they will find a willing partner. Given his hawkish political background, Menachem Begin may have seemed an improbable candidate to evacuate the vast buffer space, oil deposits, and air force bases of Sinai — but he did so to the last grain of sand for the sake of peace with Egypt.

In other words, history lessons abound, even if history students don't appear to be in overabundance at the UN these days.

Friday's vote at the UN Security Council will be remembered as a Pyrrhic victory for the Palestinians — and a step backward in the quest for Israeli-Palestinian peace.

# WARNING



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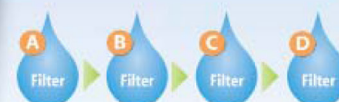
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## Opinion.

## Obama's Self-Defeating Settlements Policy



YORAM ETTINGER  
TEL AVIV

President Barack Obama's collaboration with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2334, which condemns Israel's settlements policy, has defied history and reality, injuring the peace process and US national security.

While President Obama greets the Jewish people upon Hanukkah, which commemorates the victory of the Maccabees in a series of heroic battles in the crux of the land of Israel, the mountain ridges of Judea and Southern Samaria – Beth El, Beth Horon, Hadashah, Beth Zur, Ma'aleh Levona, Adora'yim, Elazar, Beit Zachariya and Ba'al Hatzor – he contends that these are "occupied lands." When Shimon the Maccabee (who succeeded Judah and Jonathan) was confronted with such a contention, he responded: "We have not occupied a foreign land; we have not ruled a foreign land; we have liberated the land of our forefathers from foreign occupation."

President Obama's and the State Department's support of UNSCR 2334 undermines the peace process and US national security interests in the following manner:

1. It provides a tailwind to the UN demand to halt Israeli construction in Judea and Samaria, while encouraging the thirty-time-larger Arab construction there; an attempt to prejudice and force – not negotiate – a solution.

2. It dis-incentivizes Arabs to negotiate, since they expect further global pressure on

Israel. Thus it undermines direct negotiation, which is the most effective way to advance peace, as documented by the Israel-Egypt and Israel-Jordan peace accords. On the other hand, the litany of US and international peace initiatives failed due to attempts to force a solution and bypass direct negotiation.

3. Just like previous US and international initiatives, this too radicalizes the Arabs, forcing them to outflank the US and the globe from the maximalist side, escalating their expectations and demands – thus, further reducing prospects of resolving the highly complicated peace process.

4. Experience proves that placating and appeasing the Palestinians – as highlighted by the 1993 Oslo Accord and the 2005 uprooting of all Jewish settlements from Gaza – has intensified terrorism, hate-education and violation of agreements, in addition to three wars erupting from Gaza.

5. Peaceful coexistence, on the one hand, and the uprooting of Jewish or Arab communities, on the other, constitute an oxymoron. If 450,000 Jews, among 1.8 million Arabs in Judea and Samaria constitute an obstacle to peace, are the 1.75 million Arabs among 6.6 million Jews within pre-1967 Israel an insurmountable impediment to peace?! The belligerent rejection of Jewish presence/settlements (since the 1920s!) reflects the chief Palestinian concern: the existence, not the size, of the Jewish state.

6. Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria are legal under international law. UNSCR 2334 violates the 1993 Oslo Accord and the 1967 UNSCR 242, which do not prohibit Jewish construction in Judea and Samaria. In fact, 242 requires Israeli withdrawal "from territories," not "from all the territories." In 1979, Israel withdrew from



Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon  
Photo: Screenshot.

the Sinai Peninsula; 90% of "the territories." Moreover, in the 1948 and 1967 wars, Israel acted defensively in the face of Arab aggression, while possessing a valid title over the land west of the Jordan River as allotted to the Jewish state by Article 80 of the UN Charter that incorporated the 1922 Mandate for Palestine, and entrusted Britain to establish a Jewish state in the entire area west of the Jordan River. In Article 80's own words, the British were "[to] encourage...close settlement by Jews on the land..." According to same article, which supersedes the 1947 UN General Assembly recommended Partition Plan, the 1967 war of self-defense returned Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria to its legal owner, the Jewish state. The 1949 Jordanian belligerent occupation of Judea and Samaria violated the Mandate for Palestine, and was recognized only by Britain and Pakistan.

7. Are the Jewish settlements an obstacle to peace? Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria were erected after the 1967, 1956 and 1948 wars, the 1964 establishment of the PLO, the 1929 decimation of Hebron's Jewish community, and the uprooting of the Jewish communities of Gush Etzion, in Judea and Samaria, in the 1920s, '30s and '40s.

8. UNSCR 2334 enhances the profile of the UN – which is inherently anti-American, irrespective of the \$2.4 billion the US provides the UN each year, constituting 22% of the international body's budget – thus undermining US national security. For example, 95% of the UN member states that receive US foreign aid, vote against the US most of the time.

9. The 1967 UNSCR 242 – which was unanimously adopted in the aftermath of the Six Day War – does not refer to a "two state solution." Is it in the US interest to establish another Palestinian state (in addition to Gaza),

against the backdrop of the performance of Gaza; the tectonic Arab Tsunami (more commonly known as the "Arab Spring"); the well-documented Palestinian track record of collaboration with anti-American boys, from Nazi Germany, to the USSR, North Korea, Iran, Cuba, Venezuela, China and modern Russia; the Palestinian subversion in Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon; the Palestinians' active collaboration with Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait; and the institutionalized K-12 education of hate, incitement, terrorism, repression, corruption and the persecution of Christians (e.g., a 86% Christian majority in Bethlehem in 1950 has been transformed into a 12% minority in 2016!)?

10. Is it in the US interest to reduce Israel to a 9-to-15-mile-wide sliver along the Mediterranean? Should Israel concede the mountain ridges of Judea and Samaria – which would transform Israel from a national security producer, extending the strategic arm of the US, to a national security consumer; from a strategic asset to a strategic liability/burden; from the largest US aircraft carrier with no US boot on board to a light boat?

11. Are the national security of the US, and Middle East stability, well-served by focusing on Jewish settlements and the Palestinian issue – which is not the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Arab policy making and Middle East turbulence – while all pro-US Arab regimes are facing lethal threats (and benefiting from Israel's posture of deterrence), and the Middle East is burning, featuring an unprecedented number of fatalities and refugees, due to factors which are totally unrelated to the Palestinian issue and settlements: the megalomaniacal Iran's Ayatollahs, the Arab Tsunami, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Islamic terrorism, etc.?

In 1977, Prime Minister Menachem Begin replied to a request by President Jimmy Carter to freeze Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria: "Why is it permitted for a Jew to settle in Bethel or Shiloh in the USA, towns named after places in Judea and Samaria, but forbidden to build in the original Shiloh or Beth El?"

US national security and the peace process will be well-served by avoiding gross misperceptions and misrepresentations, as reflected by the current US policy and the State Department bureaucracy, which enabled UN Security Council Resolution 2334.

*Ambassador (ret.) Yoram Ettinger, lives in Jerusalem, Israel, and is the author of "Second Thought: US-Israel Initiative." A version of this article originally appeared in Israel Hayom.*

## Amazon Video Overlooks Muslim Partners' Radical Dogma

JOHN ROSSOMANDO  
NEW YORK

Heartwarming images of friendship between an Anglican priest and a Muslim imam fill an ad campaign produced by *Amazon.com* – in partnership with Muslim and Christian groups from the US and UK – which debuted before Thanksgiving.

The groups involved include the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), the Church of England and the Christian Muslim Forum.

All of this would be fine, were it not for the extremist and Islamic supremacist views that *Amazon's* Muslim partners have expressed in the past, including both anti-Christian and antisemitic sentiments, and remarks trumpeting their own dangerous brand of Islam.

*Amazon* did not respond to a request for comment from the Investigative Project on Terrorism.

The ad opens with a Christian clergyman inviting an imam into his living room. The two older men chat comfortably over a cup of tea, each grimacing with knee pain as they stand to say goodbye. The two men then go online and order knee braces as gifts for each other, and the ad ends with the clerics donning the braces before confidently kneeling in prayer.

The actors are an actual imam and Church of England priest, according to *The Guardian*.

"In an era of division and disharmony, Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) is proud to have worked with *Amazon*, along with other faith-based organizations, on its ad for *Amazon Prime*. This ad goes beyond its objective of selling a product and highlights true friendship and caring, despite religious and racial backgrounds," ICNA's Sisters Wing USA said in a Nov.17 Facebook post.

*Amazon* founder Jeff Bezos praised his company's marketing department on Twitter: "Love this TV commercial for *Amazon Prime*. Very proud of our ad team."

*Amazon* also partners with ICNA through the *AmazonSmile* program, in which Prime members can donate to any of nearly

one million charities – a list that includes ICNA – which receive 0.5% of their purchases.

#### Extremist Views

ICNA retains a strong spiritual connection with Islamist pioneer Sayyid Abul A'la Maududi, the founder of the radical South Asian Islamist group Jamaat-e-Islami, from which ICNA's founders drew inspiration.

Maududi's works remain on ICNA's reading lists. Its Sacramento chapter recommends Maududi's *Let us Be Muslims* to high school students for its Young Muslims Islamic Quiz. The book has strong anti-Christian overtones, saying that the religion is made up of a "hopeless mess of meaningless doctrines and empty rituals which could neither elevate the spirit, illuminate the intellect, nor move the emotions." It also claims that Christianity degenerated into "the lap of paganism."

Back in 2012, ICNA's "Quiz on Competition on Islamic Knowledge and Skills" tested 11th and 12th graders on their knowledge of Maududi's book, *Towards Understanding Islam*, which is published on ICNA's Youth website.

In chapter seven, "The Principles of the

Shari'ah," Maududi writes: "The greatest sacrifice made in the way of God is jihad. In it man sacrifices not only his own life and belongings, but destroys those of others as well. But the Islamic principle is that we should suffer a lesser loss in order to save ourselves from a greater one. What comparison would the loss of some lives – even if it were thousands or more be to the calamity that would befall mankind as the result of the victory of evil over good."

In another book, *Jihad in Islam*, Maududi argues that Muslims should destroy "all states and governments anywhere on the face of the earth which are opposed to the ideology and programme of Islam regardless of the country or the Nation which rules it."

ICNA's Southern California chapter also recommends books by Islamist spiritual leader Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi and Muslim Brotherhood ideologue Sayyid Qutb. The former has praised Hitler for killing Jews during the Holocaust and, according to the 9/11 Commission Report, the latter had a strong influence on Osama bin Laden's thinking.

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## Opinion.

# Campus Antisemitism: The Year in Review



KENNETH L. MARCUS  
NEW YORK

This has been an extraordinarily eventful year in the campaign against campus antisemitism, especially from our perspective at the Louis D. Brandeis Center. On the one hand, Jewish students face a worsening climate. This year, an AMCHA Initiative study showed a 45% increase in campus antisemitism during the first half of 2016 as compared with the first half of 2015.

On the other hand, we also see increasing awareness of both alt-right and left-wing forms of antisemitism. The fight back has been increasingly successful. Various indicators suggest, for example, that the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement is reeling in the face of repeated losses. Unfortunately, we have seen anti-Israel protesters focus instead on disrupting pro-Israel events and harassing Jewish pro-Israel students.

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on extraordinary challenges, hard-fought battles, major successes, occasional setbacks and hope for renewed success in the coming year. Here are 10 of the best, worst, memorable, frustrating and gratifying developments of the last 12 months.

## 1. California Regents Condemn Antisemitic Anti-Zionism



An anti-Israel demonstration at Berkeley. Photo: Screenshot.

In March, the Board of Regents of the University of California adopted formal "Principles Against Intolerance," in response to reports of antisemitic incidents on California campuses. The Regents' "Principles" famously featured this landmark pronouncement: "Antisemitism, antisemitic forms of anti-Zionism and other forms of discrimination have no place at the Univer-

sity of California." As former UC President Mark Yudof observed, this is the first time that a public university has said this. I was pleased to serve, together with the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Rabbi Marvin Hier, as one of two national antisemitism experts to the Regents' Task Force. While the "Principles" may not be as specific and detailed as some of us might have liked, they have been a major step forward in public awareness of the forms that antisemitism takes in the 21st century. The AMCHA Initiative also deserves credit for this success.

## 2. We Sue the American Studies Association

In April, the Brandeis Center's legal team filed a landmark federal anti-BDS lawsuit against the American Studies Association (ASA). The complaint, which is still pending, seeks to enjoin the association's infamous anti-Israel boycott. As Forbes columnist George Leef observed, "[W]hat people should not... be free to do is to dragoon non-profit scholarly associations into their political battles against Israel (or anything else for that matter). But that is just what has occurred with the stance taken by the American Studies Association in favor of boycotting Israeli universities." One immediate result of the lawsuit: The underhanded tactics of BDS leaders have now come to light, as explained in this article by Harvard Law Professors Jesse Fried and Berkeley Law Professor Steven Davidoff Solomon. The firms of Marcus & Auerbach and Barnes & Thornburg also deserve credit for their central role in this litigation. In addition, we are pleased

that members of the American Anthropological Association rejected a BDS resolution shortly thereafter, based in part on a desire to avert litigation. We recently warned the Modern Language Association that their proposed BDS resolution could subject them to liability as well.

## 3. Congressmen Admonish the Education Department

reality, Muslim Brotherhood gangs carried out those attacks following Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi's downfall. Muslim Brotherhood leader Ragheb Elsergany called for violent jihad against Israel at the 2009 MAS-ICNA Convention and returned two years later to call for the Jewish state's destruction.

Amazon also failed to vet the MCB, which has close ties with the Muslim Brotherhood and strongly supported Hamas' European fundraising outlet, Interpal.

In 2009, Britain's Labour government cut off ties with the MCB for a year after its leaders signed a pro-Hamas declaration.

As recently as 2014, MCB's Secretary General Farooq Murad served as a trustee of

Continued on Page A10

Also in April, after a member-level briefing with the Bipartisan House of Representatives Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism, eight members of Congress signed a letter to US Department of Education Secretary John King, Jr., urging the Department to address antisemitic bias on college campuses more effectively. Kudos to the Taskforce co-chairs: Reps. Nita Lowey (D-NY), Peter Roskam (R-IL), Ted Deutch (D-FL), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chris Smith (R-NJ), Eliot Engel (D-NY), Kay Granger (R-TX) and Steve Israel (D-NY). I was joined at the briefing by Hillel International President Eric Fingerhut and Melanie Goldberg, the founding student president of the Brandeis Center's chapter at Cardozo Law School. The Task Force briefing laid the groundwork for reforms that would ultimately be written into the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act.

## 4. Anti-Israel Activists Shut Down Irvine Film and Harass Jewish Students

In May, UC Irvine undergraduate (and Brandeis Center client) Eliana Kopley found herself separated from the other Jewish students, physically blocked from joining them and then hunted down as she sought to escape. She had been attending a screening of the film, *Beneath the Helmet*, with other students. Dozens of anti-Israel protesters banged on the windows and doors of the building in which the film was shown, blocking the exit, and chanting, "Intifada, Intifada," "IDF, you can't hide, we charge you with genocide," "Displacing people since '48, there's nothing here to celebrate," "F\*\*\* the police" and "All white people must die." When Eliana left the building, three people followed after her until she fled to safety. At the Brandeis Center's urging, UCI found its chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine responsible for violating UCI Code of Conduct § 102.13, which prohibits "disruption or obstruction of...University activities." This was an important step, as was UCI's issuance of a formal warning against SJP. In the future, UCI must do much more to address such problems. This will be especially important in light of the trend of anti-Israel activists attempting to disrupt and shut down pro-Israel speakers, films and events.

## 5. Mayor Nir Barkat Is Silenced at San Francisco State University

That same month, Mayor Nir Barkat of Jerusalem was scheduled to give a lecture at San Francisco State University at the invitation of San Francisco Hillel. Roughly two dozen anti-Israel activists disrupted the mayor's presentation just a few minutes into the speech, entering the room and loudly chanting, "Intifada, Intifada, Long live the Intifada," "From the River to the Sea, Palestine Will be Free" and, finally, "Get the hell off our campus!" After at least 40 minutes of loud chanting, the protesters succeeded in shutting down the event, cheering as Mayor Barkat left the room. The Brandeis Center, and other groups, urged Chancellor Lesley Wong to take action. Chancellor Wong promised to revise his university's policies for addressing such protests, and to be more assertive about enforcement. Chancellor Wong must do more in the future.

## 6. BDS Activists Harass Milan Chatterjee

In September, UCLA Graduate Student Association (GSA) President Milan Chatterjee, a Hindu student, announced that he was transferring from UCLA Law School to New York University Law School as a result of harassment from anti-Israel student activists. They had harassed and threatened him for enforcing the GSA cabinet's neutral stance on BDS. When Milan refused to back down, they tried to get him impeached. We joined the American Jewish Committee and others in advising him. Working with the Brandeis

Center's law school chapter, we wrote to the GSA Forum successfully opposing his impeachment. Nevertheless, it is understandable that Milan no longer felt comfortable at the institution in which he had served in a significant student leadership role. UCLA Law School's loss is New York University's gain.

## 7. Oberlin College Fires Infamous Anti-Israel Professor

In November, Oberlin College announced that they would finally fire a notorious anti-Israel professor. We had strongly criticized Oberlin President Marvin's Krislov's initial failure to act in response to Karega's antisemitic and anti-Israel social media posts. In the wake of this controversy, Krislov announced his resignation. We visited the campus twice to deal with this situation and have had productive conversations with President Krislov, his staff and many Oberlin students and alumni. We wish Oberlin College, President Krislov and Oberlin's many bright students and faculty well as they move beyond this debacle.

## 8. Ohio Passes Anti-BDS Legislation

In December, Ohio Governor and former Republican presidential candidate John Kasich became the 17th governor to sign an anti-BDS bill into law. The Ohio bill prohibits state agencies from contracting with any company that is boycotting or disinvesting from Israel. Brandeis Center Senior Staff Attorney Jennie Gross had testified in front of the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee in support of the bill on December 6, and I had testified in support of the bill before the Ohio Assembly earlier in the year, together with Hillel President Eric Fingerhut. The Ohio Jewish Communities' Howie Beigelman deserves great credit for this success.

## 9. The US Senate Passes the Antisemitism Awareness Act

Also in December, the US Senate displayed extraordinary bipartisanship in passing, by unanimous consent, the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act of 2016. Senators Tim Scott (R-SC) and Bob Casey (D-PA) had introduced this landmark bill to combat increasing incidents of antisemitism on college campuses. The bill would direct the Department of Education to consider the State Department's definition of antisemitism – which includes manifestations of antisemitic anti-Israelism – in determining the "intent" involved in alleged antisemitic incidents. The proposed legislation would adopt the primary public policy recommendation in my new book, *The Definition of Anti-Semitism* (Oxford University Press: 2015) and the briefing that we provided to the Congressional Task Force several months before. Unfortunately, time ran out before the House of Representatives was able to act on this bill this term, but we expect that it will be reintroduced next year.

## 10. Law Students Stand Up to Campus Antisemitism

Throughout 2016, law students have fought-back more effectively against campus antisemitism than ever before. In March, Harvard Law Students formed the eighteenth ("Chai") chapter of the Louis D. Brandeis Center. They quickly established themselves with a number of speaker and panel events educating the Harvard community about the legal tools necessary to fight global antisemitism and anti-Israelism. The Brandeis Center remains the only national organization that establishes law school chapters to defeat antisemitism and anti-Israelism. However, these eighteen student chapters are now providing an increasingly effective counterweight to such anti-Israel organizations as Students for Justice in Palestine, Palestine Legal and the National Lawyers' Guild. These students reflect our hope for the future.

Continued from Page A6  
Amazon

Like Maududi and Qaradawi, who argue for the establishment of an Islamic state ruled by shariah law, ICNA's 2010 Member's Hand Book teaches that the group's ultimate goal is to unite all Muslims under a single Islamic state ruled by a Caliph.

Additionally, ICNA's annual conventions held jointly with the Muslim American Society (MAS) have featured numerous sectarian, hate-filled speakers. These include Jordanian professor Amjad Quourshah, who posted a screed on his Facebook page in August 2013 claiming that Coptic Christians in Egypt burned down their own churches, when, in

## Impressions.

### At Jerusalem Dedication of Ancient Street, Israel Strikes Defiant tone on UN Resolution

BY JNS.ORG

In the wake of the Dec. 23 United Nations Security Council vote against Israeli settlements, the city of Jerusalem dedicated a symbolic street from ancient times Tuesday. The street will soon be opened to the public.

At an event marking the beginning of events for the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Jerusalem, officials showed off a plaque on “Pilgrim’s Way,” which is currently being excavated in the City of David by the Israel Antiquities Authority. The 2,000-year-old site was one of Jerusalem’s main streets in the later Second Temple period. The roadway, built in the Herodian period, begins at the Siloam Pool and ends below the steps at Robinson’s Arch at the Western Wall. Pilgrims would plunge in the pool and then ascend the temple.



A view of the City of David in Jerusalem. Photo: Joe Freeman via Wikimedia Commons.

“Mr. President Barack Obama, I am standing here, on Chanukah 5777, on the route on which my forefathers walked 2,000 years ago,” Israeli Culture and Sports Minister Miri Regev said during the dedication.

“No resolution in any international forum is as strong as the steadfast stones on this street. No other people in the world has such a connection and link to its land, neither in Senegal, New Zealand, Ukraine nor Malaysia,” she said, referring to the four countries that brought the U.N. resolution to the Security Council after Egypt backed down from doing so at the urging of President-elect Donald Trump.

Regev added, “1,900 years after the Great Revolt against the Romans the paratroopers entered through Lion’s Gate and realized the eternal dream of the Jewish People, the dream of Jews in Yemen, Ethiopia, Poland, Morocco and Russia—to return to Jerusalem, the capital of the Jewish People, the symbol of sanctity and justice. Fifty years ago, we turned hope into reality: Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, was once again united, and we will never agree to its being divided a second time.”

Also attending Tuesday’s ceremony were Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, Knesset members and former IDF paratroopers Dr. Itzik Yifat, Tzion Karsenty and Chaim Oshri, who were among those who liberated Jerusalem’s Old City in 1967.

### Reflections on Hanukkah and Miracles

BY JEREMY ROSEN

Why do miracles happen sometimes and not others? Is it because we deserve them?

Many rabbis like to claim that when bad things happen, it is only because we have done something to deserve it. So why do horrible things happen to, say, newly born children who couldn’t possibly have done anything to deserve it? Why are millions of innocent children murdered? Why were pious, learned, charitable people hacked to death in a Jerusalem synagogue as they prayed to God? Were they punished for being Jews? Or were the hundreds of thousands of women, children and men of Aleppo tortured, raped, bombed, gassed and killed for being the wrong sort of Muslim? It is too facile to think that God works that way.

Some will tell you that it has to do with the gilgulim, the transmigration of souls and punishment for earlier crimes. Such irrational theories are a recent arrival on the Jewish scene, not found in the Torah or the Talmud. Rational minds find these ideas as illogical as resorting to astrologers and palm readers.

Religions tell us that repentance, prayer and charity avert evil decrees, or that those performing a good deed are protected. And yet it is said that there is no justice in this world. Is it just our need for certainty that gulls us into believing what we want to?

It is true that the Torah speaks as if God conforms to human standards — promising good things if we obey and bad things if we do not. But one cannot learn law or philosophy from biblical metaphors. We are warned not to think of rewards for our actions, but to do things because they are the right things to do. As Rabbi Yaakov says, we simply do not know why the good suffer and the bad prosper (Avot 4:16).

The simple answer is that while we may discover the rules of the universe, we just do not know how God works. The Torah itself says (Deuteronomy 24:16) that one is only punished for one’s own sins, not for others’. But what if one has not done anything to deserve an early death? Bad things happen. Not in payment for actions, but simply as the way of the world we live in. If a jet crashes, it is usually because of a malfunction or terrorism. Earthquakes, avalanches or typhoons are part of nature, not designed to pay humans back for some offense.

The function of religion is not, as is often stated, to answer all our questions. It cannot. That is, after all, why the Talmud says that sometimes it is better not to inquire too much about things we cannot know. Rather religions function to help us cope, by giving us a framework for living that incorporates the unknown and the unknowable. We have to deal in life with things beyond our control, as well as the consequences of our own daily behavior. Having a framework enables us to adjust to tragedy and loss. It’s when one has no framework for living, that depression can so easily set in. Focusing on a mystical idea enables us to think beyond our immediate physical world, to handle pain by thinking of other, more comforting things. Exercises such as deep breathing and relaxing help us cope with physical pain, mental pain and the unthinkable.

The biblical Hebrew word for faith is “emunah.” But emunah is not a theological proposition. It has a root of being firm, strong, reliable — having the resilience, the strength to persevere and survive. Belief in God does

not necessarily mean everything will be taken care of or put right. Belief gives reassurance, something to hold onto — an alternative to an intolerable present.

We humans are biodiverse organisms with millions of microbes within us and without. Sometimes they turn against us and cause malfunctions and diseases. Sometimes they fight off intruders and sometimes, like fifth columnists, they welcome them in. Why are we not surprised when slowly our bodies deteriorate towards death? We may mourn and be sad at the loss. But we hardly need an explanation of “why.”

When something goes wrong in our bodies, it is not a malevolent agent punishing us. All of this is simply how the world works. As the Talmud says, “The world runs according to its own rules.” (Avodah Zara 54b)

Is it a punishment if I was born with a poor brain but a strong body? Or if I am less gifted musically, but better at a sport? Or if I am born into a rich family or a poor one? We all have some things going for us, even the most handicapped. And plenty of humans who seem gifted with enormous benefits squander them.

I guess that if we were to look back at our lives



A Hanukkah celebration Photo: provided.

and at history, we would probably discover that there’s a reasonable balance between the good things that have happened to most of us and the bad. Our task is to make the most and best out of our lives, our gifts, and our circumstances.

Hanukkah reminds us of the proactive — taking responsibility, of facing challenges and getting a second chance. It’s a most relevant idea. Of how 2,165 years ago we were threatened with extinction and yet we survived. All these years later, others are being threatened with extinction now. The world stands by as people are suffering in Syria. That’s why it’s so important to be in control of our own destiny. But it is also essential to care and be proactive about helping others beyond our own little Jewish world.

Hanukkah also stands for the spiritual miracle of the oil, of keeping flames alight when others would extinguish them. It is a historical example of when things went right for us. Other days in the calendar remind us of our catastrophes. Neither we nor the universe are perfect. There is no panacea. No perfect solution or answer. We only know we must do our best.

Maimonides, interestingly, in his laws about Hanukkah, ends with a little homily on how important peace is: peace for us and peace for the world. We ignore the rest of the world at our peril, not to mention moral failure. At the very moment that we celebrate our deliverance we must, says Maimonides, think about others, too.

# Legal Notice.

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of PLLC name: Filament Architecture Studio, PLLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/23/2016. 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 the LLC c/o United States corporation agents Inc.7014 13th Avenue suite 202 Brooklyn NY 11228. Purpose: All lawful activity  
AJ 11/25; 12/2/9/16/23/30

Notice of formation of LLC (Limited liability company) Name: Gemini Nikki.LLC Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/19/2016. Office location Richmond County.SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY Shall mail copy of the process to the LLC c/o United States corporation agents inc. 7014 13th Ave. Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: all Lawful activity  
AJ 12/2/9/16/23/30; 1/6

597 EAST 8 LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 11/9/2016. Office in Kings Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 943 President St., #3R, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.  
AJ 12/2/9/16/23/30; 1/6

Notice of formation of limited liability company LLC Name: Dong Family 168,LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 10/18/2016 Office location kings county. SSNY Has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: The LLC 528 55th St., Brooklyn, NY 11220 purpose:all lawful activity  
AJ 12/2/9/16/23/30; 1/6

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, N.A., AS TRUSTEE, IN TRUST FOR AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF THE MULTI-CLASS MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, CHASEFLEX TRUST SERIES 2007-3, V. BERYL ANDERSON, et al. NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated September 28, 2016, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of KINGS, wherein THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, N.A., AS TRUSTEE, IN TRUST FOR AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF THE MULTI-CLASS MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, CHASEFLEX TRUST SERIES 2007-3 is the Plaintiff and BERYL ANDERSON, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, ROOM 224, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11201, on January 12, 2017 at 2:30 PM, premises known as 62 EAST 57TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11203; Block 4662 Lot 25: ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF KINGS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 506724/2014.

## LEGAL NOTICE

Gregory Thomas Cerchione, Esq. - Referee. RAS Boriskin, LLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 106, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff  
AJ 12/9/16/23/30;

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC; Plaintiff(s) vs. OSCAR CORDNER; ROSETTA CORDNER; et al; Defendant(s) Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York, 12524, 845.897.1600 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about August 10, 2016, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. On January 12, 2017 at 2:30 pm. Premises known as 36 OAKLAND PLACE, BROOKLYN, NY 11226 Block: 5127 Lot: 61 All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment \$812,122.62 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 20542/09 Sylvia E. DiPietro, Esq., REFEREE  
AJ 12/9/16/23/30;

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY Wells Fargo Bank N.A.; Plaintiff(s) vs. CHRISTOPHER PANLASIGUI; KAREN TANG; et al; Defendant(s) Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York, 12524, 845.897.1600 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about July 27, 2016, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at Public Auction in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. On January 12, 2017 at 2:30 pm. Premises known as 35 MCDONALD AVENUE, UNIT 1A, BROOKLYN, NY 11218-1082 Block: 00895 Lot: 1127 The Condominium Unit known and designated as Unit No. 1A (hereinafter called "the Unit") in the building known as the 35 McDonald Avenue Condominium, 25-47 McDonald Avenue, Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York (the "Building") designated and described in the Declaration establishing a plan for condominium ownership of the Building and the land upon which the Building is situated (said Building and land referred to collectively herein as the "Property" or the "Condominium"), dated January 31, 2007, made by 25-47 McDonald Avenue LLC under the Condominium Act of the State of New York (Article 9-B of the Real Property Law of the State of New York), recorded in the Office of the Register of the City of New York on the 27th day of April, 2007, in City Register File Number (CRFN) 2007000221142 (hereinafter called the "Declaration"). The Unit is also designated as Tax Lot No. 1127 in Block 895 of the Borough of Brooklyn on the Tax Map of the Real Property Assessment Department of the City of New York and on the floor plans of the Building, certified by Douglas Pulaski, Registered Architect, on January 31, 2007, approved with the Real Property Assessment Department of the City of New York on January 31, 2007, as Condominium Plan No. 1794, and filed in the

## LEGAL NOTICE

Register's Office on April 27, 2007, in CRFN 2007000221143. Together with an undivided 1.51 percent interest in the Common Elements (as such term is defined in the Declaration) appurtenant to the unit. As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment \$359,779.64 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 506194/2015 Steven D. Cohn, Esq.; REFEREE  
AJ 12/9/16/23/30;

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 2005-AP3, Plaintiff -against- MARIA POSNER A/K/A M. POSNER A/K/A MARIA POSNET, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR ALLIANCE MORTGAGE BANKING CORP., CHEMICAL BANK, THE FIRE COMMISSIONER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, CITY OF NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, GEORGE BRYANT, HENRY CLARK, SHAWN CAMPBELL, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly dated AUGUST 16, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at ROOM 224 F/K/A ROOM 274 OF KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201 on January 12, 2017 at 2:30 PM premises known as 309 ARLINGTON AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11208. ALL that certain plot, piece of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of KINGS, City and State of New York. Block: 3927 Lot: 61 Approximate amount of lien \$479,903.07 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment Index # 501183/2015 JEFFREY R. MILLER, ESQ., REFEREE STEIN, WIENER AND ROTH, L.L.P., ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF ONE OLD COUNTRY ROAD, SUITE 113 CARLE PLACE, NY 11514 DATED: DECEMBER 2, 2016 FILE #: WELLS 66757  
AJ 12/9/16/23/30;

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Nationstar Mortgage LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST Leonora Francis a/k/a Lenora V. Francis a/k/a Leonora V. Francis; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated September 22, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn NY 11201 on January 12, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 321 Milford Street a/k/a 321 Milford Street #4, Brooklyn, NY 11208. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 4262 Lot 10. Approximate amount of judgment \$539,476.94 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 508656/2015. Helene E. Blank, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: November 17, 2016  
AJ 12/9/16/23/30;

## LEGAL NOTICE

REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF CWALT, INC. ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2006-OA6, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-OA6, Plaintiff - against - NATALIYA DOBRER, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on October 05, 2016. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction, in Room 274 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on the 19th Day of January, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Premises known as 3541 Leif Ericson Drive #B2, Brooklyn, New York 11235. (Block: 8782, Lot: 1115) Approximate amount of lien \$602,587.57 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 11418/2012. Cary Kaplan, Esq., Referee. Davidson Fink LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1700 Rochester, NY 14614-1990 Tel. 585/760-8218 Dated: November 15, 2016  
AJ 12/16/23/30; 1/6

COSMO ONLINE LLC filed 10/14/2016 Office Kings County SSNY designated as agent for process and shall Mail to 1411 Avenue V #2L Brooklyn, NY 11229 purpose all lawful  
AJ 12/16/23/30; 1/6/13/20

File No.: 2015-1734/C CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT To: John Monaghan, Ellen Feudenberg, William Feudenberg, HRA-OLA-LRLU, Bank of America, (DCM) Comenity Bank, AAA Financial Services, Attorney General of the State of New York The unknown distributees, legatees, devisees, heirs at law and assignees of JOAN HERMAN, deceased, or their estates, if any there be, whose names, places of residence and post office addresses are unknown to the petitioner and cannot with due diligence be ascertained. Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of JOAN HERMAN, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 85-31 124th Street, Kew Gardens, NY 11415, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Temporary Administrator of the Estate of JOAN HERMAN, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 26th day of January, 2017 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Temporary Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$32,163.18 and that the Court fix the fair and reason-

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able additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why the claim from HRA-OLA-LRLU in the amount of \$142,242.03 should not be paid; and why the claim from Bank of America in the amount of \$2,536.11 should not be paid; and why the claim from Comenity Bank in the amount of \$493.75 should not be rejected; and why the claim from AAA Financial Services in the amount of \$2,460.66 should not be rejected; and why the Last Will & Testament dated August 12, 1991 should not be admitted to probate; and why the Letters of Temporary Administration issued to the Public Administrator should not be revoked; and why Letters of Administration CTA should not be issued to the Public Administrator; and why the net residuary estate should not be distributed as follows: 50% to John P. Monaghan, 25% to Ellen Feudenberg, 25% to William Feudenberg. Dated, Attested and Sealed 28th day of November, 2016 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County Margaret M. Gribbon Clerk of the Surrogate's Court GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200 Lake Success, New York 11042 This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not obliged to appear in person. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested unless you file formal legal, verified objections. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you. Accounting Citation  
AJ 12/23/30; 1/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON MORTGAGE SECURITIES CORP., HOME EQUITY ASSET TRUST 2004-5, HOME EQUITY PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-5, Plaintiff -against- LUISA POMARE, US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE POOLING AND SERVICING AGREEMENT, DATED AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2004, AMONG CREDIT-BASED ASSET SERVICING AND SECURITIZATION LLC, JP MORGAN ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION, LITTON LOAN SERVICING LP AND U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, C-BASS MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-CBS, CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly dated JULY 29, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at ROOM 224 F/K/A ROOM 274 OF KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201 on January 26, 2017 at 2:30 PM premises known as 1494E 49 STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11234. ALL that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improve-

Continued on Page A10

## Tradition.

# The Festival of Lights That Signifies an Inextinguishable Faith



JONATHAN SACKS  
LONDON

What I find fascinating about Chanukah, the Jewish festival of lights we celebrate at this time of the year, is the way its story was transformed by time.

It began as the simple story of a military victory, the success of Judah the Maccabee and his followers as they fought for religious freedom against the repressive rule of the Syrian-Greek emperor Antiochus IV. Antiochus, who modestly called himself Epiphanes, "God made manifest", had resolved forcibly to hellenise the Jews.

He had a statue of Zeus erected in the precincts of the temple in Jerusalem, ordered sacrifices to be

believed that the festival of Chanukah should be abolished. Why celebrate a freedom that had been lost? Others disagreed, and their view prevailed. Freedom may have been lost but not hope.

That was when another story came to the fore, about how the Maccabees, in purifying the Temple, found a single cruse of oil, its seal still intact, from which they relit the Menorah, the great candelabrum in the Temple. Miraculously the light lasted eight days and that became the central narrative of Chanukah. It became a festival of light within the Jewish home symbolising a faith that could not be extinguished. Its message was captured in a phrase from the prophet Zekhariah: "Not by might nor by power but by My spirit, says the Lord Almighty."

I have often wondered whether that is not the human story, not just the Jewish one. We



made to pagan gods, and banned Jewish rites on pain of death. The Maccabees fought back and within three years had reconquered Jerusalem and rededicated the Temple. That is how the story is told in the first and second books of Maccabees.

However, things did not go smoothly thereafter. The new Jewish monarchy known as the Hasmonean kings themselves became hellenised. They also incurred the wrath of the people by breaking one of the principles of Judaism: the separation between religion and political power. They became not just kings but also high priests, something earlier monarchs had never done.

Even militarily, the victory over the Greeks proved to be only a temporary respite. Within a century Pompey invaded Jerusalem and Israel came under Roman rule. Then came the disastrous rebellion against Rome (66-73), as a result of which Israel was defeated and the Temple destroyed. The work of the Maccabees now lay in ruins.

Some rabbis at the time

celebrate military victories. We tell stories about the heroes of the past. We commemorate those who gave their lives in defence of freedom. That is as it should be. Yet the real victories that determine the fate of nations are not so much military as cultural, moral and spiritual.

In Rome the Arch of Titus was erected by Titus's brother Domitian to commemorate the victorious Roman siege of Jerusalem in the year 70. It shows Roman soldiers carrying away the spoils of war, most famously the seven-branched Menorah. Rome won that military conflict. Yet its civilisation declined and fell, while Jews and Judaism survived.

They did so not least because of Chanukah itself. That simple act of families coming together to light the lights, tell the story and sing the songs, proved more powerful than armies and longer-lived than empires. What endured was not the historical narrative as told in the books of Maccabees but the simpler, stronger story that spoke of a single cruse of oil that survived the wreckage and desecration, and the

light it shed that kept on burning.

Something in the human spirit survives even the worst of tragedies, allowing us to rebuild shattered lives, broken institutions and injured nations. That to me is the Jewish story. Jews survived all the defeats, expulsions, persecutions and pogroms, even the Holocaust itself, because they never gave up the faith that one day they would be free to live as Jews without fear. Whenever I visit a Jewish school today I see on the smiling faces of the children the ever-renewed power of that faith whose symbol is Chanukah and its light of inextinguishable hope.

(First published in *The Times*)

Continued from Page A7  
*Amazon*

Muslim Aid, a group that is part of the Union of Good, an organization that the US Treasury blacklisted in 2008 as a Hamas fundraising operation.

Last spring, Huffington Post columnist Kashif N. Chaudhry noted that an MCB-affiliated group, called Khatme Nabuwat, celebrated the murder of an Ahmadi Muslim shopkeeper in Scotland on social media, saying, "Congratulations to all Muslims." A few days later, pamphlets saying "Kill Ahmadis" were found at the group's London mosque.

Khatme Nabuwat's Facebook page says that it stands for "protection of Islam, and that is the biggest Jihad, anyone who dies fighting for this is a Martyr."

Though MCB itself condemned attacks against Ahmadis, it has sanctioned a belief that they can be regarded as non-Muslims, and critics have accused MCB of not being serious about combating violent extremism and stalling an investigation into Khatme Nabuwat.

Holiday messages of peace and friendship are sure ways to warm the heart. But *Amazon's* choice of Muslim partners reduces this campaign's intended message to a hollow public relations stunt.

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Continued from Page A9

ments thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of KINGS and State of New York. Block: 7828 Lot: 84 Approximate amount of lien \$282,648.41 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment Index # 20469/2013 GREGORY THOMAS CERCHIONE, ESQ. STEIN, WIENER AND ROTH, L.L.P., ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF ONE OLD COUNTRY ROAD, SUITE 113 CARLE PLACE, NY 11514 DATED: December 16, 2016 FILE #: WELLS 68985 AJ 12/23/30; 1/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, Plaintiff AGAINST FREDERICK L. GRANT, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated August 02, 2016 I, the

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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 02, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 660 WARWICK STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 4078, LOT 45. Approximate amount of judgment \$653,662.17 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 6144/2013. William D. Bowman Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 AJ 12/30; 1/6/13/20

SUPREME COURT – COUNTY OF KINGS QUICKEN LOANS INC., Plaintiff against ALEKSANDER KHARKOVER, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on November 29, 2016. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. on the 2nd day of February, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. premises Lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn and State of New York. In the condominium known as "The 235 Ocean Parkway Condominium." Together with an undivided 5.56% interest in the Common Elements. Said premises known as 235 Ocean Parkway, 2A, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218. Tax account number: SBL#: 5339-1103. Approximate amount of lien \$ 504,479.28 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 501108-14. Robert L. Howe, Esq., Referee. McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, P.C. Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 145 Huguenot Street – Suite 210 New Rochelle, New York 10801 (914) 636-8900 J 12/30; 1/6/13/20

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") a corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, Plaintiff AGAINST Karen Wood a/k/a Karen L. Wood; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated May 31, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 2, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 102-19 Seaview Avenue a/k/a 10219 Seaview Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block: 8305 Lot: 1. Approximate amount of judgment \$465,843.41 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 7831/2013. Jay D. Cohen, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: December 19, 2016 AJ 12/30; 1/6/13/20

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: Warren Bridge LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 12/15/2016. Office location kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC

## LEGAL NOTICE

upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY Shall Mail copy of the process to: Warren Bridge LLC 301 Warren Street Unit 2 Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ 12/30; 1/6/13/20/27; 2/3

File No.: 2016-306/A CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT To: Arthur Delan, NYC Human Resources Administration, Attorney General of the State of New York The unknown distributees, legatees, devisees, heirs at law and assignees of DAVID DELAN, deceased, or their estates, if any there be, whose names, places of residence and post office addresses are unknown to the petitioner and cannot with due diligence be ascertained. Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of DAVID DELAN, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 128 Beach 115th Street, Rockaway Park, NY 11694, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of DAVID DELAN, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 9th day of February, 2017 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$19,467.44 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why the claim of NYC Human Resources Administration in the amount of \$661,090.53 should not be partially paid to the extent of the net distributable estate, Dated, Attested and Sealed 15th day of December, 2016 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County Margaret M. Gribbon Clerk of the Surrogate's Court GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200 Lake Success, New York 11042 This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not obliged to appear in person. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested unless you file formal legal, verified objections. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you. Accounting Citation AJ 12/30; 1/6/13/20

## Social.



Chef Sara Briman at the Bloomingdale's challah bake. Photo: Algemeiner.

## Award-Winning Chef Who Learned Challah-Baking From Her Late Daughter Teaches Shoppers at Bloomingdale's Art, Soul of Traditional Jewish Bread

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

An award-winning chef who led a challah-baking demonstration at the upscale New York City department store Bloomingdale's on Thursday evening, told The Algemeiner that the technique for creating the traditional braided Jewish bread and its deeper spiritual significance were not handed down to her from previous generations, but rather learned from her late daughter.

"I wish she could be here with me," said Sara Briman — the 2013 recipient of the American Academy of Hospitality Science's Five-Star Diamond International Challah award, and also an Algemeiner Jewish 100 awardee. "She was the one who taught me how to do it the right way and the meaning of each ingredient. Sharing this with others has become a mission in my life. I get so much strength by watching the audience and feeling their energy."

Briman explained that the experience of making challah is "one that connects you with God and your loved

ones. All this positive energy transforms a few simple ingredients into a beautiful and delicious challah — a food that nurses not only our body, but our soul as well."

She said she uses each ingredient as "an inspiration to ask God for good things." For example, when pouring the flour — its key component — she prays for the Torah and blessings to be central to her life.

Briman, a native of Mexico who has been making the special bread for 20 years, said that Thursday's event was her 49th demonstration in a three-and-a-half-year period. She said that she travels far and wide — across the US and in South America, Europe, Japan and Israel — in the effort to encourage Jews to keep the tradition alive.

"Challah is a product not only from my kitchen, but from my heart," she said. "Whatever you do in life, do it with all your love and all your blessing, and it can't go wrong."

Representatives from the American Academy of Hospitality Services surprised Briman during the Bloomingdale's event with a Lifetime Achievement Award

## Twittersphere Lights Up With Posthumous Hanukkah Photo of Late, Great Joan Rivers

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

The Twittersphere was surprised to see a photo posted on the page of the late comedienne Joan Rivers — host of the E! network's popular show "Fashion Police" — lighting a menorah with her family and a friend.

The picture was taken in 2013 and posted by Rivers' daughter, Melissa, with the caption, "Happy Hanukkah!"

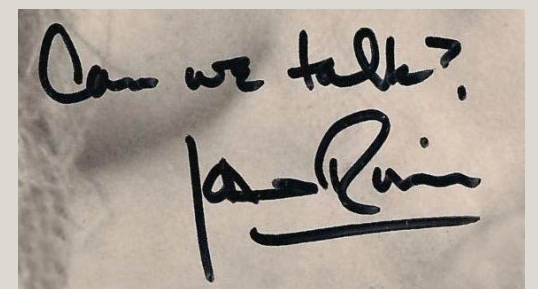
Joan Rivers, an outspoken Israel supporter, died in September 2014 at the age of 81. Melissa spoke of her mother's pride in being Jewish in February 2015 upon accepting the Warrior for Truth Award on behalf of the late entertainer at The Algemeiner's "Jewish 100" Gala.

Also shared on Joan's Twitter account was a photo of her posing in front of a Christmas tree with a holiday greeting. According to the Hollywood



Melissa Rivers, left, with her son, a friend and Melissa's mother, Joan. Photo: Twitter.

Reporter, not long after the image was uploaded on Sunday, Joan's name began trending on Twitter. One user evoked the spirit of the flamboyant entertainer, writing: "Joan Rivers is loving that she is trending on Twitter." Another quipped: "I feel like someone on Joan Rivers' team tweeted that picture of her. Either that or her casket has some fire WiFi."



Joan Rivers' autograph. Photo: Wiki Commons.

# Attention Not-For-Profit Organizations

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