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# THE algemeiner JOURNAL

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## Obama Blasted for Appointment of Rhodes to Holocaust Council



Ben Rhodes and US President Barack Obama on Air Force One. Photo: Pete Souza / White House via Wikimedia Commons.

BY BARNEY BREEN  
-PORTNOY

Outgoing President Barack Obama's choice on Tuesday of top aide Ben Rhodes to serve on the US Holocaust Memorial Council drew a slew of online ire over Rhodes' controversial record on Israel-related issues.

Rhodes — whose role as Obama's deputy national security

adviser for strategic communications will come to an end on Friday with the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump — was a leading advocate of the Iran nuclear deal and a vocal critic of Israeli settlement policies.

"So Ben Rhodes, who is a veritable enemy of Israel, Obama appoints to Holocaust Memorial Council," American Spectator Managing Editor Melissa Mackenzie tweeted. "The man is a

spite machine."

UN Watch Executive Director Hillel Neuer tweeted, "No joke: Obama names aide who bragged of whitewashing Iran's Holocaust-denying regime to Holocaust memorial

Jonathan Greenberg — senior vice president of the Haym Salomon Center — tweeted, "Other board members should refuse to sit with him."

Continued on Page A3

## Paris Summit Flat like 'a Failed Soufflé'

BY BARNEY BREEN-PORTNOY

The international diplomatic conference held in Paris on Sunday was "like having marriage counseling with neither the husband nor the wife present," a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told BBC News.

After calling the confab attended by representatives of more than 70 countries a "relic of the past," David Keyes noted, "The barrier for this two-state solution for two peoples isn't the prime minister of Israel."

Instead, Keyes went on to say, the true obstacle to



David Keyes, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's foreign media spokesman. Photo: Screenshot.

peace is Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

"He's said no to recognizing Israel as a Jewish state; he's said no to direct negotiations with Israel; and, frankly, he's said no to stopping the glorification or murderers and the horrific hate speech which is indoctrinating children from a very young age," Keyes stated.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon tweeted that Sunday's summit in the French capital "turned as flat as a failed soufflé."

## Israelis and the Missing Monkey

page A8



### ShabbatCalendar

Parshat SHEMOT  
פרשת שמות

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting  
Shabbat Begins: 4:42pm | Shabbat Ends: 5:44pm



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## Opinion.

## Obama's Mid-East Legacy Is Tragic Failure

ALAN DERSHOWITZ  
BOSTON

The Middle East is a more dangerous place after eight years of the Obama Presidency than it was before. The eight disastrous Obama years follow eight disastrous Bush years during which that part of the world became more dangerous as well. So have many other international hot spots. In sum, the past 16 years have seen major foreign policy blunders all over the world, and most especially in the area between Libya and Iran, that includes Israel, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey and the Gulf.

With regard to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, the Obama policies have made the prospects for a compromise peace more difficult to achieve. When Israel felt that America had its back – under both President Clinton and Bush 43 – they offered generous proposals to end settlements and occupation in nearly all of the West Bank. Tragically the Palestinian leadership – first under Arafat and then under Abbas – did not accept either the Barak-Clinton offers in 2000-2001, nor the Olmert offer in 2008. Now they are ignoring Netanyahu's open offer to negotiate with no pre-conditions.

In his brilliant book chronicling the American-Israeli relationship – "Doomed To Succeed" – Dennis Ross proves conclu-

sively that whenever the Israeli government has confidence in America's backing, it has been more willing to make generous compromise offers, than when it has reason to doubt American support. President Obama did not understand this crucial reality. Instead of having Israel's back, he repeatedly stabbed Israel in the back, beginning with his one-sided Cairo speech near the beginning of his tenure, continuing through his failure to enforce the red-line on chemical weapon use by Syria, then allowing a sunset provision to be included in the Iran deal, and culminating in his refusal to veto the one-sided Security Council resolution, which placed the lion's share of blame on the Israelis for the current stalemate.

These ill-advised actions – especially the Security Council resolution – have disincentivized the Palestinian leadership from accepting the Netanyahu offer to sit down and negotiate a compromise peace. They have been falsely led to believe that they can achieve statehood through the United Nations, or by other means that do not require compromise.

The Iran Deal, while it delayed Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons, virtually guaranteed that it would be allowed to develop a nuclear arsenal as soon as the major restrictions on the deal expire in the next decade. Israel will never allow a regime sworn to the destruction of the Nation-State of the Jewish People to secure such a genocidal weapon. So the likelihood of an eventual dangerous military confrontation has been increased rather than decreased by the poorly negotiated Iran deal.

Obama's failure to carry out his red-line threat against the Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons has weakened American credibility among its allies and adversaries alike. It has created a vacuum of power that Russia was quick to fill. Turkey, too, has flexed its bullying muscles, as its irascible and egomaniacal leader has used the excuse of ISIS to go after another American ally, the Kurds, who have at least as strong a claim to statehood as do the Palestinians.

America's traditional allies in the mid-East – Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Jordan – have all been weakened by the Obama policies, most especially by the Iran deal. America's traditional enemies – Iran, Syria and Hezbollah – have been strengthened, along with Turkey.

Terrorism has increased and moved northward to Europe, partly as a result of the Syrian crisis.

ISIS, Al Qaeda, the Taliban – and other terrorist offshoots – thought weakened, remain a serious threat to regional stability and to civilians.

A destabilized Middle East poses increasing dangers to American allies and to peace. The blame for this instability is shared by presidents Bush and Obama. The overthrow of Saddam Hussein and the invasion of Iraq divided that country into ungovernability and invited Iran to play a major role in its current destabilized condition. The toppling of Gaddafi left Libya open to increasing terrorist influences. The attempt to replace Assad has turned Syria into a nightmare. The forced resigna-

tion of Mubarak initially placed Egypt under the control of the Muslim Brotherhood and strengthened Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Only a coup, opposed by the Obama Administration, restored some semblance of stability to Egypt. Lebanon has become a wholly owned subsidiary of Hezbollah, a terrorist group under the influence of Iran that has 100,000 missiles aimed at Israel's population centers. The Shia arc now runs from Iran through parts of Iraq and Syria and into Lebanon.

This is the tragic legacy of the Obama administration's failed efforts to undo the harms caused by the Bush administration. Radical Islamic terrorists have replaced authoritarian secular tyrants. Both are bad, but tyrants at least produce a degree of stability and predictability. They also tend to keep their tyranny domestic, whereas terrorists tend to export their evil tactics. We should have learned the lesson from the replacement of the tyrannical Shah of Iran by the far more tyrannical and dangerous Ayatollahs. But we did not. We insisted on supporting the "democracy" of the Arab spring, which resulted in the replacement of undemocratic domestic tyrants by undemocratic international terrorists.

History will look kindly on Obama's domestic successes, but it will judge his Mideast policy harshly.

*Alan M. Dershowitz, Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law, Emeritus at Harvard Law School and author of Taking the Stand: My Life in the Law and Electile Dysfunction: A Guide for the Unaroused Voter.*

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How Zionists Helped Destroy  
Segregation in BaltimoreRAFAEL MEDOFF/  
JNS.ORG

After a year when Jewish and African-American relations were strained by the Black Lives Matter's denunciation of Israel and other uncomfortable incidents, it's worth recalling a little-known episode that points to the kind of intergroup relations that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked so hard to foster.

In the autumn of 1946, Zionist activists known as the Bergson Group sponsored a Broadway play called "A Flag is Born," which was authored by the Academy Award-winning screenwriter and playwright Ben Hecht. Starring a young Marlon Brando and Yiddish theater luminaries Paul Muni and Celia Adler, "Flag" depicted the plight of Holocaust survivors in post-war Europe, and the fight for Jewish independence in British Mandatory Palestine.

The London Evening Standard expressed horror that large audiences were flocking to what it called "the most virulent anti-British play ever staged in the United States." American publications took a different view: Time called the play "colorful theater and biting propaganda," while Life complimented its "wit and wisdom."

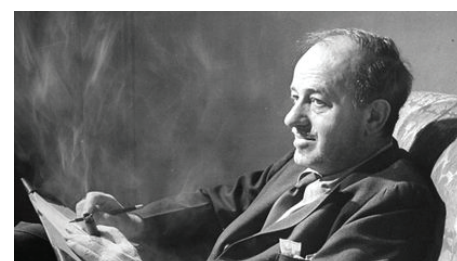
After a successful 10-week run on Broadway, "Flag" was scheduled to be performed in various cities around the

country, including the National Theater in Washington, DC. When the Bergson Group realized that the National barred African-Americans from attending, they quickly looked for an alternative venue.

Civil rights activists used a variety of tactics to oppose theater discrimination, from lawsuits to picket lines. In Charlotte, North Carolina, Jewish newspaper editor Harry Golden made headlines with his "Rent-a-Child" scheme, which ridiculed racist theaters by having white children accompany African-American women to the theater; the ladies were admitted on the assumption that they were the children's nannies.

"Flag" author Ben Hecht and 32 other playwrights then announced that they would not permit their works to be performed at theaters that barred African-Americans. The Washington engagement of "Flag" was rescheduled for the Maryland Theater in Baltimore, and a train car was secured to bring 18 US Senators and a number of foreign diplomats to Baltimore for the February 1947 event.

In making the switch from Washington to Baltimore, the Bergson Group struck



Ben Hecht. Photo: Alchetron.

an important symbolic blow against racial discrimination. But as it turned out, the controversy was not over.

The Maryland Theater didn't bar African-Americans, but it did restrict them to the balcony, which bigots nicknamed "n—r heaven." Alerted of this by local NAACP activists, the Bergson Group fashioned a kind of good cop-bad cop strategy. Just hours before the first curtain, Bergson officials informed the theater management that if they did not rescind the seating discrimination, the NAACP would picket the show with signs declaring, "There is No Difference Between Jim Crow in Maryland and Persecution [of Jews] in Palestine." The Bergsonites also threatened to personally escort several African-Americans to the show as their guests, to be seated in the regular sections.

The pressure worked.

The Maryland Theater management agreed to recognize the Bergson Group as the "lessee of the theater." That made the theater's ticket agents employees of the Bergson Group, and subject to whatever seating policy the activists chose to adopt. A dozen African-Americans attended the opening night performance on February 12, 1947 and "were seated indiscriminately, without untoward results," the Baltimore Afro-American reported. February 12 is, fittingly, Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Exuberant NAACP leaders hailed the "tradition-shattering victory" won by the alliance of black and Zionist activists against

Continued on Page A3

## World News.

# UK Prime Minister Rejects Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn's Call for Probe Into Israeli Political 'Interference'

BY JNS.ORG

United Kingdom Prime Minister Theresa May has rejected Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn's call for an investigation into the reported "improper interference in this country's democratic process" by Israeli officials.

A government spokesperson said Britain's relationship with the Jewish state remained "strong," following Corbyn's letter to May citing the claims of a controversial four-part documentary by *Al Jazeera* about the influence of the so-called Israel lobby on UK politics.

Corbyn — whose party has been mired in an antisemitism scandal and dogged by allegations of being anti-Israel — was referring to an undercover reporter's footage of an Israeli embassy employee, Shai Mason, discussing his intention to "take down" several British politicians, including Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Alan Duncan, and calling Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson an "idiot."

Mason was fired days after the video was released and the embassy has renounced his statements, with Israel's ambassador to London, Mark Regev, issuing a direct apology.



Labour head Jeremy Corbyn testifying before the Home Affairs Select Committee over his party's antisemitism inquiry. Photo: Video Screenshot.

But Corbyn said the film revealed "unacceptable" Israeli power that "undermines the integrity" of the UK government. He wrote to May, "I would therefore ask that you treat the matter as such and launch an inquiry into the extent of this improper influence."

The British premier's spokesperson said the government "consider[ed] the matter closed."

*Al Jazeera's* claims have been met with severe criticism by Jewish community leaders, as well as concern by major pro-Israel groups over how an undercover journalist was able to infiltrate private meetings.

# French Diplomat: Paris Conference 'Two-State Solution' Declaration 'Sends Subliminal Message to Trump'



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and French President Francois Hollande, pictured in center, shake hands at the Jan. 15 conference on Mideast peace in Paris. Photo: US State Department.

BY JNS.ORG

Sunday's Mideast peace conference in Paris concluded that the "two-state solution" is the only way forward to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and warned both sides against taking any independent action, reiterating the long-standing international position on the issue.

In their final communique, conference participants from some 70 countries said they "call on each side...to refrain from unilateral steps that prejudice the outcome of negotiations on final-status issues, including, inter alia, on Jerusalem, borders, security, refugees and which they will not recognize."

While the statement did not explicitly criticize President-elect Donald Trump, a French diplomat said that "tortuous and complicated paragraph" was intended "to pass a subliminal message" to the incoming American administration, *Reuters* reported.

Ahead of the meeting, Trump's advisers told French officials that the president-elect strongly objected to the conference being held just days before his Jan. 20 inauguration, *Haaretz* reported.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose government did not attend the conference, called the gathering a "useless" attempt by France and the Palestinians to "force terms on Israel that conflict with our

national needs."

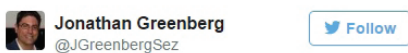
Meanwhile, US Secretary of State John Kerry said the conference "moved the ball forward" on the peace process.

"It underscores this is not just one administration's point of view, this is shared by the international community broadly," Kerry said. This is expected to be the last international forum Kerry participates in before the end of his term this Friday.

Israeli officials have made it clear that they are looking forward to the "new era" of the Trump administration, who has harshly criticized efforts to impose solutions on the Jewish state. "This conference is among the last twitches of yesterday's world. Tomorrow's world will be different — and it is very near," Netanyahu said days before the conference convened.

Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon echoed the prime minister's message, saying that he plans to "work with the incoming US administration to undo the damage caused by the [recent United Nations] Security Council resolution [against Israeli settlements] and these other one-sided initiatives."

The United Kingdom also cited the changing American administration in its explanation for why it participated in the conference only as an observer, sending junior diplomats to Paris and not signing the communique.

Continued from Page A1  
Spite

Other board members should refuse to sit with him. [jta.org/2017/01/17/new...](http://jta.org/2017/01/17/new...)  
2:27 PM - 17 Jan 2017



Journalist Lori Lowenthal Marcus tweeted, "The only interest in the Holocaust I've seen from @rhodes44 is his effort 2 help create another 1."



The only interest in the Holocaust I've seen from @rhodes44 is his effort 2 help create another 1. [liblog.com/obama-appoints...](http://liblog.com/obama-appoints...) @BeladonnaRogers  
2:08 PM - 17 Jan 2017



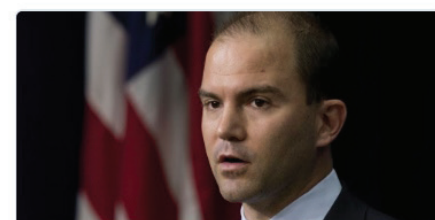
Obama Cynically Appoints Man Who Sold-In Ira...  
Obama decided to stick it to the Jews one more time by appointing Ben Rhodes who sold through the Iran [liblog.com](http://liblog.com)



Rachel Steinmetz tweeted, "In a final F-U to the #Jewish community #Obama names his shill #BenRhodes to #Holocaust Memorial Council."



In a final F-U to the #Jewish community #Obama names his shill #BenRhodes to #Holocaust Memorial Council [toi.sr/2iDGBIO](http://toi.sr/2iDGBIO)  
1:52 PM - 17 Jan 2017



The US Holocaust Memorial Council is comprised of 68 members — 55 of whom are presidential appointees. The members serve five-year terms on the council, which meets twice annually.

Last week, as reported by *The Algemeiner*, the ombudsman of *PBS* called on the station to issue a "clarifying or correcting" statement in the wake of a false claim made by Rhodes during an interview with Judy Woodruff in December that Israel was constructing "tens of thousands" of new settlements in the West Bank.

Just a few days after the *PBS* "NewsHour" interview, Rhodes — who was born to a Jewish mother — was called an "expert at fiction" by Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer for asserting that the Obama administration did not orchestrate the passage of the anti-settlement UN Security Council resolution last month.

In a *New York Times Magazine* profile published in May, Rhodes — the holder of a M.F.A. in creative writing — admitted to creating a media "echo chamber" to promote the Iran nuclear deal. Reporters were "saying things that validated what he had given them to say," he revealed.

Continued from Page A2  
Segregation

theater discrimination. The NAACP used that victory as potent ammunition in its battles to desegregate other Baltimore theaters in the years to follow.

"I am proud that it was my play which terminated one of the most disgraceful practices of our country's history," a beaming Ben Hecht declared after the opening performance in Baltimore. "For the first time in the history of the State of Maryland, Negroes were permitted to attend the legitimate theatre without discrimination. I am

proud that it was "A Flag is Born" that they attended without insult. Breaking down this vicious and indecent tradition in Maryland is worthy of the high purpose for which 'Flag' was conceived and written. The incident is forceful testimony to the proposition that to fight discrimination and injustice to one group of human beings affords protection to every other group."

Dr. Rafael Medoff is director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, and author or editor of 16 books about Jewish history, Zionism, and the Holocaust.

## World News.



A section of the newly discovered wall at the Timna copper mines in southern Israel. Photo: Dr. Erez Ben-Yosef.

## Wall Dating Back to King David Era Excavated at Israel's Timna Mines

BY JNS.ORG

An ancient wall dating back to the 10th century BCE excavated at an archaeological dig in southern Israel may lend credence to the biblical story of King David's great battle against the Edomite tribe.

At the Timna copper mines antiquities site in the Arava desert region, researchers discovered a well-fortified wall that once ran for hundreds of meters and stood at least five meters (16.5 feet) tall. Many sling stones were discovered next to the edifice, which may be evidence of the clash mentioned in Samuel 8:13.

"Today, we are discovering more and more evidence of a concentrated, hierarchical society that interacted extensively with its neighbors, which matches up with texts from the Bible and other sources," said Dr. Erez Ben-Yosef of Tel Aviv University, who headed the team that uncovered the wall.

"We have plenty of archaeological proof to determine that the miners who worked the Timna mines weren't humble slaves, as had been assumed, but rather expert miners who oversaw the complex, demanding work by apprentices," he added.

## Daughter of Robert Kennedy, Slain by Palestinian Gunman for Pro-Israel Stance, Calls 'Fabulous' Jewish State 'Example of People Determined to Make Something Work'

BY RUTHIE BLUM

The daughter of the late US Senator Robert F. (Bobby) Kennedy — assassinated in June 1968 during his run for president by a Palestinian — waxed poetic about the Jewish state in an interview with Israel's Channel 1, saying that she came by her awe with the country honestly, from her family.

Speaking in-studio during a recent trip to Israel, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend — attorney, politician, long-time Democratic Party activist and niece of President John F. Kennedy, Jr. — said that she feels a "special bond" with Israel, inherited from her father.

"Everywhere around the world could look to Israel as an example of people who are determined to make something work," she said. "It's fabulous."

She recounted her father's stint as a journalist at the age of 22 — for the defunct *Boston Post* — when he covered Israel's War of Independence in 1948.

"[H]e wrote about the courage of the

Israelis, and how they were determined to build a new country," she told interviewer Ya'akov Ahimeir — whose own father, Zionist revisionist Abba Ahimeir — was a well-known figure in Palestine when RFK arrived. "After seeing such horror in Europe...they were going to build a country of courage and of democracy and of values. And...he realized, when he saw the Israelis, that the United States had a special relationship to this country, and needed to make sure that that relationship stayed firm."

She then added, "And, as you know, in 1968, he was fighting for the 50 jets that would be given to the Israeli army, and he was killed because of his support [for Israel]."

Townsend was referring to her father's murder at the hands of 24-year-old Sirhan Sirhan, who — after RFK's address to supporters at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles when he won the California primary — opened fire with a revolver, hitting the candidate three times and wounding five other people. RFK was rushed to the hospital

## In Secret Recording, Participants at 'Students for Justice in Palestine' Conference Heard Attacking America as 'World's Greatest Imperial Power'

BY LEA SPEYER

In a never-before-released recording obtained by The Algemeiner of part of a closed-door anti-Zionist student conference at Virginia's George Mason University in November, participants are heard accusing the United States — "the world's greatest imperial power" — of enabling and perpetrating crimes in the Middle East.

The blatant anti-Americanism was voiced at the 2016 National Students for Justice in Palestine (NSJP) conference, during a panel on "Syrian-Palestinian Liberation." Panelists included Palestinian-Syrian activist Wael Elasady, co-founder of Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights, and International Socialist Movement member Ashley Smith.

In the tape, Elasady is heard blaming US "imperialism" for facilitating the Assad regime's alleged war crimes in Syria and for causing regional instability, which allows the world to turn a blind eye to Israel's "ethnic cleansing of Palestine, increas[ing] its Judaization of Jerusalem and expand[ing] its settlements without repercussions."

Smith said that while he saw the conflict in Syria as a "popular uprising of the people... for democracy, for equality, for a liberation from a tyrannical regime," he took issue with those on the Left who viewed the struggle purely through the lens of "imposed American imperialism."

He specifically called out activist journalist Max Blumenthal for "reversing his position" on Syria — first referring to the civil war as a "right of revolt" of the people, and then calling it a "color revolution" orchestrated by the US with the project of regime change."

Smith argued that the Syrian people must carry out a "revolutionary struggle from below to liberate people...Diplomacy will not bring liberation [in Syria], as all the negotiations over Palestinian liberation [have] proved as well. We have to defend the right



Attendees of the 2016 National Students for Justice in Palestine conference. Photo: Twitter.

of the oppressed people to find aid and arms for their liberation struggle, no matter where it comes from, as long as they maintain their independence."

Elasady and Smith are both known for expressing anti-Israel and anti-American views. Elasady has described Israel as a "colonial project carried out by a racist and violent settler society." He has also claimed that Zionism has a "racist core" and has advocated for steps to be taken to "upend the US-Israeli relationship."

Smith has accused Israel of engaging in "apartheid-like behavior," and referred to the US as the Jewish state's "main international sponsor," which has "stood completely unswayed by...the oppression of the Palestinians..."

SJP has a record of fomenting unrest at American colleges. As The Algemeiner has previously reported, a 2016 Brandeis study found that "one of the strongest predictors of perceiving a hostile climate towards Israel and Jews is the presence of an active SJP group on campus."

The group's national conference at George Mason University prompted a group of Virginia lawmakers to issue an open letter calling for the immediate cancellation of the event. "SJP is an organization that incites violence," one of the signatories told The Algemeiner at the time.

At the NSJP conference in question, as Israeli flag was reportedly used as a "doormat" by attendees.

and died the following day. Sirhan Sirhan told his interrogators that he had set out to kill RFK for his vocal support for Israel.

According to a report released by the think tank the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs in 2008, RFK's dispatches from Palestine during the war included descriptions such as:

*The Jewish people in Palestine who believe in and have been working toward this national state have become an immensely proud and determined people. It is already a truly great modern example of the birth of a nation with the primary ingredients of dignity and self-respect.*

Another item he wrote was headlined: "Make Up for Lack of Arms with Undying Spirit, Unparalleled Courage."

The JCPA report stated that RFK *was critical of a temporary slippage of the American government's support for Jewish statehood. He feared that the US was shifting towards Britain's negative policies and its aim "to crush" the Zionist cause. "If the American people knew the true facts," Kennedy wrote, "I am certain a more honest and forthright policy would be substituted*



Kathleen Kennedy Townsend on Israel's Channel 1. Photo: Screenshot.

for the benefit of all."

RFK's assassin, a Jordanian citizen born to a Christian family in Jerusalem in Mandatory Palestine, is serving a life sentence at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego. In a 1989 interview from prison, he said, "My only connection with Robert Kennedy was his sole support of Israel and his deliberate attempt to send those 50 bombers to Israel to obviously do harm to the Palestinians."

Asked by Ahimeir whether she is able to forgive her father's murderer, Townsend responded: "To tell you the truth, that's a little difficult."

U.S. News.

# PBS Ombudsman Calls for 'Clarification, Correction' Over Ben Rhodes' False Claim on Settlements

BY BARNEY BREEN-PORTNOY

A PBS news program should issue a "clarifying or correcting" statement in the wake of a claim made by a top Obama administration official during an interview last month that Israel was constructing "tens of thousands" of new settlements in the West Bank, the station's ombudsman said on Friday.

Michael Getler was commenting on a Dec. 23 interview with Ben Rhodes — outgoing President Barack Obama's deputy national security adviser for strategic communications — conducted by PBS "NewsHour" anchor Judy Woodruff. Getler's attention was brought to the matter by the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA) media watchdog group, which pointed out that the total number of settlements and outposts is 228, and that no new settlements have been built in recent years.

"[I]t seems clear to me that Rhodes misspoke when he talked about thousands and tens of thousands of settlements," Getler wrote.

In response to a query from Getler, Rhodes said, "I assume I was referring to settlers/individual settlement units, rather than settlement blocs." In his email, Rhodes went on to describe settlement units as "housing, whereas settlements are generally used to refer to a cluster of houses (which can obviously take different forms — apartments, houses, etc)."

In the interview with Woodruff, in which he defended the Obama administration's abstention from the recent vote on the anti-settlement UN Security Council resolution that was approved — Rhodes said, "I think if you look at the map of the West Bank, if you look at the future of the two-state solution, these settlements are encroaching further and further beyond the separation barrier that the Israelis themselves built; thousands of new settlements are being constructed and,

# Israel Arrests 13 Hamas Terrorists in West Bank

BY JNS.ORG

Israeli security forces recently arrested 13 Hamas terrorists, the Shin Bet security agency revealed Sunday.

The suspects were arrested in a joint operation by the Israel Defense Forces and the Shin Bet that exposed an extensive Hamas infrastructure in the Ramallah area and in Judea and Samaria's Binyamin region.

The operation also seized money, a vehicle and propaganda material, the Shin Bet said in a statement, explaining that the terrorist command center operated under a hierarchical structure and comprised dozens of terrorists who were working to strengthen Hamas's "broad regional impact" in the West Bank.

Part of the command center's operations focused on economic and social activity, including financial support for the families of imprisoned and dead Hamas terrorists.

The command center received steady funding from Hamas headquarters in Gaza and from the terrorist group's satellites abroad. The exposure of this infrastructure demonstrates that the group has continued its attempts to put itself in a position to topple the Palestinian Authority's seat in the West Bank, and presses on with its project of committing terror attacks against Israel.



Hamas fighters. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

frankly, if these trends continue, it will be impossible to realize a two-state solution."

Later, in response to a question about criticism of the abstention, Rhodes stated, "Well, look, we respect, of course, friends on both sides of the aisle who have expressed different views on this. Again, I think the question is going to be when history looks at these types of decisions, when people look back and they say, 'You saw tens of thousands of settlements being constructed; you saw — as was addressed in the resolution — incitement to violence on the Palestinian side.'"


Just a few days after the PBS "NewsHour" interview, Rhodes — as reported by *The Algemeiner* — was called an "expert at fiction" by Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer for asserting that the Obama administration did not orchestrate the passage of the Security Council resolution.



Deputy US National Security Adviser for Strategic Communications Ben Rhodes. Photo: Screenshot.

In a *New York Times Magazine* profile published in May, Rhodes — who holds a M.F.A. in creative writing — admitted to creating a media "echo chamber" to promote the Iran nuclear deal. Reporters were "saying things that validated what he had given them to say," he revealed.

## WARNING




**Your bottled water may have some dirty secrets...**

While promoting an image of health and vitality, bottled water companies burn millions of barrels of oil and generate millions of tons of greenhouse gases in the manufacturing, processing and transporting of their products. To top it off, an estimated 38 Billion bottles non-biodegradable plastic water bottles are tossed into our landfills annually!

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 <p style="font-size: small;">                     A Pre-Sediment &amp; Carbon Filter    B Carbon Filter                      C Fine Micron Membrane    D Ultra Fine Membrane                 </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Cost Affective</b></li> <li>✗ <b>NO Plastic Bottles</b></li> <li>✗ <b>NO Heavy Lifting</b></li> <li>✗ <b>Never Run Out of Pure Water</b></li> <li>✗ <b>NO Storage – Clutter</b></li> <li>✓ <b>GO GREEN!</b></li> </ul>



## Opinion.

# The Pitiably, Pathetic Paris Peace Parley



SHMULEY BOTEACH  
ENGELWOOD

Barack Obama's and John Kerry's "peace" summit in Paris, to which neither Israel nor the Palestinians even bothered to show up — was a farce. The anti-Israel, anti-settlement declaration issued at the conference was predictable and pre-established, and one wonders what possible justification there could be for 70 nations to waste so much money sending their representatives — including 35 foreign ministers — to a ridiculous and useless one-day gathering that achieved precisely nothing.

The principle purpose of the conference, it seems, was to serve as Obama's and Kerry's last anti-Israel gasp. After passing UN Security Council Resolution 2334 condemning Israeli settlements, they needed one more international move to confirm the sentiment.

Well done, gentlemen.

I predict that when the Obama administration is over, we will still continue to hear Kerry bloviating about how Israel is the reason there is no peace. This follows a long and predictable pattern that has emerged over the last several decades of US Middle East policy: The State Department urges the president to pursue its formula for bringing about peace between Israel and the Palestinians; the president and his secretary of state waste years in this quixotic endeavor, marked by their inability to confront

Palestinian terror and incitement; then, after entrenching their failures, the diplomats retire and use the media to pontificate on what their successors should do.

The latest representative of this class to speak out is Daniel Kurtzer, who served as George W. Bush's US ambassador to Israel. In a recent op-ed in the *New York Times*, Kurtzer complained that Trump's selection of David Friedman as United States ambassador to Israel is a serious mistake. He asserted that "Mr. Friedman would be representing not the American people but a small, extreme minority of Americans who have in mind the interests of a small, extreme minority in Israel."

I know David Friedman. He is a man of integrity, professionalism and total dedication to the Jewish people. And it is Kurtzer, not Friedman, who represents the fringe of Jewish opinion in the US and Israel.

Kurtzer argued that Friedman is wrong for the job because, he "has been publicly arguing that Israel has a right to build settlements and annex parts of the West Bank. He believes that the United States should recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem."

But Israel — historically, politically, religiously and geographically — has more rights to sovereignty in Judea and Samaria than the Palestinians.

No one disputes that the West Bank was the Biblical cradle of early Jewish civilization and that the land was unlawfully occupied by Jordan between the 1948 War of Independence and the 1967 Six-Day War. Jordan's annexation of the West Bank in 1950 was



French President Francois Hollande addresses attendees on June 3, 2016, at the MFA at the Convention Center in Paris, France. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

recognized only by the United Kingdom, Iraq and Pakistan. So what illegal occupation of the West Bank is Kurtzer referring to? Which legal entity did Israel illegally occupy? A vanished Ottoman Empire? A dissolved British mandate? A Palestinian state that has never existed? From who, pray tell, did Israel take this land?

Eugene Rostow, a former undersecretary of state for political affairs in the Johnson administration, observed that UN Security Council Resolution 242, the backbone of all peace negotiations, gives Israel a legal right to be in the West Bank. The resolution "allows Israel to administer the territories" it won in 1967 until "a just and lasting peace in the Middle East" is achieved.

So Friedman is correct when he says that Israel has a right to build settlements in the West Bank. In fact, the Palestinians agreed to it when they signed the Oslo Accords. Whether doing so is in Israel's best interests is for Israel's government (the current one having been elected three consecutive times) to decide.

As for annexing parts of the West Bank, Israel is under no obligation to maintain the status quo forever, because the Palestinians refuse to coexist with a Jewish state. Israel has been incredibly patient in holding off annexation of some or all of the West Bank.

Regarding moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Kurtzer knows that Congress passed a law to this effect in 1995. But Congress made the mistake of providing the president a loophole to ignore the law, which is why the embassy remains in Tel Aviv. So, Friedman not only has the law on his side, but the foresight that Palestinian apologists lack: the understanding that recognizing Jerusalem as the indivisible capital of Israel will end the Palestinian fantasy of one day controlling Jerusalem.

From there, the Palestinian house of cards will collapse. Arab governments that have used innocent Palestinian refugees as pawns to demonize Israel will recognize that these refugees will never migrate to Israel and demographically overrun the Jewish state, and that Palestine will never be liberated "from the river to the sea."

Many critics seem frustrated that Friedman will carry out a foreign policy that treats Israel as an ally, as opposed to President Obama's favorite whipping post. The fact that Friedman is close to the president-elect and is a solid friend of Israel's will ensure that he has an important voice in ensuring that the democratic state of Israel is not forced to make concessions to non-democratic terror entities bent on its destruction.

*Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, "America's Rabbi," is referred to by The Washington Post as "the most famous Rabbi in America." He is the author, most recently, of "The Israel Warrior: Standing Up for the Jewish State from Campus to Street Corner." Follow him on Twitter @RabbiShmuley.*

## Why the Palestinian Issue Won't Disappear



BEN COHEN/JNS.ORG  
NEW YORK

It's been clear for a long time that there is little difference between the character of terrorist attacks in Israel and those in the West. Trucks ram into crowds — as they did in Nice, Berlin and Jerusalem. Terrorists blow up or shoot up nightclubs — as they did in Orlando, Tel Aviv and Bali. Knife-wielding Islamists dash into venues, ranging from shopping malls to police stations, stabbing anyone in reach — as they did in Minnesota, Brussels and, yes, Tel Aviv.

Compared to 15 years ago, there is a much greater empathy in the West for Israel's existential position these days. European leaders like French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister Theresa May have shown far greater readiness than even US President Barack Obama to recognize that anti-Zionism is a form of antisemitism, that the campaign to boycott Israel is founded upon hatred and that Israel lives in a neighborhood where, every day, someone influential calls for its annihilation.

Sadly, this understanding doesn't carry over into the workings of diplomacy. The last days of the Obama administration have

brought us the passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, which paves the way for imposing a solution outside the framework of direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and the January 15 Paris Mideast conference, at which no less than 72 countries, including the US, have pulled up in the French capital to issue a statement so utterly divorced from reality that you can't help laughing.

Leave aside the obvious objections: that this conference perpetuates the fallacy that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict lies at the heart of the Middle East troubles, or simply that the spectacle of 72 countries fixating on Israel — when neighboring Syria has been turned into a graveyard — is nauseating.

Look instead at the worldview expressed in the conference statement, a draft of which was distributed in advance. The tools for achieving and sustaining a "two-state solution," it declared, are "economic incentives, the consolidation of Palestinian state capacities, and civil society dialogue."

Alright then.

Economic incentives: Forget about turning Gaza into a flourishing port city for as long as Hamas is running the place. Ignore the fact that Palestinian Authority (PA) corruption and nepotism have concentrated immense wealth around Ramallah with no trickle to the rest of the West Bank. Disregard the rampant scale of organized crime in the West Bank, as documented by the Palestinian academic Ali Qleibo. Instead, these countries plan to carry on believing that pumping "economic incen-

tives" will usher in a new era of peace.

Palestinian state capacities: This is an interesting one. The conference statement hints that we shouldn't automatically expect a Palestinian state to be like Norway from the get-go. And there are two reasons for that. First: the PA has been stealing billions of dollars in international aid money from day one of its existence. Second, apart from a few exceptions like Jordan and the areas under Kurdish control, Middle Eastern states — of the Sunni and Shia, Arab, Turkish and Persian variety — are little more than dungeons with flags on top of them.

But hey, that's nothing that a bit of "civil society dialogue" can't fix, eh?

I don't want to be unfair here, because there have been some wonderful efforts to encourage dialogue between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel, but for that approach to work, you need to first recognize the humanity in each other. What would actually get discussed at these dialogues, anyway? An Israeli asking a Palestinian, "Why are your preachers calling us sons of apes and pigs again?"

Maybe none of this matters anymore. Maybe Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is right when he says that the Paris conference is the "final gasp" of a failed strategy. He has good reason, after all, to believe that, especially after hearing the condemnation of Resolution 2334 from Secretary of State nominee Rex Tillerson.

Yet, while the change of administration in Washington may strengthen Israel's diplomatic position for the immediate period, and while the Palestinians will have to get to the back of the line in terms of America's international priorities, the Palestinian question itself will not disappear. In many ways, it will find its status enhanced.

To begin with, there's the public domain. And this brings us to something that the Europeans have never understood:

The historic Palestinian strategy has never been about achieving statehood, but about preventing a negotiated solution in order to perpetuate the image of the Palestinians as the people to whom history has dealt the cruelest blow. It's why the Palestinians make deliberately unrealistic demands, like the "right of return" — a goal the Palestine Liberation Organization originally pledged to achieve through violence — and suing the United Kingdom due to the 1917 Balfour Declaration.

In terms of building up public support around the world, it's a Palestinian strategy that has worked. Hence, we can assume that if President-elect Donald Trump does a 180-degree turn on President Obama's approach to the Israelis, the narrative of the Palestinians — ignored by America, facing 50 years of "occupation" under Israel — will become emblematic of public resistance to the foreign policies of the Trump administration. In the American context, the Democratic Party is now the most significant barometer of that process.

The Palestinians can also play power politics. They can carry on with their campaign to achieve membership in international bodies as an independent state. They can curry favor with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the next stage of his conflict with the West. And they can insert themselves into US domestic issues — rising antisemitism, the political culture on university campuses, the legality of boycotts — in a way that few other foreign policy issues can do.

As I said, Netanyahu may well be right about the Paris talks as the last gasp of Obama's strategy to secure Palestinian independence. But that doesn't mean the battle is over. Far from it.

*Ben Cohen, senior editor of The Tower.org & The Tower Magazine, writes a weekly column for JNS.org on Jewish affairs and Middle Eastern politics.*

## Opinion.

## Hamas' Cyber Bikini Intifada



RUTHIE BLUM  
TEL AVIV

Along with bloodlust and brawn, Hamas proved this week that it also has brains, at least where its enemies' weaknesses are concerned. But even though the terrorist organization that controls the Gaza Strip has grown quite proficient at using the internet to incite violence against Jews, it clearly is still no match for Israel in the realm of cyberspace.

Unbeknownst to the Israeli public until Tuesday, while Hamas was distributing candy in the streets of Gaza to celebrate Sunday's truck-ramming attack — which killed four IDF soldiers who were about to embark on an educational field trip — the Islamist goons had been engaged in a clever sting operation to obtain classified information from the Israeli military.

Posing as beautiful girls on social media, with enticing photos and hip Hebrew lingo, Hamas cyber operatives succeeded in seducing boys in uniform.

As in the documentary film and later MTV series "Catfish," these young guys believed that the scantily clad women they were chatting, flirting and exchanging messages with were genuine bombshells, and even potential girlfriends. Well, until the "girls" stopped responding, that is, as soon as they got their targets to download a certain app, which was actually spyware.

According to the IDF blog, this app "can turn a mobile device into an open book — leaving contacts, location, apps, pictures and files accessible ... [and] can stream video from the camera and audio from the microphone."



An IDF soldier on his cellphone.  
Photo: IDF/Twitter.

This was a case, the blog said, of Hamas using a weapon that was not a bomb, gun or vehicle, but rather a simple friend request.

It is not clear how many soldiers initially fell

for the trap, but the scheme was uncovered by the IDF Military Intelligence Directorate's Information Security Department when complaints of other suspicious online activity were lodged. In the process of investigating those issues, the Hamas "honey plot" was uncovered.

To counteract such threats, which the IDF reported happily resulted in no security breaches, a campaign has been launched to warn soldiers about cyber entrapment and provide guidelines for those whose phones have already been compromised.

Meanwhile, the IDF may expand its social media rules for soldiers to forbid them from revealing any information about their military service over the internet.

The irony of this foiled attempt on the part of Hamas is two-fold. In the first place, one of the aspects of Western democracies that the Islamist terrorist organization aims to eradicate by way of the sword is the freedom of men and women to behave as they wish, consensually, anywhere from the boardroom to the bedroom.

Choosing to lure the Israeli boys with stolen profiles of overtly sensual females was a way of trying to topple the Jewish state from within, through its own "immoral decadence." Yet what it revealed was Hamas' deep sexual perversion, coupled with a whole lot of envy.

The second irony has to do with Israel's grasp of the depth of cyber threats — something other countries are now scrambling to confront — and concerted efforts to thwart and combat them.

Early last summer, the IDF completed the construction of a cyber control center to protect the army's data. This came two years after a cyber defense situation room was established, and soon after that, special units were created to repel attacks against Israeli infrastructure, such as the electrical grid, the water and banking systems and telephone networks. But, while rightly worried about the dire consequences of a cyber attack that could shut down civilian functioning and impair military capabilities, it missed such a basic — almost primitive — bit of Hamas foreplay.

Israel has learned that it is easier to fight an actual war than to keep "lone-wolf" terrorism — such as the truck-ramming attack in Jerusalem — at bay. Now it must figure out what to do about the havoc that can be wreaked by dangerous identity-theft cyber pests posing in bikinis.

Indeed, Israel may be able to infiltrate Iran's nuclear mechanisms with worms, but getting its populace to stay away from chat rooms is a mission that even the mighty IDF will find impossible.

Ruthie Blum is the managing editor of *The Algemeiner*.

## Why Is 'Doctors Without Borders' Prescribing Anti-Israel Propaganda in Dubai?



YONA SCHIFFMILLER  
JERUSALEM

MSF does not limit itself to attacking the legitimacy of Israel and Zionism. It also romanticizes deadly Palestinian violence by

referring to images of "armed soldiers face[ing] young stone throwers or Molotov cocktails" as "icons symbolizing the struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation." Similarly, one of the exhibits displays the living rooms of Palestinian homes, identifying them as a place to pay tribute to "martyrs" — a term that whitewashes the murderous terror attacks carried out against innocent civilians.

Unsurprisingly, after being displayed in

## Will Trump Bow to Arab Intimidation on Jerusalem?



MITCHELL BARD  
NEW YORK

The fact that there is any hesitancy to move the embassy is itself a colossal US policy failure, and a glaring example of executive spinelessness. Where else does the US let its policy be dictated by threats of violence? Giving in to blackmail from terrorists only emboldens them, and in the case of Jerusalem, they've learned that whipping up hysteria, and periodically resorting to violence, is sufficient to cow the world's only superpower.

With everything that's happening in the Middle East, does anyone really believe that the Muslim world is going to get upset over the moving of the US Embassy 40 miles down the road and acknowledging the fact that Jerusalem has been Israel's capital since independence, and will remain so in perpetuity?

Is ISIS, which is now fighting for its survival in Syria and Iraq, going to send soldiers to fight a jihad for Jerusalem? Are the Sunnis and Shiites, who slaughter each on a daily basis in a death match for regional supremacy, going to be distracted by the American flag flying over a building in Jerusalem? Will the Gulf States that face Iran's hegemonic ambitions turn on the country that they need most to keep their royal heads on their shoulders?

And will the US move spark another intifada? Not likely.

First, Israel is much better prepared for the outbreak of violence than it was in the past.

Second, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has been trying to stir up Muslim anger by regularly accusing Israel of threatening the Al-Aqsa Mosque — and has failed.

Third, an escalation of terror will undermine the already unconvincing case that Palestinians are ready for statehood, and that Israel should capitulate to their demands.

France in December 2015, this sympathetic portrayal of Palestinian violence led Roger Cukierman, head of the Council of Jewish Institutions in France, to condemn the display as "an apology for terrorism" and warn "that [it] could inflame antisemitic violence."

While "In Between Wars" indicates the NGO's embrace of a politicized agenda, what is entirely unclear is how it fits into MSF's stated goal of providing medical care to those in need. The exhibition makes only passing mention of the process through which Israel grants Palestinians medical permits to reach Israeli medical facilities, instead focusing its attention on Palestinian violence and "resistance."

It is ironic and noteworthy that MSF is holding these exhibitions in countries like Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), both of which have troops fighting as part of the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.

At a time when medical facilities and personnel have come under repeated attack in that conflict — including those supported by MSF — addressing the protected status of hospitals, doctors and medics would appear to be more pertinent to a medical organization than pandering to local anti-Israel animus. Alas, MSF has chosen to curry favor with non-democratic regimes by providing a steady stream of political propaganda at the expense

Fourth, if an intifada breaks out, Israelis who lost interest in territorial compromise after the Gaza disengagement brought terror rather than peace, will be even more reluctant to support any withdrawal from the West Bank.

Fifth, an uprising will reinforce the belief that the Palestinians cannot be trusted to keep the peace even after an agreement because they will use any excuse to turn to violence.

The reaction to Palestinian threats regarding the embassy parallel those of Kerry and his predecessors to Palestinian irredentism. Rather than tell the Palestinians that we will not tolerate any violence, and that we will punish them if they do not heed our warning, our feckless diplomats convince their political bosses that we must give in to their demands. Usually, what follows is pressure on Israel to make concessions to appease Palestinian anger.

President Trump needs to take the same tough line that he has expressed toward the United Nations after its reprehensible adoption of yet another anti-Israel measure last month. He should let the Palestinians and other leaders in the region know that no economic or military aid will be forthcoming to anyone who in any way threatens our embassy in Jerusalem. An attack on the embassy is an attack on the United States, he should tell them, and will trigger a military response not only against the perpetrators but the organizations or governments behind them.

By moving the embassy, President Trump can send a strong message that America will once again behave like a superpower. We will no longer lead from behind. The simple act of moving our ambassador down the road from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem will show that, unlike President Obama, Trump cannot be blackmailed or intimidated, and that Iran, Russia, Syria, China, the Palestinians and our other enemies will no longer be allowed to ignore or threaten our interests.

Dr. Mitchell Bard is the author/editor of 24 books including the 2017 edition of *Myths and Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict*; *The Arab Lobby*, and the novel *After Anatevka: Tevye in Palestine*.

of taking a stand on behalf of the medical community and patients. One is left to wonder what quid-pro-quo arrangement — financial or otherwise — lies at the heart of this strategy.

The exhibition's organizers are themselves guilty of the same sin of omission vis-à-vis Palestinian medical care. MSF could have used this platform as an opportunity to discuss threats to medical access for Palestinians, including the use of medical facilities and infrastructure by Palestinian terrorists to store weapons and plan attacks on Israeli civilians and soldiers. Its failure to do so throws into stark relief how the organization's blind advocacy comes at the expense of its core interests as a medical organization.

MSF's descent into political advocacy is a cautionary tale for other international humanitarian and human rights NGOs. By increasingly embracing one-side of a complex, protracted conflict, MSF jeopardizes the impartiality that allows it to operate in conflict zones around the world. By inserting itself so crudely into the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the organization does tremendous harm to the heart of its humanitarian mission of providing emergency aid to those who need it most.

Yona Schiffmiller is the Director of the North America Desk at NGO Monitor, a Jerusalem-based research institute.

## Impressions.

# Why Israelis Went Ape Over the Story of a Missing Monkey

BY RUTHIE BLUM

On Monday, every Israeli news outlet devoted space to the frantic search for Connor, a 17-year-old male capuchin monkey who escaped from the Zoological Center Tel Aviv-Ramat Gan, more commonly known as the “Safari,” and was later briefly spotted in busy Tel Aviv.

According to a spokeswoman who has known the “nice and friendly” simian since his birth, Connor fled to get away from Kimchi, a more dominant male. The two “roommates,” she said, never got along well, and in the last couple of years, the friction between them escalated, becoming too much for poor Connor to bear.

Connor’s first breakout occurred two days earlier, when he jumped the fence of his outdoor enclosure and wandered around the 250-acre site, managing to elude concerned zookeepers.

But with his escape to the big city a couple of days later, Connor’s caretakers were fearful for his safety amid the bustling, unfamiliar human and vehicular traffic. They asked the public to be on the lookout for him, and for anyone who encounters him not to panic him with sudden movements or loud noises.

This is not the first time a story about an animal on the loose in Israel has made the papers.



Connor, the missing 17-year-old capuchin monkey who went missing on Monday. Photo: Facebook

The reason this one seems to resonate more than previous ones has to do with the length of time that the episode has gone on, and with the feelings of sympathy and amusement that small monkeys arouse in human beings.

What is most striking about the whole drama, however, is the context in which it unfolded.

On Sunday evening, the controversial Middle East “peace” summit held in Paris and attended by diplomats from more than 70 countries culminated in a declaration of support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — a typical precursor to the demand that Israel withdraw to the 1949 armistice lines.

The following morning, while Connor was roaming the streets of Tel Aviv, new details were revealed about the investigation into Prime

*Continued on Page A10*

# Too Much Empathy Can Be a Bad Thing

BY JEREMY ROSEN

Paul Bloom, a professor of psychology at Yale University, has just published a book entitled *Against Empathy: The Case for Rational Compassion*. The book raises some excellent questions. To put it simply, Bloom argues that empathy is not a very good basis for making ethical decisions. The book has been widely reviewed and attacked. Yet as any thinking person recognizes, it all depends on what you mean by empathy.

There is a distinction between empathy and sympathy. Dictionary definitions say, “Empathy: The power of understanding and imaginatively entering into another person’s feelings.” Sympathy, on the other hand, might be defined as “sharing another’s emotions. An affinity or harmony.” Both words are used similarly and often interchangeably, yet differ subtly in their emotional meaning.

Bloom says that empathy goes much further than sympathy, and on the surface, he is right. Empathy only occurs in those moments when we share the emotional experience of another person. Empathy would cause a therapist treating a depressed person to also become depressed. Compassion is more appropriate than empathy. Compassion refers more to how one reacts to someone in pain or suffering, than how one actually feels. Bloom defines compassion as “concern for others, wanting their pain to go away, wanting their lives to improve — but without the shared emotional experience that’s so central to empathy.” I may feel compassion for my torturer, but I certainly will not empathize with him.

How often do we say, “I know exactly how you feel,” when we cannot possibly know unless we have experienced the same pain? We cannot get inside of another person to know what they really feel.

But we say these things when we visit the sick or a house of mourning, because we want to be helpful, supportive and emotionally present rather than scientifically or philosophically accurate and precise. Even if we have had similar experiences, we still can only extrapolate. We cannot know another’s feelings. Bloom argues that empathy is “biased, pushing us in the direction of parochialism and racism.” Sympathy helps add an important layer of reinforcement that, for example, can modify the extent to which we enforce the law. Sympathy for a poor man stealing to support his hungry family for example will lead his not approve of stealing but to try to find help for them.

Bloom wants us to be more analytical and accurate, and that is why he argues for sympathy or compassion rather than empathy. As a philosophy graduate, I am inclined to agree with him. The trouble is the Torah does not seem to. Commands to love neighbors or strangers surely imply more than sympathy. The Torah adds a layer onto justice and the law.

How do we explain Exodus 23:9 saying, “You shall know the feeling (nefesh) of the stranger because you were strangers.” We are specifically commanded to remember what the experience was like. Nefesh literally means the being, the very soul of a person. Doesn’t this sound like empathy? Except of course it was a command given to people who may never have experienced slavery and alienation in Egypt beyond the generation of the Exodus. It cannot mean having had the same experience. So perhaps Bloom was wrong from a Jewish point of view to suggest that such deep feeling ought to have no place in legal decisions.

It was a review of Bloom’s book by the Anglo-Jewish Simon Baron-Cohen in the *New York Times* Book Review on December 30, 2016, that helped me clarify the issue. He opens his review thus:

*When I read about what happened in the West Bank Village of Duma on July 31, 2015, I immediately felt empathy. ...a firebomb was thrown inside the home of a Palestinian family...18-month-old Ali Dawabsheh...burned to death. Within weeks, both parents...succumbed to their wounds and died. ... I empathized with that Palestinian family despite my being Jewish.*

It’s true that most Jews felt revulsion and sympathy. Indeed, from the president of Israel downward, expressions of horror, sympathy and support were overwhelming. I am very pleased the criminal was caught, prosecuted and convicted. But I cannot think of anyone using the word empathy or its equivalent. Was this because the situation is so fraught and so much pain has been experienced on both sides? And was it because when the crime goes the other way, the Palestinians hand out sweets in celebration?

So why, I ask, did Simon Baron-Cohen present this anti-Israel narrative?

Of course, I thought, here is another example of a Jews eager to burnish their left-Wing credentials.



Paul Bloom. Photo: Yale.

Empathy, in this case, means more than sympathy. It is an assertion of political loyalties and priorities. That, to me, proves that Bloom is right.

I sympathize with suffering; I can want to see suffering assuaged and conflict resolved. But I cannot empathize with a cause that seeks to destroy mine. Although I do not support settlements, when a political argument is supported with violence, I cannot empathize with it, because I am a potential target, too.

When the Torah talks about understanding the soul of the stranger and insists that we treat the stranger as one of us, that is when the stranger is a partner in society. But when the stranger is positively trying to destroy your community, there is no such exhortation.

I do not know what any particular Palestinian or ISIS sympathizer feels towards Jews. But as a group, I know that they are not favorably inclined towards us. They have been indoctrinated to dislike Jews. I understand this. I understand their antipathy, and I sympathize with their predicament. But I cannot empathize with them, because they cannot empathize with me. Neither can I empathize with those who behave inhumanly, or dehumanize others.

I wonder if it isn’t precisely because Judaism emphasizes care, concern and sympathy that so many Jews have the tendency to go too far in expressing empathy and sympathy, even when it is to our detriment.

# Legal Notice.

## LEGAL NOTICE

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

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 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, NY, 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, NY. 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.,

## LEGAL NOTICE

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 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.

## LEGAL NOTICE

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

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST JOSEPH CAMPISI, RYAN SARACO, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated June 06, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on November 17, 2016 at 2:30 PM, premises known as 1934 PROSPECT PLACE, BROOKLYN, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 1465, LOT 30. Approximate amount of judgment \$524,555.47 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 5843/13. Edward Mark Rappaport Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 AJ 1/6/13/20/27

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION ("FANNIE MAE"), a Corporation organized and existed under the laws of the United States of America, Plaintiff -against- LYNETTE DAVIS AKA LYNETTE J. DAVIS AKA LYNETTE GOODRIDGE, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated September 16, 2016, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Courthouse 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY on February 9, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the southerly side of Maple Street, distant 220 feet westerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the southerly side of Maple Street with the westerly side of Nostrand Avenue; being a plot 100 feet by 20 feet by 100 feet by 20 feet. Block 5033 Lot 31. Said premises known as 276 MAPLE STREET, BROOKLYN, NY Approximate amount of lien \$366,259.49 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. Index Number 13812/2013. BRUNO F. CODISPOTI, ESQ., Referee David A. Gallo & Associates LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 95-25 Queens Boulevard, 11th Floor, Rego Park, NY 11374 File# 7254.8744 AJ 1/6/13/20/27

File No. 2005-2377 PROBATE CITATION SURROGATE'S COURT-QUEENS COUNTY CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By The Grace of God Free and

## LEGAL NOTICE

Independent To Regina Harper and Paul Harper if living and if dead, to his/her heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if he/she died subsequent to the decedent herein, to his/her executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose name and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Robert Allen a/k/a Robert R. Allen the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence To: Carol A. See, Barbara Elaine (Allen) Myers, Iris Dance-Murray, Emmerson O. Allen, Dianne E. Bell, Gordon Keith Motley, Hamdi Abdel Nuur, Dorian Ridley-Curtis and Todd Elliott. A petition having been duly filed by Laura S. Francis, who is domiciled at 178-41 Crandall Avenue, Springfield Gardens, New York 11434 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Queens County, at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435 on February 9, 2017, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Robert Allen a/k/a Robert R. Allen lately domiciled at 178-43 Crandall Avenue, Springfield Gardens, New York 11434 admitting to probate a Will dated July 6, 2001, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Robert R. Allen, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to: Laura S. Francis Dated, Attested and Sealed Dec 2, 2016 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate Margaret M. Gribbon Chief Clerk RAZIS & ROSS, P.C. Attorney for Petitioner 23-09 31st Street, Astoria, New York 11105 (718) 932-7500-Telephone [NOTE: This Citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.] AJ 1/13/20/27; 2/3

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR LSF9 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST, Plaintiff against LUIS RODOLFO PEARSON A/K/A LUIS RODOLFO PEARSON A/K/A LUIS R. PEARSON; MARCIA PEARSON; ALANA PEARSON; CAMILLE PEARSON; LISA PEARSON, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on December 6, 2016. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY, on the 16th day of February, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: 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. Said premises known as 491 East 53rd Street, Brooklyn, NY. 11203. (Block: 4728, Lot: 28). Approximate amount of lien \$ 445,751.44 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 501751/14. Mark A. Longo, Esq., Referee. Fein, Such & Crane, LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1800 Rochester, NY 14614 (585) 232-7400 AJ 1/13/20/27; 2/3

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY LIVE WELL FINANCIAL, INC.; Plaintiff(s) vs. IRIS LUMBSDEN A/K/A IRIS

## LEGAL NOTICE

WILLIAMS A/K/A IRIS I. WILLIAMS; 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 December 13, 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, NY 11201. On February 16, 2017 at 2:30 pm. Premises known as 351 EAST 32ND STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11226 Block: 04949 Lot: 0066 ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. 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 \$707,461.67 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 502033/2015 Aaron Tyk, Esq., Referee AJ 1/13/20/27; 2/3

Notice of formation of WANG 1686 LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/3/17. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: 6617 16th Ave., Bklyn, NY 11204. Purpose: any lawful act. AJ 1/13/20/27; 2/3/10/17

NOTICE OF SALE STATE OF NEW YORK, SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY- 21st Mortgage Corporation, as Mortgage Loan Servicer to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, a federal savings bank d/b/a Christiana Trust, a division of Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, solely in its capacity as Trustee for and on behalf of the Knoxville 2012 Trust, Plaintiff(s) vs. Tracy Brock, James Louis, Paulette Small, et al, Defendant(s). Index No. 12524/14. In pursuance and by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure and sale in the amount of \$866,028.89 plus interest and costs duly granted by this Court and entered in the Kings County Clerk's Office on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016, I, the undersigned Referee, duly appointed in this action for such purpose, will expose for sale and sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder therefor in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2017 at 2:30 P.M., the real estate and mortgaged premises directed in and by said judgment described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, known and designated as Block 1452 Lot 21. Said premises known as 1892 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233. Premises sold subject to provisions of the filed judgment and terms of sale. SUBJECT TO restrictions, covenants, etc. of record, prior lien(s), if any, and an easement, if any, contained in Deed recorded September 25, 1997 in Reel 4028 Page 934. LEONARD SPECTOR, ESQ., Referee Helfand & Helfand, Attorney(s) for Plaintiff, Office address, 350 Fifth Avenue - Suite 5330, New York, NY 10118 AJ 1/20/27; 2/3/10

## Tradition.

# Who Am I?



**JONATHAN SACKS**  
LONDON

Moses' second question to God at the burning bush was, Who are you? "So I will go to the Israelites and say, 'Your fathers' God sent me to you.' They will immediately ask me what His name is. What shall I say to them?" (Ex. 3:13). God's reply, Ehyeh asher ehyeh, wrongly translated in almost every Christian Bible as something like "I am that I am," deserves an essay in its own right (I deal with it in my books *Future Tense* and *The Great Partnership*).

His first question, though, was, *Mi anochi*, "Who am I?" (Ex. 3:11).

"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" said Moses to God. "And how can I possibly get the Israelites out of Egypt?" On the surface the meaning is clear. Moses is asking two things. The first: who am I, to be worthy of so great a mission? The second: how can I possibly succeed?

God answers the second. "Because I will be with you." You will succeed because I am not asking you to do it alone. I am not really asking you to do it at all. I will be doing it for you. I want you to be My representative, My mouthpiece, My emissary and My voice.

God never answered the first question. Perhaps in a strange way



Moses answered himself. In Tanakh as a whole, the people who turn out to be the most worthy are the ones who deny they are worthy at all. The prophet Isaiah, when charged with his mission, said, 'I am a man of unclean lips' (Is. 6:5). Jeremiah said, 'I cannot speak, for I am a child' (Jer. 1:6). David, Israel's greatest king, echoed Moses' words, 'Who am I?' (2 Samuel 7:18). Jonah, sent on a mission by God, tried to run away. According to Rashbam, Jacob was about to run away when he found his way blocked by the man/angel with whom he wrestled at night (Rashbam to Gen. 32:23).

The heroes of the Bible are not figures from Greek or any other kind of myth. They are not people possessed of a sense of destiny, determined from an early age to achieve fame. They do not have what the Greeks called *megalopsychia*, a proper sense of their own worth, a gracious and lightly worn superiority. They did not go to Eton or

Oxford. They were not born to rule. They were people who doubted their own abilities. There were times when they felt like giving up. Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah and Jonah reached points of such despair that they prayed to die. They became heroes of the moral life against their will. There was work to be done – God told them so – and they did it. It is almost as if a sense of smallness is a sign of greatness. So God never answered Moses' question, "Why me?"

But there is another question within the question. "Who am I?" can be not just a question about worthiness. It can also be a question about identity. Moses, alone on Mount Horeb/Sinai, summoned by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, is not just speaking to God when he says those words. He is also speaking to himself. "Who am I?"

There are two possible answers. The first: Moses is a prince of Egypt. He had been adopted as a baby by Pharaoh's daughter. He had grown up in the royal palace. He dressed like an Egyptian, looked and spoke like an Egyptian. When he rescued Jethro's daughters from some rough shepherds, they go back and tell their father, "An Egyptian saved us" (2:19). His very name, Moses, was given to him by Pharaoh's daughter (Ex. 2:10). It was, presumably, an Egyptian name (in fact, Moses, as in Ramses, is the ancient Egyptian word for "child". The etymology given in the Torah,

that Moses means "I drew him from the water," tells us what the word suggested to Hebrew speakers). So the first answer is that Moses was an Egyptian prince.

The second was that he was a Midianite. For, although he was Egyptian by upbringing, he had been forced to leave. He had made his home in Midian, married a Midianite woman Zipporah, daughter of a Midianite priest and was "content to live" there, quietly as a shepherd. We tend to forget that he spent many years there. He left Egypt as a young man and was already eighty years old at the start of his mission when he first stood before Pharaoh (Ex. 7:7). He must have spent the overwhelming majority of his adult life in Midian, far away from the Israelites on the one hand and the Egyptians on the other. Moses was a Midianite.

So when Moses asks, "Who am I?" it is not just that he feels himself unworthy. He feels himself

uninvolved. He may have been Jewish by birth, but he had not suffered the fate of his people. He had not grown up as a Jew. He had not lived among Jews. He had good reason to doubt that the Israelites would even recognize him as one of them. How, then, could he become their leader? More penetratingly, why should he even think of becoming their leader? Their fate was not his. He was not part of it. He was not responsible for it. He did not suffer from it. He was not implicated in it.

What is more, the one time he had actually tried to intervene in their affairs – he killed an Egyptian taskmaster who had killed an Israelite slave, and the next day tried to stop two Israelites from fighting one another – his intervention was not welcomed. "Who made you ruler and judge over us?" they said to him. These are the first recorded words of an Israelite to Moses. He had not yet dreamed of being a leader and already his leadership was being challenged.

Consider, now, the choices Moses faced in his life. On the one hand he could have lived as a prince of Egypt, in luxury and at ease. That might have been his fate had he not intervened. Even afterward, having been forced to flee, he could have lived out his days quietly as a shepherd, at peace with the Midianite family into which he had married. It is not surprising that when God invited him to lead the Israelites to freedom, he resisted.

Why then did he accept? Why did God know that he was the man for the task? One hint is contained in the name he gave his first son. He called him Gershom because, he said, "I am a stranger in a foreign land" (2:22). He did not feel at home in Midian. That was where he was, but not who he was.

But the real clue is contained in an earlier verse, the prelude to his first intervention. "When Moses was grown, he began to go out to his own people, and he saw their hard labour" (2:11).

These people were his people. He may have looked like an Egyptian but he knew that ultimately he was not. It was a transforming moment, not unlike when the Moabite Ruth said to her Israelite mother-in-law Naomi, "Your people will be my people and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16). Ruth was un-Jewish by birth. Moses was un-Jewish by upbringing. But both knew that when they saw suffering and identified with the sufferer, they could not walk away.

Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik called this a covenant of fate, *brit goral*. It lies at the heart of Jewish identity to this day. There are Jews who believe and those who don't. There are Jews who practise and those who don't. But there are few Jews indeed who, when their people are suffering, can walk away saying, "This has nothing to do with me."

Maimonides, who defines this as "separating yourself from the community" (*poresh mi-darkhei ha-tsibbur*, *Hilkhos Teshuva* 3:11), says that it is one of the sins for which you are denied a share in the world to come. This is what the *Hagaddah* means when it says of the wicked son that "because he excludes himself from the collective, he denies a fundamental

## Legal Notice.

### LEGAL NOTICE

*Continued from Page A9*

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR LSF9 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST; Plaintiff(s) vs. DANIELLE KRAMER; MICHAEL A. MASTROGIOVANNI; 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 22, 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. On February 23, 2017 at 2:30 pm. Premises known as 1844 EAST 37TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11234 Block: 8480 Lot: 68 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 \$384,270.08 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 502755/2014 Leo Salzman, Esq.; REFEREE AJ 1/20/27; 2/3/10

*Continued from Page A8*  
*Ape*

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over his possible deal with Arnon Mozes, the publisher of *Yedioth Ahronoth*.

In addition, the National Council for the Child released a disturbing report about the alarming number of children in Israel who go to bed hungry every night. And Israeli security forces revealed that they had arrested 13 Hamas terrorists operating in the West Bank. Also, tragically, on Monday night, an IDF soldier was killed in the Golan Heights while performing routine maintenance on an armored vehicle.

These are only a few of the types of items that prompt many anxiety-ridden Israelis to announce periodical moratoria on the media, in an attempt to avoid excessive agitation about things over which they feel they have no control.

But one little monkey hiding in bushes or alleyways next to sushi bars and cafes has the power to change that, if only briefly. Connor's story does not elicit irrational anger at the TV set. It does not push the malaise button. Rather, it has awakened hope and spurred prayer for a positive outcome.

Indeed, Israelis are not merely sad or worried about Connor; we are rooting for him.

*Ruthie Blum is the managing editor of The Algemeiner.*

principle of faith." What fundamental principle of faith? Faith in the collective fate and destiny of the Jewish people.

Who am I? asked Moses, but in his heart he knew the answer. I am not Moses the Egyptian or Moses the Midianite. When I see my people suffer I am, and cannot be other than, Moses the Jew. And if that imposes responsibilities on

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, DOING BUSINESS AS CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR BCAT 2015-13BTT, Plaintiff, vs. COLETTE R. BURNETT, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on October 05, 2016, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on February 23, 2017 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 1214 East 82nd Street, Unit # 106 and Garage Space G53, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 8060 and Lot 1150 & 1037. Unit No. 106 together with an undivided 0.5512 percent interest in the common elements of the condominium and Garage Unit No. 53, together with a 0.0643 percent undivided interest in the common elements of the condominium. Approximate amount of judgment is \$394,198.90 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 22137/13. Jeffrey Miller, Esq., Referee Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Ste. 590, Elmsford, NY 10523, Attorneys for Plaintiff AJ 1/20/27; 2/3/10

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 Ilda Clarke; Daniel Clarke; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated November 28, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 23, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 1057 East 95th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 8164 Lot 18. Approximate amount of judgment \$389,164.90 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 506396/2014. Doron Leiby, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: January 3, 2017 AJ 1/20/27; 2/3/10

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: warehouse of yes LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 11/07/2016. 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 the process to the LLC 2 Wyckoff Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11237. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ 1/20/27; 2/3/10

me, then I must shoulder them. For I am who I am because my people are who they are.

That is Jewish identity, then and now.

## Social.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

## IDF Marks Martin Luther King Day With Video of Soldiers Spreading Civil Rights Leader's Message of Compassion

BY RACHEL FROMMER

In honor of Martin Luther King Day on Monday, the Israel Defense Forces produced a video clip reiterating the assassinated civil rights leader's message of choosing compassion over hatred.

In the clip, seven IDF soldiers, each in turn, says part of the following: "Dr Martin Luther King once said, 'Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness. This is the judgement. Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?'"

Though King never visited the Jewish state he once said in an interview: "The whole world must see that Israel must exist and has the right to exist, and is one of the great outposts of democracy in the world."

A street in Jerusalem's German Colony neighborhood is named after King.



IDF  
@IDFSpokesperson

Follow

On this #MLKDay, we ask: What are you doing for others?

8:35 AM - 16 Jan 2017

## Search Underway in Tel Aviv for 'Nice, Friendly' Monkey Who Fled Safari Over 'Friction' With Fellow Simian

BY RUTHIE BLUM

Searches continued throughout Monday in the greater Tel Aviv area for a small monkey who escaped from the safari in Ramat Gan, the Hebrew news site Walla reported.

Zookeepers said that though the 17-year-old capuchin male — who goes by the name of Connor — is not dangerous, anyone who happens to see him should

not make any sudden movements or loud noises, so as not to frighten the lost monkey.

Connor's caretakers at the safari said they believe the escape was the result of years' worth of friction between him and a fellow simian named Kimchi. "Recently, the tension between them increased," safari spokeswoman Sagit Horowitz told Walla, and recounted that Connor — whom she described as "very nice and friendly" — jumped the fence two days ago and roamed

## Compound for Israeli PM, With Underground Command Center 'Bunker' for National Emergencies, Approved

BY RUTHIE BLUM

The Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee has approved a plan to erect a massive compound to house the office and private residence of the prime minister, Israel's Channel 10 reported on Tuesday.

According to the report, the compound will be built in the "government precinct" — known by Israelis as Kiryat Hamemshala — located in the neighborhood of Givat Ram, where the Supreme Court is situated, and not far from the Knesset and one of the Hebrew University campuses.

The structure is expected to have between five and eight stories, and an area designated for official ceremonies. It will also include a huge underground "bunker," to be used by the prime minister and repre-



A view of what the new compound for the Israeli prime minister will look like when built.  
Photo: Channel 10.

sentatives of the civil and defense establishment during times of national emergency. The cost of the project is estimated at NIS 1 billion (\$262.3 million).

Today, the prime minister's residence is located in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Rehavia. Its official name is Beit Aghion and was built in the late 1930s.

In 2009, the Israeli government approved the Almog Project to combine the prime minister's living quarters and office, but its estimated cost at the time — NIS 650 million (approximately \$170 million) — sparked criticism for its alleged extravagance, and the plan was canceled.

In 2014, the idea to move the Israeli leader's home to the area of his office resurfaced and was approved.

On Tuesday, the compound in question was given the official green light.

around the safari without zookeepers being able to locate him.

Horowitz said the whole staff was very concerned about Connor, who does not know how to manage in an urban area with cars and throngs in the streets.

The Zoological Center Tel Aviv-Ramat Gan — familiarly known as the safari — houses the largest collection of wildlife in human care in the Middle East. The 250-acre site has both a drive-through "African safari" area and a modern outdoor zoo.

# Attention Not-For-Profit Organizations

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Contact Kutty for details:

**Tel: 877.336.1925**

Email: [Kutty@tribulonline.com](mailto:Kutty@tribulonline.com)