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Palestinian Authority Threatens to Sever Communication With Trump Admin



Palestinian Authority President
Mahmoud Abbas. Photo: Kremlin.ru via
Wikimedia Commons.

BY JNS.ORG

The Palestinian Authority (PA) threatened on Saturday to sever communication with the Trump administration if the U.S. follows through with a threat to shutter the office of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Washington, DC.

The Palestinian threat came after the US State Department on

Saturday declined to renew the operating permission for the PLO's office for the first time since the 1980s. PA chief negotiator Saeb Erekat called the move "very unfortunate and unacceptable," and accused the Trump administration of capitulating to Israeli pressure.

"The United States is losing its position as a negotiator," said Abu Rudeineh, a spokesman for PA President Mahmoud Abbas, Haaretz reported.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson informed the Palestinians that the decision came in response to statements made by Abbas at the United Nations General Assembly in September, when the PA leader called on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute Israeli officials. American law specifies that the PLO mission in Washington should be shuttered if the Palestinians initiate legal action

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Rutgers President Defends Professors Blasted for Comments on Israel, Jews

BY SHIRI MOSHE

The president of Rutgers University in New Jersey defended the free speech rights of three faculty members who have recently come under intense criticism for their comments on Israel and Jews.

Speaking in a town hall sponsored by the Rutgers student government on Thursday, President Robert Barchi noted ongoing media attention focused on Michael Chikindas, a microbiology professor who published multiple antisemitic, homophobic and misogynistic social



The College Avenue campus of Rutgers University in
New Jersey. Photo: Tomusulcer.

media posts; Jasbir Puar, a women's studies professor whose latest book accuses Israel of injuring Palestinians "in order to control them"; and Mazen Adi, an adjunct professor of international law who accused Israeli officials of trafficking children's organs while serving as a spokesperson for the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Barchi began his address by illustrating the difference between free speech and harassment, noting that placing "a swastika on the side of a building on campus" would not be a violation of the First Amendment, even if it might breach

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Remembering My Brother, Mickey

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat VAYEITZEI
פרשת ויצא

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 4:14pm | Shabbat Ends: 5:15pm



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Opinion.

Time for a Peace Process Paradigm Change



JONATHAN S. TOBIN
JNS.ORG

What are the details of the Middle East peace plan that President Donald Trump will use to craft what he hopes is the “ultimate deal?” Sometime in the next few months, they will be unveiled as part of an effort to revive the dead-in-the-water peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. Though we’ll have to wait and see what exactly is in the proposal being cooked up by a team led by presidential son-in-law Jared Kushner and chief negotiator Jason Greenblatt, the only two things that seem certain are that it is likely to be acceptable to Saudi Arabia and that it will have zero chance of success.

That’s why instead of merely repeating the mistakes of its predecessors, the Trump team should try a paradigm shift that will predicate peace on a simple concept: the Palestinians have to admit they’ve lost their war on Zionism. Avoiding this admission in order to mollify them or their supporters or concentrating, as every US administration has done, on pressuring Israel to make concessions, merely makes it impossible for the Palestinians to accept the sea change in their political culture that is the only thing that will make peace on any terms possible.

It was this idea that brought two

members of the Knesset — representing a larger group of legislators that come from six different parties that are in and outside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government — to Washington to meet with several like-minded members of Congress to promote the concept of an Israeli victory in the long conflict rather than a self-defeating compromise. The launch of a joint #IsraelVictory caucus at the Capitol Hill gathering is a small step and, as of yet, hasn’t influenced the administration’s thinking. But the gathering, which was sponsored by the Middle East Forum think tank, is a long overdue effort to promote a concept Kushner and company ought to be thinking about.

Trump’s team is likely to embrace an “outside-in” strategy in which Arab states, principally the Saudis, will use their influence and money to pressure the Palestinians into finally accepting a two-state solution. In return, the US would get the Netanyahu government to agree to terms that are likely to largely resemble past plans floated by the Obama, Bush and Clinton administrations. Trump may think the missing ingredient for peace has been the absence of a master dealmaker, but this scheme has no more chance of working than the efforts of his predecessors.

The reason is that the essential element for peace is still missing. The Palestinians are still stuck in a mindset that rejects Israel’s legitimacy. The Palestinian Authority (PA) won’t accept a deal that ends the conflict for

all time no matter where Kushner, Greenblatt and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman draw the borders between the two states, how much of Jerusalem the Palestinians receive, how many descendants of the 1948 refugees are allowed to “return” to Israel or even how much money is thrown at them. That’s because the Palestinians’ national identity as a people is still inextricably bound up in a futile century-old war on Zionism that its people have been taught to think they will eventually win.

At various times, the PA has declared a willingness to accept peace. Yet every such gesture has been undermined by its cradle-to-grave incitement that promotes a culture of hatred for Israel and Jews, and makes new rounds of bloodshed inevitable. The history of the last 24 years of negotiations since the Oslo Accords shows that peace is impossible so long as the Palestinians still hold onto hope of eventually winning this war. As with every other conflict, this one will only be settled when one side admits defeat and that is something no one, not even a Trump team that appears to be more realistic about Palestinian behavior and intentions than past administrations, seems willing to force them to do.

Critics of the #IsraelVictory idea mock its simplicity. But generations of would-be peacemakers have forgotten that it really is



Jason Greenblatt with US President Donald Trump.
Photo: Twitter.

that simple. Once the Palestinians concede the war is lost rather than being paused and put aside their dreams of a world without a Jewish state, compromise would be possible. But if the compromises precede acknowledgement of an Israeli victory, then all the Jewish state will be doing is trading land for more terror, not peace.

The Trump team may not be listening to the #IsraelVictory caucus as it hatches its plans. But if the White House ignores the basic truths the caucus proclaims, it will be wasting its time and making the next round of violence more, rather than less likely.

Jonathan S. Tobin is opinion editor of JNS.org and a contributing writer for National Review. Follow him on Twitter at: @jonathans_tobin.



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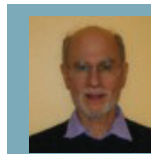
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Why Was My Voice Silenced at the University of Michigan?



VICTOR B. LIEBERMAN
MICHIGAN

On November 14, the Central Student Government (CSG) at the University of Michigan (UM) passed a BDS resolution against Israel, as reported by the *The Algemeiner*. Early in the session, many members of the CSG successfully moved to forbid UM history professor Victor Lieberman from speaking during the debate.

What follows is an open letter from Professor Lieberman to the CSG.

On November 14, the [University of Michigan] Central Student Government voted to prevent me from delivering a carefully prepared talk on divestment from Israel. The argument against my speaking was that “a structural power imbalance” within the university militates against the views of UMDivest, which could only be rectified by removing me from the discussion.

This argument cannot withstand scrutiny for three reasons. First, it was claimed that junior faculty who speak against Israel risk being fired. In fact, no junior faculty have ever been fired for expressing political views, and such views have no bearing whatsoever on tenure or promotion.

Second, UMDivest could have engaged senior faculty to speak on their behalf. In my department alone, there are six senior professors publicly critical of Israel, four of whom signed an American Historical Association

petition against Israel. Nineteen other faculty in various departments, mostly tenured and some very senior, signed the statement of support for UMDivest. If none of these professors spoke on November 14, it’s because they weren’t interested, or UMDivest didn’t ask them. Neither condition reflects a “structural power imbalance” within the university.

Third, UMDivest also could have enlisted outside academics or regional specialists, as they have in past years. The ready availability of such speakers for both sides argues further against the view that institutional factors prevented a level playing field.

In short, one side made better use of opportunities equally accessible to both. Imagine that the Michigan football team showed up to play OSU, but OSU hadn’t bothered to practice. OSU therefore claimed that the game would be “unfair” unless the referee barred Michigan’s starting running back from playing — and the referee agreed. Would that be equitable?

Obviously, the real motive for preventing me from speaking was UMDivest’s fear that it lacked effective counter-arguments, and that I might sway the vote. Free discussion

therefore had to be prevented. Thus, we were treated to a surreal spectacle where a community activist from Detroit who knows nothing about Middle East history or politics, and who has no connection to the UM was allowed to speak for at least half an hour — but a UM professor who teaches the subject was not allowed to speak for ten minutes.

Censorship is the instinctive preference of people who “know” in advance that there is only one truth, and believe that entertaining alternate viewpoints is a waste of time. “Objective discourse” means a discourse that excludes views they don’t like.

This is a position unworthy of a university whose *raison d’être* is to promote the unfettered flow of ideas. It also runs counter to a lifetime of my own research and teaching, which has always emphasized the open-ended interplay between divergent historical interpretations. Uncertainty is what makes intellectual life exciting. Unfortunately the intolerance that was on display on November 14 is part of a growing climate of intolerance that has led to the shutting down of speakers on college campuses across the country.

Irony of ironies: while student representatives spoke in favor of silencing me, UMDivest supporters in the audience waved signs that read “Do Not Silence Me.”

The fact that the CSG debate was conducted under censorship can hardly have weakened the university’s decision to ignore the CSG resolution.

Victor Lieberman is a Raoul Wallenberg Distinguished University Professor of History and Professor of Asian and Comparative History



Michigan Stadium, at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Photo: Ken Lund.

World News.

French Socialist Party Expels Gérard Filoche

BY BEN COHEN

The French politician at the center of a row over an antisemitic tweet was expelled from the country's Socialist Party (PS) on Tuesday, hours after he found himself in a furious exchange with a presenter on an Israeli TV channel.

Gérard Filoche — a leading labor unionist and member of the National Bureau of former President Francois Hollande's recently-ousted PS — sparked outrage across France with a tweet he posted last Friday promoting classical antisemitic conspiracy theories.

The tweet showed newly-elected French President Emmanuel Macron wearing a Nazi armband with the swastika altered to a dollar sign. Looming behind Macron were three leading French Jews — the economist Jacques Attali, the investor Patrick Drahi, and the banker Jacob Rothschild — flanked by the American and Israeli flags. Filoche added as a comment, "A dirty guy, as all the French people will know soon enough."

On Monday — after separate announcements from Attali and French Jewish organization CRIF that they would be pursuing legal action against Filoche, as well as confirmation from the PS that it was preparing to expel him for his "inexcusable" tweet — the embattled far-left figurehead became embroiled in an angry argument on Israeli TV channel i24.

Filoche and presenter Anna Cabana spoke over each other for much of the exchange, as she became increasingly exasperated with Filoche's constant appeals to his record as a founder and activist with French anti-racist group SOS Racisme.

"Capitalism is what feeds antisemitism,"

Filoche declared. "Read how the capitalists put Hitler in power. Capitalism is competition — it's competition, it's violence."

Filoche then played down the scale of his offense, protesting that he had "inadvertently let a tweet pass for 40 minutes before I removed it." The tweet was originally posted to his account by a member of the PS staff, whom Filoche claimed had noticed "only the references to Macron and money." Cabana responded that, in her view, his excuse was barely credible, snapping at Filoche that he was "either a fool or a bastard!"

Former French Prime Minister Manuel Valls was among those demanding the expulsion of Filoche from the PS in the run-up to the party's official announcement on Tuesday. Party secretary David Assouline said on Twitter that the National Bureau had voted to unanimously to sever Filoche's membership, declaring that "antisemitism is incompatible with our core values."

"The expulsion of Filoche from the PS has been in the making for a long time," Valls said. "It took an unspeakable and antisemitic tweet to launch the process of expelling him."

Meanwhile, senior PS leader and former party secretary Jean-Christophe Cambadélis announced he could no longer defend Filoche's continued membership of the party, explaining, "Today the disagreement is not political, it is ethical; we cannot compromise on ethics."

One of the organizations in France to have leapt to Filoche's defense is the Trotskyist New Anti-Capitalist Party (NAP), a leading advocate of the BDS movement in France. The NAP said it categorically denied that Filoche — himself a Trotskyist activist before he joined the PS — "is an antisemite."

confirmed "with the state's attorney and with our legal scholars" that Chikindas' postings are constitutionally protected, "so there's nothing there that is actionable."

He added that the university was investigating whether Chikindas' postings "create an environment in his work that would compromise his ability to teach or do research."

"That investigation is done independently, it will conclude shortly and we'll decide what if anything we need to do from there," Barchi explained. "But I can tell you that up until this point, his teaching record is actually very strong."

Barchi also defended Puar's academic freedom, calling her "a well-respected scholar."

At a 2016 talk, Puar expressed support for "armed resistance in Palestine" and repeated allegations that the bodies of "young Palestinian men ... were mined for organs for scientific research," according to a transcript provided by the alumni group Fairness To Israel.

In a 2015 essay, she also wrote that "Palestinian trauma is overshadowed" because "Israel in particular and Jewish populations in general have thoroughly hijacked the discourse of trauma through exceptionalizing Holocaust victimization."

Puar's latest work — *The Right to Maim* — contends that the Israeli military rejects a shoot-to-kill policy not out of humanitarian concern, but a desire to keep "Palestinian populations as perpetually debilitated, and yet alive, in order to control them."

The book, Barchi said, "was reviewed independently by scholars around the country. It was then accepted for publication by the Duke University Press, which is a very prominent scholarly press, and published. It's a piece of scholarly work."

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Rutgers

university policies against vandalism.

His argument drew an objection from a woman in the crowd, who said to applause, "it is not free speech."

"If you take that swastika and put it on the door of a dormitory, that's not protected," Barchi argued in return, "but if it is a general building on the university, by first amendment rights, it's protected."

He went on to address the ongoing controversies surrounding Chikindas, Puar, and Adi, noting that "the one thing that is common to all of these is that they were all brought forward by *The Algemeiner*."

Barchi called *The Algemeiner* — a newspaper in circulation for over 40 years — "a blog out of New York, which is the follow-on to what was a Yiddish-language newspaper that folded 10 years ago. They are the ones that have researched each one of these stories that have been picked up elsewhere."

The Algemeiner's print edition — which features English and Yiddish-language articles — has never gone out of business. Moreover, while *The Algemeiner* was the first to interview Chikindas, his postings were initially exposed by the *Israellycool* blog.

Barchi acknowledged that Chikindas — who described Judaism as "the most racist religion in the world" — made "crude jokes about Israel, Judaism, women, homosexuality, a whole lot of things which most of us would find repugnant."

"On the other hand, they are also things that are covered by his First Amendment right to free speech," the president argued. "You may not like what the guy says, but you have to like the fact that he can say it."

Barchi said that his administration

Kurdish Parliamentarian: Iran-Backed Forces Persecuting Christians



Hashd al-Shaabi fighters in Iraq. Photo: File.

BY BEN COHEN

Iran-backed Shia paramilitary forces operating in northern Iraq have been accused by a Kurdish parliamentarian of engaging in "flagrant injustice" toward Christians in the region which until earlier this year was in the grip of ISIS terrorists.

Wahida Yaqo Hormuz — a Christian representative in the parliament of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) — said she had alerted the Vatican and international human rights groups to what she called the "Shia-ification" of the Nineveh Plains, where the northern Iraqi city of Mosul is located. Conquered by ISIS in 2014, Iraqi government forces retook the city in July.

"This is a flagrant injustice done to Christians," Yaqo Hormuz said, commenting on reports that the Hashd al-Shaabi paramilitary, a coalition of armed Shia groups supported by Iran, was preventing the return of Christians who fled during the recent assault on KRG-controlled territories in northern Iraq.

According to a Christian refugee from ISIS interviewed by the Kurdish news outlet Rudaw, Hashd al-Shaabi forces are persecuting those Christians, once a population of

40,000, who remain in his home town.

"The situation of these areas is getting worse day by day," the refugee, Amir Yaqo, said. "The Hashd al-Shaabi forces are systematically trying to change the Christian demography of these places. They have started to operate sectarian schools in churches and religious centers."

One school, named after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, had left Christians "very much upset," Yaqo Hormuz, the Kurdish parliamentarian, said. "We informed our representatives in Kurdistan and Iraq immediately," she added.

On Monday, meanwhile, Hashd al-Shaabi denied that it had withdrawn from two key regions in Nineveh. Kurdish Peshmerga clashed with Hashd al-Shaabi fighters in the middle of October, as Iraqi government and Iranian forces seized more than 50 percent of the territory liberated from ISIS by the Kurds.

"A number of media outlets talk about the pullout of the Hashd al-Shaabi forces from Zummar and Rabiaa and their surrounding areas, but this news is untrue and baseless," Ahmed al-Asadi, a representative of Hashd al-Shaabi, claimed.

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Communication

against Israel at the ICC.

The State Department clarified that the office's closure could be waived within 90 days if President Donald Trump "determines the Palestinians have entered into direct,

meaningful negotiations with Israel."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the Trump administration's move is "a matter of US law. We respect the decision and look forward to continuing to work with the US to advance peace and security in the region."

"Once again, you may not like it, but it's protected by academic freedom, absolutely, 100 percent," he emphasized.

Barchi adopted a similar outlook when speaking of Adi, who joined Rutgers shortly after serving as a legal adviser and diplomat at the Syrian mission to the United Nations in New York between 2007 and 2014.

"Issues have been raised about the fact that he did, in the past, work for the [Syrian] government as a diplomat," Barchi noted, adding that Adi's history was "well-known to us and well-known to the people who employed him."

Barchi said that Adi "changed his directions," and "has not said or done anything in his academic life here that would be actionable." He did not acknowledge reports by a former student of Adi's who told *The Algemeiner* — on condition of anonymity — that Adi defended Palestinian terrorism in class as a legitimate form of "resistance" to Israeli "occupation."

"We are faced with the difficult challenge to thread the needle on free speech and academic freedom," Barchi observed. "I just ask you to keep in mind when you hear things and those

things get picked up by another newspaper, there is very often a back-story to it."

"Trace it back to where it's coming from and ask why is it coming from there and what's going on," he claimed, "and you may often get a little different perspective on those happenings."

Rabbi Yosef Carlebach, who heads Rutgers' Chabad House, told *The Algemeiner* earlier this month that while Rutgers was generally a friendly place for Jewish students and faculty, over the years administrators were "going to use the freedom of expression line to give license to absolute wrong."

The Jewish campus group Rutgers Hillel similarly said last week that while they "certainly believe in free speech and academic freedom," they were concerned that Chikindas, Puar and Adi each "gives voice to traditional racist, anti-Jewish tropes."

The "hiring of such professors has brought national shame and embarrassment to our university, with negative media coverage across the spectrum, from NPR to Fox News," Hillel added. "It contributes to a feeling among many that universities, as a whole, have lost their moral compass."

World News.



The Torah scrolls that were stolen from a Jaffa synagogue on Thursday and returned on Sunday.
Photo: Israel Police.

Torah Scrolls Stolen From Jaffa Synagogue Are Found in Hebron and Returned

BY BARNEY BREEN-PORTNOY

Five Torah scrolls that were stolen from a synagogue in central Israel this week and taken to the West Bank have been found and returned, following a cooperative effort of Israeli and Palestinian law-enforcement authorities.

The holy texts — taken from the Beit David synagogue in Jaffa early Thursday morning — were tracked down in Hebron and handed over to Israeli officials on Sunday “thanks to coordination between the Hebron District Coordination Liaison, Israel’s Police and the PA Police,” the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories Unit (COGAT) tweeted.

The Israel Police said the successful outcome was a result of its “positive relationship” with its Palestinian Authority counterpart force, which helps it deal with crimes carried out in Israel that originated in the West Bank, including



Photo: Screenshot

cases of murder, drug offenses and property theft.

Family of Israeli Man Held Captive by Hamas in Gaza Urges International Action to Free Loved One

BY BARNEY BREEN-PORTNOY

The brother of an Israeli man who has been imprisoned by Hamas in the Gaza Strip for more than three years urged the international community on Thursday to act to bring his sibling home.

During a visit to the United Nations headquarters in New York City, Ilan Gashao Mengistu — the brother of 30-year-old Avraham Avera Mengistu, an Ashkelon resident who crossed into Gaza on his own accord in September 2014 and has not been heard from since — accused Hamas of “toying with the life of a mentally disabled civilian.”

“They are playing a cynical and cruel game with the life of a man who has never harmed a soul,” Mengistu — standing between his mother Agarnesh and Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon — continued. “I have a brother — he is helpless — and he needs your help.”

“Look at my mother,” he added. “She

is a mother like all other mothers, and she deserves to know the fate of her son.”

“We are here today, at the United Nations, to call on the international community to put the full weight of its authority on anyone who can help release my brother,” Mengistu declared. “Pressure the international organizations that have showed weakness and helplessness. And of course, pressure Hamas, which is holding an ill individual captive more than three years, and is responsible for his fate.”

Danon stated, “All those who demand an end to the humanitarian plight for the residents of Gaza must also demand the immediate release of all Israelis held by Hamas... Israel will not rest until all of our citizens return home.”

Last week, members of the Mengistu family met in Washington, DC with several congressional representatives, as well President Donald Trump’s international negotiations envoy, Jason Greenblatt.

Egyptian Envoy Visits Knesset, Says There’s ‘Real Opportunity’ for Regional Peace

BY BARNEY BREEN-PORTNOY

Egypt’s envoy to Israel visited the Knesset on Tuesday to mark the 40th anniversary of the late President Anwar Sadat’s historic trip to Jerusalem that lay the groundwork for the 1979 peace treaty between the two countries.

While at the Knesset, Ambassador Hazem Khairat told Israeli legislators, “There is a real opportunity to open a new page with the Arab neighbors, based on coexistence and mutual understanding for a better future leading to peace.”

After hosting Khairat for a meeting in his office, Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein tweeted, “We discussed cooperation between the two countries and talked about bolstering it in the fields of technology, energy, agriculture and security.”

“We also discussed our duty to help the peace process, in hope of bringing the two sides to the negotiating table,” Edelstein continued.

A year and a half after Sadat’s November 1977 Jerusalem journey, Egypt became the first Arab nation to sign a peace deal with the Jewish state (as part of which the Sinai Peninsula — which had been taken control of by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War — was given back). It was followed by Jordan 15 years later.

Jerusalem-Cairo ties have at times been strained over the years, particularly when



Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Hazem Khairat and Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein meet in Jerusalem on Tuesday. Photo: Edelstein’s Twitter account.

there have been outbursts of violence in the unresolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The relationship has steadily improved since Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi took power in 2013, after ousting his predecessor, Mohamed Morsi, an Islamist affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Israel and Egypt share a number of regional interests — including the containment of Iran and combating ISIS.

Sisi met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in September in New York City on the sidelines of the 72nd UN General Assembly session.

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

Belgium Says Construction of Palestinian Schools Still Suspended

BY SHIRI MOSHE

Belgium is upholding its commitment to suspend construction projects with the Palestinian Ministry of Education, a spokesperson for Brussels told The Algemeiner after a Belgian official was spotted at the inauguration of a new Palestinian school.

Last month, the monitoring group Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) revealed that a Palestinian school built with Belgian aid in the town of Beit Awwa was renamed in honor of Dalal Mughrabi, who in 1978 helped massacre 38 people — including 13 children — near Tel Aviv. The school’s logo also includes a map erasing Israel, while its Facebook page has posted pictures glorifying Palestinian attackers.

Didier Vanderhasselt — a spokesperson for the Belgian Foreign Ministry — told The Algemeiner at the time that Belgium was initially unaware of the name change, and has decided to “put on hold any projects related to the construction or equipment of Palestinian schools” while it resolved the matter with the Palestinian Authority.

However, PMW reported last week that a Belgian official — Eric De Muynck, representative of the Belgian Development Cooperation Institution — participated in the inauguration of a new Palestinian Authority school in the West Bank on October 18th, about two weeks after the announced suspension.

The school was allegedly built in “24 hours” with funds from the European Union, according to a report in Donia Al-Watan, an independent Palestinian news agency. It was

named “Defiance 6,” a reference “to the fact that the previous structures that housed the school were recently destroyed by Israel, since they were erected in Area C without the relevant building permits,” PMW wrote. “The PA therefore built the new school to ‘defy’ Israel.”

PMW warned that De Muynck’s presence at the ceremony suggested Belgium’s pledge to freeze “any projects” related to the construction of Palestinian schools “was not completely honest,” and questioned whether Brussels was “misleading the international community” and “continuing to support PA schools.”

Vanderhasselt challenged this claim, telling The Algemeiner on Monday that De Muynck attended the inauguration of “the school in Wadi As-Seeq because this school is threatened by demolition by the Israeli authorities.”

“By sending a Belgian representative to this school we emphasized the paramount importance of the respect for International Humanitarian Law and the right to education,” he said.

The spokesperson confirmed that Belgium’s decision to “put on hold two projects related to the construction of new Palestinian schools, for an amount of 3.3 million euros ... remains in effect until further notice.”

He clarified that “projects that could not be put on hold, ie. schools that were already under construction or being built by third parties, were not affected by this decision.”

While Belgian authorities held several meetings with Palestinian counterparts on the renaming of the school in Beit Awwa, “the dialogue has not been concluded and is being pursued,” Vanderhasselt said.

U.S. News.

Abbas Freezes Ties With US Over Move to Close Palestinians' Mission in Washington

BY JNS.ORG

Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas announced that he has frozen all contact with the U.S. over the Trump administration's move to shutter the Palestinians' mission in Washington, D.C.

"In practice, by closing the office, they are freezing all meetings and we are making that official," PA Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki told AFP.

The Palestinians' move comes after the U.S. State Department on Saturday declined to renew the operating permission for the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) Washington office for the first time since the 1980s. PA chief negotiator Saeb Erekat called the move "very unfortunate and unacceptable," and accused the Trump administration of capitulating to Israeli pressure.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson informed the Palestinians that the decision came in response to statements made by Abbas at the United Nations General Assembly in September, when the PA leader called on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute Israeli officials. American law specifies that the PLO mission in Washington should be shuttered if the Palestinians initiate legal action against Israel at the ICC.

The State Department clarified that the office's closure could be waived within 90 days if President Donald Trump "determines the Palestinians have entered into direct, meaningful negotiations with Israel."

India Reportedly Cancels \$525 Million Anti-Tank Missile Deal With Israeli Firm

BY JNS.ORG

India has cancelled a \$525 million missile deal with Israel, in a development that goes against the grain of the growing relations between the two countries, Indian media reported on Monday.

India's 2014 deal to purchase Spike anti-tank missiles from Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems has been overturned, The Indian Express reported. Instead, India's Defence Research and Development Organisation reportedly plans to develop and produce its own anti-tank missile domestically.

In April, Israel Aerospace Industries inked agreements amounting to \$2 billion with India, including a \$1.6 billion contract to deliver a medium-range surface-to-air missile defense system and a \$400 million deal for a long-range surface-to-air missile system.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Israel in July in the first such trip by a sitting Indian head of state, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to visit India next January.

India is Israel's 10th-largest trade partner worldwide and its second-largest trade partner in Asia. In 2016, trade between Israel and India amounted to \$4 billion.



An Israeli soldier displays a Spike anti-tank missile launcher.
Photo: Natan Flayer via Wikimedia Commons.

Cathay Pacific Airways to Open Israel Office

BY JNS.ORG

Cathay Pacific, the flagship airline of Hong Kong, is set to launch an office in Israel as well as daily Tel Aviv-Hong Kong flights beginning in 2018.

"The company's agenda is to allocate airliners to destinations for which we see strong demand, and it can therefore be assumed that we will also increase the frequency of the flights to daily," said Cathay Pacific's Israel manager, Jonathan Bailey, Globes reported.

Cathay Pacific's first flight to Israel landed at Ben-Gurion International Airport in March.

The airline currently offers around four to six weekly flights between Tel Aviv and Hong Kong, and uses the environmentally friendly 280-seat Airbus A350 planes on the route. Next year, the airline may introduce Airbus A350-1000 planes for the Israel route, increasing seating capacity by 10 percent, according to Globes.

"The [Israeli customer] segment that surprised us was business class, both in comparison with other countries and with the forecasts," said Bailey. "Demand for business class was huge. The feeling is that the passengers, especially businessmen who fly a lot, appreciate what they get for their money."

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Opinion.

How Chabad Electrifies the World

SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

Recently, my daughter Shaina got engaged to a young Chabad activist who works with at-risk Orthodox youth. His students came in droves to the engagement party. They sang and danced, serenading him with beautiful and heartfelt melodies. I have been part of Chabad since I was a boy. Still, I was in awe.

What is it about this movement, that it's able to touch so many Jewish lives and inspire such deep Jewish commitment?

A few nights later, I was at the global Chabad Shluchim Conference dinner in Bayonne, New Jersey, where approximately 4,000 Chabad rabbis from all over the world gathered. The dinner begins with a roll-call of emissaries from across the globe. From Angola to Uganda to Vietnam to Washington state, Chabad is there.

It's not an exaggeration to say that Chabad's global network probably dwarfs that of the United States government, which cannot possibly operate as many embassies worldwide as Chabad. In Russia, there are 400 Chabad emissaries. In France, more than 200. In Thailand, 10.

And what is its secret? There is no Jewish movement on earth drawing as much talent as Chabad, which puts its shluchim on the highest social pedestal, ahead of bankers, politicians and athletes. At the top of the Chabad pedestal is not money but religious commitment, not political power but spiritual purpose — not Silicon Valley billions, but

synagogue prayer and study.

Every social group determines where its talent is channeled by what it chooses to respect. So, if American society respects billionaire tech entrepreneurs, then its smartest people will go into tech. If it respects acting, then its best talent will go to Hollywood. If it worships the body, then its best talent will dedicate themselves to sport. In Chabad, the shliach-emissary is easily the most respected profession. So its best and its brightest ship themselves off to South Africa and Australia to spread Judaism.

If Modern Orthodoxy put its rabbis on the highest rung of the social ladder, then it too would draw the best talent to Jewish leadership.

An unapologetic and uncompromising passion for Judaism and all that it represents is the hallmark of Chabad. The movement refuses to make any compromises whatsoever on Jewish observance, Jewish law or Jewish thought. And its stalwart commitment shows in everything it does.

Elsewhere, I have written about my decision to join Chabad at an early age. I was a child of divorce searching for meaning and rootedness. And what did Chabad give me? More than anything, Chabad made me feel like my life mattered. In a private audience, the Rebbe told me that I was born for great things. It was not a message reserved for me, but rather one that permeated his interaction with all whom he met.

The Rebbe made me feel that I was part of an eternal people who had vastly contributed to the dissemination of God's light in an otherwise dark universe. But through persecutions and holocausts, acculturation and intermarriage, materialism and ignorance, the Jewish people were now endangered.

The Rebbe was determined to breathe

new life into this imperiled nation. And he weaponized his small Chasidic movement to become an arsenal against assimilation.

He beckoned me to join him as an agent of Jewish renewal. Chabad became the passion of my life. Defying my parents' strong objections, I left home at fourteen to be part of the Rebbe's dream of a global Jewish renaissance — and never looked back. A few years later, my wife and I were his emissaries at Oxford, building Jewish life at an ancient university.

I knew in my bones that Chabad would continue to spread until it took over the Jewish world. Why? Because of the grandness of their vision and the passion with which they executed their mission. Other Jewish organizations sought to educate the people about their tradition. But Chabad sought to raise the earth's inhabitants to a higher God-consciousness, and to make Judaism the driving force in every decision of daily life.

Chabad is no longer a Jewish movement. It is Judaism. Even those who were once critics now travel to Caribbean island vacations and are blown away that they can pray with a minyan and get kosher food because of Chabad. No other organization even comes close to its global reach and grassroots impact.

And it is growing exponentially.

At the conference, they announced the 100th country where Chabad has now opened. No doubt, with the sect's staggering birthrate and about half of all its members dedicating themselves to a lifelong posting, by the year 2020, Chabad will be fielding more than 15,000 emissaries in nearly all of the world's nations, and will be the mainstream Jewish branch in most. In countries like France, Russia, Australia and Britain, this has largely happened. But even in countries with robust and highly developed Jewish communities, like the United States and Canada, the smart money should be on



Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Chabad to emerge as leader.

Not long ago, the Jewish people were made to believe that if they were to succeed in the modern world, they would have to make accommodations with strict adherence to tradition. Scraggly beards would have to be shaved. Large families would have to give way to two kids and a dog. Names like Elazar and Tova would have to change to Leo and Tiffany. Yeshiva and smicha would have to be forfeited in favor of Wharton and a masters. Even Orthodox Jews embraced this vision, if not in the name of progress than at least in the name of survival.

And yet, the Jewish movement that has superseded them all is the one which insisted that Judaism is so potent that the world must bend to accommodate the Jewish people, rather than the reverse.

And now, with so much of the Jewish world already covered by its emissaries, what is the future for Chabad? Surely it lies in transcending Jewish insularity and embracing the Rebbe's vision of influencing the non-Jewish world with the light of Jewish values and the blessings of Jewish teachings.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach is the international best-selling author of 31 books, most recently "The Israel Warrior: The winner of the London Times Preacher of the Year Award, he has been called by Newsweek "the most famous Rabbi in America" and named by The Jerusalem Post as one of the 50 most influential Jews in the world. Follow him on Twitter @RabbiShmuley.

Radical Members of Congress Want to Abet Palestinian Terror

STEPHEN M. FLATOW/
JNS.ORG

Nine members of Congress have introduced a bill to prevent US aid to Israel from being used to arrest Palestinian terrorists who are under the age of 18.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), characterizes young terrorists merely as "Palestinian children," and contends that their arrest by the Israeli army constitutes "abuse."

Therefore, it's worth recalling a few examples of the behavior for which Palestinian "children" have been detained by the Israeli military in recent years.

On January 17, 2016, a Palestinian child named Morad Abdullah Adais broke into the home of Dafna Meir, in the town of Otniel, armed with an 8-inch knife. Adais, who was 16, later described proudly what he did next:

"I plunged the knife into her so deeply that most of it was inside her body. She

started screaming, the children saw me and also started screaming, then I stabbed her in her upper body another three or four times. She tried to fight me and tried to take the knife from me. The two children who were there were still screaming, but she continued to resist, so I pushed her, and overpowered her."

Asked what he would have done if he was able to pull the knife from Meir's body, the Palestinian teenager said, "I would have continued stabbing her, and if I saw another Jew I would stab and murder him."

Meir left behind six children, ages 4-17. They're also minors. But Rep. McCollum is not concerned about them. Her focus is on Palestinian minors such as Adais. According to the McCollum bill, the Israeli army's arrest of Adais would be considered illegal and abusive.

Here's another example of a Palestinian "child" in action.

On June 30, 2016, a Palestinian teenager broke into the bedroom of a 13-year-old girl named Hallel Yaffa Ariel, in the town of Kiryat Arba. The attacker, Mohammed Nasser Tra'ayra, viciously stabbed Hallel again and again. Then he stabbed two other Israelis whom he encountered. Hallel's father shot and killed Tra'ayra. Presumably, McCollum

would regard the shooting as "settler violence" against a "Palestinian child."

If Tra'ayra had not been killed, and had Israeli soldiers arrested him, that would have constituted illegal and abusive detention, according to the McCollum bill.

One final example to illustrate the real-life consequences of what these nine radical Congress members are trying to accomplish.

On December 25, 2014 — as McCollum and her colleagues were no doubt enjoying the Christmas holiday with their families — two young Palestinians decided that they would try to burn some Jews to death. They positioned themselves on the road to the Israeli town of Ma'ale Shomron. Along came an automobile with an 11-year-old girl riding in the front passenger seat. The two attackers — one of them a 16-year-old "child" — threw rocks and firebombs at the car.

The car exploded in flames. Eleven-year-old Ayelet Shapiro jumped out, her entire body on fire. Her father's quick action to smother the flames saved Ayelet's life, but she suffered third-degree burns to her face and upper body, meaning years of painful surgery and skin grafts, and a lifetime of severe scars and emotional trauma.

How were the attackers caught? Israeli security personnel went into the nearby Palestinian Arab village of Azun, detained suspects, questioned them and eventually pinpointed the perpetrators. None of which would have been possible under the McCollum bill.

Yes, the Israeli army does arrest a significant number of Palestinian minors. That's because a significant number of Palestinian minors engage in terrorism. In the past two years, there have been at least 79 terrorist



Palestinian youths participate in the graduation ceremony for a military-style camp organized by the Hamas terror group in Gaza on Aug. 18, 2017. Photo: Abed Rahim Khatib / Flash90.

attacks carried out by Palestinians from the ages of 8-17, according to the watchdog group Human Rights Voices.

The real abuse that Betty McCollum and her Gang of Nine should be investigating is the constant effort by the Palestinian Authority (PA) to incite minors to murder Jews. "We are so proud that in this popular uprising that has started almost two months ago, that the backbone of this uprising are the youth of Palestine," the PA's UN representative, Riyad Mansour, declared during the recent wave of Palestinian stabbing attacks.

But don't take Mansour's word for it. Morad Abdullah Adais, the 16-year-old who butchered Dafna Meir in front of her children, told investigators that he was inspired to murder her after watching a PA television program depicting Israelis as cruel oppressors of the Palestinians. How about some congressional action against the PA's use of American aid to sponsor such vicious and deadly incitement?

Stephen M. Flatow, an attorney in New Jersey, is the father of Alisa Flatow, who was murdered in an Iranian-sponsored Palestinian terrorist attack in 1995.

Opinion.

The Boston Islamic Seminary Is Training the Next Generation of Extremists



SAM WESTROP
LONDON

New research by the Middle East Forum has uncovered evidence of extreme antisemitism among faculty members and guest speakers appointed by the Islamic Society of Boston to teach and promote its latest project: the Boston Islamic Seminary (BIS).

BIS was established in 2016 to “equip future religious leaders with the intellectual, spiritual and practical training to serve the American Muslim community.” Currently, it offers “continuing education” classes, but it hopes to offer an accredited graduate degree program by 2019, which will “train chaplains, imams, and other leaders to serve in a variety of contexts.”

And what exactly will this next generation of chaplains and imams learn at BIS?

Faculty listed on the BIS website include Yahia Abdul Rahman, who is described as an expert on “sharia-compliant” banking. On his social media accounts, Abdul Rahman has posted stories from “The Ugly Truth,” a website that describes itself as “intelligent ‘anti-Semitism’ for thinking Gentiles.” Elsewhere, Rahman has shared claims that any Muslim who fails to oppose Israel is no longer a Muslim, and is afflicted with a “Jewish heart.” Other posts of his claim the Jews were complicit in the 2008 financial crisis.

Another BIS lecturer, Suheil Laher, previously served as head of the (now-defunct) Al Qaeda charity, CARE International. On his old website, Laher published calls to jihad and linked to an Al Qaeda fundraising website. On his current website, Laher refers to homosexuals as “depraved sinners.”

Other current BIS faculty members include Amr El-Fass, who suggests that Jews are to blame for intra-Arab conflict; and Hisham Mahmoud, whom moderate Muslim groups denounced after he likened homosexuality to pedophilia, and advocated that homosexuals should be punished.

Guest speakers are BIS are just as extreme. In June 2016, BIS invited Abdelrahman Murphy to address a BIS audience. Murphy, who is a former employee of the Islamic Society of Boston, works for the Qalam Institute, which hosts a document

on its website warning that Muslims who seek “cleanliness” and “purity” should “not resemble the Jews.” Murphy has stated: “There is no such thing as an innocent Israeli.”

Another speaker at the BIS event with Murphy was Yousef Abdallah, who serves as the “East Coast Operations Manager” for Islamic Relief, a prominent Islamist charity. Abdallah has posted jokes on social media about “stinking” Jews, has written that Chris Christie is “down on his knees before the Jewish lords,” and has shared a story praising “martyrs” who provide guns to “kill more than 20 Jews” and “fire rockets at Tel Aviv.”

The Middle East Forum has uncovered several other examples. We asked the Boston branch of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) — which often talks about other examples of hate speech — for comment, but it did not reply. Curiously, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston also failed to respond.

For many readers, this must all seem like a familiar story. BIS is a project of the Islamic Society of Boston (ISB), which, since its founding over 10 years ago, has displayed much evidence of extremism. Inaugural trustees of the ISB included Yusuf Al Qaradawi, the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, who was praised by Bin Laden; and Abdulrahman Alamoudi, an Al Qaeda fundraiser who was jailed in 2004 for conspiring with the Libyan regime to assassinate a Saudi crown prince.

In 2004, Boston Jewish leaders condemned another mosque trustee named Walid Fitaihi, after he denounced Jews as the “murderers of prophets” and claimed that they “would be punished for their oppression, murder and rape of the worshippers of Allah.” The very same Walid Fitaihi is now listed on the BIS website as a faculty member.

The Boston Islamic Seminary promises to educate the next generation of Muslims in Massachusetts. These chaplains, imams and community leaders will in turn educate Muslim communities all over America for many decades to come. Thus far, none of Boston’s political or religious leaders has expressed alarm over the extremists behind Boston’s newest Islamic institution. The question remains: exactly how much hatred for Jews and other minorities must be revealed before leaders will speak out?

Sam Westrop is the Director of Islamist Watch, a project of the Middle East Forum.

consensus among biblical scholars that Jesus lived and died a dedicated practicing Jew.

The symposium panelists — Father Donald Senior, president of the Catholic Theological Union of Chicago; Anglican priest Bruce Chilton, author of *Rabbi Jesus*; and Rabbi Jacob Neusner, author of numerous books on religion and several on early Christianity — agreed that Jesus lived and died a dedicated Jew, that he never mentioned or heard the word “Christian,” and that he never proposed a new religion.

In fact, the word Christian does not appear at all in the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) of the New Testament, which cover the three years of Jesus’ religious and spiritual mission. Rabbi Neusner added that almost all of Jesus’ teachings were drawn from the Torah (the Five Books of Moses).

These forthright statements begged the question that I then posed to Father Senior and Father Chilton during the Q and A: “You have convinced me that Jesus was thoroughly Jewish. So why aren’t you Jews or Jewish Christians?”

They squirmed a bit at my provocation, but acknowledged that they had walked into this setup. Then they gave the standard answer to the question of what divides Judaism and Christianity: “Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Messiah, who died for the salvation of mankind. With the arrival of Jesus, the new path to God and redemption is through belief in Jesus Christ.”

This view asserts Jesus’ divinity, further supported, from the Christian perspective, by the virgin birth (Mary, Jesus’ mother, was impregnated by the Holy Spirit), the miracles that Jesus performed, and his resurrection after the crucifixion.

So how does Thomas Jefferson, a founding father and third president of the United States, fit into this story?

Jefferson, an avowed deist who loved Jesus and reportedly read portions of the Bible every night, was not a fan of many of the depictions of Jesus in the Gospels. His opposition to those parts of the Jesus story that he rejected was so strong that he deleted them in his personal copy of the Bible.

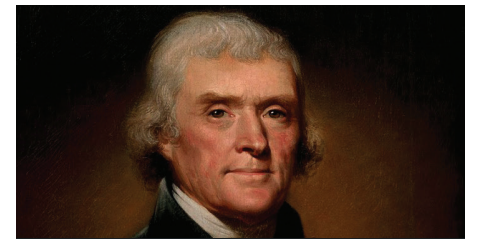
He wrote: “Jesus did not mean to impose himself on mankind as the son of God.” Jefferson called the writers of the New Testament “ignorant, unlettered men” who produced “superstitions, fanaticisms, and fabrications.”

The Humanist reports that one evening in 1804, while sitting at his desk at the White House, Jefferson “took out two Bibles and opened them to the story of Jesus. Then he grabbed a razor and began cutting. Working methodically, Jefferson sliced out the parts of the Bible that he believed and pasted them onto a folio of blank pages.” In cutting and pasting passages from the four Gospels, he created a single narrative.

In a letter to John Adams, Jefferson wrote: “The worthy parts of the Bible were easily distinguishable from the worthless.” In another letter to a friend, Philadelphia physician Benjamin Rush, Jefferson referred to his Bible as his “wee little book,” and added: “To the corruption of Christianity I am indeed opposed, but not to the genuine precepts of Jesus himself.”

The only copy of this Bible disappeared and has never been found. But in 1820 at age 77, Jefferson created a new copy in English and three others in French, Latin and Greek.

Jefferson’s Bible retains Jesus’ words, teachings and some of his actions. But gone are the supernatural acts: no miracles or suggestions of his divinity, no virgin birth. Lazarus doesn’t rise from the dead, nor are the multitudes fed from the multiplication of five barley loaves and two small fish. Jefferson’s Bible ends with the burial of Jesus, so there is no resurrection. Also, Jefferson did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, and he rejected the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, that “God is three-in-



Thomas Jefferson. Photo: Wikimedia Commons, US Archives.

one: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He retained the moral teachings of Jesus and discarded much of the rest; Jesus emerges as secular and human. Jefferson called his Bible *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*. This version has survived, and is on display at the Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington, DC.

But is the Jefferson Bible a Christian Bible?

The parts that Jefferson eliminated are precisely the ones that Donald Senior, Bruce Chilton and scores of other Christian scholars and practitioners say distinguish Christianity from Judaism. If they are discarded, isn’t what remains Judaism?

If so, we can conclude that Thomas Jefferson embraced Judaism — and was, therefore, in effect a Jew. This view is supported by Rabbi Neusner’s comment that Jesus’ teachings — which Jefferson accepted — are Torah teachings. Taking this claim a step further, Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, in his 2011 book, *Kosher Jesus*, lists the most prominent teachings and parables of Jesus and the comparable, if not identical, Torah renditions.

According to Jewish law, Jefferson could not officially be a Jew. For that you have to be born of a Jewish mother, or formally convert to Judaism.

But the plot thickens.

In 2007 *Newsweek* Magazine asked: “Was Thomas Jefferson the first Jewish President?”

The article reported that researchers at the University of Lancaster in the UK discovered that Thomas Jefferson’s Y chromosome “is part of a line known as K2; estimated to be about 20,000 years old; the line has been found scattered about Western Europe, notably in Iberia, France and Britain, but it is most prevalent in the Middle East.” The researchers speculated that the Jewish Diaspora, which dates as far back as the first century CE, may have brought the chromosomal line across Europe.

While their speculations are suggestive, the researchers could not definitively establish the Jefferson Jewish ancestry link. Nevertheless, imaginations were sparked by the prospect of “Monotheism, Moses and Monticello.” *Newsweek* quoted Peter Ochs, professor of Judaic studies at the University of Virginia, an institution founded by Jefferson: “He’s a brilliant, complex, imperfect person, like the great Biblical models — brainy, who uses his mind to build things, and yet very human.”

Further investigation of Jefferson’s Y chromosome by University of Arizona geneticist Michael Hammer found, “There was a perfect match to the Y chromosome of a Moroccan Jew, and matches that differed by two mutations from another Moroccan Jew, a Kurdish Jew and an Egyptian.”

Should a direct genetic link be authenticated, then Thomas Jefferson might be considered a Jew by lineage as well as by his theology.

This brings us back to the opening question: How did Christianity get away from Judaism?

Bernard Starr, PhD, is professor emeritus at the City University of New York, Brooklyn College. His latest book is “Jesus, Jews, and Anti-Semitism In Art: How Renaissance Art Erased Jesus’ Jewish Identity & How Today’s Artists Are Restoring It.”

Thomas Jefferson: Christian or Jew?



IRA STOLL
BOSTON

How did Christianity get separated from Judaism, when the two religions have so much in common?

That was the question pondered by three eminent scholars — two Christian and one Jewish — at a symposium hosted by the Center for Jewish History in New York City more than a decade ago.

It’s an important question and conundrum that persists today, since Christianity is based on Jewish prophecy and lineage — and the fact that all of Jesus’ disciples and followers were Jews. And we should add to that the growing

Impressions.

New York Times Columnist Collected Cash From Zionist Group He Now Calls 'Disgrace'

BY IRA STOLL

When The New York Times hired Bret Stephens earlier this year as an op-ed columnist, I wrote, "His voice will be a welcome addition and corrective to the Times tilt against Israel."

Who knew then that he'd wind up using his new platform to criticize a pro-Israel organization?

Yet that's exactly what Stephens did in a recent column lacing into the Zionist Organization of America for allowing a former Trump administration official, Stephen Bannon, to speak at its dinner in New York.

The Times columnist's overall point — that Jews should beware antisemitism on the right as well as on the left — is perfectly sensible. But the column suffers from a series of flaws that hurt its credibility.

First, it's hypocritical of Stephens to attack the ZOA for associating with Bannon on the grounds that a website Bannon operated published articles about, and in some cases by, other figures that Stephens finds objectionable. "No organization that purports to represent the interests of the Jewish people should ever embrace anyone who embraces anti-Semites," is the way that Stephens phrases it. The hypocrisy comes from the fact that the New York Times op-ed page, where Stephens works, has published articles by Palestinian terrorist Marwan Barghouti and by the foreign minister of Iran, Mohammad Javad Zarif.

The Times reader comment platform is itself a cesspool of virulent anti-Semitism. One reader comment on Stephens' own ZOA column, by Peter Feld, said, "there's nothing anti-Semitic about opposing a Jewish state on stolen land ruling over a captive population. Bannon is nothing but a symptom of the racism that has animated Zionism for over 130 years."

That comment generated 67 "thumbs up" recommendations from Times readers and was only one of ten comments, out of 529 submitted, that Times moderators awarded a gold ribbon signifying that it was a "NYT Pick." This isn't just some fluke; the Times has a persistent and ongoing problem with antisemitic reader comments. If Stephens is going to fault the ZOA for associating with Bannon on the grounds of Bannon's ties to a website purportedly populated with anti-Semites, that same standard would dictate that Jewish organizations stop inviting Stephens himself as a speaker until the Times cleans up its own act.

The column is afflicted with flaws beyond hypocrisy. The standard Stephens proposes is impractical. As the eminent Israeli author Yoram Hazony commented about Stephens' column, "Herzl negotiated with the British empire, the Kaiser, the Sultan, the Czar, the Pope. No successful Jewish policy can be built on a politically correct doctrine of 'liberal friends only.'"

Stephens' critique of Bannon is so broad that it would include lots of people who are not enemies of the Jews. "Unlike Nixon, whose anti-Semitism seems to have been of a knee-jerk and atavistic variety, Bannon's alt-right views — his opposition to free trade, a liberal immigration policy, 'international bankers,' 'corporatist global media' — are consonant with a sinister worldview that always finds a way to get back to a certain class of rootless cosmopolitans," Stephens writes. If opposition to free trade is all of a sudden a disqualifier, does that mean that Ely Dubrow, the

Remembering My Brother, Mickey

BY JEREMY ROSEN

This week is the secular date of my younger brother's death.

Sibling rivalry goes all the way back to Cain and Abel. As a two-year-old, I resented the arrival of my brother Mickey, as a rival for our parents' love. I began to lash out in order to get attention, but I don't think I ever took it out on him.

And I soon learned not to try competing with him in any area. I was 10 when my second brother, David, arrived, so there was no rivalry there, and 16 when my sister, Angela, entered this world. I was 19 when our father died. From that time onwards, our lives took on their own paths and momentum. I was away at yeshiva in Israel and then at Cambridge. Mickey was at Jews College in London and then Israel, but at different times.

After the shock of our father's early death, my mother had to rebuild her life. Her world had descended from a state of bliss to a battle to survive and move forward. She went back to school. She read Semitics at Oxford while Mickey was at Jews College, and they both had to study and grapple with the Book of Job. They delighted in analyzing the unusual and obscure words and their possible meanings, but more significantly dealing with the awesome issues of why tragedies occur, and why lives and dreams are cut short in such inexplicable and irrational ways, with no reference to goodness or merit.

People who witnessed their complete involvement in the text together always commented on what an amazing sight it was to behold. Their relationship, at that moment, was so significant, so powerful and unique. Our mother loved us all, of course, but I think there was a special bond between her and Mickey.

Then her world was destroyed for a second time. Because of internal politics at Carmel, the dream that she had of creating a girls' school was taken away from her. She was excluded and later evicted from Carmel College, despite having raised the money for the school, masterminded the plans and started employing staff. I was away in yeshiva again in Israel at the time, so it fell to Mickey as well as David and Angela to provide her with the loving compensation she needed.

Mickey went into the rabbinate. His first position was in Hale, a suburb of Manchester. But he had a dream of setting up his own center for studying Torah in a traditional but creative atmosphere. That was why he established YAKAR, an acronym of our father's Hebrew name — Yaakov Kopul Rosen — that he himself had used as an occasional columnist for The Jewish Chronicle. Initially in Stanmore, YAKAR later moved to Hendon, eventually to Jerusalem, and then added a branch in Tel Aviv. YAKAR was Mickey's life. He succeeded in passing on his spirituality, his scholarship, his individuality and his charisma to his children, who, together with his wife Gilla, are carrying

on his work in different ways.

Mickey died prematurely in 2010. Although our father's relationship with Mickey ended far too early, he always said what a good soul Mickey was; he even liked to call him a tsaddik, a saint.

When our father died, I was angry with the world. Perhaps because Mickey was younger, he did not have the anger that I did. Instead he channeled his grief and love for our father in other, productive ways.

Now in my more advanced age, I have jettisoned my anger. When it came to mourning Mickey, despite the sense of loss and pain, I felt joy and pride, which is precisely what the rituals of mourning are for. I realized that Mickey's death was not just a loss to the family, but to the Jewish and non-Jewish community too.

Mourners ought to discipline ourselves to listen, to be polite and to be generous enough to recognize



A Torah scroll. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

that the one we loved was loved by others, and played important parts in other lives too.

Each one of us siblings found different and personal ways of continuing our parents' legacy. Mickey's was through YAKAR, his family will undoubtedly find their own ways to honor him.

"For there was no one on earth like him, a pure and straight man, respecting God and avoiding sin." Job 1:1 & 2:3

Whenever I read these lines, I think of Mickey. It is such an appropriate epitaph, but not just because he was as close as it gets to being such a person. It is because these words, these characteristics were precisely what Mickey aspired to. They apply even more appropriately to our mother. She was spared long enough to participate in Mickey's success, and yet, thankfully, not to see his premature death.

The epitaph on my father's grave is a quote from the Book of Psalms, that applies to his wife and son too:

"The good person will be like a tree planted by streams of water that gives its fruit at the right time, its leaves do not wither, and whatever he does succeeds." Psalms 1:3

The commentator says that the leaves refer to the pupils and those that carry on that person's teachings and values.

longtime Washington representative of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, should have been written out of the organized Jewish community? Bernie Sanders has railed against "corporate media" and also has been critical of free trade agreements. Does that make him a sinister alt-right antisemite?

Finally, the Stephens column fails to disclose to readers that the columnist had a lucrative financial relationship with the organization he now criticizes as a "disgrace." On November 12, 2013, Stephens spoke at the annual awards dinner of the ZOA's Pittsburgh district, for a fee of \$7,500 plus travel expenses, according to the ZOA. In January of 2014, he spoke to the ZOA's Southwest Florida Chapter. On February 19, 2015, he spoke in Palo Alto, Calif., at an event sponsored by the ZOA's West Coast chapter, for which he was paid a fee of \$8,000 plus travel

Continued on Page A10

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC) MWC MusicalWorks LLC ARTICLES OF Organization filed with the Secretary of the State of New York on September 18, 2017 N.Y. Office location: Bronx County. Secretary of the State of New York has been designated as an agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him is C/O the LLC Michael William Caesar 626 East 240th Street Bronx, NY 10470 Purpose of LLC: To engage in any lawful act or activity.

AJ; 10/20/27; 11/3/10/17/24

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: 7th STREET CAPITAL 285,LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/28/2017 Office location: Richmond County SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to: Gabor & Marotta, LLC, 1878 Victory Blvd., Staten Island NY 10314. purpose: all lawful activity

AJ; 10/20/27; 11/3/10/17/24

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: NRIA 7th STREET CAPITAL Manager, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/28/2017 Office location: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to: Gabor & Marotta, LLC, 1878 Victory Blvd., Staten Island NY 10314. Purpose: all lawful activity

AJ; 10/20/27; 11/3/10/17/24

Notice of Formation of Grove Development Partners LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 10/6/17. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: POB 67, NY, NY 10159. Purpose: any lawful activity.

AJ; 10/27; 11/3/10/17/24;12/1

Application for Authority of Exocode LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/12/17. Formed in DE 4/6/17. Office loc.: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to is 620 Wilson Ave., #101, Brooklyn, NY 11207. The office address required to be maintained in DE is 203 NE Front St., Ste. 101, Milford, DE 19963. Cert. of formation filed with Jeffrey W. Bullock, DE Secy. of State, Div. of Corporations, PO Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

AJ; 11/3/10/17/24;12/1/8

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS LNV Corporation, Plaintiff -against- Vincenzo Stanzione a/k/a Vincent Stanzione, FJC, Capital One Bank (USA), N.A., City of New York Department of Transportation Parking Violations Bureau, Mrs. Stanzione, Defendant(s) Pursuant to

LEGAL NOTICE

a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered on September 21, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at ROOM 224 F/K/A ROOM 274 OF KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201 on December 7, 2017 at 2:30 PM premises known as 2371 East 70th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234. 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: 8448 Lot: 12 Approximate amount of lien \$496,432.92 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment Index # 507445/2013 Jageshwar Sharma, Esq., REFEREE STEIN, WIENER AND ROTH, L.L.P., ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF ONE OLD COUNTRY ROAD, SUITE 113 CARLE PLACE, NY 11514 DATED: October 27, 2017 FILE #: DOVEN 63793

AJ; 11/3/10/17/24;

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Pennymac Corp, Plaintiff AGAINST Donald Bradley a/k/a Donald E. Bradley; Doreen Bradley; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated September 25, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on December 14, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 392 Fenimore Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225. 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 4814 Lot 20. Approximate amount of judgment \$466,536.43 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 509000/2014. Steven Naiman, Esq, Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: October 27, 2017 49613

AJ; 11/10/17/24;12/1

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE POOLING AND SERVICING AGREEMENT RELATING TO IMPAC SECURED ASSET CORP, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-2, Plaintiff against HERBERT WILLIAMS A/K/A HERBERT A. WILLIAMS; HERMAN WILLIAMS S/H/A JOHN DOE #1; CATHERINE WILLIAMS S/H/A JOHN DOE #2, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on September 26, 2017. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY. on the 14th day of December, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. premises 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. Said premises known as 1125 East 92nd Street, Brooklyn, NY. 11236. (Block: 8180, Lot: 29). Approximate amount of lien \$ 661,492.06 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 507070-13. Bart Verdirame, Esq., Referee. McCabe,

Weisberg & Conway, P.C. Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 145 Huguenot Street - Suite 210 New Rochelle, New York 10801 (914) 636-8900

AJ; 11/10/17/24;12/1

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY. THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF COWALT, INC., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2005-50CB, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-50CB, Pltf. vs. ROGER DELONEY, et al, Defts. Index #504313/2013. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale dated Sept. 14, 2017, I will sell at public auction in room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY 11201 on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. prem. k/a 1067 Bushwick Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11221 a/k/a Block 3340, Lot 51. Said property located on the easterly side of Bushwick Ave., 50 ft. northerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the said easterly side of Bushwick Ave. with the northerly side of Palmetto St., being a plot 80 ft. x 16 ft. 8 inches. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$465,695.27 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. HELENE BLANK, Referee. DRUCKMAN LAW GROUP PLLC, Attys. for Pltf., 242 Drexel Ave., Westbury, NY 11590. File No. 37418. #93253

AJ; 11/10/17/24;12/1

Supreme Court County Of Kings Federal National Mortgage Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Noel Brown, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 9/5/2017 and entered on 9/26/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on December 14, 2017 at 02:30 PM premises known as 77A Somers Street Brooklyn, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 1539, LOT: 68. Approximate amount of judgment is \$663,522.18 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 017681/2009. Sean R. Smith, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706

AJ; 11/10/17/24;12/1

File No. 2016-4935/A PA. No. 147189 SURROGATE'S COURT, KINGS COUNTY, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: Seth Levine, Stephen Levine, Donna Katzman, Attorney General of the State of New York, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, New York City Human Resources Administration, JACK WASSERMAN, GOLDIE WASSERMAN, SALMA WASSERMAN, CINDY PRESS, AND DARLENE PRESS, if living but if dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown AND The spouse, if any, and any and all unknown distributees and creditors of SIDNEY YELLEN A/K/A SIDNEY W. YELLEN, deceased,

whose whereabouts are unknown and if any of the aforesaid persons be dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if the persons died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of SIDNEY YELLEN A/K/A SIDNEY W. YELLEN, the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot after due diligence be ascertained, A petition and an account having been duly filed by the Public Administrator of Kings County, who has offices at 360 Adams Street, Room 144A, Brooklyn, New York 11201, United States. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Kings County, at 2 Johnson Street, Room 319, Brooklyn, New York, on December 12, 2017, at 9:30 o'clock in the fore noon of that day why: (a) The account of proceedings of the Public Administrator of Kings County as Administrator of the estate of SIDNEY YELLEN a/k/a Sidney W. Yellen, a summary of which has been served herewith, should not be judicially settled; (b) The Public Administrator of Kings County should not be paid his commissions pursuant to SCPA §2307 in the amount of \$15,103.74, as set forth in Schedules C-1 and I of the Account; (c) The Public Administrator of Kings County should not be paid his administrative expenses pursuant to SCPA §1106(3) in the amount of \$3,701.25 as shown in Schedules C-1 and J of the Account; (d) The Court should not fix, determine and approve the legal fees of Cullen and Dykman LLP, counsel to the Petitioner, in the amount of \$22,207.48 as shown in Schedules C-1 and J of the Account; (e) The Court should not fix, determine and approve the disbursements of Cullen and Dykman LLP in the amount of \$462.00 as shown in Schedules C-1 and J of the Account; (f) The claim of the New York City Human Resources Administration, in the amount of \$127,885.47, as shown in Schedule D of the Account, should not be allowed; (g) The claim of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, if any, should not be fixed and determined; (h) The Petitioner should not be permitted to distribute so much of the net estate to the decedent's distributees, as now known or hereafter determined, as their interests may appear, and to deposit any amount not so distributed with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York to be held for the benefit of decedent's unknown distributees or for the benefit of any distributees of the decedent who are under disability for whom no guardian of the property has been appointed; (i) The Petitioner, upon fully complying with the Decree to be made in this proceeding, should not be released and discharged of and from any and all liability, responsibility and accountability with respect to the Petitioner's acts and proceedings as Administrator as set forth and embraced in said account and the Court grant such other and further relief as it deems just and proper; Dated, Attested, and Sealed, October 18, 2017, HON.MARGARITA LOPEZ TORRES, Surrogate, Doreen A. Quinn, Chief Clerk; Joseph J. Borges, Esq., Attorney Firm: Cullen & Dykman LLP, Address: 44 Wall Street, NY, NY 10005-2407, (212)701-4175. [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 that you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you, and you or your attorney may request a copy of the full account from the petitioner or petitioner's attorney.]

AJ; 11/10/17/24;12/1

Notice of formation of AROMA FOOD BANQUET LLC. Art. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/25/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as service for process. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 2670 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11235. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

AJ; 11/10/17/24;12/1/8/15

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, IN TRUST FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS IF CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-AHL3, Plaintiff against KAMWIL DUPOINT, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on May 2, 2017. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY. on the 14th day of December, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate 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 westerly side of East 31st Street distant 400 feet northerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the westerly side of East 31st Street with the northerly side of Tilden Avenue; THENCE westerly parallel with Tilden Avenue, 100 feet; THENCE northerly parallel with East 31st Street, 25 feet; THENCE easterly again parallel with Tilden Avenue, 100 feet to the westerly side of East 31st Street; and THENCE southerly along said side of East 31st Street, 25 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING. Said premises known as 108 East 31st Street, Brooklyn, NY. 11226. (Block: 4901, Lot: 21). Approximate amount of lien \$ 560,911.47 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 501492-14. Jacob Gelfand, Esq., Referee. Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 10 Bank Street Suite - 700 White Plains, NY. 10606 (914) 949-2574

AJ; 11/10/17/24;12/1

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: BROOKLYN CAMERA,LLC.Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY)on 05/18/2015 . 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 302 Weirfield St, Brooklyn, NY 11237 Purpose: all lawful activity

AJ; 11/10/17/24;12/1/8/15

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC Plaintiff -against- Rockie Ojomu-Kayoes a/k/a Rockie Ojomu Kayoes a/k/a R. Ojomu Kayoes, City of New York Department of Transportation Parking Violations Bureau, Leroy Williams Defendant(s)

Continued on Page A10

Tradition.

When the “I” is Silent



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

It is one of the great visions of the Torah. Jacob, alone and far from home, lies down for the night, with only stones for a pillow. He dreams of a ladder set on earth but reaching heaven, with angels ascending and descending. The question is: what is it a vision of?

There are many answers in our tradition, but the simplest is – prayer. Jacob, according to the sages, established Maariv, the evening prayer.



He himself gives the most moving account of his experience:

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.”

He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of G-d; this is the gate of heaven.”

Only in hindsight do we appreciate the resonances of this sentence. A synagogue is a “house of G-d.” Prayer is “the gate of heaven.” The result of prayer – if we have truly opened our heart – is to know that “G-d is in this place, and I did not know it.” There is, though, one nuance in the text that is missed in translation, and it took the Hassidic masters to remind us of it. Hebrew verbs carry with them, in their declensions, an indication of their subject. Thus the word yadati means “I knew,” and lo yadati, “I did not know.” When Jacob wakes from his sleep, however, he says, “Surely the Lord is in this place ve’anokhi lo yadati.” Anokhi means “I.” In this sentence, it is superfluous. To translate it literally we would have to say, “And I, I did not know it.” Why the double “I”? To this, Rabbi Pinchas Horowitz (Panim Yafot) gave a magnificent answer. How do we come to know that “G-d is in this place”? By ve’anokhi lo yadati – not knowing the I. We know G-d when we forget the self. We sense the “Thou” of the Divine presence when we move beyond the “I” of egocentricity. Only when we stop thinking about ourselves, do we become truly open to the world and the Creator of the world.

This answers some of the great questions about prayer. What difference does it make? Does it really

change G-d? Surely G-d does not change. Besides which, does not prayer contradict the most fundamental principle of faith, which is that we are called on to do G-d’s will rather than ask G-d to do our will? What really happens when we pray?

Prayer has two dimensions, one mysterious, the other not. There are simply too many cases of prayers being answered for us to deny that it makes a difference to our fate. It does. A few days ago I heard the following story. A man in a Nazi concentration camp lost the will to live – and in the death camps, if you lost the will to live, you died. That night he poured out his heart in prayer. The next morning, he was transferred to work in the camp kitchen. There he was able, when the guards were not looking, to steal some potato peelings. It was these peelings that kept him alive.

I heard this story from his son. Perhaps each of us has some such story. In times of crisis we cry out from the depths of our soul, and something happens. Sometimes we only realise it later, looking back. Prayer makes a difference to the

world – but how it does so is mysterious. There is, however, a second dimension which is non-mysterious. Less than prayer changes G-d, it changes us. Literally, the Hebrew verb lehitpallel, meaning “to pray,” means “to judge oneself.” It means, to escape from the prison of the self and see the world, including ourselves, from the outside. Prayer is where the relentless first person singular, the “I,” falls silent for a moment and we become aware that we are not the centre of the universe. There is a reality outside. That is a moment of transformation. If we could only stop asking the question, “How does this affect me?” we would see that we are surrounded by miracles. There is the almost infinite complexity and beauty of the natural world. There is the Divine word, our greatest legacy as Jews, the library of books we call the Bible. And there is the unparalleled drama, spreading over forty centuries, of the tragedies and triumphs that have befallen the Jewish people. Respectively, these represent the three dimensions of our knowledge of G-d: creation (G-d in nature), revelation (G-d in holy words) and redemption (G-d in history).

Sometimes it takes a great crisis to make us realise how self-centred we have been. The only question strong enough to endow existence with meaning is not, “What do I need from life?” but “What does life need from me?” That is the question we hear when we truly pray. More than prayer is an act of speaking, it is an act of listening – to what G-d wants from us, here, now. What we discover – if we are able to create that silence in the soul – is that we are not alone.

We are here because someone, the One, wanted us to be, and He has set us a task only we can do. We emerge strengthened, transformed.

More than prayer changes G-d, it changes us. It lets us see, feel, know that “G-d is in this place.” How do we reach that awareness? By moving beyond the first person singular, so that for a moment, like Jacob, we can say, “I did not know the I.” In the silence of the “I,” we meet the “Thou” of G-d.

Continued from Page A8
‘Disgrace’

expenses, according to the ZOA. Each fee amounted to more for one speech than the median journalist makes in two months of work.

One might argue that disclosing the financial relationship would strengthen Stephens’ argument, because he must really have a strong conviction about something to put that kind of income stream in jeopardy. Or one might argue that it would weaken it, making readers wonder if the column has more to do with Stephens’ speaking business – had the ZOA fees dried up? Does he have other paid speaking customers that compete with the ZOA for pro-Israel donors? – than with the underlying merits. I emailed Stephens and a Times spokeswoman on Friday afternoon to ask about the speaking fee issue and to give Stephens an opportunity to address it. I got no response from them.

At the Palo Alto ZOA event, Stephens said, according to a YouTube video of the speech, “It’s especially a pleasure and an honor to speak for the ZOA. The ZOA is very dear to my heart for many reasons, but I want to single out one, which I think is particularly important. ZOA is not afraid to be unpopular. And I think that that is probably the quality that is most desperately needed today in political discourse generally, but speaking as a Jew, in Jewish discourse particularly.”

This probably won’t make me too popular with Stephens, but here it is: he had it more right in California back in 2015 than he did in his recent Times column.

LEGAL NOTICE

Continued from Page A9

Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered on May 11, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at ROOM 224 F/K/A ROOM 274 OF KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201 on December 14, 2017 at 2:30 PM premises known as 1050 East 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236. 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: 8037 Lot: 172 Approximate amount of lien \$731,132.32 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment Index # 505895/2015 Joel E. Abramson, Esq., REFEREE STEIN, WIENER AND

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE

ROTH, L.L.P., ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF ONE OLD COUNTRY ROAD, SUITE 113 CARLE PLACE, NY 11514 DATED: November 3, 2017 FILE #: BAYVIEW 68274 AJ; 11/10/17/24;12/1

Notice of formation of 752 PATTERSON LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY, SSNY on 10/31/2017. Office located in Richmond County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 752 PATTERSON LLC, 421 Home Ave, Staten Island, NY 10305. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. AJ; 11/10/17/24;12/1/8/15/

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: THE GOOD PAW LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 10/25/2017. Office location Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: Rachael Lanning 511 Rensselaer Avenue staten Island, NY 10312 purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 11/10/17/24;12/1/8/15

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: IRL COLLECTIVE,LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 07/11/2017 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: United states corporation agents, 7014 13th Ave. Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 11/10/17/24;12/1/8/15

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.; Plaintiff(s) vs. CESAR L. ROCHA; MARVIN E. ZUNIGA; 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 November 28, 2016, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder in Room 224 OF Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. On December 21, 2017 at 2:30 pm. Premises known as 41 LOGAN STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11208-1312 Block: 4102 Lot: 4 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 \$57,813.40 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 508093/2015 Mark A. Longo, Esq., Referee AJ; 11/17/24;12/1/8/

LEGAL NOTICE OF POSTPONE-MENT OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS JAMES B. NUTTER & COMPANY, Plaintiff -against- GISELE CADET AKA GISELE NICHOLAS ADA GISELE NICOLAS CADET AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF THE ESTATE OF GERARD CADET; ETC., et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated September 11, 2017 and entered on

LEGAL NOTICE

September 26, 2017, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Courthouse 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY on December 14, 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 westerly side of East 57th Street, distant 300 feet southerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the westerly side of East 57th Street with the southerly side of Linden Avenue; being a plot 100 feet by 30 feet by 100 feet by 30 feet. Block: 4682 Lot: 22 Said premises known as 116 EAST 57TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY Approximate amount of lien \$621,435.76 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. Index Number 7244/2011. AARON D. MASLOW, ESQ., Referee Westernman Ball Ederer Miller Zucker & Sharfstein, LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 1201 RXR Plaza, Uniondale, NY 11556 The above sale, originally scheduled for November 16, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. has been postponed. The new sale date has been rescheduled for December 14, 2017 at the same time and place. AARON D. MASLOW, ESQ., Referee. AJ; 11/24;12/1/8/15/

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: Brooklyn UC Group LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 01/25/2017. 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: Mark J. Nussbaum, ESQ., 225 Broadway 39th floor New York, NY 10007 Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 11/24;12/1/8/15/22/29

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: The Covenant TC/03G,LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 10/20/2017 Office location: Bronx County SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: M. Ross & Associates, LLC 560 Sylvan Ave., Englewood cliffs New Jersey 07632 Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 11/24;12/1/8/15/22/29

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC). Name: LOLLYGAG, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 09/06/2017. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: Cheyenne Moseley Legal-zoom.com, Inc. 101 N Brand Blvd 10th floor Glendale Ca. 91203. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 11/24;12/1/8/15/22/29

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: BROOKS AND GAYLES DAY CARE LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 11/14/2017. Office location: Bronx county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC Upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: Petrina T Brown 1930 Schieffelin Ave Bronx, NY 10466 purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 11/24;12/1/8/15/22/29

Social.



Israeli soccer star Eran Zahavi. Photo: Nir Keidar via Wikimedia Commons.

Israeli Soccer Star Named Most Valuable Player in Chinese League

BY JNS.ORG

Israeli soccer star Eran Zahavi was named this year's most valuable player in the Chinese Super League (CSL) last weekend.

Zahavi, 30, garnered the award after a season in which he scored 27 goals, just one short of the league record.

The Israeli player has a \$7 million annual contract with the Chinese team that ends in 2020.

Before playing professional soccer in China, Zahavi spent the majority of his career in Israel with the Hapoel Tel Aviv and Maccabi Tel Aviv clubs. He also played briefly in Italy and was the captain of Israel's national soccer team.

Miss Israel, Miss Iraq Find 'Peace and Love' Amid Mideast Tensions

BY JNS.ORG

In a rare sign of Middle East solidarity, Miss Israel Adar Gandelsman and Miss Iraq Sarah Idan took to social media to put friendship over division ahead of the Miss Universe competition later this month.

Gandelsman on Tuesday posted a picture with Idan on Instagram, saying, "Get to know, this is Miss Iraq and she's amazing," followed by a heart emoji.

On her Instagram page, Idan also posted the picture, along with the caption "peace and love from Miss Iraq and Miss Israel."

Like many Arab countries, Iraq does not recognize Israel and is openly hostile towards the Jewish state. Yet Israel and Iraq's Kurdish community, which the Jewish state backed for independence from Iraq in September, do enjoy warm relations.

Idan, 27, from Baghdad, and Gandelsman, 19, from Ashkelon, will compete at the Miss Universe pageant in late November in Las Vegas.

Despite the warm social media posts, fraternizing with Israel has landed other Arab beauty queens in hot

water in recent years. In 2015, Miss Lebanon, Saly Greige, nearly lost her title after she posted a photo on social media appearing with Miss Israel, Doron Matalon. In August, dual Swedish-Lebanese citizen Amanda Hanna, who won the Miss Lebanon Emigrant 2017 competition, was stripped of her title after it was revealed that she had visited Israel using her Swedish passport on an academic trip in 2016.



Miss Israel Adar Gandelsman's Instagram post. Photo: Screenshot.

Australian Rock Star Nick Cave to Boycotters: 'I Love Israel'

BY JNS.ORG

Australian rock star Nick Cave is facing backlash from BDS supporters following a performance in Tel Aviv, where he accused the anti-Israel movement of trying to bully and censor him.

In a statement on Tuesday, former Pink Floyd frontman Roger Waters, a leader of the boycott of Israel by performing artists, said he "read Nick Cave's press conference statements with a mixture of sorrow, rage and disbelief."

"What if it was your demolished home? Your invaded country? Your villages razed to the ground to build stadiums for the invaders to promote pop concerts on?" Waters said. "Nick thinks this is about censorship of his music? What? Nick, with all due respect, your music is irrelevant to this issue, so is



Nick Cave. Photo: Wikipedia.

mine, so is Brian Eno's, so is Beethoven's....This isn't about music, it's about human rights."

During a press conference prior to his performance on Sunday in Tel Aviv, Cave said he had faced pressure from the BDS movement to cancel his shows in Israel, and that he had been approached by record producer Brian Eno to sign a boycott list. But Cave said he wanted to take a "principled stand against anyone who wants to censor and silence musicians."

"On a very intuitive level I did not want to sign that [boycott], there was something that stunk to me about that list," Cave said.

"So at the end of the day, there are two reasons why I'm here. One is that I love Israel and I love Israeli people, and two is to make a principled stand against anyone who wants to censor and silence musicians. So really, you could say in a way that the BDS made me play Israel," he said.



Nick Cave. Photo: kingArthur_au

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