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## Netanyahu Claims 'Enormous Victory,' Pledges to Form 'Nationalist Government'



Confetti falls as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stands next to his wife Sara in Tel Aviv, Israel, March 3, 2020. Photo: REUTERS/Amir Cohen.

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed an "enormous victory" in the country's 2020 elections on Monday night, saying he planned to form a "nationalist government that is good for Israel."

Early exit polls showed a decisive advantage for Netan-

yahu's right-religious bloc with 60 Knesset seats, only one short of a majority.

By the time he spoke at Likud's victory party, however, all three major television channels projected that the right-religious bloc had dropped to 59 seats, meaning the prime minister may be forced to look outside his natural coalition partners on the right to form a government.

None of this was in evidence

at Netanyahu's speech, however, with the prime minister telling the euphoric crowd, "this is a night of enormous victory" as he was frequently forced to stop by the applause and chants from the audience.

"This is the biggest victory of my life," Netanyahu said, according to Israeli news website N12. "Together we did the impossible."

"I remember our first victory in

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## With Most Votes Counted, Official Israeli Elections Results Show Win for Netanyahu

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

With 90% of the vote counted on Tuesday morning, official results in Israel's 2020 elections showed a victory for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Likud party, though the right-religious bloc he leads still fell short of a governing majority.

Israeli news site *Walla* reported that the results had Likud as the largest party, with 36 seats in the next Knesset. Likud's top rival, the centrist Blue and White party, won 32 seats.

The largely-Arab Joint List party won 15 seats and the



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stands next to his wife Sara as he waves to supporters in Tel Aviv, March 3, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Amir Cohen.

Sephardi ultra-Orthodox party Shas took 10.

All other contenders were in single digits: Ashkenazi ultra-Orthodox party United Torah Judaism won eight seats, the left-wing alliance Labor-Gesher-Meretz seven and the right-wing Yamina party six.

Secular-nationalist party Yisrael Beiteinu, which has been a wild card since its leader Avigdor Lieberman prevented the formation of a right-wing government last April, setting off two more rounds of elections, took seven seats, which could well make it the kingmaker or spoiler in upcoming coalition talks again.

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## Memories of Kirk Douglas

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### ShabbatCalendar

Parshat TETZAVEH פרשת תצוה

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting  
Shabbat Begins: 5:35pm | Shabbat Ends: 6:35pm



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## Opinion.

# For Bernie Sanders, AIPAC Is Worse Than North Korea or Cuba



IAN COOPER  
TORONTO

According to AIPAC, more than two-thirds of Congress were in attendance at its annual policy conference this week. Senator Bernie Sanders was not among them.

Sanders' decision to skip AIPAC may not come as a surprise, but it smacks of the kind of cowardice and cynical opportunism that he has reliably used during his congressional career and presidential campaigns.

Much has been made — and much more will certainly be made if he wins the nomination — of Sanders and his wife Jane's 1988 visit to the Soviet Union. The images of a middle-aged Bernie "bro-ing out" with his *apparatchik* minders and coming home to sing the praises of a totalitarian regime then in its death throes are certainly cringe-worthy, and make him look ridiculously naïve.

But buried in those images are some laudable ideas, namely that the world is not entirely black and white, people are not all good or evil, and that by engaging with our enemies, we can learn something from each other and bridge divides.

Indeed, that was the whole purpose of the visit: to build a connection between two

obscure cities separated by thousands of miles and plenty of political rhetoric. Ideally, Sanders would have returned with a more nuanced view, but one can't ask for everything.

In a *60 Minutes* interview this month, Sanders was asked about North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un. Sanders' response echoed these earlier sentiments: "Meeting with people who are antagonistic is, to me, not a bad thing to do. ... I think, unfortunately, Trump went into that meeting unprepared. I think it was a photo opportunity and did not have the kind of diplomatic work necessary to make it a success."

This position sounds great. Sanders has preserved his open-mindedness while recognizing that, unlike on his Soviet tour, he must be shrewd in conversations with adversaries.

Sanders has also come under fire for his eagerness to highlight the accomplishments of the dictatorships of Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega. Both presided over brutal regimes, but once again, Sanders' views portray a candidate who sees the world in forgiving shades of grey.

Which brings us to his position on AIPAC.

Whatever cold war might have existed between Sanders and the portion of the Jewish community that is unapologetically supportive of the Jewish state devolved into open warfare when Sanders announced on Twitter, "I remain concerned about the platform AIPAC provides for leaders who express bigotry and oppose basic Palestinian rights. For that reason I will not attend their conference."

No doubt members of the so-called progressive wing of the Democratic Party were delighted at this critique, but those with an interest in facts might want to take a look at the list of this year's speakers before effectively declaring the conference a Festival of Hate Speech.

To name a handful, they include a former Canadian prime minister, the Executive Director of Alliance for Middle East Peace, the Executive Director of Equality California, two Canadian members of parliament, multiple rabbis and Jewish academics, executives representing Dell and Google, the founder of Jewish dating site JSwipe, Senators Cory Booker, Bob Menendez, and Chuck Schumer, and several other members of Congress from the party to which Sanders belongs for the purposes of his presidential campaigns.

Which of these business, religious, academic, and political thought leaders does Sanders consider to be purveyors of bigotry?

More worrying, how did the man who had so much time to expound upon the virtues of the Soviet Union, Castro, and Ortega, or who doesn't consider it beneath him morally to meet with Kim Jong-un, conclude that dialogue with AIPAC attendees is beyond the pale?

At a recent debate in South Carolina, Sanders doubled down on his AIPAC boycott, justifying it on the basis that Israel is currently being led by a "reactionary racist."

Benjamin Netanyahu has his share of detractors in Israel and abroad, but it's a rather perfunctory dismissal of a man who is surely a



Democratic US presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders in South Carolina, Feb. 25, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Jonathan Ernst.

step up from Castro or Ortega.

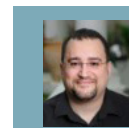
No doubt there are people at the AIPAC conference who vibrantly support Netanyahu and oppose Sanders. Unfortunately, that's all the more reason he should have attended. His brand — as a tireless contrarian warrior willing to swim upstream for the good cause — demands nothing less.

If Sanders had shown up at AIPAC to speak to his supporters and face his detractors, he would have displayed leadership. Instead, he chose to follow the Democratic Party's fringe, whose cancel culture has embraced the BDS movement and a caricature of Israel, its democratically elected leader, and its leading voice in Washington.

For American Jews, such a shamelessly cynical capitulation should disqualify Sanders from any serious consideration as America's next president.

*Ian Cooper is a Toronto-based entertainment and technology lawyer.*

## Bernie Sanders and the Question of Antisemitism



BENJAMIN KERSTEIN  
TEL AVIV

The rise of Bernie Sanders presents American Jews with a terrible conundrum.

On the one hand, he is the first American Jew with a reasonable chance of gaining the presidential nomination of a major party, and thus a reasonable chance of becoming the first Jewish president.

For American Jews, this ought to be a cause for celebration. But thus far, it has not been, with Sanders' Jewish support in the primaries remaining miniscule in contrast to non-Jewish candidates like Joe Biden.

This paradox is likely because of the incontrovertible fact that Sanders has done more to legitimize antisemitism than any Democratic presidential candidate in recent memory. Indeed, he has surrounded himself with antisemitic surrogates, allies and advisers, including Linda Sarsour, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, Cornel West, James Zogby and others, using his Jewish identity as a shield for their racism and echoing their insidious ideology and accompanying rhetorical defamation.

Nowhere is this clearer than on the issue of Israel. Sanders has attacked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a "racist," failed completely to abandon or condemn his allies who are openly anti-Zionist and oppose the existence of a Jewish state and slandered Israel and Zionism's American supporters, such as AIPAC. Despite vague references to supporting Israel's right to exist, Sanders has shown himself

at best obtuse and at worst collaborative with those who reject precisely that.

This in and of itself alienates Sanders from the American Jewish community. Notwithstanding the constant claims by Sanders supporters like the Jewish anti-Zionist group IfNotNow, Sanders' views remain marginal among American Jews. Surveys have shown that the overwhelming majority of them — possibly as high as 90% — are at least nominally Zionist, with very positive views of Israel, the belief that Israel is important to their Jewish identity and unambiguous support for the existence and security of a Jewish state.

At first, then, Sanders seems to be something of an inexplicable phenomenon. But one regrets to say that this is not at all the case. Unfortunately, the phenomenon of the antisemitic Jew or the Jewish collaborator with antisemitism is not unusual in Jewish history. From the dawn of the diaspora, there have been people of Jewish ancestry who have been involved in and even instigated horrendous incidents of antisemitism.

In the first century, the Jewish Roman general Tiberius Julius Alexander brutally crushed the Jews of Alexandria. In the Middle Ages, Jewish convert to Christianity Nicholas Donin used his knowledge of the Talmud to convince Christian authorities to engage in mass burnings of the supposedly offending document. In the early modern era, Jewish heretic Jacob Frank led his followers into mass conversion to Catholicism and then provided assistance in a blood libel case, helping to legitimize a ruthless persecution of Polish Jews.

The 20th century was hardly an exception to this phenomenon. After the Bolshevik

takeover of Russia, Jewish communists led the suppression of Jewish life and religion in the Soviet Union, a policy that remained in effect until the fall of the communist regime. In its early stages, even the Nazi movement had a handful of Jewish supporters. And, of course, there have been Jewish apologists for even the most unspeakable acts of Palestinian and Arab anti-Jewish violence, including the linguist Noam Chomsky, who Sanders openly admires.

What then drives Sanders? Where does his seemingly obtuse combination of professions of pride in being Jewish and collaboration with antisemitism and antisemites come from?

The answer might be found in Sanders' most explicit description thus far of what being Jewish means to him. During a recent appearance, he was directly asked this question, and replied, "I can remember very vividly, as a kid, looking at picture books about what happened in the Holocaust. As it happens, my father's family was wiped out by Hitler."

"My brother and I, and our wives, went to Poland to the town he was born in," he recounted. "He fled terrible poverty and antisemitism. The people in town, very nice people, took us to a place where the Nazis had the Jewish people dig a grave and shot them all. Three hundred people in there."

"In the neighborhood where I grew up, the people had tattoos on their arms from having been in concentration camps," Sanders said. "I learned at a very early age what, if you like, white nationalism — which is what Nazism is in the extreme — is about. I think at a very early age I learned that it is absolutely

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## World News.

# Gantz to Supporters: 'I Share Your Pain and Disappointment'

BY JNS.org

Blue and White leader Benny Gantz told supporters in Tel Aviv on Monday night that he shared their "pain and disappointment" as exit polls indicated a convincing win for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party.

Initial exit polls showed Blue and White with between 32 to 34 seats and Likud with 37 seats in Knesset, totaling 52 to 54 for the center-left bloc and 60 for the right-wing bloc.

"I believe that when the final results come in, we will see that we continue to grow," Gantz said at the Blue and White headquarters, adding, "I share with you the sense of pain and disappointment because this is not the result that will put Israel back on the right path."

As Gantz commiserated with his supporters, Labor Party head Amir Peretz blamed the Blue and White leader for the disappointing election result.



Benny Gantz, head of Blue and White party, delivers a statement in Tel Aviv, Israel, Nov. 20, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Amir Cohen.

"We did everything with the future of Israel in mind," said Peretz, whose alliance with the Meretz and Geshet parties is predicted to win six to seven seats. "We backed Gantz and it was at those crucial times that his party's irresponsible campaign started to damage the left-wing bloc," he said, adding, "I will continue to be responsible and hold my position as the responsible adult of the peace camp."

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**Pledges**

1996," he recalled, referring to his truncated first term as prime minister. "That was a historic victory, but this victory is as big if not bigger — because it was against all the odds."

The prime minister also touted his record, saying, "Together, we turned Israel into a superpower," citing growing relations with Arab and Muslim countries and promising to sign peace treaties with them.

"It's just a question of time," he said. "Not much time. Only we can do it."

Netanyahu also promised to annex parts of the West Bank, "destroy the Iranian threat," and "bring great economic reforms to lower the cost of living."

"This is a mission to secure the State of Israel's future for generations," he said. "This is my life's mission."

Netanyahu said he would start negotiations with "our natural partners" on the right in order "to establish together a strong and stable government, a nationalist government that is good for Israel."

Netanyahu's chief rival, Blue and White party leader Benny Gantz, attempted to strike a balance between acknowledging the party's setback and leaving his supporters with a sense of hope for the future, saying, "I understand and share your sense of sadness and disappointment. This is not the result we wanted."

He pledged that Blue and White would remain united and continue on the same path, saying, "Our country needs healing, unity, reconciliation. It longs for a leadership that will bring it together, and we will continue to offer this to the Israeli public."

He also took a swipe at Netanyahu, who he has accused of running a particularly dirty campaign, stating, "We stand tonight at the end of one of the most difficult election campaigns that ever were in the State of Israel."

"Many lies and slanders have been circulated about us and about me personally," Gantz said. "They thought I'd panic, they thought I'd blink, and I'm telling you, it didn't happen and it will never happen."

Continued from Page A1  
**Majority**

In terms of potential coalitions, the results showed that neither the right-religious or center-left blocs had won a clear majority

The right-wing Yamina party celebrated the results, with leader Naftali Bennett saying that Netanyahu had already called him about forming a possible coalition, and confirming he would recommend to the president that Netanyahu form the next government, *Yediot Aharonot* reported.

Bennett also implied that his party would push Netanyahu to formally annex parts of the West Bank, saying, "With the help of God, a sovereignty government arose in Israel today."

Avigdor Lieberman, head of the Yisrael Beiteinu party, whose refusal to sit in a Netanyahu-led government after the April 2019 elections set Israel on the path to two further elections, sounded a defiant note, saying he would not make any compromises in order to be included in a right-wing coalition.

"We are a party with principles," Lieberman said, according to Israeli news website *Walla*. "Everything we said before the elections still holds after the elections. In regard to our basic, principled stand, there will be no change."

Among Lieberman's stances that have put him in conflict with Netanyahu are what Lieberman sees as the prime minister's overly conciliatory approach to Hamas in Gaza and the separation of religion and state, especially in regard to the Haredi community's exemption from mandatory army service.

On the left, the disappointment at Blue and White's failure to secure a victory was clear and angry.

Labor-Geshet-Meretz party leader Amir Peretz told supporters, "At the critical moments, Blue and White's irresponsible campaign hurt the [center-left] camp," *Israel's Channel 13* reported.

The party's number two, Orly Levy-Abekasis, also blasted Gantz, saying, "If Gantz had taken responsibility and acted as we requested ... perhaps we would be here today with a different result."

Even angrier was Ayman Odeh, head of the Arab-majority Joint List party, who said, "Blue and White's campaign was racist, and they failed."

of 61 seats. The right-religious bloc led by Netanyahu won 59, while the center-left took 54, with Lieberman holding the balance between them.

# At AIPAC, Both Pence and Bloomberg Take Aim at Sanders Over Israel Views



US Vice President Mike Pence delivers remarks at the annual AIPAC conference at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC, March 2, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Tom Brenner.

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

In remarks at the annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) conference in Washington, DC, on Monday, US Vice President Mike Pence slammed Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders over his views on the Jewish state.

"The bipartisan consensus that has once supported our most cherished ally and has been so nobly and ably championed by you here at AIPAC is actually beginning to erode in one of America's two major political parties," Pence asserted, in a speech before a crowd of 18,000 people at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in the nation's capital.

"Today, the leading candidate for the presidential nomination of the party of Harry S. Truman openly and repeatedly attacks Israel as a racist state and defames AIPAC as, of all things, as he said, a quote, platform for 'bigotry,'" Pence stated. "Even more troubling, when Bernie Sanders smeared Israel at last week's debate, not a single candidate on that stage stood up to challenge him."

"We must ensure the most pro-Israel president in history must not be replaced by one who would be the most anti-Israel president in the history of this nation," Pence went on to say. "That's why we need four more years of President Donald Trump in the White House."

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**Antisemitism**

imperative — not just me — that all of us do everything we can to stop racism and white nationalism."

This statement is quite striking for a simple reason: It has almost nothing to do with Judaism and Jewish identity.

Indeed, it makes clear that to Sanders Jewish identity means only one thing — the Holocaust. The Holocaust and the memory of the Holocaust are, no doubt, essential aspects of modern Jewish identity, but for Sanders they appear to be the entirety of his Jewish identity. There is essentially nothing else.

And this, one regrets to say, is, more than anything, extremely sad. For Sanders, Jewish identity is nothing but a half-decade of the worst slaughter ever undergone by the Jewish people. For him, in other words, there is no Jewish life, only Jewish death.

And this goes beyond mere tragedy. It essentially denudes his Jewish identity of almost any Jewish content. For Sanders, there is no Torah, no commentary to go

Addressing the AIPAC gathering earlier on Monday, ex-New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg called the growing partisanship regarding US backing of "deeply troubling."

"Unfortunately, not all of my fellow Democrats in this race have attended an AIPAC conference," he said. "One of them, Senator Sanders, has spent 30 years boycotting this event. And as you've heard by now, he called AIPAC a racist platform."

"Well, he's dead wrong," Bloomberg declared. "The reality is — AIPAC doesn't fuel hatred. AIPAC works to combat it — and the violence that it can produce. And if more elected officials spoke to the people here, they'd understand that."

New Jersey Senator Corey Booker — who dropped out of the Democratic presidential race in January — also spoke at the AIPAC conference on Monday, delivering an impassioned plea for bipartisan support for Israel.

"It is so good to be here in front of a crowd that is so representative of who we are," he said. "There are people from all over our nation. There are people from all over the political spectrum. Today, we are united in our firm purpose — unequivocally and resolutely. We believe in the State of Israel. We believe in the unshakable bond between our countries. We believe that Israel is our indispensable ally in an increasingly dangerous region and complex world."

and learn, no revolts against tyranny, no centuries of thought and contemplation, no great poetry and music, no extraordinary intellectual and scientific accomplishments, no resurrection of statehood and self-defense, none of the extraordinary vitality — secular and religious — in the face of the most terrible circumstances, no vast epic of defiance and redemption crossing centuries and millennia.

For Sanders, all of this means nothing. In effect, it does not exist. In his reduction of what it is to be Jewish to nothing but destruction, he defies what may be Judaism's most essential admonition: "Therefore, choose life." Presented with life and death, the blessing and the curse, Sanders chooses death and the curse.

And this may be why, in the end, Sanders derives only the universal from specific Jewish suffering. To him, Judaism is merely the struggle against "white supremacy." This struggle is admirable in and of itself, but it admits no other possibilities. It refuses to acknowledge that the Jews in particular face other threats. That antisemitism can come

Continued on Page A4

# World News.



The Vatican opened the secret wartime archive of Pope Pius XII on March 2, 2020. Photo: Eric Vandeville / Abacopress/Reuters.

## Vatican WW2 Archive Reveals Pope Pius XII's Anxiety Over Media Reporting of Holocaust Rescue Efforts

BY BEN COHEN

Wartime Pope Pius XII expressed unease when Vatican efforts to intercede with the Nazi German occupiers on behalf of Italian Jews facing deportation were reported in the press in October 1943, out of the fear that public exposure would hamper similar initiatives to save Jews.

The revelation was highlighted by several Italian media outlets on Monday, as the Vatican opened the secret archives of Pius XII — the Italian cardinal Eugenio Pacelli who became pope in 1939, on the eve of World War II and the Nazi Holocaust.

The degree to which Pius assisted and advocated for Jews facing the Nazi genocide has been furiously debated among historians

for decades. Some accounts of the period have portrayed Pius as a confirmed antisemite who colluded with Hitler's regime, while others have asserted that thousands of Jews were saved from death by the discreet diplomacy practiced by the pontiff.

The item in the archive from October 1943 related to the deportation of nearly 1,300 Jews from the ghetto in Rome. A dispatch from the Vatican's press and information service reported that "on the night of 15-16 October a considerable number of Jews were arrested in various parts of Rome (stop) after being held 24 hours in the military college were transported to an unknown destination (stop) it is said here that the Holy See was concerned that similar events should not be repeated and

in favor of particular cases."

Alongside this dispatch was a comment in Pope Pius's own handwriting expressing concern that the Vatican's stance was being reported.

"Is it prudent for the press service to send this news?" he wrote.

Pius then added that he was "well aware that it would not help to wake sleeping dogs, especially not Nazis, to humanitarian actions originating from the Apostolic Palace."

The Vatican normally waits 70 years before it publishes archive documents, but an announcement from Pope Francis last year confirmed that the Pius XII archive would open its doors in March 2020.

"The church is not afraid of history," Francis said at the time.

Jewish groups warmly welcomed the archive's opening on Monday.

"We trust that the independent scholarly review of these archival materials will provide greater clarity as to what positions and steps were taken during this period by the Holy See, and help resolve the persistent debates and controversy in this regard," said Rabbi David Rosen — International Director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee (AJC) — said in a statement.

"Such necessary transparency is also to the credit of the Church and will further enhance the mutual trust and excellent relations between the Catholic Church and the Jewish community built up over the last 55 years," Rosen said.

In a separate statement, Menachem Rosen-saft — associate executive vice president and general counsel of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) — expressed "our enormous gratitude and appreciation to Pope Francis for taking this step."

### Continued from Page A3 Antisemitism

from almost anywhere, even from Sanders' own allies and supporters. It blinds him to an essential truth: The Jews are more than being for others, they must also be for themselves. If they are not, who will be for them? This is something, it appears, that Sanders either cannot or will not comprehend.

In this, we may extend to Sanders some measure of sympathy, because it means that, ultimately, he has nothing. In embracing Jewish death, he denies himself Jewish life, Jewish creativity, Jewish solidarity and even, for lack of a better word, Jewish destiny.

This makes him, in the end, a tragic figure. But unfortunately, it also makes him dangerous, because in his ignorance he has empowered the very forces to which he believes himself implacably opposed. In his blinkered sense of Jewish pride lies an essential Jewish degradation, and it makes

him blind to the fact that, in his empowerment of those who would degrade the Jews, he ultimately degrades himself as well.

In this, however, lies the possibility that Sanders may be redeemable. There ought to be an effort to educate him, to bring him back into the fold. This is, unfortunately, likely to be futile, but the attempt must be made. If it is successful, it may help arrest what now appears to be the possible takeover of a major political party by antisemitism.

If it fails, then American Jews will know with absolute certainty that they must take a stand, and Sanders must be fought with the vigor and determination that the Jewish people have always displayed in their long and heroic struggle to remain who they are. To be that which, sadly, Bernie Sanders appears to have chosen not to be.

*Benjamin Kerstein is the The Algemeiner's Israel correspondent.*

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Dear Friend:

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

This year, Beth Shifra is sponsoring free Kosher for Passover Sederim and meals daily from Wednesday, April 8th, through Thursday, April 16th, at The White Shul, 2102 Avenue T & East 21st in Brooklyn. Free Kosher for Passover food packages will be offered on Wednesday, April 8th, at the White Shul, 2102 Avenue T & East 21st in Brooklyn from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

We proudly invite you to join us in making this year a memory of a lifetime for those in need. Take the time now to have the merit and joy of helping a hungry family celebrate Passover. Please help Beth Shifra with any assistance that you can, including publicizing their good work in your Shul or organization.

May all those that participate in this holy effort be blessed from Heaven. On behalf of the Igud/RAA Presidium and of the Beth Din, I extend greetings of Torah.

Sincerely,  
**Mendy Miroznik**  
Rabbi Mendy Miroznik  
Executive Vice-President, Rabbinical Alliance of America

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February 26, 2020

Rabbi Chaim Prussman  
Executive Director  
Beth Shifra Institution  
Brooklyn, NY

Dear Rabbi Prussman:

I am aware that for fifty years, your organization, Beth Shifra, has provided year-round, daily free meals to those who are most needy in the New York Jewish community. My office staff is personally familiar with the outstanding work that you do, and I would like to urge everyone to help Beth Shifra in any manner possible, including publicizing the work they do in your Shul or organization.

During the Pesach holiday, Beth Shifra will be sponsoring Kosher for Passover sederim, food packages, lectures and programs to hundreds of people who would otherwise be unable to celebrate the holiday.

In 2020, these free Kosher for Passover Sederim and daily meals will take place from Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at the White Shul located at 2102 Avenue T (East 21<sup>st</sup> Street) in Brooklyn. Pesach food packages will be distributed on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at the synagogue between the hours of 12:00-2:00PM.

Please take the time to help a hungry family celebrate Pesach. Join in making this year a memory of a lifetime for those in need.

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Sincerely,  
**Simcha Eichenstein**  
Member of Assembly

**Bogus Purim Service Broken Up** Reprinted from the Jewish Press • Friday, March 20, 1987

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

However, when the real purpose of the "service" was discovered, groups from Boro Park, Flatbush, Crown Heights and Monsey descended on the area to help the staff of the Beth Shifra Institutions break up the rally.

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

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

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RABBI GERSHON TANNENBAUM ZT"L  
Director, The Rabbinical Alliance of America

| Date         | Time     | Activities  |
|--------------|----------|---|
| Wed. 4/8     | 12-2 pm  | Pick up packages  |
| Wed. 4/8     | 8:00 pm  | Doors Open  |
| 4/8 Sedar I  | 8:30 pm  | Ancient Secrets of Judaism  |
| Thurs. 4/9   | 12:00 pm | Meal/Seuda  |
|              | 8:30 pm  | Q & A: Judaism  |
|              | 8:30 pm  | Doors Open  |
| 4/9 Sedar II | 8:30 pm  | Exodus: Legend or History   |
| Fri. 4/10    | 12:00 pm | Meal/Seuda  |
|              | 7:30 pm  | Lecture- 7 Wonders of Our Jewish Nation                                     |
|              | 7:30 pm  | Meal/Seuda  |
| Shabbat 4/11 | 12:00 pm | Defending The Faith   |
|              | 7:30 pm  | Meal  |
|              | 7:30 pm  | Oral vs. Written Torah  |
|              | 7:30 pm  | Meal  |
|              | 7:30 pm  | The Deeper Beauty of Shabbos  |
| Sun. 4/12    | 12:00 pm | Meal  |
|              | 7:30 pm  | What is kosher food?  |
|              | 7:30 pm  | Meal/Seuda  |
| Mon. 4/13    | 12:00 pm | The Power of Prayer   |
|              | 7:30 pm  | Meal/Seuda  |
|              | 7:30 pm  | Spectacular Children's Program: Arts and Crafts                             |
|              | 7:30 pm  | Meal/Seuda  |
|              | 7:30 pm  | Popular Aish HaTorah Speaker: Matzah = Affliction = Redemption              |
|              | 7:30 pm  | Shomer Shabbos Singles Program With Live Music, Matchmakers & Smorgasboard. |

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| Date        | Time     | Activities                       |
|-------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Tues. 4/14  | 12:00 pm | Meal                             |
|             | 7:30 pm  | "Friend or Foe: Torah & Science" |
|             | 7:30 pm  | Meal/Seuda                       |
|             | 7:30 pm  | Why Bad Happens to Good People?  |
| Wed. 4/15   | 12:00 pm | Meal/Seuda                       |
|             | 7:30 pm  | Moral Relativism & Torah         |
|             | 7:30 pm  | Meal/Seuda                       |
|             | 7:30 pm  | Post-Holocaust - 2 Million       |
| Thurs. 4/16 | 12:00 pm | Meal/Seuda                       |
|             | 7:30 pm  | Jews Vanished- Why? Solution?    |
|             | 7:30 pm  | Meal/Seuda                       |
|             | 7:30 pm  | Open Forum                       |

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U.S. News.

# Biden to AIPAC: Support for Israel Among Young People Is in Danger

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

Former US vice president and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden told the pro-Israel lobby AIPAC on Sunday that Israel's annexation and settlement policies are undermining support for the Jewish state among young people.

Biden's remarks to AIPAC's annual Policy Conference in Washington, DC strongly criticized what appears to be growing momentum toward unilateral Israeli annexation of large parts of the West Bank.

"Israel has to stop the threats of annexation and settlement activity," he said. "That's going to choke off any hope for peace."

Biden warned that such moves were damaging Israel's cause in the US, saying, "To be frank, those moves are taking Israel further from its democratic values, undermining support for Israel in the United States, especially among young people of both political parties. That's dangerous. We can't let that happen."

"You don't have to be anti-Palestinian to be pro-Israeli," Biden told the conference. "Israeli and Palestinian children are equally deserving of safety, security, and an opportunity to pursue their dreams."

However, Biden said, the Palestinians must take steps to advance peace as well.

"Palestinians need to eradicate incitement on the West Bank," he said. "They need to end the rocket attacks from Gaza. They need to accept once and for all the reality and the



Former vice president and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden addresses the annual AIPAC Policy Conference, March 1, 2020. Photo: AIPAC.

right of a secure democratic and Jewish State of Israel in the Middle East."

# German Politician Widely Tipped as Next Federal Chancellor Pledges Support for Israel During Visit to Jerusalem

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

The German politician increasingly tipped to succeed Angela Merkel as Germany's Chancellor pledged to crack down on rising antisemitism in his country during a visit to Israel on Monday.

Armin Laschet, premier of North Rhine-Westphalia state — which includes the major cities of Cologne, Dusseldorf and Bremen — said that while it was Germany's goal to ensure the security of the State of Israel, "guaranteeing the security of Jews in Germany" was no less important.

At a meeting with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin in Jerusalem, Laschet declared himself "ashamed that we experience [antisemitism] again in Germany 75 years after the liberation of Auschwitz."

Rivlin meanwhile praised Laschet as a "great friend of Israel."

Laschet's visit also included a stop at Yad Vashem — Israel's national memorial to the Holocaust in Jerusalem — where he laid a wreath in honor of the victims of the Nazis.

Later on Monday, Laschet traveled to Tel Aviv for the opening of an official North Rhine-Westphalia office in Tel Aviv focused on technological exchange between startups in Israel and the western German state, the fourth most populous in the country.

Laschet also met in Jerusalem with the grandchildren of Israel's first prime minister, David Ben Gurion and the former Chancellor of West Germany, Konrad Adenauer. The two leaders developed a personal friendship during the early days of Israel-Germany relations in the 1950s.

Laschet, a member of Germany's governing CDU Party, announced his candidacy for the federal chancellor's post last week. The CDU will hold a special conference on April 25 to vote on a successor to Merkel, who has said that she will step down from her role in 2021.



Leading German politician Armin Laschet lays a wreath at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem. Photo: Reuters/Ronen Zvulun.

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## Opinion.

# AIPAC Rewards Cory Booker for Abandoning Israel



SHMULEY BOTEACH  
ENGELWOOD

In the fall of 2008, I traveled with Senator Cory Booker to Chicago and presented him to the prestigious AIPAC summit. He then delivered a speech on the Torah portion of the week, Genesis. This speech, and many others that he delivered before AIPAC and pro-Israel audiences throughout the United States, would lead to Cory becoming one of the foremost recipients of pro-Israel donations in America.

But then came the Iran nuclear deal and Cory's utter betrayal of his convictions for political gain. Cory voted to give the murderous mullahs of Iran \$150 billion, facilitating their murder of innocent people worldwide and their wholesale slaughter of political dissidents at home. Even as Iran threatened to annihilate Israel's six million Jews and bring about a second Holocaust, Cory refused to

condemn their genocidal promises. From there, he also voted against the Taylor Force Act that sought to forbid American funds from being used in pay-for-slay salaries to Palestinian terrorists; condemned the moving of the American embassy to Jerusalem; deleted any mention of Jewish influences or mentorship in his autobiography; voted against the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act, which provided legal cover to state governments that seek to stymie the BDS movement; and infamously took a smiling photograph with Israel-hating BDS leaders, where a text read, "From Palestine to Mexico, all the walls must go." Of course, the wall in Israel has saved thousands of lives from terrorist attacks.

I was shocked to read that at AIPAC's most prestigious plenary session, taking place Monday morning, Cory Booker will follow Vice President Mike Pence as a keynote speaker.

But what has Cory done to deserve such a high honor, unless abandoning Israel's security, funding its genocidal enemies,

condemning the United States for recognizing Jerusalem as its capital, and taking selfies with BDS haters counts?

I am a well-known supporter and advocate for AIPAC. But they become their own worst enemy when they undermine their core pro-Israel advocacy with stunts like this. What message does it send to elected officials when those who abandon Israel's security become AIPAC standard-bearers? The people who should be speaking at AIPAC are Democratic heroes like Senator Robert Menendez of New Jersey, Cory's senior senator, who voted against a president of his own party to oppose the Iran deal. Nancy Pelosi's father, Thomas D'Alesandro Jr., was a Democratic congressman who likewise challenged a president from his own party, Franklin Roosevelt, for not doing enough to save Europe's Jews. Heroes like these should be honored by AIPAC.

There is a way back for Cory. He can apologize for having broken his promises to the pro-Israel community. He can acknowledge that being silent in the face of genocide,



US Senator Cory Booker.  
Photo: Reuters / Rebecca Cook.

especially toward a community that loved him like a son, is indecent.

His votes in the Senate must reflect a renewed commitment to Israel's permanence. He should say he regrets condemning America's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and condemn Iran instead for its vile commitment to eradicating the Middle East of all Jews.

Only then, when he has earned it, should Cory be rewarded with the high honor of an AIPAC policy speech.

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

# Iran's Useful Idiots and the Coronavirus



DEXTER VAN ZILE  
BOSTON

Pity poor E. Michael Jones, the professional antisemite from South Bend, Indiana, who blames Jews for every problem afflicting humanity. In addition to his obsession with Jews, Jones has also been engaged in an indiscreet love affair with the theocrats who run Iran. He loves the mullahs more than the Iranians they govern love them. He loves them because, by his lights, they have been able to protect their country from the influence of Zionist Jews. Because of its struggle against Jews and Israel, Jones described Iran the "leader of the free world" when he visited the country for two weeks in 2013.

In his 2013 book, *Culture Jihad in Tehran*, Jones recounted the Beatles-like response he enjoyed during his tour, which included an interview on Iranian national television and conversations with young women in chadors who shoved microphones in his face.

In his book, Jones wrote: "What followed my talk was unlike anything I have experienced in my entire life. For the next ten hours I was chased from one end of the hall to the other by ladies in chadors wielding microphones who wanted to talk about sex." (Jones described his trip to Iran as "Two Weeks that Shook the World.")

Reality has struck back in the form of a deadly coronavirus that has killed thousands of people worldwide. Iran's response to the virus reveals that the country is not the leader of the free world, but a hellhole run by tyrants who know how to recruit useful idiots like Jones to their cause, but can't serve the interests of the people they govern.

The mullahs who supposedly keep Jewish influence at bay have, ironically enough,

allowed their country to become a dispersion point for the deadly virus, prompting a number of countries to ban travel to and from Iran.

Instead of telling people to wash their hands and keep their distance from one another, some of the mullahs have been telling people to lick the walls of the Fatima Masumeh shrine in Qom because of the shrine's "healing" properties.

Between insanity like this and the mullahs' decision to maintain economic ties and air travel with China, the original source of the virus, Iranians, reportedly including high-ranking government officials, are dying by the hundreds. Iranian prisons have turned into breeding grounds for the virus. The Shiites in Lebanon are starting to feel isolated because of their pilgrimages to Iran. To make matters worse, Lebanon is awash in rumors of members of Hezbollah being infected with the virus.

In sum, Iran, where Jones enjoyed a brief taste of stardom, has sunk deeper into a hellhole, courtesy of the folks who deployed him as a stooge.

The folks who actually live in the country and have to deal with the misrule of Jones' beloved mullahs have been shot in the street for protesting against the regime since last November. Their access to the Internet has been restricted as well.

No matter how much Jones wants to declare otherwise, Iran is not free, the Jews are not at fault, and Jones himself doesn't know what he's talking about. And for all his talk about freedom in Iran, Jones is fundamentally indifferent to the welfare of the people who actually live there.

The evidence documenting Jones' love affair with the Iranian mullahs is most apparent in his regular appearances on regime mouthpiece *PressTV*. A recent search for Jones' name on *PressTV*'s website revealed close to 600 hits.

In the days after the January 3, 2020 death of Qassem Soleimani, Jones appeared three

times on *PressTV*, a media outlet that operates under the aegis of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, which has formed, trained, and equipped terror organizations that have carried out terror attacks throughout the Middle East and the rest of the world. During these interviews, Jones told Iranians that the country's real enemy is not the American people but the Jews who control American foreign policy — and, of course, Israel.

Attacks on American military institutions, Jones warned, would only unite the American people "the same way that the

assassination of Soleimani united the Iranian people. ... That is precisely what we do not want to happen. Israel is the cause of this mess. Israel should be held responsible for what happened."

If the Iranian people are united, it is not against the Jews, Israel, or the US, but against the decades of misrule by the mullahs on whom Jones has an unnatural and disordered crush.

*Dexter Van Zile is the Christian Media Analyst for the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting (CAMERA).*

# The US 'Ally' That Protects Killers of Americans



STEPHEN M. FLATOW/  
JNS.ORG

At first glance, you might not think there was anything very significant about the recent trial of a little-known Muslim imam in the Czech Republic.

Samer Shehadeh, a Palestinian Arab who is serving as a Muslim religious leader in Prague, was sentenced last week to 10 years in prison for giving financial assistance to Al-Nusra — the Syrian affiliate of Al-Qaeda — and helping his brother and sister-in-law join that terrorist group.

But the most important part of the story was not the trial, the verdict or the sentencing. It was how Shehadeh was captured. Way down near the end of the news accounts of the case, we learned: "Shehadeh was arrested in Jordan before being flown back to the Czech Republic and taken into custody in November 2018."

Now compare Jordan's extradition of Samer Shehadeh with its refusal to extradite another Palestinian Arab terrorist.

On Aug. 9, 2001, terrorists bombed the

Sbarro pizzeria in downtown Jerusalem. Fifteen people were killed and 130 wounded. Three of the fatalities were American citizens, including 15 year-old Malki Roth. One of the perpetrators, Ahlam Tamimi, lives in Jordan and used to have her own TV show. The United States has requested her extradition. Jordan's King Abdullah has refused.

Whenever Malki's parents have raised this issue with State Department officials or leaders of certain Jewish organizations, they have been told that Abdullah can't extradite any Palestinian Arab terrorists because the population of Jordan consists mostly of Palestinian Arabs, and they will overthrow him if he surrenders any terrorists.

"And after all," these apologists tell the grieving parents, "if Abdullah is overthrown, Jordan could become radicalized and that would be bad for Israel, and you wouldn't want to hurt Israel would you?"

Now we see that such excuses are not only insulting and patronizing, they are also patently disingenuous. The Shehadeh case clearly demonstrates that Abdullah is perfectly capable of extraditing a Palestinian Arab terrorist without suffering any repercussions.

Abdullah's decision to harbor Ahlam Tamimi, a woman who brags about her role

*Continued on Page A7*

## Opinion.

## There Is No Effort to 'Ban Criticism of Israel'



ADAM LEVICK  
JERUSALEM

A Guardian article ("New York: college volleyball players kneel during Israeli national anthem," Feb. 29) by Victoria Bekiempis began straightforwardly enough:

*Two Brooklyn College volleyball players knelt during playing of the Israeli national anthem at a game against Yeshiva University, a private Jewish educational institution in New York City, earlier this week.*

*In doing so the players, identified as Hunnan Butt and Omar Rezika, seemed to echo similar examples of athletes making political protests during the US anthem, most notably the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick.*

However, then it throws in the following political "context":

*Reports of the incident surfaced amid a rightwing push to ban criticism of Israel and the occupation of Palestine at US public universities. Brooklyn College is a public institution.*

This claim is also included in the strap line of the article.

### New York: college volleyball players kneel during Israeli national anthem

Reports surfaced of Brooklyn College players kneeling amid rightwing push to ban criticism of Israel at US public universities

If you open the link, the claim that there's a "rightwing push to ban criticism of Israel" takes you to a 2019 Guardian article: "Revealed: right-wing push to ban criticism of Israel on

Continued from Page A6  
'Ally'

in murder, is a matter of choice. He has no problem extraditing Palestinian Arab terrorists — it just depends which ones. A Palestinian Arab involved with Syrian terrorists in the Czech Republic is extraditable. A Palestinian Arab terrorist who murders Jews, including US citizens, must be shielded from extradition.

I am deeply disappointed at the silence of most American Jewish and Zionist organizations on this issue, including some groups that were once outspoken on the plight of American victims of Palestinian Arab terrorism. I realize that it may not be the most headline-grabbing issue around or the most exciting for fundraising purposes. But seeking justice is an obligation, not a choice.

I am equally troubled by those organizations that feign interest in the issue, but then bury it. A few months ago, a Jewish think tank, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, held a gala dinner to honor King Abdullah. The Roth family protested that American Jews should not be honoring a king who shelters a murderer of American Jews.

The institute's executive director, Rob Satloff, responded by heaping praise on the king and proclaiming how "very proud" he was to be honoring the Jordanian dictator. As for Abdullah's sheltering of mass-murderer Ahlam Tamimi, Satloff said he has "great sympathy," but it can only be one item "on a lengthy agenda." Satloff claimed it is "an important item," but I have not seen anything in the three months since that dinner to demonstrate that the Washington Institute has done anything concrete about it.



Two Brooklyn College students kneeling during a rendition of Israel's national anthem on Feb. 23, 2020. Photo: Screenshot.

US campuses." However, the article shows nothing of the sort. The "shocking" email in question obtained by The Guardian is merely an exchange between pro-Israel activists who pushed for a Florida bill known as HB 741.

Here's a link to the full text of the bill.

As you can see, the bill merely makes clear that the state's discrimination ban in their public education system should include antisemitism, and that antisemitism should be defined by the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism. The IHRA definition makes clear that "criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic" — and is so uncontroversial that even Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party in the UK eventually (albeit grudgingly) adopted it. Moreover, there's nothing whatsoever in the IHRA about criticism of the "occupation of Palestine."

Further, far from representing a "rightwing" push, the bill actually passed the Florida legislature unanimously!

Quite simply, there is no push, by the right or any other political movement, to ban criticism of Israel in the US.

Adam Levick serves as Managing Editor of UK Media Watch, an affiliate of the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA).

### TERRORIST AHLAM AHMAD AL-TAMIMI

Conspiring to Use and Using a Weapon of Mass Destruction Against a United States National Outside the United States Resulting in Death and Aiding and Abetting and Causing an Act to Be Done



An FBI "Most Wanted Terrorist" poster for Palestinian terrorist Ahlam Ahmad al-Tamimi, one of the masterminds of the Aug. 9, 2001 bombing of the Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem. Photo: FBI.

The Jordanian government is currently in the midst of receiving a five-year, \$6.375 billion aid package from the United States. We are constantly told that the aid is justified because Jordan is America's "ally." What kind of "ally" shelters a murderer of Americans — and then gives her a television show? The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and other Jewish and Zionist organizations, should be demanding that the Trump administration make that aid conditional on the extradition of Ahlam Tamimi.

Those who harbor killers of Americans do not deserve American taxpayers' dollars. Those who shelter murderers of American Jews do not deserve to be praised and defended by American Jewish organizations.

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. He is the author of *A Father's Story: My Fight for Justice Against Iranian Terrorism*, now available on Kindle.

## Is Netanyahu's Significant Victory Sufficient?



RUTHIE BLUM  
?JNS.org

Keeping in mind that the results of Israel's Knesset elections are not final, the tally indicates that the attempt to oust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has failed abysmally. It remains to be seen whether his party's victory on Monday means that his bloc has enough of a majority to form a government. While the initial numbers were encouraging — with Likud outnumbering its key rival Blue and White by four mandates and the right-wing bloc surpassing the left-wing block by five — throughout Tuesday's ongoing vote count and verification, the picture continued to fluctuate. By late afternoon, it appeared that Netanyahu's victory was amazing, but not sufficient.

The significance of this election — the third in less than a year — lies in its elements of surprise. In the first place, voter turnout reached 71%, the highest in 21 years.

Despite public whining about "election fatigue" and surveys suggesting that the political deadlock would not be broken, citizens came out in record numbers to cast their ballots. Contrary to descriptions of countrywide malaise, the atmosphere at polling stations was cheerful and energetic. Social media was rife with smiling selfies of voters doing their civic duty, as well as photos of children accompanying their parents in the process.

Even most of the 5,500 Israelis subjected to house quarantine — as a result of possibly being exposed to the coronavirus — showed up at the 16 special tents set up for them across the country. Though they complained of long lines, they appeared to be happy to be out in the world after spending several days stuck in isolation, with only Netflix to keep them company.

Ironically, the coronavirus scare and the Health Ministry's request that Israelis not fly abroad unless absolutely necessary may have been a contributing factor to the high turnout, as many voters who had planned to take a mini-vacation out of the country canceled their trips.

Another shock was the surge in the number of seats garnered by the largely-Arab Joint List, a union of disparate parties — some of whose members are radical Muslims, others far-leftists, and most anti-Zionists. These politicians, unlike the bulk of the people they ostensibly represent, seem to care more about the fate of the Palestinians than the daily lives of their own populace.

Three factors caused Arab Israelis to come out to vote in relatively large numbers. One was the effective campaign of party leader Ayman Odeh, whose message to them was a positive one about having a genuine influence on the country in which they make up 20% of the population. Another was his warning to them that they were in danger of being disenfranchised by a Zionist legislature that passed the Nation-State Law in July 2018.

A third was US President Donald Trump's "deal of the century": the "Peace to Prosperity" plan that gives Israel the green light to annex settlements in Judea, Samaria, and the Jordan Valley, and demands that Palestinians recognize the Jewish state and renounce terrorism as prerequisites to statehood and billions of US dollars. The Arab-Israeli leadership

was enraged by the plan, which Netanyahu embraced and Blue and White leader Benny Gantz accepted with slight reservations.

The significance of the Joint List not only turning out to be the third-largest party in the Knesset, but gaining two seats since September, is that if the current apparent stalemate — thanks, again, to Yisrael Beiteinu chairman Avigdor Lieberman — leads to a national-unity government between Likud and Blue and White, Odeh will become the head of the opposition. As such, he will be given full access to the most sensitive material relating to Israel's security and defense. It's a frightening prospect, considering that his party includes and has defended Heba Yazbak, a Knesset member who lauded Lebanese terrorist Samir Kuntar as a "martyr." In 1979, Kuntar participated in the cold-blooded killing of an Israeli family in Nahariya.



View of an election campaign billboards, in Tel Aviv on Feb. 24, 2020. Photo: Flash90.

It is important to note that thousands of Jewish Israeli leftists voted for this party. That's what happens when your ideology is no longer relevant in a society that has come to its senses about war, peace, and economics; you have little choice but to side with the communists and Islamists in another sector.

Which brings us to the importance of the election results, and the reason that Netanyahu and his supporters were celebrating on Monday night with confetti and all.

This election constituted a defeat of the "anybody but Bibi" hysteria. It represented a win for the sane center-right that believes in Netanyahu's handling of domestic and foreign affairs, and strongly opposes the tyranny of the courts. It also illustrated that Israelis care about ideas and actions, and that they are not as swayed by empty slogans and outrageous assertions as certain politicians seem to imagine.

Take Gantz, for example, who has spent his campaign trying to out-Bibi on the one hand and accuse him — appallingly — of behaving like Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the other. You know, the same Erdogan who jails anyone who disagrees with him, including judges, lawyers, academics, and more journalists than any other autocrat or dictator in the world.

As all Israelis know, the only person in danger of getting locked up for his political views is Netanyahu himself. But never mind; the fact that he dares to criticize the police and Supreme Court is enough to stick him with the egregious label.

The good news is that Netanyahu is still Israel's prime minister and likely to remain so in the foreseeable future. The bad news is that the makeup of the next government, if one is established without the need for a fourth election, could take weeks and be less than satisfactory to an electorate eager to move on.

Ruthie Blum is an Israel-based journalist and author of *To Hell in a Handbasket: Carter, Obama, and the 'Arab Spring'*.

## Impressions.

### Two Memories of the Late Kirk Douglas

BY JOSEPH TELUSHKIN

In the 1990s, while traveling out regularly to Los Angeles, I would often meet with and study Torah and other Jewish texts with Kirk Douglas.

He once said to me, “Before I die, I want to be in a movie in which I put on tefillin” (the phylacteries that Jewish men are enjoined to wear on their head and an arm while reciting their morning prayers).

My agent, Ross Fineman, called up the producers at “Touched by an Angel” and told them the good news that he could get them Kirk Douglas, but he wanted a rabbi friend with whom he had studied to write the script. My friend and co-screenplay writer Allen Estrin and I wrote the episode, in which indeed Mr. Douglas put on tefillin — we made it integral to the plot. Mr. Douglas was nominated for an Emmy for this episode, “Bar Mitzvah.”

Years later, Mr. Douglas attended a Passover Seder at our house at which our then-young children and their cousins put on a Passover skit.

My wife turned to me and said, “How could we put on a play here, and Kirk not be in it?”

Mr. Douglas immediately chose the role of Pharaoh and with his trademark ability to get inside the mind of even evil figures and show how they



Late actor Kirk Douglas.  
Photo: Reuters / Phil Klein / File.

justified themselves to themselves, he sat up in his armchair and ad-libbed in a bellowing voice: “You think I am evil! You all have me pegged and labeled as your villain. But do any of you know the truth? It was I, Pharaoh, who raised your greatest prophet, Moses. It was I who allowed him to be brought up in the palace! Of course I knew he was a Hebrew baby. Yet I thought this one I will spare. Did you mention once in your Seder that I saved your greatest hero?”

Later, he wrote us a letter thanking us for the Seder — he apologized if his performance was in any way disrespectful — and with his puckish humor he signed the letter “Pharaoh.”

Kirk Douglas was much more than a great and noble actor, he was a great and noble human being, with a very very warm Jewish heart. I miss him deeply.

### ‘Each One of Us Is a Slap in the Face of Hitler’

BY GARY SHAPIRO

“This document saved my life.”

This is what Kurt Maier tells schoolchildren in Germany about his multi-stamped visa when he speaks to them regarding his successful flight from the Nazis.

Maier is featured in Michael Dobbs’ new book, “The Unwanted: America, Auschwitz, and a Village Caught in the Middle.”

Dobbs opens the book with a quote from the intrepid journalist Dorothy Thompson, who wrote in 1938, “It is a fantastic commentary on the inhumanity of our times that for thousands and thousands of people a piece of paper with a stamp on it is the difference between life and death.”

The book explores the fate of a small German village on the edge of the Black Forest called Kippenheim.

The tome shows three perspectives — it offers a picture of the State Department in Washington, DC, American consulates abroad processing visas, and the point of view of the people standing in line for visas.

“To put these three stories together and show how they’re connected, that was my goal,” said Dobbs.

Dobbs was interviewed by award-winning journalist Ann Curry at the New-York Historical Society on Monday.

Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld wrote of the book: “Mr. Dobbs keeps the reader breathless as he relates, with great precision, the history of US diplomacy toward the Jews of the Third Reich.”

Dobbs said, “I wanted to write not only about the debates going on in Washington over immigration but the impact these debates had on ordinary people.”

In October 1940, some 6,500 Jews from the larger region of Baden (where Kippenheim is located) were deported to Gurs internment camp in Vichy France. Dobbs studied letters from the camp, which were a key source in telling the story.

Dobbs tracked down one refugee by googling his name: Kurt Maier, who is alive at age 86 and working as a cataloger of German books at Library of Congress in the US capital. He had escaped through Marseilles.

Many Americans feared that Germans could be using the refugee flow to insert Nazi agents into the US. In January 1939, only a few months after Kristallnacht, a Gallup poll found that two-thirds of Americans did not support bringing in refugee children.

Dobbs said Kristallnacht was the moment when German Jews understood there was no future for them left in their country. The book contains a photo of Nazi youth with axes over their shoulders proud of their work in destroying the interior of the synagogue in Kippenheim.

“There was debate in the Roosevelt household,” said Dobbs. Eleanor Roosevelt was in favor of admitting more refugees, but the president was neutral, testing the political waters.

“FDR was very much a politician who had his finger to the wind. He at one point said, ‘I’m a juggler and my left hand doesn’t know what my right hand is doing,’” said Dobbs.

By 1940, an election year, FDR did not want the refugee issue to cloud his chances of winning reelection.

Dobbs writes, “Roosevelt saw the issue in sweeping geopolitical terms refugee crisis rather than in concrete human terms. He wanted to solve the problem globally rather than piecemeal, unlike his wife Eleanor he did not want to get personally involved in individual cases. In the judgment of one of his biographers, he could turn



Adolf Hitler giving a Nazi salute. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

empathy on or off at will as if it were water in a faucet.”

Dobbs said that in some families, it appeared that younger members could be more determined to get out. Perhaps he said because they did not have economic ties themselves. A key figure in getting out was how early one applied.

There were only 133 Jews living in Kippenheim in 1933 when Adolf Hitler came to power, out of a total population of around 1500. Of that number, 31 died in the Holocaust, a death rate of just over 21 percent, compared to around 33 percent for German Jews as a whole.

The former refugee Maier sometimes speaks before groups in Germany. He recalls the inflated estimates that high school students near the Rhine border offered when asked how many Jews there were in Nazi Germany. They gasped when they heard it was only one-half million.

“To think that a tiny minority could become the object of so much hatred amazed the young Germans,” Dobbs notes.

Sara Bloomfield, director of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, writes in the book’s foreword that we can learn from history to help us keep vigilant: “As Mark Twain is credited with saying, ‘History does not repeat itself, but it rhymes.’”

One of the surviving relatives from Kippenheim said, “I feel that each one of us is a slap in the face of Hitler.”

# Legal Notice.

## LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: BRIDGETTE'S DINING & EVENT HALL, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 01/23/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Bridgette's Dining & Event Hall, LLC 200 Utica Avenue store Brooklyn, NY 11213 purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 1/31; 2/7/14/21/28; 3/6

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

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: JAMONIX GLOBAL LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on: 01/27/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Matthew Rogers 26 Bergen St., Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 2/14/21/28; 3/6/13/20

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: MIKEGEEZ FITNESS BOUTIQUE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on: 01/29/2020. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: MIKEGEEZ Fitness Boutique LLC 318 Nelson Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 2/14/21/28; 3/6/13/20

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

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST

## LEGAL NOTICE

MARCUS SMITH, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated December 15, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on March 26, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 570 RALPH AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 1387, LOT 47. Approximate amount of judgment \$571,443.47 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 4836/2014. DANA JENKINS, ESQ., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 68115  
AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings U.S. Bank NA, successor trustee to Bank of America, NA, successor in interest to LaSalle Bank NA, as trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Washington Mutual Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, WMALT Series 2006-8, Plaintiff AGAINST Eric D. Games, individually and as surviving joint tenant of Delia Curtis, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 10/10/2018 and entered on 10/18/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 26, 2020 at 02:30 PM premises known as 245 E 46th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 4851, LOT: 40. Approximate amount of judgment is \$780,358.49 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 505910/2015. For sale information, please visit Auction.com at www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832. Steven Z. Naiman, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706  
AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

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

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings CitiMortgage, Inc., Plaintiff AGAINST Gwendolyn Rossi, et al, Defendant Pursuant to

## LEGAL NOTICE

a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 2/4/2019 and entered on 2/11/2019, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 26, 2020 at 02:30 PM premises known as 756 East 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 8006, LOT: 62 and 63. Approximate amount of judgment is \$657,122.50 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 507529/2013. Randolph Jackson, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706  
AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

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

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: PEACHES PRIME LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 02/04/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: peaches prime LLC 590 Fulton Street Brooklyn, NY 11217. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A Plaintiff, vs. GLORIA DEBLANCO, et al., Defendants PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT In pursuance of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the office of the County Clerk of Kings County on May 23, 2019, I, Aaron Tyk, Esq., the Referee named in said Judgment, will sell in one parcel at public auction on March 26, 2020 in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, County of Kings, State of New York, at 2:30 P.M., the premises described as follows: 437 Forbell St Brooklyn, NY 11208 SBL No.: BLOCK 4290 LOT 12 ALL THAT TRACT OF PARCEL OF LAND situate in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York The premises are sold subject to the provisions of the filed judgment, Index No. 501627/2016 in the amount of \$550,398.66 plus interest and costs, subject to the HPD Liens recorded

## LEGAL NOTICE

against the mortgaged premises. Kirstin M. Bolduc, Esq. Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP Plaintiff's Attorney 500 Bausch & Lomb Place, Rochester, New York 14604 Tel: 855-227-5072 68065  
AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13

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

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

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS E\*TRADE SAVINGS BANK, Plaintiff AGAINST JOSEPH LONETTO, BARBARA LONETTO, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated December 11, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on April 02, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 310 2ND STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11215. 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 974, LOT 1144. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,041,870.93 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 16430/12. RICHARD A. KLASS, ESQ., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite

## LEGAL NOTICE

100 Williamsville, NY 14221 68464  
AJ; 2/28; 3/6/13/20

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Asset Backed Securities Corporation Home Equity Loan Trust, Series NC 2005-HE8, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series NC 2005-HE8, Plaintiff AGAINST Alisa Smith a/k/a Allisa Smith Skeffers; Arieta Smith; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated August 16, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on April 2, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 525 East 38th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 4955 Lot 66. Approximate amount of judgment \$706,479.39 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 521173/2016. Gregory Laspina, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: February 12, 2020 68214  
AJ; 2/28; 3/6/13/20

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, Plaintiff AGAINST RICARDO JACKSON, ASTRID ARMORER, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated June 26, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on April 02, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 530 JEFFERSON AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11221. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 1654, LOT 22. Approximate amount of judgment \$922,617.75 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 2924/2013. LEONARD C. SPECTOR, ESQ., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 67829  
AJ; 2/28; 3/6/13/20

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION (FANNIE MAE), A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, V. ELDA M. MANGROO, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS ADMINISTRATRIX AND DISTRIBUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF VICTOR MANGROO; ET AL. NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 12, 2019, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings, wherein FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION (FANNIE MAE), A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is the Plaintiff and ELDA M. MANGROO, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS ADMINISTRATRIX AND DISTRIBUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF VICTOR MANGROO;

Continued on Page A10

## Tradition.

## Legal Notice.

## Dressing to Impress



JONATHAN SACKS  
LONDON

Tetzaveh, with its elaborate description of the “sacred vestments” which the Priests and the High Priest wore “for glory and for splendour,” seems to run counter to some fundamental values of Judaism.

The vestments were made to be seen. They were intended to impress the eye. But Judaism is a religion of the ear more than the eye. It emphasises hearing rather than seeing. Its key word is *Shema*,



meaning: to hear, listen, understand and obey. The verb *sh-m-a* is a dominant theme of the book of Devarim, where it appears no less than 92 times. Jewish spirituality is about listening more than looking. That is the deep reason why we cover our eyes when saying *Shema* Yisrael. We shut out the world of sight and focus on the world of sound: of words, communication and meaning.

The reason this is so has to do with the Torah's battle against idolatry. Others saw gods in the sun, the stars, the river, the sea, the rain, the storm, the animal kingdom and the earth. They made visual representations of these things. Judaism disavows this whole mindset.

God is not in nature but beyond it. He created it and He transcends it. Psalm 8 says: “When I consider Your heavens, *the work of your fingers*, the moon and the stars which You have set in place: what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him?” The vastness of space is for the psalmist no more than “*the work of your fingers*.” Nature is God's work, but not itself God. God cannot be seen.

Instead, He reveals Himself primarily in words. At Mount Sinai, said Moshe, “The Lord spoke to you out of the fire. *You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice*” (Deut. 4:12). Elijah, in his great experience on the mountain, discovered that God was not in the wind, the earthquake or the fire, but in the *kol demamah dakah*, the “still small voice.”

Clearly, the *Mishkan* (the

Tabernacle), and later the *Mikdash* (the Temple), were exceptions to this. Their emphasis was on the visual, and a key example is the Priests' and High Priest's sacred vestments, *bigdei kodesh*.

This is very unexpected. The Hebrew for “garment,” b-g-d, also means “betrayal,” as in the confession we say on penitential days: *Ashamnu bagadnu*, “We have been guilty, we have betrayed.” Throughout Genesis, whenever a garment is a key element in the story, it involves some deception or betrayal.

There were the coverings of fig leaves Adam and Eve made for themselves after eating the

forbidden fruit. Jacob wore Esau's clothes when he took his blessing by deceit. Tamar wore the clothes of a prostitute to deceive Judah into lying with her. The brothers used Joseph's bloodstained cloak to deceive their father into thinking he had been killed by a wild animal. Potiphar's wife used the cloak Joseph had left behind as evidence for her false claim that he had tried to rape her. Joseph himself took advantage of his Viceroy's clothing to conceal his identity from his brothers when they came to Egypt to buy food. So it is exceptionally unusual that the Torah should now concern itself in a positive way with clothes, garments, vestments.

Clothes have to do with surface, not depth; with the outward, not the inward; with appearance rather than reality. All the more strange, therefore, that they should form a key element of the service of the Priests, given the fact that “People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7).

Equally odd is the fact that for the first time we encounter the concept of a uniform, that is, a standardised form of dress worn not because of the individual wearing them but because of the office he holds, as *Cohen* or *Cohen Gadol*. In general, Judaism focuses on the person, not the office. Specifically, there was no such thing as a uniform for Prophets.

Tetzaveh is also the first time we encounter the phrase “for glory and for splendour,” describing the effect and point of the garments. Until now *kavod*, “glory,” has been

spoken of in relation to God alone. Now human beings are to share some of the same glory.

Our parsha is also the first time the word *tiferet* appears. The word has the sense of splendour and magnificence, but it also means beauty. It introduces a dimension we have not encountered explicitly in the Torah before: the *aesthetic*. We have encountered moral beauty, for instance Rivka's kindness to Abraham's servant at the well. We have encountered physical beauty: Sarah, Rivka and Rachel are all described as beautiful. But the Sanctuary and its service bring us for the first time to the aesthetic beauty of craftsmanship and the visual.

This is a continuing theme in relation to the Tabernacle and later the Temple. We find it already in the story of the binding of Yitzchak on Mount Moriah which would later become the site of the Temple: “Abraham named the place ‘God will see.’ That is why it is said today, ‘On God's mountain, He will be seen’” (Gen. 22:14). The emphasis on the visual is unmistakable. The Temple would be about seeing and being seen.

Likewise, a well-known poetical prayer on Yom Kippur speaks about *Mareih Cohen*, “the appearance of the High Priest” as he officiated in the Temple on the holiest of days:

*Like the image of a rainbow appearing in the midst of cloud...*

*Like a rose in the heart of a lovely garden...*

*Like a lamp flickering between the window slats...*

*Like a room hung with sky blue and royal purple...*

*Like a garden lily penetrating the thorn-weeds...*

*Like the appearance of Orion and Pleiades, seen in the south...*

These lead to the refrain, “How fortunate was the eye that beheld all this.” Why was it that specifically in relation to the Tabernacle and Temple, the visual prevailed?

The answer is deeply connected to the Golden Calf. What that sin showed is that the people could not fully relate to a God who gave them no permanent and visible sign of His presence and who could only be communicated with by the greatest of Prophets. The Torah was given to ordinary human beings, not angels or unique individuals like Moshe. It is hard to believe in a God of everywhere-in-general-but-nowhere-in-particular. It is hard to sustain a relationship with God who is only evident in miracles and unique events but not in everyday life. It is hard to relate to God when He only manifests Himself as overwhelming power.

So the *Mishkan* became the visible sign of God's continual presence in the midst of the people. Those who officiated there did so not because of their personal greatness, like Moshe, but because of birth and office, signalled by their vestments. The *Mishkan* represents acknowledgement of the fact that human spirituality is about emotions, not just intellect; the heart, not just the mind. Hence

aesthetics and the visual as a way of inculcating feelings of awe. This is how Maimonides puts it in *The Guide for the Perplexed*:

In order to raise the estimation of the Temple, those who ministered therein received great honour; and the Priests and Levites were therefore distinguished from the rest. It was commanded that the Priests should be clothed properly with beautiful and good garments, “holy garments for glory and for splendour” (Ex. xxviii. 2) ... The Temple was to be held in great reverence by all. (Guide, Book III, ch. 44)

The vestments of the officiants and the Sanctuary/Temple itself were to have the glory and splendour that induced awe, rather as Rainer Maria Rilke put it in the *Duino Elegies*: “For beauty is nothing but the beginning of terror, which we still are just able to endure.” The purpose of the emphasis on the visual elements of the *Mishkan*, and the grand vestments of those who ministered there, was to create an atmosphere of reverence because they pointed to a beauty and splendour beyond themselves, namely God Himself.

Maimonides understood the emotive power of the visual. In his Eight Chapters, the prelude to his commentary on tractate Avot, he says, “The soul needs to rest and to do what relaxes the senses, such as looking at beautiful decorations and objects, so that weariness be removed from it.” Art and architecture can lift depression and enliven the senses.

His focus on the visual allows Maimonides to explain an otherwise hard-to-understand law, namely that a *Cohen* with a physical blemish may not officiate in the Temple. This goes against the general principle that *Rachmana liba ba'i*, “God wants the heart,” the inner spirit. The exclusion, says Maimonides, has nothing to do with the nature of prayer or Divine service but rather with popular attitudes. “The multitude does not estimate man by his true form,” he writes, and instead judges by appearances. This may be wrong but it was a fact that could not be ignored in the Sanctuary whose entire purpose was to bring the experience of God down to earth in a physical structure with regular routines performed by ordinary human beings. Its purpose was to make people sense the invisible Divine presence in visible phenomena.

Thus there is a place for *aesthetics* and the visual in the life of the spirit. In modern times, Rav Kook in particular looked forward to a renewal of Jewish art in the reborn land of Israel. He himself, as I have written elsewhere, loved Rembrandt's paintings, and said that they represented the light of the first day of creation. He was also supportive, if guardedly so, of the Bezalel Academy of Art, one of the first signs of this renewal.

*Hiddur mitzvah* – bringing beauty to the fulfilment of a command – goes all the way back to the *Mishkan*. The great difference between ancient Israel and ancient

## LEGAL NOTICE

Continued from Page A9

ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the KINGS COUNTY COURTHOUSE 360 ADAMS STREET, ROOM 224, BROOKLYN, NY 11201, on April 2, 2020 at 2:30 pm, premises known as 260 ARLINGTON AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11208: Block 3940, Lot 12: ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN, COUNTY OF KINGS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 510961/2014. Gregory M. LaSpina, Esq. - Referee. RAS Boriskin, LLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. AJ; 2/28; 3/6/13/20

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: THE FIX LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/07/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC 315 3RD Avenue,2ND floor Brooklyn, NY 11215. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 2/28; 3/6/13/20/27; 4/3

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: MKE BY DEE,LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York on 01/07/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.SSNY shall mail copy of process to:Diana Perez 226 97th St.Apt. C3 Brooklyn, NY 11209. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 3/6/13/20/27; 4/3/10

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings The Bank of New York as Trustee for the Certificate-holders of the CWABS 2005-06, Plaintiff AGAINST Woodrow Lynch, Albi B. Etoh, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 8/16/2018 and entered on 9/12/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on April 09, 2020 at 02:30 PM premises known as 883 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 1704, LOT: 67. Approximate amount of judgment is \$497,543.45 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 509810/2015. Jageshwar Sharma, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ; 3/6/13/20/27;

Greece is that the Greeks believed in the holiness of beauty whereas Judaism spoke of hadrat kodesh, the beauty of holiness.

I believe that beauty has power, and in Judaism it has always had a spiritual purpose: to make us aware of the universe as a work of art, testifying to the supreme Artist, God Himself.

Shabbat shalom

## Social.



Cletus 'Hebrew Hammer' Seldin performs a victory spin following his 26 second K/O of Nelson Lara in 2018.  
Photo: Screenshot.

## No Stopping Cletus 'Hebrew Hammer' Seldin, as US Jewish Boxer Retains Title With Latest Victory

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Jewish champion boxer Cletus Seldin extended his deadly personal record to 25 wins out of 26 fights — 21 of them knockouts — when he battered rival Luis Florez into a seventh-round defeat during an electric contest at the Paramount in Long Island.

"Hebrew Hammer" Seldin launched himself into last Friday's night bout with his trademark explosive punches. By the sixth round, Seldin — the reigning North American Boxing Association (NABA) Super Lightweight Champion — had overcome Florez's reach advantage, opening a cut above the Colombian fighter's left eye with a powerful right cross.

As Seldin pressured relentlessly, Florez's cut worsened to the point that referee Al LoBianco called a halt to the fight in the seventh round.



With this latest victory, Seldin retained his NABA title. Reflecting on his triumph with reporters, he paid tribute to Florez's performance in the ring.

"This guy was a short notice, tough dude," Seldin said. "My trainer said you have to dig deep and stay in his face and that's what I did. That guy can take a punch. Let's get to the next one, let's go."

## Holocaust Film 'Persian Lessons' to Be Released in US After Berlin Premiere

BY JNS.org

The distribution and production company Cohen Media Group has acquired North American rights to the Holocaust-era drama "Persian Lessons" and plans to release the film in late 2020, *Variety* reported on Wednesday.

Set in 1942, the film is about a Belgian Jew in a German concentration camp who claims to be Persian to avoid being executed. The prisoner tries to save himself by agreeing to teach Farsi, a language he does not know and subsequently makes up, to a Nazi officer who hopes to open a restaurant in Iran after the war.



Filmmaker Vadim Perelman. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

"Persian Lessons" had its world premiere at the Berlin Film Festival on Feb. 22.

The film, based on the story *Erfindung Einer Sprache* by Wolfgang Kohlhaase, was first written in Russian, then translated into English and eventually into German.

Ukrainian-born American director Vadim Perelman helped invent the fake Farsi spoken in the film. He said that his Jewish heritage drew him to the project, along with his goal of showing that the Holocaust transcends any one political or historical moment.

"It can happen in any country, at any time," he said.

The film's lead actor, Lars Eidinger, said, "it's very important that it's someone from the outside telling this story; they can do it better than a German." The actor was alluding to the idea that Germany is still afraid to confront a lot of its Holocaust past.

# Attention Not-For-Profit Organizations

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