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Sudan PM: I'm Not Authorized to Normalize Ties With Israel



Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, in Khartoum, Sudan, Aug. 24, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Mohamed Nureldin Abdallah.

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok told US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday that he was not mandated to normalize ties with Israel and the issue should not be linked to Sudan's removal from a US state sponsors of terrorism list.

Pompeo arrived from Israel

on what he said was the first official non-stop flight between the two countries, as the United States promotes stronger Sudan-Israel ties.

He met Hamdok and ruling council head Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, tweeting that Sudan's democratic transition was a "once in a generation opportunity."

The United States has been restoring relations with Sudan following the ousting of former Islamist leader Omar al-Bashir

in 2019 after mass protests. The country is one year into a 39-month political transition in which the military and civilians are sharing power.

Its economy is in crisis and authorities have been pushing to end the US terrorism listing, which prevents Sudan from accessing financing from international lenders.

Pompeo's visit follows an accord between Israel and the

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Confusion Over Biden Campaign Linda Sarsour Apology

BY JACKSON RICHMAN/JNS.org

The Biden campaign has been sending conflicting messages over whether or not it regrets comments directed at Linda Sarsour, a prominent pro-BDS activist.

On a private call on Sunday with dozens of prominent Arab and Muslim activists, the Biden campaign expressed regret over how it construed a statement condemning former Women's March leader and Bernie Sanders surrogate Linda Sarsour. Sarsour was featured last week at the Democratic National Convention's Muslim Delegates Assembly, despite her history of antisemitism and anti-Zionism, and other bigotry.



Former US Vice President Joe Biden accepts the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, Aug. 20, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Kevin Lamarque.

In that call, top foreign policy adviser Tony Blinken expressed "regret" over the matter, according to *Middle East Eye*, which obtained a recording of the call and first reported on it.

National coalitions director Ashley Allison reportedly said, "I am sorry that that happened. And I hope that whatever trust was broken, that this conversation is one small step to help build back the trust, but that is not the last

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The Legacy of Jonas Salk

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat KI TEIZEI פרשת כי תצא Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting Shabbat Begins: 7:16pm | Shabbat Ends: 8:14pm



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Opinion.

The Israel-UAE Peace Deal: A Master Stroke



RAUF BAKER
NEW YORK

The recent Israeli-Emirati declaration that they are establishing full diplomatic relations will affect more than the two nations themselves. Its impact is likely to be felt across the entire Middle East. The reason for this is that it exposes the emptiness of the canard employed for generations by extremist Arab regimes to distract their people from their own failures: that no issues in the region can be dealt with or even acknowledged until the “Palestinian problem” is solved.

The argument was that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict takes precedence over everything, including domestic issues and the welfare of the citizens of each country. Hard-line regimes touted the issue to silence voices of dissent and justify their lack of transparency and development. Arab and Muslim leaders used the Palestinian problem as a smokescreen behind which to conceal widespread corruption, especially among military regimes in Arab republics.

The balance of power has been shifting in the region for over a decade. Both Israel and the UAE have significant political, economic, and military clout relative to many other countries in the Middle East, and their rapprochement serves to expose the duplicity and corruption of hard-line Arab regimes.

Thanks to the Emiratis, it will now be much more difficult for such regimes to use the Palestinians as a means of distracting public attention away from domestic problems.

Not a single Arab country issued a formal statement condemning or even criticizing the declaration of normalization between Israel and the UAE — a remarkable and unprecedented response. When the Palestinians and Jordanians signed the Oslo Accords and the Wadi Arava Treaty, respectively, several Arab regimes condemned the agreements. Even Mauritania found itself subjected to harsh criticism and isolation when it announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel in October 1999.

Today, even Arab regimes that have long marketed themselves as pan-Arab, such as those in Syria and Algeria, declined to issue statements condemning the Israel-UAE peace agreement. Even Qatar, a foe of the UAE, kept silent (though Doha’s radical proxies should be closely monitored). Reactions were split between those who openly welcomed the decision and those who preferred not to declare a position.

This pattern indicates the significant influence Emirati diplomacy has come to exert over many Arab capitals. Damascus, for instance, preferred to keep silent rather than anger the Emirates, which reopened its embassy in the Syrian capital in late 2018. The new Algerian president Abdelmadjid Tebboune also maintains good relations with Abu Dhabi and has shown no signs of bias toward Turkey’s subversive role in Libya.

As for non-Arab Islamic countries, there

were no negative reactions from influential countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, or Pakistan, all of which enjoy excellent relations with the UAE. Abu Dhabi could conceivably play a mediating role for possible future overtures between those countries and Israel.

It appears that the Israeli-Emirati declaration will not be a one-off event. Similar understandings seem to be within reach between Israel and other Arab states such as Bahrain, Oman, and Morocco — all of which are non-republican states. Accordingly, it will be vital to support emerging powers such as Yemen’s southern movement, non-extremist forces in Libya, and the Sovereign Council of Sudan — all states that have close relations with Abu Dhabi — so they become sufficiently stabilized to rule their countries well and ultimately consider establishing relations with Israel.

It is essential, however, not to focus on the pan-Arab aspects of any overtures toward Israel. The primary aim should be to serve national interests without necessarily implying cross-border aspirations.

Unsurprisingly, it appears that Turkey and Iran are going to do their utmost to use the Israel-UAE peace agreement to bolster their populist capital. The Islamic Republic has never hidden its antisemitic sentiments and hostility towards GCC countries, while Erdogan’s Turkey is stoking tensions across the region. Both countries will consider the Israeli-Emirati declaration — and the potential creation of similar accords between Israel and other Arab countries — a direct threat to their regional ambitions, given Turkey and Iran’s



The Tel Aviv municipality building is lit with the United Arab Emirates national flag, Aug. 13, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Ammar Awad.

alliances with extremist Islamic militants in several Arab countries. The Israel-UAE peace might worsen the isolation of Ankara and Tehran in the region, which could, in turn, push them closer together — a likely development, as their goals and positions are aligning more and more.

To many of us who grew up in the Middle East and experienced almost daily anti-Israel rhetoric in schools and streets, the Emirati-Israeli declaration is an encouraging development. It creates a genuine hope that the decades-long era of Arab regimes exploiting the Palestinian problem as a tool to control their citizens and obstruct development and freedom is finally coming to an end. The proclamation effectively states that the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is a matter solely of concern to those two parties. In a master stroke, it has rearranged priorities, eliminated a false pretext, and broken with a harmful past.

Rauf Baker is a journalist and researcher with expertise on Europe and the Middle East.

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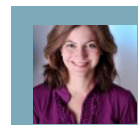
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Don't Confuse Selective Journalistic Accuracy for Ethics



TAMAR STERNTHAL
TEL AVIV

If you are a fictitious character, and *National Public Radio (NPR)* has mistakenly failed to use your preferred pronoun, rest assured that the publicly-funded network will set the record straight.

“Accuracy is at the core of what we do. We do our best to ensure that everything we report faithfully depicts reality — from the tiniest detail to the big-picture context,” states *NPR*’s Code of Ethics.

Last month, *NPR* extended its stated commitment to faithfully depict reality to encompass fiction. Uncle Clifford, owner of the fictional strip club featured in a new television drama called *P-Valley*, was the beneficiary of *NPR*’s aspiration to provide “the fullest version of the truth that we can deliver.”

On *All Things Considered* on July 20, *NPR*’s Eric Deggans erred, by saying:

And there’s club owner Uncle Clifford, played by Nicco Annan. He’s a Black gender-fluid hustler with an impeccable blonde wig and gleaming crystal nails who is both mentor and demanding taskmaster to the women who dance at The Pynk. His secret — lenders are close to foreclosing on his building, and the bank won’t take any more of his bad checks, even when he begs them to.

The next day, editors corrected the comment: “In this report, we incorrectly refer to Uncle Clifford with the pronoun ‘he.’ The

character uses ‘she’ as a pronoun.”

Yet, strikingly, while *NPR* upheld its promise “to rigorously challenge both the claims we encounter and the assumptions we bring” when it came to the pronoun preference of a fictitious character, it did not extend the same courtesy to more than one million real live Israelis, of all genders and professions.

Weeks before the Uncle Clifford pronoun transgression, Palestinian chef Sami Tamimi misidentified three Israeli cities as part of “modern-time Palestine” during an *All Things Considered* interview.

About his new cookbook, Tamimi recounted:

We wanted to kind of show modern-time Palestine what’s happening with, you know, whether it’s an older guy that open a restaurant in Nazareth, quite kind of political about everything and anything, or a young guy that have tourist homes, one in Acre and one in Haifa...

NPR host Michel Martin did not dispute Tamimi’s identification of Nazareth, Acre, and Haifa as part of “modern-time Palestine.” All three are internationally recognized as Israeli cities. They are not in the West Bank where



The northern Israeli town of Nazareth. Photo: public domain.

the Palestinian Authority partly rules, and are therefore not part of what Tamimi called “modern-time Palestine.”

Yet, despite the clear, indisputable geographic reality, *NPR* trampled on the truth, declining to correct the claims.

A representative from *NPR*’s communications staff demurred that the segment “was a conversation with a chef about Palestinian food and culture and that was the context of the interviewee’s remarks. The conversation was not about territorial borders and the interviewee does not say these are Palestinian cities.”

What happened to the network’s laudable declared commitment “that everything we report faithfully depicts reality — from the tiniest detail”?

Moreover, surely the locations of Haifa, Nazareth, and Acre are at least as central to the broadcast about Tamimi’s cuisine as Uncle Clifford’s preferred pronoun is to a story about the fictional *P-Valley*.

Indeed, *NPR*’s Martin stressed that the political backdrop is part and parcel of Tamimi’s story. Her entire introduction addressed larger political issues beyond cuisine. She asserted, “It’s impossible to write about anything Palestinian and not get entangled in the complicated politics of the region.”

Furthermore, she said:

All the food and hospitality that a recipe book celebrates must be served in the case of Palestine against a very sobering backdrop. We want this backdrop to be properly painted.

How can that backdrop be “properly painted” if Israeli cities are misidentified as Palestinian?

Continued on Page A3

World News.

Pompeo Talks With Israeli Leaders About Joint Efforts to 'Counter Iran's Destabilizing Influence'

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met in Jerusalem on Monday with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other top Israeli officials.

A State Department spokesperson said Pompeo and Netanyahu talked about "our nations' ongoing efforts to counter Iran's destabilizing influence in the region and the success of the Abraham Accords agreement, establishing diplomatic relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates."

"Secretary Pompeo reiterated that America's commitment to Israel's security is unwavering," the spokesperson added.

The secretary of state also sat down with Israeli Defense Minister and Alternate Prime Minister Benny Gantz and Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi.

"We will continue deepening our bilateral partnership, while leading an uncom-



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, Israel, Aug. 24, 2020. Photo: Debbie Hill / Pool via Reuters.

promising line vis-à-vis Iran, never allowing a nuclear Iran," Gantz tweeted afterward.

After his Israel visit, Pompeo will continue on to Sudan, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates in the coming days.

"The US commitment to peace, security, and stability in Israel, Sudan and among Gulf countries has never been stronger than under President Trump's leadership," the State Department spokesperson said.

Palestinian Official: 'Our [Children] Teach the World What Sacrifice and Self-Sacrifice Are'

BY JNS.ORG

In an interview with the Palestinian Authority's official TV channel, the director of the PA Presidential Office's Jerusalem Unit boasted that "the boys and girls of Jerusalem are teaching the entire world what sacrifice and self-sacrifice are."

According to a Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) report released on Sunday, Mu'tasim Tayyim said: "As long as Jerusalem is occupied, there will be an escalation in the Palestinian struggle. As long as Jerusalem is occupied, our souls and blood are for Jerusalem, for its holy sites."

"We won't hesitate to protect and defend Jerusalem ... and everything that is Arab-Palestinian-Islamic-Christian in Jerusalem..." he said on July 24 on PA TV.

PMW has exposed numerous other such statements by PA officials, as well as songs and children's poems that encourage Palestinian youth to "become Martyrs" for "Palestine."

Recently, in the context of Israel's presumed application of Israeli law to the Jordan Valley and Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, the PA broadcast several music videos urging Palestinians to seek death as martyrs, tempting them with the promise of marriage to 72 "Virgins of Paradise."

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Sudan PM

UAE this month to forge full relations, and comes as Israel and the United States push more Arab countries to follow.

In February, Burhan met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Uganda, a meeting condemned by Sudanese protesters. He afterwards cast doubt on any rapid normalization of relations, though Israeli aircraft soon began overflying Sudan.

Ties with Israel are a sensitive issue in Sudan, which was among the hardline Muslim foes of Israel under Bashir. The government sacked its Foreign Ministry spokesman last week after he called the UAE decision to normalize relations with Israel "a brave and bold step."

Hamdok told Pompeo that the transi-

tional government "does not have a mandate ... to decide on normalization with Israel" and the matter would be decided after Sudan's transitional bodies were formed, according to government spokesman Faisal Saleh.

A legislative body to serve alongside the ruling council and the government is yet to be formed.

"The Prime Minister called on the US administration to separate the process of removing Sudan from the list of states sponsoring terrorism and the issue of normalization with Israel," Saleh said.

Washington sanctioned Sudan over its alleged support for militant groups and the civil war in Darfur. Trade sanctions were lifted in 2017.

Report: UAE Cancels Public Meeting With Israel After Netanyahu Voices Opposition to F-35 Deal With US



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stands in front of an F-35 stealth fighter at the IAF's Nevatim base, July 9, 2019. Photo: Amos Ben Gershom / GPO.

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

A planned public meeting between the UN ambassadors of Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States scheduled for last week was canceled by the UAE after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed opposition to a potential US-UAE arms deal.

According to an *Axios* report, US Ambassador to the UN Kelly Craft invited the Israeli and Emirati ambassadors to the meeting, which was meant to be a public show of goodwill following the announcement of a normalization accord by Israel and the UAE two weeks ago. It was intended to be held at the UN headquarters in New York.

However, after Netanyahu publicly voiced opposition to a proposed US-UAE arms deal in which the latter would receive the state-of-the-art F-35 fighter jet, thus potentially undermining Israel's "qualitative military edge" in the Middle East, the UAE nixed the

meeting indefinitely.

Axios reported that sources claimed the Emiratis had believed that the F-35 deal was part of the agreement to normalize relations with Israel, and Netanyahu's public statements against it were seen as a violation of the accord. Furthermore, they were said to be outraged that Netanyahu had mentioned he would bring up the issue with members of the US Congress.

As a result, the UAE canceled the meeting in order to send a message to Israel. In addition, high-level public meetings will be postponed until the issue is resolved.

The UAE sees the F-35s and an arms agreement with the US in general as essential to defending itself against Iranian aggression.

Reuters reported on Monday that at a press conference in Jerusalem, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pledged to preserve Israel's regional military edge.

"The United States has a legal requirement with respect to qualitative military edge," he said. "We will continue to honor that."

role in the Biden campaign whatsoever."

On Monday, the Biden campaign disputed that the call was an apology for its reaction to Sarsour.

"We met to affirm Vice President Biden's unshakeable commitment to working with Arab, Palestinian, and Muslim Americans and to standing up against anti-Muslim prejudice, and to make clear that we regretted any hurt that was caused to these communities," Biden campaign senior advisor Symone Sanders told *JNS*. "We continue to reject the views that Linda Sarsour has expressed."

Continued from Page A1
Apology

time we have this conversation."

The call followed the backlash the Biden campaign received from the Arab and Muslim communities after it rebuked Sarsour.

Andrew Bates, the director of rapid response for the Biden campaign, told *CNN*, "Joe Biden has been a strong supporter of Israel and a vehement opponent of antisemitism his entire life, and he obviously condemns her views and opposes BDS, as does the Democratic platform. She has no

Continued from Page A2
Confuse

Rigorous adherence to a code of ethics forms the backbone of professional, credible journalism — which has, in recent years, suffered from declining public trust.

But this shouldn't be news to *NPR* public editor Kelly McBride — the senior vice president of the Poynter Institute, who also heads the institute's Craig Newmark Center for Ethics and Leadership.

When she assumed her new *NPR* post in April, McBride identified top priorities the network must adopt "to be consistently

great." First, she said, was connecting with the audience while "building awareness of what that audience needs." "Embracing the highest standards of the craft" came second.

The inconsistent correction policy vis-à-vis the fictional Uncle Clifford's pronoun preference versus the location of real Israeli cities is a worrisome indication that the network has embraced what it determined are the audience's needs at the expense of ethics and factual accuracy.

Tamar Sternthal is director of the Israel office of CAMERA, the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis.

World News.



Austrian Interior Minister Karl Neehammer speaks at a news conference alongside Graz Jewish community president Elie Rosen (R) and Oskar Deutsch, president of the community in Vienna.
Photo: Reuters / Leonhard Foeger.

'He Is Filled With Hatred': Austrian Police Arrest Suspected Islamist for Assault on Jewish Leader

BY BEN COHEN

Austria's interior minister confirmed on Monday that police in the southern city of Graz had arrested a man suspected of assaulting the president of the local Jewish community over the weekend.

Speaking at a news conference in the capital, Vienna, Karl Neehammer said the suspect — who was arrested on Sunday night — had "confessed in full."

In an earlier series of tweets on Sunday night, Neehammer identified the alleged perpetrator as a "31-year-old Syrian citizen who has been living in Austria since 2013."

Added Neehammer: "We are assuming an Islamist motive."

The unnamed man is alleged to have attacked the Graz Jewish community's president, Elie Rosen, with a wooden club outside the synagogue in the city on Saturday. Rosen took shelter in his car and was unhurt. The attacker, who fled, was later identified by police through security camera footage.

The man is also being held for six additional crimes in Graz — including the defacing of the Graz synagogue last week with the slogan "Free Palestine," an outrage that caused Rosen to issue a public statement decrying the rise in "left-wing and anti-Israel antisemitism" in the city.

According to Austrian media outlets, the same man was also responsible for damaging property at a Catholic church, a club serving

the LGBT+ community and a bar in Graz's red-light district.

In a separate statement, the police officer in charge of the case told the *Wiener Zeitung* newspaper that while the man had admitted to the crimes, he had shown no remorse during questioning.

"[He] is characterized by a complete lack of repentance," Chief Inspector Fritz Grundnig said. "He is filled with hatred of Israel, Jews, gays, lesbians and prostitutes."

Interior Minister Neehammer's comments on the case on Monday followed a private meeting with both Rosen and Oskar Deutsch, the head of the Jewish community in Vienna.

Speaking to reporters alongside Neehammer, Rosen cautioned against making "political capital" out of both the vandalism of the Graz synagogue and the attack he had suffered.

Antisemitism in all its forms was "unsavory," Rosen said. "To make political capital out of this is abuse."

Deutsch added that the assault on Rosen demonstrated "that Muslim antisemitism is a serious threat" in Austria.

"But it is not limited to that," Deutsch said. "There is a left, a right, an Israel-related antisemitism."

Neehammer pledged that the Austrian government would underline that there was "no place for antisemitic violence" by boosting the presence of uniformed and plainclothes police officers around Jewish institutions.

Israel, UAE Defense Ministers Hold First-Ever Phone Call, Herald Security Cooperation

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF & AGENCIES

The Israeli and UAE defense ministers on Tuesday held their first publicly-acknowledged phone call since their countries' recent agreement to normalize ties, officials said, heralding possible security cooperation.

The conversation between Benny Gantz and Mohammed al-Bawardi came amid Israeli dissent at the prospect that the US-brokered

deal could grant the Gulf power access to advanced weaponry previously denied to it, such as F-35 stealth fighter jets.

In their 10-minute call, Gantz and Bawardi discussed boosting communication for "the benefit of their countries in particular and the region as a whole," a statement carried by UAE state news agency WAM said.

In a tweet, Gantz said they had agreed to "keep an open channel between us."

He also noted they had talked about

TikTok Users Posting Videos Pretending to Be Holocaust Victims Called 'Disgusting Trend'

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

In a controversial new social media trend, users of the hugely-popular app TikTok are posting videos in which they pretend to be Holocaust victims.

According to *Wired*, the users make videos of themselves with fake injuries or the appearance of suffering the effects of starvation, and then talk about being murdered in the Holocaust, claiming that they are now in heaven.

The videos have garnered thousands of views and some have more than 100,000 likes.

While the videos do not appear to be comedic, they are often accompanied by the song "Locked Out of Heaven" by Bruno Mars.

The trend has come in for heavy criticism, with *Wired* quoted a 19-year-old Jew named Briana, whose family lost members in the Holocaust, saying, "Most creators are doing [these videos] to hop onto a trend so they can get likes and exposure [but they are] ill-informed and woefully ignorant."

"These kinds of trends are so normalized these days, there's also a level of shock value content which I think is outdated and in bad taste," she added. "This shock value further desensitizes viewers to this type of behavior and normalizes this type of harmful content."

"People need to be properly taught about the Holocaust, not make it into a disgusting trend," Briana declared. "Our obsession with trauma porn has only motivated a desire to dramatize these narratives. ... It can be very triggering for people who have family that either survived or was lost in the war."

Briana blamed the trend on TikTok itself, which has been criticized recently for allegedly allowing hate speech and other offensive content on its platform.

"TikTok needs to instill better report evaluation teams and change what is allowed to be uploaded in terms of misinformation and hateful or ignorant content," she said.

Some users who have made such videos,

potential "security cooperation between the countries, which would strengthen the stability of the region."



The "Hall of Names" commemorating victims of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.
Photo: David Shankbone via Wikimedia Commons.

however, say that their purpose is education.

15-year-old McKayla said, "I'm very motivated and captivated by the Holocaust and the history of World War II. I have ancestors who were in concentration camps, and have actually met a few survivors from Auschwitz camp."

"I wanted to spread awareness and share out to everyone the reality behind the camps by sharing my Jewish grandmother's story," she stated.

Taylor Hillman, who is also Jewish and posted her own such video, was more ambivalent, saying, "There are many young creators who range from about 12 to 16 that use the Holocaust trope for fame. They know it will get views and make them more popular, but most of the time they are not Jewish and it feels as though they are mocking the actual victims of the Holocaust."

"I feel that it's important that if someone is going to make a POV about Jewish related topics or the Holocaust, it should be done by a Jewish person," she continued.

"I personally had family members that were put into concentration camps so the topic was close to my heart," Hillman said. "I tried to make my TikTok in a way that would not offend others in the Jewish community by not romanticizing it."

Hillman said the comments on her video had not been hateful, and some commenters had said it "made them emotional."



Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz. Photo: Adina Valman / Knesset Spokesperson's Office / Handout via Reuters.

Israel was firm in opposing any prospective US sale of the F-35 to the UAE, the Netanyahu government was "entirely immersed" on the question of expanding criteria for Israeli defense exports to the Gulf power.

According to defense industry sources, Israel has sold the UAE security products in the cyber and surveillance realm. A study by the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab has linked spyware technologies produced by Israel's NSO Group to political surveillance in the UAE.

In the early 2000s, Israel was in talks to sell the UAE drones, according to a US official who was involved in the negotiations — but called off the deal after the 2010 death in Dubai of an arms dealer with the Islamist group Hamas, which Emirati authorities blamed on a Mossad hit team.

An Israeli defense official said that while

U.S. News.

Haley Fuels 2024 Presidential Speculation With Republican Convention Speech

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

Former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley may have fired up speculation about a 2024 presidential bid on Monday, delivering a speech at the Republican National Convention that praised President Donald Trump while touting her own accomplishments and life story.

Haley, the 48-year-old daughter of Indian immigrants, showcased a compassionate brand of Republicanism at home while pushing for strong resolve on the global stage.

She was a rising Republican star when Trump tapped the then-South Carolina governor to become ambassador to the United Nations in 2017.

Haley, who left her UN post in late 2018, has achieved prominence as a woman of color in a party that has struggled to win the votes of women and minorities.

She cited her successful efforts to remove the Confederate flag from the South Carolina state capitol grounds following the 2015 massacre of nine Black churchgoers in Charleston by a white supremacist. But she avoided mentioning the word "Confederate," instead calling the flag a "divisive symbol."

"In much of the Democratic Party, it's now fashionable to say that America is racist. That is a lie. America is not a racist country," Haley said.

Jewish Groups Condemn Display of Antisemitic Banners Over Los Angeles Freeway

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Jewish organizations in southern California expressed outrage over the weekend after banners with sinister antisemitic slogans were seen hanging from a freeway overpass.

The three home-made banners were draped an overpass on Interstate 405 in Los Angeles on Saturday, close to the Florence Avenue exit in Inglewood.

One banner declared, "The Jews want a race war," whilst another promoted a website called "Goyim TV." A third banner urged drivers on the freeway to honk their horns in agreement.

Tweeting in response to the incident, Rick Hirschhaut — the Los Angeles regional director of the American Jewish Committee — called on the California Highway Patrol to step up its efforts against such expressions of hatred.

Other Jewish organizations concurred. In a statement to the Jewish Journal, Rabbi Abraham Cooper — associate dean of the LA-based Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) — said that his organization had "asked Council members Paul Koretz and David Ryu to get the Jew-hating banners unfurled by antisemitic cowards removed by DOT [Los Angeles Department of Transportation]. They will continue their anonymous attacks on social media and everywhere else they can act stealthily to spread Jew-hatred without fear of being held accountable."



Motorists on Interstate 405 in Los Angeles drive by banners carrying antisemitic slogans draped from an overpass. Photo: Twitter.

She noted her father wore a turban and her mother a sari. "I was a brown girl in a black and white world," Haley said.

"My mom built a successful business. My dad taught 30 years at a historically Black college. And the people of South Carolina chose me as their first minority and first female governor."

She praised Trump for taking on Iran, China and North Korea, while supporting allies like Israel. Critics have accused the president of cozying up to US adversaries such as Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, while alienating NATO allies.

Republicans on Monday nominated Trump for a second term as he faces Democrat Joe Biden in the Nov. 3 election.

Haley added the United Nations was not for the faint of heart and was a place where



Former US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley speaks to the 2020 Republican National Convention, in Washington, DC, Aug. 24, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Kevin Lamarque.

dictators put their hands out and ask for Americans to pay their bills.

"Well, President Trump put an end to all that. With his leadership, we did what Barack Obama and Joe Biden refused to do. We stood up for America ... and we stood against our enemies," Haley said.

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Opinion.

Ilhan Omar May Have Won, but the Pro-Israel Community Stood Strong



JEFF MENDELSON
WASHINGTON

One takeaway from the recent Democratic primary in Minnesota is that the pro-Israel community won't stand idly by when a member of Congress actively seeks to undermine America's close relationship with its democratic ally.

Rep. Ilhan Omar, one of the most vocal detractors of the US-Israel relationship, faced the stiffest challenge of her career in this month's Democratic primary. Pro-Israel groups and grassroots donors brought an enormous amount of money and issue advocacy to the effort to unseat Omar, sending a clear message that support for America's alliance with Israel runs deep and broad.

Antone Melton-Meaux, a rather unknown candidate, took on a very well-known incumbent congresswoman, ran an impressive campaign, and made inroads that

no one expected. Melton-Meaux's campaign was rooted in building alliances and delivering results. While not at the core of his platform, he made clear that he believed in the value of America's alliance with Israel. His decision to challenge Rep. Omar, and his message of unity, attracted support from the pro-Israel community.

While he came up short in the primary, he received more votes than Rep. Omar did in her 2018 primary, and nearly as many votes as Senator Bernie Sanders received in the district during the 2020 presidential primary, which he won. Melton-Meaux kept Rep. Omar below 60% of the vote, a particularly impressive feat contrasted with the vote shares received by Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) (66%) or Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) (72%).

The pro-Israel community saw this race as a critical moment to fight back against Rep. Omar's dangerous foreign policy positions and the antisemitism she has repeatedly displayed.

In the first year of her first term, Representative Omar made comments that invoked antisemitic tropes, prompting strong rebukes

from her Congressional colleagues. She promoted foreign policy positions that would threaten America's national security and our alliance with Israel. She advocated cutting military assistance funding for Israel, even while it was being attacked by neighboring terrorist groups. She called for lifting sanctions on Iran, while championing legislation to embolden activists to place sanctions on Israel. She's endorsed the harmful Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, whose goal, according to its founders and leaders, is the elimination of the Jewish state of Israel.

These negative policies affect the safety and security of all Americans, and undermine our country's global leadership, which is particularly troubling given her position on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Thousands of grassroots donors in the district and across the country activated to support Melton-Meaux. While a lot of money came from outside, the grassroots enthusiasm was clearly demonstrated in local fundraising totals as well: Melton-Meaux's campaign raised \$237,000 from inside Minnesota's fifth district during the second quarter of 2020 —



Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) in 2016. Photo: Lorie Shaull via Flickr.

nearly 30 times the amount that Rep. Omar raised in her home district during the same time period.

These resources helped Melton-Meaux build critical momentum, ultimately putting Rep. Omar on the defensive. In the final month of the campaign, Omar was forced to go negative on her challenger and spent nearly her entire \$4 million war chest.

Melton-Meaux may not have won a seat in Congress, but the pro-Israel community that supported him sent a very clear message that being an outspoken anti-Israel legislator will not be cost-free politically. Thousands of grassroots donors and activists across the country showed their conviction and willingness to fight back. Their efforts are not just about one race — they are about fighting for the future of the US-Israel relationship. As we head into November, they will continue to be a serious force in important elections.

Jeff Mendelsohn is the Executive Director of Pro-Israel America.

This West Bank Land Is Not 'Palestinian'



SEAN DURNS
WASHINGTON

"Who can challenge the rights of the Jews in Palestine?" Yusuf al-Khalidi wrote to the chief rabbi of France on March 1, 1899. "Good Lord, historically it really is your country." Yet, more than a century after Khalidi's admission, the Jewish people's connection to their ancestral homeland is often forgotten. Indeed, many news outlets and analysts not only ignore it — but often attempt to erase it.

Take, for example, *The Washington Post*. The newspaper's August 13, 2020 report, "Trump announces historic peace agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates," asserted that "Arab leaders had privately warned Trump that they could not agree to future economic or diplomatic ties with Israel if Israel took over land now considered Palestinian." But the article, by reporter Anne Gearan and Jerusalem bureau chief Steve Hendrix, doesn't say why the land is "now considered Palestinian."

In fact, a sovereign Palestinian Arab state has never existed. Rather, the status of the territory is, at best, disputed. Its status is to be resolved by negotiations anticipated by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the 1995 Israeli-Palestinian interim accords, the 2003 international "road map," and related diplomatic efforts. Indeed, the co-authors of Resolution 242, US Under Secretary of State Eugene Rostow, US Ambassador to the United Nations Arthur Goldberg, and British ambassador Lord Caradon made clear, both then and later, that Jews and Arabs both had claims in the territories, and that no national sovereignty over them had been

recognized since the end of Ottoman rule.

The Washington Post itself, in a September 4, 2014 correction prompted by CAMERA, noted that "the Israeli-occupied territories are disputed lands that Palestinians want for a future state." In another recent CAMERA-prompted correction, *The Wall Street Journal* acknowledged on May 16, 2020, that "under the Oslo accords, sovereignty over the West Bank is disputed, pending a final settlement."

Further, there is a legal basis for Jewish claims to the land. As CAMERA has documented (see, for example, "The West Bank—Jewish Territory Under International Law"), Israel has a foundation for asserting sovereignty over the area. Additionally, the League of Nations Palestine Mandate, adopted later by the United Nations, calls for "close Jewish settlement on the land" west of the Jordan River in Article 6. The UN Charter, Chapter XII, Article 80, upholds the Mandate's provisions. The 1920 San Remo Treaty and the 1924 Anglo-American Convention also enshrined Jewish territorial claims in international law.

Yet the Post isn't alone in de facto deciding in favor of Palestinian claims. An August 14, 2020 Vox article by Alex Ward ("Kamala Harris's foreign policy, explained") incorrectly asserted that the Jewish National Fund (JNF) "played a major role in pushing Palestinians out of their lands to make way for the State of Israel." This is, in every sense, ahistorical.

In fact, Jews are from Judea and Samaria, an area that only in the last half-century or so has been referred to as the "West Bank." The Jewish presence in the land of Israel predates that of the Arab and Islamic conquests in the 7th century — by thousands of years. Further, that presence has been continuous. Indeed, in Jerusalem, for example, Jews constituted a

majority of the inhabitants since the 1840s — long before the 1901 creation of the JNF.

Another important but omitted fact: much of the land that Jews acquired was purchased from Arabs, including from several notable Palestinian Arab families. As the historian Benny Morris noted in his 2008 book *1948*: "A giant question mark hangs over the ethos of the Palestinian Arab elite: Husseinis, as well as Nashashibis, Khalidis, Dajanis, and Tamimis ... sold land to the Zionist institutions and/or served as Zionist agents or spies." These families, many of whom would lead opposition to the existence of Israel and the right of Jewish self-determination, secretly sold land to the very movement that they denounced.

Indeed, as the historian Yehoshua Porath documented in *The Palestinian Arab National Movement, 1929-1939*, when British official John Hope Simpson met with Arabs in the northern part of what is today Israel some Arabs requested a meeting where they "expressed their views in support of Jewish immigration and land purchases." "These people," Porath noted, "were owners of large tracts of fallow land of which they wanted to sell part in order to reclaim the rest. Since they could not find any potential Arab buyer, they needed Jewish immigration and growing Jewish demand for land in order to sell it to them for as dearly as possible."

To be sure, this was not a majority viewpoint, and those Arabs who were found to have publicly sold land to Zionists were — and still are — denounced as traitors. Yet, as noted above, prominent anti-Zionist Palestinian Arabs still sold land to Jews, albeit secretly.

Reviewing data from 1920-1939, Porath concludes that as much as 52.6% of the land acquired by Zionists was purchased from non-Palestinian Arab landowners, while 24.6% was purchased from Palestinian Arab landowners, and only 9.4% from the *fellahins*, or peasants, who rarely owned land under the Ottoman Empire. Beginning in 1928, "the amount of land bought by Jews from Palestinian landowners (both big and small) exceeded the amount bought from non-Palestinian landowners."

Jews, then, are not only indigenous to Israel, but they also acquired much of the land

that is today Israel by purchasing it — often from Palestinian Arabs themselves. To be sure, Palestinian Arabs could have had a state, with some of it constituted in Judea and Samaria — including in 1948 when they rejected the UN's 1947 Partition Plan, choosing instead to make war on Jews. On a number of occasions, they've been offered a state, but they've consistently rejected statehood if it meant living in peace next to a Jewish state.

This raises the question: when and why do many in the media choose to refer to the land as "Palestinian"? Particularly when no Palestinian Arab state has ever existed and Jewish claims to the land, both historical and legal, exist? As the blogger Elder of Ziyon has documented, from 1948-1967, when Jordan occupied Judea and Samaria and part of Jerusalem after seizing them in the 1948 war, "the *New York Times* recognized Jerusalem and the entire West Bank as being part of Jordan, and the Israeli side of Jerusalem was merely an 'Israeli sector,' but not part of Israel." For several years, *The New York Times* continued to refer to cities like Ramallah — today the seat of the Palestinian Authority — as being "Israeli-occupied Jordan." The term "West Bank" was seldom used; the land, the *Times* claimed was Jordanian. "Slowly," Elder notes, "the *Times* started to realize that calling it 'Jordanian' didn't make sense as Jordan wanted less and less to do with it. Suddenly, Israel wasn't occupying Jordanian land, but merely an area whose legal status had yet to be defined — the West Bank."

By the late 1980s and early 1990s, usage of the term "West Bank" became more widespread at the *Times* and other outlets — and with it, the implied notion that "West Bank" means "Palestinian" and that the land was, and always had been, Arab.

But according to many in the press, the land could not — it must not — ever be held to be Jewish. It can be Jordanian. It can be Palestinian. But Jews' claims to their ancestral homeland are to be erased or minimized.

Sean Durns is a Senior Research Analyst for CAMERA, the 65,000-member, Boston-based Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis — where this article first appeared.

Opinion.

UAE-Israel Deal May Signal New Hope for a Future Investment Fund for the Palestinian People



SANDER GERBER
NEW YORK

The decades-old refrain throughout the Washington policy establishment tells us that peace would grace the entire Middle East if only the Palestinian-Israeli conflict could be solved. This thesis imagines a Middle East thoroughly consumed by the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, thrusting the plight of the Palestinians squarely on the shoulders of Israel.

But the recent agreement to establish normalized relations between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel, reached with the help of the US, upends this narrative. And it suggests the Gulf states may be ready to sidestep the greatest impediment to peace between Israelis and Palestinians: the Palestinian Authority (PA).

In addition, the deal creates the possibility that the Gulf states could continue their longstanding commitment to the Palestinian people by the creation of an independent future investment initiative chartered to promote Palestinian self-sufficiency.

The UAE-Israel agreement — and the potential for future agreements — proves that the seemingly insurmountable conflict in the Middle East is not Arabs versus Israelis. Rather, it is the PA's oppression, suppression, and repression of the Palestinian people that crushes peace prospects. The UAE's courageous move signifies that the Gulf states may be prepared to recognize this reality.

Since Israel is a military and economic powerhouse, the policy establishment narrative goes, the plight of the Palestinians is a result of Israel's presence. Millions of Palestinians remain powerless and under Israeli "occupation." Several million Palestinian refugees remain in camps in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon with no leverage or bargaining power.

Too many people who accept this narrative then go on to say that Palestinian terror is justified or understandable. And much of the world, including the US, has sought to help the Palestinian people by giving billions of dollars to the faction governing them.

Ironically, the Middle Eastern party that has issued the most vociferous condemnation of an Arab-Israeli peace, even beyond the Iranian and Turkish regimes, is the Palestinian Authority.

The Palestinian Authority has refused to respond to six consecutive offers for a secure, viable sovereignty since 2000, and rejects any cooperation or coordination with Israel, even at the cost of Palestinian lives.

Perhaps one can understand the PA boycott of the Bahrain conference. The promise of \$50 billion in start-up and regional assistance might have come with conditions. But a Palestinian governing body rejecting COVID-19 medical supplies from the UAE because they passed through Israel is unconscionable. Just think of the suffering mothers and fathers.

For too long, the Palestinian Authority has sought to keep the Palestinian people

poor and powerless — while enriching its apparatchiks and functionaries with villas and cars, as recently detailed by Yasser Jadallah, the former political director for PA President Mahmoud Abbas.

Unsurprisingly, recent polls reveal that 80% of Palestinians believe the Palestinian Authority is corrupt and not representative of the Palestinian public's fundamental rights and requirements. In addition, the Palestinian Authority has glorified violence against Israel through naming streets and schools after murderers of Israeli Christians, Jews, and Muslims. And the authority continues to sponsor the Pay for Slay campaign for Palestinian murderers and their families, with salary levels based upon terror results, even awarding stipends to the families of suicide bombers. In fact, 7% of the Palestinian Authority's budget is used for these terror incentives. This is money that could have been used for job training or economic cooperation with Israel.

However, with the recent Israel-UAE normalization agreement, the UAE has set a new standard in regional and global peace-making. By normalizing relations with Israel, the UAE has effectively acknowledged that Palestinian suffering is not due to the Israelis. Rather, the suffering is due to the Palestinian Authority.

Now is the time for the world, led by other Gulf states, to rescue the Palestinian people from their Palestinian Authority "prison" and help them to pave a path to a peaceful and economically thriving independence. To do so will require a new Gulf Cooperation Council relief organization that prioritizes the security and prosperity of the Palestinian people — not the enrichment of their corrupt and cancerous leadership.

This new organization — let's call it the Future Investment Fund for the Palestinian People — would need to be independent, both of the corrupt Palestinian Authority cronyism that has exploited the Palestinian people and of the United Nations, which has retarded Palestinian progress. The investment fund would be chartered to provide vocational training, coupled with tolerance and comity with all neighbors, based upon a peaceful Islam.

The courage of the UAE to throw out the false narrative regarding the Palestinian people and to make peace with Israel creates an opportunity for a new paradigm to help the Palestinian people finally escape their incompetent and cruel leaders.

An effective relief organization would engender a Palestinian civil society not dominated by the Palestinian Authority. The investment fund would also enable a new, responsible Palestinian leadership that would ensure that the burgeoning Arab-Israeli normalization taking shape now will not leave the Palestinian people outside the expanding circle of regional peace and prosperity.

Sander Gerber is CEO of Hudson Bay Capital Management. He is a distinguished fellow at the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA) and a fellow at the Jerusalem Center of Public Affairs.

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New York Times Floats Plan To Hire 100 Orthodox Jewish Journalists



IRA STOLL
BOSTON

The New York Times will try to add about 100 Orthodox Jews to its newsroom staff over the next five years.

At least, it will if its union's diversity rhetoric is to be taken literally.

The New York Times unit of the NewsGuild of New York, the labor union that represents editorial and news employees at the New York Times as part of the Communications Workers of America, tweeted recently, "Our workforce should reflect our home: The Times should set a goal to have its workforce demographics reflect the makeup of New York City—24% Black and over 50% people of color—by 2025."

The writer Ben Judah seized on the tweet to draw an implication that the union almost certainly did not intend: "This is amazing! I fully endorse the request for 6% of New York Times employees to be orthodox/Haredi Jews. As a 500k strong community of 8.3m people in New York City the orthodox/Haredi community is ready to serve at all levels of New York Times coverage and opinion," Judah tweeted.

The Judah tweet was widely shared on the social media platform, drawing more than 1,400 retweets and 7,000 likes. Among those who retweeted it was former New York Times editor and writer Bari Weiss, who quit the newspaper last month complaining of "unlawful discrimination, hostile work environment, and constructive discharge."

The Times claimed in March 2020 that it "employs 1,700 journalists — a huge number



An ultra-Orthodox Jew takes a photo with his mobile phone while others pray at a Tel Aviv beach during the Jewish New Year ritual of Tashlich, Oct. 2, 2014.
Photo: Reuters / Finbarr O'Reilly.

in an industry where total employment nationally has fallen to somewhere between 20,000 and 38,000." Six percent of 1,700 would be 102. A 2011 study by the UJA-Federation of New York found "nearly half a million" Orthodox Jews in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester.

The Times has been widely faulted for what critics say is coverage biased against Orthodox Jews. The paper has blamed Orthodox Jews for the spread of the coronavirus and measles, has denounced the Orthodox for supposed welfare dependency, and has been waging a war on yeshivas, schools attended by Orthodox Jews. It does seem reasonable, at least on the face of it, to think that the coverage would get better if there were a hundred Orthodox Jews in the New York Times newsroom rather than hardly any visible ones at all. Do not hold your breath for this hiring actually to happen, however. At the Times—as at many other ostensibly liberal institutions—diversity is an all-important goal in some categories but not in others.

Ira Stoll was managing editor of The Forward and North American editor of The Jerusalem Post. His media critique, a regular Algemeiner feature, can be found here.

'And Your God Will Be My God': For One Jewish Convert, the Wait Is Over

DEBORAH FINEBLUM

/JNS.org

"I'm so thrilled to be a part of B'nai Israel and to have finally found my place with the Jewish people, after nearly 30 years of asking and searching."

These are the first words Amy Nguyen wrote after completing her long and transformative journey to Judaism.

But despite her single-minded determination to become an official member of the Jewish people, the journey certainly had its fair share of potholes. She'll tell you that, after decades of spiritual searching and more than two years of learning how to be a Jew, the last three months were in many ways the hardest.

In early March, her conversion studies complete, Nguyen stood before three rabbis at the Beth Din of America in New York and answered their questions. As soon as she learned she had cleared that hurdle, she

began planning the final step in her journey: the ancient rite of a convert immersing in the waters of a mikvah.

Until the coronavirus struck, and a weekend visit to her parents' California home turned into a three-month stay.

Frustrating? Yes. But, she now believes, they were three months well spent. "After a while, it became so clear to me that I needed that time with my parents so they could understand why I am becoming a Jew."

Growing up in her family of Vietnamese refugees was religiously... eclectic, she says: "Between the four of us at home, we had three religions." Her mother was a Buddhist, her father had been converted by Mormon missionaries, and her older sister went to Catholic schools all the way through graduate studies.

So by the time Nguyen, who was sent to California public schools, entered college, she'd launched a full-scale spiritual search and would spend the next decade trying on Buddhism for size while attending assorted churches and stadium prayer services.

"They were all really interesting, but nothing

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Impressions.

As We Search for a COVID Vaccine, Remembering Past National Unity and the Legacy of Jonas Salk

BY HEATHER ROBINSON/
JNS.org

Each year in the 1940s and '50s, more than 15,000 Americans were paralyzed by polio and thousands died. The disease reached its peak in the United States in 1952, leaving 3,145 Americans dead and some 21,269 paralyzed. As with the country and world at this time struggling to deal with another deadly virus — SARS-CoV-2, more commonly referred to as COVID-19 — methods to combat the contagion included quarantines, prevention efforts, and the race for a vaccine.

Decades ago, in a nation struggling to deal with the scourge that came each summer to prey on America's children, a champion emerged in the form of Dr. Jonas Salk, a soft-spoken American Jewish scientist at the University of Pittsburgh who developed the first, and ultimately most effective, vaccine to eradicate polio, a disease that had plagued humanity for millennia. Known for his dedication, brilliance, and altruism, Salk and his work in the field became the stuff of legend. An official announcement of the vaccine's safety and efficacy on April 12, 1955 catapulted him to international fame and enshrined him as a titan in the history of science and humankind.

It also made him a legend in the American and world Jewish communities.

Jewish Americans and others among Salk's early vaccine volunteer subjects, one of his former lab workers, and his son Peter Salk, a doctor and part-time professor of infectious diseases at the University of Pittsburgh, spoke with JNS about their recollections of the man and scientist. They also shared their memories of the polio years, thoughts on similarities and differences between the polio and COVID-19 eras, and considered what lessons might be applied from that time to the current predicament in the United States and the world.

Many people who were infected with polio were asymptomatic and never became sick. Some developed mild, flu-like illness, usually with fever, sore throat, and achiness, and recovered. In other cases, however, the disease progressed to severe symptoms, including very bad muscle cramps, weakness, and paralysis within a week.

In the worst cases, polio resulted in death or lifelong paralysis inside an iron lung, a coffin-like respirator that took over breathing for an afflicted individual.

Like COVID-19, polio tended to spread in areas of higher population density. But unlike COVID-19, no one was certain how polio was transmitted. In addition to it potentially being airborne, like the spread of respiratory drops associated with the coronavirus, polio was also waterborne. As such, pools were off-limits for years, as were places like movie theaters. If anything, anxiety for children was greater in the polio era than in the COVID-19 era, because while polio could strike adults, it more typically struck young kids — most often those under five. Parents feared letting children swim, go to movies, and sometimes even play outside.

As in our time, the competition to produce an effective vaccine was fierce. While Salk labored at the University of Pittsburgh on a novel idea — a vaccine using dead poliovirus — a more senior researcher, Albert Sabin, also Jewish, raced at the University of Cincinnati to develop a vaccine using a live attenuated virus. Salk announced a viable vaccine first, and volunteer trials preceded a nationwide inoculation campaign. Trials took place in a number of locations across the United States, including Pittsburgh, the city

where Salk conducted his research.

Several older Americans spoke about their recollections of taking part in these trials.

Marcia Weiss, now in her 70s, a retired attorney in Pittsburgh, was among the one million American children who participated in Salk's early vaccine trials in 1954. She recalled a "series of shots, injections and blood draws" that went on for "many months."

Weiss' father, a doctor, had heard about the vaccine trials "through the grapevine" and signed her up for them. It was important to him, she said, for his daughter, an only child, to take part, because he had so much faith in medical science.

Parents were more frightened of polio in the 1940s and '50s than kids, according to Weiss.

"I don't remember being scared of polio, but at that time, kids were not allowed to go swimming," she said. "We were very accepting. If our parents said, 'You shouldn't do this,' we didn't. It wasn't scary for us, but I'm sure it was very scary for parents."

But Weiss remembers seeing pictures of children in iron lungs. "That was scary," she said.

She remembered Salk coming over to talk with her father while her blood was being drawn, and that he sometimes drew her blood himself. She liked it when he did because he was "very gentle" and adept, she said, whereas technicians typically had trouble locating her veins.

Her father's faith in the safety of the vaccine was bolstered, Weiss believes, by his awareness that Salk had early on administered the vaccine to himself, his wife, and their three sons.

"I can still picture the headline in the paper when the vaccine was announced," recalled Weiss. "I remember the big type, and thinking, 'Oh, gee, I was part of this. This is wonderful.'"

Gloria Rosen, 89, worked in Salk's lab as part of his research team at the University of Pittsburgh. At the time, she was pursuing an undergraduate degree in toxicology at the university.

Rosen said she "dealt with [Salk] on a daily basis" in their work together, although she recalled he was "too busy to spend a lot of time with any one person." She did, however, receive a letter of congratulations from him down the road after she adopted a daughter, Linda. Later, Rosen adopted another daughter, Nina, who recalled that growing up, her mother stressed to her daughters that working for Salk had been a highlight of her life and career.

Salk was "selfless and completely devoted to what he was doing, and, of course, that's why it got done," said the octogenarian.

Rosen said men outnumbered women in the lab, although there were some other women. "I was perfectly happy to be able to do what I was doing and considered myself fortunate," she recalled. "I didn't have trouble with sexism. ... Salk and his team were very professional."

She described the work itself as fascinating, adding that "it's very complicated what goes on in a lab."

Once, her direct superior, an associate of Salk, told her to get some clean glassware out of a huge sterilizing machine called an autoclave. At the time, "I didn't know

any more about an autoclave than you do." An autoclave was like a tunnel with a tight cap on it that had to be opened under the right conditions (which, in this case, were not met). Fortunately, she said she was "smart enough" to stand behind the door when she opened it, "otherwise, I would've been killed when thousands of dollars of glassware shot out," recounted Rosen.

Someone rushed to get Salk.

"He came running down the hall," recalled Rosen. "He looked at me and said, 'Gloria, don't be upset. This also happened to one of the chimpanzees upstairs.' I thought, 'Why is Dr. Salk comparing me to a chimpanzee?' I was in a daze. But he was making a joke. Thousands of dollars of glassware had been destroyed because I'd been misdirected. But he didn't fire me. That was just one of my adventures."



Health workers take swab samples from passengers who arrived at Beirut International Airport on its re-opening day, amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, in Beirut, Lebanon, July 1, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Aziz Taher.

Of the polio years and her time with Salk, Rosen said she will never forget her sense that the work was of historic significance.

"It was very important work, and I was a part of it," she said. "I was a late teenager, early 20's, and Dr. Salk was very nice to me, so you can imagine how I felt. I guess I was really lucky. ... It was my pride and joy to work with Dr. Salk."

Peter Salk, Jonas Salk's eldest son, a part-time professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health, and president of the Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation in La Jolla, California, revealed some personal memories of his father.

He also shared thoughts on how he believes his father's legacy can guide modern medicine as it pertains to COVID-19.

Asked if it's true or apocryphal that his father was so completely focused that he slept in his laboratory to save precious moments in the race to develop the polio vaccine, Peter said, "I don't think he slept in the lab, but he did stay late."

While working on the vaccine during the early 1950s, Salk drove Peter each morning to his elementary school in Pittsburgh; the younger Salk said he treasures the memory of that rare alone time together.

Of the famous May 1953 photo of Salk preparing to administer the vaccine to his family, Peter Salk said his principal memory of the day is that when his father injected him, the needle — sterilized in a pot of boiling water on the kitchen stove — went in painlessly. But, he added, (echoing others interviewed for this piece) his father always had a nimble touch.

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Legals.

Opinion.

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF FORMATION of 1620 RALPH AVENUE OWNER LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/14/2020. Off. Loc.: Kings County. SSNY has been desig. as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy to is: 28 Liberty, New York, NY 10005. Reg. Agent: National Registered Agents, Inc., 28 Liberty, New York, NY 10005. Purpose: Any lawful act
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Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: MISS YOU LOVE YOU MEDIA LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 07/02/2020 . 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: Paula Berkenstadt 683 Union St.#2L Brooklyn, NY 11215.purpose: all lawfull activity
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Formation of TMO Brooklyn Housing I, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/6/2020. Office loc.: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to E. Allan Mack, Esq., 2 Cooper St., 14th Fl., Camden, NJ 08102. Purpose: Any lawful activity.
AJ; 8/21/28; 9/4/11/18/25

Formation of TMO Brooklyn-Michaels, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY(SSNY) on 8/6/2020. Office loc.: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to E. Allan Mack, Esq., 2 Cooper St., 14th Fl., Camden, NJ 08102. Purpose: Any lawful activity.
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Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: Mad FOCUSED CONSULTING LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/08/2020 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: Mad Focused Consulting LLC 163 Milton St., Apt.3 E Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 8/21/28; 9/4/11/18/25

File No.: 2018-445/B AMENDED CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT To: Sidney Trubowitz, Julius Trubowitz, Estate of Lawrence Kreshin, Patricia Alison Kreshin, Rosalind Sarkees, Alice Friedman, James Breslow, Neal Resnikoff, Don Resnikoff, Roy Resnikoff, Brooke Breslow, Robert Cervoni, Esq. Bennet Wernick, Esq. Attorney General of the State of New York The unknown distributees, legatees, devisees, heirs at law and assignees of DANIEL FRIEDMAN, deceased, or their estates, if any there be, whose names, places of residence and post office addresses are unknown to the petitioner and cannot with due diligence be ascertained . A copy of this citation and the accounting, as well as all amendments to it, if any, shall be served on the Guardian Ad Litem, Vivia Joseph, Esq. Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of DANIEL FRIEDMAN, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 5901 Palisades Avenue, Manhattan, NY 10471 but was domiciled at 153-70 58th Road, Flushing, NY, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of DANIEL FRIEDMAN, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York,

on the 17th day of September, 2020 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$4,690.88 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why the petitioner should not be authorized to retain the sum of \$15,000.00 to satisfy the contingent and possible claim of Don Resnikoff, Esq., Robert Cervoni, Esq., and the Court Examiner Bennet Wernick, Esq. for a period of 6 months from the date of the decree to be settled hereon; and why, upon service on the petitioner of an Order from the New York Supreme Court fixing the legal fees and commissions Don Resnikoff, Esq., Robert Cervoni, Esq., and the Court Examiner Bennet Wernick, Esq. for services rendered to the decedent, petitioner should not be further authorized to pay Don Resnikoff, Esq., Robert Cervoni, Esq., and the Court Examiner Bennet Wernick, Esq. said amount not to exceed \$15,000.00; and why if Don Resnikoff, Esq., Robert Cervoni, Esq., and the Court Examiner Bennet Wernick, Esq. should fail to obtain an order from the New York Supreme Court within six months from the Notice of Entry of the Decree to be settled hereon fixing legal fees and commissions for services rendered to the decedent, the amount retained by the petitioner shall be distributed as set forth in the petition; and why each of you claiming to be a distributee of the decedent should not establish proof of your kinship; and why the balance of said funds should not be paid to said alleged distributees upon proof of kinship, or deposited with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York should said alleged distributees default herein, or fail to establish proof of kinship. Dated, Attested and Sealed 6th day of August, 2020 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County JAMES LIM BECKER Clerk of the Surrogate's Court GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200 Lake Success, New York 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. AS A RESULT OF THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COURT TO COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, PHYSICAL PRESENCE AT THE COURTHOUSE ON THE RETURN DATE IS NOT POSSIBLE. THEREFORE, IF YOU WISH TO CONTEST THE RELIEF REQUESTED, YOU, OR AN ATTORNEY ON YOUR BEHALF, MUST CONTACT THE COURT PRIOR TO THIS DATE IN THE MANNER SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED NOTICE. IF YOU DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT AS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE IT WILL BE FOUND YOU CONSENT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. Accounting Citation
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Continued from Page A7
Convert

crystalized for me," she says, "until I realized there really is just one God. Now I see I had to go through all that to get to the Jewish faith where I could find a sense of purpose and a meaningful dialogue with God."

As for her parents, "at first they assumed it was a phase like all my other ones until they realized this is real, but now with a better understanding of who I am and how I want to live my life, they've become much more supportive."

And what appeared as a simple job opportunity that took her to New York in 2016, Nguyen now sees as an invitation to her nascent Jewish self: her apartment turned out to be two minutes from a Chabad House, and there were conversion classes given nearby. "Now I see how the time was right, and everything was set up for me," she says. "And that none of it was by chance."

The course of study at the Route 613 conversion preparation program took Nguyen more than two years to complete, culminating in that interview with rabbis at the Manhattan beit din. "I was really nervous, even though I felt I had prepared well. I wasn't sure they would be able to see my deep desire to be Jewish."

All the while, her teacher, Rabbi Maury Kelman, was rooting for her. "Every Jewish journey is inspiring to me — to witness what it means to totally transform a life," says Kelman, who directs the program. His dream: "I want every Jew to come to a conversion class or a mikvah during one of their immersions. So everyone can see the passion and deep love these people have for Judaism."

But Nguyen also stands out for

Continued from Page A8
Jonas Salk

He believes that growing up in a culture, Judaism, that encouraged questioning might have played a role in shaping his father's personality, which included his inclination to question. In a microbiology course in his first year of medical school, Jonas Salk challenged one of his professors about the established scientific orthodoxy that infection with a live virus is required in order to induce immunity.

"When the professor couldn't come up with a good answer, my father became committed to exploring the possibility that a killed virus vaccine might, in fact, work," said his son. "He became committed to exploring that question, and that is what led him to his work on the first influenza vaccine, and later, on the polio vaccine."

A key difference between the polio era and this one is the unity of purpose, noted Peter Salk.

"In the polio years, the public was united, and all of my father's work was 100 percent funded by the people of America through the March of Dimes," he said. "So when the results of field trials came out and the vaccine was effective, it was the people's victory."

He stressed that his father was both a scientist and a humanitarian.

Jonas Salk was interested in "the problems that arise from man's

him. "She was so passionate about Judaism and so close to reaching her goal of being Jewish before the pandemic struck, and yet she showed an extraordinary calm in the face of this long delay," he reports.

So on the morning of June 17, it was 36-year-old Amy Nguyen who entered the mikvah in Riverdale, New York (as her boyfriend waited patiently in the car), but it was Maayan Gila bat Avraham who emerged with wet hair and a huge smile under her mask 45 minutes later.

Her first act as a Jew? Making the blessing over the learning of Torah, "which felt so appropriate for my journey ahead to live a meaningful Jewish life," she says.

Among other firsts that week were the first time she lit Shabbat candles as a Jew, offering up a Shehecheyanu prayer "to thank God for guiding me through my journey, all the ups and downs, and for my loving family and even for the delays, so that I could get to where I am today and have a meaningful relationship with Him."

Then came the first Shabbat dinner that Friday night hosted by friends in celebration. As well as the first time she accepted a proposal for marriage — Michael Savetsky, the man who waited in the car outside the mikvah, is now her fiancé, with a wedding set for this month.

She also comes to Judaism equipped with a simpatico set of values, says Kelman. "Because she's someone who's passionate about caring for others — tutoring kids and raising money for needy elderly — she already has a deep feeling for Jewish values. She already knows that in addition to the rituals that are so important to living a Jewish life, helping others is both our

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relationship to man," he said, citing his father's book, *The Survival of the Wisest*. He believes that his father would have viewed the pandemic as an opportunity for everyone to support medical science and vaccine development, and to work on "how we relate to each other in the way we come through this."

The younger Salk said he strongly supports public-health measures like social distancing and mask-wearing. He added that ideally, public-health initiatives also allow for the airing of questions and concerns.

Salk echoed American immunologist Dr. Anthony Fauci, who has served as the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984, who stressed the need for unity in how the world approaches this illness. Salk added, "The missing ingredient right now is cooperation and collaboration."

"So however strong the feelings are — pro- or anti-vaccine, different opinions on masks — the more we can find common ground, the more we can begin to ... pull together and harmonize our actions," the faster he believes the world will succeed in overcoming COVID-19.

Heather Robinson is an independent journalist who specializes in writing about the Middle East, profiling offbeat characters and humanitarians (not always mutually exclusive), and helping readers happily navigate life.

Tradition.

Does Love Conquer All?



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

Our parsha contains more laws than any other. Some of them have generated much study and debate, especially two at the beginning, the law of the captive woman and that of the “stubborn and rebellious son.” There is, however, one law that deserves much more attention than it has generally received, namely the one placed between these two. It concerns the laws of inheritance:

If a man has two wives, and he loves one but not the other, and



both bear him sons but the firstborn is the son of the wife he does not love, when he wills his property to his sons, he must not give the rights of the firstborn to the son of the wife he loves in preference to his actual firstborn, the son of the wife he does not love. He must acknowledge the son of his unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double share of all he has. That son is the first sign of his father's strength. The right of the firstborn belongs to him. (Deut. 21:15-17)

Note that the Hebrew word here translated as “does not love” or “unloved” is *senuah*, which normally means “hated.” We will see later why this strong word is used.

On the face of it, this is a straightforward, logical law. It tells us that love must not override justice. The firstborn, in ancient Israel and elsewhere, have special rights, especially in connection with inheritance. In most societies they tended to succeed to their father's position. That was the case in Israel in relation to kingship and priesthood. They did not inherit all the father's property, but they did inherit twice as much as the other children.

It was important to have rules like the above to avoid damaging family splits every time a death occurred or was imminent. The Torah gives us a graphic example of the court intrigue that went on, as David lay dying, as to which of his children should be his heir. More recently, *lehavdil*, there have been several examples of Hassidic dynasties irreparably torn apart because different groups wanted different individuals to inherit the leadership.

There is a tension between individual liberty and the common good. Individual liberty says, “This wealth is mine. I should be able to do with it what I like, including deciding to whom to hand it on.” But there is also the welfare of others, including the other children, other family members, and the community and society that are damaged by family disputes. The Torah here draws a line, acknowledging the rights of the biological firstborn and circumscribing the rights of the father.

The law as such is straightforward. What makes it remarkable is that it reads as if it were directed against a specific biblical figure,

namely Jacob. One connection is linguistic. The key terms in our law are an opposition between *ahuvah*, “loved,” and *senuah*, “hated/unloved.” This opposition occurs ten times in the Torah. Three have to do with the relationship between us and God: “those who hate Me and those who love Me.” That leaves seven other cases. Four are in the paragraph above. *The other three are all about Jacob:* two of them about his love for Rachel in preference to Leah (Genesis 29:30-31, 32-33), the third about his love for Joseph in preference to the other sons (Genesis 37:4). Both caused great grief within the family and had devastating consequences in the long run.

This is how the Torah describes Jacob's feelings for Rachel:

Jacob loved Rachel and said, ‘I’ll work for you (Laban) seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel’ ... So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her ... And Jacob cohabited with Rachel also; indeed, he loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served him (Laban) another seven years. (Genesis 29:18-30)

And this is its description of the impact it had on Leah:

When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, He enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless. Leah conceived and bore a son, and named him Reuben; for she declared, ‘It means: ‘The Lord has seen my affliction’; it also means: ‘Now my husband will love me.’ She conceived again and bore a son, and declared, ‘This is

because the Lord heard that I was hated and has given me this one also,’ so she named him Simeon. (Gen. 29:31-33)

I have translated the word *senuah* here as “hated” simply to give a sense of the shock of the text as it is in Hebrew. We also understand why this word is used. Leah was, as the text says, loved less than Rachel. Jacob did not hate her, but she *felt* hated, because less loved, thus unloved. This feeling dominated her marriage as we see in the names she gave her eldest children. The rivalry continues and intensifies in the next generation:

When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him and could not speak a peaceful word to him. (Genesis 37:4)

Less loved, the brothers felt hated, and so they hated the more loved Joseph. *Love generates conflict, even though none of the parties want conflict.* Jacob didn't hate Leah or her sons or the sons of the handmaids. He did not deliberately decide to love Rachel and later Joseph. Love doesn't work like that. It happens to us, usually not of our choosing. Yet those outside the relationship can feel excluded and unloved. This feels like being hated. The Torah uses the word *senuah* to tell us how serious the feeling is. It is not enough to say “I love you too,” when every act, every word, every look says, “I love someone else more.”

Which brings us to inheritance. Joseph was the eleventh of Jacob's twelve sons, but the firstborn of Jacob's beloved Rachel. Jacob proceeded to do what our parsha tells us not to do. He deprived Reuven, his and Leah's firstborn, of the birthright, the double portion, and gave it instead to Joseph. To Joseph he said:

Now, your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, shall be mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine no less than Reuben and Simeon. (Gen. 48:5)

Later in the same chapter, he says: “I am about to die; but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers. And now, I assign to you one portion more than to your brothers, which I wrested from the Amorites with my sword and bow” (Gen. 48:21-22). There are many interpretations of this verse, but according to Rashi, “This refers to the birthright, that Joseph's children should receive two portions when Canaan would be divided amongst the tribes.” Jacob's other children would receive one portion, while Joseph would receive two, one for each of his sons Ephraim and Manasseh.

It is against this practice that the law in our parsha is directed. That is what is extraordinary. Jacob/Israel is the father of our people. But specifically in this respect, his conduct must not be taken as a precedent. We are forbidden to act as he did.

The Torah is not telling us that Jacob did wrong. There are all sorts of explanations that reconcile his behaviour with later law. Jacob did not keep the Torah except in the land of Israel (Ramban),

and his gift of a double portion to Joseph happened in Egypt. We are forbidden to transfer the birthright on grounds of love alone, but we may do so if we believe that the firstborn has significant character deficiencies, which Jacob believed to be true of Reuben (Gen. 49:3-4; Abarbanel).

But the law is telling us something very profound indeed. Love is the highest of emotions. We are commanded to love God with all our heart, soul and might. But it is also, in family contexts, fraught with danger. Love ruined Jacob's life, time and again: in his relationship with Esau (Isaac loved Esau, Rebecca loved Jacob), in the relationship between Leah and Rachel, and in the relationship between Joseph and his brothers. Love brings joy. It also brings tears. It brings some people close, but makes others feel distanced, rejected.

Therefore, says the Torah, in our command: when love is likely to be the cause of conflict, it must take second place to justice. Love is partial, justice is impartial. Love is for someone specific; justice is for everyone. Love brings personal satisfaction; justice brings social order.

Judaism is the most effective attempt in history to provide the proper balance between the particular and the universal. It is both. It worships the universal God by way of a particular faith. It believes in a universal connection between God and humanity – we are all in God's image (Gen. 1:27) – and a particular one – “My child, My firstborn, Israel” (Ex. 4:22). It believes in a universal covenant with Noah, and a particular one, with Abraham and later the Israelites. So, it believes in the universality of justice and the particularity of love and the importance of both.

When it comes to the relationship between humans, there is an order of priority. First create justice, then express love. For if we let those priorities be reversed, allowing injustice in the name of love, we will divide and destroy families and groups and suffer the consequences for a long time.

A seemingly minor law about inheritance is in fact a major statement of Jewish values. I believe that Judaism got it right by placing love at the heart of the religious life – love of God, neighbour and stranger – but at the same time recognising that without justice, love will not save us. It may even destroy us.

Shabbat Shalom

Continued from Page A11 Normalization

I was even happier to do so when I represent the State of Israel and not the World Judo Association.”

Now, following the normalization deal, Paltchik hopes that Israel and the UAE can cooperate and train their athletes together.

He said, “I know we will be happy to host them here and will be very happy to fly there as ambassadors of goodwill representing a message of peace and brotherhood. I hope the walls that separate us fall.”

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obligation and our joy. This is a big part of who Amy is, and she's going to make a great Jew because of it.”

And the unexpected (and prolonged) visit to her parents on the West Coast at the moment she was poised to undergo this momentous sea change? “From the outside looking in, it can appear frustrating to have these kinds of setbacks, and to have such a significant journey disrupted,” she says. “But for me, it turned out to be a blessing, allowing me the incredible opportunity to show my family a glimpse of Judaism in a way that I could have never imagined.”

During that time, not only did her mother and father join her for online Torah classes – and take in Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdalah services together online – they witnessed the first Passover seder their daughter led (and the first they'd ever attended). “To experience these moments with my parents – to bring Judaism into their home for the months I was there,” she says, “made my conversion even more meaningful.”

And how did Nguyen select Maayan Gila as her new Jewish name?

“I wanted a way to celebrate my Vietnamese and Jewish identities,” she says. “Mai” was the name of her mother's beloved sister, and the “an” means “peace” in Vietnamese – “something that I'm finding in Judaism,” she adds.

She found Gila, a Hebrew word for “joy,” in the preface of her siddur in a commentary by the Vilna Gaon on King David's words: “This is the day Hashem has made; let us rejoice and be glad with it.”

“The Vilna Gaon goes to explain that that gila is the joy that comes with the completion of a long process,” she explains. “He says it is beyond the moment, but well worth the wait and toil, and a fulfilling sense of joy. I think that sums up my journey. I always felt Jewish without anyone telling me. No matter how difficult my journey has been and how long it's taken, I would never have given it up because that's who I am.”

After the long wait, her dream of living a Jewish life is now rapidly falling into place. “I want to have every aspect of my life infused with Judaism,” she says, including the children she hopes to contribute to the Jewish future.

“I feel different now,” she says. “Before I felt Jewish, but I wasn't; now I feel Jewish, and I am. Now I feel like I really belong.”

Deborah Fineblum is a contributor to JNS.

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“My thing was just drawing out certain... and you saw what came out, and you saw what they said, even down to things like Israel is your place, but come and get it. I bet you can't come and get it.”

He also called British-Jewish business tycoon Lord Alan Sugar “slightly racist” and referenced Canadian rapper Drake, whose mother is Jewish, saying, “The music industry was waiting for Drake. They couldn't wait for him to get there.”

Social.



Israeli judoka Peter Paltchik is pictured with UAE judo officials at the Abu Dhabi Grand Slam in October 2018. Photo: Peter Palchick.

Israel-UAE Normalization Deal Said to Be ‘Judo-Inspired’

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

The International Judo Federation (IJF) and three Israeli judokas agree that the sport played a role in the historic normalization agreement announced by the Jewish state and the UAE last week.

IJF published a statement on its website celebrating the accord, saying, “What if we also told you that it is a judo-inspired agreement? Many would not believe us, although they should.”

“When we address the topic of the pioneers, those who encouraged this rapprochement, those who inspired and promoted an agreement that, at that time, seemed if not impossible, at least extremely complicated, it is necessary to talk about judo,” the IJF added.

In 2015 and 2017, Israeli judokas competed in the Abu Dhabi Grand Slam but were not permitted to showcase any national identification on their uniforms, and they were told that Israel’s anthem and flag would not be presented.

Twelve Israeli judokas brought home five medals from the Abu Dhabi Grand Slam in 2017 and they were all forced to compete under the banner of the IJF. When Israeli judoka Tal Flicker was awarded a gold medal, the IJF flag was raised, and he quietly sang “Hatikvah” to himself as the IJF’s anthem played in the background.

The IJF subsequently suspended the Abu Dhabi Grand Slam tournament in an effort to take a “firm and constructive stance in the fight against discrimination in sport.”

Tournament organizers then agreed to abide by the IJF rules and the tournament was reinstated.

In its story last week, the IJF recalled the sporting breakthrough between Israel and the UAE in October 2018 at the Abu Dhabi Glam Slam when Israeli judokas Sagi Muki and Peter Paltchik individually won gold medals, which led to the raising of the Israeli flag and the playing of “Hatikvah” for the first time in the history of the competition.

Israel’s sports minister at the time, Miri Regev, was also invited to award the medal to Muki.

The IJF said:

Judo smashed down the walls of misunderstanding and anger and for that we want to congratulate the signatories of the agreement from here. If Donald Trump wishes to appropriate the success and paternity of the gestation of the pact, it seems great to us because, after all, Trump himself organized an international judo tournament in Florida a few years ago,

before he was ever a candidate for the White House. Maybe he drew on memories, maybe our values were a source of inspiration. In any case, his mediation has been decisive. But, if you allow us an ephemeral exercise of false modesty, we claim our share in this historic development.”

Muki told *The Algemeiner* this week that judo had in fact served as “a bridge” for normalization between UAE and Israel, starting in 2015, when Israeli judokas first competed in the Abu Dhabi Glam Slam, and especially with the accomplishments Israel achieved at the 2018 competition in terms of the country’s flag being displayed and “Hatikvah” being played.

The gold medalist, 28, even recalled Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu calling him after his 2018 victory in Abu Dhabi and thanking him for helping the national efforts to create peace between the two countries.

Israeli Olympic judoka Ori Sasson similarly told *The Algemeiner* that the accomplishment of having “Hatikvah” played at the 2018 Abu Dhabi Glam Slam helped “pave the road for an open, strong and lasting peace” between the two countries.

“Many times we [athletes] see ourselves as the ambassadors of Israel,” the 30-year-old said. “We reach places like the UAE in which we don’t have diplomatic relationships and then they play ‘Hatikvah’ for the first time. These are people-to-people relationships on a grassroots level that many times pave the road for an open, strong and lasting peace...I do believe that our judo team had a contribution, even if a small one, to this wonderful peace deal with the UAE.”

Paltchik, 28, explained it differently, telling *The Algemeiner*, “Was the agreement signed because of us? No. Have we shown that we can live in peace with each other? Yes.”

“I believe that this peace agreement is the result and combination of quite a few events and interests in the Middle East,” he said. “I believe that sports in general and judo events, in particular, have been a catalyst for understanding that in the end we are all people and working together well can help us build a better Middle East for our child’s future.”

“Our reality in the Middle East consists of over 100 years of conflict, but the sports competitions that give everyone a chance to compete show that it is possible otherwise,” Paltchik added. “I was excited and happy about the opportunity to come to Abu Dhabi and compete, and

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British Rapper Wiley Makes More Antisemitic Remarks in New Interview

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

British rapper Wiley made more antisemitic remarks in an interview on Friday with the YouTube show *FilthyFellas* one month after posting a string of anti-Jewish comments on his social media accounts.

While speaking with *FilthyFellas*, which described the 41-year-old’s antisemitic tirade in July as “wrong and poorly considered and very dangerous,” Wiley repeated previous claims that he “never had a problem with anyone in business other than with some of the Jewish community that I’ve worked with.”

The rapper, whose real name is Richard Cowie,



Rapper Wiley arrives for the Brit Awards, at the O2 Arena in London, Britain, Feb. 22, 2017. Photo: Reuters / Neil Hall.

showed very little remorse for his past comments, simply saying, “I would have worded it differently.” He added that he was representing the opinions of “my people,” claiming, “A lot of what I am going on about, it is deep-rooted. It is institutional; it’s systemic; it’s in place anyway.”

Wiley told the interviewer, Poet, “My word is not vicious or malicious. They tried to say ‘He’s Hitler.’ No I’m not. Hitler is a wicked man ... [he’s] got tanks, guns. I’m nothing like Hitler. I just clocked.”

He then said: “I’m right. I’m right. The Jewish community do own a lot of s-t on this planet, and they do, with other societies, run the Earth. They own everything. I’m not antisemitic if I say the Jewish community’s very powerful, they own this, they own that — I’m not wrong. I’m not wrong. If I say there’s sheikhs who own a lot of oil — am I wrong?”

Wiley was banned from YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram following his antisemitic tirade in July. He told *FilthyFellas* that he was compelled to speak out publicly about the Jewish community after hearing American media personality Nick Cannon voice antisemitic conspiracy theories, which the latter subsequently apologized for.

Wiley, who also dismissed claims that he was a Holocaust denier in the *FilthyFellas* interview, then referenced the “shut down” of his social media accounts.

He said: “Twitter, shut down — who owns Twitter, do you reckon? Instagram, shut down — who owns Instagram, do you reckon? Facebook — shut down — we all know who owns Facebook. YouTube shutdown, Google, who owns that do you reckon? That’s the first lot of people who have shown who they are.”

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