



U. S. House votes to condemn the BDS Movement

The U. S. House of Representatives voted to condemn the movement to boycott Israel and Israeli –based companies, aka the BDS movement. The Vote was 398-to-17 with five house members abstaining. H.Res.246 - Opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel, was introduced on March 21, 2019, by Rep. Bradley Scott Schneider (D-IL). The House voted for the bipartisan resolution over the strenuous objections of some of their Democratic colleagues; condemning the BDS movement for its insistence on promoting the principles of collective guilt, and “applying mass punishment and group isolation, which are destructive of prospects for progress towards peace.”

Among those voting against the resolution was Representatives Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY.) One Republican member, Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) also voted against the resolution.

Rashida Tlaib, the first Palestinian woman to serve in Congress, lobbied hard to defeat the resolution; first, taking to Twitter and decrying the attack on “our freedom of speech” and accusing the resolution of attempting to silence, “the opposition to Israel’s blatantly racist policies that demonize both Palestinians and Ethiopians.” Prior to the vote Tlaib implored house members to vote no. “I stand before you the daughter of Palestinian immigrants,” Tlaib implored, “parents who experienced

being stripped of their human rights, the right to freedom of travel, equal treatment. So I can't stand by and watch this attack on our freedom of speech and the right to boycott the racist policies of the government and the state of Israel. I love our country's freedom of speech, Madam Speaker. Dissent is how we nurture democracy."

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez also attempted to derail the resolution. Omitting any direct reference to BDS, Palestine or Israel; Ocasio introduced her own resolution to defend the pro-Palestinian movement; her version stated, the House affirms "that all Americans have the right to participate in boycotts in pursuit of civil and human rights at home and abroad, as protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution." But, to no avail, the House overwhelmingly voted for the resolution.

Many progressives also supported the measure. Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), an African American woman and a part of the so-called 'squad,' came under fire for voting in favor of the resolution; she defended her vote describing it, "an expression of solidarity with Jewish families and with marginalized communities that continue to face heightened threats to their safety in this volatile moment driven by hateful rhetoric from the Trump Administration." Pressley went on to say, "We can call out and question the tactics of a movement but we should never question or marginalize the lived experiences and voices of those who call out for civil rights and liberties, including the Palestinian people." Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) who also voted

for the resolution, said in a recent interview with Mondoweiss, "While he doesn't support criminalizing the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS), he doesn't believe that "BDS will help achieve either a two state solution or the recognition of rights for Palestinians."

The BDS Movement is a Palestinian- led movement supposedly designed to apply economic pressure to the government of Israel, compelling it to improve treatment and restore the rights of the Palestinian population living within its borders. Critics counter; the BDS movement is little more than an elaborate scheme to undermine and delegitimize the world's only Jewish state. They point to the hypocrisy of Israel being held to a much stricter standard than any other country in the world, and contend the only real goal of the movement is the destruction of Israel. Few; however, seem to have noticed how the injection of the BDS movement into the social justice repertoire has introduced a new era of divisiveness that endangers and destabilizes progressive politics as a whole. ✡

Congregation Ahavas Sholom

President – Eric Freedman

Rabbi Simon Rosenbach

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Ahavas Sholom says farewell to a couple of good friends



Aline Florence Mbaye-kette

Congregation Ahavas Sholom bids a fond farewell to Aline Florence Mbaye-kette; who left this week to start a new life with her husband, Freddy, in Boise, Idaho. The best of luck to you and the family Aline; we hope to see you again, very soon.



Harold Kravis and his wife Jill Terry

We also wish Harold Kravis and his wife Jill all the best as they prepare to relocate to the Jersey shore. Harold is such a great guy; I will surely miss his company and can-do attitude. Luckily, Harold has promised to visit us pretty regularly. Best of luck in your new digs Harold, and to you too Jill.



MAZON Opposes Trump Administration's assault on SNAP



WASHINGTON, July 23, 2019 -- In response to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announcement to eliminate “Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility” for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger expressed grave concern at the Administration’s plan to eliminate vital nutrition benefits for people working hard to break the cycle of poverty and put food on the table.

MAZON President & CEO Abby J. Leibman explained, “This proposed elimination of the Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility state option would mean the loss of critically needed SNAP benefits for an estimated 3 million individuals nationwide. It is unconscionable for USDA to propose this change that would increase hunger and hardship in America. This change takes us in exactly the wrong direction at a time when we should be doing more to ensure that all those who struggle are able to put food on the table.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the administration’s latest proposal, an “act of staggering callousness.” Sen. Debbie

Approximately 3.1 million Americans will lose their food stamp benefits under the changes proposed by the Trump Administration.



MAZON President & CEO Abby J. Leibman

Stabenow (D-MI) said the Administration’s actions would, “take food away from families, prevent children from getting school meals, and make it harder for states to administer food assistance.” Categorical eligibility has proven to be a successful flexibility utilized by the vast majority of states over the past 20 years. It simplifies the SNAP application process for both applicants and program administrators. MAZON Vice President of Public Policy Josh Protas underscored that the USDA proposal is “a brazen attempt to undermine

Congressional intent, as clearly expressed in the bipartisan 2018 Farm Bill that rejected a move to eliminate the categorical eligibility state option. Today's proposed action by the Trump administration would infringe yet again on states' rights by denying a broadly-utilized and effective flexibility."

Categorical eligibility gives states the flexibility to provide SNAP benefits to families in need who have already met the stringent qualifications necessary to receive another type of government assistance. The program provides key benefits for working families by mitigating the "benefit cliff," an obstacle faced by many Americans who struggle to find sufficient employment.

Leibman concluded, "It is unfair and unjust to deny life-sustaining nutrition benefits to families working hard to make ends meet. As an organization founded on Jewish values and teachings, we honor a fundamental value to take care of the most vulnerable among us out of a collective responsibility for each other. Despite the harsh rhetoric, demonization of the poor, and lack of empathy that marks this administration, we are steadfast in cultivating the political will to uplift those whose hunger is often ignored, and to harness the power of our community to fight on behalf of those who are struggling. We recognize that hunger is as prevalent as it is pernicious, and that food insecurity is not restricted to third world countries or people who are experiencing homelessness. We believe that the nearly 40 million Americans who struggle *with* hunger—including military

families, single mothers, college students, Native Americans, and seniors—should have access to healthy and nutritious meals. Government should work to expand, not limit, access to nutritious food for those in need." ☆

American Hunger Facts

In 2017, 40 million people struggled with hunger in the United States.

Over 12 million children in the US are food insecure.

45 million Americans rely on stipends from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to buy food each month, according to the USDA. 2/3 of these benefits go to households with children.

1 in 6 American children may not know where their next meal is coming from.

Children who experience food insecurity are at a higher risk of developing asthma, struggling with anxiety or depression, and performing poorly in school or physical activities.

15% of families living in rural areas experience food insecurity, compared with 11.8% living in suburban and metropolitan areas.

These 8 states have the highest rates of food insecurity in the United States: Mississippi (18.7%), Louisiana (18.3%), Alabama (18.1%), New Mexico (17.6%), Arkansas (17.5%), Kentucky (17.3%), Maine (16.4%), Oklahoma (15.2%).

92% of SNAP households have incomes below the poverty line. Additionally, 82% of all SNAP benefits go to the most vulnerable households – those with children, elderly or disabled people

Simon Says

Weekly insights from Rabbi Simon Rosebach



Rabbi Simon Rosenbach

Belatedly, I want to address the wish that some portion of adults in this Country has, the expressed desire to send American citizens back to the countries of their ancestors. The President voiced this sentiment a couple of weeks ago, when he criticized four newly-elected members of the House of Representatives. The President obviously disagrees with the ideology of these four women (as do I sometimes), as is his

right. The President said more, however. He demanded that these four women “go back” to the countries “from which they came.”

Now, as you all know from following the news, all four Representatives are United States citizens, and three of the four were born here. Much has made of the nature of these four Congressmen: they are women, and they are women of color, and two of them are Muslim. These characteristics of the targets of the President’s ire have led some people to accuse the President of racism. I care about the racism of our leaders, but that is not what this column is about. This column is about 20,000 people at a presidential rally in North Carolina, and I suspect that they are representative of many more people in this Country, chanting, “Send them back” for 15 seconds.

We Jews have led a precarious life. We were expelled from England in the 13th century, and not allowed back until the 17th century. We were expelled from France repeatedly during the Middle Ages. We were expelled from Spain famously in 1492. We were expelled from Arab countries in the 20th century. We were not expelled from Germany during the 20th century; we were murdered. Our numbers are low, people keep inventing new reasons to hate us, and we live in every country (except Israel) at the forbearance of the majority. Even so-called civilized countries enact antisemitic laws in the guise of rational statutes. Sweden, for example, bans

kosher slaughtering of animals, although Sweden permits the importation of kosher meat. Every now and then, and every now and then is more frequently occurring, a country or a part of a country proposes a ban of male circumcision.

We in the United States have the protection of the United States Constitution, but that legal protection will not matter if the majority of the population starts to chant, "Send them back."

You say, it will not happen here, but it has happened here already:

We were not expelled from Germany during the 20th century; we were murdered. Our numbers are low, people keep inventing new reasons to hate us.

we live in a country that interned citizens of Japanese ancestry during World War II. You say, it will not happen here, but is already happening here. Not to Jews, but for people of African descent and Puerto Rican descent. As Jews, we have a vested interest in tolerance, even of people who espouse proposals that are antisemitic. If the majority of the Country succeeds in deporting citizens because the majority of the Country does not agree with some of

those citizens say, mark my words: we will be next. ✡



Help Us Remodel Our Kitchen

It's been estimated it will take \$60,000 to properly renovate our kitchen.

April Modlinger, who has always been a pillar at Congregation Ahavas Sholom, has generously pledged \$10,000 to making this happen.

We have recently received another pledge for \$2,200, bringing the total to \$12,200.

With your help Congregation Ahavas Sholom will soon have a kitchen we all deserve.

Make your pledge today!

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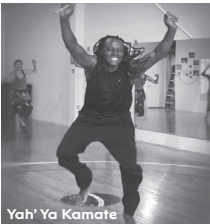
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Dyane Harvey Salaam

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July 8

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July 22

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July 29

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For more information, contact Eyesha Marable at
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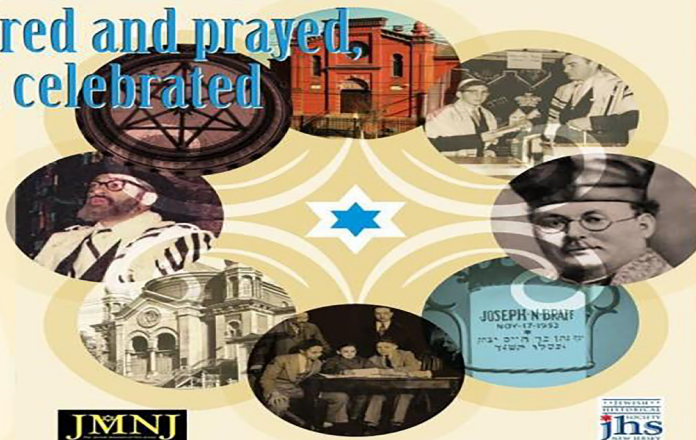
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CAS Tzedakah Honor Roll

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so generously to support Congregation Ahavas
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Some entries may be duplications, if so I apologize.

When We were Arabs:

New book chronicles of life and journey of Arab Jews



Journalist, Lucette Lagnado

As we mourn last week's loss of the iconic writer, Lucette Lagnado, an Egyptian-Jew whose memoir, 'The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit', won the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature; another Jewish literary voice has stepped into the void. Massoud Hayoun's new book, 'When we were Arabs: A Jewish Family's Forgotten History,' has been described as a stunning debut of a brilliant nonfiction writer whose vivid account of his grandparents' lives in Egypt, Tunisia, Palestine, and Los Angeles reclaims his family's Jewish Arab identity. Lagnado's

memoir described the beauty and majesty of Cairo; chronicled the rise of Islamic nationalism; how the growing threat forced her family to flee the country they loved; eventually immigrating to America and settling in Brooklyn. Hayoun's family; however, relocated numerous times throughout the area before making its way to America.

According to Hayoun; there was a time when being an "Arab" didn't mean you were Muslim necessarily. It was a time when Arab-ness was a mark of cosmopolitanism, of intellectualism. 'To reclaim a worldly, nuanced Arab identity is, for Hayoun, part of a larger project; to recall a time before ethnic identity was mangled for political ends. It is also a journey deep into a lost age of sophisticated innocence in the Arab world; an age that is now nearly lost. Though the book is described as part memoir, part family history and part political tirade; Hayoun's prose brings new life to the story of his grandparents; and offers a contemporary understanding of what makes an Arab, what makes a Jew and what makes for a peaceful co-existence.

When we were Arabs, describes vividly, a period in Jewish history that people; Jews and non-Jews alike, know precious little about. ☆

Kiddush Sponsorship

Sponsoring Kiddush is \$150, which barely covers the cost of the lunch. Our goal is to have every Kiddush sponsored. To sponsor a Kiddush, email Rabbi Rosenbach or contact Alla Eicheldinger at Alla7815@yahoo.com. You can also help us by shopping, which doesn't cost any money, just a little time. We'll give you a list of items, you shop and we'll reimburse you.

Our Sister Synagogue in Uganda Needs Our Help

Ravaged by famine and drought, the Namutumba Synagogue is reaching out to us; let's not disappoint them.

The Namutumba Famine Relief Fund to learn more [Click here](#)

Shabbat Services

Join us this Saturday for Shabbat services. Strangers, visitors, friends, old and new; our doors are open to you. Looking for a new home? New members are always welcome at Congregation Ahavas Sholom services starts at 9:00AM. Our congregation is open and welcoming, so feel free to pay us a visit.



This week's choir rehearsal will be held in the sanctuary after Kiddush.