



# Donald Trump takes a swipe at American Jews



*Donald J. Trump*

**A**merican Jews were stunned and appalled when Donald Trump suggested that U.S. Jews who voted Democratic were either stupid or disloyal. The statement

stung those with knowledge of Jewish history, and was a stark reminder of the accusations that have been lodged at the Jewish people for



Ilhan Omar (MN.)

centuries. Trump made the statement, earlier this week, while lashing- out at Democratic representatives Rashida Tlaib (MI) and Ilhan Omar

(MN.) The two women (Both supporters of the BDS movement) were scheduled to visit Israel; but, at the urging of Donald Trump, the government reversed itself and barred them. After being refused entry to Israel, Tlaib and Omar held a joint press conference. Omar said U.S. aid to Israel should be tied to its treatment of Palestinians and questioned whether aid should continue; in light of the country "denying a visit to duly elected members of Congress." Trump has been targeting Tlaib and Omar for months; portraying them, not only as fervently anti-Semitic; but as the face of the entire Democratic Party. Trump has also disparaged the Democratic Party for not calling out the two freshmen U.S. Representatives on the issue of Israel. Though Democratic leaders have expressed support for Tlaib and Omar they've also been careful to stay clear of their controversial statements. There; however, are three problems with Donald Trump's position, 1.) Donald Trump's belief that Jews are one

homogeneous people with a single world view is inaccurate, 2.) Jews of the dysphoria have had their loyalties questioned too many times to count over the millennia, and are a little touchy on the subject, and 3.) . Trump failed to recognize many of his staunchest supporters embrace an Alt-Right ideology; Neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and Ultra-Nationalists



Chuck Schumer (D-NY)

are often openly anti-Semitic. In 2017, when Unite the Right protesters descended on Charlottesville N.C. to

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oppose the removal of the statue of Robert E. Lee from Charlottesville's Lee Park, the loose conglomeration of alt-right protestors marched through the streets chanting, "Jews will not replace us."

American Jews were quick to respond. Logan Bayroff, Director of Communications for J Street, a liberal pro- Israel group, released a statement calling Trump's comments "dangerous and shameful. He noted that 70 percent of American Jews voted for Hillary Clinton and 75 percent voted for Democratic Congressional candidates in 2018. "They're (Jews) loyal to the Jewish and liberal democratic values of tolerance, equality, social justice and the pursuit of peace, not to the far-right agenda of this president..."

MAZON- A Jewish Hunger organization, issued a statement saying, "The president's dangerous and exclusionary language is unacceptable, un-American, and beyond pale. Such sentiments have no place in public discourse particularly from the president of the United States." Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) chimed in saying, "Let me say this to the president: I am a proud Jewish person, and I have no concerns about voting Democratic." Another Jew, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), posted on Twitter, "When he (Trump) uses a trope that's been used against the Jewish people for centuries with dire consequences, he is encouraging — wittingly or unwittingly — anti-Semites throughout the country and world. Enough." Clearly, Trump doesn't understand his staunch support of Israel (though appreciated) will not result in groves of American Jews running to his side, because, In America, Israel is not the only issue on the table. ✨



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“Mazel tov to Rosemary and Rob Steinbaum on the continued success of their son Marshal as he begins his Associate Professorship in Economics at the University of Utah

Not to be out done, a hearty congratulations to Rosemary and Rob themselves as they were victorious this past weekend in the annual family regatta on Lake Hopatcong. They hoisted the trophy for only the second time in the regatta’s 41 year history, a truly rigorous and competitive event. It was only fitting since it fell on the Yahrzeit week of the Steinbaum’s beloved father Paul! All we can say to Rosemary and Rob is ‘continue to ride the crest of the wave’!!

Lastly, The Boxer /Schonhaut family has nachas to report, as well:

- Mia S. Boxer earned her Master’s in Social Work from Rutgers in May.
- Ava S. Boxer and Kate S. Boxer will be starting graduate programs this fall: Ava will be studying at College of St. Elizabeth to work towards earning a Master’s in Applied Behavior Analysis.
- Kate S. Boxer will be studying at NYU Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences to work towards earning a Ph.D. in Computer Sciences.

# SIMON

# SAYS

## Thought Provoking Insights from Rabbi Simon Rosenbach



*Rabbi Simon Rosenbach*

**A**nother week, another controversy. On Tuesday, President Trump criticized again Representatives Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, and again criticized the Democratic Party for not ostracizing Omar and Tlaib. He concluded his

remarks with, "I think any Jewish people that votes for a Democrat, I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty."

This sentence was vague. The sentence didn't reference "a total lack of knowledge" of what, or a "great disloyalty" to whom or what. The President's supporters defended the President's words, saying that the President was criticizing American Jews when they supported the Democratic Party, among whose members were Omar and Tlaib, who support the BDS movement and who are arguably (in my opinion, we can delete "arguably") antisemitic. The President's supporters also said that the President was suggesting that Jews who supported the Democratic Party are disloyal to "their interests as Jews." (Caroline Glick, as quoted in Haaretz).

The President's words were roundly criticized by the head of the ADL and the American Jewish Committee. The AJC issued a statement that said, "Your assessment of their knowledge or loyalty, based on their party preference, is divisive, disrespectful, and unwelcome." The ADL referenced in its statement the ages-old charge

of dual loyalty against the Jews.

The President, clarified what he meant on Wednesday, when he said that when Jews vote for a Democrat, they are “being disloyal to Jewish people and [they are] being very disloyal to Israel.”

***“How dare a person, whether it be a Jew or a non-Jew, characterize my interpretation of Jewish values as disloyal to Judaism.”***

That statement turns the ages-old charge of dual loyalty against the Jews on its head: the President actually demanded dual loyalty of Jews.

Maybe you, like me, are tired of being told what to think. Give me the facts and the arguments in favor or against policies, and I will decide what to think. I am offended that I am labeled disloyal to Israel because I don't think the Israeli government's policies in regard to the West Bank Palestinians are counterproductive and wrong. (Don't get me wrong; there was and still is blindness and obstinacy on behalf of the Palestinian leadership.) I am offended that I am labeled disloyal to Israel because I don't think Haredi youth should be exempt from military service. I am offended that I am labeled disloyal to Israel because I think, in the interest of political gain, Israel is becoming a theocracy that segregates sexes on public busses and doesn't allow women to sing at public events. I am offended that I am labeled disloyal to Israel

because I think that Israeli government is afraid to let people in whose views differ from the Israeli government's, be they Birthright travelers or United States Representatives.

I am offended that I am labeled disloyal to the Jewish people when I decry income equality. I am offended that I am labeled disloyal to the Jewish people when I protest against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. I am offended that I am labeled disloyal to the Jewish people when I protest against the savaging of the safety net. I am offended that I am labeled disloyal to the Jewish people when I protest against the war upon women's health care.

Jewish values are not incompatible with capitalism. You can lend money, earn a profit, amass wealth. Jewish values are also not incompatible with self-survival. You can maintain a standing army, you can kill in warfare to protect the Jewish people, and you can evolve policies that insure your survival. But the Torah and the Prophets say you are obligated to pay workers a living wage. The Torah and the Prophets say you are obligated to remove stumbling blocks in front of blind people. The Torah and Prophets say you are obligated to love the stranger, because we were strangers in a land not our own. The Torah and the Prophets say you are obligated to let a woman you take captive grieve for her parents for 30 days. How dare a person, whether it be a rabbi or politician, characterize my interpretation of Jewish values. How



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dare a person, whether it be a Jew or a non-Jew, characterize my interpretation of Jewish values as disloyal to Judaism. I don't want to be an alarmist, but that is the first step on very treacherous road. ✨

# Congress woman calls for the boycott of Comedian's show, sort of.

**R**ep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) called for the boycott of Bill Maher and his show, Real Time With Bill Maher; the



*Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI)*



Comedian, talk show host, Bill Maher

long running show that airs on HBO. She made the remarks after, Maher lambasted the BDS movement as, "a bulls\*&t purity test by people who want to appear woke but actually slept through history class," during the show.

Tlaib quickly fired back, "I am tired of folks discrediting a form of speech that is centered on equality and freedom," she said on Twitter. "This is exactly how they tried to discredit & stop the boycott to stand up against the apartheid in South Africa. It didn't work then and it won't now."

Maher countered, citing the overwhelming House vote (398-17) to condemn the BDS movement then asked, "Does Tlaib want to boycott 93% of her own party?" In truth, Tlaib actually said, ""maybe folks should boycott his show," which is a far cry from calling for a boycott. Still the two continue to lob insults at one another

This isn't the first time Maher's biting brand of comedy has resulted in his going to war with a public figure. During a 2013 appearance on the Tonight Show,



Maher joked to Jay Leno that he would donate \$5 million to a charity if Trump could prove he wasn't "the spawn of his mother having sex with an orangutan." He quickly added, "I'm not saying it's true...I hope it's not true; but, unless he comes up with proof. He went on to say, "I'm willing to offer \$5 million to Donald Trump, that he can donate to a charity of his choice-- Hair Club for Men --The Institute for Incurable Douche-bag-ery --Whatever charity." Trump, promptly sued Maher for five million dollars; contending he had provided the comedian with a New York birth certificate that proved he didn't descend from an ape; but, Maher hadn't paid up. Eventually Trump withdrew the lawsuit; promising to re-file an "amended complaint at a later date.

Tlaib, the first female Muslim to serve in Congress and a vocal proponent of the BDS movement, was slated to visit Israel with a fellow freshman representative, Ilhan Omar (D-MN.) Initially, the Israeli government consented to the visit; however, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reversed course after a number of tweets from the

President. Later in the week, the Israeli government said it would allow Tlaib to enter the country if she filed a humanitarian request to visit her grandmother. Tlaib initially filed and then withdrew the request, saying in a tweet that visiting Israel under those conditions stood against what she believes in. While I have little doubt U. S. representatives Omar and Tlaib did not plan to visit Israel with an evenhanded agenda, Omar insisted, their trip was meant to be much more comprehensive and expansive than detractors have indicated. She said they had planned to meet with Israeli security, members of the Knesset, former IDF personnel as well as with Palestinian groups. There was; however, no mention of meeting and talking with everyday Israelis. Even so, as representatives of an ally country that provides you with billions in foreign aid; they should have been afforded all the respect given to others in the past, and you'll never change someone's opinion without sharing your side of the story. ✨



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# Jewish Leaders Condemn “Never Again” Anti-ICE Event as “Utterly Contrary to Jewish Values”

**T**he Coalition for Jewish Values (CJV), representing over 1000 traditional rabbis in matters of public policy, today condemned the planned “Never Again Action Noise Rally” intended to disrupt operations on Monday at a federal contractor that helps process undocumented immigrants entering the United States. The event announcement refers to “Never Again” and “deportation,” a combination designed to evoke images of Jews shipped in cattle cars to the murderous death camps of the Nazi era. The CJV called the event “a trivialization of the Holocaust and utterly contrary to authentic Jewish values.”

“It’s offensive in so many ways that one loses count,” said Rabbi Steven Pruzansky, Eastern Regional Vice President of the CJV. “It maligns the targeted company and its employees, defames ICE agents, displays woeful ignorance of history, trivializes and distorts the Holocaust, and is a vulgar insult to six million murdered Jews and the survivors of that horror. The fact that many of the protesters will be Jewish themselves merely makes it worse.”

The CJV further noted that the event calls for protesters to “express rage,” a half step short of an explicit call for violence – less than a month after an armed man attacked an ICE detention center in Tacoma, Washington, and was shot and killed by police. Rabbi Pruzansky observed that “the same leftist politicians anxious to call criticism of their views ‘incitement’ seem to see nothing wrong in calling for ‘rage’ against people working on behalf of the government they claim to lead. Certainly, the organizers must take responsibility for any violence that transpires, and for threatening the lives and

safety of government employees and contractors.” “Their misuse of Jewish values and identity is truly painful,” added Rabbi Yaakov Menken, Managing Director of the CJV. “The event announcement even references Tisha B’Av, trotting out a day recalling Jewish tragedies utterly disregarded in leftist circles as a political prop. Until June 2019, everyone understood that comparing genocidal Nazi death camps to anything short of genocidal death camps was despicable, and had any right-wing politician made such a comparison, all these shofar-blowing justice warriors would have (quite correctly) joined us in strong condemnation. But they are happy to jettison millennia of Jewish teachings to support the mendacious meanderings of a ‘progressive’ superstar. And that is perhaps the greatest tragedy of all.” 🌟

## The Weequahic High School Alumni Association HALL OF DISTINCTION INDUCTEES

Warren Grover, 1955 - Author, historian, and co-founder of the Newark History Society.

Stanley Markowitz, 1955 - Educator, professor, activist for peace and social justice.

Eli Hoffman, 1956 - President of the Jaqua Foundation in NJ.

Paul Tractenberg, 1956 - Founder of Education Law Center and Institute on Education Law and Policy.

Jacob Toporek, 1963 - Executive Director NJ State Association of Jewish Federations, WHS Note newsletter.

Steven Dinetz, 1965 - CEO of Nest Media, President of the Chancellor Foundation.

Wilfredo Nieves, 1966 - Educator, President of Capital Community College in Hartford, Connecticut.

Carrie Jackson, 1968 - Jazz vocalist, producer/arranger, recording artist, CEO of C-Jay Records.

Honorable Sheila Oliver, 1970 - NJ Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the NJ State Assembly.

Antoinette Baskerville-Richardson, 1970 - Chief Education Officer for the City of Newark.

Hisani Dubose, 1971 - Film producer, screenwriter, director and founder of NJ Movie Maker's Network.

Dr. Frederick Tyson, 1972 - Scientific Program Director at the National Institute of Environmental Health Services.

### Deceased

Dr. Nathan Weiss, 1940 - Longtime President of Kean University, graduate school named after him, and author.

David Schechner, 1946 - Attorney, leader in Jewish community, synagogue historian, WHS Alumni trustee.

Hal Braff, 1952 - Attorney, civil rights activist, co-founder of the WHS Alumni Association and avid Mets fan.

Dr. Eleanor Lutzke Lewis, 1959 - Social and consumer justice advocate who worked with Ralph Nader.

Dr. James Oliver Horton, 1961 - Professor Emeritus, scholar of African American history, and author.

Sadie Rous, Faculty, 1935-1968 - Popular and well-respected Social Studies teacher for 33 years.

Coach Burney Adams, Faculty, 1968-2002 - Legendary football coach and mentor for 34 years.



# New Israeli based series, 'Our Boys' comes to HBO

**C**urrently, there's a flush of Jewish –themed shows on the small screen. There's Shtisel and Mossad 101 on Netflix, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel on Amazon Prime, of course we can't forget the fabulously over the top Will & Grace, and now HBO is introducing its own entry, 'Our Boys.' The 10-part miniseries is an unflinching look at the conflicts embroiling the Jewish state; not only the conflict between the Israeli and Palestinian population; but, the tension between the secular and ultra-Orthodox communities as well. The series revolves around the investigation into the death of Mohammed Abu Khdeir, a

a bloody seven-week war between Israel and Hamas. The series, which focuses on the investigation, does not delve very deeply into the initial kidnapping case; but, uses it as a reference and a flashpoint to what happens next. Shortly after the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teens, Mohammed Khdeir, a 16 year old Palestinian goes missing. The investigation unearths the fear, anger, and resentment of everyone it touches. It also touches on self-imposed denial and the political posturing politicians, of every stripe, use as a platform to elevate themselves at the expense of any real progress. After the crime, Israelis refuse to even consider the culprits could be one of their own. The situation worsens, when Benjamin Netanyahu goes on television and essentially absolves all Israelis on symbolic moral grounds. How can you find someone you aren't even looking for, and when you decide to look, you're looking in all the wrong places? The pacing of 'Our Boys' is slow and methodical, the scenes powerful and gut-wrenching and the acting, engrossing and moving. Somewhat disappointing; yet, not unexpected many of the negative user reviews I read focused more on the political/ ideological aspect of the events rather than the shared tragedy that besets all involved. Though occasionally uncomfortable, Our Boys is worth watching, absolutely. ✨



Palestinian youth, who is kidnapped and burned to death, shortly after the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teens in the summer of 2014, which ultimately leads to

# Kiddush Sponsorship Shabbat Services

**L**ast Week's Kiddush was sponsored by Allan and Joan Podnos; this week's Kiddush is being sponsored by Shira Hallel, in honor of Lillian Bookman. Sponsoring Kiddush is \$150.00, 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 Allah Eicheldinger at [alla7815@yahoo.com](mailto:alla7815@yahoo.com). You can also help by shopping; which doesn't cost money, just a little time. We'll give you a list of items, you shop and we'll reimburse you. Whatever you can do will be appreciated, greatly.

**J**oin us at Ahavas Sholom this Saturday for Shabbat services. Strangers, visitors; friends - old & new - our doors are open to you. Looking for a new home? New members are always welcome at Congregation Ahavas Sholom. Shabbat services start at 9:00am. Our congregation is open and welcoming; feel free to pay us a visit, anytime.



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