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VOL. 16 NO. 8

I KISLEV 5776

פרשת תולדות

NOVEMBER 13, 2015

An Iron Dome Salute



A delegation of American Jews and other dignitaries went to Congress last week to pay tribute to members of the House of Representatives for their support of Israel's defense and security. See story at right.

FROM THE **EDITOR**

BY LARRY GORDON

A Day In DC

The support for Israel is both heartening and reassuring. They are strong words of support that if you live in Israel or support or care about the Jewish state, you can rest assured that America is behind Israel without any reservations or doubt. And that's good.

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Reality Check: AIPAC Is Not Israel

BY JEFF BALLABON

Last month, this paper published a piece I wrote ("How AIPAC Failed Us," October 9) arguing that AIPAC misinforms the Orthodox Jewish community about its policies and practices in order to recruit members and fundraise. The

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Jeff Ballabon

HEARD IN THE BAGEL STORE

BY LARRY GORDON

'We Heard A Boom'

They had already davened Minchah early last Friday afternoon before returning to their veshiva dormitory room for the weekend in Yeshiva Shavei Hebron. Three hundred and thirty students are learning in this school, just a few





Yosef, Ronen, and Eli Borochov in Hebron

KOSHER DUCK DYNASTY



At this week's Kosherfest in the Meadowlands, many of the myriad attendees raved about the delicious duck sausage and other poultry products at Eliezer Franklin's booth for Pelleh Poultry (Deli.Pelleh@gmail.com or Instagram @pellehpoultry).

STRANDED IN GERMANY

BY PHYLLIS KOEGEL MARKETING DIRECTOR, OU KOSHER

When I was growing up, my father always used to tell me that I had to learn to take care of myself. If I was ever in trouble, he explained, no one would help me. His attitude wasn't a surprise; my late father survived Dachau. Known to all

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PROFITING FROM LOSS

Halachic Musings

BY RABBI YAIR HOFFMAN

Here's the case: A yeshiva is in trouble. Its mortgage, now up to \$9.65 million, has not been paid and the bank now wants to minimize its exposure. Unbeknownst to the parent body or the new board of

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November 12-November 21 **ZIP Code: 11516**

Wednesday night-Thursday, November 11-12

1st day Rosh Chodesh Kislev

1 Kislev

Friday, November 13

2nd day Rosh Chodesh Kislev Daf yomi: Sotah 18

| Earliest tallis/tefillin: | | 5:43 am |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| Sunrise: | | 6:39 am |
| Latest Shema: | | |
| M. Av. | 8:32 am | |
| Gr'a | 9:08 am | |
| P'lag ha'minchah: | | 3:36 pm |
| Candle Lighting: | 4:21 | pm |

Saturday, November

Parashas Toldos Shabbos ends:* 5:27 pm

5:56 pm

Friday, November 20

Daf yomi: Sotah 25

| Earliest tallis/tefillin: | 5:50 am | | |
|---------------------------|---------|--|--|
| Sunrise: | 6:48 am | | |
| Latest Shema: | | | |
| M. Av. | 8:37 am | | |
| Gr'a | 9:13 am | | |
| P'lag ha'minchah: | 3:32 pm | | |
| Candle Lighting: | 4:15 pm | | |

Saturday, November 21

Parashas Vayeitzei Shabbos ends:**

5:22 pm

5:50 pm 72 min.

All times from MyZmanim.com

** includes 5 minutes for tosefes Shabbos

Look for the next issue of the 5TJT on newsstands Thursday, November 19



FROM THE EDITOR

Continued from Front Cover

Last week I attended a tribute to the U.S. Congress and the support of legislation that funded Israel's Iron Dome and David's Sling technology to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. This is an annual event, six months in the planning by chassidic political consultant Ezra Friedlander who works his way around Capitol Hill with ease and panache.

You can see in the way he interfaces with some of the most influential members of Congress a confident and real expression of gratitude for the bipartisan support for Israel that this group of congressmen and women are representative of. "Some members of the House used to ask why we were doing this and what it was that we wanted in return," Friedlander said on the way to Washington. "I told them and still tell those who ask that we do not want anything-just to say thank you. And they greatly appreciate that."

Friedlander manages to attract

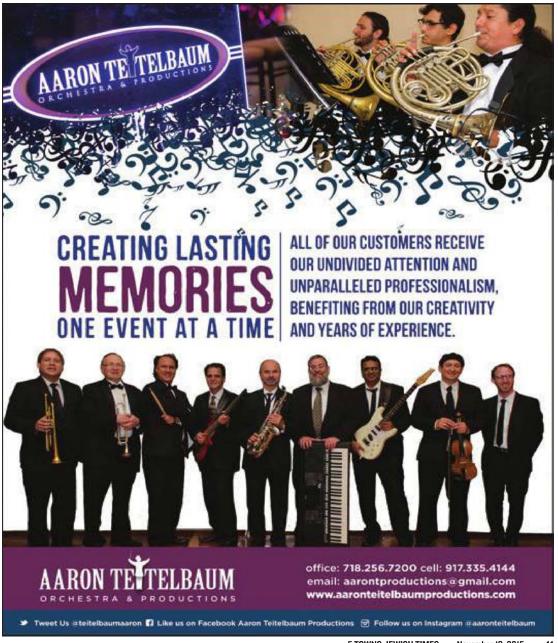


Pictured above (L-R): Rep. Lee Zeldin, Eli Verschleiser, Miles Berger, Joseph B. Stamm, Sol Goldner, Foreign Affairs Chair Ed Royce, Stanley Treitel, Ezra Friedlander, and Leon Goldenberg. Pictured on cover (L-R): Ezra Friedlander, Eli Verschleiser, Miles Berger, Sol Goldner, Stanley Treitel, Rep. Lee Zeldin, Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, Joseph B. Stamm, Leon Goldenberg, Appropriations Chair Hal Rogers, Rep. Mike Rogers, Rep. Derek Kilmer, Chief Rabbi Itzhak Yehoshua, and Tamara Holder of Fox News

important members of Congress to events like these that he organizes several times a year. And there were powerful and influential members present at the Iron Dome tribute last week as

well. We will get to who they were and what they had to say shortly. For now it is important to note that while sup-

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FROM THE EDITOR

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port for Israel in Congress is strong—as it has always been—there are also some serious problems.

First off, Congress today is unpopular, weak, and ineffective on numerous levels. It is an enigmatic legislative body that is controlled by a Republican majority in both houses with the inability to rein in a president who stretches law so as to implement his personal agenda before his administration dissolves into history.

Last week's luncheon in the Cannon Building took place in the shadow of the just-completed visit of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House for talks with President Obama. Needless to say, after seven years in office, there is a contrast, if not somewhat of a conflict, between the way Israel is viewed by Congress and the tension that always seems present when the White House is involved.

The Republicans that we heard from last week at the Iron Dome tribute are hands-down on board with Israel and the positions taken by Mr. Netanyahu. The Democrats, though supportive of the Jewish state, would seem to have an issue if their words had to be matched with their actions.

Ed Royce is a Republican congressman from Los Angeles and has been serving his California district in the House since 1993. He is an outspoken and direct supporter of Israel and proud of it. Royce was forceful and incredulous when he spoke about the fact that we as a country are so nonchalant about Iranian leaders leading the hordes in chants of "Death to America."

"Incitement was critical to setting the tone and facilitating the advent of the Holocaust," Congressman Royce said. He recounted how on a recent trip to Israel he made a side trip with some colleagues to Ramallah to see PA President Mahmoud Abbas. The Palestinian president, now in the 11th year of his four-year term is notorious for his expertise on the subject of Holocaust denial. Royce shared with the audience that his father was with U.S. troops that liberated Dachau and that his father had taken photographs. Royce brought the



L–R: Ezra Friedlander, Eli Verschleiser, Miles Berger, Sol Goldner, Stanley Treitel, Rep. Lee Zeldin, Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, Joseph B. Stamm, Leon Goldenberg, Appropriations Chair Hal Rogers, Rep. Mike Rogers, Rep. Derek Kilmer, and Chief Rabbi Itzhak Yehoshua

photos with him to Ramallah to show Abbas. "Let's get rid of the propaganda and the deception," he said he related to Abbas at the time.

Of all the presenters, the one who probably grabbed the attention of a

lot of folks busy with their lunch was Democratic congressman of California, Brad Sherman. He is certainly not your predictable run-of-the-mill, toe-the-party-line Democrat. Sherman has a history of-for most of our readers anyway-what we can call very pro-Israel positions. Sherman is apparently not lined up with President Obama when it comes to Israel. Sherman, unlike most Democrats, vociferously opposed the Iran deal and in the few minutes that he spoke, he enunciated two positions very clearly. He said that the U.S. should increase funding to Israel and that the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv should be moved to Ierusalem.

Surprisingly, one of the most stunning comments was made by Congressman Doug Lamborn of Colorado who is a Republican. Considering his helpful pro-Israel position, I found it a little shocking when he said that by funding the Iron Dome that saves lives, the missile defense system has also allowed Israel to show restraint and offer up a gradual response to missile attacks from Gaza instead of using the full force of the IDF to counter those constant, though lately less frequent, missile assaults.

I was sitting there taking notes and when Mr. Lamborn said that I kept thinking, "Did I hear right or not?" In his defense, I will go out on a limb and say that I don't believe he realized what he was saying. But the idea that a benefit of the Iron Dome technology is about allowing Israel the ability not to retaliate at their deadly enemies is absurd.

I asked Ezra Friedlander what he thought about the Lamborn statement and he suggested that I was misinterpreting the congressman's sentiments. "Doug didn't mean that Israel should not be hitting back hard at those who fire missiles at their citizens," Ezra explained. "Rather, he meant that because of the luxury of Iron Dome, Israel does not have to act hastily but can be circumspect and hit them when it best suits Israel." I hope that is what he meant.

As long as we are on the subject of disorganized or misplaced thinking, it was important to pay careful attention to Florida Democrat Debbie Wasserman Schultz. The troubling thing

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David Mitzner Dean, YU Center for the Jewish Future The Millennial's Menorah: Chanukah as a Model for Inspiring the Youth of a New Generation



10:30 a.m. **Rabbi Daniel Z. Feldman**Rosh Yeshiva, RIETS
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FROM THE EDITOR

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about Ms. Schultz, whose statements are pleasing to a pro-Israel audience, is her active support for the president's deal with Iran, of which she was a leading proponent.

How does being an outspoken advocate for Israel jibe with supporting an agreement that is snuck into law and poses the greatest security danger to Israel in her six-and-a-halfdecade history? There is no rationale here; it is simply a fundamental contradiction. It is understood and even accepted that Democrats are going to vote in support of their president, but please don't insult our intelligence by voting to arm Iran with dangerous nuclear weapons and then stand before us expressing solidarity with Israel, telling us that, "As a Jewish mother, nothing is more important than a safe Israel." First of all, what does being a Jewish mother have to do with Israel's safety? Secondly, the facts demonstrate that the proclamation is deceptive. So please, give us all a break.

At the luncheon, Mike Rogers, a Republican congressman from Alabama, didn't mince any words but just said that he was a Baptist and believes what the Bible says about standing with Israel. "Those that bless you shall be blessed and those who curse you will be cursed'...I don't want to stand on the wrong side of G-d," Congressman Rogers said.

Long Island congressman and the only Jewish Republican in the House, Lee Zeldin, was there. He said that he was in Israel in August and while he goes there to offer support to Israelis, it is he who comes away from these visits inspired with confidence about Israel's future.

Congresswoman Nita Lowey, a great longtime friend of Israel in Congress, talked about the tradition of bipartisan support for Israel and the fact is that there is a great deal of that. But there is also too much double-speak and talking out of two sides of one's mouth. Still it was a

great tribute and a great day for Israel's supporters both in Congress and out here in everyday pedestrian life.

Some of the lay chairmen who paid tribute to and introduced the members of Congress were Sol Goldner and Stanley Treitel of LA, Rubin Margules, Eli Verschleiser, Joe Stamm, Leon Goldenberg, and others.

Despite some of the contradictory sentiments expressed, it was a great day for Israel and the American Jewish community. At the end of the day, despite some of the political zigzagging, the U.S. support of Israel and projects like Iron Dome are literally lifesaving efforts. Sure it's easier to say that Israel's security is your utmost concern while some of your actions demonstrate the opposite, but that's politics—and that is how the game is played in DC.

Ezra Friedlander gets all the credit for putting together a remarkable tribute. He's a talented and capable young man—one we can all be thankful for and very proud of. ❖

Comments for Larry Gordon are welcome at editor@5tjt.com.

AIPAC

Continued from Front Cover

following week, the paper published "In Defense of AIPAC" (DOA), which was signed by two distinguished rabbis based on information provided to them by AIPAC. There is no doubt that the rabbis mean well, but AIPAC, in my opinion, exploited their trust and reputations. That article should be preserved as Exhibit A of the deceptive messages AIPAC feeds our community.

Everything I write is from personal knowledge and is easily verifiable. Since I'm revealing what has been largely Washington-insider information, it's been suggested that I should share a little of my background. After attending Ner Yisroel, Yeshiva University, and Yale Law School, I worked on Capitol Hill as counsel to U.S. Senator John Danforth (R-MO) and to the Senate Commerce Committee. For the past 20 years, I've been a professional lobbyist and communications strategist, both for clients and as senior management of national media companies, including CBS News. I hold appointments and leadership positions at a number of national policy organizations and foreign-policy think tanks. I am of counsel to a Washington, DC public-interest law firm that represents the State of Israel in international tribunals, and where I fight BDS. As a lobbyist, I successfully represented victims of Palestinian terror against the State Department and defeated a plan which would have divided Jerusalem, lobbying against the State Department-and AIPAC. I plan to post this article (and the previous ones), with supporting links backing every point, at www.IronDomeAlliance.com.

Let's start with a revolutionary but obvious truth: AIPAC is not Israel. AIPAC is an establishment American-Jewish organization with its own agenda. Given that reality, it actually would be strange if there weren't a significant gap between the Orthodox community's overall outlook and that of AIPAC.

For example, in December 2013, when Obama's plans for Israel and Iran were clear to all, AIPAC called a special meeting of the Conference of Presidents to demand that Jewish groups stop criticizing Barack Obama. AIPAC executive director Howard Kohr declared at that

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Response From Rabbis Billet And Hain

Jeff Ballabon is a longtime advocate in Washington on Jewish causes, including fighting for the security of the State of Israel and a united Jerusalem. We certainly did not mean to malign his integrity or sincerity or to suggest that he has any agenda other than what is best for Israel. We as well are sincere in our support of AIPAC. We acknowledge that Jeff has professional expertise in Washington, but so do many who support AIPAC. We sincerely all want Israel's best interests to be advocated for in the most effective way and will continue to work toward that goal.

Rabbi Heshie Billet Rabbi Kenneth Hain

