

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018

VOL. 92, NO 93. 11/12/18

FINAL

יתגדל ויתקדש שמה רבה...

These are the first words of the Jewish mourners' prayer, "Magnified and sanctified be Your name," to be recited tonight on the first Sabbath since the tragedy at Tree of Life



Mourners gather Thursday at New Light Cemetery in Etna for the burial of Richard Gottfried, who was killed in the Tree of Life synagogue shootings.

Photo: Alexandra Wimley / Post-Gazette

Editorial

Fiddling on the Roof: Coping With the Old, and the New, Anti-Semitism

Frederick Krantz

On Wednesday, 14 November, the *New York Times* recounts, at the end of the first act of *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Hippodrome Theater in Baltimore, Md., after Russian antisemites stage a pogrom against residents of a Jewish *shtetl* celebrating a wedding, a man jumped up in the balcony, repeatedly yelling “Heil Hitler! Heil Trump!”.

Several theater-goers feared a mass shooting—the Pittsburgh synagogue murders, after all, occurred only a short time before. One man, “frightened and disturbed”, shrank in his seat, fearing that “this guy [may have] a gun”. Another, noting that several audience members ran for the exits, said “I was waiting to hear a gunshot, frankly”.

Baltimore police arrested the alleged screamer, one Anthony M. Derlunis II, 58, whom they said had been drinking heavily, and who told them that he had yelled out because the scene in the play reminded him of his hatred of President Trump, a reaction borne out, he claimed, by the evidently high number of “Trump supporters” (*i.e.*, Jews) reacting negatively to his outburst.

The frightening scene lasted about five minutes, and Mr. Derlunis was not charged by the Baltimore authorities—because, as they rather disingenuously put it, “As reprehensible as the man’s words were, they are considered protected free speech because nobody was directly threatened”. Yet the *NYT*’s account does note that he has now been banned from entering the theater.

Of course, in the current antisemitic climate (the rate of incidents in both the U.S. and Canada, like the rate of gun possession, has been steadily increasing in recent years), the Baltimore shouter, like the Pittsburgh shooter, might well have had a gun, and used it. These incidents involve both the extreme right and extreme left, and while traditional antisemitic motifs are present—religious bigotry against Jews as such, resentment of “Jewish money” and political “influence”, etc.—themes clearly associated with what is termed “the new antisemitism” are also at work.

Here, not so much “the Jew” as political hatred of the Jewish *State*, Israel, is the focus of vitriol and resentment. Arguing that Israel is a kind of Nazi oppressor of innocent Palestinians, this “new” antisemitism can—as in “anti-Zionist” “BDS” campaigns on campuses, where Islamist and leftist elements combine—masquerade as highly “moral” and “even-handed”.

Indeed, the “new” antisemites can even claim to be highly offended when accused of being antisemites—we are “human rights activists”, they [including, sadly, some “progressive” Jewish allies] say, cleverly claiming to be not anti-Jewish but “only” anti-Israel. As if their drive to delegitimize and, hence, to finish Hitler’s work by destroying the world’s only Jewish democratic state, is not the very essence of modern genocidal antisemitism!

That *Fiddler on the Roof* (an oddly American phenomenon, a musical about a pogrom) could provoke a Trump-hating and potentially dangerous *meshugah* to shout “Heil Hitler!” in a crowded theater, is a not-so-paradoxical commentary on our current, conflicted political moment.

While we are far from facing an imminent, State-supported *Kristallnacht*, it is deeply concerning that, in a U.S. only two years away from the next Presidential election, the left-“progressive” and *Marxist* wing of the Democratic Party cultivates some members’ no-so-genteel anti-Israelism, while in Britain an out-right antisemite, Jeremy Corbyn, heads a British Labour Party which might, on the heels of a Brexit-induced election, actually come to power.

We must be alert to an increasing degree of turmoil and uncertainty: the “longest hatred”, antisemitism, ever-protean in its ability to change forms, is alive and well. The price of Jewish freedom is eternal vigilance, the ensuring of Jewish continuity, defense of basic democratic rights and traditions, and unified support for the well-being of the state of Israel, vital center of the Jewish people.

(Prof. Frederick Krantz is Director of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research, and editor of its ISRAFAX ‘journal’)

Jerusalem: City of Peace

Baruch Cohen

O Jerusalem, shining and bright
Embraced forever with your people’s love

O my people, I would sing my heart
On this night of glory
My city of love on whose
Hills my father Abraham’s
Painful trial
The tears of generations of my people
Have not dared extinguish
The flames of eternal sacrifice
The flames of infinite love.
Clouds of unbearable thunder,
Lightning and endless tears
Carry me on this ever-lasting night
With endless generations’ might
To you, beloved Jerusalem
Ir Shalom
City of Peace
Embraced forever with my
People’s love!

Baruch Cohen z”l, CIJR’s Research Chairman for thirty years, passed away this past September.

His moving memoir, No One Bears Witness for the Witness, published in 2018, is available from CIJR.

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We welcome your letters, comments and materials, which can be faxed or e-mailed (see cover.)

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ISSN # 1193-7246

WEEKLY QUOTES

“We are in the midst of a military campaign, and you don’t abandon during a campaign, you don’t play politics...The security of the state is above all else.” — Prime Minister Netanyahu. The prime minister will take on the post of defense minister following Avigdor Liberman’s resignation and rejected calls for new elections. Netanyahu said it would be wrong and **“irresponsible”** to bring down the government and force new elections during **“one of our most difficult security periods...There is no place for politics or personal considerations,”** when it comes to Israel’s security, he said. (*Times of Israel*, Nov. 18, 2018)

“I advise Israel not to try and test us again...This time you did not have a lot of casualties and you managed to rescue your special forces. You should not try again, because next time you will have to release thousands of prisoners.” — Hamas’s leader Yahya Sinwar. Sinwar warned that another Israeli raid into the Gaza Strip would lead to rocket attacks against Tel Aviv. Waving a handgun that Sinwar claimed to belong to Israeli special forces, he warned that Hamas’s hands were **“on the trigger...whoever tests Gaza will find only death and poison.”** (*Jerusalem Online*, Nov. 18, 2018)

“Let me say it to be clear: [Hamas leader in Gaza] Yihya Sinwar’s time is limited. He won’t finish his life in an old-age home...Look at what Israel did in the past 10 years: We closed off the sea, we closed maneuvering on the ground from Gaza and Sinai...I think the Iron Dome is doing a pretty good job against missiles; we are in a phase of eliminating all the tunnels [from Gaza into Israel]. If they want a fight, we will defeat them. If they want to behave and talk through a third party, we will hear them.” — Housing and Construction Minister Yoav Gallant. (*Jerusalem Post*, Nov. 17, 2018)

“Today, we’re closer than ever since the disastrous disengagement plan to being forced to recapture parts or all of the Gaza Strip...If that is the only way we can guarantee long-term quiet and security for our citizens, then that is what we will do. We won’t allow anyone to deter us.” — Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, a Likud member and a leading contender for the position of foreign minister. (*Times of Israel*, Nov. 21, 2018)

“The fact that many Jews with a liberal tradition oppose Trump’s conservative policies and dislike his aggressive tone is not surprising. But what is incomprehensible is the hysterical abuse they shower on the president – and that they do so in a Jewish context. The almost lunatic attacks on a president by such a wide section of the Jewish community – including progressive rabbis, Jewish lay organizations like the Anti-Defamation League and Jewish women’s groups, which had until now avoided partisan politics – is utterly unprecedented. The venom expressed suggests that a *dybbuk* – a malicious spirit – has instilled a collective madness on a major component of the American Jewish community. Jews even demanded that Trump not be present at the mourning ceremony in the Pittsburgh synagogue.” — Isi Leibler (*Jerusalem Post*, Nov. 17, 2018)

SHORT TAKES

RECENT ANTISEMITISM IN U.S. (Washington) — In Miami, the Haim and Gila Wiener Florida Lubavitch Headquarters was vandalized with a swastika and an upside-down cross. In Woodbridge, CT, the Board of Education has been forced to confront antisemitism at its Amity High School, where Jewish students said they have found swastikas in the bathroom and on desks. In Washington, DC, a white supremacist has been arrested on charges of illegal gun possession after his family members called police over remarks that the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre was “a dry run.” (*Jewish Press*, Nov. 15, 2018)

UN COMMITTEE PASSES NINE RESOLUTIONS SLAMMING ISRAEL IN SINGLE DAY (New York) — A special committee of the UN General Assembly voted in favor of nine resolutions attacking Israel — with the rest of the world left unmentioned. The resolutions were passed by the General Assembly’s

“Fourth Committee,” which is also known as the “Special Political and Decolonization Committee.” Israel was condemned for alleged human rights abuses, its “occupation” of eastern Jerusalem, and its “occupation” of the Golan Heights. (*Algemeiner*, Nov. 16, 2018)

CFS ADOPTS BDS MOTION (Toronto) — The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) approved a resolution supporting the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement and endorsed a statement that “the ongoing occupation of Palestine be

condemned,” at its annual general meeting. The CFS, which represents 500,000 students, also approved supporting “different Palestine-solidarity organizations,” with in-kind support and financial donations of up to \$500. The resolution also recommended that “a statement be released to our membership condemning the recent atrocities against Palestinians in Gaza.” (*CJN*, Nov. 20, 2018)

AIRBNB BANS LISTINGS IN SETTLEMENTS (New York) — Rental operator Airbnb announced it would no longer host listings in settlements in the West Bank. The US-based Airbnb said the company has “concluded that we should remove listings in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank that are at the core of the dispute between Israelis and Palestinians.” The company said the decision to remove the approximately 200 listings came after “considerable time” was spent consulting experts on the conflict. Airbnb has faced criticism from Palestinians for hosting Israeli listings in the West Bank that failed to mention the property was located on land claimed by the Palestinians. (*Times of Israel*, Nov. 19, 2018)

ISRAEL APPOINTS ITS FIRST ARAB CHRISTIAN AMBASSADOR (Jerusalem) — 34-year-old George Deek will soon become the first Arab Christian ambassador in Israeli history. Deek, who is a former Fulbright fellow and an expert in international law, isn’t getting one of the easier postings either: He’ll be Israel’s lead representative in Azerbaijan, a Muslim-majority country that borders Iran and has been at war with its neighbor Armenia for over 25 years. (*Tablet*, Nov. 20, 2018)



Hamas missiles launched toward Israel from Gaza on November 12, 2018

Western Suicide Via Anti-Semitism

Giulio Meotti

Paris 1980; Vienna 1981; Rome 1982; Istanbul 1986; Buenos Aires 1994; Djerba 2002; Mumbai 2008; Toulouse 2012; Jerusalem 2014; Brussels 2014; Copenhagen 2015; Paris 2015; Gotenburg 2017; Pittsburgh 2018

It is 38 years since synagogues, schools, shops and Jewish centers began being targeted and attacked again. And the West is always surprised: “Oh no, the new anti-Semitism!” It is like that girl who ‘discovers’ she is expecting a baby at the eighth month of her pregnancy and exclaims: “Oh no, I have been so prudent!”

We do not realize what is happening and nobody is helping the public to understand the entity: the newspapers have the days counted, the intellectuals are distracting themselves, the politicians send telegrams of condolences, the religious authorities are phony.

This is the situation in the four poles of World Jewry: The Jews of France are grappling with a terrible wave of anti-Semitism with

dead, wounded and resulting flight; the British Jews for the first time in six centuries think about leaving; the Jews of Israel must defend themselves, at best, in the most chilling silence of the international community and, in the worst, with a world that is greeting the terrorists; the Jews of America for the first time in their history have lived through a mass slaughter.

Most of the Pittsburgh victims were Jews who were able to survive the Second World War and the Holocaust, but not this demented form of *Judenhass*. The Shoah was the great requiem of the West because we never really recovered from the massacre of civilization. With the Shoah, for the first time in the modern age, the edifice of humanism and the idea of a rational evolution of history were broken.

All this is reflected in the word “Shoah”, desolation, darkness, death, the abyss between life and death, being and nothingness. In this new wave of anti-Semitism another suicidal impulse of Western civilization is at work. One day we will know the outcome. I’m afraid I can guess, but I’m also afraid to say it aloud.

(Arutz Sheva, Oct. 29, 2018)

The Pittsburgh Massacre

Prof. Udi Lebel

An explanation for the anti-Semitic massacre in Pittsburgh gained momentum very quickly: that it was a product of Donald Trump’s Republican discourse in general, and his attitude towards immigration and refugee policy in particular. This is a cynical exploitation and politicization of trauma and loss.

We are apparently meant to believe the murderer was a “weakened social link” whose anti-Semitism was legitimated in his mind by the rhetoric of the president. He was supposedly egged on from above, in other words. The “words can kill” message is being employed by the media to take direct aim at Republican policy positions.

Conservative positions concerning identity, nationality, citizenship, the distribution of resources, the rule of law, and internal security are now labeled “populist,” and anyone holding such views is expected to feel ashamed of himself. Jews in particular who hold such views are being told to do some soul-searching, as if it was they who gave the green light to a mass-murdering extremist.

What is the difference between this argument and blaming a woman who dresses in revealing clothes for her own sexual assault? The two arguments are fundamentally the same. The rapist is absolved of responsibility, and it is shifted onto the victim. If a woman chooses not to conform to externally dictated dress norms, so the argument goes, then she has only herself to blame if she ends up in the trauma room of an emergency ward.

Proponents of the “Republican guilt” line regarding the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre would do well to consider this analogy. Rape is not an expression of sexual attraction. It is an expression of domination and violence. It occurs in vehicles, toilets, and bedrooms, just as it occurs on the battlefields of Africa, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe as a tool of warfare, humil-

iation, and violent subjugation. Similarly, this anti-Semitic murderer did not target Jews because of their political positions, let alone those of the American president...

In Israel, too, there were those who jumped on the blame wave and gave it a local spin. “The massacre took place near the anniversary of Rabin’s murder,” wrote a leading *Haaretz* commentator. He acknowledged that the murderer in Pennsylvania considers President Trump soft and disapproves of him, but pointed out that both the shooter and the recent attempted mail-bomber targeted Democrats “in the atmosphere of fear, loathing, and xenophobia that flourishes in Trump’s polarized era.”

The writer’s most cynical and offensive move is to twist the mass murder to make a statement about internal Israeli politics. He states that the Jews of Pittsburgh are being comforted by an Israeli government “whose values are ultimately closer to those of the murderer than to the Jews he murdered.” This is no longer a populist whip, but pure anti-Semitism: the Jews are to blame for their own murder. The writer is claiming that the Jewish state of Israel, the state that produces representative Jewish discourse, encourages racism and provokes a violent culture war.

In recent years, the discourse of the Israeli government has been blamed for a host of shocking phenomena. The climax was during the recent wave of terror, when it was asserted that many of the murderers had set out to slaughter Jews because of their “understandable” frustration at the “lack of a political horizon.” This charge is now echoed by the accusations of liberal Americans linking the massacre in Pittsburgh to Trump’s statements.

After the Rabin assassination, it was claimed that the murderer had been inspired by the right-wing opposition, which had not done enough to denounce its more marginal elements. Now the argument is that the violence is a direct product of the legitimate discourse of a democratically elected leadership. This is tantamount to saying that the hands of every voter who supported the current administrations in either the US or Israel are covered with blood...

(BESA, Nov. 4, 2018)

The U.S. Midterm Elections

Harold M. Waller

Unlike most countries, the United States holds legislative elections midway through a president's term. As a result the country tends to be in campaign mode most of the time. Indeed the 2020 presidential campaign has started and the Democrats are beginning to think about their prospects for the presidential nomination.

If there is one generalization that is commonly made about the midterm elections it is that the president's party usually loses seats in Congress. In 1994, 2006, 2010, and 2014 the opposition party did well and control of one or both houses changed hands. So 2018 was no exception. However, the Republicans, who benefited from a favorable Senate map, did manage to hold their majority in the upper House. Consequently both President Donald Trump and the Democratic congressional leadership could take credit for bucking the trend (Trump and the Senate) or flipping more than the average number of seats (Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi). As a result it is hard to say which way the wind is blowing. Both sides will claim that it is blowing at their backs. Perhaps Bob Dylan can be prevailed upon to explain the wind direction.

Most of the prominent issues were domestic: immigration (especially illegal), medical insurance, the economy, the Kavanaugh matter, and, most of all, Donald Trump. Voters held intense views and seemed disinclined to compromise. Matters such as tariffs and international trade agreements, foreign policy, NAFTA, and relations with Canada did not appear to matter much during the campaign.

In general, Democrats oppose whatever Trump is doing with regard to foreign affairs, but that subject does not count for much in midterm years. Voters seemed bewildered by a multiplicity of overseas issues, including Russia, China, Korea, Iran, international trade, the Middle East, and Saudi Arabia after the Khashoggi murder. As for policy toward Israel and the prospects of an Israel-Palestinian peace agreement, there has been a notable drop in support for the Jewish state among Democrats. Several of the new faces in the House Democratic caucus are overtly hostile to Israel; AIPAC has its work cut out for it. Moreover, American Jewry is divided about many aspects of policy toward Israel, with the Orthodox being strongly pro-Republican and the non-Orthodox overwhelmingly lined up behind the Democrats. Indeed about 80 percent of American Jews voted Democratic. That does not augur well for the future.

In addition to Israel-related matters, the resurgence of anti-Semitism was driven home by the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre shortly before the election. Even before that horrific event, data showed an increase in anti-Semitic attitudes, which the Democrats blamed on Trump. Although it is not fair to blame him, there is little doubt that racist groups have come out of the woodwork in recent years in response to nationalist rhetoric.

The heated antagonism that characterized the campaign is likely to carry on right through the election. This is not a time in which one can calmly contemplate the issues that American voters will confront in less than two years.

(Dr. Harold M. Waller is a CIJR Academic Fellow)

*In tribute
to
Baruch Cohen z"l

Marlene and Joel
King*

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left to right: Dida Berku, Prof. Krantz, Deputy Consul
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CIJR GALA KEYNOTER ON THE "PEACE PLAN," TRUMP, TERRORISM, AND IRAN

Interview with Elliott Abrams

Machla Abramovitz

Elliott Abrams has been involved in the shaping of foreign policy since the 1980s, when he was appointed assistant secretary of state in the Reagan administration. Later, in 2001, he served as deputy national security advisor to President George W. Bush, tasked with promoting the president's strategy of advancing democracy abroad. At present, Abrams is a senior fellow for Middle Eastern studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and teaches foreign policy at Georgetown University.

I sat down with Abrams after he addressed a packed audience at the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research in Montreal, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. I first asked him about Trump's long-rumored peace plan for the Middle East.

HAVING TALKED TO MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION WHO'VE READ THE TRUMP PEACE PLAN, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON IT?

My impression is that the plan, which establishes the framework for a two-state solution, is very realistic and a step forward and that it will be very much to Israel's liking. [Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud] Abbas probably won't sign it given that he hasn't signed anything yet. He's at a stage in his life where he doesn't want any major fights or to be called a traitor. Nonetheless, it's useful to put the plan out there so that Palestinians can see it and we can prepare for the days after Abbas. The plan sets a new standard as to what the U.S. thinks a realistic peace plan looks like, especially concerning borders and Jerusalem.

YOU DIDN'T SUPPORT DONALD TRUMP'S CANDIDACY. ARE YOU SURPRISED THAT PRESIDENT TRUMP IS KEEPING HIS CAMPAIGN PROMISES, PARTICULARLY VIS-À-VIS ISRAEL?

It became apparent to me in his first year that he meant what he said, whether that was renegotiating NAFTA, leaving the JCPOA, and moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. He feels bound by these campaign promises and refuses to be controlled by conventional wisdoms. Even though the State Department warned him that violence would erupt everywhere in the Muslim world following the embassy move, Trump didn't believe it. He was right, and the State Department was wrong. We have new leadership there now. I hope the State Department learned that what we see happening on the Arab street is very often what their government wants to happen.

ON OCTOBER 4TH, THE WHITE HOUSE ISSUED ITS NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COUNTERTERRORISM. HOW DOES THE TRUMP APPROACH DIFFER FROM OBAMA'S APPROACH?

President Trump appears to be taking a more aggressive stand against terrorism than Obama. He also understands that the key to countering terrorism is tackling Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. President Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA wasn't about terrorism but about nukes, whereas staying in Syria is. A year ago, we were there because of ISIS, but recent statements by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and presidential national security advisor John Bolton indicate that we won't withdraw from Syria while Iran is there. Additionally, unlike Presidents Bush and Obama, Trump doesn't divorce Islamist extremism from



the religion itself. Ultimately, Muslims alone can defeat Islamic extremism, but not only by imprisoning and killing terrorists but by winning the war of ideas.

YOU MAINTAIN THAT THE IRANIAN REGIME IS INCAPABLE OF REFORM AND THAT ITS HEGEMONIC AMBITIONS CAN ONLY BE COUNTERED BY PEACEFUL REGIME CHANGE. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE WHEN IRAN OWNS ALL THE GUNS?

To defeat the Soviet Union, Reagan applied economic, military, and ideological pressure. Trump appears to be following the same formula: increased sanctions, an increased military pressure in the Gulf denying Iranians easy proxy victories, and exposing the truth about Iran's human rights abuses and financial outlay to destabilize the Middle East as outlined in a recent U.S. State Department report.

The Europeans, on the other hand, want to save the JCPOA, as well as maintain stability and avoid conflict, despite evidence that Iranians are fed up with this regime. I recently reminded French officials that the Iranians repaid their outstretched hand by planning a terror attack in Paris. That is Iran's answer to France's moderation. I tell Europeans that they cannot allow the Iranians to set the agenda in the Middle East.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE IDEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS ISRAEL?

Regarding Israel, since the Eisenhower/Nixon years, the Republican Party has shifted towards a more pro-Israel position primarily because of evangelical Christians. At the same time, the Democratic Party moved to the left on this issue, which isn't surprising given that the left has become anti-Israel everywhere in the world. In the U.S., this shift is a bit masked because the Democratic Party leadership – Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi – are pro-Israel. Unfortunately, the next generation isn't as committed to Israel. That should be a warning.

Maintaining support for Israel is a struggle to be fought within the Democratic Party. Democrats, especially Jewish Democrats, need to better make the case for Israel, especially among its up and coming leaders such as Kamala Harris. Similarly, AIPAC needs to reach out more to Hispanic Americans, Korean Americans, and all growing immigrant groups that don't have traditional ties to Israel. Criticizing [Israeli Prime Minister] Netanyahu is not the way to go.

(Mishpacha, Oct. 24, 2018)



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Adriana Kotler





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EXTRA! EXTRA!

From The Chairman: On The Pittsburgh Massacre

Jack Kincler

The worst antisemitic atrocity in the history of the U.S. and North America recently took place at the Etz Ha-Chaim Synagogue in the mostly Jewish neighborhood of Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh. My "God bless America" world-view has been shattered.

My faith in the good fortune of North American Jews as a well-established and successful minority went through a major revision. While something as terrible as on European or Muslim soil was always possible, the fact that this massacre happened in North America was a profound shock

The contributions of the American Jewish community in the fields of popular culture, music, literature, science, medicine, journalism, political activism, civil rights, urban design, art and cinema, are innumerable. Such success of integration meant a high degree of assimilation yet, as in the 1930's Germany, there are always anti-Semites to demonize and incite against Jews, like Pittsburgh's Robert Bowers.

I read his and other like-minded racist thugs' GAP website exchanges. With American citizens being armed to the teeth, it doesn't take much for one of these hateful cowards to turn hate into murderous action. It is a miracle, especially given the social media, that atrocities like this have not happened more frequently.

We must not remain helpless in a troubled world which badly needs *Tikkun Olam*. Our history as Jews teaches us to be resilient and to fight back. First and foremost we must defend ourselves with actions, and not only words. This implies:

- Enhancing our institutions' institutions (now, sadly, necessary).
- Exposing anti-Semites and racists so that there is no place for them to hide, from law enforcement or public scrutiny.
- Educating and informing the young and adults about the dangers of anti-Semitism and racism. What starts with the Jews...
- Expanding bridges and alliances with other communities.

CIJR's successful 30th Anniversary Montreal and Toronto Galas, dedicated to our beloved Research Director, Baruch Cohen ז"ל (who passed away recently at age 99), and boasting renowned speakers and quality audiences, are now behind us.

With all our love to Baruch's beloved Sonia, and many thanks to Fred and Lenore Krantz, Machla Abramovitz, Robert Coles, Yunna Shapira, and Alan Herman and Doris Epstein in Toronto. I wish our readers and their families a Happy Hanukkah and a joyous holiday season.

From the Toronto Chapter

Alan Herman

On Sunday, October 21, attendees of the *Canadian Institute for Jewish Research's* Toronto Gala celebrated Israel's 70th, and CIJR's 30th. Proud Zionist activist Sabina Citron and esteemed Prof. Emerita Sally Zerker were honoured for their work in advancing Israel, Zionism and the Jewish people. The U.S. and Israel Consul-Generals spoke, and *Keynoters National Post* columnist Barbara Kay and former Undersecretary of Defence Policy for Pres. George W. Bush, Douglas Feith, shared their informed insights. The evening closed with spirited dancing from the pro-Israel Filipino "Friends of Jesus Christ" group.

One week later, on Tuesday, October 30th, a crowd of 80 people attended Willy Lindo's spectacular talk about "Growing Up Jewish in Jamaica", on historical and anecdotal Jamaican Jewish experiences. Beth David, *Kulanu Canada* and *CIJR* worked directly together, a model for many other joint events. On Remembrance Day, CIJR partnered with the Christian Music Festival in bringing the Christian and Jewish communities together to honour the massacred victims of the *Etz Hayim/Tree of Life shul* in Pittsburgh. Our Co-Chair Doris Epstein, explaining the ubiquity of anti-Semitism in the world today, received an ovation with her call for a united front against this evil. All speakers, Christian and Jewish, closed with an impassioned singing of *HaTikvah*.

On December 13th, CIJR and Beth David proudly host Michael Mostyn, will examine B'nai Brith's important work in defending Zionism and human rights. In early 2019, at Beth Emeth, we will host Nick Maes on "Jews and Modernity: Resisting Assimilation", and Prof. Emerita Zerker's talk on "Jewish Indigenous and Legal Rights to Israel".