

# Opinion

The Record

## Israel should abide by

Two incidents over the last week, we fear, could shake the seemingly indivisible ties that bind us with Israel. And any split in this union has the potential for tragedy on an international scale.

Last week, Israel said the figures on its nuclear stockpile and nuclear potential were privileged information that they would not share with the United States.

In an important way, Israel is right, and release of such documentation could harm its defense capabilities.

But we are asking for ballpark figures, not exact numbers and marked

### Editorial

targets.

Israel is a country that inarguably owes its very existence as a world power to aid supplied both by American citizens and the government itself.

We fought strenuously in the United Nations for the return of Israel to its rightful inhabitants and rulers, rights established years ago. We have gone against our interests on several occasions to prove the depth of our commitment to Israel's contin-

ued existence.

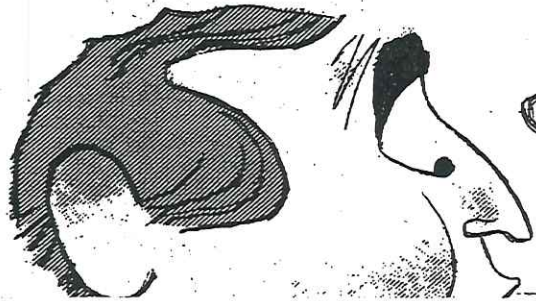
Not to share its nuclear cities with this country on a basis is a breach of trust.

Even more alarming, the fact that Israel is now behind a 425-mile-long "security bar" along the West Bank.

To us, that sounds scarier than the erection of the Berlin Wall. We will take offense and may call it Semitism at any correlation between Israel and Germany, the country that once tried to eradicate the Jewish people from the face of the earth in the greatest atrocity in world history.

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TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2004

## abide by international law

ued existence.

Not to share its nuclear capabilities with this country on a classified basis is a breach of trust.

Even more alarming, though, is the fact that Israel is now building a 425-mile-long "security barrier" along the West Bank.

To us, that sounds scarily close to the erection of the Berlin Wall. Jews will take offense and may claim anti-Semitism at any correlation with Israel and Germany, the country that once tried to eradicate the Jews from the face of the earth in the single greatest atrocity in world history.

But this has nothing to do with religion and everything to do with politics. The International World Court of Justice, in the sharpest of words, called the Israeli initiative a violation of international law. The vote was 14-1, with only the United States supporting Israel.

Israel is displacing Palestinians from their homes with no compensation and further annexing contested land.

The Israelis have a very legitimate reason for building its wall. Palestinians still use suicide bombers, and the barrier will undoubtedly keep many

of these bomb-laden vehicles out.

However, a West Bank Border was established by treaty in 1967. Israel is building the wall in an area that will cut off more than 200,000 Palestinians from their homes, relatives and places of work.

That is no surveyor's "mistake" but can be seen as an act of aggression that must cease and desist with the security barrier moved to internationally recognized boundaries.

If that doesn't happen, our country should take a closer look at every Israeli proposal before applying the rubber stamp.

### THE RECORD

A Journal Register Company Newspaper

Journal Register JRC NYSE

James K. Williams Jr., Publisher

Lisa Robert Lewis, Editor

James Donlan, Controller, Randy Pobran, Production Manager

Joan Marro-Harris, Advertising Director, Casey Ditton, Circulation Director

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Check out downtown hangouts

## Misplaced blame promotes fear

Editor:

Every week in *The Jewish World* I read multiple articles about how Jewish organizations are calling for the end to this or that anti-Israel or anti-Jewish work of art or other public expression. Instead of asking artists and activists to engage with us in a discussion so that we may learn what is fueling their feelings, we simply complain and attempt to censor them. We do this out of fear—fear that if this sort of rhetoric is not censored, then it will encourage acts of violence against Jewish people.

I believe that people who make anti-Israel statements have significant concerns with Israel's policies. It is only because we "play the anti-Semitic card" and attempt to censor them, that they begin to find that the only way Israel will listen to their concerns is if they bomb a bus. They are wrong of course—violence is not dialogue—but it is because we so clearly are not listening to their concerns, that we encourage them to resort to these more violent means.

Anti-Semitism, in general, comes from oppressed people, who are misguided in where to place their anger and frustration over their own situation. I have attended school in Lewiston, Maine, for the past two years and saw an influx of almost 2,000 Somali refugees to this very white city. Lewiston has one of the poorest communities in all of Maine, and so when neo-Nazis came to our town, they got a lot of support convincing Lewiston residents that their economic woes were due to Somali refugees eating up all the city's money through welfare programs. This was as much a lie as the Nazi successful pitch to Germans that their own nation's problems were due to the presence of Jews in society.

*The Jewish World's* articles respond to this misplaced blame by promoting fear. This fear leads us to censor and blacklist, to ridicule and demoralize, and to have no sympathy for the people who spread anti-Israel or anti-Jewish thought.

But these people, just as Nazis, or Al-Qaeda, or Palestinian militants, have important concerns and are crying out for justice. Yet we always just play victim,

## Letters

### Lubavitch rabbi has message for Sharon

Editor:

Recently Aviva Rossman, Jordan Eisenberg, Roberta Edelman and I had an amazing opportunity to spend a Shabbaton with Rabbi Manis Freedman of Chabad Crown Heights. Rabbi Freedman, an associate of Rabbi Menachen Schneerson, had an inspiring message.

Among points he mentioned was that during the Holocaust there were Jewish ghettos where from time to time Jews would be killed. For the most part, this was tolerated by the Jewish community, dealt with, accepted and hoped that it did not happen again too soon.

The difference today in Israel is that our new ghetto does not yet have a wall around it. Therefore Prime Minister Sharon proposes that we now complete this analogy by building our own fence. A difference today is that we do have an Army. Actually the Jewish people probably have the most capable army in the world.

Prime Minister Sharon, when will enough blood be shed for you to stop being a politician and again be the general you once were and let the army do what it can do? When will we Jews heal our self-esteem and no longer apologize to the world for who we are? May we all do the mitzvahs we were meant to do, serve Hashem, heal the world and hasten the coming of Moshiach now.

**Dr. Solomon Michael Fuhrman**  
Delmar

call them haters, and never really care to listen.

Our mission of tikkun-olam calls us to admit what we have done that has fueled this anger towards us, and to find out what we can do to make a world in which these people feel just as safe and loved and at home as we wish for ourselves.

**Gregory Rosenthal**  
Schenectady

Only p  
to W.

Editor:

The entire civilized world is shocked at the beheading of Nicholas Berg. This treatment accorded a civilian, whose job it was to have a look at the military, would destroy Westernmost Westerners do not think this barbaric behavior is the Middle East.

The question arises: Is a civilian doing in a war zone told by American authorities to be in danger and should be killed? He knew no Arabic purpose for being in Iraq and questioned execution. On his person was found a Koran, written in Arabic material, according to

His father stated, "I don't know what they were doing, but it was correct. His statement was Semitic documents came to the conclusion to give aid and comfort to the murderers partially by not doing, that he was a Jew, which made him an enemy. I know that he wanted to

What most Americans do not know is that non-Jew alike—do not know in the initial stages of the war, unlike any other war fought. This conflict of 9/11 or Iraq I and II was fought against Muslim extremists who want to convert Islam. All Muslims are not terrorists who attacked the World Trade Center were not the attack on the U.S.S. Cole off our housing in Saudi Arabia on the World Trade Center murder of our diplomat in Indonesia and worldwide in the 1960s.

When the Soviets and the extremists were both major impetus in the war.

The U.S. is not alone in its problems with militant Islam and Syria are funneling money to destabilize this country.

If the U.S. is able to change its government and dem

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The JEWISH WORLD is published weekly by THE JEWISH WORLD, Inc. at 3 Vatrano Rd., Albany, N.Y., 12205. Office of publication is 3 Vatrano Rd., Albany. Periodicals postage is paid at Albany, N.Y. Postmaster, please send address changes to *The Jewish World*, 3 Vatrano Rd.,

for Albany, Schenectady, Troy, all Northeastern New York, Western Massachusetts, Southern Vermont (USPS 582-900) (ISSN 0199-4441). Published Each Week; in homes Thursdays.

Israel critic sees positive change in Gaza, but...

## Finklestein Says The Gaza War Was A Massacre

—By TOM ELLIS

Norman Finklestein spoke November 17, 2010 at the University at Albany. The Palestinian Rights Committee, the student Justice and Peace in Palestine Alliance, and the university chapter of Amnesty International cosponsored his appearance.

He devoted much of his prepared comments to the 2008-2009 Israeli massacre in Gaza and said if anyone is to condemn Hamas for its firing rockets into Israel, (s)he should also be able to identify what alternatives were available to Hamas.

Refuting assertions that the massacre was a “war,” he said the ratios of people killed were 100 Palestinians to 1 Israeli, civilians killed 400-1 (actual numbers 1200 to 3), and houses destroyed 6000-1. With such one-sided ratios, how can anyone say it was a war? In response to a question about Israel making 290,000 telephone calls to Gaza urging people to take cover prior to these attacks—the implication being that Israel was trying to minimize civilian casualties—he said Gazans are locked inside Gaza, had no place to hide safely during the massacre, and thus the phone calls were in effect designed to further terrorize Gazans.

Regarding the possibility of Israel successfully negotiating with Hamas, he said Hamas has not referred to its charter in 15 years, Hamas has often said it will accept an agreement with Israel along the pre-1967-war borders, and Hamas and Israel have made agreements before such as the June 2008 ceasefire brokered by Egypt that Israel broke on Nov. 4, 2008—Election Day in the United States when much of the world’s attention was focused on the election of Barack Obama—when little attention would be paid to Israel murdering Gazans. He said Israel should call Hamas’ bluff to see if Hamas is serious about what its leaders proclaim.

Mr. Finklestein said no tangible improvements in life of Gazans have occurred since the Israeli siege was supposedly partially lifted last spring, according to comments made a few days earlier by John Ging, director of Gaza operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East.

Norman Finklestein earned a doctorate from the Department of Politics at Princeton University in 1988 and has written several books including “Beyond Chutzpah: On the Misuse of anti-Semitism and the Abuse of History” (2005) and “The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering” (2000). He has taught political theory at DePaul University.

He correctly called the 17-year peace process a “farce” and claimed it should be labeled an “annexation process.” No settlement freeze occurred during 2010 despite claims by Israel that it had. Finklestein said six months prior to the start of the “freeze,” current Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu told settler leaders to use the next six months to lay foundations, and then finish constructing the homes during the “freeze” which concerned “new” construction.

On the positive side, he believes a “sea change” has occurred among US Jews, especially youth, in recent years on the issue. Few Jews wish to publicly endorse universally acknowledged ongoing war crimes. He encouraged listeners to be “principled” and “reasonable” in our work. By “reasonable,” he meant showing we are not an obstacle to resolving the conflict. Finklestein quoted someone who has insisted, “There is room for everyone at the rendezvous of victory,” meaning a real solution to the conflict is a win-win for everyone.

He said he is neither pro-Palestinian nor pro-Israeli, or anti-Israel or anti-Palestinian, but pro-justice, and if the conflict were reversed with Palestinians occupying and periodically massacring Israelis on a massive scale, there is no doubt where he would stand.

“Politics is getting people to act on what they know is wrong,” he said, quoting Gandhi, whom he referred to several times. Asked about a one-state versus a two-state solution to the conflict, he said he does not support a one-state option because it would amount to the destruction of Israel. Asked about the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula thirty years ago, he said lack of success in the 1973 war convinced Israeli leaders the Sinai would be difficult to retain over the long run. Another reason Israel exited the Sinai was to make peace with Egypt thus splitting Arab nations in their opposition to Israel and removing Egypt as a war adversary.

The United Nations General Assembly often votes often go 140+ to 6, he said, with the US and Israel joined by three or four US protectorates (Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau) as the only nations siding with the US and Israel. He mentioned that not only have all 22 members of the League of Arab States voted unanimously to offer Israel a real peace (in 2002, 2007, and 2009) but so have all 56 nations in the Organization of Islamic Conference.

In response to the final question about what is the best way to pressure Israel to act peacefully, he said three broad categories of options have been attempted so far, each with

--See *The Gaza War* on Page 5

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Gaza operations of the United Nations Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East.

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## **The Gaza War... (Cont'd. from Page 4)**

limited success. These are legal approaches, non-violent civil disobedience, and boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS).

An example of a legal strategy was the recommendation contained in the report of South African jurist Richard Goldstone and his colleagues for the United Nations to take specific steps if Israel failed to follow through on the report's recommendations. An example of non-violent civil disobedience was the "Freedom Flotilla" that Israel attacked on May 31.

He said the BDS campaign will not succeed unless and until its goal(s) is clear, which it is not now. He said it is appropriate to boycott universities or corporations that profit financially from the Israeli occupation of universally acknowledged occupied Palestinian territories--the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. A comprehensive arms embargo is an excellent idea to champion, and it can be justified as a response to Israeli government violations of law. A targeted campaign to block Caterpillar Corporation sales of D9 bulldozers to Israel is supportable because it can be justified due to the bulldozers being used to destroy Palestinian homes in violation of international law.

He sees a cultural boycott of Israel as problematic, noted that Pete Seeger has said he would not participate in it, but wondered if Seeger participated in concerts with South African artists or performed himself in South Africa during the 1970s and 1980s. ■

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rstevens@lvamohawkhudson.org

## Israel's security fence incites more violence

This is in response to Michael Kohn's letter ("Worse offenses exist in the world than Israel's security fence," July 29). Maybe Mr. Kohn does not realize the effects of this "illegal" wall, which may explain why he attempts to rationalize it by asking us the extent of the wall's illegality on a scale of one to 10.

The 8-meter high concrete wall, razor-wire fences, trenches and watchtowers will stand to cut off the Palestinians not just from Jerusalem, but also from other towns and villages. This would mean that thousands of Palestinians will be separated from their relatives, their workplaces, the schools that most of their children attend and where they shop for their necessities.

The wall will inhibit important trade carried out between Israel and the Palestinian towns and cities. This means that thousands of people are at risk of losing their sources of income.

The West Bank is being transformed into a city of cages or enclaves where the only way out is through a series of special roads, tunnels or bridges manned by Israeli officers who have the power to deny access to anyone they please.

Outside these cages, Palestinians are further frustrated by Israeli-only roads, heightened scrutiny by guards, expanding Jewish settlements and a stronger military presence.

This nightmare is fast becoming a reality for thousands of Palestinians. Does Israel really think that locking Palestinians up in these walled cages, taking away their sources of income, keeping their children from attending schools and limiting their freedom will result in peace? Has history ever shown these tactics to work? Instead, these will incite the Palestinians even more and unite them in the fight against Israel. Where there was one suicide bomber there will now be 10.

Israel would be wise to take the International Court of Justice's recommendation into consideration. Two wrongs do not make a right. We would all like to see a stop to the suicide bombings and a lasting peace in the Middle East, but Israel's wall will incite violence, not hinder it.

**BATOOL RIZVI**  
Wynantskill

ATV 8/10/04

## Parents, students deserve education alternatives

Education leaders should stop bashing the competition and wasting energy making excuses for the failure of certain traditional public schools, and instead live up to the challenge of finding ways to

percentage of Arbor Hill Elementary students passing this test dropped nearly in half in one year (49 percent passing last year versus 27 percent passing this year). And contrary to claims made, N... Covenant outperformed Arbor Hill school year.

Both Arbor Hill  
will have a long

# Rally Tear Down the Walls of Occupation

①

June 4th  
Washington Ave. Armory  
5:00 – 6:30 PM

*June 2004 marks 37 years of Israel's Military Occupation of the  
Palestinian territories –West Bank, East Jerusalem and the  
Gaza Strip.*

Against 37 years of Occupation  
For Peace with Justice

Against the Apartheid Wall  
For Human Rights

Against US Support of Occupation  
For Freedom

***Sponsored by the Palestinian Rights Committee***

***Endorsed by Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace,  
Women Against War, Capital District Greens, Upper  
Hudson Peace Action, Solidarity Committee, Albany  
County Greens***

***For more information contact: [prc@riseup.net](mailto:prc@riseup.net)***

*Rally will include speakers, music, drummers, and poetry*

2004

Over 110 Palestinians had been killed in May, the current razing of homes in Rafah (Amnesty International calls a War Crime), missile attacks and extra-judiciary assassinations, and placing Gaza under Siege; the continued building of a 450 mile Wall in the West Bank- destroying villages, farms, and economies; lack of a US Gov't response to these acts, it's recent declaration of support for settlements, the continued financing of occupation and the use of US-made Apache helicopters, Armored Caterpillar bulldozers and tanks.

### TEAR DOWN THE APARTHEID WALL!

At the end of July 2003, the Israeli government misleadingly announced the completion of the "first phase"—145 km from some 600km—of the Wall that it began erecting inside the West Bank in June 2002. In fact, bulldozers continue to ravage the northern West Bank by building buffer zones and expanding sections of the Wall. The Wall—falsely declared a "security barrier" by the Israeli military—is the largest land grab since the Occupation began in 1967; when completed the Wall will de-facto annex nearly 50% of the West Bank by the Israeli government.

The Wall effectively annexes West Bank land on which Illegal Jewish-settlements were built and confiscates prime resources, turning the West Bank into a series of cantons and enclaves in a bantustanization of the area. The Wall has already taken over the lands of dozens of Palestinian communities and stolen the livelihoods of thousands of families in the northern West Bank as well as in the Jerusalem and Bethlehem areas. The US Administration has yet to exert pressure on the Israeli government to stop building and start dismantling the Wall. It is up to US citizens to demand that the US Administration hold the Israeli Government accountable for international law, and to coordinate their actions to stop the Wall and promote freedom for the Palestinian people and peace and security for all.

## Remember These Children Flower Vigil

4:00PM June 6<sup>th</sup> Washington Park (between Madison & Tulip beds)

A reading of all the Palestinian and Israeli children who have died since the beginning of the Second Intifada  
Please bring a flower

2

**Other Actions Include:**  
**Rebuilding Homes:** Host a house party to raise funds for "Rebuilding Homes". This is a joint project of the Palestinian Land Defense and the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions to rebuild homes for Palestinians that have been destroyed by the Israeli Occupational Forces. A video and packet is provided. [www.ichad.org](http://www.ichad.org)

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**Help Organize  
Future Activities:**  
For Meeting  
information contact  
[prc@riseup.net](mailto:prc@riseup.net)

**Palestinian News  
Digest:** Sign up to  
receive Palestinian  
Rights Committee  
electronic digest of  
news, alerts,  
notices, photos

**Caterpillar Campaign:** Join Jewish Voices for Peace, SUSTAIN (Stop US Tax-Supported Aid to Israel Now), the US Campaign to End Israeli Occupation, and Progressive Portal in holding the Caterpillar Corporation accountable for the criminal use of its products by the Israeli army. Forcing a major corporation to publicly acknowledge Israel's violence toward civilians will raise public awareness about the nature of Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands and the role of the United States in supporting it. Write the Caterpillar board of directors to ask that Caterpillar stop selling its D9, D10, and D11 bulldozers to Israel. [www.catestroyshomes.com](http://www.catestroyshomes.com).

**Stop The Wall Campaign:** An international grassroots campaign calling for end to the Apartheid Wall, removal of existing wall and return of confiscated land; as well as just compensation. Contains fact Sheets, action alerts, articles & maps. [www.stopthewall.org](http://www.stopthewall.org)

**Rep. McNulty Supports the Wall:** Rep. Mike McNulty has cosponsored House Concurrent Resolution 371, which supports the construction of the Wall by Israel and condemns the UN General Assembly to request the International Court of Justice to render an opinion on the Wall. Rep Michael McNulty, 2161 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515-3221 518-465-0700, 202-225-5076 [mike.mculty@mail.house.gov](mailto:mike.mculty@mail.house.gov)

## Informative Websites:

(4)

**www.electronicintifada.net:** Electronic Intifada (EI) is a non-profit, independent publication committed to comprehensive public education on Palestine and the human dimensions of Israel's 37-year occupation of Palestinian territories.

**www.btselem.org:** The Israeli Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories was established in to document and educate the Israeli public and policymakers about human rights violations in the Occupied Territories.

**www.endtheoccupation.org:** The US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, a diverse coalition, promotes a U.S. policy toward Israel/Palestine that supports peace, justice, human rights, and international law rather than military occupation.

**www.middleeastbooks.com:** For a wide variety of books, videos, and other items concerning Palestinian Rights, Middle Eastern History & Culture, Islam, The American Educational Trust publishes the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, complimentary copies are available.

**www.merip.org** MERIP is a non-profit, non-governmental organization with no links to any religious, educational or political organizations in the US or elsewhere. *Middle East Report's* covers issues of governance, social trends and economic development.

**www.pchrgaza.org:** Palestine Centre for Human Rights Publishes a weekly and specific report of human rights violations

**www.gush-shalom.org:** Gush Shalom has played a leading role in determining the moral and political agenda of the peace forces in Israel, as well as in breaking the so-called "national consensus". Updated information on the Refusenik movement

**www.imemc.org:** International and Palestinian journalists have joined together to create a new media center.

**www.al-awda.org:** The Palestine Right to Return Coalition (Al-Awda is Arabic for "THE RETURN") is a broad-based non-partisan global democratic association of thousands of grassroots activists and organizational representatives concerned for the Palestinian Refugees Right of Return.

**Aljazeera.net English:** The English language version of the Aljazeera Arabic News Station. Comprehensive in its coverage of Arabic and international news.

5/29/04

LETTERS

DG

## Attack of Arab armies caused creation of Palestinian refugees

It is clear from Kay Kelly's letter of May 22 that there is more than one opinion about which side is most at fault in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Some of her assertions, however, defy logic.

Arguing about whether the Palestinians fled their homes at the urging of their own Arab leaders or, as Ms. Kelly believes, in fear of "Zionist attacks," is mostly an exercise in futility. Fifty-six years after the fact, historians continue to vigorously debate this issue.

However, the inescapable fact conveniently omitted by Ms. Kelly is that there would not be even one Palestinian refugee had five Arab armies not attacked Israel in 1948 when it declared independence pursuant to the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine. All wars create refugees. No one disputes that Israel's War of Independence was started by the Arabs.

Her outrage over the fact that the Negev region given to the Israelis remains mostly unpopulated is also misplaced. Giving her the benefit of the doubt, perhaps she doesn't know that this area, which comprises nearly 60 percent of modern Israel, is a barren desert that is largely uninhabitable. It would be

prohibitively expensive to settle a large number of people there, assuming that the resources were even available.

Unfortunately, Israel isn't blessed with an abundance of water as is New York state. By the way, no population centers, Palestinian or otherwise, ever existed in the Negev prior to 1948.

That being said, it is hardly unusual to find a country's population centered in a few metropolitan areas. There are many economic and social reasons for this. Uneven population distributions are the norm throughout the world.

Here at home, more than 8 million people live within the 310 square miles of New York City. Fewer than 300,000 live within the 530 square miles of Albany County. Is Ms. Kelly suggesting that we should start resettling the residents of Manhattan and the Bronx in upstate New York?

Should Brooklynites be forced to settle in the Adirondacks? Maybe we could ease traffic congestion in Los Angeles by moving more people into the Mojave Desert, or natives of Cairo, Egypt into the Sahara. Why does Ms. Kelly have one rule for Israel and another for the rest of the world?

How ironic it is to read a complaint from a pro-Palestinian about Israeli access to the sea. Perhaps the reason why the U.N. plan gave Israel access to the Gulf of Aqaba through the Negev was because it knew that no adjacent Arab country would grant it the same right. On the other hand, who would believe that Egypt or Jordan would have denied such access to a Palestinian state?

Finally, I object to Ms. Kelly's liberal use of the term Zionist. Although most Jews and Israelis think of themselves as one kind of Zionist or another, no one uses the term as a means of identification. The only people who still call Israelis by the term Zionist are organizations like Hamas or Islamic Jihad (or their sympathizers) that are bent on the total destruction of Israel.

By substituting Zionist for Israeli, the intent is to delegitimize Israel as a political entity. It transforms Israelis from a people with a right to a nation into a people who only have a philosophy (a love for Zion). It would be similar to Native Americans still calling Americans of European descent Colonists or Pilgrims.

**MICHAEL KOHN**  
Albany

## Payments could ease anger of Arab refugees

This is in response to the April 2 letter of Mark Kelly. Any hatred toward the Israelis comes from the expulsion of Arabs from their land in 1948 and the expropriation of their land, houses, crops and businesses.

It has been more than 50 years, and Israel has not paid compensation. (Scholars have studied this problem; see most recently Michael Fischbach's book "Records of Dispossession.") Studies have been made of German compensation to Jews from the Holocaust and applied those principles to Israeli compensation to Arab refugees. I should think those should be followed here (and, I might say, to compensation by other nations to their refugees).

An acquaintance has told me of a proposal to have America and Europe contribute to a fund for compensation. Then the refugee might have a stake to go elsewhere. This could diminish the killing and show the Arabs that we are not their enemy.

After some thought, I think I might support such a proposal — it may save lives, including American lives. All of this deserves much more discussion than it is getting.

**NIGEL WRIGHT**  
Schenectady

ATV  
4/7/04

ATU 4/12/02

## Hold Palestinians, Israel to same standard

Your March 24 editorial, "A new Mideast cycle," regarding the murder of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of Hamas, the militant Palestinian resistance group, was filled with misinformation and ignorant statements. Describing Palestinians as "those who welcome nothing more than an unending cycle of bloodshed," the editorial portrays an offensive yet commonly mistaken view of Muslims.

The assassination was described as a "matter of bringing an architect of murder to justice." The problem with this statement is twofold. First, it assumes that Yassin was an architect of murder; second, that the assassination was a "just" act. If indeed Yassin was the former, why then was he not simply arrested and thrown in jail? Why did Israel feel the need to use a military air strike to do the job, and kill 11 innocent bystanders as well? If the Hamas threat was so severe, Israel could have taken out the elderly paraplegic years ago.

The real reason is more probably Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's desire to depart Gaza while maintaining his reputation as a callous hardliner, for fear of repeating former Prime Minister Ehud Barak's "mistake" of exiting Lebanon without a fight in 2000. If this is the case, the murder is most certainly unjust. The editorial mentions the 300 Israelis killed by Hamas in recent years as justification for the assassination; however, it fails to mention the 2,000 plus Palestinian men, women and children killed by Israeli forces, or the numerous homes and livelihoods demolished as well.

The least we can do as Americans is equally condemn violence, instead of propagating anti-Muslim sentiment by holding Israel to a different standard.

**ZAHRA SHAH***Cohoes*

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The  
ISRAELI - PALESTINIAN  
LAND DISPUTE

a discussion

First Unitarian Universalist Society

Channing Hall  
405 Washington Ave.  
Albany, NY

Tuesday April 5, 2005

7:30 - 9:30 pm

*Sponsored by:  
The Palestinian Rights Committee  
And the  
First Unitarian Universalist Society*

## Panel Speakers

### Carl Swidorski (moderator)

Professor, Dept. of History/Political Science  
College of St. Rose

### Karl Barbir

Professor, Dept. of History  
Sienna College

### Ethan Bloch

Professor, Dept. Mathematics  
Bard College  
Brit T'zedek v'Shalom spokesperson

#### Help Organize Future

Activities: Next Meeting  
of the Palestinian Rights  
Committee  
Wed., April 13<sup>th</sup> 5:45 PM  
[prc@riseup.net](mailto:prc@riseup.net) for  
directions

#### Palestinian News

Digest: Sign up to  
receive Palestinian  
Rights Committee  
electronic digest of  
news, alerts,  
notices, photos

### BUILDING BRIDGES IN THE HOLY LAND

Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> Professor Donald Luidens,  
First Church in Albany (RCA), 110 North Pearl St.  
518-463-4449 for more info

Professor Donald Luidens, professor of sociology at Hope College, will  
offer a presentation on the current situation in Palestine and Israel.

His presentation will highlight the remarkable efforts by some people in the  
region who are working to bridge the gaps which divide Palestinians and  
Israelis. The evening will begin with a pot luck supper at 6 PM (Please bring  
a dish to pass.) Or come only for the presentation which will follow at 7:00.

## Suggested Actions

**Monthly Committee Vigil:** Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 4:30-5:30 Washington Ave.  
Armory. Help keep the issue of Palestinian Rights visible.

**Children's Memorial Day & Flower Vigil:** Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> Time & location  
TBA. A reading of all Palestinian and Israeli children who have been killed  
since Sept. 2000 [prc@riseup.net](mailto:prc@riseup.net) for more info

**Rebuilding Homes:** Host a "The Right to Live in a Homeland: 1000 House  
Parties to Rebuild Palestinian Homes." These house parties will both raise  
consciousness over the Occupation and funds for rebuilding. This is a joint  
project of the Jerusalem Center for Social & Economic Rights and the Israeli  
Committee Against House Demolitions to rebuild homes for Palestinians that  
have been destroyed by the Israeli Occupational Forces. [www.icahd.org](http://www.icahd.org)

**Caterpillar Campaign: April 13<sup>th</sup> Day of Action:** Join in holding the  
Caterpillar Corporation accountable for the criminal use of its products by the  
Israeli army. Forcing a major corporation to publicly acknowledge Israel's  
violence toward civilians will raise public awareness about the nature of  
Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands and the role of the United States in  
supporting it. On the International Day of Action Against Caterpillar - April 13  
cities all over the world -- from San Francisco to Stockholm, from Mobile to  
Chicago -- will hold actions against Caterpillar. That day, Caterpillar  
shareholders will meet in Chicago and will discuss a resolution on sales of  
bulldozers to Israel. For more information about Caterpillar's human rights  
abuses and the International Day of Action Against Caterpillar visit  
[www.catdestroyshomes.org](http://www.catdestroyshomes.org).

**Stop The Wall Campaign:** An international grassroots campaign calling for  
end to the Apartheid Wall, removal of existing wall and return of confiscated  
land, as well as just compensation. Contains fact Sheets, action alerts, articles  
& maps. [www.stophthewall.org](http://www.stophthewall.org)

**Rep. McNulty Supports the Wall:** Rep. Mike McNulty has cosponsored  
House Concurrent Resolution 371, which supports the construction of the  
Wall by Israel and condemns the UN General Assembly to request the  
International Court of Justice to render an opinion on the Wall. Rep Michael  
McNulty, 2161 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515-3221 518-465-0700,  
202-225-5076 [mike.mculty@mail.house.gov](mailto:mike.mculty@mail.house.gov)

**Karl Breyman Eyewitness Presentation:** Karl is available to speak to your  
classroom, organization, congregation, house party, etc. Karl participated in  
Freedom Summer Campaign of the International Solidarity Movement from  
May-Aug. 2004. Contact Karl at 283-5987

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### **Informative Websites:**

**www.electronicintifada.net:** Electronic Intifada (EI) is a non-profit, independent publication committed to comprehensive public education on Palestine and the human dimensions of Israel's 37-year occupation of Palestinian territories.

**www.btselem.org:** The Israeli Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories was established in to document and educate the Israeli public and policymakers about human rights violations in the Occupied Territories,.

**www.endtheoccupation.org:** The US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, a diverse coalition, promotes a U.S. policy toward Israel/Palestine that supports peace, justice, human rights, and international law rather than military occupation.

**www.middleeastbooks.com:** For a wide variety of books, videos, and other items concerning Palestinian Rights, Middle Eastern History & Culture, Islam, The American Educational Trust publishes the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, complimentary copies are available.

**www.merip.org** MERIP is a non-profit, non-governmental organization with no links to any religious, educational or political organizations in the US or elsewhere. *Middle East Report's* covers issues of governance, social trends and economic development.

**www.pchrgaza.org:** Palestine Centre for Human Rights Publishes a weekly and specific report of human rights violations

**ww w.gush-shalom.org:** Gush Shalom has played a leading role in determining the moral and political agenda of the peace forces in Israel, as well as in breaking the so-called "national consensus". Updated information on the Refusenik movement

**www.imemc.org:** International and Palestinian journalists have joined together to create a new media center.

**www.al-awda.org:** The Palestine Right to Return Coalition (Al-Awda is Arabic for "THE RETURN") is a broad-based non-partisan global democratic association of thousands of grassroots activists and organizational representatives concerned for the Palestinian Refugees Right of Return.

**Aljazeera.net English:** The English language version of the Aljazeera Arabic News Station. Comprehensive coverage of Arabic and international news.

**www.nad-plo.org:** An excellent collection of official Palestinian fact sheets, and maps, along with analysis and daily news bulletins

**www.btvshalom.org:** Brit Tzedek v'Shalom Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace

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**JON W. JACKLET**  
Albany

## Clergy should end silence over Iraq

Seven hundred Americans have now been killed in Iraq. Pardon my anger and cynicism, but am I asking too much for our pulpits to get some moral backbone and speak out about these deaths?

Where is the moral and righteous indignation you hear the clergy talking about when it comes to other minor topics of conversation? Why the great silent treatment about connecting Iraq and Bush? I'll tell you why when my own church will not ... it is because they have the erroneous belief that Mr. Bush's "born-again Christian" background is not to be criticized, especially when it comes to Iraq!

They have blinded themselves to the truth that Mr. Bush knowingly and deceitfully led this nation into the quagmire that is now Iraq. And there are none so blind as those who will not see!

I challenge clergy this weekend to tell it like it is. The truth shall set you free. Stop the bloodshed now!

**GARY HULL**  
Scotia

Bush is pro-life

DC  
4/29/04  
60/62/4

## A Brief History Of Palestine And Popular Resistance

--By TOM ELLIS

Mazin Qumsiyeh spoke June 22 in Saugerties about "Popular Resistance in Palestine: A History of Hope and Empowerment." About 35 attended at a downtown book store.

Qumsiyeh, born near Bethlehem in 1957, has a Ph.D. in biology, is a medical geneticist, Christian, U.S. citizen, and founded and directs the (1) Palestinian Museum of Natural History and (2) The Institute for Biodiversity Research at Bethlehem University. These institutions conduct research, educate, and conserve the natural world and Palestinian culture and heritage.

He began and repeated several times that "diversity is strength" and is superior to mono-cultures of any and every type. He said Palestine is rich in human and non-human genetic material partly due its location at the bottleneck of Eurasia and Africa. "Palestine," a word in usage for 3,000 years, was used by Herodotus. Jesus was a Palestinian Jew. The land of Palestine is exceptionally wealthy in ethnic groups, languages, and religions.

Dr. Qumsiyeh said Zionist leader Theodor Herzl (d. 1904) told European leaders that a Jewish presence in Palestine

would be a bulwark of European civilization in Asia, Zionist leaders won French and British governments support for their cause during World War I by pledging to help bring the US into the war, and David Ben-Gurion (first Israeli prime minister) came up with the "two-state" solution in the 1920s, knowing Zionists could use it for propaganda purposes despite their intent to take all or as much of Palestine as they could.

There are more Jews, Qumsiyeh said, per square kilometer in the West Bank now than within the 1949-1967 Israel borders; Palestinians now possess 8.3 percent of the land in historic Palestine, and since 1948, more than 100,000 Palestinians have been killed, 800,000 injured, and 700,000 detained by Israel. About 7.5 million of 13 million Palestinians are now dispossessed from their lands.

He said colonialism was a common human activity for millennia, colonizers do not want the colonized to have lives or livelihoods, and colonizers can never respect the sovereignty of the colonized. He insisted it is vital to call colonialism by its correct name; doing so allows one to make a correct diagnosis of reality.

--See Palestine Continued Below

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OF THE CAPITAL DISTRICT**  
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### Your "Solidarity Notes"

ments" that came together to prevent the Partnership (TPP) from being approved in Congress now needs to speak out in order to ensure that decisions being made in the NAFTA renegotiation today are in our shared interests.

To get involved in New York, contact George Kimball 518-833-3235 or [george@citizenstrade.org](mailto:george@citizenstrade.org), you can also visit our website [www.citizenstrade.org](http://www.citizenstrade.org) and follow us on twitter @citizenstrade. Or, call 518-833-3235. ❖

*(The Citizens Trade Campaign (CTC) is a national coalition whose members include Americans for Democratic Action, American Federation of Teachers, Communications Workers of America, Friends of the Earth U.S., Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, International Union of Bricklayers and*

*throughout the United States.)*

### **Palestine... (Continued)**

He said Israel often uses butterfly bullets on Gazans; such bullets greatly expand as they pass through human flesh. More than 100 Palestinians have been killed since late March and at least 10,000 injured.

While incarcerated in Israeli prisons, he taught biology and languages to fellow prisoners and guards while learning everything he could from them. Protesting, he said, is not enough, although it is important, but Palestinians should be building institutions. He said the Palestinian Authority sub-contracts the occupation for Israel and Gaza is experiencing genocide. ❖

2022

**URGE YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS TO CO-SPONSOR  
H.R. 2590**



**Defend the Rights of Palestinian Children and Families**

H.R. 2590 seeks to promote justice, equality and human rights for Palestinian children and families by prohibiting Israeli authorities from using U.S. taxpayer funds to detain and torture Palestinian children, demolish and seize Palestinian homes, and further annex Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank.

The United States provides \$3.8 billion each year (\$10.5 million per day) in military aid to Israel. H.R. 2590 would require the Secretary of State to certify that U.S. financial assistance to Israel is not used to support any of the prohibited activities. Please call, email, or write your member of Congress and ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 2590. U.S. taxpayers should not be paying for the continued oppression of the Palestinian people.

Congressman Paul Tonko  
Congressman Antonio Delgado

(202) 225-5076  
(202) 225-5614

②

## **Tonko: Co-Sponsor H.R. 2590- Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families**

Dear Representative Tonko,

We represent a variety of groups, backgrounds and traditions and we all recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every human being and share a common commitment to working for justice and freedom for all.

We trust that you share those values and therefore ask that you co- sponsor Representative McCollum's bill, H.R. 2590, "Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act," which requires detailed reporting on the use of U.S. military funding to Israel.

H.R. 2590 was introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) on April 15, 2021. It seeks to ensure that no U.S. taxpayer funds are used by the Israeli government for (1) the military detention of Palestinian children, (2) the demolition of Palestinian homes and property, and (3) the further annexation of Palestinian land in violation of international law.

The bill establishes annual certification and reporting obligations for the Secretary of State to verify that no U.S. funds have been used by the Israeli government to support these prohibited activities. It also requires the Secretary of State to submit reports describing the nature and extent of the Israeli government's actions on these activities. Furthermore, the bill calls for the Comptroller General to submit a report to Congress detailing the use of U.S. funds designated for Israel's procurement within Israel for specific programs and items.

We are grateful for your past expressions of concern for Palestinian people living under occupation and hope that you will continue to support human rights for all people by adding your name as a co-sponsor of H.R. 2590.

Email

First Name

Last Name

City

Zip Code

Group Affiliation

You can also sign and submit this letter online at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2IGopQKvmRAeMnYt67reg7pdn7MrK1eS14j\\_1eniGUCpVYw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2IGopQKvmRAeMnYt67reg7pdn7MrK1eS14j_1eniGUCpVYw/viewform)

**An Invitation to Constituents of Congressman Paul Tonko:  
Please Support H.R. 2590- Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian  
Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act**

We, the undersigned, represent a diversity of groups and come from a variety of traditions yet share a common commitment to advocating for justice and freedom and for defending the human rights of all. We are asking you to join us in speaking up for the rights of Palestinians living under the Israeli occupation by signing this petition.

For those of you who are constituents of NY Congressional District 20, please endorse this petition requesting our Representative, Paul Tonko, cosponsor H.R.2590, "Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act." H.R. 2590 aims to promote and protect the human rights of Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation and to ensure that United States taxpayer funds are not being used by the Government of Israel to support the military detention of Palestinian children, the unlawful seizure, appropriation, and destruction of Palestinian property and forcible transfer of civilians in the occupied West Bank, or further annexation of Palestinian land in violation of international law.

You can read the bill here: <https://mccollum.house.gov/media/press-releases/mccollum-introduces-historic-legislation-defending-human-rights-palestinian> Additional resources are available here: [https://nwtac.dci-palestine.org/resources\\_on\\_hr2590](https://nwtac.dci-palestine.org/resources_on_hr2590)

Please share widely.

Sincerely,

Ahmad Abu-Hakmeh, Al Hidayah Mosque, Latham, NY

Heather Benno, ANSWER Coalition - Albany, NY (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism); Immigrant Justice Solutions

Rev. Peter Cook, New York State Council of Churches

Eugene Damm, Palestinian Rights Committee-Upper Hudson Peace Action

Stephen Downs, Albany NY

Tom Ellis, Palestinian Rights Committee-Upper Hudson Peace Action

Jeanne Finley, Capital District Coalition against Islamophobia, and the Muslim Solidarity Committee

Lynne Jackson, Project SALAM - Support and Legal Advocacy for Muslims

Merle Longwood, Messiah Lutheran Church, Schenectady

Rev. Abigail Norton-Levering, Ministries Coordinator for the Synod of Albany, Reformed Church in America

Rev. John Paarlberg, Churches for Middle East Peace; NY State Council of Churches; Palestinian Rights Committee-Upper Hudson Peace Action

Marilyn Paarlberg, Loudonville, NY

Uzma Popal, Al Hidayah Mosque, Latham, NY

Rev. Paul H. Randall, Slingerlands, NY

Saul Rigberg, Jewish Voice for Peace-Albany

Haroon Sarwer, Masjid As-Salam, Albany

Carl Strock, Saratoga Springs, NY

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Daily Freeman

# Life

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Friday, January 24, 2003

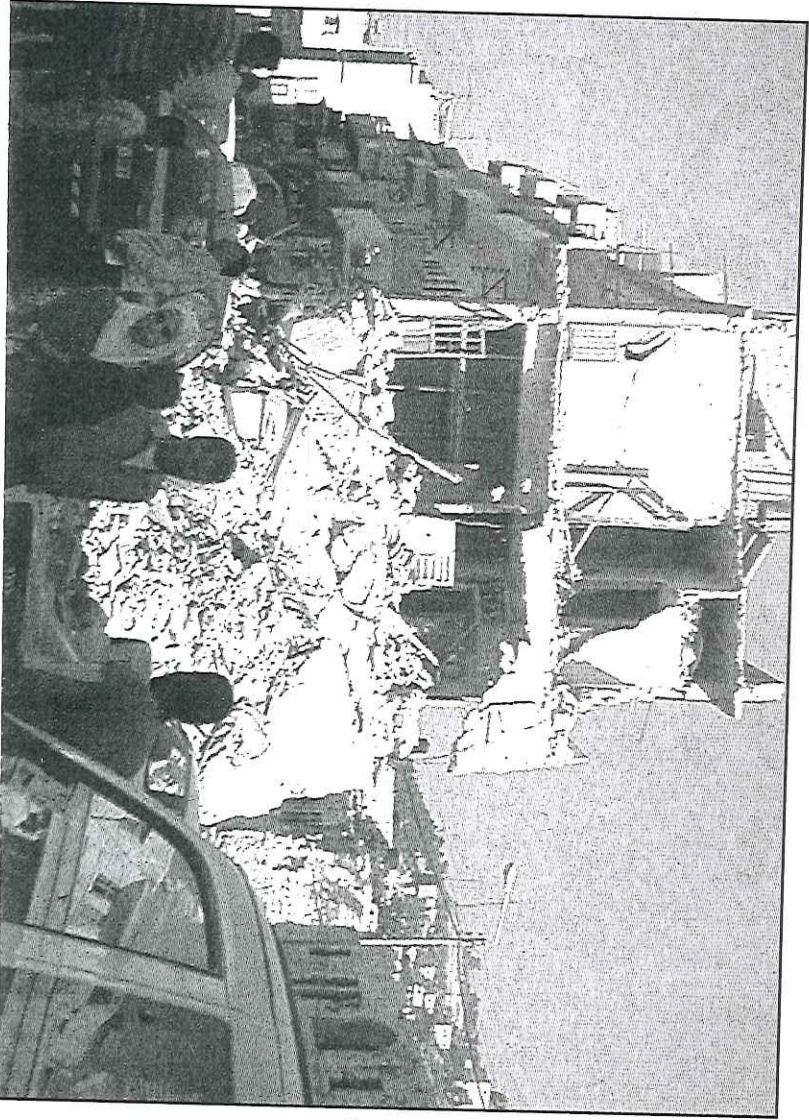
# PALESTINIAN PERSPECTIVES

■ *Upstate Films  
brings controversial  
movies, speakers to  
Rhinebeck this  
weekend.*

By BLAISE SCHWEITZER  
Freeman staff

**A SELDOM-MAINED** perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is coming to Upstate Films in Rhinebeck, 1 p.m. Sunday, with a speaker from Jews Against the Occupation introducing a documentary about the lives of Palestinians on the West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza.

Emmaia Gelman, a New York City resident who helped found Jews Against the Occupation, said she wants Americans to know about the humiliation Pal-



Such criticism needs to be heard more frequently, according to Gelman, who said those who question Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon are too often branded anti-Semitic. Zionism and Judaism are distinct beliefs, she added.

**GELMAN SEES** some hope, however. Even within Israel there are Jews and "refusnik" Israeli soldiers who refuse to support raids on Palestinian homes and brutal checkpoint searches.

Gelman tried to get a cousin to join the refusniks rather than serve in the military, to no avail. By the time he completed his service he was, himself, a casualty of the experience. Hardened and callous, he no longer resembled her memory of him, she said.

humans are subjected to, and how those experiences trigger more cycles of violence and more suicide bombers.

Gelman was born in the United States, but much of her family still lives in Israel where her father spent his early years. "When he was born it was Palestine," she said.

## DURING

annual visits with family in Tel Aviv, Gelman has traveled around Israel and has been shocked by the indifference to

Palestinian deaths, and the hatred and racism shown towards them by people who claim to be religious.

"Arabs are called 'dirty vermin,'" she said.

Jewish settlers who take over Palestinian lands, some of them religious zealots from New York City, make matters worse, Gelman said.

GELMAN and others who support the rights of Arabs around Israel have countered some of those effects by going to refugee camps and border crossings to object to some of the worst human rights violations.

Soldiers are less likely to kill or abuse if Western wit-

This photograph provided by Jews Against the Occupation shows Palestinian civilians gathered in Nabulus front of an apartment building recently razed by Israeli artillery.

nesses are there, she said.

Some of these sorts of incidents are featured in "Palestine is Still the Issue" by



Filmmaker John Pilger

John Pilger, the film Gelman is introducing Sunday along with Nihaya Dugan a second-generation Palestinian refugee

and a member of the Palestine Right to Return Coalition.

PILGER, an Australian journalist and filmmaker, made the video in 2001, 27 years after his first documentary on conditions on the West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza. He compares the checkpoints and pressure from Israelis to the apartheid system and pass laws of South Africa's worst period.

A second film on the same topic, "Divine Intervention," is also screening at Upstate, through Jan 30. That film, a political satire directed by and starring former Nazareth resident Elia Suleiman, won

a Special Jury Prize at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival for its focus on the absurdities of Palestinian life under Israeli military closure.

Steve Leiber, one of the owners of Upstate Films, said the theater will probably be criticized for airing the films. "I know this is an unpopular view."

UPSTATE FILMS has a long tradition of serving as a forum for widely disparate perspectives, and Leiber said

he considers those of the filmmakers worthy of consideration.

Leiber, who was brought up as a Jew, said criticism of Israel's tactics in subduing Palestinians has come from sources as surprising as David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister.

"He said being an occupier is a bad idea," Leiber said, referring to the military occupation of the West Bank.

"He was the sweetest, most caring, most sensitive boy," she said. "He wouldn't hurt a flea."

## GELMAN HAS seen

Israeli soldiers, safe within their tanks, shoot live ammunition at Palestinian children throwing stones. She believes the accounts she has heard of Israeli soldiers using children as human shields while raiding refugee camps. And she would like to see Israel pressured to change.

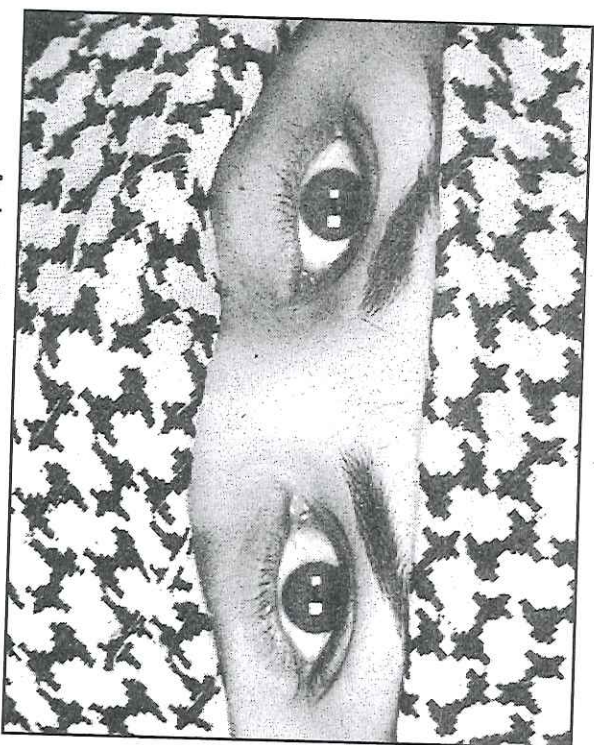
Israel's policies aren't just harming Israel, but all Jews who feel a strong connection to the country, she said.

"To blindly take on the oppression of a whole group of people is costing the Jewish community its integrity," she said.

Gelman said she hopes Upstate Films doesn't suffer for screening films that question Israel's policies and for allowing her and fellow activist Nihaya Dugan to speak.

SINCE the creation of the state of Israel very little of the viewpoint of the common Palestinian has been seen in Western news reports, and for Upstate to be open to showing it is a good thing, she said.

"I don't think it's a problem for people to get a chance to speak once every 40 or 50 years."



An image from 'Divine Intervention'

ATV

10/10/04

## U.S. should support a viable Palestinian state

I was absolutely shocked to read that the United States vetoed a Security Council resolution asking Israel to stop the assault on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. To quote the *Times Union* article of Oct. 6 ("Israelis continue assault on Gaza"), "Nearly half the 72 Palestinians killed and 60 percent of the more than 400 wounded in the campaign were civilians, Palestinian hospital officials said."

Israeli troops have also demolished dozens of houses to carve out paths for tanks mainly in Jebeliya, scene of the heaviest fighting. On Oct. 5, BBC News showed a kindergarten the Israeli army

had deliberately destroyed. The reporter could not walk in some areas for fear of being shot by Israeli soldiers.

George Bush claimed that we are hated because we have democracy. I strongly believe that we are hated because we finance and support this treatment of a beleaguered people, to the tune of \$14 million a day.

We need to help establish what the Road to Peace called for, which is a viable and sovereign Palestinian state.

**GRACE B. WHITE**

*Albany*

No group can have power if everyone votes

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make them the majority of vote.  
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**JEAN SHEVIK**  
East Greenbush  
The writer is director of the Capital  
District Library Council.

## Arafat enabled Palestinians to dream of own state

The Nov. 13 editorial cartoon unfairly suggested that Yasser Arafat was responsible for the devastation, both physical and to the dreams of the Palestinians, that now exist. He has been libeled as a terrorist.

It's important to keep in mind that one person's terrorist is another's freedom fighter. George Washington probably would have been hung as a traitor if we had lost the Revolutionary War.

Many of Israel's greatest leaders were "freedom fighters" in the establishment of that state. Remember also that Israel took land, including thousands of homes and farms that had been owned by generations of Palestinian families who were subsequently moved by the tens of thousands to refugee camps. The refugees lived in those camps for more than 50 years with no hope of having a homeland.

Until Arafat. He renounced terror as part of the original Camp David accord even though a guerrilla war was all he could fight with in the face of Israeli tanks and bombs and artillery. We Americans, of all people, should

remember how to fight an occupation army from the bushes.

Arafat has been criticized for not accepting a take it or leave it "peace plan" from Israel that did not even meet the minimum requirements for a true, independent and free homeland and which did not include even a small, long time and very holy Muslim section of East Jerusalem.

Israelis have steadfastly refused to give back meaningful sections of land they took from Jordan, including the West Bank and East Jerusalem, in the 1967 war, on which, of course they have been building settlements for 40 years. Arafat was not a perfect man but he dedicated his life to winning back a homeland for his dispossessed people. His failure to accomplish that must be shared by many people. He did, however, make real a dream that will not die until the Palestinian people get a home land and a country of their own. And this will be his final legacy.

**DON MARSHALL**  
Charlton

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