

COUNTRY VALLEY FARM

Est. 2017 | Ann Arbor, MI

Enjoy certified organic, locally grown, fresh produce weekly by becoming a member of our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture).

We offer home delivery as well as local pickups at Temple Beth Emeth in Ann Arbor.

Details and registration at our website www.countryvalleyfarm.com

Feel free to reach out to Adam with any questions at countryvalleyinfo@gmail.com It is our intention to contribute to our community and help heal the world through our family farm and CSA program.

 the **PurpleRose** theatre company



UNDER CEEGE

A WORLD PREMIERE BY
Jeffry Chastang

DIRECTED BY Lynch Travis

JAN 22-MAR 12, 2022

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PurpleRoseTheatre.org

From the Editor

Purim marks two years since the COVID 19 shutdowns, and with re-starting in-person gatherings, it is truly the season of our joy. But also the season of, I don't know what to call



Clare Kinberg

it, stress responses, forgetfulness, absent-mindedness: does "pandemic brain" cover it? If you are experiencing this too, I hope you will be easy on yourself and others.

In planning with Rabbi Whinston and Rachel Levy for the March 20 "Reimagining 21st Century Jewish Community" get together, I came across the sponsors of ReBoot's Shavuot series (some people really plan ahead), featuring an all-night listen to Thelonious Monk's "Round Midnight." The sponsors include LABA: A Laboratory for Jewish Culture; Jewish Emergent Network; Lab/Shul; The Kitchen; Romenu: Jewish Life Elevated; and several other organizations whose names themselves are filled with the joy of Jewish creativity.

I'm an optimist, but one of my students at the Reconstructionist congregation outdid me. He said, "I don't look at whether the glass is half full or half empty because I know the glass is refillable." How beautiful is that? Happy Purim. ■

An exchange of letters prompted by the Ann Arbor City Council resolution on antisemitism: Who is an antisemite?

Dear Clare:

I live not far away from the site of the weekly demonstration so heatedly rejected by the Ann Arbor City Council. As I was born and raised in Israel and went to war to defend it in 1973, I'd like to say a few words about that decision by the council. Walking past these demonstrators and talking to them, I never saw or heard any antisemitic proclamations. They are opposed to Israel's policy in the occupied West Bank. So am I. A few words about the profound difference between antisemitism and anti-Israeli protest are in order.

Unfortunately, Israel suffers from the presence of a small, but very active and vocal group of West Bank settlers and their sympathizers whose activities over the years included the mass murder of Muslims in prayer (Dr. Goldstein), the murder of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the murder of several West Bank Palestinian residents, including children, and daily pogrom-like attacks on Arab villagers in the West Bank, occupied by Israel since 1967, which range from violent attacks on them, to attacks on their livestock, fencing off their access to water, cutting down their olive groves and destroying their property.

Recently the so-called "Boys of the Hills" from an illegal settlement have attacked several Israeli human rights activists and sent them to the hospital. Sadly, this activity is often tolerated and even actively supported by IDF soldiers. A few days ago, such Israeli soldiers killed an 80-year-old Palestinian for the crime of protesting their rough handling at a road block near his home. Unfortunately for those soldiers, the man turned out to be an American citizen, and the U.S. State Department had demanded an explanation, rejecting the usual weak excuses put forward by the IDF.

As most residents of communities such as Ann Arbor wouldn't condone such terrorist activity, these "Boys of the Hills" and their supporters here try to muddy the water by making the preposterous claim that any protest against their activities is "Anti-Semitism."

The situation in the occupied West Bank is complicated, and we must not jump to conclusions, nor should we allow murderers and terrorists, Jewish though they may be, to tarnish a legitimate demonstration in Ann Arbor against their activities and against Israeli policy as Anti-Semitism. Many Israelis are bravely protesting and reporting the crimes committed by the Jewish settlers, taking a great risk in doing so. To me, these are the true heroes of Israel today.

I'd like to believe the council, and the mayor, are misguided rather than the supporters of Jewish terrorism, and fell for a right wing propaganda from an unexpected quarter. I do understand that those whose synagogue became the weekly target of these protesters are not happy to assume the role of Israel's representatives while they go about their worship and celebrate Jewish religious festivals. But perhaps it isn't such a bad thing to have your deeply held convictions challenged on occasion!

Moshe Tzalel Burns Park

Moshe,

Thank you very much for writing.

I share your deep opposition to the occupation and to Israeli government, settlers, and right-wing actions to further disenfranchise Palestinians with whom Jews must eventually (as soon as possible) share the land.

And I agree that there are profound differences between antisemitism and protests against Israeli policy, as you say.

However, signs that say "Jewish Power Corrupts" are antisemitic. Many signs the picketers hold have antisemitic messages. The picketers outside Beth Israel have "muddied the water" of legitimate protest with their choice to disturb religious practice and their antisemitism.

It is the picketers that made their choice to be antisemitic. One of their main organizers has publicly denied the facts of the Holocaust: he says there were no gas chambers, less than 6 million Jews died, and he proudly shook the hand of the man who wrote The Hitler We Loved & Why. How can someone who loved

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

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Signed letters to the editor are welcome; they should not exceed 400 words. Letters can be emailed to the editor. Name will be withheld at the discretion of the editor.

Circulation: 4,500

Subscriptions:
Free inside Washtenaw County
\$18 first-class subscription

Hitler help the Palestinian cause?

The picketers' embrace and promotion of antisemitism cannot helpfully challenge American Jews to further consider their support of Israel policy of occupation and Palestinian disenfranchisement. The protesters severely muddy the water. The waters need to be cleared, and you could help, but not by defending the picketers.

I would hope that you, as someone who knows well what is happening in Israel, will raise your voice in support of Israelis who oppose the "Hilltop boys," the heroes who work for human rights and justice in Israel/Palestine ... but not in defense of a group that has chosen antisemitism.

I hope to continue this conversation with you.

Clare Kinberg, editor of WJN

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