

The Jewish Voice

ותשמע הארץ אמרי-פי Deuteronomy 32:1
MAY THE EARTH HEAR THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH



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Former Saddam Hussein Official Set To Be Executed

A former top official in Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's regime – Tariq Aziz – is set to be executed sometime next year, following the pullout of American forces from the country. "It will definitely take place, after the Americans leave Iraq," stated Saad Yousif al-Muttalibi, an adviser to Iraq's current Prime Minister.

By JV Staff

Aziz served as Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq under Hussein. He gained media attention in the early 1990's when, following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and just prior to the Gulf War, he stated on



television that Iraq would attack Israel if the United States were to attack Iraq. Captured by United States forces in 2003 following the American-led invasion of Iraq, he was sentenced to a total of 22 years in prison in 2009 for involvement in multiple executions as well as the relocation of Kurds. In 2010, the Iraqi High Tribunal sentenced Aziz to death for participating in the elimination of religious parties during Hussein's regime.

Badi Arif, a lawyer for the 75-year-old Aziz, expressed surprise over the latest

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COVER: Sheldon and Dr. Miriam Adelson at the annual ZOA Gala (Nov. 20, 2011). Mr. Adelson is proudly holding a copy of the Jewish Voice. (PHOTO BY TZVI ALLEN FISHMAN)

From the Sands of Las Vegas to the Sands of the Negev:

American Mega-Mogul Helps Ensure a Healthy, Vibrant Jewish Future

When first meeting Sheldon Adelson one is taken aback by his directness. "Is this newspaper pro-Israel?" he asked, as reporters from Jewish Voice attempted to strike up a conversation with him at a recent ZOA Dinner honoring prominent media personality and philo-Semite Glenn Beck.

By Tzvi Allen Fishman and Boruch Shubert

Jewish Voice publisher David Ben-Hooron (who is himself Israeli) reassured Adelson that the JV is, in fact, the most unabashedly Zionist weekly newspaper in North America.

"Good, now what can I do for you?" asked Adelson, all the more affable with the knowledge that he was in the company of like-minded individuals.

To say that Sheldon Adelson is a proud Zionist doesn't quite do the man justice. He

is not just a lover of Israel, he is a tireless defender of the Jewish state who believes that we should not give cede a single square inch of land, and that this land is the historic home of the Jewish nation. He is a staunch supporter of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and fiercely opposes a "two-state solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In 2007, as the result of a failed bid to purchase the Israeli *Maariv* newspaper, he launched his own right wing paper called *Israel HaYom*. Today, *Israel HaYom* is the most widely read paper in Israel with a 39.3%

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Bet El Yeshiva Center Hosts Annual NYC Gala

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon Delivers Keynote Address

By Fern Sidman

"Today's challenges demand that we defend our land from slander and battle the lies that are being thrown at us. As Israel endures constant delegitimization we must remember that we are powerful when we are united as one," declared Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon on Sunday evening December 4 in New York. Delivering his remarks as the keynote speaker at the 29th annual Bet El Dinner, Ayalon addressed close to 2,000 ardent supporters of the Bet El Yeshiva Center and community in Israel at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Manhattan.

Introduced by Eugen Gluck, the honorary chairman of Bet El, Mr. Ayalon drew parallels from this past week's Torah portion relating to the unwavering bond that the Jewish people have with the land of Israel. "In Parshas Vayetze, we learn that even when Yaakov Avinu had to leave the land of Israel, his mind never wondered from

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Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon addresses attendees of the 29th Annual Bet El Gala in New York City.

» GOP Congressional Candidate Karen Harrington Addresses Hebron Fund Dinner

"Two-State Solution Already in Place," says Harrington

see p. 13

» Arrest Made in Highland Park 'Kristallnacht'

A New Jersey man in his mid to late 50s has been arrested in connection with the smashing of windows in Highland Park. see p. 13

» North Shore Hebrew Academy Students, Alumnus Charged in SAT Cheating Scandal

see p. 32

From the Sands of Las Vegas to the Sands of the Negev

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market share and free distribution all over the country.

Sheldon Adelson is also the 16th wealthiest person in the world with assets according to Forbes adding up to over 23 billion dollars. He is one of the largest hotel and casino owners in the world, with approximately 35,000 rooms under his ownership and is the founder, Chairman and CEO of the Las Vegas Sands Corporation, owners of the Venetian, Palazzo and numerous other Las Vegas mega properties. He made his fortune by initially creating the Comdex computer trade show in Las Vegas after which

he and his partners purchased the Sands Hotel and Casino in 1988. The Sands Hotel

was then expanded into a successful expo and convention center.

Sheldon Adelson has certainly not been hesitant to part with his wealth for causes he strongly believes in. He has donated over \$25 million to the M.I.S. Hebrew Academy in Las Vegas to construct a high school, and in 2005 he and his wife contributed \$250,000 each to the second inauguration of President George W. Bush. In 2006, Adelson gave a \$25 million donation to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority. Additionally, he has provided financial backing for the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Medical Research Foundation in Boston, which fosters open collaboration among investigators who participate in goal-directed basic and clinical research to prevent, reduce



Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson with Israel Ambassador Michael Oren at a Birthright Israel Foundation event Tuesday, November 29 in Washington, D.C. (PHOTO COURTESY BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL)



The hotel lobby of Sheldon Adelson's Venetian Resort and Casino in Las Vegas

or eliminate disabling and life-threatening illnesses.

Four years ago, Adelson joined the supporters of the Birthright Israel organization, and since then has contributed over \$100 million to the cause. He announced last week that he intends to double his 2011 Birthright pledge from five million to ten million dollars.

Birthright Israel – which was begun a decade ago as a means of giving young Jewish adults between the ages of 18 and 26 a first-hand immersion in Jewish history and culture that would hopefully strengthen their Jewish identity and connection to the Jewish people, is the brainchild of hedge fund guru-turned-philanthropist Michael Steinhart and boasts such prominent supporters as Charles Bronfman, Lynn Schusterman, and of course, the Adelsons. Since its inception, Birthright has flown to Israel more than a quarter of a million young adults from over 50 countries. “We couldn’t bear seeing thousands of young adults who wanted to visit Israel not able to go,” said Dr. Miriam Adelson. “Greater participation means we can transform the lives of more young adults.”

“We want to have an impact and we believe that Birthright Israel is the best Jewish program in this generation,” Sheldon Adelson explains. “I want to do everything I can to help any young person who wants to visit

Israel through the Birthright Israel program be able to do so.” In addition to their own impressive financial contribution to the program, the Adelsons will be actively supporting Birthright Israel Foundation fundraising activities this month, attending events in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New York, hoping that others will follow their lead.

“This is a direct, tangible contribution to the Jewish people,” stated International CEO of Taglit-Birthright Israel, Gidi Mark. “The lives of these young adults will be changed, and they will almost certainly identify more closely as Jews and with Israel.”

Sheldon and Miriam Adelson exemplify the Talmudic principle that “*kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh*,” all Jews are responsible for one another. They have taken the task of ensuring a healthy, vibrant future for the Jewish people, and made it their own personal responsibility. Many successful business magnates become more self-absorbed as their fortunes rise, but the Adelsons have, if anything, become even more concerned with the well-being of each individual Jew as time goes on.

When young people approach Sheldon at events and ask if there is a way to contact him, he replies: “Call me at the Venetian. Tell them you want to speak to Sheldon Adelson; I will answer the phone.”

Israel Cancels Ad Campaign Targeting American Expatriates

The Israeli government has withdrawn an advertising campaign that attempted to lure former residents of Israel back to their native country from the United States, after the campaign generated controversy for its central message that the Israeli expats and their children were likely to lose their Jewish identity as a result of living in the non-Jewish American environment.

By JV Staff

The ads, consisting of short videos and billboards, presented a variety of scenarios. In one, a young Israeli woman's American boyfriend is totally mystified as to why she has lit candles and is in a mournful mood on a seemingly ordinary day, unaware that it is Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day. In another, an elderly Israeli couple is chatting via video link with their daughter in late December, and they become upset when – instead of Chanukah

– the daughter happily proclaims that the holiday is Christmas.

While the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, which ran the campaign, said that the advertisements were designed to touch the emotions of Israeli expatriates and inspire them to reconnect to their Israeli identity, critics felt the ads conveyed the message that resettling in the United States would inevitably lead to assimilation and a weakening of Jewish consciousness. “The videos were heavy-handed, and even demeaning,” stated Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. “While we ap-

preciate the rationale behind the Israeli government's appeal to its citizens living in the U.S. to return to Israel, we are concerned that some may be offended by what the video implies about American Jewry.”

The campaign actually began several months ago, but the negative attention arose now after the Jewish Channel, a cable television station, ran a news item on it, and Jeffrey Goldberg, who writes for The Atlantic, posted a blog about it. “The idea, communicated in these ads, that America is no place for a proper Jew,” Goldberg commented, “and that a Jew who is concerned about the Jewish future should live in Israel, is archaic, and also chutzpadik.”

According to Steven Bayme, director of contemporary Jewish life at the American Jewish Committee, the advertising campaign was particularly offensive for its im-



This Israeli government-sponsored ad depicts the confused American boyfriend of Israeli expatriate, who is unaware that it is Yom HaZikaron.

plied message that Israelis should not marry American Jews. “We’re talking about one Jewish people,” he said, “and certainly encouraging marriage within the Jewish people is something everyone would sign on to.”

Once Prime Minister Netanyahu learned of the outcry, he immediately ordered the removal of the ads. “The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption's campaign clearly did not take into account American Jewish sensibilities, and we regret any offense it caused,” Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren said in a statement.