

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Salutations Far West!

I have a dream that one kinnus this region will rise out of bed and live out the true meaning of its creed: "To read the Kol Hama'arav".

I have a dream that one day in the Chadar Ochel at Camp Ramah, the upperclassmen and the lowerclassmen will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that my four staff writers will one day write articles in the Kol Hama'arav appreciated not by the minority of Far Wester's but by the majority of USY.

I have a dream today! Nope,

Jono Wenger (Just Chuck Testa)
Kol Hama'arav Editor 2011-2012

Anti-Semites at Occupy Wall Street: A Minority or the Majority?

BY MATTHEW SHTERENBERG

Fox News, Israeli Advocacy groups, and American citizens have stated that there are Anti-Semitic sentiments within the Occupy Wall Street movement. Their concern is valid because there is anti-Semitism within the movement, but is it the majority or the minority of protesters that speak with jaundice towards the Jewish people? That is the question that I've been asking in the midst of this rising movement in America. Before I sat down to write this article I asked some people for their views. Through these interviews I have found out that there are many different views towards this subject, but all share a common view. Every person I asked all agreed that there is Anti-Semitism being professed at the demonstrations.

In any large demonstration that pertains to politics, there will most likely be some type of Anti-Semitic remarks expressed, it's inevitable. Within the Occupy Wall Street movement there are mixes of views being expressed and some are prejudiced towards the Jewish people, and I feel these views represent the minority. One of the people I interviewed who wishes to remain anonymous believes that, "Even though there is a minority that express Anti-Semitic views, that minority can turn into a majority if the minority continues preaching their rhetoric to the ignorant and uneducated of Occupy Wall Street." Others have stated that these Anti-Semitic remarks are gaining news traffic because exploiting minute remarks diminishes the validity of the Occupy Wall Street movement.

In the end it depends on the American people. Will the majority of Americans sympathize with these Anti-Semitic views, dismiss them completely, or put a stop to them before they spread? America's reaction will determine if Anti-Semites protesting at Occupy Wall Street stay the minority, or grow to a majority.

Gilad is Back Home

BY GUY TOPF

On October 18th, 2011, Gilad Shalit was released from captivity after almost five and a half years. Gilad Shalit is an Israeli soldier who was kidnapped by Hamas in June 2006 during a cross-border attack. Now, nearly five and a half years later, he was finally released, and is now back home, safe and sound. The price was not small. Israel released 1,027 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Shalit, 477 of which were released on October 18th, and the remaining 550 to be released in December. On the morning of October 18th, Gilad was transferred from Gaza to Egypt, and from Egypt he returned home, to Israel. Gilad was forced to undergo many medical examinations before he could return to see his family. It turned out that he returned in considerably good health, although very weak and frail. His situation was much better than doctors anticipated. He eventually reunited with his country, his Prime-Minister, and most importantly, his family. Gilad Shalit is now home, safe and sound, catching up on the things that are a part of our daily lives, including computers, TV, cell-phones, and of course, Facebook.

Part of Israel Pilgrimage/Poland Seminar Group 4 only hours before they win Ha'event.

In this Picture (left to right): Frank Spiro (Honorary Far Wester), Sarai Warsoff, Hallie Drapkin, Jonah Bregman, Noah Sachartoff, Melissa Goldman, Lilli Shvartsmann, Daniel Isaacson, Adam Eagle, Hannah Tudzin



L'Takayn Olam Pilgrimage Group 3 posing for a picture in front of the Kotel. The group toured Israel and took part in social action projects daily. In this Picture are Far Wester's Shoshana Strom and Taylor Cohen.



Israel Pilgrimage/Poland Seminar Group 6 takes there official picture at Agron in Jersusalem.

In this Picture: Ariel Kline, Shani Shahmoon, Val Reich, Aviva Jinich, and Rachael Belle.



Jacobs International Teen Leadership Institute (JITLI) is a program that aims to establish a partnership between the Communities of San Diego, Sha'ar Hanegev, Segev Shalom and Lakiya. In this Picture Alex Harvey and Heather Gillies stand with Arabs from the West Bank. They couldn't enter the Dome of the Rock because of their fair skin.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hey Far West!!

If you're reading this, then you are officially a member of JUSTICE LEAD!!! Every year Far West has a leadership training encampment dedicated to making each chapter board stronger; and with stronger chapters than ever, Far West will be stronger than ever! LEAD is definitely my favorite event of the year because over the course of the weekend everyone will have the opportunity to spend some quality time with their regional counterpart, talk about new ideas, troubleshoot, and receive cool and useful pointers all while making new and lasting friendships!!

This year's theme is the Justice LEAD, and with that we will be talking about the importance of justice, discuss whether or not the ends always justify the means be super SA/TO-y by raising money for worthy causes and a whole lot more!

I know everyone is SUPER pumped for this amazing weekend, but this is just the beginning! LEAD is the first of many regional events we will have this year, and a great way to strengthen the friendships you make at LEAD is by going to our equally sensational events throughout the year! So stay tuned for an AMAZING International Convention, fantastic Sr. as well as Jr. USY Kinnusim, an exceptional SA/TO/Hechal Shab and much much more!! This year is going to be one for the books and I can't wait to share the experiences with all of you!!

Sincerely,

Rory Carmer

Far West Regional President 2011-2012

A JITLI Experience

BY ALEX HARVEY

Flashback to last summer; Poland Israel Pilgrimage. Walking the railroad tracks of the Holocaust Concentration Camps, coming together with USYers who to this day I still recognize as my best friends, and finally stepping off of the El Al plane to kiss the Jerusalem stone. My love for Israel could not stop growing after I left my Pilgrimage group, so I decided that I was going to do whatever it took to get back there.

But this summer was different; this summer I did not kiss the ground when I got off the plane, this summer I did not rejoice in my favorite Ruach songs after every meal, and this summer it was not about retracing my family's history in Poland, but to focus on where I stand in the future of Peace and tolerance. This...was JITLI. The Jacobs International Teen Leadership Institute brought me together with 8 American Jews, 10 Israeli Jews, and 20 Arab Muslims, who all had different views about where they stand with Israel, and different experiences they were anxious to share. Our focus was on bridging the gap between religions and to prove to the world that Jews and Muslims can live in harmony, and man did we do this program justice.

Yes there were times of tension during debates, and yes there were tears shed and feelings hurt, but I'm not going to focus on this negativity, because in fact, the beauty of this program far outweighs these challenges. I can honestly say that running around and high fiving everyone's shirts with blue paint was surely a highlight, or seeing the amazement on some of my new friends' faces when I put two Pringles in my mouth to make a duck face, or maybe even trying to teach some of the Arab girls how to Jerk. Believe me, I think I had way too much fun on this trip, but in all seriousness, I learned perhaps one of the most invaluable lessons; that wearing a Hijab (head scarf) or baseball cap on your head does not describe you, that praying at the Kotel or the Dome of the Rock does not divide you, and that speaking Arabic or speaking English does not define you. I learned that there are people on the other side of this world who listen to Lady Gaga, who love to hold hands, who can't do cartwheels, who write poetry, and who love dancing and singing as much as I do! (And I didn't even think that was possible!)

When I came back from this trip, I could not stop talking about it, and I still can't. JITLI showed me that the media was wrong, and that there are teenagers who want peace just as much as I do. That I'm not crazy when I say that I am not afraid to break down the barriers and explore the realities of Israel, because for me, I could not truly love this country unless I knew the whole story.

Just like an energy boost at Jamba Juice, JITLI has given me my "boost" to go out into the world and explore cultures, ideas, and realities. Although the full impact of this trip is yet to come, JITLI has opened my eyes to the fact that there are so many gems in life to discover, and that it only takes a little courage, love, and an open mind to find them.