

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

“House of Lies”

“House of Lies”
That Runs The
World
By Yonatan
Hambourger and
Tzali Reicher

Echos
from Sinai
“Torah for
Everyone”
Rabbi
Yonatan
Hambourger



It was October 1984, and thousands of Jews were packed into the iconic synagogue at 770 Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn, New York. They were waiting for the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, the most influential rabbi in modern history, to begin the Simchas Torah holiday service and festivities. The restless masses waited as their usually punctual revered leader spoke to a distinguished guest for just under an hour, Israel’s incoming Ambassador to the United Nations. The Rebbe told the ambassador that the United Nations was “a house of deep darkness and lies,” but that the ambassador’s mission was to “light one candle of truth, which will dispel the darkness.”

That new ambassador was Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Rebbe’s message about the United Nations remains as relevant as it was 40 years ago.

Since accepting the rebirth of the Jewish state in 1948, the United Nations has had a deeply troubling relationship with Israel and the Jewish community.

Condemning Israel appears to be the primary function of the United Nations comprised of 193 member states. From 2006 to 2016, the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted 135 country-specific resolutions, with a striking 50% targeting Israel. Similarly, the UN General Assembly showed a significant inclination towards resolutions against Israel. Between 2012 and 2015, the UNGA passed 97 resolutions criticizing countries; 86% of these were directed at Israel. This pattern persisted in subsequent years, with Israel being the principal focus of condemnatory resolutions annually.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) also demonstrates a unique approach towards Israel. Annually, UNESCO adopts around ten resolutions, all of which single out Israel for criticism, marking a 100% focus on Israel exclusively. UNESCO also devotes its time to denying Israel’s history and Jewish connection to the land, labeling ancient Biblical sites such as Jericho and Hebron as “Palestinian,” a term that wasn’t used until Rome invaded Israel 1,000 years later.

Perhaps most famously was the infamous 1975 UN Resolution 3379, that stated Zionism, the desire for Jewish people to have a homeland of their own, “is a form of racism and racial discrimination,” a ludicrous resolution that was later repealed. There is an obvious double standard applied only to Israel by referring to the West Bank and Gaza as “Occupied Palestinian Territories,” but not until after Israel won it back in a defensive war in 1967, from its previous occupiers Jordan and Egypt.

Ironically, Israel, whose Arab citizens enjoy freedom and civil rights unheard of elsewhere, is criticized and condemned every day by dictators and renowned human rights abusers including the Presidents of Iran, Libya, Zimbabwe, Syria, and Cuba. Meanwhile, North Korea, Sudan, Russia, and Cuba are just some of the authoritarian and draconian regimes that have sat on the United Nation Human Rights Council that calls out Israel every chance it gets.

The United Nations is a place where truth goes to die, and where evil wins the day.

This was starkly seen after October 7th, when Hamas invaded Israel and murdered, raped, tortured, and kidnapped 1,300 innocent men, women, and children. Remarkably, the United Nations – led by its Secretary General Antonio Guterres – claimed “October 7 didn’t happen in a vacuum.” He continued to paint both Israel and Hamas with the same brush, saying both sides needed to “stop the cycle of violence” and that Israel needed to immediately and unilaterally abide by a ceasefire, without its hostages being returned or Hamas demilitarizing. Israel has been the subject of multiple condemnations, resolutions, and debates, while the U.N. tries to force them to accept Hamas’s terms for the end of the war. All this is going on despite it being proven that United Nations workers participated in the horrific events of that awful day. Somehow, the victim is being painted as the aggressor, while the supposed do-gooders turned out to be killers and rapists.

The United Nations has no credibility regarding Israel, or any other country for that matter. It has been hijacked by the worst nations on Earth to manipulate the discourse in their favor, while vetoing any resolutions that condemn their atrocities. Democracies, such as the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia, still believe in the United Nations mission and hold to its resolutions, while Russia, China and Iran use the forum to push their own evil agenda and ignore all criticism of their own behavior.

The United Nations is a place where democracies are charanged and lectured to by dictators and thugs who hate all our values and everything we stand for. The “house of darkness and lies” will continue its slow and humiliating descent into irrelevance, while the U.S. and her friends and allies including Israel will serve as the moral beacon for the rest of the world.

As always, we’d love to hear your thoughts on this subject, or any other. You can reach us at y@tasteoftorah.org. Yonatan Hambourger is a rabbi with Chabad of Rural Georgia. Tzali Reicher is a rabbi and writer currently living in Florida.

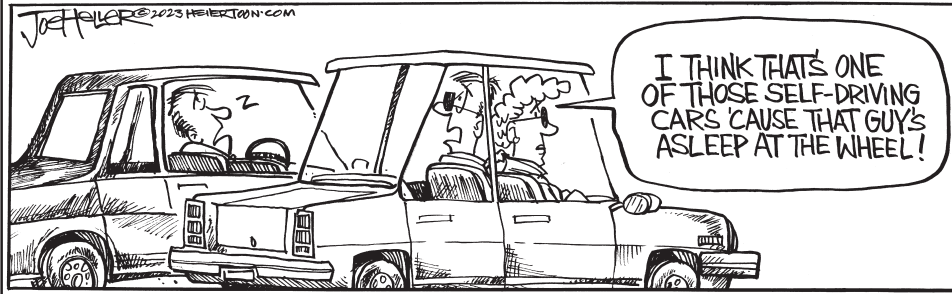
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Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net.

Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*

Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.



Bowser and Job

When my grandfather was a boy he acquired a puppy he called Bowser. The pup wasn’t much to look at. The dog had a long body built low to the ground and big feet like a Bassett hound. Bowser’s color was yellow like that of a Mountain Cur and he had a pointed nose like a Feist. The dog had very few socially redeeming features. The dog wasn’t built for speed and could not keep the foxes from stealing an occasional setting hen.

Back in those days dogs got the leftovers from the dinner table. Bowser had a sweet tooth and developed a taste for leftover peach cobbler. One time Bowser was sick and my grandfather nursed him back to health by sneaking the dog some peach cobbler my great-grandmother had made. Papa said that his mother frowned on the idea of giving that dog peach cobbler, but she looked the other way because her son was so fond of the dog. However, this fondness for peaches almost got Bowser killed.

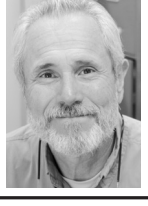
My grandfather, Laura, was drying peaches on an early July day sometime around 1930. Papa said you could smell those peaches from a mile away. Laura had placed an old bed sheet on top of a well house and the peaches were peeled, sliced and then placed on top of this bed sheet. The peaches were nearly dry when Bowser found them. Laura walked out of the house and found Bowser lying on top of the sheet asleep after he had consumed all those dried peaches. Laura almost killed that dog. But, the dog was valuable in one respect. The dog was an outstanding varmint killer.

Papa said, “All those years I thought the dog was dumb. It wouldn’t back down from any critter. Old Bowser had scars on his nose and face from many a fight with a big groundhog.” My Papa hated groundhogs. They dug under the foundations of his barn. They ate up his collards. They would dig deep holes in a corn field which could cause an unsuspecting horse or mule to break its leg. Papa said, “Bowser was a great groundhog dog. All I had to do was dig out the hole of the groundhog den and expose the critter. Bowser did the rest.” The dog would then go into the hole and stick his exposed nose into the den of the groundhog. The groundhog would bite onto the nose of Bowser and get pulled from his lair. Bowser would then crush the groundhog with his powerful jaws.

A few years later my grandparents married and had two sons. Papa still had Bowser who had become very old for a dog. So, one day the family acquired a Jack Russell Terrier, named Job, which turned into very good squirrel dog. Daddy said, “Early one June day we found the den of a groundhog and Papa began digging out the critter. After digging a little ways the groundhog was spotted. But, before Bowser could be called, Job jumped into the hole and the groundhog jumped all over the little terrier. That’s all it took, Job jumped from the hole and ran to the house yelping at the top of his lungs.” Papa laughed and called Bowser. Slowly but surely, Bowser walked to the hole and dispatched the groundhog with one bite.

That dog died of old age on the Cummings Farm because he was well loved by my Papa. He could not keep the foxes from the hen house. He could not trail or tree a coon. Lord knows he could not tree a bobcat. He was simply the best groundhog dog there was and he loved dried peaches. Papa had him from the time he and the dog were young pups until he was a young man with a growing family. The bond between the man and his dog was strong. And until his day of death Papa would smile when you mentioned the name of Bowser.

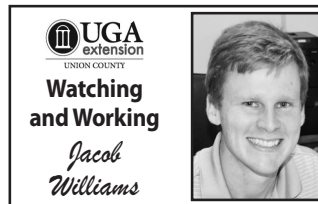
Around The Farm



Mickey Cummings

Planting Depth...

Planting Depth and Soil Temperature - As the soil temperatures are getting warmer, it’s time to think about planting. Let’s talk about planting in your garden and how deep you should plant seeds, transplants, or bulbs.



Getting planting depth correct is really important. If seeds are planted to deeply they will struggle to germinate and grow through the soil to reach the sunlight. When seeds start all the energy that they have is contained in the seed. So, if they are too deep, they won’t have the energy necessary stored to grow above the soil surface and put out leaves to start making more energy. It is possible to plant seeds to shallow too. This is not as big of an issue as planting too deep, but seeds might dry out and have a tough time germinating if they are too shallow. Seeds do tend to have some tolerance, so if you don’t get it exactly right, the seeds will still be able to grow and germinate. A general rule of thumb is that seeds should be planted 2-3 times their diameter. For small seeds like carrots that means they will be planted very shallow. Larger seeds like corn or beans will be planted an inch or deeper in the soil. There are some exceptions to the rule of thumb so checking the seed packet to see if there are more detailed instructions is always a good idea.

With transplants you want to set the plants at the same depth as they are in the container. Burying them deeper can lead to rots, and lack of oxygen at the roots. Burying them too shallow will lead to the roots of the plant drying out more quickly. Tomatoes are an exception to this rule. When planting tomatoes you can remove the lowest branch and then place the plant at that depth in the soil. Tomato plants will easily put out more roots, resulting in a plant that has more roots to draw up water and nutrients. Whenever you buy transplants make sure that the crown of the plant (where the above ground and below ground portions meet) is healthy and strong. If it is weak and flimsy, this plant will struggle when it’s put out into the elements.

When planting bulbs a rule of thumb is to plant the bulb 2-3 times the height of the bulb. Generally speaking spring flowering bulbs (e.g. Daffodil and tulip) should be planted in the fall and fall flowering bulbs (e.g. Crocus and cyclamen) should be planted in the spring.

Soil temperature is also really important for seeds to be able to germinate. For warm season plants, generally we want soil temperatures to reach 65 to allow for the best germination rates. Our soil temperatures have hit that, and looking at the long-term forecast, it looks like most likely soil temperatures will stay at or close to 65. Most years it takes longer for our soils to warm up, but this has been a very mild winter this year.

If you have questions about planting depth contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Letters To The Editor

What A Deal

Dear Editor,

I don’t believe that God makes deals with people who are sinners, but I do think that God has a deal for all that is out of this world, and I mean that literally, out of this world. Some folks might think that God is up yonder dealing out punishments and judgments upon all sinners who are not right with Him. If that is the case, then none of us are worthy of heaven. None of us have any blessed hope of a better tomorrow in glory. We are doomed here and in the hereafter to a hell-bent tormenting fiery eternal destination.

But God in His infinite and Holy righteousness has a deal you can’t refuse if you listen carefully to what He has to say: God Himself so loved the world He created that in order for all to come to the saving knowledge of who Christ is, God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, down to this sinful world, not to rule and reign like a lot of people thought, but to save mankind from its sin. This was the sole purpose of a God who shows great compassion, mercy, grace, and everlasting love, who wants us to be a part of the family of God. What greater love that One would give His own life for others in need of a Savior.

God didn’t come to condemn the world. It doesn’t say that God’s love saved the world, because the love of God could never save a sinner. God saves by grace. The book of Ephesians 2:8-9 says: For by grace are you saved through faith, and not of yourselves. It is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. I pray you take this message to heart and decide to follow Jesus Christ and become a child of God. Nothing else in the world would please your Heavenly Father in heaven. Wow! What a Deal.

Frank F. Combs

Guest Columns

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper.

If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

The Towns County Herald is an independent and non-partisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

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Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454
Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 4 PM



Towns County Community Calendar

First Monday of each month:	School Board... HS/MS Media Center	6:45 pm
Every Tuesday:	Storytime for Children... TC Library	10:30 am
First Tuesday of each month:	Hiaw. City Council... City Hall	6 pm
	YH City Council... YH City Hall	6:30 pm
Second Wednesday of each month:	Board of Elections... Elections Office	4 pm
Third Monday of each month:	Planning Commission... Temporary Courthouse	6 pm
Third Tuesday of each month:	Commissioner’s Mtg... Courthouse	5:30 pm
	City of Young Harris Planning Commission...	
	Meeting Room in City Hall	5 pm
	TC Water Authority Board Meeting	6 pm

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