



Letters to the Editor

Jews vs. Jews

I am the daughter of Holocaust survivors and a committed Jew who cares deeply about Israel.

Recently, I attended a JSpace conference. JSpace is a pro-Israel organization that opposes the BDS movement. It supports a negotiated settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that is guided by the principles of mutual recognition and respect.

Ironically, during a session on defining and dealing with anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, the meeting was interrupted by a member of the Jewish Defence League, who made his way into the room shouting, "You are all capos." The meeting came to a halt when he turned and pointed to several attendees and asked each one in turn if they were capos. The air was sucked out of the room.

Eventually, he was led out of the meeting. Shortly afterward, inside the entrance to the venue, I was accosted by a woman shouting at the top of her lungs, "You are disgusting! You are a self-hating

Jew!" There was venom in her voice.

The experience left me shaken. My parents came to this country after their horrific experiences in Europe (including being abused by real capos) for a sense of safety and freedom, including free speech. When I consider how they would have reacted to either of these scenes, I become distraught.

The sad part is needing to worry about protecting myself, not from white supremacists or fundamentalists from other religious groups, but from Jews – Jews who are so angry that others have different views about how to protect the future of Israel that they resort to slurs and hurtful personal attacks.

Anne Dychtenberg

Toronto

Preserving traditions

In his story about the wedding of a gay couple, one Jewish the other Chinese-Vietnamese, Rabbi Micah Streiffer invites us to celebrate marriage as a declaration of Jewish continuity – alongside Chinese traditions with dragons ("My big, fat, same-sex, interfaith Jewish wedding," perspectives, Oct. 24).

The article raises the question: when is dressing up a Jewish ritual no longer true

to itself? Rabbi Streiffer concedes that there is a line that should not be crossed, but doesn't say where he would draw it. How about where the rituals stop having their intended meanings, and instead have the ones we inscribe upon them?

We Jews should have the courage to be true to ourselves, not because it is easy, but because it is hard. If we are unable, or unwilling, to maintain our rich traditions, then who are we, really? Perhaps that is why the author did not answer his own question.

Stefan Braun

Thornhill, Ont.

Keep it in your pants

While Mark Breslin is free to book whom-ever he pleases, I find his excuse that the women consented to Louis C.K. exposing himself to them disheartening ("Why I brought Louis C.K. back from the dead," opinion, Nov. 7).

To state that Louis C.K. masturbated with the women's consent whitewashes the fact that his behaviour was a total abuse of power and utterly debasing to the women who were subjected to it.

Missy Hecker

Toronto

You're already reading The CJN – now you can listen to it. The CJN Podcast Network delivers weekly audio shows straight to your smartphone, computer or tablet. Here's what we're talking about this week:

When the entire editorial board of the sports website Deadspin resigned last week, one unsuspecting freelance writer walked in. That writer, Alan Goldsher, joins the Menschwarmers to explain what happened.

Listen to this and every other show on The CJN Podcast Network for free at cjnews.com/podcasts, or subscribe wherever you listen to podcasts.

Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

PEERLESS YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY **UNIQUE** Travel Partner Agency

Still Don't Have Plans for March Break?

Israel Family Tour
12 Days | March 12-23, 2020
Inclusive of all Guided Tours, Hotels & Meals per itinerary
Excluding Air

One Child travels FREE*
*Child must be between 11-14 years old, accompanied by min. 2 full paying adults

Special Prices start from **US\$2,732 pp**

Space is Limited, Call **KATHY** at **416.888.2828 x345**

For full itinerary: www.israelfamilytours.com/march-break

Additional dates available during Summer 2020: June 28-July 9; July 12-23; Aug 2-13

LEXUS | LEXUS OF RICHMOND HILL

Since 2003, Lexus of Richmond Hill has been at the forefront of providing our guests with exceptional sales and service experience.



Greg Ashkenazy | Lexus Product Advisor

 (416) 904-0607
 1(866) 891-8812
 grega@lexusrh.com
 www.lexusofrichmondhill.com

Hello friends, I'm here to serve our community and I speak your language.

SECUTOR
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Rational investing.

Secutor Capital Management Corporation is a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund (CIPF) and (IIROC) | **416-545-1015** | secutor.ca