

From the maker of
The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg

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MRS. GOLDBERG**
An Aviva Kempner film

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**HOLLYWOOD
JEW**

A Blog by Danielle Berrin



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Letters

♦♦♦♦

rael's security and opposes global terrorism, anti-Semitism and a nuclear Iran. Sadly, these are increasingly conservative positions.

Of course, Eshman is an expert on publications that readers can skim because the content is predictable. After all, he edits one.

Sheila and Mitchell Keiter
Los Angeles

Phillips v. Dershowitz

I read the article by Mr. Dershowitz intently ("American Support for Israel Must Remain Bipartisan," July 17). Apparently, he is beginning to smell something emanating from the current administration's attitude toward Israel's survival but is willing to give them the benefit of the doubt and to take President Obama at his word that he will bring about a two-state solution with a demilitarized Palestinian entity. In the meantime, those centrifuges in Iran keep twirling.

Mr. Dershowitz also mentions a generational gap in Europe. He liked the president's Cairo speech, for the most part. What part didn't he like? He didn't like Pat Buchanan or Robert Novak (who does?). He didn't mention Sean Hannity or Rush Limbaugh, who are major, sincere supporters of Israel. In Israel, your writer, Mr. Suissa, mentions a recent poll taken there in which 6 percent of Israelis consider Obama to be pro-Israel. I was amazed the support in Israel for Obama was that high. What is it the 94 percent are feeling? They want to live, maybe?

Mark Steinberg
Los Angeles

The Jewish Journal published Alan Dershowitz's rebuttal to Melanie Phillips without including Phillips' article. In printing only half the debate, it seems that The Journal is more interested in reinforcing its own prejudices.

Further, there were several inconsistencies within the article itself. Dershowitz repeatedly said he takes Obama "at his word" when it comes to Obama's pro-Israel pronouncements. Yet quickly thereafter, when it comes to "parts of President Obama's Cairo speech" with which he disagreed, he suddenly decides to "judge administrations by their actions more than by their words." He writes that "Joe Biden strongly suggested he believes Israel should have the right to take military action to protect its citizens," failing to mention that a couple of days later Obama retracted Biden's statement and said there was "absolutely not" any green light to attack Iran. Finally, Dershowitz said that in the 2008 election "Jews were on the winning side, and that is good for Israel." Using that logic, did he urge Jewish support for Ronald Reagan against Carter and Mondale? Is he urging more Jews to vote Republican so that the Jew-

ish vote is not always so lopsided in favor of Democrats?

Steve Lackner
Los Angeles

Editor's Note: Ms. Phillips' entire essay is at jewishjournal.com.

Is Wagner Welcome?

Los Angeles City Supervisor Mike Antonovich is right not to allow Richard Wagner's music in Los Angeles. Wagner was very anti-Semitic, and he loved Hitler and hated Jews.

I am a Holocaust survivor and I am agreeing with the supervisor's wish.

Manny Steinberg
via e-mail

Jewish Community Library

I appreciate your continuing coverage of the closing of the Jewish Community Library ("Community Library Moving to AJU," July 3). However, the news and the decision-making process have been distressing. John Fishel said, "the children's collection will stay here." But there is no funding for the library past December 2009. What is the use of a collection if there is no funding to employ librarians, run programs, or keep the doors open? Equally, what does it mean to say that the adult collection has "moved" to the AJU, when less than 50 percent of the collection will actually be moved, and "AJU has not yet determined if it will need to hire a community librarian"? In difficult times, it may be necessary to make cuts in cultural programs and institutions. But let's be straight and honest about it. Then, the public can be clear on what is at stake. The children's library in The Federation building serves a diverse and large group of families. If we end up with an interactive, ecumenical children's museum (the Zimmer) and no place of Jewish learning for children across the hall, that sends a terrible message about the importance of Torah. Let's understand that the children's library is effectively slated to close, and let's rally to do something about it. Please contact me if you are interested in helping.

Rabbi Debra Orenstein
via e-mail

Farmers Market

The calendar's mention of the famed Farmers Market's 75th anniversary recalls fond memories of this happy, gregarious landmark, which offers "something for everyone!" ("The Calendar," July 10). On any given day one can recognize old actors, aspiring young acting hopefuls, out-of-towners, senior citizens who've been schmoozing there for decades, and I can recall years ago there was talk of tearing it down, but fortunately Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky prevented it. The thought of losing this important "piece of L.A.'s history" is unthinkable!

Eddi Cress
Sylmar

July 24-30, 2009