



## **Message from the Director**

I am delighted to present our new and improved Israel Research Fellowship newsletter. We have a lot of interesting articles written by former and current fellows. I hope you enjoy it.

The current 2011/12 Fellowship year is already past the half-way mark and is progressing very well. Our fellows have been doing some remarkable work. We are also in the process of vetting next year's candidates; the quality seems to be extremely high and the numbers are unprecedented.

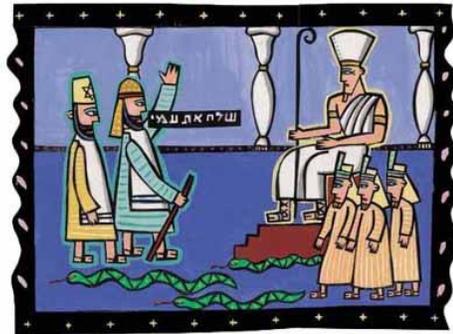
With Pesach just around the corner, we thought it would be a good time to spend a few introspective minutes thinking about the message of the holiday and how it is relevant today.

The principal message of Passover is one of Freedom and Independence. These are the core ideals that enable us to lead a respected and honored life, and can be regarded as the basic foundation of human life. It was the inherent desire for freedom that led the Israelites to rebel against the tyranny and dictatorship of Pharaoh. The entire story, from their mutiny against the Egyptian ruler to their entry into the Promised Land, is a saga of valor and courage.

Such concepts and values are often lost in our everyday lives. With our enemies seeking our destruction, it is worth remembering how much we have gone through to get to where we are today.

Wishing you all a chag sameach from the IRF team.

**Ari Rudolph**  
**Director**



## ***IRF Newsletter*** ***Issue 1, April 2012***

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

Message from the Director  
Fellows – Profiles  
Fellows on the Web  
Alumni in Profile  
Alumni on the Web

## **Fellows 2011/12**

*For those of you that don't know here is the make-up of the current IRF Fellows (note that all fellows are based in Israel):*

<b>Fellow</b>	<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Placement</b>
<b>Duda, Patrizia</b>	Germany	International Institute for Counter-Terrorism; The Institute for National Security Studies
<b>Greenberg, Alex</b>	UK	Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs
<b>Looks, Elka</b>	USA	Headline Media
<b>Persiko, Yinnon</b>	Israel	World Union of Jewish Students
<b>Petrelli, Federico</b>	Italy	Reut Institute
<b>Phillips, Yael</b>	UK	Reut Institute
<b>Shampanier, Shir</b>	Israel	Institute for Policy and Strategy
<b>Shaviv, Gidon</b>	UK	NGO Monitor
<b>Stern, Margot</b>	USA	World Jewish Diplomatic Corps
<b>Valk, Jonathan</b>	Netherlands	UN Watch

*In each monthly newsletter we are going to profile two fellows. This month we've chosen Patrizia and Alex.*



### **Patrizia Duda**

Patrizia is a PhD candidate at Tel Aviv University writing about European perceptions and policies vis-a-vis the Middle East. She obtained her MSc in International and European Relations from the University of Edinburgh, and has studied previously in the USA, Germany and New Zealand, where she obtained a BA HONS in Business Management and European Studies. Patrizia is interested in International Security and Relations, and has considerable experience in the business arena. Among others, she has worked for IBM, Booz Allen Hamilton and the German Chamber of Commerce.

After working at the International Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT), at the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, for the first half of her fellowship year, Patrizia is now working for the Institute for National Security Studies, at Tel Aviv University.

### **Project and Accomplishments**

During her time at the ICT, Patrizia was involved in several projects including a major report on terrorism in Nigeria, a report on radicalization in Germany as well as minor reports on several (worldwide) terror attacks and their consequences. She also helped organize and manage the ICT World Summit on Counter-Terrorism, 2011.

At the INSS, Patrizia is working with Dr. Shmuel Even, on an updated publication on cyber warfare and security in Israel and beyond. This memorandum was published in Hebrew in June 2011; the updated (and English) version will be published in the summer of 2012. In March 2012, Patrizia began a research project of her own related to Israeli security strategy.



### **Alex Greenberg**

Born and raised in London, Alex graduated from Kings College London in 2009 with a degree in History, having focused on the motivations and experiences of religious fanatics during and after the Reformation. A graduate student in Systematic and Philosophical Theology at the University of Nottingham, Alex is concerned about how ideologies and pre-conceptions affect political judgments and popular opinions. Alex has interned for the British Parliamentary Committee against Antisemitism. Ordained as a Rabbi in 2011, Alex also teaches Talmud and Jewish Philosophy.

#### **Project and Accomplishments**

For his fellowship, Alex is working at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA), where he has been primarily focused on the research and composition of his monograph on British Foreign Policy in Israel. He has also been advising other fellows, and external organizations, on aspects of British politics and history, as well as how to best market materials which they have produced abroad.

Alex has joined the activities of the JCPA, and has also assisted the President of the JCPA, Amb. Dore Gold, in briefings he has given to Congressional and Senate aides brought to Israel through AIPAC and the JCPA conference on incitement to terror and genocide.

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### **Fellows on the Web**

#### **Is there really such a Thing as Jewish Genius?**

*Jonathan Falk, October 13, 2011*

**HAARETZ.com**

Many Jews in Israel and around the world will be patting themselves on the back this week, indulging in another round of self-congratulation and communal pride. The occasion: a fresh batch of Jewish Nobel Prize winners. Saul Perlmutter and Adam G. Riess are among the three recipients of the prize in physics, Ralph M. Steinman and Bruce Beutler make up two thirds of the three latest laureates in medicine, and Dan Shechtman claimed the prize in chemistry all by himself. This leaves us with a total of just under half of this year's winners, and precisely half if we do away with the unscientific Nobel Peace Prize. An impressive tally by any standards, but are we right to attribute it to some sort of special, Jewish genius?

## Palmer vs Goldstone: Lessons Learned

Gidon Shaviv, September 8, 2011



The blog “Lawfare” began its posting on the Palmer Report – entitled “The UN vindicates Israel” – by stating that the title was neither satire nor an April 1st joke. This tongue-in-cheek reference is indicative of the low expectations of objectivity in any UN report concerning Israel.

Criticism of Israel is usually the foregone conclusion of any UN commission, particularly when human rights or humanitarian issues are involved.

However, the recent Palmer Commission report deserves special notice ...

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### **Alumni in Profile**

*An exciting new feature of the newsletter is our ‘Alumni in Profile’ section where we profile two ex-fellows and see what they are up to.*

#### **Mira Marcus**

Mira Marcus is Public Affairs Director and a communications consultant at Headline Media, one of Israel's leading media consultancy firms (and where she was placed during her Legacy Heritage fellowship!). In her work, Mira trains public officials on how to interview in the Israeli and foreign media. She works with spokespeople from the Prime Minister’s Office, diplomats from Israel’s Foreign Ministry, as well as the top brass from the Israel Defense Forces where she teaches them how to conduct themselves in interviews and high stakes appearances before international audiences. That said, the work Mira is most proud of is her ability to empower and inspire non-professional advocates, and global Jewish leaders in the field of representing Israel on the international media.



Prior to her work with Headline Media, Mira served as Bureau Chief for Minister of Public Security Avi Dichter and as his Public Affairs Advisor. She is an expert in public advocacy and political marketing. Mira was selected by The European Union Parliament and the Peres Center for Peace for their Young Political Leaders Forum for the years 2009-2010 and was an ROI participant in the summit of 2011. Mira graduated cum laude from The

Argov Fellowship for Leadership and Diplomacy at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya where she is now studying for her Masters in the field of Political Marketing.

Mira lives in Tel Aviv, and just got back from a month-long trip exploring the beaches and jungles of Costa Rica.

### **Jason Edelstein**

Jason Edelstein is communications director for NGO Monitor, a Jerusalem-based research institution that tracks NGOs active in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jason develops NGO Monitor's communications strategy, overseeing and implementing the organization's media outreach and related activity. He also develops NGO Monitor's marketing and information materials, liaises with partner organizations, speaks to relevant audiences, and cultivates donors for new projects. His op-eds have appeared in the *New York Post*, *Ha'aretz*, *Jerusalem Post*, *JTA*, *Ynet*, and *The Jewish Week*.



Jason lives in Jerusalem with his wife Leah, who is studying for her Master's Degree in Non-Profit Management at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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### **Alumni on the Web**

*Here are three articles published by our alumni recently. To be sure, our alumni have published a lot more, but we couldn't possibly include them all...*

#### **Impersonating Anonymous: Is it state sponsored terrorism?**

**ANDRE OBOLER, class of 2007/08**  
**February 12, 2012**



Since its earliest days the "Internet gathering" known as Anonymous has declared "we are legion". After attacks on PayPal, Amazon, Sony, various banks and US Government websites, as in Roman times, the power of the legion is again feared. According to some, anonymous' latest target is Israel, with a threat to systematically removing Israel from the internet. The evidence, however, suggests this is far more likely an impersonation. Though only circumstantial, the evidence suggests the possibility of Iranian sponsorship. If so, this would mark the first effort by a state, or perhaps its proxies, to infiltrate and manipulate Anonymous into pursuing a government's agenda. If that effort backfires, I for one wouldn't want to be on the receiving end.

*Andre recently founded the Online Hate Prevention Institute, <http://ohpi.org.au/>*

## What is a 'Jewish State'?

*JOEL BRAUNOLD, Class of 2009/10*

*March 1, 2012*

**HAARETZ.com**

"We will give our lives to the Torah" was the collective message this week of Haradi parties in the Knesset responding to the High Court's decision to strike down the Tal Law. It seems the desire to give one's life to Torah would exclude giving one's life for one's country – even if that country is the Jewish state. Along with issues of buses running on Shabbat or "public modesty" campaigns, the imminent disappearance of the Tal Law revives the need to define a "Jewish state."

*Joel is currently a Grad Student at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government*

## When Religion Restricts Lending

*TAMAR SNYDER, class of 2008/09*

*February 17, 2012*



This Saturday, synagogues will chant the Torah portion of Mishpatim, from the book of Exodus, which is the source for the injunction against charging interest to a fellow Jew: "When you lend money to my people, to the poor among you, do not act toward them as a creditor; exact no interest from them."

Shana Novick, executive director of the Hebrew Free Loan Society of New York, explains that "Jewish tradition translated this biblical injunction into a powerful imperative: Help your neighbor in need and create lasting impact without embarrassment, through an interest-free loan."

*Tamar currently works as a Strategic Consultant for Next Generation Philanthropy at Jewish Communal Fund*