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Ayaan Hirsi Ali



Thomas Friedman



Arianna Huffington



Fareed Zakaria

## SPIRIT OF HOPE – May 31, 2011

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## ISRAEL A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Conservative political writer and commentator David Frum, the keynote speaker at Friends of



(L-R) David Frum, Myrna Daniels, Melanie Phillips & John Daniels

Simon Wiesenthal Center's (FSWC) State of the Union Luncheon in November, discussed the recent swing to the right in American politics, the state of the US economy and the consequences for Israel. Despite the many threats faced by the Jewish state, Mr. Frum remains optimistic Israel will ultimately prevail. He believes the key reason US support for Israel remains strong is that most



(L-R) David Frum, Malka Green, Pauline Menkes, Carole Grafstein, Pearl Litwin and Tony Comper

Americans correctly see Israel as an important symbol of freedom and democracy. International guest speaker, British author and journalist Melanie Phillips was less sanguine about the current state of world affairs, noting the European and American left-wing intelligentsia has entered a state of "moral inversion" where Israel represents "cosmic evil". She cautioned it is time for Israel and the Jewish people to stand firmly against rising antisemitism and to fight against the denial of this centuries-old racial hatred.

## TORONTO MAYOR ROB FORD ON ANTI-ISRAEL HATE: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!



(L-R) Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, Avi Benlolo and Norm Bacal

his determination to ensure hatred has no place in events such as the Toronto Gay Pride parade. When asked about taxpayer support for anti-Israel marchers in future Gay Pride parades, the Mayor was clear. "This is very



The media interviewing Rob Ford at the Mayor's Luncheon

straightforward," he explained. "There will be no tolerance for hate... I will not tolerate anybody going against Jews."

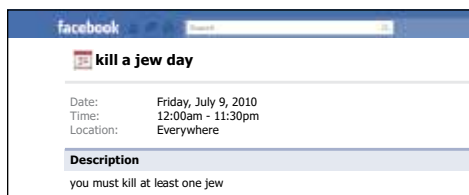
A private Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) Luncheon and All-Candidate's Debate prior to municipal elections in October provided newly elected Toronto Mayor Rob Ford an opportunity to reiterate his support for the Jewish community and

### CAMPUS ALERT!

FSWC research shows anti-Israel activity is growing on campuses across the country.

From disruptive and menacing Israeli boycott drives at the University of Edmonton, to legal threats made against a planned anti-George Galloway protest by the Jewish community at York University, the situation at many universities in Canada indicates the urgent need for FSWC to monitor campus activity and to continue working with university administrations, local authorities and campus groups to stem this alarming surge in antisemitism.

### HATE AND TERROR IN A DIGITAL AGE



The Facebook "Kill a Jew Day" campaign is an extreme example of the explosion of online hate and racism uncovered by the 13th annual Wiesenthal Digital Terrorism and Hate report.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper noted 11,500 different hate sites were found on the internet last year – a 20% increase in such sites over the previous study. A spike in virulent anti-Jewish Facebook pages is especially troubling. "Facebook officials have been very cooperative in removing these calls for anti-Jewish violence, but the hate continues to sprout at an alarming rate," explains Rabbi Cooper. "The best way to counter the spread of hate is to bring it to light through education and dialogue with today's youth," he adds.



## GREETINGS FROM AVI

Dear Friends,

I am an eternal optimist. I prefer to see the glass as half-full and, though my glasses may be slightly rose-tinted, so many of the events and activities of the past year support this positive outlook.

2010 was truly a banner year for FSWC programs and events. Guests of international stature, ranging from Nobel Prize winning author Elie Wiesel and novelist Sir Salman Rushdie to Iranian

Revolutionary Guard and CIA double-agent Reza Kahlili and Conservative writer and blogger Daniel Pipes spoke at a variety of FSWC presentations. While this is not an exhaustive list, it highlights the caliber of speaker our events attract and our supporters enjoy.

Our constructive relationship with politicians continued as we once again celebrated Rosh Hashanah at Queen's Park in Ontario, and hosted the Toronto Mayoral candidates for a private Luncheon and debate.

In addition, more than 5,000 students attended workshops on the Holocaust, racism, bullying and antisemitism at our Tolerance Training Center; even more students will learn about the values of tolerance, justice and human rights in 2011. Lastly, we anticipate the most exciting Spirit of Hope Campaign ever as we host Aayan Hirsi Ali, Thomas Friedman, Arianna Huffington and Fareed Zakaria in what is sure to be a dynamic and mesmerizing evening.

Clearly, we have much to celebrate. And yet...

I cannot disregard the many destructive and downright frightening antisemitic activities that have also occurred during the past 12 months. From the annual Israel Apartheid Week at university campuses to the inclusion of anti-Israel groups in Gay Pride parades or the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) conference in Montreal, antisemitism – often disguised in the cloak of 'legitimate' comment against Israel, is making a strong and concerted comeback. Consider the following plea, written by a Grade 10 student after experiencing antisemitic taunting by students from another high school at a basketball game this past Fall:

*I've had the privilege of a Jewish education, yet I felt helpless and vulnerable. I know how to pray, I know how to speak in Hebrew and I know the customs, laws and the history of my people, but I'm not taught how to deal with hatred and intolerance in a way that can turn a negative into a positive experience, both for me, and the perpetrators.*

Letters like these remind me of our fundamental job: to counter hatred, fear and intimidation. To educate and advocate on behalf of the Jewish community and other groups who are targeted by discrimination.

To accomplish this vital task, I need your continuing support. Together, we can work toward supplanting hate with tolerance and true understanding. With your generous donations, the glass will remain half full.

With best wishes for peace and prosperity in 2011,

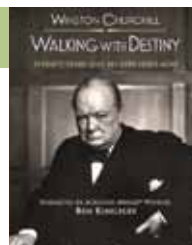
Avi Benlolo *President and CEO*

## LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE!

**Winston Churchill: Walking with Destiny Premieres in winter and wows again in fall!**

A Who's Who of the Toronto Jewish community turned out for last winter's World Premiere of Moriah Film's *Winston Churchill: Walking with Destiny* when close to 600 FSWC supporters packed the Varsity Cinema in Toronto to be the first to see the Academy Award winning production

house's latest offering. The scene was repeated again in the autumn when another 200 people crowded the Sheppard Grande Theatre in Toronto to attend an exclusive screening of the film, which documents Churchill's rise to power and his courageous fight against the Nazis and the politics of appeasement.



## ADVOCATING FOR WIESENTHAL AT HOME...

### A NEW YEAR'S L'CHAIM AT QUEEN'S PARK



(L-R) Liberal MPP Monte Kwinter, Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman, Avi Benlolo, Ron Frisch, Provincial PC Leader Tim Hudak, NDP MPP Paul Miller and PC MPP Peter Shurman celebrate Rosh Hashanah at Queen's Park

FSWC once again presented a Rosh Hashanah celebration at Queen's Park Provincial Legislature in Toronto; the annual event makes an important statement about the role of the Jewish community in Canadian public life. Sponsored by Conservative MPP Peter Shurman and chaired by Ron Frisch, the occasion brought together politicians of all major parties to wish the Jewish community and each other best wishes for peace and a sweet New Year.

### AN ASSAULT ON ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

The participation of Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) President Denis Lemelin at a Montreal Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions conference in October confirmed an alarming trend by Canadian unions to support antisemitic and anti-Israel organizations.

Upon learning of Lemelin's planned appearance, FSWC sprang into action, writing to Stewart Bacon, President and CEO of Canada Post and Chuck Strahl, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to protest CUPW's involvement, and urging our friends and supporters to do the same.

"Mr. Lemelin has associated practically the entire working body of Canada Post with an antisemitic crusade to demonize and delegitimize the Jewish state. Mr. Bacon's assertion that CUPW 'does not express the views of Canada Post' absolutely does not go far enough in distancing the corporation he represents from the union's disturbing antisemitic rhetoric," said Avi Benlolo, President and CEO of FSWC.

Despite the strong support from CUPW there were less than 100 supporters at the opening panel of the conference, which was poorly attended overall and received little to no coverage by mainstream media outlets.

## BASHING ISRAEL WITH IMPUNITY

Thinly disguised antisemitism posing as legitimate anti-Israel free speech continued in 2010 on both university campuses and in the

Toronto Gay Pride parade. At FSWC's suggestion many universities held Israel apartheid week (IAW) activities in classrooms, away from public spaces where tensions could flare. This plan helped ensure the safety of Jewish students and reduced the number of participants in the annual campus hatefest.

The participation of Queers against Israeli apartheid (Quaia) in the Toronto Gay Pride parade continues to be contentious as Pride Toronto flip-flopped on its decision to ban and then allow the group to march in the 2010 parade. Subsequent to the constant pressure FSWC maintained on both Pride and city politicians, a near unanimous decision was taken by Toronto City Council to fund future Pride parades only after the parade is held and anti-discrimination policies are clearly followed. FSWC plans to meet with newly elected Mayor Rob Ford prior to the 2011 parade to ensure that taxpayer funded Israel-bashing will no longer be tolerated.



Support for Israel at the 2010 Toronto Gay Pride parade

## WHY SUPPORT FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES?

### Our Board of Governors members explain!

**Hal Silverstein**, a member of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center Board of Governors Executive Committee and the Co-owner of SRT Med-Staff, a personal home care service provider, has worked with FSWC for the past five years.

"I love what FSWC does in taking a stand and doing something proactive to deal with blatant inequities and discrimination. The letters and petitions to government leaders in Canada and throughout the world voicing our opinions and not letting anything slide is very important to me," he says. "It's easy to sit back and do nothing. With FSWC you feel like you have a way to ensure your opinions are heard."



Hal Silverstein

**Faye Minuk**, a child of Holocaust survivors with a strong connection to her Jewish identity and to the State of Israel, has been an active member of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for the past five years. A member of the Board of Governors, Faye contributed to the start up of the FSWC Resource Center and remains involved as a member of the Resource Center Advisory Council.

"I support FSWC in order to achieve my vision and my goals for the future, a safe and respectful community for myself and future generations. It is because of the excellent and important work the Center does that I choose to be affiliated with this organization."



Faye Minuk

## ...AND ABROAD

### FSWC VISITS HALLOWED GROUND



Community leaders including federal politicians from all three major parties as well as municipal representatives, Chiefs of Police, journalists, educators, community activists and private individuals joined FSWC on two separate "From Compassion to Action": Glassman Tools for Tolerance® Missions to Poland and Germany this past Spring and Fall. The lessons of the Holocaust and the need for tolerance education at all levels of society was clear as Mission participants visited the Warsaw Ghetto, the Wannsee Conference House near Berlin, Jewish synagogues and cemeteries, the factory owned by Oskar Schindler and the infamous Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

## SPIRIT OF HOPE A CELEBRATION OF HUMANITY

In what can only be described as the Gala of a lifetime, FSWC presented two of the world's greatest living humanitarians at the 2010 Spirit of Hope Benefit in May. Nobel Prize winning author and Holocaust survivor

*"We have learned not to give evil a second chance- who knows what intentions an evil mind can imagine? We must do something quickly to remove evil from power."*  
- Elie Wiesel



Elie Wiesel appeared alongside Sir Salman Rushdie at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue where more than 2,500 guests listened to these brilliant men counsel hope, tolerance and a steadfast belief in the ultimate victory of good over evil. Former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was an eloquent moderator at the sold out event.



*"The lesson I have learned is there is no such thing as the total victory of tyranny or evil. In the end, hope can succeed."*  
- Salman Rushdie

### FSWC SALUTES THE CARPENTERS' UNION



Ucal Powell with Avi Benlolo during a tour of FSWC

In a rare though welcome break with the tradition of many Canadian unions, the Carpenters' Union of Ontario remains a great friend to FSWC, the wider Jewish community and the State of Israel. The union has not only provided financial support to assist in our efforts to counter hatred and intolerance in Canada, but endorsed a historic resolution in 2008, rejecting descriptions of Israel as an apartheid state, while calling for an end to BDS threats by the Canadian Union of Public Employees. FSWC was privileged to attend a gala fundraiser in honour of Ucal Powell, Executive Secretary Treasurer of the Carpenters' District Council of Ontario, and salutes the Carpenters' Union for its steadfast friendship, leadership and moral integrity. Kol HaKavod!

**HOLD  
THE  
DATE!**

**SPIRIT OF HOPE  
TUESDAY MAY 31, 2011**

## LET FREEDOM RING!

The inaugural Freedom Day celebration at Queen's Park in Toronto was an unqualified success as more than 700 students from across the Greater Toronto Area attended a free FSWC event honouring the life and legacy of Simon Wiesenthal and his



**Max Eisen,**  
Holocaust survivor  
*"There is no freedom without responsibility."*



**Marina Nemat,** Author and survivor of Iran's infamous Evin prison  
*"Here in Canada we have a voice and if we do not use it we are complicit."*



**Linda Frum,** Senator  
*"We take for granted the idea that the freedom we enjoy is permanent."*

## CELEBRATE FREEDOM DAY WITH FSWC ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2011



**Ben Mulroney,** Freedom Day Host  
*"Freedom Day is an idea that is long overdue. We should never for a moment forget how fortunate Canadians are to enjoy the freedoms denied to so many people around the world. Indeed, in too many countries people continue to be tortured and even killed for the 'crime' of voicing an opinion or loving the wrong person. It is an honour and a privilege for me to host this important event."*

commitment to social justice and human rights. Freedom Day, featuring speakers and performers from a cross section of Canada's diverse faith and ethnic communities, was held on September 20, the fifth anniversary of Simon Wiesenthal's death.

**Aliya-Jasmine Sovani,** MTV Host & Producer  
*"The only thing you need to start change in this world is something you were born with – your voice!"*



**Min Kyu Kim,** President, North Korean Research Group  
*"Canada has a moral responsibility to spread freedom to the world."*



**HOLD THE DATE!**

**SPIRIT OF HOPE**  
TUESDAY MAY 31, 2011

## FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER

### Committed to human rights and social justice.

Everyday at FSWC we work on behalf of the Jewish community and other groups who face discrimination in Canadian society. Our activities include:

- ✓ Advocating for the Jewish community in Canada and for the State of Israel
- ✓ Confronting the misrepresentation of Israel
- ✓ Meeting with local, provincial and federal government leaders to discuss issues of hate and intolerance
- ✓ Countering racism, antisemitism and prejudice
- ✓ Preparing students to respond to hatred on campus
- ✓ Maintaining an extensive resource library on topics ranging from genocide and intolerance to slavery and freedom
- ✓ Tracking down hate on the internet and bringing it to the attention of the police, the community and internet service providers
- ✓ Educating law enforcement officials, teachers, community and faith groups and politicians about tolerance, justice and human rights
- ✓ Promoting and reinforcing Holocaust remembrance
- ✓ Actively engaging students in workshops on topics of the Holocaust, racism and genocide



### YEAR-ROUND HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AT FSWC

From educational programs teaching high school students about the history of the Holocaust to survivors sharing their personal testimony, discussions about the continued impact of the Holocaust in Canada and travelling to historic sites of the Shoah in Eastern Europe, ensuring the lessons of the Holocaust are never forgotten and the memory of the six million lives lost were not in vain is one of the primary goals of FSWC every day, all year long.

### How can you help?

The 25,000 Canadians who support FSWC understand we cannot accomplish this work on our own. To continue to work and speak on your behalf, we need your support. An internationally renowned direct-action organization, we believe that every charitable portfolio should include Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

As there is no Capital Gains tax on publicly traded securities donated to a public charity, this may be the perfect time to transfer stock to FSWC. You may want to consider making a major gift to fund a program on Holocaust Education or diversity training, or send a FSWC Tribute Card in recognition of a milestone achievement or in remembrance of a loved one. You can name FSWC in your Will and leave a legacy that will sustain our work in your honour.

Your support can be as easy as attending an event or by making a direct donation. To donate, ask a question or become more involved, please call us at 416.864.9735 or visit us at [www.fswc.ca](http://www.fswc.ca) today!

Thank you.