

Edwin Black

Washington DC

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August 20, 2011

For Immediate Release

Australian Jewish News Retracts and Withdraws Article

Washington D.C.—*The Australian Jewish News* has retracted and removed from its online archives a June 2011 article about me and public remarks regarding Naomi Chazan, the New Israel Fund and the anti-Israel Boycott movement which were made at the Limmud-Oz Festival in Sydney Australia. The article bylined by Joshua Levi mischaracterized my statements and was withdrawn immediately when editors were notified. As part of the retraction, the newspaper agreed to pay \$18 to the charity of its choice—which was Magen David Adom. At all times, the newspaper editors conducted themselves with professionalism and courtesy. I continue my editorial confidence in *The Australian Jewish News*, and recommend the publication to readers.

August 01, 2011

Edwin Black
Washington. D.C.

Dear Edwin:

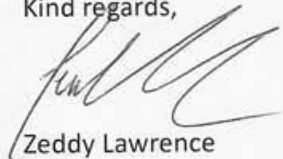
Thank you for your efforts in resolving issues regarding the article by Joshua Levi that we published in June 2011 in both our print and online editions which mentioned you and your appearance at Limmud-Oz.

That article has now been withdrawn.

At all times in this process, you were amiable and it has been a pleasure to work with you in resolving the issue.

On both a professional and personal note, I look forward to future dealings and hope we can meet up when you are next in Australia.

Kind regards,



Zeddy Lawrence

National Editor
The Australian Jewish News

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KRON'S VIEW



hospital's intensive care unit, the largest intensive care unit in the country with a major burns facility and who is actively involved in many national committees formulating policy on topics as critical to society as organ donation, brain death etc

Elana Rubin is the chairperson of Australian Super, one of the largest, most successful industry superannuation funds, responsible for the savings of countless Australians and recently appointed to Infrastructure Australia, a body charged with addressing the crucial infrastructure needs of the country. Sirs, I suggest your "expert panel" has a very narrow perspective and, in the case of Graeme Samuel, dare I ask, an agenda?

NORA SCHEINKESTEL
Toorak, Vic

Rectifying error in Limmud-Oz report

I GENUINELY enjoyed all the wonderful people I met in Australia during my month-long scholar-in-residence during May and June 2011. The country – and the Jewish community – has every reason to be proud. I hope to return.

Unfortunately, *The Australian Jewish News* article, published just after I left the country, incorrectly asserted that I called Naomi Chazan, president of New Israel Fund (NIF), "a liar" during my panel presentation at Limmud-Oz (*AJN* 17/06). I did not do so.

Rather, I asked questions trying to reconcile the conflicting public information on three major organisational websites: that of NIF, that of NGO Monitor, and that of Coalition of

Women for Peace on the question of whether NIF directly or indirectly funded Coalition of Women for Peace for a continuing period of time that extended into the spring of 2011. I was one of four speakers. After the panel, moderator Judge Rothman commented: "I think we can thank each of the speakers for being as disciplined. I for one have been most informed."

The online version of this incorrect article was distributed worldwide through the internet. I immediately made it clear to the editors that the assertion was false. I believe the error appeared as a result of a misunderstanding that occurred between the story first being written and the publication of the final version. *The Australian Jewish News* removed the article from its online archive within four minutes of my request. *The San Diego Jewish World*, which reprinted the piece, also pulled the article within four minutes of my request.

The Australian Jewish News editors and I agreed that the best way to negate this misleading story and avoid using precious news space, was this letter to the editor.

As part of my request, *The Australian Jewish News* has donated \$18 to their chosen charity, Magen David Adom, an excellent choice.

During discussions with *The Australian Jewish News*, I found the editors extremely professional, collegial, and gracious. The matter is now closed and I thank the editors for correcting this matter.

EDWIN BLACK
Award-winning author of *IBM and the Holocaust*, and other books.
www.EdwinBlack.com

The real goal of the Brenner boycotters

THE catchiness of the pro-Palestinian demonstrators outside the Max Brenner chocolate shop last week sends a clear message that you would have to be deaf not to hear.

"From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," doesn't sound like they are referring to the 1967 borders, or even the 1948 borders. The Palestinians and their many supporters want, as they always have, not a two-state solution, but the obliteration of Israel to fulfil their desire of an Islamic caliphate that includes all land from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

RUTH ROSENBLUM
Caulfield North, Vic

Musicians hitting the wrong note

I AM sick and tired of visiting musicians shoving their personal political views down our throats. Pink Floyd's Roger Waters touring Australia in the next few months appears on al-Jazeera voicing his support for the Palestinians, and Australian Palestinian lobby group Australians For Palestine are promoting a video of Waters passionately supporting the boycott movement against Israel.

No doubt while in Australia, the pro-Palestinians and socialists will encourage Waters to promote the racist boycotts against Jewish businesses and Israel to the media and his fans. Musicians, like everyone else, are welcome to their own political views but surely they realise not all their

audience will agree and will feel uncomfortable. No doubt if any musicians dared to voice strong opinions to their audience condemning Palestinian, Muslim and Arab violence they would be described as racists and Islamophobic.

MICHAEL BURD
Toorak, Vic

Carbon emissions a little extreme

THERE are plenty of good arguments for and against a carbon tax, but one I heard last week takes any cake ever baked. Apparently the money raised by the tax will be sent by Julia Gillard straight to Indonesia, where it will go into funding Islamic schools. Wow.

STEVE BROOK
Elwood, Vic

Offensive use of Shoah hero's poem

AN article published in *The Australian* (02/07) by Will Pavia on bankers being excluded from private clubs in New York is meant to be humorous and it is indeed in some ways well-written and entertaining.

Pavia, however, displays insensitivity and lack of historical sense when, in his first paragraph, he uses an extended allusion to a famous statement by Pastor Martin Niemöller, an anti-Nazi who was imprisoned by the Nazis in Sachsenhausen and Dachau concentration camps. Pavia writes "First they came for the suited and booted, and they did not speak out, because they felt that they could always wear something else at their private club. Then they came for the bankers, the wealthy masters of the universe astonished them."

Niemöller's words – often presented as a poem entitled *First they came for the Jews* is usually presented as follows:

First they came for the communists,
and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew.
Then they came for me
and there was no one left to speak out for me.

Niemöller's statement and the critically important message at its heart should not be used – however innocently – for a cheap laugh.

It is one thing to make fun of bankers, who are well able to defend themselves. It is another thing to use the victims of the Nazis, including some six million Jewish men, women and children murdered simply for

being Jews, as a subject for humour.
DR BILL ANDERSON,
Surrey Hills, Vic

It's not the winning, it's the taking part

I SEE too many non-Jewish kids in our soccer teams. Sure we need to integrate within the general society, I am all for it. But Maccabi was started as a Jewish sporting club in Vienna because of anti-Semitism and the exclusion of Jews from Austrian sporting clubs.

I have many non-Jewish friends, so I'm certainly not racist or a bigot.

But Maccabi should be left for Jewish kids to join first. It shouldn't be about winning, it's about participation and Jewish kids, who may not necessarily be that good at sport, need a place where they can be comfortable. Just as there are many Croatian, Greek, Serbian and Italian sporting clubs, let's keep Maccabi Jewish.

Non-Jews shouldn't be allowed to join just so Maccabi can hire the best athletes and win games. It's about Jewish sportsman and women playing together and socialising, not winning medals, so let's get our priorities right.

DAVID CASHREIN
Crowns Nest, NSW

Making sure your mezuzahs are kosher

CONGRATULATIONS to the Rabbinical Council of Victoria for taking a stance on the issue of non-kosher and poor-quality mezuzahs being sold in Judaica shops (*AJN* 08/07). There is often no guarantee that these mezuzahs have either been written or checked by properly qualified scribes, and I personally have been offered and have seen non-kosher mezuzahs.

Well-meaning but non-knowledgable people who have bought these in good faith often find out after checking many years later that they have been duped resulting in a chillul Hashem. This causes severe angst and frustration to all involved, including the scribe doing the checking and people rightly question a system that allows this to occur.

It is therefore encouraging to see our local rabbinate finally taking a stand on this very important issue. I suggest that while their announcement is timely and welcome, they should take the next step and offer the "average Jew" a level of confidence by certifying reputable resellers who guarantee to sell only kosher mezuzahs.

Note that a computer check is not a kosher certification, nor is an unsigned certificate.

STEPHEN TUSAK
Cheltenham, Vic

PAST TENSE

Gleanings from *The AJN*, Friday, July 29, 1966

ZEDDY LAWRENCE

War threat by Syria

"ANY more raids by Israel on Syrian territory will 'definitely' mean war," Syria said yesterday in a Foreign Ministry statement broadcast on Radio Damascus. The statement said that if the United Nations failed to condemn Israel for aggression against Syria, it might be Syria's last complaint to the UN. In New York on Friday, Israel accused Syria of "repeated acts of aggression" in violation of the Syrian-Israeli armistice and the UN Charter. Defending its July 14 retaliatory air raid against Syria, Israel told the Security

Council that she would defend her territory and citizens whenever necessary, but suggested the UN leave settlement of the incident to its on-the-spot authorities.

NSW Teach-in

THE first NSW State Zionist Council "Teach In" was held in Sydney recently. The function was described as "most successful" by Zionist leaders. But there was controversy. Journalist Sam Lipski told the Teach In, the Zionist movement in Australia has failed in Jewish education, youth work and giving local Jews a "link with Israel", while

speaker Ted Whitgrob described "political Zionism" as a "spent force". In a lengthy statement Mr Duffield, general secretary of the Australian Zionist Federation, said these speakers were not aware of the efforts the Zionist movement had made to widen its ranks and to persuade young people to take an active part in Zionist activities other than fundraising.

He beat Eichmann

A MAN who outsmarted Adolph Eichmann is visiting Melbourne. He is Mr A Gruenhut, 71, of Israel, who saved several thousand

Jews by smuggling them to Hungary (still safe from Nazi tyranny) after Eichmann and his henchmen had decided to liquidate 100,000 Jews of Slovakia in February 1942. Among those he rescued were 200 Pressburg Jews, by organising an illegal ship to take them to Haifa.

Australian premiere!

THE most ravished and ravishing heroine in history, *Angélique Marquise of the Angels*. Bookings: Myer's Allans, Hotel Australia. Not suitable for general exhibition.



Edwin Black

Washington D.C.

Zeddy Lawrence
National Editor
Australian Jewish News
Melbourne Australia

August 1, 2010

Dear Zeddy,

I genuinely enjoyed all the wonderful people I met in Australia during my month long scholar-in-residence during May and June 2011. The country—and the Jewish community-- has every reason to be proud. I hope to return.

Unfortunately, **The Australian Jewish News** article, bylined by Joshua Levi and published just after I left the country in mid-June, falsely asserted that I called New Israel Fund president Naomi Chazan “a liar” during my panel presentation at Limmud-Oz. I did not do so. That article, at my request, was removed from the paper’s online archive. **The Australian Jewish News** editors and I have agreed that the best way to negate the misleading story was through a Letter to the Editor, text mutually approved in advance, to appear in both the print and online editions. As part of my request, **The Australian Jewish News** has donated \$18 to its charity of choice, Magen David Adom.

During discussions with **The Australian Jewish News**, I found the editors extremely professional, collegial, and gracious. The matter is now closed and I thank **The Australian Jewish News** for correcting this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin Black

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EB', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.