

Kol Mevasser

SHABBAT SHELAH

18 Sivan 5768

June 21, 2008

Kahal Joseph Congregation • 10505 Santa Monica Boulevard • Los Angeles, CA 90025

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AIPAC 2008-- A Firsthand Report about U.S. Policy and Israel

By Emily Shaaya

Two weeks ago, I found myself in Washington D.C., attending AIPAC's 2008 Policy Conference for the third time. With the timing of the conference just a week before finals,

I had hesitated attending this year, but then I remembered. I remembered that we don't get to wait for the "right" time or a moment that is convenient for us, because it is now that the State of Israel needs our support more so than ever before.

AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the most influential pro-Israel lobby in the United States, makes clear the importance of the mutually beneficial relationship between Israel and America. Attendance at this year's conference titled "The U.S.-Israel Relationship: Built To Last," was at its peak, with approximately 7,500 attendees, 1,200 of which were college and high school students.

The urgency of the U.S.- Israel relationship in combination with the upcoming November elections brought in many speakers, including Prime Minister Olmert, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and Presidential candidates Hilary Clinton, John McCain, and Barack Obama. All candidates stressed the importance of the U.S.-Israel alliance, linking the two nations with their common threat, Iran,

PRAYER SCHEDULE

SHABBAT SHELAH

17 Sivan / Friday, June 20th

Shaharith.....6:30 am
Minhah & Arvith6:30 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting7:50 pm

18 Sivan / Shabbat, June 21st

Shaharith.....8:30 am
Minhah & Arvith7:30 pm
Motzei Shabbat 8:52 pm

19 Sivan / Sunday, June 22nd

Shaharith.....7:30 am

WEEKDAYS

Shaharith.....6:30 am

SHABBAT KORACH

24 Sivan / Friday, June 27th

Shaharith.....6:30 am
Minhah & Arvith6:30 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting7:50 pm

AIPAC's 2008 Action Agenda calls for sanctions on the central banks of Iran's banks, on foreign energy companies investing in Iran, and the prohibition of exportation of petroleum products from the country. The Action Agenda includes passage of a foreign aid bill, which would provide 30 billion dollars for the maintenance of the "qualitative military edge" and the vital security assistance for the State of Israel. The agenda also calls for initiation of a peace process between the Israeli and Palestinian people once the terror infrastructure has been dismantled, and emphasis on the accountability of the Arab states to "shoulder responsibility" and encourage the peace process.

Of the Presidential candidates, Senator Obama was the most anticipated, and mesmerized

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many with his powerful speech, stating that he "will bring to the White House and unshakeable commitment to Israel's security." Obama addressed the emails circulating throughout the Jewish community in a jokingly manner, stating "They're [the emails] filled with tall tales and dire warnings about a certain candidate for President. And all I want to say is - let me know if you see this guy named Barack Obama, because he sounds pretty frightening." Even so, many conference attendees continued to express doubt in Obama's credibility after promising an "undivided" Jerusalem, a promise with a high likelihood of failure when speaking of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Senators John McCain and Hillary Clinton demonstrated their unfaltering support for Israel, and expressed the necessity for terrorism to cease before a two-state solution can be considered.

Attendance at my first AIPAC Policy Conference was just the beginning of the journey. My involvement in AIPAC has also allowed me to participate in the Saban Leadership Program in Washington D.C., where selected students from high schools and colleges have the opportunity to strengthen their advocacy skills and develop personal relationships with their Congressman as they lobby for pro-Israel legislation on Capitol Hill. At the University of California, Irvine, I took on an active role and am the former Co-President of Anteaters For Israel, UCI's Pro-Israel group.

The 2009 Policy Conference will take place May 3rd- 5th. AIPAC is an incredible opportunity to come together with people from across the country and internationally to learn more about and enhance the U.S.-Israel relationship, and I hope that in the coming year, we can attend the conference together as the Kahal Joseph Congregation. Several synagogues in the Los Angeles area send a group of delegates, and I hope that Kahal Joseph can follow their example, and use the strengths of our congregation to support the State of Israel, at a greater level, by affecting policy and legislation within our own nation.

In Memoriam

These anniversaries occur from Shabbat, the Shabbat, the 18th of Sivan (June 21, 2008) to Shabbat, the 25th of Sivan (June 28, 2008). It is customary to light a memorial candle in the evening and donate tzedakah. Family members are encouraged to attend services.

Wednesday / 22 Sivan
Rivka bat Esther

Thursday / 23 Sivan
Lulu bat Toba
Salim ben Ezra Kamara

Friday / 24 Sivan
Esther bat Chana
Yosef ben Meir Hakimpour
Sara bat David

Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored by

Violet Mussry

George, Danny, & Reggie Judah

and their families

in memory of their mother

Lily Judah, z"l

Refuah Shlemah

Please include these people in your prayers for health.

Mazel bat Sulha • Yaheskel ben Regina

Khayah Noa bat Sara • Matilda Louisa

Victor ben Pauline • Haim ben Mordechai

Shaul Chai Gavriel ben Sara • Pnina bat Esther

Shamuel Eliyahu ben Hannah

Ushers Needed

We need your assistance to help us keep noise down during speeches and sermons. Please see Neil Sheff if you would like to volunteer to make our services more enjoyable.

TORAH READINGS

Parashat Shelah p. 623 *Haftara* p. 635