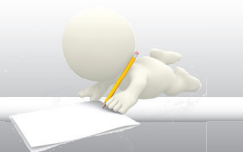


Letters

Continued from page 72



at Dunkirk. Later he became the rabbi of Pau, in the Pyrénées mountains near the Spanish border, and chaplain of Gurs.

The Camp Days of Herman Wouk, a”h

My late mother, Shirley Friedberg Neustein, was a childhood friend of Herman Wouk and attended the same Zionist camp (Keeyuma/Carmelia) as he did in the 1920s and 30s on Lake Champlain in Milton, Vermont. They kept up until my mother died in 2001.

I gathered bits and pieces of Herman’s personal side – his banter, humor, and zest for living despite personal tragedy – from my mother. The boys and girls in camp were separated during the week but would come together for Friday night prayer service. My mother, who was a few years younger than Herman, vividly described to me how during short breaks in the prayer service Herman would suddenly lift his head from the *siddur* and canvass the room with penetrating eyes. She would often tell me she could see “the wheels of his mind” turning as he scrupulously examined every camper in the prayer hall.

After writing *Marjorie Morningstar*, Herman called my mother to apologize profusely, swearing she was nothing at all like the protagonist in his book! He did concede, though, that he consciously used her name because of his friendship with her.

In May 1962, my mother organized a monumental camp reunion, bringing together youths that had since become household names in literary, political and business circles – Arthur Miller, Norman Lear, Moss Hart, Paul Goodman, Bob Treuhaft, Andrew Goodman, to name just a few.

Herman was immersed at the time in writing *Youngblood Hawke* and couldn’t attend the reunion. He did, however, make a poignant audiobook recounting his camp memories. The room was quiet as former campers listened closely to Herman’s reflections on his camp days. Out of respect for Herman’s sensitivity, my mother cut the cassette tape immediately after it was played.

If my late mother were here today, she would say Herman clearly showed signs of greatness already as a young lad!

Amy Neustein, Ph.D.
Fort Lee, NJ

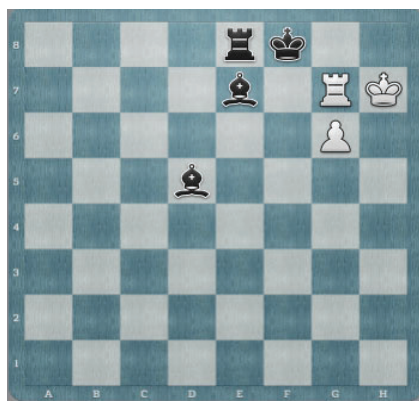


He could enter Gurs but was never sure he could leave it. He did his utmost to help the internees. Once, at the end of a visit, Gurs’ director told him, “I have received orders to forbid you from entering the camp. Despite this order, I will let you in today, but I want to be clear: I will not be able to do so again.” My father tried to argue, but it was in vain.

Gurs’s internees must have learned about the decision because that day they offered my father a *ka’arah*, a Seder plate, they had made out of pieces of wood and iron. It is one of two Seder plates I use to the present day.

Julien Bauer
Montreal, Canada

Chess Corner



Answer to last week’s puzzle:

- 1) Qxa7+ (forcing black to Kxa7)
- 2) Bc8+ (essentially forcing black to Qxa1)
- 3) Rxa1#

(courtesy www.chess24.com)

A Lighter Touch

Jokes for Your Shabbos Table?

Two non-Jews are standing outside a shul. One says to the other, “How many Jews do you reckon are in there?”

The other responds, “I heard there are 999,999.”

The other person looks at him with a funny look on his face and asks, “How did you get to that number?”

“Simple,” he responds, “I heard one Jew coming out and say, ‘We’re one short of a milyan.’”

(courtesy of www.ShortVort.com)

Editorials

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blood, clean blood, on its way to Allah. With the help of Allah, every martyr will be in heaven, and every wounded will get his reward.”

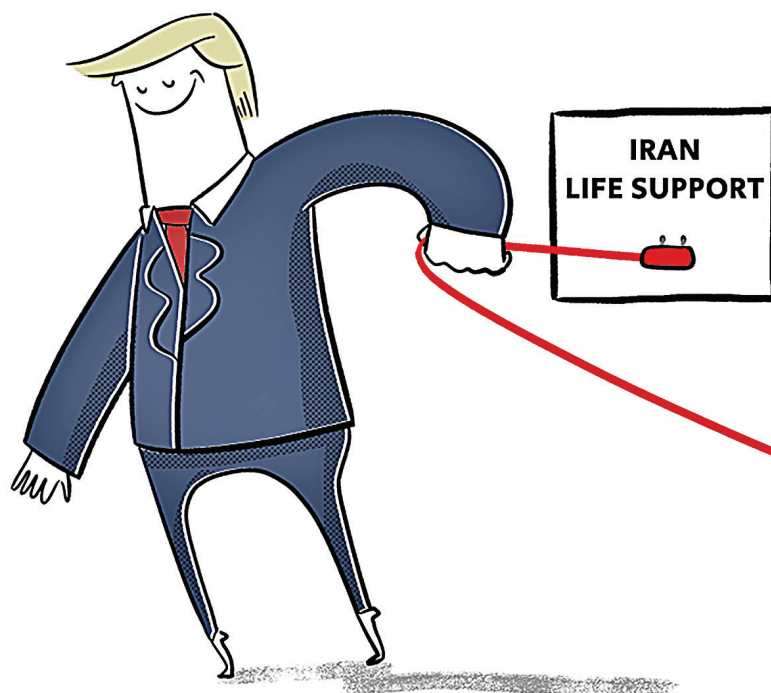
Yet we have found no expressions of dismay in the media over these invocations of divine imprimatur – not even over the murderous rampages they glorify.

To be sure, we believe that Friedman’s remarks are accurate and do not require validation – certainly not by comparing them to Palestinian excesses. But what we find troubling is the reflexive media hostility toward even the suggestion that Israel is pursuing a Biblical mission and the unremarked

acquiescence to the Palestinian religious justification of even outright murder. This has and will continue to have an impact on whether Trump’s efforts to come up with a viable peace plan for the Middle East can be successful.

Israel has successfully defended itself in several wars designed to destroy it and, in the process, has become a military, economic and technological superpower. The media must accept that Israel can hardly be expected to ignore the new reality and that the Palestinians should not be encouraged to do so either. Reasoned analysis, not wooden reactions, must become the order of the day.

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