September 2015

Iran Deal

**Grief and Justice** 

**Changing Tides** 

Sustaining Hope





## NETANYAHU AGAINST THE WORLD

Will the Iran Deal be Netanyahu's undoing?

Faced with the most heated US foreign policy battle since the Iraq War, Member of Congress Adam Schiff was still undecided on whether or not to support diplomacy with Iran. But just one week after meeting with a delegation of Jewish Voice for Peace members in his LA district, Schiff, who is Jewish, surprised everyone.

"I could tell that he was really deeply considering the issue" said LA chapter leader Estee Chandler, whose family is Israeli. "But a week later to see him not just supporting the deal, but publically taking leadership talking about why it is good for the US and Israel—it was exhilarating."

In the end, getting this historic deal through Congress may come down to a few votes. And chances are good that JVP supporters will help deliver them. [continued on next page]

# "PEOPLE WATCHING US AND CRYING..."

SYNAGOGUE,

**COMMUNITY.**"

**MY JEWISH** 

Hundreds of JVP members take to the streets to remember, grieve, and demand justice.

This summer, 10 JVP chapters across the country took to the streets for public memorials to mark the first anniversary of last summer's Israeli assault on Gaza.

"I was expecting our procession to meet some resistance. Instead, I saw people coming out of stores and joining us, "JVP IS MY

people watching us and crying" said JVP Boston member Alice Rothchild.

JVP chapters hold an important place in our communities. Few Jewish organizations - whether

synagogues or political organizations - were willing to even acknowledge last year's assault. But as members of JVP, you're pushing our community to grapple with the unthinkable loss of 2,000 Palestinian lives – 500 of whom were children – last summer.

Using the tools we are given by our tradition helps us to, in the

words of one member,
"stand beside, not claim,
the pain of the Palestinian
people." When we use
Jewish mourning rituals, we
tap into our fundamental
traditions in service of our

shared humanity. Our members often



Photo: Tess Scheflan, activestills.org

say "JVP is my synagogue, my Jewish community." Through marking time, reciting the Mourner's Kaddish, and recommitting to action, these moments of communal mourning and action echoed through the JVP congregation this summer.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has spent decades claiming that Iran is moments away from nuclear capacity – a well-documented fear-mongering campaign designed in large part to distract the world from Israel's policies toward Palestine. Now Netanyahu has pulled out all the stops to destroy the deal.

While right-wing politicians, backed by AIPAC and other extreme "pro-Israel" groups, are only too eager to join with Netanyahu, American Jews aren't buying it—polls show 49% support diplomacy while 31% oppose. For AIPAC, this is turning into a desperate campaign to re-assert themselves in DC – even if it isolates them from mainstream Jewish opinion.

Meanwhile, few point out the obvious: Israel hasn't signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, or even admitted to having nuclear weapons. If there is a regional nuclear arms race, it is one that Israel started.

JVP is working with some of the same partners, like the National American
Iranian Council, who worked together to get an unprecedented 60
Members of Congress to

skip Netanyahu's speech to Congress this spring. And together, we're pulling out all the stops.

By September, JVP chapter delegations will have met with at least 35

Members of Congress across the country, with a focus on swing votes in the Senate.

We even dominated social media chatter when Netanyahu spoke in a live broadcast to America's Jews. We've just begun our media work,

appearing on Al Jazeera and Politico.

This vote is going to be close. But the trend we are seeing - the trend JVP has helped create - is clear: we

want diplomacy, not political grandstanding. Universal human rights, not occupation, discrimination, or dispossession. Justice, not war.

**DONOR PROFILE** 

# I GIVE BECAUSE JVP TAKES RISKS

– Dorothy Scholtz, donor since 2011 and JVP-Twin Cities chapter member.



Studies have shown that organizations founded on and committed to worthy causes often have spotty records of success. Some grow and thrive; others, in spite of hard work and good faith efforts, falter and fail. What makes the difference? A surprisingly small number

TO SUSTAIN HOPE AND OPTIMISM REQUIRES STRENGTH, COURAGE, AND FAITH.

FOR AIPAC, THIS

IS TURNING INTO

**A DESPERATE** 

CAMPAIGN.

of behaviors characterize successful non-profits and clearly JVP activists know and implement those strategies. But I suspect one

characteristic outweighs the others in securing JVP's phenomenal growth: JVPers accept risk-taking as part of the job. To sustain hope and optimism in the face of formidable challenges, including risks that threaten family and personal relationships and that draw scorn in the public arena, requires incredible strength, courage, and faith.

JVP persevered. And grew. Now even AIPAC and *The New York Times* see we're a force to be reckoned with! We might not be mentioned in history books yet. But we will be – and I am proud to support our work with every gift.

### ☐ YES, I CHOOSE TO SUPPORT JVP!

 Please accept my \$\_\_\_\_\_ donation

 Name \_\_\_\_\_

 Address \_\_\_\_\_

 City \_\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_





Make my gift monthly, join the Chai Club

Send to: 1611 Telegraph Ave Suite 1020, Oakland CA 94612

# CHANGING TIDES

You are part of an ascendant coalition demanding justice, equality, and dignity for all people of Israel and Palestine. The evidence is mounting: this is truly a movement moment.

### An Emergent Coalition

A truly progressive coalition is forming in support of Palestinian human rights.

WHEN U.S. DEMOCRATS WERE ASKED WHETHER ISRAEL WANTS PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.

# A MAJORITY [51%]

OF YOUNG ADULTS THOUGHT THE 2014 ISRAELI ATTACK ON GAZA WAS UNJUSTIFIED. POLLS SHOWED PLURALITIES OF PEOPLE OF COLOR AND WOMEN OF ALL RACES ALSO THOUGHT THE WAR WAS UNJUST.

16 MILLION

### JVP Has Grown

In size, capacity, and impact.
Your support amplifies our
media footprint and grassroots
base - and together we're creating
a new center of political gravity.



PEOPLE REACHED

PEOPLE

THE HILL

THE WASHINGTON

PEOPLE

THE STORY

ALJAZEERA

PAIL HILL

THE WASHINGTON

PEOPLE

REACHED

PEOPLE

THE STORY

ALJAZEERA

THE HILL

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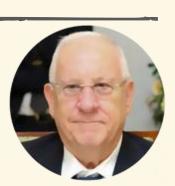
THE WASHINGTON

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## Our Opposition is Fighting Back

BDS is a "strategic threat of the first order"

- Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, May 2015



\$ RAISED TO FIGHT BDS:



50 MILLION SHELDON ADELSON \$\$\$ \$\$ **\$\$** 

100 MILLION THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

# STATES THAT HAVE PASSED ANTI-BDS LEGISLATION

STATES CLOSE TO PASSING ANTI-BDS LEGISLATION



#### **OUTSPENT, NOT OVERPOWERED**

IPAC

\$65 MILLION 400 STAFF

SO STAFF

\$2.4 MILLION 28 STAFF

## A New Political Reality

AIPAC and individuals like Sheldon Adelson may have an overwhelming advantage in funding, but JVP has consistently managed to out-smart, out-work, and out-organize the opposition. The proof is in the results.

Mike Coogan, US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

Jewish Voice for Peace members, supporters, and allies are going up against a huge, well-funded network of political opponents day-in-and-day-out. But telling the truth is cheaper than maintaining their spin machine. Your help makes all the difference.

JVP.ORG/DONATE

GROWING MEMBER POWER



7,800 MEMBER HOURS/YEAR



205,000 MEMBER HOURS/YEAR