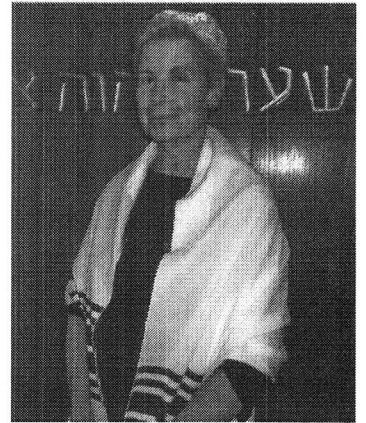


## RABBI'S COLUMN:



Last May at this time, we were celebrating the miracle of Israel's 75 years of existence. A people that had lost one-third of its members — 6 million men, women, and children — had been granted a state after an exile lasting 1,878 years. And they made of it a success — democratic government, the greening of the desert, advances in medicine, science, and technology, as well as the ability to absorb Jews from vastly different backgrounds and with different life experiences. However, Israel, like all countries, is not perfect. There are problems in Israeli society and its relations with its neighbors.

This year we fear for Israel and we fear for ourselves as Jews since anti-Israel sentiment is becoming more and more associated with anti-Semitism. It is not just Israel that is in trouble. I write this as a growing number of US colleges and universities are dealing with tent encampments to demonstrate support for Gazans. Many Jewish students no longer feel safe on campus. It is difficult to counter knee-jerk expressions of opinion and hate that come from historical ignorance. Universities, places normally dedicated to learning and open-minded discussion, are failing both in their mission to educate and to keep students safe.

We cannot be silent. We must demand that our leaders express publicly their strong opposition to anti-Semitism. And we must speak up for ourselves. "From the river to the sea," actually or metaphorically, Jews everywhere have the right to exist in peace and safety and with the respect, tolerance, and even admiration that one should have for a worthy minority community,

*Rabbi Peggy Berman de Prophetis*

Rabbi Peggy Berman de Prophetis  
Congregation Beth Sholom  
Dover, DE 19901