

# Graduation

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egrated Marketing Communications, where he holds the Daniel H. Renberg Chair, an endowed professorship focusing on social justice in reporting with an emphasis on issues relevant to the LGBTQ community.

Thrasher, as required, presented the school with the prepared text he claimed he was going to deliver. Once on stage he changed his remarks. He took the opportunity, in the presence of a crowd with widely divergent views on Israel and the political realities of the Middle East, to substitute hatred for inspiration, condemnation for life-affirming cooperation. Thrasher chose that moment to trash Israel as an apartheid state and to push his agenda of severing ties with the Tel Aviv campus. He was "so proud" of NYU's chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace, the Graduate Student Organizing Committee labor union and his colleagues in SCA for supporting BDS "against the apartheid state government in Israel."

And so, not too long after Pittsburgh, not too long after San Diego, not too long after the now famous trio of freshmen congresswomen have made anti-Semitism camouflaged as anti-Zionism respectable, we are witness to the shocking spectacle of Jew hatred given a platform on one of the most prestigious campuses in a city known for its major Jewish population.

Perhaps most revealing of the significance of this event in terms of NYU's history was the response of a student recently accepted for the coming year. She notified the school of her desire to withdraw her registration:

I have decided to withdraw from NYU beginning in the Fall of 2019. This decision is made with real sadness as I was very excited to apply early decision to NYU and have looked forward to attending for a many years. My family has a long connection to NYU going back to my great-grandfather X who founded the department of music and was a professor at NYU for many decades... Unfortunately, it appears the NYU my family has known is changing. It has now become clear to me that as a Jew, if I were to attend NYU I would be affiliating myself with an institution that accommodates faculty members and student organizations that are dedicated to anti-Semitic ideologies.

Some on your campus differentiate between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, however, I am not one of those people. This age-old hatred of my people wears different disguises in different generations but its root objective is always the same. I will not stand by as it is allowed to take form at NYU and will certainly not attend an institution where my core beliefs and very existence is being threatened.

I can only applaud this young woman for her insight, her wisdom and her courage. Rather than closing her eyes to this spectacle of injustice, mocking civility and promoting hatred under the very banner of advanced education, her response was profound proof of Oprah's wisdom: "Transform the world every day by your actions."

If only all those exposed to the mindlessness of the words in Manhattan would have been blessed with the beautiful message at Colorado College. If only the Ivy League professors were smart enough to be moved by the inspiration of Oprah instead of the vile messages of the Thrashers.

law as expressed in the Torah, then the inequities of society will ultimately result in conflict and decline and suffering for many, and perhaps even collapse.

It is now half a century since Peter Drucker, who founded the academic field known as Business Administration and indeed the MBA degree, stated that inequality of income in the United States it is greater than the income inequality that existed in France under the reign of Louis XIV. In other words, the difference between the average income today in the United States of CEOs of the largest corporations on the other hand and the income of the people who clean up at night after them, who mop the floor, and make the lowest income in those same corporations is greater than the difference between the income and holdings of Louis XIV of France and the lowest peasant in his empire.

Rabbi Herbert Bronstein is

# Celebrating Israel's birthday at a home away from home

By Rachel Cohen

Mangals (bbq grills) were fired up, songs were sung and parties were had across the country as Israel celebrated its 71st year. But for some high school students from around the world, this Yom Haazmaut was a special one. Why? Because instead of celebrating from afar, they were able to bask in the excitement in their new (albeit temporary) home.

Sapir Keren, from Miami, for example, is currently learning at Naale Elite Academy's Mosenson Youth Village. Her time studying at the cultural and experiential education co-ed Jewish high school gives her a sense of belonging she never felt before. "Being here and being surrounded by Jews has helped me feel safe," she said.

That message of safety for all Jews seems to be lost among her friends back home, who she wishes could enjoy the Zionist dream with her.

"I wish my friends back home would understand the true meaning of the Jews having their own country," she said. "On Yom Ha'azmaut, when you think of everything Jews went through to get to where we are today, it is simply astonishing."

That collective awe for Israel's myriad of accomplishments is not limited to Jews from the US. Benjamin Braun, from Nuremberg, Germany, too, has marveled at the triumph of the modern day Jewish state. He is only acutely aware that the joy behind this day is often over-

looked abroad, where negative coverage of Israel reigns supreme.

"I wish my friends would understand that Israel is not a country who is looking for war as many in Europe think," he said.

The students are just two examples of teens enrolled in Naale's network of schools across the country. For students who attend Naale, it feels like winning the Zionist lottery: High school students from abroad receive a free scholarship that includes an initial flight to Israel, fully-subsidized tuition, medical aid, room and board, pocket money and learning Hebrew as well as standard core curriculum subjects like Math, Science and English.

Walking through the halls of a Naale school can at times feel like the corridors of the UN. English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian classes are all on offer along with, of course, Hebrew. Classes are offered in differing degrees of difficulty and adhere to the Ministry of Education curriculum. Upon graduation, students earn a full Israeli matriculation certificate which is recognized around the world.

Why the full ride? Both the Ministry of Education and Jewish Agency for Israel saw the importance of tapping into the younger generation of Jews worldwide and instilling within them a sense of belonging for Israel.

That overall message of creating not only a Jewish identity but an Israeli one often resonates with Naale students, making their Yom Ha'azmaut in Israel all the more special.

"I love being in Israel because I feel like I belong here," Gaily Alfi, who attends WIZO

Nahalal, said.

Rafael Albagli Zagher from Brazil, is thrilled with his decision to study and live in the Jewish state. "Since I started living here, I can feel that all of Israel is a result of the Jewish people's effort to create the country, and I couldn't be more happy of having a nation, and live in it!"

Some students don't plan for their Israel experience to end after high school. Moishe Taifeld of Mexico City, said he plans to enroll in the IDF after graduation.

Of course, not all is celebratory the week of Yom Haazmaut. The day before, Israel observed Yom Hazikaron - Memorial Day - and a piercing siren is heard throughout the country as the clock strikes 8 p.m. and then again the following morning at 11 a.m. During that one minute siren that feels much longer, men, women and children stop what they're doing to pay tribute to Israeli security officials who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the country.

"I am honored to be in Israel for Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haazmaut. When I heard the siren, I thought about how far we have come," Alfi said.

Paige Katz of Cape Town added, "It's a true miracle and should be seen as an example for others and not a threat. Israel is a country that is truly built on love and strength."

For those in the Chicago area looking to register for a Naale program in the next academic year, the registration deadline is around the corner. Those who want to enroll have until June 19. For more information, visit the Naale website at <https://www.naale-elite-academy.com/en>.

# Torah

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vide well-being in the long run for everyone in the society.

But if the society is not in accord with G-d's moral law then, according to the Torah, the society will not know well-being but will experience inner conflict, decline and perhaps even, possibly, collapse.

All of this is not about individual reward and punishment; it is as we have, said a social doctrine, a law of history. The text is put into the language of cause and effect. It states "if.....then". As if to say "if" the society in its laws and customs is structured in accord with G-d's moral teachings, that is, in accord with the Torah, then the society will have peace and productivity and general well-being. If however the society is not in accord with G-d's moral

