

An Outrageous Legal Decision

A U.S. District Court judge in Chicago has delivered a decision that can only be described as shocking, perverse and a setback for religious equality and freedom in this country. It also violates 200 years of Constitutional history.

Judge Frank McGarr, ruling on a creche on the grounds of Chicago's City Hall, justified its presence on the basis that the United States is a Christian country. His exact words were:

"The truth is that America's origins are Christian with the result that some of our fondest traditions are Christian, and that our founding fathers intended and achieved full religious freedom for all within the context of a Christian nation in the First Amendment as it was adopted, rather than as we have written it."

This kind of antediluvian thinking, reflective of fundamentalist views rather than mainstream religious views, is in effect a call for the state to participate freely in the religious celebrations of Christmas. But the uniqueness of the vision of this country's founding fathers was that freedom of religion would be protected by separating the church from the state and that all religions would be treated equally. It was in this context that religious life in the U.S. has flourished with unprecedented freedom.

In a stinging critique of the judge's decision, Alan Dershowitz, a prominent jurist, pointed out that this country is a multi-ethnic, multi-racial and multi-religious nation. There is no such thing as a religious country, he said, which doesn't eventually pick its favorite religion, like a favorite

state flower, song or bird. "Inevitably, there will be a state religion" if Judge McGarr's thinking takes root.

The judge's decision deserves to be tossed onto the scrap heap of history. The ruling should be overturned and the judge should be turned out.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Dedi Zucker, 34, a political scientist and leader of Peace Now, was sworn in as a member of the Knesset recently, representing the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM). He replaces Mordechai Bar-On who resigned his seat recently. Bar-On quit voluntarily, saying he did not want to stand for reelection but wanted his successor to gain parliamentary experience before the next elections. In addition to Zucker, the CRM Knesset faction consists of Shulamit Aloni and Ran Cohen.

Jewish Archives At University Of Arizona

TUCSON, Ariz. (JTA) — The Jewish ranchers, shopkeepers and others who helped to settle the Southwestern United States will be remembered in the newly formed Jewish Historical Archives at the Southwest Center of the University of Arizona here. Director of archives Prof. Abraham Chanin said that during his research of the Southwest the names of Jewish settlers "kept popping up." The Greater Phoenix Jewish News reports that the archives will consist of historical documents and photographs and oral histories.

Chanin, a University of Arizona journalism professor who will begin his archivist job in January, said he'll commence research in cities and then examine smaller communities.

Latkes, Not Like Mother Used To Make

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- 3 large baking potatoes
- 2 eggs, separated
- 1 small onion, grated fine
- 1 tablespoon unbleached flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- About 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- Black pepper, freshly ground
- Vegetable oil

I suggest you use a food processor and a large nonstick skillet.

Peel potatoes and grate fine in a food processor fitted with the grating attachment. Empty potato pulp into mesh sieve and wash under cold running water until water runs clear. Drain well by shaking sieve. Empty potatoes into a bowl and combine with egg yolk, grated onion, flour, and baking powder. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into potato mixture. Season well.

Preheat oven to 300°F. In a large skillet, heat some of the oil, reaching to about 1/4 inch in the pan, until very hot. Drop full tablespoons of potato mixture into oil, flatten each mound slightly, and fry on both sides over medium-high heat until golden brown. Drain on paper towels, changing them frequently as they absorb the oil. Add more oil, make sure that this oil is hot enough before you drop in more potato mixture.

To keep pancakes warm while frying the rest, place in over on a rack set over a cookie sheet. Serve pancakes on a cloth napkin.

NOTE: Excess liquid will accumulate in the potato mixture by the time you reach the bottom of the bowl. Pour off this excess when filling each spoon.

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) — The General Assembly condemned the United States for its raid on Libya last April. Israel joined the U.S. and other Western countries in voting against the anti-American resolution. The vote was 79-28 with 32 abstentions.

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