



Arnie Herz, AJC  
Long Island Regional  
President, Peerless  
Attorney

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The East End:  
Its Jews,  
Synagogues ...  
And Antisemitism

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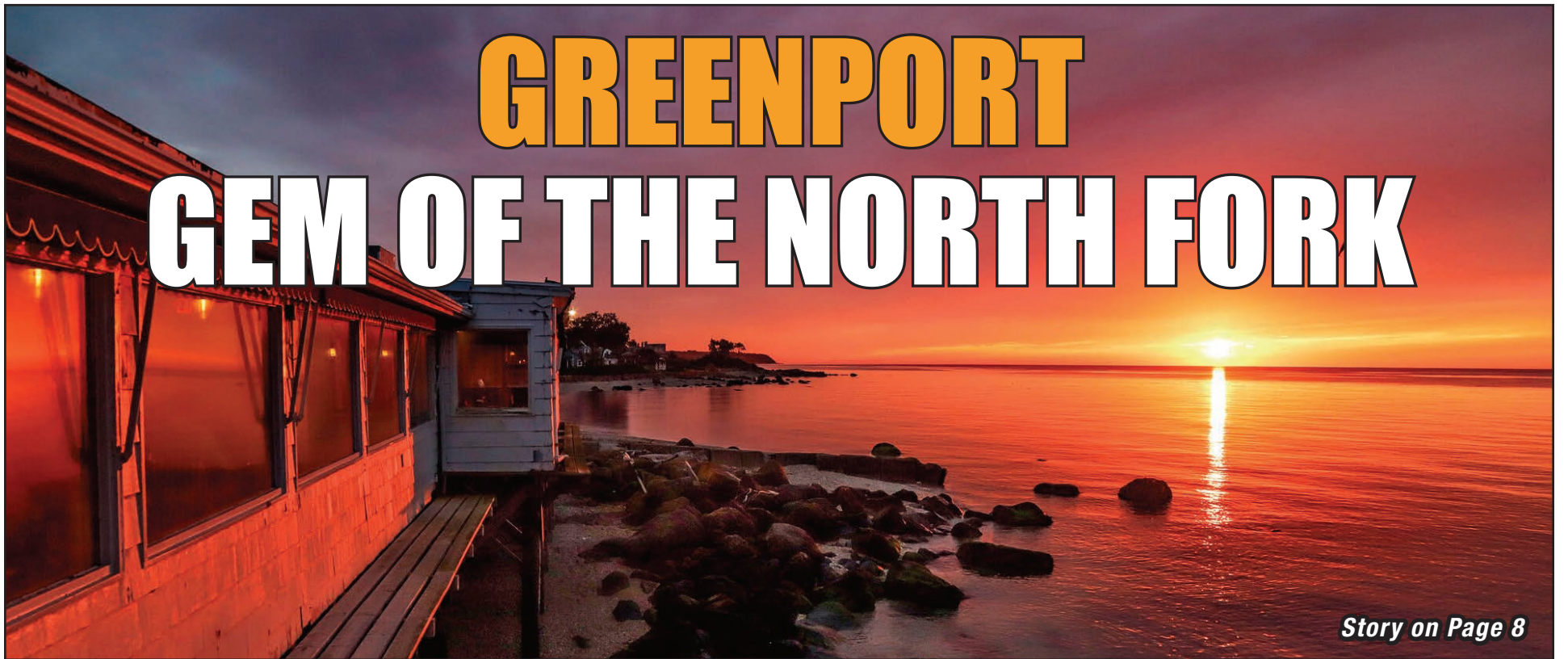


# LONG ISLAND Jewish World

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(But Not For Long - Page 30)

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## GREENPORT GEM OF THE NORTH FORK

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A light shines over Greenport; Bottom, l-r: Congregation Tifereth Israel synagogue, dedicated in 1904; The Greenport Theater, soon to be the North Fork Arts Center; street fair in the heart of town.

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# The Win/Winner

## Lawyer and Jewish activist Arnie Herz is a master problem solver

By KATHERINE WATSON

Arnie Herz has a knack for understanding the deeper dimensions of legal problems. For three decades, the sought-after conflict resolution and

### PERSPECTIVE

business lawyer has been helping clients disentangle even the most complicated legal disputes with his signature depth of analysis and measured, level-headed negotiation style. It's a tried-and-true method that has brought him and those he represents much success.

But the Port Washington, Long Island, resident says he's just doing what comes naturally. "I have an ability to see what the core problem is in a conflict. And by seeing that, I can then turn my attention, and the disputing parties' attention, to solving the real problem in a way that makes sense for everyone," he says.

Herz currently assists in a wide range of business, intellectual property, sports and entertainment matters. His reputation as a problem-solver has made him a go-to resource for his clients, including some of the top sports figures in the world, with a track record that speaks for itself.

Take the case of the World Trade Center Disaster Site cleanup. Two large construction companies that had assisted in the cleanup were embroiled in a complicated dispute with New York State and the federal government. Tensions were high, even boiling over into a courtroom shoving match. When things seemed hopeless after months of litigation, the judge called on Herz to mediate.

He solved the conflict in one day. "Once we were able to identify the real problem, we were able to see what the solution was," Herz says simply. "The solution is often fairly easy."

Growing up, Herz didn't have a lot of questions about which vocation he would choose. "My dad was a lawyer, my uncle is a lawyer, and my other uncle is a doctor. Doctor or lawyer were the options," he says. After a stellar LSAT score and an impressive undergraduate career at the University of Michigan, law school became the obvious choice.

But then Herz did something unusual — he spent four years traveling

the world, visiting India four different times and studying yoga and meditation while doing humanitarian work. It was in that context that Herz realized that practicing law could be more than a career; it could be a calling.

Herz says he'd always been proud of his father's work as a lawyer, and



**Arnie Herz, American Jewish Committee Long Island Regional President, dedicated Torah student, and attorney and negotiator extraordinaire.**

he knew that he could be a good one too. But he didn't just want to be proficient in something and earn a good living. He wanted something more.

He cites his heroes at that time as Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. Both, he found out, had been attorneys. Gandhi's work, in particular, fascinated Herz. "Most of us are caught up in our own little world. And there's nothing wrong with that. But when there's a person who thinks outside of their own

**When he reframed the law as a tool that could be used to make the world better, everything clicked into place for Herz.**

realm, who thinks of things bigger than themselves... that big-vision type of person inspired me tremendously," he recalls.

Herz's natural talent for diplomacy and peace-brokering hadn't struck him before as tools a lawyer could leverage, let alone use to help people. But when he reframed the law as a tool that could be used to make the world better, everything clicked into place. After his fourth trip to India, he says, "it all came together" and his bigger vision emerged.

"I realized that I had the good for-

ture to be able to use my skills in a much higher way, through the study and practice of law," he says. "And I also realized that law could be a force for tremendous good in the world."

When Herz returned home, he enrolled at Fordham Law School. After that, there was no turning back.

Once he was in practice, it didn't take long for Herz's skills as a strategic thinker and negotiator to emerge. Through early pro bono work for a humanitarian organization and for family and friends of the partners of the international law firm where he was employed, he saw that he had a knack for problem-solving. From there, he sharpened his skills to hone in on what he now calls his "win/win" philosophy.

It's a principle that he brings to every dispute that's brought to him, whether it's a complicated matter between multiple stakeholders or a simpler case with just two parties.

"Whenever you have a dispute, it's assumed that there's a winner and a loser. But if each side gets what they need, there doesn't have to be a loser," he explains. "The key is to find a mutually beneficial agreement."

The win/win framework isn't an emotional equation. It's decidedly

ent, and friend of Herz's who has known him for over 30 years and who has seen the win/win principle working in action. "He doesn't get caught

two parties, even in a straight business deal. It's a web of other people being affected," he says. It's this level of empathy and compassion that

**Herz carefully studied Judaism to find if it had a place within his life. Slowly, he came to a place of strong religious conviction.**

up in the roller coaster. He doesn't take a confrontational approach," Holt says, recalling a deal Herz helped him broker with media baron Rupert Murdoch. "When you think about hiring an attorney, you have to consider the cost/benefit strategy of who you're

might stem from Herz's commitment to a Higher Power.

Herz's rabbi in Port Washington, Rabbi Shalom Paltiel, has known Herz for over twenty years. He can still remember the first time



**While on one of his AJC trips to South Africa, Herz took the time to viscerally demonstrate his deep admiration for Nelson Mandela.**

talking to. You're paying by the hour. The question is, what is a lawyer doing with that hour? With Arnie, the answer is, a lot."

Looking at a problem with an outsider's perspective allows Herz to recognize that even straightforward matters bring more than one person into play. No dispute happens in a vacuum, and he works to think about and acknowledge how the complicated ecosystem of relationships each case brings into play. "It's never just

they met, when Herz approached him about his daughter's bat mitzvah. "He came for the freebie," Rabbi Paltiel recalls with a laugh. "But then, he stayed."

Herz had been influenced by the Eastern religious practices he had encountered in India, and hadn't brought the traditions of Judaism with him into adulthood. After that meeting with the rabbi, he started asking questions about the faith.

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# Dvar

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the womb of the Divine Presence (*Shechina*). He believed that, eventually, every nation will merge with Israel and accept the Torah Talmud (Berachot 56b; Maimonides, Laws of Kings 12:11).

Rabbi Akiva himself came from a family of proselytes, and died with the universal watchword of our faith in world unity on his lips: “Hear, O Israel, [right now] the Lord is [accepted by us as] our God, [but eventually] He will be [accepted by all nations] as the One [God of unconditional love].”

This was the goal of universalist Akiva-ism, which will usher in the true messianic age when “everyone will accept the yoke of God’s kingship,” when “nation will not lift up sword against nation and humanity will not learn war anymore” (Is. 2:4), and everyone will learn Torah and lovingkindness from the people of Israel (*ibid*).

*Shlomo Riskin is chief rabbi of Efrat, Israel.*

# CAIR

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hear NOT a word about this reality from the gatekeepers.

To the extent CAIR continues to get away with injecting the

**CAIR officials' antisemitic exhortations would be reported as incitement to violence if uttered by right-wing white supremacists.**

poison of antisemitism and its support for terrorism into the American bloodstream, it is a stain on the integrity of those institutions — the media, the political left, mainstream religious groups and leaders, and some 150 members of Congress who have appeared at CAIR events or have sent them congratulatory missives. CAIR’s outspoken antisemitism is matched only by its fierce defense of terrorist groups such as Hamas and its championing of scores of convicted Islamic terrorists in prison in the U.S. Read the incendiary antisemitic exhortations by CAIR

officials at their events that if uttered by right-wing white supremacists, would be reported on the front pages of the *New York Times*, as incitement to violence.

The litany of CAIR’s continued antisemitic epithets is mind numbing. It routinely calls for the destruction of the State of Israel which of course is an echo of the same demand of its mother group, Hamas, which also vows to kill every Jew. CAIR’s antisemitism

runs so deeply through its veins, as this book demonstrates, that it has allied itself with Holocaust deniers, with convicted Hamas terrorists, with jihadists, with Libya’s Muammar Gaddafi and even with one of the world’s most notorious Holocaust deniers, Iran’s Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Words have consequences, as the world ultimately realized in the Nazi’s obsession with eradicating the Jews. This book is a flashing red light.

*Steven Emerson is executive director of the Investigative Project on Terrorism.*

# WWII Novels

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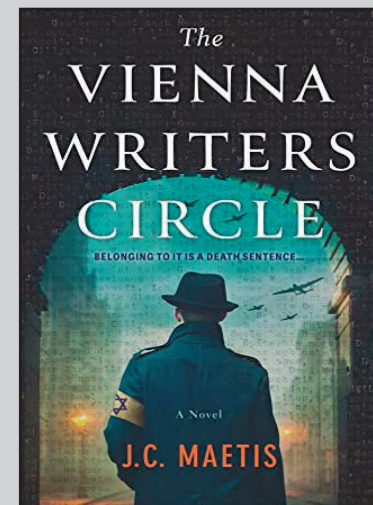
until the Nazis could be defeated by the Allies. The novel centers around another set of cousins: thriller writers Mathias Kraemer and Johannes Namal. When Adolf Hitler annexes Austria, anyone who was part of Sigmund Freud’s circle is seen as dangerous to the regime. When the cousins are unable to escape from the country, they and their families go underground with the help of their agent and a friend from the police force.

Unfortunately, the SS is looking for anyone connected to Freud and one agent in particular is interested in Kraemer. Discovery would send Kraemer and his family to a concentration camp or immediate death. The plot, though, is more complex than this summary suggests, especially when people are forced to make life or death decisions that have ramifications beyond their control.

*The Vienna Writers Circle* opens with a familiar prologue: Readers learn what happens to one of the characters but cannot identify whose story is being told because no names are revealed. However, the author offers an interesting twist on this almost stereotyped

beginning for World War II books.

The novel is filled with suspense and interesting characters, and enough surprises to keep readers guessing and turning pages. To add to the interest, the author’s note at the end of the book explains why he decided to write it, including the fact



*The Vienna Writers Circle: A Historical Fiction Novel*  
By J. C. Maetis  
MIRA, 2023  
416p., \$27.99.

that he did not know his father was Jewish until his father was dying. Readers of World War II thrillers will want to add this to their pile.

*Rabbi Rachel Esserman is the executive editor of The Reporter Group.*

# Theater

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to regular film screenings, Spiridakis plans to have animation programs for elementary school children in the summer, after-school programs for teens in the fall and winter, creative writing courses for seniors, musical performances, a Latino Club, and art exhibitions.

“We are so fortunate to have a board of amazing professionals who, along with our talented Creative Director Shannon Goldman, are planning an exciting opening on December 26,” Spiridakis said.

*The North Fork Arts Center is a 501(c)(3). For more information and to donate, visit <http://www.nofaartscenter.org>.*

*Jerry Cimisi is a regular contributor to the Long Island Jewish World Group of Newspapers*

# Herz

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“He was really searching for spirituality and something real,” Rabbi Paltiel recalls. “It was very refreshing.”

Herz found a home within the walls of the synagogue, becoming one of the leaders of the community. But it didn’t happen overnight. Similar to his quest for purpose in the law profession, Herz carefully studied Judaism to find if it had a place within his life. Slowly, Herz came to a place of strong religious conviction.

“That’s the thing about Arnie,” says Rabbi Paltiel. “He wants the real thing. But once he knows something has truth, there’s no looking back. He doesn’t make decisions based on what’s easy or what other people are doing. He’s a leader in that sense.”

Now, the once-skeptical Herz leads a half-hour Bible study with others over Zoom every week day, and he and his wife make a journey

of several miles on foot each week when they walk to synagogue to observe Shabbat. Herz even serves as president of the American Jewish Committee’s Long Island chapter, an organization that has grown incredibly close to his heart.

The community had come to rely on Herz in a tangible way. As it turned out, they would be happy to show their support for him when he was in need.

**Herz also expresses his Judaism in his work as President of the Long Island Region of the American Jewish Committee.**

In the summer of 2022, right before he was due to depart on travel overseas, Herz was struck with an unexpected subarachnoid hemorrhage. The bleeding around his brain left him in a dire situation, and the odds were grim.

The rabbi recalls interceding on Herz’s behalf. “I was with him in the hospital every day, and the synagogue had a group chat praying

through the Psalms for him,” he says. “I talked to God. I told Him, ‘I don’t have another Arnie.’”

The prayers paid off. “The doctors said he had a miracle,” says the rabbi. “And we thanked God for it. He’s a very special guy.”

Other close friends and associates of Herz say his recovery, though a blessing, lines up with his determined personality. “His odds went from something like 20% survival

the first week, to 50% the next, and just got better from there. And now, he’s like a new man,” Holt says.

It’s not a future Herz is going to take for granted. As Herz considers what’s next, he envisions bringing his diplomacy skills into play on a global stage, and he’s already gotten started. His current focus is on his work with the American Jewish Committee’s Africa Institute. As

Herz turns the corner into the next phase of his humanitarian work, he brings along his eye for complex problem-solving. And just as he always imagined, he’s bringing that perspective to bear on a situation that could benefit millions of people facing food insecurity.

Together with his wife and 5 others from AJC, Herz participated in a three day conference outside of Cape Town, South Africa. The conference brought together seven ministers of agriculture from countries whose food supply has been severely impacted by the Russian conflict in Ukraine and leading Israeli agricultural technology companies. The goal is to help African farmers improve their irrigation and farming techniques to increase food production and, ultimately, save many people from starvation.

It’s just the kind of unique and big-picture situation that Herz helps turn into a win/win.

*Kathryn Watson is a freelance reporter, copywriter, and essayist.*