

# 'The Nazis wanted oil, and the Arabs had it'

## Questions for EDWIN BLACK

ROBERT WIENER  
NJN Staff Writer

The hidden history of the Shoa and its connections to American and Middle East affairs have preoccupied writer Edwin Black since the 1970s, when he wrote the first of 10 books of investigative journalism, including *IBM and the Holocaust: The Strategic Alliance Between Nazi Germany and America's Most Powerful Corporation*.

Born and raised in Chicago as the son of Polish Holocaust survivors, Black will be speaking at two venues in the Greater MetroWest area next week.

On Thursday, April 4, at 7 p.m. he will discuss "Detroit's Connection to the Holocaust: Ford, GM, and Hitler" at the Aidekman campus in Whippany, in a program sponsored by the Holocaust Council of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

A day later he will deliver the annual Joseph Gotthelf Holocaust Memorial Lecture at Temple Beth Am in Parsippany, as part of the synagogue's Yom Hashoa commemoration. His topic will be the persecution of Iraqi Jews as detailed in his most recent book, *The Farhud — Roots of the Arab-Nazi Alliance in the Holocaust* (Dialog Press).

Black spoke with *NJ Jewish News* by phone March 20 from his office in Washington, DC.

**NJN:** What is Detroit's connection to the Holocaust?

**Edwin Black:** There is no other American city that has a special connection to the Third Reich other than Detroit. It had a special place in Hitler's heart because of two leading Holocaust collaborators: Henry Ford and Albert Sloan, the president of General Motors.

**NJN:** How and why did they collaborate?

**Black:** You might ask yourself where Hitler developed his notion of an international Jewish conspiracy. He got that from Henry Ford, who mass produced *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. Hitler idolized Ford as his hero. In his first edition of *Mein Kampf*, he wrote, "There is no one who can stand up to the international Jews other than Henry Ford." Were it not for that, Hitler would not have found it necessary in every country he conquered to destroy the Jews.... *The Protocols* reinvented anti-Semitism, which prior to that was merely in-group-out-group hatred.

**NJN:** How does that connect to Ford Motors?

**Black:** Ford's anti-Semitic publications, *The Pro-*

*ocols, The International Jew, and The Dearborn Independent*, were distributed by Ford Motor Company dealerships. When challenged, he said, "They are as much a product of this company as our trucks and cars."

**NJN:** What was the role of General Motors and Albert Sloan?

**Black:** Where would Hitler's forces be on horseback? General Motors made the blitz truck for the blitzkrieg. He made the JU-88 bombers that bombed Poland into submission, the Panzer tanks, the landmines that stopped the Allies from coming in, and the torpedo heads that sunk allied vessels. General Motors was a vastly larger manufacturer in Germany than was Ford.

**NJN:** Was there not an embargo against American firms manufacturing goods for the Nazis?

**Black:** Of course there was, but IBM proved it could be gotten around by using international subsidiaries, which Ford and GM did. IBM organized the entire Holocaust — the identification of the Jews, the confiscation of their assets, their deportation, and their extermination.

**NJN:** What was the Nazi-Arab alliance during the Holocaust?

**Black:** The Nazis wanted oil and the Arabs had it. They promised to give it to the Nazis if the Nazis would help exterminate the Jews. The Arabs wanted the British and the Jews out of Palestine, and they wanted Hitler to be their savior. They formed a robust alliance spearheaded by the grand mufti of Jerusalem, which materialized in the most heinous forms of massacres. The collaboration began from the first moment of the Hitler regime in 1933 and continued from India to Yugoslavia to Palestine to Damascus even after the Third Reich fell. About 2,000 SS and concentration camp guards escaped to Arab countries to continue their war against the Jews.

**NJN:** What was the Farhud?

**Black:** It was the Arab-Nazi attempt to exterminate Iraqi Jews in 1941. They murdered hundreds. They looted. They burned. It ended 2,600 years of peaceful existence of the Jews in Iraq, 1,000 years before Mohammed.

**NJN:** How does all of this affect the Middle East in 2013?



Holocaust expert Edwin Black said, "Detroit had a special place in Hitler's heart."



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# Senate committee approves charitable-giving legislation

Special to NJJN

New Jersey Jewish federations hailed a state Senate committee's approval of a bill that would clarify whether out-of-state donors face a tax bill when giving to NJ charities.

Senate bill S-2532, unanimously approved by the NJ Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, assures that a person living outside of New Jersey can make a financial contribution — a gift, bequest, donation, or other financial instrument or pledge in any amount — to any NJ 501(c)3 without being considered a resident under the state's tax law.

The NJ Department of the Treasury reaffirmed that policy as recently as 2008-09 in a press release that had been available on the State of New Jersey website.

The bill was originally introduced by Committee Chair Sen. Paul Sarlo (D-Dist. 36) and Sen. Steven Oroho (R-Dist. 24).

According to Howard Rabner, chief operating officer/chief financial officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, "The Jewish federations in New Jersey and their beneficiary agencies — as well as other local charities generally — are experiencing a growing trend of philanthropic drop-off from financial supporters who move out of state. Philanthropic individuals in Florida, California, or Arizona are currently being counseled against charitable giving to NJ charities." Rabner said individuals are told they will be subject to NJ tax consequences because past regulations have been insufficiently clear.

"It is difficult to build the capacity of nonprofits in today's economic environment," Rabner said. "Nonprofits provide services to those in need at no additional cost to the state. The domicile issue has contributed to the lessening of the ability of nonprofits to provide such services."

According to Ruth Cole, president of the NJ State Association of Jewish Federations, "Nonprofits touch the lives of all our citizens by protecting, restoring, or enhancing the well-being of our communities. They are also a significant economic force in the state. Accordingly, building the capacity of nonprofits in New Jersey through measures such as S-2532 has always been high on the agenda of the State Association. Initiatives that allow all nonprofits to more efficiently and cost-effectively address their task assist our Jewish federation family of organizations to better meet the needs of our community constituents."

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**Black:** The Holocaust was not solely a European crime. The Palestinian Arab population was in collaboration with the Nazis in Palestine, in the Middle East, and worldwide.

**NJJN:** Would you say that because of this history, there is no possibility of peace between Israel and the Palestinians?

**Black:** That is the point. The inescapable conclusion is there is no possibility of peace between Israel and the Palestinians, but there is a possibility of peaceful coexistence, with people living side-by-side in non-belligerence. That is the goal. If we can achieve that, we will have conquered 1,400 years of history.

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### If you go

**Who:** Author Edwin Black

**What:** "Detroit's Connection to the Holocaust: Ford, GM, and Hitler"

**When:** Thursday, April 4, 7 p.m.

**Where:** Aidekman Family Jewish Campus in Whippany

**Contact:** 973-929-3194 or [holocaustcouncil@jfed-gmw.org](mailto:holocaustcouncil@jfed-gmw.org)

*The program is free and open to the public; light refreshments will be served. It is being presented in conjunction with the Holocaust Council of Greater MetroWest's "From Memory to History" exhibit.*

**What:** "The Roots of the Arab-Nazi Alliance in the Holocaust"

**When:** Friday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., following Shabbat services

**Where:** Temple Beth Am, Parsippany

**Contact:** 973-887-0046

## Teens present advocacy film

AS PART OF Good Deeds Day in MetroWest, on March 17, the Write On For Israel Greater MetroWest senior class sponsored a screening of *Crossing the Line: The Intifada Comes to Campus*, followed by a live interactive webinar with Harvard professor Alan Dershowitz.

Thirty-five teens and adults attended the program, which was the class's senior project, funded by a Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest Innovative Grant.

Good Deeds Day — an opportunity for teens to participate in volunteer projects in the community — was cosponsored by the the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ's Israel Program Center, Diller Teen Fellows, Partnership for Jewish Learning & Life, and JTeenMW and BBYO.



**Gabrielle Beacken said the Write On For Israel program gave her the tools to be an effective advocate for Israel.**

For the past two years, the Community Relations Committee of the federation has raised funds to enable area teens to participate in WOFI, a two-year advocacy program sponsored by the Jewish Week in New York.

WOFI senior Gabrielle Roth introduced the program, explaining that WOFI trains students to respond to unfair criticism of Israel, particularly as they prepare to head off to college. *Crossing the Line* presents examples of attacks on Israel's legitimacy and its supporters on North American college campuses.

"Bringing Write On to this community has exposed us to important facts and allowed us to intensively study Israel so that we can share this learning with our family, peers, and community," said senior Jay Zaifman. "And as we go off to college, we will take this with us and continue to 'step up for Israel.'"

A video created by WOFI senior Emily Kamen from footage taken during the group's mission to Israel in February 2012 focused on the Israel Defense Forces in order to show, she said, the "focus, poise, and courage of both the parents and children as they come of age, and their admirable sense of duty and responsibility to protect the country that they love."

The other Greater MetroWest WOFI seniors are Abby Aaron, Carmelle Bargad, Gabrielle Beacken, Lilli DeBode, Galit Greenberg, Scott Myers, Zach Ramsfelder, and Jonas Singer.

A WOFI dinner will be held on Wednesday, April 10, on the Aidekman campus in Whippany; contact Hilary Levine at [HLevine@JFedgmw.org](mailto:HLevine@JFedgmw.org).

## LEARNING TO BABYSIT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

SUNDAYS, APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>-MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>  
4-5:30 P.M., JCC METROWEST

During this six-week course, teens will be trained by a special needs professional through workshops, videos, and meetings. Students will be certified in CPR and First Aid, with additional topics including: rights and responsibilities, child development and behavioral problems, caring for the special needs child, nutrition, handling emergencies, caring for a sick child, and more. A list of teens that have completed the course can then be shared with families in the community seeking a babysitter.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER  
contact Becca at (973) 929-3129  
or [rwanatick@jfedgmw.org](mailto:rwanatick@jfedgmw.org)