JEWISH LIGHT EDITORIAL

Antidisestablishmentarianism

Remember how cool you thought it was that word could be that long? Think about how many grade school kids take on the challenge of spelling this 28-letter beast. It’s a classic form of over usage, though, for neither the students who take on that admirable task, nor their teachers, typically take time to focus on the origins of the word or its meaning.

As it happens, the meaning is incredibly relevant to things that are going on in the United States today. Most notable among them: elections, the Internal Revenue Code and, and Service, and Supreme Court cases. The consequences of the public discussion may have long-lasting repercussions for American culture.

The “A Word,” as it will call it, refers to the ideology of those in 10th cen-
tury Britain who were against separating church and state. The sov-
erignty of the heads of state was inextricably linked to the Church of England, and popular movements advocated for delinking the two, while others opposed the change. The opposition to the link wasn’t uniform. Some wanted the separation because of religious oppression directed at some minori-
ties; others favored division between religion and government. Some still focused for the days prior to the Reformation. To the Catholic church and state. The sover-
gent to public conduct. The Reformation when the Catholic
institutions asserting their positions of authority to force polit-
cal outcomes. It is a disturbing pattern in modern-day Amer-
ica that is putting forward as a shield against government inter-
vention in religion when in fact it’s being used as a sword to promote specific can-
didate outcomes.

In the United States government, act-
through the IRS, prevents tax-
examining institutions from supporting or opposing candidates. However, the IRS dam is crumbling, as leaders of the evangelical right have been certain that the IRS will never again be a vehicle for progressive and liberal groups to speak up for their views. A true conservative evangelical is one of the most ded-
icated voting blocs, but their political organization is often exaggerated. The ground in evangelical churches,
explicit political talk carries the risk of being divisive and alienating, two things that are deadly to most churches’ goal of getting as many people as possible into the fold.”

While the abuse of the pulpit for elec-
tions is now less common, there have been true of evangelical and conservative
pastors, it must be said that clergy of all political stripes have, have created discomfort in their congrega-
tions by appearing to encour-
gage support of political candidates prior to elections. It is if it is wrong for
Christ in support of not to do so, it is equa-
larly wrong for Jewish clergy to engage
in partisan politics from the
bima. The St. Louis Jewish Light will not publish letters to
anonymous. Anonymous and offensive letters will generally not be considered for publication.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Days gone by

I grew up in the “Jewish Ghetto” of St. Louis. It was a really
nice place to grow up in. When I became a teenager I got
a job at the Chicago Delicatessen, 5700 East Avenue, part of
the Easton little business district. Earned real was $1.25 per
pound. I worked there for three-and-a-half years. I remember
the first lot was a gas station, selling gas for 12.9 cents a gallon. The next lot was supermarket’s dry goods store. Then came
the butcher shop and then Kram’s fish store. Also in that same
area was Komey’s Bakery.

Those were the days when families were close and almost everything they needed or wanted was within walking distance. Families today live far apart, sometimes not even in the same state. The closeness is no longer there. It’s a real shame that these days are gone by.

Leon Klearman
Chesterfield

Yiddish and Yenglish — lesson

Shalom Chaverim (Hello friends). Ah gitten yoor? (a good year)

Contrary to what we say of speakers of Yiddish: When members of my congregation enjoy the light buffet before the weekly Shabbos, we are not having a nosh. That is an appetizer course, a for-shp’eye’zeh, a spicy something before [the main meal]—like gefilte fish or gefilteh leten / chopped chicken livers that precedes the brisket and tzimmes / slow-cooked, and milky, sweet stew or casserole mainly of carrots.

Incidentally, it was not part of the Yiddish culture conveyed by my parents who grew up, pre-war, in towns northwest of Lodz, Poland to make ah groysh tzimmies, meaning a big fuss (as is required for career stew), by pronouncing food as delicious or to-die-for! But if the for-shp’eye’y’zeh is tasty, it is le/tzempik.

As might become obvious if you attended Nusach Hari’s Yiddish Club which meets on first Thursday evenings in True Yiddish, a nosh is a sweet treat. As a verb, to nosh is to eat or satisfy oneself.

She’nime / peace and ol’bei gezind / most important (health)

Elaine K. Alexander
Creve Coeur

JEWISH LIGHT POLITICAL POLICIES

POLITICAL COVERAGE: The St. Louis Jewish Light covers political camp-
paigns, and neither supports nor opposes candidates in any way. We re- port campaign news in as balanced a way as possible. We publish pol-
tical analysis, opinion pieces and letters from independent auth-
ors that do not reflect the position of the Editor. To the point of view of the Jewish Light, and in doing so we endeavor to balance a variety of view-
points and perspectives.

POLITICAL ADVERTISING: The Jewish Light runs political advertise-
ments that are paid for by third parties. We offer political parties, candi-
dates and their supporters equal opportunity to have advertise-
ments. No political advertising reflects endorsement of or opposition to a candidate by the Jewish Light.

EDITOR’S NOTE: The St. Louis Jewish Light will not publish letters to the editor or commentaries about the 2012 presidential elections after the October 24 edition. The deadline to submit an election related letter or commentary is 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 22.

Submit letters to the managing Editor Mike Sherwin at msherin-
win@thejewishlight.com. Letters may be edited for grammar, length and clarity. Letters should be no more than 200 words. Please include your name, municipality and a daytime telephone number. The Light will pub-
lish only one letter from an individual writer during a 60-day period. Anonymous letters generally will not be considered for publication.