

**Chapter 1 : Progress in Annapolis: Hope from Bush for Middle East Peace - SPIEGEL ONLINE**

*Armistice: A Hope for Peace Presented by Live Arts Maryland. J. Ernest Green conducts The Annapolis Chorale and Annapolis Chamber Orchestra in a program commemorating the Armistice that ended "the war to end all wars," World War I.*

I had many good reasons to refrain from coming to this meeting. The memory of the failures of the near and distant past weighs heavy on us. The dreadful terrorism perpetrated by Palestinian terrorist organizations has affected thousands of Israeli citizens, destroyed families and attempted to disrupt the lives of all the citizens of Israel. I witnessed it personally during my term as Mayor of Jerusalem , at times of bombings at cafes, buses and recreational centers in Jerusalem and other cities in the State of Israel The continued shooting of Qassam rockets against tens of thousands of residents in the south of Israel , particularly in the city of Sderot, serves as a warning sign " one which cannot be overlooked. The absence of governmental institutes and effective law-enforcement mechanisms, the rule of Hamas in the Gaza Strip , the ongoing activity of murderous organizations throughout all the territories of the Palestinian Authority , the absence of a legal system which meets the basic criteria of a democratic government " all these are factors which deter us from moving forward too hastily. I do not ignore all the obstacles which are sure to emerge along the way. They are right in front of me. I came here, despite the concerns and doubts and hesitations, to say to you, President Mahmoud Abbas , and through you, to your people and to the entire Arab world: We no longer, and you no longer, have the privilege of clinging to dreams which are disconnected from the sufferings of our peoples, the hardships they experience daily and the burden of living under ongoing uncertainty, with no chance for change or hope. We demand an end to terror, incitement and hatred. We are willing to make a painful compromise, rife with risks, in order to realize these aspirations. I came here today not to settle historic accounts between us on what caused the conflict and hatred and what, for many years, stood in the way of compromise and peace. I wish to say, from the bottom of my heart, that I know and acknowledge the fact that alongside the constant suffering which many in Israel have experienced because of the history, the wars, the terror and the hatred towards us " a suffering which has always been part of our lives in our land " your people have also suffered for many years, and some still suffer. For dozens of years, many Palestinians have been living in camps, disconnected from the environment in which they grew, wallowing in poverty, neglect, alienation, bitterness, and a deep, unrelenting sense of deprivation. I know that this pain and deprivation is one of the deepest foundations which fomented the ethos of hatred towards us. We are not indifferent to this suffering. We are not oblivious to the tragedies you have experienced. I believe that in the course of negotiations between us we will find the right way, as part of an international effort in which we will participate, to assist these Palestinians in finding a proper framework for their future, in the Palestinian state which will be established in the territories agreed upon between us. Israel will be part of an international mechanism which will assist in finding a solution to this problem. The negotiations between us will not be here in Annapolis, but rather in our home and in yours. It will be bilateral, direct, ongoing and continuous, in an effort to complete it during the course of It will address all the issues which have thus far been evaded. We will do it directly, openly and courageously. We will not avoid any subject, we will deal with all the core issues. I have no doubt that the reality created in our region in will change significantly. While this will be an extremely difficult process for many of us, it is nevertheless inevitable. Many of my people know it. We are ready for it. On conclusion of the negotiations, I believe that we will be able to reach an agreement which will fulfill the vision of President Bush: A peace-seeking, viable, strong, democratic and terror-free Palestinian state for the Palestinian people. A Jewish, democratic State of Israel , living in security and free from the threat of terror " the national home of the Jewish people. It is clear that the implementation of an agreement will be subject to the implementation of all obligations in the Roadmap , on all its phases and according to its sequence, as concluded between us from the very beginning. WE will abide by all our obligations, and so will you. The agreement with you and its gradual implementation, cautiously and responsibly, is part of a much wider complex, which will lead us, hopefully, to peace with all the Arab states. There is not a single Arab state in the north, east or south with

which we do not seek peace. There is no Muslim state with which we do not want to establish diplomatic relations. Anyone who wants peace with us, we say to them, from the bottom of our hearts: I am pleased to see here, in this hall, representatives of Arab countries, most of which do not have relations with Israel , The time has come for you as well. You cannot continue to stand by indefinitely and watch the peace train go by. It is time to end the boycott and alienation towards the State of Israel. It is not helpful for you, and it hurts us. I am familiar with the Arab peace initiative, which was born in Riyadh , affirmed in Beirut and recently reaffirmed by you in Riyadh. I value this initiative, acknowledge its importance and highly appreciate its contribution. I have no doubt that it will be referred to in the course of the negotiations between us and the Palestinian leadership. The Arab world represented here by many countries is a vital component in creating a new reality in the Middle East. The peace signed between Israel and Egypt , and subsequently between Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan , is a solid foundation of stability and hope in our region. This peace is an example and a model of the relations which we can build with Arab states. However, these relations, as important as they may be, are not enough. We aspire for normalization with those Arab states which eschew, as much as we do, radical and frantic fundamentalism, and which seek to grant their citizens a more moderate, tolerant and prosperous world. This is a common interest of all of us. There is a lot which separates us – memories and a heritage which do not emanate from the same historic roots, different ways of living, different customs, and our emotional, spontaneous sense of solidarity with our neighboring Arab countries, which have long been trapped in this age-old bloody conflict between us. However, there is also a lot which brings us together. You, like us, know that religious fanaticism and national extremism are a perfect recipe for domestic instability, violence, bitterness and ultimately the disintegration of the very foundations of coexistence which is based on tolerance and mutual acceptance. We are a tiny country with a small population, but rich in good will and with a significant ability to create a partnership which will lead to prosperity, growth, economic development and stability for the entire region. The prospect of a new political horizon, and renewed hope, not only for Palestinians and Israelis, but also, together with you, for the entire region, can come from here, from Annapolis. This is what I believed then and it is what I continue to believe in now, with all my heart. The past two years have been difficult for all of us. The hardships have not been alleviated, the terror organizations have not weakened, the enemies of peace have not disappeared, and we are still anxiously awaiting the return of our missing and captive sons who are held by terror organizations. I long for the day when I can see Gilad, Eldad and Udi back with their families, and I will not falter in my efforts to achieve their release. I believe that there is no path other than peace. I believe that there is no just solution other than the solution of two national states for two peoples. I believe that there is no path which does not involve painful compromise for you, Palestinians, and for us Israelis. I want to thank you, President George Bush , an ally in the path of peace, for your willingness to assist in the historic process of peace and reconciliation between us and our neighbors. I believe it is time. I invite you, my friend Mahmoud Abbas , and your people, to join us in this long, tormenting and complex path, for which there is no substitute. Together we will start. Together we will arrive.

**Chapter 2 : Â» Armistice – A Hope for Peace**

*Armistice: A Hope for Peace* J. Ernest Green conducts *The Annapolis Chorale and Annapolis Chamber Orchestra* in a program commemorating the Armistice that ended "the war to end all wars," World War I.

Hope or scepticism for Israel-Palestine? According to my handbook, Annapolis is a city located in central Maryland on the south bank of the Severn River, near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. It celebrates this year Annapolis Alive! However, what my manual does not add is that this city will host on 27 November a conference at the US Naval Academy that brings together Israelis and Palestinians, along with a number of Arab states as well as the Quartet, the G-8 and smaller players such as Norway, Turkey and Senegal. Together, they will discuss the issues that pertain to the creation of an independent Palestinian state. One question is to determine the countries that will finally join Israel and the Palestinians round the table of negotiations. For instance, it would be important to include high-level Jordanian and Egyptian participation since those are the only two Arab states that have diplomatic relations with Israel. It is equally important to have Saudi Arabia at Annapolis, not least because the kingdom chairs the Arab League committee promoting the Arab peace initiative and its presence is a buy-in for larger Arab support. Syria, on the other hand, has been ambivalent about its participation and has stressed that it is conditional upon discussing the return of the occupied Golan Heights. To date, the only near certainty seems to be the attendance of the two main protagonists – Israel and the Palestinians – whose number of handshakes between their leaders belies the ostensible progress made between them as well as the four Members of the international Quartet. Indeed, the newly-appointed envoy for the Quartet, British ex-Prime Minister Tony Blair, who has been ensconced in his base of operations at the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem, has been grappling with his job of unveiling a host of economic incentives and helping found a functional Palestinian state. One main reason why it took so long to set a date for the now-one-day conference is that the Palestinian and Israeli committees have not yet managed to finalise a concrete document that is tantamount to a declaration of principles for peace, and their efforts have continually been downgraded from the initial and ambitious framework for a comprehensive peace deal – so much so that the objectives of both parties have become somewhat distant and incompatible with the original hype that accompanied the idea of Annapolis when it was first introduced by the US Secretary of State. Am I being a tad too harsh? Last week, the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights, documenting Israeli restrictions on Palestinians, stated that most Palestinians living in the West Bank share a strong sense of scepticism. Their spokesperson added that US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has made seven trips to the region this year, but restrictions on Palestinians in the West Bank in the form of roadblocks and checkpoints have become even worse. Moreover, the Palestinian political analyst, Hani al-Masri, said that the pressure is now on the Palestinian side to return from Annapolis with real concessions from the Israelis – something few Palestinians believe will happen during this event. So what happens at Annapolis, who has a say in the outcome, and what pitfalls need to be avoided to ensure some momentum that draws the conference away from the brink of a fiasco? I am afraid I do not see anything that is hugely different today from the realities prevailing during the final status talks that broke down in amidst mutual recriminations and the start-up of another Palestinian Intifada. To start with, it is clear to me that Israeli PM Ehud Olmert is a weakened premier who is making courageous noises about broad peace whilst also warning all and sundry not to augment the level of expectations about any major breakthroughs. In fact, and not unlike other Israeli leaders before him, it seems to me that the current prime minister might also be much more interested in perpetuating a peace process that hobbles on for more years than he is interested in a real and durable peace between both sides on the basis of national rights, security and justice that requires painful sacrifices. This might be as much because of a reluctance to give up territory as it is by the fact that his own shaky coalition would fall like a pack of dominoes in case he makes any substantive gestures toward the Palestinian side or even that he is himself under criminal investigations. PA President Mahmoud Abbas, on the other end of the irenic spectrum, is an equally weak negotiator. After all, part of the Palestinian territories [the Gaza Strip] is not under his control, whilst the other parts [the West Bank] could slip out from under him too despite the increasing unpopularity of

Hamas and the massive injections of funds by donors into cities like Nablus in the northern West Bank. But what renders the Palestinian credibility thinner are the absence and clear opposition of Hamas. Regardless of its defiant and unfriendly ideologies, hard-line policies or adversarial positions, I fear that the total marginalisation of Hamas from the current Palestinian political landscape could render more complex any future negotiations. No wonder that many Palestinian grassroots organisations are calling for direct elections to the Palestine National Council PNC and the reactivation and democratic reform of the PLO institutions that have become either too otiose or too nepotistic. But let us for one moment forget that both sides are unable, or worse unwilling, to sue for peace. Let us also dismiss the reality that their objectives are divergent, with PM Olmert preferring a broad-brush non-binding joint statement whilst President Abbas pursuing a detailed framework agreement with a timeline for final-status negotiations. The fact remains that the issues surrounding a nascent Palestine are still as cumbersome and insuperable as ever. For Annapolis to become different from its moribund predecessor conferences, summits and pow-wows, it is imperative not only to discuss final status issues but also to act upon them in a decisive manner that delivers palpable and concrete results. Those issues that need to be hammered out include land, borders and territorial withdrawals which would also deal with new and expanding settlements with well over , settlers, let alone the parameters of the separation wall , the future of Jerusalem including the Old City that hosts many religious sites precious to Jews, Christians and Muslims alike , water, security guarantees for both sides and refugees. However, what remains the hardest nut to crack is the matter of the over 4 million Palestinian refugees who would wish to see an implementation of the Right of Return. Would it be possible for the two sides “ even with the help of the Quartet ” to tailor any deal that comes near enough to tackling those issues and delivering upon them? Are there the will and vision to find solutions to unfriendly problems? Equally importantly, where is the good will to move forward, and where is the good faith to show compromise wherever necessary in order to overcome obstacles? Only this week, Palestinian chief negotiator Ahmad Qrei and his team tried to enter Jerusalem from the Abu Dis district in order to meet with their Israeli counterparts and to discuss the Annapolis agenda. However, they were stopped at the checkpoint that straddles the foot-high-wall and the meeting was axed eventually. It is true that this might be a simple enough incident, but it just shows the steepness of the mountain of mistrust on both sides if a chief negotiator cannot move into Jerusalem freely for pre-arranged negotiations with his Israeli counterparts! Alas, successive Israeli political establishments have not yet endorsed this offer. Perhaps it is time to do so now, especially if the incumbent US Administration has finally woken up to the fact that it had been dangerously somnolent for the past seven years in relation the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. To be successful, Annapolis needs a genuine commitment by the US Administration, but I doubt the USA will import such a laborious commitment into this process. Rather, I think that this whole meeting could end up as another public relations effort or a photo-op that strives to show momentum, willingness and determination to move ahead on the Israeli-Palestinian file at a time when the American reputation is sadly smeared in the majority of the Arab and Muslim worlds. Yet, if the USA were to fail in its latest endeavours to forge this very alliance, then it is quite possible that many of the Arab states would re-consider their tactical plans and perhaps try to win Syria over again by offering it the carrot of re-entering Lebanon. The US Administration would then face a Faustian bargain that would imply continuing the struggle against Iran at the cost of its own oft-stated principles. A new verb, lecondel, has entered colloquial usage in Hebrew. So what is Annapolis, in Maryland, all about? Is it about peace? Is it about Syria and Iran? Is it another ripple in the murky pond of Middle Eastern politics? I am painfully concerned that, once bereft of the frills, hype and verbiage, Annapolis will also become another one-day meeting where scepticism overtakes hopes “ and in the process disappoints the laudable efforts of countless Palestinian and Israeli peace-seekers.

### Chapter 3 : Annapolis Conference - Wikipedia

*To remember the event that ended "The War to End All Wars," J. Ernest Green conducts The Annapolis Choral and Annapolis Chamber Orchestra in a program that combines words and music to recall the horrors of war, the peace that followed it and the hope for continued peace that we all strive for.*

Feedback It was exactly 11 a. Bush walked on stage. He had woken up on this Tuesday morning to headlines from around the world blasting his Middle East conference in Annapolis, Maryland this week for being little more than a meaningless photo op. But on Tuesday morning, Bush stood up on stage and began his speech with confidence. Talks, he said, had gotten "off to a strong start. Moments later, it became clear what he meant. The president read out an agreement that had been reached by the Israelis and Palestinians earlier in the day -- an accord that only a few people in the hall knew about. But there was more. Rather than just airy rhetoric of the kind Bush is so good at, he was able to present a concrete timeline. The first meeting is scheduled for Dec. The talks will be facilitated by an American president committed to reaching an agreement by the end of his term at the end of It is a real coup. Even the mega-news network CNN was caught off guard. For five long minutes, only Arabic could be heard, before CNN interrupts the program and cuts to a correspondent. He spoke emphatically about the suffering of the Palestinians and even used the word "occupation. Bush will again meet Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in the White House on Wednesday, and his aides will keep a close eye on the details that make Middle East peace talks so difficult -- at their first meeting on Monday they made sure that each side had exactly the same time allotted for their meetings with Bush. Does the new agreement amount to a historic breakthrough? How important was the participation of the Arab states really? After all, it was the first big international conference on the Middle East since Admittedly, the agreement announced by Bush contains -- besides the commitment to a fixed negotiating framework -- no specific details on the most contentious issues, namely the borders of a Palestinian state, the right of return of refugees and the exact status of Jerusalem. Still, the US president listed three reasons why the time for a settlement is better than ever: The two leaders in Israel and the Palestinians are committed to peace; a historic battle is raging against extremists over the future of the region; and the whole world wants peace more than ever. This optimism is, however, undermined by the fact that neither Abbas nor Olmert enjoy solid political standing domestically. Furthermore, the ongoing violence in Iraq combined with the rising power of Iran has seriously dented US authority in the region. Furthermore, while it may be that the world wants peace in the Middle East more than ever before, it is also clear that not all countries in the region are comfortable with the idea. Iran reacted to the summit by announcing it would hold its own anti-Annapolis conference. He also pointed out that, no matter how committed the parties may be to peace, the process can easily be derailed by suicide bombers. You also have to take care of the details, he said. Bruce Riedel of the Brookings Institution adds that the painstaking struggle to come up with an agreement in the run-up to Annapolis underscores not only the differences between the Israelis and the Palestinians, but also the reluctance of the Americans to apply direct pressure. But that could become imperative. In the past, the Americans have "asked the Israelis and Palestinians to thrash out their differences on their own," the Economist points out. Still, there is at least a framework for the talks.

**Chapter 4 : Visit Annapolis - Plan your trip to Annapolis & the Chesapeake Bay**

*The ongoing state of suffering, misery, despair and violence in the Middle East "as well as other parts of the world" will cease, replaced with hope, prosperity, universal harmony and peace. But this future scenario will not come about as a result of peace talks, despite the noble intentions of diplomats and negotiators.*

The opposite is true. According to Barnea, nothing less than "a miracle would be required" for a Palestinian state to be brought into being by the end of . There are too many difficulties to be cleared out of the way before this kind of "express peace" would be realistic. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has maneuvered the Israeli army into a predicament. At a time when it is facing a tough militia enemy in Hamas, it is supposed to use restraint. That is "an almost unbearable situation. He caustically describes the joint statement between Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as a successful marketing coup by Olmert -- arranged only so that the beleaguered premier could hold on to power until the end of next year. The big losers are Defense Minister Ehud Barak and the peace movement. Bush has stirred up will only be disappointed, Caspit writes, "and then we will experience a profound disaster. The Annapolis conference did not address the really urgent problems. That will come back to haunt the participants, the paper writes: This is to build an Arab-Israeli front to attack Iran, the paper claims. The London paper says Olmert is coming home as a true winner. Although Israel has nuclear warheads, is occupying another country and has imprisoned more than 11, Palestinians, Olmert has succeeded in selling the country as peaceful, the paper writes. There is also tough criticism of Abbas, however. He did and said nothing to counter this image, standing by as if Olmert were a friend who had made a small mistake, the newspaper writes. Tishrin, the official organ of the Syrian government, also strikes a warning note: The talks in Annapolis were the last chance for the American government to prove its good intentions. Only if the government is willing and resolved to work for peace will there be a substantial, overreaching peace -- and that is the only kind of peace that will last. And few see much reason for hope. In the words of Yediot Ahronot:

**Chapter 5 : Verdict on Annapolis: Israelis and Palestinians Pessimistic on Chances of Peace - SPIEGEL O**

*VATICAN CITY - Pope Benedict XVI said he hoped the U.S.-sponsored peace conference in Annapolis, Md., would help Palestinians and Israelis reach a "just and definitive solution."*

One hundred years ago, on November 11, , the horrific guns of August were finally silenced at precisely More than forty million men, women, and children were casualties of World War I â€” including some , Americans who were amongst the million deaths of military personnel. The moving interfaith celebration included three calls to worship by clerics of the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths; patriotic songs and a posting of the colors; poetry selections and other stories from the Great War; scripture readings from the Psalms , Ecclesiasticus Sirach and the Book of Isaiah ; a prayer for the departed; the playing of Taps ; and congregational singing of familiar hymns. An interfaith Armistice Day service, hosted by the U. Hayes The service also included a touching tribute simply called the Bells of Peace: The ecumenical aspect of the service offered a truly fitting testimonial to the men and women from all faith walks who served their respective countries during World War I. Besides the mostly Christian make-up of the main combatants of the Great War, soldiers and sailors from Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, Sikh, Native American, and other religious worldviews all found themselves engaged in the fighting in the trenches, in the air, and on the high seas. National Guard concluded the ecumenical entreaties. Blessed are the peacemakers For they will be called children of God. God has, in His good pleasure, given us peace. It has not come as a mere cessation of arms, a mere relief from the strain and tragedy of war. It has come as a great triumph of right. Complete victory has brought us, not peace alone, but the confident promise of a new day as well in which justice shall replace force and jealous intrigue among the nations. O God, lead us from the unreal to the Real. O God, lead us from darkness to light. O God, lead us from death to immortality. Shanti, Shanti, Shanti Peace, peace, peace unto all. O Lord God Almighty, may there be peace in celestial regions. May there be peace on earth. May the waters be appeasing, may herbs be wholesome, and may trees and plants bring peace to all. May all beneficent beings bring peace to us. May all things be a source of peace to us. And may your peace itself, bestow peace on all, And may that peace come to me also. Buddhist Prayer for Peace May all beings everywhere plagued with sufferings of body and mind quickly be freed from their illnesses. May those frightened, cease to be afraid, and may those bound be free. May the powerless find power, and may people think of befriending one another. May those who find themselves in trackless, fearful wildernesses â€” the children, the aged, the unprotected â€” be guarded by beneficent celestials. May our brothers and sisters, human and non-human beings, born in every form sharing in the web of life be safe, be happy and be free. May true peace of the heart bring peace among all peoples of the world. May all beings everywhere find joy and blessings. May I and all beings awaken together. Give us the wisdom to teach our children To love, to respect, and to be kind to each other So that they may grow with the peace of mind. Let us learn to share all good things That you provide for us on this earth Muslim Prayer for Peace In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful, Praise to the Lord of the Universe who has created us And made us into tribes and nations; That we may know each other, Not that we may despise each other. If the enemy inclines toward peace, Do you also incline toward peace. And trust God, for the Lord is the one that hears and knows all things. Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that we may walk the paths of the Most High. And we shall beat our swords into plowshares, And our spears into pruning hooks. Nations shall not life up sword towards nation â€” Neither shall they learn war anymore. And none shall be afraid. For the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken. Christian Prayer for Peace Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek To be consoled as to console, To be understood as to understand, To be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. It is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life. Prayer for Peace for All Humanity Eternal God, Creator of all humankind, source of light and life, bless the peoples of the earth with a sense of kinship, that our hearts may be turned to one another. Help us to learn those principles upon which a lasting peace may be built. Guide

with your just and gentle wisdom all who take counsel for the nations of the world, that all people may spend their days in security, freedom, and peace. We pray in your holy name. A wreath was placed at the tomb of President Woodrow Wilson. Hayes About the author Anthony C. Hayes is an actor, author, raconteur, rascalion and bon vivant.

Chapter 6 : Annapolis: Hope or scepticism for Israel-Palestine? - Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundati

*J. Ernest Green, The Annapolis Chorale and Annapolis Chamber Orchestra kick off the season with a celebration of Rodgers & Hammerstein's music in It's a Grand Night for Singing. Included in the cast are Kimberly Christie, Jason Buckwalter, Catrin Davies, Tom Magette, Molly Green, Lindsay Espinosa and Kristin Pagent.*

This article appeared first in Haaretz in Israel, and this past weekend in Aish. After exhausting and debilitating efforts, we received from Yasser Arafat a promise even if half-hearted and unwilling to delete from the Palestinian Charter the sections calling for the destruction of Israel. Upon leaving the conference room, we saw one of the closest advisers of President Bill Clinton and proudly told him about our achievement. He is too weak for dramatic steps like that. First he has to be strengthened! First of all, it is necessary to strengthen him and afterward it will be possible to demand something of him. First strengthen the weak leader, by giving legitimization to anti-Israeli actions that he allows or encourages, and sometimes even operates and then, once the anti-Israeli positions have made him popular, expect that he will suddenly change his spots and lead his people determinedly toward the desired peace. This distorted approach has become a kind of sacred cow. It is of no importance that along the way they are educating another generation of Palestinians to hatred, violence and the aspiration to destroy Israel. It is of no importance that the way to the strengthening is the diametric opposite of peace and dialogue. The main thing is that we are strengthening Abu Mazen. A look back over the years since the Oslo Accords shows clearly that the direction in which Palestinian society has marched is not the direction of peace. It was all in all just a hudna truce before another intifada. And when the society is becoming more extreme, what difference is it to us if the leader is strong or weak? It is true that to carry out courageous reforms and educate the people to peace, a strong and bold leader is needed. Leaders like that, who understand the need for education toward peace and reforms, do exist " but not in the Muqata in Ramallah. These are people who are not afraid to challenge the tyranny of the weak leader and who believe in building a civil society as a necessary foundation for any progress on the road to peace. As chairman of the Institute for Strategic Studies, I meet them quite frequently. It is true that they are weak, but for one reason only: It is precisely the strengthening of an anti-democratic regime and the absence of an alternative that are pushing the public into the arms of fundamentalists, into the arms of Hamas. Annapolis is doomed to failure not because we or the Palestinians have not made enough concessions " it is doomed to failure because it is built on distorted reasoning to the effect that it is possible to move ahead and make a deal with some leader and totally ignore what is really happening in Palestinian society. In this, to our regret, Annapolis has become another tragic-farcical Middle Eastern scene. This entry was posted on Sunday, November 25th, at You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

**Chapter 7 : Peace & Joy! | Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts**

*Progress in Annapolis Hope from Bush for Middle East Peace. Few thought it was possible that the Middle East conference in Annapolis would generate anything other than photo ops. But now, the.*

This blog provides political, social, cultural, and spiritual commentary from a Messianic Jewish perspective. What do all of these places and dates have in common? They all represent failed Middle East peace efforts. All of them started with high hopes and solemn pledges towards peace by both Israeli and Arab leaders, but degenerate into violence, terrorism, and bloodshed. Now we have Annapolis with a new set of players on both the Israeli and Arab sides, but what promises do we have. The old French maxim continues to apply: Israeli Prime Ministers of both the left and the right have pursued this elusive peace or shalom. Songwriters have written songs about peace. Israelis of both the left and the right want peace, but the main dividing line of the Israeli political system is how to achieve it--peace through land concessions or peace through strength. Most Israelis are tired of constant conflict with their Arab neighbors and want to just be done with it and live like a "normal country. Shamir agreed to the Madrid peace conference, which ultimately led to the Handshake on the White House Lawn. Sharon unilaterally withdrew from the Gaza Strip, where a Hamas state is now in control. While the desire for peace is sincere among most Israelis, one cannot say the same thing about the Arab side. Of course, there are lonely and courageous voices among the Arabs calling for a genuine peace with Israel. There are other Arabs who secretly long for a peace with Israel, but are too afraid to speak up. There are even some Palestinians both within Israel and the disputed territories who want nothing more than to live in peace and friendship with their Jewish neighbors. However, when it comes to the "Arab street," there is nothing but hatred towards Israel and the Jewish people. About a month ago, I watched a documentary on public television about a hospital in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip that was trying to get by in the midst of the Israeli economic blockade. Virtually without exception, the Palestinians on the show expressed nothing but hatred towards Israel and the Jews. The fact is that among the Palestinians, the main political divide is not whether to make peace with and coexist with Israel, but how best to destroy Israel--elimination of Israel through piecemeal salami tactics and wringing the best concessions from Israel "peace" by pieces , or wearing Israel down through constant terrorism and intifada. Mahmoud Abbas, his predecessor Yasser Arafat, and the Fatah organization have chosen the former course, while Hamas and Islamic Jihad have chosen the latter course. The Hamas victory in the Palestinian legislative elections is the moral equivalent of the American people voting for the Ku Klux Klan. Many of the "moderate" Arab leaders have decided to attend the Annapolis conference not because they want genuine peace with Israel, but because, for the time being, they see Israel as less of a threat to their survival than a Hamas-ruled Palestinian state. Their main interest is in stopping a Hamas-ruled Palestinian state, and as a result, a semblance of a peace with Israel is a tolerable price to pay. The question that must be asked is whether Syria is willing to accept the implications of a piece with Israel--diplomatic relations, border crossings, trade, Israeli tourists in Damascus, more openness, strained relations with Iran, just as Egypt and Jordan have. The fact is for each Ahmadinejad-like clone who calls for the elimination of Israel, there are many more Arabs who secretly harbor the same desire. There is an asymmetry of desires between the Israelis and Arabs that will need to be addressed until a true Israeli-Arab peace can be attained. The world have been fed a Big Lie that the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the "Palestinian problem. The fact is--it just will not work out that way because while Israelis sincerely want peaceful relations with the Arabs, the "Arab street" does not want peaceful relations with Israel, no matter how hard their leaders will insist that they want peace. While the Arab leaders protest their peaceful intentions, the Arab media and educational establishment continue to spew hatred against Israel and the Jews. Even Egyptian newspapers have published anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic cartoons that could have been plagiarized from Nazi publications. The Palestinian refugee problem is the longest lasting refugee problem, and it has been kept alive by governments that have decided that policide destruction of a state is a more worthy objective than using the vast oil revenues for resettling these people, most who arrived in Mandatory Palestine between and Another consideration is that the types of enemies that Israel has faced have changed. These non-state actors rely on other states for protection and

supplies Iran and Syria. They attack Israel from neighboring territories and states particularly Palestinian Authority-ruled areas and Lebanon. These Islamic fundamentalist non-state actors are highly motivated--to the point where people are willing to become homicide bomber fodder. Israeli leaders have not yet figured out how to fight these people. One solution that has been implemented was to build a fence to protect Israelis both in Israel and the disputed territories. Another solution that failed was the brief border war between Israel and Hezbollah. This type of conflict will not be won if Israeli leaders make land concessions to its neighbors. Land concessions would give these non-state actors more room from which to continue their conflict against Israel. Until the desires for peace are symmetrical on both sides, "land for peace" is not a viable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

### Chapter 8 : Trying to Be Hopeful About Peace - Arab American Institute

*Annapolis represents another false hope on the road to Arab-Israeli peace. True peace will only come when Yeshua Ha-Mashiach (Jesus Christ) returns to establish His kingdom on earth. Posted by.*

### Chapter 9 : Â» Welcome to the Season!

*The Annapolis Conference was a Middle East peace conference held on 27 November , at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, United States. The conference aimed to revive the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and implement the "Roadmap for peace". The conference ended with the issuing of a joint statement from all parties.*