

On Second Thought

Reflecting on the people and the moral behind the stories **By Joel Rebibo**

For 17 years, Hamodia's Israel News editor Joel Rebibo has presented readers with balanced coverage of the events of the day. In this column he looks beyond the facts and reflects on the people, and the moral, behind the stories

Blinded by Politics

You'd think some things would be above politics, like treason and threats to national security. And you'd be wrong.

When Breaking the Silence, the extreme-left group that tries to cast Israeli soldiers as war criminals in the eyes of the world, was caught on film pumping discharged soldiers for classified operational details — not human rights violations — leftist politicians, media figures and even military people refused to see any problem with their behavior.

MK Tzipi Livni, for instance, isn't "far" left. She's part of the center-left Zionist Union, after having made her opportunistic way from the Likud (right) to Kadima (right-center) to the Hatnuah party (anyone's guess). When Channel Two aired a bombshell investigative report last week showing Breaking the Silence activists soliciting information of a tactical nature relating to troop deployment, methods for detecting Hamas tunnels and mission procedures, Livni lashed out — not at Breaking the Silence activists, but at the government, for investigating them for treason.

"This persecution [sic] is intended to divert public attention from the fact that in the past year there have been more than 200 attacks and the government has no solution on the horizon," Livni told a group in Givat Shmuel, according to Walla.

In fact, it is the left that is trying

to divert attention from Breaking the Silence's perfidious, European-sponsored attempt to weaken the army at a time when it is playing a critical role in preventing terrorism and saving lives. A leading journalist insisted in a radio interview Tuesday that the issue isn't the tactics used by Breaking the Silence — that's irrelevant — but the "occupation" and its "corruptive" effect on Israeli society.

A left-wing former general and former Mossad deputy director, Amiram Levin, dismissed the Channel 2 expose because it was based on video footage filmed by what he called the "extreme right" Ad Kan group. The messenger wasn't to his political liking, so the message wasn't worth considering, even if showed clear evidence of treason.

Of course, journalists and generals are entitled to their left-wing views. They aren't required to check their political orientation at the door upon assuming their posts. (*The Jerusalem Post's* Carolyn Glick wrote recently that a former top Mossad official told her that 99 percent of Mossad and Shin Bet officers and Israel Air Force pilots are leftists.) But when they allow their political leanings to affect their professional judgment on matters relating to national security — as they did in the disengagement from Gaza — that is inexcusable.

Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon, a right winger, described Breaking the



Nati Shohat/Flash90

A campaign was launched in late 2012 to counter Breaking the Silence's attempt to portray Israeli soldiers as being cruel to Palestinian residents of Yehudah and Shomron.

Silence's actions as "treachery," adding that their activists were asking soldiers "all kinds of question on what are, effectively, operational secrets."

Maj. Gen. (res.) Avi Mizrachi, a former head of the IDF Central

Command who, to the best of my knowledge, has no political affiliation, took it a step further. "I believe that this information, when it reaches the wrong hands, can ... cost the lives of our soldiers and commanders."

Mizrachi shared an interesting story this week that exposes the lie about Breaking the Silence being concerned with the moral behavior of Israeli soldiers. A month after taking over the IDF Central Command — which includes Yehudah and Shomron — he invited representatives of all the human rights groups to his office in Tel Aviv and told them that he was more concerned about the moral caliber of his soldiers than they were. He therefore asked them to report directly to him any instances of soldiers acting inappropriately, and promised to take care of it.

Only one organization took him up on the offer, B'Tselem, which says something about the motives of the others, including Breaking the Silence.

It is clear that this group of *malshinim* cares little about human rights and even less about democracy. Otherwise, it would start a political party calling for an end to the "occupation" and use the power of the ballot box to bring it to an end. But since they know they are a minuscule minority, they have chosen instead to team up with the country's worst enemies to "save Israel from itself."

V'lamalshinim al tehi sikvah.

Women in the Workforce ... *V'taas B'chefetz Kapeha* Shift and Pivot

SHAINDY BABAD

Dance is a metaphor that is often used to describe relationships or the flow of interactions that make up our day.

I prefer to dance to happy, lively music.

But often dance moves become difficult and we need to "shift and pivot." Shift and pivot in dance is a move that describes changing direction quickly and smoothly, possibly originating in the Pivot Shift Test, a medical exam that checks dexterity in the knee, which is the basis for stability.

Recently, I was in a situation where my planned script just didn't fit. I needed to shift and pivot, scrap my presentation and repackage my message to meet the new set of circumstances gracefully. This happens often in our lives, professional and personal, and the grace with which we can stay in the dance determines our ability to both succeed and enjoy.

The hardest times to shift and pivot are when you need to relinquish a dream or accept painful criticism. In these situations, recalculating isn't simply the ability to be flexible in a changing situation, or be creative in a tough spot. It means letting go of something important to you, perhaps something you worked long and hard for, or a hope

you held dear for many years. It means taking a tough look at your failings, acknowledging the less polished parts of yourself, and then facing the music anew with courage, honesty and humility. It means working hard in a new reality or getting to work on the parts of yourself that are hardest to change.

When it happens, we often rail against the unfairness, have mountains of excuses and explanations and just know that if only so-and-so had done such-and-such it wouldn't have to be this way.

But those are cop-outs and they rob us of the real opportunity buried in the shift-pivot move. The depth of character to develop those other sides of ourselves can only be forged by embracing the dance demands and not sitting it out.

I have recently had the pleasure of helping a young woman shift-pivot. She was confronted with changing circumstances at work. This meant taking a dive without knowing the depths. As someone principled and methodic she enjoys stability and predictability, but to succeed in this situation she had to connect to a vision that wasn't yet clear to her and prove herself in a situation that was almost the antithesis of what she was used to and comfortable with. Tough as it was, it was an honor and a pleasure to coach

Do the best you can until you
know better
Then when you know better,
do better
Maya Angelou

and help, to guide and support her as she struggled with the challenges of the new reality.

Struggle gave her new skills, and the challenge showed her and her colleagues her strength. She and others now know that she has what it takes to dance gracefully and successfully in the reality of change that makes up our lives. She is proud of what she has achieved, and I am proud of her.

At the same time, in the same situation, her colleague just wouldn't get the memo. She complained, she bellyached, she blamed and tried to control. She failed. She's frustrated, she's angry and she's not at her best in any sphere; work performance, team membership and attitude. She's paying a price far higher and more unpleasant than necessary. She's created more pain for herself and everyone around her, and she's missing a valuable professional

and personal opportunity. The saddest part is that she doesn't realize her own contribution to her pain. Yes, the situation demanded a shift move. Yes, it is hard to change. Yes, you thought it would be different. But opportunity comes in many packages, and we need to know how to seize them.

Change is influenced by how you see it.

The trick is to see the change as an opportunity and the criticism as an opportunity to be better.



Temech is a nonprofit organization that promotes employment, entrepreneurship and professional development for women in Israel. Shaindy Babad is the CEO of Temech. Shaindy joined Temech in 2008 after working in high-tech and as a serial social entrepreneur.

We want to hear from you! **This discourse is for and about you, me, all of us.** Please send your comments, thoughts to hamodia@temech.org