

and among those in the Arab world who will always bistle at the idea of a Jewish state. Right here in Contra Costa County an international conference was held by a group called “Sabeel” (“The Way”), which likens Israel to apartheid and the Palestinians to Jesus on the cross.

This form of “liberation theology” is reminiscent of the Gospels’ Passion Narrative that was replayed in medieval Europe every year at Easter with the Jews as villain. The Church has come a long way in the last 50 years in dispelling these caricatures, but the Sabeel mythology can stir vestiges of ancient hatreds.

We Jews have some mythic images ourselves that could use some correctives. Not all Arabs are the evil Pharaoh, and certainly not all Palestinians are potential terrorists. If Kerry’s diplomacy has any chance of success, it will require seeing land and people for who they are and not as they are depicted in one scripture or another.

*(continued on page 4)*

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## *Reflections...*

By Cantor Jennie Chabon

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As I sit down to write this article, I am still basking in the glow of our incredibly successful Purim celebration. The whole evening was fun, funny, a little crazy (as it should be!) and filled with joy. If you could not be there, then rest assured that the 200 of us who were there had a fabulous time celebrating together!

There were many factors that contributed to the evening’s success—the fantastic kids’ choir, the carnival, the pizza