

Obituary Page

HERMAN, ETHEL "LEAH"

Ethel "Leah" Herman, 87, of Margate, passed away Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009, in Linwood. She was born in Philadelphia and was an area resident for many years.

Leah was a former secretary for the Trocki Hebrew Academy, Gold Transportation, and Casino Sales locally. She was also a partner at S&L Food Brokers with her late husband, Saul. Leah was a former member of Temple Emeth Shalom in Margate.

Surviving are two daughters, Joan Greene of

Little Egg Harbor Township and Bonnie Fisher of Bridgeton, N.J.; two brothers Arnold Frank of Hatboro, Pa., and Hyman Frank of Philadelphia. Also surviving are six grandchildren.

Leah was predeceased by her husband, Saul, and a brother Byron Frank.

Services were held Tuesday, Oct 13, at the Veterans Cemetery in Estelle Manor. Arrangements were by the Roth-Goldsteins' Memorial Chapel of Atlantic City. Contributions may be made to the Lisa Herman-Peskoe Memorial Fund at Temple University in Philadelphia or the Woodland Country Day School in Bridgeton.

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Limbaugh and others who continually say they want Obama to fail, he added, "I want my commander-in-chief to succeed. He is a good man."

President Jimmy Carter made headlines in mid-September when he spoke out on the attacks against President Obama. He told students at Emory University, "When a radical fringe element of demonstrators and others begin to attack the president of the United States as an animal or as a reincarnation of Adolf Hitler or when they wave signs that we should have buried Obama with Kennedy, those kinds of things are beyond the bounds." He then moved directly to the cause, "I think people who are guilty of that kind of personal attack against Obama have been influenced to a major degree by a belief that he should not be president because he happens to be African American." The following day, he was interviewed on NBC Nightly News, and made the same succinct assessment, "I think an overwhelming portion of the intensely demonstrated animosity toward President Barack Obama is based on the fact that he is a black man, that he's African-American."

Reactions ranged from the White House downplaying President Carter's analysis to Bill Cosby, actor and educator, who strongly agreed with his conclusion. Cosby has partnered for years with the Harvard psychologist Alvin Poussaint in combating racism. Cosby also commented on President Obama's speech on Health Care Reform to the joint session of Congress. "Some members of Congress engaged in a public display of disrespect. While one representative hurled the now infamous 'you lie' insult at the president, others made their lack of interest known by exhibiting rude behavior such as deliberately yawning and sending text messages."

Nationwide, there has been a resurgence of the militia movements that promote anti-government, anti-Semitic, racist and violent views. The Oath Keepers are the latest, a newly formed

group launched on April 19 at Lexington, Massachusetts. The April 19 date commemorates the Revolutionary Battle of Lexington, the 1993 conflagration at the Waco, Texas Branch Davidian compound, and the bombing two years later at the Oklahoma City federal building. These are "sacred" dates to the militia movement. One federal agency estimates 50 new militia training groups drawing military men and veterans, have started in less than two years. Sales of guns and ammunition have soared amid fears of new gun control laws, and several men wore loaded guns outside President Obama's town meetings in New Hampshire. There have been a series of murders since April: Two 'skinheads' from Tennessee, angry about the election of Obama, killed two sheriff's deputies in Florida. A man in Pittsburgh who feared Jews and gun confiscation murdered three police officers. And an 88-year-old Neo-Nazi killed a guard at the Holocaust Museum in D.C.

Gordon Allport, the eminent psychologist who wrote "The Nature of Prejudice," detailed the significance of the climate of prejudice as fertile soil for festering anger and fears. When a society deems name-calling, defamation, and fear-mongering as acceptable - then accelerating levels of rage and hatred follow, leading to violence. We have to ask ourselves - based on the behavior we have witnessed these past months - what is the climate at present in the nation? Are people alarmed by the relentless attacks on Obama? How many leaders are speaking out? Finally, is it possible that we are reaching the danger level of unthinkable violence being aimed at our president, Barack Obama?

Editor's Note: On Friday, Oct. 9, it was announced that President Barack Obama had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize . . . "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

Joyce S. Anderson is the author of "Courage in High Heels," "Flaw in the Tapestry," "If Winter Comes" and "The Mermaids Singing." She can be reached at JSAwrite@aol.com.

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