

Women's News

Hadassah Lake Norman Chapter: The Power of Women Who Do Book and Author Evening with Espionage Specialist, William Northrop

An interested crowd gathered at Davidson College on January 25 as Lake Norman Hadassah presented William Northrop, author of *Spook War: A Memoir from the Trenches*, as a public service to the Lake community.

Our speaker was the featured special guest on Mike Collins's well known talk show "Charlotte Talks" on WFAE Radio Wednesday, January 21. The on-air conversation included information about Hadassah and its work. During his years living in Israel, Mr. Northrop became a fan of the medical work Hadassah Hospital accomplishes. In light of that support, he graciously accepted our invitation to speak.

Mr. Northrop is a native of Charlotte and an American-Israeli intelligence specialist and historian. His talk covered many topics about the truths on the ground in the Middle East. He explained how espionage can bring down a government in rather short order. Fascinating the audience with explanations of how the "trades" work, it was quite obvious that we normal people really have no idea of what goes on in this mysterious

world. His reality on the ground was something we all thought was simply the stuff of spy novels and movies.

William's recently released book *Spook War* deals with the American-Israeli intelligence wars during the Reagan Administration. The Reagan years were run primarily by oilmen, who, unlike their public stance of support for Israel, privately decided to arm the Arab countries. This, of course, fueled the spiral of violence we see in the Middle East today. Northrop conjectures what the region would be like if you took the oil out of the equation. Not much!

There was a lively Q & A session as was expected with the recent news about terrorism, a topic he knows well. William is a strong advocate for Israel and has lived the fight against terror. He has a picture of his then two young daughters in a "safe room" with gas masks. He said that every Israeli home has such a "safe room." It is difficult for us to even imagine living under the daily fear that a terror attack could occur at any moment.

William Northrop was arrested during the "Passover Plot," a run up to the Iran Contra affair. The arrest of the Israelis and their associates was engineered by Rudolph Giuliani, who never could decide what the charges were. He finally landed on something akin to "prohibiting the US government from making foreign policy." The group was incarcerated in the Queen's Prison in Bermuda, where they serve tea every afternoon. After transfer to New York, where he had dinner with John Gotti, the Dapper Don, in jail, the charges were dropped. William Northrop's name was mentioned over 400 times in the newspapers and periodicals of the day and had his picture on the front page of *The New York Times*. He has written for *Penthouse*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *Recall Military Journal* and was featured on "60 Minutes with Mike Wallace." He was an investigator on the Oklahoma bombing. His exploits worldwide provided the opportunity to interface with some of history's best known individuals, including Henry Kissinger and Vice President George H.W. Bush.

The Lake Norman Hadassah committee for the event was chaired by Co-President, Nadine Fox. Billie Green created her terrific graphics for posters and programs to bring the event to life. Rita Eilenberg, Rose Sacolick, Arleen Glass, and Co-President Karen Marshall handled AV,



William Northrop

HADASSAH-Lake Norman Chapter



The Power of Women Who DO



ordering Hadassah materials, research and day-of duties. They formed an active working team. Randee Lerner was our liaison to the Jewish Council of Lake Norman.

Our appreciation goes to Rabbi Michael Shields and Davidson Hillel, the Jewish Council of Lake Norman, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte who partnered with LKN Hadassah to bring the evening to fruition. Thanks to Davidson College's Dean Rusk International Studies Program and communications department, both of which assisted in providing posters and information on campus and the surrounding area. ☆

HADASSAH HEALTH NIGHT 2015

March 9, 2015
7-9PM Monday
Temple Israel

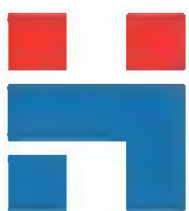
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This years
topics:

HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE
CARE

CARING
FOR THE
CAREGIVER

HADASSAH



My Valentine to American Jewish Men

By Suzanne Levy

(JTA) - On Valentine's Day, I'd like to sing the praises of American Jewish men. I'm aware it's a rather large group, but that's the point: The United States is a sea of plenty for Jewish men.

Whereas in Britain, where I grew up, there are only about 300,000 Jews. If you remove married men, women, and children, you're left with enough eligible Jewish bachelors to inhabit a synagogue or two.

There are, however, millions of men in the U.K. who look like Benedict Cumberbatch or Hugh Grant. Lovely chaps, all of them, but none embodied the stocky, dark, curly-haired Jewish types I longed for when I was growing up in the 1970s. Think Paul Michael Glaser, the guy who played Starsky. Or Tony Curtis. There were some in my Hebrew school class in London, but few had that sass, that chutzpah I was after. They were aiming to be languid and vaguely ironic, like Jeremy Irons.

My first encounter with a real-life Jewish American boy came when I was 16. I was on a summer Israel tour, that rite of passage, and one night, on the shores of the Kinneret, I met Lance from Michigan. I'd never met a Lance before. Only Jeremys, Howards, and Simons. It was thrilling. He was stocky, with a "Jewish nose" and thick hair. We flirted, I fell in love, he left on an Egged bus.

I was left with the confirmation that yes, such beings do exist in real life, and a deep knowledge that one day we would meet again and marry. (That knowledge

proved to be illusory, but if anyone knows a Lance from Michigan who went to Israel in 1979, please pass on this story. Maybe our children could marry.)

I'm sure my attraction to American Jewish men was a factor 10 years later when, at 26, I decided to move to New York. I'd like to say it was because I had taken a job at the BBC's New York bureau. But in fact it was just that I knew I'd be living in a world inhabited by Jewish guys. And so I was. I would walk down the street on the Upper West Side (with a particular viewing point outside Zabar's) and clutch myself in excitement at the Jewish Adonises around me with their deep, soulful eyes on their expressive faces. Could you be my prince? How about you?

My dating pool suddenly expanded. Jewish men were everywhere: waiters, dentists, squash instructors. It constantly amazed me. I would meet a guy at a bar or a party and their last name would be Rosenbaum or Cohen. Definitely not Clemington-Smythe. My bubbe would have been proud. I was ecstatic.

It's not like I hadn't dated - or even been in love with - non-Jewish men in England. But I just found there was a level of comfort and warmth - *heimischeness*, if you will - with my Jewish tribesmen. And the American Jews also had an exotic assertiveness that thrilled me. They have a confidence in their manliness, in their heritage. They're descended from the Jews who made it through harsh winters and pogroms in the shtetls. They're risk takers and life

embracers.

While it's true that British Jewish men are descended from the same stock, more than a century of keeping your head down, fitting in and hoping no one will notice you're avoiding the ham sandwiches at work doesn't exactly make you want to stand out in a crowd. British society is wonderfully tolerant of multiculturalism - as long as you don't make a fuss.

Jewish American men don't try to assimilate. They don't seem to rein in their mannerisms.

They're out and proud (at least in New York or Los Angeles). And they have broad shoulders and are, as my mother would say, "shtarkers" - they're strong.

Of course, there's the stereotype that Jewish men are nebbishy Woody Allen types - and some are. But what these men may lack in brawn, they make up for with their scintillating smarts. The few Jewish intellectuals in the U.K. stand out because of their rarity (Alain de Botton, Harold Pinter), while here you can find bespectacled Jewish men passionately expressing their views or fluently spinning bewitching tales everywhere in the media. Talk wonkery to me, Ezra Klein. Give me a driveway moment, Ira Glass. Paul Krugman, fill me with your finance talk. (Paul doesn't wear glasses, but you get my point.)

One day seven years ago, after many years of happily wading through New York's large Jewish dating pool, I was out for drinks with coworkers when the company's dark-haired vice president admitted to the crowd that he'd once considered becoming a rabbi.

I almost fell off my chair. This would have never happened in London. His name was Steve Holtzman. It was love at last name. The next day I rushed to talk to him. We compared notes on teenage years involved with Orthodox youth groups, and we've been together ever since.

Today, Steve shrugs off his Jewishness, but for me it continues to be part of the appeal. His maternal grandfather escaped the czar's army by walking across Europe when he was 12. His father's family comes from Pinsk. (I just like saying the word Pinsk). He's smart, funny and cute.

He has a big embrace. And a big heart.

So on this day of pagan/Christian celebration of love, I'd like to take this moment to make a toast to him - and to all American Jewish men. May you all continue to thrill this nice Jewish girl from London. And all Jewish girls, from wherever they are, throughout the decades to come. ☆

(Suzanne Levy is a British-born writer and TV producer now living in Los Angeles.)

