



Simon Wiesenthal Center presents "Digital Terrorism and Hate Report" to South Florida Law Enforcement

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BY SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER
ORTHODOX MIAMI

The Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC), one of the world's largest Jewish human rights organizations, recently presented its 2011 "Digital Terrorism and Hate Report" to a group of key South Florida homeland security and law enforcement officials. The presentation was led by Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the SWC and a leading expert on online hate.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center is one of the largest international Jewish human rights organizations with over 400,000 member families in the United States.

The 2011 report features more than 14,000 (up from 11,500 last year) problematic websites, forums, blogs and social network pages that are used by extremists to recruit young people, promote "lone wolf" terrorists and denigrate their "enemies."

During the course of his presentation, Rabbi Cooper discussed the spike in online attacks and

threats against religious minorities, as well as the evolving online strategies of al-Qaeda and other terror groups.

He also specified the online activity of South Florida-based hate groups, as well as efforts to denigrate Hispanics and African-Americans.

Since releasing the report in February, Rabbi Cooper has formally presented it to law enforcement officials in New York, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas.

He also presented the report to senior officials at Facebook, and the online social networking leader has removed thousands of hate and terror-related pages in multiple languages that the Wiesenthal Center has submitted.

Attendees of the presentation included Major Glenn Stolzenberg and Lt. Margarita Varela from the Miami-Dade Police Department's Homeland Security Bureau; Commander Richard Wierzbicki from the Broward Sheriff's Office Hate Crimes/Anti-Bias Task Force; Sunny Isles Police Chief Fred Maas; Golden Beach Police Chief James Skinner; Detective David Lewis, president of the South Florida Shomrim Society; and Margot Mankes, aide to Miami-Dade Commissioner Sally Heyman.

"Less than a week after presenting the Digital Terrorism and Hate report to officials at Facebook, I was honored to share it with these dedicated South Florida public servants," said Rabbi Cooper. "We appreciate them taking the time to educate themselves on the nature and extent of online hate."

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Gallery > Events > Simon Wiesenthal Center's South Florida Tribute Dinner > **Simon Wiesenthal Center's South Florida Tribute Dinner**

Simon Wiesenthal Center's South Florida Tribute Dinner

The dinner at the Fairmont Turnberry Resort, welcomed more than 200 supporters and honored the activism and philanthropy of SEC Trustee Bonnie Schaefer. The evening was highlighted by a keynote address from Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

1 2 Next >

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< Previous Photo Next Photo >



1 2 Next >



BEACH BUZZ

by Debra K. Leibowitz

Special to the Miami Herald

PAYING TRIBUTE

Two powerful South Florida women will share the stage at the Simon Wiesenthal Center's South Florida Tribute Dinner on Sunday at the Fairmont Turnberry Isle in Aventura.

Keynote speaker is Congresswoman **Debbie Wasserman Schultz**, newly named chair of the Democratic National Committee. She will discuss "The New Middle East and its Impact on Israel and the United States."

Boca Raton resident **Bonnie Schaefer**, former co-CEO of Claire's Stores, will receive the organization's prestigious "Legacy Award" for her activism and philanthropy, in addition to her service as a SWC Trustee.

The event — chaired by Miami Beach residents **Judy and Michael Adler** — begins with a cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$500 each. To learn more, call 305-935-2280 or visit www.wiesenthal.com/southernus.

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NEWS

SERGIO CARMONA SCARMONA@TRIBUNE.COM

Wiesenthal Center honors Claire's CEO

TRIBUTE DINNER U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz will deliver the keynote address during the Simon Wiesenthal Center's South Florida Tribute Dinner.

STAFF PHOTO/
KIMBERLI DIMARE



Two of South Florida's most powerful and successful women will share the stage during the Simon Wiesenthal Center's South Florida Tribute Dinner.

The event, set for April 10 at the Fairmont Turnberry Isle, 19999 W. Country Club Drive in Aventura, will honor Bonnie Schaefer, former co-chief executive officer and co-chairwoman of the Board of Claire's Stores Inc. She will be given the Legacy Award for her activism and philanthropy as well as her service on the Center's Board of Trustees. U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Weston, will give the evening's keynote address, titled "The New Middle East and its Impact on Israel and the United States."

Tamar Kohn Marks, the SWC's Southern Region direc-

tor, said the women's achievements will bring a lot to the event.

"Bonnie Schaefer has been a supporter of our organization for many many years so she is a wonderful and very well deserving individual to get this honor and she is of course an accomplished woman both businesswise and also as a philanthropist," Marks said. "Debbie Wasserman Schultz has always been a supporter of Israel and basically what we believe in, so it's wonderful to have them both sharing the stage."

Schaefer has long encouraged the SWC's mission to fight anti-Semitism and intolerance wherever and whenever they arise. As part of the organization's campus outreach pro-

gram for its Moriah Films Division, she has hosted regular events at Appalachian State University in North Carolina. Her family, particularly her father Rowland Schaefer, has long been involved with the organization.

"I'm very honored, humbled and excited," Schaefer said. "It's a wonderful honor and I was absolutely flattered that they asked me to be the honoree."

Wasserman Schultz said that the new Middle East could potentially have an impact on the United States' relationship with countries there like Egypt that have a peace treaty with Israel

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on 8

continued
from 3

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by more than 200 bipartisan colleagues to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton regarding the upheaval in Egypt and urging the U.S. to emphasize

that any new Egyptian government must remain committed to the Egypt-Israel peace treaty.

"I think it's imperative for the United States to

make sure that we hold Egypt, no matter what resulting government there is, to their commitment to peace with Israel," Wasserman Schultz said.

The event starts at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception followed by the dinner at 6:30 p.m. Approximately 200-250 people are expected to

attend. Tickets start at \$500.

For more information, contact Marks at tmarks@wiesenthal.com or at 305-935-2280.

Jewish Journal

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LOCAL

Successful South Florida women to share stage

BY SERGIO CARMONA
STAFF WRITER

Two of South Florida's most powerful and successful women will share the stage during the Simon Wiesenthal Center's South Florida Tribute Dinner.

During the dinner on April 10 at the Fairmont Turnberry Isle, 1999 West Country Club Dr. in Aventura, the SWC will honor Boca Raton resident Bonnie Schaefer, the former co-chief executive officer and co-chairman of the Board of Claire's Stores, Inc., with its "Legacy Award" for her activism and philanthropy as well as her service on the organization's Board of Trustees

and host Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D) of Florida's 20th District, who will give the evening's keynote address, "The New Middle East and its Impact on Israel and the United States."

Tamar Kohn Marks, the SWC's Southern Region director, complimented both women.

"Bonnie Schaefer has been a supporter of our organization for many years so she is a wonderful and very well deserving individual to get this honor and she is of course an accomplished woman both businesswise and also as a philanthropist," Marks said. "Debbie Wasser-



Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz will deliver the keynote address during the Simon Wiesenthal Center's South Florida Tribute Dinner.

Staff photo/Kimberli DiMare

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"I'm very honored, humbled and excited," Schaefer said about the honor. "It's a wonderful

honor and I was absolutely flattered that they asked me to be the honoree."

When asked to discuss the subject of her keynote address, Wasserman Schultz said that the new Middle East could potentially have an impact on the United States' relationship with countries there like Egypt that have a peace treaty with Israel as well as other nations where democracy has taken root. She recently led a letter signed by more than 200 bipartisan colleagues to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton regarding the upheaval in Egypt and urging the U.S. to emphasize that

any new Egyptian government must remain committed to the Egypt-Israel peace treaty.

"I think it's imperative for the United States to make sure that we hold Egypt, no matter what resulting government there is, to their commitment to peace with Israel," Wasserman Schultz said.

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