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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers  
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor  
—Dateline.....Proctorsville  
—Article Number:.....43667



**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 'What happened was serious, painful, and wrong. But I  
2 also believe it can be a learning moment for all of us'

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 I want to thank everyone who has reached out after my  
6 storefront in Cavendish was [vandalized with antizionist graffiti](#).

7 The messages, calls, and offers of support have meant  
8 more than I can say. People from Vermont and beyond have  
9 written to tell me that seeing Israeli flags in my window gave  
10 them comfort, courage, and a feeling that they were not alone. I

11 did not fully realize how much that visibility mattered until others  
12 told me.

13 I was shaken by what happened, but I am OK, and I will  
14 not be broken by it. This was an act of intimidation directed at me  
15 because I am Jewish and feel a love for Israel that is shared by the  
16 overwhelming majority of Jewish people worldwide.

17 Most importantly, the person responsible came to my  
18 shop and apologized to me directly. Accepting responsibility for  
19 one's conduct can be difficult, and I considered his apology  
20 sincere. It was meaningful and healing to me.

21 I accepted his apology and told the police that I  
22 personally do not seek criminal punishment. I understand that the  
23 final charging decision belongs to law enforcement and  
24 prosecutors.

25 What happened was serious, painful, and wrong. But I  
26 also believe it can be a learning moment for all of us, no matter  
27 our opinions.

28 I remain deeply concerned about the climate that made  
29 this possible. The Apartheid Free Pledge campaign in Vermont,  
30 promoted by the Palestine Solidarity Coalition, and the rhetoric  
31 surrounding it, have helped normalize the idea that Jews whose  
32 identity and family history are deeply connected to Israel should  
33 be treated as morally suspect in our own communities.

34 That kind of antizionist demonization does not stay  
35 abstract. It provides a motivation for good people to act in bad  
36 ways, and those hateful acts affect real people, real businesses,  
37 and real Jewish families here in Vermont.

38 Incidents like this are happening more than many people  
39 realize, and most go unreported. I made Vermont my home  
40 because I love it here, and I still do. But it does not feel the same  
41 as it once did. I fear for the future of the Jewish community here  
42 if anti-Jewish intimidation is not confronted clearly. Jewish friends  
43 of mine have already moved away.

44 To everyone who called, wrote, offered help, offered  
45 prayers, or simply stood with me: thank you. Your kindness has

46 strengthened me. I am grateful for the people who have shown  
47 up. And I will keep standing.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

48 ####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

*LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:*

49 ####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

50 ####BEGIN LINKS####

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

51 ####BEGIN VIDEO####

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

52 ####BEGIN LOGLINE####

####END LOGLINE####