

**SERIES:** Caucus: New Jersey with Steve Adubato  
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Steven Emerson  
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Announcer: Funding for this edition of CAUCUS has been provided by The Russell Berrie Foundation; Holy Name Hospital, a full service acute care medical center with a tradition of caring that addresses the religious and cultural needs of all our patients; Josh and Judy Weston; and The Myron and Elaine Adler Foundation, empowering, enhancing and enriching the lives of people with aphasia and their families.

STEVE ADUBATO, host:

Hi, I'm Steve Adubato. A few months ago, I went on an extraordinary trip to Israel. If you've ever been there, you know what I mean. But I didn't just go by myself or my family as a tourist, I went with a very special group of people, and the person who put that group of people together is somebody you're about to see on camera right now. She is Angelica Berrie, the president of The Russell Berrie Foundation.

Good to see you, Angelica.

Ms. ANGELICA BERRIE (President, The Russell Berrie Foundation): Hi, Steve.

ADUBATO: We should put this into perspective. The group of people that went to Israel--I'm actually looking at a DVD we put together--this is the Russell Berrie civic mission to Israel. We celebrated 60 years of statehood. We went in August of 2008, and there were a group of us. Describe the civic mission, the group itself and then we'll talk about a whole range of issues connected to Israel.

Ms. BERRIE: To celebrate the 60th anniversary we identified change agents in the community, all of them civic leaders of different professions: hospital CEOs; people who, like you, are in media; others who are in business and corporate worlds; and government. We had Valerie Huttel as well as...

ADUBATO: State legislator.

Ms. BERRIE: State legislator.

ADUBATO: Nonprofit leaders.

Ms. BERRIE: Yes, nonprofit leaders like John Smith of PSE&G. And we thought these were change agents, people who would create a circle of influence and we felt that just being exposed to Israel could bring so many kinds of magical moments that would be transformational not just to the person who went, but to the people who they influenced, and it was just a thought, and you were the first group that we ever took.

ADUBATO: It was amazing, and continues to live with us in many ways. As we do this program, as we begin the second quarter, if you will, of 2009, the events, things going on in Israel. Here we say it's historic, it's significant, it's profound, but that's always--always seems to be the case in Israel. Politically right now in the Gaza Strip right now. But why don't we do this. Before we actually roll some of the clips, I want to ask you a question that begs to be answered. You've gone--it's been 18 years, you said 25 trips that you have gone on to Israel.

Ms. BERRIE: Twenty-five or more. I've been going since my husband got engaged to me. So that was the year before we got married, that was 10 years before--10 years of marriage, plus eight years, six years, two years. It's a lot of trips.

ADUBATO: What is the fascination with Israel for you? And its people, I know are very special to you.

Ms. BERRIE: It's also an ancient civilization where multiple religions flourish. And I think that part of what I wanted to show your group and all the civic people I bring around is how Israel is really a microcosm of what it can be to live in a world with many religions co-existing. It's a challenge. You don't always get along, but there's a possibility. And that's what we want to be able to showcase, to say what would it be like to have a world where pluralism can exist with all its challenges.

ADUBATO: And the people have come back, all of us, from this trip, are changed in a lot of ways. I mean, when you listen to media accounts about Israel, you see it differently. You think about it differently. You think about the people. One of the things--and I know that our producers have a whole range of video that they want to show--but one of the things that strikes me, and I'd like you to cue this up, was this wall--right? This security wall that I had read about. Again, all of us who were going on the trip, you read as much as you can. Seeing it was very different, particularly from the helicopter, a ride that we took that we'll also be seeing some footage of, because Israel's so much smaller than I ever imagined, right? You can do it in two and a half hours...

Ms. BERRIE: The size of New Jersey.

ADUBATO: Two and a half hours plus, right? Right?

Ms. BERRIE: Sure.

ADUBATO: Explain the wall as you're taking a look, if you could, Angelica, right there, the security wall. What is that wall and why is it so significant?

Ms. BERRIE: First of all, it's a protection for the citizens of Israel from terrorist attacks. And since they put it up, the incidents have--incidents of terrorism have dropped, at some point almost zero. And it's unfortunate that you have to build a wall between people who live together, and used to live together with some sense of harmony. I mean, Arabs have lived in Israel for a long time and I think that there's been times when they ate the same food, played with each other's kids, lived in the same neighborhoods, and it's unfortunate that there needs to be a physical separation. But it's really a safety issue.

ADUBATO: Because suicide bombings have been reduced dramatically; in fact, there have not been.

Ms. BERRIE: To almost zero.

ADUBATO: And so we talked to people. We talked to Palestinians, we talked to Israelis who were--had certain views on it, and most Israelis, the vast majority, if not all, were, 'Hey, we're protecting ourselves,' you know? And others, you have to realize it, as you well know, it changes the way they move around. If there's a grocery store or store they want to get to that may be

from here, you know, 50, 75 yards down the road, they may have to go all the way around because of it, but it saves lives.

Ms. BERRIE: It's unfortunate. We have Arab families who are separated from the olive groves where they have obviously property and families and it's sad, but it's a reality. It's a harsh reality that we fortunately in the States don't have to live with, we don't have to have fences to separate our neighbors from each other. But over there, it's a necessity when you have neighbors who do want to kill you.

ADUBATO: Yeah. One of the things that struck me is you and Russ were very committed, happen to be very committed to technology. And so we're about to see a piece of video from the Russ Berrie Nanotechnology Institute at Technion. And we--it was really amazing and we'll talk a little bit about the details of this and the powerful research impact and the potential impact on health care, etc., etc. But let's go to a piece of video that really speaks for itself, and then I'll talk with Angelica.

(Excerpt from videotape)

ADUBATO: You may have never heard the term nanotechnology. In short, it's all about using small--or should we say nano-sized--objects to produce big results.

Professor URI SIVAN (Russell Berrie Nanotechnology Institute): Nanotechnology in particular, and multidisciplinary research more generally, are going to change the way we live in many aspects.

ADUBATO: Professor Uri Sivan and his associates gave us a demonstration of two very exciting projects. The first is called The Electronic Nose. It's a simple and inexpensive breath test that can determine if a patient has cancer. It detects tiny particles emitted by cancerous cells. It's only accurate right now in the late stages of certain cancers, but scientists are working to perfect it.

(End excerpt)

ADUBATO: How significant, Angelica, is this work?

Ms. BERRIE: It's life changing. If you remember in the '60s what plastics was to the world, and now it's nanotechnology. There isn't a field that won't be changed by nano, from the size of batteries on your computer or your cell phone, to everything from hair transplants to cosmetic purposes. They're using it in defense, and we at the institute in Technion, we're using it to detect cancer. So imagine that they even are now developing robots that can enter your bloodstream and deliver medicine.

ADUBATO: And while you and Russ have been so supportive, you know, financially, the other part is I sense, because I was there with you in the briefing, you continue to be amazed.

Ms. BERRIE: Well, it's always a surprise to see what they come up with. Every year there's something new. And just think about how it's going to change the lives of people who would benefit from those technologies. It's mind blowing.

ADUBATO: It is. And the other thing that was mind blowing--cue up the video while we talk about this. Let's--the Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial museum. I mean, we have to talk about it. I--again, you get ready for the

trip, you think you know what you're going to see, you think you know what you're going to experience, but as we look at some of this video, talk us through what we see right here, Angelica, if you could. Remember, we were looking at the pictures of all of the Holocaust victims. It just went on...

Ms. BERRIE: Yeah.

ADUBATO: ...the walls.

Ms. BERRIE: I think it's about remembrance, it's remembering them not just as victims, but remembering the injustice and reminding people that they shouldn't stand by, whether it's Darfur or any other country, that...

ADUBATO: So what's going on in Darfur should remind us...

Ms. BERRIE: ...that suffering.

ADUBATO: ...we should be reminded of this.

Ms. BERRIE: What's happening in Rwanda. We shouldn't just stand by and say, 'You know what, it's happening to the Africans and we don't need to be involved.' I think that Yad Vashem stands for the living. It's a reminder to the living to be able to say, 'We cannot allow this to happen anywhere in the world.'

ADUBATO: And you know what's interesting? It's hard to appreciate a lot of what people are saying, but I re--I'll tell you what I remember. You were looking at a lot of the artifacts, what was left behind by people who died, who were killed, brutally killed. But one of the things I remember--again, you've seen so many things, I'm not sure if you're going to remember this one thing, but when we were on the tour at Yad Vashem, there was a story about a teacher, a man who was taking care of these children. There was this--it was the children--it was a school with a bunch of children and his glasses. I don't know if you remember this. His glasses were in a case. There was a picture of him...

Ms. BERRIE: And he wouldn't leave the children, yeah.

ADUBATO: Make this clear for everyone. I'm not going to do justice to it. He wouldn't leave the children. He had a chance to leave the children in which--that he was teaching, he was teaching these children. He didn't because...

Ms. BERRIE: He felt that wherever they went, he needed to be with them. And I think that the lesson there is really about how lives--how little children's lives, you know, he knew what he was going in for. He knew he was going to die and he just felt that he needed to be with them all the way to the end. It's moving in a universal way. It's nothing to do with whether they were Jewish or not. I think that ability of people to go that extra mile, you know, to say, 'I don't want them to be alone at that moment.'

ADUBATO: You know, it's one of these...

Ms. BERRIE: A very human moment.

ADUBATO: It really is, and I don't know why I--of all the things that I saw that were so powerful at Yad Vashem, that sticks in my mind, because I think to myself, 'what kind of person,' you know, you would want to believe that you would be someone who would step up or make a difference, which is so

fascinating because the Russ Berrie Make a Difference Awards, you know, the other things that you've been a part of which recognizes people who are involved in extraordinary acts of heroism and making a difference in the lives of others. Ordinary people, if you will, that's who that was, correct? Am I--is that a wrong connection, Angelica?

Ms. BERRIE: No, it was one act and it was one act that transformed the experience of death for the children. They felt safe having somebody whom they knew cared about them...

ADUBATO: Which is inspiring on some level.

Ms. BERRIE: ...with them in their last journey. And I think that it is inspiring.

ADUBATO: Yeah. The helicopter tour--and again, I don't know how much footage you have of that, but for me--let's run the helicopter footage--because for me, and I re--there--Valerie--was it Valerie? Valerie Huttle who was with you and I don't know if we have a shot of her. She was having a hard time. A lot of us who were in that helicopter it was an amazing trip for a lot of reasons. Yeah, I'm looking calm there, but I wasn't the whole way. More importantly, what was it that we were able to see from the helicopter that we never would have been able to see if we were on foot or in--via vehicle the whole time?

Ms. BERRIE: First of all, you see how small a land Israel is, and we passed the seam line, which has the small--the narrowest land between the ocean and between the closest Arab neighborhood. And you see it was in some cases, did they say it was like a mile or two?

ADUBATO: Just a mile or two.

Ms. BERRIE: And the idea that such a narrow strip of land would--could push a people off to the ocean. I mean, it's a literal visual image that no one could have if you weren't overhead.

ADUBATO: Yeah. The other thing that's been fascinating about this--I told you before we got on the air--is that many of the people who went on this tour, people like Michael Maron, our good friend from Holy Name and others; Valerie Huttle, we talked about her; John Smith from PSE&G and so many of the others; Doug Duchak from Englewood Hospital, what strikes me is that there have been friendships that have come out of this, relationships and sharing of all kinds of things. And I think we could see it all very talented, good-looking crew. You see them right there, that's us right in that picture. Was that--is that part of what you are trying to do with the civic mission, other than education and informing and enlightening us, is having us get to know each other in a way that we never would back in Jersey or New York, right?

Ms. BERRIE: Well, there's no way you could bond in such a way that you actually understand values in a different land and be able to say, 'You know what, I can bring some of what I learned back with us,' and translate it into their own specific communities. One of them, Maxine Frampton, is someone who created a giving circle for 150 women in New Jersey and she's already started sharing what she learned in Israel with 150 women. So each person touches many lives. You in your media life talk about it, it reaches thousands, or if not hundreds of thousands of people. And...

ADUBATO: Esther is doing good stuff, too, right?

Ms. BERRIE: During the Gaza war, Esther Goodhart, whose father is a Korean Christian minister, started speaking to all the Korean Christian churches in the--in the neighborhood and talking about her trip to Israel. She wasn't advocating, she was just saying, 'What a time I had. What a transformational experience it was.'

ADUBATO: Assemblywoman Valerie Huttle, legislation that says...

Ms. BERRIE: She changed a bill to make a permanent committee for Jewish affairs. An Israel committee that is now a permanent fixture.

ADUBATO: That's right.

Ms. BERRIE: So it's quite amazing. Life changing.

ADUBATO: I--it is on many levels. And I have to ask you this before I let you go in this particular conversation. You just came back from Israel, as we do this program, and you're going in a couple of weeks. Please describe the group that you're going with, because I thought I had seen everything from you. Who are you going with?

Ms. BERRIE: Well, I'm bringing eight Berrie interfaith fellows from the Vatican. It's a Vatican university that's like the West Point of the Vatican where--all the popes come from there. All the future cardinals study there, and the idea of our bringing a next generation, a future church leaders to Israel as a transformational journey, I think it's an investment in the future of future interfaith dialogue.

ADUBATO: Angelica, I said this to you privately, I'll just say it here. I cannot thank you for asking and prodding just a little bit for me to get out of my comfort zone and say, 'Yes, this was the right thing to do.' And I learned so much and I cannot thank you enough for not only getting me there and us there, but being a part of this project.

Ms. BERRIE: It's a transformational gift. I'm glad you enjoyed it.

ADUBATO: Thanks for the gift. Thank you, Angelica. That was great.

Announcer: If you would like more information on this program, or if you'd like to express an opinion, e-mail us at [info@caucusnj.org](mailto:info@caucusnj.org). And visit us online at [caucusnj.org](http://caucusnj.org).

ADUBATO: Welcome back. We are now joined by Steve Emerson, who is the executive director of the Investigative Project on Terrorism based in Washington at an undisclosed location.

Good to see you, Steve.

Mr. STEVE EMERSON (Executive Director, Investigative Project on Terrorism): Hi, Steve.

ADUBATO: You've been studying terrorism for how long?

Mr. EMERSON: Well, investigating terrorism or working in it for at least 25 years.

ADUBATO: Because?

Mr. EMERSON: It became an interest of me--of mine when--actually when I

first came to Washington and served on Capitol Hill in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and then I subsequently wrote several books, all dealing with national security, counterterrorism forces, the influence of Islamic petro dollars in the United States and ultimately developed a specialty in radical Islamic terrorism.

ADUBATO: How vulnerable are we right now as we are moving to the middle of 2009? Dick Cheney recently said that we are more vulnerable with Barack Obama as president. You say?

Mr. EMERSON: You know, it's one of those quintessential questions that's impossible to answer. Nobody really knows, you know, when the next terror attack will occur. I just saw a report yesterday saying that al-Qaeda's got several thousand members located primarily in Pakistan and Asia, increasingly, though, more in Europe; undetermined number of associates in the United States. It does not mean, however, that an attack is imminent. There's no intelligence. Of course, the lack of intelligence doesn't mean that we're safe. It could happen tomorrow, it could happen 10 years from now.

ADUBATO: Hm.

Mr. EMERSON: So the idea here is to be prepared no matter what. I don't think you can quantify the threat percentage that we live under. You have to assume that at any time, at any place something will happen, and it's a game of sort of calculating risk analysis, which is where do you put your investment? Do you put it all in TSA at the airports, do you put it on trains? I mean, where do you think you're most vulnerable? Do you think you're most vulnerable overseas? Who are the groups that are likely to do it? I mean, all those calculuses have to go into the equation.

ADUBATO: Hm. The expression, you never negotiate with terrorists. In Israel, you know, we talked with Angelica Berrie, our mutual friend, and it's interesting the whole issue of Hezbollah, the whole question of negotiating with terrorists. Explain to folks, give the short version, of your version of what happened there and why you believe on some level it was a mistake.

Mr. EMERSON: Well, the Israelis negotiated for the return of the two dead soldiers that the Hezbollah had kidnapped two year--two and a half years ago, and that instigated a war and tried to get them released. Israel then released scores of terrorists, including ones with a lot of blood on their hands, as the Israelis call them. It was very painful to the Israelis, but the Israelis have been exchanging terrorists for their own prisoners, either in wars or civilians, for years now. 1985 they exchanged 1,000, 1500 terrorists for three Israelis. Many of those terrorists came back to attack Israel, and they actually created the conditions and seeds for the first intifada. They've done other exchanges, including the one you just referred to, and now they're negotiating for the release of a soldier who was kidnapped 1,000 days ago, Gilad Shalit. And they're considering releasing 500 Hamas terrorists. Now...

ADUBATO: Why is that continued mistakes, Steve?

Mr. EMERSON: I think this is--look, I think that you only feed the empowerment of the terrorists, one, you give them a public relations victory. They become more popular. The purpose of any Western government is to weaken the popular support for a terrorist insurgency. Number two, you embolden them to take more prisoners. Why shouldn't they take more prisoners? They can get more prisoners--take more civilians. They can get more prisoners released, they can make more demands. It's a never-ending, you know, consequence of

your release of terrorists. So my feeling is, you just have to put a stop to it. We did the mistake in the '80s when we sort of tried...

ADUBATO: The United States.

Mr. EMERSON: Yes, with the Iranian--with the hostages in Lebanon. Remember, our Iran Contra deal went to the--went to Tehran with a cake baked in the form of a--you know, I don't know what it was--a tea and I think these types of appeasement was really unfortunate, and led to the notion that radical governments can basically export terrorism with the hope that it wins. It defeats the enemy, the West.

ADUBATO: Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton as secretary of state. To what degree do you think they get this?

Mr. EMERSON: I have questions about this. I have questions because of the terminology. You know, there's mixed signals. They're continuing certain good policies. I mean, I'm a national security hawk, I have--I have no qualms about that. That's my only issue, right? Security and issues of ensuring the terrorists don't win. I think the fact that they don't use the term radical Islam...

ADUBATO: Is a mistake.

Mr. EMERSON: Major mistake. If you can't identify your enemy--yesterday I just saw a Homeland Security document that talked about--references--the vernacular to be used in describing domestic terrorist groups. Non-Islamic, right? So they talk about Jewish terrorists, they talk about Christian terrorists, they talk about Aryan terrorists, they talk about Irish terrorists...

ADUBATO: But not?

Mr. EMERSON: Not Islamic terrorists. And that comes from a deliberate policy of avoiding the use of the term Islamic when applied to terrorists. You can only talk about the term terrorists, which means it's generic. Then how do you differentiate between a eco-terrorists, a white terrorists and Islamic terrorists?

ADUBATO: Why do you think they're doing it?

Mr. EMERSON: I think it's political correctness, the notion that somehow Islamic groups have maintained that if you use the term Islamic terrorists you're offending all Muslims. What they're really objecting to, and these are not rad--not moderate groups, these are radical groups feigning moderation, is that it sort of conjures up images among the non-Muslim public that there's terrorism carried out among the Muslim community, and there is, and it's disproportionate. And unless they quash it, unless they de-legitimize it, we can't have any effect on whether it occurs or not. But if we decide not to even recognize its existence, I'll guarantee you it exists and continues to proliferate.

ADUBATO: We're here in the metropolitan New York area. Are we any more vulnerable post-9/11 than any other part of the country right now?

Mr. EMERSON: Well, I think the New York/Washington corridor is definitely a high center of probability compared to other parts of the country. You've got--you still have the stock exchange, you've got New York as an economic power, you've got Washington, DC, with all the government symbols. These are

icons, and remember bin Laden is interested in destroying the economy. That was his first statement he made within six days after 9/11 occurring, how much money the capital markets had lost. He follows that.

Now, he is not in control of operations today, but the reality is you have a four--you could have a Fort Dix plot. As, you know, that didn't occur...

ADUBATO: That's right.

Mr. EMERSON: ...that far from here, right? Had there not been that lucky break with a Circuit City clerk getting a copy of a video that he had a copy and then he watched it...

ADUBATO: What would have happened, Steve?

Mr. EMERSON: The probability is there would have been an attack that killed hundreds of service men, and then there was another...

ADUBATO: At Fort Dix.

Mr. EMERSON: At Fort Dix. And then there was another plot to bomb civilian buildings, commercial buildings in downtown Newark.

ADUBATO: Should we be having diplomatic conversations with countries like Iran?

Mr. EMERSON: Not unconditionally. I mean, I think...

ADUBATO: What conditions?

Mr. EMERSON: Listen, there's--for the last six years--seven years, Europe has steadily weakened the sanctions against Iran. It's played off Iran--it's played off Europe, Russia vs. the United States, OK? And the Russians have been selling them all types of equipment, including anti-missile systems to protect their nuclear facilities, the Europeans, the Germans have been selling lots of exports because it's good for their economy, and the United States is the only one demanding sanctions. But if they're porous, they don't work.

Unconditional talks, what's the purpose of this? To respect them, to get them to tell us what they really believe? I know what they really believe, they tell us every day. They hate the United States, they despise the existence of the state of Israel, they despise the Jews, they despise infidels. I mean, now I don't say all Iranians. We're talking about the mullah leadership. I think the Iranian people are much more moderate and supportive of the United States. But the idea is to create a fissure between the leadership and the people itself. Unconditional talks, their first casualty of that policy was the removal of Khatami, a genuine reformer, from the primary challenging Ahmadinejad.

ADUBATO: Complex stuff, Steve. Before I let you out of here, I have to ask you this real quick. The economy is our primary concern in our country. Do we still have the ability to focus on terrorism while we deal with the economy? Thirty seconds or less.

Mr. EMERSON: Very good question, Steve. You know, I'm finding less and less so. Look, economy is definitely, justifiably a main--a concern. of most people.

ADUBATO: Right.

Mr. EMERSON: But if you take your ball--your eye off the ball of national security, you're going to get whacked. That's what I'm afraid of.

ADUBATO: We have to do both, Steve.

Mr. EMERSON: There's no doubt you have to do both, and you can't approach it from a politically correct mentality. The notion that you can't alienate the Muslim street is leading us to adopt positions that appease them.

ADUBATO: Steve, come back and let's talk some more. We learned a lot. Thank you so much.

Mr. EMERSON: You've very welcome.

ADUBATO: Excellent.

Announcer: The preceding program has been a production of the Caucus Educational Corporation, celebrating over 20 years of broadcast excellence; NJN Public Television; and Thirteen, in association with wnet.org.

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