

Christina Shelton

From: allan aprigalassociates.com <allan@aprigalassociates.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 5:03 PM
To: Stacy Kern-Scheerer;Pat Dent;Doug Pons;Barbara L. Ramsey;Caleb Rogers
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Subject: 2nd Sundays Art and Music Festival

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Good afternoon. I am writing to you because I just found out that the 2nd Sundays Arts and Music Festival have cancelled the Hanukkah celebration and the Jewish symbols have been removed from the holiday light displays.

As an American Jew, I am horrified that the festival and you by association would cancel all aspects of a Community celebration of ANY religion. You must understand that as an American Jew, I have no control or say in how the State of Israel responds to the horrific terrorist attack and continuing holding hostage innocent people.

Regardless of your personal opinion to what is or is not happening in the Middle East, you have no right to exclude us from the community.

My wife and I have been visiting Williamsburg at least annually (sometimes more) for the last 45 years. We always stay in Colonial Williamsburg and make annual donations to Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. We always considered Williamsburg to be our own "special place". Now, with these actions, I don't feel welcome there.

Your actions are contradictory to what this country was founded on. I am sure you understand that religion and government are two different things. However, by removing the celebration or by allowing it to be removed it can be perceived that you are perpetuating antisemitism.

To quote the United Jewish Community of the Northern Peninsula - "We should be very clear: it is antisemitic to hold Jews collectively accountable for Israel's policies and actions, and to require a political litmus test for Jews' participation in community events that have nothing to do with Israel."

This war in Israel is not a "Jewish" war it is an Israeli war.

I welcome your response(s) and am happy for further discussion either by email or phone.

Thanks for taking the time.

Allan
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