

Arava Institute and community members from Kibbutz Ketura where he currently teaches, attended one of the rallies at the official Israeli-Jordanian border crossing along the Eilat promenade, and, the following day, at Qasr al-Yahud, the Jordan River baptismal site.

At the baptismal site one of the members of Kibbutz Ketura recognized a man sitting on the Jordanian side of the river who had visited the Arava Institute earlier in the summer. The man had come to support the March of Hope from the Jordanian side, while members of the Arava Institute showed their support from the Israeli side. The two men exchanged warm words from across the river epitomizing the goals of the movement.

The Middle East is facing one of its most unstable and dangerous periods in modern history. Entities like the Arava Institute, along with the Women Wage Peace movement, offer hope that peaceful coexistence is possible in the Middle East. Women, men, Israelis, Palestinians, Christians, Muslims, Jews, youth, and elders have joined together to remind us that we are all connected as members of one international community.

I ask unanimous consent that Rabbi Cohen's October 26, 2016, post, "A rabbi in the desert: A reminder of what can be," from the Arava Institute blog be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Oct. 26, 2016]

A RABBI IN THE DESERT: A REMINDER OF  
WHAT CAN BE

When I was five I attended my first political rally. It was the March on Trenton which paralleled the famous March on Washington and Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream Speech." The event in Trenton, New Jersey, as well as others around the country, were held for people who could not make it to the nation's capital to show nationwide support for the message of the event.

Fast forward fifty-three years later, and the grassroots Israeli-Palestinian "Women Wage Peace" movement decided on the same format; rallies throughout the country followed by a rally in Jerusalem. So during the week of the Sukkot holiday, I found myself standing at the official Israeli-Jordanian border crossing between Eilat and Aqaba with members of the southern Arava valley communities including Kibbutz Ketura and students, staff, and faculty of the Arava Institute. The message of the rally was women demanding, with men invited to participate, a model of political leadership that would transform decades of failure when it comes to a settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. "Right, Center, Left Demand a Peace Agreement" was the slogan of the rally. After a march along the Eilat promenade there were a number of speeches including one by the mayor of Eilat.

The following day many of us got up before the sun so we could travel first to Qasr al-Yahud, the Jordan River Baptist site and then onto Jerusalem. At Qasr al-Yahud we joined together with hundreds of Palestinians. People shared smiles, food, and a sense of doing something important together. It was a powerful sight as we marched, many hand in hand, from the gathering point to the baptismal site.

There, participants mingled with Christian pilgrims who had come to the site for baptism ceremonies. The Jordan River at that point is some fifteen feet wide and on both sides steps allow pilgrims easy access to its holy waters. A member of Kibbutz Ketura pointed out a man with white beard sitting on the Jordanian side of the river who had visited the Arava Institute shortly after our arrival this summer! He owns a farm near that spot and is working with Dr. Clive Lipchin, the Director of our Center for Transboundary Water Management, and Arava alumnus and researcher Suleiman Halasah, to install the prototype of a new solar desalination system in Jordan. He came to support the March from the Jordanian side of the border. I called across the river and border. He immediately recognized me and we had a conversation much to the delight and surprise of those who listened to us. This extraordinary encounter modelled what the Arava Institute is capable of creating, and by extension what the Women Wage Peace event was all about.

The rally was addressed by Liberian Nobel Peace Prize laureate Leymah Roberta Gbowee, whose story of empowerment, bravery, and strength resonated with the marchers. From Qasr al-Yahud we continued on our way to Jerusalem, where our numbers swelled to 20,000 as we marched past Israeli government ministry buildings, the Knesset, the Prime Minister's office, the President's House, and finally ended up a block from the Prime Minister's residence. The marchers' spirits were uplifted by the sight of so many people snaking their way through the streets and neighborhoods of Jerusalem. At the final rally, Yael Deckelbaum led us in her touching song "Prayer of the Mothers".

The day was called the March of Hope. Hope is one of the great motivating forces in our lives; it allows us to reach forward to what we want. The day was a strong reminder of what can be. The activities of the Arava Institute are daily reminders that hope can also be lived as a reality.

RECOGNIZING ALLENHOLM FARM  
AND THE ALLEN FAMILY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermonters understand the value of hard work and perseverance, and we take pride in passing those values from generation to generation. Our communities thrive on family-owned businesses built on these values. They form the roots of success in our Green Mountain State, and it is those who own and operate them who are providing the leadership that will carry our State into the future. Today I want to recognize one exceptional Vermont family for the success of their multigenerational Vermont enterprise and their continued commitment to Vermont values.

Founded in 1870, Allenholm Farm is Vermont's largest apple orchard. At its helm is Ray W. Allen, whose great-grandfather Rueben Allen planted the farm's first apple trees more than 150 years ago, and Ray's wife and partner, Pam. After graduating from the University of Vermont with a degree in agriculture, Ray returned to the family farm he had worked as a child, eventually purchasing it from his father in 1960. More than five decades of running the farm haven't slowed Ray down, and he can still be found fixing machinery,

giving tours of the orchard, and loading delicious Vermont apples into trucks for shipment.

Like many Vermont businessowners, Ray knows the value of diversification. In addition to the apples it sells to local grocery stores and cider makers, the farm harvests raspberries, blueberries, and cherries, some of which are sold to Vermont's world-renowned Alchemist Brewery. Ray and Pam, his wife of 31 years, work together to make hundreds of apple pies that are then baked fresh on demand. The autumn season brings thousands of guests, often multigenerational families themselves, for pick-your-own apples and visits to Willie and Sassafras, the farm's pet donkeys. Visitors may also enjoy maple creemees, a soft serve ice cream that is as unique to the State as the patented Vermont Gold apple variety is to Allenholm Farm.

Ray's dedication to his farm is matched only by his commitment to his family's legacy. As he hands down his knowledge of the apple business to his children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren, he passes on something else: a commitment to building on the past to create a successful Vermont for future generations.

I ask unanimous consent that an October 1 story from the Burlington Free Press about the successful Allenholm Farm in South Hero, VT, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Oct. 1,  
2016]

LOCALVORE SINCE 1870 AT ALLENHOLM FARM  
IN SOUTH HERO  
(By Sally Pollak)

SOUTH HERO.—When the apple pies are sold out, the goats are spitting out grain-filled ice cream cones, and the porta-potties need to be emptied, it's been a busy weekend at Allenholm Farm.

Count last weekend as very busy. Thousands of people visited the South Hero orchard, the owners estimated.

"The groups were really big," co-owner Pam Allen said. "Generational groups."

Allenholm Farm, founded in 1870, is itself multi-generational—seven and counting. The farm in South Hero is thought to be the oldest commercial orchard in the state, according to its owner, Ray W. Allen. Allen, who will turn 80 next month, has owned and operated the farm for 56 years. His great-grandfather, Ruben Allen, planted the first apple trees at the farm almost 150 years ago; the last of the original trees died in 1978.

At one time, Allenholm Farm was a diversified family farm with dairy cows, sheep, hogs and poultry, horses for plowing. These days, the 275-acre farm is primarily an apple orchard, with 2,000 trees growing on roughly 25 acres. The farm also produces cherries, berries, pears and pumpkins.

Farm animals are confined, mostly, to a petting zoo, though a donkey named Willy sometimes strolls down South Street, site of the farm. That's when Ray C. Allen, sheriff of Grand Isle County and son of Ray W. Allen, telephones his stepmother with a message:

"Your husband's ass is in the middle of the road again," the sheriff tells her.

This is family duty, he said. Not law and order.

Ray W. Allen, steadfast and true to the farm, is also a bit of a wanderer. Over the years he has gone off to high school at Lyndon Institute in the Northeast Kingdom; run 25 marathons; appeared on stage in community theater, served as a trustee at the University of Vermont, his alma mater; and volunteered as an EMT—late-night calls before early-morning chores.

Monday morning he was up at 3:15 for a bank run to deposit the weekend's cash. At 4:30, he was back home in his kitchen, hand-mixing pie dough for some of the 2,500 pies Allenholm Farm makes each year. (Ray Allen mixes the dough; Pam Allen makes the filling.)

At 5 a.m., he and his grandson, Brandon Allen, met at the big gray storage shed across from the farmstand to load trucks with boxes of apples for delivery to Hannaford supermarkets.

"It's a good time," Brandon Allen said. "Quality bonding time at 5 in the morning."

#### STORIED HISTORY OF APPLE PRODUCTION

The Champlain Islands have a long history of quality apple production, said Terry Bradshaw, apple specialist at UVM and director of its Horticulture Research Center. The lake climate—which makes for a cooler summer and protects against frost—provides superior growing and ripening conditions, especially for McIntosh apples, he said. In addition, access to the lake in the early 20th century meant transportation for shipping fruit north to the port of Montreal and south to New York.

"It's historic," Bradshaw said of Allenholm Farm.

The history dates to the founding of Vermont. Pam Allen, Ray Allen's second wife, is a descendant of Thomas Chittenden, Vermont's first governor. Ray Allen descends from Moses Robinson, the state's second governor.

"Illegitimate," Allen said of his ancestry.

More recent farm history includes the end of dairying about half a century ago, and getting in on the craft beer boom. Allen sells his cherries to the Alchemist, the Stowe brewery that makes Heady Topper. The cherries are used in a beer called Petit Mutant. Perks of this job include beer delivery to the farm by Alchemist brewer John Kimmich.

#### 'COOL GUY'

But the main crop is apples, and the primary variety is McIntosh. A crew of six seasonal farm workers from Jamaica are the apple pickers. The men live at the farm in a former dairy barn converted to housing. Winston Waugh, from St. Ann, Jamaica, has worked at Allenholm Farm for about 20 years.

"He's a cool guy," Waugh said of Ray Allen. "He's quite OK."

Picking is hard work, Waugh said, especially in cold weather. It's crucial not to bruise the fruit, he said.

The season's dry weather calls for "selective picking," Allen said, as opposed to stripping a tree of fruit. Selective picking yields 50 to 60 bushels of apples per day per picker, he said. When you strip a tree, an apple-picker brings in about 90 bushels a day.

The size of the apples is important, too. Apples that are three or more inches in diameter are worth \$40 a bushel; two-and-a-half to three inches are worth about \$30 a bushel; less than two-and-a-half inches sell for \$5.50 to \$7 a bushel, Allen said.

In the winter and into spring, before the apple trees bloom, Allen is in his orchards pruning trees. He fixes machinery and works in the farm store, which is open until Christmas Eve.

Last spring, Allen had surgery to replace both his knees. He wore them out not from farming or running, but by wearing Western-

style boots 365 days a year, he said. Allen didn't want to sit around on the couch, drink beer, and feel sorry for himself, so he challenged himself to be active. Within six days, he was driving around the farm.

"He's a character," his son said.

His roles include welcoming visitors to Allenholm Farm and leading tours. Allen expects future generations will fulfill these and other duties; but he has no plans to retire.

"I would hate to be the one to lose it," he said. "This is the 146th year. I sure don't want to be the first one to lose the farm."

#### CONSUMER REVIEW FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as chairman of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, which has jurisdiction over consumer protection matters, I introduced the bipartisan Consumer Review Freedom Act last year, along with Senators SCHATZ and MORAN, and cosponsored by Senators MCCASKILL, DAINES, BLUMENTHAL, NELSON, BOOKER, and WYDEN, to address a growing and alarming trend affecting American consumers in the United States. Some businesses are slipping so-called gag clauses into form contracts to stop consumers from providing critical feedback to the public, even when that feedback is an honest reflection of the consumer experience.

This legislation, and companion legislation agreed to in the House of Representatives would invalidate non-disparagement clauses in form contracts and make it unlawful for a person to offer or enter into a contract containing a nonnegotiable nondisparagement clause. Both bills contain a rule of construction to clarify that the legislation should not be construed to affect the right of a Web site owner to remove a review that "contains the personal information or likeness of another person or is libelous, harassing, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, or inappropriate with respect to race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or other intrinsic characteristic."

This language is simply intended to preserve the existing ability of Web site operators to enforce such terms of service. For example, it would—and is intended to—preserve the ability of a business to remove language from its Web site that includes inappropriate or harassing references to someone's religion, physical disability, or similar characteristic. As highlighted at the Commerce Committee hearing on this legislation, the intent is not to regulate speech; the intent is to ensure that consumers are protected against fees and penalties imposed pursuant to form contracts for engaging in honest reviews of goods and services.

I am pleased that the Senate has passed the latest version of this legislation and that it will be headed to the President's desk for signature. I thank my colleagues for their support of this measure.

#### HONORING CHARLES E. RUDLER

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Charles E. Rudler, a

World War II infantry soldier and prisoner of war who selflessly served his Nation with distinction.

Born in Linesville, PA, on March 26, 1925, Charles Rudler was an 18-year-old truck driver when he began his service in the U.S. Army in 1943. Serving as a rifleman during WWII, he landed on the beaches of Normandy and fought through northern France, the Ardennes, and Central Europe.

Unfortunately, Rudler was captured while fighting the Nazis and held as a POW through the end of the war at Stalag 3A, a brutal prison and work camp near Brandenburg, Germany. He survived this ordeal and separated from the service at the end of the war with an honorable discharge in 1945.

For his bravery and determination, Rudler has been awarded the WWII Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, a Purple Heart, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Stars.

For these reasons, I wish to honor Charles Rudler for his service and sacrifice in defense of our Nation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Lempster, NH—a town in Sullivan County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am delighted to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this historic occasion.

The territory was originally discovered in 1735. In 1753 it was regranted and named Dupplin after a leader of Nova Scotia at the time. Lempster, named for Sir Thomas Fermor of Lempster, England, received its current name after it was regranted a final time in 1767.

Lempster is located in the center of western New Hampshire and consists of three parts: East Lempster, Dodge Hollow, and Keyes Hollow. With a population of 1,154 residents, this close-knit town may be best known for its meetinghouse that is more than 200 years old. The meetinghouse is a source of great pride for Lempster and embodies its deep historical roots.

The town of Lempster is also home to a number of unique landmarks, including New Hampshire's first wind farm. Additionally, Lempster also received the first electric pole under the Rural Electrification Act on December 4, 1939. Nestled among these landmarks are beautiful recreational areas that allow the residents of Lempster and countless visitors the ability to enjoy all that the Granite State has to offer.

On behalf of all Granite Staters, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Lempster on reaching this special milestone, and I thank them for their many contributions to the life and spirit of the State of New Hampshire.●