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ON SHALOM TV, AB YEHOSHUA DEFENDS CLAIM THAT TOTAL JEWISHNESS IS ONLY POSSIBLE IN ISRAEL

[Also attacks halakhic definition of a Jew and says that Zionism is not ideology](#)

Famed Israeli novelist Avraham Boolie Yehoshua continued his controversial stance on diaspora Jewry in a recent New York City presentation airing on Shalom TV.



Speaking at a Dor Chadash gathering at the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, AB Yehoshua asserted that total immersion in Jewish identity was only possible in Israel, and that Jews living outside of that country can only share a portion of this experience.

"We [in Israel] are living in compulsory relationship with one another," explained AB Yehoshua. "You [in the diaspora] are voluntary Jews. In Israel, we are dominated by Jews and the relationship is total.

"I don't say we are better and you are worse. I just state the difference in the quantity of Jewishness that is automatic in Israel and the totality of the relationship vis-à-vis your partiality. You, yourself, are using the term 'more Jewish' and 'less Jewish,' and this is very legitimate. If Jewishness is important to you, come to the totality [in Israel] or at least link yourself to the totality."



"AB Yehoshua's remarks have spawned an intense and passionate dialogue within the Jewish community," commented network president Rabbi Mark S. Golub. "I am very pleased that through Shalom TV our viewers have the chance to hear his position articulated in his own words. I believe Shalom TV is the only place on American television where people can watch this significant and thought-provoking presentation."

As part of his speech, AB Yehoshua challenged the halakhic definition of a Jew as a child of Jewish mother.



"If you take that definition, you see emptiness. Not one word about living in a territory, or speaking a language, or believing in a God. According to halakhah, religion is only an appendix and not a necessity in the definition."

Modern Zionism, according to AB Yehoshua, is not an ideology but is a confirmation of the single principle that the State of Israel belongs both to its citizens and the Jewish people.

Dor Chadash, which brought AB Yehoshua to the JCC in Manhattan, describes itself as a network of thousands of Israeli and American Jews creating meaningful connections with Israel through cutting edge programs and engaging events directed at an audience between 25 and 40 years of age.

Shalom TV, America's Jewish cable network, is a subscription Video On Demand service offered by Comcast and Blue Ridge cable systems. Information on the television service, including a schedule of programs, is posted online at www.shalomtv.com.

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