



## Susanna Speier

Multiplatform Scribe, Susannaspeier.com

Posted: August 5, 2010 04:57 PM

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[The Huffington Post](#)  
[Susanna Speier](#)

AUGUST 8, 2010

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### **Ground Zero Mosque Controversy Politiku**

Not only is the Ground Zero Mosque controversy a misnomer in title -- the [51 Park Mosque and Community Center](#) (formerly referred to as Cordoba House) is not actually visible from the actual Ground Zero site -- but it misses the mark in a far scarier way. It fails to address what is actually at stake. The opposition to the Mosque, thus far, has been based in the assumption that its presence near the Ground Zero site is insensitive to 9/11 victims and survivors.

[Last month's Politiku dealt with Combat Trauma.](#) The Politiku post illustrated how memories of traumatic events -- in their most acute manifestation -- can make benign and even celebratory activities in safe environments feel threatening. Individuals suffering from P.T.S.D. can respond to the visual and audio stimuli -- such as a 4th of July fireworks celebration -- with a fight/flight response triggered by stimuli resembling something experienced in combat.

Would the presence of the 51 Park Mosque and Community Center -- a place that bears no resemblance to an actual terrorist attack -- trigger a unique response in a 9/11 victim or survivor visiting the area? If the sights, sounds, smells and vibrations of the Mosque and Community Center resembled 9/11 and its aftermath, there is a good chance that it would. The concern therefore needs to be addressed straight on: Is 51 Park be a security threat?

Given the growing number of terrorist cells in this country, fear of another terrorist attack is, unfortunately, a legitimate concern all over the country and not just near Ground Zero.

If I were a professional terrorist, would I choose one of the highest profile moderate Islamic Mosque and Community centers in the country to take my clandestine cell to roost? Not if I was any good at what I did.

Security would be heightened and I'd have the additional scrutiny of a moderate New York Muslim community to contend with. Any genuine alliances I might try and build with this community would run me the risk of alienating my extremist colleagues and peers. Any disingenuous alliances I might try and build would increase my risk of exposure.

Of course, these assumptions are all based on conjecture. I am not a terrorist and neither are the New York Muslims I know who would use the Mosque and Community Center.

When the [Anti Defamation League](#) officiated their opposition to the Mosque, the issue became personal. The ADL's decision to oppose Park 51 not only threatened their own credibility but it also threatened the very Constitutional principles that prompted my Jewish ancestors to flee Europe and settle in the United States.

I [blogged](#) about these concerns earlier this week and thanks to the assistance of my friend, Rachel Levy, I was able to assemble a compendium of Politiku written by Jews who live or have, at some point, lived in New York and were willing to condense their sentiments into seventeen syllables:

**David Berkowitz Politiku Minarets** and domes join crosses, stars and towers on New York's skyline

[David Berkowitz](#) is Senior Director of Emerging Media & Innovation for a digital marketing agency.

**Julie Canter Politiku**

Jews must unite in anti-mosque fight, to tell newt and the right: Get lost  
Julie Canter is the co-founder of [Chutzpah magazine](#)

**Nora Rubel Politiku** Muddled, wrongheaded sad responseto bigotry. But justice wins out.

[Nora Rubel](#) is an Associate Professor of Religion at the University of Rochester and the author of *Doubting the Devout* (2010 Columbia University Press), which analyzes depictions of ultra-Orthodox Jews in popular American culture.

<b>David</b>		<b>Sauvage</b>		<b>Politiku</b>
it's		so		annoying
when	stupid,		petty	people
deserve to be heard				

[David Sauvage](#) is an award-winning filmmaker.

<b>Andrew</b>		<b>Solomon</b>		<b>Politiku</b>
Our	duty		is	this:
We	must	love	our	enemies
Until they are friends.				

<b>Hath</b>		<b>not</b>		<b>a</b>		<b>Muslim</b>
eyes,	ears,	heart,	faith,	love,	and	rights?
Then let us love, too.						

[Andrew Solomon](#) won the National Book Award for [The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression](#), and is a lecturer in psychology at Weill-Cornell Medical College.

<b>Randi</b>		<b>Cecchine</b>		<b>Politiku</b>
Oh		Divine		Creator
giving	us	neurons	for	faith
and atheism				

<b>We</b>		<b>thank</b>		<b>your</b>		<b>challenge</b>
to	evolve	past	tribe	and		hurt
towards our true oneness						

[Randi Cecchine](#) is a documentary filmmaker living in New York City.

<b>Rachel</b>		<b>Levy</b>		<b>Politiku</b>
Now	a	war	on	faith?

War on terror: one mil dead.  
Enough. Heal with peace.

[Rachel Levy](#) is a writer who lives in Ashland, Virginia.

**Rebecca Lieb Politiku**  
freedom to ignore  
the first amendment means that  
the bad guys just won

[Rebecca Lieb](#) is a vice president at Econsultancy, where she oversees the company's U.S. operations.

Shortly after I began collecting Politiku submissions, Mayor Mike Bloomberg announced Park 51 had the green light to proceed. [The speech, made from Governor's Island](#), nailed this issue -- its historic context and its Constitutional significance -- in a way no one else has. My Politiku is therefore a tribute to the speech Mayor Bloomberg delivered on August 3, 2010 from Governor's Island.

**Susanna Speier Politiku**  
Intolerance like  
Stuyvesant's Amsterdam  
is not here and now.  
New

Politiku



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**David** Minarets join on  
**Berkowitz** and stars  
 crosses, New York's  
**Politiku** domes towers skyline

[David Berkowitz](#) is Senior Director of Emerging Media & Innovation for a digital marketing agency.

**Julie** Jews anti-mosque and  
**Canter** must fight, the right:  
 unite to tell get  
**Politiku** in newt lost

Julie Canter is the co-founder of [Chutzpah magazine](#)

**Nora** Muddled, sad  
**Rubel** response to  
**Politiku** wrongheaded bigotry.  
 But justice wins out.

[Nora Rubel](#) is an Associate Professor of Religion at the University of Rochester and the author of *Doubting the Devout* (2010 Columbia University Press), which analyzes depictions of ultra-Orthodox Jews in popular American culture.

**David** it's when deserve to be heard  
**Sauvage** so petty  
**Politiku** annoying people  
 stupid,

[David Sauvage](#) is an award-winning filmmaker.

**Andrew** Our We Until they are friends.  
**Solomon** duty love is our  
**Politiku** this: enemies  
 Hath eyes, ears, heart, faith, love, and Muslim rights?  
 Then let us love, too.

[Andrew Solomon](#) won the National Book Award for [The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression](#), and is a lecturer in psychology at Weill-Cornell Medical College.

**Randi** Oh giving and atheism  
**Cecchine** Divine neurons for  
**Politiku** Creator faith  
 We to evolve thank past tribe and challenge hurt  
 towards our true oneness

[Randi Cecchine](#) is a documentary filmmaker living in New York City.

**Rachel** Now War Enough. Heal with peace.  
**Levy** a war on terror: one mil  
**Politiku** faith? dead.

[Rachel Levy](#) is a writer who lives in Ashland, Virginia.

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