

# The Forward Eagle

Compiled Weekly

for

The Riverdale Senior Services Center  
Bronx, NY

“Let us endeavor mutually to enlighten one another.”

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## Current events

1.

Eva Illouz is a professor of sociology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Paris. She was recently asked about her criticism of the Israeli war in Gaza.

“For me,” replied Illouz, “a break came when Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated in November 1995 and Benjamin Netanyahu led a campaign to demonize Rabin because of the Oslo peace process. Netanyahu was elected a few months later in 1996. Then I realized that something very bad was brewing. It was the moment of great rupture. Religious messianists had now come to power and would henceforth lead Israel. I had hoped I was wrong. We can no longer deny the place they occupy and their determination to make Israel something very different from what original Zionism intended.”

2.

A Socinian was a follower of the rationalistic Faustus Socinus and the Socinian movement, a 16th and 17th-century Protestant theological system that rejected the Trinity, the deity of Christ, and original sin.

Socinians emphasized reason, a simplified Christianity focused on ethics and moral conduct, and viewed Christ as a divinely appointed, but human, prophet.

The movement evolved into Unitarianism and is seen as a precursor to modern religious tolerance and religious movements that question traditional dogma.

3.

*Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, 584 U.S. 617 (2018), was a case in the United States Supreme Court that addressed whether or not owners of a public accommodation can refuse services based on First Amendment claims of free speech and free exercise of religion. An exemption from the non-discrimination law in public accommodations was granted by the Supreme Court because of the cakeshop owner's religious beliefs.

The case dealt with Masterpiece Cakeshop, a bakery in Lakewood, Colorado, which refused to design a wedding cake for a gay couple based on the owner's religious beliefs.

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission evaluated the case under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. The Commission found that the bakery had discriminated against the couple and issued orders for the bakery to bake the cake. Following appeals within the state, the Commission's decision against the bakery was affirmed. Then the bakery owner took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In a 7–2 decision, the Court ruled that the Commission did not employ *religious neutrality*, thus violating cakeshop owner's right to free exercise of his religion. The Supreme Court reversed the state Commission's decision.

The Court did not rule on the broader intersection of anti-discrimination laws, free exercise of religion and freedom of speech, due to the lack of *religious neutrality* review in the Commission's case findings. Justices Kagan and Ginsburg dissented.



Untitled (Cupcake) oil and graphite on paper by Wayne Thiebaud circa 2001

4.

On September 15, 2025, in the Middle District Court of Florida, 11<sup>th</sup> US Circuit, Donald Trump filed a lawsuit against the New York Times Company, Penguin Random House LLC, and individual authors. Plaintiff, represented by private counsel, alleged defamation by defendants against him during the 2024 U.S. presidential election. Filing under joint claims of defamation per se and defamation per quod, Trump sought monetary damages to the tune of fifteen billion dollars, plus any additional punitive damages the court found appropriate. The case was assigned to Judge Steven Douglas Merryday.

On September 19, 2025, Judge Merryday struck the complaint! The court found that the complaint, which proceeded for eighty pages before stating a claim for relief, was in violation of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 8(a), since it did not include “a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” The court wrote the complaint also seemed contrary to Rule 8(e)(1) “[e]ach averment of a pleading shall be simple, concise, and direct.” Judge Merryday gave plaintiff twenty-eight days to refile a complaint that was to be no more than forty pages in length.

## Word of the week

### frame

/frām/  
noun

1. a rigid structure that surrounds or encloses something such as a door or window.

2. A person's body: with reference to its size or build.
3. a basic structure that underlies or supports a system, concept, or text.
4. Technical: short for frame of reference.
5. Archaic: the structure, constitution, or nature of someone or something.
6. a single complete picture in a series forming a movie, television, or video film.
7. a graphic panel in a display window, especially in a web browser
8. Linguistics: a structural environment within which a class of words or other linguistic units can be correctly used. For example **I** — **him** is a frame for a large class of transitive verbs.

### verb

1. place (a picture or photograph) in a frame.
2. surround so as to emphasize an image.
3. create or formulate (a concept, plan, or system).
4. form or articulate (words).
5. Informal: produce false evidence against (an innocent person) so that they appear guilty.

## The Forward Eagle

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Tim Forward Editor

This paper is offered as a review of recent topics  
taken up by the current events discussion group at  
The Riverdale Senior Services Center.

Please join us at the Center for Ageless Living,  
2600 Netherland Avenue, Bronx, NY each Monday  
at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon for Current Events  
& Discussion

Items in this week's Eagle were collected and edited from:

1. k-larevue.com 4/10/25 | 2. Google AI 9/22/25 | 3. Wikipedia 9/25/25 | 4. Civil Rights Clearinghouse, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri 9/15/25