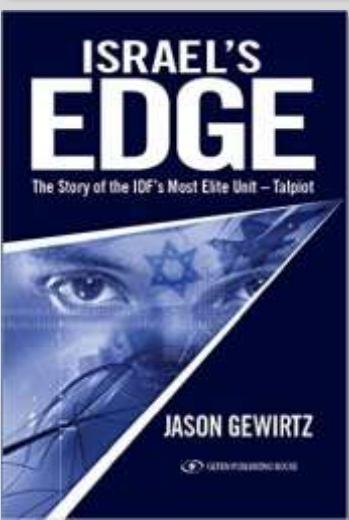


Author Jason Gewirtz to Present the Story of the IDF'S Most Elite Unit

Mark Kirchhoff, Program and Communications Assistant

In an age of increasing sophistication in technology and military weapons, just having boots on the ground, ships on the sea, and planes in the air is not sufficient. To maintain a strategic edge over the enemy, Israel has created a special, secretive IDF unit called **Talpiot** to meet this challenge. On Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Jewish Community Center, former IDF soldier Jason Gewirtz will share his insights into the workings of this specialized unit by discussing his recent book, *Israel's Edge: The Story of the IDF's Most Elite Unit – Talpiot*.



In an article in *The Jerusalem Post*, Gewirtz explains that "Instead of being trained to fight immediately, the few soldiers each year selected for Talpiot are taught how to think. In order to join this unit they have to commit to being in the army for 10 years, rather than the three years a normal soldier serves. Talpiot members are taught advanced level physics, math and computer science as they train with soldiers from every other branch of the IDF. The result: young men and women who can take their classroom experience and combine it with battlefield experience in order to become research and development machines," he added. New recruits take science classes at the Hebrew University for their first three years while simultaneously training with ground forces, paratroopers, naval units, and the air force. After three years of this regimen, the Talpiot are matched with an opening in their area of interest and

expertise. This might be in the conventional branches of service, but could be with a defense company, or potentially as an agent for the Ministry of Defense. Some work with the Israeli space industry. The areas in which they contribute are broad.

Jason Gewirtz is currently an executive producer for the business network CNBC. He has worked as a producer at the network since 2001 and has covered Israel and Israeli business extensively for CNBC. He worked for the network from northern Israel during the Second Lebanon War in 2006. He followed Warren Buffett to Tefen, a town in our Partnership2Gether region, when the billionaire investor bought the metal working company ISCAR from the Wertheimer family.

Jason covered the attacks from Gaza on southern Israeli towns like Sderot and examined the economic impact. He produced “Beyond the Barrel: The Race to Fuel the Future” which was shot on five continents and was largely focused on several Israeli born energy technologies. He currently produces “Power Lunch” which is broadcast live each day jointly from CNBC’s Global Headquarters and the New York Stock Exchange and can be seen all over the world. Jason graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has a master’s degree from Syracuse University. He has worked extensively as a volunteer in Israel.

Gewirtz’s presentation on March 29 at 7 p. m. in the Social Hall of the Jewish Community Center is open to the public free of charge. He is coming to Omaha through the Jewish Federation of Omaha and the Jewish Book Council. Please also mark your calendars for presentations by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin on April 20 at 7 p.m. at Temple Israel and for Janice Kaplan on June 7 with time and location TBA.