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“The Syrian tragedy started in a moment of deceptive simplicity,” writes Robert F. Worth, “when the peaceful protesters of the 2011 Arab Spring seemed destined to inherit the future.” As a protest movement turned into a full-blown civil war, how did a city that seemed so averse to politics wind up becoming so central to the conflict — and, as a result, be torn apart? Few Americans have been permitted to travel to Aleppo since the Assad regime’s victory in December, but for this week’s cover story, Worth and the photographer Sebastián Liste went to see the [new reality](#) faced by Aleppans after the city’s fall.

Elsewhere in the magazine, Alec MacGillis investigates a Baltimore-area property owner who renters say neglects their homes and often sues — a landlord who, to the surprise of most residents, is [Jared Kushner](#), the president’s son-in-law. Molly Young writes about the rise of celebrity wellness gurus and profiles [Amanda Chantal Bacon](#). And Marcela Valdes reports on the challenges of [resisting deportations](#) in the age of Trump.

Happy reading,

**Jake Silverstein**

Editor in Chief

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 **Al-Hatab Square in Aleppo's Old City.**

Al-Hatab Square in Aleppo's Old City. Sebastián Liste/Noor Images, for The New York Times

**FEATURE**

# Aleppo After the Fall

By ROBERT F. WORTH

As the Syrian civil war turns in favor of the regime, a nation adjusts to a new reality — and a complicated new picture of the conflict emerges.

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 **Baltimore-area properties owned by Kushner Companies.**

Philip Montgomery for The New York Times

 **Erika Andiola, right, an immigrants rights activist, is fighting the deportation of her mother, Maria Guadalupe Arreola.**

Damon Casarez for The New York Times

**FEATURE**

## Jared Kushner's Other Real Estate Empire

By ALEC MACGILLIS

Baltimore-area renters complain about a property owner they say is neglectful and litigious. Few know their landlord is the president's son-in-law.

**FEATURE**

## Is It Possible to Resist Deportation in Trump's America?

By MARCELA VALDES

Living under draconian state laws, Arizona activists honed an effective strategy for keeping undocumented immigrants in the country. Can the same tools still work today?

**ON SPORTS**

## Where Did the Great Hollywood Baseball Movie Go?

By JAY CASPIAN KANG

In an era of analysts and HD broadcasts, audiences don't see the players as larger-than-life characters anymore.



TALK

## Janet Mock Struggles With Being Called a 'Trans Advocate'

Interview by ANA MARIE COX

The author on giving young people life advice and what she learned from sex work.



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 [Amanda Chantal Bacon.](#)

Amanda Chantal Bacon. Tierney Gearon for The New York Times

FEATURE

## How Amanda Chantal Bacon Perfected the Celebrity Wellness Business

By MOLLY YOUNG

Deciphering the rise of a lifestyle guru who sells self-absorption as the ultimate luxury product.

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 A reality show so punishingly mundane it becomes beautiful.

Illustration by Carolyn Figel

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

## Letter of Recommendation: ‘Terrace ‘Independent’ In Today’s House’

By ANDREW RIDKER

A reality show so punishingly mundane that it becomes beautiful.



Illustration by Derek Brahney

**FIRST WORDS**

## Can Anyone Be Truly Polarized Politics?

By BEVERLY GAGE

Americans may be losing faith in the idea that any figure or institution can rise entirely above the partisan fray.

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**EAT**

## A Taste of Home in One Pot

By TEJAL RAO

The beans and pork of northern Mexico, by way of San Francisco.



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**THE ETHICIST**

## Should You Expose a Charity That Exploits Its Employees?

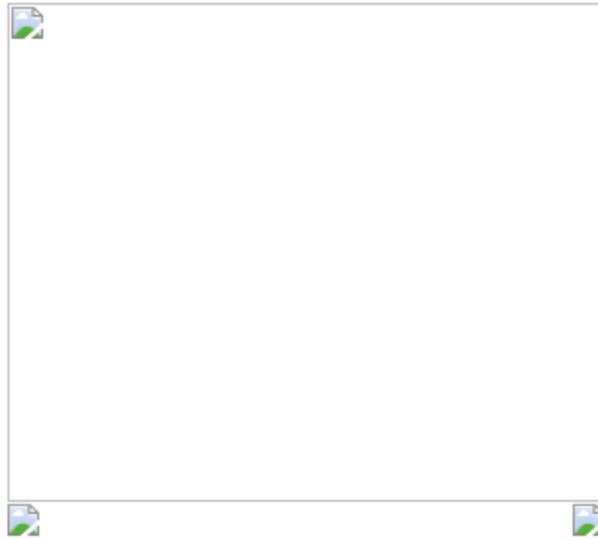
By KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH

The magazine’s Ethicist columnist on how to balance the good a nonprofit does against how it treats those who work for it and whether you should give away your cigarettes when you quit.



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