

**UAHC ADOPTS PROGRAM TO STEM 'EPIDEMIC' OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUTH WHO HAVE FALLEN THROUGH THE JEWISH SAFETY NET**

MIAMI BEACH, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- The Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) has adopted a nationwide program to stem the "epidemic" of suicide among teen-agers who have "fallen through the Jewish safety net of family and synagogue."

The program, believed to be the first attempt by any national religious organization to deal with suicide among young people, was approved by the UAHC's Board of Trustees today after hearing a report by UAHC president Rabbi Alexander Schindler confirming a high rate of suicide among Jewish teenagers.

The Board, holding its semi-annual meeting here, authorized the establishment within the UAHC's 770 Reform congregations of a new institute to be called "Yad Tikvah" (Hand of Hope) which will serve as a training, research and educational center for Reform Jewish activities to deal with teen-age suicide.

**Cites Troubling Statistics**

Schindler's report, delivered yesterday, noted that suicide among adolescents has reached "epidemic proportions." Every day, 18 young Americans kill themselves, a 300 percent increase over the past 20 years. Suicide now is the second leading cause of death among young people, after accidents, many of which are suspected suicides, Schindler said.

He noted that the suicide rate for young people was higher among college students than among those who do not attend college. "Because the percentage of Jewish youth attending college exceeds that of the general population, we must draw the grim conclusion that the suicide rate among Jewish youth is also disproportionately high," Schindler said.

"These troubling statistics," he said, "are confirmed by alarming reports of suicide among Jewish youth which we are receiving from rabbis, educators, counsellors and youth leaders across the country."

In response to Schindler's report, the UAHC Trustees established a task force on teen-age suicide to train rabbis and teachers in Reform congregations "to recognize the warning signals of this sickness," to develop educational materials for a suicide prevention program and to devise "some means for crisis intervention on a national regional and perhaps even congregational level."

**7 TONS OF CLOTHING, CLOTH DONATED TO JDC IS ON ITS WAY TO ETHIOPIA**

NEW YORK, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- An Alitalia plane left from Kennedy International Airport today with seven tons of donated new clothing and cloth at an estimated value of \$220,000 for distribution in Ethiopia. It was donated to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, it was announced by the JDC.

The transportation of the clothing and cloth to Rome was provided gratis by Alitalia. Ethiopian Airlines will transfer the goods from Rome to Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

Earlier, last week, Ethiopian government authorities advised the JDC that the "greater portion" of a 70-ton, \$500,000 shipment of new clothing, cloth

and hospital supplies has been distributed. According to the officials of the Ethiopian Relief and Rescue Commission (RRC), 78 bales of cloth and 42 bags of clothing were distributed to the needy in the Wello and Bale regions of Ethiopia, both severely affected by drought.

The report added that the remaining 2,298 cartons of hospital supplies and 54 bales of cloth "will be distributed in the shortest possible time." According to the RRC report, the medical supplies are to be made available in Gondar.

In recent weeks, the JDC received permission to operate feeding stations in the Gondar region and is negotiating with the Agency for International Development for the provision of food in coming months. An estimated half a million people face starvation in the Gondar region -- one of the areas in Ethiopia hard hit by drought, the JDC reported.

The JDC opened its mailbox to donations for Ethiopian famine relief on October 31, and has received more than \$300,000 in cash and pledges to date, a third of which was committed by the Central British Fund - World Jewish Relief in London, the JDC said.

**CINCINNATI FEDERATION CONTRIBUTES \$10,000 TO AID ETHIOPIA FAMINE VICTIMS**

CINCINNATI, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- The Jewish Federation of Cincinnati has approved a special \$10,000 contribution to assist in the worldwide efforts to aid victims of the famine in Ethiopia, it was announced by Federation president Philip Cohen.

The \$10,000 allocation will be sent along with other individual contributions from the Cincinnati Jewish Community. Monetary aid will be sent to Ethiopia via the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Cohen said.

The JDC efforts, he said, will be coordinated with those of the Catholic, Protestant and other non-sectarian agencies providing humanitarian assistance for the victims of the famine in Africa. In the past year, JDC aid has been used in developing health services in the Gondar province, and the government of Ethiopia has asked JDC and other voluntary agencies for help in the famine relief effort.

Cohen said, "The \$10,000 which our Federation is sending to Ethiopia expresses the Jewish commitment and tradition of 'Tzedakah' - a Hebrew word which translates to righteousness and justice and signifies the commitment toward 'helping those in need' regardless of race, religion or nationality. We feel all those people who have food should be as generous as possible in helping to save victims of the famine-stricken areas of Africa."

**CHIEF RABBIS AGREE TO MODIFY SYMBOLIC RITUALS FOR FALASHAS**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- Israel's two Chief Rabbis have agreed to modify the symbolic conversion rituals required of Ethiopian Jews immigrating to Israel. The Chief Rabbis decreed that from now on, Ethiopian males entering Israel will not have to submit to symbolic circumcision but must immerse themselves in a mikve (ritual bath) to erase any doubt that they are authentic Jews. But, Rahamin Elazar, head of the Public Council for Ethiopian Jews, welcomed the move but said "This demand is still a humiliating act."

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES REFUSING TO FORGET THE PAST

By Aviva Cantor

(Part Four Of A Five-Part Series)

VIENNA, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz told an international group of Jewish journalists covering the series of events here documenting the "Vanished World" of European Jewry that he was "shocked by the extent" of anti-Semitism in Austria revealed in a recently published sociological survey conducted by Dr. Hilde Weiss of the University of Vienna (See related story).

Gratz, who serves as honorary president of the Jewish Welcome Service, which coordinated the "Vanished World" series, said that while "everybody knew there was a percentage of anti-Semitism in Austria" the percentages revealed by the study -- 25 percent strong prejudices, 60 percent weak to medium -- "came as a shock." Still he thought it would be "wrong to say that 25 percent of the population are latent Nazis; I don't think this is true."

Saying that nobody has been able to provide a "real explanation" of the phenomenon of anti-Semitism, Gratz pointed to the finding in the study that anti-Jewish bias is lowest among the youth and in Vienna, where the largest numbers of Jews live, and highest in Tyrol villages where there hasn't been a Jew in 100 years.

The Foreign Minister, formerly Mayor of Vienna, said he had discussed the issue with the Minister of Education and that "the conclusion can only be to try to intensify education in our schools, and intensify every effort on the part of politicians and educational centers." The Austrian television officials, he said, "also took the study to heart."

### Documentary On The East European Shtetl

Even before the study was published and the "Vanished World" project planned, ORF, one of the two Austrian television networks, was working on a documentary on the values, culture, and way of life of East European Jewry. It was shown on television November 21.

The documentary, entitled, "Farwell from the Shtetl," was made by Barbara Coudenhove-Kalergi of the East European department of the ORF -- whose programs are also seen by viewers in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and northern Yugoslavia -- in co-production with Westphalian TV. Coudenhove-Kalergi's crew shot film one week each in Poland and in Israel; Rumania refused to admit them.

It features film sequences of -- and interviews with survivors from -- various centers of pre-Holocaust Jewish life in Poland, such as Warsaw, Cracow, Lodz and Kotsk. Through the use of old stills, today's remaining cemeteries and few Jewish buildings were sharply contrasted with the thriving and vibrant Jewish life of yesteryear that is no more.

Some of the old stills, the film-maker told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, came from a private collection of a Warsaw Jew named Gustav Russ. The photos were in an album of pictures taken by a soldier in World War I and given by someone in World War II to Russ, who was saved by "Schindler's men."

To show some of the dynamics of religious Jewish life before the Holocaust, Coudenhove-Kalergi cut in scenes she filmed in Mea Shearim, the ultra-Orthodox quarter in Jerusalem, showing Jews studying, teaching, and celebrating various holidays.

Although a great deal of the focus was on religious activity and learning -- said the narrator: "The

Torah was the root of the Jewish love for study and books" -- the film also included documentation on political organizing by Zionists, the Jewish Labor Bund, and other groups. One Zionist survivor, interviewed in Israel, said: "The religious Jews waited for the Messiah, the Bund waited for the Revolution. We (Zionists) took our fate into our own hands; we became our own Messiah."

In the opening narration, Paul Lendvai, a Jew who came to Vienna after the Hungarian revolution of 1956 and who worked on the documentary, spoke about a "fight against forgetting." In an obvious reference to the "Versunkene (Vanished, literally, sunken) Welt" events, Lendvai said they marked "not only a sunken but an annihilated culture."

### Gratz Cites Contribution Of Viennese Jews

Foreign Minister Gratz, asked by JTA what effect he thought the "Vanished World" series would have in the struggle against anti-Semitism, expressed the view that it would be "beneficial." He continued:

"It is a wonderful thing to be able to show publicly and in as many ways as possible that Vienna as it is now would not exist without the contribution of Viennese Jews to culture, to science, to architecture; and to show to the Viennese that so many things they are very proud of are in reality a result of the impact of the Jews of Vienna."

Gratz believes strongly in the future of Austrian Jewry. Fifteen years ago, he said, "one had the feeling that the Jewish community in Vienna was a group of elderly people living with memories they cannot forget and dreaming of a past they can never recapture." Now there are children growing up, young people, schools, he said. "A whole new generation is playing an active role and looking to the future."

(Tomorrow: Part Five)

### 85% OF AUSTRIA'S POPULATION HAS ANTI-JEWISH BIAS, STUDY REVEALS

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Dec. 2 (JTA) -- The first comprehensive sociological study ever done in Austria since the end of World War II on anti-Semitism reveals anti-Jewish bias among 85 percent of the population -- strong among 25 percent, weak-to-medium among 60 percent.

The study, by Dr. Hilde Weiss of the University of Vienna, is based on two surveys, one taken in Vienna in 1976, the other in all the Austrian provinces in 1980. It revealed that the image of Israel is not connected positively or negatively with anti-Semitic feelings. But newer data has led Weiss to conclude that the war in Lebanon has strengthened anti-Semitism in Austria.

A major finding of the study is that people who know individual Jews tend to be much less anti-Semitic than those who have never met a Jew in their lives. While Weiss could find no correlation between the influence of income or job status on anti-Jewish prejudice, she conceded that envy arising out of economic deprivation and focused on the Jews might surface again if economic conditions became strained.

### Transmission Of Anti-Semitic Feelings

Weiss' theory is that anti-Semitic feelings constitute a kind of cultural heritage passed on by parental education, peers and to a lesser extent, teachers, and reinforced by friends, colleagues and relatives later in life. The only factor that can counteract this heritage is education. Individuals who have graduated high school or college show considerably less anti-Semitic bias than those who attended only

vocational school (which begins at age 15). The scientist attributed the difference to two factors: values taught and social pressures people are subjected to. Higher education, she said, promotes humanistic ideals and discussions of democratic attitudes and processes. It also leads to jobs and social positions where more liberal attitudes are demanded.

The study also revealed that a certain group of mostly poorly-educated and older persons believes Jews are more intelligent, culturally productive and family-minded than non-Jews. This overestimation of Jewish qualities was regarded by Weiss as just another side of the same coin.

The Jewish community in Vienna welcomed the study, with the official monthly "Die Gemeinde" calling it "more thrilling to read than a detective story."

#### HUSSEIN, IN EGYPT, SAYS HE REMAINS OPPOSED TO THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

Jerusalem, Dec. 2 (JTA) — King Hussein of Jordan, addressing the Egyptian Parliament today, offered a hard-line solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and made it clear that he remains adamantly opposed to the Camp David accords that resulted in the only peace treaty between Israel and one of its Arab neighbors — the pact signed in 1979 by the late President Anwar Sadat and then Premier Menachem Begin of Israel.

Hussein appeared before the Egyptian legislature fresh from the week-long Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Amman where he played host to Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat and the so-called Palestinian-parliament-in-exile.

He outlined to the Egyptians, with whom Jordan resumed diplomatic relations last September 25 after breaking them in 1979, a five-point "peace plan" which he said should be the basis for an international peace conference attended by the permanent members of the UN Security Council, with the PLO participating on an equal footing with all other parties.

The basis of his plan, Hussein stressed, would be a trade-off of Israel occupied Arab territory for peace. He insisted that the territory returned must include "Arab East Jerusalem," the West Bank and Gaza and the Golan Heights, all occupied by Israel in 1967.

Hussein faulted the Camp David accords for not treating the West Bank, Gaza and Golan Heights in the same way as Israel-occupied Sinai. Sinai was returned to Egypt in April, 1982, under the terms of the Israel-Egyptian peace treaty. There was no immediate Israeli reaction to Hussein's speech.

#### MUBARAK TO SEND A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO ISRAEL, HE TELLS B'NAI B'RITH PRESIDENT

Cairo, Dec. 2 (JTA) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak announced here in a meeting in his home with the president of B'nai B'rith International last month that although he has no plans to return an ambassador to Israel in the near future, he will be sending a personal representative to the Jewish nation. Mubarak told Gerald Kraft that his representative will be involved in efforts to improve Israeli-Egyptian relations.

The Egyptian leader declared that his country's peace with Israel is neither fragile nor temporary and added that he believes that the two Middle

Eastern nations will have lasting and friendly ties.

Mubarak's statements were in response to comments from Kraft, who emphasized the need for some "positive movement" in the relationship between Israel and Egypt. The time for a new initiative, Kraft said, "is especially appropriate" now because Israel has a new government and the United States, whose efforts led to the Camp David accord, has elected a new Congress.

Citing the historic nature of the Camp David treaty, Kraft said that while the accord is evidence of the intentions of Israel and Egypt, their relationship "should be heightened", even if it requires both governments to alter their attitudes. "This is the time to begin the process leading to further negotiations," the B'nai B'rith president said.

#### 26 U.S. LAWMAKERS URGE VATICAN TO FORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

Washington, Dec. 2 (JTA) — A group of 26 members of the House of Representatives — 13 Jewish and 13 Catholic — have sent a letter to Pope John Paul II urging the Vatican to establish formal diplomatic relations with Israel.

"As Catholic and Jewish members of the United States Congress, we strongly favor mutual diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel and urge the prompt establishment of such relations," the Congressional members declared.

In a letter dated November 26, the Congressmen said: "Because of Your Holiness' unwavering commitment to religious toleration, we seek Your Holiness' personal intervention to bring about this monumental affirmation of the kinship between the world's Catholics and Jews."

Last October, a report by NBC News asserted that the Vatican "favors the diplomatic recognition of Israel." Subsequently, the Pope reiterated the Vatican's traditional position on the Middle East, which includes a call for the international status of Jerusalem, a position strongly opposed by Israel.

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL WARNS THAT ANY MK WHO TRIES TO ENTER ENEMY COUNTRY OR MEET WITH PLO FACES CRIMINAL ACTION By Gil Sedan

Jerusalem, Dec. 2 (JTA) — Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir has served notice that any Knesset member who tries to enter an enemy country or meet with members of the Palestine Liberation Organization would be subject to criminal proceedings initiated by the State.

Zamir's opinion, submitted to the Cabinet Thursday, was seen as a direct warning to Abdul Wahab Darousha, an Arab Labor Party MK, who left Israel last Tuesday in an unsuccessful attempt to reach Amman, Jordan where he had hoped to address the meeting of the PLO-convened Palestine National Council (PNC).

Darousha got as far as Cyprus and returned to Israel Thursday. Zamir noted, in his brief to the Cabinet, that contact with an "enemy agent" was a felony punishable by up to 15 years' imprisonment. He asserted that contrary to press reports, several Israeli political figures who met with PLO representatives abroad in recent years, were indeed brought to trial. It is not yet known whether legal action will be taken against Darousha for declaring his intention and purpose for going to Amman, though he never reached Jordan. He claimed in a telephone interview from Cyprus that the Jordanian authorities refused him entry. Most observers believe he abandoned his mission under intense pressure from Labor Party colleagues.

## RABBIS AMONG WARRIORS

By Albert W. Bloom  
(First in an Eight-Part Series)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The dramatic story of Jews in America's armed forces and the dedicated Jewish chaplains who bring religious and spiritual strength to them and their families is largely untold. Albert W. Bloom, retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, former president of the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA) and editor emeritus of the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Jewish Chronicle, was assigned by JWB to tour Western Europe's defenses to search out and to tell this story.

SOBERNHEIM, West Germany, Dec. 2 (JTA)—"Rabbis among Warriors"—to help preserve the peace and freedom which the free world today enjoys, and to affirm the Jewish presence in the armed forces of the United States the world over.

That is the way JWB President Esther Leah Ritz, of Milwaukee, sums up the mission and the function of the JWB Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy (CJC). It is that story that this series, the result of three weeks with American Jews in uniform in Europe, will try to tell. It is a unique one.

This is the vital, high value, good citizenship role assigned by the JWB-CJC that for some odd reason (out of sight out of mind?) may be the best kept secret in the American Jewish community.

Or, perhaps it is just taken for granted, and then forgotten. Except by JWB, which is charged by the U.S. government's Department of Defense with being the "endorsing agency" for all Jewish chaplains in the armed forces. At the moment, there are 53 Jewish chaplains not including those JWB-endorsed chaplains serving Veterans Administration facilities.

## 65 Jewish Chaplaincy Slots Available

There are 19 Orthodox, 14 Conservative, 20 Reform. A total of 65 Jewish chaplaincy slots are available to be filled. Like the military itself, it is an honorable career field too often neglected, according to Rabbi Barry H. Greene, of South Orange, N.J., chairman of JWB-CJC.

Chaplain David Lapp, 53, a retired Army colonel-chaplain, is director of JWB's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, and director of JWB's Armed Forces and Veterans Services Committee.

He was the escort officer, keen guide and inside-light on our three-week probe of the heart of NATO's Jewish chaplaincy—a particular Jewish challenge since the key to Europe's NATO defenses centers on (and in) West Germany. Together, we came, we saw and we learned of Jews overseas in uniform at Heidelberg, Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Ramstein, Naples and the U.S. Sixth Fleet, and Livorno.

Few rabbis in this world carry heavier Jewish emotional baggage in their shoulder packs than those who serve in West Germany and Europe. After all, we Americans today help to defend West Germany and Western Europe, a scant generation after the Holocaust.

The memory of the Nazi-inflicted genocide of Jews casts a giant shadow, silent and often unseen (or ignored), over every soldier, sailor, air force and marine officer and enlisted man and woman, their families who are with them, and the thousands of civilians on European station with America's armed forces.

That the religious, especially the Jewish component is intense is readily apparent—though kept at arm's length (and tongue's)—and cannot be denied.

## 'Times Change, and So Do People'

Defensively, perhaps, both U.S. civilians and military on duty (and the German Jewish and gentile populations) often are at pains to remark, "Americans make more of the issue of the Holocaust than we do here on the ground where it all took place. After all, times change, and so do people and the world."

But neither they there, nor we as American Jews, can afford to shut it out entirely. The specter of the Holocaust still exists one way or another, marked by the age level of the people one sees on the streets in West Germany. Yet West German government policy has been sensitive, aware and mostly positive on the issues stemming from the Holocaust and the German Jewish community that was and is no more. In the large cities, Jewish institutions now flourish under the same government tax-support rights as do all other religious organizations and institutions.

## JWB "Shows the Flag" and Jewish Presence

JWB "shows the flag"—and the Jewish presence in the U.S. military worldwide—and certainly in West Germany—through its chaplains who serve some 300,000 Americans of all faiths. A chap-

lain, by duty, is for all service-folk, while at the same time especially serving his denominational group.

Chaplains and officers of every faith and group are wont to say that "the military reflects the civilian society in all ways."

There are only nine Jewish chaplains in Europe. But their "congregations" often far-flung and wide-distanced, compare favorably and proportionally with all other faiths represented at workshop and educational sessions.

To the American Jewish community, the Jewish congregation within the U.S. armed forces that is nurtured by JWB-CJC, is most often "invisible." Therefore, it is worthwhile to list some of the key areas of vital interest flowing from that Jewish religious-ethnic association.

In the military, it is a matter of established policy that Judaism is one of the three major faiths of America, quality more than numbers being the overriding factor.

## Star of David Pennant Demonstrates Policy

This major principle of our military policy in the chaplaincy is graphically demonstrated by the recent decision to establish a new pennant with the Star of David as its motif.

It is not lost on any observer that no flag ever flies above the American flag—except at religious services. Then, the religious pennant flies above the flag—denoting we are "one nation under God."

The Magen David flew above the Stars and Stripes before my eyes. I saw it from the deck of the USS Puget Sound, Sixth Fleet Sea Headquarters, as the shofar was blown by a Jewish chaplain on the admiral's flagship in the Mediterranean, marking the call-to-conscience and the then approaching High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

While I personally had been in the U.S. military reserves for more than 28 years, I had never before witnessed such an event. It sent a thrill of pride and goose pimples up and down my spine.

The U.S. military is one of the few places in Jewish life where the various wings of Judaism cooperate with another for the greatest good of all.

## Religious Services Tailored for 'Congregation' at Hand

Chaplains tailor religious services to the "congregation" at hand. They exhibit understanding and flexibility, and in doing so provide a pathway for all Jews in uniform, and setting an example for Jews in civilian life as well.

This is also true of the 21 rabbis who make up the Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy (CJC-JWB), Orthodox, Conservative and Reform, who meet in harmony to make policy.

It is reflected in the JWB Armed Forces and Veterans Services Committee, chaired by Gerald Ostrow, a Pittsburgh, Pa., lay leader. Ostrow is president of the Pittsburgh United Jewish Federation. He was an Army Air Force officer in World War II.

In the U.S. armed forces the Jewish chaplain, line officers and enlisted men and women strike down the silly stereotype that Jews have no affinity for military careers. The facts belie the stereotype. Jewish officers and enlisted personnel and their families overseas have a presence that stands tall and disproportionate to their numbers. We are a small people, but a surprisingly vigorous one.

Nor are Jewish service men reluctant to lend a hand to the military Jewish community as official "lay leaders." When a chaplain isn't available or may need assistance, "lay leaders" assist at religious services or may conduct worship. Many servicemen and women also help as teachers in Hebrew and Sunday schools across Europe. Truly—"am Yisrael chai"—the people of Israel lives.

There are countless numbers of far-flung Jewish military communities worldwide that would benefit from the presence and energy of a Jewish chaplain and the JWB network of Jewish involvement in both broad policy and individual service.

## Jewish Chaplain's Insignia Depicts Ten Commandments

The Jewish chaplain's insignia depicts the tablets of the Ten Commandments. Until recently, these appeared in Roman numerals (a sly twist of history). Now that insignia has been redesigned with the Commandments represented by Hebrew letters, ready for wide distribution throughout the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Poetic, as well as linguistic, justice.

Americans at home in civilian life—Jews as well as Christians—should know that, heaven forbid, in time of war, their military chaplains go into battle unarmed.

They are girded only with their faith and their religious insignia.

Next: Germany and "Jews as the Dew . . ."