

**CJF REPORT URGES FEDERATIONS TO SERVICE INTERMARRIED FAMILIES**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- The Council of Jewish Federations is diving into the stormy waters of the debate over intermarriage with a new report urging local federations to market their services to intermarried Jewish families.

In its report, the Task Force on the Intermarried and Jewish Affiliation advocates that federations actively embrace the intermarried and target services to this fastest-growing segment of the Jewish community.

"Serving the intermarried is now an urgent matter," the report says. "Unless we proceed with care and deliberate action, we face the possibility of disenfranchising a significant segment of the population, wittingly or unwittingly, from Jewish life."

The issue of how the Jewish community should confront intermarriage -- whether to accept or discourage the growing trend -- has prompted heated discussion in recent years among Jewish communal and religious leaders.

The report of the task force, released Tuesday and titled "Jewish Community Services to the Intermarried," delineates a philosophy encouraging federations to engage the intermarried in the life of the Jewish community.

It is a population until now largely unaddressed by federations, which are the Jewish community's central address for fund raising for Israel and for local and national social service programs. The task force advocates that federations provide "a broadened array of opportunities to engage the intermarried in communal life and community services."

**'A Visible Part Of The Jewish Community'**

"The intermarried and their extended families will be a visible part of the Jewish community. They participate in Federations and give to annual campaigns, and their children take part in Jewish camp and educational experiences," the report says.

The report urges federation leaders and staffers to demonstrate great "sensitivity," "respect" and "understanding" for the range of needs of intermarried Jews and their spouses.

It reveals that federations, like many Jewish organizations, are struggling to catch up with the realities of the Jewish community on the cusp of the 21st century -- a community that is far from monolithic and contains a multiplicity of backgrounds and attitudes, among the intermarried as well as the in-married.

According to Martin Kraar, executive vice president of CJF, "this is a new market and a new reality, and as a result of that, federations that decide to address the intermarried must face that in the way they provide their services."

Kraar said, however, that CJF is not requiring federations to devise programming for the intermarried, since each must decide the best approach within the context of its local community culture.

"This report is intended as a broad road map rather than a narrow mandate," he said.

Kraar contrasted this goal with that of resettling Jews from the former Soviet Union, for which CJF mandated that each federation contribute resources.

Federation leaders' fear of diminished funding from the ever-shrinking pool of Jewishly affiliated potential donors is part of the motivation for the approach taken by the task force, acknowledged its chair, Lynn Korda Kroll.

But the group's recommendations are "just part of a broader attempt to ensure there will be a diverse and vibrant Jewish community in the 21st century," Korda Kroll said.

The task force was composed of 42 representatives from local federations and national agencies, including the American Jewish Committee, Jewish Community Centers Association of North America and the religious movements.

Nearly all the members of the task force, who themselves are more deeply involved in communal life than the average Jew, have intermarried relatives, according to Korda Kroll.

Several are intermarried themselves, said Korda Kroll -- some to spouses who eventually converted to Judaism and others to mates who continue to practice Christianity.

**'A Dangerous Approach'**

The point, she said, is that "this is our community. We can't turn our back on a whole segment of the Jewish community."

The debate among the task force members over the proper approach to the intermarried mirrored the debate within the larger Jewish community.

Roy Clements, a member of the task force and a vice president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, called the philosophy of embracing the intermarried without emphasizing conversion to Judaism "a dangerous approach."

While he agreed to support the consensus of the task force, he said in an interview that CJF's advocacy for broad inclusion of the intermarried in Jewish communal life "appears to say that the general community condones the situation and that this is the best way to handle it."

"It is difficult to forecast whether it will better or worsen the situation," he said.

Egon Mayer, another task force member and director of the Jewish Outreach Institute, said that the fact that CJF is addressing the issue is significant.

"It takes the issue out of the background and brings it to the foreground, puts the imprimatur of a major Jewish organization on it," he said.

"It also puts the appropriate community control over how the issue is dealt with by the mainstream of the American Jewish community," Mayer added.

The report reprints the demographic statistics about intermarriage from the CJF 1990 National Jewish Population Study.

The study showed that, at the time, 52 percent of all Jews were marrying outside the

faith. The figures prompted alarm throughout the Jewish community.

It also lists some of the programs offered to the intermarried by a handful of federations and other agencies, like synagogue movements and Jewish community centers.

The San Diego Jewish Federation, for example, held focus groups with intermarried couples to ascertain their needs and, as a result, began a program called "Pathways to Judaism" conducted in a local synagogue on Sunday afternoons.

The 30-session course is designed for children ages 5 to 18, to teach them more about their Jewish heritage.

Parallel tracks involve parents, grandparents and couples without children.

Funding is provided by the federation and a private foundation.

The report was presented to CJF's Executive Committee at the organization's quarterly meetings in New York this week. The committee approved the dissemination of the report.

#### ISRAEL AND SOME JEWISH GROUPS WILL PARTICIPATE IN U.N. POPULATION MEETING By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- Representatives of Israel and a handful of Jewish groups will be among the 20,000 people from 180 countries convening in Cairo on Sept. 5 for the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development.

Israel, like all U.N. member states, has submitted an official report and statement on the subject to the United Nations. But that report has been criticized by a major Israeli women's group for excluding relevant issues, including reproductive rights and reproductive health.

Separately, three Jewish groups at the United Nations with the status of non-governmental organizations -- the International Conference of Jewish Women, B'nai B'rith International and the Women's International Zionist Organization -- plan to have a voice at the meeting.

The goal of the conference, scheduled to run through Sept. 13, is to create a 20-year plan for controlling a population explosion that the Earth may not be able to sustain.

The world's current population is estimated at 5.66 billion, and by the year 2050 may more than double, to 12.5 billion.

The agenda of the conference, which has generated worldwide controversy, is slated to include topics such as family planning, abortion and teen-age sexuality.

In an effort to head off approval of abortion rights or sexual freedom, the Vatican has led opposition to the conference's agenda and has acknowledged reaching out to radical Islamic governments, including Iran and Libya, seeking support for its position.

At the same time, militant Muslim groups in Egypt have been threatening violence against conference participants as part of their campaign to overthrow the country's secular government.

Some Egyptian preachers are delivering fiery sermons denouncing the meeting as "an American and Israeli attempt to dominate the Islamic world by spreading Western immorality," according to reports.

Security concerns are running high among all participants, but particularly among Jewish groups.

"We have a very big security problem," said Harris Schoenberg, director of U.N. affairs for B'nai B'rith and chair of the Jewish NGO caucus at the United Nations. "Certain Islamic militant elements want people to stay away, and as Jews in particular we are worried. What they have been saying is exactly like crying fire in a crowded theater."

B'nai B'rith will have a representative at the conference, although Schoenberg would not say who it will be or even what country the representative is from because of security concerns.

According to Barbara Leslie, U.N. representative of the International Council of Jewish Women, the threat of violence has convinced representatives of some Jewish groups not to make the trip.

ICJW represents some 1.5 million Jewish women in 40 countries, including the United States, Hong Kong, Serbia and Zimbabwe.

Jewish participants say it is important that Jewish voices be heard among the thousands of ethnic and religious perspectives that will be represented at the conference.

Schoenberg cited the new acceptance of Jews and Israel at the United Nations as an important motivator for attending the conference.

"Jews are part of the world scene, and we need to have our perspective made clear along with everyone's. For too long they negated or derided the Jewish perspective at the U.N.," Schoenberg said.

According to the ICJW's Leslie, the reasons for being represented in Cairo are as ideological as they are pragmatic.

#### Family Planning 'Is An Important Human Right'

"Sound family planning contributes to the stability and welfare of the home. It's an important human right, and women's rights are human rights. We've been fighting for this for years" as a Jewish organization, said Leslie.

ICJW will not have anyone at the meeting itself because the representative selected is ill. But ICJW's president sent a letter to Dr. Nafis Sadik, secretary-general of the Cairo conference, supporting the draft agenda of the meeting.

WIZO, the Women's International Zionist Organization, is expected to have a representative in Cairo. Their U.N. representative, Evelyn Sommer, was unavailable for comment.

The Israeli government is working on security issues with the Egyptian government and U.N. administration, according to Zvi Cohen, of the Israeli mission to the United Nations.

"We are not expecting to be singled out for attack, but have taken special precautions," he said.

The original Israeli delegation to the conference included only one woman. But because of protests by the influential Israel Women's Network, the composition of the group was changed to include more women.

The official delegation is now composed of eight men and six women.

The women's group also developed an alternative paper to the official Israeli report, which made "virtually no reference to women's reproductive rights or reproductive health," according to the network.

## ZOA LEADER CRITICIZES NEW GUIDELINES DESPITE COMMUNAL QUEST FOR CONSENSUS

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- The president of the Zionist Organization of America has criticized newly formalized guidelines establishing how Jewish organizations should lobby on Capitol Hill.

Morton Klein, whose recent actions sparked the communal drive to formalize such guidelines, has charged that the guidelines were decided in an "undemocratic fashion."

Drawn up at a special meeting last week of the present and former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the guidelines reaffirm the organized Jewish community's long-standing position that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee is the Jewish community's primary lobbying agent on matters affecting U.S.-Israel relations.

AIPAC had requested the meeting specifically to deal with Klein's activities last month at a late-night House-Senate conference committee meeting which hammered out final language for the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act.

The legislation on foreign aid, with its \$3 billion allocation to Israel, is the centerpiece of AIPAC's lobbying efforts.

Klein attended the session because of his concern over the fate of a particular amendment to the legislation that strengthened the link between U.S. aid to the Palestine Liberation Organization and its compliance with the peace accords.

AIPAC officials have charged that Klein acted in "an amateurish and hostile fashion" and that his actions contributed to an early morning threat by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) to dissolve the conference without passing the foreign aid bill.

Others have disputed that claim and Klein says the AIPAC criticisms reflect the lobby's jealousy over his effectiveness.

AIPAC had originally requested that the Conference of Presidents undertake "disciplinary action" against Klein.

### Focusing On Guidelines For The Future

But the Conference of Presidents, an umbrella organization of some 50 Jewish organizations, decided to focus instead on guidelines for the future.

Klein, who contends he did nothing wrong, had demanded an open meeting. When his request was rejected, he boycotted the session.

The guidelines, described by Conference of Presidents officials as a reiteration of long-standing practice, stipulate that Conference of Presidents members are expected to "consult and coordinate" with AIPAC before lobbying on U.S.-Israel issues, according to a statement issued by Lester Pollack, the chairman of the Conference of Presidents.

But Klein remains unbowed. He maintains he has consulted and notified AIPAC officials of his lobbying activities and will continue to do so in the future.

And he continued to call for a public apology and withdrawal of the charges by AIPAC.

He further condemned the manner in which the Conference of Presidents determined the guidelines.

"This statement came out of a handful of ex-chairmen; not from the 50 organizations" who comprise the conference, Klein said. "I believe it is not appropriate for a handful of chairman to issue an edict for the entire conference to follow," he said.

Pollack said that the former chairmen play the role of an informal cabinet for the conference, "based on their vast history and experience with the organization."

He added that a future meeting of the entire conference will discuss the guidelines, and that "anyone who feels they want to discuss these guidelines has an open forum to raise it."

"The community has operated successfully for decades under these guidelines. If it ain't broke, don't fix it," he added.

But while the guidelines describe AIPAC as taking positions reflecting the "policy consensus" of the Conference of Presidents, Klein said he believes that the time for consensus has passed.

### 'Why Should AIPAC Have Unilateral Right?'

"Now, it is no longer possible to speak with one voice on many issues because there are several voices that represent the Jewish community. It's very important for AIPAC to understand that," he said.

"Why should AIPAC unilaterally have the right to determine for the entire Jewish community what is done on the Hill, without consultation and coordination with all 50 organizations?" he asked.

Apparently referring to disagreements among American Jews regarding the current Middle East peace process, Klein said, "If the Jewish community is split 50-50 on an issue, how can AIPAC reflect a consensus of the Jewish people? How can they decide which 50 percent they will support?"

AIPAC and Conference of Presidents officials dispute the notion that American Jews are evenly divided on the Israeli government's policies.

"The community is not divided 50-50," Pollack said.

According to AIPAC President Steven Grossman, who attended the Conference of Presidents session, "There is consensus on a whole host of issues."

Outside the key players in the current controversy, the guidelines concerning coordination with AIPAC are seen as nothing new.

"It's a position I support and supported all along, because AIPAC is enormously valuable for the American Jewish community in every respect," said Robert Lifton, past president of the American Jewish Congress.

"If every organization is going to go off on their own, our message" will be unclear, agreed Deborah Kaplan, president of Hadassah.

Some Jewish leaders said they are struck by the irony that Klein first came to the attention of national Jewish leadership as the champion of preserving the community's consensus and the primacy of AIPAC's lobbying efforts.

Klein, in early 1993, led the battle against admitting Americans for Peace Now to the Conference of Presidents. Peace Now was ultimately admitted to the umbrella organization.

One of the key issues that Klein stressed at the time was Peace Now's lobbying on the Hill for policies at odds with those of AIPAC.

## HEZBOLLAH ATTACKS IN SOUTH LEBANON, KILLING ONE ISRAELI AND WOUNDING TWO

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was killed and two others lightly wounded Monday evening when their patrol was ambushed in the eastern sector of the southern Lebanon security zone by a group of gunmen belonging to the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah movement.

The gunmen opened fire with rocket-propelled grenades from an ambush set near Beaufort Castle, a hilltop ruin from the days of the Crusaders.

Sgt. Ofer Haroush, 20, of Jerusalem, was killed in the ambush. He was buried Tuesday evening in the military cemetery on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

Other members of the patrol returned fire, killing three of the Hezbollah gunmen, according to a spokesman for the Israel Defense Force.

An ensuing artillery exchange between the IDF and Hezbollah forces north of the zone continued until late Monday night.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah is leading a guerrilla campaign aimed at dislodging Israeli troops from the 440-square-mile security zone, which Israel established in 1985 to protect its northern border from terrorist assaults.

Israel reportedly has more than 1,100 troops in the security zone, where it operates alongside some 2,500 members of the South Lebanon Army, Israel's ally in the region.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES: JERUSALEM: HOME OF THE WORLD'S ONLY KOSHER 'VOPPER' AND MILKSHAKE

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- The appearance of McDonald's on the Israeli fast-food scene last year left some people here with a bad taste in their mouths.

Inaugurated with a flurry of media coverage, McDonald's Israeli outlets chose to serve non-kosher food, and thousands of people responded. Though the meat that is served is reportedly kosher, the cheeseburgers most definitely are not.

While no one has lost sleep over the mixing of meat and dairy at McDonald's -- or at the other Israeli eateries without kashrut certificates -- many observant Jews were a bit peeved when the fast-food giant opted to serve non-kosher food at all its branches, including in Jerusalem.

For this reason, the recent opening of the world's only kosher, sabbath-observant branch of the Burger King chain has drawn cheers from Israel's religious community.

The Jerusalem branch -- one of five Burger King outlets in the country -- has been overrun with customers since it opened in May.

Thanks to its kashrut certification, and its location in the capital's most popular indoor mall, the restaurant has become the place to get a burger and a pareve milkshake.

On a recent Saturday night, customers stood five-deep in line, waiting for the teen-agers behind the counter to fill their orders.

The crowd, a combination of religious and secular, teen-agers and families, Israelis and Americans, sounded just like customers at any of Burger King's 7,000 non-Israeli branches -- ex-

cept, perhaps, for their pronunciation of the word "Whopper."

Since the Hebrew language has no "w," in Israel the Burger King signature sandwich is popularly known as the "Vopper."

David Birger, the night manager, explained that while the food in all of the Burger Kings in Israel is kosher, only the Jerusalem one is closed on Shabbat.

"Most Jerusalemites care about a kashrut certificate," he said, "but you can't get one for a restaurant that's open on Shabbat. As it is, the vast majority of restaurants in Jerusalem are closed on Shabbat anyway, so it seems quite natural."

Neil Ackerman, a 20-year-old yeshiva student from London, said he was "ecstatic" when he heard that a kosher Burger King had opened in Jerusalem.

Sitting with a bunch of British friends, Ackerman explained, "You have to understand, coming from England, good kosher fast food is almost non-existent. It makes us appreciate this even more."

"It tastes too good to be kosher," said Simon Hammelburger, 22, biting into a Whopper.

## 'Should At Least Be Kosher' Near Bnei Brak

Their friend Danny Ormond, 21, said that he is disappointed that McDonald's doesn't serve kosher food as well. "It doesn't seem right that such a large restaurant chain would come to Israel, only to serve treif food. They should at least be kosher in the branch that's next to Bnei Brak," he said, referring to the fervently religious neighborhood near Tel Aviv.

It tastes just like Burger King in America, except for the absence of cheeseburgers, said the Lazovsky family of Jerusalem, who said the kashrut issue did not bother them.

There was one complaint, however: "Look at this milkshake," said 18-year-old Gidi. "It tastes awful, but what can you expect? It's pareve."

The real taste test came from Joe Dawson, an American basketball player from Birmingham, Ala., who now plays for Maccabi Jerusalem, the city's basketball team.

"This is a good hamburger," Dawson said, "and it tastes as good as an American one."

But, he confessed, "I go to McDonald's when I want a cheeseburger."

Living in Israel for the last three years, Dawson said that "of all the countries I've lived in, Israel is the most like America. There's fast food, cable TV, call-waiting for the phone. Israel is a great place for an American."

Ron Lapid, manager of the local Burger Ranch fast-food chain, an Israeli company, believes that having American fast-food restaurants on the Israeli scene has helped his business.

Asked if business at his 56 branches -- the most of any chain in Israel -- has been hurt by the foreign competition, Lapid said, "We haven't experienced any direct impact, but I can tell you that business is booming."

"In 1992 we earned \$25 million; in 1993, \$31 million; this year we expect to make \$40 million. We also plan to open four new branches by the end of the year."

"If anything, I think that the American chains are making the hamburger even more popular in Israel," he said.