

**NEWS AT A GLANCE**

■ **Israel will continue negotiating with the Palestinian Authority despite continuing terror attacks against Israelis.** Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a group of high school students. But he said that further progress would depend on the Palestinians' fulfillment of security commitments spelled out in the self-rule accord. Recent newspaper polls indicate that 50 percent of Israelis favor suspending talks with the Palestinians because of the attacks. Some 10,000 Israelis, meanwhile, gathered at the Western Wall to pray for an end to the terror.

■ **A West Bank military court ordered a Palestinian to serve nine life sentences for acting as an accomplice to the suicide bomber who carried out a terrorist attack in Afula last April.** Eight people were killed and more than 50 wounded. The man was also found guilty of involvement in other planned attacks. Meanwhile, the Hebron military court sentenced another terrorist to life in prison for killing an Israeli soldier, Guy Friedman, and wounding two others in an attack two years ago in Bethlehem.

■ **More people were killed in terrorist attacks inside Israel than in the territories in 1994,** according to Israeli police statistics. In 1994, 69 people within Israel's borders were killed in terror attacks, compared to 19 the previous year. Officials attributed the rise to an increase in suicide-bombing attacks. The report also said that criminal violence in Israel rose by 8 percent over 1993 and car thefts were up by 11 percent.

■ **Israel's National Oil Company struck oil at a drilling site near the Dead Sea.** The company said the field could produce as much as 80 barrels of high-quality oil a day. The news sent share prices of the oil company up 10 percent on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

■ **Argentine officials honored longtime resident Emilie Schindler, who with her late husband, Oskar, helped save an estimated 1,200 Jews from certain death during World War II.** Recognizing Schindler signaled a shift from the days Argentina welcomed former Nazis, Foreign Minister Guido di Tella said during the ceremony. [Page 4]

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****Auschwitz commemorations leave some lingering questions**

By Ruth E. Gruber

OSWIECIM, Poland, Jan. 30 (JTA) — “Magda. Marta. Monique. Nettie. Renata. Rosalia. Ruth. Samson. Sandor. Vera. Willy. Henia. Henek. Schmulek. Emil.”

As two days of controversy clouded ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz drew to a close last Friday, Polish Jewish actor Szymon Szurmiej intoned the first names of the 1.5 million men, women and children who died in the largest and most notorious Nazi death camp.

An endless recitation of names resounded from loudspeakers across the vast cemetery of Birkenau.

But after the mourning and tears, after the speeches and wreath-layings, last week's commemorations left major questions for the future.

They also illustrated that after half a century, the political as well as personal legacy of Auschwitz is still traumatic.

As the names were read, many of the several thousand people in attendance lit memorial candles.

Under a light shower of snow, they prayed and wept as they placed the candles on the red brick ruins of the crematoria where hundreds of thousands of bodies were burned. And they placed them on the rusting rail tracks that brought cattle cars full of Jews — most of whom died — from across Europe.

The names and the flickering candles brought home the human tragedy of Auschwitz in an extremely powerful way and served as a fitting conclusion to the official ceremonies and formal speeches.

One of the key questions left after the ceremonies were over was how to build on memory to forge Jewish continuity.

“If Hitler is not to have a final victory, we must above all not just remember, but rebuild,” Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, the former chief rabbi of Great Britain and the Commonwealth, said in an interview.

**‘We must remember for the future’**

“We must remember for the future,” said Jakobovits, who headed the official British delegation to the commemorations.

“Obviously we have to remember the enormity of the sacrifice. We must constantly remind the world of what can happen,” he said. “But at the same time, survival must serve a purpose. We shouldn't survive just to be alive.”

In this context, many Jewish participants in the ceremonies were encouraged by the opening of a Jewish Youth Club and Education Center in Krakow, Poland, on Jan. 26.

The new youth center, whose opening was attended by Jewish and Polish dignitaries, is the fourth such center to be established in Poland by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation since the fall of the Communist regime five years ago.

It is part of a variety of initiatives encouraging the re-emergence of Jewish life in Poland and other post-Communist countries.

“You don't just want to be blown away by Auschwitz,” said David Singer, director of research and publications for the American Jewish Committee.

“If Jewish life goes on, you need to affirm life,” he said.

Attended by heads of state and representatives of more than two dozen countries, last Friday's ceremony — televised internationally — was the climax of two days of commemorations marked by conflicts between Jews and Poles as to how Auschwitz should be remembered.

In its official plans for last week's events, the Polish government had scheduled highly ecumenical ceremonies, which, according to Jewish critics, memorialized Auschwitz as a universal symbol of man's inhumanity to man, without paying tribute to the uniquely Jewish dimension of the suffering.

Some Jewish groups had also accused the Polish organizers of trying to “Polonize” or “Christianize” Auschwitz.

Ninety percent of Auschwitz victims were Jews killed as part of the

Nazi's Final Solution. For Jews as well as for most of the world, Auschwitz has become the paramount symbol of the Holocaust.

At least 70,000 Roman Catholic Poles were also killed there, and Poles generally view Auschwitz as the symbol of Polish suffering under the Nazis.

The Polish-Jewish conflicts grabbed the media's attention and at times threatened to eclipse the commemorations. Some observers said that focusing so exclusively on Jewish-Polish disputes over Auschwitz tended to obscure the fact that it was the Germans who founded the camp and carried out the horrors.

In the end, however, the conflicts had some positive results. For one thing, Jews staged their own separate memorial ceremony on Jan. 26 as a supplement to the official program.

Some here said such a ceremony should have been planned from the beginning, regardless of what the Polish government was organizing.

Attended by several hundred survivors and other Jews — and at least as many reporters, some of whom clambered onto the ruined crematoria at Birkenau to get good camera angles — it was an emotionally charged ceremony that participants agreed was necessary.

"What should have happened is that five years ago, the Jews should have got together and said, 'This is what we'd like to do on the 50th anniversary of Auschwitz,'" said Jewish scholar Jonathan Webber.

"What should also have happened is that the Catholic Church should have come up with a plan, the Polish government come up with a plan, Auschwitz survivors come up with a plan. The more the merrier," he said.

#### **Conflict provided an educational experience**

Ami Mehl of the Israeli Foreign Ministry said, "I think we had to have two different ceremonies in Auschwitz, one especially for Jews, and one for all the others, including the Jews, because most of the people who were killed here were Jews.

"So we ourselves had to do it separately, and we didn't have to have any contact with the main ceremony," Mehl said.

What the conflict also did was to bring the truth about Auschwitz — as well as who died there and why — out into the open in Poland.

In this sense it was an educational experience, many participants and observers agreed.

Just how much the educational experience was needed was reflected in a survey of Polish attitudes on the Holocaust and Jews.

The survey by the American Jewish Committee, released on the eve of the Auschwitz commemorations, showed in quantitative form how strongly Poles believe they were equal victims of the Nazis.

In the poll, 40 percent of respondents said both Poles and Jews suffered equally from Nazi persecution.

Pressure from Jews, including specific pressure from Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel, an Auschwitz survivor who headed the official American delegation, forced the Polish organizers to change the official program to include more Jewish content.

He and others succeeded in getting the organizers to start the proceedings with the Kaddish, the prayer for mourning, and other Jewish prayers.

Wiesel also succeeded in convincing Polish President Lech Walesa to include reference to the Jews in his speech last Friday.

Walesa said that Auschwitz "stands for the suffering of many nations, especially the Jewish nation."

The words "especially the Jewish nation" had

reportedly not been a part of Walesa's prepared text, but had been a later addition intended to reflect the concerns of his Jewish critics.

Walesa's omission of specific reference to the Jewish dimension of Auschwitz in two earlier speeches had caused extreme bitterness.

"It was obviously very hurtful," said Jakobovits.

But, he added, the final form of last Friday's official ceremony gave him "a sense of tremendous comfort," especially because "thirty nations were represented and paying tribute and invariably mentioning Jews.

"Starting with the Jewish memorial prayer recited by the chief rabbi of Warsaw was exceedingly moving," he said.

Jakobovits, who fled Nazi Germany as a teen-ager in 1936, said his feelings were shared by many of the Jews present at the ceremonies on both days.

"My overwhelming feeling was that I could walk out of Auschwitz. Walk out alive," he said.

Both Polish and Jewish participants agreed that the official pomp and tribute was valid in a political sense, but ran the risk of being purely ceremonial.

"I don't think that any ceremony could adequately memorialize the memories of the dead which were here in such great numbers," said Polish Bishop Stanislaw Gadecki, president of the Polish Episcopate's Commission for Dialogue with the Jews.

Said Noah Krieger, an Auschwitz survivor who now lives in Israel: "Today the officials come because they are officials."

"Sure they want to express solidarity and they want to deliver a message of peace in the world and all this," he said.

"But today they're here, and this evening they will not remember even where they were," Krieger said.

"We don't forget," he added. "That's the difference." □

#### **Leahy gives impassioned speech praising Rabin on the Senate floor**

*By Jennifer Batog*

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (JTA) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's popularity may be waning at home, but he has found at least one vocal supporter in Congress.

In an unusually personal speech on the Senate floor, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) last week praised Rabin's efforts to move the Middle East peace process along and applauded his steadfastness in fighting for peace under the shadow of terrorism.

"Prime Minister Rabin is working for peace, and I for one applaud him," Leahy said in his Jan. 26 speech.

The senator touched on last week's suicide bombing at an Israeli bus station, and said that although Israel and America grieve for the victims of that attack, Rabin's resignation would be detrimental.

"I hope he does not resign. Israel needs him. The Palestinians need him. We Americans need him. We all need leaders who are willing to take risks for peace, wherever they might be in the world," Leahy said.

Leahy commended Rabin's composure in dealing with the Palestinians and Syrians in light of terrorist attacks. "Rabin has gone forward. In order to create a world in which children can grow up without guns all around them, without the prospect of new attacks, he swallows his anger," the senator said.

Leahy also admonished some Israelis who he said are waging a campaign seeking a congressional ban on stationing U.S. troops to monitor any Israel-Syria peace accord. □

## Women make slow, unsteady progress in federation leadership, survey shows

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) — Women are making slow, unsteady progress through the ranks of federation leadership — progress that has stalled in the larger federations — according to a recent study conducted by the Council of Jewish Federations.

Women have found the most success as both lay leaders and staff members in smaller federations, according to the survey.

Relatively few are reaching the top offices in the large communities, despite the fact that women count for a majority — 61 percent — of all federation staff members.

The report, "The Status of Women in Lay and Professional Leadership Positions of Federations," analyzes the progress of women in lay leadership and, to a lesser extent, in professional positions within the federation system. There are 189 federations in CJF, of which 123 responded to the survey.

The study, conducted in 1993 and released in December 1994, is the fourth such report conducted by CJF since 1975.

The findings are "to be taken very seriously," said Martin Kraar, executive vice president of CJF. "It is now incumbent upon us in the federation system to take advantage of the great talent available to us among women."

The proportion of women as presidents of federations has grown almost four-fold since 1975, the report found. But the greatest increase was achieved between 1975 and 1979, when the percentage of female presidents almost tripled, from 6 percent to 17 percent.

### 23 percent of federation presidents are women

Since then, growth has climbed slowly — about 3 percent from study to study.

Women now comprise 23 percent of all federation presidents. In volunteer-directed federations, which are typically the smallest, 36 percent had women at the helm in 1993.

In large cities, however, the percentage has actually dropped since 1986, from 11 percent to 7 percent.

"I don't know whether that's the glass ceiling phenomenon and that's as far as they can get, or whether there's a certain amount of self-selection," said Judy Adler Sheer, an author of the report.

"I want to do more research on that," said Sheer, CJF assistant executive director and director of the CJF Women's Advocacy Department. Sheer also serves as director of human resources development and of the Women's Division. The women's advocacy portfolio was created by CJF in early 1993.

The study surveyed the numbers of women in various positions of lay and professional management, as well as some of the attitudes and perceptions of women's abilities to climb the federation career ladder.

A higher percentage of female than male respondents (48 percent vs. 35 percent) said they believe that obstacles prevent women from attaining the highest levels of lay leadership in federations.

Half the respondents also said they believe that there are obstacles keeping women from attaining the highest levels of professional leadership. The report did not break down the percentages by gender on that question.

In assessing the current climate for women's participation in federation lay leadership, "many respondents said that it has improved greatly in recent years, and many claimed that today women are currently 'equal' to men in federations," according to the CJF study.

"But others felt that the 'old boys' network is still a major obstacle to the advancement of women in federation. Still others expressed the assumption that women do not, or often are not able to, give gifts as large as those of their male counterparts and that therefore their advancement in federations is inhibited," it said.

Federation committees described in the report as "prestigious," such as campaign, allocations and community relations committees, have seen a steady increase in the percentage of women working on them.

But women are represented on those committees in significantly lower proportions than on all other general committees.

On many of these less prestigious committees, nearly equal numbers of men and women are on board, according to the report.

Fifty-two percent of lay leaders on human resources development committees and 46 percent of those on educational committees are women.

On committees on aging, women dominate, representing 62 percent of the members. Women also comprise more than half the members of youth and singles committees.

### Over half of all campaign directors are women

On the professional side of federations, women comprise more than half of all campaign directors — 52 percent — but they are concentrated in the small federations.

In large city federations — which are defined in the report as having a population of more than 45,000 Jews and raising at least \$7 million in their annual campaigns — 39 percent of campaign directors are female.

Men working as campaign directors have often gone on to lead their federations as executive directors, but the position does not seem to work as the same stepping stone for women, according to the report.

Lay and professional leadership of a federation's Women's Division also proves not to be a path leading to the top federation positions.

Of those who have been Women's Division presidents or chairs since 1985, just 10 percent have become presidents of their federations, according to the study.

On the professional side, many women who have worked as director of a federation's Women's Division apparently leave the federation after leaving the post.

When asked what position is currently held by former Women's Division directors, survey respondents indicated they do not know what 51 percent of the women are now doing because they left the organization, left town or the information was otherwise unknown.

But, cautioned Sheer, that could be because about 40 percent of those who become staff directors of Women's Divisions come to the role directly from being volunteers and only expect to serve in that role.

There is unique crossover from the lay to the professional side for this position, and the women who take the staff position often then revert back to volunteer positions, since they have no interest in working their way up the career ladder as federation professionals.

More work needs to be done to assess the federation world's attitudes and goals, said Sheer.

She plans to form a CJF committee of lay leaders and professionals to develop the next steps.

However, she said, the real work must be done on the local level.

"We're really challenging local federations to buy into and deal with these issues on a local basis. We want them to put it on their federation agenda and make it an issue which is addressed," said Sheer. □

## After mourning at Auschwitz, Jews celebrate festive Shabbat

By Ruth E. Gruber

KRAKOW, Poland, Jan. 30 (JTA) — It was a Shabbat that few will be likely ever to forget.

Last Friday's ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concluded late in the afternoon, forcing many Jewish participants to stay over in Krakow for Shabbat.

It was a Shabbat of prayers and communal feasting that brought together Jews from all ends of the Jewish spectrum in an affirmation of Jewish life and celebration of the Jewish world.

It was a Shabbat that provided for many participants a much-needed emotional release, in high contrast to the tears and mourning of the commemorations of the Nazi horrors during the preceding days.

"Many thought that having the commemorations on Friday was inconvenient, because they'd have to stay over," said British scholar Jonathan Webber.

"But having it on Friday provided a marvelous opportunity for people to move emotionally and morally from the commemoration ceremony to something positive, something with a future," he said.

"It was important to have a Shabbat dinner, with many different people [so that] people could find peace after a deeply disturbing and traumatic day. And I think it worked."

In Krakow's modern Forum Hotel, where official delegations and dignitaries stayed, scores of Jews from various countries and backgrounds prayed together last Friday evening.

The daveners, with different levels of observance, represented a wide range of scholarship, Jewish knowledge and experience. They came from different political and communal positions.

On Saturday morning, they filled the historic 16th-century Remuh synagogue in Krakow's ancient Jewish quarter, Kazimierz. It brought the synagogue — which often scarcely can muster a minyan — extraordinarily alive.

### People pour into the streets of Krakow

Some even spilled out into the street to dance following services.

"Shabbat itself is meant to be a slight foretaste of the spiritual world to come," said Great Britain's former chief rabbi, Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, who headed the official British delegation to the Auschwitz commemoration.

"It is a time for reflection. It was healthy to have Shabbat right after the Auschwitz commemorations. It showed again the indestructibility of the Jewish spirit," he said.

After Friday night services, about 70 Jews went on to a festive Shabbat dinner in a hotel function room.

Seated around a huge horseshoe-shaped table were what one participant called "a smorgasbord of Jewish life."

Guests included the entire spectrum of the Jewish world: from Jakobovits and his wife and young Polish Jews just beginning to learn about Jewish life and traditions; from Ambassador Ronald Lauder, head of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, to the activist American rabbi, Avi Weiss, who had been briefly detained by Polish police after spending several hours at the church at Birkenau.

The group included Poland's venerable Chief Rabbi Menachem Joskowitz, a white-bearded Ger Chasid and Auschwitz survivor; Steven Katz, the new director of Washington's Holocaust Memorial Museum; a representa-

tive of the Israeli Foreign Ministry and representatives of the American Jewish Committee, the Simon Wiesenthal Center and other organizations.

There were also non-affiliated Jews, both secular and religious, who simply had stayed over for Shabbat. These included Hadassah Lieberman, daughter of an Auschwitz survivor and wife of Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), who had been a member of the official U.S. delegation.

The meal — and a similar lunch after services Saturday — was arranged by Webber and Rabbi Michael Schudrich, the Lauder Foundation representative in Poland.

The food was strictly kosher, flown in frozen from London and prepared by a caterer there who is an Auschwitz survivor. In an atmosphere of almost tangible release after the trauma of the Auschwitz commemorations, participants sang and even danced. There were speeches and divrei Torah, or words of Torah.

"I thank God that Shabbat was there," said David Singer, director of research and publications of the American Jewish Committee.

"You needed a sense of closure. To stand at Auschwitz and then get on a plane and go home would have left me with my emotions confused," he said.

"We needed an affirmation of life — and that is what this Shabbat was." □

## Argentine officials recognize longtime resident Emilie Schindler

By Grace Donati

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 30 (JTA) — Argentine officials honored longtime resident Emilie Schindler, who with her late husband, Oskar, helped save an estimated 1,200 Jews from certain death during World War II.

Recognizing Schindler signals a shift from the days Argentina welcomed former Nazis, Foreign Minister Guido di Tella said at last week's ceremony.

Di Tella presented Schindler with the Orden de Mayo, which Argentina awards to civilians and members of the military who "contribute to international progress, welfare, culture and understanding and solidarity."

The minister thanked Schindler for the efforts she and her husband made to save Jews from being shipped to Nazi concentration camps. Oskar Schindler hired Jews to work in his factory, established in Krakow, Poland.

The Schindlers' story first received widespread attention last year with the release of Steven Spielberg's film "Schindler's List."

Di Tella said the government's recognition of Schindler, 87, along with its decision several years ago to open to the public for the first time its archives on the Nazi refugees who fled to Argentina after World War II, marked a shift in Argentina's relationship with the Jewish community.

The founder of Argentina's ruling Peronist Party, Gen. Juan Peron, welcomed former supporters of Hitler who sought refuge in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

"What's happening in Argentina is a cultural change with respect to the issue of Argentina and Nazism, between Argentina and the Jewish community, both domestic and foreign," said Di Tella, who presented the award before government officials, religious leaders and diplomats.

"This award is part of that cultural change," he said.

Schindler, in a speech read for her, thanked those who had supported her throughout the years. She said she did not feel herself to be a "heroine" and noted a certain sense of regret at being singled out for recognition because "this honor shows that I've been an exception." □