



NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ Rabbi Eric Yoffie was unanimously chosen president-elect of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations by the organization's board of trustees. Yoffie will succeed Rabbi Alexander Schindler, who has led the Reform movement's central congregational body since 1973. Schindler will officially retire in June 1996.

■ Shulamit Aloni was punched in the stomach by a right-wing American Jew during a breakfast address prior to New York's Salute to Israel Parade. Aloni, who had been warned of hecklers, continued her speech and later saw a doctor. [Page 4]

■ The U.S. Justice Department appealed a federal court decision to try Lemrick Nelson Jr. as a juvenile. After being acquitted of murder in 1992, Nelson is being retried in connection with the violation of the civil rights of Yankel Rosenbaum, an Australian Jew who was murdered during the 1991 Crown Heights riots. [Page 2]

■ American Jews are supportive of the Middle East peace negotiations, but they distrust Israel's negotiating partners and oppose some of the specific details of the process, according to a recent survey of American Jewish public opinion. [Page 3]

■ The United States is reportedly pushing Israel to sign a new treaty that would bar production of nuclear materials. The effort comes in the wake of Israel's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which was extended indefinitely earlier this month. [Page 3]

■ Israeli officials pledged new funds to Palestinian residents of Hebron. The pledge was offered when Israeli government and military officials met with Palestinian authorities. Israeli settler protested that officials did not meet with them. [Page 4]

■ Israel agreed to sell arms to the Sri Lankan government, which is currently embroiled in a conflict with Tamil rebels. Sri Lanka turned to Israel, Russia, Indonesia and Ukraine for emergency aid and arms. [Page 4]

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Report finds donors still care, but they aren't being reached

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA) — So much for the phrase "Jewish continuity."

Sociologist Gary Tobin is warning that this decade's Jewish fund-raising catch phrase "carries too much baggage and does not convey the excitement, commitment and passion required to launch fund-raising campaigns in support of this agenda."

Tobin's warning comes in a new research report published by Brandeis University, with partial support from the United Jewish Appeal.

The report, titled "American Philanthropy in the 1990s," brings together the results of focus groups, interviews and population studies. It paints a picture of Jewish donors and prescriptions for the organizations that want their money.

"The landscape of Jewish fund raising has changed more dramatically in the last five years than it has at any other time in American Jewish history," writes Tobin, who directs Brandeis' Institute for Community and Religion.

Propelling these changes have been:

- the mass migration of Jews to Israel and the United States after the collapse of the Soviet Union;
- the 1990 National Jewish Population Study, which brought concern over assimilation to the forefront of the American Jewish agenda;
- the rapid acceleration of the Middle East peace process;
- the growth of Jewish family foundations and federation endowment funds, which means general federation campaigns account for a decreasing share of the Jewish philanthropic dollar.

Despite all these changes, Tobin said his message is basically reassuring.

"Donors and non-donors alike still care about rescuing Jews, about supporting synagogues and local services," he said, summarizing his report's findings.

Possible to attract new generation of donors

Jewish philanthropies, he said, should realize that the problem "is us, not them," meaning the philanthropies, not the potential donors.

Attracting the new generation of donors is possible, said Tobin, but it will take work.

The report recommends that organizations invest in attracting new donors, recognizing small donors and personalizing solicitations.

This means that organizations which are cutting back their professional staff are headed in the wrong direction, according to the report.

"Given the furious competition for available funds from non-Jewish organizations, the failure to provide adequate staff will result in an ever-decreasing share of those funds going to Jewish organizations," the report warns.

As evidence that Jews who do not contribute to federation generally share the concerns that spark contributions by those who do, Tobin pointed to a 1994 survey conducted in Pittsburgh.

In the survey, both federation donors and non-donors were asked how likely they would be to increase their giving in the wake of 18 different community needs.

Two-thirds of the non-donors said the need to rescue Jews and bring them to Israel would likely prompt them to give.

"This is a huge statement about the fact that Jewish fund-raising organizations aren't reaching these people," said Tobin.

The non-donors in the Pittsburgh survey tended to be more concerned with local needs than the donors were. Donors rated a military threat to Israel as the highest of the factors likely to influence them to increase their gift. The non-donors rated that only eighth, well behind increasing services for the elderly and families in crisis.

Tobin said this does not justify an abandonment of Israel by campaign planners, noting that a military threat to Israel would still motivate

more than half of the non-donors to give. "There's no single reason that people give. So slogans, looking for hot buttons and trying to psych the donor out — none of that is going to work," said Tobin.

"Organizations will have to clearly communicate how they support Israel, what kind of local services they provide, how they build Jewish identity. A lot of receptivity is still there, but it requires more attention, more specificity," he said.

Specificity in describing what programs do and where money goes is particularly important when raising money for Jewish continuity, said Tobin.

"It is difficult for many donors to reconcile the amounts of money which they have donated over the years with their assessment that Jewish organizations have failed to nurture Jewish continuity," the report says.

"Some donors feel 'burned' over having placed a great deal of faith in their annual gift to Jewish organizations, particularly federation, which they feel has not 'paid off' in the form of a stronger Jewish community," the report continues.

"They also feel that the Jewish education system has failed by not providing a strong enough Jewish identity," it says.

Some donors also believe, according to Tobin's report, that the continuity issue is "only the latest in a long series of crises generated by the fund-raising system."

Even those who have faith in the UJA-federation system do not necessarily support a fund for Jewish continuity.

"Almost no one will make a major contribution to a fund devoted to Jewish continuity without being able to exercise some control over that fund and without a thorough knowledge of the projects to be funded by their gifts," according to the report.

That conclusion was disputed by Rabbi Brian Lurie, executive vice president of UJA.

"If he's saying you can't raise money for Jewish continuity — I think he's wrong," said Lurie, a strong advocate of Jewish continuity programs.

Hillel held up as recent success

He pointed to the recent fund-raising successes of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life as evidence that continuity is a cause donors can relate to.

And Lurie predicted that five years from now, the community will be seeing some very large gifts to finance Jewish high schools, boarding schools and summer camps, as well as the increasingly established Israel Experience programs.

Similarly, Martin Kraar, executive vice president of the Council of Jewish Federations, said he doesn't believe that donors lack confidence in the federation system.

"I believe they're saying they want to see what the federation system is doing that empirically has changed the course of a person's Jewish identity, and I think the federations right now are being very responsive in providing that," said Kraar.

Tobin agrees that donors are willing to give, when provided with proof their contributions would indeed advance the goal of Jewish continuity.

The same donors who might not be willing to write a blank check for continuity would, however, "support specific programs that achieve commonly understood goals of the continuity agenda, building Jewish identity and participation," the report says.

The report said the continuity issue engages donors personally. In discussions, donors grow "excited, animated and engaged as they discuss such issues as building Jewish community, exploring Jewish identity and the meaning of religion in individuals' lives," the report says.

Additionally, "many major donors have a special interest in outreach programs for the marginally affiliated, college students, intermarried couples or other groups that seem to be on the fringe of the community," the report says.

Interestingly, the Pittsburgh survey showed that non-donors may be even more interested in the continuity agenda than donors are.

Half of the Pittsburgh non-donors said an increase in federation support to synagogues would prompt them to give more, and 45 percent said the same about federation support for Jewish day school education.

Only a third of the donors, however, said either of those causes would prompt them to increase their federation gift.

Tobin does see some silver linings for the UJA-federation fund-raising system.

"One thing I want to emphasize," he said, is that "despite all the ways Jewish fund-raising organizations can improve themselves, they still are the most successful fund-raising organizations in the country."

"Despite all the changes that need to be made, they have done remarkably well and continue to do so. The question is how do they adjust." □

Justice Department appeals ruling on Crown Heights case

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA) — The U.S. Justice Department has appealed a federal court decision to try Lemrick Nelson Jr. as a juvenile.

The Justice Department filed the appeal May 12, the last day possible, according to Norman Rosenbaum, the brother of Yankel Rosenbaum.

Yankel Rosenbaum, an Australian Jewish scholar, was living in Crown Heights when he was killed the first night of the August 1991 riots in Crown Heights.

On Oct. 30, 1992, Nelson, who had been charged with the scholar's murder, was found not guilty.

Now, Nelson will be tried again, this time in federal court, in connection with the violation of Rosenbaum's civil rights in a bias attack.

But the recent decision by a judge to try Nelson as a juvenile in the civil rights case prompted outrage among those who want to see Rosenbaum's murderers brought to justice.

Nelson was 16 at the time of the attack. He is now 20.

If tried as a juvenile and found guilty of violating Rosenbaum's civil rights, Nelson would get a maximum of five years in a juvenile detention center.

If tried and convicted as an adult, he could get a maximum sentence of life in prison, said Norman Rosenbaum, who has been lobbying lawmakers at every level of government, seeking justice for his brother's killers.

None of the other participants in the 1991 attack, which may have been as many as 29, has been apprehended.

Meanwhile, the Justice Department is conducting its own investigation.

And Rosenbaum, along with the Crown Heights Jewish community, are still deposing potential witnesses in their class action civil suit against the city.

The suit claims that New York City did not do enough to protect Crown Heights' Jews from the African Americans and Caribbean Americans who participated in the riots.

The lawsuit is not expected to come to trial in the near future, Rosenbaum said. □

U.S. Jews generally support peace process, survey shows

By Jennifer Batog

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA) — American Jews generally support the Middle East peace process, but they distrust Israel's negotiating partners and oppose many of the specific details of the process, according to a recent survey of American Jewish public opinion.

"There's generic support for peace" among American Jews, said Edward Miller, a senior research analyst for Luntz Research Companies, which conducted the survey.

"But when you get to the specifics involved, like [returning] the Golan Heights, there's pretty adamant opposition to the peace process," he said.

Luntz conducted the poll, "American Jewish Public Opinion," May 2-5 and questioned 650 Jewish adults on a variety of political topics, including the Middle East peace process.

Jonathan Jacoby, executive vice president of the Israel Policy Forum, said even though he was "a little" disappointed by the lack of support for specific aspects of the peace process, the general support is "a good sign."

"The fact that support for the peace process is still high is the most important sign because it means American Jews, generally speaking, believe this is the way to go and want this process to work," said Jacoby, whose group advocates on behalf of the Labor government's peace policies.

Miller had a slightly different interpretation.

American Jews want peace, he said, but they want an "equitable peace" with "someone they can trust."

According to the poll, Miller said, American Jews believe that Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization cannot be trusted.

Results send a message to slow down

Miller also said the results send a message to the Israeli government and the Clinton administration to slow down.

In addition, he said, the results show an "unpopular" reaction to the Labor Party in Israel.

Luntz, one of the Republican Party's key pollsters, has informally advised Benjamin Netanyahu, the head of the Likud Party who is poised to challenge Yitzhak Rabin for the premiership in next year's Israeli elections.

Jacoby attacked Miller's interpretation of attitudes toward the Labor Party. "There weren't any questions on the Labor Party, so I don't know how he got that conclusion," he said, adding, "It's an interesting spin, but there's no data to back it up."

Jacoby also said he thought that the poll indicated that people want the peace process to move ahead.

"If anything, people are saying that the process needs to move forward more quickly, not that the peace process should be slowed down," he said.

According to the survey, 75 percent approved of Israel's strategies in negotiating with its Arab neighbors, but only 42 percent said they thought that the September 1993 Israeli-PLO peace accord was successful. Of those polled, 20 percent said the accord was either very unsuccessful or a complete failure and 36 percent said it was somewhat unsuccessful.

Explaining why he thinks that support has decreased since the signing, Miller said, "You've had a year of bombings, of broken promises on [PLO leader Yasser] Arafat's part and you haven't taken any steps further to make people feel more supportive of the process.

"People don't feel the peace accord has gone anywhere," he said.

Jacoby agreed that the poll's results are a "sign of frustration with the pace of negotiations."

But he said activists should "explain the process better, so people understand its pace and its character."

On the other side of the negotiating table, American Jews believe that an agreement with Syria is important, but are dubious about Syrian President Hafez Assad's commitment to peace, the poll found.

Fully 82 percent said such an agreement is vital, though 62 percent said they did not trust Assad.

Respondents expressed a similar level of distrust for Arafat. In general, the poll found that American Jews trust the Syrian government the least when compared with the PLO, Egypt and Jordan.

The PLO came in second, with 30 percent of the respondents saying they mistrusted it, compared with 44 percent who said they did not trust Syria.

Questions about the Golan Heights and the security zone in southern Lebanon elicited strong responses.

Asked whether Israel should leave the Golan Heights, which most believe to be intrinsic to an Israeli-Syrian peace, 64 percent of the respondents said no. A total of 51 percent said they would not support an Israeli-Syrian treaty that named the Golan as a condition for peace.

As for leaving the Lebanese security zone, which Israel set up to protect its northern border in the wake of the Lebanon War in the early 1980s, 57 percent said they were against such a move.

The American Jewish community is almost evenly split regarding stationing U.S. troops on the Golan to monitor a presumed Israel-Syria peace treaty, the poll found. While 48 percent said they would oppose the move, 46 percent said they would support it.

As for whether Congress should hold hearings on the issue before making a decision, 53 percent backed hearings, while 40 percent said they were unnecessary. □

U.S. pushing Israel to sign accord on nuclear materials?

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) — The United States is reportedly pushing Israel to sign a new treaty barring production of nuclear materials.

The effort comes in the wake of Israel's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which was extended indefinitely at the conclusion of an international gathering at the United Nations earlier this month.

Israel said it would sign the NPT only after threats to its existence in the region have been eliminated.

The Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported Sunday that even though the United States stood behind Israel in its decision not to sign the NPT, it was pushing Israel to start bilateral talks on halting production of nuclear material, such as plutonium and enriched uranium.

The paper said the United States is also trying to get Pakistan and India to sign the new treaty, which would be called the "Cutoff" treaty. Both of those countries are believed to have nuclear weapons capabilities, but also refused to sign the NPT.

According to the paper, the United States told Israel that the new treaty would not cover the existing supply of nuclear materials.

American sources were quoted as saying that administration officials quietly sounded Egyptian reaction to such an initiative and that senior officials in Cairo said it would be welcomed.

Relations between Israel and Egypt reached a low point in recent months as Egypt publicly pushed for Israel to join the NPT. □

Attack on Shulamit Aloni casts shadow on Israel event

By Alissa Kaplan

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA) — American Jewish leaders have condemned a physical attack on Shulamit Aloni, Israel's communications minister. The attack occurred Sunday morning at a breakfast prior to New York's Salute to Israel Parade.

Aloni was speaking before an audience of 500 at the Hilton Hotel here when one of the guests charged her on the stage and punched her in the stomach, sources said.

The attacker, who was identified as Jack Avital, is known for his support of the Israeli right wing.

Ushers forcibly removed Avital from the stage, while others came to Aloni's aid, including Gad Ya'acobi, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, news reports said. The minister continued to speak after the attack, concluding her statements shortly afterward.

She has since seen a doctor and was resting at the Regency Hotel here, her secretary said.

A leader of the left-wing Meretz bloc, which is part of the governing coalition, Aloni has a history of controversial public speeches and media interviews. Some view her as being anti-Orthodox and anti-religion.

Organizers of the breakfast were concerned about hecklers, and had earlier discouraged Aloni from giving a speech, she told Israel Television. "But in the end, I decided that it was important that I speak, because you cannot give in to these kinds of people," Aloni said.

The Israeli ambassador to Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, who had spoken before Aloni, was interrupted with boos and shouting at the event.

No arrests were made and the parade continued as planned.

The attack eclipsed the parade for some, particularly among those who had attended the breakfast.

"There is no place for violence," a parade organizer said.

Malcolm Hoenlein and Lester Pollack, executive vice chairman and chairman, respectively, of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said in a statement: "We are outraged and disgusted by the attack on Minister Aloni at the Salute to Israel Parade breakfast.

"Such action has no place in our community and cannot and will not be tolerated. There is no justification for physical assault or personal invective and we will not allow these to characterize discussions in our community, even when there are serious disagreements," said the two leaders, both of whom attended the breakfast.

In Israel, Moshe Katsav, faction leader of the opposition Likud Party, condemned the attack.

Katsav said in a statement that a forum for reasonable political argument exists, adding that violence only hurts the cause a person is trying to help. □

(JTA correspondent Naomi Segal in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

Israeli officials tour Hebron, pledging to help Palestinians

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) — Israeli government and military officials toured Hebron this week, pledging to take measures to improve the lives of the Palestinian residents of the town.

On Sunday, Police Minister Moshe Shahal, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and high-ranking Israel Defense Force and police officials toured the wholesale market area of Hebron, which was closed more than a year

ago, after a Jewish settler opened fire on Muslim worshippers in the Tomb of the Patriarchs, killing 29 people.

Shahal, Sarid and the coordinator of IDF activities in the territories, Maj. Gen. Oren Shahor, then met with Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe and Palestinian Authority officials at the civil administration building.

They later announced a series of measures aimed at easing economic hardships in the town, including the immediate transfer of more than \$200,000 to the municipality as compensation for lost revenue caused by the closing of the market.

Still unresolved was the fate of the market, which remains closed because of security concerns. The wholesale vegetable market is adjacent to the Jewish enclave in Hebron.

Shahal said Israel had proposed a possible solution to open the market for a different kind of merchandise, "so friction will be minimized and problems of trucks" will be solved.

The mayor and his colleagues said they would think about it, Shahal said, adding that the group would meet again in three weeks.

Sarid said the site would not be used for any purpose not approved by the Palestinians.

Natshe said he hoped that solutions to the problems would be found.

"We feel that the Israeli side is starting to understand our suffering and we hope that continuous meetings will solve all the problems in the city," he said.

As a result of the meetings, Israeli officials agreed to the Palestinian request that the daily number of Muslim worshippers allowed into the Tomb of the Patriarchs be increased. Shahal announced that 2,000 worshippers would now be let in daily, up from 450.

Jewish settlers, meanwhile, complained that the Israeli officials did not meet with them during the visit. They also warned of the security risks to settlers if the market was reopened. □

Israel agrees to sell arms to conflict-ridden Sri Lanka

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) — Israel has agreed to sell arms to the Sri Lankan government, which is currently embroiled in a conflict with Tamil rebels, according to official sources in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.

Sri Lanka turned to Israel, Russia, Indonesia and Ukraine for emergency aid and arms in its war against the Tamil Black Tigers, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported this week.

Clashes broke out between the two sides last month.

Sri Lanka reportedly appealed to Israel a month ago and asked to renew ties, which were cut off five years ago. Sources in the Israeli Foreign Ministry said relations with Sri Lanka have been under examination, but that Israel is not in any rush to renew them.

Sri Lanka first cut off ties with Israel in 1970, in an act of identification with Arab states and the Palestinians. In 1984, an Israeli interest office, which operated out of the American Embassy, was opened in the capital. Former President Chaim Herzog visited Colombo in 1986.

In 1990, Sri Lanka cut off relations again and the office was closed. The government said it would renew ties only after Israel recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization and withdrew from all occupied territories.

Unofficial ties, primarily economic ones, continued even during periods when the countries had no diplomatic relations, the report said. □